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 November** and **12th December** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Tony Woodrow-Clark

It is our sad duty to report the passing of Tony Woodrow-Clark, a stalwart of the Parish Council from February 2004 until ill health brought about his premature retirement in June this year following a long illness. Tony was a quiet unassuming gentleman who was always willing to take on any task presented to him. He served on the F&GP, Environment and Planning committees, acting as Chairman of the latter. He carried out his duties without fuss or complaint and was always available to assist others. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and members of the Council.

Otford Christmas Shopping Festival

On **Sunday 27th 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, Morris Dancers and the Primary School Choir. Father Christmas will also be visiting and there will be many other exciting things to enjoy including bell ringing and 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.

**Remembrance Day 2011**

Please remember that traffic will be halted at the pond between **10.45am and 11.15am** on **Remembrance Day Sunday 13\(^{th}\) 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.

**Speedwatch**

The village Speedwatch team has now been out twice in the last few weeks and have had some worthwhile results and hopefully made drivers more aware of the speed they are travelling. Watch out for us and whatever you do please keep to the speed limit.

**Diamond Jubilee**

Please come along to the coffee morning in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 12\(^{th}\) November** between 10.30am and 12.15pm and share your ideas for celebrations with representatives of the Parish Council. We want to make the Diamond Jubilee a memorable event in Otford.

**Indoor Boot Fair**

There will be an Indoor Boot Fair for Starlight Dance Group at Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 19\(^{th}\) November**. From 9am and 1pm. To book a table at a cost of £9 please contact Jackie on 01959 522912. Entrance will be 50p with children free and refreshments will be available.

**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 always be contacted on 07813 713366.
Paul would like to start a 'local jobs for local people' scheme at his weekly surgery to help to find jobs for unemployed Otford residents. Please contact him on the above number or go along and see him.

**St Bartholomew’s Christmas Market**
On **Sunday 19th November** in the St Bartholomew's Church Centre they will be holding their Christmas Market. Stalls will include gift wrapping, cards, Christmas tree and table decorations, candles, cakes, winter woollies, Christmas sweets and chocolates and a super raffle is planned. Seasonal refreshments will be available and a pick a present from the tree for children.

**Bonfire Night**
The Scouts Bonfire Night will be on **Saturday 5th 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 – Panto**
Otford Players will perform their second panto in Otford Village Memorial Hall between **Thursday 10th and Saturday 12th November** at 7.30pm with a matinee on Saturday at 2.00pm. How much do you really know about Otford? Are you aware of its darker side? Otford Players explore these issues (in a funny way) in their forthcoming production 'ALICE - THE PANTO'. Join them and follow Alice’s adventures as she enters the darker world in pursuit of the villain known as the White Rabbit. Tickets available on 01959 525404 or visit the website www.otford.info/otfordplayers.

**Hale Lane Recreation Ground**
On the morning of **Saturday 5th November**, there will be a community planting of trees, hedging and bulbs at this Recreation Ground. Please spare some time to come and help - all welcome especially children. The plans can be seen at the Parish Office.
**Darent Valley Choir**

The Darent Valley Choir is to hold its Christmas concert in The Drive Methodist Church on **Saturday 10th December** at 7.30pm. As well as familiar carols we will be singing Benjamin Britten’s *A Ceremony of Carols*. Tickets will be available at Sevenoaks Bookshop and on 01959 523279 or at the door. We hope you will be able to join us and look forward to seeing you there.

**Otford & District Wine Club – Cabaret Evening**

On **Wednesday 23rd November** at 8pm the Wine Club meeting will be a Cabaret Evening. Cheese and biscuits will be provided but please take along your own drink. There will be a live cabaret with a chance to sing along to some of the songs. This will be free to club members but guests will be charged £3. For further information contact the Secretary on 01732 458240.

**A Tribute to Otford by Eveline Turner**

- From my new home on Pilgrims Way I step out on this sunny day and face six sturdy trees of oak, then walk the path to meet the folk, who’ve welcomed me with open arm to show me Otford’s village charm.
- I’ve lived through snow and freezing fog when life became a gloomy slog, good neighbours brought me milk and bread to check that I was out of bed.
- But when the clocks moved on one hour I blossomed like a bud-burst flower.
- Two horses snort to say ‘good day’ as I continue on my way, along the High Street to the Pond a walk of which I’ve grown so fond.
- I greet the graceful willow tree then take a rest for cup of tea though blind and somewhat hard of hearing my white stick helps to cause a clearing through the traffic’s heavy load so I can safely cross the road.
- When I hear the church bells ring I’m full of joy and want to sing I think of folk who’ve gone before especially those who died at war.
- And further round towards ‘One Stop’ our really handy local shop then homeward bound via Pickmoss Lane where sheep and cows complete the frame.
- But stop for Thursday’s luncheon club with home cooked food, yes lovely grub! I chat and eat with gratitude to find such caring attitude.
I could continue so much more but fear I could become a bore so thanks to all who helped me here to settle through my first full year.

