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 16th April and 14th May at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Annual Assembly

This is notification for the Annual Assembly of the Electors of the Parish, more commonly called the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held, in the Club Room of the Village Hall on Monday 21st May at 7pm for refreshments before a 7.30pm start. This is your chance to ask questions about what is happening in the village and to hear reports from village organisations so please attend if you can.

Otford Twinning

If you would like to visit Hardelot for the weekend of 9-10th June by car with overnight hospitality or visit for the day on Saturday 9th June by coach with opportunities to walk, paint, visit nearby places of interest, horse ride, play tennis, indulge in retail therapy, sit or play on the lovely long sandy beach, please contact Jane Lawrey on 01959 522360 or any other member of the Twinning Association Committee as soon as possible. A knowledge of French is not essential.

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.
Informal fundraising concert - 5th May at 3pm - St Bartholomew’s Church

My name is Bethany Crawley and I am a member of the church Young Peoples Fellowship. I am going on a trip to Ghana in July with the SABRE Trust (Saving Africa by Rural Endeavour). I need to raise funds to get myself there and to pay for the project work we are doing. We have plans to build a children's play area at a junior high school, along with other community work. I am inviting you to an informal music concert at St Bartholomew’s Church on Saturday 5th May at 3pm (refreshments available afterwards). The programme will include pieces for flute, piano, (cello) and voice. Tickets £7 (children £5), available on the door or contact Bethany on 01959 525128, or email tootyflutei@hotmail.co.uk for more information. Please come and support me in what should be an enjoyable performance, and bring a friend!

Diamond Jubilee Events in Otford

Saturday 2nd June
Solar System Planet walk for children / parents with prizes starting 10am
Historical Society Exhibition in Village Hall - ‘60 yrs of Otford’
Sackville Singers in St Bartholomew’s Church - ‘Otford Jubilee Prom’ - 7.30pm - Tickets £10 to include souvenir programme and glass of wine, £20 for a family.

Sunday 3rd June
Civic Service - St Bartholomew’s Church
Big Tea - Village Green / Bell Ringing
Historical Society Exhibition in Village Hall - ‘60 yrs of Otford’
Evening musical comic production of Chaucer’s ‘The Millers Tale’ on Recreation Ground by Brandywine Music and The Crown PH with Beer Tent

Monday 4th June
Otford Village Fete
Musical Entertainment and Beer Tent
Join with the Community Choir in the evening and have a bit of a sing!
Beacon Lighting between 10pm - 10.30pm

Tuesday 5th June
Street Parties at various village locations

We do hope that you will support the events above and we would like to request that if you are putting out summer bedding, hanging baskets or tubs then you might in this jubilee year plant them in Red, White and Blue. The village planters will be looking suitably patriotic and we hope that you will also will put up bunting and flags to make the village look wonderful.

Types of Flowers you could use include: Red: Geraniums, Salvias, Begonias, Petunias.
White: Geraniums, Alyssum, Begonias, Petunias. Blue: Lobelia, Campanula, Ageratum, Petunias, Gentians
**Olympic Torch Carrier**

Congratulations to 18 yr old Billy Callway from Dane Road, Otford who has been chosen as an Olympic Torch bearer. Billy was officially revealed as one of the district’s representatives on 19\textsuperscript{th} March and he is the only Sevenoaks resident to be running the torch through the town. Billy was a football mad 15 yr old when he injured his knee and tests revealed that he had a tumour which was removed. Fortunately it was benign but it has caused him a lot of problems and he is in almost constant pain in his legs and hips. Billy then began coaching instead and he is now a qualified football coach as well as a volunteer in the Hospices of Hope Tea Rooms in Otford. Billy said that he is ‘absolutely over the moon and a massive honour to represent Sevenoaks’

The Olympic Torch will be visiting Sevenoaks on Friday 20\textsuperscript{th} July so go and cheer Billy on his way.

