Christmas/New Year Travel Details
Sevenoaks Bus Station - 01732 743040

**Bus**

Dec 24th - Normal
Dec 25th - No service
Dec 26th - No service
Dec 27th - No service
Dec 28th - No service
Dec 29th - Sat service
Dec 30th - Sat service
Dec 31st - Sat service
Jan 3rd - No service
Jan 4th - Normal service

**Train**

(South Eastern Trains 0870 603 0405)

Dec 24th - Normal service (early close down)
Dec 25th - No service
Dec 26th - No service Otford
Special service Sevenoaks to Victoria & Ashford
Dec 27th - Sunday service
Dec 28th - Sunday service
Dec 29th - Sat service (extra peak hour)
Dec 30th - Sat service (extra peak hour)
Dec 31st - Saturday service
Extra peak hour trains and all night London to Orpington
Jan 1st - Saturday service (late start)
Jan 2nd - Sunday service
Engineering works Swanley-Borough Green/Sevenoaks
Jan 3rd - Sunday service
Jan 4th - Normal weekday service

Tree of Light

Labels for you to write on your message are still available from the Parish Council Office. The Tree of Light will remain lit up until after the New Year. Donations are going to The Hospice in the Weald.

Church Christmas Services

**St Bartholomew’s Christmas Events**

- Choir Concert: Sunday 12th December at 7.30pm in Church.

As in previous years there will be a mixture of carols both old and new from around the world (some sung in foreign languages), which will be performed by the choir with audience participation encouraged on some of the popular carols. This year, the St Bartholomew’s Otford Choir (directed by Kevin Grafton) has combined with Cantores, a Chamber Choir conducted by Alun Grafton, which is based in Berkshire. Cantores have already given several concerts in St Bartholomew’s on previous occasions, which have been highly appreciated and successful. The price for admission, payable on the door, is £5 (free for under 16’s) for which the audience receive the benefit of two choirs rather than one and can enjoy mince pies and a glass of wine or fruit juice. Proceeds are divided between the Children’s Society and choir funds.

- Christmas Play by Sunday Club Children: Sunday 19th December at 10.30am in Village Hall.

- Service of Nine Lessons and Carols: Sunday 19th December at 6.30pm followed by seasonal refreshments in the Church Hall.

Carol Singing

On Friday 17th December at 6.45pm join the Methodist Church Carol Singing in the Willow Park Area: meet at Telston Stores. Refreshments to follow. Collecting for NCH Action for Children.

Christmas cards from the Churches in Otford, listing all the church services over the Christmas period, will be delivered to every house in the Parish.

Road Closure

On the weekend of 18th and 19th December Pilgrims Way East will be closed between the A225 and Row Dow for resurfacing. Access from Tudor Drive as directed

Contact Daniel Cumberland at SDC on 01732 227326 for further details.

No bus Otford to Kemsing on Saturday
Police Community Support Officer
In the very near future, David Birchall will be taking up his duties, sharing half of his time in Otford with Shoreham and Dunton Green. PCSO’s work alongside the police in a support role. They patrol their local area providing assistance to the public and dealing with incidents of nuisance and anti-social behaviour, which don’t require full police powers. PCSO’s also have the power to issue non-endorsable fixed penalty notices to offenders. The work may include assisting at large public gatherings, sports events and demonstrations. PCSO’s work shifts including weekends and bank holidays.

If you meet David in the village do stop and have a chat – he’s here to help you!
Next year, David will be joined by a Community Rural Warden. More details on that at a later date.

Otford - the past in pictures
The Otford & District Historical Society have produced a wonderful new book of old photographs of Otford that will make a lovely Christmas present for your friends and family. With 64 pages of pictures and accompanying text you will see a time when cattle roamed the streets and spring water was free. Discover the secrets of Otford Palace and join a Royal visit to the Forge and journey to the hamlet of Twitton and enjoy the Railway Station in the age of steam. Copies cost £7 and can be obtained from the following outlets.

Videos
All these videos, which make perfect Christmas presents are available to buy from School House during weekday mornings and the Heritage Centre on weekend afternoons.

