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 [10th September] and [8th October] at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall. Contact details of Councillors can also be found on the website.

Under the Localism Act 2011 Otford Parish Council has adopted a new Members CoE of Conduct. This is also available on the website or at the Council office.

Chairman’s Report

As I write this article most of you cannot fail to have noticed that the Olympics have taken place! Apart from the competitors achieving a remarkable medal haul, what about the organisers, the unsung backroom staff, the volunteer helpers and the crowds. Never mind the sceptics and negative thinkers; they will always be on hand to tell you what could go wrong and how it should have been done. However, if there is one thing that has impressed me, it’s the crowds and the exemplary way they have behaved. Starting with the Torch relay parading through our streets and the minimal policing required - the majority of which was carried out by volunteers - continuing with the “open” events (cycling and the marathons) through the streets of Surrey and London and ending with the games in the Olympic Park and other venues around the country - who has made these games the success they have been? - you the general public.

People have been out in the streets talking to neighbours they didn’t know existed. Good on you GB, long may it continue. And don’t forget, the Paralympics will be taking place in September, with the road cycling events taking place at Brands Hatch (5th to 8th September) and surrounding roads. Don’t complain, it won’t happen again in our lifetime - go along and marvel at the dedication, the sportsmanship and the sheer joy of the competitors representing their country. So even in these austere times, just like 1948, we can let our hair down, forget our troubles and just be happy for a change!!

Speedwatch - now that we have our own equipment, watch out, the Speedwatch team are on the prowl. In the last two evening sessions we caught a total of 78
motorists speeding at over 37mph, with one motorist recorded at 53mph and several others over 45mph - all in a 30mph zone!! All of the offenders are entered onto the police data base for further action, with those who recorded over 45mph receiving the immediate action of a letter or visit from Kent Police. We have 12 Police accredited sites within the Parish and dependant on the results, the police will be out with their speed guns issuing on the spot tickets - that’s if they can keep up with the one-a-minute recordings we took!! It was also noted that several of the motorists going in the opposite direction to the equipment were gesticulating at us or on their hand-held mobiles. What are the odds that most of the offenders were residents in or around Otford? It is a well known saying that familiarity breeds contempt, but once we start eroding the bottom strata of rules that govern our life, then they become accepted as the norm and we start to work with the next level up as being the minimum requirement - 40mph through the High Street? If you would like to volunteer to join our Speedwatch team please contact Sue in the Parish Council office on 01959 524808.

The Highways committee are still working on the car parking problems, a situation that for some reason does not seem so bad now that the schools are on holiday. Maybe it’s the Olympics however, the other afternoon at 3.00 pm there were more than 45 empty spaces and the following morning at 10.30 there were 30 spaces available - so why is the car park full to overflowing on school days - where does all the extra traffic come from?
The village gateways are still being addressed, albeit slowly and with compromise, but they are happening, it’s just that it’s the holiday season and the KCC officers appear not to be at their desks.

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. Please 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.

**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.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning**

There will be a Macmillan Coffee Morning in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 22nd September between 10am and 12 noon. There will be homemade cakes, refreshments, tombola and plants and more. 50p entrance. For more details please contact 01959 523404.

**Boot Sale**

We all need to do it don’t we, so why not have a good clean out of your attic or garage and then book yourself a table at the W.I Boot Sale being held in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 6th October between 9.30am and
12.30pm. Tables are £8 so contact Chris on 01959 522485 to book yours. Entrance will be 50p with children free and refreshments will be available.

Otford-Hardelot Twinning

There are still seats on the coach visiting Boulogne and Hardelot on Saturday 6th October. Please contact the Parish Office or Jane Lawrey on 522360 for details. We do need to fill the coach so that we can keep the price down.

Our "twins" will be visiting us for the weekend of 15th-16th September. Do speak with them if you see them in the village. If you would like to meet them at Ightham Mote at lunch time on Saturday or for tea and cake at the Heritage Centre on Sunday (with the proviso that you bring a cake with you!) again please contact the Parish Office or Jane Lawrey.

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

'Stepping Out', 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

Otford & District Wine Club

This year the September meeting on Wednesday 26th September at 8pm in Otford Memorial Hall will be a Harvest Festival. Fruit dessert and custard will be served followed by an English fruit juice tasting. There will also be a talk and slide show on the History of Harvest Festivals by Elizabeth Ward from the Otford Historical Society. The raffle will comprise local produce provided by the members. Admission is free for members, but guests will be charged £5. If you require further information, please contact Olive Cherry on 01732 458240.

Otford Library - Free Craft Session

There will be a FREE craft session in Otford Library on Saturday 22nd September from 10am to 12 noon when if possible please take along some shells. Booking is essential to secure a place. Please call Angela on 01959 522488.

