Parish Council
For those interested in all the activities of OPC, the minutes of meetings are available in the library, and all minutes, agendas and newsletters can be obtained via the web (also available in the library). Copies of the Helplines Directory can be printed off for residents if required. They can all be read via http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil. The next meetings will be on 8th July and 12th August at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall. Contact details of Councillors can also be found on the website.

Chairman’s Report
The hot topic for August will be the car park which will be closed for a period in August to allow for resurfacing and marking. The work on resurfacing will start on Monday 12th August and continue for approximately two weeks. During this time car parking will be restricted and sometimes the car park will be closed. We have deliberately chosen this time as the school will be on holiday, the Memorial Halls will be less busy, and the children’s playground will also be closed for a time whilst undergoing annual maintenance. Your patience is requested, but I am sure you will appreciate that it will be impossible to resurface it with cars driving all over the place. It should be noted that this timetable could be delayed if there is rain as it’s impossible to put down tarmac onto wet ground. Once laid, the tarmac will be marked out with a new one-way system aimed at avoiding the queues whilst waiting for drivers having to reverse out of cul-de-sacs. There will be at least a month to get used to the new layout before pay and display is introduced. NB. The schematic below is not to scale, but for information only.

For those that wish to use the recreation ground for whatever purpose, the only entrance onto the recreation ground will be via Park Lane. For those who drive to the recreation ground to exercise their dogs, try the recreation ground at the top of Hale Lane where there is ample free parking. The more observant amongst you cannot have failed to notice that the tree in the middle of the car park has been removed. There were a couple of reasons for that, one of which was to allow for the
one-way system to be implemented and the other was as a safety measure. Out of curiosity we carried out a ring count on the trunk of the tree and it was approximately 47 years old. It should be noted that it is the parish council’s intention to plant three more semi-mature indigenous trees along the northern boundary of the car park as replacement. If you have any suggestions for a particular type of tree let the office know. To date suggestions are Lime, Walnut, Beech, Black Poplar and Alder.

**The Annual Report 2012/13**

Yet again, it has been another very busy year for councillors, and yet again particularly so for the clerks. I would like to thank both Brenda and Sue (who compiles our newsletter almost single handed) for all the invaluable assistance they have given me during the past year.

The Council Agendas, Minutes and Newsletters are all placed on the local Otford web-site “Otford.net” by Brenda and so ably managed by John Hubbard. Otford has long been well-served by volunteers and I would like to thank all of them for all their sterling efforts and hard work in helping the community. Here is a short précis of what your council does, and what we have achieved. It is worth stating that the Parish Plan has been the driving force behind a couple of our major projects. I would like to mention that all our meetings are open meetings and to the best of our ability and within the rules of council governance, we do try to involve public participation. Those that do attend will stand witness to that. You are all welcome to attend, the meetings are not a closed-shop, but as space in the meeting room is limited please notify the clerk if you do intend to come along to meetings we hold in the office.

**Planning**

We have reviewed 83 applications, 65 of which have been decided by SDC. There are therefore 18 still pending. SDC have agreed with 75% of our recommendations - so we must be getting something right. There have been 7 appeals, 1 withdrawn, 1 part dismissed and 5 dismissed. All applications taken to appeal were objected to by OPC planning.

The main causes for variance between OPC and SDC were SDC putting less weight on the Otford Village Design Statement than OPC and SDC’s interpretation of both the Greenbelt rules and the Otford Conservation Area regulations.

**Highways**

The regular matters of interest include recording accidents/near misses, general road safety, bus stops, speeding, road signs - removal of incorrect signs and replacement of damaged or worn out signs.

Gateways - the result due to the exceptional work of a dedicated group ultimately frustrated by Kent Highways policy but we did get gateways and they are now in place. They were of course one of the aims of the parish plan.

Resurfacing of the car park: this is a major undertaking requiring meticulous planning in preparation for obtaining a contractor and for organising and administering the project; which will take place in August. It is anticipated that the car park will be closed for 7-10 days on or about the 12th August. Notices will be circulated. Our primary aim to improve short-term parking availability in the car park has resulted in the proposition to implement a pay and display scheme. This has involved wide and thorough consultation over a four month period with a group of stakeholders representing “Otfordians” interests and it is anticipated that the scheme will be implemented in October. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the stakeholders that participated on the Working Group.

