**Annual Parish Meeting**

There was an increased turnout of residents at your Annual Parish meeting on Monday 22nd March. 35 residents turned out on the night and the Parish Council thanks them for coming to hear the council give a resume of the past year and the hopes for the year ahead.

**Pension Advice**

The Pension Service will be holding an advice surgery on the 3rd Friday of each month at Otford Library between 10am and 12 noon. The dates arranged so far are 16th April, 21st May and 18th June. The Pension service is a government department, part of the Department for Work and Pensions and has been set up to provide a service for today’s and future pensioners. They will give customers advice on State Pension, Pension Credit and other entitlements, help with form filling etc and also signpost customers to other organisations if need be.

**Otford Village Fete**

Just a reminder to villagers that plans are well under way for the 2004 fete which, will be held on Monday 31st May. There is still room for village societies who may be considering having a stall and you should contact Debbie Moss on 01959 522354. They are still looking out for participants in the procession (Theme is Television) and they really encourage people to take part as this does get the day rolling (contact John Roberts on 01959 522521. They are also considering resurrecting the ‘Tug of War’ and are after feedback. Anyone with questions about the above or any other matters can contact Andrew Hicks on 01959 525120.

**Fantazia**

As part of the excellent Applause programme we present ‘FANTAZIA’ - a multicultural band of musicians from Algeria and the UK - featuring, the inimitable North African dancing of Najma. Fantazia play a breathtaking rootsy blend of Gnawa, Chabbi and Dance, which draws on the vibrant rhythms and rich musical tradition of North Africa. Built around the original compositions of Algerian oud player Yazid, with the soaring vocals of Mourad Guemroud, the band now includes oud, sax, flute, violin, trumpet, keyboards, derbouka, bass and drums.

Apart from their numerous festival appearances, Fantazia have also appeared live on the BBC World Service, Charlie Gillett’s BBC London show, BBC Radio 4’s Loose Ends and BBC Radio 3’s World Music Day. Nothing of the like has been seen or heard in Otford before so come along and enjoy a very different evening of top class music.

The performance takes place on Saturday 15th May in the Otford Memorial Hall starting at 8.00pm. Tickets available from Parish Council office will be £5 adults, £4 concessions and £3 for children.

**The Community Speedwatch Partnership**

A team of six volunteers from the parish will be trained by the police in the use of a hand held radar gun. In partnership with the Community the scheme will address the actual or perceived problems of speed related offending in circumstances where direct enforcement is inappropriate and / or police resources are inadequate to meet the expectations of the parish. The team will only be able to report information direct to the police.

We have had only 4 residents volunteer up to now, so please if you think you would like to help make your village safer then let us have your name address and contact number as soon as possible.

**Traffic Calming**

To help with traffic calming after a consultation with Kent Highways at the beginning of April, 30mph roundels will be painted at intervals along Shoreham Road, High Street and Pilgrims Way West. The Interactive speed sign will be placed on the A225 on the approach to Otford opposite Beadles garage.

WATCH YOUR SPEED
Otford Gardeners' Society

The next lecture will take place in the Otford Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 4th May** at 8pm when Jean Bowles will give a talk on 'The Scented Garden'. Admission is 50p for members and £1 for non-members.

Strategic Rail Authority

Sevenoaks District Council have confirmed that they will be responding to the Integrated Kent Franchise Consultation by the closing date of 23rd April 2004. Your Parish Council has written to both SDC and the Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association emphasising the need for train services to Otford to be in line with or better than the existing timetable and for through trains on suitable timings to and from Tonbridge to be reintroduced as soon as possible. We are grateful to all those residents who have written to us with suitable comments on these subjects – they are much appreciated and very helpful.

Barn Dance

A Barn Dance is being held on **Saturday 24th April** at 7.30pm for 8.00pm in Otford Village Hall in aid of Cancer Research UK. There will be a ploughman’s supper and dessert. Bring your own wine and glasses. Tickets are £7.50 from 01959 522856 or 01732 761606.

