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). They can be read via http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil. The next meetings will be on Monday 12th July and 9th August at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Top UK Folk Duo to play in Otford

The UK’s top folk-roots duo, Show of Hands, together with Miranda Sykes, will perform a special concert in St. Bartholomew’s church, Otford, on Thursday 14 October as part of their national ‘Spires & Beams’ tour. Undeniably one of the strongest current forces in acoustic music, Show of Hands are England’s finest and most popular roots duo and something of a “people’s band”, regularly voicing the hopes, fears and life stories of scores of ordinary folk in song.

Show of Hands has won numerous BBC music awards and has sold out the Albert Hall on at least three occasions. This is a rare chance to see them play in a unique and intimate setting, right on your own doorstep!

Tickets cost £16.50 each. A special allocation of tickets has been set aside for Otford residents, call 07798 767770 to book now - first come, first served!
Otford Village Fete Committee Report

We had a lovely time at the village Fete, even though it was a little grey and chilly. Below are just some of the highlights:

The Dog Show
Once again Elands did an amazing job looking after so many dogs and their owners. In many ways they were all winners and we would also like to extend our thanks to Sevenoaks Animal Feeds for supplying the wonderful goodie bags to all entrants. A newsletter from Elands can be found on the fete's website (www.otford.info/villagefete)

Live Music
RattleMac, Melonhead and Alex Banks (aka Sinatra) entertained visitors on the Recreation Ground. The fabulous Rock Choir and Gary King, who performed Elvis' songs and movements, entertained the huge crowd enjoying tea and cakes inside the Memorial Hall. We have already had requests for them to return next year.

Warlords Re-enactment
Another new attraction this year. The group did a call to arms at 10.30am when they let off the cannons to draw attention to the fete. They then highlighted life in the middle ages - with no MP3 players or premiership football it was a hard life!

Procession
Once again the procession was well received. Otford Players took the first prize with their human table football and the combination of the Afternoon and Evening WIs entertained with their interpretation of WAGS.

Bobbo and Mrs Bobbo
We are very grateful to Robert Jessey and his wife who entertained the little ones so well. Not only did they appear as Clowns, they also turned their hands to two successful Punch and Judy shows before finishing with balloon making.

Of course no fete is complete without the numerous stalls selling everything from fudge to jewellery. Our thanks go to everyone who made the day such a success.
Thank You
Our Community Warden Paul Robertson would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who voted for him in the National ‘Council Worker of the Year’ award. The deadline for voting was 8th July and we will let you know how he got on. Paul can always be contacted on 07813 713366.

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.

Police Engagement Meeting
The Next Police Engagement meeting with PCSO Jane Wright will take place on **Monday 12th July** between 11am and 12 noon at Homebase, Otford Road and then on **Tuesday 24th August** between 10am and 11am at Otford Post Office. 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.

Thankyou
Otford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides would like to thank all those who saved Tesco and Sainsbury’s vouchers for them this year. They have collected enough for each unit to ‘purchase’ a dance session and also Sainsbury’s ingredient gift cards for cooking sessions. Special thanks also go to Barbara and Sue in the parish office for keeping the collecting boxes for us.

All three units in the village are thriving and have long waiting-to-join lists. As a result we are always looking for new adult leaders. The Guide unit needs another leader before it can expand and the Brownie waiting list is so long we could open another unit if we had more adult volunteers. If you are female, aged between 18-65 and could help please telephone Jane Woodrow-Clark on 01959 523342.
**Otford Players**
We are looking for Men! Also some ladies and a few children around 12 years old to join us for our production of Lionel Barts 'BLITZ'.
This is a musical based on the bombings during 1940's London. It is not a sad sombre piece but very uplifting and fun. We are starting rehearsals at the end of July and the performances are on the 11th, 12th & 13th November. But it's a large cast and we need extra bodies. You do not have to sing solo or dance, just join in. So why not give the stage a go, and call the director, Jan Snook, on 01959 523501.

**Local B&B?**
The Bookings Secretary for Otford Village Memorial Hall sometimes gets asked by hirers for local people who do bed and breakfast. Unfortunately we can't find anyone this side of Seal! Do you do B&B? If so, please let us know and we will add you to the list. Just e-mail the Bookings Secretary (ovmh.secretary@otford.net) with your name, address, tel. no and e-mail (if you have one) and we will do the rest. An idea as to your charges would be helpful too.

