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 14th April and 19th May 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 Parish Council is pleased to welcome our new Councillor Nick Fothergill. Nick has been a resident of Otford for 17 yrs and will sit on the Highways and Recreation Committees of the Council.

You might have noticed that the duck house had been righted following being tipped over by vandals. It has now been removed from the pond and a brand new one is being built by Norman Catt. The ducks can meanwhile use the house in the duck enclosure on the bank.

We have recently been having trouble with the automatic door locks on the public toilets, but as it is intermittent it is difficult to pinpoint the problem. It will probably require a new timing module to be fitted and of course the updated replacement does not have the same wiring configuration as the model currently installed.

Progress on the car park Pay and Display is slow, but progress is being made. The contractors are ready to go, there are just a few “i’s” that require dotting and “t’s” to be crossed to satisfy all the legal requirements. When we are ready to go, notices will be posted to give everybody as much advance warning as possible.

A “Litter Pick” alongside McDonalds staff, took place on Wednesday 26th March. Thank you to all who took part and thank you to McDonalds for providing a new litter bin in the cemetery car park.

On April 1st there will be yet another “Dog Poo” day on the recreation ground where we will be flagging up all the piles of detritus. This is a major problem for all the football and cricket teams that utilise the facilities. On top of that we have received several reports of dogs jumping up on children whilst they are playing on the fields. Therefore we are fast approaching the time when dogs will only be allowed on the recreation if they are on a lead, which is a great shame for all the responsible dog owners. Yet again the majority will be disadvantaged by an inconsiderate minority.

Now for some good news:- Sevenoaks District Council have recently announced that funding measures are being set up that will improve a property’s resilience or resistance to flooding over and above repairs that are normally covered by insurance. Business properties that have been flooded may be eligible for 100% business rate relief for three months. Eligible business properties that have been flooded on any day between 1
December 2013 and 31 March 2014 are entitled to apply. Council Tax discounts are available to homeowners whose homes have been flooded at any time between 1 December 2013 and 31 March 2014. The Government has provided funding to Sevenoaks District Council to offer one-off grants to small and medium sized businesses that have been affected by flooding since 1 December 2013. Eligible businesses for this grant are those that have suffered hardship and significant loss of trade as a result of flooding. If your home or business property is within the Sevenoaks District and has been affected by flooding since 1 December 2013 and you think you may be eligible for one or more of the above schemes, please complete the SDC Expression of Interest Form available as a Word document or the SDC Expression of Interest Form available as a PDF file and e-mail it to grants@sevenoaks.gov.uk or return it to us by post at the address on the form. If you have any queries, please call SDC on 01732 227000.

**Buses**

Please be aware that there are a number of changes to the bus timetable from 7th April affecting Otford. You can pick up a copy of the new timetable from Sevenoaks Bus Station where they can explain the alterations to services.

**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 12th 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.

**Thank You**

Murray and Valerie Flinton would like to thank all those people who helped in various ways in the search for their missing collie Jess. Sadly, she was killed when hit by a car on Friday night 7th March.

**Otford Village Fete - Monday 26th May, 12noon - 5pm**

Patty Chatterjee, Fete Committee Chair writes: As the world remembers the start of the Great War and the tragic loss of so many lives, the fete committee has chosen "100 Years in Otford" as its theme for this year's event. Our winning logo, by Ben Brown of St. Michael's Prep School, was selected from many excellent entries to our design competition, which was open to all children attending Otford schools and clubs. Well done, Ben, and thanks to everyone who took part. Once again we are delighted that Elands Veterinary Clinic has agreed to run the very popular Dog Show. This event attracts a tremendous amount of interest from dog owners, and each category is always over-subscribed, so please ensure that you register by 12noon to avoid disappointment. The committee is hard at work finding exciting new attractions for visitors, and of course ensuring that popular attractions such as the mega-slide, road train, and Punch & Judy remain firmly on the programme. We have live music throughout the day, with drinks supplied by our local pub The Crown, a BBQ from Otford Scouts plus tea and cakes available inside the Memorial Hall from the Otford Brownies. The fete is a great day out for all Otford residents, as well as a way to raise money for its various associations and clubs. We desperately need volunteers to give a few hours on the day of the fete, so if you can offer any help then please email patty.chatterjee@virgin.net. For more information about the day, the planned attractions, and a programme of events please check out the website at www.otford.info/villagefete.

