### A Parson’s Tale

As part of the Applause programme we are happy to present ‘A Parsons Tale’ a comedy devised and performed by Christopher Owen. The performance takes place in the Otford Village Hall on [Thursday 4th March] at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced £5 adults, £4 concessions and £3 children and are available from the Parish Council office.

Christopher Owen plays the Rev J.T. Smith, Rector of St Peter’s Mulworth. The year is 1895 and the Rev Smith has just arrived at the Parish Hall in the village of Norton. It is a very special occasion: the celebration of the rebuilding of the Old Bell Tower at St Peter’s. A guest speaker, the Very Rev Dean Hole is expected. Songs are to be sung by Rev Smith’s wife and his former curate Mr Rashleigh, now Rector of the Parish of Norton. Extracts from Charlotte Bronte, Washington Irving are to be performed. Unfortunately, neither Dean Hole, nor Mr Rashleigh, nor Rev Smith’s wife has yet arrived. But the audience has...An outstanding performance, much enjoyed by the audience, which gave him a prolonged ovation – The Stage

### Tree of Light

Please note that the actual amount collected for Hospice in the Weald has now gone up to £1,240.
other hand your interest is mainly in getting your
garden tools onto and into an allotment, there
are one or two small plots that may become
available, but again get in quick if you want to
get an early start in the gardening year. To find
out what is available give Barbara Hine a ring on
01959 525468 or call into the Parish Office on
any weekday morning for details.

Embroiderers’ Guild
The Sevenoaks Branch of the Embroiderers’ Guild
will be holding its next meeting in the Village
Memorial Hall on Saturday 28th February when
Helen Deighan will present a Show and Tell on
the Advantages of using Dyed Fabrics. This will
begin at 2pm. Visitors are always welcome. For
more information call Barbara Savager on 01959
523484.

School Train
Before the advent of Eurostar, it was possible for
students to catch a through train from Otford to
Tonbridge at about 8am, returning from
Tonbridge at about 4pm. At present there is only
a through train at 8.20am from Otford reaching
Tonbridge at 8.44am, much too late to reach
Judd, Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls etc.
There is no return through train so that a change
of train and platform is necessary at Sevenoaks.
Now that Eurostar has moved to the High Speed
link, the Parish Council – with much help from
the Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association – is
trying to persuade South Eastern trains to
reinstate the through trains at more suitable
times e.g.
Depart Otford  – about 8.04am
Arrive Tonbridge  - about 8.25am
Depart Tonbridge  - about 4.10pm
Arrive Otford  - about 4.30pm

What do you think? If these proposals are not
suitable, please let us know as soon as possible
either by leaving a message on 01959 524808 or
a brief note to the Parish Council at 21, High
Street. It is unlikely that any change would be
possible before September of this year.
P.S. If you work in the City, don’t forget the two
new Monday to Friday trains
Depart Cannon Street 4.14pm and 7.14pm
Depart London Bridge 4.18pm and 7.18pm
Arriving Otford at 4.48pm and 7.47pm
The first City to Otford trains – non-stop from
London Bridge!

Otford Oast W.I
The WI is all about today’s women developing
their talents and having a positive impact on the
world around them. Women join WI for different
reasons: Friendship, fun, outings, and getting to
know people in their local community. The Otford
Oast WI can provide all that and more besides.
Their programme covers all interests from
demonstrations and talks to actively taking part
in craft, cookery, local history, gardening,
parenting, beauty and health, music, drama,
public and community affairs and much more.
Outside of their monthly meetings they organise
various event too: craft dabble days, walks, trips
to art galleries and theatres and beauty parties
for example. As many of the members are mums,
they provide a free crèche for the meetings and
organise events around school times and terms.
They also include the children in their outings and
sometimes have specific events for them like a
theatre trip. So why not go along and give it a
try, you can be sure of a warm welcome. The
first visit is free, second visit £1.50 and Annual
membership is £20. For more information please
contact Mrs D Metcalfe on 01322 271873.
Their next meeting will be on Thursday 19th
February and they will have a talk from Stoney
Parsons on Modern Stained Glass. From her
Eridge workroom she creates stained glass
projects to inspire us all. She will be bringing
slides of her work and explaining what is involved
from design through to manufacture.

Police Surgery
The next Police Surgery will take place on
Wednesday 3rd March 2004 and PC Jackie
Allen will again 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 Village Fete
The Otford Village Fete will be held on the 31st
May. The fun begins at 1pm when the procession
has arrived in the main arena. The theme for the
procession is ‘Television’. The organisers would
like as many people / groups as possible to be
involved in the procession as numbers were down
last year. Anyone who is interested in
participating – village or commercial stalls,
attractions or even helping out on the day –
should contact either Mark Stevens on 01959
523881 or Andrew Hickson 01959 525120. It is
always a fun day out and this year should prove
to be no exception.
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 two months speakers and events are as follows:

February
18th St Barts ladies join – Judy Mayo – Oak Hall
25th – Members afternoon and tea

March
5th (Friday) – Women’s World Day of Prayer
10th – Peter Hills – In the steps of Woodbine Willie
17th March – Alan Denton – Old Tyme Music Hall

Otford & District Wine Club
Unfortunately the Otford & District Wine Club could not hold its Wine Tasting on 28th January due to the sudden short, sharp bout of bad weather. They hope that no one was inconvenienced by this. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th February and will be a film show. They will be showing a variety of films, some made in the Sevenoaks area, and these will include travel, comedy, animation and drama. Ice creams will be provided in the interval. As usual it will be held in the Otford Memorial Hall and will be free to members but there will be a small fee for visitors. It will begin at 8pm. Why not go along and enjoy a night out at the cinema.