**Otford Scouts**
The 15th Sevenoaks (Otford) Scout Group will be holding their Annual General Meeting at 5.00pm on Saturday, 10th July, at Otford Scout Hut, Station Road, Otford. All Cubs, Scouts and families are welcome. The meeting will be followed by a barbecue.

**Concerned about speeding in your area?**
Otford Parish Council are looking for volunteers to set up a Speed Watch initiative to help reduce speeding within the area. Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership have funded a community speeding board that volunteers can use to monitor speeding in their community. The speed board flashes the speed of passing vehicles and volunteers can pass on information to their local Neighbourhood Policing Team. You will be fully trained by Kent Police on how to use the speed boards and all locations will be risk assessed. If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact 01959 524808.
Otford Allotment Association

(PLEASE NOTE INCORRECT DATE GIVEN IN JUNE NEWSLETTER) The Open Morning, from 9.30 – 1pm, will take place on **Saturday 24th July**. This will be at the end of the week that the Annual Plot judging takes place, so the site should be looking at its very best. They look forward to showing interested people around the beautiful site. They have had one rushed for available plot and another has appeared so there is still one plot available and now is the time to get prepared and planting for the coming months.

If you are able to attend the open morning on the 24th July this may help you with your decision as there will be experienced allotment holders on hand to give any help and advice - that is if you can wait that long - if not give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 who will give you a personal tour of the site.

Otford Gardeners’ Society

The Otford Gardeners’ Society will be holding their next meeting on **Tuesday 7th September** in the Village Hall when Mark Saunders will talk about ‘A Head Gardeners Year’. The Autumn Flower and Craft Show will be held on **Saturday 4th September** in Otford Village Memorial Hall from 2.15 to 4.15pm. Admission 50p, under 16's free. Refreshments will be served. See vegetables, late flowers, photography, flower arrangements, handicrafts, art, cookery and junior classes.

Twinning

*Can you paint? Would you like to paint a picture in Hardelot?*

The Tourist Office in Neufchatel-Hardelot is organising on **Sunday 18 July** and again on **Sunday 15 August** “A day for Artists in the Street”. They would like to invite the artists in Otford within the framework of the future twinning. These days have welcomed between 30 and 40 amateur artists over many years. The artists arrive at the Tourist Office at 9am in the morning to have their canvas stamped and they will be offered breakfast. They then paint (oil, acrylic, pastel, water colour, charcoal, ink) in different places in
the village on a theme which they will be given in advance. The Jury comes to La Place de la Fontaine in Hardelot at 5pm where all the pictures will be displayed and the prizes will be distributed at 6pm with an aperitif. Registration of participation is requested in advance.

We can discuss transport and accommodation. Further details from Jane Lawrey, via the Otford Parish Office (524808 or otfordpc@btinternetcom)

Would you like to spend the morning on the beach?
Can you run 1 kilometre? Are you aged 5-9?
Can you run 2 kilometres? Are you aged 10-14?
Can you run 10 kilometres? Are you aged 10-14, including adults?
Would you like to go to Hardeolot (between Boulogne and Le Touquet) on Saturday 4 September?
We can discuss transport. Contact the number as shown above.

Are you interested in Walking and Learning at the same time?
Walks will be taking place with the following themes.
History and Nature  
Tides and Shells  
Geology, flora and fauna
Would you just like to go to Hardeolot (between Boulogne and Le Touquet)?
We can discuss transport and accommodation. For further details contact Jane Lawrey, via the Otford Parish Office (524808 or otfordpc@btinternetcom)

Otford Methodist Church August Events
The summer hols are on their way!!!!
We are having a Children's Summer Holiday Club at the Otford Methodist Church Halls for Primary school children, 16th to 20th August (Monday to Friday) from 9.30 to 12.30.
£15 per child for the week.
Star Ship Discovery is our theme for the week and each morning will include games, craft, storytelling, puppet shows, Bible stories, acting and singing plus lots more fun.
To register or for more information please phone Armanda on 07904 018987 or email on armanda.nick@dsl.pipex.com.
On **Wednesday 18th August** 2010, from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm (subject to weather) Otford Methodist Church will be holding a display of old and interesting, classic cars. You are warmly invited to come along, look at the cars, talk to their owners and enjoy some refreshments. No charge and for more information contact Derek Baxter on 01959 523687.

