Kent and South & South East England Village of the Year 2002

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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 10th February and 10th March at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall. Contact details of Councillors can also be found on the website.

Parish Councillors Contact Details

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<tr>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Oastbrook, Telston Lane</th>
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Parish Council Vacancy

Otford Parish Council has a vacancy for a Councillor. If you are a resident who is interested in working voluntarily for the good of the Parish, please contact Otford Parish Office (01959 524808 or otfordpc@btinternet.com) for further details on what the role entails and how to apply by 3rd March.
Chairman’s Report

Otford has been very lucky to escape the dramatic flooding scenes we have seen on the television in Kent and in the West Country. On Christmas Eve the River Darent burst its banks and the water rose to door-step level at Riverside Cottage and Broughton Manor, but fortunately the water did not enter the houses and no internal damage occurred. The latest flooding took everybody by surprise. The quantity of rain was not forecast, SDC were not informed by the Environment Agency until 07.20am, at which point they issued a RED alert (flooding imminent). Westerham, Brasted and Sundridge were the first to be affected with the tidal flow gradually working its way down river through Otford, Shoreham, Eynsford and on to South Darent the following day. Myself and Brian Thomas helped take the weight off SDC’s shoulders by collecting and delivering sandbags to Riverside and Broughton Manor. Jon Verrall arranged with OBM for an emergency load of sand and the office had sandbags ready to fill. Fortunately SDC managed to deliver to those properties that had contacted them directly and all major catastrophes were averted. However, the stream that runs through Willow Park and under the road at Rye Lane, burst its banks due to the culvert under the road being blocked with fallen leaves from local hedgerows. The Emergency Team at SDC worked all over the Christmas and New Year preparing flood defences to make them available to Otford if required and they were in constant touch with myself as “eyes and ears on the ground”. Our Emergency plan was welcomed by SDC and came in useful for making the initial contact.

You cannot have failed to notice that several of the verges around the pond have been damaged by large vehicles, some of which have moved the bollards and rocks placed to prevent such occurrences. If you witness any of these events please report them to the Parish Council along with any registration numbers or distinguishing trade names – photographs also help. The Parish Council has been able to contact several of the companies involved and their insurance has dealt with the matter.

Whilst on the topic of the pond, there have been several reports of accidents involving cyclists coming to grief from the Station Road direction. Kent Highways have carried out a “skid test” to determine if there is anything wrong with the surface, the result of which was negative. The only conclusion therefore that can be drawn, was that the cyclists approached the pond too fast and failed to take the corner – just like the car that ended up in the water. Please report all accidents and near misses to OPC so that they can be recorded on our database for future evidence.

The situation regarding the defibrillators has become very confused. We have three sites earmarked in the Village - The Post Office, The Parish Council office and Yvonne’s in Telston Lane. We have gathered together funding, but at the eleventh hour we are receiving conflicting advice on the type of Defibs and cabinets they should be housed in. Unfortunately there is no one single authority that we can go to. The British Heart Foundation, the Ambulance Service, the Charities and the Manufacturers all provide conflicting advice as to whether the cabinets should be heated or not, locked or not, and at the end of the day apparently it is down to us to make the correct choice dependant on the location. The individual arguments from all camps make sense but do not help us in making a decision. OPC will be discussing the matter with some urgency and will arrive at a consensus as to the way forward.

Unfortunately, Cllr Richard Knight has had to retire from the council for personal reasons. Our thanks go to Richard for all his hard work on behalf of all Otfordians which really was appreciated.

For general information bottle digging is **NOT ALLOWED** in the Chalk-Pit, recently someone has dug up a lot of broken glass bottles and left them exposed on the surface creating a safety hazard for persons and animals.
Looking for a local plumber / accountant / solicitor / pub / restaurant / etc.? Click on www.Otford.info/directory or Google 'Otford Directory' to find one and also add your own rating / review. Looking to promote your business / club / society / organisation locally? Add your own FREE listing. You can also upgrade to a 'Featured Listing' with extra facilities to enhance your entry. Any questions about the directory, please contact John Hubbard 01732 808 330 or info@otford.net

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.

Saturday Coffee Morning
DON'T FORGET! If you happen to be in the village on a Saturday morning between 10:30 and 12:00 you can get a cup of coffee in the village for just 50p in the Club Room at the Village Memorial Hall. (And we throw in a biscuit for free as well!) Quite a number of village residents turn up every week so why not come and meet friends and neighbours and help to support your local village hall at the same time. We hope to see you there soon.

