Otford Parish Council
July/August Newsletter 2014
No 235

Twinned with Neuchatel-Hardelot
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 14th July and 11th August at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall. Contact details of Councillors can also be found on the website.

Chairman’s Report

Everything is growing very fast at the moment so please remember to check your hedges and trees and make sure they are not overhanging pavements thereby making walking difficult.

Talking about keeping things tidy I would like to give a big thank you to the Parish Council Environment Committee who cleared and weeded the long shrub border on Palace Approach during a very hot afternoon.

The Pond and Village Green look particularly lovely in the summer months and our contractors are to be congratulated on their hard work to keep them that way.

A regular sight in the summer is Paul our KCC Community Warden out and about on his Parish Council sponsored bicycle. Flag him down if you if you have any concerns, he is always willing to have a chat and help if he can. A cold drink on hot days would go down well too.

The Twinning trip to WW1 battlefield sites in France in June was a great success and we welcome our twins back to Otford on 13th and 14th September. If you would like to know more or get involved please contact Jane Lawrey via the Parish Office.

Please be considerate of your neighbours if you wish to have a bonfire during the summer evenings when washing is out and people may be just enjoying their gardens. Thank you.

If you are on holiday during July and August I hope you will have a good one, forget all your worries and most of all, I hope the sun shines on you wherever you go.

The Annual Report 2013/14

Yet again, it has been another very busy year for councillors and the clerks. I would like to thank both Brenda and Sue for all the invaluable assistance they have given me and the Councillors during the past year. The Council Agendas, Minutes and Newsletters are all placed on the local Otford web-site “Otford.net” by Brenda and so ably managed by John Hubbard who demonstrated the system at the Annual Parish meeting. The Helpline Directory is regularly updated by Sue, hard copies of which could be obtained from the parish office. Otford has long been well-served by volunteers and a wide selection of them spoke at the meeting. I thank all of them for all their efforts and hard work in helping the community. Now that we were twinned with Neuchchateau-Hardelot there had been several reciprocal
visits between them and us. Thank you to Cllr Jane Lawrey for masterminding all the hard work involved. Here is a short précis of what your council did, in the year, what it had achieved and what it hopes to achieve in the future. The Parish Plan (which is now 4yrs old) had been the driving force behind the majority of the long term projects and some of the shorter ones. It soon need updating, or replacing with a neighbourhood plan. All of the council meetings, not just the monthly council meetings, are open meetings and within the rules of council governance do try to involve public participation. Residents are all welcome to attend and the clerk should be notified if attendance is wanted as space at meetings in the office can be limited. There are six committees reporting to the monthly Parish Council meetings and I summarise below their roles and work carried out on your behalf.

**Planning**

The Planning Committee met on a two weekly basis on Wednesday mornings at 9.15 in the Parish Office. These meetings were open to all residents of Otford Parish and planning applicants were encouraged to attend. The current committee members were John Edwards-Winsor, Doug Cracknell, Jon Verrall and Martin Whitehead. They were supported by the Clerk, Brenda Hambrook. They regularly welcomed the attendance of the Village Design Statement editor and former Parish Councillor, Mr Rod Shelton, who currently represented the Otford Society.

The Committee members had a wide ranging experience and knowledge of the village which enabled the committee to reflect the best interests of the majority of residents, whilst keeping within the planning law and guidance. They were ably supported by the Clerk who formulated the views and comments into a succinct form of words for the recommendations to Sevenoaks District Council Planning Department.

During the last year we have reviewed 81 planning applications covering developments from minor works, small and large extensions through to new builds. Of these the committee had no objection to 62 cases and recommended refusal of 19 with supporting detailed comments. The District Council granted 47 approvals, refused 16 and is still considering 18 cases. There has been 4 planning appeals during this period.

The major challenges this year had again been applications for development within the Green Belt and conformation to the Otford Village Plan. Otford was very fortunate in being surrounded by the Green Belt which, unlike many other villages, restricted the development and helped to maintain the integrity of the village structure.