**Search the Attic and dust off the old photo albums**

As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations there is to be an exhibition covering life in Otford over the last 60 years. This will take place in the village hall on Saturday 2\textsuperscript{nd} and Sunday 3\textsuperscript{rd} June. We are seeking artefacts and photographs to illustrate daily life, events, sport, fashions and crazes over the six decades of the Queen’s reign. Items relating to Otford are especially welcome. If you belong to a club or society perhaps your organisation would like to mount their own display at the exhibition. If you have artefacts please ring Ken Gunderson on 01959 522709 and for photographs contact Ed Thompson at ed@otford.net or 01959 525969. Please be assured that all items will be returned to you at the end of the exhibition. Many thanks for your help.

**Help for Otford Scouts**

There are around 75 local boys and girls in Otford Scouts but it now urgently needs some help from the local community. Partly because Ray Groom, who has been the local group scout leader for 10 years, is leaving in July, we need to fill the following positions.

- **Group Scout Leader** - This person coordinates the four scouting sections in Otford and liaises with the Sevenoaks District Scouts. This requires some previous knowledge of Scouting, although training is available.

- **Chairman** - This person is in charge of the admin side of Otford Scouts and would chair around 5 committee meetings a year and be responsible for matters to do with the Scout Hut.

- **Examiner (auditor)** - This is a simple auditing role and should require just one evening’s work a year in making sure the Annual Accounts look reasonable. An accountancy or banking etc qualification would be a great advantage.

Anyone who would be willing to help please contact Ray Groom on 01959 525413.

**Otford Beavers**

The leader of Otford Beavers is looking for a young person aged 14 – 18yrs to help organise games and activities. Meet on Mondays between 5pm - 6pm in The Scout Hut. Please contact Fiona on 01959 522847 if you are interested.
**Otford Library**

Don’t miss the Free Craft Activity Session in Otford Library on **Saturday 21st April** from 10am to 12 noon making Paper People. Please take along the middle of loo rolls or kitchen rolls if possible. To book call 01959 522488. Go along and have some fun. Remember please use your library.

Other regular free events include:
- Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time – Monday mornings 11am to 11.30am
- Story Time – Term time only - Tuesdays 2.15pm - 2.45pm
- Talk Time – Every Monday 11.30am to 12.30pm
- Computer Buddie – Every Tuesday 2pm to 4pm (booking essential)

**Dog Fouling**

This is still a big problem, which should **NOT** be a problem at all, on the pavements in the village, also on the Recreation Ground especially around the pavilion and on the main football pitch. There are plenty of bins available **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 £25. If the situation does not improve dogs **WILL** have to be **KEPT ON LEADS** and could even be **BANNED** altogether from the Recreation Ground. So don’t ruin it for everyone else just **PICK UP** please and dispose in the **BINS PROVIDED**. The Dog Warden and our Community Warden are on the lookout and offenders **WILL BE** fined.

**Otford & District Wine Club**

The Otford & District Wine Club will be hosting a Wine Tasting in the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm on **Wednesday 25 April**, which will be free for members. Prior booking is essential. No guests will be admitted but those wishing to attend may join in advance at a cost of £6 for the year. Please contact the Secretary Olive Cherry on 01732 458240 to apply for Club membership and to reserve your place.

**Otford Gardeners’ Society**

On **3rd April** ‘Gardening without aches and pains’ is the title of Peter Sprigg's talk. Peter has been gardening for over 25 years and currently runs his own gardening business. The evening starts at 8pm in the OVMH; admission is £1 for non-members and the admission price includes refreshments

Then on **Tuesday 1st May** Local film maker Barbara Darby will give a guided video tour of ‘Gardens around the world’. The evening starts at 8pm in the OVMH; admission is £1 for non-members and the admission price includes refreshments.
Hope Quilter’s – Second Quilt Extravaganza
On **Friday 20th and Saturday 21st April** between 10-5pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall the Hope Quilters will be holding their second Quilt Extravaganza. Includes Quilts (Quilts for Heroes’), Raffle, Sales Table, Trade Stands and demonstrations. In aid of The Prostate Cancer Charity, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Hearing Dogs for the deaf and Hall funds. For further details please contact Sylvia Critcher on 01732 462653 or Annie Summerhayes on 01732 810635. Entrance £3 per adult and children 8-16 yrs £1.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild
The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 28th April** in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. The talk in the afternoon is entitled ‘Wonderful Cloth Dolls’ by Ray Slater. 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.

