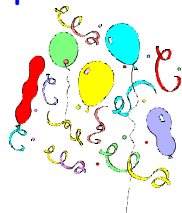


Otford Parish Council January Newsletter 2006 No 142

Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002
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Happy New Year
to all our readers

Village of the Year

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Village of the Year Competition Calor Gas have invited us to take part in a 'Best of the Best' competition. This will take place by the end of March. Community Spirit was one of our strengths when we became winners of the South & South East in 2002. In the hopes that we shall become the Best of the Best we would like some volunteers to help with making this possible. Please contact the Parish office to leave your name and tel number so that we can draw on your talents and a meeting will be arranged for **Sunday 22nd January** at 2.30pm to get us going. Thank you.

Tree of Light

The amount raised for Hospice in the Weald so far has been £675. Details of further donations sent direct to the Hospice and gift aid will come from the Hospice later and we will let you know the final total next month.

Guide Christmas Post Box

The Otford Guides and Brownies would like to thank everyone who supported the Guide Christmas Post and the Otford Library staff who made it possible. The sum of £230 was raised from the sale of the stamps which will be divided between the two charities supported - 'Hospice in the Weald' and 'Kent Air Ambulance Trust

'Guides - Volunteers needed

Otford Guides have had an excellent response to previous requests for help during the last two years, but once more they are looking for volunteers. This could be to help with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers in existing, thriving units or perhaps two or three friends who would like to train to reopen the recently closed Brownie pack. They also need some administrative support. Please contact Caroline on 01959 523200 or Jeanette on 01959 523617.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 19th January** between 11am and 12.30pm. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Following an incident of burglary Dave would like to remind you that if you are going away and put your lights on timers then you also need to arrange for a neighbour or friend to come in and pull your curtains for you so that your possessions are not on show.

Storytime



Otford Library is continuing to offer a free service to all mums with their babes / toddlers by way of Storytime, which is held weekly on a **Tuesday** afternoon between **2.30 - 3.00pm** during school term time. This is a great opportunity for young children, and babes, to listen to stories and look at the books obtainable from any library. It also teaches them imaginative ideas created by the written word, and is a helpful beginning to the reading ethic when eventually attending school. It is also fun in a social surrounding. If you would like further details please call in and talk to Angela the Librarian at Otford Library.

Otford Businesses

Lloyds Bank have altered their opening times to 09.30 to 12.30 Monday, Wednesday and Friday as from 28th December 05.

If you are looking for someone to help guide you through a change in focus or career then contact Suzanne Henwood who has recently set up her own business within Otford. She offers business and life coaching and also offers training events. Her focus is on helping people to reach their potential.

Contact her on: Tel 01959 522942 or mobile 07723 602584 or email HenwoodAssociates@btinternet.com

Otford School of Motoring

- Beginners - flexible and affordable
- Advanced driving and refresher courses
- Taxi and private hire tuition
- Pass plus - save on car insurance premiums

For a dependable friendly service

Contact them on 01959 523213 or mobile 07973 312983

Jacky from 'Me and My Girl Decorating' wish all their clients around Otford a Happy New Year. Contact them on 01959 525870

Tuesday Surgery

Otford's Community Warden Nic Roots will be available to chat to residents every Tuesday morning at School House between 9am - 11am. Come and speak to discuss any issues and he will do his best to help you.

The Otford Players



The Otford Players invite you to 'A Perfect Wedding' written by Robin Hawdon - directed by Christina Edwards and being held on March 16th, 17th and 18th 2006 at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. This is a comedy of farce, wedding day fiasco, and mistaken identities building to a hilarious crescendo set at a rattling pace. The Box Office details will be given at a later date.

Otford Methodist Church Hall

Work to rebuild the Methodist Church Halls for Church and community activities is due to begin this month. If you would like to have more information about the scheme or would like to make a contribution please speak to the Minister, Rev Kath Pawlett on 01959 522196

Otford Gardeners' Society

The first meeting in 2006 will be a Cheese and Wine Evening and Indoor Bulb Show at the Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 7th February** at 8pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further details contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or visit www.otford.info/gardeners.