**Services**

The Services Committee had continued with their Health and Safety reviews, Fire Risks and Risk Assessments of the office, sports pavilions and other Parish Council assets, including the car park. They organised and carried out redecoration of the offices making the office approach more wheelchair friendly. Repairs to several fences around Otford were carried out and thanks to Brian Thomas and Norman Catt for their varied help around the village. Norman had rebuilt the Duck House on the village pond. Three defibrillators which were situated at the Dentists, the Parish Office and Yvonne’s (in Telston Lane) had been provided through donations and a donation for the provision of a new clock for the Village Hall was gratefully received. They were starting to distribute the monthly newsletter by e-mail to reduce the cost of postage, at the moment to those residents who live on excessively dangerous roads. It was anticipated that eventually all distribution would be via e-mail, unless residents did not have this form of communication. Unfortunately the Arriva bus service had been transferred to Go Coach and this had resulted in a reduction in the number of journeys to and from Sevenoaks.

**Recreation**

The Recreation Committee had adopted the motto ‘Civitas Vegeta et Strenua’, taken from the Parish Plan and meaning a ‘Fit & Active Community’. The committee looked after the maintenance of leisure activities in The High Street Recreation Ground, the Play
Area and Hale Lane. They work with the Otford Sports Association, to help, support and encourage its Members. They were currently working on the provision of an adult multi-gym area within the recreation ground. The Petanque court was about to have a paved hard standing to improve the area. Notable successes this year included the installation of a swing for adult children on the Hale Lane Recreation Ground - Funding and health and safety had all been agreed and it would be installed soon. They arranged a successful Play Day during the Easter holidays, with two further ones being arranged for the summer holidays and the October half term. There would be activity sessions for secondary school age children run over 8 weeks in June and July at the Hale Lane facility. There were still recurring complaints about dog fouling on the sports grounds which could lead to dogs being on leads only and then a possible ban on dogs altogether.

Environment
The Environment Committee oversaw the care of the following areas:- Footpaths - across the fields, The Chalkpit, Oxenhill Woods, Members of the Darent Valley Consortium, the Main Recreation Ground, The Pond, the Village Green and Palace Approach, Palace Field - where continuing negotiations were ongoing with Sevenoaks District Council over the upkeep of the tower, Palace Park Wood (Managed by the Woodland Trust), The Cemetery and Telston Park.

New Planters were put around the village and a contribution of £500 had been received from Tarmac. Thank you to the various village organisations that had committed to keeping them full of flowers throughout the year. Although roadside verges were the responsibility of Kent County Council to make them more attractive, for many years planting of bulbs had been carried out by volunteers from the village. However they can’t do all the work themselves and were always looking for volunteers who would be prepared to join working parties over the next year.

Highways
The Highways Committee oversaw and reported on Speedwatch to which Lorry Watch would soon be added. Footpath hazards had been reported and resurfacing had recently taken place. The office kept a record of all traffic incidents that they were informed of. The Car Park was resurfaced and a one-way system introduced. It seemed to be working now that everybody was getting used to it with several compliments from external users.

Pay & Display would be introduced soon. The suggestions of the Stakeholder group on the Pay and Display proposal were discussed in depth by the committee. Britannia Parking Ltd were chosen as the best operator to meet the perceived needs. Legal advice was sought both as regards a proposed contract and car park regulations. Both were at the point of being finalised. At every step in the process of considering Pay and Display there had been significant discussion and a concern to comply with legal requirements. This had been a challenging undertaking which OPC had approached with rigour. The remaining VAS/SID is to be sited on the Shoreham Rd. Next on the agenda for safer roads was to move the 30mph at Bubblestone to the garage. They also reported Potholes and progress on filling them.