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 meeting will be on the **26th April** when Irene and John Palmer will be talking about ‘Darwin’s Orchid Bank’. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them.

Otford Afternoon WI
Meetings are held in the Otford Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meeting will be on **10th April** when the talk by Martin Heard is entitled ‘Not tonight Josephine’. Visitors are very welcome, and further details can be found on the Otford Village web site at [www.otford.info](http://www.otford.info) with the link to the WI.

Otford Evening WI
In March members heard a most comprehensive account of the History of the Post Office. April’s meeting on the **Thursday 12th** will be more light hearted, it being the Annual Birthday Meeting with an earlier start of 7pm for 7.30pm. For more information please contact Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634.

The Darent Valley Choir
The Darent Valley Choir will be singing at the Methodist Church, The Drive, Sevenoaks on **Saturday 14th April** at 7.30pm. The concert will consist of Stainer’s Crucifixion and Pergolesi’s Stabat Mater and we hope you will join us to hear this lovely music. Tickets will be available at Sevenoaks Bookshop or on the door.

Otford & District Historical Society
The next meeting of the winter programme will take place on **Wednesday 18th April** in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm when Lynn Walsh will talk about ‘Karl Marx: Yesterday and Today’. Membership is £6 a year and visitors are welcome at £2 per meeting.
RSPB - Sevenoaks Local Group

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5th April in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 7.45pm when they will hold their AGM and a talk on ‘Futurescapes’ about landscape scale conservation in the South East. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50.

Sainsburys/ Tesco’s Vouchers

Otford’s Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are collecting Sainsbury’s Active Kid vouchers and Tesco for Schools and Clubs vouchers 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 always been very well supported by villagers in the past, for which we are very grateful, and would like to ask for your help again this year in saving the 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 continue to be full with long waiting lists. Ideally we would like to re-open the Brownie Pack which closed a few years ago so more girls can experience Guiding. As a result we are always looking for new adult leaders, so if you are female, aged 18 – 60 and would like to get involved we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jane Woodrow-Clark on 01959 523342.

Otford Cricket Club

Otford Cricket Club is well into their preparations for the new season. New members are welcome to come and join us. We use the indoor nets on every Sunday up to Easter from 7pm to 8pm at St Michael’s School Sports Hall where we face the firepower of the 80+mph bowling machine and get warmed up for the coming season. We run two teams on a Saturday and one on a Sunday – all abilities welcome. For details please contact Peter Richardson on 01732 848633 or Jonny Pyman on 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 6th 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 15’s. We will be open for new members at the Registration Day on Sunday 29th April from 4pm and would welcome children who already play as well as those who want to learn to play. If you are interested in joining a thriving and successful club please contact Mark or Angie Stevens on 01959 523881 for further details.

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 lectures start promptly at 1.45 pm and finish by 3 pm. The next meeting will be on 19th April when Peter Medhurst will talk about
'Vermeer: The Musical Pictures.' By discussing the ten musical paintings of Vermeer we will explore the world of music making in the 17th Century Low Countries. The lecture includes several pieces of live music. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

**Otford Village Fete**
The Annual Fete will be held over the Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend. This year our theme is Olympics. Once again Elands Veterinary Clinic has agreed to run our very popular Dog Show and visitors are encouraged to register at 12 noon on the day of the fete. Unlike previous years our procession will not go through the village but will make its way around the Recreation ground at 1pm allowing more people the opportunity to see the parade. We will be updating our website regularly on the attractions: [www.otford.info/villagefete](http://www.otford.info/villagefete). If you would like to help out on the day of the fete we would be very grateful. Please email patty.chatterjee@virgin.net