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting will be held in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 18th January** at 8pm when Edwin Thompson will speak on 'Harold Cambourn - Kentish motorcyclist photographer'. Subscriptions are just £5 per year and visitors are welcome at £1.

CAB Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 7th February** between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along and see the adviser who will be happy to help you with your problems. No appointment necessary.

1940's Society

For anyone interested in wartime Britain, the 1940's Society meets regularly in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. On Friday 20th January at 8pm the subject will be 'The Ration Book Diet - a Wartime Cookery Talk and Demonstration' by Mike Brown, Carol Harris and CJ Jackson, authors of 'The Ration Book Diet'. Further information from Ian Bayley on 01732 452505m, or visit the Society's website www.1940.co.uk

Otford Afternoon W.I

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Membership is £22 per year. The next meeting takes place on **14th February** with Lt. Col Fairclough talking on the 'Work of The Salvation Army' -in insight into the Army's family tracing service. Please contact 01959 522915 for more details.

Otford Tennis Club

Otford Tennis Club held the official switch-on of the newly installed Floodlights on December 7th. This facility covers 2 of their 3 all-weather courts and will enable members to play in the evenings until 9.30pm. The total cost was £22,000 but a large part of the cost was met by grants from the LTA, the KCC, Awards for All (Lottery), Foundation for Sport and the Arts (Littlewoods Pools), Otford Parish Council and the Otford Fete Committee. It was a pleasant social occasion with mulled wine and hot snacks attended by 50 people. Tennis was played by some hardy senior and junior members for over an hour and although it was the first time for many under floodlights, none noticed any difference to normal play. The club is offering heavily discounted membership fees valid until March 31st. Coaching by LTA coaches for both Junior and Senior persons is available, both in the daytime and now extending into the evening. Useful contacts can be found on

www.otfordtennis.org.uk or for Juniors, Mary Evans on 01959 523701 and for Seniors, Anthony Shea on 01732 458968.

Otford & District Wine Club



Everyone who attended the Otford and District Wine Club Christmas Social will agree that it was a wonderful evening with a delicious Christmas Dinner provided by Catercraft and fantastic music to dance to. However they are pleased to announce that the festive season is not yet over! In Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 25th January** starting at 8pm the actual birthday of Robbie Burns, they are holding a Burns Night Party. Frank Haggerty, has kindly agreed to come and sing again, and those who attended last year will remember what a great voice he has. There will also be other Scottish music and possibly a Scottish Quiz. Mulled Wine, whisky, haggis and oatcakes will be served (no need to bring your own wine!) and there will be a Scottish Raffle! As usual it is free to members but visitors are most welcome to attend at £4 per head. Please do go along for an entertaining evening out amongst friends.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 28th January** when Nikki Tinkler will talk about "A Tale of Twenty Quilts" The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588.

Picture of the Month



The artist for December 2005 to February 2006 is Sydney Shaw. Syd settled in Otford 26 years ago when he married Joyce. Before that he had for several years been a member of the Sidcup Arts Centre painting group. Initially he worked in pastels with encouragement from his young children at home, but later changed to oils, mainly on hardboard. He has now painted about 150 pictures and has also photographed most of his work. Syd was a Scout leader for forty years and frequently carried a sketchbook to record his Scouting years and to lay a lie to an earlier remark he was heard to make, which was 'I can't draw for toffee' His painting is entitled 'Kitchen Bench', depicting dahlias from his own garden. 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.

Knole DFAS

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Hall, Bat & Ball. The January 2006 lecture will be on **19th January**, when Dr Sally Dormer will speak on 'Courtly Love'. The season continues on 16th February with Terry Pearson lecturing on 'The History of the Mermaid'. Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm preceded by refreshments at 12.30pm. Anyone interested in joining the Society or would like more information, please contact the membership secretary, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons Women's Fellowship

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

January

19th - Gilbert Denton - *London Memorials* - 1, The Old Walk.

