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 March and 15th April at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall. Contact details of Councillors can be found on the website and at the back of this newsletter.

Chairman's Report

Once upon a time Otford was a lovely village with clean paths and pavements, beautiful grass verges, well-pruned hedges and not an item of litter in sight, but now since the arrival of humans from another planet without a thought for others and with no respect for the environment, if it were not for the efforts of a few parishioners who set out armed with litter pickers and large plastic bags, we would all be walking in cigarette butts, dog mess, take-away food boxes, sweet wrappers, coca cola cans, railway tickets to name but a few of the items found in our once lovely village.

The Parish Council cannot do everything, but if we all work together, not dropping litter, picking up our dog mess, removing litter when we see it, pruning our hedges, we can once again live in a beautiful environment and be justly proud of our most attractive village. We might even put out the occasional hanging basket or potted plant to add to the attractiveness of Otford. Will you help us?

Otford Twinning

There are still seats available for the coach trip to Hardelot and Montreuil on Saturday 20 April 2013. Please contact Jane Lawrey via the Parish Office if you are interested in coming or would like to know more about the Twinning Association.

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.
Grand Opening Hale Lane Play Area
Come and celebrate the Grand Opening of the new Hale Lane Play area which will take place on **Saturday 6th April** at 11am. This is an event for all Children, Parents, Grandparent, Relatives, Friends and Parishioners. Watch out for further details.

Police Surgery
PCSO Jane Wright will be holding a Police Surgery on **Friday 8th March** between 10am and 11am at Otford Post Office. Go along and see her if you have any crime concerns. You can also contact her by calling 101.

Boot Sale
After being unavoidably cancelled in January due to adverse weather there will now be a Boot Sale on **Saturday 16th March** from 8.30am to 1pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Part of the profits will go to ‘Help for Heroes’. Tables are £6 in advance or £8 on the day. Refreshments will be available. Please telephone Hazel on 01959 522659 to book.

Otford & District Historical Society
The next meeting of the winter programme will take place on **Wednesday 20th March** in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm when Brian Boyden and Phil Cole will talk about ‘Pipe Dreams - the history of Clay Pipe making in Kent and its social content’. (There will be an extensive display of clay pipes for viewing and those with any pipes in their possession are encouraged to bring them along for identification. Membership is £6 a year and visitors are welcome at £2 per meeting.

Otford Gardeners' Society
The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 5th March** at 8pm when the talk is entitled ‘Preparing for the Show’ with the expert help of well known grower, exhibitor, lecturer and judge Barry Newman NDH, FNVS Chairman of the National Vegetable Society. Admission which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors.

On **Saturday 23rd March** at 2.15pm they will be holding their Spring Show in Otford Village Memorial Hall. On display will be the best of the spring flowers. There are also photographs, cookery, flower arrangements and junior classes on Show. Teas will be on sale until 4pm.

Free Craft Session / Event - Otford Library
There will be a free craft session at Otford Library on **Saturday 16th March** where the children will be making flowers for Mothers Day. Please book to secure a place on 01959 522488.

On **Wednesday 13th March** at 2.30pm they are holding an event called 'Behind Enemy Lines'. Former journalist Tony Redding will be talking about his latest book 'War in the Wilderness' inspired by his father's time as a Chindit in the Second World War. The tickets are £3 from Otford Library. Booking is recommended.
Otford Methodist Church

There will be a Spring Arts & Crafts Fayre in aid of the Church Building Fund on Saturday 6th April. Tables will be for hire in the main Hall for the sale of Quality ‘home produced’ arts and crafts items. There will also be stalls selling cakes and plants, together with light refreshments in the café area (10% of proceeds will go to the Sevenoaks Loaves and Fishes project). For more details about the hire of tables please contact Abigail Bicheno on 01959 525388 or email abigailbicheno@yahoo.com.

If you are able to donate cakes and plants for sale or help with refreshments on the day please contact Rosemary Pattullo on 01959 524914 or e-mail rsapattullo@yahoo.co.uk.

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 will take place on 21st March when Caroline Alexander from the Hop Shop will talk about Lavender. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 450618 for more details.

Otford Evening WI

Our next meeting is on Thursday 14th March when an official from Hospice in The Weald will be coming to talk about their work etc. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday in the month at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall. Fewer members than usual attended the February meeting - perhaps because it was Valentine’s Day - romance is obviously alive in Otford!. For more information please contact Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634.

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 20th March at 7pm. Cost £30. Everything will be provided (except scissors /secateurs – please bring your own). Please ring 01959 525009 to book.

Wanted - The Heritage Centre needs YOUR help!!