**Dog Fouling**

For many years the Parish Newsletter has asked that Dog owners clear up after their dogs. It would appear that there are numerous dog owners who can’t read, or think that it is un-necessary. If this situation continues particularly in our recreation grounds **DOGS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED ON LEADS OR IF NECESSARY WILL BE BANNED.** This would be a severe measure and very sad for owners who are diligent in watching their pets and make sure faeces are packaged and deposited in the appropriate bins. Please bear in mind that if wrapped the deposit can be placed in a normal litter bin. It does no good whatsoever to hang the parcel on the nearest tree or just drop the bag on the ground in the hopes that there will be someone to pick it up. The Parish Council pay for the bins to be emptied, there are four bins on the main recreation ground and others are dispersed around the village. **Please carry the bag until you find a bin.**

Babies and children roll on the grass, pick up their toys, put their fingers or thumbs in their mouths and thus may be contaminated by dog faeces which can carry the disease known as: **TOXICARA CANIS:**

If the infected eggs are swallowed by people the larvae can invade tissues and become encysted in various organs. Humans thus act like any other paratenic host. If a large number of infected eggs are ingested then clinical disease may become apparent. This is particularly important if children are involved. Liver problems may be caused and in a few cases the larvae can migrate to the eye where they can cause blindness.

When first passed from the dog the eggs are not infective, but after a period of time varying from weeks to months depending on conditions, the eggs develop into infective larvae. These can remain viable for a considerable time and are particularly resistant. Therefore removal of the dog’s faeces as soon as passed is the responsible action to take, as the eggs are not at that stage infectious but if left the cycle will begin. Also it is most unpleasant for the sport pastimes that take place as well as other folk.

Surely no one would wish to pass these dreadful symptoms on to anyone particularly children. So PLEASE, PLEASE, clear up after your dog and remind
others to do so too, otherwise it will be NO DOGS ON OUR RECREATION GROUNDS!

**Otford Art Group**

Otford Art Group are holding a Sale and Exhibition of their original paintings, prints and cards on **Sunday 27th November** between 10.30am and 3.00pm in the Club Room, Otford Memorial Hall. Entry is free.

**Free Craft Session for Children**

There will be a free Craft Session for Children at Otford Library on **Saturday 19th November** at 10am till 12 noon making Christmas items.

**Gardeners’ Society**

On **Tuesday 6th December** the Gardeners’ Society will be holding a Quiz and Fun Night. This will be 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 Otford Village Memorial Hall. Contact 01959 523760 for details.

**Picture of the Month**

The artist for Nov / Dec is Chris Towers. Chris grows about 300 Irises on his allotments in the village and this watercolour is one of his favourites, ‘Crowned Heads’. He has lived in Otford for 35 yrs and has been painting for many of those years. He joined the Otford Art Club five years ago. Practical demonstrations by a range of tutors have encouraged him and other members to try different mediums and as a result he has taken to using acrylics as they are not unlike watercolours in some respects and dry quickly. If you want to see Chris’s Irises in bloom, May is the best month to view them. He is hoping for a good display of ‘Crowned heads’ towards the end of that month. Besides painting them, he also exhibits them at a number of shows each year. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre

**Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild**

The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 26th November** in the Otford Village Memorial Hall when there will be a Christmas Party followed by ‘Touching the Past’ a nostalgic journey by Neredan McCarthy. Morning sessions
begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm. More information can be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

The Quilling Guild - Otford Branch
The next meeting will be on Saturday 12th November in Otford Village Memorial Hall between 1.30pm and 4.30pm with Sylvia Grafton (quilled decorations)

Otford Oast WI
The meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. The next meeting will be on Thursday 17th November when there will be a card making dabble session.

Otford Afternoon WI
Meetings are held in the Otford Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meetings will be on 8th November when Fran Bennett will explain Tai Chi & Chi Kung
Visitors are very welcome, and further details can be found on the Otford Village web site at www.otford.info with the link to the WI

Otford Evening WI
The Auction at the October meeting proved a success with well over £100 raised for the Institute funds. Linda Dunning was an excellent auctioneer she must be a 'Flog It' devotee. All meetings take place on 2nd Thursday of each month in Otford Village Hall. Potential new members are always very welcome. The next meeting will take place on 10th November when Sheila Boyd will talk about 'William IV and Mrs Dora Jordan'. For more information please call Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887 or Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634.

