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 **13th February** and **12th March** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Chairman’s News

The Heritage Centre is currently closed for refurbishment and updating with new displays. It is hoped to open again during the weekend of **3rd/4th March**. If you have never visited, or are a regular, come and have a look at the new layouts and hopefully learn something about your village and surrounding areas. The Heritage Centre is manned by volunteers at the weekends, so if you would like to help out please go along and speak to the stewards on duty. The Heritage Centre will be open between 2.30pm and 4.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays and weekdays between 9am and 12 noon.

Car Park surveys are continuing and consultations have begun with High Street residents, businesses and the Primary School as to what parking spaces they require during the day and overnight.

A big thank you to Norman Catt for the lovely new bus shelter which he has built opposite Rye Lane to replace the one destroyed by a speeding car. Hopefully residents will now remain dry and comfortable. A new notice board has also been put up in the shelter to protect notices from weather and snails!
Jubilee events are still being discussed and funding applied for. Keep the dates of 2nd to 5th June free in your diaries and come and enjoy all the events. On Sunday 3rd there will be a Civic Service at St Bartholomew’s Church at 3.30pm followed by a BIG TEA on the village green at 4.30pm.

**Otford Twinning**
The first meeting of the Otford - Neufchatel - Hardelot Twinning Association will take place on **Friday 9th March** at 8pm in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall to revive memories of the visits to Neufchatel-Hardelot and to Otford that have been much enjoyed so far and to share with you our future plans for the signing of the Twinning Charter in Otford on 31st March and other visits, including overnight hospitality. We shall look forward to seeing you. Further details are available from the Parish Office.

**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.

**Allotments**
The allotment movement generally and Otford allotments in particular are going from strength to strength and the interest continues to grow. Don’t miss out if you are thinking of joining ‘the club’ Plot situations change all the time and there is a very small waiting list at the moment which you could join. Contact the Parish Council office on any weekday morning.

**Otford Players**
The Otford Players invite you to - 'As Time Goes By’ a celebration of music from Victorian times to 2011. Join us on **Friday 9th March** or **Saturday 10th March** in Otford Village Memorial Hall for a special dinner show with songs, comedy and surprises. Tickets are £14 and include a three course meal. A bar will be available with waiter service. To book tickets call Carole on 01959 525404 - don’t delay, places are limited.

**Hug a Library**
**Saturday 4th February** is "Hug a Library" day to highlight the importance of the local library and the precarious funding situation. The members of all three WIs, the Oast, Otford Afternoon and Otford Evening will be supporting this day at Otford Library from 10.00 till 12.00 and will form a human hug chain around the Library at 10.50. The ladies will be handing out hot homemade soup to all those who come down and support the preservation of our local Library.
Craft Activity Session
Otford Library will be holding a Craft Activity Session on **Saturday 18th February** between 10am and 12 noon for children where they will be making finger puppets. This is a free activity for children of all ages. For further information please call 01959 522488.

Gardeners’ Society
For the first talk of 2012 on **Tuesday 6th March** we welcome Martin Hird, former Head gardener at High Beeches who will give a talk entitled 'New Zealand - the shivering isles'. The evening starts at 8pm in the Otford Village Memorial Hall, admission is £1 for non-members and the admission price includes refreshments.

Annual Photographic Exhibition
Yet again, the Cycling Tourist Club of West Kent are indebted to the Otford Methodist Church in the High Street for the use of their hall as a venue for the 2012 Annual Photographic Exhibition on Saturday 3rd March. Colour prints will decorate the hall from 5.30pm, with digital screen displays to follow all depicting the world around them in the last 12 months. An accompanying 'slide' lecture by ex Bewl Water head ranger Anthony Lloyd is eagerly awaited to learn of the area’s history. The evening will last till approx 10pm. Refreshments are anticipated at half-time. Entry is £5.50 (or £5 if you ring beforehand) Youngsters free. Do come along. Call Peter Scott on 01474 833123 for more information.

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 14th March** at 7pm. Cost £30. Everything will be provided (except scissors /secateurs - please bring your own). Please ring 01959 525009 to book.

Otford & District Wine Club
The Otford & District Wine Club will be holding a film evening in the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm on **Wednesday 29 February**. The evening will consist of several interesting short films from a number of sources and ice creams will be served in the interval. Free for members, £3 for guests. Please contact the Secretary Olive Cherry on 01732 458240 for further information.

