Otford Parish Council
April Newsletter 2013
No 222

Kent and South & South East England Village of the Year 2002

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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 15th April and 13th May at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall. Contact details of Councillors can be found on the website and at the back of this newsletter.

Annual Assembly

This is notification for the Annual Assembly of the Electors of the Parish, more commonly called the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held, in the Club Room of the Village Hall on Monday 20th May at 7pm for refreshments before a 7.30pm start. This is your chance to ask questions about what is happening in the village and to hear reports from village organisations so please attend if you can.

Otford Village Fete

The fete committee has a new Treasurer – Peter Jakob and a new Deputy Treasurer – Alan Metcalfe. As a result, the committee met and started work on this year’s event, which will have the theme – ‘Kent - Garden of England’. As we have such a unique range of produce available in our beautiful county we are proposing to bring a new selection of stallholders who will be showcasing the vast array of home-grown items for you to enjoy. We will, of course, still have our Dog Show run by Elands Veterinary Clinic. Don’t forget you will need to ensure that you arrive early to register for this very popular event. In addition we will have live music including our own “Elvis” and “Frank Sinatra” tribute singers as well as local bands organized by Mark Fenge. Our website – otford.info/villagefete – will be updated regularly and more information will appear in future issues of the Parish Newsletter.

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.
Grand Opening Hale Lane Play Area

Come and celebrate the Grand Opening of the new Hale Lane Play area which will take place on **Saturday 6th April** from 10.30am. This is an event for all Children, Parents, Grandparent, Relatives, Friends and Parishioners. There will also be a special guest appearance by 'Silly Billy' Don't miss it.

Family Fun Afternoon

There will be a family fun afternoon organised by Sevenoaks District Council and Voluntary Action within Kent on Otford Recreation Ground (if wet in Village Hall) on **Monday 8th April** between 1pm and 4.30pm. Do go along.

Thankyou

After a request by Otford Sports Association for a mower to be used by Otford United Football Club they would like to say a thank you to Denise Barrett and Marion Wills for offering theirs.

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting of the winter programme will take place on **Wednesday 17th April** in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm when Nick Fothergill will be talking about ‘Chatham Dockyard and its Ships.’ Membership is £6 a year and visitors are welcome at £2 per meeting.

Otford Gardeners’ Society

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 2nd April** at 8pm when Martin Pett (former head gardener at London Zoo) and Jean Griffin (BBC Radio Kent Sunday Gardening) will be answering ‘Gardeners’ Questions’. The evening is arranged in conjunction with Perennial, Gardeners’ Royal Benevolent Society. Admission which includes refreshments is £1 for visitors.

Otford Library

Don’t miss the Free Craft Activity Session in Otford Library on **Saturday 20th April** from 10am to 12 noon. To ensure a place please book on 01959 522488. Go along and have some fun. Remember please use your library.

Other regular free events include:

- Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time – Monday mornings 11am to 11.30am
- Story Time - Term time only - Tuesdays 2.15pm – 2.45pm
- Talk Time – Every Monday 11.30am to 12.30pm

Otford-Neufchatel-Hardelot Twinning Association

The next social gathering will be on **Monday 8th April** from 7.45pm in the Woodman Pub, with drinks at your own expense. Do join us, perhaps bringing friends or neighbours and we will update you on our future plans for 2013. The subscription for the year is only £2 per adult and £5 per family. Please contact the Parish Office for further details.
Otford Methodist Church

There will be a Spring Arts & Crafts Fayre in aid of the Church Building Fund on **Saturday 6th April**. Tables will be for hire in the main Hall for the sale of Quality ‘home produced’ arts and crafts items. There will also be stalls selling cakes and plants, together with light refreshments in the café area (10% of proceeds will go to the Sevenoaks Loaves and Fishes project). For more details about the hire of tables please contact Abigail Bicheno on 01959 525388 or email abigailbicheno@yahoo.com.

If you are able to donate cakes and plants for sale or help with refreshments on the day please contact Rosemary Pattullo on 01959 524914 or e-mail rsapattullo@yahoo.co.uk

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 take place on **18th April** when there will be ‘Nia Dancing with Emma Golds’. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them. Contact Julie Stevens on 01732 458732 for more details

Otford Evening WI

There will be a fun Musical Evening on **Thursday 11th April** to celebrate the Annual Birthday meeting. There will be a buffet meal with wine during the evening. It commences at 7pm for 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall. For more information please contact Sandra Thomas on 0208 402 4634.

Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club will be having a Sparkling Wine Tasting in the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 8pm on **Wednesday 24th April** which will include information on different methods of making sparkling wine. Everyone will have the chance to taste sparkling wines from Spain, France, Australia and Italy and to choose which they prefer. This will be free for members and £6 for guests, cheese and biscuits will be provided but prior booking is essential. Please contact the Secretary Olive Cherry on 01732 458240 to reserve your place.

Wanted - The Heritage Centre needs YOUR help!!

We are trying to put together a Home Entertainment/Children’s Corner in the Centre, and would like any donations of old videos/children’s books, toys, old computer equipment/games etc, anything from Years Gone By, to add to the Corner please.

If you have any artefacts that you would be prepared to lend us, but don’t want to donate, then we can put them under lock and key, otherwise, donations would be most gratefully accepted for our Display. Anything up to the year 2000 would be ideal.

So, think of us when you do your Spring Clean and make us into Very Happy Easter Bunnies!!

We are trying to create Home Entertainment in Olde Otford, in a corner of the Newly Refurbished Heritage Centre. Any other Home Entertainment ideas would be gratefully received too. Thank you. Please contact Mrs Lesley Edmeads on 01959 524221.
The Otford Art Group
The Otford Art Group are selling and showing their paintings in the Lodge Coffee Shop, The Stag Sevenoaks from **Monday 8th April** for 3 weeks.

**Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild**
The next meeting will take place in the Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 27th April**. There will be a talk in the afternoon by Janet Crowther on 'Painting with threads'. 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.

**Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild Exhibition**
The Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild are holding an exhibition in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 13th April** from 12 noon to 3pm. Admission is £2 including tea/coffee and biscuits. Do go along and view the wonderful work and there will be some exciting trading stalls.

**Knole Decorative and Fine Art 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. The next meeting will be on **18th April**, when Jethro Lyne will talk about 'Portals of Salvation - the medieval art of the church door'. This lecture will look at the wealth of decoration to be found on and around church doors. It will include examples in Kent so that people may be familiar with them or go to see them if they wish. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society, please contact Yvonne Stewart on 01732 457852 or email knoledfas@gmail.com

**'Swing into Spring' Tea Dance**
Why not 'Swing into Spring' with a Tea Dance. The music will be provided by Dilys of the Farningham Dance Group. So get your dancing shoes out again and try Ballroom, Latin and Sequence on **Friday 5th April** between 2pm - 4pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Cost £3 to include tea and biscuits.

**The Darent Valley Choir**
The Spring concert of the Darent Valley Choir will be held on **Saturday 27th April** in Christ Church, Cross Road, Dartford, DA1 3ET at 7.30pm. They will be singing Rossini’s Messe Solennelle as well as Bruckner Motets and Purcell Anthems, truly lovely music. They hope you will join them for this special evening.

**Otford Methodist Church**
Want to find out more about Life, Faith and God? To seek answers why not join our new 'Breakfast ALPHA Course.' The course starts on **Saturday 20th April** in the Methodist Church Hall. For more details or to book your place please call Brian Pawlett on 01959 522196 or email brian@pawlett3849.freeserve.co.uk
Buy it Baby! Baby and Children’s Fair with Nearly New Sale

Our Spring event on **Saturday 11th May** between 1pm and 3pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall will be bursting at the seams with nearly new (often brand new) nursery equipment, toys, books, prams, highchairs etc all at a fraction of the price you will pay in the shops! We also welcome some local activity groups who can give you the low down on what’s on locally for you and your little ones. Refreshments available, colouring for the kids, FREE photo shoots with Capon Photography and FREE info bags to all visitors. £1 entry per adult, children free.

To book a stall or for more info - [www.buyitbaby.co.uk](http://www.buyitbaby.co.uk) or [caroline@buyitbaby.co.uk](mailto:caroline@buyitbaby.co.uk)

**Health Walk**

Go along and try the Health Walk which starts from Otford Car Park every Monday at 10.30am. The walks last normally about an hour. The walks are free and are organised by Sevenoaks District Council. There is no need to book.

**RSPB - Sevenoaks Local Group**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 4th April** in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 7.45pm when they will hold their AGM followed by a talk by Brian Nobbs on 'RSPB Reserves and their birds in the South East'. He will introduce the audience to the 23 reserves in the area of Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Southern Essex. Some are established and well known, others are in various stages of development and you may not have heard of them - yet! All require care and management if they are to fulfil their potential as havens for resident and visiting wildlife. Group members £2.50, non members £3.50.