Gardeners’ Society
The first meeting of 2014 on Tuesday 4th February at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall is a traditional Cheese and Wine Evening with an opportunity to see what is in store for the gardening year ahead. Then on Tuesday 4th March Andy Garland, presenter of BBC Radio Kent’s Sunday Gardening will be talking about ‘The medium of Radio and behind the scenes at BBC Radio Kent’. 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 of 2014 will take place on Wednesday 19th February when Alan Williams will talk about ‘The Road to War - Europe in the years before 1914’. Membership of the Society is £6 and visitors are £2.

Illustrated talk -Sevenoaks
Sevenoaks, Past & Present, an illustrated talk by Otford historian and author Ed Thompson will take place in Sevenoaks Library on Saturday 8th February at 2.30pm. Tickets are £3. Call 03000413131 or e-mail sevenoakslibrary@kent.gov.uk

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 will be available for 3 months on a trial basis.

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 13th February when Alex Probyn will be giving a Tea Master Class. Do join them. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 458732 for more details
Otford Evening WI
The next meeting is on **Thursday 13th February** at 7.30pm when Dr Geoff Doel will talk about ‘Kent Writers’. For more information please contact Evelyn Hubner on 01959 523359.

Guide Christmas Post Box
Thank you to all who supported the 2013 Christmas Guide Post Box in Otford Library and the Parish Council Office. It was again a success and the total raised was £454-70p which has been divided between the girls’ chosen charities - Demelza Hospice Care for Children and Loaves and Fishes Foodbank, Sevenoaks. A big thank you to Angela in the Library and Sue and Brenda in the Parish Office for helping us, also to Gerry Froggatt and Craig who continue every year to print the stamps and posters for us.

Otford Remembered - 1914 - Community Choir
2014 sees the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War ‘Otford Remembered - 1914’ is a dramatic presentation to take place in May. It gives a glimpse of life in Britain and Otford at that time before the outbreak of war. The Otford Community Choir will sing songs of the era - many of them still familiar to us. They are now starting to rehearse on Fridays at 7.30pm in the Library. If you would like to join them please go along. Contact Tony Wiltshire on 01959 524887 for more information.

Otford Village Fete - 26th May
The Fete Committee are hard at work arranging this year’s event which will take place on **Monday 26th May**. As the world looks to commemorate the start of WW1 we too have taken this theme for our fete in 2014 - one hundred years since the start of the Great War. As always we are desperately short of volunteers to help over the fete weekend so if you do have a few hours to spare please email patty.chatterjee@virgin.net. It is our village fete and without help we do struggle - Your Village Needs You!!

Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning
There will be a car-sharing visit to Hardelot the weekend of **6th, 7th & 8th June** with a social gathering and dinner at Le Club des Dunes Golf Club on Friday evening, a trip by coach to see the Vimy trenches and Canadian monument, Lorette and the English cemetery, lunch and an afternoon visit to the Wellington Quarry and the Belfry, Arras before returning to Hardelot in the early evening. You will be free on Sunday to spend time with your hosts. You will be very welcome to join us - a knowledge of French is not essential.
School children are invited to travel free to Hardelot on **Saturday 19th July** for games on the beach and/or indoor fun activities, depending on the weather, with French children of similar ages. Adults £30. Please contact Mrs Jane Lawrey, Otford Parish Council, if you are interested.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild
The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 22nd February** in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There will be an all day workshop with Pat Trott on beads, buttons and cabochans. 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 Methodist Church
Want to find out more about Life, Faith and God? To seek answers why not join our next ALPHA Course. The course, over 11 evenings will start on **Wednesday 19th March** at our Hall. For more information or to book please call Ann Suaznabar on 01732 762872 or email ann.suaznabar@gmail.com
**Fair Feast - Quiz**

Fair Feast 2014 will be held in the hall of Otford Methodist Church from 7.30-9.30pm on [Tuesday 4th March](#) and tickets will be £6 (students £3). Once again, Derek Baxter will be the chief pancake-maker and Kay and Mike Garman and family the quizmasters. Proceeds will be for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund’s work in Jordan amongst Syrian refugees. To reserve tickets - anything from one upwards - please contact Doug Cracknell, 01959 522325. There will be eight seats on each table. Everyone will be most welcome.

**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**

12th - 'The pearl fishers of Gambia' - Mike Downing /19th - 'Around Sevenoaks' - Gilbert Denton

26th - Joint meeting with St Bart’s in Methodist Hall - 'Cats and Calling - a less than purrfect life' - Kath Pawlett

**March**

7th - Woman’s World Day of Prayer at St Bart’s at 2pm / 12th - 'Music and the Bible’ - Anne Miller

**Notice of future event**

Sevenoaks Community First responders will be holding a Grand Prize Draw and Table Top Sale in Otford Village Memorial Hall on [Monday 30th June](#) from 5.00pm till 10.00pm. If you would like to book a table please contact Stan Willis on 01959 523923. Raffle tickets are on sale from the Parish Council Office and locally or contact Stan. More details to come in future newsletters.

