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 meeting will be on Monday 11th April at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Otford Village Fete

Bank Holiday Monday 30th May

This year we are adding a new attraction, to coincide with our theme of Circus, a Kid’s Clown Show. This activity is packed full of rib tickling fun and tricks that will have kids and mums and dads in stitches! Children and families love to see funny business, unicycles, magical tricks, juggling, colourful hat tricks, balancing rola-rola, lots of “kiddy comedy” party games with the latest pop tunes and balloons. There will be seven sessions each lasting 25 minutes and bookings will be taken on the day. In addition lots of new stalls and activities are planned so make sure you put the date in your diary.

More information can be found on our website www.otford.info/villagefete including the programme for the dog show.
**Twinning**

The Twinning Committee is much encouraged by the keen response to the visit to Hardeleot on **Saturday 12th June**. The coach is now full, but there will be further opportunities to visit Hardelot on 13th August with the painters and on 10th September for a walk, the same day as St Augustine’s Cross will be moved back to the seafront, or in September to support the tennis players and footballers. Please contact the Parish Office with any particular requests for contacts or to express an interest. We shall look forward to hearing from you.

**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 always be contacted on 07813 713366.

**Parking Matters**

We are experiencing a lot of inconsiderate parking happening in the village. Parking on the pavement is against the law so please don’t do it in any roads especially on blind corners.

There is no parking allowed on the Village Green. In the village car park please do not park except in the bays that are marked as this causes problems for other users. Also parking in the High Street on the yellow lines outside the shops is prohibited **Monday - Saturday 8.30am to 6.30pm** and the area outside the shops is for short term ½ hour parking only. Civil Enforcement officers do visit the village and the police will take further action if required. Please be considerate to all other road users and pedestrians.

**The Chicken Eggsperience**

Have you fancied keeping chickens? Having problems with your backyard friends? Join Elands Veterinary Clinic for ‘The Chicken Experience!’ on **Wednesday 6th April** at 7.30pm at St Edith’s Hall, Kemsing. There will be talks followed by an opportunity to ask questions of the experts over tea and homemade cakes – made with eggs from free range backyard hens of course! Representatives from the British Hen Welfare Trust, Elands Veterinary Clinic, Polhill Garden
Centre, Allen & Page Foods and Forsham Arks will all be present. For further information and to book your free place for you and your family phone or pop into Elands, 1 High Street, Kemsing 01732 761650

**Police Matters**

**Are your doors and windows closed?**

Now that the nice weather seems to be on its way may we remind you of a few security tips to prevent you becoming a victim of crime.

Please check your home security.

- Ensure you keep external doors locked even when you are at home, and if you’re not in a room don’t leave the window open.
- At night, double check that you’ve locked up before you go to bed. If you have a uPVC door make sure you lift the handle as well as using the key to make sure the door is as secure as it can be.
- Don’t leave your car keys in an obvious place and never visible through a door or window.

The Home Office website www.homeoffice.gov.uk has practical home security advice. You can also speak to your neighbourhood officers or look on the Kent Police website www.kent.police.uk

If you see anything that you think is out of the ordinary or suspicious - people or vehicles - please report this to police 01622 690690, all information is recorded and acted on.

Please do not hesitate to contact your neighbourhood officers on the numbers shown below if you have any questions or would like further information.

**Police Contact Details**

To contact our neighbourhood Police Officer Brian Smith please call 07972 004450 or for local PCSO Jane Wright call 07772 226036. To report a crime please call 01622 690690. The next community engagement will be on **Monday 9th May** between 3pm and 4pm at McDonalds Restaurant.

![football](image)

Please put the following date in your diary Police v Otford Youth Football Match on the Recreation Ground on **Sunday 22nd May** at 12 noon. More details in next newsletter.
Sainsburys/ Tesco’s Vouchers

Otford’s Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are collecting Sainsburys Active Kid vouchers and Tesco vouchers for clubs and schools again this year. This is an excellent opportunity for us to acquire extra equipment and experiences that we may not usually be able to provide at no extra cost to the units.

We have been very well supported by villagers in the past and we would be grateful for your help again in saving vouchers for us. There is no limit to how many we can collect, so please spread the word to everyone. Vouchers can be dropped into our collecting boxes located in the Parish Office during normal opening hours. Thank you.

