

Otford Parish Council

April Newsletter 2008

No 167

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

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W.I. Boot Sale

On **Saturday 10th May** the Otford Evening W.I are holding a Boot Sale in the Otford Village Memorial Hall between 09:30am - 12:30pm. Entrance 50p and Children FREE. If you would like to have a table at a cost of £9 please contact Heather on 01959 522491. Refreshments will be available.

PLEASE NOTE -Road Closed - Again!

Notification has been given that Pilgrims Way West will be closed to traffic on **Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th May** when the road will be resurfaced.

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 19th May** at 7.30pm. This is your chance to ask questions about what is happening in the village, so please attend if you can.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 24th April** between 11am and 12.30pm at School House. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Dave would like to point out that checks are carried out on a regular basis on vehicle tax so make sure that you are up to date and speed checks **WILL** be taking place within the village so stick to the speed limits at **ALL** times and **DO NOT** use your mobile phone whilst driving. There really are no excuses for the breaking of any of these laws.

Otford Allotments Association

The allotment movement generally and Otford in particular is going from strength to strength and the interest continues to grow. Don't miss out if you are thinking of joining 'the club' - give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 who will be delighted to hear from you and to update you on the present situation. The two sites have full occupancy, but situations change all the time and there is a small waiting list which you could join. Go on pick up the

phone or call into the Parish Council office on any weekday morning.

Otford Society

The Otford Society AGM is on **Thursday 17th April** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The speaker is the Director of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Nick Johannsen

Otford Community Warden

Paul Robertson our Community Warden will be holding a weekly surgery to discuss any problems and community issues at School House every Tuesday between 11am and 12 noon.



Girlguiding

We are appealing for adult help with Guides from September 2008, either as a helper or as an adult leader on a weekly basis. Both of the current leaders are in need of a break after many years service. Ideally we are appealing for 2 friends to come forward who could work together. Help and support will be given with training, secretarial and financial duties, and possibly as an extra pair of hands for camps and to cover sickness etc. 3rd Otford Guides is a thriving group with a waiting list, and the girls are a pleasure to work with. We participate in lots of fun activities both inside and outdoors, and our programme varies from being creative to being very adventurous. Please think very seriously about our future leadership. We would love to hear from you as soon possible. Perhaps you would like to come along to one of our meetings to meet the current leaders and the Guides. We meet on a Friday evening during term time at Otford Methodist Hall from 6.15pm to 7.45pm. Please call us. Alison Crawley (Guider) 01959 525128 or Jane Woodrow-Clark (District Commissioner) 01959 523342

Otford - Pr cign 

During the weekend of **9-11th May** a group from Pr cign  will be visiting Otford. Please welcome them if you see them around the village and don't be afraid to try out your French!

Stan, Lenny and Matthew will be leaving Otford Pond on Sunday 11th May at 2pm on a sponsored cycle ride from Otford to Pr cign  and back in aid of Otford - Pr cign  Twinning and Hospices of Hope in Romania and surrounding countries. Please come to give them a rousing send-off and to wish them well.

For more information please go to www.hospiceofhope.co.uk/events.htm

There have been three requests from France for visits lasting two or three weeks in each country this summer

a) 2 girls aged 17 and 14, to stay either in the same family or separately (2 local girls have already stayed with this family last year)

b) 2 girls aged 17 and 14, who are currently being educated at a Boarding School, 30 miles from Pr cign , to stay either in the same family or separately

c) A boy aged 14, enjoys roller skating and basketball, girl aged 12, likes roller skating, cats and horses, to stay preferably not in the same family.

Please contact the Parish Council office on 01959 524808 for further details as soon as possible.

Otford Village Fete

The Otford Village Fete will take place as usual on Bank Holiday **Monday 26th May**. And the sun's going to shine on everyone this year with the theme of 'That's Entertainment' There is already a good turn out for the procession, so if you or your group would like to take part in the parade, please contact Jacky Cottrell on villagefete@otford.net And if you love your dog, then this is your year. Otford will vie with Crufts in a really extensive dog show and competition open to every pooch (and its owner) in Otford. It is being professionally organised by Elands Veterinary Clinic. So if your dog is big or small/ a puppy or just a puppy at heart and pawing you to be there on the day, contact Elands at the end of April for an entry form (01732 452333)

Otford Solar System

A new 56 page colour book written by David Thomas on the Otford Solar System and 'Life as we know it' is now available from the Heritage Centre for £7. A copy had been sent to Sir Patrick Moore who has replied to David that it is a 'great fun book' and he will be writing a review for 'The Sky at Night' magazine.

Otford Gardeners' Society

The next meeting of the Otford Gardeners' Society will take place on **Tuesday 6th May** when Gordon Francis will talk about 'The Vegetable Grower' Meetings start at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Admission is 50p for members and £1 for non-members to include refreshments.

