Otford High Street Closure
Bridge Repairs
Update from David MacKay, Chief Engineer
“The date of the closure remains the same
Mon 23rd June – Fri 29th August”.

“The initial phase of the work will involve
the temporary diversion of the gas and
water mains running along the road, which
will have to be completed before the main
works can proceed. Due to the sensitivity
of the site, the parapets will then be
dismantled (for re-erection) prior to
demolition of the existing bridge deck. I
intend preparing an outline programme for
the work for distribution with the June
newsletter.
I have been advised that Sevenoaks
Highway Unit intend carrying out
resurfacing work along the length of the
High Street. The intention will be to carry
out this work in conjunction with the bridge
replacement scheme, in order to utilise the
road closure and help reduce future
disruption to the village. In a further effort
to avoid future disruption, Babtie Group
may take the opportunity to carry out some
remedial work to Otford No 1 bridge (the
newly painted one). If work is carried out to
this bridge then vehicular and pedestrian
access will be maintained over it at all
times. Furthermore, the period of road
closure will NOT be increased. Following
discussions between local businesses and
Otford Parish Council, a detailed sign
schedule has been prepared for the erection
of signs along the diversion route to
indicate that the shops and car park in
Otford will be open as usual, with
directional arrows as appropriate. Otford
Parish Council has also been working hard
to secure alternative bus arrangements for
those services affected by the works”

Car Park Repairs
Work will commence to repair the grills at the
front of the Village Car Park on Tuesday 27th
May. Please avoid the car park if you can on that
day and the next. If you can’t, please be aware
that men will be working on the entrance and
take extra care. Hopefully it will only take
a couple of days. Also the first few bays on the left
will be coned off so please do not park there.

Station Refuge
Work is still proceeding and several people have
mentioned how much safer it is to cross this busy
road. Hopefully the scheme will be completed
shortly.

Village Fete – Monday 26th May
Roll Up Roll Up! There is still some room for
more participants in the parade. The theme is
‘The Circus’. The Committee would like to
courage all villagers and societies to
participate. Also they need help with vehicles, so
if anyone has a lorry etc, which could be used
they would be most grateful. Regarding the
procession, please contact John Roberts on
01959 522521. They also need volunteers to
man some of the attractions. This could be a
useful source of revenue for a local society. A
reminder that there is of course the fancy dress
competition, so villagers should start to think
about their costume. Of course there are other
attractions including circus displays, bands, giant
raffle, donkey rides and lots more.

St Bartholomew’s Church Fair
St Bartholomew’s Church Fair is to be held on
Saturday 21st June at Castle House, by kind
permission of the owners. Advance sales of
programmes for the event contribute to the
success of the Fair and the funds raised. The
church is very grateful to those people who
undertake to sell programmes in specific roads.
They are aware that several roads have no
representative and ask you to offer to fill these
gaps by contacting Margaret Lidbetter on 01959
524831. Many thanks, both to those continuing
to help this year and to those who respond to
this request for help.
Police Surgery
The next Police Surgery with PC Jackie Allen will be held Wednesday 2nd July between 10am and 12 noon in School House. If you have any problems or concerns about crime please come and see her.

Otford Gardeners’ Society
The next talk at the Otford Gardener’s Society meeting will take place on Tuesday June 3rd at 8pm in the Otford Memorial Hall when Mr Hilary Newman will talk on ‘Vertical Gardening’ – How to choose and maintain climbing plants, an illustrated talk. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments.

The two recordings of the Gardeners Question Time’ that took place on 6th May, when the Otford Gardeners’ Society were hosts, will be broadcast, we are told, at 2pm on Sunday 25th May and at 2pm on Sunday 6th July, with repeats on the following Wednesday afternoons. For those of you who were unable to be there the team consisted of Bob Flowerdew, John Cushnie and Matthew Biggs, with Julian Pettifer as the Question Master. Both the Producer and the Gardeners Question Time team announced that it was a great success.

