

Otford Parish Council
July / August Newsletter 2011
No 203

See 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

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 **11th July and 8th August** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

An update from the Parish Council Chairman

New members, new committees.



On the Parish Office notice board and on otford.net you can now discover the roles and responsibilities of your parish councillors.

You can also find out which councillor is responsible for keeping an eye on your local roads and any problems you may be having.

Trafalgar Oaks under threat



It is not a good year for Otford's trees. First the trees on Palace field, then the pond willows, now the three Trafalgar oaks planted just two years ago on the recreation ground by the Otford Society are under threat. It seems that the area in which they were planted has chalk very close to the surface and this has resulted in something called 'lime-induced chlorosis which can be fatal for

oak trees. It is hoped to save some of the trees by re-planting in a new lime-free location.

Cracks & pot-holes



It is not without trying, that the Parish Council has already contacted Kent Highways over and over again about the state of the roads in Tudor Drive and in Pilgrims Way East. Both roads are now seriously pot-holed. Rest assured your Parish Council is doing everything it possibly can to get them repaired. A new KCC Highways overseer for our area has just been appointed and your parish council will be arranging a meeting as soon as possible.

Vandalising our taps!



What sort of person vandalises the taps in our Cemetery Field and then also tears off the tap in the churchyard leaving water gushing out all night - on two separate occasions! To overcome this wanton vandalism there will be a 'locked' trough to fill buckets in the cemetery (similar to a sheep trough. Unfortunately if you want to water your family flowers in the churchyard you will need to apply at the church office for water.

Save the fish



the problem.

It had been put down to the dry spell but now there may appear to be a problem with the quality of the water in our village pond which is causing so much algae. The parish council has the matter in hand and will be asking the environment agency to take samples and run tests to check the cause of

Feedback

Feedback on the above or any other Parish issues would be welcome
Phone 01959 524808 or email us on otfordpc@btinternet.com with your comments

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.

Police Contact Details

To contact our neighbourhood Police Officer Brian Smith please call 07972 004450 or for local PCSO Jane Wright call 07772 226036. To report a crime please call 01622 690690.



Report from Otford Fete Chairman

The Otford Fete was once again a great success with over 7,000 people visiting our village to enjoy a wonderful day out. Children and adults alike were treated to performances by circus artists before having the opportunity to try out uni-cycling and plate spinning.

As usual the very popular dog show proved to be one of the highlights of the day with even more entries this year. We are extremely grateful to Elands Veterinary Clinic for their continued support. We would also like to thank Sevenoaks and District Dog Training Society who entertained us with their Dog Agility class and the numerous local groups that helped make the event such a resounding success. We are still counting the pennies but can confirm that the bank account has been topped up. We therefore invite applications from Otford Associations to apply for grants via the form which can be found on the website www.otford.info/villagefete. The closing date for the first round will be 31st August 2011.

PLEASE NOTE : Next year's Spring Bank Holiday will be moved to Monday 4th June to coincide with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Tuesday 5th June.

Table Top Sale

Come along to a Table Top Sale in Otford Village Memorial Hall from 9.30am to 12noon on **Saturday 16th July**. This is run by Sevenoaks Methodist Circuit to support children's and HIV/Aids work in Zimbabwe. To reserve a table (costing £10), please call Andy Collings 01959 524840 or turn up on the day to grab a bargain! 50p entrance and refreshments will be available.

Otford - Hardelot Twinning

Following the very successful coach trip to Hardelot on Sunday 12 June (see report below) we are planning to run another coach trip on **Saturday 17 September 2011**. This will enable as many of you as possible to be present at the **signing of the Twinning Charter between Otford and Neufchatel** -

Hardelot in France. The signing will be followed by lunch, provided by the Mayor of Neufchatel-Hardelot and the opportunity for a guided walk along the beach, a visit to the Dickens Exhibition in the Chateau or to enjoy time in the area. The cost of the coach will be £25 (£11 per child)

Alternatively you may prefer to travel independently, possibly spending the night in Hardelot with a host family and in return offering overnight hospitality in Otford on 8 October 2011, when we shall be signing the Charter here in England.

Please contact the Parish Office (01959 524808) as soon as possible to register your interest, stating whether you would prefer a seat on the coach or to travel independently, with or without hospitality. We shall deliver an application form to you which you should sign and return with the appropriate money to the Parish Office immediately to confirm your reservation.

