Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002
Clerk: Mrs. B.J. Darby
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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 **Monday 8th November and 13th December** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

**Otford Christmas Shopping Festival**

On **SUNDAY 28th November** the only place to be and be seen between 11am and 4pm is your own village of Otford when our lovely shops here in the village will be open for business. There will be street entertainment to watch including Bobbo the Clown, Victorian Characters, Morris Dancers and the Primary School Choir. Father Christmas will also be visiting and there will be many other exciting things to enjoy including free mince pies distributed by the Otford Methodist Church.

Please come, bring your friends and family and enjoy this fun day and support your shops who help to keep this such a lovely, lively, thriving village.
Otford Methodist Church

The Methodist Church Hall will be open during the Shopping Festival from 12 noon to 3pm and you are very welcome to call in. The 10.30 service that day will mark the beginning of Advent and at 6.30pm there is a Wholeness and Healing Service.

Remembrance Day 2010

Please remember that traffic will be halted at the pond between the times of 10.45am and 11.15am on Remembrance Day Sunday 14th November. So if you are making a journey please get through before but if you do get caught please just be patient and remember why you are waiting. WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE. Thank you.

Parish Council Chairman News

Trees are important in Otford for many reasons. The parish council has the responsibility of caring for them in at least eight areas. This involves everything from planting to felling, when necessary, but safety and preserving the trees for as long as possible are primary concerns. Some of our most important trees have "Tree Preservation Orders" and may not be pruned or felled without the authority of the District Council. TPOs can be applied to single or groups of trees, and although previously the District Council asked parish councils for their views on what work should be done, this is no longer the case and such trees are now allowed to be pruned or felled by the authority without reference to the parish council. If such work is done and appears damaging to the environment, local district councillors should be contacted.

Street trees are the responsibility of the County Council Highways Department who also do not consult with the parish council when doing work on them. However, the parish clerk frequently contacts this department on Highways matters, including damaged or missing trees and sometimes requests are met.

Otford's appearance both with its trees and overall is determined by all three tiers of local government and what we and visitors do. The parish council pays for litter picking in most areas for which it has responsibility and the District Council does other places. The care of our Conservation Area is also the responsibility of the District Council although the parish council regularly comments on alterations in the Conservation Area it thinks are unsatisfactory, but in practice final decisions on what
is enforced depends on what officers at the District Council think is acceptable and enforceable.
Similarly, the parish council reports and engages with the County Highways Department on problems with roads, signs, overgrown hedges and footpaths, and weed growth on the Highway. This year the parish council has become aware that greater (and very helpful) attention is being paid to parishes, but we also know that finance was, and is now to a greater extent, limited, and the parish has the difficult task of triaging major highways problems. We are also aware that much work has to be done before any alterations are made, and we believe this is going on now.

Salt/Grit
It is hoped that the Parish Council will be obtaining a quantity of Salt/Grit in case of icy weather. Primarily it will be used in public areas including the Car Park.

Bonfire Night
The Scouts Bonfire Night will be on Saturday 6th November this year, at the Chalk Pit, off Station Road. Tickets are £4.00 per person (under 5’s free), gates open from 5.30pm, and the evening starts about 6.00pm. There will be two Firework displays, with an interval for refreshments. Burgers, hotdogs and soup will be available.

Otford Players present 'BLITZ' - A Musical
Otford Players' next production is a Musical 'BLITZ' directed by Jan Snook. At Otford Village Hall on Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th November. Tickets are adult £8.00 and children £5.00 from the Box office on 01959 525404. Music and lyrics by Lionel Bart and book by Lionel Bart & Joan Maitland. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.

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. Paul can always be contacted on 07813 713366.