Please also note Wednesday 31st March, in your diaries as they will be holding a Spring Social with a buffet supper (including wine) on that date in the Memorial Hall. There will be music and a cabaret and the price will be £10 for members and £12 for visitors. The caterers need to know the numbers attending in good time, so please let the Secretary know if you can come on 01732 761359 as soon as possible.

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.

Adventure in the Hopfields
Hospice in the Weald, Sevenoaks Link and the Rotary Club of Amherst, Sevenoaks jointly present a charity film show 'Adventure in the Hopfields’ presented by Barry Littlechild – film historian and retired BBC producer at The Bradbourne School, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Saturday 6th March 6.30pm for 7pm. Tickets £5 from Janet on 01732 761104, Bill on 01732 871097 or from the Sevenoaks Hospice Shop. There will also be a bar, refreshments and a raffle.

An enthralling journey down Memory lane – a treat for all the family and anyone interested in film-making and history of the 20th Century.

Otford & District Historical Society
The next meeting of the Society will take place on Wednesday 18th February at 8pm in the Village Hall. The talk is by John Elderton on Inland Waterways of Kent 1740 – 1850. Everyone is welcome to attend. Membership of the Society is just £3 per year and non-members are welcome to each talk for just £1.

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Otford Folk Dance Club
The 31st Club Birthday is on Thursday 26th February at 8pm in the Otford Parish Church Hall with the Footnotes Band with Eddie and Morris calling. Admission is £1.50 American Supper, Tea, Coffee, Squash included.
The regular ‘Thursday Nights’ run from 8pm in the Parish Church Hall and mostly finish at 10pm. Admission and membership is £1.50. The first visit is FREE! Including Tea / Coffee and biscuits. They have dancing to Eddie and Morris each usually taking half of the evening. But on the last Thursday in the month they are supported by visiting callers or musicians. There are also the occasional bigger dances, details on the club website of http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/otfordfdc2. They welcome new members at any time. All dances are walked through first and called. Enjoyment takes first place over skill. Don’t be put off, because you can’t commit to regular visits. They have over 100 members, many of whom just go along from time to time when they can. So why not go along when you can and enjoy the friendly atmosphere of the Otford Club.

Sevenoaks Swing Dance Club
The next meeting of the Sevenoaks Swing Dance Club is on [Tuesday 24th February] 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. The next meetings will be on March 9th and 23rd. For further information call 01959 522810

CAB Surgery
To find out more contact them 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

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 2nd March

Planning
The following applications were considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in February. 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/03/02978 Beadles Sevenoaks Rd
Installation of lighting to canopy at jet wash area

SE/03/02987 Akentfield 35 Greenhill Rd
New dormer window to rear elevation providing lighting to existing loft area

SE/03/03040 32 Greenhill Rd
Erection of replacement dwelling with integral garage

SE/04/00108 7 Tudor Drive
Single storey side and rear extensions

SE/04/00153 Greenways Shoreham Road
Erection of a two-storey side extension (revised)

b. Amended 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 of 11.8m a 4m x 2.3m

c. Results Received
SE/03/02603 Greenways Shoreham Rd
Two storey side extension  Refused

SE/03/02733 5 Tudor Drive
Erection of a single storey side extension, first floor extension, front porch and associated alterations

SE/03/02747 80 Evelyn Rd
Proposed kitchen/dining room extension  Allowed

SE/03/02749 52b Pilgrims Way East
Proposed attached garage extension  Allowed

SE/03/02842 16 Greenhill Rd
Erection of a two storey side extension, single storey front extension, rear conservatory and detached double garage, together with new vehicular crossover. Garage set back a minimum of 5m from the back of the highway. Amended 19.12.03

SE/03/02842 16 Greenhill Rd
Erection of a two storey side extension, single storey front extension, rear conservatory and detached double garage, together with new vehicular crossover. Garage set back a minimum of 5m from the back of the highway. Amended 19.12.03

SE/03/02542 32 Hillydeal Road
Appeal against refusal for sub-division of plot and erection of new dwelling and integral double garage

d. Tree work in Conservation Area
324.110/04.04 Barton Cott 56 High
Application to prune or remove various trees
324.110/04.08 12 High St
Application to prune a sycamore

e. Planning Appeals
SE/03/02542 32 Hillydeal Road
Appeal against refusal for sub-division of plot and erection of new dwelling and integral double garage

f. Appeal Decision
SE/03/01475 La Casa Rye Lane
Change of use of private garage to ancillary accommodation and associated alterations

Allowed