

Otford Parish Council

August Newsletter 2005

No 137

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

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Crime Prevention Evening



Please come along to this evening arranged with Kent Police Crime Reduction Officer PC Andy Blackmore. It will take place on **Thursday 8th September** in the Club Room of the Village Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm. He will talk to us about crime prevention measures on our houses and personal property. If you are unable to attend this meeting PC Blackmore is also able to visit you at home and his contact number is 01892 502012

Community Warden

A few words from our new Community Warden Nic Roots. " Hello, I am the new Community Warden for Otford & Shoreham. I am employed by Kent County Council and my role is fairly similar to a PCSO. I am able to help with issues such as fly tipping, graffiti and anti social behaviour. The main part of my role is walking or foot patrol so I am able to provide a high visible presence in the village. Please don't be afraid to speak to me if you see me out and about or if you would like to give me a ring to discuss any issues, or if you just want a chat! My number is 07813 713366". Nic is based at the Parish Council office in Otford where you can also get in touch with him.

Otford Fete - Open Meeting

This year's Open Meeting will take place in the Hope Room at 8pm on **Monday 17th October**. Please come along to contribute your ideas on how 2006 can build

on the success of previous years events. This years fete theme was 'Nautical' reflecting the 200th anniversary of Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. For a while we had themed weather, but the heavy rain, hail and thunder that marked the opening of the fete departed allowing a successful last two hours. Our primary aim - fun for the village - was fully achieved. This year's parade was a great success and hugely appreciated by those who braved the early showers to watch it. The participation of children from both Otford Primary and Russell House Schools was great to see. The day was rounded off by the aerobatic plane performing in a spectacular patch of blue sky. Great thanks to all the societies that took part via floats, stalls and attractions, and all the people and local businesses who helped sponsor the day. The weather did result in lower numbers of people attending, but approximately 4,000 people were there, and the Fete Committee achieved an increase in funds of around £3,000. These funds can be spent on projects and activities related to the village and its residents. Some new people have volunteered to help run the event next year, but we could still do with new members. If you are interested in the best way to get to know how your village ticks, call John Roberts on 01959 522521.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 18th August** between 11am and 12 noon. We have changed the day back to during the week as no one used to come on Saturday! Please come and see him if you have any concerns. Also as part of the Sevenoaks District Council's Community Safety Partnership he has a limited number of **FREE** timers, cans (for hiding items in), shed alarms and personal panic alarms that he is able to hand out to residents. Please contact him on 07969 584205 if you are interested.

Front Garden Competition



The Otford Gardeners' Society are again organising the Village Front Garden Competition on behalf of the Parish Council. Preliminary judging will be taking place during July and August and members of the society will be touring the village taking notes. The competition is based on the front gardens that would take the eye of a stranger to the village, without him

or her having to peer over or around a hedge, fence or wall. Please talk to the members, they are all very friendly.

Otford Station Booking Office

There have been many letters and comments - both verbally and in the local papers - about this proposal. Sevenoaks Extra will welcome further thoughts at 1, East Street, Tonbridge, Kent or email them at 7oaks extra@thekmgroun.co.uk

South Eastern - Days Out by Train

The above leaflets are available at the Station - look at pages 1 and 6 - and then buy a ticket!

Trafalgar Remembered

Trafalgar Remembered, a community commemoration of the bi-centenary will be held in the Memorial Hall on the evening of **Saturday 22nd October**. Watch out for further notices.

MEN ARE WANTED to sing sea-songs and shanties. These will be recorded by Barbara Darby and used as background music on the evening. All types of voices required - and you won't have to face the audience! Watch local press for details, or ring the musical director Tony Wiltshire on 01959 524887. Two or three sessions of an hour or so are all that will be required of your time, later this summer.

An exhibition of seascapes and marine paintings by local artists (including children) will be staged in the Church Hall on 22nd October as part of SEA BRITAIN and Trafalgar celebrations. Organised by the W.I Art Group.

