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 12th March and 16th April at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Otford Twinning

There will be an informal meeting of the Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning Association from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 10th March in the Club Room of the Village Memorial Hall. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME. This is an opportunity for you to see the activities and events that can be enjoyed in Neufchatel-Hardelot and to extend the membership of the Association. We would also like to invite you to the signing of the Twinning Charter on Saturday 31st March at 11am in the Village Memorial Hall.

Would you like to spend the weekend of 9-10th June in Hardelet with our TWINS, with an evening meal and overnight hospitality. If you would like to paint, walk, play tennis, croquet, boules, horse ride, visit nearby places of interest - please specify which, indulge in retail therapy, or just sit on the beach (everything is possible), please leave your requests with Mrs Jane Lawrey via the Parish Office. We shall probably travel by private car, unless there are enough to warrant hiring a minibus or coach.

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.

The Otford Jubilee Community Choir

The Community Choir will be meeting again on Tuesday 13th March at 7.30pm in St Bartholomew’s Church. If you would like to join them please go along.
The Annual General Meeting of the Otford Society will be held on **Thursday 29th March** in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm. There will be a general discussion on the future of the Palace Tower.

**Diamond Jubilee Events in Otford**

**Saturday 2nd June**
- Solar System Planet walk for children with prizes
- Historical Society Exhibition in Village Hall - ‘60 yrs of Otford’
- Sackville Singers in St Bartholomew’s Church - ‘Otford Jubilee Prom’ - 7.30pm - Tickets £10 to include souvenir programme and glass of wine, £20 for a family.

**Sunday 3rd June**
- Civic Service - St Bartholomew’s Church
- Big Tea - Village Green / Bell Ringing
- Historical Society Exhibition in Village Hall - ‘60 yrs of Otford’

**Monday 4th June**
- Otford Village Fete
- Music with Rattle Mac
- Join with the Community Choir in the evening and have a bit of a sing!
- Beacon Lighting between 10pm - 10.30pm

**Tuesday 5th June**
- Street Parties at various village locations

We do hope that you will support the events above and we would like to request that if you are putting out summer bedding, hanging baskets or tubs then you might in this jubilee year plant them in Red, White and Blue. The village planters will be looking suitably patriotic and we hope that you will also will put up bunting and flags to make the village look wonderful.

Types of Flowers you could use include:
- **Red**: Geraniums, Salvas, Begonias, Petunias
- **White**: Geraniums, Alyssum, Begonias, Petunias
- **Blue**: Lobelia, Campanula, Ageratum, Petunias, Gentians

**Search the Attic and dust off the old photo albums**

As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations there is to be an exhibition covering life in Otford over the last 60 years. This will take place in the village hall on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd June. We are seeking artefacts and photographs to illustrate daily life, events, sport, fashions and crazes over the six decades of the Queen’s reign. Items relating to Otford are especially welcome. If you belong to a club or society perhaps your organisation would like to mount their own display at the exhibition. If you have artefacts please ring Ken Gunderson on 01959 522709 and for photographs contact Ed Thompson at ed@otford.net or 01959 525969. Please be assured that all items will be returned to you at the end of the exhibition. Many thanks for your help.
**Dog Fouling**

This is still a big problem, which should **NOT** be a problem at all, on the pavements in the village, also on the Recreation Ground especially around the pavilion and on the main football pitch. There are plenty of bins available **PLEASE USE THEM** and **DO NOT** throw the bags into the hedgerow. It is very anti social and potentially health threatening not to pick up after your dog. If you don’t you risk having to pay a fine of up to a maximum of £1,000 or a fixed penalty of £25. If the situation does not improve dogs **WILL** have to be **KEPT ON LEADS** and could even be **BANNED** altogether from the Recreation Ground. So don’t ruin it for everyone else just **PICK UP** please and dispose in the **BINS PROVIDED**. The Dog Warden and our Community Warden are on the lookout and offenders **WILL BE** fined.

**PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON LEADS IN THE ALLOTMENTS AND DOG MESS SHOULD BE PICK UP AND DISPOSE OF RESPONSIBLY**

**Watch this Space – on Saturday 24th March**

Mike Bett Chairman of the Otford Heritage Centre Management Committee writes “After over ten successful years with many more than ten thousand visitors, our Otford Heritage Centre needed a thorough spring clean and refurbishment and that’s why it has been closed for the last couple of months.

It will now re-open on **Saturday 24th March**, freshly painted, and with more space for new features, models and exhibits illustrating Otford’s rich historical legacy. There will also be room, as we go along, for nostalgic glimpses of the village’s more recent past: and for its many current sporting, educational, cultural and community activities to be displayed and promoted. But we need help in carrying through every aspect of this ambitious long term project. If you would like to participate in anyway - creatively, or as a member of the Management Committee, or by volunteering to be a steward during opening hours, please leave your name in the Parish Office and we shall get in touch with you”.

