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 8th October and 12th November at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall. Contact details of Councillors can be found on the website and at the back of this newsletter. Under the Localism Act 2011 Otford Parish Council has adopted a new Members Code of Conduct. This is also available on the website or at the Council office.

Chairman's Report

Well it's been a bit quiet down on the ranch this month - I guess we could put it down to the summer recess. The Jubilee and Olympics are now over, the decorations are now removed from the Otford Olympic Aquakic Centre on the Pond and Otford will return to pre-hype days - more the pity, I quite enjoyed the welcoming banter that ensues from passers-by. For those lucky enough to obtain tickets to the various Olympic venues, no doubt there is still the memory that lingers on.

Cricket and football are ending and beginning their respective seasons, and the recreation ground still suffers from dog poos' which have to be cleared away before the games can start. Come on dog owners, clear up after your pets or there will no option other than having to keep them on a lead, or even worse - be banned.

You cannot have failed to notice that the scaffolding has been removed from the church tower now that the renovations have been completed and the tower looks magnificent. To celebrate we were treated to a wonderful dedication service a couple of weeks ago to mark the event.
The Heritage Centre has been given a makeover internally and now the office rear-garden is coming under attack. When we eventually find a way to remove the bag of salt left over from last winter we will smarten up the front garden - our thanks to the gardening society and the Heritage Centre volunteers that have helped us. Come and visit us and have a look, it’s open weekday mornings and weekend afternoons. The Heritage Centre is also starting a reference library of books on local history. If you have any that are about to be scrapped, I am sure they would be appreciated. There are also a range of photographic books and postcards available for sale - all depicting Otford in the past - Useful Christmas presents maybe??

At the beginning of the month there was a party at the Rising Sun, Twitton, where approximately 60 ex-pupils, circa 1945-1955 from the Otford Primary School, met up to celebrate Ron Byron’s 100th year - Ron was the headmaster 1947-1973 and he was at the party proudly showing us his “Royal” birthday card and reading a letter from her Majesty’s staff. A presentation to Ron marking the event was made by the ex-pupils who also exchanged histories and experiences since they last met, some as long ago as 50 years. This year as well as friends from the four corners of England there were attendees from Australia. Last year some of the visitors hailed from Canada and New Zealand.

At the Otford Gardening Club’s Autumn show there was a large range of vegetables and flowers on display, which considering the spring and summer that has passed surprised me somewhat. Not only were there many varieties of produce, but the standard was incredibly high. There were also some lovely flower arrangements, handicrafts, photos, cakes and preserves; with tea and cakes available for the many visitors. Well done to all the competitors and organisers.

By the time you read this report the schools will be back and the car park will be full again. Please don’t complain. Patience is required as there really is no quick-fix solution that fits all the problems. We have received several ideas that have been employed elsewhere, but they have been operating under different scenarios and are therefore not directly comparable. I am not going down all the rabbit holes in this article - but it is work in progress - we haven’t forgotten. We suffer quite a lot of damage to the pond surround from large lorries. If you see this happen could you please take down details including the registration number and date/time and pass it to the Parish Council office.

**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.

**Community Choir**
The next rehearsal for the Community Choir Christmas Concert will take place on Monday 8th October at 7.30pm in Otford Library. If you would like to join in please come along.
**Boot Sale**

**Saturday 6th October** is the date of the WI Boot Sale in Otford Village Memorial hall. For the bargain hunters and those ready to spot a treasure the doors will open at 9.30am. Admission is 50p with children free and there will be the usual refreshments of coffee, tea etc plus delicious home made cakes on sale. This is always a very popular village event so come and buy. All 32 stalls have already been reserved.

**Otford & District Historical Society**

For its October meeting the Otford & District Historical Society is delighted to welcome the eminent Historian, writer and broadcaster Dr David Starkey. He will be delivering the Richard Edmeads Memorial Lecture on **Saturday 20th October** in St Bartholomew’s Church, Otford at 4.30pm (doors open at 4.00pm) on the subject of 'Another Wolsey: Archbishop Warham of Otford?'. Tickets cost £8 and are available from Otford Parish Council Office, Sevenoaks Bookshop and Otford & Seal libraries. Proceeds will be shared between St Bartholomew’s Church and the Historical Society. There will also be an opportunity to purchase Dr Starkey’s books and get them signed by the author.