**Services**

There have been articles in both the March Parish newsletter and the Otford Society newsletter regarding the quantity of litter strewn all over the village. Please don’t drop litter and pick up any that you see. Litter grows, the more you drop, the greater the encouragement for others to drop their litter.

Arriva will be putting down a hardstanding by the bus stop in Pilgrims Way West near Rye Lane. They agreed the action in January and have been awaiting placement by their contractors ever since.
The bulbs that were planted near the telephone box on Kent Highways Land by the Pond have at last flowered, as have many other spring bulbs round the village.

The Helplines Directory has been updated on the Website and Risk Assessments, H&S reviews, Fire Risk, etc of the office, sports pavilions and other assets, including the car park and other areas for which your Council is responsible, have been completed.

The Parish Council Noticeboards are being refurbished or renewed by Mr Catt and the Solar System is being maintained.

You will have noticed the Welcome to Otford signs at the gateways to the village with the recognition of our twinning with Neufchatel-Hardelot. Our Twinning relationship has started a trend in the Darent Valley with Eynsford looking into forming a relationship with a village near Lille in Northern France. The pattern of a day trip by coach which was started last year has continued this year and there was recently a very happy and successful trip to Hardelet and Montreuil. If you have any suggestions or requests for future visits and activities please contact Cllr Jane Lawrey. Other mundane, although essential, activities have included organising and carrying out redecoration of the offices by the councillors, carrying out repairs to several fences (we would like to thank Brian Thomas and Norman Catt for their varied help around the village) and maintenance of the public toilets – thanks to our chairman (and Sue)

**Environment**

The Environment Committee met bi-monthly over the last year to discuss and implement management of the green areas of our village.

We meet twice a year with SDC’s Woodland Ranger, Woodland Consultant, and two Kemsing Parish Councillors to review work in Oxenhill Woods. A Nature event was held there in June last year.

We attend meetings of the Darent Valley Consortium, Cory (landfill site) and Tarmac (quarrying site).

The latter donated £500 towards our new planters. The Historical Society also made a donation.

It is intended to purchase two further planters for the grass verge at the Parade. Thanks are due to Russell House School, the Brownies and Denise Thompson for planting and caring for the planters.

Thanks also to the Oast WI for their continued care of the long border on the village green, which backs onto the wall of Bubblestone Farm.

Otford was winner of the Kent Men of the Trees Competition last year and received two trees plus a cheque for £35.

Due to the dreadful weather community working parties have been difficult to arrange. Our continued aim is to protect and enhance our environment both now and for future generations.

Amongst our duties the Committee oversee the care of the following:

Footpaths - across the fields, Chalk Pit Recreational Area, Oxenhill Woods, Main Recreation Ground and its trees, The Pond, Village Green and Palace Approach, Palace Field - where continuing negotiations are ongoing with SDC over the upkeep of the tower, Palace Park Wood (managed by the Woodland Trust), the Cemetery, Telston Park, Hale Lane Recreation Area where we planted hedging, trees, a small orchard and bulbs and finally the village planters.

Although roadside verges are the responsibility of KCC, in order to make them more attractive, for many years planting of bulbs has been carried out by volunteers from the village. However we can’t do all the work ourselves and are always looking for volunteers who would be prepared to join working parties over the next year. Please leave your name and telephone number in the Parish Office.

**Recreation**

The Recreation Committee have adopted the motto ‘Civitas Vegeta et Strenua’, taken from the Parish Plan and meaning a ‘Fit & Active Community’.

The committee looks after the maintenance of leisure activities in The High Street Recreation Ground, and Hale Lane and we will be taking advantage of the upcoming car park closure to close the play area at the same time in order to carry out essential
maintenance. The committee continuously works with the Otford Sports Association, to help, support and encourage its Members and are also responsible for The Allotments and the Chalk pit area.

**Notable successes this year**

We have given Otford United Youth Football Club exclusive use of the Hale Lane Pavilion, and they are paying all the running costs - a considerable saving for the parish council. And of course the most notable achievement is the children’s playground at the Hale Lane Recreation Ground for which Cllrs Richard Knight and Charmian Marsh must take all of the credit. It should be noted that this was also one of the long term aims of the parish plan.

However on the down side we still get recurring complaints about Dog fouling on all of our recreation and sports grounds, which I am informed is on the increase yet again and may lead to us taking more drastic action than just reports in the newsletter.

**Finance**

The precept for the year to 31st March 2013 (last year) increased by 8% - the equivalent of approx 50p per month for a band D property.