Otford Methodist Church
Otford Methodist Church would like to invite you to their Women's Breakfast in the Methodist Hall on **Saturday 17th March**. The speaker is Liesel Parkinson who is the co-ordinator for Christian Union in the women's section of the armed forces. Breakfast is at 8.30am and the cost is £4 on the door. For more details or to reserve a place please call Sue on 01689 869081 or e-mail johnandsueward@btinternet.com
**Fair Feast 2012**

Fair Feast time again including pancakes and a Mike and Kay Garman quiz, in the Methodist Church Hall on **Tuesday 21 February** between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. Tables of 8 please. Cost £6 per person, students £3. Please contact Doug Cracknell to book on 01959 522325.

**Health Walk**

Go along and try the Health Walk which starts from Otford Car Park every Monday at 10.30am. The walks last normally about an hour. The walks are free and are organised by Sevenoaks District Council. There is no need to book.

**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.

**February**

15th - Games afternoon
22nd - Sue Ward - Release: meeting with St Barts in Methodist Hall

**March**

2nd - Women’s World Day of Prayer at Holy Trinity - Valerie Ruddle
7th - History of Ladybird Books - Caroline Alexander
14th - Lunch out
21st - The punishment for crime - Keith Lawrey
28th - Easter meditation

**April**

4th /11th - no meetings

**Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild**

The next meeting will take place in the Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 25th February**. There will be an all-day workshop on paper, stitch and canvas led by Gill Carter, or members can work on their own projects. 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.

**The Quilling Guild**

The Quilling Guild will meet in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 10th March** from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome to this friendly group. Ring Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117 for further information.

**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.
**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 **Tuesday 14th February** when the title of the talk is ‘Keep that Smile’ with Dr Marilyn Canet. 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**
If you wonder what the WI is actually like, do come along, you are under no obligation whatsoever. Meetings are held in Otford Village Memorial Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. For more information please call Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887 or Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634.

**Otford & District Historical Society**
The next meeting of the Winter programme will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 15th February** when Alison Bailey-Castellina will give us ‘An introduction to Whitehall Palace’. Membership is £6 a year and visitors are welcome at £2 per meeting.

**RSPB – Sevenoaks Local Group**
On 1st March at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall Brian Nobbs will talk about Mediterranean Birds. From Lesvos to the Balearics by way of Crete, Corsica and the Rhone Delta this will be an introduction to a region popular with both birds and birdwatchers on migration. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50.

**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 **16th February** when Ian Pickford will talk about Dr Christopher Dresser and C R Ashbee. During the 1880’s and 1890’s two remarkable and opposing developments took place. Both, for quite different reasons, failed at the time and yet both were to have a significant effect on what followed. We will first look at the remarkable designs and ideas of Dresser, who it may be said was the first true industrial designer and who introduced the principles of functionalism into design. Then we will go on to examine Ashbee and the development of the ‘Guild of Handicrafts’ which put into effect, for silver the Arts and Crafts ideas introduced by William Morris. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Alison Davis on 01732 780453 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

**Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery**
The next CAB Surgeries will take place at School House between 10am and 12 noon on **Tuesday 7th February** and **Tuesday 6th March**. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.
Hospice of Hope Events

Friday 10 February - “Quiz Night”
This is the first challenge of the New Year with supper provided.
Taking place at our tea rooms in Otford at 7.30pm
£12 per ticket, teams of 4 - 6 recommended.
Tickets available from wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk | 01959 525110

Friday 23 March - “Love That Latin!”
Heads South at High Rocks for an evening of latin jazz with professionals showcasing the best of south American dance.
7.30pm, price £40 to include a glass of sparkling wine on arrival & two course supper.
Tickets available from Vanessa@hospicesofhope.co.uk | 01959 525110

Picture of the Month
The artist for February / March 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.

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 new 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 may have to be kept on leads and could even be BANNED altogether from the Recreation Ground and Allotments 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.