26th - Bob Coupe - *Amsterdam Onwards* - 25 Brookfield, Kensing

February

1st - Carol Griffiths - *Blue Badge Guide* - 18, The Old Walk.

8th - David Matthews - *Poetry* - 23 Warham Road

15th - *Games Afternoon* - 30 Well Road

22nd - Pat Mortlock - *Ightham Mote* - St Barts Hall

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Sevenoaks Evening Society) 2005/2006 lecture season continues on **Thursday 9th February** at 8.15pm in the Aisher Hall, Sevenoaks School with a talk by Mr Colin. J. Williamson on 'From Blood and Sawdust to Lycra' Anyone interested in joining the Society, or would like more information should contact Mrs Honor McMillan on 01892 532651.

Sevenoaks Music Club

Sevenoaks Music Club has been delighting audiences with classical music concerts of world class for the last 71 years. They open the new year on **Saturday 22nd January** at 8pm with a recital by artists Sophie Angebault, soprano, Jean-Phillipe Elleouet, baritone, accompanied by Marc Verter, piano of French melodies from Hahn, Faure, Ravel and Ibert, Brahms lieder, and English and American songs from Bridge,

Barber and Williams. Opera arias, ensembles and light music follow after the interval. The concert will take place at the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall School, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks. Everyone is welcome and tickets are £14 for the first 5 concerts and £16 for the premium concert in April. Student tickets are £5. A Season Ticket costs £48 thereby giving you 2 free concerts. If you would like a copy of the brochure giving full details, please contact 01732 453251

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 December TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 65

2nd Prize £15 - 474

3rd Prize £10 - 42

Congratulations to this month's winners and thank you to everyone who continues to support the school.

Blood Donor Sessions

- United Reformed Church Hall, St John's Road, Sevenoaks - Tuesday January 24th - 2pm - 4.30pm and 5.30pm - 8.00pm

'Do something amazing - Give Blood'

Newsletter

If you would like to put details of your events, clubs, or societies in the newsletter, please let the office have copy before the second Monday of the month.

If you would be willing to deliver the monthly newsletter for the Parish Council could you also let the office know. We are looking for a helper(s) in a number of areas

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Monday 13th February** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Village Hall.

Dog Fouling



This is still a big 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.

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/05/03070 **49 Greenhill Road**

2 no 2 storey extensions and provision of rear balcony

SE/05/03081 **Foyle Pilgrims Way East**

Single storey rear extension

SE/05/03090 **16 Greenhill Road**

Porch to front of existing house, replacement 3 car garage and Mower store with office accommodation over

SE/05/03116 **20 Rye Lane**

Conversion of bungalow to house plus extensions to rear

b. Results received

SE/05/02622 **Castle House Sevenoaks Road**

Alterations to gates at existing driveway, creation of additional access onto Bubblestone Road to include double gates and piers *Allowed*

SE/05/02623 **Castle House Sevenoaks Road**

Alterations to existing gates and piers, creation of additional LBC access onto Bubblestone Road to include double gates and piers *Allowed*

SE/05/02655 **51 Knighton Road**

Subdivision of plot; erection of detached house with integral garage; alterations to access to provide crossover to proposed dwelling and existing dwelling at no 51 *Withdrawn*

SE/05/02659 **80 Evelyn Road**

Alterations and extension to existing roof including raising of the ridge height by 1.0m to facilitate loft conversion for residential accommodation. Roof extension to include installation of glazed gable end in front elevation and formation of half-hipped pitched roof in main roof- slope. Installation of roof lights to front and rear roof-slopes *Refused*

SE/05/02692 **38 Greenhill Road**

First floor bedroom and bathroom extension with balcony *Refused*

SE/05/02725 **Maunder's St Michaels Drive**

Demolition of dwelling and erection of detached house *Withdrawn*

c. Amended applications

SE/05/0285 **The Old Vicarage Shoreham Road**

Sub-division of plot and erection of one detached dwelling house east side; alterations to existing property including erection of detached double garage. As amended by plans received 8.12.05