This increase was mainly due to:

- an accrual of £11,500 for car park resurfacing
- 5% increase to cover inflationary increases
- an increase in reserves to bring us up to the level recommended for a Council of our size

During the year savings were made on Litter picking, grass cutting and insurance.

There were of course a number of capital projects in the year:—

- Speedwatch equipment, Planters, Gateways, Hearing Loops (there are now 2 available for small meeting rooms) and Hale Lane Children’s Playground.

And we thank the following for their contributions to those capital projects:—

- SITA trust, Tarmac, The Historical Society, The Otford Society, SDC Big Community Fund, Otford.net, KCC via Nick Chard our County Councillor and the Fete Committee

**Now the Current year to 31st March 2014**

The precept for this year increased in actual terms by 1.9%. However, the band D calculation was amended by SDC to take account of the way Central Government calculate the rebate and this resulted in an increase of 7.5% in what Parishioners paid (an increase of £5.82 over the year for a band D property). As a one-off SDC provided a grant of £6629 which enabled the Parish Council to keep the actual increase in the precept level down to 1.9%. If the parish precept were to be effectively capped at 1.9% (as has been rumoured and as SDC has been) then the Council would only have a further £2614 of income to cope with inflationary rises and unexpected costs.

In these circumstances it is virtually impossible to plan for any capital improvements because the costs are financed by the precept.

I must mention and thank Brian Thomas our Grounds Maintenance Supervisor and Cemetery Supervisor. He meets frequently with bereaved families at the cemetery, a task he handles with great sensitivity. He also inspects the playgrounds on a weekly basis and advises on the care of all our natural sites. It is down to Brian that the pond looks so beautiful and of course he also looks after the ducks and their living quarters.

Finally I would like to personally thank all the councillors for their support and their continuous work on behalf of Otford, most of which goes on in the background and is largely unheard, unseen and unnoticed, but which, if not carried out with the dedication they apply, adverse effects would soon manifest themselves.

At the risk of repeating myself, I really would like to thank the clerks for all their hard work and dedication often under demanding conditions and constant interruptions - a special thanks to Sue Stephenson who has now been assistant clerk for 15 years and knows everything there is to know about Otford the list of the ad-hoc jobs she does is endless.
Council income is derived from the parish precept from local residents (collected via council tax), fees and charges for the use of council facilities, cemetery fees and grants or funding application awards to support activities. The Council does not receive any money from either central government or business rates. Council accounts are inspected by an Internal Auditor and subject annually to an external audit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Last Year Ended</th>
<th>Current Year Ended</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31st March 2012</td>
<td>31st March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>172,335.41</td>
<td>218,220.30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expense</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>54,373.32</td>
<td>60,353.83</td>
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<td>Village Maintenance</td>
<td>65,960.82</td>
<td>64,017.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Items</td>
<td>6,248.18</td>
<td>43,790.02</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
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<td>168,161.40</td>
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<td><strong>General Fund</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance at 1.4.12</td>
<td>27,129.02</td>
<td>72,882.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADD Total Income</td>
<td>172,335.41</td>
<td>218,220.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEDUCT Total Expenditure</td>
<td>199,464.43</td>
<td>291,102.41</td>
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<td>Transfer to/from reserves</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance as at 31.3.13</td>
<td>72,882.11</td>
<td>122,941.01</td>
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**Council Responsibilities**

Otford Parish Council is the closest level of government to the community of Otford. The Council comprises of 11 members who are elected every four years at local elections. The Council has six committees and their responsibilities are shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finance and General Purposes</td>
<td>Finance; specific issues e.g. burial ground; matters requiring urgent attention; Heritage Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highways</td>
<td>Car Park, and liaise with Kent Highways on roads, footpaths &amp; footways.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Cllrs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finance and General Purposes</td>
<td>Cllr. Edwards-Winser (Chairman), RFO (Clerk), Cllrs. Mrs. Lawrey, Whitehead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Cllr. Mrs. Ward (Chairman), Cllrs. Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Lawrey, Mrs. Marsh,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highways</td>
<td>Cllr Mrs. Howe (Chairman), Cllrs. Edwards-Winser, Cracknell, Knight Leicester, Whitehead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>Planning applications and related questions.</td>
<td>Cllr. Whitehead (Chairman), Cllrs. Cracknell, Edwards-Winser, Verrall</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>Maintenance and supervision of recreation grounds (Including children’s play areas) allotments, recreational areas</td>
<td>Cllr. Knight (Chairman), Cllrs. Cracknell, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Howe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Services not covered by any other committee, including, Emergency Team, Charman’s Charity, Transportation, Bus stops, Notice boards, Public Toilets, offices</td>
<td>Cllr. Mrs. Lawrey (Chairman), Cllrs. Knight, Mrs Ward, Leicester, Verrall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parish Councillors Contact Details**