**Hospices of Hope Events**
Between **Wednesday 18th - Saturday 21st April** - Visit our stand at the Virgin London Marathon Expo, Excel Centre, Docklands, London

On **Friday 27th April** - Don’t miss out on this fun evening where you take on our Quiz Master! Hosted in the Otford Tea Rooms at 7.30pm and enjoy a light supper. Tickets £12 and are available from Wendy on 01959 525110 | wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk

On **Friday 11th May** - TRAVELS WITHOUT YOUR SUITCASE!
Check-in, sit back and travel without hassle. We promise…no airline food!
Friday 11 May 2012, 7 for 7.30 pm at Christchurch, High Street, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1UT. -Rick Woodward is a fabulous photographer and is proud to present his amazing photos of amazing places. You will feel like Easter Island has come to Tunbridge Wells. Ticket price £15.00 to include 3 courses of fine culinary cuisine
Alcoholic and soft drinks will be available on the evening for a recommended donation.
For tickets contact caroleaford@tiscali.co.uk or wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk | 01959 525110

**Otford Methodist Church Wednesday Afternoon Women’s Fellowship**
Meetings are at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details / transport.

**April**
4th /11th - no meetings
18th - Jolene - Where our blankets go
25th - Two visits to India - Barbara Taylor and Rosemary Garner
Hospice in The Weald

Saturday 12th May – Farmer’s Market & Plant Fair at Hospice in The Weald, Pembury
Our renowned Farmer’s Market and Plant Fair is back for 2012. Hundreds of plants, trees, shrubs at fantastic prices will be available, as well as the Farmer’s Market selling a range of delicious produce. For more details please contact Emma Whittington on 01892 820508.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery
The next CAB Surgeries will take place at School House between 10am and 12 noon on Tuesday 3rd April and Tuesday 1st May. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.

Events at Knole

Designs for the garden at Knole
**Tues – Sun 3-15th April** (closed Mon except 9th April). Students from the University of Greenwich present their conservation plans for Lord Sackville’s private garden.

Knole Walk
**Wed 4th April** at 10.45am approx 2 hrs. Begin you visit with a walk into Knole’s past.

Paper making workshop
**Thursday 5th April** - noon – 3pm (booking required – 01732 462100)
Try your hand at making paper in this special workshop

Hands on conservation
Fridays 6th & 13th April - noon to 3pm
A chance to see, handle and learn more about the objects from our collection and some of our stores, generally kept from view

Easter House Trail
**Friday 6th and Saturday 7th April** - noon to 3pm
Take part in an exciting house trail this Easter and get a Cadbury’s Chocolate Egg

Dressing Up in the Great Hall
**Thursday 12th April** - noon to 3pm
Bring your whole family (and a camera), dress as Tudors in our centuries old Great Hall, and take your portrait standing in our fabulous picture frame.

Tree of Life
**Daily from Tuesday 17th – Sunday 29th April** (closed Monday)
Discover a garden of meaning in this bright and beautiful installation created by Kent based groups and individual artists for Min the Gap, an artist led project celebrating creativity for mental well being.
Knole to Ightham Mote and back
Saturday 21st April - 10.30am, approx 8 miles
Join us on this popular walk encompassing two of the country’s finest Medieval houses.

Breakfast Walk
Friday 27th April - 1 ½ hrs (booking required - 01732 462100) - £12 per person
Start your day by experiencing the park at its quietest followed by a cooked breakfast at the Brewhouse.

All events are free unless stated. For further information about events at Knole during 2012 please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole

Easter and May bank holiday refuse collection times
Your revised refuse, recycling and garden waste collection days are

Good Friday - 6th April - collected the next day
Easter Monday - 9th April - all collections this week will be one day later

May Day Bank Holiday - 7th May - all collections this week will be one day later.
Black and clear sacks and garden waste should be put out by 7am on the revised collection day, otherwise they may not be collected.