Otford Tennis Club

Otford Tennis Club is preparing its 2004 programme and one of the first events of the summer season is a Charity Tournament, and this year any profit from this event will be in aid of ‘Man Alive’ (against Cancers for men). The day starts on Sunday 25th April, it is a mixed doubles tournament, and if you do not have a partner this can be arranged on the day. If you would like to play in the Charity Tournament, or would like any other information about Otford Tennis Club, please ring the Secretary on 01959 522736 or e mail joyce.sydney@btinternet.com. Tennis is a great social game, it’s an enjoyable way to exercise in the fresh air and there are three excellent courts available at the club next to the Recreation Ground in the High Street. Annual subscriptions range from £68 for Adults to £35 for Juniors. For information on coaching for juniors on Saturday mornings and for ladies on Friday mornings (9-10.30) and for their thriving mini tennis section for children from the age of 3½, please contact Mary Evans on mary.evans@btinternet.com, who is also running courses during the Easter holidays. Courses are run either at Russell House School for Mini Tennis Red, or at Otford Tennis Club for Mini Tennis Orange. For further details contact her on 01959 523701 or look at the website: www.otfordminitennis.co.uk

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery will take place on **Wednesday 5th May 2004** and PC Jackie Allen will again be joined by Lorraine Chapman from West Kent Housing. So if you have any concerns please come and see them between 10am and 12 noon.

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 the next two months speakers and events are as follows: -

**April**

28th - Kath Pawlett – Easter People

**May**

12th – Christian Aid afternoon

19th – Anniversary in church

Otford & District Wine Club

A reminder to all members of the Otford & District Wine Club that the next meeting of the club is on **Wednesday 28th April**. It is a Wine Tasting and it will be held in the Otford Sainsbury’s Restaurant beginning at 7pm prompt - so don’t be late! They will be tasting a selection of South African and / or South American wines. They all had a great evening at Sainsbury’s a few years ago, and this will be just as good, if not better!

I am sure everyone who attended the Spring Buffet in March will agree that they had a great evening with a delicious Buffet Supper, superior wines and a wonderful cabaret. Thanks to everyone who helped to
Otford & District Historical Society
The next meeting of the Society will take place on Wednesday 21st April at 8pm in the Village Hall. The talk is by Ian Beavis on ‘The Renaissance of Tunbridge Wells and Decimus Burton’. Everyone is welcome to attend. Membership of the Society is just £3 per year and non-members are welcome to each talk for just £1.

Otford Allotments Association
Since reporting in the last newsletter, one of the vacant plots has been re-let, so there is still a small plot (5 rods) available and it is not too late to start on seasonal plantings. If you give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 that could be yours. The Allotment Association enjoyed a splendid Members’ Evening on March 6th with a full hall enjoying the company of other plot holders and guests, a table quiz and some gardeners’ questions to some ‘experts’ topped off with some delicious finger food and a celebration 50th birthday cake. On April 3rd the Association held a very successful Boot Fair due to the inspiration and hard work of Eve Wiltshire and her team raising a further few hundred pounds towards the replacement of the equipment shed on the Allotment site. However, they still need to raise more and to this end they have booked a table at the forthcoming Boot Fair on Saturday 15th May. Any allotment members reading this are asked for volunteered help, if only for ½ hour on that day to ease the pressure on the usual crowd. Please give Roger Clay a ring on 01732 457834 if you can help.

Otford Folk Dance Club
A Grand Barn dance is being held in Otford Church Hall on Saturday 24th April between 8pm - 11pm with Footloose band and Eddie Crook calling. This is in aid of MacMillan Nursing and Heart of Kent Hospice (in memory of Janet & Larry). Tickets £5, American Supper, Tea and Coffee provided. For more information please contact 01959 523404. The next Thursday night special is on 29th April when Graham Cole will be calling. The regular ‘Thursday Nights’ run from 8pm in the Parish Church Hall and mostly finish at 10pm. Admission and membership is £1.50. The first visit is FREE! Including Tea / Coffee and biscuits. They have dancing to Eddie and Morris each usually taking half of the evening. But on the last Thursday in the month they are supported by visiting callers or musicians. They welcome new members at any time. All dances are walked through first and called. Enjoyment takes first place over skill. Don’t be put off, because you can’t commit to regular visits. They have over 100 members, many of whom just go along from time to time to make it such a fantastic evening. If you have any queries please ring the secretary on 01732 761359

Otford Art Group
The Otford Art Group, are holding an open morning when their work will be on view to the public. This is on Tuesday 11th May between 10.45am and 12 noon in the Methodist Church Hall. Entrance is 50p and will include coffee.

