CAR PARK PAY & DISPLAY
Pay and display starts operating in the car park on Tuesday 14th October
The operating times are from 7am to 6pm

The rates are: **Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays)**
First hour free (get a ticket)
2nd hour 50p
3rd hour 50p
Every subsequent hour or part thereof £1.00

**Saturday**
First hour free (get a ticket)
2nd hour 50p
3rd hour 50p
All day £2.00

Residents of Otford will be entitled to apply for parking permits if there is no off road parking at their address and there is fully restricted parking on their street during the car park chargeable hours. After an initial bedding in period of 12 months, if necessary, terms and conditions can be re-evaluated with the operators every 6 months.

So for weekdays 3hrs will cost £1.00 but 9hrs will cost £7.00

Any complaints regarding “parking tickets” should be made to the Operators Britannia Parking **NOT** the Parish Council.
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). They can all be read via http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil. The next meetings will be on **13th October** and **10th November** 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

A question that has often been asked is ‘Why do we have great lumps of concrete around the Pond?’ These are NOT lumps of concrete, but Sarsen stones, naturally occurring stones that litter the surface of Chalk outcrops such as the Downs. Usually, Sarsens are fine grained sandstones, some of which were used to build Stonehenge, but the Otford Sarsens are unusual in comprising large flint nodules cemented together by fine calcareous particles. They are classed as conglomerates.

Flint is composed of silica, and is very hard, formed from the ‘juices’ of countless marine creatures, which percolated down from the seabed and formed beds of flint in the hundreds of feet of the underlying chalk of the Cretaceous Period, which ended 65 million years ago. As the land rose and the chalk was eroded, the conglomerate formed and remained on the surface, though far above today’s North Downs, and over the millennia fragments survived and can still be found on the surface of the land across the village today. Sarsens have been used to construct prehistoric monuments such as Kits Coty near Aylesford, incorporated in buildings such as Trottiscliffe Church (indeed a few small ones are built into the walls of our Parish Church), and also formed boundary markers. The Parish Council have now used a few of ours to deter heavy goods vehicles from destroying the kerbs and grass surrounding our much loved Pond.

Dog fouling has not been so bad recently!

Dog owners in general are being much more responsible, for which we do thank them. The Parish Council’s Environment Committee have become experts in faeces recognition, but at the moment fox droppings are something of a problem on the Recreation ground. They may be recognised by the inclusion of seeds and fruit stones, not usually part of dog’s diets. Sadly the foxes do not read our notices. Please continue to pick up after your dog.

Please see and complete the questionnaire on the back page concerning the possible provision of an outdoor gym on the High Street Recreation Ground.

Concerning the future redevelopment of the Fort Halstead site. There are two public meetings being held in the Fort Halstead Canteen on **Friday 3rd October** between 5pm and 8pm and **Saturday 4th October** between 10am and 3pm. I would urge residents to go along and see what the future holds.

Please consider your neighbours and the environment when lighting bonfires and choose a day the weather is such that the smoke will not cover the entire
neighbourhood as bonfire smoke has been forcing residents indoors on sunny evenings and can result in breathing problems.

The Thursday Lunch Club are looking for more people to come and enjoy a lovely home prepared meal. If you would like to join them every Thursday (except September) then please contact Diana on 01959 523297.

**Heritage Centre Exhibition**

Please find some time and come and have a look at the new World War I exhibition in the Heritage Centre. The garden has also been replanted and includes a display in commemoration of WWI. The Heritage Centre is open Sat and Sun between 2.30pm and 4.30pm and also Bank Holidays. It is also open between 9am and 12 noon during the week when the Parish Council office is open.

**Petrol Mower for Football Club**

The Football Club would like to thank Margaret Nicholson and Ray Leathers for their donated mowers and also other residents who also offered their mowers.

**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.

**Mobile Police Station**

There will be a mobile Police Station at Sainsbury’s on the following Mondays 6th October and 20th October between 4.30pm and 5.30pm. If you would like to raise any policing issues or want to find out more about crime prevention then go along and meet a local Police Community Support Officer.

**Gardeners’ Society**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th October when Jim Buttress from BBC TV’s Big Allotment Challenge will talk on ‘60 years in Horticulture’ There will be plants from the nursery for sale. Admission which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for more details or e-mail gardeners@otford.net.

