

Otford Parish Council  
January Newsletter 2012  
No 208

See [otford.info/parishcouncil](http://otford.info/parishcouncil) for Village Helplines Directory

Kent and South & South East England

Village of the Year 2002

Clerk: Ms. B. Hambrook

The School House, 21, High Street, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PG

Telephone/answerphone: 01959 524808 Fax: 01959 525298

Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri

[otfordpc@btinternet.com](mailto:otfordpc@btinternet.com)



### 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 **9<sup>th</sup> January** and **13<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

### Chairman's News



You might have noticed that the Christmas tree on the Green has been refurbished with a new set of lights. We have Paul Sadler to thank for supplying the lights, Wayne Guy from Meadowview Tree Care for climbing the tree and hanging them, Jason Newman for supplying the electricity and your chairman for wiring them up. This is community spirit at its best - keep it up throughout the year, think positively and we really will be going places



Regarding the other hot topic, the car park, rest assured that the Parish Council is looking into ALL the suggestions that you have put forward and will arrive (after full consultation) at a consensual decision soon. It must be borne in mind however, that we have to take a parochial view and arrive at a solution that is best for the community overall - remember that it is impossible to please everyone all of the time, but a solution will be found - eventually!



As we go into January and February we can expect it to get colder and maybe even snow. If you want to clear your pavements, or even those of an elderly neighbour, the direct.gov web site below fully explains the legal situation, but I have included a few snippets from the site.

See [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/DG\\_191868](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/DG_191868)



Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. Make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively, don't use water to clear the ice and don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path with "due diligence".

**Clear the snow and ice early in the day** it's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it. So if possible, start removing the snow and ice in the morning. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.

**Offer to clear your neighbours' paths** If your neighbour has difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, try contacting their relatives or friends, or if necessary the local council or Paul our Community Warden



Do **NOT** use the salt from the roadside bins to put on your pathways - **it is stealing and is illegal**. The salt in the yellow bins is for roads and pavements only. Once empty the bins will not be refilled until next year.



The village shops held a successful Christmas Open Shopping Sunday with the added attractions of Morris dancing, a clown, santa, mince pies and magic thrown in. The Art Club, Short Mat Bowls and the Highways Group all contributed with exhibitions in the Memorial Hall.



Speedwatch was out again in December and caught another clutch of motorists disregarding the speed limits, with one or two exceeding 45mph - all the defaulters are entered on a police database for further action following repeat offences. If you would like to help control excessive speed in the village, please contact Sue in the

Parish Office, 524808

### 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.

## Otford United Football Club



Otford United Football Club is very pleased to announce that they have recently agreed a new sponsorship deal with *Talk Talk*, the Broadband and Phone Company. *Talk Talk*, have launched a nationwide campaign to support local towns and villages across the country investing in organisations that deliver a difference to their community.

The local football club runs 3 senior Saturday teams, 1 senior Sunday team and junior teams at most age groups. The sides play at various levels of ability and are open to all members of the community and are run entirely by volunteers. The teams play their home matches at the Recreation Ground and at Hale Lane.

Chairman of the club, David Hobson said 'we are delighted to receive the award from *Talk Talk* as it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain sponsorship and the costs of running sports teams continue to rise.

Anybody interested in either playing or helping to run the club should contact the club secretary, David Dugay on 07802 736279.

## St Michael's School - Rights of Way

Please be aware that there are **NO** footpaths or rights of way over St Michael's Prep School land including the area known as 'The Warren'. The North Downs Way runs along the northern perimeter but there are no paths crossing the site. A map showing public footpaths is available from the Parish Council. Trespassers cause the school pupil security issues so they would appeal for your consideration. Should anyone wish to discuss these matters they can contact the Bursar on 01959 522137.

## Jubilee Choir



As part of the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee there has been a suggestion to form a Community Choir. Tony Wiltshire has agreed to organise and direct the choir. It will be called '**THE OTFORD JUBILEE COMMUNITY CHOIR**'. The Queen is very keen on Musicals, so it has been decided to select songs from the shows e.g **MY FAIR LADY, OKLAHOMA,**

**SOUND OF MUSIC** etc. In order to get some idea of the level of interest, there will be a preliminary meeting for interested residents in the Heritage Centre, 21 High Street on **Wednesday January 18<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30pm.

