

# Otford Parish Council December Newsletter 2002

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## Village of the Year 2002

Congratulations to Sutton in Cambridgeshire overall winner of The Village of the Year 2002.

The Millennium Hotel, Grosvenor Square was a wonderful setting for the ceremony. The Princess Royal appeared to thoroughly enjoy the lunch and her speech was outstanding, no notes at all. She is genuinely interested in protecting the Rural Communities of the country. The sponsors Calor Gas and the film crew were delighted to see us again and the whole occasion was very jolly indeed. Parish Cllr Elizabeth Ward and her husband Cliff were delighted and honoured to receive the large cast iron plaque as Regional winners for South and South East England and a cheque for £1500 on behalf of the village.

Once again a big **THANK YOU** to everyone for the commitment to the village entry.

You are all invited to a Reception in the Village Hall on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December** between 2pm to 5pm to see the presentation and video presented to the judges. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

## Tree of Light

Labels to write on your dedication will be available at the reception in the village hall on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December** also in the Parish Office up until Christmas.

## Village Design Statement

It is intended to produce a Village Design Statement for Otford to help preserve our village character and setting. This is becoming increasingly important as more houses are altered, replaced or built. Planners, developers and designers take account of such statements after they have been adopted by the District Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance, and they can then influence planning decisions. The statements must involve all residents, not just the Parish Council, and representatives from a number of village organisations are being asked to form a group to prepare a statement. Other villages have found that it takes about two years to assemble all the information necessary and agree on what is desirable for the design of new developments (statements vary between eight and twenty eight pages in length). It is

intended that a draft will be available for all residents to see and comment on before it is submitted to the District Council. If you or your organisation would like to be involved in the preparation, please contact the Parish office. Some examples of Village Design Statements from other villages throughout the country are at present available in the office for inspection.

## Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with PC Jackie Allen will take Place at School House on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January** between 10am and 12 noon.

## Traffic Calming

The report is now back from Babbie and it is hoped that the plans for the Traffic Calming Scheme will be available for display at the Reception on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>** and you will have the chance to make your comments known.

## Roadworks

The Parish Council still has no information on when work on the station crossing island or the Darent River bridge replacement will be started. The information will be given to the Council and put in the newsletter, or directly communicated to those most affected, when it is received. Both County and District Councils are well aware of the desirability of making the bridge and any traffic calming work concurrent, and the Parish Council will do all it can to ensure the inevitable problems are minimised. This is part of a rolling programme by the County Council for all bridges in Kent

## Guide Christmas Post Box

The Christmas Guide Post Box is still available in Otford Library until **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**, during opening hours. Stamps are 15p. The Christmas cards will be delivered in the village of Otford by the **21/22<sup>nd</sup> December**.

## Support your shops in Otford

We are very fortunate in having such a number and variety of shops, pubs and restaurants in our village, Our local traders rely on your support especially at Christmas, so please shop and eat in Otford as much as you can.

## Videos

All these videos are available from School House and the Heritage Centre at the weekend.

- ✓ Otford's Chronicle of Millennium Events - £10
- ✓ Scale Model of the Solar System - £10
- ✓ The Village Mosaic - £10
- ✓ The Bells of St Bartholomew's - £10
- ✓ Reprint of The Kentish Village of Otford (Recollections of events during 1994) - £10
- ✓ Otford Down Under - £6
- ✓ Otford Village Sign - £6

- ✓ A Village in Kent with a Pond (a compilation of the Village of the Year competition, discovery of the Saxon Urn in The Charne and Jubilee and TV footage) - £6

### Winter Walk

There will be a walk through Knole Park on New Years Day at 11am to raise funds for the work of the Sevenoaks and District Volunteer Bureau. Please contact Jennifer Medd on 01732 743900 for information and entry forms.

### Citizens Advice Bureau

It's all change again with the welfare benefit system! Next year, Working Families Tax Credits and the Children's Tax Credit will stop, and there will be Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit instead.

§ Child Tax Credit is for families with children  
 § Working Tax Credit is to help working people on low incomes, including workers with disabilities.

§ Both these two new Credits will be based on the annual income of the claimants. Capital is ignored.

§ Working Tax Credit (less any child care) – will be paid through the wage packet. Self employed people will have it paid direct to their bank account.

§ Child Tax Credit (plus any child care) – will be paid to the main carer – ideally through a bank account.

§ Child Benefit will continue to be paid in addition to Child Tax Credit.

§ It will be vital to keep all records and receipts to do with income.

To find out more contact the trained volunteer advisers at The Library, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HW. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri (Closed Wednesday)

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web page : [www.7oakscab@dial.pipex.com](http://www.7oakscab@dial.pipex.com)

An adviser from CAB is at the Otford Parish Council office on the 1st Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12 noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

### Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons Women's Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings which take place at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall and a list of next months speakers are as follows: -

#### January

8<sup>th</sup> – Ian Lambert – *Israel : Past and Present*

15<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Darby – *Capture the Action!*

22<sup>nd</sup> – Rod Barron – *Antique Maps*

29<sup>th</sup> – Brenda Pearson- *European Dance*

### Holiday Refuse Collections

<u>Normal Collection Day</u>	<u>Rescheduled Day</u>
Weds 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> December
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> December	Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> December
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> December	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> January
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> December	No change
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> December	No change
Weds 1 <sup>st</sup> January	Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> January
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> January

### Travel Arrangements

Public Transport Traveline (0870 608 2608)

#### Bus

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - Normal

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – No Service

Dec 26<sup>th</sup> – No Service

Dec 27<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Service

Dec 28<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Service

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> – No Service

Dec 30<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Service

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> – Saturday Service

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – No Service

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – Normal Service

#### Train (Connex 0870 603 0405)

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Normal Service

But last Blackfriars to Otford 21.43

Victoria to Otford 21.11

Otford to Victoria 21.54

Otford to Blackfriars 21.41

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – No Service

Dec 26<sup>th</sup> – No Service Otford

But hourly service Sevenoaks to Charing X and Ashford

Dec 27<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Service

Isolated time alterations

Dec 28<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Service

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Service

Dec 30<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Service

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> – Saturday Service

30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Extra semi fast to Blackfriars at 07.37 returning at 17.30hrs

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday Service

Extra Charing X to Sevenoaks 00.55 arrives 01.29

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – Normal Service

*The Chairman, Parish Councillors, Clerk and Assistant Clerk wish you all a very happy, restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year.*