Otford Goes to Hardelot - a report

We were all up very early and gradually from all corners of Otford people began to arrive at the pond bus stop and as we all started to feel more awake the volume of chatter increased. Right on time the coach came into view and we all scrambled on board. At 7.30am 50 Otfordians set off. We were on our way for a day in Hardelot. Some of us had visited before, some of us didn't know what to expect.

On to the shuttle at 9.30am, by which time we had discovered we had a star coach driver, who introduced himself to us as 'Walt, as in Disney'.

Seamlessly we arrived at our destination - the lovely village of Hardelot on the coast near Bolougne and we were given a royal welcome by the French Twinning Committee. We had time to stroll around the Gourmet market and purchase cheeses, salads and oils as well as sample some gorgeous food and other goods on display. On to look at the beach (Beautiful), the exhibition of painting on porcelain (such talent) and the plants and flowers for sale (would have loved to buy them all) before returning to Salle Louis Bleriot where we were treated to what can only be described as a banquet - a table laden with exquisitely presented meats, fish and salads. There were delightfully decorated tables where we sat and mingled French and English conversation whilst we ate and supped our wine. After lunch we went in various directions to explore the many delights on offer, including the beach and Hardelot's very own Chateau and lake. Then back to the hall for tea and cakes before finally piling back in the coach, but not before hots of hugs and goodbyes and

thanks and promises of 'a bientot' to our friends and wonderful hosts. Back to the shuttle and then a long detour to avoid the roadworks on the M20 and with grateful thanks and cheers for our driver who brought us safely back to Otford and a promise he would be our driver next time we travel to see our friends across the channel.

Watch this space for our next trip - there are 50 people in Otford who will tell you what a great experience you will have.

Classic Car Show



Otford Methodist Church is holding another classic car show on **Saturday 23rd July** from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. Once again an exceptional display is expected of rare and interesting cars dating from early last century. The display will be in the Church car park in the High Street.

Photographs of the last event can be seen on www.otfordmethodistchurch.org.uk. For more information please contact Derek Baxter on 01959 523687.

Youth Summer Activities - Otford Recreation Ground

Play Place Innov8 CIC a not for profit community company will be delivering fun activities for children, young people and families across a number of Sevenoaks Parish Councils in 2011. Play Place will be working in Otford on the High Street Recreation Ground. These activities are supported and funded by Otford Parish Council, KCC Wardens Services and a Members Fund Grant (Nick Chard). The project will provide sport, craft, music and outings and aims to support young people and children between 8 and 16 years of age. The youth team of experienced workers will be based under gazebo's and will be on the Recreation ground as follows: **Tuesdays and Thursdays during the summer holidays between 3pm and 6pm.**

Community Safety Day at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre

Sunday 24th July 1-5pm

The Day is being arranged by Sevenoaks District Council focusing on Community Safety and Health. It will involve a variety of agencies who are working in the District.

The types of activities and Partners that are attending are:-

- Kent Fire and Rescue discussing Home Safety
- Kent Police will be fitting tamper proof screws on number plates to deter use of false number plates in criminal activity
- Kent Police will be providing their mobile police station.
- SDC Community Safety team to signpost and give advice on community safety and anti-social behaviour concerns
- Kenward Trust are providing interactive information on substance misuse
- MEND will be providing fun games (MEND is an NHS funded programme to help families with children to achieve a healthy weight)
- Sainsbury's pharmacy, providing cholesterol checking,
- Get SORTed team providing health information and lifestyle checks,
- Make a healthy smoothie on the Smoothie bike
- Sencio are providing face painting, a bouncy castle, tasters in karate, zumba and lazy town.

Hedges - Keep them trimmed

Hedges are growing very quickly at the moment and a number in the village have grown over the public footway and are causing a nuisance to pedestrians, especially those who have poor sight, use wheelchairs or double buggies. Please check the boundaries of the property you are in and if necessary please arrange for it to be cut back from the footway as soon as possible. Thank you.

Gardeners' Society

On **Tuesday 6th September** John Grimwood will show us how to get our green spaces looking good with a talk entitled '*Tips of the Trade for a better lawn*'. The evening starts at 8pm in the OVMH; admission is £1 for non-members and the admission price includes refreshments.