Finance
Due to careful monitoring of expenditure this year we came in ahead of budget although some projects planned for last year have had to be moved to the current year. The car park costs had been accrued over the past three years and thanks to the tight project management of Cllrs Verrall and Whitehead it came in £15K under budget. Examples of other expenditure include £7K on the Public toilets, £8K on the Recreation Ground, £4K on the Village Green, Pond and Palace Approach and £2K on Churchyard mowing. Defibrillators have been purchased with the help of funding from residents, SDC, the Fete Committee, First Responders, the Otford Society, the Historical Society and Beadles. Thank you to all of them.
The current year to 31st March 2015
The precept for the year to 31st March 2015 increased by 5% to £146K giving a monthly Band D increase of 35p i.e an actual annual increase of £4.20.
Brian Thomas our Grounds Maintenance and Cemetery Supervisor meets frequently with bereaved families at the cemetery, a task he handles with great sensitivity. He also inspects the playgrounds on a weekly basis and advices on the care of all our natural sites. It is down to Brian that the pond looks so good and of course he looks after the ducks. Thank you to the clerks for all their hard work and dedication often under demanding conditions and constant interruptions and all the councillors for their support and their continuous work on behalf of Otford, most of which went on in the background and was largely unheard and unseen. If it was not carried out with the dedication that they apply, then the effects would soon be noticed.

Statement of Accounts 2013-14
Council income is derived from the parish precept from local residents (collected via council tax), fees and charges for the use of council facilities, cemetery fees and grants or funding application awards to support activities. The Council does not receive any money from either central government or business rates. Council accounts are inspected by an Internal Auditor and subject annually to an external audit.

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<th>Last Year Ended 31st March 2013</th>
<th>Current Year Ended 31st March 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>218,220.30</td>
<td>187,881.48</td>
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<td>DEDUCT Total Expenditure</td>
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<td>122,941.01</td>
<td>146,053.19</td>
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Council Responsibilities
Otford Parish Council is the closest level of government to the community of Otford
The Council comprises of 11 members who are elected every four years at local elections.
The Council has six committees and their responsibilities are shown below.

<p>| <strong>Finance and General Purposes</strong> | Finance; specific issues e.g. burial ground; matters requiring urgent attention; Heritage Centre | Cllr. Edwards-Winser (Chairman), RFO (Clerk), Cllrs. Mrs. Lawrey, Whitehead |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>The Pond, The Green, Palace Approach and Field, Oxenhill Woods, Union Flag, Car Park, The Chalk Pit, General Litter</th>
<th>Cllr. Mrs. Ward (Chairman), Cllrs. Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Lawrey, Mrs. Marsh,</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highways</td>
<td>Car Park, and liaise with Kent Highways on roads, footpaths &amp; footways.</td>
<td>Cllr Mrs. Howe (Chairman) Cllrs. Edwards-Winser, Cracknell, Fothergill, Leicester, Whitehead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>Planning applications and related questions.</td>
<td>Cllr. Whitehead (Chairman), Cllrs. Cracknell, Edwards-Winser, Verrall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>Maintenance and supervision of recreation grounds (Including children’s play areas) allotments, recreational areas</td>
<td>Cllr Mrs. Evans (Chairman), Cllrs. Cracknell, Fothergill, Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Howe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Services not covered by any other committee, including, Emergency Team, Charman’s Charity, Transportation, Bus stops, Notice boards, Public Toilets, offices</td>
<td>Cllr. Mrs Lawrey (Chairman), Cllrs. Leicester, Verrall. Mrs Ward,</td>
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**Parish Councillors Contact Details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chairman</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Edwards-Winser</td>
<td>Oastbrook, Telston Lane 522503</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Councillors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas G. Cracknell</td>
<td>23 Warham Road 522325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary Evans</td>
<td>14 Tudor Crescent <a href="mailto:mary.a.evans@btinternet.com">mary.a.evans@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jackie Howe</td>
<td>33 Pilgrims Way West 525434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Fothergill</td>
<td>7 Darnets Field 524120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. H. Jane Lawrey</td>
<td>23 Tudor Crescent 522360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Leicester</td>
<td>Albany, Shoreham Rd <a href="mailto:howard_leicester@btconnect.com">howard_leicester@btconnect.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Charmian Marsh</td>
<td>40 Greenhill Road 522609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Verrall</td>
<td>24 Pilgrims Way East <a href="mailto:jon.verrall5@btinternet.com">jon.verrall5@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Elizabeth J. Ward</td>
<td>Thymebank, Coombe Rd 522384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin J. Whitehead</td>
<td>19 Coombe Road 524088</td>
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Table Top Sale
The Otford Evening WI will be holding their Table Top sale in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 19th July** between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Tables cost £9 and can be booked by calling Chris on 01959 522485.