**Otford Players present 'Stepping Out' on 8th, 9th & 10th November in Otford Memorial Hall**

'Stepping Out', is a warm and very funny play about the lives, laughs and loves of a group of women (and one man) attending a weekly tap-dance class. Follow the tap classes from hesitant start to the first public performance. When first performed in the West End, 'Stepping Out' won the Evening Standard comedy of the year award. Tickets are £8 each. To book, please call Carole on 01959 525404 or email otfordplayers@otford.net

**Sevenoaks Embroiderer's Guild**

The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 27th October** in Otford Village Memorial Hall when they will hold their AGM and there will be a Bring & Buy and mini workshops. 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 **20th October** when they will have 'Lasagne Bulb Planting' with Julie & Marilyn. 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 **9th October** when Barry McKay will talk about 'Who burnt down Crystal Palace’ 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. Contact Kath Larkin on 01959 522355 for more details.

**Otford Evening WI**

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 11th October** when the subject is *‘Wrotham Cheesemaker’* with Robin Betts. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. For more information please contact Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634.

**Join the conversation - Getting the most from Otford Library**

KCC libraries want you to help them modernise library services - so tell them what you’d like so that they deliver services that are right for you.

They want to work with you and your community to find new and efficient ways to run local library services - do you have any ideas or comments about library services in your area? Check out the website for more information about Future Library Services www.kent.gov.uk/libraries. To join the conversation and tell them what you think please write to: The FLS Team, Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LQ or phone 01622 696504 or email fls@kent.gov.uk. The Parish Council will also be holding a drop in event on **Saturday 17th November** at the coffee morning in the Village Hall and suggestion boxes will be placed in the Parish Council office, the library and Yvonne’s shop.

**Tropical Flower Workshop**

Denise Thompson our village’s own designer florist is offering the chance to come and make a tropical table decoration with the help of her expert knowledge. The cost will be £30. Everything will be provided (except scissors/secateurs) and light refreshments will add to the fun.

This will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 10th October at 7pm**. Places will be limited so please don’t miss this opportunity and book now on 01959 525009.

**Sevenoaks Local RSPB Group**

The next meeting in Otford Village Memorial Hall will be on **Thursday 4th October** at 7.45pm when Bill Coster will talk about ‘Hawaii and Midway plus the Galapagos Islands’. These volcanic Pacific islands are home to many special species of birds and Bill has indulged his passion for flight and action photography as well as for landscape, going to areas rarely visited.

Group members are £2.50 and non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more information.

**Allotments**

As we are now into the new allotment year, perhaps it is time to suggest that you may like to take up this very rewarding occupation of allotment gardening. In the decade that I (Barbara Hine) have been responsible as Parish Council agent for letting plots I have seen many people come, some to fail to keep going, but many to reap the benefit of their efforts with fresh
fruit and vegetables throughout the year. Why don't you have a try - there may be some plots ready to take up, and now is the time to do so. If you would like a look around first why not give Roger Beasley (new Agent) a ring on 01732 463072, or if you prefer email rogerbeasley@tiscali.co.uk. I am sure he would be delighted to help. Our only meeting as an organisation in the year is our AGM which this year is on **Saturday 20th October** at 9.30am held in the Hope Room of the Village hall - you would be most welcome if you would like to come along and look us over.

**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. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

The next meeting will be held on **18th October** with Rosalind Whyte talking about 'One Man & his Wood - David Nash, Sculptor in Wood'. David Nash is a contemporary artist, working mainly in wood. His large wood sculptures are sometimes carved or burned to produce blackening: his tools include chainsaws, axes, fire and blowtorches and yet his work shows extraordinary knowledge of and sensitivity to the wood that he works with. His recent exhibitions included a hugely successful year at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

**Halloween**

We know that many people are worried about people coming to their door at Halloween, particularly those calling late in the evening, and especially if you live on your own. You do not have to answer the door to them. You can make this clear by displaying a poster as above. These are available from the Parish Council and Paul our Community Warden.

**Otford Scouts**

Following the retirement of Ray Groom, Group Scout Leader of the 15th Sevenoaks Otford Scout Group, Lesley Grant has now taken over as Group manager and any enquiries or correspondence should be directed to her on 01732 885709 or lsgrant@hotmail.com

**Bonfire Night**

The Scouts Bonfire Night will be on **Saturday 3rd 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 Society**

The Otford Society’s Autumn meeting will be held on **Thursday 18th October** in the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm. The speaker will be Jamie Pearson from the Kent Library Service talking about 'The future of Kent Libraries'
Otford Village Fete AGM
The Annual General Meeting will take place at 8.00pm on **Monday 22nd October** at Otford Primary School. All residents are welcome, indeed encouraged, to come along and hear about this year’s event and the Committee’s plan for 2013. Refreshments will be served from 7.45pm and the meeting will start promptly at 8.00pm.

