

Otford Parish Council February Newsletter 2007

No 154



Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002
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Anti Social Behaviour

Over the last few weeks both youth shelters provided for the young people of this village have been criminally damaged by graffiti. This is extremely disappointing and also expensive having to clean them off every time. Be sure that this behaviour will not be tolerated, nor will any instances of underage drinking which is obviously also taking place because we are having to pick up the bottles and cans left littered in the area. Some of these bottles have then also been smashed and left on the ground in the children's play area and this is totally unacceptable. Small children could be seriously injured if they fell on this glass before we have a chance to clear it up. Please be aware what your youngsters are doing during these winter evenings. PCSO Birchall patrols these areas regularly and if you are caught causing damage then expect to be prosecuted and made to clear it off. He will confiscate any alcohol he finds and parents will be informed. We send our thanks to PC Wilkinson who recently arrested 3 youths for graffiti offences in the village and also had five arrests for graffiti at Otford Station.

Reporting Crime

If you want to report non - urgent criminal offences then please don't wait contact the police direct as soon as you can on 01622 690690. Thank you.



If you are looking for a romantic present this month you can do no better than visit our lovely shops. Flowers, jewellery, perfume, chocolates, cards and other gifts are all available in the village. The window

displays are great as always so please support your local traders first.

Otford Players

The Otford Players regret that the proposed performance of 'My Friend Miss Flint' in March 2007 has had to be cancelled owing to the fact that the leading man is not able to combine his teaching position in Guildford with rehearsal in Otford. There have also been some problems with rehearsal venues. The Players are still hoping to stage the play and in the meantime would be delighted to hear from anyone who is keen to work on building the set and other backstage activities to say nothing of would-be actors! Please contact Marian Wills on 01959 522856, Sue Simpson on 01959 525404 or Ken Gunderson on 01959 522709 if you are interested.

Could you be paying too much Council Tax or Rent?

The Kent Benefits Partnership will be holding an advice surgery on **Monday 19th February** between 10am and 12 noon in the Parish Council offices to help people find out if they could get Council Tax Benefit or Housing Benefit. Only just over half the people who could get help towards their Council Tax are currently receiving it. Whether you could get help or not depends on the level of your income and savings. Unless you are receiving Pension Guarantee Credit you would need to have below £16,000 in savings. As for income this differs depending on your circumstances and the amount of Council Tax you pay so come along and find out. For more information before the 19th then give us a call on 0845 345 0310. The Kent Benefits Partnership is working on behalf of all the councils in Kent & Medway.

Police Surgery



The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 8th March** between 11am and 12.30pm at School House. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Otford Primary 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 Jan TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 76

2nd Prize £15 - 205

3rd Prize £10 - 288

Youth Community Football Tournament



PCSO Dave Birchall and OPC are looking to organise a 5-a-side football tournament on **Sunday 22nd April** kicking off at 9am on the Recreation Ground in Otford. If you would be interested in making up a team of 5 players and you are aged between 12 - 17years. (maximum of 8 teams) then please contact Sue in the Parish Council office on 01959 524808 or email otfordpc@btinternet.com. Each team will need to have a name, and you will need your own football boots and shorts but shirts will be provided for each team. For more community involvement if any resident or a shop or business would be interested in sponsoring a team for say £10 then please also contact Sue on the above number as well. There will be a presentation at the end of the day and a Cup and Shield will be given to the winning teams. Refreshments will also be provided.

Flytipping - Chalk Pit

It has been noticed that some properties in Tudor Drive backing onto the Chalkpit appear to be disposing of garden and other rubbish into the Chalk-pit behind their properties. This is fly-tipping and against the law and is totally anti social. The rubbish will have to be cleared at Otford's ratepayers' expense and any future rubbish that appears WILL be returned to the householders.

Otford Station - Proposed Booking Office

Opening Hours

- Monday to Friday & Saturday - 06.15 - 19.30
- Sundays - 08.10 - 15.40

If approved these will come into operation on Monday 2nd April. A new ticket machine was installed recently but was severely damaged by vandals within a week during a spate of damage to a lot of stations.

Otford Gardeners' Society

The first meeting will be on **Tuesday 6th March** in Otford Village hall at 8pm when Peter Collet will be giving a presentation on 'Growing less common fruit' Admission is 50p members, £1 non-members, which includes refreshments. The Spring Show will take place on **Saturday 31st March** (details in next newsletter).