**Chairman**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Edwards-Winser</td>
<td>Oastbrook, Telston Lane</td>
<td>522503</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Councillors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone/Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas G. Cracknell</td>
<td>23 Warham Road</td>
<td>522325 <a href="mailto:mary.a.evans@btinternet.com">mary.a.evans@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary Evans</td>
<td>14 Tudor Crescent</td>
<td>525434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jackie Howe</td>
<td>33 Pilgrims Way West</td>
<td>524488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Knight</td>
<td>38 Warham Road</td>
<td>522360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. H. Jane Lawrey</td>
<td>23 Tudor Crescent</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howard_leicester@btconnect.com">howard_leicester@btconnect.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Leicester</td>
<td>Albany, Shoreham Road</td>
<td>522609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Charmian Marsh</td>
<td>40 Greenhill Road</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jon.verrall5@btinternet.com">jon.verrall5@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Verrall</td>
<td>24 Pilgrims Way East</td>
<td>522384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Elizabeth J. Ward</td>
<td>Thymebank, Coombe Road</td>
<td>524088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin J. Whitehead</td>
<td>19 Coombe Road</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Otford Twinning Association**

The next Social Gathering will be at The Woodman on **Monday 2nd September** from 7.45pm, and on **Saturday 7th September** the 10 kilometre race takes place in Hardelot when Otfordians compete for the John Cup awarded to the first Otfordian to finish the race. Children are also invited to run just one or two kilometres.
Our Twins will be visiting Chatham Dockyard on Saturday 14th September before coming to Otford for a BARN DANCE and FISH & CHIP SUPPER in the Otford Village Memorial Hall to which you are invited from 7 to 10pm (Tickets £8 via the Parish Council Office and please bring your own liquid refreshment). No knowledge of French or Barn Dancing required, but a fun evening will be guaranteed. Would you like to offer overnight hospitality and suggest some ideas to the Twinning Committee for activities on Sunday (send ideas via the Parish Council Office).

**Footpaths**
The cutting back of vegetation on footpaths in the village is the responsibility of Kent County Council. They are also responsible for anything to do with road, pavements, verges and drains. Please contact them on 08458 247 247 with any problems.

**Otford Primary School Fete**
Otford Primary School’s Summer Fete will be held on Saturday 6th July between 12 noon and 3pm. Everyone is welcome to join the event and support the village school as they try to raise funds for the school. There will be lots to do for all ages and the day promises to be lots of fun. Activities include an assault course, bouncy castle, raffle, silent auction, coconut shy, face painting, biscuit decorating, beer tent and cakes to name but a few.

**Otford Methodist Church Classic Car Show**
Otford Methodist Church would like to invite you to their Classic and Interesting Car Show in the Church car Park (next to Otford Library) on Saturday 6th July between 4pm and 7pm. Entrance is Free and refreshments will be supplied.

**Boot Sale**
There will be a Boot Sale in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 6th July between 9am and 1pm. Part of proceeds to 'Help for Heroes'. Stalls cost £6 before or £8 on the day. Please call Hazel on 01959 522659 to book a table.

**Hale Lane Fun Day**
There will be a Sevenoaks District Council Family Fun Day at Hale Lane Recreation Ground on Thursday 15th August between 10am and 2pm. There will be arts & crafts, sports, icing biscuits, face painting, circus skills, badge making and board games. Children and young people must be supervised at all times. This is a free event but donations are always welcome. For more details contact the VSU team on 01732 454785.

**Community Warden Surgery**
Paul holds his weekly surgery to discuss any problems and community issues at School House on Tuesdays between 11am and 12 noon. Come and see him. Paul can also be contacted on 07813 713366.

