

Otford Parish Council

April Newsletter 2007

No 156

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

Clerk: Mrs. B.J. Darby

The School House, 21, High Street, Otford, Sevenoaks,
Kent TN14 5PG

Telephone/answerphone: 01959 524808

Fax: 01959 525298

Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri

otfordpc@btinternet.com



This is a new award for young people up to 16 years old, which is being instigated by our PCSO Dave Birchall and Otford Parish Council.

WE WANT TO KNOW

- Who's making a difference in the village
- Who showing respect for those around them
- Who stands out from the crowd
- Who cares about their village

Tell us who deserves this award. Nominations welcome from parents, grandparents, carers, teachers, neighbours or friends.

ARE THEY

- Volunteering to do things without being asked.
- Helping their parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends.
- Picking up litter / caring for the village.
- Dissuading their friends from anti social behaviour.
- Fundraising for village resources.
- Performing well at school.
- Other endeavours

Please send your nominations by letter or email to Otford Parish Council at the address above. The winner will be presented with a Shield and Vouchers at the Parish Council Meeting in December so come on let us know who is really achieving out there.

Youth Community Football Tournament

This is taking place on **Sunday 22nd April** kicking off at 9am on the Recreation Ground in Otford. There will be a presentation at the end of the day by Chief Inspector Gillian Ellis from Kent Police of a Cup and Shield to the winning teams. Refreshments will also be provided.

Otford - Precigne

Following the first full and very successful visit by Monsieur Francois Cerbelaud-Salagnac, his wife and a Primary School teacher from Precigne to Otford at the end

of November, the first delegation from Otford will travel to Precigne near Le Mans on Saturday 5th May, 2007 returning on Monday 7th May. Please contact Jane Lawrey via the Parish Council office if you would be interested in participating in the future and we should be keen to hear from any local organisations, particularly youth, with any suggestions for future contacts.

Annual Assembly

Only 35 people attended the Annual Meeting of the Parish on Monday 26th March in the Village Hall. Congratulations to the Otford under 13's cricket club team who were presented with the Kirsch Cup for their outstandingly successful season.

Parish Council Committees, The Police, The Otford Sports Association, The Fete Committee and the Allotments Association all gave reports on the years activities and successes.

'Lennie the Post'

A presentation took place on **Saturday 24th March** in the Village Hall attended by a number of residents where he was presented with a card and cheque by the Chairman of the Parish Council and wished a very happy retirement. Lennie would like to say thank you for his everyone's kindness.

Lennie is running in the London Marathon again this year to raise money for ICR International Care & Relief who work in some of the poorest areas of Kenya and Uganda to provide a generation of children and young people with the hope of a brighter future by building schools and providing toilets and water supplies. Lennie is not only running the 26 miles, but he is also cycling from Otford and back again afterwards! Sponsor forms are available throughout the village.

Otford Gardeners' Society

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 1st May** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Paul Twyman will talk on 'Trees and Shrubs for the small Garden'. For further details telephone Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or email gardeners@otford.net

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 19th April** between 11am and 12.30pm at School House. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Mobile Police Station

The Mobile Police Station with our community officer PC Jonathan Wilkinson will be visiting Otford Village Car Park on **Thursday 3rd May** between 2pm to 2.45pm.

Otford Society

The Otford Society AGM will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Thursday 19th April** at 8pm
Budding Artists needed - The Otford Society is looking for a new logo for The Otford Society letterhead and newsletter. Are there any budding artists out there in the

village, if so, put pen or pencil to paper and have a go. Please send your drawings to the Secretary, Carol, Griffiths, 11, The Old Walk Otford, 01959 523140 or leave them in the Parish Council Officer by 18th April.

Otford Methodist Church

Otford Methodist Church offers lively modern worship for all ages. They have a crèche for families with very young ones and run a wide range of activities for youngsters from 3 to 18 years old plus prayer and social groups for both men and women. Full details of all the church activities can be found on the web site www.otfordmethodistchurch.org.uk or ring 01959 522196. Sunday services: 10.30am worship followed by coffee, 6.30pm evening worship followed by coffee.

