

Otford Parish Council December Newsletter 2003 No 118

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
otfordpc@btinternet.com
Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri

Christmas/New Year Travel Details

Public Transport Traveline (0870 608 2608)

Bus

Dec 24th - Normal
Dec 25th - No Service
Dec 26th - No Service
Dec 27th - Saturday Service
Dec 29th - Saturday Service
Dec 30th - Saturday Service
Dec 31st - Saturday Service
Jan 1st - No Service
Jan 2nd - Saturday Service

Train

(South Eastern Trains 0870 603 0405)

Dec 24th - Normal Service
But close down after 21.30
Dec 25th - No Service
Dec 26th - No Service Otford
But hourly service Charing X to Ashford/
Sevenoaks and Orpington to Victoria
Dec 27th - Saturday Service
Dec 28th - Sunday Service
Including Eynsford, Shoreham, Otford, Bat&Ball
and Sevenoaks
Dec 29th - Saturday Service
Dec 30th - Saturday Service
Dec 31st - Saturday Service
Plus a few extra peak hour trains
New Years Eve - ½ hourly service Victoria to
Orpington Midnight to 5am **NEW!**
Jan 1st - Sunday Service
Jan 2nd - Saturday Service
Jan 3rd - Saturday Service
Jan 4th - Sunday Service

Please note Engineering works on weekend Jan
3rd and 4th - Buses Otford to Sevenoaks and
Orpington to Sevenoaks

Advance News

As from Monday 26th January 2004 the 16.14 and
19.14 from Cannon Street to Ashford via Maidstone
East will call at Otford at approx 16.45 and 19.45.

Both trains will also stop at London Bridge. South
East Trains are aware of the need for City trains on
this line and have responded to pressure by the
Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association. Further
improvements may have to wait for the completion
of the Eurostar High Speed Link to London in 2007

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery will take place on
Wednesday 7th January 2004 and PC Jackie
Allen will 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 Church Christmas Services



- Sunday 14th December - 5.00pm
Christingle Service
 - Sunday 21st December - 11am
Christmas Praise Family Service
 - Sunday 21st December - 6.30pm
Carols by Candlelight
 - Christmas Eve 24th Dec - 4.00pm
'Barn Service' at local barn - ring 522196 for details
 - Christmas Day 25th Dec - 10.30am
Christmas Day Service for all the family
 - New Years Eve 31st Dec - 11.30pm
Watchnight Service to see in New Year
- Christmas cards from the Churches in Otford,
listing all the church services over the Christmas
period, will be delivered to every house in the
Parish.

St Barts Carol Concert

This popular concert takes place on Sunday 14th
December at 7.30pm.

Carol Singing

On Monday 22nd December at 6.45pm join the
Methodist Church carol singing in the Willow Park
area. Meeting at Telston Stores. Refreshments will
follow. Collecting for NCH Action for Children.

Christmas Tree Lights

New Christmas tree lights have been purchased by
the Parish Council with the aid of a generous grant
from the Fete Committee. Sadly the lights were
vandalised on the first night and the damage took
some hours to repair. The Council are most
grateful to everyone who has helped with the
scheme and would ask residents and visitors to
report any further vandals on 01959 524808.

Storytime



Otford Library is now holding a story time for the under 5's every **Tuesday** at 2.30pm in school term time only. Parents will be required to stay. The storyteller has kindly volunteered her services. You do not have to be a member of the library, its free and open to any child. If you require further information please contact the Library on 01959 522488.

Holiday Refuse Collections

| <u>Normal Collection Day</u> | <u>Rescheduled Day</u> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Weds 24 th December | No change |
| Thurs 25 th December | Fri 2 nd January |
| Fri 26 th December | Sat 3 rd January |
| Mon 29 th December | No change |
| Tues 30 th December | No change |
| Weds 31 st December | No change |
| Thurs 1 st January | Fri 2 nd January |
| Fri 2 nd January | Sat 3 rd January |

Videos

All these videos, which make perfect presents are available to buy from School House during weekday mornings and the Heritage Centre on weekend afternoons.