Police Contact Numbers
To contact our neighbourhood Police Officer Ben Clatworthy please call 07980 770581 or PCSO Wright on 07772 226036. To report a crime please call 01622 690690. The next Public Engagement event will take place at Pets at Home on Wednesday 10th November between 3.30pm and 4pm.
Otford Village Fete - AGM
The Annual General Meeting of the Fete Committee will be held on Tuesday 16th November in the Methodist Hall at 8.00pm. The Committee encourage Otford residents to come along and hear about their plans for the 2011 fete as well as a summary of this year’s event.
We are currently looking for two additional members to join the team - a Fete Manager and a Secretary. For more information email patty.chatterjee@virgin.net
For information about the Fete visit our website www.otford.info/villagefete

Otford Players
The Otford Players are holding a Christmas Quiz on Saturday 27th November in Otford Village Memorial Hall, 7.30 pm for 8 o’clock. Our quiz master is Phil Clucas and the quiz will have a Christmas theme. If you would like to raise your own team tables will be for a maximum of 8 persons, and tickets are £5 per person. If you cannot fill a table, don’t worry, we will pair you up with others in the same situation. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tickets are available from Carole on 01959 525404. This is a fund raising event to help with future productions and the renovation of our costume and scenery storage.

Otford & District Historical Society
The Otford & District Historical Society will be holding the next meeting of its new programme on Wednesday 17th November at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when John Ray will talk about ‘The Battle of Britain.’ The Annual Membership is now £6 and £2 for visitors.

Indoor Boot Fair
There will be an Indoor Boot Fair for Starlight Dance Group at Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 21st November. From 9am and 1pm. To book a table at a cost of £8 please contact Jackie on 01959 522912. Entrance will be 50p and refreshments will be available.

Guide Christmas Post
The Guide Christmas Post Box will be in Otford Library between Friday 26th November and Friday 17th December inclusive during opening hours. A second box will also be available in the Parish Council office on Monday to Friday between the same dates. All cards will be delivered over the weekend 18th - 19th December and all the proceeds will be divided between Make a Wish and Spring House. Stamps will be 20p per card and all the money will go to the chosen charities.
**Tree of Light**
The Tree of Light service will take place on **Friday 10th December** at 7.00pm on the Village Green. Following that there will be seasonal refreshments offered in the new St Bartholomew's Church Centre. Labels for you to write your message on are available from the Parish Council Office. If you cannot get into the office during opening hours (8.30am - 12.30pm) then please phone up and we will write your card for you. Cheques for your donation need to be made out to Otford Parish Council. The Tree of Light will remain lit up until after the New Year. Donations will once again be going to The Hospice in the Weald.

**Otford Allotment Association**
Had a well attended and successful AGM with reports from the officers of the committee who were re-elected for next year under the chairmanship of Pauline Garfield. The allotment plots were all tenanted with two people waiting, which is good news for Otford and the environment. The best plot award was once again won by Roger Selleck and two certificates were awarded for gardening excellence. Rents would remain pegged for another year which it is hoped will be as successful as the last.

**The Darent Valley Choir**
Our concert theme this year is 'A feast of Christmas music from the Middle Ages to the present day'. We shall be singing excerpts from Bach’s Christmas Oratorio and this year our Musical Director Ben Odom has written a carol called 'The Sleigh Bell’. There will be well known carols for the audience too. We sing in St Mary’s Church, Swanley on **Saturday 4th December** at 7.30pm. Tickets may be obtained at Sevenoaks Bookshop or from 01474 815591 or 01959 523279 or at the door. We do hope you can join us at this special time.

**St Bartholomew’s Christmas Market**
St Bartholomew's will be holding their Christmas Market in the Church Hall on **Saturday 21st November** between 10am to 12 noon. Stalls will include: gift wrapping, cards, Christmas tree and table decorations, candles, cakes, winter woollies (scarves, gloves, hats etc), sweets and chocolates. Refreshments will also be available.
Otford Primary School Christmas Bazaar

Otford Primary School are holding their Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 4th December between 12-3pm. Come and join the fun - Carol singing, Santa’s Grotto, Teas, Mulled Wine & Hot Dogs and many more stalls.

