



THE OTFORD SOCIETY

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 272974

The Otford Society has been relaunched!

There's a new team of trustees, and a fresh commitment to improving the quality of life in our lovely village...

... so who are we, and what do we do?

The Society was formed in 1973 to represent village interests during the planning of the M26. It then went on to support and lead a great many other village projects. These include the restoration of the village pond and St Bartholomew's tower; refurbishing and equipping two children's playgrounds; installing the signs to enforce speed limits; providing First Aid defibrillators at key locations in and around the village; overseeing the execution of our village Millennium Mosaic which charts the village's long history; planting a 'heritage orchard' of six historically pertinent apple trees in Palace Field; installing the Otford Palace interpretation boards and of course supporting the whole Otford Heritage Trail throughout the village.

Who belongs to the Society?

For the next year, all households in Otford will automatically be members of the Society, free of charge. We'll work in tandem with the Otford Parish Council. The Otford Road Friends who play such a key part at this time to support neighbours during the coronavirus pandemic will also come under our umbrella. We are building strong links with the Village Fete Committee, with the churches, and with Otford's many clubs and societies. At this difficult time, we are particularly keen to publicise and provide practical support to local businesses and shops.





Who runs the Society?

Six trustees were elected at our first meeting in August 2020. The officers are:
Rod Shelton *Chairman*, Jeff Lee *Vice Chairman*, Simon Featherstone *Acting Treasurer*.

We hope that others will feel able to join our committee so that we can draw on a wide pool of talent and knowledge to carry forward new projects.

How will you know what the Society is doing?

A quarterly printed newsletter will be distributed to every household, and we are currently working on updating our website (www.otfordsociety.org.uk) and our profiles on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We are already posting news on the Otford Village Hub Facebook page. We really need fresh ideas and feedback from the community; if there are things you'd like to see in Otford, or issues you are particularly concerned about, please email us at enquiries@otfordsociety.org.uk.

We have already received some great suggestions and over the coming months will be actively looking at how these can be implemented. The pandemic is creating challenges for many in our village, and the Society is already standing behind local initiatives to support children on free school meals. We are also working on a special Christmas look to the village which we hope will attract visitors to our local businesses, coronavirus permitting!

The Otford Society can help make a real difference to our lives. We will be here to represent your views on wider matters which could affect our future: the new Otford traffic scheme, Government proposals to change planning regulations which would affect us greatly, and the effects of plans being proposed by our close neighbour, Sevenoaks Town. We are here for you. We may be a small community but we have a **BIG** voice.

