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 12th September and 10th October at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

An update from the Parish Council Chairman

As we move into September the revised office documentation is gradually evolving. Fire Risk Assessments, Water Hygiene Tests, Electrical Checks, Health and Safety requirements, Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations are all nearly updated and as I write this report the office is currently undergoing a “spring clean” and superfluous documentation is being destroyed or archived.

The move towards Twinning with the French village of Neuchatel-Hardelot is progressing and a trip to France for “part one” of the charter signing will be taking place in Neuchatel-Hardelot on the 17th September. There are still a few vacancies on the coach if you wish to witness this momentous event - application forms are in the parish office, but be quick. Our colleagues in France will be reciprocating with a return visit for “part
two” of the signing, probably March next year for which the Parish Council is aiming to organise a special event.

A big thank you goes to McDonalds who arranged a litter pick last month with members of their staff, OPC, the Community Warden plus members of the public. They covered Sevenoaks Road, The Cemetery, Old Otford Road, The Village Green, Recreation Ground, Pickmoss and Palace Field. This exercise would be made a lot easier if the public either took their rubbish home with them or used the “bins” provided instead of just thoughtlessly dropping it on the ground or ejecting it from their cars.

You might have noticed water engineers in the roads preparing for the installation of meters. Otford is to be one of the first areas in the county to have compulsory metering and it is planned to have completed the exercise in Otford by the end of August.

Several highways matters have been raised at the office and they are all “work in progress”. Tudor Drive and Crescent are due to have the yellow lines painted soon and they will be followed by Bubblestone and nearby roads. The pot holes in Tudor Drive have all been filled.

Dog fouling in the recreation ground is still a problem and another bin is being procured. Will ALL dog owners please ensure that the bins are used, as it is extremely unpleasant for those that participate in cricket, football and for the general public.

The Oxenhill Woods are now being coppiced by Sevenoaks District Council with the agreement of the Forestry Commission and the Woodland Trust. This is part of an on-going cycle of woodland regeneration and preservation which takes place on an area by area cycle of approx 25 to 30 years.

Sainsbury’s will shortly be submitting revised plans for the modification to their store on Otford Road - they propose removing the upper deck car park, which might seem like good news but they are also charging the façade to one which I consider is not quite so pleasing.
The pond has recently suffered from an attack of algae. The cause is an influx of nutrients not helped by the recent hot weather. Brian Thomas is monitoring the situation.

**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.

**Police Advice**

It’s very distressing for someone if their purse or handbag is stolen but there are some easy things you can do to prevent this happening:

- Use a purse chain to secure your purse in your bag, keep the purse at the bottom of the bag and make sure your bag is done up.
- Wear your handbag across your body if possible.
- Keep your bag where you can see it and don’t leave it on the shopping trolley when you turn away to pick things from the supermarket shelves.
- Don’t leave your bag on the back of a chair or on the floor if you’re in a café or restaurant.
- Don’t leave your purse, wallet, bag or any other valuables on show in an unattended car.
- If you need to use a cash machine try to use one inside a bank or shop and don’t let anyone distract you while you are doing so.
- Don’t carry too much cash with you and don’t have your bank card numbers written down with the cards.

**Police Contact Details**

To contact our neighbourhood Police Officer Brian Smith please call 07972 004450 or for local PCSO Jane Wright call 07772 226036. To report a crime please call 01622 690690.
**Beavers returning to Otford!**

After a long absence, Otford Scout Group is pleased to announce that the Beaver Scout section will be re-opening in September. An experienced Leader has come forward, so the first meeting is planned for Monday evening **12th September** between 4.45 and 5.45pm at Otford Scout Hut.

Boys and girls aged 6 to 8 years are welcome, so too is help running the meetings, as it would otherwise be a lot to expect from one person. If you would like to enrol your son or daughter, please ring Ray Groom on 01959 525413 as he is compiling the initial membership list.

**Otford – Hardelot Twinning**

There are still a few places on the coach to Neufchatel-Hardelot on **Saturday 17th September** when we shall be signing the Twinning Charter - a lack of French is no problem. We can guarantee a fantastic day out at the all inclusive price of £25 for a seat on the coach (£11 for a child) and a buffet meal after the signing. We have been promised that there will be time to explore the area, play on the beach and enjoy jazz music. We shall leave Otford at 7.30am and return before 9.30pm. Please contact the Parish office on 01959 524808 for further details and an application form.

