To remember the Tsunami Victims
There will be a half hour inter-denominational
service, open to all, to remember and pray for the
victims of the Asian Tsunami on **Sunday 13th**
**February at 12.30pm** at St Bartholomew's Church.
The bell ringers will ring a half-muffled quarter peal.

**Police Surgery**
The next Police surgery will take place at School
House on **Monday 14th February** between 10am and
12 noon when our PCSO Dave Birchall will be here to
answer your questions.

**Planning Applications**
Planning applications in 2004 raised many concerns,
and many will be interested in the new framework
under which decisions will be made. This comes into
effect in 2006 but gradual replacement of the
present system will take place until then. Emphasis is
on consultation and the local district plan will be
phased out. The new District Council document states
“ It’s good to talk and even better to listen. This is
particularly important in planning, as the decisions
made directly impact on the future of our District
and all of us as individuals”also it intends to “achieve
more responsive to changing local needs”. Clearly its
effectiveness will depend on the mechanism by which
the community is consulted and the extent of our
response. Organisations wishing to be involved in this
process must respond to SDC before the 28th
January. More information is available on the District
Council’s website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk.

**Top Draw**
**TOP DRAW** - The Otford Primary Draw. Your chance
to win cash prizes and raise money for your local
school.
Don’t forget forms are still available from the School
office and the Parish Council office.
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 - 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 & Heritage Centre,The Post
Office, The Chemist, Telston Stores & Sevenoaks
Bookshop

**‘Secret Gardens’**
As part of the fundraising events that will be taking
place to raise funds for the building of the new
extension at St Bartholomew’s Church, a tour of the
‘Secret Gardens’within Otford will take place during
the weekend of **4th and 5th June 2005**. If you would
be willing and interested in opening your garden to
the public for that weekend please could you contact
Sue Stephenson on 01959 523789 (home) or mornings
at School House on 01959 524808. Many thanks.

**Sevenoaks Embroiderers’ Guild**
The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial
Hall on **Saturday 29th January** when there will be an
Exhibition and Crafts. The meetings begin at 2pm and
more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on
01959 532391.

**Over 60’s Social Club**
On **Wednesday January 19th** the club will have a
video presentation ‘Out and about with Barbara’ and
the first February meeting is on Wednesday 2nd when
there will be a talk and video by Nick Barlow on
‘Garden Birds’. Details from Jill or Ed on 01959
525775
The next Applause production takes place on **Thursday 3rd March at 7.30pm** 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.

**Another Applause Production**

Jane Bom-Bane and Nick Pynn are appearing at The Bradbourne School on **Saturday 19th March** at 7.30pm. This extraordinary show featuring Jane Bon-Bane, 'Queen of the Funky Harmonium', presents a parade of songs and poems with mechanical hats to match, from her Top Ten Edinburgh shows. Nick creates an otherworldly music-box of acoustic delights, with fiddle, live-sampling of wine glasses and playing cards, and contributions from invisible guests. It's unlikely that you have seen anything quite like this before! Suitable for adults and young people.

Bookings on 01892 516706 or 01622 693517.

**Otford Allotments Association**

If you care for the environment, want to ensure that you and your family live healthily and can do with some exercise in the fresh air – why not consider an allotment, which will provide you with all these things and more. Give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 if you are interested, even if it is just to have a look around. Or you can call into the Parish Office any weekday morning for further details.

**Picture of the Month**

The artist for January / February is Sheila Vizard. She says, "I should have gone to art school, but I didn't. Now as a novice in my 50's I am enjoying art but feel I have wasted many years. I find it frustrating that my hands won't do what my brain tells them to do". Sheila is a member of the Otford Art Group. 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 & District Wine Club**

Everyone who attended the Otford & District Wine Club's Annual Dinner Dance in December had a great time, with good food and wonderful music. However, the festive season is not over yet! **On Wednesday 26th January**, they are holding a Burns Night Party with haggis, oatcakes, shortcake and mulled wine, to give you just a hint of some of the delicacies on offer! There will also be a Scottish Raffle! They are extremely lucky to have Frank and Sally Haggarty as guest singers, so please give them a great welcome! There will be Scottish music and, of course, recitations of Burns' poems besides other entertainment. As usual this event will be held in the Otford Memorial Hall and the evening will begin at 8pm. It will be free to members but, on this occasion, they are having a collection in aid of a charity of Frank Haggerty's choice. There will be small charge for non-members. Why not go along for a great Scottish night out amongst friends. Any queries, please ring the Secretary on 01732 - 761359.