**Gardeners’ Society**

The Spring Show on **Saturday 24th March** is the first show of the year and the displays will include spring bulbs and flowers, floral arrangements, preserves and cookery and photographic classes. There are also junior classes and the launch of the Junior Challenge for 2012 which this year is to grow Coleus Plants. 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.

**Spring Workshop**

Following on from her very popular Christmas Wreath making evening Denise Thompson Otford’s own designer florist will be holding a Spring Workshop in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 14th March** at 7pm. Cost £30. Everything will be provided (except scissors/secateurs - please bring your own). Please ring 01959 525009 to book.
Otford Library Events

Free Craft Activity - **Saturday 17th March** 10am to 12 noon making book covers. To book call 01959 522488.

Come and meet Crime author Diane Janes - **Monday 12th March** at 7.30pm. Tickets priced at £3. To book call 01959 522488

Also regular free events include:

- Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time - Monday mornings 11am to 11.30am
- Story Time - Term time only - Tuesdays 2.15pm - 2.45pm
- Talk Time - Every Monday 11.30am to 12.30pm
- Computer Buddie - Every Tuesday 2pm to 4pm (booking essential)

There is also an event at Kemsing Library which is an introductory workshop with children’s author Joanna Norland on **Friday 23rd March** at 9.45am until 11.15am. Tickets £2. To book please call 01732 762199

Hale Lane New Play Area

Plans for the new play area at Hale Lane Recreation ground can now be seen at the Parish Office between 8.30am and 12.30 Mon - Fri. Please spare a minute to look at them and give us you views which are very important in the process of bidding for funding.

Otford Village Fete

The Annual Fete will be held over the Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend. This year our theme is Olympics. Once again Elands Veterinary Clinic has agreed to run our very popular Dog Show and visitors are encouraged to register at 12 noon on the day of the fete. Unlike previous years our procession will not go through the village but will make its way around the Recreation ground at 1pm allowing more people the opportunity to see the parade. We will be updating our website regularly on the attractions: www.otford.info/villagefete. If you would like to help out on the day of the fete we would be very grateful. Please email patty.chatterjee@virgin.net

Our Parish Plan – a year On

A year has now passed since our Parish Plan was ratified by the Parish Council. You will recall that it identified those things that most concerned Otford residents and made positive suggestions of how these problems might be resolved. It set objectives - that would help lead members of the community and the parish council in the future. Now a year has passed and a report has been prepared that shows just how far we have come in that time. It is without question a success story for all of us. If you would like to read details of this report online, please go to www.otford.info/parishplan/. If you would prefer a hard copy, a limited number of copies have been prepared for residents at the Parish Office. Copies of the original plan are also available upon request.

There is still a way to go but a huge amount has already been achieved. Well done, Otford!

Digital Switchover

The digital switchover in this area will take place in two stages, the first on **4th April 2012** when BBC2 analogue is switched off when you will need to re-tune your digital equipment to pick up the available channels. The second
stage is on 18th April 2012 when the remaining analogue channels are switched off and you will need to re-tune your digital equipment again to pick up additional channels. If you have any questions or concerns about the switchover then the Switchover Roadshow will be visiting Otford on Wednesday 21st March between 9-5pm and will be located in the village car park.

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.

March
7th - History of Ladybird Books - Caroline Alexander
14th - Lunch out
21st - The punishment for crime - Keith Lawrey
28th - Easter meditation

April
4th /11th - no meetings

Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild
The next meeting will take place on Saturday 31st March in the Methodist Church Hall (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE). The talk in the afternoon is entitled ‘East at the Warner Textile Archive’. 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.

The Quilling Guild
The Quilling Guild will meet in the Hope Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th March from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome to this friendly group. Ring Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117 for further information.

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.

Otford Afternoon WI
Meetings are held in the Otford Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. 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

Otford Evening WI
If you wonder what the WI is actually like, do come along, you are under no obligation whatsoever. The next meeting is on Thursday 8th March at 7.30pm and will take place in the Otford Methodist Church hall (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE). The speaker will be Maurice Porter talking about ‘Local Postal History’. For more information please contact Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634.
Otford & District Historical Society
The next meeting of the winter programme will take place on **Wednesday 21st March** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Alan Williams will talk about ‘British Cinema in the 1930’s’. Membership is £6 a year and visitors are welcome at £2 per meeting.