Then on **Saturday 10th September** after a summer of hard work, the **Autumn Flower and Craft Show** will provide a marvellous display of late summer flowers and the harvest from the vegetable garden. We will also have floral arrangements, preserves and cookery and photographic classes. The Junior Challenge winners will be announced and we will have our art and handicraft classes which are always of high standard. The show takes place in the OVMH and opens to the public at 2.15pm. Admission is 50p, under 16's admitted free. Teas will be served until 4pm and there will be a sales table open all afternoon

Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild

The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 30th July** in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. There will be an all day workshop on Machine Textures with Gina Ferrari and mini workshops. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm. More information can be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117. PLEASE NOTE there is NO meeting in August

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. The next meetings will be on **Thursday 21st July** when they will have a talk about Eleanor's Hospices and then they will be going on their Summer Outing on **18th August** For more information please contact the Secretary Jane Dean on 01732 460512

Otford Afternoon WI

Meetings are held in the Otford Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meetings will be on **12th July** when Margaret Clift will talk about 'Rags to Riches' and then on **9th August** they will have a members meeting and Auction.

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 call Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736

Otford Evening WI

All meetings take place on 2nd Thursday of each month in Otford Village Hall. Visitors are always very welcome. The next meetings will take place on **14th July** when Lee Ault will talk about 'All the Rage 20's and 30's' and on **11th August** Isobel Yule will talk about 'Travels with my white stick' For more information please call Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887 or Joan Beacom on 01959 524304.

Kent Karrier "Dial a Ride" Services

For many years, Sevenoaks District Council supported a minibus scheme providing transport for residents and members of the scheme (principally who are elderly or mobility impaired) and wishing to undertake journeys not

possible by public transport. Although valued by members, the scheme was expensive to provide and was a discretionary activity for the District Council who were needing to make significant savings from 2011 / 12. Ultimately Sevenoaks concluded that they would unfortunately need to cancel the scheme, which ceased from the end of March 2011.

In response to the withdrawal, Kent County Council have worked in partnership with the Compaidd Trust and the district council to design Kent Karrier services for Sevenoaks. A new Sevenoaks Kent Karrier scheme commenced from Monday 4th April and is operated by Compaidd using a minibus gifted to them by Sevenoaks District Council and with subsidy from Kent County Council. The longer term sustainability of the scheme will be dependant upon attracting significant use of the service and I therefore attach details of the scheme for your information and should they be of use in promoting the availability of Sevenoaks Kent Karrier within your parish. Printed copies of the leaflet and the scheme application form can be provided on request.

Kent Karrier is a fully accessible dial-a-ride service which takes its members directly from their door to the nearest town centre, typically offering members access facilities in their local town on at least one day per week.

Membership is £5 per year, with a small fee payable for each journey.

You are eligible to join the Kent Karrier scheme if:

- you have a medical condition that makes travelling on conventional public transport difficult or
- you live in a rural area more than 500 metres from a conventional bus route or rail service.

You should book your journey at least a day in advance. A companion, for example, your carer, can travel with you and does not need to be a member; they just pay the journey fare.

Should you have any further questions or if you want copies of the scheme leaflet and application form then please contact 01622 605 349.

National Trust - Knole

Relive Knole's faded splendour through fashion

This summer, Knole is inviting visitors to experience the faded splendour of the National Trust house through its beautiful, free exhibition of costume through the ages.

From **Saturday 23rd July to Monday 29th August** between 10:30am and 5pm Knole's light-filled Orangery will display clothing evoking the many centuries

of life at the Sevenoaks house. Costumes will include historical recreations of garments worn during the ages of Knole, and modern dresses created to reflect the house itself.

Integral to the exhibition will be these dresses, designed by fashion students from Kent's K College. Their final project for this year was entitled 'Faded Splendour', with students designing dresses inspired by a once-beautiful object, building or textile, now faded and tarnished with age.

The students visited Knole as part of their research. Inspiration came from the faded upholstery and tapestries inside the house, the vibrant garments depicted in the paintings and the beautiful exterior stonework of Knole.

The free exhibition will be open daily (except Mondays) (Knole's state rooms are open Wednesday to Sunday, noon-4pm.)

Knole is one of Britain's largest, most complete and most important historic houses, containing collections of rare and unique furniture, textiles, silver and paintings. It has been a National Trust property since 1946, and is still the home of the Sackville-West family, who have lived there for more than 400 years.

Knole's restored Orangery opened to the public in August 2010, after being locked away for two centuries. 2011 is the first time that the room, converted from an earlier range and pierced with gothic windows, will be open all season.



Sevenoaks Book Fair

The next Sevenoaks Book Fair will take place on **Saturday 13th** **August** between 9am and 2.30pm in Otford Village Hall. Admission is Free

Hospices of Hope

Visit the Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop, 11a High Street, Otford which is open Monday - Friday 10am - 4.30pm and Saturday 10am - 5.00pm.

