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 14th May and 11th June at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall. Contact details of Councillors can also be found on the website.

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 Club Room of the Village Hall on Monday 21st May at 7pm for refreshments before a 7.30pm start. This is your chance to ask questions about what is happening in the village and to hear reports from village organisations so please attend if you can.

Chairman’s News

You might have seen the Speedwatch team operating round Otford during April. If so watch out for a letter or visit from the police if you were caught driving above the speed limit. We now have approval for 12 more sites in Otford and the Risk Assessments have been issued by Kent Police so we will be out monitoring speeds on a more regular basis. If anyone wants to join the team, please contact Sue in the parish office. We are currently submitting an application to the Big Community Fund to enable the Parish to purchase its own Speedwatch equipment so that we no longer have to borrow the equipment from Sevenoaks District Council.

The final signing of the twinning charter between Otford and Neufchatel-Hardelot was carried out on Saturday 31st March in the Otford Village Hall. Now that it has been signed, both in France and England, the agreement is fully functioning. The charter was signed by the Mayor of Neufchatel-Hardelot and the Chairman of OPC at a very well attended meeting with 60 “Hardelotians” and 150 “Otfordians” as well as a number of local dignitaries including our MP, Michael Fallon, MEP, Richard Ashworth and the Leader of Sevenoaks District Council, Peter Fleming. Otford
Primary School entertained us all with some traditional English songs and two pupils spoke excellent French to the audience. Following an excellent buffet provided by Julian and Christine Cheswick, Tony Whitehead led the Otford singers with a fine repertoire of old English folk songs. I would like to thank Jane Lawrey and the committee along with Julian and Christine for all their effort and assistance in making this a truly remarkable and memorable day.

At the Otford Society AGM it was agreed that the society would contribute towards a "condition" structural survey of the Palace tower which would enable an informed decision to be made on shaping its future.

The car park survey is now complete and an initial analysis of the results has been prepared for the Highways committee. Before any decision is made, an in depth analysis and discussion by the committee will take place and recommendations will be put before a village-wide meeting which will be held in June.

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 as to 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 on line, 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!

**Otford Twinning**

If you would like to visit Hardelot for the weekend of 9-10th June by car with overnight hospitality or visit for the day on Saturday 9th June by coach with opportunities to walk, paint, visit nearby places of interest, horse ride, play tennis, indulge in retail therapy, sit or play on the lovely long sandy beach, please contact Jane Lawrey on 01959 522360 or any other member of the Twinning Association Committee as soon as possible. A knowledge of French is not essential.

**Dog Poo Flag Days - 12th - 14th June**

To highlight the problem with dog poo on the Recreation Ground we will be flagging up every 'crime scene' so that dog owners, walkers and people who use the area can see the ongoing problem and hopefully it will make those responsible for not picking up much more aware of the consequences of their actions. The majority of owners clear up after their pets but some don’t and we hope that highlighting the problem with flags will raise the profile of dog fouling with other dog walkers and perhaps help to apply peer pressure to get those few persistent dog owners to fall into line.

If the situation does not improve dogs WILL have to be KEPT ON LEADS and could even be BANNED altogether from the Recreation Ground.
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.

Aikido
Now that Spring is upon us why not participate in a defensive martial art and keep fit in a friendly environment. We would offer everyone, male and female, aged 16 plus, who would like to practise Aikido, the opportunity to come to the Scout Hut, Station Road, Otford any Tuesday from 8pm to 10pm or Sunday 7.30pm to 9.00pm, where they will be made welcome and shown a demonstration of Tomiki Aikido
Aikido is based on the use of circular movements by which an attacker’s aggressive force is turned against itself. Force is never opposed by force. It improves self awareness and encourages self confidence. It exercises the whole body, teaches and develops flexibility, co-ordination, balance and quick reaction and is an effective method of practical self defence. Beginners are individually taught the basics of Aikido before being absorbed into the main class. All the instructors are qualified through the British Aikido Board and between them have many years of experience of Aikido and other associated martial arts. Why not come along and see for yourself or for more information ring 01959 522011 or look us up on the British Aikido Association website, www.aikido-baa.org.uk

Iris Show
Kent Group of the British Iris Society and Christian Aid are holding an Iris Show and sale of gifts and plants at Otford Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 12th May. Visitors will be welcome from 12 noon to 4pm. Refreshments, including light lunches available. Entrance is Free

Otford Art Group
The Otford Art Group will be having an Open Morning between 10am to 12 noon on Tuesday 15th May at the Methodist Church Hall. Please go along and see them. There will be paintings and cards for sale all original work from the Art Group. Entry is Free

