

Otford Parish Council

January Newsletter 2010

No 186

Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002
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Parish Council

For those interested in all the activities of OPC, the minutes of meetings are available in the library, and all minutes, agendas and newsletters can be obtained via the web (also available in the library). They can be read via <http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil>. The newsletter is also available on the website.

The next meeting will be on **Monday 8th February** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Duck Sponsorship

We are delighted to announce that Tim, Sally and Lucy have sponsored the care of the ducks and their new enclosure on Otford Pond to mark the occasion of Mike and Christine Bett's Golden Wedding Anniversary

Guide Christmas Post

Thank you to all who supported the 2009 Christmas Guide Post Box in Otford Library and the Parish Council Office. This has raised in total £372.60 which has been divided between the girls' chosen charities **Bradbourne Riding for the Disabled Association** and **St John Ambulance Kent**. We apologise for any late delivery of cards due to the adverse weather conditions. Thanks to Angela in the Library and Sue and Barbara in the Parish Office for helping us, also to Gerry Froggatt who continues every year to print the stamps and posters for us.

Police Surgery

PCSO Jane Wright and PC Ben Clatworthy would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and to remind everyone that if they have any problems or queries they can be contacted on 01732 379371. If it is an

emergency dial 999 or to report a crime that has been committed call 01622 690690.

PCSO Wright would also like to thank the residents of Coombe Road for their help and assistance with the Road Traffic Accident that occurred on Wednesday 23rd December.

The next Police surgery with PCSO Jane Wright will be held at Parish Council Offices on **Wednesday 20th January** between 11am and 12 noon.

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.

KCC Grant

The Trustees of the Village Memorial hall are pleased to announce that they have received a grant from Kent County Council of £6,000 under the Small Communities Projects Scheme towards the cost of replacing all of the doors and windows in the Club Room. Our thanks go to KCC and to those Councillors involved in the decision. A special thank you goes to Tom Phillips at KCC who administers the Scheme and was exceptionally helpful in assisting us to progress our application. The windows and doors will be fitted in mahogany coloured uPVC to match the existing softwood timber frames and will increase the comfort for hirers using the Club Room and, hopefully, also decrease our heating bills and carbon footprint. The remaining cost of the work will need to be paid from Village Hall funds. The Trustees are hopeful that the work will be completed in the next month or two.

This is what you said

All the results of the Parish Plan questionnaire will be on show in the Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 30th January**. You can see how you and everyone else voted on all the questions. Your many comments will also be on show so that you can also read what everyone else thought. This is what we, the people of the Parish, have identified as being the issues which we are most concerned about. Now, as a community, we need to set about preparing plans to address those concerns and prepare the Parish Plan itself. To do that we will create small groups of residents to address particular problems and provide sound suggestions for the future. If you would like to involve yourself in this process - and you will be very welcome - come to this drop-in event - it runs from 10am until 3pm - or pick up a form 'I want to make a difference' from the Parish Council Office

Village Hall Fundraisers

Two more fundraisers have been organised for the Village Hall funds. All profits from both events will go towards improving the facilities in the Hall. The first is a 60's 70's and 80's disco on **Saturday 30th January** from 8pm until midnight. There will be a licensed bar and a prize for the best costume (although fancy dress is not compulsory!) Tickets are just £7.50 per person and are available by either calling 01959 525181 or email ovmh.manager@otford.net

The second event will take place at 8pm on **Saturday 20th February** and will feature Ian Keable, one of the UK's leading Corporate Entertainment Magicians and Mind Readers and the winner of The Magic Circle Comedy Awards 2008/9 (Authors note: I employed Ian for a corporate event a few years ago and I can recommend him highly. When I employed him he cost me over £1,000!!) Tickets are just £8 for adults and £5 for children. Family ticket is available (2 adults, 2 children - only £21). Ian recommends that the event is attended only by children of 12 and over - not because the comedy is risqué but those under that age may not understand the humour! Again, tickets are available as above. Please support these events and help the Village Hall to continue to provide an excellent facility for those many groups and clubs who meet there. We look forward to seeing you at one (or both) events.