Computer Buddie

Computer Buddie at Otford Library every Friday Afternoon 2pm until 4pm. Our Computer Buddie can help you with setting up e-mail, introduction onto E-Bay, Mircrosoft Office Applications i.e. Word, Excel, Access, CVs, Powerpoint, Desk Top Publishing etc. and general computer applications. Timeslots can be booked in advance by calling 01959 522488.

Home Library Service now available at Otford Library for anybody who is no longer able to get to the Library. Books would be delivered to your door and picked up when read and taken back to the Library. Please call for more information 01959 522488.

Friends of Otford Library (FOOLS)

Have organised a winter programme of events (all to be held in Otford Library), notices of which will appear on notice boards around the village and of course in the library. As a guide on Saturday November 13th Janet Davies will be hosting a Family Craft Activity Day with a green theme between 10.30am and 2pm including jewellery-making from recycled materials, build and race a solar powered model car, listen to some stories with an environmental theme and create your own rainforest book

On Saturday 20th November there will be Storytime with the cast of the STAG pantomime, which this year is Jack and the Beanstalk. On Tuesday 23rd November in the evening a visit and talk by Richard Fortey, a senior palaeontologist at the Natural History Museum. Saturday 11th December at approx 11 a.m a visiting choir will be singing carols. With mince pies etc available in the library. In January an IT day with our computer buddy Elaine Elston. In February local watchcase maker Martin Matthews will be giving a talk on a Wednesday afternoon and during March/April hopefully a flower arranging demonstration.

Dog Fouling

This is still a big problem, which should NOT be a problem at all, on the Recreation Ground especially around the new pavilion and on the main football pitch. Referees will not allow matches to take place if there is dog mess on the pitch and in some cases matches have been called off by the referee and the clubs are fined. Thank you to those who do pick up but please DO NOT then throw the bag into the hedgerow but use the bins provided. It is very anti social and potentially health threatening not to
pick up after your dog. If you don’t you risk having to pay a fine of up to a maximum of £1,000 or a fixed penalty of £25.

**Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons Women’s Fellowship**

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details / transport

**November**
3rd Members afternoon - bring photos
10th - Pub Lunch - Crown Point
17th - Chris Towers - Tanzania
24th - Rev D Mihill - A visit to the church in Zimbabwe

**December**
8th Christmas Meditation
15th Christmas lunch

**Gardeners’ Society**

The Gardeners’ Society will be holding their Quiz and Fun Night on **Tuesday 7th December**. This is a social evening with a warm up Quiz to break the ice followed by a table quiz with prizes for the winners. Maximum team size is 6 people. The evening starts at 7.30pm in the Village Memorial Hall, and admission is £3 per person. Please bring your own drinks. Booking is not essential but would be preferred.

**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 September TOP Draw are:
1st Prize £50 - 425, 2nd Prize £15 - 380, 3rd Prize £10 - 441

Top Draw is the monthly lottery run by the PTFA which gives you the chance to win and help the school in the process.

If you would like to play, please collect an entry form from Otford Parish Council or Otford Primary School.

**Otford – Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning**

We shall be hosting a group from Neufchatel-Hardelot in Otford on **Sunday 28 November**. Parlez-vous francais? and even if you don’t, if you would like to meet our visitors at some point during the day please contact Jane Lawrey via the Parish Office. If you see them in the village while doing your Christmas shopping please introduce yourselves and make them feel welcome.
**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 18th November when they will have a ‘Food Special’ There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them.

**Otford Afternoon WI**
Meetings are held in the Otford Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meeting will take place on 9th November when Bernard Lockett will talk about ‘Gilbert & Sullivan’. Annual Subscription is £29.50 and visitors at £2 are very welcome. For further details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736. There is an art group in the village to which many of our members belong, outings are arranged, etc. The WI offers seminars and talks on a variety of matters, one of which recently was by the College of Surgeons, International affairs, whist, mahjong, and crafts of course, the opportunities are endless, varied and interesting. Visitors are very welcome, and further details can be found on the Otford Village website at [www.otford.info](http://www.otford.info) with the link to the WI.