The Otford Society
This year’s Summer Garden Party will take place on **Saturday 19th July**, between 6pm and 8pm. Like last year, which was our most popular and successful party ever, this year’s event will be held in the grounds of Russell House School, Station Road (opposite Otford Station). As well as providing a beautiful setting for the party, Russell House School offers an extensive play area to occupy younger guests, and around forty parking spaces to accommodate those who wish to drive. Entrance is by ticket only, with tickets available now from The Mad Hatter’s Emporium at 8 High Street, Yvonne’s Newsagent in Telston Lane, and the Otford Parish Office in the High Street. The cost is just £6 per adult (17 or over) or £3 per child (6-16), with infants under 6 free. The ticket price includes one free glass of wine or soft drink, and complimentary canapés. All profits from ticket sales will contribute to the Society’s fund for village improvements; last year we raised over £500. A raffle will also be held, with all proceeds donated to two local charities, The Kent Air Ambulance, and Friends of Ifield (a local school for the disabled). If anyone is interested in joining the Society as a committee member, and helping with its aims of preserving the rural character of Otford and improving the quality of village life, then please contact chairman@otfordsociety.org.uk. The role is not onerous and can be very rewarding!

Information re Forthcoming road works/road closures from KCC
- **Monday 21st July** for up to 5 days
  Row Dow, Otford
  Closed at junction of Pilgrims Way East to Birchin Cross Road and there will be no access for through traffic.
  The alternative route is via: Row Dow Lane, Fackenden Lane, A225 Shoreham Road, Pilgrims Way East and vice versa.
  The closure is to enable carriageway repairs and kerb/channel works.

- **Monday 28th July** for up to 5 days
  Pilgrims Way East/ Pilgrims Way Kemsing
  Closed at Tudor Drive to Beechy Lees Road and there will be no access for through traffic.
  The alternative route is via: A225 Station Road, A225 Sevenoaks Road, Otford Road, A25 Seal Road, School Lane Seal, Childsbridge Lane Seal and Kemsing and the remainder of Pilgrims Way Kemsing.
  The closure is to enable carriageway repairs.

- **Tuesday 29th July** for up to 3 days
  Rye Lane, Otford
  Closed from Pilgrims Way West to Willow Park and there will be no access for through traffic.
  The alternative route is via Willow Park, Telston Lane and Pilgrims Way West and vice versa.
  The closure is to enable the renewal of gully pots and the cleansing of the drainage system.

Welcome - New Bakery & Bill Skinner
A very warm welcome to S&S Bakery who have opened in the old Copus Butcher’s shop at the end of Pickmoss Lane. They are open 7 days a week - Monday to Saturday 6.30am to 9.00pm and Sundays 9.00am to 9.00pm. Go and have a look at all the good things they have on offer. Also a warm welcome back to Bill Skinner who has just reopened after being flooded out back in December. You’ve been missed. Please remember to support ALL your local shops. Use them and we won’t lose them.
Otford Primary School Fete

Otford Primary School’s Summer Fete will be held on **Saturday 5th July** between 12 noon and 3pm. Everyone is welcome to join the event and support the village school as they try to raise funds for the school. There will be lots to do for all ages and the day promises to be lots of fun. There will be various stalls, tea and cakes, beer tent, strawberries, tombola, raffle, silent auction, games and inflatables as well as performances and displays by the children. It is taking place on the school field and inside the school. Admission is £1 for adults and free for children.

Gardeners’ Society

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 2nd September** when Daniel Denness of Alphabet Orchids will be giving a talk about ‘Basic Orchid care’ There will be plants from the nursery for sale. Admission which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

There will be a coach trip to Cambridge University Botanic Gardens on **Saturday 26th July** organised by Otford Gardeners’ Society. The cost of the visit is £17.50 which includes admission to the gardens. Alternatively, return travel to the City of Cambridge is £15. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or e-mail gardeners@otford.net for more details.

