

Otford Parish Council

April Newsletter 2009

No 178

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

Otford Village Fete- Monday 25th May



The Fete Committee is delighted that Elands Veterinary Clinic has agreed to host a dog show at Otford's annual Fete. The event was undoubtedly the highlight last year. This year owners will need to register on the day. There will be seven categories:

Dog with the waggiest tail; Most handsome; Prettiest bitch; Best rescue; Fancy dress (dog or owner can dress up for this one); Dog the judge would most like to take home and finally the Best in Show. For more information about Elands visit their website (www.elandsvet.co.uk). There will be prizes and rosettes to 6th place in each class.

Organising a fete involves a lot of work and we would welcome your help. If you would like to assist us set up the Fete on Bank Holiday Monday (from 7.00am) we would love to hear from you. More information will be available from our website (www.otford.info/villagefete).

Otford Lunch Club



Do you live alone, confess to feeling lonely just occasionally? Why not try coming to the Lunch Club held here in Otford Village Hall on Thursdays. It is not just a lunch, it's a way of meeting residents that a few years ago you would have seen and conversed with at our now non existing food shops in the High Street. So long as you are over 60 you would be made very welcome. After all 80 is now the new 60 we are told! Transport can be arranged. To find out more please ring 01959 522789

Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge

On **1st May** Paul (our Community Warden) Dave (our ex PCSO) and Sue (Assistant Clerk) will be completing the

Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge covering 26 miles in 12 hours including climbing 3 peaks.

Money raised will go to the Over 60's Club and to the Otford Primary Swimming Pool Appeal. Please support us if you can. Thank you. Sponsorship forms in Primary School Parish Council Office, and Stan's Hairdressers.

Otford Links with Neufchatel-Hardelot

Unfortunately formal twinning with Precigne has not been as successful as we would have liked, although informal links may continue. However, we are in contact with Neufchatel-Hardelot, which is a town with a population of £3,700 on the Pas-de-Calais coast, just south of Boulogne, offering a lovely sandy beach as well as good sporting and cultural facilities. This should enable visits to or from either side of the Channel to be completed within a day. We believe this will be of interest to many individuals and families in Otford and surrounding areas. To this end there will be a visit on **Saturday 16th May** 2009 to Otford Recreation Ground of 2 teams of 8 young French footballers aged 9-10 who will play against local footballers. The matches will start at 11am. Do come along, support them and meet them. We are hoping to develop direct relationships between individuals and families as well as clubs and societies on both sides of the Channel. Please look up their website for more details, maps etc www.villeneufchatelhardelot.fr Anyone interested in pursuing these ideas further could they please forward contact details together with any particular interests direct to the Otford Parish office on Tel number / email shown at the top of this newsletter.

Tell us what concerns you

On **Saturday 18th April** in the Memorial Hall, the draft of the Otford Parish Plan Questionnaire will be on view. Whether your interest is in maintaining the character of the village, helping the young, developing a greener environment, giving more support for the elderly or voicing your concerns for the future, the Parish Plan covers it. The Parish Plan team need to know what you think. Come down to the hall between 10am and 3pm on Saturday. There will be post it notes and pens to add your own ideas while you have a coffee. The final questionnaire will be sent to every household in Otford at the end of May. What you say now will influence what actions the final Plan takes. It's your life, so take part in it.

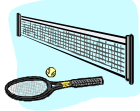
Otford Gardeners' Society

The next meeting of the Otford Gardeners' Society will take place on **Tuesday 5th May** when Dave Spencer will talk on 'Dahlias' a speaker and writer with a national and international reputation. There will also be a sale of Dahlia plants. Meetings start at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Admission is 50p for members and £1 for non-members to include refreshments.

Otford Book Fair

The Next Book Fair will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 18th April** from 9 am to 2.30pm. Free admission. 1000's of second hand books for sale

Oxford Tennis Club Open Day



Oxford Tennis Club is having an Open Day on **Sunday 26th April** from 10.00am - 1.00pm, for individuals and families. Enjoy free coaching by qualified LTA coaches. All are welcome - beginners to advanced, children and adults, club members and non-members. Find out about the new term of coaching for juniors and adults which starts after Easter, at weekends as well as weekday daytime and evenings. The club is located at the recreation ground in Oxford, past the children's playground on your left. For further information contact enquiries@OxfordTennis.org.uk or ring Mary Evans on 07881-653936. The full list of coaching sessions and lots of other information about the club is available on the website www.OxfordTennis.org.uk.

South Eastern Train News

A revised timetable on the Victoria and Blackfriars routes came into operation on 22nd March. Copies of the timetables are available at Sevenoaks and Oxford. The main alteration affects the Sevenoaks to Victoria/ Blackfriars suburban service. This no longer terminates at Blackfriars but continues onto City Thameslink, Farringdon, St Pancras and Kentish Town. Isolated trains may continue to Bedford, Luton and St Albans. Access to Eurostar and to the North will become easier by changing at St Pancras International. Tickets for all these services are available at Oxford Station by preferably not in the rush hour please!