New Hall Celebration

Otford Methodist Church are running a special fortnight of celebration events to introduce the new halls to everyone in Otford and the surrounding area. They hope to have something for all ages and interests. Further details will appear in the May issue.

Darent Valley Choir

Mozart's Requiem and his Laudate Dominum will be the main music for the Spring Concert of the choir this year. They will be singing in St Mary's Church, Kippington, Sevenoaks on **Saturday 12th May** at 7.30pm. Chosen by their Musical Director, this work is a great favourite both with the choir and audiences and they should love to see you there. Tickets may be obtained at the Sevenoaks Bookshop or locally on 01959 523279 and a very enjoyable evening lies ahead.

Community Plan Fun Day

Sevenoaks District Council and its partners would like to welcome local people in the District to take part in a fun day to celebrate the launch of the Community Plan. It is being held at Otford Recreation Ground and Memorial Hall from 11am to 2.30pm on **Wednesday 30th May**. Entry is FREE, so please go along and take part in the day, which will include a range of activities for people of all ages including:

- Skating on mobile ice rink
- DJ and MC workshop for young people
- Hip Hop and R n' B performance and workshop
- Free improved home security for older peoples and crime reduction gadgets.
- Get your family dog chipped for a one-day special price of £15
- Line dancing performance and workshop
- Free energy efficient light bulbs and home survey
- Bargain compost bins
- Meet the local Police Community Support Officers and Rural Wardens
- Free fruit and health checks
- Join in a health walk
- Free and reduced crime reduction gadgets e.g. timer switches, purse chains, shed alarms etc.
- And much more

The Community Plan is about life in the Sevenoaks District over the next 10 years. If you have any enquiries please contact Rebecca Perkins on 01732 227121.

Public Notice

Otford Football Club are applying to vary the licensing hours at the new Pavilion, Otford Recreation Ground as follows

- Monday Old 10.00 - 14.00 /New -11.00 - 15.00
- Tuesday - Thursday Old 19.30 -22.00 / New 18.30 - 22.30
- Friday - Old - 10.00 - 14.00 / New 11.00 - 15.00
- Saturday - Old 16.00 - 19.00 / New 15.00 - 19.00
- Sunday - 10.00 - 14.00 / New 11.00 - 15.00

These different times are to cater for cup games and training. No alcohol is left on the premises.

Otford Oast WI

The next meeting of 2007 in the Otford Memorial Hall is on **Thursday 19th April** at 9.30am when they have guest speaker Mair Stratton talking about Hypnotherapy - Forget what you've seen on TV, hypnotherapy is a recognised therapeutic tool for dealing with a wide range of situations - practical, physical and emotional. If you would like to learn more or just come for the company, they are a young WI and have a free crèche for your children. Everyone is welcome. First visit is free, second visit £3 and Annual membership £26. Tea/Coffee 50p.

Village Working Party

Calling for Volunteers. There will be a village working party on **Saturday 28th April** from 9am, to clear the area from the Scout Hut to Tudor Drive. Please could you bring strong gloves, pruners and a rake for your own use. We look forward to seeing you. 'Many hands make light work'

Otford Afternoon W.I

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Membership is £22 per year. The meeting on **8th May** is on 2007 Resolutions. Please contact 01959 522915 for more details.

Otford & District Historical Society

The next talk in the programme will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 18th April** at 8pm when Gwen Jones will talk about 'Oast Houses: their history and development'. Membership is £5 per year and visitors are welcome at £1.

W.I. Boot Sale

Come and buy at the numerous stalls at the Otford Evening W.I. Boot Sale on **Saturday 21st April** in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. Buying starts at 9.30am and there will be a great variety of goods with all the tables sold out. Meet a friend and admire your purchases over a cup of coffee and a cake. Please go along and support this event. Entrance 50p. Children FREE.

Otford Allotment Association

Our waiting list has now been satisfied and the two new tenants are excitedly waiting for better weather to get their gardens going. The new Methodist Hall is also almost complete and so we have a magnificent new building to look upon, you can only see its entirety if you visit the

allotments site - so why not do this and at the same time have a walk around the allotments, you would be very welcome, it might even give you encouragement to grow your own as well. Join the growing list give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 or call into the Parish office on any weekday morning.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Hall on **Saturday 28th April** when there will be a talk on 'Adventures in Soluble Film' by Arthur Ridley. The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588.