**Otford Gardeners Society**

Otford Gardeners' Society's first meeting of 2005 is a Cheese & Wine evening in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 1st February at 8pm**. They have an interesting programme for the coming year and amongst the speakers will be Tom Hart-Dyke and the Head Gardener at the Yalding Organic Garden. There will also be a Quiz night, garden visits and three shows. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further details contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or visit www.otford.info/gardeners.
Otford Oast W.I.
Give it a try, you can be sure of a warm welcome. There is a free crèche at every meeting. 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

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:

January
19th - Gilbert Denton - Victoria & Albert
26th - Barbara Darby - New videos

February
2nd - Rev Kath Pawlett - Surprise
9th - Ros Hitchings & friends - Guitar & song
16th - Magda Sweetland - The U3A in Sevenoaks

Otford & District Historical Society
The next meeting of the Historical Society will take place on [Wednesday 19th January] at 8pm in the Village Hall when Monty Parkin will talk on the subject of the A25 (Ightha to Bat & Ball) 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.

Otford Helplines
The Parish Council are planning to reprint the Otford Helplines Directory, which last came out as a Millennium edition in 2000. If you would like your business and contact number noted in the reprint please let the office know on 01959 524808 as soon as possible.

Seventoaks Swing Dance Club
The next meeting of the Sevenoaks Swing Dance Club is on [Tuesday 25th January] in Otford Church Hall. The club concentrates on the favourite styles of the 1930s and 1940’s – swing, jitterbug and lindy hop. Tuition starts at 8pm followed by social dancing. Admission is £6 on the door. The next meetings will be on March 8th and 22nd. For further information call 01959 522810

Rail Timetable 17th Jan - 11th June
There are no significant changes in the new timetable. SE Trains had indicated that additional rolling stock becoming available in 2005 might enable the Tonbridge School Train to be retimed. Unfortunately this has not happened but Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association and your Parish Council will press for this improvement to be in place at the next timetable change in June 2005. The vacancy at Otford Station has been filled by Gordon who has transferred from the Sevenoaks Booking Office. Control of the Darent Valley Stations has been changed to Sevenoaks where the manager Clive Gray. Clive is hoping to introduce improvements to the Booking office by installing a larger ticket window and some decoration

Roadworks
There may be a further closure to the section of Pilgrims Way East beyond Row Dow but no precise detail is available yet. The closure of Station Road forecast by one of the ‘freebies’ is incorrect. It probably refers to the installation of new services to the building development, which will require control by traffic lights.

Road Signs
An order for additional 30mph signs and matching road surface roundels in Shoreham Road and Pilgrims Way West was issued in early Summer 2004 but has still not been carried out. The Parish Council is pressing for this work and repairs to refuge and crossing lights to be completed at an early date.

Dog Fouling
This is still a huge problem, not only on the Recreation Ground but also on pavements, footpaths and even in residents’ front gardens. Please pick up after your dog, it is very anti social and potentially health threatening not to pick up after your dog. If you don’t you risk having to pay a fine of up to a maximum of £1,000 or a fixed penalty of £25. Dog wardens do patrol the village and every effort will be taken to discover who is responsible and when caught, fined. If you see someone letting their dog foul on a regular basis and not clear up after it do contact the dog warden at SDC.
Citizens Advice Bureau

Question: My home and its contents have been badly damaged by the recent flash floods. I have buildings and contents insurance and assumed that this was exactly the sort of disaster these would cover me for, but other people have been saying that insurers are describing the flooding as an ‘act of God’ - meaning they do not have to pay out under the terms of the policy. Now I am worried about putting in a claim. Can you help?

Answer: Parts of England have again been affected by floods and householders are facing up to resulting loss and damage. Many domestic insurance policies will cover buildings, gardens and home contents in the event of flooding, but you must always check your individual policy to see if you are covered. In some areas where there is a known risk of flooding, insurers may have excluded compensation for flood damage altogether. You can find out more from the Environment Agency’s special helpline ‘Floodline’ on 0845 988 1188 or by visiting the Environment Agency website at www.environmentagency.gov.uk

If you want to find out more about claiming on your insurance the Sevenoaks CAB will be able to help.

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

The next CAB surgery will take place in School House on Tuesday 1st February 2005. Please come along with your problems and use this local service.

Planning

The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in January. 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/04/03046 40 Hillydeal Road
Single storey detached outbuilding

SE/04/03125 5 Tudor Crescent
Loft conversion to form new room with dormer window

b. Amended applications
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)

c. Results Received
SE/04/02346 Hillway, Pilgrims Way East
Insertion of 3 dormers in west roof slope to existing bedrooms  Allowed

SE/04/02410 Sainsbury Petrol Filling Station
Erection of 3 no. non illuminated spoke signs  Allowed

SE/02456 5 Tudor Crescent
Loft conversion to make two new rooms with dormer windows upon rear roof plane and insertion of two rooflights in front roof plane  Refused

SE/04/02637 11 Bubblestone Road
Rebuilding of existing workshop, enlargement of existing first floor store to make bedroom through insertion of dormer upon western roof plane  Allowed

SE/04/02693 Land rear 18-20 Tudor Crescent
Conservatory  Allowed

SE/04/02836 Frog Farm Pilgrims Way West
Demolition of existing farmhouse and barns and erection of replacement dwelling with attached triple garage  Refused