Otford & District Historical Society
The next meeting of the Winter programme will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Wednesday 16th November at 8pm when Ed Thompson and Phil Clucas will talk about 'Sevenoaks Villages - the Past in Pictures'. The Hall will be open from 7.30pm for the payment of this year's subscription. Membership is £6 a year and visitors are welcome at £2 per meeting.
Tree of Light
The Tree of Light service will take place on **Friday 9th December** at 7.00pm on the Village Green. Following the service there will be refreshments offered in the 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.

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 next meeting will be on The lectures start promptly at 1.45 pm and finish by 3 pm. The next meeting on **17th November** is a talk by Jeremy Barlow on ‘Nursery Notions - The Illustration, Music & History of Nursery Rhymes’. The lecture starts with a history of nursery rhyme books from their humble beginnings in the 18th Century to the classic productions of Crane, Caldecott and Greenaway in 1870s and 80s. Then comes a historical examination of the rhymes themselves many are much older than the books), concluding with a discussion of the fanciful theories developed about origins by Victorian antiquarians. Sad to say there is actually little evidence that 'Ring a Ring a Roses' has to do with catching the plague! Many musical examples are also included. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Alison Davis on 01732 780453 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

Winter Events at Knole
Head Torch Tour
Wearing head torches, discover the conservation work that takes place when the house is closed. **Wednesdays in November and December** at 11.30am - 12.30pm £7, book on 01732 462100
More Information and booking: 01732 462100, knole@nationaltrust.org.uk

Winter warmer lunch walk
A late autumn walk through Knole Park, followed by a warming two-course lunch in our Brewhouse Tearooms. Please wear stout footwear and bring warm, waterproof clothing.
**Thursday 10th November** at 10.45am - 2pm
£16.50, booking is essential
More Information and booking: 01732 462100, knole@nationaltrust.org.uk

**Ramble and Roast**
Take a winter walk through Knole Park, followed by a slap-up two-course roast lunch in our Brewhouse Tearoom. Please wear stout footwear and bring warm, waterproof clothing.

**Thursday 1st December** at 10.45am - 2pm
£18.95, booking is essential
More Information and booking: 01732 462100, knole@nationaltrust.org.uk

**Lord Sackville's Christmas lecture**
Sit and listen to Robert Sackville-West, 7th Lord Sackville, deliver his annual lecture, this year on "The Private Life of a Public Place", as he speaks in the heart of Knole, the Great Hall remodelled by his ancestor, Thomas Sackville. The lecture is followed by a rare chance to enjoy a two-course buffet lunch in the Great Hall with its wonderful open fire and huge Christmas tree.

**Tuesday 6th December** at 11.30am - 2pm
£35, booking is essential
More Information and booking: 0844 249 1895, knole@nationaltrust.org.uk

**Knole Singers Carol Concert**
Traditional and modern music in this Christmas spectacular in the beautiful Great Hall. The Knole singers bring their much-loved annual mix of solos, duets and choral performances to a stunning concert rounded off with mulled wine and mince pies around the open fire.

**Sunday 18th December** at 2.30 - 4.30pm & 5.30 - 7.30pm
£23, booking is essential
More Information and booking: 0844 249 1895, knole@nationaltrust.org.uk

**The Sackville Children's Choir: Carols at Knole**
Listen to a joyous selection of classic carols from the Sackville Children's Choir, performing in the Great Hall.

**Saturday 17th December** at 10.30 - 11.15am & 11.30am - 12.15pm
£7.50 Adults & £5 Child, booking is essential
More Information and booking: 0844 249 1895, knole@nationaltrust.org.uk

**Christmas decorations workshop for children**
Make a fantastic Christmas decoration with the children in this fun workshop in Knole's Brewhouse Tearoom. Ticket includes all materials and a lunch box for each child.
Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd December at 11am - 1pm
£6 (incl. materials and lunchbox), booking is advisable
More Information and booking: 01732 462100, knole@nationaltrust.org.uk

**Hospice of Hope Events**

**Saturday 12 November** Murder Mystery at Bessels Green Baptist Church, Sevenoaks at 7pm.
Hospices of Hope are hosting another tantalising Murder Mystery written by Noah Mystem (aka Ronald Clements). The mystery entitled “How do you solve a problem like Maria?” will be acted out by talented office staff and friends at the church. Noah has written 2 previous mysteries for us and all guests enjoy trying to solve his fiendishly difficult plots.
Tickets are £12 each (includes light supper) please contact carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk | 01959 525110

