Kent and South & South East England Village of the Year 2002

Clerk: Ms. B. Hambrook
Assistant Clerk Sue Stephenson – Newsletter Editor
The School House, 21, High Street, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PG
Telephone:01959 524808 Fax:01959 525298 E-mail-otfordpc@btinernet.com
Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri

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 **19th May** and **9th June** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall. Contact details of Councillors can also be found on the website.

Chairman’s Report
Another “dog poo event” was held in the recreation ground on the 1st April where we flagged piles of unwanted detritus left by the irresponsible dog owners who think that the recreation ground is an open toilet for their dogs and cannot be bothered to clear up after them. Fortunately these people are in the minority and the Parish councillors and some of the more responsible members of the public arrived in force and cleared the area. They were accompanied by the SDC Dog Warden who was there to catch offenders and present them with a straight forward ultimation - clear up the mess or be fined upto £1000. For those that are interested we counted and removed sixteen piles on the recreation grass area and three on the gravel petanque court. The football and cricket clubs face a similar problem before each game as do parents that are using the area for general exercise. We will be monitoring the situation and the Dog Warden has promised to make more unannounced visits - you have been warned.

The defibrillators, one outside the Parish Office adjacent to the school one at the dentists by the Post Office parade and one outside Yvonne’s have now been fitted and available to be used if needed. This is potentially life saving equipment so please **DO NOT TAMPER WITH THEM**. Stan Willis, our local “first responder” is arranging courses for those that wish to know how to use them, although previous knowledge is unnecessary as the machine talks you through the procedure and will not provide a shock if there is any vestige of heart activity. The first date is **Thursday 1st May** between 7pm and 9pm in the Hope Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall and also at the beginning of the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall on **Monday 12th May** at 7pm.

The observant amongst you will have noticed that the clock on the Memorial Hall has been replaced and is now functioning correctly. It was given by Jean Cowhie in memory of her husband Kevin Cowhie who much loved the village of Otford. Thank-you Jean.

You may also have noticed that the local busses run by Arriva have been replaced by Go Coach. There are some changes to the time-table and new routes have been added. The new timetables can be picked up from the Office.
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 12th 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. Before the meeting there will be demonstrations of defibrillators, Speedwatch equipment and Otford.net.

Allotment Plots
There are currently allotment plots available to rent. Please contact Roger Beasley on 01732 463072 or e-mail rogerbeasley@tiscali.co.uk if you are interested in growing your own.

Otford Remembered 1901 - 1914 - 'The calm before the storm'
The catastrophe of the Great War still casts a sad shadow over many families. There is a unique opportunity to remember and honour the people of those heartbreaking times with the Otford Community presentation of an original script *Otford Remembered 1901 - 1914, the calm before the storm*. The production recalls in words, vision and song the events of those years. The local people portrayed are real; only the conversations are imagined. Four performances will be held in Otford Methodist Church on **Friday 9th May** / **Sat 10th May** and **Fri 16th May** / **Sat 17th May** at 7.45pm. Admission is by ticket (£5) and they are available from the Parish Council Office and the Library. Edwardian dress is optional if you want to get into the spirit of the event.

Otford Village Fete -Monday 26th May, 12noon - 5pm
Patty Chatterjee, Fete Committee Chair writes: As the world remembers the start of the Great War and the tragic loss of so many lives, the fete committee has chosen *“100 Years in Otford”* as its theme for this year’s event. Our winning logo, by Ben Brown of St. Michael’s Prep School, was selected from many excellent entries to our design competition, which was open to all children attending Otford schools and clubs. Well done, Ben, and thanks to everyone who took part. Once again we are delighted that Elands Veterinary Clinic has agreed to run the very popular Dog Show. This event attracts a tremendous amount of interest from dog owners, and each category is always over-subscribed, so please ensure that you register by 12noon to avoid disappointment. The committee is hard at work finding exciting new attractions for visitors, and of course ensuring that popular attractions such as the mega-slide, road train, and Punch & Judy remain firmly on the programme. We have live music throughout the day, with drinks supplied by our local pub The Crown, a BBQ from Otford Scouts plus tea and cakes available inside the Memorial Hall from the Otford Brownies. The fete is a great day out for all Otford residents, as well as a way to raise money for its various associations and clubs. We desperately need volunteers to give a few hours on the day of the fete, so if you can offer any help then please email patty.chatterjee@virgin.net. For more information about the day, the planned attractions, and a programme of events please check out the website at www.otford.info/villagefete.