**Police Matters**
PCSO Jane Wright will be holding surgery on Wednesday 3rd July between 10am to 11am in the Post Office and if people have any questions or problems she will be willing to discuss them. If you have any issues you need to discuss or need to report a crime then call the non emergency number 101.
Otford Society Newsletter / Garden Party

Help is required to compile the Otford Society Newsletter which is published 3 times a year. Please contact Elizabeth Lindsay on 01959 524604. The Otford Society Garden Party will take place on **Saturday 20th July** 6-8pm at Russell House School. Tickets £6 per adult, £2.50 children are available from Yvonnes, Mad Hatters and Otford Parish Council office.

Seventoaks Book Fair

The next Sevenoaks Book Fair will take place on **Saturday 31st August** in Otford Village Memorial Hall between 9am and 2.30pm - Free admission. Refreshments are available.

Allotments

At long last the weather has encouraged things to grow and combined with much hard work the Allotments are now showing the rewards of patience and toil.

The waiting list remains stubbornly short but fortunately the names on it are changing as plots for one reason or another change hands.

I appreciate it might be a bit daunting to make the first move to becoming an “allotmenteer” but remember there is no commitment to looking at The Otford Allotment Association website, or even making an enquiry.

The average plot is 5 rod or 10 rod depending on the confidence or ability of the gardener, it is their choice. With rent at £1.60 per rod per year for an investment of £8 or £16 there is great potential for financial reward and the pleasure of providing your own fruit and vegetables.

Please contact Roger Beasley on 01732 463072 if you live in Otford and would like to know more.

Allotments Open Morning

The Otford Allotments Open Morning will take place on **Saturday 3rd August** between 9.30 and 1pm.... weather permitting!

If you’d like to see the fruits of their labours, and have a wander through the beautiful site, just turn up. Allotment holders will be on hand to talk to you about the joys of allotmenteering. They will also have this year’s scarecrows on show, as 3rd August is judgement day for the OSCAs (Otford Scarecrow Competition Awards). See how many you can spot!

Aikido in Otford

Now that summer is almost here. Why not improve fitness, self awareness and learn a defensive martial art. Aikido uses circular movements to turn an attacker’s aggressive force against itself.

Students are taught the basics before joining the main class. A tracksuit or similar garments can initially be used but a suit (gi) will be necessary later.

The club has been in existence since 1974 and all the instructors are highly qualified in Aikido and many other martial arts. We train at the Scout Hut, Station Road on Tuesdays from 8pm to 10pm. If you are 16 or over why not come along and see for yourself or ring 01959 522011 or 07889 321643 or email aikido@otford.net.

Front Garden Competition

The Otford Gardeners’ Society on behalf of the Parish Council will again be organising the Annual Otford Front Garden competition. Preliminary judging will be taking place during July & August when committee members will be walking around the village taking notes. The competition will again be based on the front gardens that would take the eye of a stranger to the village, without him or her having to look over or around a hedge, wall or fence.
**Hedges - Keep them trimmed**

Hedges are growing very quickly at the moment and a number in the village have grown over the public footway and are causing a nuisance to pedestrians, especially those who have poor sight, use wheelchairs or double buggies. Please check the boundaries of the property you are in and if necessary please arrange for it to be cut back from the footway as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Picture of the Month**

The painting on show in the Heritage Centre for July & August is by Ken Gunderson. His interest in painting began when he first read Churchill’s small book on the Joys of Painting in 1950. His description of placing the first brush stroke of colour on a blank canvas was inspiring. However, not until he retired in the 1980’s did he begin to paint on a regular basis when he joined the W.I art section, welcomed as the only man to boost dwindling numbers. How things have changed men make up the at least 25% of the now thriving and talented Otford Art Group. These days his particular interest is in attempting to reproduce sporting personalities or events, hoping to capture the grace and movement of athletes in action. His source is usually the sports pages of the newspaper. His artistic contributions may not be the most beautiful, but, as the founder of the Olympics said, taking part is more important than winning.

**Otford Solar System**

Are you a local amateur astronomer or just interested in the stars and planets? Otford Parish Council is looking for an enthusiastic volunteer to maintain the Solar system model, by checking that the model is clean and damage free and also by helping to mow the orbits (mower provided) on the Recreation Ground. Also could you assist in updating and re-displaying information in the Heritage Centre. Contact 01959 524808 if you would like to help.

**Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild**

The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 27th July** in St Bartholomew’s Church Hall (NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE). It will be an all day workshop with Libby Smith on hand embroidered mixed media books. The meetings start at 10am and 2pm and end with tea and cakes at about 4pm. For further information please contact Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117. (Please note there is NO meeting in August)

**Otford Oast WI**

The meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The next meetings will be on **18th July** when there will be a Quiz and on **15th August** when they will be having a Cream Tea. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 450618 for more details

**Otford Evening WI**

They had a very successful meeting last month with Clarins. The next meeting is on **Thursday 11th July** when Anna Astin will be talking about ‘Motorina to Racing Driver’. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. For more information please contact Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634. Advance notice of the WI Boot Sale to be held on Saturday 21st September in Otford Village Memorial Hall giving you a perfect opportunity to clean out those cupboards and lofts.
Open Air Shakespeare

'Smuch Ado about Nothing' at St Clere Estate

Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society presents an open air production of the Bard’s sparkling comedy of wit and romance, deception and dastardly plots in the stunning grounds of the St Clere Estate at Heaverham near Kemsing. Several Otfordians are involved in the production which runs from **July 4th to 7th** and **10th-13th** (7.30pm except for Sunday July 7th which is a 2.30pm matinee) There will be a special charity gala performance in aid of Breast Cancer Care on 6th July with pre-performance music and refreshments from at 5pm. Tickets are £12 in advance, £15 on the door, £5 for under 17s. School party concessions available. Tickets for the charity gala performance are £35 or £25 concessions. Please wear suitable clothing for all weather and bring low-backed chairs. A bar and food will be available. The production is part of the Sevenoaks Summer Festival. Tickets are available from the Festival Box Office on 01732 450175 or www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk

Hospice of Hope Events

On **Wednesday 31st July** at 7.30pm

Rock and Roll with Old Boy Network – sing and dance the night away with music from the sixties at the Memorial Hall, Wilmington, Kent DA2 7BP

Bring your own drink to accompany your freshly cooked hot dog.

£12.50 per ticket available from Wendy or Marion 01959 525110

Kent County Show 2013

The Kent County Show on **Friday 12th, Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July** at the Kent County Showground has something for the whole family. Open from 8am to 6pm every day, the Show is a wonderful day out with plenty of displays, entertainment and local food. With over 400 exhibitors and trade stands, it really is a whole world of fun!

New for 2013 is the addition of the Creative Crafts Show. It will provide the perfect opportunity to learn new techniques from the experts in cross stitch, sewing, card making, embroidery, knitting, patchwork, quilting, scrapbooking, ribbon craft, papercrafts, stamping, beading, painting, dressmaking, tapestry, decoupage, crochet and many more popular stitch and creative crafts. Entertainment plays a key role in the arena with The Sheep Show, Birds of Prey, Harrietsham Ferrets, Ashford Valley Terriers, the Pony Club and Warrenby Gun Dogs. The Agricultural area of the Show boasts large displays of cattle, sheep and goats as well as a large Poultry and Egg show. Elsewhere on the Showground there is plenty for everyone to see and take part in from the popular Flower Show to the new Canine area. Vehicle lovers can stroll round the Heritage section to marvel at the beautiful steam engines or standard vintage cars then on to the modern car stands to look at the new models for 2014. For those visitors who prefer a little excitement then the main ring is the place to be. The Show organisers are delighted to have camel racing twice a day. This popular sport from the Middle East has all the excitement of a day at Ascot. The louder the cheers, the faster the camels run or so we are told!

Discounted bar-coded e-tickets are available to purchase until 11th July from the website kentshowground.co.uk with no booking fee and car parking is completely free. All online tickets purchased will be entered into a draw to win a holiday to the beautiful Cayman Islands.

The pre-paid ‘family ticket’ (2 adults and 2 children, aged 5 -15) has been re-introduced for 2013 and costs £37 pre-paid and £45 on the gate. Adult tickets are priced £20 on the gate, £18 in advance, a child ticket is £6 on the gate and £5 pre-paid. A senior ticket is £13 on the gate and £11.50 in advance. The Kent County Agricultural Society will be offering student tickets again this year, prices at £13 on the gate and £11 in advance. Contact 01622 633060 for enquiries.
Planning

The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk or the Head of Development Services, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

a. New Applications

SE/13/01363    Lacasa, Rye Lane
Removal of condition 1 (temporary period) of SE/03/01474/FUL - Renewal of planning permission SE/94/1492 for the demolition of existing double timber stables and erection of five sectional stables plus hay store.

