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 13th December at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Parish Clerk – Retirement
Our Clerk Barbara Darby retires at the end of this year after over 25 years’ exemplary service to the village. There will be a party to say thank you in the Village Hall on Friday 10th December at 6.00pm. All are welcome. We will be holding a collection for her and if you would like to make a donation please send or deliver it to the Assistant Clerk Sue Stephenson at the Parish Office.
We welcome Brenda Hambrook our new clerk from January 2011.

Parish Chairman’s News
A recent Parish Seminar by Kent Highways yielded much important information. In common with other government funded organisations their annual budget will be cut for the next four years. The total amount is not known but is likely to average 7% over four years and be front-loaded", i.e. initially larger than 7%. It is thus even more important to request spending be on our roads that adds to our convenience and safety.
It was stated that Kent has about 600 people killed or seriously injured per year and police analyses indicate the nature of the road is responsible for only 2% of these, the vehicle for 3%, but 95% is due to human error. From the limited information available to the council, it would seem that in Otford it has mainly been the pedestrian that made the error.

From other information the parish council has received, speed was mentioned by the police as a factor in only four of the 71 crashes in Otford over the last ten years. In three of these the driver was injured or died. In the fourth a member of the public died and the coroner exonerated the driver of the vehicle. Unpleasant or frightening as it may be to have vehicles travelling past one over (or even at) 30 mph, statistically, in Otford it has been the driver and vehicle most at risk from speeding. (also mentioned at the seminar was the fact that reducing the speed limit to 20 mph outside schools made no difference to the number of crashes/accidents). Nevertheless, the parish council has constantly tried to reduce excessive vehicle speeds. Some will remember the “gateway” on Pilgrims Way West that produced no effect whatsoever (as judged by mothers with children who walked along PWW). Neither did a “pinch-point” that was recorded as only reducing speeds by about 2 mph. Many will also remember the survey on building “humps” to produce traffic calming that was resoundingly rejected. The Parish Councils efforts to increase safety - and the perception of safety - continue, but are limited by the village roads we inherit and the limited Kent Highways budget, aimed at reducing recorded road injuries and deaths, based on the police recorded data on injuries and deaths in Otford.

Otford Heritage Centre/ Parish Council

The Heritage Centre is closed during weekends in December and normal weekend/bank holiday opening resumes on 8th January 2011.
The Parish Council office will be closed on Christmas Eve and reopen after Christmas on Wednesday 29th December and Thursday 30th December and then closed again until after the New Year on Tuesday 4th January 2011. Full details will be posted on the office window.

Race to Infinity

Otford is taking part in the BT Race to Infinity and more votes are needed. Vote now at www.racetoinfinity.bt.com one vote per address, voting closes on 31st December 2010 and Otford needs at least 1000 votes to get on the scoreboard and be in with a chance of an early upgrade for the Otford exchanges. PLEASE VOTE NOW. See item on the Otford Forum on Otford.info.
Tree of Light

The Tree of Light service will take place on **Friday 10th December** at 7.00pm on the Village Green. Following that there will be seasonal refreshments offered in the new St Bartholomew’s Church Centre. Labels for you to write your message on are available from the Parish Council Office. If you cannot get into the office during opening hours (8.30am – 12.30pm) then please phone up and we will write your card for you. Cheques for your donation need to be made out to Otford Parish Council. The Tree of Light will remain lit up until after the New Year. Donations will once again be going to The Hospice in the Weald.

Guide Christmas Post

The Guide Christmas Post Box will be in Otford Library between **Friday 26th November** and **Friday 17th December** inclusive during opening hours. A second box will also be available in the Parish Council office on Monday to Friday between the same dates. All cards will be delivered over the weekend 18th - 19th December and all the proceeds will be divided between Make a Wish and Spring House. Stamps will be 20p per card and all the money will go to the chosen charities.