RSPB – Sevenoaks Local Group
The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5th April** in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 7.45pm when they will hold their AGM and a talk on ‘Futurescapes’ about landscape scale conservation in the South East. Group members £2.50, non-members £3.50.

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 meeting will be on **15th March** when Caroline Holmes will talk about ‘The Roman Garden with special reference to Pompeii’

The gardens of Ancient Rome such as Hadrian’s Villa inspired Renaissance & Landscape designs - cloisters, terraces, balustrading & water features as well as woodlands & wild flowers. The commercial city of Pompeii was sealed by the outpourings of the eruption of Vesuvius in August 79 AD, as was the smarter Herculaneum. Their layouts, frescoes, pools & treillage disappeared until the 18th Century when their rediscovery attracted travellers on the Grand Tour. In the sixties new methods of garden archaeological exploration in Pompeii revealed the aspirations for grand schemes in the design, role & plantings of Roman domestic gardens. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Alison Davis on 01732 780453 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery
The next CAB Surgeries will take place at School House between 10am and 12 noon on **Tuesday 6th March** and **3rd April**. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.

Hospice of Hope Events
**Friday 23 March** - “Love That Latin!”
Heads South at High Rocks for an evening of latin jazz with professionals showcasing the best of south American dance. 7.30pm, price £40 to include a glass of sparkling wine on arrival & two course supper. Tickets available from Vanessa@hospicesofhope.co.uk | 01959 525110

Hospice in The Weald Charity Events
**Wheels around the Weald – Saturday 31st March** A cycling event to raise money. You can either complete 81 miles, 40 miles or 15 miles. This is the perfect event for both seasoned cyclists and first timers. It starts at the Hospice with staggered starts for the different groups. Tickets to enter cost £15. For more information please contact Emma Whittington on 01892 820508 or email emma.whittington@hospiceintheweald.org.uk
**Events at Knole**

Designs for the garden at Knole

| Wed – Sun from 10th March to 1st April | Tues – Sun 3–15th April (closed Mon except 9th April). Students from the University of Greenwich present their conservation plans for Lord Sackville’s private garden. |

Walk from Knole to Emmetts Garden and back

| Saturday 24th March | at 10am approx 14 miles |

Take a walk from Knole and experience the Spring beauty of Emmetts.

Meet the Conservation Team

| Friday 16th March | from noon to 3pm |

In these fascinating talks the team will cover topics such as cleaning demonstrations, the challenges of preventative conservation, and look at some of the equipment used at Knole.

Knole Walk

| Wednesday 4th April | at 10.45pm, approx 2 hours |

Begin your visit with a walk into Knole’s past.

Paper making workshop

| Thursday 5th April | from noon to 3pm (booking essential) |

Try your hand at making paper in this special workshop.

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**Planning**

The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council in February. 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/12/00004 61 Knighton Road

Demolition of ground floor bay window at 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/12/00040 2 Flowerfield

Erection of a single storey rear extension

SE/12/00179 J Sainsbury PLC

Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 11 (staff parking spaces) of SE/11/02087/ FUL (Extension to existing Sainsbury’s Store (revisions to permitted application SE/10/01552/FUL) including changes to car park lay out and removal of previously permitted car park deck, removal of the proposed atrium and travellators and changes to elevations). In order to make amendments to the car park lay out

SE/12/00205 Hillside, Hillydeal Road

The erection of a first floor front extension. Part first/part single storey side extension. Single storey rear extension and modernisation to existing property, plus new pitched roof over existing detached double garage.

SE/12/00277 36 The Charne

Erection of single storey rear extension and garage to rear

SE/12/00302 2 Knighton Road

Demolition of existing garage and conservatory, erection of a new house adjoining 2 Knighton Road, alterations to existing access and creation of four parking spaces to serve both properties.
SE/12/00305  112 Sidney Gardens
Demolition of an existing single storey adjoining garage and side extension. Demolition of two existing chimneys. Erection of a new side and rear extension. Alterations to roof and conversion of roof space into additional accommodation. Installation of front dormer, rooflight to left and right flank, guard rail to new rear window and three solar panels to roof.

SE/12/00316  Frog Farm, Pilgrims Way West
Change of use from office, to two apartments with external alterations to Barn B for car parking.

b. Results Received
SE/11/03169  1 New Barn Farm Cottages, Telston Lane
Removal of existing conservatory and construction of rear single storey extension  
Certified

SE/11/03183  2 Tudor Drive
Excavation and levelling of the rear garden to create flat lawn area with paving, steps and retaining wall  
Allowed

c) Notice of Appeal
APP/G2245/C/11  Land north of Pilgrims Oasts, Station Road 2166665/67
Appeal against: without planning permission, the siting of a portable building on the land

Parish Councillors Contact Details

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