Otford Parish Council
February Newsletter 2009
No 176

Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002
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Otford Pond
The application for listed building consent has been refused by the Development Control of SDC. The Parish Council are now considering what steps we will have to take next to get our pond back to its former glory.

Otford Village Fete- Monday 25th May

The Committee has started work planning this year’s Fete and has a number of new attractions in mind including a Teddy Bears’ Picnic.
The Teddy bear is 106 years old. According to tradition the American President Theodore ‘Teddy’ Roosevelt refused to shoot a baby bear when he was taken hunting in Mississippi to help settle a border dispute. A cartoon, which appeared in the Washington Post on November 16th 1902, is believed to have triggered the teddy bear craze.
A competition will be held to find, amongst other categories, the oldest bear and the bear the judges would like to take home. An entry fee of 50p will be charged and there will be prizes for the best in the various categories.

More information about the Fete will be published in subsequent newsletters and on the website www.otford.info/villagefete

Indoor Boot Fair

There will be an Indoor Boot Fair in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 7th March between 9am and 1pm. Anyone wishing to book a table please contact Claire on 01959 525582 or Donna on 01959 522236. Tables are £8. Entrance will be 50p for adults and children free.

Otford Young Achiever Award 2008

This award of a tankard, certificate and gift vouchers was presented at the February Parish Council Meeting in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall.
2008 Winner
 David Dullage
2008 Runner –Up
 Richard Deane
Congratulations to these young people and all the others nominated who are a credit to the village.

Otford Players

Sadly Woolworths have closed but Otford Players have something for you which may tickle your palate. For two evenings in March, Friday 13th and Saturday 14th, the Players present an entertainment of ‘pick and mix and allsorts’. It promises to be great fun and they are hoping that you will go along and share it with them. If you would like to order tickets, priced at £6, which will include light refreshments, please telephone the box office on 01959 525404.

Home Library Service

Do you know anyone who is unable to travel to the Library due to ill health or disability? The Home Library Service is available to you. Volunteers are always needed, so if you have any spare time perhaps you could help. Own transport is needed, but mileage will be paid. Ask for more details at Otford Library on 01959 522488
Police / Warden Surgery

Our new PCSO Jane Wright will be holding her first surgery with Paul Robertson our KCC Community Warden on Tuesday 3rd March at School House between 11am and 12 noon. Come and see them if you have any concerns.

The Otford Parish Plan

This year we hope every resident will take the chance to be involved in producing the Otford Parish Plan. The Government wants local communities to take more control of their own lives and engage with other organisations to get things done. The Parish Plan lays out a shared vision for the community over the next 10+ years and will contain a detailed action plan for achieving this. It is fully supported by our Parish Council and can also influence decision making by our District Council who are currently preparing their own plan for the next 15 years, the Local Development Framework. There will be lots of opportunities to get involved. There will be meetings, workshops, discussion events and action groups being created. You can get up-to-date information on the Otford Website on Otford.info/parishplan and you will be able to read of monthly progress in this newsletter. If you would like to volunteer to get involved in a small or big way, please pick up a form at the Parish Office.

An Ancestor on the Screen

On Saturday 27th February, the local Cycling Touring Club will be holding a Photographic Exhibition and Lecture in Otford Village Hall. This year it is Ed Thompson’s story of Harold Camburn, his motorcycle combination, and the pictures he took of our West Kent towns and villages before the impact of the car. This is real history.

The cyclists’ exhibits shown around the walls of the hall are recently taken, from all over the world and their own back gardens. There will be many top notch winning entries. A whole evening’s entertainment, with doors opening at 5pm and the presentation at 7pm. There will also be excellent refreshments. Tickets from Peter Woods on 01689 821475 at 4.50 or for £5 on the door.

Otford Oast WI

On Thursday 19th March PC Hibbins will talk about ‘Drugs Awareness’. Do join them. The meetings start at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free.

Yorkshire 3 peaks Challenge

Yes we are at it again. In May Paul (our Community Warden) Dave (our ex PCSO) and Sue (Assistant Clerk) will this time be completing the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge covering 26 miles in 12 hours including climbing 3 peaks.

Money raised will go to the Over 60’s Club and to the Otford Primary Swimming Pool Appeal. Please support us if you can. Thank you

Otford & District Wine Club

Everyone who attended the Otford & District Wine Club’s Burns Night will agree that it provided a bit of fun during a rather dreary January. Thank you for coming and we hope that you all survived the haggis! The next event is the Film Show which will be on Wednesday 25th February when you will have the rare treat of seeing a film of the Wine Club’s Victorian Music Hall which was performed in 1994. It was quite a spectacular event exhibiting the many talents of the people of Otford and surrounding area, some of whom are no longer with us. The show will be held in the Otford Village Memorial hall beginning at 8pm. There will be an interval when ice-cream will be served, and later we will have the usual raffle. It will be free to members but visitors will be charged £3. Do come along for a good night out amongst friends. Any queries please ring the Secretary on 01732 761359.

