Happy New Year

Guide Christmas Post

Thank you to all those who supported the 2007 Christmas Guide Post Box in Otford Library and the Parish Council Office. This year, the 25th year of Guide and Brownie collection and delivery, has been a record with over 1200 cards delivered in Otford village, 150 up from last year. This has raised in total £385 which will be divided between the girl's chosen charities – Hospice in the Weald and Valence School Children's Wish List.

Young Achiever Award 2007

This award of a shield, certificate and gift vouchers was presented by PCSO Dave Birchall at the January Parish Council Meeting on the 14th January at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall.

Winner

♡ Imogen Chandler

Runners-Up

♡ Emily Lindsay
♡ Tom Housden
♡ Sarah Hubbard

All runners up will also receive certificates. Congratulations to all these young people who are a credit to the village. It was a great shame that we didn't have more nominations but quality is always better than quantity. Nominations for this year's award will be most welcome.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on [Thursday 31st January] between 11am and 12.30pm at School House. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

3 Peaks Challenge

PCSO Dave Birchall, Community Warden Paul Robertson and Assistant Clerk Sue Stephenson are all undertaking the famous 3 Peaks Challenge in July this year along with a small group of people from Shoreham to raise money for Shoreham Pre School and Otford Primary School – Early Years. They will be climbing Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis in 36 hrs. Any donations or sponsorship will be very gratefully received and sponsorship forms will be appearing around the village very soon. Thank you.

Otford Allotments Association

Gardening at this time of year you might say! - well yes if it is allotment gardening because we will have to start thinking about planting seeds and seed potatoes in readiness for the forthcoming growing year and that means clearing winter plots, which begin to look a little sad, harvesting is continuing however, with brussel sprouts, leeks and winter cabbage etc (even rhubarb is beginning to sprout). Want to be part of all this? Call Barbara Hine on 01959 525468 or call into the Parish Council Office on any weekday morning for more details.

Use of Mobile Phones

It is illegal to use a handheld mobile phone when driving. This also includes when you are stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic. If convicted you will receive a £60 fine and three penalty points on your licence. Points can mean higher insurance costs. You don't have to be caught many times to be disqualified. If you get just six points in the first two years after passing your test, you will lose your licence under the New Drivers Act.

The Police are aware of a number of reported incidents in the village so remember.

'Switch off before you drive off'
Newsletter Deliverers
We are currently looking for someone please to deliver newsletters in Station Road and also if anyone would be willing to go on a ‘reserve’ list to be available when regular deliverers are not please could you contact the parish council office. Many thanks.

Otford Gardeners’ Society

The first meeting for 2008 for the Otford Gardeners’ Society will be the Annual Cheese & Wine evening on Tuesday 5th February in the Village Hall at 8pm. This is a very informal and social evening with a chance to see what is on the Society’s calendar for the coming year. The admission price of £2 includes wine and cheese. Everybody is welcome.

Appointment of Vicar for Otford

The Churchwardens are pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev Richard Mark Worssam to be the next Vicar of Otford.

Richard is currently the Rector of Fawkham and Hartley within our own diocese, the parish being semi-rural and consisting of two historic Norman Churches and a modern Church Centre. The churches follow the central tradition of the Church of England.

Richard was ordained in Rochester in 1993 and spent his first four years of ministry as a Curate in Green Street Green. He moved to Fawkham and Hartley in 1997 where he completed ten years last month.

Richard feels that the experience that he has gained in parish ministry over the previous 14 years together with the gifts and skills he has developed, will allow him to serve effectively alongside church members in shared ministry and mission to the parish of Otford and beyond. The nature of his current parishes has required extensive use of lay members of the Church family in order to run both the services and the activities undertaken within the Parishes.

Richard’s wife Donna, is a trained teacher, currently works part time in the Library at Dartford Grammar School and is a Parish Pastoral Assistant. They have two sons Christopher and Matthew who are 14 and 11 respectively.

Richard will be inducted on April 28th by the Bishop of Rochester when we look forward to welcoming him and his family to the Parish.

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 21st February when Matthew Williams will talk on ‘Chopping up the Chiffonier – the changing taste for Victoriana’ The 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 and Alison Davis on 01732 780453.

Palace Park Wood
The Woodland Trust are asking for comments on their proposals of management by neglect of the Community Woodland at Palace Park Wood, Sevenoaks Road. If you use this area regularly then please write to Mr P JARCZEWSKI at The Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL to by 28th January and tell them what you think.

Otford Oast WI
On Thursday 7th February George Puddefoot will be giving gardening tips for baskets and borders. Do join them. The meetings start at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free.

T’ai Chi

If you are interested in taking up Tai Chi then classes are starting in January. There is a Thursday evening class starting at 6.35pm (first one on 18th January) at Bradbourne School, and a Friday lunchtime class (first one 11th January) at St Luke’s
Church Hall, Eardley Road starting at 12.05pm. Trial Session £5. Contact James on 07836 710281 or email james@taiji.co.uk and have a look at the website www.taiji.co.uk.