All three units in the village are thriving and have long waiting-to-join lists. As a result we are always looking for new adult leaders or unit helpers. If you are female, aged 18-65 and could help we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jane Woodrow-Clark on 01959 523342.

Otford Cricket Club

Otford Cricket Club are already into their preparations for the new season. New members are welcome to come and join us. Indoor nets are on every Sunday through to Easter from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Michaels’ School. Come and face the firepower of the 80+ mph bowling machine..... and get warmed up for the coming season. We run 2 teams on a Saturday and 1 on a Sunday - all abilities welcome. For details contact Peter Richardson on 01732 848633 or Jonny Pyman 01959 524409.

Otford Cricket Club Colts

Otford Cricket club coaching for boys and girls from the ages of 7 to 15 (school Year 2 to Year 10) will begin on the Recreation Ground on Sunday 8 May. Coaching continues through to the end of July. The Club will be running Colts teams for all age groups from under 9 to under 15s. We are open for new members and would welcome children who already play as well as those who want to learn to play.

If you interested in joining a thriving and successful Club please contact Mark or Angie Stevens on 01959 523881 for further details.
Green Team - Tips
Recycling made easy

Keep it simple and keep your recycling bin next to your main bin so that you have a central collection point for all your waste. Make a note on your fridge to provide a visual reminder of your recycling collections. Don’t forget to recycle waste from all the bins in your house. Sevenoaks District Council provide a fortnightly green garden waste collection for a yearly sum of £42. Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £12 for 25. It avoids all those trips to the tip.

Chilean Wine Tasting Evening

Come and enjoy sampling some Chilean Wines at the Otford & District Wine Club’s April meeting. The evening will commence at 8pm on Wednesday 27th April in the Otford Memorial Hall. Cheese & biscuits will be provided with a fun quiz on the wines sampled. Free to members and £4 for guests. Contact the Secretary on 01732 458240 for further information.

Women’s Breakfast

This is taking place on Saturday 9th April at 8.30am at the Otford Methodist Church Hall. The speaker Celia Bowring will talk about 'Family Matters' The Cost is £4. Contact Margaret Matthews 01959 522046 or Sue Wood 01689 869081 to book a place.

Otford Methodist Church Easter Services

Palm Sunday Procession - Sunday 17th April at 10.45 - Meet at the Methodist Church Car Park to join a procession along the High Street and a short service on the Village Green. There will be refreshments afterwards in St Bartholomew’s Church Centre.

Good Friday - 22nd April at 10.30am - A reflective service with readings and music. The children's group will explore Easter in the Hall.

Easter Sunday - 24th April at 10.30am - Everyone welcome to come and join them to celebrate the risen Jesus.

For more details please call Kath Pawlett on 01959 522196.
Otford Library – Talk Time
Talk Time Group at Otford Library every Monday morning between 11.30-12.30pm. Go along and join this new weekly group where you can make friends and share activities. For more details please call 012959 522488

Otford & District Historical Society
The Otford & District Historical Society will be holding its next meeting on **Wednesday 20th April** in the Otford Memorial Hall when Caroline Alexander will be talking about ‘The Story of Ladybird Books’ The Annual Membership is now £6 and visitors pay £2 per meeting.

Darent Valley Choir
The Darent Valley Choir’s Spring Concert will take place at St Martin’s Church, Brasted on **Saturday 16th April** at 7.30pm. Music will include Purcell’s Dido and Aeneas, Bruckner Motets and Fauré’s Cantique de Jen Racine. Please go along and share this lovely music
The Choir will also be holding a concert in St Katherine’s Church, Knockholt on the **Saturday 21st May** and they would love to welcome you there. The music will be varied and a little different from their usual programme.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild Exhibition
On **Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th April** the Guild will be holding a 10th Anniversary Exhibition in both Otford Memorial Hall and St Bartholomew’s Church Hall. Times of opening will be Saturday 11am to 3.30pm and Sunday 11am to 3.00pm. Admission will be £2. The exhibition will include 'Decades and Metal's' projects, demonstrations, traders and light refreshments. For more details please call 01689 820953.