**First Steps**

This lively group for babies, toddlers and their carers is always pleased to welcome new members. It is run by the Methodists and St Bartholomew’s Church and includes the opportunity for a chat, refreshment and also a short Bible story, with singing and craft
activities for the children. They meet at the Methodist Church Hall and the next meetings are on **Wednesday 8th and 22nd October** from 9.30am to 11.30am.

**Otford Tennis Club**

Otford Tennis Club is a friendly club situated in the heart of the village (just behind the children’s play area). We have two floodlit courts; club sessions are held on Tues & Thurs (7.30pm -9.30pm) and Sundays (9.30am-12.30pm). All standards of players are welcome. If you would like to come along and join us for a free session contact Alison Dyke at: alisond@otfordtennis.org.uk or call her on 01959 522050.

**Otford Players present 'MURDER INN' - a comedy thriller**

Otford Players latest production will take place on **Thursday 13th, Friday 14th and Saturday 15th November** at 7.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The dilapidated eighteenth century 'Murder Inn' is supposedly haunted by Marco, a knife throwing poltergeist. A group of tourists, on a Ghost and Ghouls tour is forced, by a storm to make an unscheduled stop at the Inn. As the storm builds and the body count rises, the survivors try to figure out 'who done it' and who's likely to have it done to them next? Please call the Box Office on 01959 525404 or contact otfordplayers@otford.net

**Denise Thompson Designer Florist Autumn Workshop**

On **Wednesday 22nd October** at 7pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall Denise Thompson our village's own designer florist is offering the chance for you to come and create your own beautiful autumn arrangement. The cost will be £30. Everything will be provided (except scissors/secateurs - please bring your own) and light refreshments will add to the fun. Places are always limited so please call 01959 525009 to book your place. Denise will also again be holding her popular Christmas Wreath making workshop on **Wednesday 3rd December** and another Christmas workshop on **Wednesday 10th December** so why not book one of them too if you are interested. Cost will be £30.

**Family Fun Day at Half Term**

The next Family Fun Day funded by SDC and run by Voluntary Action Within Kent will be held on Otford Recreation Ground on **Monday 27th October** between 10am and 2pm. There will be crafts, face painting, games and sports. Children under 8yrs must be supervised.

**Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild**

The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 25th October** in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The AGM will be held and a DVD show. 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 & District Historical Society

The next meeting of the new programme will take place on Wednesday 15th October at 8.00pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Alan Williams will talk about ‘Mods and Rockers fifty years on’. Subscriptions are £6 per year and visitors are welcome at each lecture for £2.

The Otford Society Autumn Meeting

The Otford Society’s Autumn meeting will take place on Thursday 16th October at 8pm in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. The meeting is open to everyone (not just members) and will provide an opportunity to discuss how the Society’s resources should be directed – for example by:

- Improving the village environment
- Raising funds for local charities and Otford projects
- Working with like-minded national bodies
- Organising social events

The Otford Society presents ‘November Nostalgia’

Enjoy live music and partying with friends?

On Saturday 8th November at 8pm in the Otford Village Memorial Hall there will be an Otford Society social with live music from Alibi, the female fronted four piece band who will be performing pop and rock covers from the Hollies to Jimi Hendrix, David Bowie and Martha and the Muffins, Stealers Wheel to The Rolling Stones. A licensed bar will be provided by The Crown. Tickets cost £10 each and are available now from Mad Hatters Emporium, Yvonne’s Newsagent, The Crown and Parish Council office or contact otfordsociety@otford.net

Front Garden Competition

The winners in the Otford Parish Council Front Garden Competition, organised by the Otford Gardeners’ Society were:

- First Prize – 57 Sidney Gardens
- Second Prize – 19 Hale Lane
- Third Prize – 49 Greenhill Road

Three gardens received Highly Commended certificates and fourteen received a Commended Certificate. Well done to them all.

