



The Otford Society NewsLetter

Registered with the Civic Trust
Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England
and the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies

www.otford.info/otfordsociety

JUNE 2011

Summer Garden Party

On

Saturday July 2 2011

at

Broughton Manor, High St Otford

By kind permission of Carol & Dennis Brown

6.00pm - 8.00pm



Tickets £6.00

Carol Griffiths

01959 523140

THE PLAN REVEALED

The long awaited Parish Plan is now available. I quote from the first page – ‘A community is defined by shared experiences and by common interests. We who live in the parish of Otford are justly proud of our community and our village’. So states the opening of the ‘foreword’ to the Parish Plan.

Congratulations to all those residents who have had a hand in this project, through to its final presentation. Everything about it is first class; it is concise, easy to read, full of information about Otford and adorned with excellent photographs in super colour. We are fortunate indeed to have the skills of so many residents who have been ready to give their free time in producing this document. Particular mention and thanks to Rod Shelton, who was the chairman of the Steering Group, for seeing this project through its first stages to the final publication. The second part of the Plan – The Action Plan – is available on line and is also available from the Parish Office in book form. I would encourage all Society members to buy a copy of Part 1, which is reasonably priced at £3.50.

This year the Queen distributed the Royal Maundy money in Westminster Abbey. It was a pleasure to see some Otford residents receiving her Majesty’s gift on a lovely spring morning

The Plan revealed (cont)

Nobby Brackett and Margaret McKendrick from Otford, along with Sylvia Grafton from Sevenoaks, were the honoured recipients. A week later, Nobby and the two ladies exhibited their coins at a reception in the Church Hall along with photographs of them with the Queen. Nobby, in the short speech, announced that when the time came, he would leave his coins to St Bartholomew's Church, either as an exhibit or to be sold for its value. Well done Nobby, a very generous and thoughtful gesture.

This year the Civic Service was held on 15 May. There was a much larger attendance than last year. It was good to see the younger members of the village well represented, as well as representatives of the three W.I.'s, the Allotment Association, the Historical Society, the Gardener's and the Otford Society. The vicar, in his address, was able to make a fascinating link between the concepts of a happy and thriving community thousands of years ago and the ideas for a happy community as revealed in the Parish Plan. It would seem that for a happy and healthy community the basic requirements will always remain the same, no matter the historical setting.

After the Civic Service we were able to meet our new Parish Council Chairman, John Edwards -Winner. In the challenging times we are in at present, we wish our new Chairman every success, and we hope the Otford Society will be supportive whenever possible.

The Otford Society was at the Village Fete on 30 May and manned the Wheel of Fortune. We also had copies of the Parish Plan for sale. It was a lovely sunny day with approximately 6,500 – 7,500 people coming through the gates, which is about 1,000 more than last year!

Our annual Garden Party will be held on 2 July at Broughton Manor. As with the Fete, the weather is a major factor in determining the success of the event. Make sure you purchase your ticket from Carol Griffiths, our secretary, in good time.

Since I began my Chairman's report, I have received the sad news that Brian Rainer has passed away after a short illness. Brian had many gifts and was always keen to share them with other people. He and Janet made a great contribution to the village, mainly through Brian's ministry in St Bartholomew's Church. Their mutual support of one another has been an example to us all. We send our condolences to Janet at this sad time.

So, into summer, unless we consider that it has already arrived!

A.V Wiltshire
Chairman

Annual Garden Party

Our Annual Garden Party will be held on Saturday 2 July from 6.00pm – 8.00pm in the gardens of Broughton Manor, as last year, and our thanks go to Carol and Dennis Brown for their hospitality.

There will be a raffle as in previous years – all proceeds to go to the Otford Benevolent Fund. A finger buffet will be provided this year by the Otford Evening W.I.

Tickets will be available, in advance, (£6 per person) from our Secretary, Carol Griffiths, on 01959 523140. Children are welcome (under 5 years free). Each child will be given a small gift on arrival.

Please bear in mind that adults are responsible for children with them and must keep them under close supervision at all times. Broughton Manor has beautiful gardens and an enchanting lake, with many ducks and other wild fowl on and around it, but the lake is a potential danger spot, hence the need for a watchful eye at all times so that children are not allowed to go near it on their own.