Hospice in The Weald Charity Events
Wheels around the Weald - Saturday 31st March. A cycling event to raise money. You can either complete 81 miles, 40 miles or 15 miles. This is the perfect event for both seasoned cyclists and first timers. It starts at the Hospice with staggered starts for the different groups. Tickets to enter cost £15. For more information please contact Emma Whittington on 01892 820508 or email emma.whittington@hospiceintheweald.org.uk
Farmers Market and Plant Fair – **Saturday 12th May** between 10am and 4pm at Hospice in The Weald. Hundreds of plants, trees and shrubs at fantastic prices will be available as well as a Farmer’s market selling a range of Kent produce.

Skydive – **Sunday 13th May** at Headcorn Airfield
Experience the thrill of skydiving from 12,000 ft while attached to a highly qualified instructor and raise money. A minimum of £400 has to be raised for you to have the chance to jump for free. Contact Adele Gainey on 01892 820508 for more information or email adele.gainey@hospiceinthe weald.org.uk

**Community Fun Day**
Celebrating 200 days before the start of the Paralympics at 3 venues between 11am and 4pm. Everyone is welcome.

- **Sevenoaks Leisure Centre – Sunday 12th February**
  Trampolining, Martial Arts, Roller Disco from (2.30pm onwards).

- **Edenbridge Leisure Centre – Wednesday 15th February**
  Trampolining, Mountain Bike Stunt Show (12 - 1pm), pool party, plus community safety tips from local services.

- **White Oak Leisure Centre, Swanley – Sunday 19th February**
  Mountain Bike Stunt Show (1-2pm), Bouncy Castle, Special Guest Appearance by Mandeville, the London 2012 Paralympic Games Mascot.

Level 1 Bikeability sessions will also be taking place at all venues. Bring your bike, learn and gain confidence with qualified instructors away from traffic (recommended for ages 5 - 11yrs. To register your interest please call 01732 227000.
There will be many more fun family games and activities. Also learn more about the Paralympic Games Road Cycling taking place at Brands Hatch and how to get involved with the event of a lifetime.

**Planning**
The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council in February 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/11/03009/OUT Bartram Farm Business Estate, Old Otford Road
    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.
  - SE/11/03364/FUL 14 Greenhill Road
    Two storey side extension, front and rear dormers, porch area with accommodation in roof space
  - SE/11/03365/FUL 40 High Street
Removal of conservatory at rear of property and construction of a single storey rear extension and the excavation of part of the rear garden and erection of retaining walls to provide an extended patio area.

b. Results Received

3 Coombe Road
SE/11/02590/FUL
Extension into roof space. Creation of loft conversion with rooflights to the front, side and rear. Erection of a part two storey and part single storey rear extension. Internal alterations. **Allowed**

41 Tudor Drive
SE/11/02679/FUL
Demolition of existing extension and rear garage, erection of new garage and two storey rear extensions alterations to front porch, windows and external alterations. **Allowed**

The Old Oast House Shoreham Road
SE/11/02806/FUL
Erection of a two storey side extension, first floor rear extension and rear canopy. **Refused**

17 Telston Lane
SE/11/02844/FUL
Erection of a single storey side rear extension and part conversion of garage to habitable room. **Allowed**

Pond House, The Green
SE/11/02852/FUL
Demolish existing modern stone wall (unlisted) and replace with brick wall extending out from existing grade 2 listed brick wall. Add pedestrian side gate to left hand side of existing white five bar gate at entrance of property. Replace existing unpainted five bar gate and gate post to the side of the property with a solid wooden gate painted white. **Granted**

Pond House, The Green
SE/11/02853/LBCALT
Demolish existing modern stone wall (unlisted) and replace with brick wall extending out from existing grade 2 listed brick wall. Add pedestrian side gate to left hand side of existing white five bar gate at entrance of property. Replace existing unpainted five bar gate and gate post to the side of the property with a solid wooden gate painted white. **Granted**

Willowbrook, Old Otford Road
SE/11/02880/FUL
Demolition of the lean-to roofed extension to the kitchen, the existing balcony roof and parapet and the erection of an extension in place of the existing patio area, which will fill in the 'L' shape of the present building. The flat roofed balcony area will contain a lantern light and glass balustrade to the perimeter. **Refused**

12 Willow Park
SE/11/02918/FUL
Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of a single storey rear, side and front extension including an integral garage. **Allowed**

**Happy Valentines Day**

Please remember don't take that trip to Bluewater but get that special present for your loved one from our lovely individual village shops or dine out in our restaurant or pubs. Please support your local businesses.