Progress on the Parish Plan

The Parish Plan is in the final stages of its preparation. All the concerns that the community have expressed have been taken on board together with practical suggestions for addressing them. It has taken a bit longer than had been hoped but it has been worth all the effort that has gone into it. The Parish Council will shortly be discussing it in detail and we hope early in the New Year, the Otford Parish Plan will be on-line and available to you in print. We hope to begin design in December. Meanwhile the steering group are actively looking at ways in which we can raise the funds which will be needed to support some of the objectives you have identified. It won’t all happen over a few months. Some of the proposals make take years to achieve. Action with Communities in Rural Kent have allocated us a 'Funding-Buddy' who will help us in the search for the right funding source for each of the many projects we have planned. At the end of the day though, it will be all of us as a community, lucky enough to live in this beautiful village, who actually make the plan work.

Your Personal Photos are needed

When it goes into print, the Otford Parish Plan will have many photos in it. These will illustrate the many aspects of life in our community. There are so many stories connected with living in Otford and we would like the plan to reflect a taste of our village life. Can you help with your photos? It doesn't matter if they are digital or
simply traditional photos. We would love to see them - and be sure they will be returned to you afterwards.

We are particularly interested in photos that might help illustrate the following subjects:

- Showing what care means - whether it is for an older person, or a young one.
- Having fun at community events - particularly non-obvious pictures.
- Photos which illustrate walking, rambling or taking exercise or performing a sport.
- Cycling is so high on everyone's list, we would love to get some cycling shots.
- Photos which show how attractive our historic village is - particularly unusual views.
- Photos which illustrate our local footpaths - maybe with your family on it.
- Shots which illustrate our three schools
- Any interesting shots which tell of 'life-in-Otford'

You can drop your photos in to the Parish Office in an envelope addressed to Parish Plan Photos and enclose your name, address and telephone number: or if they are digital, you can email them to rodshelton@greenbee.net. Who knows, you may end up in print! Rest assured, nothing will be included in the Parish Plan document, without your written permission in advance and all your photos will be returned to you.

St Bartholomew’s Church Christmas Services

**Sunday 19th December**

6.30pm - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Christmas Eve**

4.00pm - Crib Service

11.30pm – Midnight Christmas Communion (starting with carols at 11.10pm)

**Christmas Day**

9.00am - Christmas Day Communion

10.30am - Church Family Christmas Worship

Otford Methodist Church Services

**Sunday 19th December**

10.30am - Christmas Nativity Family Service - a family event for toddlers to grandparents.

6.30pm - Carols by Candlelight - an opportunity to enjoy a traditional Christmas Evening

**Friday 24th December**

5.00pm - Christingle Service - This is a special service for children and the young at heart
Friday 25th December
10.30am - Christmas Day Service for all the Family, bring one of your presents to open during the service

Friday 31st December New Years Eve
11.30pm - Watchnight Service to see in the New Year

St Bartholomew’s Church Choir Concert
St.Bartholomew’s Church, Otford, annual choir Christmas concert, now in its 28th year, will take place in the church on Sunday 12th December at 7.30p.m.
This year sees the 65th birthday of John Rutter and the choir, directed by Kevin Grafton, will be performing a number of Rutter’s arrangements of traditional carols plus some of his original compositions.
Other items, new to the choirs’ repertoire, will include “Lux Aurumque” by the young American composer Eric Whitacre and John Gardener’s popular “Tomorrow will be my dancing day”.
The concert, which is of an informal nature, will include traditional carols from England, Hungary, Poland, Bohemia, Italy, and Austria, ranging from medieval carols to West Gallery hymns and from the 14th to 21st centuries, from the ox and ass to the jingling bells of Rudolph.
Audience participation will be encouraged in well-known carols.
Admission is £5 (children free) and includes mince pies, wine, and soft drinks.
Proceeds will be shared between the Choir Fund and the Childrens’ Society

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. Paul can always be contacted on 07813 713366.

Police Contact Numbers
To contact our neighbourhood Police Officer Ben Clatworthy please call 07980 770581 or PCSO Wright on 07772 226036. To report a crime please call 01622 690690.