Otford Village Fete
As the theme for this year’s fete is Olympics the Committee has decided, with the help of Otford Football Club and in conjunction with Dorton House our charity partner, to run a five-a-side football competition. If you would like to enter a team please email patty.chatterjee@virgin.net with your team name, team captain, mobile telephone number and an email address. Once registered you will be sent full details including timings. As many of you know, this year the procession will not be going through the village but will make its way around the recreation ground. The fete will open at 12 noon and the procession will begin around 12.30pm although timings may vary slightly.
Those wishing to register for the Dog Show being run by Elands Veterinary Clinic should do so at 12noon - the first class will commence at 1.00pm following the Collie Olympic Demonstration, which will start at 12.15pm.

A full list of activities and stallholders, including our programme, will be available on our website (www.otford.info/villagefete) by the end of May.

Entry to the fete will be £1.00 per person (under 11 free). Parking on the fete ground, subject to weather conditions, will be an additional £1 per vehicle.

We desperately need help on the day so if you could manage just two hours please email Patty.

**St Bartholomew’s Church Fair**

Have a lovely family afternoon out and go along to St Bartholomew’s Church Fair, on **Saturday 23rd June** at 2pm in the beautiful grounds of Castle House, by kind permission of the owners. Stalls will include Plants, Cakes, Toys, Crafts, Music, White Elephant, Books, and other attractions. Refreshments will be served all afternoon. Programmes will be on sale before the fair and on the gate for 50p children under 5 free.

**Otford Gardeners’ Society**

**Secret Gardens or a Day at the Seaside**

There will be no June meeting for Otford Gardeners’ as it clashes with the Jubilee Bank Holiday but they will, as usual, have a stall at the Village Fete. You are invited to join the Gardeners on their coach trip down to the **Secret Gardens of Sandwich** on **Saturday 16th June**. As an alternative for those who are not horticulturally inclined, there will be a drop off in the lovely seaside town of **Deal**. The coach will leave Otford pond at 9.30 and return to Otford at around 6pm. For prices and tickets please contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

**Junior Photographic Competition**

As part of their Autumn Show on **Saturday 8th September**, Otford Gardeners’ have a junior photographic class which is open to all under 16’s. The title of the class is ‘**A Sporting Event**’. Photographs may be up to 18cm x 12 cm and must not be mounted. For further details contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

**Litter**

Our Parish Council litter picker Simon cannot be everywhere so if you see any litter outside your house, please don’t wait for someone else to pick it up, lets all be responsible and try and keep our village litter free especially in this Jubilee year. Thank you

**Oxenhill Woods Walk / Picnic** - **Saturday 26th May at 2pm**

Come as a family, bring a picnic if the weather is good and enjoy a woodland event in Oxenhill Woods formerly Oxenhill Meadow & Shaw. There will be nature walks, leaf rubbing, identification of wild flowers and trees, orienteering or you can just enjoy the area for a while.
Otford Diamond Jubilee Events
Saturday 2nd June

- Solar System Planet walk for children / parents with prizes starting 10am on Recreation Ground. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

- Historical Society Exhibition in Village Hall - '60 yrs of Otford' - 10am - 8pm

- Sackville Singers in St Bartholomew's Church - 'Otford Jubilee Prom' - 7.30pm
  Tickets available from Parish Council Office

Sunday 3rd June

- Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service - 3.30pm St Bartholomew's Church

- Big Tea - Village Green - 4.30pm / Community Choir and KAB Hand Bell Ringing

- Historical Society Exhibition in Village Hall - '60 yrs of Otford' - 10am - 6pm

- Evening musical comic production of Chaucer's 'The Millers Tale' on Recreation Ground by Brandywine Music performed by Pete Morton with The Crown PH Beer Tent -6pm

Monday 4th June

- Otford Village Fete -12 noon, £1 entry under 11 free. Car park subject to space, £1

- Musical Entertainment and Beer Tent

- Beacon Lighting on the Recreation Ground with Otford Community Choir between 10pm - 10.30pm

Tuesday 5th June

- Street Parties at various village locations

On each of the above days you can walk the Labyrinth which will be mown into the grass of Palace Field to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Labyrinth will enthuse children of all ages from 3 to 93 who will have great fun following its route. Mazes and Labyrinths were a particular favourite of the Tudors, and by establishing one at the Palace site we celebrate the Queen's lineage from that mighty dynasty and her association with the first great Elizabethan Age. The positioning of the Labyrinth is also appropriate as Tudor knot-gardens would have once stood here in the Palace's pleasure gardens.
The Miller’s Tale

by Geoffrey Chaucer

The fabulous fun-filled fable from the famous Canterbury Tales.