Otford Methodist Church

Ladies, the Otford Methodist Church would like to invite you to a Women's Breakfast at 8.30am on **Saturday 26th April** in the new Methodist Church Hall where you can enjoy a full continental breakfast and listen to guest speakers Max and Sue Sinclair talking about 'You & Me'. There is a small cost of £4 payable on the day. For further details or information please call Margaret on 01959 522046

On **Saturday 3rd May** there will be an ART and CRAFT Sale and Exhibition in the Church Halls. Doors open at 9.30am. A small entrance fee will be charged which will include a cup of tea/coffee. Refreshments including light lunches will also be available throughout the day. Please come and look, browse or buy. For more details please call John Ward on 01689 869081

On **Wednesday 14th May** from 10am to 12 noon there will be a Coffee morning in aid of the Meningitis Trust in the Methodist Church Hall and also a bring and buy sale.

3 Peaks Challenge

Please support Dave, Paul and Sue as they take up this challenge to raise money for Otford Primary and Shoreham Pre - School. Sponsorship forms are available in the Parish Council Office and Telston Stores. Many thanks.

Darent Valley Choir

The choir's Spring concert takes place at St Nicholas Church Sevenoaks on **Saturday 26th April** at 7.30pm. Their Musical Director Ben Odom has chosen the very contrasting music of Fauré's Requiem and Rutter's Magnificat. Tickets are available at Sevenoaks Bookshop and locally on 01959 523279.

Go Wild in the Garden

This is an SDC competition to promote wildlife gardening. You are invited to a free Spring Wildlife Workshop on **Thursday 24th April** between 7pm - 9pm at the Sevenoaks Community Centre. Numbers are limited so book now to reserve a place with Simon Davies on 01732 227000 or SDC, PO Box 183, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1GN. Information sheets and factsheets are available from the above address.

Family Nature Walks

There will be Family Nature Walks in Oxenhill Meadow & Shaw on **Saturday 24th May** from 2pm. These will be led by Jonathan Webb, SDC Woodland Consultant - come and enjoy this valuable area of open space and learn more about our surrounding countryside.

RADIO Fundraiser

RADIO (Residents Against Development in Otford) offers FREE membership. Established in 2005, RADIO now enjoys a membership in Otford representing over one third of households. Its success relies heavily on membership, so please contact them through the village website at www.otford.info/radio where you will find an online form, or contact Andrea Pinto (for membership matters only) on 01959 525623.

RADIO now requires much needed funds and a Horse Racing Night fundraiser is set to be held on **Saturday 17th May** at 7.00pm. Tickets are £5, which includes a buffet meal. A licensed bar will be operated. There will also be a raffle. This promises to be a fun evening, so please call 07733 350934 to buy your tickets as soon as possible, to avoid disappointment. Thank you for your much appreciated support.

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 **17th April** when Jane Kelsall will talk about 'Pearls before Swine? The story of a Royal Necklace' The on **15th May** Andrew Davies will talk about 'Plague and Fire: London 1665-1666'. 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 and Alison Davis on 01732 780453.

Otford Afternoon WI

The Otford Afternoon WI's next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 13th May** with the WI 2008 Resolutions meeting and also a Quiz and Social Time. For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736

Otford Oast WI

On **Thursday 8th May** the members will be discussing and voting on this year's WI resolutions and as a treat they will be dipping hot Fairtrade chocolate from a chocolate fountain. Yum! Do join them. The meetings start at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free.

British Iris Society

The Kent Group of the British Iris Society are holding their Spring Show on Bank Holiday **Monday 5th May** at Otford Methodist Church Hall. Visitors will be welcome from 12 noon to 4pm. Entrance is free and there will be irises and other plants for sale. Please contact Chris Towers on 01959 523017 for further details.

Otford Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club are pleased to announce that they are holding a South African Wine and Cultural Evening on **Wednesday 30th April** starting at 8pm. Please note that on this occasion the event will be held in the Club Room of the Otford Memorial Hall rather than the Main Hall. We hope to create an 'African atmosphere' with some interesting wines for you to sample and we will also explore the flora and fauna of this beautiful country. As usual the evening is free to members but guests will be charged £4. Why not come along for a pleasant night out amongst friends. If you have any queries, please ring the secretary on 01732 761359.

Picture of the Month

The artist for April / May is Marianne Shelton. Marianne, who has had a number of exhibitions in Kent, first discovered her love for art while living in Paris. Returning to London her decision to start a family put her career as a casting director for television, films and theatre in London on hold and she was commissioned to buy and sell early English Watercolours. Following trips to Amsterdam and Venice she decided to take up the brush herself. Marianne works in all mediums but her passion is oils. Painting still life and landscapes, she is influenced by impressionist, art deco and abstract styles. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Otford Players

Otford Players are having a 'Meet & Greet' evening on **Thursday 15th May** at the Crown Public House at 8pm. Anyone interested in joining The Players will be very

welcome to go along and meet them for an informal drink and

Knockholt Outdoor Bowling Club

Knockholt Outdoor Bowling Club extends a warm welcome to residents in Otford. Some of you may have considered playing bowls outside in the summer months. K.B.C. is well known for its friendly and supportive approach and furthermore offers coaching to all potential players. As an added attraction there is an OPEN AFTERNOON on **Saturday 10th May** at 2.30pm. They hope that you will join them on this occasion. Contact 01689 836420 or 01689 829878 for more information.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2007/2008 lecture season continues on **8th May** with Mr Peter Gibson talking about '*Stained glass of English Cathedrals and Parish Churches*.' Please contact Mrs Maggie Llanwarne on 01732 460709 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information and membership.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 28th April** with a talk by Pat Trott on '*Armenian Lace - My Mother's Heritage*' Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

The Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild have opened an exhibition of their work at the Heritage Centre. Their inspirational designs and incredibly detailed pieces count among some of the finest local work in this medium. See it and wonder. For further information please contact Pat Curtis on 01959 532391. The Heritage Centre is open everyday from 9am to 12 noon and every weekend afternoon from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons

Women's Fellowship

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

April

16th - Mary Bestwick - Meditation on paintings

23rd - In Touch - home improvement agency

Free Tennis Coaching

Otford Lawn Tennis Club has appointed a new team of coaches. To launch the new term of lessons the club is offering free coaching for adults in the evening on **Monday 21 April and Wednesday 23 April**, between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. All standards are welcome, just turn up! Further information can be found on the website: www.OtfordTennis.org.uk, or from Mary Evans: 01959-523701. The club is located at the recreation ground, past the children's playground on your left.

Sevenoaks Music Club

The next concert of the Sevenoaks Music Club will take place on **Saturday 26th April** when the Coull String Quartet with Alan Schiller on piano will play Tchaikovsky, Bridge and Elgar. The concert will take place at 8pm in the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall School, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent. Tickets are £16 and Students £5. Contact Box Office on 01732 453251 (pre booked tickets recommended).

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 6th May** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Hall on **Wednesday 16th April** when Arthur Percival will talk on 'The History of Faversham' Membership of the Society is just £5 per year and visitors are welcome at all lectures for £1

Otford Primary Top Draw

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

The winning numbers of the Mar TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 462

2nd Prize £15 - 305

3rd Prize £10 - 6

Thank you

Daphne and Norman Devonshire would like to thank all their friends for the lovely cards and kind wishes they received in their move to Devon. They were very touched by them all. Since arriving in 'sunny' Devon they have been met by rain, gales and sleet!!

T'ai Chi Classes

New Classes are starting in Sevenoaks

Thursday 1st May 6.35-7.30pm at The Bradbourne School, Bradbourne Vale Road. Also New T'ai Chi FAN form on Thursdays at 8.35-9.30pm.

Friday 2nd May - 12.05 - 1.00pm at St Luke's Church Hall, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks

New Classes are starting in Longfield

Friday 2nd May - 10.05-11.00am at The Longfield Integrated Care Centre, Tuppence House, Brickfield Farm, Main Road, Longfield.

Try out session £5.

Remaining 12 weeks of the course £115

Planning

The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council 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/08/00332 **Sainsbury Petrol Filling Station**

Extensions and external alterations to kiosk, erection of new plant room

SE/08/00384 **11 Coombe Road**

First floor side extension to provide en-suite bathroom (approx 3.5 x 1.5m) with windows to front and rear

SE/08/00430 **Workshop to the rear of Block 13, Vestry Trading Estate**

Change of use of existing store room/workshop to vehicle repair workshop and MOT testing centre

SE/08/00529 **4 Hillydeal Road**

Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with two detached dwellings with access from Hillydeal Road

SE/08/00609 **Land to rear of 22, The Charne**

Demolition of existing garages and erection of three two storey terraced houses with private amenity space and parking

SE/08/00642 **Land north of Pilgrim Oast, Station Road**

Erection of 4 bed detached house with associated parking

SE/08/00674 **The Chantry The Green**

Installation of gates to garage

SE/08/00675 **Greatness Quarry Bat & Ball Road**

Extension of extraction area and continued operation of existing processing and associated manufacturing plant and buildings and other operational areas

SE/08/00867 **Yew Tree Cottage 48 High Street**

Erection of single storey timber summerhouse to rear

b. Results received

SE/08/00206 **85 Willow Park**

Removal of flat roof above front door. Erection of brick and tile porch as per attached drawings

Allowed

SE/08/00292 **36 Pilgrims Way East**

Conversion of integral garage to living accommodation, minor changes to external elevations and variation of condition 3 of planning permission SE/91/00897/HIST

Allowed

SE/07/03586 **37 Greenhill Road**

Two storey rear and side extension. Detached double garage. Amendments to application SE/06/01837

Allowed

SE/07/036666 **Block 9 & 9a, Vestry Trading Est**

Erection of 3 no terraced industrial units and adjacent stand-alone industrial unit with ancillary offices, car parking and service yards. Amended by plans received 28.02.08.

Allowed

SE/08/00191 **Burfield, Pilgrims Way East**

Removal of existing pitched roof, construction of new roof to form additional bedrooms

Allowed

SE/08/00210 **Copper Beeches 8 Greenhill Road**

Formation of room in existing roofspace (part retrospective)

Allowed

SE/08/00260 **Hillview Shoreham Road**

Front entrance gates

Allowed

c. Trees in Conservation Area

08/00881/WTCA **Pickmoss 69 High Street**

Reduce yew hedge by 20%