**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.
Otford Remembered 1901 - 1914
'The calm before the storm'
This community centenary commemoration looking at life in Britain and Otford before the outbreak of WW1 will take place in Otford Methodist Church on four nights Friday 9th May /Sat 10th May and Fri 16th May / Sat 17th May at 7.45pm. Tickets are £5 and are available from the Parish Council Office and the Library.

The Otford Society AGM
The Otford Society AGM will take place on Thursday 24th April at 8.00 pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. John Walker, Deputy Chairman of Civic Voice, will give a talk on their work, in particular their new initiative to produce a manifesto to take to the party conferences this year, to influence their manifestos of what they will do in government. The way forward is for Civic Voice to influence policy before it is made, rather than having to fight the results of it. With homes needed over the next 35 years for an estimated increase in population of 50% (25 million people) the pressure will be on to develop around our village, something none of us want. All are welcome to attend, but only members of the Society (you can join on the night for £5/annum) can vote.

Craft Activity at Otford Library
There will be a free Craft Activity session at the Library on Saturday 5th April between 10am and 12 noon. Children of all ages welcome. Call 01959 522488. Don’t forget every Monday morning between 11am and 11.30am they hold Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time. Then on Tuesday’s between 2.15pm and 2.45pm in term time only there is Storytime. There is also a computer buddy available for anyone who has computer queries. Please call 01959 522488 to book a session.

SDC Family Fun Day
Sevenoaks District Council will be running a Family Fun Day on Monday 14th April between 10am and 2pm on Otford Recreation Ground with games and crafts. Children under 8yrs old must be accompanied by an adult. In the Village Hall if wet.

Active Kids Vouchers
Otford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are collecting Sainsbury’s Active Kids Vouchers 2014 which are available now, in store, with online shopping and at the petrol station, until the 20th May 2014. They would be very grateful if you would kindly save any vouchers for them and drop them into their collecting box in the Parish Office. The Rainbows and Brownies had recently enjoyed a session of Judo ‘paid’ for with last years vouchers and were very grateful for the ongoing support of residents. For any girls or volunteers interested in joining Girlguiding Otford there is a website to register your interest. Please log on to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or call 0800 1 69 59 01. They especially need female adult volunteers, over 18, who would be interested in helping at the Guide unit meetings but there are waiting lists for most units in the Sevenoaks area due to a lack of uniformed Leaders so if you think this might be for you they would love to hear from you.

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 30th April, which will be free for members but £6 for guests. The wines will be provided by Lidl and will be a variety that Lidl’s believe will effectively showcase the breadth and quality of their wine selection. Prior booking is essential, please contact the Secretary Olive Cherry on 01732 458240 to reserve your place.
Gardeners’ Society
On Tuesday 1st April Vanessa Jones will be giving a talk on ‘Vegetables and Fruit growing for the table’. Admission which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net

Otford & District Historical Society
The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 16th April at 8pm in Otford Memorial Hall when Christopher Jupp will talk about ‘The Queen’s Own Royal West Kent Regiment in the Great War’. Membership of the Society is £6 and visitors are £2.

Citizens Advice Bureau
The Citizens Advice Bureau will now be holding a surgery at the Otford Parish Council offices EVERY Tuesday between 10am and 12 noon. To book please call 01732 440488 and say that you would like an appointment in Otford. You can also drop in for advice but you may have to wait. This weekly service is available for 3 months on a trial basis from 1st January 2014.

Kemsing Singers - 'Ring out Wild Bells'
On Saturday 5th April at 7.30pm in St Bartholomew’s Church, Otford - Kemsing Singers invite you to an exhilarating evening of popular sacred music including the Mass in G major by Schubert with Rebecca Hunt - Soprano, Peter Young - Organ and the Tamarisk Quartet. The concert is directed by Sara Kemsley. Tickets cost £10 from 01959 523752 or Sheila Dickerson on 01959 524183. There will be a retiring collection for the church reordering fund.

Darent Valley Choir
The Darent Valley Choir will be holding their Spring concert in the Church of St Mary’s Platt on Saturday 12th April at 7.30pm. There will be a varied programme of music including the lovely Faure’s Requiem. Tickets will be available nearer the time from the Sevenoaks Bookshop and from the website darentvalleychoir.com. Cost is £12 or children under 16 will pay £5. They hope you can join them and support one of your local choirs.

Voce Chamber Choir Concert
On Saturday 3rd May at 7.30pm in St Bartholomew’s Church there will be a concert by VOCE (Voices of Cambridge Ensemble). These highly talented singers came together as choristers at Trinity College, Cambridge and they have been augmented by family and friends. They have a wide repertoire and the evening will be a musical treat to remember. Tickets are £8 and will be available from the Parish Church office and Parish Council office.

