

# Otford Parish Council February Newsletter 2003 No 109

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## Decision on Traffic Calming in Otford

Otford residents were given the opportunity, in School House, over a period of forty hours to view and seek information on a proposed traffic calming scheme for the High Street. Slips were available to record wishes and comments. (In addition a resident distributed his opinions with a slip for wishes to be recorded.)

All slips were checked against the electoral register and counted, and approximately a third of residents expressed opinions, of these 90% were against the scheme. At a special meeting of the Parish Council, on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January attended by the District and County traffic engineers, the council voted by two to one against the scheme and unanimously for further consultations with the engineers. (A detailed breakdown is available from Parish Office)

The finance was provided by the government to the county council for 'traffic calming', because it is known – from many such schemes – that reduction of average speed to about 20mph reduces the serious injury and death toll by about half. The Sevenoaks District was this year allocated money for two schemes, and three villages were considered suitable, Otford being one of the first. Many possibilities were considered for this reduction. Chicanes and build-outs sometimes achieve this aim but did not do so in Otford, raised sections of road always reduce average speed and hence were planned.

Of some other ideas suggested by residents: traffic lights and flashing signs do not cause sufficient reduction in speeds to reduce deaths and serious injuries significantly and would not achieve the result for which the money was provided. Road narrowing would produce queuing, block accesses and cause problems for bus and emergency vehicles. The money allocated for the scheme will therefore go elsewhere.

However, the Highways Department also allocated money for road surfacing in the High Street this year, and work is anticipated in the spring. There is now insufficient time for any other traffic control measures to be incorporated in this work (the plans for traffic cushions and other features in the traffic calming scheme took

over seven months to prepare because of the workload). All are aware of the desirability of combining this work with the road closure for the Millstream Bridge replacement.

The Parish Council and highway engineers will meet to consider what other measures could in future be taken to meet the concerns of those who regularly walk in this part of Otford, and progress will be reported in future newsletters.

The Parish Council are in discussion with Arriva buses and SDC to endeavour to organise suitable bus diversions.

N.B. The plan for a traffic island in Station Road is prepared, and money allocated for work this year.

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So Otford has decided against the Traffic Calming Scheme and all its humps. Only a disappointing 30% of the village voted, despite all the 40 hours that the exhibition was open – mornings, afternoons, evenings and weekends. Surely no one could say that they couldn't get into the Heritage Centre at some time in those 40 hours.

### So what happens now?

The Parish Council will hold further meetings with KCC and SDC, using the pages of suggestions left in the Centre by those who did attend or wrote/ emailed to the Council.

### What can we all do in the meantime?

Many parishioners have hedges, shrubs, banks, which with a degree of trimming could improve some sight-lines enormously. If you want to talk about it or need help, please ring the Parish Office 9am to 12 noon most weekdays and speak to Barbara or Sue.

All drivers can show the rest of the county how marvellous we are and stick rigidly to speed limits within the parish boundaries. It will only take the person behind another minute or two!

## Car Park Remarking

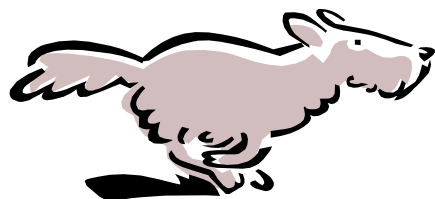
The Village Car Parking bays are due to be remarked on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2003. Parts of the car park will obviously be roped off while this is done. Please do not park in areas while they are being done and please move any vehicles parked overnight by 8am in the morning. We know this will be inconvenient but it will only be for a couple of days. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Dog Fouling

Despite many pleas to dog walkers to clear up their pet's deposits on our public recreation grounds, it is becoming an even greater problem – and a serious health hazard. (A football match had to be called off because of deposits left on the pitch – the referee would not start the game) Of course, failure to clear up is an offence: in an adjoining village a thoughtless dog walker was convicted simply because another resident

reported the matter to the police and was prepared to give evidence. Perhaps it needs such a public – spirited act by an Otford resident to bring home to the small minority of dog walkers the error of their ways

Always take a plastic bag with you when you go for a walk and use it please. Bags can be put in ordinary waste bins but there are dog bins on the Recreation Ground. Hale Lane and Telston Park (Plastic bags are available from the parish office when open) Remember that under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 the law says that all dog owners **must** clean up after their dog fouls in a public place. If you don't you risk having to pay a fine of up to a maximum of £1,000 or a fixed penalty of £25. Dog wardens do patrol the area.



### 'The Best of Times'

This production takes place in Otford Village Hall on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 / concessions £4 or £3 children from the Parish Office (mornings 8.30-12.30 or phone 524808)

- ✓ Time of Our Lives Music Theatre present a Retro Musical Comedy Revue *'The Best of Times & The Worst of Times'*
- ✓ Remembering the 1950s to the 1980s: Rationing, Flower Power, the 3 Day Week, 'Loadsamoney' and more.
- ✓ A Hilarious mix of Pop, Dance, Musical Theatre, Stand-Up Comedy and Sketches.

'A brilliant evening of sheer entertainment' – *The Kent Messenger*

'A young company of versatile performers' – *The Stage newspaper*.