- ✓ Otford's Chronicle of Millennium Events - £10
- ✓ Scale Model of the Solar System -£10
- ✓ The Village Mosaic - £10
- ✓ The Bells of St Bartholomew's - £10
- ✓ Reprint of The Kentish Village of Otford (Recollections of events during 1994) - £10
- ✓ Otford Down Under - £6
- ✓ Otford Village Sign - £6
- ✓ A Village in Kent with a Pond (a compilation of the Village of the Year competition, discovery of the Saxon Urn in The Charne and Jubilee and TV footage) - £6
- ✓ Bridge Video – Replacement of Millstream Bridge - £6.50

Local Craftsmens Videos

- ✓ Four generations of Watchcase making - £12.50
- ✓ The Work of Art – Picture Framing - £7.50



Another good stocking filler if you are interested in the Solar System is a ZooBooKoo Planet Cube on display in the Heritage Centre and priced at just £5.

Otford's Multimedia Projector

Otford's Multimedia projector is now up and running, which means it can be hired for video and computer presentations for your club/society meetings. Hiring depends on a trained operator being available, there will be a nominal charge for village societies, slightly more for other local clubs. For availability see <http://www.Otford.info/> press quick links/parish council

Parent & Toddler Group - Otford

The First Thursday Club for parents/carers and toddlers meets once a month at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Otford from 10am to 11.30am. While the children play, go along and join them for a drink and a chat. The next meeting will be **Thursday 8th January 2004**

Sevenoaks Swing Dance Club

The next meeting of the Sevenoaks Swing Dance Club is on **Tuesday 16th December** in Otford Church Hall. Lessons in 'Lindy Hop' (early jive) are given by London teacher Porl Smith. They start at 8pm for beginners and 9pm for the more advanced. £6 on the door. Next years meetings will be fortnightly starting on Jan 20th, then Feb 10th & 24th, March 9th and 23rd. For further information call 01959 522810

Crime Prevention Advice Centre

Will be held at Otford Village Hall and Car Park on **Saturday 17th January 2004** between 10.30am and 3.30pm. A selection of Crime Prevention devices will be available to purchase – some will be distributed free and some at reduced costs. They can help you to lessen the risks by showing you how

- To secure your house against burglars
- To security post code your property
- To secure your garage and shed for £6
- To avoid bogus callers
- To have car windows etched for £5

Otford Netball Club



If you are aged 8-17years old you can go to Otford Netball Club who are celebrating their 10th birthday next year on Saturdays between 9.45 and 11.15am to practise your general Netball skills. They meet at Walthamstow Hall Senior School for Girls, Hollybush Lane in Sevenoaks. All games and practices are played outside and are supervised by

A.E.N.A coaches and umpires. Call 01959 523114 for more information.

Otford & District Wine Club



The Otford & District Wine Club are holding their Christmas Social on **Saturday 13th December** in the Otford Memorial Hall. The evening starts at 7.15pm with a welcome glass of sherry. At approximately 7.45pm there will be a three course Christmas Dinner with four choices for each course, plus crackers, coffee and mints. Please take along your own drink and glasses. There will be live music for dancing, a raffle and a joke competition. The tickets are £14 for members and £17 for non-members. Please call the Secretary on 01732 761359 if you would like tickets.

Local Walks

After too much turkey and pudding why not go for a walk in Palace Park Wood or Oxenhill Shaw & Meadow. These lovely local areas are under used and are wonderful places for a gentle ramble or for the more energetic kids and dogs to run around in. And don't forget to walk around the Solar System! (leaflets available School House/Heritage Centre)

Re-Cycle



For all your cycling needs from repair to restoration with free local collection and delivery please contact 07867 671621

Ducklings Nursery Pre-school



Are you looking for a nursery for your child? Ducklings, has been established in Otford for more than 20 years. They take children from 2½ years to Primary School entry. Ducklings, offers a safe and caring environment at St Bartholomew's Church Hall. They are open Monday to Friday 9.15am to 12.15pm (until 3.15pm on Mondays and Wednesdays). Ducklings, more than meets OFSTED requirements and gained a glowing report on the last inspection. As a not for profit nursery, they ensure that all the money is used for the

children's benefit. Contact Maureen Perry on 01959 524298 or Liz Williamson on 01959 523564 for details.

Picture of the Month

This is a new venture, which can be viewed in the Heritage Centre.

This month's painting is by Michael Crook, who has an Honours Degree in Chemistry and decided to take up art again after he retired from teaching at various universities, having attended art classes at Morley College prior to retirement. He therefore had some idea of what type of artistic work he wanted to do. However, he is also a keen sailor both on the lakes and the sea, having studied for his Yacht Masters Certificate and in addition has photography as a hobby. He is a member of Sevenoaks Camera Club, Sevenoaks Art Club and a keen member of the Art class that runs once a week in the Methodist Church Hall.

