"Eggstravaganza"
Our Eggsperts Mr & Mrs 'Crackshell' were kept busy on Bank Holiday Monday with about 50 wonderful decorated eggs to judge. We would like to thank all of you who took part and we hope that you eggjoyed yourselves. There were 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners in 6 age categories and also Highly Commended and most suitably large chocolate eggs were taken home by the winners. So get thinking of eggcellent ideas for next year's competition.

Best of the Best Village of The Year
Judging took place on Tuesday 18th April and Otford looked magnificent in the sunshine and we feel that the judges went away with a very positive impression of our lovely village. Great thanks to all who helped on the day and before and if we get through we can look forward to doing it all again in July!

Annual Assembly
This is notification for the Annual Assembly of the Electors of the Parish, more commonly called the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held, in the Village Hall on Monday 22nd May at 7.30pm. This is your chance to ask questions about what is happening in the village, so please attend if you can.

Mobile Police Surgery
PC Jon Wilkinson our community police officer and our PCSO Dave Birchall will be holding a surgery in the mobile police station in Otford Car Park on Saturday 17th June between 2.45pm - 3.45pm to allow residents to go along and report or discuss things with them. No appointments are necessary.

Otford Village Fete
The Annual Village Fete takes place on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May commencing at 1pm on the village Recreation Ground. The procession starts from Hale Lane Recreation Ground at 12.30pm. The theme this year is ‘BOOKS’. Please come and support the fete and have a great time.

Playground Project
Donations have been coming in from many residents and local organisations and the Otford Society would like to thank everybody for their generosity. The plan is to upgrade the play facilities at Hale Lane and the Recreation Ground, and grants are available if the community can raise a proportion of the cost. We are well on the way to the necessary £14,000 (approx) but a last effort is needed.

Police Surgery
The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on Friday 9th June between 11am and 12.30pm. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Dave will now be visibly patrolling the village by bicycle as often as he can so please give him a warm welcome when you see him or speak to him.
St Bartholomew’s Extension

An update from St Bartholomew’s Church.

The specialist firm of contractors appointed to prepare the site for the builders will be starting work next month. It is obviously very important both to make the site secure and to screen it and you will see fencing and netting going up around the building site and around a spoil storage / loading area on The Green which will remain in place for the main building works. Lorries arriving to take away excavated soil will be instructed to avoid school dropping off and picking up times. It is hoped that the main contractors would start work in July. Although it probably won’t be possible to fully reinstate the Green in time for the Remembrance Day Service, the area will be tidy and level. There is a new drawing of the proposed extension at the back of church that can be viewed.

Otford Cricket Club Colts

It is not too late to join the Sunday morning cricket on the Recreation Ground as a member of Otford Cricket Club Colts. Weekly coaching has only just started and will be running until late July. The club’s junior section has over 85 children of all ages from 7 years old (school year 2) up to 15. Matches for all age groups in league and cup competitions commence shortly. It is the club’s policy to involve as many children in our teams as possible. Call Angie or Mark Stevens on 01959 523881 for more details. They look forward to hearing from you.

Otford Over 60’s Social Club

HELP NEEDED! Is there anyone who could help me organise and run the OOSSC on a voluntary basis. We have about 25 members and meet every other Wednesday afternoon (except August). If you think you are interested please ring Jill on 01959 525775 for a chat or leave a message and she will ring you back or e-mail jill.Yates@tesco.net.

The programme until August is:

May 24th - Entertainment by W.I. Choir
June 7th - Our Birthday Party
June 21st - ‘All About Marigolds’ by Brenda Aryanpur
July 5th - Strawberry Tea & Quiz
July 19th - Coach Outing to Eastbourne

Otford Gardeners’ Society

Otford Gardeners’ Society will be visiting Hatfield House in Hertfordshire for the annual Flower Festival on Saturday 10th June. The House and all 42 acres of grounds will be open and there is a Floral Arrangement competition under NAFAS rules. There is also a plant fair with many specialist nurserymen in attendance. The ticket price of £18.50 includes return coach fare from Otford and admission to Hatfield. For further details please contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or visit www.otford.info/gardeners for a downloadable form.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on Tuesday 6th June between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Wednesday Surgery

Otford’s Community Warden Nic Roots will be available to chat to residents every Wednesday morning at School House between 10am - 12 noon. This is a change of day and time.