Allotment Gardening
Following the last newsletter item, we have to report that all plots on the allotment site, including those which were previously available as fallow are now fully tenanted. This may not be good news if you are considering taking on a plot and benefiting from plenty of exercise in the fresh Otford air with the rewarding results of fresh vegetables later in the year. But do not despair there will be plots available in the not too distant future, and if you would like to join the happy band of allotment gardeners, why not go and have a look around. On the notice board just inside the main gate to the allotments by Otford Builders Merchants, there is a map of the site with an accompanying list of unoccupied/occupied plots. But better still Barbara Hine, the allotment agent, would be pleased to accompany you around the site if you give her a ring on 01959 525468 – lots did just that and are now enjoying the benefits.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons Women’s Fellowship
Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings which take place at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall and a list of next months speakers and events are as follows:

June
4th - Tea in aid of NCH at Jean Gunderson
11th – Outing to St Julians – Lunch
18th – Garden Meeting – Speaker from Ellenors
25th – Pub Lunch - local

Otford & District Wine Club
The Otford & District Wine Club are holding their usual Ice Cream Stall at the Otford Fete on Monday 26th May and all members are invited to come and help sell ice cream if they are free. The stall will open from 12.30 onwards. On Wednesday 28th May the Club is having a Games Evening in the Village Hall, beginning at 8pm. Why not go along for some fun and games (nothing too taxing or intellectual!) As usual cheese and biscuits will be provided but bring your own liquid refreshment. Visitors will be welcome for a small fee.

Otford Tennis Club
The summer programme is now in full swing and members are reminded of the Spring Lunch and American Tournament on Sunday 25th May. The lunch is at 12.30 and the Tournament starts at 2.30pm. For further information please ring Anthony Shea on 01732 458968. For all other membership enquiries please ring Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736, or visit their web site on www.otfordtennis.org.uk

South East Open Studios
The 2003 South East Open Studios Guide will be available towards the end of May. Look out for this distinctive paint tube logo at sites around the village, including the Heritage Centre and the Library. This year’s event will be run from the 6th to the 22nd June, and regulars Angela Bishop and Sarah Cunnington will be joined by two new artists, Jackie Allen and Kim Rowlands. Both Angela and Jackie’s studios are in Rye Lane, and Sarah and Kim will be showing their work at Sarah’s studio in Pilgrims Way West, so it will be an easy and enjoyable trip to fit in all three studios. Opening times are in the guide.

British Red Cross Open Gardens Programme
On Sunday June 22nd Mrs Hadrill is opening her private garden at Little Oast, High Street, Otford in aid of the British Red Cross. Visitors viewing the garden of this Oast house will be able to enjoy refreshments. The garden is open between 2pm – 5pm, entry fees are £2 for adults and OAP’s, admission is free for children.

In 1948 the garden was a flat meadow on heavy clay and the Oast house was a ruin. During the
succeeding years the garden has evolved into a peaceful retreat, planted for year round interest, with mature trees and beds filled with unusual plants and shrubs. Other features include a paved area surrounding a water lily pond; 2 summerhouses facing different directions (built by the owners’ late husband); a small kitchen garden and a ‘hospital bed’. Several seats have been fitted into secluded corners and a collection of ferns has been planted in the shade. The owner and her husband laid much of the paving in the garden reclaiming the tiles from the ruined Oast. The garden has been much photographed and has appeared in ‘Winter Gardens’ on TV. No parking is available at Little Oast, so please park in the public car park and walk along the High Street past the Horns PH following the signs to the garden. For further details contact Cathy Clark on 01227 459101

**Historical Society Summer Outing**
The Otford & District Historical Society are visiting Sandringham House, Museum and Gardens on **Saturday 24th May** starting at Otford Pond at 8am.
The Sandringham Estate was purchased by the Royal family in 1861, and the present scarlet – brick neo - Jacobean mansion, designed by A.J. Humbert, was built in 1870. King Edward VII developed the sporting estate, and the atmosphere of the house remains Edwardian, though still a favourite residence of the Queen and her family. It is understood that among the works of art there, is von Weber’s painting of the interior of Otford’s forge, a favourite picture of Edward VIII, and the reason for his visit to the village in the 1930’s. The Victorian gardens are very attractive, and in addition a collection of royal motor cars is maintained there.
Total cost is : Full - £20.50 Concessions - £19.00
Contact Cliff Ward on 01959 522384 for details and bookings.