We also need to resurrect the singers who were on the French Twinning Trip to sing in March, when our French friends come to the village to sign the Twinning Charter. Any queries please call 01959 524887.

## Diamond Jubilee

Lots of initial ideas are being discussed for the Jubilee celebrations in June including an outdoor production, singing, dancing, beacon lighting, walks round the Solar system for children, a civic service and big tea. Please let us know if you plan to have a street party or any other events.



## Village Fete 2012



The Village Fete and Dog Show will be taking place on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June** with the theme of Olympics.

Income raised from the fete, after costs have been taken into account, is given to local organisations and village people. The Committee invite applications throughout the year and the committee meet on a regular basis to consider all requests. As a result of the successful 2011 Fete the Committee were able to make the following donations:

Otford Benevolent Fund	Contribution towards the 'OBF's Christmas hampers plus gifts to local residents
Otford Primary School	Purchase of new picnic tables and planters
Otford Players	Purchase of new lighting board
Otford Parish Council	Contribution towards the tree planting scheme at Hale Lane Recreation Ground
Otford Twinning	Contribution towards refreshments for the Signing of the Twinning Charter in 2012
Otford Tennis Club	Contribution towards the floodlighting of the third tennis court
Otford Society	Contribution towards the purchase of trees for an orchard in Palace Field
Nigel Burgin	Donation towards cost of taking part in a trek

## Otford & District Wine Club - Burns Night



The Otford & District Wine Club meeting on **25<sup>th</sup> January** in the Otford Village Memorial hall at 8pm will be a celebration of Burns Night. Come along and see the ceremonial stabbing of the haggis, then enjoy it with oatcakes and a wee dram along with some mulled wine followed by Scottish Shortbread. This will be free to club members but guests will be charged £5. For further information contact the secretary on 01732 458240

## Gardeners' Society



The first meeting of the year will be a Cheese and Wine evening on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** starting at 8 pm. This is a very informal and social evening and admission is £2 to include wine and cheese. Everyone is welcome.

## 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



Why not start the new year with a health kick. 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 Oast WI

The meetings take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. The next meeting will be on **19<sup>th</sup> January** when Jennifer Stinton will talk about *'My life in Music'*

### 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 **10<sup>th</sup> January** 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

Otford Evening WI will be having their first meeting of 2012 **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January**, when the coming year's subscription will be collected. A mounted policeman will be joining us to tell of his many experiences.

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 18th January** when Jean Stirk will talk about *'Ightham at the Crossroads'* Membership is £6 a year and visitors are welcome at £2 per meeting.

### Otford Methodist Church - New Alpha Course

Ever thought you would like to know more about the Christian Faith? Well here is your opportunity. The Methodist Church is pleased to offer you the chance to explore Christianity in a relaxed friendly environment over 11 weeks in the Church Hall. Each week we will meet at 7.15pm for a meal, followed by a video and a discussion. To reserve your place or ask for more details please call Kath or Brian Pawlett on 01959 522196



### RSPB - Sevenoaks Local Group

On **2nd February 2012** David Darrell-Lambert will talk on 'Improving your birdwatching skills'. David has already talked about bird sound but will give plenty of tips on identification in the garden or countryside. Take along your binoculars and favourite field guide if you have them. Plus a sale of books etc. Group members £2.50, non - members £3.50.

### Sevenoaks Dementia Café

The Sevenoaks Dementia Café is being re-launched on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January** at the Lodge Café in The Stag Theatre from 1-3pm. The new café will take place on alternate Tuesdays thereafter.

### Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House between 10am and 12 noon on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.

## Hospice of Hope Events



### **Monday 16 January** "Stand Up For Hope" Comedy Evening

We have an excellent line up of comedians for the evening including Stuart Goldsmith, Gordon Southern, Joe Rowntree, Iszi Lawrence and many more...