Sevenoaks Community Responders
Grand Prize Draw / Table Top Sale
The Sevenoaks Community First Responders are holding a Grand Prize Draw with many prizes on **Monday 30th June** in Otford Village Memorial Hall from 5pm to 10pm. Tickets are available from Stan on 01959 523923 or from the Parish Council Office. Also on the night there is a Table Top Sale. Tables are £10 each. Contact Stan as above to book. Entrance will be free with donations only.
All Embracing Health

Parish Councillor Dr Howard Leicester writes "Health is not just about GP’s and hospitals. It’s also about where we live, the opportunities we have, the way we treat each other. Many Parish programmes are already combining towards this vision of a healthy community. Defibrillators are being installed at the heart of the matter. Explorations into an outdoor gym are occurring at breathtaking speed. There’s always the guiding Parish Plan to keep us on track. Established wisdom is also worth challenging. Disability, for example, may be more to do with social attitudes and physical barriers, than any specific conditions. Hence the projects in place to make roads safer to cross, buildings easier to visit and documents easier to find and use. We’ll act locally, co-ordinating with nearby villages and the District Council. Watch out for posters, and occasional updates via this, soon to be ‘digitally accessible’ newsletter."

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.

Police Surgery

PCSO Jane Wright will be holding a surgery in Otford Post Office on Thursday 8th May between 12 noon and 12.30pm. Go and see her if you have any concerns about crime matters. There will be the annual football match between Kent Police and Otford Football Club on Tuesday 20th May on Otford Recreation Ground. This year it is in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness. Look out for the posters.

Elands Veterinary Clinic - FREE Microchipping for dogs

Elands Veterinary Clinic along with the Dogs Trust are offering from 1st April for a 12 month period, FREE microchipping for dogs at the Kemsing and Dunton Green clinics. Microchipping for dogs will become law in England from April 2016. It is a simple procedure and ensures your dog can be traced back to you and reunited if they go missing at any time. They already offer a free microchip to all puppies and kittens when they have their first vaccine course with them, but this will enable all dogs that have not been microchipped to be chipped now for FREE. Call them on 01732 452333 for the Dunton Green branch or 01732 761650 for the Kemsing branch and they will be happy to book an appointment.

Active Kids Vouchers

Otford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are collecting Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers 2014 which are available now, in store, with online shopping and at the petrol station, until the 20th May 2014. 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 had recently enjoyed a session of Judo ‘paid’ for with last years vouchers and were very grateful for the ongoing support of residents.

For any girls or volunteers interested in joining Girlguiding Otford there is a website to register your interest. Please log on to www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or call 0800 1 69 59 01. They especially need female adult volunteers, over 18, who would be interested in helping at the Guide unit meetings but there are waiting lists for most units in the Sevenoaks area due to a lack of uniformed Leaders so if you think this might be for you they would love to hear from you.
Otford Cricket Club

Otford Cricket Club are looking for new senior players for their league and Sunday cricket fixtures. They are also looking for new junior members for cricket coaching from 7 - 15yrs old. Training starts on the 4th May and registration can be done by email at stevens@ot32.wanadoo.co.uk. Any enquiries also to that e-mail please.

Otford Library

There will be a FREE craft activity session at Otford Library on **Saturday 10th May** between 10am and 12 noon. Please call Angela on 01959 522488 to book a space. Don’t forget every Monday morning between 11am and 11.30am they hold Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time. Then on Tuesday’s between 2.15pm and 2.45pm in term time only there is Storytime. There is also a computer buddy available for anyone who has computer queries. Please call 01959 522488 to book a session.

Gardeners’ Society

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 6th May** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial hall when Graham Usher will talk about ‘The Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll’. Admission which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net. The Society will of course be manning their popular stall at the Village Fete on Bank Holiday Monday. On sale will be ornamental and edible plants raised by members.

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 21st May** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Alan Greenwood will talk about ‘The History of the Public House’. Membership of the Society is £6 and visitors are £2.

Citizens Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice Bureau will now be holding a surgery at the Otford Parish Council offices **EVERY** Tuesday between 10am and 12 noon. To book please call 01732 440488 and say that you would like an appointment in Otford. You can also drop in for advice but you may have to wait.