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 6th October when there will be a talk on Everyday First Aid with The Red Cross. There is a creche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Jo Hall on 01689 638996 for more details

Otford Evening WI

Otford Evening WI’s next meeting will be on Thursday 9th October in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 7.30pm when Ian Currie will talk about ‘Weather Lore, Fact
or Fiction’. There are many sayings, are they true? Unfortunately last month’s speaker on ‘Queen Victoria’s Uncles’ had to cancel but will no doubt be coming at a later date. For more information please contact Pat Goddard on 01959 522578

**Otford Village Memorial Hall**
The Trustees of Otford Village Memorial Hall would like to thank the 70+ people who applied for our vacancy for a new Bookings Administrator. We wish we could have interviewed all of you but, as you can imagine, we just did not have that sort of time available. We have made an appointment and Robin Daly, who will be known to many of you through his involvement when the Hall is used as a polling station, will be in place by the time that you read this article. The bookings telephone number remains unchanged on 01959 525181 and, similarly, the e-mail address is still ovmh.secretary@otford.net.

Can you help your local community Hall? Got a few hours of your time available? Certain parts of the Village Memorial Hall are beginning to look a little sad and could do with some care and attention. As with all community things, funds are forever tight. We are currently looking into refurbishing the ladies toilets in the Main Hall as these are the most used in the building. However, we are in need of the services of (ready?) a plasterer, a carpenter, a plumber and an electrician to undertake relatively small amounts of work before we can tile it from floor to ceiling. Obviously, we would provide all necessary materials; we are just asking for a little of your time. If you can help or you’d like to know more please call Ron, the Hall Manager, on 07887 780 576 or e-mail ovmh.manager@otford.net.

**Otford Library Craft Activity**
There will be free craft activity at Otford Library on **Saturday 1st November** from 10am to 12 noon. The theme is Firework Night.

Other activities at the Library include:
- Baby Bounce and Rhyme every Monday morning between 11am and 11.30am and Talk Time from 11.30pm to 12 noon.
- Storytime on Tuesday between 2.15pm and 2.45pm (term time only)
- They also have a computer buddy by appointment to help with your computer problems.

Please call Angela on 01959 522488 for more information.

**Sevenoaks Book Fair**

The last Sevenoaks Book Fair for 2014 will take place on **Saturday 1st November** in Otford Village Memorial Hall between 9am and 2.30pm - Free admission. Refreshments are available.

**Sevenoaks Local RSPB Group**
On **Thursday 2nd October** at 7.45pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall there will be a talk by John Buckingham on ‘Falkland Islands - Birds and Wildlife in close up’. The Falklands are a haven for wildlife located 400 miles off the SE tip of South America. Its varied landscapes provide the perfect setting for many rare species.
Otford Medical Practice - Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations will be offered to all eligible patients on the following Saturdays 18th October and Saturday 25th October. Appointments are available for all patients:

- Over the age of 65
- All children aged 2, 3 and 4 on September 1st 2014
- Patients at risk due to an underlying medical condition

Healthy Heart Day

Who’s it for? Anyone who has a heart
Where? Otford Methodist Church Hall
When? Saturday 1st November 10am to 3pm. Come and go any time!
Who’s organizing it? Otford Surgery Patients’ Group (PPG) sponsored by Sevenoaks District Council

What’s on?
All day: Free NHS Health Checks, run by Kent Community Health Trust.
@ Otford Methodist Church Hall
10am – 11am: Family Walk and Treasure Hunt – meet at Otford Memorial Hall car park

Note: All other Events are held in Otford Methodist Church Hall

OR
10am – 10.45am: Come and Cook a Healthy Breakfast *
OR
10am – 10.45am: All-ability Pilates class *
11am – 11.45am: Family Fun with Food *
11.45am – 12 noon: How to Keep Your Heart Healthy - a talk by Dr Eakins of Otford Medical Practice
12 noon – 1pm: Eat Healthy - a talk by a nutritionist

OR
12.30pm – 1.30pm: Come and Cook a Healthy Lunch *
1.15pm – 2.15pm: Living with a Heart Condition - a talk by a Cardiac Rehab instructor

OR
1.30pm – 2.30pm: Come and Cook a Healthy Evening Meal *
2.30pm – 3pm: Quiz time!

* Cooking sessions and Pilates will be for limited numbers only. Please pre-book by calling SDC on 01732 227000 and quoting “Healthy Heart Day”
Heritage Centre Picture for October

The artist for October is Audrey Tratell. Audrey says 'My first foray with pencil and crayon was at the age of five when I decided to redecorate my bedroom with drawings - needless to say my parents were none too happy. I always enjoyed art classes at school and eventually won a place at art school, but due to family circumstances was unable to take up my place. On retirement after a long career in legal publishing, which I thoroughly enjoyed, I joined the Otford Art Group. My life changed, not only did I make many friends but it also renewed my love of painting. I prefer to use watercolour and enjoy painting landscapes, seascapes and boats.'