SE/13/00642    48 Well Road
Erection of single storey side extension. Two storey rear extension, alterations to the existing roof configuration, loft conversion with rear facing dormer window and the addition of roof lights to the front and side elevation.

SE/13/01428    Otford Primary School
Planning application SE/13/488/R12- Details of a survey detailing the condition of Warham Road, the High Street and the sites construction access pursuant to condition (12) of planning permission SE/13488 at Otford Primary School

SE/13/01421    89 Pilgrims Way West
The erection of a two storey side and rear extension, loft conversion, two Juliette balconies to west elevation and entrance porch/canopy to garage.

SE/13/01331    Reedhatch, Telston Lane
Demolition of garage, erection of a two storey extension to the west and northern elevations, erection of a ground floor porch to northern elevation, roof dormers to the east and south facing elevations, and roof-lights to the north, south and west facing elevations.

SE/13/01358    30 Greenhill Road
Demolition of existing dwelling and garages, erection of replacement dwelling with rear dormers in roof and detached double garage (revised design to approved scheme ref SE/12/01977)

SE/13/01506    Westwell, St Michael's Drive
Demolition of existing single storey side extension to facilitate the erection of a part two storey side extension, together with the removal of the front porch, alterations to fenestration and demolition of existing chimney.

SE/13/01596    Wildwood, 30 Hillydeal Road
The erection of a detached double garage with first floor playroom/home gym over, extension and alteration to existing driveway arrangement and insertion of screen door to main house porch.

b. Results received

SE/13/00251    24 Warham Road
The erection of a single storey side extension with integral porch.  
Allowed

SE/13/00282    41 Greenhill Road
Demolition of the existing single garage and the construction of a double garage with changing area and sauna over.  
Allowed

SE/13/00357    92 Tudor Drive
Erection of a single storey side and rear extension  
Allowed

SE/13/00400    7 Becketts Place
Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of Orangery and bedroom/bathroom accommodation within existing roof space.  
Allowed

SE/13/00627    25 Broughton Road
The erection of a single and double storey extension to the side. Proposed single storey conservatory to the rear and first floor extension to the rear to create an additional bedroom. Reconfiguration of roof line.  
Refused
SE/13/00523   Merlin, 42 Hillydeal Road
Application to extend the time limit of an extant planning permission approved under ref SE/10/00098 - Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a two storey four bed detached property with room in roof and detached garage to be built within previously approved footprints (SE/09/00531)  Allowed

SE/13/00602   Merlin, 42 Hillydeal Road
The erection of a two storey side extension with front infill extension, repositioning of front entrance, alterations to fenestration, with demolition of side garage and conservatory at rear and removal of second chimney.  Allowed

SE/12/03356   Block 12 Vestry Road
Application to extend the time limit of an extant planning permission approved under ref 0SE/09/02563 - Demolition of detached boiler house. Demolition of single storey part of building and construction of wall to retained building. Replacement of dilapidated link building with new. Infilling of door openings and provision of new window and door openings, internal layout alterations. Provision of new parking bays, paths and resurfacing. Replacement of fence and provision of new gates. Re level lower yard. Change of use to Sui generis Royal Mail Delivery Office.  Allowed

SE/12/02993   Beadles Ltd, Sevenoaks Road
Installation of a new VW corporate image, to include the erection of a new freestanding portal sign, a freestanding retailer frame and a new sign for totem sign.  Allowed

SE/13/00739   56 Pilgrims Way East
Conversion of garage to habitable space, erection of two storey front extension, erection of covered porch to front and alterations to roof including increase in ridge height and front dormer extension and creation of front covered area.  Allowed

SE/13/00892   The Hop Barn, High Street
Demolition of the existing conservatory and erection of a two storey side extension and single storey front extension and replacement chimney.  Allowed

SE/12/03361   J Sainsbury’s, Otford Road
Details pursuant to condition 17 (archaeological watching brief) of SE/12/00179)  Allowed

c. Appeals
APP/G2245/   Land to rear of 77 and 79 Pilgrims Way West
A/12/218978
Erection of a 2 bed chalet bungalow with attached garage and two 3/4 detached houses with integral garages  Refused

Rubbish and Garden Bags
Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £13 for 25. It avoids all those trips to the tip. Rolls of black sacks at £1.50 and white sacks at 50p are also available.

Newsletter Deadline
The deadline for items for the September Newsletter will be Friday 23rd August

WHATEVER THE WEATHER JUST RELAX
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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