**Citizens Advice Bureau**
Every day, at least 40 people contact the Sevenoaks Citizens Advice Bureau. The problems they bring cover the entire range of everyday living, from minor irritations to major crises. Clients are helped to complete forms, do calculations, make enquiries, write letters, make phone calls and negotiate. The advice given is impartial, free, professional and above all, confidential. The CAB is not simply an advice agency. Rather it is an independent charity that helps people resolve their problems in two ways – through advice and through bringing about policy change. Volunteers undergo extensive and demanding training before becoming advisers so they are able to deal competently with all enquiries. A typical day in the bureau will see advisers discussing the best way forward to repay debts, what rights a landlord has to serve notice on a tenant, how a consumer can resolve faulty goods, and listen to a woman who has suffered domestic violence. An additional team of volunteers have been recruited to help the public fill in forms. Tax Credits, Attendance Allowance, Minimum Income Guarantee and Housing Benefit are just some of the forms brought to the bureau on a Wednesday by appointment.
To find out more contact them at The Library, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HW. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday 10am and 1pm appointments for form filling
( Tel No : 01732 - 454443
( Fax No : 01732 - 463164
( e-mail : 7oakscab@dial.pipex.com
web page : [www.7oakscab@dial.pipex.com](http://www.7oakscab@dial.pipex.com)

An adviser from CAB is at the Otford Parish Council office on the 1st Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12 noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on 3rd June.

**Can you help**
Do you or did you know Keith and Gwyneth Ryan who used to live at The Oast House in Park Lane, Otford. They left the area in around 1992. If you can help please contact Linda Smith on 01892 826203.

**Harry Christophers & The Sixteen**
The Sixteen are performing on **Friday 6th June** at 7.30pm in Tonbridge School Chapel in aid of The Judd School Development Fund. Tickets - £15 (unreserved) £10 – (concessions) Write to Mrs J. Hewitt, The Judd School, Tonbridge, TN9 2PN indicating tickets required and enclosing cheque (made payable to The Judd School) and SAE.

The Sixteen, formed by Harry Christophers and now celebrating its 25th anniversary, is one of the jewels in the musical crown of Britain. It enjoys a world-wide reputation through its tours and many CD recordings, which have received nearly every major prize of the recording industry. Its special reputation for early English polyphony,
masterpieces of the Renaissance and a diversity of 20th century music is founded on a naturalness of performance, a revealing clarity and beauty of sound, precision and a dramatic intensity of delivery.

Planning

The following applications were considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in May. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk or the Strategic Services Director, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

a. New applications

SE/03/00570 Sainsbury Petrol Filling Station
Extension of petrol filling station kiosk and kerbline, extension of canopy, provision of additional fuel pumps, new ATM machine and associated works

SE/03/00655 3 Sevenoaks Road
Construction of external disabled ramp

SE/03/00729 34 Greenhill Road
Demolish bungalow and erect new dwelling and garage

SE/03/00935 The Woodman 2 High Street
Formation of decking in side garden area

SE/03/00945 Bramber House Shoreham Road
Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding and construction of 3 detached dwellings

b. Amended applications

SE/02/01065 Land south of West Kent Cold Store Dunton Green.
Erection of 12 live/work units and 11 residential units with associated car parking, access arrangements and landscaping. As amplified by letter dated 30/05/02 and addendum noise report. As amended by plans received 15.11.02 and letter dated 19.11.02.

c. Results Received

SE/02/02723 91 Willow Park
Rear conservatory

SE/03/00125 The Woodman 2 High Street
New pergola detail to the new rear french doors, new side door, decking to rear, demolition of store, reduction of wall height and associated internal alterations. Amended application and letter received 20.02.03

SE/03/00197 The Hop Barn
Conservatory

SE/03/00257 Telecomms Eqpt Otford Road
12.5 telecommunications monopole and ancillary developments

SE/03/00320 52a Pilgrims Way East
Proposed timber cabin

SE/03/00325 Sainsbury PFS Otford Road
Replacement car wash enclosure

SE/03/00337 Otford 2 Bridge High Street
Listed Building Consent – Demolish existing bridge and reconstruct new bridge deck. Existing parapets to be dismantled and rebuilt

SE/03/00455 40 Hillydeal Road
Creation of dormer windows to front and rear elevations as amendment to approved house

SE/03/00456 6 The Charne
Single storey rear extension

SE/03/00578 32 Willow Park
Proposed single storey and two storey extension incorporating garage, together with front porch and formation of garden store

SE/03/00592 Unit 3 Block 5 Vestry Road
Change of use to storage display, hire & sale of garden marquees, tents, camping equipment and associated leisure products

SE/03/00731 Land rear of 18-20 Tudor Crescent
Erection of a dwelling with integral garage

SE/03/00736 61 Willow Park
Proposed first floor side extension

d. Planning Appeal

SE/03/00062 Block 1 Vestry Ind Estate, Vestry Road
Erection of a warehouse with offices, parking and turning area - Appeal against refusal