

Otford Parish Council

February Newsletter 2005

No 131

Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002
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Temporary Closure of Otford Library

Otford Library will be closed from **Monday 21st February to Monday 4th April** inclusive for modernisation improvements. This work will involve:

- ❖ New, improved lighting
- ❖ Complete re-decoration of public areas
- ❖ New shelving and the creation of a browsing area
- ❖ New carpet

A public consultation meeting was held at Otford Library in November and a lot of the improvements are based on feedback from people attending this event. While the work is being carried out, a mobile library service will be available in the library car park on the following Saturday mornings - 5th and 19th March and 2nd April. The opening hours of the nearest alternative library, which is Kemsing are as follows:

- ❖ Monday - Closed
- ❖ Tuesday - 9am - 1pm and 2pm - 6pm
- ❖ Wednesday - 9am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm
- ❖ Thursday - 9am - 1pm and 2pm to 5pm
- ❖ Friday - 9am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm
- ❖ Saturday - 9.30am - 12.30pm

They will also offer customers the opportunity to borrow extra items from Otford before the closure.

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 January TOP Draw are:

- 1st Prize £50 - 229
- 2nd Prize £15 - 198
- 3rd Prize £10 - 250

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.

They only need another 10 more people to join in to make £1000 per year on the draw, so come on pick up your form, pick your numbers and help your village school.

Otford Players

The Otford Players are delighted to say that the previously postponed production of *'The Noble Spaniard'* by W. Somerset Maugham will now be performed on **March 10th - 12th** at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. Tickets £5 (Thurs) and £6 (Fri and Sat). Refreshments included. Tickets (to include refreshments) obtained from Box Office on 01959 524304. The play is a comedy full of colourful Maugham characters and we look forward to seeing you. If you are interested in joining our friendly drama group (acting or backstage) please contact Marian on 01959 522856 or Chris on 01959 522637. Get involved with local drama - it really is great fun!

The Great Little Tilley



The next Applause production takes place on **Thursday 3rd March at 7.30pm** in the Village Memorial Hall. You are welcome to pre - show drinks and nibbles from **6.30pm**

The Great Little Tilley has all the thrills and spills of Bawdy Victorian theatre - top hats and tails, bawdy jokes, petticoats, bold dancers and cheeky songs. Pretty Good Dance Theatre invite you to join them as they romp through this most curious tale of Vesta Tilley - Music Hall's most famous male impersonator. Fast paced choreography, enchanting stories and haunting melodies combine to make this a bold and highly entertaining piece of theatre. A must see. Suitable for all ages

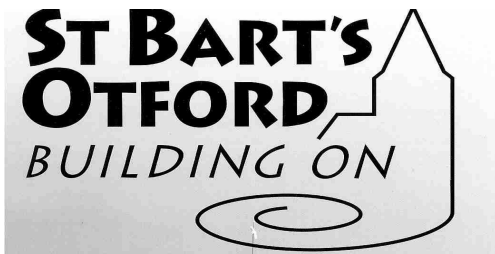
Tickets £5 for adults, £4 concessions and £3 children, available from the Parish Council office or book on 01959 524808.

Otford Fete Committee

This lively bunch of committed volunteers are looking for others to join their merry band. Help is always required to either sit on the Committee or as pairs of hands on the day. If you think you may be able to spare a few hours a month and be available on the day of the Fete then speak to Debbie on 01959 522354 or John on 01959 522521.

This is a great way to get to know people if you have recently come to live in the village. Our village fete is a huge success, and raises thousands of pounds that is put back into village organisations and clubs.

Auction of Promises



St Bartholomew's Church will be holding an 'Auction of Promises' and light supper on **Saturday 5th March** (the day before Mothering Sunday) to raise funds for the church extension. It will take place at Otford Primary School at 7.15pm. Derek Hodge from Ibbett Mosely has very kindly agreed to act as auctioneer. There is a wide range of lots with something of interest for everyone including a smocked embroidered dress for a young girl, England Rugby tickets, an afternoon of golf and holiday homes. Services such as professional photography, catering, babysitting and gardening are also on offer and Revd Pat Hopkins has very kindly agreed to act as guide around Westminster Abbey. Do you have a special anniversary or birthday to celebrate this year. If so, you might want to bid for your own personal peal of the Church bells or a hymn or anthem to be sung to mark the occasion. Tickets cost £5 and include a two-course meal and a glass of wine. They are on sale now and can be purchased from the Parish Council Office / Heritage Centre or the Parish office and will also be sold after services in St Bartholomew's Church throughout February. It promises to be a very enjoyable evening, so please make up a party of friends and neighbours and come along.