**Picture of the Month**
Jeanne Prestage is our painter of the month. Jeanne moved to Otford in 1964 and has a family of two children and four grandchildren. Until his retirement she worked with her husband in his Architectural Consultancy. She has over the years made use of many of the local Adult Education classes including of course Art. She has been attending classes for about 14 years and has experimented with various mediums.

**Otford Front Garden Competition**
The winner and runners-up for the 2012 competition are as follows:
First Prize - 57 Sidney Gardens
Second Prize - 37 High Street
Third Prize - 16 Leonard Avenue
Three gardens received a Highly Commended certificate and nine received a Commended certificate. Well done to all the prize winners and well done also to all residents who made their houses look wonderfully patriotic during our long summer of celebration. Thank you.

**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.

**October**
10th - Gardens throughout the year - Margaret McKendrick
17th - Joint meeting at St Bart’s Church Centre - Otford Players
24th - AGM and Games afternoon
31st - Tanzania - Liz Derrick

**November**
7th - Edith Nesbit - Margaret McCarthy

**Hospice of Hope Events**
**Friday 19 October** - Classic Sinatra at The Royal Wells Hotel, Tunbridge Wells.
Join them for a fabulous night of entertainment featuring Ian Gallagher one of the UK’s leading artists performing the music of Frank Sinatra.
Black tie evening, 7.30pm, £35pp to include a drinks reception, two course dinner, coffee and auction

**Saturday 20 October** - Fabulous Fashion Affair at St John’s Church Hall, Tunbridge Wells
Ladies, this is your opportunity to get pampered and shop for desirable clothing and accessories at affordable prices!
Complimentary glass of bubbles on arrival, mini treatments available from Mary Kay Cosmetics for £5 - treatments must be pre booked.
3 - 5 pm, £2 entry

**Friday 23 November** - Quiz Night at the Otford Tea Rooms
Challenge your brains before Christmas hits! Take on our Quiz Master once more, come and enjoy an informal and fun evening.
7.30pm, teams of 4 - 6, £12pp to include supper

**Shopping Festival**
Our lovely shops need your support and will be opening again on **Sunday 25th November** between 11am and 4pm for the purchase of those special Christmas presents and enjoy some seasonal entertainment and refreshments.

**Need help with IT**
Age UK Sevenoaks based at the Old Meeting House, St John’s Road, Sevenoaks have a computer learning centre where you can find out about computers and how to use them. The emphasis is on making learning easy and fun. Tuition is offered on a number of subjects including: an introduction to the internet, surfing the web, emailing, basic computer training, word processing, spreadsheets, genealogy, digital photography and online shopping. To book a session please call 01732 454108. A donation towards the running costs is greatly appreciated.

**Planning**
The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council in September. 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/12/01031 51 Greenhill Road
Demolition of existing garage. Erection of a part two storey part first floor extension to the side of the property, the construction of a glazed link leading to a two storey structure incorporating a garage and gym with games room over. New cladding to first floor and the construction of a new access and driveway.
SE/12/02180 First Floor, 28A High Street
Change of use from offices to dwelling
SE/12/02252 37 Well Road
Demolition of existing triple garage and side extension and replacement with a single storey side extension and two storey side and rear extensions
SE/12/02267 Jardox, Vestry Industrial Estate
Proposed extension to rear service yard

**b. Results Received**
SE/12/01647 40 The Charne
Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of single storey rear extension and lowering window cill to new utility room forming a new door opening **Allowed**
2 Knighton Road
Demolition of existing conservatory and replaced with new house including alterations to 2 Knighton Road and demolition of garage to form 4 car parking spaces to serve both properties.  

Refused

45 Tudor Crescent
Erection of a two storey rear and single storey side extension with rooflights. New windows to first floor flank elevations  

Allowed

c. Appeals
SE/12/00316/FUL -APP/G2245/A/12/2180585/NWF - Frog Farm, Pilgrims Way West

d. Tree works
SE/12/02157  The Grange, High Street
Remove 1 Norway Spruce

Parish Councillors Contact Details

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Don't forget the clocks go back on 28th October