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 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 Burn’s 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 Tai 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.

**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
b. Results received

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 I 
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