Taking place at The Comedy Store, Oxenden Street, London - doors open 6.30pm with the show running from 8 - 10.45pm. Tickets £12, student concession £10 - available from [wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk) | 01959 525110

### **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](mailto:wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk) | 01959 525110

## Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society



Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. The next meeting on **19<sup>th</sup> January** is

a talk by Geoffrey Toms on '*Greek Sculpture - The Classicism of the Human Figure*' The lecture will examine the evolution of Greek Sculpture from the 7th Century BC to the end of the 2nd Century BC. Themes explored will include the growing understanding of anatomical detail, athletics & the concept of physical perfection,

the relationship between nudity & dress & sensitivity & emotion in the depiction of the individual.

The lectures start promptly at 1.45 pm and finish by 3 pm. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Alison Davis on 01732 780453 or email [knoledfas@gmail.com](mailto:knoledfas@gmail.com)

## Dog Fouling



This is still a big problem, which should **NOT** be a problem at all on the pavements 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. The Dog Warden and our Community Warden are on the lookout and offenders **WILL BE** fined.

## Digital TV Switchover



The digital switchover in this area will take place in two stages the first on **4<sup>th</sup> April 2012** when BBC2 analogue is switched off. You will need to re-tune your digital equipment to pick up the available channels. The second stage is on **18<sup>th</sup> April 2012** when the remaining analogue channels are switched off. You will need to re-tune your digital equipment again to pick up additional channels.

### **What is the digital TV switchover?**

TV across the UK is going digital. The existing analogue TV signal will be switched off and replaced with a new, stronger digital TV signal.

## Why is switchover happening?

Switchover is happening so that Freeview services (digital TV through an aerial) can be extended to people who can't currently get them, including those who receive their signal from a relay transmitter. It also allows new services, such as High Definition channels, to become more widely available.

## What do I need to do next?

If you have:

### Freeview, BT Vision, or Top Up TV

You will need to re-tune at each stage of switchover to avoid losing channels.

### Sky TV, Freesat from Sky, freesat or Virgin Media

If you have one of these services on all your TVs you won't need to do anything.

### Analogue TV (i.e. five channels or fewer)

Convert your TV to digital or you will lose channels.

### If you're 75 and over, or eligible disabled

Call the Switchover Help Scheme, they can provide everything you need to keep watching your TV.  
Call 0800 408 5900

## Planning



The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council in January. 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/11/02233/FUL **Frog Farm, Pilgrims Way West**

Change of use from office, to two apartments with external alterations together with alterations to Barn B for car parking

#### SE/11/02555/FUL **The Oast House, Shoreham Road**

Erection of a detached dwelling with alterations from previous application SE/09/00643/FUL including change of access, repositioning of fenestration, alterations to sun room roof, lantern light replaced with velux over stairs, alteration to ridge height to west wing only and addition of tube lights.

#### 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.

#### SE/03183/FUL **2 Tudor Drive**

Excavation and levelling of the rear garden to create a flat lawn area with paving, steps and retaining wall

**SE/11/03213/CONVAR Park Farm, High Street**

Variation of condition 3 (the livery business hereby permitted shall accommodate no more than either 15 horses/ponies) of SE/11/01668/FUL in order to accommodate 26 horses/ponies

**b. Results Received**

**SE/11/02309/FUL 17 The Butts**

Addition of 1m feather edged panels to existing 1m high brick boundary wall *Allowed*

**SE/02467/FUL 2 Vestry Cottages, Old Otford Road**

Demolition of existing outbuilding to facilitate a part single/part two storey rear extension including a velux rooflight *Allowed*

**SE/11/02472/FUL 45 Pilgrims Way West**

The construction of a wooden fence on the front perimeter of the property overlooking the highway, Pilgrims Way West. The fence is 1.8 metres high. *Refused*

**SE/11/02545/FUL 45 Knighton Road**

Erection of first floor side extension *Allowed*

**SE/11/02562/LDCEX 16 Ryecroft Road**

Ground floor single storey extension *Certificate Granted*

**c. Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area**

The Old Parsonage, 23 High Street - Reduce 2 Apple trees by 30%

**2012 - Dates of note**



**Jubilee Celebrations** 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June



**Olympics** 27<sup>th</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> August and **Paralympics** 29<sup>th</sup> August to 9<sup>th</sup> September