An invitation to all rabbit owners from Elands Veterinary Clinic

Elands Veterinary Clinic is holding a talk at their Dunton Green clinic at St John’s Church in London Road on Tuesday 18th September entitled 'Rabbit Vaccine Revolution.' The talk will be from 7.30pm - 8.30pm with tea and cakes being served along with a practice tour to see behind the scenes. To find out about caring for your bunny, the importance of vaccinating your rabbit and exciting changes to the vaccines, please call Elands on 01732 452333 or 01732 761650 and book your place. There is no charge for this event but numbers are limited.
Sevenoaks Embroiderer’s Guild
The next meeting will take place on **Saturday 29th September** in Otford Village Memorial Hall. It will be an all day workshop with Lorna Bateman on ‘Cast on and drizzle away’. 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 September** when they will have ‘Merrywood Handmade Soaps’. 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 **11th September** when John Beckham will talk about ‘Birds of Parks & Gardens’. 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 13th September** when the ever popular Bob Ogley will be visiting to talk about ‘Kent in the 20th Century’. 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

Sevenoaks Local RSPB Group
The next meeting in Otford Village Memorial Hall will be on **Thursday 6th September** at 7.45pm when Chris Wards gets the indoor season off to a great start with his talk on ‘Birds and Landscapes of Norfolk’. Group members are £2.50 and non-members £3.50. Telephone 01959 563530 for more information.
Otford Methodist Church - Women's Breakfast
Otford Methodist Church would like to invite ladies to a Women’s Breakfast in our Church halls on **Saturday 22nd September** at 8.30am.
The guest speaker is Anona Coates who is a writer and public speaker
The cost is £4 payable on the door. To reserve a place please call Sue Ward on 01689 869081 or email johnandsueward@btinternet.com

T'ai Chi & Qigong Classes
General aims: The aims are to improve the general health, strengthen the legs, improve balance & coordination, promote better circulation, whilst bringing relaxation and increased energy. The courses will also work on improving posture and breathing.

Sevenoaks

**Thursday 6th Sept** at The Knole Academy, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks.
7.35-8.30pm: Tai Chi (all levels) - (2 teachers)
8.35-9.30pm: There is a new Qigong class on Thursdays.

**Friday 7th Sept** at St. Luke’s Church Hall, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks.
12.05-1.00pm
The class is specifically aimed at the over-60s, but anyone can attend as it is excellent for beginners.

**Length & Cost of Course:** 13 weeks [Try-out session: £5 & the remaining 12 weeks of the course : £132]
Email: james@taiji.co.uk

VIDA - New Girl Band
The girls - Jade, AJ, Che3kz and V.Vee collectively known as VIDA are currently on tour supporting JLS and they will be appearing in The House in the Basement at the Stag on **Friday 7th September** between 8pm and 10pm. £4 on the door, £2 in advance online from the Stag. They have been nominated for MTV’s Brand New for 2012. Vida’s songs are full of excitement, drama and surprises and their debut single ‘Boombox’ was released on 27th August (Catch it on youtube).

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 first meeting will be held on **20th September** with Naomi Motley talking about Inessential Necessities - Snuff boxes, Fans etc
This lecture will describe the items deemed necessary for gracious living in the 18th Century. Whilst showing pictures of these items, it will also look at leading craftsmen of the day, how & where the items were made & how they were used. If you don’t know your etui from your necessaire, then this is the lecture for you!
Youth Work Apprenticeships

West Kent WMCA are pleased to offer 2 youth work apprenticeships in West Kent YMCA’s Vehicle 4 Change [V4C] - an exciting youth work project giving local young people a life changing opportunity.

- Are you aged 18—25, capable, well organised, with excellent communication skills and want to make a real difference in your community?
- Could YOU be a Youth Work apprentice?
- Could YOU accompany a large mobile resource unit and trailer to different locations across West Kent to work with young people wherever they are?
- Could YOU engage with local communities and young people to identify local needs and issues?
- Could YOU assist the V4C team build bridges between young people, their communities and local agencies? Could YOU help the V4C team, young people and tutors to design and deliver training courses to meet identified needs?
- Could you do WITHOUT the hassle of student loans and tuition fees? YOU could really make a difference in the community while being paid

AND

- Receive training, experience and a Level 2 or 3 Youth Work qualification
- 12 months employment of 30 hours/week including some evenings/weekends
- On-site training provided by our external accredited provider
- Salary starts at national apprenticeship rates with quarterly reviews

More info Jobs@WestKentYMCA.org.uk 07941 388852
www.WestKentYMCA.org.uk 01892 542209