Voce Chamber Choir Concert

On **Saturday 3rd May** at 7.30pm in St Bartholomew’s Church there will be a concert by VOCE (Voices of Cambridge Ensemble). These highly talented singers came together as choristers at Trinity College, Cambridge and they have been augmented by family and friends. They have a wide repertoire and the evening will be a musical treat to remember. Tickets are £8 and will be available from the Parish Church office and Parish Council office.

The Kemsing Singers

The Kemsing singers are holding their 50th Anniversary Concert in St Edith Hall, Kemsing on **Saturday 17th May** at 7.30pm. The concert and celebration will include old favourites from the past five decades. The musical director is Sara Kemsley and the accompanist is Peter Young. Tickets are £8, £6 and £4 (under 18’s) and available from 01959 523752
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 on **Thursday 15th May** is their Annual General Meeting plus a little retail therapy. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 458732 for more details.

Otford Evening WI
The Annual meeting and Resolutions are held in May. This is the evening when the President and Committee for the coming year are elected. Members are asked to attend if at all possible. The meeting will be held on **Thursday 8th May** at 7.30pm. Meetings are held in the Club Room of the Village Hall. Last month the Birthday meeting was highly entertained by Tony and Lizzie Gilks as Beauties and Beaux. For more information please contact Evelyn Hubner on 01959 523359.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**
They will be holding their Annual Table-Top sale on **Saturday 19th July**. Tables will be £9. Bookings are being taken. Please ring Chris on 01959 522485 for more information.

Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild
The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 31st May** in Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street. 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.

**Picture of the Month - May and June**
The artist of the Heritage Centre’s picture of the month is Julian Cheswick. Julian says 'I have always loved sketching and drawing. In the 1970’s I started water colour painting - mainly landscape and riverscapes. Pressure of work, raising a family and other distractions reduced my output to about three pictures over the next thirty years, until I joined the Otford Art Group. The medium I use now is gouache. I paint a range of architectural and mechanical subjects, but my current interest is in animals and birds'.

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**
- 7th - What’s in a name? - Trevor Harvey
- 14th - Speaker tba
- 21st - Lunch Outing
- 28th - No meeting

**June**
- 4th - Action for Children tea in local garden
- 11th - Outing
- 18th - Tea at Hospice shop
- 25th - Joint meeting with Sevenoaks in the Hall

**July / August**
Teas and outings

Otford Methodist Church
The annual fund raising event for Christian Aid with the Kent Group of the British Iris Society will take place on **Saturday 17th May** in the Otford Methodist Church Hall from 12 noon to 4pm. As well as an exhibition of irises there will be sales of cakes, books, bric-a-brac and plants. Refreshments including light lunches will be available. Admission is free.
and all are welcome. For more details please contact Rosemary Pattullo on 01959 524914.

The Otford Methodist Church extend an invitation to their Men’s breakfast on Saturday 7th June at 8.30am at Darenth Valley Golf Course. The speaker will be Michael Cooper who is the area representative of Christian Vision for Men. To reserve your place or find out more information please call Derek Baxter on 01959 523687.

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 15th May when Oliver Everett will talk about King George IV - Great Art Collector. This lecture marks the return of a popular lecturer, who has his own royal connections, having been Private Secretary to Diana, Princess of Wales and Librarian in the Royal Library, Winsor Castle. His theme is the greatest royal art collector, George IV. As Prince of Wales he refurbished Carlton House and created the Brighton Pavilion. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

Farmers Market
Kent Food Events hold a Farmers Market on the 3rd Saturday of the month in Otford Methodist Church Hall between 10am and 1pm. Lots of stalls. The next market will be on 17th May so go and have a look and meet the local produce sellers.

BUY IT BABY! Baby & Childrens Fair & Nearly New Sale
On Saturday 10th May between 1pm-3pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall there will be a Baby and Children’s Fair. Hire a table to sell, or come along to buy! 30 tables selling on pre-loved nearly new maternity and nursery equipment, toys, clothes, books, buggys, bumbos, ride on’s etc all in tip-top condition, as well as local activity group and entrepreneurial parents selling items in the young family market. FREE portrait sittings in the pop up studio, FREE info bag on arrival and home baked refreshments. Admission is adults £1 and kids free. See www.buyitbaby.co.uk for more information.

Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people rebuild lives after injury

Friday 16th May
Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 16th May whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting the Spinal Injuries Association's (SIA) vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre. SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but they will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk
Royal Society Protection of Birds - AGM

On Thursday 1st May at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall the Sevenoaks Branch of RSPB will be holding their AGM followed by "Born to Fly", a new RSPB film about Cranes. The story of the common crane includes work being carried out in the UK to re-introduce the species, and amazing views of the long and arduous migration from its summer habitats to its wintering grounds in Spain. Plus wine and cheese

Price: Sevenoaks Local RSPB Group Members £2.50; non-members £3.50
Telephone: 01959 563530 or E-mail: jean.nobbs@tiscali.co.uk

Hospice of Hope events

Thursday 8th May at 12.00 noon
Ladies Lunch with Eurobe Fashion at Rowhill Grange Hotel, Kent
Eurobe has given its customers fantastic fashion from Europe’s leading companies, at amazing prices for more than 30 years. Come and enjoy a delicious luncheon at Rowhill Grange Hotel, Kent followed with a fashion show by Eurobe to see their latest fashion labels.
£27.00 per person to include a drink on arrival, two course lunch with a glass of wine, coffee & mints. Tickets available from Anna Perolls anna@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110 / http://www.hospicesofhope.co.uk/ladies-lunch-with-eurobe-fashion/

Friday 9th May at 7.30pm
Manhattan Magic Jazz Night at The Grey Lady, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells
An evening of jazz and cabaret from the Great American Song book featuring the very talented New York singer Lesley Alexander with the Robert Reid Trio.
£28.00 per person to include a two-course supper.
Tickets available from Anna Perolls anna@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110 / http://www.hospicesofhope.co.uk/manhattan-magic/

Planning

The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk or Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

a. New applications

SE/14/00116  7 Becketts Place
Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of orangery and bedroom/bathroom accommodation within existing roof space. Amendment to previously approved scheme SE/13/00400 to include addition of 2 windows at second floor level- one on the east elevation and one on the west. Windows are to be 1200mm wide by 600mm high both fitted with obscure glass.

SE/14/00575  Thaxted, St Michael’s Drive
First floor side extension, two storey rear extension, side entrance porch and external alterations

SE/14/00622  Kursella, Sevenoaks Road
Erection of a two storey side and rear extension, first floor side extension, alteration to roof and loft conversion, addition of pitched dormer window and velux window on rear roof elevation, addition of two dormer windows on front roof elevation, alterations to fenestration and front canopy porch.

SE/14/00744  48 Willow Park
Erection of two storey side and part rear extension, pitched roof to porch to replace existing flat roof.

SE/14/00752  Randalls, 30, Greenhill Road
Erection of a garden shed and compost store

SE/14/00776 /777  7 Bubblestone Road
Demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage and utility room
Greenview House, Shoreham Road
Conversion of existing garage into habitable space, erection of new attached garage with a habitable roof space with one dormer window and three velux windows over both. Alterations to fenestration

Reedhatch, Telston Lane
Demolition of detached garage and erection of double storey extension to west elevation with a new ground floor porch

107 Evelyn Road
Conversion of loft including addition of side and rear dormers

b. Results Received

9 Knighton Road
Erection of a single storey front, side and rear extension and alteration to fenestration  
Allowed

5 Ryecroft Road
Erection of a first floor extension to existing ground floor and porch  
Refused

21 High Street
Removal of existing chimney stack to be replaced with slates to match existing  
Allowed

15 Tudor Crescent
Demolition of garage and rear porch and erection of a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension with five roof lights and additional parking to front  
Allowed

Parish Councillors Contact Details

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<tr>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Oastbrook, Telston Lane</th>
<th>522503</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Edwards-Winser</td>
<td>Oastbrook, Telston Lane</td>
<td>522503</td>
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<td>Councillors</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 Crescent</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mary.a.evans@btinternet.com">mary.a.evans@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Fothergill</td>
<td>7 Darnets Field</td>
<td>524120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jackie Howe</td>
<td>33 Pilgrims Way West</td>
<td>525434</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>
<td>524088</td>
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May Bank holiday refuse collection times
Your revised refuse, recycling and garden waste collection days are:-
May Day Bank Holiday - 5th May - all collections this week will be one day later.
Spring Bank Holiday - 26th May - all collections this week will be one day later.
Black and clear sacks and garden waste should be put out by 7am on the revised collection day, but **NOT OVERNIGHT** please.

If you see litter outside your house, please pick it up don’t just leave it for somebody else. Let’s try and make our village streets litter free. Thank you

Newsletter Deadline
The deadline for all items for the May newsletter will be **Friday 23rd May**