A highly original and inventive interpretation of the tale as told by Mr. Pete Morton, with the help of the songs of Mr. Bob Dylan, a few others besides, and quite a few hats.

A mad, medieval musical monologue of poetry, comedy, song..........and the occasional dance.

Pete Morton has taken a gem of a story and re-worked it brilliantly for a contemporary audience, he’s blown the dust off Chaucer’s language and made us hear it afresh, he’ll make you listen, sing..... and cry with laughter. It’s brilliant! Chaucer himself would have been delighted at Pete’s inimitable wacky style and would have become an overnight fan of Bob Dylan!

All this alfresco on the delightful Otford Recreation Ground, commencing at 6.00 pm on Sunday 3 June 2012. Full licensed bar provided, bring a picnic with you and a blanket or your own chairs, as you prefer.

Tickets only £10 each, or £20 for a family ticket (children must be 16 or under), available from The Crown, Otford, or by telephone on 01732 440470.

Book online at www.brandywinemusic.co.uk

Otford & District Historical Society

Jubilee Exhibition

Sixty Years of Village Photographs & Memorabilia

Including Coronation music

Jozik Katz Christopher Harris
Musical Director Organ

with audience participation

Saturday, 2nd June, 2012
7.30 pm
St Bartholomew, Otford TN14 5PD

Tickets £10 ~ Family £25
From the Parish Office or 01999 524808
or purchase on the door

Saturday 2nd June 10am-8pm
Sunday 3rd June 10am-6pm
in the Club Room, Otford Village Hall
If you have any memorabilia or photographs of Otford events or occasions that we could include please let Ed Thompson know on 525969
Official Jubilee Events

**Diamond Jubilee Pageant** - The Diamond Jubilee Pageant will take place on 10, 11, 12 and 13 May 2012 in Windsor. For further information please visit www.diamond-jubilee-pageant.com.

**Saturday 2 June** - The Queen will attend the Epsom Derby.

**Sunday 3 June - The Big Jubilee Lunch**: Building on the already popular Big Lunch initiative, people will be encouraged to share lunch with neighbours and friends as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. This may take the form of a traditional street party or a picnic lunch in small or larger groups. This event is being organised by the Big Lunch, http://www.thebiglunch.com

**The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant**: This event will take place on the Thames between 2pm and 6pm and consist of up to 1,000 boats assembled from across the UK, the Commonwealth and around the world. The Queen will travel in the Royal Barge which will lead the flotilla.

**Monday 4 June - BBC Concert at Buckingham Palace**: There will be a televised Diamond Jubilee Concert at Buckingham Palace with tickets being available to UK residents by public ballot. The musical programme for the concert is still being planned and is expected to feature British and Commonwealth musicians. Details on how to apply for the concert will be available in due course. This event is being organised by the BBC.

**The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Beacons**: A network of 2,012 Beacons will be lit by communities and individuals throughout the United Kingdom, as well as the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Commonwealth. As in 2002, The Queen will light the National Beacon. The beacons project is being organised by Diamond Jubilee Beacons Ltd. - http://www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk/

**Tuesday 5th June - Service of Thanksgiving and Carriage Procession**: There will be a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul’s Cathedral and a formal carriage Procession by The Queen.
Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild
The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 26th May** in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. With an all day workshop with Richard Box, Daisies-Fabric collage-machine and hand sewing. 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.

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 be on **16th May** when it is the AGM along with Phoenix cards and Jewellery therapy. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 450618 for more details.

Otford Afternoon WI
Meetings are held in the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meeting will be on **8th May** with their AGM and resolutions. Visitors are very welcome, and further details can be found on the Otford Village web site at [www.otford.info](http://www.otford.info) with the link to the WI. Contact Kath Larkin on 01959 522355 for more details.

Otford Evening WI
Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The next meeting will be on **10th May** with their AGM and resolutions. For more information please contact Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634.

Otford & District Historical Society
The final meeting of the winter programme will take place on **Wednesday 16th May** when Mike Rawcliffe will talk about ‘Bromley: Market Town to Suburbia’ Membership is £6 a year and visitors are welcome at £2 per meeting.