Darent Valley Book Fair

The next Darent Valley Book Fair in the Otford Village Hall will take place on **Saturday 14th April** between 9am to 2.30pm. Admission free. There are hundreds of second-hand books for sale.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons Women's Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details / transport.

April

18th - Tea party in Church Hall

25th - Francesca Milne - *Kent Benefits Partnership*

May

2nd - Audrey Berbaridi - Specs through the ages

9th - Bill Latimer from St Barts

16th - Games afternoon

23rd - Outing to Dunorlan Park

Knole DFAS

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. The next lecture will be on the **19th April** when Valerie Woodgate will talk on 'Primitivism and the Exotic in 19th Century Art'. And the following one will be on **17th May** when William Forrester to talk about 'The Sackvilles of Knole and Sissinghurst' The Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm preceded by refreshments at 12.30pm. Anyone interested in joining the Society or who would like more information, please contact, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529.

Picture of the Month

The artist for April / May is Brandon Ewing. Brandon has only lived in Otford for a year. He is a self-taught artist influenced and inspired in particular by Salvador Dali and art nouveau and art deco. His pictures are produced on card and he creates his images using a gel pen. By studying the picture closely many images can be seen.

Are there any more young people in the village studying GCSE Art that would like to display their work in the Heritage Centre? Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2006/2007 lecture season continues on **Thursday 10th May** when Mr Richard Box will talk on 'Taking a Line for a Walk: Why we need to draw' Please contact Mrs Jackie Bradforth on 01732 761631 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information.

Sevenoaks Music Club

The programme of the Sevenoaks Music Club continues on **Saturday 28th April** with Sarah Francis on oboe and the Tagore String Trio of Francis Mason - violin, Brian Schiele - viola and James Halsey - cello.

The will be performing Vanhal - Quartetto Concertante No 6 in C; Haydn - String Trio in E Flat, Hob V; Moeran - Fantasy Quartet for oboe and string trio; Dohnanyi - Serenade in C for String Trio Op 10 and Mozart - Oboe Quartet in F, K370.

The concert starts at 8pm in the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall. For further information on their brochure, season ticket or ticket prices please contact Penny Hargreaves on 01732 453251.

Otford & District Wine Club

Ooh La La! The Otford & District Wine Club are holding a French Evening on **Wednesday 25th April** in the Otford Memorial Hall beginning at 8pm. Why not come along and sample delicious French wines from at least five different regions of France together with French bread, cheese and pate. There will also be French music, a quiz and a raffle. It's always party time at the Otford Wine Club, so come along and have some fun! As usual the evening is free to members. Visitors will be charged a small fee but are most welcome. Any queries ring 01732 - 761359 or 01732 885356.

Rockdale Appeal

Riverhill House and Grounds will be open on **Sunday 19th May** exclusively to raise funds for the Rockdale Appeal. This will be a rare opportunity to enjoy not only the spectacular gardens with its views over the Weald of Kent but also to tour the house and learn about its interesting history. The entry fee of £8 will include access to the house and grounds, followed by a cream tea in the garden, accompanied by music from the Halstead Concert band. Contact the Appeal office on 01732 458762 to reserve your tickets.

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 Head of Development Services, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

a. New applications

SE/06/03069 **18 Tudor Crescent**

Single storey rear extension, second storey front and rear extensions and loft conversion

SE/07/00550 **Holly House Shoreham Road**

Extension to rear sun lounge and new access/drive

SE/07/00641 **14 Shinecroft**

Two storey rear extension

SE/07/00667 **37 High Street**

Single storey rear extension

SE/07/00680 **The Chantry The Green**
Retention of close-boarding fencing and metal gate on part of North & East boundaries

SE/07/00682 **The Chantry, The Green**
LBC - Retention of close-boarded fencing and metal gate on part of North and East boundaries

SE/07/00696 **Fairwood, Row Dow**
Propose to re-conductor the existing low voltage (400/240v) overhead lines

