

Otford Parish Council

December Newsletter 2009

No 185

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

Merry Christmas

Otford Christmas Shopping Festival

Despite the not so nice weather on the day all the shops opened and people came in large numbers to enjoy the fun of the day. The Parish Council says a huge thank you to all the shopkeepers and pubs who took part in this special day. We sincerely hope that it was successful day for you all. Lots of people enjoyed the opportunity to browse around and buy from our lovely shops where some of the shopkeepers had also dressed in costume for the day and enjoy the entertainment provided in the High Street with Bobbo the clown doing wonderful things with balloons, ladies Morris dancing, The Primary School singing carols, Father Christmas and his big basket of sweets, Church Bells ringing, members of the Methodist Church giving away mince pies, Rob our fantastic fire juggler and our warm thanks to our visiting Victorian Characters. Well done to everyone.

Parish Council

For those interested in all the activities of OPC, the minutes of meetings are available in the library, and all minutes, agendas and newsletters can be obtained via the web (also available in the library). They can be read via <http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil>. The newsletter is also available on the website.

The next meeting will be on Monday 11th January at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Guide Christmas Post

The Guide Christmas Post Box is operating in Otford Library between Friday 27th November and Friday 18th December inclusive during opening hours. A second box is also available in the Parish Council office on Monday to Friday between the same dates. All cards will be delivered over the weekend 19th -

20th December and all the proceeds will be divided between Bradbourne Riding for the Disabled Association and St John Ambulance Kent. Stamps will be 20p per card and all the money will go to the chosen charities.

Be Safe - Be Sure

We would just like to remind you to be aware of the following so that criminals don't enjoy their Christmas at your expense.

- Keep your presents out of sight in your car and house. If they can be seen they can be stolen. Keep curtains pulled.
- Always close windows and lock all doors when going out and check car is also locked.
- Park in a well-lit area or an attended car park.
- If going away, consider using timer switches, cancel milk and papers and ask a neighbour to keep an eye on the house.
- Only open your door after identifying the caller.
- Do not keep large amounts of cash at home or carry large amounts of cash around with you.
- If you are offered a quality product at a bargain price ensure the source is genuine.
 - In an emergency always dial 999
 - To confidentially report information about crime call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111
 - The number for Sevenoaks Police Station is 01732 771055

Police Surgery

The next Police surgery with PCSO Jane Wright will be held at Parish Council Offices on Tuesday 15th December between 11am and 12 noon. If you cannot make the surgery Jane's contact number is 07772 226036

The Parish Council would like to welcome our new neighbourhood Police Officer PC Ben Clatworthy who started in this area last month. If you would like to contact Ben with any policing concerns his number is 07980 770581.

For Information the West Kent Police Motorcycle Team carried out speed checks in Shoreham Road on 9th November and the officers reported that they issued EIGHT Fixed Penalty Notices and TEN verbal Warnings. They will be back. Please keep to the 30mph speed limit.

Otford 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.

Otford & District Historical Society

The last meeting of the year was the AGM on Wednesday 9th December. The first meeting of 2010 will be on 20th January when Edwin Thompson will talk about '*All change at Otford Junction*'. After the outstanding success of the first publication, the new Otford - Past in Pictures II Book is now available for sale at £7. It makes a perfect Christmas Present. They are available from the Parish Council Office / Heritage Centre, The Crown PH, The Chemists, The Post Office, Willow Tea Rooms, Yvonne's and Sevenoaks Bookshop

Otford Oast WI

The meetings take place on a Thursday once a month starting at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them.

Otford Afternoon WI

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. For more details of joining the Afternoon WI please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

St Bartholomew's Church Christmas

Services

Sunday 20th December

6.30pm - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

4.00pm - Crib Service

11.30pm - Midnight Christmas Communion (starting with carols at 11.10pm)

Christmas Day

9.00am - Christmas Day Communion

10.30am - Church Family Christmas Worship

Otford Methodist Church Services

Sunday 20th December at 10.30am - Christmas Nativity Family Service

Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm - Carol Service

Thursday 24th December at 5pm - Christingle

Service - loved by children and adults - we remember Jesus the Light of the World - in the Hall

Friday 25th December at 10.30am - Christmas Day Service for all the Family

Table Top Sale

There will be a Table Top sale on Saturday 16th January in the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball from 10am to 12 noon with the proceeds of the tables and refreshments going to the Citizen's Advice Bureau. Come and sell your unwanted Christmas presents, declutter your wardrobe and make some

money. The cost is £10 per table. To book your place please call Anne on 01959 523582

Otford Heritage Centre/ Parish Council

The Heritage Centre is closed during weekends in December and normal weekend/bank holiday opening resumes on 2nd January 2010.