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society
Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. The next meeting will be on **21st April** when Louise Schofield will talk about ‘Priam’s Treasury: The Gold from Troy’ Louise will tell the story of the Trojan War. The lectures start promptly at 1.45 pm and finish by 3 pm. Anyone interested in attending
a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Alison Davis on 01732 780453 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

Otford Oast WI
The meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. The next meeting will be on 21st April when they will have a talk about ‘Gardening for Wildlife’. For more information please contact the Secretary Jane Dean on 01732 460512

Otford Afternoon WI
Meetings are held in the Otford Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meeting on 12th April will have a talk about ‘English Country Cheeses’
Visitors are very welcome, and further details can be found on the Otford Village web site at www.otford.info with the link to the WI or call Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736

Otford Evening WI
On Thursday 14th April the Otford Evening WI will be celebrating their 52nd Birthday meeting with a special meal and entertainment. This is the one evening in the year when it is members only. It will be an earlier start 7pm for 7.30pm. In March members were shown how to ‘Have fun with Maths’ but they will not be throwing away their calculators just yet. The Resolutions and Annual Meeting will be on the 12th May. All meetings take place on 2nd Thursday of each month in Otford Village Hall.
Visitors are always very welcome. For more information please call Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887 or Joan Beacom on 01959 524304.

Otford Gardeners’ Society
The Otford Gardeners’ Society next meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th April when Hilary Newman will give a practical demonstration in a talk entitled ‘Plant Propagation – Plants for free’. The evening starts at 8pm in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. Admission is £1 for non members and the admission price includes refreshments. The
following meeting on 3rd May will have Russell Williams giving a talk entitled ‘Growing Fruit for the Garden’.

**Dog Fouling**

This is still a big problem, where there should **NOT** be a problem at all, on the pavements in the village and also on the Recreation Ground, especially around the new pavilion and on the main football pitch. There are plenty of bins available, including normal waste bins **PLEASE USE THEM** and **DO NOT** throw the bags into the hedgerow. It is very anti social and potentially health threatening not to pick up after your dog. If you don’t you risk having to pay a fine of up to a maximum of £1,000 or a fixed penalty of £50.

We would like to thank Network Rail for clearing up the area next to the Otford Station Car Park. **DO NOT** throw your rubbish/dog mess into this area. Put the bags in a bin or take them home and dispose of them properly. The Dog Warden and our Community Warden will be patrolling the area and any offenders, if caught, will be fined.

**Kenward Trust**

Are you concerned about your drinking or someone else’s? Confidential advice and support is available at Otford Methodist Church Hall on Fridays between 9am and 12.30pm. For further information please call 01474 327145 or Dee on 07990 741266

**Aikido in Otford**

Now that Spring is upon us why not decide to improve both your physical and mental well-being and learn a non-aggressive, defensive martial art. Aikido is based on the use of circular movements which turn the aggressor’s force against itself. It exercises the whole body, it teaches and develops flexibility, co-ordination, balance and quick reactions and is an effective method of practical self defence.

The coaching is conducted in a friendly environment and beginners are individually taught the basics of Aikido before being absorbed into the main class. All the instructors are qualified and insured through the British Aikido Association and between them have many years experience of Aikido and associated martial arts. If you are 16 or over (no upper age limit) male or
female and would like to know more about the club and Aikido, why not pay them a visit either on a Tuesday 8pm - 10pm or on a Sunday 7.30pm - 9.30pm at the Scout Hut, Station Road, Otford or ring 01959 522011. THEY LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

**Diabetes UK - Open Evening**

Tunbridge Wells & Districts Branch of Diabetes UK, which covers Sevenoaks District, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge, are holding a public open evening on **Tuesday 5th April** at 7.30pm at the Riverside Lounge, Angel Centre, Tonbridge.

Anyone who has an interest in diabetes is welcome, free entry and refreshments available. The, guest speaker Dr Iain Frame, Director of Research from Diabetes UK will talk about Diabetes UK funded research projects. The evening will also be the Annual General Meeting of this local Branch.

**No Cycling**

There is **NO** cycling allowed on Footpath 48 which runs from Station Road (next to Gullivers) past the Scout Hut and out to Tudor Drive. Complaints about cyclists on this section have been received from pedestrians. Footpath 49 from Tudor Drive to Kemsing is a bridleway so cycling is permitted on that stretch but care should always be taken.