SE/07/00862 **Land west of Twitton Meadows**
Overhead electricity lines

SE/07/00879 **Otford County Primary School**
Proposed overhead lines

SE/07/00946 **1 Wickham Field Pilgrims Way West**
Insertion of new window to cellar

SE/07/00939 **39 Pilgrims Way West**
Rear single storey ground floor and rear first floor extensions

b. Results received

SE/06/03299 **16 High Street**
Removal of staircase sales/display area and erection of two storey rear extension to provide 2 no 1 bedroom residential units
Withdrawn

SE/07/00010 **37 Greenhill Road**
Landscaping of upper rear garden *Allowed*

SE/07/00046 **2 New Barn FarmCotts, Telston Lane**
Existing porch *Refused*

SE/07/00165 **St Michaels Sch St Michaels Drive**
Formation of dormer window and extension of fire escape staircase to convert attic space into classroom
Allowed

SE/07/00175 **52 Tudor Drive**
Erection of conservatory *Allowed*

SE/07/00205 **28 The Charne**
Proposed single storey rear extension to form new kitchen, family room and garden store
Allowed

SE/07/00237 **Milestones, Row Dow**
Two storey and single storey extension to side/rear of dwelling (including demolition of existing outbuildings)
Allowed

SE/07/00548 **97 Willow Park**
Two storey side extension with front porch and canopy. As amended by plan and letter dated 9th March 2007 (plan no SP-121-01 revision A) and email dated 22nd March 2007
Refused

c. Amended applications

SE/06/00900 **West Kent Cold Storage, Rye Lane**
Mixed use redevelopment comprising residential (up to 500 dwellings) and commercial uses (4,500m2) a medical facility (500m2) together with access roads, car parking, footpaths and cycleways, landscaping and open space. (As amended by plans and additional information received 06/03/07)

d. Planning appeals

SE/06/00772 **The Croft, Mount Farm, Row Dow**
Conversion and change of use ground floor of annex from agriculture to self-contained apartment, removal of condition 3 - occupancy of the ground floor flat shall be limited to the applicant's mother
Appeal allowed

SE/06/00507 **30 Greenhill Road**
Proposed 1 no detached five bedroom house with integral garage - *informal hearing to be held 05.05.07*

SE/06/01197 **64&66 Well Road**
Erection of 21 dwellings

Appeal dismissed

The Otford Village Design Statement

A first draft of the Otford VDS has now been prepared by a Design Group drawn from Otford Residents.

The VDS seeks to be a statement representing the views of the majority Otford residents (independent of the parish council by the way) aimed at the local authorities (SDC & KCC), developers and builders. It states what we consider valuable in our community in terms of the design of new housing within the parish and what we would most like to protect about the environment in which we live. The VDS also states quite clearly what we, as a community, do not want in our village in terms of bad design, over-crowding, increased traffic and so on. It seeks to draw a line-in-the-sand as it were, of where this community stands in terms of any new housing developments in the future.

The object is to get our VDS adopted by Sevenoaks District Council to become a Supplementary Planning Document, which will get referred to when any planning application is made within the parish. It does not make it law but at least our views have to be considered in any planning application.

Further copies of the VDS Draft #1 are available at the Parish Office. If you feel there are elements which we have not included in this first draft, and which you would like to submit to the VDS Design Committee for inclusion, please complete this form and return it to Rod Shelton c/o the Parish Office. We will be happy to contact you.

It is important that the final version of this VDS represents the view of the majority of all Otford Residents. If there is anything you are not happy about, or items you would like to see added, now is the time to tell us.

I have read the *Otford VDS draft #1* and would like you to consider including the following statement under section (Title).....

.....
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.....
.....

(Please attach any additional material you would like to include)

If you would like a response, please add your name, postal address/email address.

.....
.....

Later this month, on **Saturday 28th April**, there will be a workshop day in the Village Hall open to all. Families, couple and individuals will be welcome to take part as we get out around the village in groups, making notes and taking photos and of what we most want to protect (and what we dislike). It will help us to focus on what should be included in our community VDS. At the end of May there will then be a public exhibition and meeting.