We are trying to put together a Home Entertainment/Children’s Corner in the Centre, and would like any donations of old videos/children’s books, toys, old computer equipment/games etc., anything from Years Gone By, to add to the Corner please. If you have any artefacts that you would be prepared to lend us, but don’t want to donate, then we can put them under lock and key, otherwise, donations would be most gratefully accepted for our Display. Anything up to the year 2000 would be ideal.

So, think of us when you do your Spring Clean and make us into Very Happy Easter Bunnies!! We are trying to create Home Entertainment in Olde Otford, in a corner of the Newly Refurbished Heritage Centre. Any other Home Entertainment ideas would be gratefully received too. Thank you. Please contact Mrs Lesley Edmeads on 01959 524221.
The Otford Art Group
The Otford Art Group are selling and showing their paintings in the Lodge Coffee Shop, The Stag Sevenoaks from Monday 8th April for 3 weeks.

Allotments Association
The Otford Allotment Association can now boast of full tenancy and even after such a disappointing 2012 weather wise. A walk through the gardens will show much activity with a great deal of promise already a sure sign spring is on the way. If you do enjoy our site please respect the Association rules and keep to the paths and if with a dog please keep it on a lead and always pick up if necessary. A lot of hard work can inadvertently be spoilt in a short time. The waiting list is not that long so if you would like to apply please email our allotment agent on rogerbeasley@tiscali.co.uk for information.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild
The next meeting will take place in the Otford Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 23rd March. There will be a talk in the afternoon by Linda McCann on ‘Theatre Dresser’ 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.

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 21st March when Nicola Moorby will talk about ‘The Secrets of Turner’s Watercolour Techniques’. J.M.W Turner was arguably the greatest practitioner in watercolour the world has ever seen and his achievements still represent the benchmark for artists working today. Yet he left few written records of his processes and was notoriously reticent about his methods. This lecture examines his watercolour practice in detail, unlocking the mysteries behind his exceptional effects. We will also look at his experimental approach to techniques and some of his tools and materials. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

'Swing into Spring' Tea Dance
Why not 'Swing into Spring' with a Tea Dance. The music will be provided by Dilys of the Farningham Dance Group. So get your dancing shoes out again and try Ballroom, Latin and Sequence on Friday 5th April between 2pm - 4pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Cost £3 to include tea and biscuits.

Otford Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
Otford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are collecting Sainsbury’s Active Kids Vouchers 2013 which are available now, in store, with online shopping and at the petrol station, until the
22nd May 2013. They would be very grateful if you would kindly save any vouchers for them and drop them into their collecting box in the Parish Office. The Rainbows and Brownies have recently enjoyed a session of 'Rock n' Roll' dance 'paid' for with last year's vouchers and are very grateful for the ongoing support of residents. For any girls or volunteers interested in joining Girlguiding Otford there is a new website to register your interest. Please log on to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or call 0800 1 69 59 01.

**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.

**RSPB**

On **Thursday 7th March** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall Heather Chantler, a lifelong Learning officer for the RSPB, based at the South East regional office, explains the unique landscape at Dungeness and its importance for various forms of wildlife. Members are £2.50, non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more details.

**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**

6th - ‘Evacuees’ - Keith Lawrey
13th - Lunch out
20th Easter meditation

**Artist of the Month**

Betty Cooper moved to Otford from Surrey 17 years ago after her husband retired and their daughters and sons had left home. With more time to spare she joined the Otford Art Group and now enjoys painting every week. This picture in the Heritage Centre is a watercolours painting of one of a recent Art Show. For the last few years Betty has been the main organiser of the Otford Art Group which has, as a result of her efforts, flourished and has considerably increased in numbers.

**Citizens Advice Bureau**

A Citizens Advice Bureau surgery takes place on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Otford Parish Council offices between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

**Russell House School - Easter Activity Week**

There is an open invitation for kids to join in with the Russell House School Easter Activity Week. This takes place from **Monday 25th to Thursday 28th March** between 9.30am - 2.00pm each day. The cost is £95 for the week with £80.00 for siblings.
Form 1-7 Activities

- Circus Workshop - Learn how to juggle, spin plates, walk on stilts, use Chinese ribbons and much more
- Thursday - Come dressed in circus costume for a performance in the afternoon.
- Circus related art and craft
- Sport
- Swimming

On arrival children have to go to top playground. Parents need to collect children from the front court at 2.00pm.

Also RUSSELL RABBITS for Children in Transition and Nursery

Run independently from Activity Week.

Times - 9.30am - 2.00pm

Children will need to be dropped off and collected from Nursery.