Otford & District Historical Society

The last meeting of the year was the AGM on Wednesday 9th December. The first meeting of 2010 will be on **20th January** when Edwin Thompson will talk about '*All change at Otford Junction*'. After the outstanding success of the first publication, the new Otford - Past in Pictures II Book is now available for sale at £7. They are available from the Parish Council Office / Heritage Centre, The Crown PH, The Chemists, The Post Office, Willow Tea Rooms, Yvonne's and Sevenoaks Bookshop

We need friends

Have you visited the Otford Heritage Centre recently? It is full of fascinating exhibits and models about the stories that made our village what it is today. The Centre is open every weekday morning and on Saturdays and Sundays, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. On show are Roman and even earlier relics that have been dug up in the parish. There are models of the first man to fly; how the Vestry Estate came into being; what a working Oast-house is like - and more recent histories, like the story of Boy Scouting are all here in eye catching displays. All this

takes time and effort which is willingly given but it also costs money. Because the Centre makes no charge for entrance, we have no source of regular income and must rely entirely upon donations to keep going. Now we would like the Centre to grow larger and represent a wider area - a Centre and Museum for the whole of the upper Darent Valley.

This is why we so badly need 'friends' to help us - people who are prepared to make a regular annual contribution each year to help the Centre achieve these aims. The amount you donate is up to you but if we get enough donations it will mean a great deal to the future of the Centre. 'Friends' mean that your Heritage Centre can continue to grow and provide the people of Otford with a source of their heritage.

You can pick up an application form from the Parish Office or, if you prefer, email to rod.shelton@tiscali.co.uk and he will forward the details to you. 'Friends' are what being part of a community is all about.

Otford Oast WI

The meetings take place on a Thursday once a month starting at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them.

Otford Afternoon WI

Otford Afternoon WI have arranged an interesting programme for 2010. On Tuesday 12th January they had a talk by Bernard Lockett about Gilbert & Sullivan and on February 9th David Clark will talk about the Last Voyage of the RMS Queen Mary. All Meetings take place at Otford Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month - Annual Subscription is £29.50 and visitors at £2 are very welcome. For further details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736 or Muriel Eaton on 01959 524151.

Otford Evening WI

Our December meeting had a definite Christmas Party feel with members and guests being greeted with a glass of wine or cordial and after being welcomed by president Eve Wiltshire sat back to enjoy some of Barbara Darby's short, amusing films. Maureen Bolton then skilfully demonstrated how to assemble a Christmas table decoration complete with greenery and candle and made it look very easy! There was a delicious assortment of finger food with Tony Wiltshire playing a lovely medley of piano music in the background. It was a very enjoyable evening. The next meeting is on Thursday 14th January when they will have a talk about Kent Characters. Visitors are always welcome at the meetings which start at 7.30pm

Otford Bridge Club

Otford Bridge Club meets every Friday evening in Otford Church Hall at 7.30pm. It is a friendly club and they would be pleased to see anyone who fancies a game.

Otford & District Wine Club

We think everyone who attended the Wine Club 2009 Christmas Social will agree that we all had a wonderful evening with a delicious Christmas Dinner provided by Catercraft, a Joke Competition and Dancing. However, the festive season is not yet over as the grim, dark days of January will be lightened by our Burns Night which will be held on **Wednesday 27th January** in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. As usual the evening will start at 8pm and will be hosted by our favourite Scotsman, with the velvet voice, Frank Haggarty, who will address the haggis and perform all the mysterious offices pertaining to a traditional Burns Night. Frank will lead the singing and we will have some Scottish Dancing (hopefully we won't get in such a muddle as last year!) There will be haggis, oatcakes and other seasonal refreshments. As usual the evening will be free to paid up members but guests will be charged £6. Please ring the Secretary on 01732 - 761359 if you would like to come, so she can ensure we have enough refreshments. Why not come along for a fun night out amongst friends.

Table Top Sale

There will be a Table Top sale on **Saturday 16th January** in the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball from 10am to 12 noon with the proceeds of the tables and refreshments going to the Citizen's Advice Bureau. Come and sell your unwanted Christmas presents, declutter your wardrobe and make some money. The cost is £10 per table. To book your place please call Anne on 01959 523582

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

20th - *A Gardeners' delight* - Gilbert Denton

27th - Tea in Hall

February

3rd - Pub Lunch 12pm

10th - *Colour for Spring* - Nicola Lochhead

17th - Games afternoon

24th - Meeting with St Bart's in our Hall - The Drive Singers

Hatha Yoga Class

The new term for your friendly Hatha Yoga class started on **12th January 2010** 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

New T'ai Chi and Quigong Classes

The aims of Tai Chi are to improve the general health, strengthen the legs, improve balance and coordination, promote better circulation, whilst bring relaxation and increased energy. The courses work on improving posture and breathing.