**Otford Evening WI**
All meetings take place on 2nd Thursday of each month in Otford Village Hall.
At their meeting on 14th October Otford Evening WI members heard Stuart Robinson, a London guide, give a fascinating talk on Curiosities in the City of London. We learnt the meaning of such everyday phrases as On the Wagon, One for the Road and he showed us some of the amazing hidden corners in our capital city as well as some well-known ones. On 11th November, Malcolm Jones will tell us about ‘Theatre Museums’ and this meeting is in the Club Room at 7.30pm. Visitors are always very welcome.
For more information please call Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887 or Joan Beacom on 01959 524304

**Sevenoaks Embroiderers’ Guild**
The next meeting will take place in the Otford Village Hall on Saturday 21st November when there will be a Christmas Party and Ann Parr will talk about ‘Fun with Metal’. The morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm, during which tea and homemade cake will be served.
More information can be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117

**Picture of the Month**
Our artist for the month of November / December is Sheila Dickerson. Sheila has enjoyed her creative interest in embroidery. To broaden her interests she took a short calligraphy course which included learning how to decorate artistically, the
various pieces of calligraphic writing. This encouraged her to enrol in a course for drawing and painting flowers, which developed into botanical art. Being a member of Otford Art Group she looks forward to their Tuesday meetings and also her occasional Botanical Art classes. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Hospice in The Weald Christmas Market
The Hospice in the Weald Christmas Market will take place on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th November between 10am - 4pm at the Hospice in Maidstone Road, Pembury. Wonderful stalls for all your Christmas shopping. There will be a food hall. New for 2010 - bring your gold for cleaning and valuation. Refreshments, cakes and light lunches available. Admission is £2 (free after 12.30pm). All enquiries: 01892 820508.

Hospices of Hope
There is now an unwanted goods donation drop off point inside the Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop, 11a High Street, Otford which is open Monday - Friday 10am - 4.30pm and Saturday 10am - 5.00pm. The well stocked second hand bookshop contains good quality paperbacks and hardbacks, children’s corner and themed displays. PAPERBACK BOOKS ARE CURRENTLY REQUIRED PLEASE

Next Events
Thursday 18 November | City Dinner | London Hilton Canary Wharf | £75 ticket, Guest Speaker Paul Szkiler, Guest of Honour Princess Marina Sturdza

Tuesday 23 November | Cheese, Wine & Jewellery Evening | Otford Tea Rooms | £10 ticket, have the opportunity to learn, to make and to buy!

Tuesday 7 December | Festive Ladies Luncheon | Brandshatch Place Hotel & Spa | £28 ticket, with Guest Speaker Paul Harris - professional Dame & Radio Kent DJ

Wednesday 15 December | Cheese, Wine & Rock n Roll | Sunrise Senior Living, Chipstead | £7.50, be entertained by the Rock n Roll Old Boy Network.

For further information on any of the above, please contact wendy@hopsicesofhope.co.uk | 01959 525110
**An evening with Steve Cram and friends**

Steve Cram will be visiting Tonbridge School on [10th November](#) at 7pm with a selection of his sporting friends on 10 November to stage a one-off Celebrity Question of Sport, with all proceeds going towards the children’s charity he founded in 2000.

COCO (Comrades of Children Overseas  [www.coco.org.uk](http://www.coco.org.uk)) has so far raised over £1.7 million, helping to fund children’s projects in developing countries, primarily those in Africa. Currently COCO is working on education and healthcare initiatives in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa and Ghana.

The event is being organised by Tudor Crescent resident Richard Davies.

The evening promises to be an entertaining one, kicking off with a free glass of wine at 7pm. There will be a chance to learn more about the work of COCO, and the guest panel will then compete in true Question-of-Sport style up on stage.