**Wednesday 23 November** at The Commonwealth Club, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2 at 7pm
We are delighted to invite you to a special dinner in aid of Hospices of Hope with Guest Speaker, England Rugby Legend, Brian Moore.
Ticket Price: £90 or £900 for a table of 10, to include a drinks reception, 3 course menu accompanied by wine, followed by coffee and petit fours.
Sponsorship packages are available, Dress code: Black Tie or Lounge Suit
Please contact wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk | 01959 525110

**Saturday 26th November** Rock n Roll in The Otford Memorial Hall at 7.30pm
Enjoy an evening of 60’s Rock n Roll with “Old Boy Network”!
Tickets are £12 each, please bring your own beverages with you
Please contact wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk | 01959 525110

**Saturday 3 December** Quiz Night in Otford Tea Rooms at 7pm
If you haven't already been to one of our Quiz evenings, you really should! They are fun, informal but always competitive! Be tested by our Quiz Master whilst enjoying a lovely supper.Tickets £12
Please contact wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk | 01959 525110

**Elands Veterinary Clinic**
Elands Veterinary Clinic are holding a talk on ‘How to keep your Cat Happy and Healthy’ - a whistlestop tour of hints & tips at St Ediths Hall in Kemsing on **Thursday 17th November** Talk starts at 7.30pm, followed by tea and cake.
Admission is free, so call them on 01732 452333 or 761650 to pre-book or just turn up on the night.

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

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

**November**

- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Games afternoon
- 9\textsuperscript{th} Local Postal History - Maurice Porter
- 16\textsuperscript{th} Pub Lunch leave at 11.45am
- 23\textsuperscript{rd} Charlotte Bronte and Jane Eyre - Mrs Margaret McCarthy
- 30\textsuperscript{th} Ecuador - Mr Chris Towers

**December**

- 6\textsuperscript{th} Christmas meditation
- 13\textsuperscript{th} Christmas Lunch at Pond View Café

**Have you got a empty garage to rent?**

If there are any residents who have an empty garage or car space they would be willing to rent/let please could you contact the Parish Office.

**Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery**

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House between 10am and 12 noon on Tuesday 6\textsuperscript{th} December. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.

**Planning**

The following applications were 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**

- SE/11/01830 J Sainsbury’s Plc
  Retrospective application for temporary freestanding, non-illuminated advertisement boards
- SE/11/02309 17 The Butts
  Addition of 1m feather edged panels to existing 1m high brick boundary wall.
- SE/11/02459 Pond House, The Green
Demolish existing modern stone wall (unlisted) and replace with brick wall extending out from existing grade 2 listed brick wall. Replace existing five bar gate and gate post to the side of the property with a taller solid wooden gate painted white

SE/11/02467 2 Vestry Cottages, Old Otford Road
Demolition of existing outbuilding to facilitate a part single/part two storey rear extension including a velux rooflight

SE/11/02472 45 Pilgrims Way West
The construction of a wooden fence on the front perimeter of the property overlooking the highway at Pilgrims Way West. The fence is 1.8m high

SE/11/02545 45 Knighton Road
Erection of first floor side extension

SE/11/02590 3 Coombe Road
Extension into roof space. Creation of loft conversion with rooflights to the front, side and rear. Erection of a part two storey and part single storey rear extension. Internal alterations

SE/11/02602 Reedhatch, Telston Lane
The erection of two dormer windows on the east elevation

SE/11/02679 41 Tudor Drive
Demolition of existing extension and rear garage, erection of new garage and two storey rear extensions to front porch, windows and external alterations.

b. Results Received
SE/11/01928 3 The Old Walk
Erection of a replacement garage with first floor side extension and front two storey extension  Allowed

SE/11/02009 32 Hillydeal Road
The erection of a detached garage with playroom above and dormer window.  Allowed

SE/11/02101 Darentmeade
Details pursuant to condition 9 (tree and hedge protection) of planning permission SE/11/01133/CONVAR  Allowed

SE/11/02171 Clan Cottage, Pilgrims Way East
Variation of condition 10 (The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans), of planning permission SE/10/00902/FUL, Demolition of existing cottage and erection of five bedroom house  Allowed

c. Notice of work to trees in a Conservation Area
3 Bubblestone Road - Various works to 1 Ash tree