The Parish Council office will be closed on Christmas Eve and reopen after Christmas on Tuesday 29th December and then again after the New Year on Wednesday 4th January 2010. Full details will be posted on the office window.

Christmas/New Year Travel Details

Sevenoaks Bus Station - 01732 743040

Buses

Dec 25th - No service

Dec 26th - No service

Dec 27th - No service

Dec 28th - No service

Dec 29th - Saturday service

Dec 30th - Saturday service

Dec 31st - Saturday service

Jan 1st - No service

Jan 2nd - Normal service

Trains

Dec 24th - Normal service. Trains Stop at 22.00hrs

Dec 25th - No service

Dec 26th - Special timetable, v limited service

Dec 27th - Sunday service

Dec 28th - Sunday service

Dec 29th - Saturday service

Dec 30th - Saturday service

Dec 31st - Saturday service

Jan 1st - Sunday Service

Jan 2nd - Saturday Service

Full details of additional or amended services will be displayed at station. Please check before beginning your journey. For full details of all services operating over the festive period, please call 08457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

Holiday Refuse Collections

Normal Collection Day

Thurs 24th December

Fri 25th December

Mon 28th December

Tues 29th December

Wed 30th December

Thurs 31st December

Fri 1st January

Mon 4th January

Rescheduled Day

Normal Collection

Sat 2nd January

Normal Collection

Normal Collection

Normal Collection

Normal Collection

Sat 2nd January

Normal Collection resumes

Please ensure that your black and clear sacks are put out by 7am on your rescheduled day of collection..

Garden Waste Collections

There will be no collections on Friday 25th December for BLUE WEEK customers. The last collection before Christmas will be Friday 11th December and the next one will be Friday 8th January 2010. The only change for GREEN WEEK customers will be from the week beginning 28th December where collections due on Friday 1st January will take place on Saturday 2nd January

Report from Otford Evening WI

Eve Wiltshire, our newly elected president, took her first meeting and congratulated two members, Diana Jeremiah and Barbara Roberts, on being the winners at a recent Federation whist day. Our speaker was a retired Flood Development Officer who told us about the river Darent, how it was a manmade river which started in Westerham and at one time boasted over 25 mills on its entire length. Interest was particularly keen when he got to the Otford stretch and its associated streams the Bubblestone and the Honeypot and one member who lives in the village near the river brought along two old photographs of the mill, one as it used to be in its heyday and one after the fire which devastated it. Pat Goddard won the raffle and went home with the flower arrangement.

Otford Allotment Association

Allotments are still very much in demand but there is always a lot of movement re tenancies in Otford, particularly at this time of year. So if you have an inclination to take one on now is the time to register your interest ready for the forthcoming growing season. Ring Barbara Hine on 01959 525468 if your interest who will be pleased to hear from you. Meanwhile all have a great Christmas with all your allotment grown veggies.

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 December (PLEASE NOTE THIS LECTURE IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY) by Sarah Lenton on *'All Done on Ginger Beer: The Creation of the ENO, The Royal Ballet and the National Theatre by Lillian Baylis at the Old Vic.'* In this lecture Sarah Lenton will relate how Lillian Baylis came from South Africa to England to assist her aunt at the Old Vic Theatre and ended up creating three of our great national institutions. 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.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2009/2010 lecture season continued on 10th December when Mr Lars Tharp talked about *'A Grand Tour of Kent 1732'* The first meeting of 2010 will take place on 14th January when Mr Tony Tucker will talk about *'The Splendours of the City Churches'*. 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.