Website Competition

As part of the events taking place in connection with the St Bartholomew's Church extension, a competition is being run called 'The Church through my eyes' in which children are asked to design a picture which will be shown as a website page on the St Bart's website. There will be two age groups, 4-7 and 8-11. Entries can be a picture of a church or as imaginative as the children wish! Details about the competition are at the back of church, or you can call Hilary Fothergill on 01959 524120 for more information.

Otford Post Office

Otford Post Office are extending their opening hours on a Saturday for a trial period up to Easter due to the main Post Office at Sevenoaks closing at 12.30pm on Saturday. They will be open from 9am to 3.30pm each Saturday up to Easter. Many thanks for your continued support.

Otford Methodist Church

Otford Methodist Church will be starting their morning services at 10.30am from Sunday 6th March. The monthly traditional service will start at 9am. This is half an hour earlier than at present and they welcome comments during a trial period. If you are able to join them on 6th March the 10.30am service will celebrate Mothering Sunday and there is an informal Café evening starting at 6.30pm with coffee and cakes served. More information can be obtained from Kath Pawlett on 01959 522196.

Ducklings Nursery Pre-school



Are you looking for a nursery for your child? Ducklings, 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 an excellent report on the last inspection in June 2004. As a not for profit nursery, they ensure that all the money is used for the children's benefit. There are a few places for April 2005. Book now for Sept 2005. Contact Ducklings on 07720 955717 (times as above) or Maureen Perry on 01959 524298 (weekdays after 6pm)

Over 60's Social Club

On **Wednesday 16th February** the club, will be entertained by Nina Hayworth on the accordion. The first March meeting is on Wednesday 2nd when there will be light - hearted talk on health. Details from Jill or Ed on 01959 525775

Otford Allotments Association

Following on from the success of last year Otford Allotment Association are running a **BOOT FAIR** on the morning of **Saturday 16th April**. The rent for the table is £10, which will include your refreshments. To book your place or for any further details please ring Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887 or messages can be left on 01959 525468 if she is not immediately available - early booking is recommended.

The Allotment site is now fully tenanted, but at this time of year the situation tends to be a little flexible - so if you are interested in an early start in the gardening season, why not also book a place here - give Barabra Hine a ring on 01959 525468 who will show you around - or you can call into the Parish Council Office for all the details.

Picture of the Month

The artist for February / March is Jeanne Prestage. Jeanne moved to Otford in 1964 and has a family of two children and four grandchildren. Until his retirement, she worked with her husband in his Architectural Consultancy. She has over the years made use of many of the local Adult Education classes including, of course, art. She has been attending art classes for about 12 years and has experimented with various mediums with varying degrees of success. Jeanne says that she is flattered that one of her successes is to be exhibited in the Heritage Centre. 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

Otford Folk Dance Club

The next Thursday night special takes place in the Otford Church Hall on **24th February** from 8pm when the club look forward to welcoming 'Masquerade' a band from East Kent who have not visited the club before.

Go along and give the club a try, the range of dances covers folk, square or Barn Dances of English, American, Scottish, and Irish origin. Thursday nights first visit is free! After your first visit £1.50 per night including tea/coffee and biscuits. All dancing starts at 8pm. For more details call 01959 522355.

Otford - the past in pictures

The Otford & District Historical Society have produced a wonderful new book of old photographs of Otford. With 64 pages of pictures and accompanying text you will see a time when cattle roamed the streets and spring water was free. Discover the secrets of Otford Palace and join a Royal visit to the Forge and journey to the hamlet of Twitton and enjoy the Railway Station in the age of steam. Copies cost £7 and can be obtained from the following outlets. Parish Council office and Heritage Centre, The Post Office, The Chemist, Telston Stores, Otford Library and Sevenoaks Bookshop.

St Michael's School Grounds

A gentle reminder to those who may be using the school grounds unwittingly. There are **NO** rights of way or footpaths across the school property. This includes the area referred to as the 'Warren'. The access policy has also been confirmed in the recent 'right to roam' publications. The North Downs Way runs along the boundary of the school grounds to the north and can be accessed from Row Dow. A copy of the plan can be seen in the parish office. If you have

any queries please contact the school on 01959 522137. Thank you for your co-operation.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 26th February** when there will be talk from Wendy Dolan on 'A Change of Scale' The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club are pleased to announce that they are holding a Film Show on **Wednesday 23rd February** featuring films about the Sevenoaks area, animation, documentaries, travel and comedy. As usual this will be held in the Otford Memorial Hall beginning at 8pm, and will be free to members, but visitors will be charged a small fee. Ice creams will be served in the interval. Why not go along and enjoy a good night out at the flicks.