As there are not many seats at Broughton Manor, please could you bring a garden chair with you, if possible. Let us hope for a fine evening and a good attendance – and please don't forget to bring your tickets!

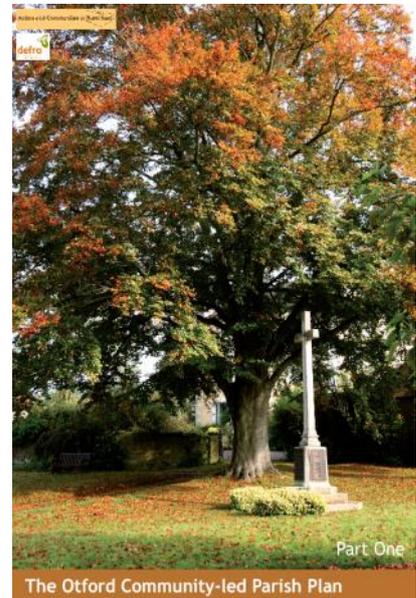
“Result - Happiness!”

We at last have our Parish Plan and Otford Society members were amongst the first to receive their pre-ordered copies. Copies were also sent to all our Parish Councillors, our two District Councillors and to Nick Chard, our County Councillor. We also dispatched a copy to the Hon. Michael Fallon who sent a very enthusiastic response saying: *“It is an excellent map for the next ten years. And added, “I hope that the District Council will take account of the plan in all its decisions from now on.”*

We will have to wait until the end of the year before the Localism Bill is passed through the House. Only at that point will we know the conditions which may ensure that the views of our parish are recognised by SDC and included within future planning on a District level. Meanwhile, we need to get on with tackling some of the tasks we have set ourselves.

At the outset, the Otford Society made a generous donation which contributed to the funding of the preparation of the plan. For that, the members of the steering group again thank you. The steering group have now submitted their full accounts to the Parish Council and to DEFRA for their scrutiny. Including the advance sale of some of the plans, we achieved a final credit balance of exactly £1 which as Mr. Micawber would say – “Result Happiness”. So let’s hope his words continue to ring true as our community begins taking the many projects forward.

Rod Shelton



21 April 2011

A Day to Remember !

A very proud Mary and Nobby Brackett
with his certificate and his Maundy Money

Men at Work !



Filling the basement with
hard core.

Work has begun on St Bartholomew’s Church tower - at last ! The builders have knocked down the old boiler room and filled in the old coal cellar with hardcore. They have also cleared and levelled the small area of flowers and grass at the base of the tower.

All the old render will be taken off the tower and the fabric repaired, inside and out. Next year, when the tower structure has had a chance to dry out, an appropriate lime render will be applied.



Look out ! Men working
above on tower !

Last Year's Unexpected Guests Return !

You may recall that last year two of our members had some unexpected visitors, who caused quite a lot of interest. Well, they have returned again this year. They are, of course, our welcome friends, Mr and Mrs Duck.

This year Mrs Duck declined the flower basket that she used for her nest last year, and made her nest under a shrub. She obviously like this home much better as she produced 10 ducklings ! And here are some pictures to prove it.

Out and about with Mum, inspecting the garden.



Then doing some exploring on our own.

What's that behind there ?



And after all that excitement exploring all around the garden and behind the sack, we'll have a quiet sit and snooze with Mum in the dappled sunshine.

Mr and Mrs Duck and their family have now moved on to larger premises - the field beside the Sevenoaks Road and the pond.

We all have to upsize with a growing family !



The Membership Secretary's Report - Summer 2011

Collection of Membership Subscriptions is going well and we have had a number of new members recruited so far. Also a number of Gift Aid forms have been submitted.

I would encourage you to complete and return these forms, if you have not already done so, as the extra income may help us to keep the subscriptions at their present level for the foreseeable future.

Please try to encourage your neighbours and friends to join the Society, especially new residents moving into the area. It is important to maintain our high level of support in the village, which adds weight to any arguments we may put to the local authorities on developments affecting our environment.

Vincent Tilley
Membership Secretary 01959-522491

More Men at Work !

Eagle-eyed observers will have noticed 'goings-on' at the Palace Tower in Palace field. Men with hard hats, scaffolding, ladders and shouts of 'look out below' !

What was happening ?