For further details telephone Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or email gardeners@otford.net

Otford & District Historical Society

The next talk in the programme will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 21st February** at 8pm when Carol Griffiths will talk on 'The Cinque Ports' Membership is £5 per year and visitors are welcome at £1.

Help create our Village Design Statement

This month marks the start of preparation to create our Village Design Statement (VDS). It will become an important document for the future of our village. It will reflect the views of Otford residents about how future planned development should be carried out so that it is in harmony with our setting and makes a positive contribution to our local environment. It won't be able to stop development, but the agreed statement will influence the operation of the statutory planning system in Sevenoaks District Council. So we need to know your views about what you value most in your local environment. If you would like to be involved, or wish to represent your association or club, your views and help would be most welcome. Your voice is important to us. The more representatives we include from the village, the more balanced the final document. So if you would like to be involved or simply want further information, please contact Rod Shelton on 01959 523371 or email rod.shelton@tiscali.co.uk

Cycling Tourist Club

Well-known raconteur and conservationist Kev Reynolds of Crockham Hill, will appear at Otford Village Hall on **Saturday 3rd March** to present a slide lecture to the local West Kent branch of the Cycling Tourist Club, at their 65th Photographic Exhibition. His subject, entitled 'Journey through the Hidden Land' is based upon a small expedition he led within the Himalayas in 1995, portraying the semi-nomadic existence of the local populace. Kev's laid-back style of speaking always makes him a pleasure to listen to, and a very approachable character to boot! Doors open 5pm for viewing of photographic entries (hundreds) and presentations and judges comments from 7pm. The lecture follows. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are £5 on the door. All welcome.

Indoor Boot Fair

To raise money for Breast Cancer Care there will be a Boot Fair in the Village Hall on **Saturday 3rd March**. Doors open at 8.30am and last entry 12 noon. Please contact Sharon Taylor on 01732 463108 for availability of tables at £6.50. Entrance to the fair will be 50p. Refreshments will be provided.

Otford Allotment Association

The two anxious prospective gardeners have now been satisfied and should be able to start gardening when the weather improves and enjoy the fruits of their labours later this year. Unfortunately this means that we have lost two of our tenants for various personal reasons and we wish them well. Gardening will become frantic if the weather improves and this will mean that there may well be further enquiries after vacant plots - we have none just now. However this does not stop your enquiring and placing your name on a waiting list. Give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 who will be pleased to take your enquiry.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 24th February** when there will be an All day workshop with Lillian Harris - '*Small Embroidered Bags*' The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 6th March** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Boule

A meeting will be held at School House at 8pm on **Thursday 8th March** to discuss the formation of the Otford Boule Club. All are welcome. If you would like further information before the meeting, please ring either Margaret Smith on 01959 522927 or Doug Cracknell on 01959 522325.

Otford Scout Group

The Otford Scout Group will be holding a Quiz Night on **Saturday 24th February** at 8pm in the Scout Hut. Teams made up of 6 people at £5 per person. Please take along your own refreshments. Contact Ray Groom on 01959 525413 for further details.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons

Women's Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm. While the Methodist Hall is being rebuilt meetings will be in members homes and a list of the next two months speakers and venues are as follows: -

February

21st - Joint meeting with St Barts - 'Christian Women through the ages' - Rev Anne Lebas - Otford Methodist Church.

28th - Women's World Day of Prayer - Otford Methodist Church.

March

7th - NCH - Jessica Maybanks - 27 Well Road

14th - Pub Lunch

21st - Lunch in New Methodist Hall - Alan Turner-Smith - '*Disability*'

28th - Rev P Hills - an Easter meditation

Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 522325 for details /transport

Knole DFAS

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the **Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball**. On the **15th February** Colin Bailey will talk on '*The, So called, Italian and Flemish Primitives*'. The next lecture will take place on **15th March** when Digby Hague-Holmes will talk on '*Elgar - The Man of Contradictions*'. Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm preceded by refreshments at 12.30pm. Anyone interested in joining the Society or who would like more information, please contact, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529.

Picture of the Month

The artist for February / March is Ken Gunderson. While Ken has always been interested in art, he had not had any formal training. So when the W.I. Art Group allowed men to join he was first through the door. Since then he has enjoyed encouragement and advice from various artists. His problem is in fact finding a subject but has found inspiration in the action photographs in the sports pages of a daily newspaper. The portrait of Serena Williams is one of a number of sports personalities he has captured in oils.

Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you are interested in displaying your artwork in the Heritage Centre.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2006/2007 lecture season continues on **Thursday 8th March** at 8.15pm in the Aisher Hall, Sevenoaks School with a talk by Mrs Valerie Woodgate on '*Picasso and his Women*' Please contact Mrs Jackie Bradforth on 01732 761631 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information.

Sevenoaks Music Club

The programme of the Sevenoaks Music Club continues on **Saturday 24th February** with Matthew Best, bass - baritone and Christopher Glynn, piano performing Songs & Leier by Brahms, Wolf, Loewe, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Mussorgsky. Matthew

Best's career is international. After studying at King's College, Cambridge, he joined the Royal Opera as a principal bass. As bass-baritone he is making a name for himself in the great Wagner roles, notably Wotan in Scottish Opera's Ring. He is artistic director of the Corydon Orchestra and Singers, which he founded in Sevenoaks. Christopher Glynn read music at New College, Oxford and studied piano with Malcolm Martineau at the Royal Academy of Music. He won the 2001 Kathleen Ferrier prize for piano accompaniment, and the Gerald Moore award in 2003. He was recently made an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. The concert starts at 8pm in the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall. For further information on their brochure, season ticket or ticket prices please contact Penny Hargreaves on 01732 453251.

Lost Property

Small grey rucksack found on recreation ground beginning of month, please contact office if you think it might be yours and you would like to reclaim it.

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 Head of Development Services, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

a. New applications

SE/06/03265 **11A Hillydeal Road**

Erection of two storey and single storey rear extension SE/06/03299

SE/06/03299 **16 High Street**

Removal of staircase to first floor to increase sales/display area and erection of two storey rear extension to provide 2 no 1 bedroom residential units

SE/06/03339 **15 Telston Lane**

Proposed two storey side, single storey rear extensions with internal alterations

SE/06/03343 **Pond House The Green**

Internal alterations to re-open a fireplace, replace an internal door and the installation of alcove cupboards

SE/06/03338 **7 Bubblestone Road**

Conservatory at rear of property

SE/07/00035 **Yew Tree Cottage 48 High Street**

Alteration to drive and frontage to improve vehicular turning, parking and sight lines and erecting gates

SE/07/00010 **37 Greenhill Road**

Landscaping of upper rear garden

SE/07/00046 **2 New Barn Farm Cottis, Telston Lane** Certificate of Lawful Development - existing porch

SE/07/00165 **St Michaels School St Michaels Drive**

Formation of dormer window and extension of fire escape staircase to convert attic space into classrooms

SE/07/00175 **52 Tudor Drive**

Erection of conservatory to drive

b. Results received

SE/06/02504 **9 The Old Walk**

Double storey rear extension, single storey front extension, pitched roof over part garage and façade alterations *Withdrawn*

SE/06/02897 **8 Greenhill Road**

Two storey extension to rear with new enlarged roof over new and existing dwelling and garage

Allowed

SE/06/02995 **6b High Street**

Change of use from retail (A1) to retail (A1) and financial and professional services (A2) *Allowed*

SE/06/03094 **83 Well Road**

Erection of a single storey rear extension

Allowed

SE/06/02743 **Milestones Row Dow**

Two storey and single storey extension to side/rear of dwelling (including demolition of existing outbuildings) *Refused*

SE/06/03269 **Culvenan 14a Hillydeal Road**

Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of replacement oak-framed dwelling (Revision to SE/06/00174) *Allowed*

SE/06/02981 **4 Warham Road**

Allowed

Single storey rear extension to provide disabled bathroom and sitting room

c. Amended applications

SE/06/03230 **76 High Street**

Demolition of conservatory and erection of single and two storey extensions together with window and flat roof alterations. As amended by plan received 11.01.07

d. Planning appeals

SE/06/01819 **8 Greenhill Road**

Two storey extension to rear and raising of main and garage roofs

e. Tree Work in Conservation Area

07/00004/ WTCA **New Forge House High St**

Removal of beech tree

07/00041/ WTCA **Yew Tree Cottage 48 High St**

Removal of eucalyptus tree

07/00070 **Palace Field Sevenoaks Road**

Prune to reduce crown overall by approximately 20 per cent ensuring all cuts are made to secondary live laterals whilst maintaining shape and form. Remove dead, broken and suspect branches and tidy stubs etc back to source.

07/00255/ WTCA **Park Farm House High St**

Remove 1 holly tree