Otford Parish Council
January Newsletter 2009
No 175

Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002
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Football Match @ Charlton
Through the parish council, Charlton Athletic has made an offer which many Otford residents will surely find it impossible to refuse. On **Saturday 7th March 2009**, for a total cost of £43 per person, the club will:

- provide a coach to take us to and from The Valley,
- in the morning arrange a one-hour tour of the stadium followed by a brief audio-visual presentation about the club and its history,
- serve us a three-course lunch in one of their restaurants overlooking the pitch, and
- give us seats together to watch the Championship game versus Watford.

We can have only 53 places and these will be allotted strictly on a first come, first served basis. To reserve a place or places, please contact the parish office, telephone 01959 524808 or email otfordpc@btinternet.com. The latest day for bookings, should places still be available, is Friday 23rd January and payment has to be made by Friday 6th February.

STOP PRESS After a grant from the Fete Committee we can now offer **£20 OFF** for the first ten (10) **UNDER 16’S** to apply (you must be accompanied by adult).

The Village Design Statement
Many residents received their Otford VDS books for Christmas. There have been a number of additional requests for copies. If you would still like to order an Otford VDS book please fill in the form found at the Parish Office. Don’t leave it too long. We are running low on copies and need to estimate how many reprints may be needed.

Otford Car Park
Following a suggestion by a resident at the Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council has been considering a ‘one way’ system in the High Street car park. Designs have been produced by a Parish Councillor and can be viewed in the Parish Council office together with a copy of the current layout. The designs would involve taking a small piece of the Recreation Ground and obtaining planning consent for change of use to car parking. One design would involve the overall loss of two car parking spaces, even with the extra piece of land, the other would involve an overall loss of eight spaces. However with the extra piece of land, assuming planning consent could be obtained, and with the existing plan, four extra spaces could be added. Please let us have your views. The plans can be viewed during normal office hours until January 30th or on www.otford.info/parishcouncil

Guide Christmas Post Box
Thank you to all those who supported the 2008 Christmas Guide Post Box in Otford Library and the Parish Council Office. This year the Brownie and Guide collection and delivery has raised a total of £343 which will be divided between the girls’ chosen charities - Demelza House Children’s Hospice and the Kent Air Ambulance Trust.

Otford Young Achiever Award
This award will be presented at the February Parish Council Meeting. We thank all those who have nominated young people.

Councillors' Allowances
In view of the articles and comments in the Sevenoaks Chronicle about Councillors' allowances it was felt that the Parish Council should point out to parishioners that although Parish Councillors could claim allowances none do so, seeing the work they do as totally voluntary and a contribution to the life of the village.

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.

New PCSO
We would like to welcome our new PCSO Jane Wright who took up the post in January. She looks forward to meeting you all in the near future. If you would like to contact her concerning any problems or issues in the village please call her on 07772 226036

Otford Community Warden
Paul Robertson our KCC Community Warden holds a weekly surgery to discuss any problems and community issues at School House every Tuesday between 11am and 12 noon.

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 Oast WI
On [Thursday 12th February] Sue Atkins will talk about 'Positive Parenting'. Do join them. The meetings start at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free.

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

Otford Methodist Church
Otford Methodist Church would like to invite you to join them in their Hall for a very special Café Evening at 6.30pm on [Sunday 1st February] with Paul Field. Paul is a professional singer / songwriter who has won many awards including the Ivor Novello award from the British Academy of Songwriters. He has written songs for a host of artists including Cliff Richard, Elkie Brookes and Tammy Wynette. He has also written many of the modern Christian songs used in the church. For further details please contact Kath on 01959 522196

World Day of Pray
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
Otford Gardeners' Society will start the new year with a Cheese and Wine evening in the Village Hall on [Tuesday 3rd February]. This is a chance for everybody to get together informally and find out what the Society has in store for the coming year. The evening starts at 8pm and admission will be £2. Everybody is invited.

Sevenoaks DFAS
The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2008/2009 lecture season continues on [12th February] when Mr Anton Gabszewicz will talk about 'A concise Chronology of Early Meissen Porcelain'. 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 Village Hall
The Trustees of Otford Village Memorial Hall would like to record their thanks to those members of Otford Wine Club who came down to the Hall on the 7th December and made such a great job of putting up the Christmas decorations in the Main Hall. The trustees know that there are many organisations both in the village and from outside who appreciate their efforts and are grateful for the time and effort that they put into this role every year.