Oxford Oast WI

On **Thursday 23rd April** they will have a talk about 'Kent Air Ambulance' Do join them. The meetings start at 9.30am in Oxford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free.

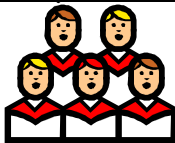
Oxford Afternoon WI

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. On **12th May** it is the '2009 resolutions' meeting and Barbara Darby's videos. For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

Oxford Community Warden

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

The Darent Valley Choir Spring Concert



Ben Odom, the Musical Director has chosen the very moving music of Bach's St John Passion for the choirs' next concert. The date is **Saturday 30th May** at 7.30pm in the United Reform Church (Christ Church), Littlecourt Road, Sevenoaks, just below the train station. Please join them for this lovely music.

Oxford Cricket Club - Senior Nets

Time to dust off those pads and bats! The cricket club has already started their preparations for the summer and welcome existing and new members to pre season indoor nets at St Michael's School. These are in the school sports hall every Sunday to the end of April from 4.45pm to 6.00pm.

Oxford Cricket Club - Junior Nets

The Oxford Colts section is also holding indoor coaching and nets on a Sunday afternoon at St Michael's School from 6pm to 8pm. Over 40 children from school year's 4 to 11 are already signed up. It is not too late to join us for nets or if you want to be involved in the summer season. Contact the colts manager on 01959 523881 for further details.

Oxford Evening WI

The Oxford Evening WI held its March meeting on Thursday 12th when a Guide from Canterbury Cathedral told them with slides, how vital was the appeal for £50m to restore decades of damage done to the fabric and timbers of the building and preserve it for future generations. It is hoped that members will man a float and or walk in the procession on the day of the Village Fete on bank Holiday Monday. In April the WI celebrates its 50th birthday and in May Rod Shelton will be giving us full details of the Village Parish Plan. If anyone would like to come along to our June meeting to hear a member of the team from Plaxtol Nurseries demonstrating the creation of hanging baskets they would be most welcome. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month and start at 7.30pm in the Oxford Memorial Hall. For more information please contact Diana Jeremiah on 01959 522981.

What a load of Rubbish

Can you imagine the whole of the Vestry Estate covered with rubbish? That's how it was in the 1920's. Imagine it with a huge quarry taking up most of the area. That was the scene in the 1860's when it was supplying the bricks to build Sevenoaks. In the Heritage Centre (School House, High Street) you can actually see detailed models of what it really looked like as it underwent so much change. Fascinating displays of Victorian bottles and pot lids, all dug up from the Vestry along with contemporary photos of work in the brick works; give us a glimpse of what Victorian life was like in Oxford. A great display and well worth a visit. The Heritage Centre is open weekdays from 9am - 12 noon and weekends from 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2008/2009 lecture season continues on **Thursday 14th May** when Mr Oliver Everett will talk about 'Windsor Castle: Fire, Restoration and the Queen at Windsor'. The meetings are held at Walthamstow Hall Senior School, Hollybush Lane, commencing at 8.15pm. Please contact Mrs Maggie Llanwarne on 01732 460709 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information and membership.

Kemsing Singers

'Madrigals to Musicals' is the title for the annual Spring Concert of the Kemsing Singers. The performance will consist of a varied and tuneful programme of words and music. It will be in St Edith's Hall, Kemsing at 8pm on **Saturday 16th May**. The choir will be directed by Len Ross and accompanied by Edwin Davis. Tickets at only £6, £5 concessions and £4 children are available from the box office on 01959 523752

Art/Design Courses



The courses will be held in the beautiful setting of St Michael's Prep on **Saturday May 9th**

- Painting Landscapes in Acrylics
- 10am - 4pm £35.00

The landscape painting course should be fantastic - everyone will take a completed landscape home to hang on their wall. You do not need to be an experienced artist - everyone is welcome.

- An Introduction to Interior Design
- 10am - 4pm £35.00

The introduction to interior design course is well timed. So many people would like to move but can't and this course will give ideas as to decorating their own house.

- Contemporary Flower Arranging
- 10am - 1pm £25.00

The contemporary flower arranging course is being run by the in-house florist from Hever Castle. She will demonstrate and everyone will make their own arrangement to take home.

All materials will be provided.
All you need to bring is your packed lunch.

Full details can be found on the school web site www.stmichaels-otford.co.uk

Otford Players



Otford Players were delighted to have got going again with their recent production of Pick & Mix, and judging by the full houses on both nights you too were delighted. Thanks to all who came and supported us. Inspired by this we are now working on our next production in early November and hope to offer you something a little different. You will shortly receive a leaflet through your door (you may have already received it) giving you more detail and hopefully get more of you to come and join in - a warm welcome is waiting.

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 **21st May** when Janet Canetty-Clarke will talk about 'The Rake's Progress: Stravinsky, Hogarth and Hockney' The Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm and finish by 3pm. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society please contact Alison Davis on 01732 780453.

Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club are pleased to announce that they are having a talk about Turkey by Frank Baker, a member of the Diplomatic Service on **Wednesday 29th April**. Frank was based in Ankara for a few years during the 1990's and we are sure he will have some interesting stories to tell about that volatile part of the world. The talk will be held in Otford Memorial Hall and will begin at 8pm and will be free to members but guests will be charged a small fee. Cheese and biscuits will be supplied but please bring your own liquid refreshment. Why not go along for an interesting night out among friends. For more information please call 01732 761359.

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

22nd - Robert Bright - *a Master Tailor*

Eynsford County Market

Spring is nearly here- we hope and it is the time to get your garden sorted. Did you know you can get an excellent selection of bedding plants and perennials each week at the Eynsford Country Market. Whilst there, why not stock up on your homemade cakes, pastries, savouries, jams, pickles and home grown vegetables. Birthdays coming up find something on the craft stall and then finish off with a cup of tea and home made cake. The market is held every Friday between 2pm and 3pm in Eynsford Village Hall. This is opposite the Castle Pub and parking is available by Eynsford Castle.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild



The Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild would like to invite you to an OPEN DAY on **Saturday 25th April** from 12 noon till 4pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. So go along and see what they do. For more information please call 0208 304 4416.

Picture of the Month

The artist for April / May is Sheila Dickerson. Sheila has been painting for a number of years with a particular interest in botanical art. She paints mainly in watercolour, a medium that she finds suits her style. As well as attending the Otford Art Group she also has botanical art lessons to improve her technique. Prior to picking up a paint brush Sheila spent many years enjoying different styles of embroidery. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959

524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 5th May** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

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 March TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 266

2nd Prize £15 - 274

3rd Prize £10 - 154

New T'ai Chi Classes



The aims of Tai Chi are to improve the general health, strengthen the legs, improve balance and coordination, promote better circulation, whilst bring relaxation and increased energy. The courses work on improving posture and breathing.

Sevenoaks

Thursday 30th April: 6.35pm - 7.30pm at the Bradbourne School, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks

Also class for Wudang Tai Chi Sword form - Thursdays at 8.35pm - 9.30pm

Friday 1st May: 12.05 - 1.00pm and **NEW** 1.05pm - 2.00pm both at St Luke's Church, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks. This class is specifically aimed at the over 60's, but anyone can attend.

Longfield

Friday 1st May: 10.05am - 11.00am at The Longfield Intergrated Care Centre, Tuppence House, Main Rd, Longfield

Length and cost of course - 13 weeks (try out session £5 and the remaining 12 weeks of the course £115)

For more information see website www.taiji.co.uk



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/09/00233 **10 Beechy Lees Road**

Side garage enlargement

SE/09/00327 **Arum House, 17 The Butts**

Conversion of existing double garage at front to front to form a habitable room. Erection of single garage at side.

Alterations to the access to the highway and formation of a new vehicular access

SE/0900452 **J Sainsbury PLC**

Extension to existing store to provide additional retail sales floor space, new warehouse (back-up_ floorspace , relocation of customer restaurant, erection of car park deck and associated alterations to the car park

SE/09/00483 **49 Greenhill Road**

Demolition of existing double garage and replacement with new double garage with studio above

SE/09/00531 **42 Hillydeal Road**

Extension & alteration work to enlarge existing detached 4 bed property. Re-submission of SE/08/03091/FUL

SE/09/00609 **26 Rye Lane**

Proposed Sand School. Re submission of SE/08/03280

b. Results received

SE/09/00046 **30 High Street**

Demolition of modern rear extension, erection of two storey rear and side extension, with velux window. Internal alterations to provide new kitchen, WC and disabled access. With first floor changed to two maisonettes

Allowed

SE/09/00047 **30 High Street**

Listed building consent. Demolition of modern rear extension, erection of two storey rear and side extension, with velux window. Internal alterations to provide new kitchen, WC and disabled access. With first floor changed to two maisonettes

Allowed

SE/09/00243 **2A The Butts**

Addition of bay window to rear of living room. Conversion of part of double garage into study. Change one pair of sliding doors in rear elevation to French casement doors.

Allowed

SE/08/02523 **The Old Oast House**

Erection of dwelling in garden of The Old Oast House

Refused

SE/08/02758 **Land adj to Mount Path Cottage Pilgrims Way East**

Re-profiling, widening and surfacing of existing track from Pilgrims Way East to Clan Cottage and High Point, and creation of a vehicle access and parking area on land at Clan Cottage, as amended by further details received on 17/11/08, 25/11/08,17/12/08, 21/12/08 and 21/01/09.

Allowed

SE/08/03401 **1 Tudor Crescent**

Erection of two first floor side extensions

Allowed

c. Planning appeals

SE/08/01136 **1 Wickham Field**

Construction of dwelling within curtilage

Appeal against refusal by SDC - *Appeal Dismissed*

d. Tree Work in Conservation Area

09/00446/WTCA **76 High Street**

Remove one willow tree.

The Parish Council apologises if dates have gone past when you receive your newsletter as timings for deliveries cannot always be guaranteed due to pressure on our local printer and on the volunteer deliverers. Thank you.