The scaffolding was needed to enable our two trusty maintenance men, Brian and Norman, to access the roof of the tower and clear all the small trees, shrubs and various other vegetation that had accumulated over many years. This unusual occurrence was recorded for posterity and here are some photos, including views from the top of the tower, which is not usually accessible and therefore these pictures are quite special.



The Royal Wedding Street Party

I'm sure we all enjoyed watching the Royal Wedding last month. There were some street parties in the village to celebrate the occasion. One party was held in the Butts.



A large selection of food with a delicious cake suitably decorated and a glass of wine to toast the happy couple. And a bouncy castle for the children



Lots of flag waving by the children and then a very enthusiastic game of street cricket enjoyed by everyone especially the fathers !



Otford Fete



The Otford Village Fete was a resounding success again this year, with more than 7,000 people joining in the fun. It was a lovely sunny day, with a breeze - perfect fete weather. The theme this year was 'A Circus'.



Children and adults alike were fascinated and entertained by the clowns and their juggling, wire walking and their circus act.

The vicar with the four winners of the Primary School Road Safety Poster Competition, with their winning entries.

The posters will be displayed around the village, on the notice boards and in the school. The competition was sponsored by the Otford Society



'Now which one shall I choose?'



'Waiting for the judge' - at the very popular dog show



Little girls enjoying dancing with the Morris Dancers

The Army Cadets making sure that this young man was well and truly camouflaged!



Our Willow Trees on the Pond

A tree consultant recently visited the village to assess the condition of the Willow Trees on the pond.

The tree nearest the church has a fungus on a small area of the bark, but it is not affecting the condition of the tree. The tree by the duck house has, unfortunately, some signs of decay. This means that it will have to be reduced by about half, preferably later this year, to prolong its life and a further reduction may be required in the future. The consultant suggested that another Willow should be planted this year, so that it will be a respectable size by the time one of the two trees needs to be removed.

This means that hopefully there will always be two Willow trees on our pond.

HOSPICE OF HOPE



Hope In Summer The Sackville Singers will be celebrating the season with strawberries, cream tea and songs in a summery mood.

Sunday 19th June at Bessels Green Baptist Church, Sevenoaks at 4pm.

Cost : £12 per ticket or family ticket for £25

Contact Wendy 01959 525110 or wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk

hospicesofhope
making every day count

Quiz Night Friday 15 July at the Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop at 7.30pm

Be challenged by our Quiz Master whilst enjoying a light supper.

Cost : £12 per ticket Contact Wendy 01959 525110 or wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Ya-hoo Wild West Holiday Club

Primary school children are invited to a fun day of games, craft, songs and activities on Monday 1 August. 9.45am – 4pm at Otford Methodist Church Cost £5 per child including a picnic lunch.

More details and to book contact Amanda on 01959 522221

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 10 September	Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Bike Ride
Sunday 2 October	Harvest Festival St Bartholomew's Church
Thursday 20 October	Otford Society Autumn Meeting 8pm Otford Village Memorial Hall
Thursday 19 April 2012	Otford Society AGM 8pm Otford Village Memorial Hall
Thursday 18 October 2012	Otford Society Autumn Meeting 8pm Otford Village Memorial Hall

IN MEMORIAM

John Richard Masson 1934 – 2011

All those who knew John Masson will be saddened to learn of his death.

He was a Kent man, born in Gillingham and brought up in Greenwich where he met his future wife Christine.

He gained a degree in Chemical Engineering and Chemistry at University College and like many young men of his age he was then called into the army for 2 years of National Service. It was during this time that he and Christine were married.

His work with Shell took the young couple to Cheshire where their two daughters were born, before moving to Otford in 1965.

A quiet, shy man with an interest in books, reading or music, he had a dry and ready sense of humour. He was a keen cricket fan (Kent, of course) and he followed football – mainly the variable fortunes of Charlton Athletic (naturally).

Christine's interest in the theatre led him to follow her into the W.I. drama group and Otford Players, where he trod the boards with some memorable performances.

John had a wide knowledge and a memory for facts of every kind, which kept him in demand on Quiz nights. With John on the team success was pretty well guaranteed.

The many friends who crowded the Parish Church on 19 May for his memorial service, were witness to the many happy years he had spent in Otford.

K. Gunderson

Subscription Rates

Senior Citizen	£2
Senior Citizen (Couple)	£3
Adult (Single)	£4
Adult (Couple)	£5

Next Otford Society Newsletter – October 2011

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