Alice in Wonderland

An outdoor production of ‘Alice in Wonderland’ by Chalkfoot Theatre Productions (remember Wind in the Willows) will be taking place in the grounds of Otford Primary School at 7pm on Friday 21st July. Tickets will be available from School House at £6.50 adults, £5.50 concessions and £4.50 for under 16’s. If you purchase your tickets 7 days or more before the performance there will be £1.50 discount on each ticket. The grounds will be open for an hour before for picnics (fingers crossed for sunshine) and the PTA will also be serving refreshments for school funds.

The Otford Society Garden Party will be held on Saturday 1st July at 62A Well Road between 6pm - 8pm. Wine and canapés will be served. Raffle. Tickets available from Carol Griffiths, Secretary at 11, The Old Walk, Otford on 01959 523140.
Otford Gardeners' Society
The next meeting takes place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Tuesday 6th June at 8pm when the lecture is 'Portuguese Gardens up to the 18th Century' - an illustrated talk by Deirdre Hall on the history of gardens in Portugal. Admission is 50p for members, £1 non-members. The admission price includes refreshments.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further details contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or visit www.otford.info/gardeners.

British Red Cross Open Garden Programme
On Sunday 4th June Mrs Hadrill is opening her garden at Little Oast, High Street, Otford, in aid of the Kent branch of the British Red Cross. Visitors viewing the garden of this oast house will be able to enjoy refreshments including cream teas. The garden opens between 2pm and 5pm and entry fees are £2.50 for adults, £2.00 for OAP's and entry is free for accompanied 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 owners late husband) and a small kitchen garden. 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. There is no parking available at the garden so please park in the village car park and walk down the High Street. For further details, contact Tacye Blest on 01622 690011.

Otford Afternoon W.I
Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Membership is £22 per year. The meeting on 13th June is on 'Looking after your Back'. Mrs Godwin will be giving tips to help keep you supple and moving. Please contact 01959 522915 for more details.

Otford Allotment Association
Once again we are pleased to report a full occupancy, despite losing two allotment holders for varying reasons have had to relinquish their tenancies. All allotment holders are now working their plots well as will be seen if you happen to be walking by the site. If you would like to have a guided look, or are interested in putting your name forward for a plot when one becomes available, please give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 or call into the Parish office on any weekday morning. The Allotments Association should be holding an Open Day in August during National Allotment Week - keep watching for notices and / or the current Parish Council newsletter and don't forget to give the Allotment Association a visit at the Otford Fete on 29th May.

STOP PRESS - An allotment plot has just become available - strike now if interested

Otford & District Wine Club
Calling all members of the Otford & District Wine Club! Please come and help at our Ice Cream Stall at the Otford Fete on Monday 29th May. The stall will be open at 12 noon so come along and start filling cones! We are pleased to announce that our cornets will remain at 50p each, a price that we have been able to maintain for the past 5 years!

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild
The next meeting will take place in Sevenoaks Community Centre on Saturday 24th June when Jennifer Hughes will talk about 'Beautiful Batik' The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588.

NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE

Picture of the Month
The artist for May/June is Sue Isted. Sue has lived in Otford for about 18 years and has been a Parish Councillor for over 4 years. After leaving her PA job in the City to have her first child, she joined Art classes at Sevenoaks Adult Education Centre and Sue followed her tutor Erylys Hollands, when she set up her own Art Club at Chipstead 3 years ago. Sue loves to work in pastels and watercolour, enjoying the challenge of portraiture for both animals and the human form. Interesting shapes, negative space, shadow and colour also fascinate her and the still life of shells displays her very tactile approach to painting. Come on you budding and shy artists out there come and have your pictures exhibited. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you are interested.