Otford Gardeners’ Society is holding a junior photography competition for their Autumn Show on **Saturday September 6th**. The title of the competition is ‘Wildlife in Otford’ and is for anybody under the age of 16. More details from Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

Croydon Community Bus

Play Place and the Croydon Community Bus will be visiting Hale Lane Recreation Ground every Monday evening from around 5.30pm until **28th July**. The double decker bus is fully equipped for children, young people and families. The bus includes a Play Station, Nintendo Wii, games, sports equipment, tea bar, chill out area, information resources and music production.

Otford Library Free Craft Activity

There will be a Free Craft Activity session on **Saturday 12th July** from 10am to 12 noon. Please ring to book a place on 01959 522488. Also the library is available to hire out for small group sessions. Please ring Angela for more information. The Reading Challenge this year is called ‘Mythical Maze’ and will be starting in July.

Otford Twinning Association

The next social gatherings of the Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning Association will at the Woodman PH on **Monday 30th June** and **Monday 29th September** from 7.45pm and they are also planning another coach trip to Hardelot on Saturday 11th October for a Franco-Anglo day with some hypermarket shopping. Les Boucles d’Hardelot, a running race, 10K for adults and 1K or 2K for children starts at 4pm on **Saturday 6th September** in Hardelot and there is a special Twinning Cup to be won by an Otfordian with prizes for all competitors.

Please contact Jane Lawrey on 01959 522360 or e-mail kl@lawrey23.freeserve.co.uk for further details on all events as soon as possible. Adults and children will be most welcome to join them.
**Allotments Open Morning**
The Otford Allotments Open Morning will take place Saturday 19th July between 10.00 and 12 noon. If you’d like to see the fruits of their labours, and have a wander through the beautiful site, just turn up. Allotment holders will be on hand to talk to you about the joys of allotmenteering.

**Family Fun Days**
There will be a Sevenoaks District Council Free Family Fun Day at the High Street Recreation Ground on **Monday 4th August** between 10am and 2pm. There will be chances to try out circus skills, face painting, games, sports and much more. Children under 8yrs must be supervised by a parent or carer at all times. Take along a picnic, sun cream and plenty of water.

Fun days are also being held on **Monday 28th July** in Common Field Recreation Ground, Kemsing and **Tuesday 29th July** in Shoreham Recreation Ground.

**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.

**Sevenoaks Book Fair**
The next Sevenoaks Book Fair will take place on **Saturday 23rd August** in Otford Village Memorial Hall between 9am and 2.30pm - Free admission. Refreshments are available.

**Otford Art Group**
Otford Art Group are holding a show and sale of original paintings and cards in the Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 9th August** between 10.30am and 3.30pm There will also be prints and craft tables. Admission is free.

**Otford Tennis Club**
Otford Tennis Club is a friendly club situated in the heart of the village (just behind the children’s play area). We have two floodlit courts; club sessions are held on Tues & Thurs (7.30pm -9.30pm) and Sundays (9.30am-12.30pm). All standards of players are welcome. If you would like to come along and join us for a free session contact Alison Dyke at: alisond@otfordtennis.org.uk or call her on 01959 522050

**Pay & Display Car Parking - Village Car Park**
Under the draft car park regulations residents of Otford will be entitled to apply for parking permits for the car park if there is no off road parking at their home address and there is fully restricted parking on their street during the car park chargeable periods (7am - 6pm). The annual charge will be £75 for the first car and £150 for the 2nd car. Permits will be issued for particular vehicles whose owner or keeper lives at the vehicles registered address. If you satisfy these criteria please notify that Parish Office so that we can arrange to send you permit applications in due course.

**Elands Veterinary Clinic**
Go along and join Elands Vet Clinic’s Chicken Eggsperience, on the 8th July at 7.30pm at St Ediths Hall, Kemsing. Do you fancy keeping chickens or need advice about your
backyard friends? Go along and have all your questions answered. Just pop into their Kemsing or Dunton Green branch or call them on 01732 452333 (Dunton Green) or 01732 761650 (Kemsing) and book a free place for you, your family and friends.