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 is on 24th April when Anne Watson will talk about ‘Seeing is Deceiving’. Do join them. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 458732 for more details

Otford Evening WI
The next meeting is on Thursday 10th April at 7.30pm and members only will be celebrating their Annual Birthday meeting with supper and a talk on ‘Beauties & Beaux 1770’ by Tony and Lizzie Gilks. Meetings are held in the Club Room of the Village Hall. For more information please contact Evelyn Hubner on 01959 523359.
**Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild**

The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 26th April** in Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street. 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.

**Spring Workshop**

Following on from her very popular Christmas Wreath making evening Denise Thompson, Otford’s own designer florist, will be holding a Spring Workshop in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 9th April** at 7pm. Cost £30. Everything will be provided (except scissors /secateurs - please bring your own). Please ring 01959 525009 to book.

**Otford Methodist Church Easter Services**

Palm Sunday **13th April** Come and join the Otford Palm Sunday Procession and Service on the Village Green. Meet in the Methodist car park at 10.45.

Maundy Thursday **17th April** for a United service at 8.00pm at the Methodist Hall including Communion

Good Friday **18th April** 10.30am service followed by Hot Cross Buns

Easter Sunday please join them to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus at 9.00 am communion or 10.30 am for the Family Service or 6.30 pm for Prayer Service with Communion

**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 - 2nd - What’s in a name? - Trevor Harvey / 9th - Easter meditation
16th - Holy week - No meeting / 23rd - No meeting / 30th - Tea in Hall

**Picture of the Month March - April**

Sheila Dickerson has lived in Otford for the past 38 years. Having spent many years of her life developing all aspects of embroidery, Sheila then felt the need to give expression to a deep urge to discover how to draw and paint flowers. Some years ago she started attending a class at the Adult Education Centre where she spent the next few years learning different approaches to water colour painting.

She was then introduced to a Botanical Art class where she was greatly encouraged to refine her skills in the field of Botanical Art. As a member of the Otford Art Group Sheila enjoys combining calligraphy skills with her botanical work to create pleasing designs.

**Knole Decorative and Fine Art 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 **17th April** when Anthea Streeter will be talking about ‘Frank Lloyd Wright’. Frank Lloyd Wright is acknowledged by many as America’s greatest architect. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

**Farmers Market**

Kent Food Events hold a Farmers Market on the 3rd Saturday of the month in Otford Methodist Church Hall between 10am and 1pm. Lots of stalls. The next market will be on **19th April** so go and have a look and meet the local produce sellers.
BUY IT BABY! Baby & Childrens Fair & Nearly New Sale
On Saturday 10th May between 1pm-3pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall there will be a Baby and Children’s Fair. Hire a table to sell, or come along to buy! 30 tables selling on pre-loved nearly new maternity and nursery equipment, toys, clothes, books, buggys, bumbos, ride on’s etc all in tip-top condition, as well as local activity group and entrepreneurial parents selling items in the young family market. FREE portrait sittings in the pop up studio, FREE info bag on arrival and home baked refreshments. Adults £1 and kids free. See www.buyitbaby.co.uk for more information.

RSPB -Swift Conservation
Edward Mayer will be talking about Swift conservation - keeping the skies alive on Thursday 3rd April at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. He will talk about the life cycle of the Swift from egg to first flight and how they can be helped in the UK. Edward will also illustrate the differences between swift, martins and swallows. For more information please contact Jean Nobbs on 01959 563530.

Police Contact Point
The mobile police van will be visiting the High Street car park between 12noon and 1.00pm for residents to discuss any policing issues and get crime prevention advice. The next dates are 9th April and 23rd April.
If you want to report a non-urgent crime or contact your local officer please call 101.

Hospice of Hope events
On Thursday 8th May at 12.00 noon
Ladies lunch with Eurobe Fashion at Rowhill Grange Hotel
Eurobe has given its customers fantastic fashion from Europe’s leading companies, at amazing prices for more than 30 years. Come and enjoy a delicious luncheon at Rowhill Grange Hotel, Kent followed with a fashion show by Eurobe to see their latest fashion labels. £27.00 per person to include a drink on arrival, two course lunch with a glass of wine, coffee & mints.
On Friday 9th May 2014 at 7.30pm
Manhattan Magic Jazz Night at The Grey Lady, The Pantiles
An evening of jazz and cabaret from the Great American Song book featuring the very talented New York singer Lesley Alexander with the Robert Reid Trio.
£28.00 per person to include a two-course supper.
Tickets for both events available from Anna Perolls anna@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110

Internet Safety
If you are a parent or carer concerned about e-safety look out for the next edition of Sevenoaks District Council’s ‘In Shape’ where there is an article all about keeping young people safe online. They will also be launching a new section on the SDC website with advice for parents, carers, primary school children, teenagers and adults worried about internet scams.