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 on 101, all information is recorded and acted on.
**Picture of The Month**

The Artist for April / May is Barbara Darby. Barbara has lived in Otford for over 50 years and especially enjoys painting local views. Over the years she has used oils, watercolours, gouache, water colour pencils and acrylics. She says "I often use mixed media and in this beach scene of Norfolk I have used modelling compound for the ropes and chains, watercolour for the pebbles and acrylic for the breakwater" Barbara is also an artist with the DVD Camera and many of her DVD's are on sale in the Heritage Centre.

**Tickets available for Paralympics**

There is still time to see the 2012 Paralympic Games event in Kent. Tickets for the Paralympic Games Road Cycling races at Brands Hatch go back on sale in April. The event will take place in and around the famous Brands Hatch circuit in West Kingsdown from 5th to 8th September. A total of 225 athletes from over 40 countries are taking part. Events consist of daily road races and time trials for inspirational athletes with a range of disabilities competing on bicycles, tricycles, tandems and hand cycles. The GB team won 20 medals in 2008 and there is a good chance that they'll replicate their winning form at home. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for people under 16 yrs and over 60yrs with a full day pass. Paralympic Games Group Organiser tickets are available when you purchase more than 20 tickets. For the latest ticket information and to purchase tickets visit [www.tickets.london2012.com](http://www.tickets.london2012.com) or call 0844 847 2012

**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 wheelie bin garden waste collection payable by an annual permit. To find out more please contact Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000. Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £12 for 25. It avoids all those trips to the tip.

**Planning**

The following applications have been 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/12/00336 Bridge Cottage East & West**

Replacement of existing flat roofed garage serving Waterside Cottage with double garage to serve Bridge Cottages East & West, on the adjacent plot.

**SE/12/00437 15 Broughton Road**

Demolition of existing rear extension and erection of new two storey rear extension.
**SE/12/00489  Stumblebarrow, Tudor Drive**
Proposed new gabled roof, with north and south facing flat roof dormers, alterations to fenestration on dwelling including insertion of four rooflights and alteration of window in garage.

**SE/12/00496  60 High Street**
Extension of existing office at first and second floor, insertion of ground floor glazed screen, alterations to fenestration in front and side elevations.

**SE/12/00512  Byways, Rye Lane**
The erection of a single storey side extension, elevational alterations to rear of property and new pitched roof to existing two storey rear addition.

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**b. Results received**

**SE/11/02555  The Oast House, Shoreham Road**
Erection of a detached dwelling with alterations from previous application

SE/09/00643/FUL including change of access, repositioning of dormers, additional window to east elevation, repositioning of fenestration, alterations to sun room roof, lantern light replaced with velux over stairs, alteration to ridge height to west wing only and addition of tube lights.  

**Allowed**

**SE/11/02545  40 High Street**
Removal of conservatory at rear of property and construction of a single storey rear extension  

**Refused**

**SE/11/03009  Bartram Farm Business Estate**
Outline application for demolition of existing and redevelopment to provide a gym/health club (Class D2), children’s nursery (Class D1) and office building (Class B1) with some matters reserved as amplified by additional transport statement received 6.1.12  

**Refused**

**SE/11/03213  Park Farm, High Street**
Variation of condition 3 (the livery business hereby permitted shall accommodate no more than 15 horses/ponies of SE/11/01668 in order to accommodate 26 horses/ponies.  

**Allowed**

**SE/11/03364  14 Greenhill Road**
Two storey side extension, front and rear dormers, porch area with accommodation in roof space  

**Allowed**

**SE/12/00040  2 Flowerfield**
Erection of a single storey rear extension  

**Allowed**

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**c. Work to Trees in Conservation Area / Tree Preservation Order**

**SE/12/00539/WTCA  The Old Parsonage, 23 High Street** - Fell 1 lime Tree

**SE/12/00413/WTPO  St Michael’s School** - Fell 2 Ash Trees
## Parish Councillors Contact Details

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<td>Douglas G. Cracknell</td>
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A Happy, Peaceful and Joyous Easter to you all and enjoy your Eggs!!