**Aikido in Otford**

Aikido is essentially non violent, encouraging harmony of the mind, body and spirit. When practised regularly it will assist in developing a fit, supple and strong body with improved flexibility, reflexes and reactions. Aikido is performed by blending with the attacker and redirecting the force of the attack rather than opposing it head on. The club instructors are all registered and insured by the British Aikido Association and have many years of experience in Aikido and other martial arts. The club is non profit making so that fees are kept to an absolute minimum. Initially all that is needed to practise is a t-shirt and sports trousers. If you are 16+ male or female join them at the Scout hall, Station Road on Tuesdays from 8pm to 10pm or for further information ring 01959 522011 or email aikido@otford.net

**Front Garden Competition**

The Otford Gardeners' Society, on behalf of the Parish Council, will again be organising the Annual Otford Front Garden competition. Preliminary judging will be taking place during July & August when committee members will be walking around the village taking notes. The competition will again be based on the front gardens that would take the eye of a stranger to the village, without him or her having to look over or around a hedge, wall or fence. 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.

**Picture for the Months of July and August**

The artist of the Heritage Centre’s picture of the month is June Foreman. June says "I have lived in Otford for 18 years. I have always enjoyed art but I was married at 19 and had two children by the time I was 25 so art was put on the back burner. Fifty years later after retiring from my job in social services and helping my husband in his business I joined the Otford Art Group after being on the waiting list for a year. This is my Lion. I drew him using HB2 pencil. I used water colour and highlighted the whiskers with acrylic white using a cocktail stick. I lost myself in the picture loving every moment. I feel so blessed to be painting again after such a long time, If you are reading this and wish you could paint and draw I would say don’t wait 50 years - seize the day"

**Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild**

The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 26th July** in Otford Village Memorial Hall. 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. (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. The next meetings will be on **17th July** when Bob Ogley will be talking about "WWI"
portrait of Sevenoaks’ and on **21st August** when they will be having a Cream Tea. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 458732 for more details

**Otford Evening WI**
Otford Evening WI’s next meeting will be on **Thursday 10th July** when the speaker will be Mr David Tadd, talking about the ‘Forensic response to the South East Asian Tsunami.’ For more information please contact Evelyn Hubner on 01959 523359

**Friends of Otford Medical Practice**
We are forming a group raising funds to provide extra facilities for all the patients of the Otford Medical Practice. Our first project is to provide specialist higher chairs with arms to aid patients who have mobility difficulties. We would like one for each of the doctors’ consulting rooms in both Otford and Kemsing surgeries, also one for each waiting room. Please could you help us by joining the fund raising group or donating to the project. Contact us by e-mail on judy@cardinals.co.uk or telephone 01959 522513. Our first fund raising event will be a fun quiz on **Friday 19th September** at St Ediths Hall, Kemsing. If you would like a table of eight please contact the above for tickets. More details in the next newsletter.

**Flog It**
FLOG IT the popular BBC One antiques series will be holding a valuation day event at Chiddingstone Castle on **Thursday 17th July** between 9.30am and 4pm. You are invited to take along your antiques and collectables and have them valued free of charge by the team of experts (Adam Partridge, Thomas Plant and Claire Rawle). If selected for filming you might be in with a chance of making some money by selling your items at auction a few weeks later. Admission to Flog It is free and there is a maximum of 3 items per person for valuation.

**Open Air Shakespeare**
'Twelth Night' at St Clere Estate
Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society returns to the delightful grounds of the St Clere Estate at Heaverham for the third year running, **July 1st to 6th**, this time with the famous romantic comedy Twelfth Night. Celebrating the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare’s birth, the open-air production is part of the Sevenoaks Summer festival and part of the proceeds will go to Breast Cancer Care. Please bring folding chairs and warm clothing. Performances are Tues-Sat July 1st - 5th at 7.30 pm and on July 5th and 6th at 2.30pm. Tickets priced from £5 to £15 call 01732 450175 or www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk or on the door.

