

Otford Parish Council

July/August Newsletter 2009

No 181

Kent and South & South East England

Village of the Year 2002

Clerk: Mrs. B.J. Darby

The School House, 21, High Street, Otford,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PG

Telephone/answerphone: 01959 524808

Fax: 01959 525298

Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri

otfordpc@btinternet.com

The Pond



The long and detailed document accompanying our second application for work on the listed building describing the history of the stone facing in the pond over the last century or so, has finally enabled the District Council planners to understand the construction and our intended work. Listed building consent was finally granted on 22nd June. Once the condition that SDC has placed upon us has been met work will hopefully be restarted at the end of July beginning of August. The pond will have to be re-drained first before the walls are completed and the unlawfully dumped fish removed. PLEASE DO NOT PUT FISH IN THE POND. They just dig up all the silt. When the pond is finished and planted up the CORRECT type of fish will be put in. It has been a very long drawn out process for us all but the end is now in sight.

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 next meeting will be on Monday 11th August at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Memorial Hall.

Road Closures / Works

Road works in Otford will be very evident over the forthcoming months. Station Road and some of Shoreham Road will be closed at night (7pm to 5am) for resurfacing from the 3rd to 7th August. Then

it is proposed to investigate and repair the whole of the drainage system in Pilgrims Way West from the junction with Ivy House Lane in the West through to the junction with the A225 Station Road and on from the A225 Shoreham Road junction through to Cotman's Ash Lane in the East. In order to carry out these works road closures will be required due to the width and nature of the roads and the proposed works. It is proposed to start Pilgrims Way West at the end of August for 10 - 12 weeks and Pilgrims Way East will begin at end of October for 10 - 12 weeks once the Gas Board have moved from the Bat & Ball area.

Village Car Park



Work is needed to resurface the whole of the village car park and reline the bays. The work will be carried out during the school holidays probably at the beginning of August and will mean that the car park will have to be closed during those times to all vehicles. (Please do not leave your car there and go on holiday!) For further details and exact dates please see notices that will be displayed. We are sorry for any inconvenience but the work needs to be completed and no time will be perfect for all.

Police / Warden Surgery

Our PCSO Jane Wright will be holding a surgery with Paul Robertson our KCC Community Warden on Tuesday 21st July at School House between 11am and 12 noon. Come and see them if you have any concerns.

Lost Property

Silver style ring found on Recreation Ground 13th July has been handed into Parish Office.

West Kent Xtra Play Days



Come and play for free on Tuesdays in Otford this August. West Kent Extra's Play Team are visiting with sports and games, arts and crafts, face-painting, junk modelling and lots of different things to play with. These Play Days are completely free and all children aged between 8 and 15 years old can come along for the day, with younger children also very welcome as long as their parents stay and play too! The days run from 10:30am - 3:30pm and whilst they will provide free drinks and fruit those staying all day will need a picnic lunch. We suggest old

clothes as you may get messy. These days may be effected by the weather (keep your fingers crossed for a sunny summer!) and special guests and one-off activities will be confirmed nearer the time, so keep an eye out for flyers in your area, check the website at www.westkent.org or call Heather Brightwell on 01732 749487 to check.

They will be at the Otford Recreation Ground on August 4 and 11, and Hale Lane Recreation Ground on August 18 and 25. Parents please come along with your child to sign them in.

In the Zone 2009

The Sevenoaks District Council Family Fun Day will take place at Hale Lane Recreation Ground on Thursday 6th August between 11am and 3.30pm. This year is different and parents and carers should come along with your children and enjoy the day together – bring a picnic and join in the fun. (Children under 8yrs old must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or carer at all times). They will have circus skills, arts and crafts, face painting, team games and sports. On this day they will also be doing 'Truck building' for you to make one and take it home. Wear old clothes in case you get messy!

Twinning

The relationships with Hardelot are developing slowly e.g. the very successful visit of the young Hardelot footballers led to several Otford players wanting French pen-friends and the French and English parents are being consulted, but this is taking time. Any clubs or societies wanting to establish contact with their counterparts in Hardelot with a view to beginning exchange visits should forward contact details to Jane Lawrey with any particular interests direct to the Otford Parish Office on Tel number/email shown at the top of this newsletter as soon as possible and the Committee will be pleased to make the necessary introductions and help with the visits.

Individuals are also encouraged to visit Hardelot to enjoy the long sandy beach, where sand-sailing and kite flying are specialities, the sports facilities including golf, tennis, horse riding and beach walking, the concerts, art exhibitions and exhibitions concerning the Bleriot centenary, the Farmers' Market every Sunday morning in July and August and the fine dining in any of the 7 restaurants.

Otford Petanque Club

Every Thursday at 2.30pm 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 contact the club secretary Margaret Chandler on 01959 523620

Otford Gardeners' Society

The Otford Gardeners' Society will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday 1st September in the Village Hall when Ian Currie will talk about 'The Colourful Side of Weather' from blue moons to coloured snow, the weather columnist and broadcaster gives a psychedelic view of the weather. The Autumn Flower and Craft Show will be held on Saturday 5th September in Otford Village Memorial Hall from 2.15 to 4.15pm. Admission 50p, under 16's free. Refreshments will be served. See vegetables, late flowers, photography, flower arrangements, handicrafts, art, cookery and junior classes.