Shape your local services and enter a free prize draw

Sevenoaks District Council is leading a review of the District’s Community Plan, which sets out priorities for local services over a 10 year period. The Plan is based on the issues residents have said are important in earlier consultations. It shapes the places in which we all live and just about every public service in the District that you can think of. The Plan itself is delivered by the District and County Councils, the health service, the police, the fire service and housing associations together with voluntary groups, businesses and faith communities. It is now time for SDC to refresh the 10 year vision and action plan. They want to make sure that everyone is the District has a chance to contribute their views about the issues that they feel are important over the next 15 years. They would like to know if you feel the current Community Plan priorities are still relevant and what, if anything, needs changing and how you could get involved? You can have your day by completing a short questionnaire at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan2012. Everyone who completes the survey can enter a free prize draw to win £50 of Amazon shopping vouchers. Please see the survey for terms and conditions. If you would like a paper copy of the survey, please let SDC know. You can also see SDC at various events across the District in the coming weeks where you can ask them all about the Community Plan and comment on its future priorities.

For further information visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan or email community.plan@sevenoaks.gov.uk or call 01732 227000.
Planning

The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council in July & August. 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/12/00530  Darenthmeade, 4 Hillydeal Road
Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with two detached dwellings with access from Hillydeal Road, to include construction of driveway to serve plot 2 'Darenthmead'

SE/12/00805  Hopgarden Farm, Telston Lane
Use of site for a single gypsy family with provision of mobile home, touring caravan, utility building and installation of septic tank

SE/12/00836  Burfield, Pilgrims Way East
The erection of a two storey side extension and the erection of a front porch extension

SE/12/0073  Elmwood, Tudor Crescent
Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of SE/10/01971/FUL - Demolition of existing house, garage, annexe and bungalow to facilitate erection of two no. two storey four bedroom houses with integral garages. In order to convert the garage into habitable rooms to both properties  

b. Results Received

SE/12/0073  Elmwood, Tudor Crescent
Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of SE/10/01971/FUL - Demolition of existing house, garage, annexe and bungalow to facilitate erection of two no. two storey four bedroom houses with integral garages. In order to convert the garage into habitable rooms to both properties  

Allowed

SE/12/01287  2 Vestry Cottages, Old Otford Road
Erection of a single storey conservatory to the rear of the property  

Allowed

SE/12/01085  61 Knighton Road
Demolition of ground floor bay window to rear, erection of single storey front and rear extensions, conversion of garage into living accommodation, removal of chimney, and insertion of roof lights to north elevation and alterations to fenestration  

Allowed

SE/12/01358  29 High Street
The addition of a rear dormer  

Refused

SE/12/01363  43 Telston Lane
Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side extension  

Allowed
SE/12/01397 10 Orchard Road
Demolition of existing rear conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension, garage conversion and new entrance with pitched roof  Allowed
SE/12/01444 Byways, Rye Lane
Erection of a two storey side and single storey rear extension  Allowed

c. Appeals
SE/11/02806 The Oast House, Shoreham Road  Dismissed

d. Tree works
SE/12/01614 Palace Field
Fell group of silver birch trees in a conservation area
HW/TPO/13 Pilgrims Way West
Notification of tree preservation order
SE/12/0723 The Grange, High Street
Various works to trees (CA)
SE/12/01843 21 High Street
Fell 1 cherry tree (CA)
SE/12/01941 39 High Street
Fell 2 sycamore trees (CA)
SE/12/01986 56 High Street
Remove 1 roninia tree

Parish Councillors Contact Details

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<tr>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Oastbrook, Telston Lane</th>
<th>522503</th>
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<td>John Edwards-Winser</td>
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<th>Councillors</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas G. Cracknell</td>
<td>23 Warham Road</td>
<td>522325</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mary.a.evans@btinternet.com">mary.a.evans@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary Evans</td>
<td>14 Tudor Crescent</td>
<td>522325</td>
<td><a href="mailto:page142142@btinternet.com">page142142@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jackie Howe</td>
<td>33 Pilgrims Way West</td>
<td>525434</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com">Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Knight</td>
<td>38 Warham Road</td>
<td>524488</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com">Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. H. Jane Lawrey</td>
<td>23 Tudor Crescent</td>
<td>522360</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com">Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Leicester</td>
<td>Albany, Shoreham Road</td>
<td>525434</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com">Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Charmian Marsh</td>
<td>40 Greenhill Road</td>
<td>522609</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com">Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Verrall</td>
<td>24 Pilgrims Way East</td>
<td>524088</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com">Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Elizabeth J. Ward</td>
<td>Thymebank, Coombe Road</td>
<td>522384</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com">Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin J. Whitehead</td>
<td>19 Coombe Road</td>
<td>524088</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com">Howard_Leecester@btinternet.com</a></td>
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