Otford Allotments Association
Not much ‘growing on’ at the moment, but if you are one of those on the waiting list please be patient as history tells us that a plot will become available during the next few months. In the meantime please come to Otford Library on [Thursday 29th January] at 7.30pm to hear Janet Finney and Barbara Hine talking respectively about Otford Gardeners and Otford Allotments and how their interests overlap historically and today to the benefit of all.

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 February] when Dr Colin Bailey will talk about ‘Joseph Wright of Derby and the English Enlightenment’. 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 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 31st January] when there will be an all day workshop and mini workshops on ‘Beadwork’ with Liz Thornton. 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 December / January is David Simpson. David has lived in the village for over 30 years and has never painted on a regular basis. Having retired he now finds more time to participate. He paints mainly in oils, which he finds a flexible medium insomuch that mistakes can easily be rectified, although detail can be a problem. He says he admires David Shepherd as an artist hence his penchant for painting animals, but the only thing they have in common is their first name.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery
The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on [Tuesday 3rd February] between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Otford Petanque Club
On Thursdays at 3pm the Otford Petanque Club plays on the new purpose-built terrain in the High Street Recreation Ground and makes good use of the tea making facilities in the nearby Eric Dilley Pavilion. Why not join them? You would be most welcome and no previous experience is required. For further information and dates when the club meet please contact the club secretary Margaret Chandler on 01959 523620.

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 - 437
2nd Prize £15 - 440
3rd Prize £10 - 330
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/08/03091 42 Hillydeal Road
Two storey extension with dormers and detached garage
SE/08/03272 33 Well Road
Single storey rear and front extension
SE/08/03280 26 Rye Lane
Proposed sand school
SE/08/03386 Greenhill Manor 17 Greenhill Road
Replacement dwelling including detached garage and associated accesss
SE/08/03391 2 Flowerfield
Two storey side and single storey rear extension

b. Results received
SE/08/02629 49a High Street
Proposed front and rear dormers for loft conversion
Allowed
SE/08/02738 35 High Street
Erection of ground floor rear extension
Allowed
SE/08/02789 Crookfoot, Rye Lane
Demolition of outbuilding and erection of two storey side extension
Refused
SE/08/02813 17 Leonard Avenue
Erection of single storey front porch
Allowed
SE/08/02885 Newlands Shoreham Road
Demolition of existing house and erection of two new detached houses with garages
Refused
SE/08/03197 4 Wickham Field
Lawful Development Certificate - Erection of external chimney breast and chimney
Granted

c. Amended applications

d. Planning appeals
SE/08/01136 1 Wickham Field
Erection of dwelling within curtilage
Appeal against refusal
SE/08/02556 Little Coombe Shoreham Road
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling
Appeal against refusal

e. Tree Work in Conservation Area
08/03253/WTP0 New Forge House High Street
Crown reduce 1 beech tree by 20%
08/03352/WTCA 1 Pickmoss Lane
Fell one picea abies

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

T'ai Chi Classes:

If you are interested in taking up T'ai Chi then classes are starting in January.
[General aims: The aims are to improve the general health, strengthen the legs, improve balance & coordination, promote better circulation, whilst bringing relaxation and increased energy. The courses will also work on improving posture and breathing.]

Sevenoaks: Thursday 15th January: 6.35-7.30pm at The Bradbourne School, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks. TN13 3LE.

ALSO: New class for Wudang T’ai Chi Sword Form - on Thursdays at 8.35-9.30pm.

Friday 16th January: 12.05-1.00pm at St. Luke’s Church Hall, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks. TN13 1XT. This class is specifically aimed at the over-60s, but anyone can attend.

Longfield:
Friday 16th January: 10.05-11.00am at The Longfield Integrated Care Centre, Tuppenne House, Brickfield Farm, Main Road, Longfield, Kent. DA3 7PJ.

Length & Cost of Course: 12 weeks [Try-out session: £5 & the remaining 11 weeks of the course: £105] Email: james@taiji.co.uk for information

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.