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

a. New applications
SE/14/00132 9, Knighton Road
Erection of a single storey front, side and rear extension and alteration to fenestration
SE/14/00163 5 Ryecroft Road
Erection of first floor extension to existing ground floor and porch
SE/14/00201 20 Rye Lane
Erection of a single storey front extension

SE/14/00296 21 High Street
Removal of existing chimney stack to be replaced with slates to match existing

SE/13/03809 Beadles Garage, Sevenoaks Road
To obtain continuous use of strip of land (currently restricted to 28 days use per annum) adjacent to the display area to allow staff parking from 7am to 7pm

SE/13/03814 15 Tudor Crescent
Demolition of garage and rear porch and erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension with five roof lights and additional parking to front (amendment)

SE/14/00387 Burfield, Pilgrims Way East
Erection of a two storey side extension with four velux windows to roof, and a Juliet balcony to front elevation.

SE/14/00329 Elmwood and The Gables, Tudor Crescent
Demolition and removal of stable block, greenhouse, brick shed and timber shed within garden of Elmwood. Erection of a shed for each property

SE/14/00376 36 Pilgrims Way East
Demolition of existing conservatory to facilitate the erection of a single storey extension

SE/14/00532/533 The Grange, High Street
Demolition of parts of the 21st century single storey extensions. Erection of single storey rear extension and internal alterations.

SE/14/00549 72 and 76 High Street
Creation of a dropped kerb

SE/14/00568 31 Willow Park
Demolition of existing garage and lean-to. Erection of two storey side extension.

SE/14/00588 Little Coombe, Shoreham Road
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling with Juliet balcony to rear elevation.

b. Results Received

SE/13/03338 Willoughby Cottage, 10 Coombe, 10 Coombe Road
Demolition of front bay window and part demolition to rear utility room. Extension of roof height to facilitate habitable rooms in roofspace to include six velux windows and two dormer windows with balconies on rear elevation. Alteration to roof to include pitched roof over utility room on north elevation. Alteration to front porch on south elevation to include pitched roof to porch and dining room. Alterations to external fenestration. **Allowed**

SE/13/03537 47 Pilgrims Way West
Demolition of existing two storey dwelling and garaging and construction of new two storey dwelling with attached double garage (resubmission of SE/13/02458) **Allowed**

SE/13/03483 The Oast House, Broughton Manor
Erection of two bay garage **Allowed**

SE/13/03595 52B Pilgrims Way East
Demolition of existing dwelling and three outbuildings, erection of replacement dwelling with integral garaging facilities, with raised timber decking and external steps **Refused**

SE/13/03699 Vestry House, Old Otford Road
Loft conversion to include velux windows. Erection of a single storey rear extension. **Allowed**

SE/13/03646 23 Station Road
Installation of 2no velux rooflights within an existing kitchen extension roof (retrospective). **Allowed**

SE/14/00041 Orchard Field, Leonard Avenue
Erection of a cricket practice net facility **Allowed**
Orchard Cottage, 11, Colets Orchard

Erection of a garage, with extended drive area (retrospective application - revised garage design to permission 13//01943)

Allowed

c. Tree Work

SE/14/00212

7 Bubblestone Road

Reduce back 1 Goat Willow tree by 20% to rear of property.

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Parish Councillors Contact Details

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<th>Chairman</th>
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<td>John Edwards-Winser</td>
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<th>Councillors</th>
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<td>Douglas G. Cracknell</td>
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<td>Martin J. Whitehead</td>
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Easter and May Bank holiday refuse collection times

Your revised refuse, recycling and garden waste collection days are:-

- Good Friday - 18th April - collected the next day.
- Easter Monday - 21st April - all collections this week will be one day later.
- May Day Bank Holiday - 5th May - all collections this week will be one day later.
- Spring Bank Holiday - 26th 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, but NOT OVERNIGHT please.

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Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for all items for the May newsletter will be **Monday 21st April**

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A Happy, Peaceful and Joyous Easter to you all

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