**St Bartholomew’s Church Fair**

PLEASE NOTE - The date of this year’s Church Fair is **Saturday 11th June**

**Picture of the Month**

The artist for April and May is Edna Coleman. Edna has lived in Otford for over 30 years and is a member of the W.I. She joined the Otford Art Group when there were only five members and now that has increased to over twenty! Edna says that she prefers working in watercolours but has also painted in oils. She takes photographs when on holiday and in the garden and then gets her brushes out at the Otford Art Group. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.
Hospices of Hope

Visit the Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop, 11a High Street, Otford which is open Monday – Friday 10am – 4.30pm and Saturday 10am – 5.00pm.

How about a challenge this year?

Hospices of Hope Transylvanian Challenge

Hike the Carpathians, Bike Transylvanian - 3-11th June 2011

A trip with a difference!

7 days of challenges, 2 days of volunteering

Cost - £450 excluding flights, plus £500 minimum sponsorship

For more information please contact Jill Patterson - jill@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525 110

They would also like to remind local residents that they have a “Book Shop” in the Gift Shop & Tea Room - they have a huge amount of donated hard back and soft back books available to people, many residents still aren’t aware that it is available.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on Tuesday 3rd May between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.

Planning

The following applications are considered by the Parish Council in April. 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/11/00417 44 The Charne

Erection of single storey rear extension, alteration to existing rear extension roof and erection of side entrance porch.

SE/11/00479 7 Tudor Drive

First floor side and rear extension, to include room in roof space

SE/11/00509 Crammond Shoreham Road

Demolition of existing two storey side extension and construction of new two storey side extension
SE/11/00625 Hawthorns Station Road
Conversion of existing outbuilding to form annex accommodation

SE/11/00683 18 Ryecroft Road
Erection of front porch and single storey rear extension

b. Results received
SE/10/01765 111 Willow Park
Erection of uPVC conservatory to rear of semi-detached property  
Allowed

SE/11/00005 93 Willow Park
Single storey extension to outbuilding in rear garden, for use as a craft room.  
Allowed

SE/11/00145 3 Willow Park
Erection of a single storey rear extension  
Allowed

Easter and May bank holiday refuse collection times

Following the Easter, Royal Wedding and May bank holidays, there will be changes to refuse and recycling and garden waste collection days.

As part of the revised arrangements, Sevenoaks District Council will be collecting on the Royal Wedding Bank Holiday, Friday 29 April, and the day after, Saturday 30 April.

Black and clear sacks and garden waste should be put out by 7am on the revised collection day, otherwise they may not be collected.

The changes are as follows:

Easter weekend and the Royal Wedding

♦ Friday 22 April (Good Friday) collections will take place on Saturday 23 April
♦ Monday 25 April (Easter Monday) collections will take place on Tuesday 26 April
♦ Tuesday 26 April collections will take place on Wednesday 27 April
♦ Wednesday 27 April collections will take place on Thursday 28 April
♦ Thursday 28 April collections will take place on Friday 29 April (Royal Wedding bank holiday)
Friday 29 April (Royal Wedding bank holiday) collections will take place on Saturday 30 April (Royal Wedding day)

**May Day Bank Holiday week**
- Monday 2 May (May Day bank holiday) collections will take place on Tuesday 3 May
- Tuesday 3 May collections will take place on Wednesday 4 May
- Wednesday 4 May collections will take place on Thursday 5 May
- Thursday 5 May collections will take place on Friday 6 May
- Friday 6 May collections will take place on Saturday 7 May

**Spring Bank Holiday week**
- Monday 30 May (Spring bank holiday) collections will take place on Tuesday 31 May
- Tuesday 31 May collections will take place on Wednesday 1 June
- Wednesday 1 June collections will take place on Thursday 2 June
- Thursday 2 June collections will take place on Friday 3 June
- Friday 3 June collections will take place on Saturday 4 June

For further information, call the Council on **01732 227000** or visit [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/refuse](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/refuse).

A Happy, Peaceful and Joyous Easter to you all and enjoy your eggs!!

**Our Congratulations to William and Kate**