**Artist of the Month**

Betty Cooper moved to Otford from Surrey 17 years ago after her husband retired and their daughters and sons had left home. With more time to spare she joined the Otford Art Group and now enjoys painting every week. This picture in the Heritage Centre is a water colour painting of one of a recent Art Show. For the last few years Betty has been the main organiser of the Otford Art Group which has, as a result of her efforts, flourished and has considerably increased in numbers.

**Citizens Advice Bureau**

A Citizens Advice Bureau surgery takes place on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Otford Parish Council offices between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

**Planning**

The following applications have been considered by the Parish Council in February. 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/13/00245 70 Willow Park

Demolition of existing garage to facilitate the erection of a single storey rear/side extension to include new garage. Removal of internal wall.
92 Tudor Drive
Erection of a single storey side and rear extension

7 Beckets Place
Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of Orangery and bedroom/bathroom accommodation within existing roof space

11 Coombe Road
Conversion of roof space into habitable space with dormer windows to the front and rear of the property. Small infill extension to ground floor (2.6sqm) - replacement roof to existing dilapidated annex building roof and adjoining roof. Minor alterations to doors and windows to suit internal layout.

Merlins, 42 Hillydeal Road
Application to extend the time limit of an extant planning permission approved under reference SE/10/00098/FUL. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a two storey four bed roomed detached property with room in roof and detached garage to be built within previously approved footprints (SE/09/00531/FUL).

Land north of Pilgrims Oasts, Station Road
Erection of a single subterranean Class C3 dwelling house.

Merlins, 42 Hillydeal Road
The erection of a two storey side extension with front infill extension, repositioning of front entrance, alterations to fenestration, with demolition of side garage and conservatory at rear and removal of second chimney.

Mayola, Station Road
The erection of a garden storage/gym outbuilding and installation of rooflights to the main dwelling.

The Grange, High Street
Internal alterations together with demolition of parts of the 21st century single storey extensions to the side and rear

48 Well Road
The erection of a single storey side extension, two storey rear extension and loft conversion rear facing dormer, front and side dormers.

41 Greenhill Road
Loft conversion with four velux windows on the front elevation and two weatherboard clad rear dormer windows. Re-tiling of roof with concrete overlapping tiles. **Allowed**

Land rear of 77 and 79 Pilgrims Way West
Erection of a 2 bed detached chalet bungalow with attached garage and two 3/4 bed detached houses with integral garages. **Refused**

41 High Street
Demolition of existing single storey structure and construction of new single storey structure **Allowed**

39 High Street
Erection of a single storey side extension. **Allowed**

Burfield, Pilgrims Way East
The erection of a two storey side extension and the erection of a front porch extension
Parish Councillors Contact Details

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<th>Chairman</th>
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Your local Councils
Three levels of local government - County, District and Parish Councils, provide public services in Otford

Kent County Council are responsible for

- Highways & pavements
- Blue Badge parking permits
- Bus passes for older and disabled people
- Countryside Management/Footpaths
- The dump (Household Waste Recycling Centres)
- Education
- Gritting Roads
- Libraries & archives
- Registration of births, marriages & deaths
- Social Services
- Street Lighting
- Trading Standards
- Youth Services
- Adoption & Fostering
- Public Transport (buses)

To contact Kent on any of these issues call 08458 247 247 or visit:
www.kent.gov.uk
Sevenoaks District Council are responsible for

- Animal Welfare
- Bottle Banks
- Building Control
- Car Parking and enforcement
- CCTV
- Community Safety
- Council tax & Business rate collection
- Council Tax support and Housing benefit
- Economic Development
- Elections
- Environmental health
- Food Safety
- Grants

To contact SDC on any of these issues call 01732 227000 or visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

Otford Parish Council

Parish Councils are the foundation of local government. Otford Parish Council provides or maintains a range of important community assets. They include allotments, the village green and pond, care of the ducks, car park, the cemetery, maintaining greenery, community woodland, play areas, recreation grounds and some open spaces, tennis courts and other sports facilities. Other facilities include The Parish Council Office & Heritage Centre, parish newsletter, litter bins, seats, public toilets, bus shelters, tourist information, dog waste bins, an emergency team, litter collection and they operate a Speedwatch team. The Parish Council is also consulted about all planning applications affecting the Parish. The planning authority must take into account comment made by the Council.

For more information call 01959 524808 or email otfordpc@btinternet.com

Garden waste bags packs are available from the Parish Council office at £12 for 25. It avoids all those trips to the tip. Rolls of Black Sacks at £1.50 and White sacks at 50p are also available.

**Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for items for the May Newsletter will be earlier than normal on **Friday 19th April** because of holidays.