Yet another Applause production – they are all good so book up soon.

### The Otford Players

The Otford Players next production takes place on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the Otford Memorial Hall. It will be a performance of *'Blythe Spirit'* by Noel Coward. Directed by Chris Masson. The play is one of Noel Coward's delightful comedies. Charles Condomine's first wife is 'recalled' through a séance and returns to plague Charles and his second wife in spite of Madame Arcanti's efforts as a medium to expel her. The dialogue is full of Coward humour and the plot light and diverting.

The performances start at 8pm and the tickets are £4 (Thursday) and £5 (Friday & Saturday) which includes a programme and refreshments.

Contact the Box office for tickets on 01959 523017

### Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with PC Jackie Allen will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March between 10am and 12 noon in School House.

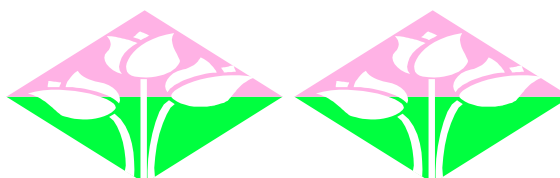
### Otford & District Historical Society

The February meeting takes place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm in the Village Hall when the talk by Julia Page will be on *Britain v Napoleon: The Waiting Years 1805 – 8*. Membership is only £3 per year and non-members are always welcome to each talk for £1.

### Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club are holding a Film Show on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2003 at the Memorial Hall beginning at 8pm. (Box office open at 7.45pm). It will feature a wide variety of films from members of the Kemsing Video Group and the Orpington Video and Film Makers Club. These will include comedies, dramas, documentaries, and animation, many of them depicting local events and scenery. All the films will have been made by local people. Ice cream will be served by a genuine Usherette in the interval free of charge and there will also be a raffle. Get there early to avoid the queue! Why not go along and have a great night out at the movies. Guests will be charged £3 but members are free as usual (its cheaper to join). If you have any queries, contact the Secretary on 01732 – 761359.

### Otford Gardeners' Society



The next talk at the Otford Gardeners' Society meeting will take place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March starting at 8pm in the Otford Memorial Hall when Les Hodgkiss will give an illustrated and practical talk on *'Growing and Showing Pelargoniums'* Admission is 50p (under 16's free) and includes refreshments.

### Table Top Sale

This event in aid of Save the Children is taking place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February in Otford Methodist Hall from 10am to 1pm. Entrance will be 50p, refreshments available.

If you are interested in booking a table to have a clear out after Christmas and sell all those unwanted bits and bobs please contact Jenny Cousins on 01959 523822.

### 'Nutrition for Health'

The National Council of Women of Great Britain (Sevenoaks Branch) invite you to a talk by Professor David P Richardson BSc, MSc, PhD,

FIFST, FRSM, Rnutr on 'Nutrition for health, vitality and longevity', on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 2.00pm in the Club Room of the Memorial Hall. Tickets £3 to include Tea and biscuits. Doors open at 1.45pm. Contact the Secretary on 01732 458658

### Citizens Advice Bureau

Sevenoaks CAB aims to provide information to members of the public so that they understand their rights and responsibilities. And – of equal importance - the CAB seeks to influence systems and services, both locally and nationally, by using the experience of individuals to change things for the benefit of others, through its Social Policy work. During 2002, nearly 200 such experiences have been identified in Sevenoaks and sent through to the national Citizens Advice. Mis-selling of utilities has been a major problem for Sevenoaks clients as has the shortage of local NHS dentists. Administration of welfare benefits forms the largest problem group, whilst consumer and employment rights continue to raise concerns. Nationally, Citizens Advice published an important report on the huge impact made through the introduction of competition in the fuel industry and taken an active role in trying to improve rights around doorstep selling. Locally CAB have challenged the utility companies on behalf of clients, written to the MP with concerns and raised the lack of NHS dentists with the Primary Care Trust.

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 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday 10am and 1pm appointments for form filling

( Tel No : 01732 - 454443

( Fax No : 01732 - 463164

( e-mail : [7oakscab@dial.pipex.com](mailto:7oakscab@dial.pipex.com)

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 4<sup>th</sup> March.

### 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 two months speakers are as follows: -

#### February

19<sup>th</sup> – Elizabeth Waters – *Encounters Abroad*

26<sup>th</sup> – Cathryn Berry – *A student in South Africa*

#### March

5<sup>th</sup> – Janet Hunter – Homeopathy for Health

7<sup>th</sup> – Women's Day of Prayer (At RC Church)

Speaker: Angela Painter.

12<sup>th</sup> – Jean McLachlan Clark – *Riding for the Disabled*

19<sup>th</sup> – Joy Saynor – *History of Shoreham*

26<sup>th</sup> – Doris Hay – *Bees in the Bible*

### Saturday Freighter Service

The Dates for 2003/04 are as follows:

Tudor Drive: 1.15pm – 1.45pm

Bubblestone Road: 2.00pm – 2.30pm

Collection Days: 12<sup>th</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2004, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

Hale Lane near pavilion: 12 noon – 12.45pm

The Charne: 1.00pm – 1.30pm

Collection Days: 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 20<sup>th</sup> December, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2004, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

### Otford Lawn Tennis Club

The AGM of Otford Lawn Tennis Club will take place in the Hope Room of Otford Village Hall on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.45pm.