Picture of the Month

The artist for December / February is Sheila Vizard. Sheila is the artist showing her painting over the Christmas period. She was born in Otford and has been married to a local farmer for 33 years. She joined the Otford Art Group over 5 years ago where, among other subjects, she gained an interest in botanical painting. She says that she is an interloper at botanical painting classes at the Bradbourne Wildlife Centre and that this has helped to develop her particular style of flower painting. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Knighton Road 1957 – 2007

December 2007 saw the Golden Jubilee of Knighton Road, the first major development in Otford of the 1950’s. 12 original residents celebrated the occasion with a Christmas lunch at The Crown. It was also a golden wedding year for two of the couples present, Mr & Mrs G Darby and Mr & Mrs G Denton. The last of the 61 houses was occupied on the 5th December 1957, the day after the Lewisham train disaster and during a period now known as the ‘great smog’. Sadly, one of the original residents former Parish Council Chairman Reg Lythaby, died a few days before the commemorative lunch. Glasses were raised to his memory, and to honour the many people from Knighton Road, each of them newcomers to Otford, who revitalised the community, taking leading parts in almost every organisation in the village. A proud record.

Otford Remembered 1907 – The Harvest

Thank you to all those who brought a copy of ‘Otford Remembered 1907 – The Harvest’, which recalls something of the story of our village and the hop harvest of 100 years ago. £260 has been sent to the Kent Air Ambulance Trust in donations from the sales. The video (29 mins) is available by post at £7 from Mr G Darby (01959 523339) and is also on sale at the heritage Centre.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2007/2008 lecture season continues on 14th February when Mrs Anthea Streeter will talk about ‘British Architecture Now’. Please contact Mrs Maggie Llanwarne on 01732 460709 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information and membership.

Otford Methodist Church

Otford Methodist Church are holding a Café Evening at the Otford Methodist Church Hall at 6.30pm on Sunday 3rd February. Join them for an evening entitled ‘Music Matters’. Enjoy coffee and cakes while listening to some pieces of music and exploring how music speaks to us - both in good ways and unhelpful ways. Contact Sue Ward on 01689 689081.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers’ Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Hall on Saturday 26th January a talk by Judith Songhurst and Gina Ferrari on ‘Life after C&G Machine Embroidery’ Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons

Women’s Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details / transport.

January
23rd - New Videos - Barbara Darby
30th - A most ingenious paradox - Gilbert Denton

February
6th - Games afternoon
13th - Poetry and music in hymns - Tony Wiltshire
20th - Lunch at The Drive Methodist Church 12.15pm
27th - National trust properties - Pat Mortlock (with St Bart’s ladies)

Bartholomew Concert

The Bartholomew Wind Band conducted by Jean Kelsey will perform in St Bartholomew’s Church on Saturday 2nd February at 7.30pm, together with their guests, the Plumstead Recorder Consort. Refreshments will be available. Tickets will cost £5 and proceeds will be divided between Hospice in The Weald and church funds.
Sevenoaks Music Club

The next concert of the Sevenoaks Music Club will take place on **Sunday 27th January**. Adrian Ward (tenor) and Annabel Thwaite (piano) will perform with songs by Schumann, Wolf, Faure, Duparc & Britten. The concert will take place at 3pm in the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall School, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent. Tickets are £14 and Students £5. Contact Richard Hargreaves on 01732 453251.

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Hall on **Wednesday 20th February** starting at 8pm when Chris Baker will talk on ‘Are you being served? - the history of shopping in Dartford’.

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 Dec TOP Draw are:
- 1st Prize £50 - 7
- 2nd Prize £15 - 50
- 3rd Prize £10 - 154

Planning

The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council in January. 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/07/03666 Block 9 & 9a Vestry Industrial Estate, Vestry Road
  Erection of 3 no terraced industrial units and adjacent stand alone industrial unit with ancillary offices, car parking and service yards
- SE/07/03717 Springhill, Shoreham Road
  Boundary fence and gates with piers
- SE/07/03739 19 Tudor Drive
  4 no. new windows in existing walling
- SE/07/03630 Maunders St Michaels Drive
  Replacement dwelling
- SE/07/03587 5 Ryecroft Road
  Erection of two storey front extension and porch
- SE/07/03889 Friars Pool, Station Road
  Demolition of single storey conservatory to rear and erection of single storey extension to rear and two storey extension to side of a detached dwelling. Demolition of glazed lean to entrance porch to front and provision of new driveway access to side.

b. Results received

- SE/07/02776 64 & 66 Well Road
  Demolition of 2 existing residential dwellings and the erection of 21 dwellings, including 40% affordable housing, together with associated car parking, new access road and landscaping. As amplified by Ambient Noise Report received 22.10.07
  Allowed
- SE/07/02985 2 Willow Park
  Demolition of existing garage. Construction of two storey side extension. Amendment to SE/07/01848
  Allowed
- SE/07/03027 Nutwood, Shoreham Road
  Front and side extension to both ground and first floor. Rear extension to ground floor only. Internal alterations.
  Allowed
- SE/07/03068 4 Tudor Crescent
  Demolition of garage. Erection of single storey side extension. Two storey rear extension.
  Allowed
- SE/07/03114 Hillview, Shoreham Road
  Gates and piers to entrance
  Refused
- SE/07/03181 107 Evelyn Road
  Conversion of existing garage to bedroom and shower room and single storey side and front extension
  Allowed
- SE/07/03197 4 Orchard Road
  Single storey side and rear extension
  Allowed
- SE/07/03228 The Chantry, The Green
  Provision of flat roof canopy over front door
  Allowed
- SE/07/03230 The Chantry, The Green
  LBC - Provision of flat roof canopy over front door
  Allowed

c. Planning appeals

- SE/06/03069 18 Tudor Crescent
  Single storey rear extension, second storey front and rear extensions and loft conversion
  Appeal dismissed

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. Thankyou.