**Otford & District Wine Club**

The Otford & District Wine Club will be meeting in the Otford Memorial Hall at 8pm on [Wednesday 26th February](#) to enjoy a selection of interesting short films from various sources and will include an ice cream in the interval. Free for members, £3 for guests. Please contact the Secretary Olive Cherry on 01732 458240 for further information.

**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 [20th February](#) when Daniel Evans will talk about ‘The Villa d’Este’. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

**Pavement Parking**

Following complaints to councillors we would like to remind you that cars parking on pavements can be hazardous for many pedestrians. In particular, the blind, disabled and individuals with push chairs who have to struggle to get past an inappropriately parked vehicle. It can also lead pedestrians having to walk into the road to navigate their way around the obstruction. Please don’t be inconsiderate to others and check before leaving your vehicle that you are not causing an obstruction, parked over somebody’s access or illegally parked on yellow lines.
YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A TRAVELLING TRENDS FASHION SHOW

WARDROBE? WOULD YOU LIKE THEM AT BARGAIN PRICES? LOOK NO FURTHER ....
DON’T MISS OUT – COME ALONG TO THIS EVENT AND ENJOY AN EVENING OF FASHION AND FUN HOSTED BY TRAVELLING TRENDS. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SEE, TRY ON AND BUY THIS SEASONS FASHIONS AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES AND HELP TO RAISE FUNDS FOR RE-ORDERING WORKS AT ST BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH

DATE: SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
VENUE: OTFORD VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL
TICKET PRICE: £5.00
START TIME: 7.00PM  DOORS OPEN: 6.30PM
ALSO LIGHT REFRESHMENTS and RAFFLE
NO ORDERING BUY ON THE NIGHT – PAY BY CASH OR DEBIT/CREDIT CARD
Hospice of Hope Events

**Friday 7th February** at 19:30
Tunbridge Wells Quiz Night - Woods Restaurant, 62 The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells
Recommend teams of 4 - 6
Tickets: £12.00 per person to include a light supper
Please contact anna@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110 places are limited!

**Saturday 22nd February** at 19:00
Otford Quiz Night- Hospices of Hope Tearooms, 11a High Street, Otford
Recommend teams of 4 - 6
Tickets: £12.00 per person to include a light supper
Please contact carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110 places are limited!

**Monday 3rd March** at 12:00
Ladies Lunch with Rosemary Shrager - Alexander House Hotel, East Grinstead
Rosemary will discuss her biography as well as her upcoming book 'Bake, Cakes & Puddings'. There will also be a chance for you to ask questions.
Tickets: £29.00 per person to include arrival drink, two course luncheon with a glass of wine & coffee with mint chocolates
Please contact anna@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110

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/13/03483 The Oast House, Broughton Manor
The erection of a two bay garage

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

SE/13/03557 Hillway, Pilgrims Way East
Demolition of existing house and erection of new replacement dwelling.

SE/13/0328472 and 76 High Street
Extension of vehicle access and construction of a dropped kerb.

SE/13/0353747 Pilgrims Way West
Demolition of existing two storey dwelling and garaging and construction of new two storey dwelling with attached double garage (resubmission SE/13/02458).

SE/13/0359552B 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.

SE/13/0364623 Station Road
Installation of 2 no velux roof-lights within existing kitchen extension roof (retrospective).

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

**b. Results received**

SE/13/02691 St Michael’s School, St Michael’s Drive
Extension to existing car park  

Refused
SE/13/0282885 Pilgrims Way West  
Erection of a single storey rear extension to form an orangery with roof lantern  
Allowed

SE/13/028517 Bubblestone Road  
Demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage and utility room  
Refused

SE/13/0287829 Station Road  
Erection of a single storey rear extension  
Allowed

c. Appeals
APP/G2245/ 21, Tudor Crescent  
D/13/2206080 Erection of a first floor side extension  
Allowed

d. Tree work
SE/13/03509 Quies, High Street  
Various work to trees

SE/13/03616 Palace Field  
Small Horse Chestnut - fell to ground level

Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre normal weekend/bank holiday opening hours of 2.30pm to 4.30pm resumes on **Saturday 15th February**.

Newsletter Deliverers

We are currently looking for anyone willing to go on a ‘reserve’ list to be available when regular deliverers are not. Please contact the parish council office. Many thanks.

Rubbish and Garden Bags

Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £13 for 25. It avoids all those trips to the tip. Rolls of black sacks at £1.50 and white sacks at 50p are also available. The correct change would be much appreciated.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for all items for the March newsletter will be **Friday 21st February**

Happy Valentines Day

Please remember don’t bother taking that trip to Bluewater, get that special present for your loved one from our lovely individual village shops and dine out in our restaurant or pubs. Please support your local businesses.