Next Events

Quiz Night - **Friday 15 July** at The Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop

Be challenged by our Quiz Master whilst enjoying a light supper.

7.30pm, £12 per ticket, contact Wendy 01959 525110 |

wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Would you like to spend 12 days this summer in the mountains of Transylvania with children who have had a family member cared for by our Hospice? Summer Camp, Brasov, Romania: **4th - 16th August**, cost - £850 including flights and accommodation. If you are aged 21 or over and want to give something back this summer then please apply for an application form. Past volunteers have described the experience as life-changing and many have come back for several years. Do not miss this opportunity to gain valuable overseas experience with a flourishing International charity!
Contact Jill 01959 525110 | jill@hospicesofhope.co.uk

West Heath School Events

Summer Chill on Monday 18th July. An evening of musical extravaganza by our students and degree students from West Kent College. Performance starts at 7pm until approximately 9.30pm and will be held on the back lawn. Please feel free to bring a picnic supper, however a light snack and refreshment will be available. Admission is free, however donations towards this event would be gratefully received, but are not obligatory.

The performance of '**The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe**' is postponed until **December 12th-14th** (12th 6.30pm only, 13th and 14th 10.15am performance for local schools only, 1.30pm and 6.30pm (public).

All proceeds raised from the above events go towards the 'Acting Up Theatre Company' - the student theatre company at The New School at West Heath and will be used for future events. Tickets for all the above performances are subject to availability and can be booked on Tel. 01732 460553 ext 273.

Otford Methodist Church **YAHOO!** Holiday Club

For Primary school children

On **Monday 1st August** from 9.45am to 4pm

At Otford Methodist Church Halls (In Otford High Street next to the library), Picnic lunch included, Cost £5

Come along for fun, games, stories, puppets and crafts, linked to famous Bible stories, and all with a Wild west -Yahoo!! theme!!

To register for a place please phone Armanda on 07904 018987

Or email armanda.nick@dsl.pipex.com

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgeries will take place at School House between 10am and 12 noon on **Tuesday 2nd August and Tuesday 6th September**. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.

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/11/01359 9 Hopfield Close

A single storey conservatory on the rear of the property

SE/11/01375 Sainsbury's Petrol Filling Station

Application to vary condition no 5 - approved plans of SE/11/00213/FUL
Erection of single storey front extension, refurbishment of the existing petrol station kiosk. Re-cladding of the existing forecourt canopy, replacement petrol pumps and provision of a rainwater harvesting system for the existing car wash- replace approved drawings 2274/01 revision D and 2274/20 rev D to allow enlargement of approved front extension to kiosk, replacement of approved storeroom with an ATM room, retention of ATM on Kiosk front elevation and small freestanding plant room behind existing air/water facility.

SE/11/01376 4 Shinecroft Rye Lane

Erection of rear white pvc conservatory

SE/11/01391 Oakside 89 Pilgrims Way West

New access drive

SE/11/01576 Kent House The Green

Alterations including $\frac{1}{2}$ storey front and second storey rear extensions: raising of roof to side to achieve balanced hip roof ends, gables, balcony, covered porches and loggias. Installation of windows of similar design and bay window features. Amendments to SE/10/01495/FUL condition no 2 materials.

SE/08/3170/R3 Greatness Quarry Bat and Ball Road

Details of a noise survey pursuant to condition 3 of planning permission
SE/08/3170

b. Results received

SE/11/00659 The Old Oast House Shoreham Road

Erection of first floor rear extension, demolition of existing single dwelling (The Oast House Bungalow) to facilitate erection of detached garage with first floor Granny Annexe and single storey link canopy *Allowed*

SE/11/00895 High Point Coombe Road

Replacement of existing pair of garages with a one bedroom dwelling *Refused*

SE/11/00920 Willow Brook Old Otford Road

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 roof balcony area will contain a lantern light and glass balustrade to the perimeter *Refused*

SE/11/00860 24 Warham Road

Demolition of existing garage and erection of attached single storey side garage and porch. New crossover and driveway. *Allowed*

SE/11/981 Otford Primary School High Street

The construction of one 6-bay modular building to accommodate an additional two classrooms *Allowed*

c. Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area

SE/11/01338/WTCA 36 High Street

Various works to 1 Ash tree

SE/11/01482/WTCA Palace Field The Green

Various works to trees

SE/11/01483/WTCA 7 Pickmoss Lane

Fell 1 Conifer Tree

SE/11/01484/WTCA 3 Bubblestone Road

Various works to trees

Happy Holidays