All children need to bring
- Packed Lunch
- Raincoat
- Outdoor and Indoor shoes

For further details please contact Mrs Lesley Alder, Russell House School on 01959 522352

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/13/00026 Hillway, Pilgrims Way East
Demolition of existing house and erection of new replacement dwelling

SE/12/03356 Block 12 Vestry Road
Application to extend the time limit of an extent planning permission approved under reference 09/02563/FUL. Demolition of detached boiler house. Demolition of single storey part of building and construction wall to retained building. Replacement of dilapidated link building with new. Infilling of door openings, internal layout alterations. Provision of new parking bays, paths and resurfacing. Replacement of fence and provision of new gates, real level lower yard. Change of use to sui generis Royal Mail Delivery Office.

SE/12/03360 27 High Street
Demolition of single storey annex. Erection of single storey rear extension.

KCC/SE/0439/12 Otford Primary School, High Street
Demolition of existing swimming pool building and erection of a new building to accommodate three additional classrooms with associated welfare facilities and an extension to the existing school hall.

KCC/PRE/SE/

0030/13 Proposed North Weald '2D' Vibrosis Seismic Survey for Northdown Energy Ltd Department of Energy and Climate Change Licence PEDL245 North Weald

Proposal covers approx 63 kilometers of mainly road and track falling between Farnborough, Knockholt, Dunton Green, Otford, Shoreham, Eynsford and Orpington and encompassing the London Borough of Bromley and Sevenoaks District area of Kent.
SE/13/00251  24 Warham Road
The erection of a single storey side extension and integral porch.
SE/13/00282  41 Greenhill Road
Demolition of existing single garage, and construction of a double garage, with changing area and sauna over.

b. Results Received
SE/12/03290  20 Bubblestone Road
Demolition of existing rear conservatory. Erection of a single /two storey rear extension with two roof lights to the single storey section and solar panels on the roof of the two storey section; single storey side extension; new pitched roof to existing garage. Alterations to existing house with removal of chimney to side (northern) elevation; addition of a roof-light to side (southern) elevation, a roof-light to the centre of the roof and a sun tunnel to side (northern) elevation.  

Allowed

c. Withdrawn
SE/12/03209  The Grange, High Street
Demolition of existing single storey flat roofed extension and erection of new single storey extensions to both sides and rear of property.
SE/12/03180  11 Coombe Road
Demolition of existing garage. Erection of a ground floor extension to side of existing single storey section of property. Erection of a second storey extension above existing single storey section of the property and a part loft conversion. Dormer windows to the front and rear of the property. Erection of an open porch.

APP/G2245/ Site at Bartram Farm Business Estate, Old Otford Road
A/12/2183366/NWF
SE/11/03009/OUT Outline application for demolition of existing and redevelopment to provide a Gym/Health club (Class D2), Children's nursery (Class D1) and office building (Class B1) with some matters reserved, as amplified by additional transport statement received 06.01.12

d  Appeal Notification
SE/12/02252  37 Well Road
APP/G2245/D/13/2191012 - Demolition of existing triple garage and side extension and replacement with a single storey side extension and two storey side and rear extensions.

e. Appeal Decision
APP/G2245/A/12/ 2 Knighton Road
2184264
Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with new house including alterations to No 2 Knighton Road and demolition of garage to form four car parking spaces to serve both properties.  

Dismissed

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**Parish Councillors Contact Details**

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<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Oastbrook, Telston Lane</th>
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<td>John Edwards-Winser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas G. Cracknell</td>
<td>23 Warham Road</td>
<td>522325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary Evans</td>
<td>14 Tudor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mary.a.evans@btinternet.com">mary.a.evans@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Phone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jackie Howe</td>
<td>33 Pilgrims Way West</td>
<td>525434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Knight</td>
<td>38 Warham Road</td>
<td>524488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. H. Jane Lawrey</td>
<td>23 Tudor Crescent</td>
<td>522360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Leicester</td>
<td>Albany, Shoreham Road</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howard_leicester@btconnect.com">howard_leicester@btconnect.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Charmian Marsh</td>
<td>40 Greenhill Road</td>
<td>522609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Verrall</td>
<td>24 Pilgrims Way East</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jon.verrall5@btinternet.com">jon.verrall5@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Elizabeth J. Ward</td>
<td>Thymebank, Coombe Road</td>
<td>522384</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin J. Whitehead</td>
<td>19 Coombe Road</td>
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**Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for items for the April Newsletter is **Monday 25th March**

Don’t forget that the clocks go forward on **SUNDAY 31st MARCH**

And don’t forget Mother’s Day on **SUNDAY 10th MARCH**

and wishing

A Happy, Peaceful and Joyous Easter to you all