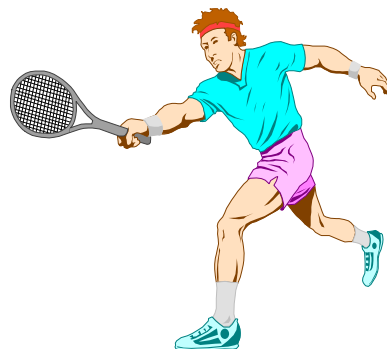
The Tennis Club is at present preparing the 2003 Programme and new members are always welcome.

The first event of the summer season is an Open Mixed Doubles Charity Tournament on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am. The £5 entrance includes a Ploughman's lunch, and for this event the Tennis Club wish to extend an invitation to anyone who enjoys playing tennis, to take part. This would also be a good opportunity to see the club facilities and to meet some of the members.

The Club has three excellent hard courts on the far side of the Recreation ground, which adjoins the village car park in the High Street.

Subscriptions are £65 per year for seniors, £32 for juniors, (to include coaching on a Monday evening), and there are reductions for students and those over 16 in full time education.

There is also a thriving Mini Tennis section for younger children from the age of four to eight.



For details of the Junior Section (aged 9-16) and Mini Tennis please ring Mrs Mary Evans on tel no 01959 523701 or email [mary.a.evans@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.a.evans@btinternet.com).

To join in with the Charity Tournament on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, and for all further enquiries please ring the Secretary, Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736 or e mail: [joyce.sydney@btinternet.com](mailto:joyce.sydney@btinternet.com)

## Parcels of Love



St Bartholomew's Church are once again making up parcels (shoe boxes) full of goodies to send to less fortunate people in Yugoslavia. If you would like to fill a shoe box (available from back of the church with list of desired contents) and return then back to the church in the next couple of weeks it would be very much appreciated. Volunteers from Oak Hall will then transport them at the beginning of March. It is understood that the boxes are always eagerly awaited.

### Thank you

Winifred Ottway has written in and she would like to "Thank the people who came to my assistance when I had my accident in Otford High Street due to a large lorry parked on the pavement. I received a broken wrist and lots of bruises. But those who helped me and called an ambulance were so kind. The ambulance arrived within 5 minutes and I had wonderful treatment".

### Invicta Lifeline

'Invicta Lifeline' is owned by Tonbridge & Malling Housing Association, a not-for-profit organisation based in Borough Green.

'Lifeline' is an alarm system that you control by pressing a button on either the alarm telephone or a conveniently sized pendant that you can carry around with you. When you press the button, you are automatically put through to a highly trained and friendly staff at the Central Control. They are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year- so your call will always be answered.

Otford Parish Council are anxious for more of its elderly residents to be connected and are working on a special offer to reduce the cost of installation. More information to follow next month – in the meantime, do call into the Parish Office for a booklet.

### Santa

If you are a member of the National Trust you may become a member of Santa (Sevenoaks Area National Trust Association) by paying a small additional subscription.

**What do you get?** – The opportunity of meeting with others of like mind at twice monthly talks in the winter and organised visits to National Trust and other interesting properties in the summer.

**Why?** – Because the travelling arrangements are taken care of...no need to use your own car... and you see places further afield which you may not go to under your own steam! Because it is fairly priced for a pleasant day out and helps to raise funds for the National Trust.

**How?** – Phone Beryl Cook on 01732 454201 and ask for details to be sent to you.

### Where are you?

We have received a request from Freddie (Euro Car Parks) who is trying to contact a **John Whitworth** who he knows lives in Otford but does not know where. If you read this Mr Whitworth can you please contact him on 0208 466 5282

### Planning

The following applications were considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in February. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk or the Strategic Services Director, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

#### New applications

SE/02/00935 45 Pilgrims Way West

Extensions to existing house

SE/02/00059 Block 2 Unit A Vestry Estate  
Storage display, hire and sale of garden  
marquees, camping and leisure goods

#### Results received

SE/02/02259 21 Telston Lane

Erection of a first floor side extension, alteration from hipped roof to gable end, rear dormers and formation of attic accommodation

*Allowed*

SE/02/02267 Hillview Shoreham Road

Replacement dwelling with integral double garage. As amended by plans received 13.11.02.

*Allowed*

SE/02/02640 52B Pilgrims Way East

Two storey extension to side consisting of double garage, study with bedrooms over. Also single storey side extension consisting of utility room.

*Refused*

SE/02/02762 25 Broughton Road

Part two and part one storey extension to rear

*Allowed*

SE/02/02794 52A Pilgrims Way East

Demolish existing bungalow and erect new dwelling

*Allowed*

#### Planning Appeal

SE/00/02424 Elmwood, Tudor Crescent

Demolition and re-development of two dwelling houses two storey high with roof space over. As amended by plans received 01.03.01.

Further correspondence received 24.10.01  
(Appeal to be by written representations)