- Vanished Palace of Otford - £6.50
- Otford's Chronicle of Millennium Events - £10
- Scale Model of the Solar System - £10
- The Village Mosaic - £10
- The Bells of St Bartholomew's - £10
- Reprint of The Kentish Village of Otford (Recollections of events during 1994) - £10
- Otford Down Under - £6.50
- Otford Village Sign - £6.50
- A Village in Kent with a Pond - £10
- Bridge Video - Replacement of Millstream Bridge - £6.50
And don’t forget The Sevenoaks Round Table calendars featuring scenes of Otford for £5. All proceeds go to local causes.

Dog Fouling Poster Competition
We had a great response and it has been difficult to make the final decisions. The following are the prize-winners

10yrs and under - 1st prize - Margot Parker
Runners-up - Connor O'Brien, Megan Hawes and Tasminder Marsh.

11yrs old - 1st prize - Richard Dean

12yrs and upwards - 1st prize - Kirsty Collins
Runners-up - Imogen Chandler and Thomas Wild

All the posters will be on view in the library and will be displayed around the village during the course of the year. Congratulations to everyone who took part. All prize-winners will be contacted shortly.

‘Secret Gardens’
As part of the fundraising events that will be taking place to raise funds for the building of the new extension at St Bartholomew's Church, a tour of the ‘Secret Gardens’ within Otford will take place during the weekend of 4th and 5th June 2005. If you would be willing and interested in opening your garden to the public for that weekend please could you contact Sue Stephenson on 01959 523789 (home) or mornings at School House on 01959 524808. Many thanks.

Holiday Refuse Collections

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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<td>Fri 31st December</td>
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<td>Mon 3rd January</td>
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<td>Sat 8th January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10th January</td>
<td>No change</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Christmas tree Recycling
As in past years you can have your Christmas tree recycled by the District Council. All you do is put your tree at the kerbside and they will collect it at no cost when they do the next garden waste collection in your road. Trees with a trunk less than 2" in diameter will be collected until the end of January. If the trunk is more than 2" it can be taken to Dunbrik Recycling site where it can be placed in a large garden waste...
Residents are advised that the Council will not collect Christmas trees with their regular weekly kerbside rubbish.

**Otford Library**
The Otford Library Public Meeting on 30th November was well attended with a good positive response. Our library has been chosen by KCC to receive a thorough makeover before March 2005. We are one of two chosen from 106 other libraries in Kent. There is a flip chart in the library for us all to add our library needs or ideas. If you have never had the opportunity to go in - please do you may find just the book, video to wile away the dull winter weather or ideas for things to make or do.

**Sevenoaks Embroiderers’ Guild**
The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 29th January** when there will be an Exhibition and Crafts. The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

**Evening of Craft & Design**
You are invited to an exclusive evening of craft and design on **Thursday 16th December** in Otford Memorial Hall between 7.15pm and 9.30pm. All the work is original and handmade by the artists present and includes greeting cards and pictures, hand painted home accessories and furniture, glass and metal jewellery, silk paintings and floral arrangements and wreaths. Complimentary mulled wine will be served (while stocks last!) and raffle tickets will be on sale in aid of N.S.P.C.C.

**Calling all volunteers**
Do you have a little time to spare? Would you like to help people in your community cope with the effects of crime? Would you be interested in training to enable you to do this? Could you help with fundraising?
If the answer to any or all of the above questions in YES, please get in touch with Wendy, Bridget or Jane at Victim Support Maidstone & West Kent on 01622 690103.

**Otford Allotments Association**
One down one to go - yes there is one allotment still available and now is the time to get digging and clearing for spring planting. What better way to keep fit and warm through the winter period and to finally reap the reward of your efforts next year. Give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 if you are interested, even if it is just to have a look around. Or you can call into the Parish Office any weekday morning for further details.

**Otford Folk Dance Club**
The next Thursday night special takes place in the Church Hall on **16th December** from 8pm when Contraband will be playing for the Christmas Event, with Eddie and Morris calling. American Supper (bring enough finger food for yourself to add to the buffet), a glass of wine, Tea or Coffee provided. On **Saturday 1st January 2005** at 8pm in the Otford Memorial Hall the Pilgrims Way Band will be playing for the first dance of the year, with once again Eddie and Morris calling. This too will have an American Supper as above. Tea or coffee is provided. The range of dances covers Folk, Square or Barn Dances of English, American, Scottish and Irish origin. First visit free! After first visit £1.50 per night including tea/coffee and biscuits. For more details please contact 01959 522355.