Crime reduction advice from your Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Policing Team
We are now in the busy Christmas shopping period when inevitably we hear about purse and handbag thefts because there are rich pickings around. It is therefore a good time to remind people to think about personal security.
It’s very distressing for someone if their purse is stolen but there are some easy things you can do to prevent this happening:
• Use a purse chain to secure your purse in your bag, keep the purse at the bottom of the bag and make sure your bag is done up.

• Wear your handbag across your body if possible.

• Keep your bag where you can see it and don’t leave it on the shopping trolley when you turn away to pick things from the supermarket shelves.

• Don’t leave your bag on the back of a chair or on the floor if you’re in a café or restaurant.

• Don’t leave your purse, wallet, bag or any other valuables on show in an unattended car.

• If you need to use a cash machine try to use one inside a bank or shop and don’t let anyone distract you while you are doing so.

• Don’t carry too much cash with you and don’t have your bank card numbers written down with the cards.

If you want more advice about security or want to get a purse chain please speak to a neighbourhood officer. You can contact the officer for your area by ringing 01622 690690.

If you would like further crime reduction advice, or to talk about any local policing issues, why not come along to one of our regular neighbourhood meetings? Dates and locations are as follows:

• **Friday 17 December** 1pm-2pm Post Office, Sevenoaks Road

• **Monday 10 January 2011** 3pm-4pm Post Office, Otford

• **Monday 17 January 2011** 2pm-3pm Homebase, Otford

**Otford & District Historical Society**
The Otford & District Historical Society will be holding its next meeting on **Wednesday 8th December** with the AGM plus ‘A Country Christmas’ The Annual Membership is now £6 and £2 for visitors.

**Yoga Class**
The new term for your friendly Hatha Yoga class at Otford Church Hall starts on Tuesday 4 January 2011. Classes are weekly, 7.30-9.00pm and cost £8 per lesson. Beginners and all abilities are welcome. For further details and to reserve a place please contact Brenda Hambrook on 01959 525969 or yoga@otford.net.
**Christmas Cards**
The Otford Society's Christmas Cards are on sale at the Mad Hatters Emporium, by the pond. There are 8 cards in a pack, 4 photos of Otford, 2 of each view in a pack. Cost is £3.60 per pack.

**Kemsing Singers Carol Concert**
On **Saturday 11th December** at 7.30pm the Kemsing Singers will hold their Carol Concert at the Methodist Church, The Drive, Sevenoaks. Also at St Edith's Hall, Kemsing on **17th and 18th December**. They will be singing Rutter's 'Magnificat' with other Christmas music and audience carols. Concert is in aid of Hospice in The Weald on their 30th Anniversary. Tickets at £10 each are available from the Box office at 9, Cleves Road, Kemsing, Sevenoaks TN15 5RX. Tel: 01959 523752

**Christmas/New Year Travel Details**

**Sevenoaks Bus Station - 01732 743040**

**Buses**
- Dec 25th - No service
- Dec 26th - No service
- Dec 27th - No service
- Dec 28th - No service
- Dec 29th - Saturday service
- Dec 30th - Saturday service
- Dec 31st - Saturday service
- Jan 1st - No service
- Jan 2nd - No service
- Jan 3rd - No service

**Trains**
- Dec 24th - Normal service. Early finish
- Dec 25th - No service
- Dec 26th - No service
- Dec 27th - Sunday service
- Dec 28th - Sunday service
- Dec 29th - Saturday service
- Dec 30th - Saturday service
- Dec 31st - Saturday service
- Jan 1st - Saturday Service
- Jan 2nd - Sunday Service
- Jan 3rd - Sunday Service
Full details of additional or amended services will be displayed at station. Please check before beginning your journey. For full details of all services operating over the festive period, please call 08457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