Tickets are available from Tonbridge School (Monday-Friday, 9-5pm) on 01732 304241 or [boxoffice@tonbridge-school.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@tonbridge-school.org.uk)

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**A Victorian Christmas at the The New School at West Heath**

On [Saturday, 13th November](#) from 10.30am to 2pm, The New School at West Heath in Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, will step back in time to the Victorian era for its annual Christmas Fayre.

The School will be transformed into a Victorian winter wonderland, complete with snow, hog roast, Santa's grotto, festive stall, entertainment and treats for all the family.

The Christmas Fayre will also offer a stress-free shopping experience for anyone looking for a festive gift with a difference. A selection of stalls will be offering beautiful, hand-made gifts, including one-off jewellery designs, books, crafts and quirky cards.

Young Victorians will also be well-catered-for at this festive extravaganza, with special stalls and games created for children to enjoy. Father Christmas will also be taking pride of place in his special Christmas Grotto, with gifts galore and maybe even a reindeer or two!

A trip to Lapland UK, a Harrods Hamper and Dinner for two at Thackerays, Tunbridge Wells is also up for grabs for the winner of the Christmas Raffle, with lots of other fabulous prizes.

The West Heath Christmas Fayre is an annual fundraising event for the school. As a charity, the School relies on donations and public support to help its vital work with disadvantaged children and young people.

"Our work offers a lifeline for so many children who have suffered horrendous physical or mental abuse," explains the school's Chief Executive and Principal, Mrs Christina Wells. "We help build confidence and rebuild lives through education,
turning lives around and creating hope for the future. Our Christmas Fayre is one of our biggest fundraising events of the year and we think our Victorian theme will make this one of the most exciting yet!"

So come along on **Saturday, 13th November**, from 10.30am-2pm, and enjoy a Christmas treat fit for a Victorian Queen.

Entry is just £1 per adult and 50p per child.

**Knole DFAS**

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball, Sevenoaks. The next meeting will take place on **18th November** when Julian Halsby will talk about ‘**Walter Sickert and the Camden Town Group**’. Julian Halsby will look at Walter Sickert’s background as a pupil of Whistler, his friendship with Degas, and the development of his unique style. The lecture will also examine the group of young artists Sickert collected around him, who became known as the Camden Town Group.

The Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm and finish by 3pm. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society please contact Alison Davis on 01732 780453 or email knoledfas@gmail.com.

**Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery**

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 7th December** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.

**Planning**

The following applications are considered by the Parish Council in November. 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SE/10/02216</td>
<td>14 Telston Lane</td>
<td>Rear single storey extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE/10/02326</td>
<td>20 Ryecroft Road</td>
<td>Erection of first floor rear extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE/10/02688</td>
<td>22 The Charne</td>
<td>Single storey rear and side extensions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE/10/02761</td>
<td>11a Hillydeal Road</td>
<td>Loft conversion and roof extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE/10/02796</td>
<td>9 Colets Orchard</td>
<td>Demolition of existing garage and car port and construction of new double garage and studio room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE/10/01804</td>
<td>26 Rye Lane</td>
<td>Provision of a sand school measuring 40m x 20m silica sand with rubber topping</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE/10/01963</td>
<td>29 High Street</td>
<td>Demolition of a single storey rear extension and erection of new single storey extension</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE/10/02066</td>
<td>95 Well Road</td>
<td>Erection of single storey garage to side of dwelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE/10/02078</td>
<td>Greenhill Manor</td>
<td>Erection of single dwelling (variation of details approved pursuant to permission SE/09/00631FUL dated 26th May 2009 relating to an atrium above central stairwell, patio style doors, velux windows in roof of rear garden room, solar panels in garage roof and minor amendments to front walls and gates RETROSPECTIVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE/10/02109</td>
<td>St Bartholomews Church</td>
<td>Demolition of redundant lean-to utility building with external and internal repairs to tower and porch</td>
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