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 June and 9th July at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall. Contact details of Councillors can also be found on the website.

Chairman’s News

The observant amongst you might notice that the clock on the village hall has reappeared and hopefully will keep running for another couple of years. It’s funny that you don’t know what is important until it’s gone. Like all of us it is getting old and wearing out, but with a bit of TLC we should be able to keep it going for a while. The only problem is that it’s a heavy lift to get it back up - my thanks to Norman Catt for all his assistance.

The Annual meeting of the electorate was very successful. Unfortunately it’s always the same faces that turn up to support village functions; do we not have any new blood in Otford? There were plenty of reports from the clubs, societies, sports, police, WI’s, shops and the Parish Council. We were fortunate to be able to present the Kirsh Cup for Otford’s outstanding sports personality to Jennifer Stevens as Kent under 15 champion in Shot Put, Discus and Hammer. Jennifer represents Kent Schools and is currently ranked fourth in the All England U15 Discus.

We hope you all enjoyed the Jubilee weekend events - there had been a lot of hard work put in by the stalwarts of the village in their preparations. You cannot fail to have noticed the launching of Duckingham Palace, the revamped duck house on the pond; my thanks to Brian Thomas and Norman Catt for a successful repair and launch.
Yet again there have been problems with the door locks on the toilets, but hopefully by the time you read this report they should all be fully functional.

**Car Park Meeting**

There will be a special meeting to discuss the Car park when the Council’s recommendations will be put to the village on **Friday 29th June** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall.

**Dog Poo Flag Days - 12th - 14th June**

To highlight the problem with dog poo on the Recreation Ground we will be flagging up every 'crime scene' so that dog owners, walkers and people who use the area can see the ongoing problem and hopefully it will make those responsible for not picking up much more aware of the consequences of their actions. The majority of owners clear up after their pets but some don't and we hope that highlighting the problem with flags will raise the profile of dog fouling with other dog walkers and perhaps help to apply peer pressure to get those few persistent dog owners to fall into line.

If the situation does not improve dogs **WILL** have to be **KEPT ON LEADS** and could even be **BANNED** altogether from the 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.

**St Bartholomew’s Church Fair**

Have a lovely family afternoon out and go along to St Bartholomew’s Church Fair, on **Saturday 23rd June** at 2pm in the beautiful grounds of Castle House, by kind permission of the owners. Stalls will include Plants, Cakes, Toys, Crafts, Music, White Elephant, Books, and other attractions. Refreshments will be served all afternoon. Programmes will be on sale before the fair and on the gate for 50p children under 5 free.

**Allotments**

The allotments in Otford are fully tenanted with a small waiting list. Why don’t you apply for a plot – change over of plots is quite frequent so you may not have to wait long. If you want to have a look over the site and see what can be achieved with a little healthy effort, and with a reward of fresh vegetables, please give our allotment agent a ring on 01732 459779.

If you didn’t manage to get to the Allotment Association stall at the village fete then there is an ‘Open Morning’ on **Saturday 21st July** when you can be shown around by members of the committee or you can wander at will to see for yourself the different plots.”
**Otford Society**
The Otford Society Garden Party will be held on **Saturday 7th July** at Broughton Manor from 6pm to 8pm. Tickets from Carol Griffiths on 01959 523140. Please note tickets must be purchased in advance and will not be available at the gate.

**Otford Gardeners’ Society**

**Secret Gardens or a Day at the Seaside**
There will be no June meeting for Otford Gardeners’ as it clashes with the Jubilee Bank Holiday but they did as usual, have a stall at the Village Fete. You are invited to join the Gardeners on their coach trip down to the Secret Gardens of Sandwich on **Saturday 16th June**. As an alternative for those who are not horticulturally inclined, there will be a drop off in the lovely seaside town of Deal. The coach will leave Otford pond at 9.30 and return to Otford at around 6pm. For prices and tickets please contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

**Junior Photographic Competition**
As part of their Autumn Show on **Saturday 8th September**, Otford Gardeners’ have a junior photographic class which is open to all under 16’s. The title of the class is ‘A Sporting Event’. Photographs may be up to 18cm x 12 cm and must not be mounted. For further details contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

**Otford Primary School Fete**
Otford Primary School’s summer fete will be held on **Saturday 30th June** between 12 noon and 3pm. Everyone is welcome to join the event and support the village school as they try to raise funds to develop the school’s playgrounds. There will be lots to do for all ages and the day promises to be lots of fun. Events include a beer tent, assault course, bouncy castle and cream teas to name but a few.

**Litter**
Our Parish Council litter picker Simon cannot be everywhere so if you see any litter outside your house, please don’t wait for someone else to pick it up, lets all be responsible and try and keep our village litter free especially in this Jubilee year. Thank you.

**Otford Bridge Club**
The club meets every Friday (except bank holidays) at 7.30pm in the Otford Church Hall. Anybody looking for a friendly club in which to play is very welcome. Tea/Coffee and biscuits are provided. Please contact Sally or Graham on 01474 812250 for more information.
Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild
The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 30th June** in Otford Methodist Church Hall *(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE)*. The talk in the afternoon will be about 'My adventures with flowers' by Lorna Bateman. 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.

Quilling Guild
The next meeting will be on **Saturday 9th June** between 10am and 4.30pm in the Main Hall of Otford Village Memorial Hall.

Oftford 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 be on **21st June** when there will be 'Flower arranging with a difference'. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 450618 for more details.

Oftford Afternoon WI
Meetings are held in the Oftford Village Memorial Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meeting will be on **12th June** when there will be a massage demonstration by Lucy Watts. 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. Contact Kath Larkin on 01959 522355 for more details.

Oftford Evening WI
Oftford Evening WI have just had their Annual Meeting, the new President is now Mrs Brenda Ash. She has had plenty of experience having been District Secretary in the past. The next meeting is on 14th June when there will be 'beading'. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. For more information please contact Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634.

Police Matters
PCSO Jane Wright will be holding surgeries in the following places and if people have any questions or problems she will be willing to discuss them

- Darenth Valley Golf Club, Station Road on **Monday 18th June** between 11:00-12:00
- McDonald's, Otford Road, on **Tuesday 17th July** between 13:00-13:45

The Police have received a report that a security company called R&B Security Direct Response have been calling residents offering to install free alarm systems. The company were dissolved in January this year. It appears however that some residents are being called by this and other companies, offering similar things. Please always be wary if you receive a telephone call from any company, claiming to be offering security systems or security surveys. Please remember that neither Kent Police nor Neighbourhood Watch work with companies in this way. Do not reveal any personal details to callers or agree to having a visit from such companies. If you would like advice about crime prevention advice
for your property, please call Kent Police on 101. And if you are considering having any new alarm systems installed always obtain various quotes before agreeing to having any work completed. Please could you pass this information onto your neighbours in order to remind them of companies that operate in this way. If you should wish to talk to your Neighbourhood officer contact them on 101 and ask to be put through to the Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Team.

Otford v Kent Police Football Match on [**Wednesday 13th June**] at 6.30pm at Hale Lane Recreation Ground - Please go along and support

**Darent Valley Choir**

The Darent Valley Choir and Friends are to take part in the Sevenoaks Festival this year. On [**Saturday 7th July**] at 7.30pm they are to sing the 'Verdi Requiem' in the Pamoja Hall at Sevenoaks School. The venue is special and the music is wonderful. Tickets will be available in Sevenoaks Bookshop, from choir members and from 01959 523279. Please join them if you can for this very special event.

**Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society**

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. The lectures start promptly at 1.45 pm and finish by 3 pm. The next lecture will be on [**21st June**] by Philippa Barton on 'Strawberry Hill' Horace Walpole’s “Little Gothic Castle” at Strawberry Hill is the most famous & influential example of the mid-eighteenth Gothic revival style, much favoured by men of letters & antiquarians. The creation of this novel, irregular house & its delightful interiors was described in characteristically playful & witty tones in Walpole’s voluminous correspondence. His published “Description” of the house in 1764 reveals his extraordinary collections of rare books, antiquities, paintings, miniatures, furniture, ceramics & curiosities that were dispersed in the great sale of 1842. This lecture will set Strawberry Hill within the Gothic revival of the day, & show Walpole to have been one of the great collectors of the century.

Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

**2 Comedies 2 Courses**

**Stag Theatre Company** are back this summer with a two comedy evening at the Stag Plaza Suite. The evenings straddle the opening of the Sevenoaks Summer Festival and have proved to be an extremely popular event. Rehearsals have been intense and over a shorter period than usual and so the run up to the [**22nd and 23rd June**] has been as frantic as the plays!

The two plays are **15 minute Hamlet by Tom Stoppard** and **Last tango in Little Grimley by David Tristram**.

**15 minute Hamlet** - is exactly what it says... Compressing a full length play into 15 fast paced hilarious minutes. **Last tango in Little Grimley** - Little Grimley Amateur Dramatic Society is in trouble. Out of luck, out of pocket and only four members... what can they do...
to bring the audience in? And the 2 courses of the title comprise a summer buffet and Eton Mess. And so follows an evening that is unforgettable for both cast and audience... standing room only! Please contact the Stag Theatre to book tickets on 01732 450175

**Otford Methodist Church Wednesday Afternoon Women’s Fellowship**
Meetings are at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details / transport.

**June**
13th - NCH tea party
20th - Circuit MWiB meeting in the Methodist Hall
27th - Lunch outing to Lullingstone

**July**
4th - Tea at Hospice Shop
18th - Garden Tea

**August**
1st - Garden Tea
15th - Garden Tea
29th - Garden Tea

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**Hospice of Hope Events**

Conifers Open Garden on **Sunday 24th June** from 2 - 5pm
Conifers is a working market garden of 4 acres. A Professional grower of vegetables, beans, varieties of annual and perennial plants and flower gardens. There is also a fish pond, chickens, ducks and a retired race horse. All available for you to visit and enjoy tea and homemade cakes! Entry £3 on the day, free parking available. Conifers, Ash, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7HN

**Jazz at The Cross Keys** **Friday 6th July** 7.30pm - midnight
Featuring the Robert Reid Trio, an evening of intimate jazz and fine food in the newly refurbished contemporary setting of the Cross Keys Restaurant & Bar, St Johns Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9XD
£25 per ticket to include a 2 course meal and coffee
Tickets available from vanessa@hospicesofhope.co.uk 07866 495628

**Quiz Night** **Saturday 7th July** 7.00 - 10.30pm in the Tea Rooms, High Street, Otford
Take another challenge with our Quiz Master whilst enjoying a supper - this really is a fun and informal evening
Tickets £12 available from wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk 01959 525110

**Hoe Down & Hog Roast** **Saturday 14th July** 5.00 - 9.00pm
Dosey doe your partner at our barn dance and hog roast by generous invitation of Sir Richard & Lady Plender, The Old Rectory, Sundridge.
This is a fun occasion for all the family!
Tickets £15 per adult, £8 for children under 10, contact carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk 01959 525110
Stage & Screen Classics
As part of the Sevenoaks Festival the Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society and Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra are performing on **Saturday 1st July** at 7.30pm in the Stag Theatre, an evening of Stage and Screen Classics including works by Borodin, Mozart, Sullivan and Wagner, featuring music from West Side Story and Lord of the Rings and a tribute to Rogers and Hammerstein. The Soprano is Susan Parkes and the conductor is Darrell Davison. Tickets are £12.50 and concessions £11.50 available from the Stag Theatre Box Office on 01732 450175.

Planning
The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council in May. 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/11/02762  Hillway, Pilgrims Way East
Demolition of existing dwelling house and erection of new replacement dwelling as amended by plans received 4.4.12
SE/12/00907  26 Ryecroft Road
Erection of a single storey rear extension, front porch and rear dormer
SE/12/01000  4 Shinecroft, Rye Lane
Erection of a single storey front extension
SE/12/00790  57 Knighton Road
Single storey front extension
SE/12/01085  61 Knighton Road
Demolition of ground floor bay window to rear, erection of single storey front and rear extensions, conversion of garage into living accommodation, removal of chimney, insertion of roof lights to north elevation and alterations to fenestration
SE/12/00731  Elmwood, Tudor Crescent
Variation of condition 10 (vehicle parking) of SE/10/01971 - Demolition of existing house, garage, annexe and bungalow to facilitate erection of two no. two storey four bedroom houses with integral garages. In order to convert the garage into habitable rooms to both properties.

b. Results Received
SE/12/00437  15 Broughton Road
Demolition of existing rear extension and erection of new two storey rear extension  **Allowed**
SE/12/00489  Stumbleburrow, Tudor Drive
Proposed new gabled roof with north and south facing flat roof dormers alterations to fenestration on dwelling including insertion of four rooflights and alterations and alteration of window in garage  **Allowed**
SE/12/00512  Byways, Rye Lane
The erection of a single storey side extension, elevational alterations to rear of the property and new pitched roof to existing two storey rear addition  **Allowed**

7
SE/12/00336 Bridge Cottage East & West, High Street
Replacement of existing flat roofed garage serving Waterside Cottage with double garage to serve Bridge Cottage with double garage to serve Bridge Cottages East & West on the adjacent plot. Refused

SE/12/00556 Willowbrook, 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 roofed balcony area will contain a lantern light and glass balustrade to the perimeter (re-submission). Refused

SE/12/00316 Frog Farm, Pilgrims Way West
Change of use from disused agricultural barn to two apartments with external alterations together with alterations to barn B for car parking Refused

c. Appeals
Land North of Pilgrims Oast, Station Road Dismissed
d. Work to Trees
SE/12/0115 7 Bubblestone Road
Various works to 1 conifer tree
SE/12/0131 21 High Street
Various works to trees

Parish Councillors Contact Details

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