**Darent Valley Choir**

The Darent Valley Choir is a friendly choir and always looking for new voices of all ranges. We commence our Autumn term on **Wednesday 7th September** and rehearse weekly at the Anthony Roper School in Eynsford from 8pm to 10pm to prepare for our Christmas concert. We would love to welcome you and hope to see you on the 7th.

**Coffee Moring**

There will be a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care in Otford Village Memorial Hall (Club Room) on **Saturday 24th September** between 10am and 12 noon. Stalls will include cakes, pies, jam, tombola, plants and cards. Entrance is 50p. Homemade refreshments will be available. Donations to any of the stalls welcome. Further details are available from Jean on 01959 523404.
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.

Otford Library – Free Activity Hour
Otford Library will be holding a Free Activity and Craft Session for children on Saturday 10th September from 10am to 11am making masks, colouring, drawing, cutting and sticking. Please go along.

Calling Notice for a RADIO Special Meeting
Notice is hereby given of a Special General Meeting of RADIO (Residents Against Development in Otford) to be held on Monday 26th September at 8pm in the Meeting room above the Heritage Centre.

Purpose
This Special General Meeting has been called by the RADIO Committee in accordance with Article 4.2 and section 8 of the RADIO Constitution in order to put to the membership of the Association a Motion for Dissolution and to consider options for the transfer of funds to the Otford Society.

Background
RADIO was established in 2005 for the purpose of opposing the inappropriate development of roads, houses, flats or other types of accommodation in the Parish of Otford. The Association was active until late 2009. However, the emphasis on addressing planning and development issues in Otford has more recently shifted. This follows first the adoption by the Sevenoaks District Council of the Village Design Statement (2008) as supplementary planning guidance and more recently the outstanding work of the Parish Plan Steering Group in formulating and publishing the Parish Plan (the design principles of which have all been endorsed by the Parish Council). At the same time active support for an Association independent of the Otford Society and focusing solely on Planning issues has declined. The RADIO Committee has therefore regretfully concluded in favour of recommending to the membership of the Association that RADIO be dissolved.
This requires that a **Motion for Dissolution** be put at a General Meeting attended by no less than 5% of RADIO’s membership. A majority in favour of no less than two-thirds of those present and voting is required for the resolution to pass.

**RADIO’s funds**
The Association’s Constitution mandates that any funds remaining on dissolution shall be transferred to the Otford Society. Currently RADIO’s account stands at £2471.03.

The RADIO Committee believes that in transferring these residual funds to the Otford Society the membership may wish to consider designating 50% of the monies available for the specific purpose of planting a small orchard of apple trees both to give something back to the village and to celebrate the sense of community from which the Association benefitted and which so clearly characterizes our village.

This proposal will therefore be offered for discussion at the SGM and a vote amending the Constitution accordingly will be put prior to the Motion for Dissolution.

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**Otford Village Fete**
The Annual General Meeting of the Fete Committee will be held on **Thursday 6th October** at 7.45pm (for 8pm) at the Methodist Church Hall. All residents of Otford are invited to attend.

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**Otford Methodist Church**
Otford Methodist Church will have their Harvest Thanksgiving Service at 10.30am on **Sunday 25th September**. They will also be celebrating ‘Back to Church’ Sunday initiative that day. Please go and join them for this very special service and have lunch with them afterwards. Call Kath Pawlell for details on 01959 522196

Otford Methodist Church’s next Woman’s Breakfast is on **Saturday 15th October** when Fiona Castle (wife of the late Roy Castle) will be the guest speaker. The cost is £4 payable on the door. Please reserve your space by calling Margaret Matthews on 01959 522046 or emailing Sue Ward on johnandsueward@btinternet.com
Hedges – Keep them trimmed

Hedges are growing very quickly at the moment and a number in the village have grown over the public footway and are causing a nuisance to pedestrians, especially those who have poor sight, use wheelchairs or double buggies. Check the boundaries of the property you are in and if necessary please arrange for it to be cut back from the footway as soon as possible. Thank you.