**Revised Christmas and New Year refuse collection times:**
- Monday 27 December and Monday 3 January - Next collection Tuesday 4 January
- Tuesday 28 December and Tuesday 4 January - Next collection Wednesday 5 January
- Wednesday 29 December - No change
- Thursday 30 December - No change
- Friday 31 December - No change
- Wednesday 5 January - Collected the next day, Thursday 6 January
- Thursday 6 January - Collected the next day, 7 January
- Friday 7 January - Collected the next day, 8 January

**Revised fortnightly garden waste collections arrangements**

**Green week collections:**
- Monday 27 December - No collection
- Tuesday 28 December - No collection
- Wednesday 29 December - No change
- Thursday 30 December - No change
- Friday 31 December - No change

**Blue week collections:**
- Monday 3 January - Collected the next day, Tuesday 4 January
- Tuesday 4 January - Collected the next day, Wednesday 5 January
- Wednesday 5 January - Collected the next day, Thursday 6 January
- Thursday 6 January - Collected the next day, Friday 7 January
- Friday 7 January - Collected the next day, Saturday 8 January

Please ensure that your black and clear sacks are put out by 7am on your rescheduled day of collection.

**Friends of Otford Library (FOOLS)**
Have organised a winter programme of events (all to be held in Otford Library), notices of which will appear on notice boards around the village and of course in the library. On **Saturday 11th December** at approx 11am a visiting choir will be singing carols. With mince pies etc available in the library. In January an IT day with our computer buddy Elaine Elston. In February local watchcase maker Martin Matthews will be giving a talk on a Wednesday afternoon and during March/April hopefully a flower arranging demonstration.
Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons Women’s Fellowship
Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details / transport

December 8th - Christmas Meditation / 15th - Christmas lunch

CANTATE Choir - Christmas Concert by Candelight
Cantate return to the beautiful surroundings of St Mary’s Church Platt on Saturday 11th December at 7.30pm to perform Christmas music for all to enjoy. The choir are delighted to be joined this year by wonderful harpist Camilla Pay, who has a busy career working in both the classical and pop worlds. Many may recognise her from the band of Strictly Come Dancing. She will perform solo pieces and accompany the choir in Britten’s Ceremony of Carols, a work she recorded recently with the choristers of Canterbury Cathedral.
One of Britten’s most loved works, the Ceremony of Carols is a setting of Mediaeval words, to which Britten adds his own unique sense of drama and beauty. The music is by turns arresting, serene, and magical. For the first part of the evening Cantate sing carols old and new, with the ever-popular chance to stand up and join in!
Come and spend a festive evening with us, and get your Christmas off to a musical start!
Tickets £10 including refreshments from Sevenoaks Bookshop and from the box office 01732 770570 or on the door. www.cantate-choir.info

Otford Primary Top Draw
TOP DRAW – The Otford Primary Draw. Your chance to win cash prizes and raise money for your local school.
The winning numbers of the October TOP Draw are:
1st Prize £50 – 421, 2nd Prize £15 – 456, 3rd Prize £10 - 379
Top Draw is the monthly lottery run by the PTFA which gives you the chance to win and help the school in the process.
If you would like to play, please collect an entry form from Otford Parish Council or Otford Primary School.

Otford & District Wine Club
This year’s Otford & District Wine Club Christmas Dinner & Dance will be held in the Otford Memorial Hall on Saturday 11th December. It will begin at 7.15pm with a glass of sherry followed by a three course dinner with coffee, mince pies and mints. There will be a joke competition, raffle and dancing. Members £20 guests £24, please contact Olive Cherry on 01732 458240 if you have not already booked.
**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 their Birthday meeting which will take place on **Thursday 9th December**. 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 take place on **Tuesday 14th December** when there will be monologues and jokes by Alan Denton and also a festive tea and Christmas gift table. This is a good time to join the WI as the membership year starts in January, so please go along and join them. Visitors are very welcome, and further details can be found on the Otford Village website at [www.otford.info](http://www.otford.info) with the link to the WI or call Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

**Otford Evening WI**
All meetings take place on 2nd Thursday of each month in Otford Village Hall. The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 9th December** with their Christmas meeting. Visitors are always very welcome. For more information please call Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887 or Joan Beacom on 01959 524304.