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 **17th May** when Hilary Hope Guise’s lecture is entitled ‘Games - Chariots of Fire’ The name ‘Olympics’ still brings a frisson excitement that no other world-wide event can equal. There is something heroic about the struggle to win ‘The Gold’, that echoes back to the world of the Ancient Greeks, who would risk their lives for a crown of wild olive leaves. The first Olympiad was held at Olympia on the Peloponnesus, probably in 766BC and was originally religious in origin and intent. The games today bear little resemblance to the ancient games in which there were no safety features and no financial rewards. The lecture will draw on ancient sources, vases, sculpture and texts to bring the games to life in the year of our British Olympics, and will also look back at the famous 1933 Berlin Olympics and the Munich Massacre. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com
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.

May
9th - History of paper making in Kent - Jean Stirk
16th - Games afternoon
23rd - Oh that's Charlie - Sylvia Critcher
30th - Cream tea outing

Library Event
Otford Library will be holding a craft activity session on **Saturday 19th May** between 10am to 12 noon making Crowns. This is a free activity session but booking is advisable to secure a place. Please bring along gold paper if possible.

May Bank holiday / Jubilee weekend refuse collection times
Your revised refuse, recycling and garden waste collection days are
May Day Bank Holiday – 7th May – all collections this week will be one day later.
Monday 4th June – collection Monday 11th June / Tuesday 5th June – collection Wednesday 6th June / Wednesday 6th June – collection Thursday 7th June

Picture of the Month
The Artist for May is Barbara Darby. Barbara has lived in Otford for over 50 years and especially enjoys painting local views. Over the years she has used oils, watercolours, gouache, water colour pencils and acrylics. She says “I often use mixed media and in this beach scene of Norfolk I have used modelling compound for the ropes and chains, watercolour for the pebbles and acrylic for the breakwater”

Planning
The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council in April. 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/12/00316    Frog Farm, Pilgrims Way West
Change of use from disused agricultural barn to two apartments with external alterations, together with alterations to Barn B for car parking
SE/12/00336    Bridge Cottage East and West
Replacement of existing flat roofed garage serving Waterside Cottage with double garage to serve Bridge Cottages East and West on the adjacent plot
SE/12/00496    60 High Street
Extension of existing office at first and second floor, insertion of ground floor glazed screen, alterations to fenestration in front and side elevations
SE/12/00556    Willowbrook, Old Otford Road
Demolition of the lean-to roofed extension to the kitchen, the existing balcony roof and parapet, and the erection of an extension in place of the existing patio area, which will fill in the ‘L’ shape of the present building. The flat roofed balcony area will contain a lantern light and glass balustrade to the perimeter (re-submission)
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  Allowed

SE/12/00040  2 Flowerfield
Erection of a single storey rear extension  Allowed

SE/12/00205  Hillside, Hillydeal Road
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  Allowed

SE/12/00277  36 The Charne
Erection of a single storey rear extension and garage to rear  Allowed

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  Refused

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 roof space into additional accommodation. Installation of front dormer, roof light to left and right flank, guard rail to new rear window and three solar panels to roof  Allowed

c. Tree works
SE/12/00539/WTCA  The Old Parsonage, 23 High Street - Fell 1 Lime Tree
SE/12/00690/WTCA  59 High Street - Reduce crown of 1 walnut tree by 30%
God Save the King, long live the King! That was the song we used to sing 'Twas King George 5th we'd gone to see To mark his Silver Jubilee To palace balcony he came So our long wait was not in vain

He waved to all the crowd below Whose loyalty they'd come to show Each child received a Royal mug And party tea on picnic rug We were all poor so what a treat To have a fancy cake to eat!

Since then two kings have come and gone So now a Queen receives our song The night before her coronation Filled with great anticipation Along the Mall we tried to sleep In rows already three folk deep At the dawn the newsboys came to shout it “EVEREST CONQUERED READ ALL ABOUT IT”

And then it started drop by drop 'Til heavy rain refused to stop When the golden coach drew near We let out a tremendous cheer With mounted guards and marching band The Queen looked out and waved her hand We all got soaked but didn’t care With pride I still say “I was there!”

With husband Philip at her side Our Queen has travelled far and wide. She visits schools or plants a tree Goes walkabout for all to see Presents the colours to her forces Goes to Ascot for the horses At Parliament she reads her speech And in Whitehall she lays her wreath.

For sixty years she’s served us well As future history books will tell She’s had her family problems too When public criticism grew But now we see her smile again With still more years we hope she’ll reign

So down the Thames in golden barge With escort vessels small and large And up and down this land of ours Bedecked in festive flags and flowers In city town and village green Let’s raise our glasses to the Queen!