Gardeners’ Society

On **Tuesday 6th September** John Grimwood will show us how to get our green spaces looking good with a talk entitled ‘**Tips of the Trade for a better lawn**’. The evening starts at 8pm in the OVMH; admission is £1 for non-members and the admission price includes refreshments.

Then on **Saturday 10th September** after a summer of hard work, the **Autumn Flower and Craft Show** will provide a marvellous display of late summer flowers and the harvest from the vegetable garden. We will also have floral arrangements, preserves and cookery and photographic classes. The Junior Challenge winners will be announced and we will have our art and handicraft classes which are always of high standard. The show takes place in the OVMH and opens to the public at 2.15pm. Admission is 50p, under 16’s admitted free. Teas will be served until 4pm and there will be a sales table open all afternoon.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild

The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 24th September** in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. In the afternoon there will be the AGM followed by ‘**The Ruff Lady**’ a talk by Jill Flower. 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 17th September** in Otford Village Memorial Hall between 1.30pm and 4.30pm with Janet Hunt.

For further information please ring Sylvia Grafton On 01732 452117
Elands Veterinary Clinic
Elands Veterinary Clinic are running a ’Fun in the Sun’ pet photo competition. Collect an entry form from either the Kemsing or Dunton Green branch and enter your pet to win an 8” x 6” framed portrait of him/her by Flutterby Photography. All entrants can book a sitting and purchase a 7”x5” photograph at Flutterby for £15 (usual price £65). The closing date is September 30th. Phone 01732 761650 for more information.

Otford & District Wine Club
The Otford & District Wine Club’s autumn session begins in the Otford Memorial Hall at 8pm on Wednesday 28th September. Two long-standing members will be questioned about their interesting and varied lives and they will listen to 8 selected pieces of music which have particular significance to them. This will be free to Club members but guests will be charged £3.

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 15th September when they will have a talk from a ’Cheese Maker from Wrotham’. For more information please contact the Secretary Jane Dean on 01732 460512.

Otford Oast WI would like to invite you on Thursday 20th October between 9.30am and 1pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall to ’A Morning of Mind, Body and Soul Therapy’ Go along and be pampered by an array of different therapists, browse and buy some beautiful gifts for friends or simply a special treat for you. Take time to chat, drink tea and sample some scrumptious homemade cakes. Entrance is £3 for non members and £1 to members, which includes a hot drink, a piece of cake and a free raffle ticket. There is a crèche available from 9.30am to 11.30am. The entrance fee does not include the cost of therapy sessions which you book on arrival.

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 13th September when Brian Nobbs will
talk about ‘Gardening for Wildlife’ and then on 11th October ‘Members memories’.
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**
All meetings take place on 2nd Thursday of each month in Otford Village Hall. Visitors are always very welcome. The next meetings will take place on 8th September when there will be ‘Handbells’ with Sandra Winter and then on 13th October there will be an Auction. For more information please call Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887 or Joan Beacom on 01959 524304.

**Otford & District Historical Society**
The first meeting of the Winter programme will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Wednesday 21 September at 8pm when Fergus Anckorn will make a welcome return visit and talk about ‘Memories of Dunton Green’ with photographs.

**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 15th September. The lectures start promptly at 1.45 pm and finish by 3 pm.
Their theme for this year, given the Olympic Games in 2012, is “An Odyssey with the Ancients”.
The Speaker Neil Faulkner’s subject is - ‘Gods, Heroes & Mortals - Greek Myths in Ancient Art’
Ancient Greece was sophisticated & primitive at the same time. Philosophy & myth ran side by side. Men who thought rationally about their world also believed it to be populated by spirits & deities. This lecture will explore how myths of gods & heroes dominated Greek art & what we can learn from these images about ancient Greek society, its values & its fears.
Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Alison Davis on 01732 780453 or email knoledfas@gmail.com
Hospices of Hope
Visit the Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop, 11a High Street, Otford which is open Monday - Friday 10am - 4.30pm and Saturday 10am - 5.00pm.