Pet Blessing Service 4pm on **Sunday 22nd August** in Otford Methodist Church Car Park. (In Hall if wet) There will be no parking at the Church. We are having a short Service of songs, activity and prayer which will be followed by an opportunity to be photographed with your pets (orders taken) and sandwich tea. Please bring your pets and your family. For details call Kath Pawlett on 01959522196

**BUY IT BABY! Baby & Toddler Fair and Nearly New Sale.**

At Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 7th August** between 1pm-3.30pm

Buyers - £1.00 entrance fee, free for under 16’s.

Following the success of our last event in June, BUY IT BABY! are back with their 2nd event in Otford. With a new selection of stalls, there will be plenty of items and information to collect all under one roof! Raleys Gym, Aquatots, Monkey Music, Baby Sensory to name just a few as well as various arts and craft stalls to browse over. Kaye Deere photography will also be available to take photo shoots on the day!

Nearly New items on sale for those expecting their pending arrival, those with new arrivals, and those with active toddlers! Pick up some summer bits, toys, clothes and various baby/toddler equipment all at a fraction of the price in the shops. Promotions and freebies also available for BUY IT BABY visitors. See our website for further details...

We also welcome small local businesses to use our event as a platform in promoting their goods by renting tables at small fees.
FACE PAINTING, Colouring Competition and refreshments will also be available... A great afternoon out!
TO HIRE YOUR STALL OR FOR MORE INFO, Caroline@buyitbaby.co.uk or call 07958 762828
www.buyitbaby.co.uk

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 take place on Thursday 15th July with a visit from Biddenden Vineyard. 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 13th July when there will be a talk by Barbara Stevens on ‘Village Shopping in Downe 100 years ago’. Then the following next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th August with a Members meeting. Annual Subscription is £29.50 and visitors at £2 are very welcome. For further details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.
Visitors are very welcome, and further details can be found on the Otford Village web site at www.otford.info with the link to the WI, or telephone Joyce Shaw at 01959 522736.

Otford Evening WI
All meetings take place on 2nd Thursday of each month in Otford Village Hall. The next meeting to be held will be on 8th July when Bob Ogley will talk about ‘Kent in the 19th Century’. Then the following meeting will be on 12th August when Helen Allison will talk about ‘Life in the Workhouse’. Visitors are always welcome at the meetings which start at 7.30pm.
For more information please call Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887 or Joan Beacom on 01959 524304.
Otford Evening members were delighted that their WAGS won 2nd prize in the procession at the village Fete at the end of May and thanks all the people who brought cakes and plants from our stall.
Picture of the Month

Our artist for the months of July/August is Mervyn Peel. Mervyn retired from the Chemical Industry some few years ago and joined the Otford Art Group. A lot of his paintings are architectural but he has recently branched out into general subjects including botanical art. 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 a 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
For more information contact wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk or 01959 525110

On **Friday 16th July** Quiz Night - Round Two! will be taking place in the Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop @ 7.30pm
Cost is £12 per person to include a scrumptious supper and quiz. This is a very relaxed and fun evening to be had by all. You can also purchase tickets in the tea room. Contact Wendy at Hospices of Hope on 01959 525110 / wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Then the Dragon Boat Festival is taking place at Bewl Water on **Saturday 11 September** and Hospices of Hope have a team taking place - they will welcome visitors on the day to cheer them on!
To sponsor the team please log on to www.everydayhero.co.uk

Jen Chambers Skydive

This year rather than doing her usual charity walk for The Hospice in The Weald local resident Jennifer Chambers has attempting something from a far greater height - a skydive which she undertook on the 4th July at Headcorn. Her target was to raise £600.00 and hopefully with our help she can reach it for this worthwhile charity that has given herself, her family, friends and many others much needed support. Please if you would like to sponsor her then either drop the sponsorship into The Horns Restaurant, or at School House, or sponsor her online at http://www.justgiving.co.uk/Jennifer--Anne-Chambers
**In the Zone 2010**

The Sevenoaks District Council Family Fun Day will take place at Hale Lane Recreation Ground on **Thursday 29th July** between 11am and 3.30pm. It is advised that all children be accompanied by a parent or carer. (Children under 8yrs old must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or carer at all times). They will have circus skills, arts and crafts, face painting, team games and sports. On this day they will also be doing Science Experiments. Wear old clothes in case you get messy! Bring a picnic and join in the fun.