**Picture of the Month**
The artist for December/January is Will Vizard. He is one of our younger artists of the month and has had an interest in art and design from an early age. He has always preferred detailed drawing and painting rather than abstract images. He says “Working in the city does not allow time to produce a great number of paintings and of those I attempt I am very self critical with most ending up in the waste paper bin”.
If you reside in the village and paint in any medium, would you like to have one of your pictures exhibited in the Heritage Centre? Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 for further information.

**Otford Oast W.I.**
Give it a try, you can be sure of a warm welcome. There is a free crèche at every meeting. The first visit is free, second visit £1.50 and Annual membership is £20. For more information please contact Mrs D Metcalfe on 01322 271873.

**Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons Women’s Fellowship**
Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings which take place at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall
and a list of the next months speakers and events are as follows:

**January**
- 5th – Tea at 23 Warham Road
- 12th – Rev Peter Hills – Devotional
- 19th – Gilbert Denton – Victoria & Albert
- 26th – Barbara Darby – New videos

**Otford Short Mat Bowls**
Otford Short Mat Bowls Club is looking for new members. They meet in the Village Hall on Wednesday and Friday evenings and Thursday and Sunday afternoons. If you feel that you would like to sample a game please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183. All are welcome.

**Otford & District Historical Society**
The next meeting of the Historical Society will take place on **Wednesday 19th January** at 8pm in the Village Hall when Monty Parkin will talk on the subject of the A25 (Ightham to Bat & Ball) Membership of the Society is only £3 a year, which includes 6 winter talks and usually 3 summer outings. Visitors are welcome to all meetings at just £1 and children are admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

**Citizens Advice Bureau**
The next CAB surgery will take place in School House on Tuesday 11th January 2005.

**Planning**
The following applications were considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in December. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk or the Strategic Services Director, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

a. **New applications**
- SE/04/02656 68 High Street
  Construction of rear extension and carrying out of improvement works to front and side (S and E) elevations
- SE/04/02693 Land r/o 18-20 Tudor Drive
  Conservatory
- SE/04/02728 17 Hillydeal Road
  Erection of garage upon front elevation and erection of conservatory and swimming (therapy) pool upon ear elevation
- SE/04/02791 McDonalds Restaurant Old Otford Road
  Application to vary condition 9 opening hours
- SE/04/02835 Frog Farm, Pilgrims Way West
  Erection of agricultural building for use as grain store (existing building to be retained as subsidiary to new structure)

b. **Results Received**
- SE/04/02398 8 Greenhill Road
  Construction of single storey side extension, conservatory to rear and alteration to front porch/baywindow roof. Non sweep drive. Renewal of application no. SE/99/01808/FUL approved 11.11.99
  **Allowed**
- SE/04/02514 115 Evelyn Road
  Erection of single storey rear conservatory
- SE/04/01249 12 Coombe Road
  Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of detached dwelling and garaging with living accommodation over. Removal of ramp and wall arrangements between garage and house, reduction in height of garage, alterations to elevations and roof finish, received July 2004. Revised location plans received 1.11.04
  **Allowed**
- SE/04/02110 22 Knighton Road
  Room in roof with alterations to roof and rear dormer
  **Allowed**
- SE/04/02435 68 Evelyn Road
  Details pursuant to conditions 1, 4, 5 & 7 of planning permission SE/04/00761/OUT amended to include condition 8
  **Allowed**

c. **Planning Appeals**
- SE/04/01849 Park Farm High Street
  Retention of mobile home for agricultural student worker accommodation on permanent basis

de. **Tree Preservation Orders**
- 320.120/19.95/04.111 5 Great Till Close
  Application to cut down, prune, reduce or uproot trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order

d. **Enforcement Notice**
- 310/82/91 Park Farm High Street
  Removal of mobile home from agricultural land

The Chairman, Parish Councillors, Clerk and Assistant Clerk wish you all a very happy, restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year.