Next Events
Quiz Night, Saturday 8 October in Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop
Take on another challenge with our Quiz Master! Supper is included. 7.00pm, £12 per ticket, contact wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk | 01959 525110

Cameo Opera is back by popular demand!
An evening of exceptional entertainment by Cameo Opera and The Robert Reid Duo
Friday 14 October at The Royal Wells Hotel, Tunbridge Wells
7.30pm, £40 per ticket, black tie 2 course dinner, contact vanessa@hospicesofhope.co.uk | 07866 495628

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery
The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House between 10am and 12 noon on Tuesday 6th September. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.

Don’t lose your vote in 2012
Voter registration forms will soon be dropping through letterboxes across the Sevenoaks District and you are being urged to return yours as soon as possible to make your voice heard in the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent election in May 2012.
Your local Electoral Registration Officer and his staff will be sending forms to households in the Sevenoaks District from 30th August in order to compile the electoral register for 2012. If you haven’t received your form by Mid September you can contact your Electoral Registration Officer at elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk or on 01732 227188 or 01732 227243
Registering to vote is very simple. All you have to do is update the annual voter registration form with the details of everyone in your household who is eligible to vote and return it to us as soon as possible. If you’ve previously registered at your address and your details haven’t changed you can also reply online, by text, or by freephone.
There was a lot of interest in this year’s referendum on the UK voting system and we were pleased with the increase in registration before polling
day. However, some people may not realise that they have to register every autumn. It is important that you complete and return the registration form so you’re able to take part in the upcoming Police and Crime Commissioner election. For more information contact your local Electoral Registration Officer at elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk

**Planning**

The following applications are 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/11/01616  **41 Tudor Drive**

Erection of two storey rear extension including the demolition and erection of a new detached garage. Replacement roof over existing porch, removal of both chimney’s and new fenestration as amplified by amended plans received 3.8.11

SE/11/01928  **3 The Old Walk**

Erection of a replacement garage with first floor side extension and front two storey extension

SE/11/02009  **32 Hillydeal Road**

Erection of a detached garage with playroom above and dormer window

SE/11/02087  **J Sainsbury PLC**

Extensions to existing Sainsbury’s store (revisions to permitted application SE/10/01552/FUL) including changes to the car park layout, and removal of previously permitted car park deck, removal of the proposed atrium and travellators and changes to the elevations.

SE/11/02121/CONVAR  **St Michael’s School, St Michael’s Drive**

Application to remove condition 14 (approved plans) of SE/10/02088/FUL - Erection of a new pre-preparatory school following the demolition of the existing Headmasters House, together with the conversion of the existing school building to provide replacement accommodation including part demolition and improvements to an existing playing field. In order to include a larger plant room, amendments to roof lights and amendments to the proposed decked area.

**b. Results received**

SE/11/01376  **4 Shinecroft**

Erection of rear white upvc conservatory  

*Allowed*
SE/11/01391 Oakside, 89 Pilgrims Way West
New Access Drive

SE/11/01375/CONVAR Sainsbury’s Filling Station
Application to vary condition no 5 - approved plans of SE/11/00213/FUL -
Erection of single storey front extension, refurbishment of the existing
petrol station kiosk. Recladding of the existing forecourt canopy,
replacement petrol pumps and provision of a rainwater harvesting system for
the existing car wash - replace approved drawings 2274/01 revision D and
2274/20 revision D to allow enlargement of approved front extension to
kiosk, replacement of approved storeroom with an ATM room, retention of
ATM on kiosk front elevation and small freestanding plant room behind
existing air/water facility

SE/11/01576 Kent House, The Green
Alterations including ½ storey front and second storey rear extensions:
raising of roof to side to achieve balanced hip roof ends, gables, balcony,
covered porches and loggias. Installation of windows of similar design and bay
window features. Amendments to SE/10/01495/FUL condition no 2 materials.

SE/11/01984/WTCA Otford Village Pond
Various works to 1 Willow Tree

Queen’s Diamond Jubilee
The Parish Council would be interested in resident’s views
about how they would like to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond
Jubilee in 2012. If you would like to let us have your
comments or wishes concerning Street parties, beacons etc please contact
the office or email us on otfordpc@btinternet.com

Stop Press
Our lovely shops will be opening again on Sunday 27th November
between 11am and 4pm for the purchase of those special
Christmas presents and enjoy some seasonal entertainment They
would be interested to hear from anyone who would be prepared to dress up
for the day in either Victorian or Christmas themed costumes.