Sevenoaks

From Thursday 14th January: 6.35pm - 7.30pm at the Bradbourne School, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks

And also an Over 50's lunchtime course

From Friday 15th January: 12.05 - 1.00pm or 1.05pm - 2.00pm both at St Luke's Church, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks.

Ten week courses at the same time each week. Trial Session costs £5. Remaining weeks from £95.

For more information on other lunchtime and evening classes please see website www.taiji.co.uk or call 020 - 888 - 333 08

Bartholomew Concert

The Bartholomew Wind Band conducted by Jean Kelsey, will take place in St Bartholomew's Church on **Saturday 6th February** at 7.30pm. They will be joined by 'Vocal Explosion' Tickets cost £7 and proceeds will be divided between Hospice in The Weald and Church Funds. Refreshments will be available.

Children's Events at Otford Library

- Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time between 11am and 11.30am every Monday morning at Otford Library. All welcome
- Storytime between 2.15pm to 3.45pm every Tuesday afternoon for children 2 years and over. All welcome

Otford Methodist Church

Otford Methodist Church is starting an ALPHA course on Wednesday 27th January. If you are wondering 'Does God Exist' and if he does, what are the questions you might like to ask, why not join us and explore Christianity together over a meal followed by a video and discussion. For more information call Brian Pawlett on 01959 522196 or Kate Baxter on 01959 523687

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 January** by Fenella Billington on 'The Great Twelve; An introduction to the Senior Livery Companies of the City of London, their Medieval Origins and their role in modern society'. Livery companies originated when medieval merchants banded together to form guilds or fraternities. Today they are still influential bodies, maintaining fine livery halls with art treasures and contents of historical value. Fenella Billington will discuss the development of the Livery Companies from medieval times to the present day. 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.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2009/2010 lecture season continues on **14th January** when Mr Tony Tucker will talk about 'The Splendours of the City Churches'. Then on **11th February** Mr James Bolton will talk about *20th Century Women Gardeners*. 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.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting of the Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild will be on **Saturday 30th January** in Otford Village Hall when in the afternoon session they will have a talk by Libby Smith on 'Beaded tassels and Beyond' followed by tea and cake. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoon at 2pm. For more information please call Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 2nd February** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

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/09/02586 **Bag End Shoreham Road**

Wooden decking over existing paved terrace, with two small additional areas and one set of stairs repositioned

SE/09/02803 **32 Warham Road**

Erection of single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to form residential accommodation

SE/09/02828 **McDonalds Restaurant Old Otford Road**

Various signs inline with refurbishment - 4 fascias, 4 freestanding, 1 height restrictor, 2 banners and 1 customer order display

SE/09/02829 **McDonalds Restaurant**

Refurbishment of restaurant and patio area. Change to elevations. Erection of small under eaves extension (17.62m²).

Installation of customer order display and replacement and new signage

SE/09/02830 **McDonalds Restaurant**

New monument to be installed west of the building

SE/09/02895 **8 Hillydeal Road** Construction

of swimming pool in rear garden

SE/09/02976 **3 Hopfield Close**

Erection of conservatory to rear

b. Results received

SE/09/02422 **Arum House 17 The Butts**

Reconstruct conservatory to rear of property in materials to match the house *Allowed*

SE/09/02477 **46 Well Road**

Part single, part two storey rear extension. Single storey side extension and front entrance porch *Allowed*

SE/09/02449 **17 Greenhill Road**

Enlargement of garage side lobby, insertion of two addition windows to front gables and one additional roof light to the rear, amendment to applications SE/08/03386FUL SE/09/01389FUL *Allowed*

SE/09/02511 **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 *Allowed*

SE/09/02513 **30 High Street**

Listed Building Consent 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 *Allowed*

c. Amended applications

d. Appeals

SE/09/00230 **Crookfoot Rye Lane**

Certificate of Lawful Development - alteration and extension to existing dwelling house *Appeal Allowed*