Otford Evening W.I. Boot Sale
The Otford Evening W.I. are holding their Boot Sale on Saturday 15th May in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. This is the Big One! Selling will start at 9.30am and go on till 12.30pm. Entry will cost 50p, which will include a cup of tea. To book a table which costs £8 please contact Barbara on 01959 522995.

Otford Oast W.I.
Their next meeting will be on Thursday 29th April when Helena Binney will show you how to obtain your ambitions in life, which seem to disappear under the demands of day-to-day living. She will show through example in a question and answer session that everything is achievable after all! So why not go along and give it a try, you can be sure of a warm welcome. There is a free creche at every meeting. The first visit is free, second visit £1.50 and Annual membership is £20. For more information please contact Mrs D Metcalfe on 01322 271873.

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Picture of the Month
The artist for April – May is Betty Cooper who, as well as being a long time member of the Otford Afternoon W.I. is also the organiser of the Otford Art Group. After her daughters left home Betty saw that membership of the Otford Art Group would give her an opportunity to express her latent artistic talent.

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time when they can. So why not go along when you can and enjoy the friendly atmosphere of the Otford Club.

Website http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/otfordfdc2

**Top Draw**

Coming Soon - **TOP DRAW** - The Otford Primary Draw. Your chance to win cash prizes and raise money for your local school.

Otford Primary School is launching a great new fundraising effort, which will provide the school with vital extra funds that will buy much needed equipment and really make a difference to the children’s education. Watch out for the pale blue leaflet coming through your letterbox soon.

**Saturday Refuse Collection Service**

The next collection for Tudor Drive (1.15pm - 1.45pm) and Bubblestone Road (2.00pm - 2.30pm) will be on the 1st May and the next collection for Hale Lane (12.00-12.45pm) and The Charne (1.00pm - 1.30pm) will be on 15th May.

They regret that they cannot accept fridges, freezers, cookers, cast iron boilers or baths, long metal poles, building materials, manure, paint, oil or large parts of engines or vehicles. Compostable garden waste cannot be accepted as the Council operates a separate fortnightly garden waste collection service. Special SDC garden waste sacks or a wheeled bin and an annual permit can be purchased for a modest fee. For more information please contact 01732 227000

**CAB Surgery**

An adviser from CAB is at the Otford Parish Council office on the 1st Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on 4th May.

**Planning**

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

a. **New applications**

SE/04/00535  15 Station Rd
Proposed single storey rear and side extensions and two storey rear extension

SE/04/00551  Land r/o 18-20 Tudor Cres
Erection of a dwelling

SE/04/00564  113 Evelyn Rd
Single storey rear extension

SE/04/00611  19 Rye Lane
Erection of a single storey rear extension

SE/04/00636  48 Telston Lane
Loft conversion with front and rear dormers

SE/04/00648  63 Sidney Gardens
Outline application for the erection of a detached bungalow

SE/04/00691  80 Evelyn Rd
Rear single storey extension to bungalow (revised scheme)

SE/04/00647  67 Pilgrims Way West
Replacement dwelling

b. **Amended applications**

SE/04/00551  Land r/o 18-20 Tudor Cres
Erection of a dwelling (revised)

c. **Results Received**

SE/03/02601  Telecomms Eqpt Park Farm High St
Installation of a 15m high lightning tree mast with 3 no. antennas and 1 no. transmission dish internal to the tree, together with ground level equipment within a fenced compound of dimensions of 11.8m x 4m x 2.3m

Refused

SE/03/02978  Beadles Garage
Installation of lighting to canopy at jet-wash area

Allowed

SE/03/02991  Umberslade Shoreham Rd
Erection of two detached houses with garages, being details pursuant to consent reference number

Refused

SE/02/01735/OUT

SE/03/03036  23 Tudor Crescent
Single storey side extension (replacement of utility) plus conservatory and front doorway modification

Allowed

SE/04/00153  Greenways Shoreham Road
Erection of a two storey side extension (revised scheme)

Allowed

SE/04/00223  Kent House The Green
New additions and rear extension over existing single storey wings of two storey house

Allowed

SE/04/00242  The Old Vicarage Shoreham Rd
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of sixteen apartments

Refused

d. **Tree Work**

324.110/04.21  11 Bubblestone Road
Application to prune trees in the Conservation Area