Otford Art Group

Would you like to join our ART GROUP. We meet every Tuesday morning from 9.30am in the Methodist Church Hall. We have visiting tutors and paint in any medium. Please just come along and enjoy painting with like minded people.

Picture of the Month

The artist for December / January is Sheila Vizard. Sheila says 'Anyone who lived in Otford in the 70's and 80's will probably remember Ros and Brian Snow. My picture is a pen and wash painting of their beautiful farmhouse near Rodez, in the South of France'. 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 January between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Christmas tree Recycling

As in past years you can have your Christmas tree recycled by the District Council. All you do is put your tree at the kerbside and they will collect it at no cost when they do the next garden waste collection in your road. Trees with a trunk of 3½" in diameter or smaller will be collected until the end of January. Trees should not be decorated or in a pot or stand. Trees with a larger trunk can be taken to Dunbrik Recycling Site in Sundridge. If you are still unsure about how to dispose of your Christmas tree or would like to know when your next garden waste collection takes place, call the Council on 01732 227000.

Planning

The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council in December. 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/09/02141 9 Colets Orchard

Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of extensions to front, rear and side to form porch

SE/09/02275 28 The Butts

Erection of single storey side extension and two storey rear extension

SE/09/02329 Hoptarden Farm Telston Lane

Change of use for stationing of one static caravan and one touring caravan for residential occupation by single gypsy family with associated septic tank and hard standing and conversion of end stable for utility room. Temporary basis of three years.

SE/09/02422 Arum House 17 The Butts

Reconstruct conservatory to rear of property in materials to match the house

SE/09/02449 17 Greenhill Road

Enlargement of garage side lobby, insertion of two addition windows to front gable, amendment to application SE/08/03386FUL

SE/09/02458 95 Well Road

Proposed single storey rear/side extensions, formation of rooms in roof space and alterations to existing dwelling to form 2 no dwellings

SE/09/02477 46 Well Road

Part single/part two storey rear extension. Single storey side extension and front entrance porch

SE/09/02511 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

SE/09/02513 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

SE/09/02563 Block 12 Vestry Industrial Estate

Demolition of detached boiler house. Demolition of single storey part of building and construction of wall to retained building. Replacement of dilapidated link building with new. Infilling of door openings and provision of new window and door openings, internal layout alterations. Provision of new parking bays, paths and resurfacing. Replacement of fence and provision of new gates. Re level lower yard. Change

of use to sui generis - Royal Mail Delivery Office SE/09/02584 St Michael's School

Erection of a new pre-prep school following the demolition of the existing Headmaster's house, together with the change of use of the existing pre-prep school to replacement residential accommodation following the part demolition of additions and temporary buildings and improvements to an existing playing field.

SE/09/02613 Mayola Station Road

Demolition of existing double garage and construction of replacement double garage to front of property, single storey side extension and two storey rear extensions with introduction of attic accommodation

SE/09/02616 Mayola Station Road

Construction of two detached residential dwellings with detached double garage

SE/09/02701 Broughton Manor High Street

To upgrade and refurbish existing oak framed boathouse for use as recreational room, tea station and wc facility. Construction of deck overlooking lake.

b. Results received

SE/09/00768 14 Shinecroft

Retention of fence

Refused

SE/09/01804 6 High Street

Conversion of upper floor from 1 self contained flat to 2 no. As amended by plans received 26.10.09

Allowed

SE/09/01833 88 Evelyn Road

Erection of rear extension and alterations. Insertion of four roof lights on rear gables above kitchen.

Widening of front driveway and creation of further parking. Amended plans received 28.08.09

SE/09/02051 Clan Cottage Pilgrims Way East

Demolition of existing cottage and erection of five bedroom house

Refused

SE/09/02272 20 Leonard Avenue

Demolition of existing store/w.c. Erection of single storey rear and side extension

Allowed

SE/09/02325 8 Hillydeal Road

Proposed retention of pool house

Allowed

c. Appeals

SE/09/00631 17 Greenhill Road

Demolition of existing dwelling and garage. Erection of replacement dwelling with detached garage and associated access. As amended by drawings received on 05.05.09

Appeal against conditions imposed

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