National Blood Service

The National Blood Service (NBS) is encouraging people to donate blood over summer. Although there are many loyal blood donors throughout the local area, currently only 6% of the eligible population make the effort to give blood. Hospitals in Kent use around 1,500 blood donations every week to save and improve the lives of sick and injured patients. Every one of these donations is given by a volunteer donor, however, blood stocks can often dip during the summer as fewer people come forward to donate. The demand for blood never stops and they always need people to come forward and give blood regularly to ensure patients continue to receive the treatments they require. As many people go away on holiday, some of the regular donors are not available and the NBS is asking people to please try and attend a session in the local area this summer. New and lapsed donors are being encouraged to come along to the sessions and help save lives. It is possible to give blood every 16 weeks (three times a year). If you haven't donated

before, make this the time to begin. If you are aged between 17 and 60 (17 and 70 for regular donors), weigh over 7st 12lbs (50kg) and are in general good health you should be able to give blood. If you wish to sign up to the British Bone Marrow Registry you must be aged between 18 and 44 and be a blood donor. For further information contact the National Helpline on 0845 7 711711 or visit the website on www.blood.co.uk

Local Session Times

- United Reformed Church Hall, St John's Road, Sevenoaks - Tuesday October 4th - 2pm - 4.30pm and 5.30pm - 8.00pm
- Plaza Suite, Sevenoaks Playhouse - Tuesday October 18th - 2pm - 4.30pm and 5.30pm - 8.00pm

'Do something amazing - Give Blood'

Otford Library

The extended opening hours for Otford Library from 3rd August are as follows:-

Mon - 9.30am - 1.00pm / 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Tue - 9.30am - 1.00pm / 2.00pm - 7.00pm
Weds - 9.30am - 1.00pm / 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Thurs - 9.30am - 1.00pm / 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Fri - 9.30am - 1.00pm / 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Sat - 9.30am - 12.30pm

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 July TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 50

2nd Prize £15 - 98

3rd Prize £10 - 57

Congratulations to this month's winners and thank you to everyone who continues to support the school. Don't forget forms are still available from the School office and Parish Council office, for those who would like to take part.

Otford Allotments Association



National Allotment Week has just passed (missed it / oh dear! Never mind). We opened the allotment on Saturday 13th August to enable guests and anyone interested to have a guided tour and to see the current winning allotment for this season. Otford Allotments Association is a thriving organisation with the idea of keeping this green lung in the middle of Otford open for all to use for their benefit. We

start the Allotment Year on 1st October, so if you are interested in getting involved by renting your very own plot, please give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468.

Sevenoaks Swing Dance Club

The popular swing dance lessons for Lindy Hop are back after the summer break on **6th September** and then fortnightly. Meetings start at 8 o'clock in Otford Church Hall. Entry is £6 on the door. For more information please contact 01959 522810.

Picture of the Month

The artist for August / September is Jean Wylie. Jean has lived in the village for 44 years and her favourite subject at school was art. However, raising three children did not leave her much time for this hobby but, having retired, has now taken up the pastime again. Jean attends classes at Chipstead Lake Sailing Club, painting mainly with oils and acrylics. Her favourite subjects are landscapes, wildlife and botanical art.

If you reside in the village and paint in any medium, would you like to have one of your pictures exhibited in the Heritage Centre? Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 for further information.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **SATURDAY 24th September** when Jean Littlejohn will talk about 'Stitching with Attitude'. The meetings begin at **2pm** and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588.

CAB Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 6th September** between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along and see the adviser who will be happy to help you with your problems.

Otford Afternoon W.I

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Membership is £21 per year and Tea at the meeting is 30p.

The next meeting takes place on **13th September** with the Citizens Advice Bureau. Please contact 01959 522915 for more details.

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 months speakers and events are as follows: -

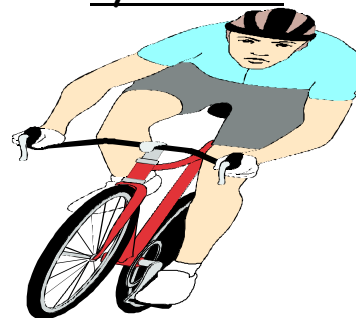
September

7th - Ellenors for Tea

14th - Mr George Davis - *Forgotten Shares*

21st - Mr Brian Nobbs - *'Birds'*

Cycle events



If you like cycling then you might fancy these events.

The Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Bike ride takes place on **Saturday 10th September**. The idea is that you cycle or walk to visit as many churches of all denominations as possible in the day while being sponsored for each one. The money collected is sent to the Kent Churches' Trust and half is returned to your own church while the other half is sent to needy churches throughout Kent.