Otford Methodist Church Wednesday Afternoon Women's Fellowship

Meetings are at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details/transport

October

1st - Trees in the Bible - Valerie Ruddle
8th - Outing to Knole Orangery exhibition of trees in Sevenoaks
15th - Joint meeting at St Barts - Rev Chris Reed
22nd Ightham Mote - Pat Mortlock
29th - AGM and 'Weddings'

November

5th - Lunch out at Crown Point
12th - Games Afternoon

Hospice of Hope Events

Classic Sinatra

_[Friday 10th October] at 7.30pm_  
The Royal Wells Hotel, Tunbridge Wells
Back by popular demand. A fabulous night of entertainment featuring Ian Gallagher one of the UK’s leading artists performing the music of ‘old blue eyes’.  
£40.00 per person to include a drinks reception, two course dinner & coffee.  
Please contact Anna Perolls on anna@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110 for tickets

Otford Quiz Night

_[Saturday 1st November] at 7pm_  
Hospices of Hope Otford Tearooms, Otford
£12.00 per person to include a light supper.  
Please contact Carole Ford on carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk / 01959 525110 for tickets

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.
Sevenoaks Community First Responders – Vote Now

The Sevenoaks Community First Responders have been shortlisted for the Lloyds Bank Community Fund. An award of £3,000 is on offer to the community group that secures most votes from its local community. Three further grants of £2,000, £1,000 and £500 are available to the other three community groups shortlisted.

Community First Responders are volunteer members of the community who are trained to respond to emergency calls and dispatched through the 999 system. The primary role of a Community First Responder (CFR) is to provide life-saving emergency treatment in their local area to prevent deterioration, promote recovery and preserve life. Sevenoaks CFR team respond to an average of 130 emergency calls a month. The vote is now open and runs until 10 October 2014. The easiest way to vote is online at: www.lloydsbank.com/communityfund (You can search for the community group by name or local area and find out more about the programme) or by twitter by sending a tweet with the text “#commfund GDH” in it, by text by sending “Vote GDH” to 61119. Voting is open to all our supporters, users, colleagues and the wider public. A voter does not need to be a customer of Lloyds Bank.

Planning

The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council. 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/14/02516  64 Tudor Drive
Erection of a single storey front/side and rear extension. Conversion of roof space to provide habitable accommodation including forming a new gable to side. Addition of new roof lights

SE/14/02150  Brambles, Shoreham Road
Demolition of outbuilding and erection of a single storey rear extension with a glass lantern. Increase in height of existing terrace. Description of proposed development amended to include increase in height of existing terrace.

SE/14/02491  Kursella, Sevenoaks Road
The erection of a first floor extension to the north elevation, single storey extension to the north elevation, single storey extension to the south elevation with rooflight, part two storey and part single storey extensions to the east elevation, alterations to the roof and a loft conversion, the addition of a pitched roof dormer window to the east, three rooflights to north elevation and a front canopy porch

SE/14/02731  Block 9, Vestry Road
Removal of condition 3 (restriction of use to Class B8) and variation of condition 4 (trade counter) to allow members of the public to visit the trade counter and condition 12 (approved plans) to allow for amended parking layout and reduction in number of units to 4 of SE/13/00922 for the redevelopment of site to comprise 5 units for class B8 trade counter use with associated car parking variation.

SE/14/02432  28 Hillydeal Road
The erection of a two storey side extension to form an annexe
SE/14/02694  Stileways, Shoreham Road
Erection of a single storey side extension

SE/14/02798  15 Tudor Crescent
Variation of condition 3 (approved plans), 4 (obscure glazing and non-opening western facing windows) and condition 5 (first floor window obscure glazing and non-opening) of application SE/13/03814 to demolition of garage and rear porch and erection of a two storey rear extension with five roof lights and additional parking to the front with amendment to include screening on the west side boundary with a close boarded fence and installation of a louvre effect hinged shutter to the first floor rear window.