**Picture of the Month**
Our artist for the month of November / December is Sheila Dickerson. Sheila has enjoyed her creative interest in embroidery. To broaden her interests she took a short calligraphy course which included learning how to decorate artistically, the various pieces of calligraphic writing. This encouraged her to enrol in a course for drawing and painting flowers, which developed into botanical art. Being a member of Otford Art Group she looks forward to their Tuesday meetings and also her occasional Botanical Art classes. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

**Hospices of Hope**
There is now an unwanted goods donation drop off point inside the Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop, 11a High Street, Otford which is open Monday - Friday 10am - 4.30pm and Saturday 10am - 5.00pm. The well stocked second hand bookshop contains good quality paperbacks and hardbacks, children’s corner and themed displays. PAPERBACK BOOKS ARE CURRENTLY REQUIRED PLEASE
**Next Events**

**Tuesday 7 December**  | Festive Ladies Luncheon  | Brandshatch Place Hotel & Spa  | £28 ticket, with Guest Speaker Paul Harris - professional Dame & Radio Kent DJ

**Wednesday 15 December**  | Cheese, Wine & Rock n Roll | Sunrise Senior Living, Chipstead | £7.50, be entertained by the Rock n Roll Old Boy Network.

For further information on any of the above, please contact wendy@hopsicesofhope.co.uk  | 01959 525110

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**Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery**

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 4th January 2011** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.

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**Landfill Smell**

If you affected by the smell from the Landfill Quarry there is an Environment Agency Hotline you can ring to report it. The number is 0800 80706.

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**Planning**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SE/10/02806</td>
<td>Broughton Manor High Street</td>
<td>Retrospective - installation of cupola on boathouse roof</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE/10/02807</td>
<td>Broughton Manor High Street</td>
<td>LBC - Retrospective - installation of cupola on boathouse roof</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE/10/02970</td>
<td>11 Tudor Crescent</td>
<td>Erection of single storey rear extension, pitched roof over adjacent existing flat roof, and fenestration changes</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE/10/02995</td>
<td>59 Pilgrims Way W</td>
<td>Proposed rear conservatory extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE/10/03117</td>
<td>18 The Butts</td>
<td>Loft conversion with velux rooflights &amp; balcony to rear elevation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCC/SE/0372/2010</td>
<td>Greatness Quarry</td>
<td>Variation of condition 11 of SE/08/02141 to amend pre-settlement contour plans to allow for an increased settlement rate of up to 25% (in part retrospective) and minor amendments to the post settlement contours to ensure long term integrity of the landfill cap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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b. Results received
SE/10/01765  111 Willow Park
Erection of uPVC conservatory to rear of semi-detached property  Withdrawn

d. Planning Appeals
SE/09/02035  J Sainsbury Otford Road
Extension to existing store to provide additional retail sales floorspace, new
warehouse (backup) floorspace, relocation of customer restaurant, erection of car
park deck and associated alterations to car park  Withdrawn

Tree-cycle with the Council this Christmas
Residents who want to dispose of their Christmas tree for free in an environmentally
friendly, hassle free way can take advantage of the Council’s fortnightly garden
waste collection service up to, and including, Monday 31 January 2011. The service will collect Christmas trees with a trunk less than 89mm (three-and-a-half inches) wide from the boundary of residents’ property on their scheduled fortnightly garden waste collection day.
Trees should be put out by 7am and should not be decorated or in pots or stands. Sevenoaks District Council will collect the trees so that they can be shredded and turned into environmentally friendly compost.
Trees with a trunk more than 89mm wide can take them to one of Kent County Council’s Household Recycling sites for composting. As Christmas and New Year celebrations also generate large volumes of glass, residents can also take their glass bottles and jars along with any unwanted clothing, shoes, books and CDs to one of the District’s more than 40 recycling sites.

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