Girlguiding in Otford

Following the recruitment of 3 new leaders, 3rd Otford Guides are ‘up and running’ again. The unit is open to any girl aged 10 - 14 and they currently have spaces available. Being a Guide is all about learning new skills, making your own decisions, having fun, making new friends and achieving personal goals within a safe environment. Any girls wishing to join can contact the new unit leader Linda Stromberg on 01959 523897. Both the Rainbow unit (girls aged 5 - 7) and the Brownie unit (girls aged 7 - 10) are full at the moment but you can add girl’s names to the waiting list by contacting Esther Collens on 01959 524671 for Rainbows or Jane Woodrow-Clark on 01959 523342 for Brownies.
Otford Methodist Church
Otford Methodist Church would like to invite all ladies to a Women’s Breakfast in their Church Hall on Saturday 4th April at 8.30am. You will be offered a splendid continental breakfast followed by a talk from Phillip Jasper Herbert who retired in 2002 from a lifetime in fashion and showrooms in Berkeley Square. The cost is £4 on the door. For more information please call Margaret on 01959 522046 or Sue at johnandsueward@btinternet.com

Otford Afternoon WI
Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 4th March when there will be a talk by Mr M Trip on ‘Why the Show Must Go On’ For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

Otford Evening WI
Otford Evening WI meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Otford Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm. The annual subscription of £29 will be due. For more information please contact Diana Jeremiah on 01959 522981

World Day of Prayer
The World Day of Prayer Service for 2009, prepared by women, for Papua New Guinea, is to be held on Friday 6th March at 2pm at Otford Roman Catholic Church. The theme of the service is, ‘In Christ there are many members yet one body’ and the speaker will be Mrs Susan Ward. The service will be followed by refreshments. EVERYONE is welcome to this ecumenical event.

Otford Gardeners’ Society
‘The Kitchen Garden’ is the first talk of 2009 for Otford Gardeners’ Society. The speaker, David Cheston, is an experienced horticultural lecturer. Visitors are most welcome to the meeting in Otford Village Hall on Tuesday 3rd March at 8pm. Admission is only £1 for non-members and the price includes refreshments. EARLY WARNING - If you are under 16 and would like to take part in the Easter Bonnet competition at the Spring Show, then start gathering all your craft materials and watch this space.

Otford, Seal & Kemsing Trefoil Guild
Guiding for Adults
- Did you - enjoy guiding as a child, or never had the chance to be involved?
- Are You - a current or past Leader and want something just for you?

- Are You - looking for friendship, fun and new interests with like-minded people?
- Would You - be prepared to support local Guiding?

Why not join this lively group and why wait you can join at 18!
To find out more please contact Ann on 01732 450980 or Janet on 01732 761677

Sevenoaks DFAS
The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2008/2009 lecture season continues on 12th March when Ms Linda Smith will talk about ‘Francis Bacon (1909 - 1992)’ 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 Allotments Association
The waiting list grows smaller, but is still there. Now is the time if you are interested to come and have a look round to see what goes on and if it would suit you. Give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 for further details.

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 19th March when Barbara Peacock will talk about ‘Visions of Arcadia - The Creation of the Georgian Landscape Park’ 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.

Hatha Yoga Class
The new term for your friendly Hatha Yoga class started on 6th January 2009 Classes are weekly 7.30 - 9.00pm in term time and cost £8 per lesson. Beginners and all abilities are welcome. For further details and to reserve a place please contact Brenda Hambrook on 01959 525969 or yoga@otford.net

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons
Women’s Fellowship
Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm in the new Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details

February
18th - 12pm Ploughman’s lunch at the Drive Methodist
25th - Meeting with St Barts - Canon John Tapper

March
6th - 2pm - Women’s World Day of Prayer - Holy Trinity - Sue Ward
11th - Gilbert Denton
18th - Carol Griffiths - ‘The other man on the Beagle’
25th - 12pm - Pub lunch

Otford Methodist Exercise Group
The Serendip exercise group meet every Thursday from 9.30-10.30am in the Otford Methodist Church Halls. The group is for men and women over 50 and lead by a REPs level 3 supervisor. Refreshments and chat afterwards, followed by Table tennis or Chess. The cost is £2 per session. You will be welcome for all or one of the activities. Phone David Knight on 01732 743056 for details.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers’ Guild
The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on [Saturday 28th February] when Lee Ault will talk about ‘The Ghost in the Looking Glass’. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

Picture of the Month
The artist for February & March is Sheila Vizard. Sheila says that she is a ‘jack of all trades’ when it comes to painting. ‘I have never really mastered anything but I am always ready to try something different. Watercolour is my favourite medium, particularly when painting flowers, a subject I am still working to perfect. I also enjoy Pen and wash, a somewhat freer technique’. 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 3rd March] between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

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 January TOP Draw are:
1st Prize £50 - 8
2nd Prize £15 - 298,
3rd Prize £10 - 265

Planning
The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council 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/08/02523  The Old Oast House Shoreham Road
Erection of dwelling in the garden
SE/08/03394  26 Rye Lane
Demolition of conservatory, erection of part single/two storey rear extension
SE/09/00046  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/09/00047  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. LBC
SE/09/00117  1 Wickham Field
Erection of dwelling within curtilage

b. Results received
SE/08/02822  28 Ryecroft Road
New dwelling to include first floor addition, amendment to SE/08/02274  Allowed
SE/08/02861  Claremont House Shoreham Rd
Alteration of existing rear conservatory to garden room  Allowed
SE/08/03053  Oastside, Twitton Lane
Construction of garden room  Allowed
SE/08/03126  8 Hillydeal Road
Alteration and extension of property  Allowed
SE/08/03271  33 Well Road
Single storey rear storey and front extension  Allowed
SE/08/03280  26 Rye Lane
Proposed sand school  Withdrawn
SE/08/03394  26 Rye Lane
Demolition of conservatory, erection of part single/two storey rear extension  Withdrawn

c. Tree Work in Conservation Area
SE/09/00899  New Forge House High Street
WTPO - Reduce crown of beech tree by 20% TPO/04/2009 6 Pilgrims Way East
Making of a tree Preservation Order.

The Parish Council apologises if dates have gone past when you receive your newsletter as timings for deliveries cannot always be guaranteed due to pressure on our local printer and on the volunteer deliverers. Thank you.