SE/14/02853  Otford Methodist Church, High Street
Variation of conditions 6 (use), 7 (restricted activities) and 10 (Breeam rating) of SE/13/02045 to demolition of existing church with amendments to revise the usage (conditions 6 & 7) and omit condition 10.

SE/14/02853  Lorien, St Michael's Drive
Double storey infill front extension and a ground floor extension to rear elevation

b. Results Received
SE/14/01825  Pets at Home, Old Otford Road
Replacement like-for-like signage and secondary fascia signage  Part Allowed
SE/14/01899  91 Willow Park  Allowed
Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single storey rear/side extension
SE/14/02039  Burfield, Pilgrims Way East
Erection of a two storey side extension  Allowed
SE/14/02081  5 Coombe Road
The erection of a 2nd floor side extension above existing garage, double storey extension to the rear of the property and new open porch with small ground floor extension to the front of the existing garage to bring in line with porch.  Allowed

SE/14/02102  Orchard House, Shoreham Road
Removal of condition 8 (gradient of the parking, turning and access) and 11 (code of sustainable homes) of SE/11/02555 to erection of a detached dwelling with alterations from previous application SE/09/00643 including change of access, repositioning of dormers, additional window to east elevation, repositioning of fenestration, alterations to sun roof, lantern light replaced with velux over stairs, alteration to ridge height to west wing only and addition of tube lights.  Allowed

SE/14/01991  The Oast House, Broughton Manor, High Street
Demolition of existing barn. Erection of a new 4 bay barn  Refused
SE/14/02123  St Michael's School, St Michael's Drive
Minor extension to existing car park together with the installation of lighting and surface drainage.  Allowed

d. Tree Work
SE/14/02802  76 High Street
Removal of 1 conifer tree. Reduce crown canopy by 20% and cut back by 30% to 1 Elder tree (CA)

c. Appeals
SE/14/01825  Pets at Home, Unit C, Old Otford Road
APP/G2245/H/14/2224163 Secondary fascia signage
Parish Councillors Contact Details

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<th>Chairman</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Edwards-Winser</td>
<td>Oastbrook, Telston Lane</td>
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<th>Councillors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas G. Cracknell</td>
<td>23 Warham Road</td>
<td>522325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary Evans</td>
<td>14 Tudor Crescent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jackie Howe</td>
<td>33 Pilgrims Way West</td>
<td>525434</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nick Fothergill</td>
<td>7 Darnets Field</td>
<td>524120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. H. Jane Lawrey</td>
<td>23 Tudor Crescent</td>
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<td>Howard Leicester</td>
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<td>Mrs. Charmian Marsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Elizabeth J. Ward</td>
<td>Thymebank, Coombe Rd</td>
<td>522384</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin J. Whitehead</td>
<td>19 Coombe Road</td>
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Newsletter Deadline
The deadline for items for the November Newsletter will be Monday 20th October.

Footpaths
The cutting back of vegetation on public footpaths in and around the village is the responsibility of Kent County Council. To report a problem call 0845 345 0210. KCC are also responsible for anything to do with roads, pavements, verges and drains. Please contact them direct on 03000 414141 with any problems.

Rubbish and Garden Bags
Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £13 for 25. It avoids all those trips to the tip. Rolls of black sacks at £1.50 and white sacks at 50p are also available.

Don't forget the clocks go back on 26th October
The Parish Council is exploring the possibility of installing an outdoor gym for the use of everyone over 14. This will be in addition to the trim trail already sited in the Recreation Ground. The Hale Lane children’s playground project cost just over £40,000. The cost of this new project is estimated to be in excess of £40,000, which is anticipated to be raised mainly from grants, fund-raising and donations, as well as a contribution from Parish Council funds.

At this stage, it is important that you have your say.

1. If adult outdoor gym equipment were to be installed in the Recreation Ground, do you think that would you or anyone in your household use it?
   - Yes/No/Don’t know

2. If it were to go ahead, would you or anyone in your household be willing to help with fund-raising?
   - Yes/No/Don’t know

3. If it were to go ahead, would you or anyone in your household be prepared to make a donation?
   - Yes/No/Don’t know

3. Would you support such a project? If so, why? If not, why not?

Are there any other comments you wish to make about this project?

Name
Email address
Telephone number
Address

Please complete and return the questionnaire by November 22nd to any of the following: The Parish Council Office, Yvonne’s, Otford Post Office or Otford Library.