Knole DFAS
Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. The next lecture will be on May 18th by Dr Catherine Oakes on 'Art and Architecture in Chaucer's England'. The June lecture takes place on June 15th when Dr Colin Bailey on 'Giotto and the Tragedy of Assisi' Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm preceded by refreshments at
12.30pm. Anyone interested in joining the Society or would like more information, please contact the membership secretary, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529.

**Sevenoaks DFAS**
The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Sevenoaks Evening Society) 2005/2006 lecture season continues on **Thursday 8th June** at 8.15pm in the Aisher Hall, Sevenoaks School with a talk by Mr Douglas Skeggs on ‘Poets, Painters and Private Lives in Venice’ Contact Mrs Honor McMillan on 01892 532651 for more information.

**Otford Primary Top Draw**
TOP DRAW - The Otford Primary Draw. Your chance to win cash prizes and raise money for your local school.
The winning numbers of the April TOP Draw are:
1st Prize £50 - 144
2nd Prize £15 - 247
3rd Prize £10 - 61

**Hospice in The Weald Events**
The Plant & Country Fayre takes place on **Saturday 20th May** between 10am and 2.30pm. There will be 100's of plants and shrubs, and stalls selling lovely things for your house, your garden and for you and yours. For more information please contact Fiona Parry on 01892 820508

Highlights of Mozart’s Magic Flute followed by a Musical Soiree performed by Opera Interludes takes place on **Sunday 28th May** between 4pm - 8pm. Ticket Price £50 to include champagne, canapés, desserts and coffee. Black tie. For more information please contact Sally Jamieson on 01732 761356

Classic Car Rally takes place on **Sunday 11th June**. This event is open to all motoring enthusiasts but they hope that as many classic car owners as possible will enter. For more information please contact Tanya Ingham on 01892 820533

**Parking on the footway**
Please DO NOT park your vehicles on pavements in the village, especially outside the shops in the High Street. It can cause huge delays in this narrow road and it is very inconsiderate to pedestrians and totally unnecessary. The police will issue tickets to persistent offenders - so beware.

**Pavement Licences**
The following information has been received from Kent County Council concerning the charge for licences to place tables, chairs and temporary street furniture on the Highway. This will be of interest to shop premises. It had now been set at £115 for up to 12 months. Districts are of course, also able to exercise this function in their own right, although such licences must comply with highway authority conditions. An application pack for this licence can be obtained by contacting 08458 247 800.

**Planning**
The following applications will be 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/06/00772 The Croft, Mount Farm, Row Dow
Conversion & change of use of ground floor of annex from agriculture to self contained apartment
SE/06/00900 West Kent Cold Store Rye Lane
Mixed use redevelopment comprising residential (up to 500 dwellings) and commercial uses (4,500m$^2$), a medical facility (500m$^2$) together with associated access roads, car parking, footpaths and cycleways, landscaping and open space

b. **Results received**
SE/06/00112 51 Knighton Road
Subdivision of plot; erection of detached chalet bungalow; alteration to crossover
SE/06/00263 49 Greenhill Road
Two rear first floor extensions, one rear ground floor and first floor extension and a number of window/door alterations

SE/06/00363 Maunders St Michaels Drive
Demolition of dwelling and erection of detached house

SE/06/00416 St Michaels Sch St Michaels Drive
Erection of new external escape stair to first floor accommodation

Refused
Allowed
Allowed
Refused

SE/05/03090 16 Greenhill Road
Porch to front of existing house, replacement 3 car garage and mower store with office accommodation over as amended by plans and letter dated 05.04.06

Contact Mrs Honor McMillan on 01892 532651 for more information.