The Amherst Rotary Cyclo Sportive 2005 event takes place on **Sunday 18th September** starting at Sevenoaks Prep School, Godden Green. Registration from 07.30am and start at 9am. All the money from the £25 entry fee and any sponsorship is handed over to Cancer Care. To date this event has raised in excess of £75,000. Further information from 01959 522148. There are two routes of 80km and 140km

Free Saturday Refuse Collection

The following are the collection dates for 05/06

Tudor Drive - 1.15pm to 1.45pm

Bubblestone Road - 2pm to 2.30pm

24th September, 3rd December and 11th February 06

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Hale Lane near pavilion - 12 noon to 12.45pm

The Charne - 1pm to 1.30pm

1st October, 10th December and 18th February 06

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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. The Council operates a separate, fortnightly Garden Waste Collection Service. Special Council Garden Waste sacks (available at School House) or a wheeled bin and an annual permit can be purchased for a modest fee. For more information please contact 01732 227000

Otford & District Historical Society Summer Outings



Saturday 3rd September - all day visit to Portsmouth Dockyard with all visitor attractions including HMS Victory, HMS Warrior - when completed in 1861 was the world's most formidable warship and the Mary Rose - built in 1511, Henry VIII's flagship for many years, sank in the Solent in 1545, raised in 1982 and undergoing conservation ever since.

Coach leaves Otford Pond at 8.30am

Cost is £22.00 per head

For bookings and further details please contact Cliff and Elizabeth Ward on 01959 522384.

Litter Picking

Please do not drop litter in this your village, there is no need to do so as rubbish bins are provided at a number of locations. If all residents would please pick up a piece of litter as you walk around the village it would help keep our village as lovely as it should be as befits our title of Village of The Year for Kent and South and South East England 2002.

ICE

Following the tragic events in London the East Anglian Ambulance Service have launched a national 'In case of Emergency (ICE)' campaign with the support of Falklands war hero Simon Weston. The idea is that you store the word 'ICE' in your mobile phone address book, and against it enter the number of the person you would want to be contacted 'in case of emergency'. In an emergency situation ambulance and hospital staff will then be able to quickly find out who you next of kin are and able to contact them quickly.

Planning

The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in August. 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/05/01435 **The Chicken Farm, Shorehill Lane**

Change of use of 4 redundant agricultural buildings to B1 use.

SE/05/01647 **Cherrygarth, Shoreham Road**

Erection of a single storey, timber framed glazed conservatory

SE/05/01764 **24 Rye Lane**

Demolition of existing and erection of new conservatory to the rear

SE/05/01884 **Block 9 VestryIndustrial Estate**

Demolition of existing building and erection of 3 terraced industrial units with ancillary offices, car parking and service yards

SE/05/01904 **61 High Street**

Replacement of double glazed doors and windows with timber windows in keeping with the property

b. Results received

SE/05/00748 **3 Coombe Road**

Two storey rear extension and conservatory (alternative to SE/05/00088/FUL to show a gable style roof to the proposed extension instead of hipped) *Allowed*

SE/05/01044 **77 Sidney Gardens**

Replacement of first floor flat roof with pitched roof and replacement of all roof covering. Demolition of outside w.c, coal bunker and boiler enclosure additions and installation of first floor w.c. and shower room. *Allowed*

SE/05/01092 **Umberslade, Shoreham Road**

Removal of existing dwelling and the construction of two 5 bedroom detached houses *Allowed*

SE/05/01264 **21 Willow Park**

Loft conversion with rear dormer *Allowed*

SE/05/01296 **Russell House Sch Station Road**

New temporary staff room at rear of site *Allowed*

SE/05/01306 **87 Willow Park**

Front porch extension *Allowed*

SE/05/01370 **Block 7 VestryIndustrial Estate**

Demolition of existing office pods, building new office pods and removal of mezzanine as amended by letter and plans dated 19/07/05 *Allowed*

SE/05/01399 **45 Pilgrims Way West**

Front two storey extension plus 1st floor extension to side and rear. New detached garage to rear (pursuant to amended plan no P/1A dated 29/07)/05 *Allowed*

SE/05/01647 **Cherrygarth, Shoreham Road**

Erection of a single storey, timber framed glazed conservatory *Allowed*