**Hospice of Hope Events**
Do you have any spare time?
We are looking for volunteers to join the small and friendly team at our quaint antiques and collectables shop in Otford High Street, Kent. If you enjoy helping others and have an interest in their work please call Lynn on 01959 522032 for more information. We hope to hear from you soon. www.hospicesofhope.co.uk

**Friday 11th July** at 7.00pm
**Otford Quiz Night**
£12.00 per person to include a light supper, hosted at our Otford Tearooms, 11a High Street, Otford. Please contact Carole Ford carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110 for tickets
Planning

The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council. 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/14/01255  45 Sidney Gardens
Demolition of existing side attached garage and erection of a single storey side and rear extension

SE/14/01338  Little Coombe, Shoreham Road
Replacement detached garage

SE/14/01370  Lorien, St Michael’s Drive
Ground floor infill extensions and a dormer window to the front elevation and a ground floor extension to the rear elevation.

SE/14/01389  Bramley, Old Otford Road
Erection of a double storey rear extension. Part conversion of garage to study and boot room with insertion of 1 roof light.

SE/14/01525  Castle House, Sevenoaks Road
Increase width of existing opening between kitchen and breakfast room

SE/14/01529  9 Greenhill Road
Demolition of conservatories and erection of single storey rear extension with lantern light with new retaining wall to form patio area with steps.

SE/14/01535  38 Willow Park
Demolition of existing garages to facilitate the erection of a single storey side and rear extension.

SE/14/01244  6 The Butts
Demolition of existing store/garage and erection of a single storey side and rear extension.

SE/14/01717  Land SE of High Point, Coombe Road
Erection of a two storey dwelling with an integral double garage

SE/14/01779  Pilgrims Way Cottage, Pilgrims Way West
Demolition of existing double garage and erection of two detached four bedroom dwellings, including the closure of the existing access from Rye Lane to serve the existing and proposed dwelling. Improvement to footpath. Associated landscaping.

SE/14/01858  Elmwood, Tudor Crescent
Proposed sheds (retrospective)

b. Results received

SE/14/00752  Randalls, 30 Greenhill Road
Erection of a garden shed and a compost store  Allowed

SE/14/00776  7 Bubblestone Road
Demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage and utility room  Refused

SE/14/00874  Reedhatch, Telston Lane
Demolition of a detached garage and erection of a double storey extension to the west  Refused

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

SE/14/00799  Greenview, Shoreham Road
Conversion of existing garage into habitable space, erection of a new attached garage with habitable roof space with one dormer window and three velux windows over both. Alterations to fenestrations.  Allowed

SE/14/00116  7 Beckets Place
Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of orangery and bedroom/bathroom accommodation within existing roof space. Amendment to previously approved scheme reference 13/00400 to
include addition of 2 windows at 2nd floor level - one on east elevation and one on west elevation. Windows are to be 1200mm wide by 600mm high, both windows to be fitted with obscure glass.  

**Allowed**

SE/13/00858 The Oast House, Broughton Manor  
Erection of a two bay garage  

SE/14/00964 107 Evelyn Road  
Conversion of loft including addition of side and rear dormers and the construction of a pitch roof to the front of the existing garage.  

**Allowed**

SE/14/01047 The Birches, 28 The Butts  
Demolition of existing garage and store. Erection of a two storey side extension to include garage. Erection of a single storey rear extension. First floor rear extension over existing ground floor extension  

**Refused**

SE/14/01130 50A Pilgrims Way East  
Erection of a single storey rear extension with a roof light  

**Refused**

c. Tree Works  
SE/14/01602 The Grange, High Street  
2 x Leylandii in garden - to reduce height by 50%. Beech tree - to thin out the crown of the tree by 20%, 2 x Ash trees over riverbank - to dismantle and remove the trees to grounds level  

SE/14/01734 11 Bubblestone Road  
Removal of small yew tree (WTCA)  

SE/14/01787 Appledowne Place, Shoreham Road  
T1 Robinia - cut overhang to boundary. Falling branches from this tree have caused actual damage to parked cars (TPO)  

**Refused**

Footpaths  
The cutting back of vegetation on footpaths in the village is the responsibility of Kent County Council. They are also responsible for anything to do with roads, pavements, verges and drains. Please contact them direct on 03000 414141 with any problems.

**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.

**Newsletter Deadline**  
The deadline for items for the September Newsletter will be **Friday 22nd August**

WHATEVER THE WEATHER JUST RELAX  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS