Chairman’s Report
You cannot failed to have noticed that we have a pristine new duck house on the pond - our thanks go to Norman Catt for producing such a masterpiece in a relatively short time.

There have been two, well attended, defibrillator training events in Otford, thanks to Stan our Emergency response team leader. Lets hope that we are not required to employ the training, although their usage is so easy as the machine tells you exactly what to do, and if you are hard of hearing (because of local noise), there is an LCD display that works in parallel with the voice commands.

Last month I reported that we have recently been having trouble with the automatic door locks on the toilets in the car park, but as it is an intermittent fault it is difficult to pinpoint the problem. At the end of the day, it will probably require a new timing module or complete rewiring. However, judicious use of WD40 seems to have solved the problem for the time being.

There was a successful ”Litter Pick” day on 26 March along with McDonald’s staff, on the Sevenoaks Road between McDonalds and the Village. Our thanks go to all of the volunteers that gave up their time to help with the task. Mind you, it would be far better if people that throw their rubbish down on the ground 2 to 3 feet from the bins were to put it in the bins provided in the first place!!

Broken bottles on the footpath leading from the scout hut to the chalk pit have been reported by a resident whose dog suffered a cut leg as a result of somebody’s careless act. The thoughtful resident cleared up the dangerous mess before taking his dog to the vets and reporting the incident to the parish office.

There was an accident involving a cyclist at the bottom of Row Dow which resulted in the young lady being taken to hospital. The utterly atrocious state of the roads both on Pilgrims Way East and Row Dow have been reported to both Kent Highways Services and your County Councillor. As I understand the situation, the road is to be repaired during the school holidays and may require closing.

OPC are looking for a Web Page designer to construct a new Parish Council Web Site that is easy to update and is also “accessible” to the disadvantaged amongst us. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help.
Brian Thomas our hard working cemetery Supervisor has been improving the drainage at the cemetery. However, whatever steps are taken there will always be a problem here as it is extremely low lying and the gullies under the road need constant attention to keep them clear.

I wasn’t going to mention dogs on the recreation ground this month, but the office has received a complaint that dogs running loose attacked a small child near the football pavilion. When the owner was shouted at by the young child’s father they were immediately put on their leads. Maybe they should have been on a lead in the first place?

We are making progress with the car park rules and regulations and hope to have the Pay and Display up and running in time for the start of school term in September. There will be plenty of notices displayed around the village before we reach P&D-Day.

**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 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.

**St Bartholomew’s Church Fair**

St Bartholomew’s Church Fair will be taking place in the grounds of Castle House on **Saturday 21st June** from 2pm. Stalls will include: Books, Plants, Cakes, Crafts, White Elephant, raffle, unwanted gifts, bottles, toys, soft drinks, strawberries and cream and ices. Other attractions include children’s games and a bouncy castle. There will be a children’s art competition with the theme ‘**Landmarks of Otford**’. There are two categories 7-11 and under 7 with good prizes. All village children are welcome to submit an entry. Contact Christeen Malan on 01959 522654. Also there is a single rose competition judged by silent auction so why not bring along an entry on the day.

**Sevenoaks Community Responders**

**Grand Prize Draw / Table Top Sale**

The Sevenoaks Community First Responders are holding a Grand Prize Draw with many prizes on **Monday 30th June** in Otford Village Memorial Hall from 5pm to 10pm. Tickets are available from Stan on 01959 523923 or from the Parish Council Office. Also on the night there is a Table Top Sale. Tables are £10 each. Contact Stan as above to book. Entrance will be free with donations only.

**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.
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 session are held on Tues & Thurs (7.30pm -9.30pm) and Sundays (9.30am-12.30pm). All standard 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 Dyke or call her on 01959 522050.

South East Open Studios 6th-22nd June

Visit your local Artists and Craftspeople in and around Otford during June. Discover the processes and ideas behind the making of mosaic, sculpture, painting and printmaking. Artworks can be purchased and commissioned. A warm welcome (and a cup of tea) will greet you when you drop in at 58 High St, Otford - 07906 310021 / 07731 974364 (Ann and Sarah)
5 Broughton Rd, Otford - 07967 965202 (Angela)
29 Millpond Close, Sevenoaks - 07544 279532 (Christina)
Opening days and times vary. Contact the Artists or visit www.seos-art.org for further information.
Brochures are available from the Artists, Otford Library, Parish Council and Heritage Centre.

Elands Veterinary Clinic - FREE Microchipping for dogs

Elands Veterinary Clinic along with the Dogs Trust are offering from 1st April for a 12 month period, FREE microchipping for dogs at the Kemsing and Dunton Green clinics. Microchipping for dogs will become law in England from April 2016. It is a simple procedure and ensures your dog can be traced back to you and reunited if they go missing at any time. They already offer a free microchip to all puppies and kittens when they have their first vaccine course with them, but this will enable all dogs that have not been microchipped to be chipped now for FREE. Call them on 01732 452333 for the Dunton Green branch or 01732 761650 for the Kemsing branch and they will be happy to book an appointment.

Otford Cricket Club

Otford Cricket Club are looking for new senior players for their league and Sunday cricket fixtures. They are also looking for new junior members for cricket coaching from 7 - 15yrs old. Training starts on the 4th May and registration can be done by email at stevens@ot32.wanadoo.co.uk. Any enquiries also to that e-mail please.

Gardeners’ Society

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd June at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Colin Moat of Pineview Nurseries will give a talk ‘50 Greys of Shade’. There will also be plants 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.
Rose & Summer Show
The Rose and Summer Show will take place on Saturday 28th June. This show brings together the beautiful flowers and tasty fruit and vegetables from the early summer garden. Also featured are flower arrangements, cookery and photographic classes. The show takes place in the Otford Village Memorial Hall 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.

Otford Primary School Fete
The Otford Primary School Fete will take place on Saturday 5th July between 12 noon and 3pm. There are 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 will be taking place on the school field and inside the school. Admission is £1 for adults and free for children.

Home Worker Required
Otford Village Memorial Hall needs a new Booking Administrator. This role will suit someone who can spend an average of 7 hours a week receiving booking enquiries by telephone and email, entering them onto our booking system, sending out booking confirmations, and receiving responses.
All necessary equipment including a PC, Printer, Desk, Telephone Line and Broadband can be provided and training will be given. The successful applicant needs to be in the 01959 telephone area, will have a good telephone manner, be keen to provide good customer service and have some experience in using a Personal Computer (e-mail etc). The annual remuneration is £4800
If you are interested please contact us by email to ovmh.treasurer@otford.net or telephone Derek on 01959 523361 between 4pm and 6pm.

Otford Twinning
The next social gathering of the Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning Association will be on Monday 30th June from 19.45 at the Woodman in Otford. Do join us, whether you are members or not, and give us your ideas for the Association. We would like to feel that as many people in Otford as possible are involved with our "Twin" community in France.

Citizens Advice Bureau
The Citizens Advice Bureau will now be holding a surgery at the Otford Parish Council offices EVERY Tuesday between 10am and 12 noon. To book please call 01732 440488 and say that you would like an appointment in Otford. You can also drop in for advice but you may have to wait.

Otford Library
Free Craft Activity Session at Otford Library on Saturday 14th June from 10am until 12pm.
Please ring Angela to book a place.

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 is on Thursday 19th June when Sarah Rogers will talk about ‘Restoration of Riverhill House’. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 458732 for more details

Health Walk
Go along and try the Health Walk which starts from Otford Car Park every Monday at 10.30am. The walks last normally about an hour. The walks are free and are organised by Sevenoaks District Council. There is no need to book.

**Otford Evening WI**
At their recent Annual meeting Brenda Ash agreed to continue as President for another year. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 12th June** at 7.30pm when Jane & Peter Burr will be giving a sophisticated demonstration of 'Fantasy flowers in Balloons'. Meetings are held in the Club Room of the Village Hall. For more information please contact Evelyn Hubner on 01959 523359.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**
They will be holding their Annual Table-Top sale on **Saturday 19th July**. Tables will be £9. Bookings are being taken. Please ring Chris on 01959 522485 for more information.

**Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild**
The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 28th June** in St Bartholomews Church Hall (NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE), High Street. 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.

**Picture of the Month - June**
The artist of the Heritage Centre’s picture of the month is Julian Cheswick. Julian says ‘I have always loved sketching and drawing. In the 1970’0s I started water colour painting - mainly landscape and riverscapes. Pressure of work, raising a family and other distractions reduced my output to about three pictures over the next thirty years, until I joined the Otford Art Group. The medium I use now is gouache. I paint a range of architectural and mechanical subjects, but my current interest is in animals and birds’.

**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**
4th - Action for Children tea in local garden /11th - Outing / 18th - Tea at Hospice shop
25th - Joint meeting with Sevenoaks in the Hall

**July / August**
Teas and outings

**Otford Methodist Church**
The Otford Methodist Church extend an invitation to their Men’s breakfast on **Saturday 7th June** at 8.30am at Darenth Valley Golf Course. The speaker will be Michael Cooper who is the area representative of Christian Vision for Men. To reserve your place or find out more information please call Derek Baxter on 01959 523687.

**Aikido**
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

Knole Decorative and Fine Art 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 meeting will be on 19th June when Liz Merry will talk about ‘Town Mouse, Country Mouse - Beatrix Potter’. This lecture links to their study tour in Cumbria in September and will explore the life of Beatrix Potter in relation to art and nature. Why not return to your childhood and learn more about the author and illustrator of those wonderful story books. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

Farmers Market

Kent Food Events hold a Farmers Market on the 3rd Saturday of the month in Otford Methodist Church Hall between 10am and 1pm. Lots of stalls. The next market will be on 21st June so go and have a look and meet the local produce sellers.

Shakespeare at St Clere

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 from £5 to £15 -01732 450175 or www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk or on the door.

Hospice of Hope events

Monday 7th July at 12.00 noon

Ladies Lunch with Macarons Demonstration

Alexander House Hotel, East Grinstead

Alexander House Hotel’s Junior Sous Chef, Mark Hemsley, will demonstrate how to make the popular macarons served for afternoon tea.

Tickets: £29.00 per person to include arrival drink, two course luncheon with a glass of wine & coffee with mint chocolates

Please contact Anna Perolls anna@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110 for tickets

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

Join Team Bagpuss

Join Team Bagpuss at the world’s leading obstacle race series 'The Spartan Race' at Pippingford Park, Nutley, East Sussex and help support our vital work with terminally ill children in Romania. We ask you to raise a minimum of £150 sponsorship per person, in return you gain race day entry, team Bagpuss t-shirt, finishing medal and receive race day hospitality.
Saturday 30th August  Spartan Sprint 5km with 15+ obstacles
Sunday 31st August  Super Spartan 13km with 21+ obstacles

It is recommended that you do this challenge with a team but you can also enter individually! For more information and to sign up to the race please contact Anna Perolls at: anna@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110.

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

Planning

The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk or Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

a. New applications

SE/14/00803  2 Hopfield Close
Conversion of part of garage into habitable playroom/office and the installation of French doors to the rear of the garage. Due to the slight height difference in the land it requires a small set of steps from the garden to the access doors.

SE/14/00858  The Oast House, Broughton Manor, High Street
Erection of two bay garage

SE/14/01004  Devon House, 49 High Street
Construction of front and rear dormers (retrospective)

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.

SE/14/01074  52B Pilgrims Way East
Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings, erection of replacement dwelling with integral garaging facilities and timber decking to rear elevation

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

SE/14/01250  57 Willow Park
Demolition of existing garage and erection of a single storey front, two storey side and a single storey rear extension.

b. Results Received

SE/14/00387  Burfield, Pilgrims Way East
Erection of a two storey side extension with four velux windows to roof and a Juliet balcony to front elevation  Allowed

SE/14/00588  Little Coombe, Shoreham Road
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling with Juliet balcony top rear extension  Allowed

SE/14/00575  Thaxted, St Michael's Drive
First floor side extension, two storey rear extension, side entrance porch and external alterations  Allowed

SE/14/00568  31 Willow Park
Demolition of existing garage and lean to  Allowed
SE/14/00549  72 and 76 High Street
Creation of dropped kerb  Allowed

SE/14/00532/533  The Grange, High Street
Demolition of parts of the 21st century single storey extensions. Erection of single storey rear extension and internal alterations  Allowed

SE/14/00376  36 Pilgrims Way East
Demolition of existing conservatory to facilitate the erection of a single storey rear extension  Allowed

SE/14/00329  Elmwood and The Gables, Tudor Crescent
Demolition and removal of stable block, greenhouse, brick shed and timber shed within garden of Elmwood. Erection of a shed for each property.  Refused

SE/13/03809  Beadles Garage, Sevenoaks Road
To obtain continuous use of strip of land (currently restricted to 28 days use per annum) adjacent to display area to allow staff parking from the hours of 7am to 7pm  Refused

c. Appeals
APP/G2245/A  Hopgarden Farm, Telston Lane
12/2185283  Re SE/12/00805  Dismissed

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<td><strong>Chairman</strong></td>
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**Litter**
If you see litter outside your house, please pick it up don’t just leave it for somebody else. Let’s try and make our village streets litter free. Thank you

**Rubbish Bags**
This is a polite request not to put out your rubbish bags until the morning of your collection. Putting them out the night before is an invitation to foxes and birds. The results is a horrible mess which looks very unsightly and the dustmen don’t have time to pick it up. Thank you for your co-operation.

**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. Please bring the right change if possible.
Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for all items for the next newsletter will be **Friday 20th June**