Christmas Shopping

Don't forget first to look in our village shops for that special Christmas present. We have some lovely individual shops, which are all looking wonderfully festive, and they all need your support at this busy time.

Santa comes to Sevenoaks



Children under five can meet Santa at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre on Monday 22nd December as part of two special 'Festive Fun' sessions. The Festive Fun sessions include arts and crafts, toys and games and a free gift from Santa. They take place from 10am to 12 noon and 1pm to 3pm and cost £4 for leisure centre members and £4.50 for non members. For more information call 01732 470700.

Citizens Advice Bureau

If you are tempted by offers of a 'free holiday' or a chance to join a 'holiday club' be very careful, as the old 'timeshare scam' seems to be back, under a slightly different guise. Citizens Advice Bureaux nationally have seen an increase in complaints from people who have bought 'holiday club' membership at high-pressure sales presentations, often after winning a 'free' holiday. The holiday turns out not to be free and is poor value and inflexible. Problems in the timeshare and holiday club market are not new. Trading standards

departments in the UK had over 4,400 complaints in 2002 alone. At Sevenoaks CAB they have seen an increase in people who have been pressurised into joining holiday clubs, often after winning a 'free' holiday, which requires them to attend a presentation. At presentations people are bombarded with facts and figures, and pushed into signing a contract. They are also persuaded to pay a deposit on the spot, which they can't get back once they have had time to consider the deal. At present there is no legal protection for consumers ripped off in this way. The Timeshare Act 1992, addresses some of the problems by tackling pressure selling, lack of accurate information and difficulty in getting deposits back. But some rogue traders are back with similar scams, avoiding the legislation by not selling timeshare, but selling a slightly different product through 'holiday clubs'. To combat pressure selling, the Timeshare Act give consumers a cooling off period and made it a requirement for timeshare companies to provide information about the contract; it also banned taking deposits from consumers when they first signed up. The new 'holiday clubs' escape the definition of timeshare by not applying to fixed accommodation – they are either on boats or in a range of different locations. They also bypass the protection given to consumers by limiting the holiday club packages to under 3 years. The EU and the UK government have acknowledged the problem and are planning new legislation to crack down on the problem. But until this comes into force, consumers should be very wary about these holiday clubs.

To find out more contact the CAB at The Library, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HW. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday 10am and 1pm - appointments for form filling

(Tel No: 01732 - 454443

(Fax No: 01732 - 463164

(E-mail: 7oakscab@dial.pipex.com

Web page: www.7oakscab@dial.pipex.com

CAB Surgery

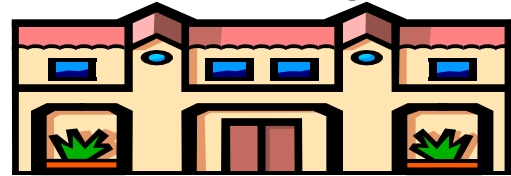
An adviser from CAB is at the Otford Parish Council office on the 1st Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on 6th January

Otford Regnal Circle

In 1952 the newly - installed Methodist minister Rev Fred Clifford, brought together six people and told them about the Regnal League. The Otford Regnal Circle arose out of that meeting. This ecumenical group had a significant place in the life of the village until 2000, not least because of its annual presentation of 'An approach to Christmas'. Alistair Smith of Well Rd, one of the original six, has written a concise history of the Circle, which

together with its shield, may now be seen in the Otford Heritage Centre.

Planning



The following applications were considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in December. 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/03/02601 Park Farm High Street

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 11.8m x 4m x 2.3m

SE/03/02603 Greenways Shoreham Rd

Two storey side extension

SE/03/02733 5 Tudor Drive

Erection of a single storey side extension, first floor side extension, front porch and associated alterations

SE/03/02749 52B Pilgrims Way East

Proposed attached garage extension and side extension

b. Results Received

SE/03/01478 Wayside Shoreham Rd

Outline application for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two detached bungalows and garages, alteration to existing access and formation of additional vehicular access

Allowed

SE/03/02104 Beadles Garage Sevenoaks Rd

Proposed canopy to jet-wash area

Allowed

c. Tree Preservation Order

320.120/14.00/03.107

Autumn House Telston Lane

Application to prune trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order



The Chairman, Parish Councillors, Clerk and Assistant Clerk wish you all a very happy, restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year.