Other local visits will take place on **Monday 2nd August** at Greatness Recreation Ground, **Wednesday 11th August** at Kemsing Common Field, **Friday 13th August** at Dunton Green Recreation Ground, **Friday 20th August** at Sevenoaks Hollybush Recreation Ground, **Wednesday 25th August** at Seal Recreation Ground and **Friday 27th August** at Shoreham Recreation Ground.

**Other Summer Activities**

Join the West Kent Extra Playdays at various locations in the District for free fun and games for children. Contact West Kent Extra for more information 01732 749400

If you are aged 11-19 you can book places on workshops, trips and activities organised by Kent Youth Service. Find out 'Wot's On Summer 2010' by contacting Steve Hanks on 01732 863152 or steve.hanks@kent.gov.uk

Or get involved in sports and workshops at Sencio Leisure Centres. For reduced cost sports sessions and workshops for 11-19 year olds, get involved with the NRgize MAX programme. Contact Colin Hunwick on 01732 747304 for more information.

Sencio Community Leisure also run a fun filled programme of activities for children up to age 13 at each of their leisure and sports centres. NRgize provide sports, dance, arts and crafts and fun sessions for children. Call your local leisure centre to make a booking or go to their website www.sencio.org.uk

**Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery**

The next CAB Surgeries will take place at School House on **Tuesday 3rd August** and **7th September** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.
**KENT OPEN WEEKEND - Orienteering at Beacon Wood**

**Country Park 25th July**

As part of the Kent “Open Weekend”, London 2012, Kent Sport and Dartford Orienteers have come together to bring you a unique opportunity to experience the sport of orienteering and celebrate the forthcoming London Olympiad in the idyllic Kent country park setting of Beacon Wood.

**“Olympic Course for Under 12s”**

With the Olympics in mind, the centrepiece of the event will be a specially themed “tag course” where the aim will be to navigate a way between Olympic cities (specially designed markers) mapped out around the country park. Electronic timing equipment will be used by participants to record their successful “capture” of each city and their times. You can run or walk around the course at any speed and kids will especially enjoy finding short-cuts through the undergrowth. Don’t worry about getting lost, it will all be completely safe and there will be prizes for all children completing the course.

**Personal Challenge**

The event will appeal particularly to families and young people that may have limited or no experience of orienteering but enjoy exploring the outdoors. Several different courses will be available to suit all ages and abilities including more experienced orienteers and runners. For more adventurous older children and adults more challenging courses through Beacon Wood can be tackled and will take anything from 20 minutes to an hour.

**Details**

**When:** Sunday 25th July - Starts from 10.30 - 12.00. Course close 2.30  
**Where:** Beacon Wood Country Park, Southfleet Road, Bean, Kent DA2 8BS  
**Cost:** Adults £4, children FREE. Hire of Sportident timing equipment £1  
**For more details:** [www.dfok.co.uk](http://www.dfok.co.uk) Supported by Kent CC
Planning

The following applications are considered by the Parish Council in July. 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/10/01244  Hawthorns Station Road
Conversion of part of an existing outbuilding to form a self contained living unit
SE/10/01372  Land to front of Mayola Station Road
Erection of detached residential property with detached double garage
SE/10/01464  53 Knighton Road
Erection of single storey rear extension and change of fenestration
SE/10/01603  The Woodman High Street
Demolition of existing timber structure to facilitate creation of new disabled parking area, ramped access and smoking area. Erection of new timber structure

b. Results Received
SE/10/01041  The Horns 66 High Street
Conversion and extension of existing restaurant including the demolition of existing front, side and rear extensions and erection of new two storey rear extension to create 2 no family dwellings  
Refused
SE/10/00483  The Horns 66 High Street
Installation of new decking on an existing patio area with hand rails, new steps and boundary fence (retrospective)  
Allowed

c. Amended Applications
SE/10/00902  Clan Cottage Pilgrims Way East
Demolition of existing cottage and erection of five bedroom house

HAPPY HOLIDAYS