If you would like to go to the March Buffet which will be held in the Otford Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 30th March**. If you are interested please ring the Secretary on 01732 761359.

It will be £9 for members and £11 for guests (excluding wine). The Buffet will consist of eggs, prawns, ham, salmon, salads and hot potatoes, a variety of sweets and coffee and hopefully a cabaret.

Otford Gardeners Society

On **Thursday 24th February** the Otford Gardeners' Society will be hosting a 'Fun and Quiz Evening' in the Memorial Hall. The doors will open at 7pm and the quiz will commence at 7.30pm. There will be a warm up quiz to start the proceedings, followed by eight rounds of general knowledge, which will include gardening. There will be prizes for the winners and the runners-up. Nibbles will be provided but please take along your own liquid refreshment. A table will cost £12 with a maximum of eight people. If you would like to book a table, please contact the Chairman on 01959 524183.

Then on **Tuesday 1st March** John 'Dusty' Miller will talk on 'What the vegetable judge likes to see' Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further details contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or visit www.otford.info/gardeners.

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: -

February

16th - Magda Sweetland - *The USA in Sevenoaks*
23rd - St Barts ladies with us - *More Travels with Michael Richardson*

March

3rd (Fri) - Woman's World Day of Prayer - Otford Methodist Church
9th - Anne Miller - *I've started so I'll finish*
16th - Easter meditation

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting of the Historical Society will take place on **Wednesday 16th February** at 8pm in the Village Hall when Mervyn Streatfeild will talk on the subject of the *'The Streatfeilds of Chiddingstone'* Membership of the Society is only £3 a year, which includes 6 winter talks and usually 3 summer outings. Visitors are welcome to all meetings at just £1 and children are admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

The Tree of Light

The total amount raised for Hospice in the Weald including Gift Aid was £849.55. Many thanks.

Planning - Public Meeting

The Parish Council are still trying to tie down the officers and members from SDC to a date for a public meeting to discuss recent planning decisions and other planning matters in Otford. As soon as a date is arranged it will be published - Watch this space.

Train Horns - Press Release

Lineside neighbours of the train operators Southern and South Eastern Trains will soon have a quieter life. Both train companies have started fitting quieter horns to their fleet of new Electrostar trains after being given the all clear by the Rail Safety and Standards Board. The reduction in horn volume will benefit everyone living near the railway and particularly people living near road and footpath crossings where the horn must be sounded every time a train passes. The reduction in volume of the train horns follows a change in the rules governing the sounding of horns on tunnels. Drivers no longer need to sound the horn when entering a tunnel and on leaving the tunnel the driver must only sound the horn if someone is on or near the line. The modified horns provide a significant reduction in volume. Managing Director of South Eastern Trains, Michael Holden said: "Whilst it's vital that we keep within the industry's strict safety standards, I have attached a high priority to this initiative to reduce the level of noise experienced by our neighbours. We have moved as fast as possible and have already modified 10% of the train horns on our fleet of new trains. All horns

on our Electrostar fleets should have been replaced by the new quieter horns by May this year."

Otford Afternoon W.I

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. (1st in March). Membership is £21 per year. Tea at meeting 30p.

The next meeting (birthday meeting) takes place on **1st March** including Exercise the Easy Way with Gwen Godwin. Contact 01959 522915 for more details.

Planning



The following applications will be 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/04/00088 **3 Coombe Road**

Two storey rear extension and conservatory

SE/05/00120 **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. Installation of first floor W.C and shower room

SE/05/00169 **7 Station Road**

New access to road and parking space

b. Amended applications

SE/04/02953 **32 Greenhill Road**

Replacement dwelling - objection unless conditions complied with

c. Results Received

SE/04/02676 **64-66 Well Road**

Demolition of existing dwellings, construction of new estate road and seventeen dwellings plus garages and parking spaces (33 in total) *Refused*

SE/04/02791 **McDonalds Old Otford Rd**

Application to vary condition 9 opening hours

Refused

SE/04/02953 **32 Greenhill Road**

Replacement dwelling

Allowed

SE/04/03046 **40 Hillydeal Rd**

Single storey detached outbuilding

Allowed

d. Planning Appeals

SE/04/01159 **2 New Barn Farm Cottages, Telston Lane**

Appeal against refusal of application for front porch extension *Appeal dismissed*