Otford Oast WI

On Thursday 20th August they will be having their Summer outing and then on 17th September they will be visited by Jo Hall founder of 'The Bazaar' who will be telling them how she started her fair-trade crafts business after visiting India. 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 Afternoon WI

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. On 11th August they will hold a members meeting and then on 8th September Mr T Western will be presenting an afternoon of intriguing fun under the title of '*Magic as an entertainment*'. For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

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.

Otford & District Wine Club

On Saturday 1st August they will have their outing to see 'The Wizard of Oz' by the Riverside Players. And then they will be back in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 30th September for our flu-free Mexican Evening! So you have plenty to look forward to! Please ring the Secretary on 01732 761359 if you have any queries about any of these events. Have a good Summer.

Front Garden Competition



The Otford Gardeners' Society, on behalf of the Parish Council, will again be organising the Annual Otford Front Garden Competition. Preliminary judging will be taking place during July and August when committee members will be walking around the village taking notes. The competition will again be based on the front gardens that would take the eye of a stranger to the village, without him having to look over or around a hedge, wall or fence.

Otford Allotments Association

Otford Allotments are having an 'Open Day' on the morning of Saturday 18th July when you can come and have a look around or guided tour of the allotment site and see what allotment gardening can do for you and those lucky enough to have a plot.

Otford Methodist Church

Children's Summer Holiday Club will be held at Otford Methodist Church from Monday 17th August until Friday 21st August for children who are primary school age (4-11). The Club will run from 9.30am until 12.30pm every day and cost £2.50 per day or £10 for the whole week. Please call Andrew or Carrie on 01732 464977 or 07788 714529 to register and book your place.

Otford Evening WI

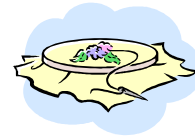
Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month and start at 7.30pm in the Otford Memorial Hall. For more information please contact Diana Jeremiah on 01959 522981.

What a load of Rubbish

Can you imagine the whole of the Vestry Estate covered with rubbish? That's how it was in the 1920's. Imagine it with a huge quarry taking up most of the area. That was the scene in the 1860's when it was supplying the bricks to build Sevenoaks. In the Heritage Centre (School House, High Street) you can actually see detailed models of what it really looked like as it underwent so much change. Fascinating displays of Victorian bottles and pot lids, all dug up from the Vestry along with contemporary photos of work in the brick works; give us a glimpse of what Victorian life was like in Otford. A great display and well worth a visit. The Heritage Centre is open

weekdays from 9am - 12 noon and weekends from 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild



The next meeting of the Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild will be on Saturday 26th September in Otford Village Hall when they will hold their AGM followed by a talk. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoon at 2pm. For more information please call 0208 304 4416.

Picture of the Month

The artist for July / August is Roger Clay. Roger did not pick up a paintbrush again until his retirement, even though he had passed 'Art' at GCE 'O' level. He joined the Otford Art Group and after much experimentation now paints in oils. This medium, he says, being much more tolerant to his mistakes. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on Tuesday 4th August between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

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 June TOP Draw are:

- 1st Prize £50 -
- 2nd Prize £15 -
- 3rd Prize £10 -

Hedges

Hedges are growing very quickly at the moment and a number in the village have grown over the public footway and are causing a nuisance to pedestrians, especially those who have poor sight. Please check the boundaries of the property you are in and if necessary please arrange for it to be cut back from the footway as soon as possible. Thank you.

A Free Musical for Older People

Older people (over 60) living throughout Sevenoaks district are being given a unique opportunity to see the "Trickster" musical performance at the following venues free of charge:

- o Monday 21st September at 3pm at Sevenoaks Community Centre, Cramptons Road, off Otford Road.
- o Tuesday 22nd September at 10.30am the Alexandra Suite in Swanley Town Council Offices.
- o Tuesday 22nd September at 3pm Edenbridge Community Centre, Four Elms Road.

Sevenoaks District Council are providing FREE transport to your nearest performance from a range of pickup points around Sevenoaks town, Swanley and Edenbridge.

This energetic live story-telling performance is back by popular demand and aims to raise awareness of distraction burglary and dishonest doorstep traders without raising the fear of crime. The story is performed by professional actors who use familiar music and humour to take the audience back to times of war to unite them against bogus callers.

"Trickster" has now completed over 400 performances with excellent reviews and was started by the Police Partnership Trust, Dorset's Crime Prevention Charity with backing from the Home Office. The three performances taking place in the Sevenoaks District are being co-ordinated by West Kent Extra and Sevenoaks District Council with funding from West Kent NHS - Choosing Health Funding, West Kent Police, West Kent Housing Association and Trading Standards.

Cllr Loney, portfolio holder for community safety says "The 'Trickster' musical is an ideal way of making residents more aware of how to deal with doorstep callers. We are aware that residents can often be visited by doorstep traders and then sometimes tricked or pressurised into paying out money for shoddy goods or services. Our aim is to reach as many people as possible with the message which will give them the confidence to say No!"

Places must be reserved in advance, book early to avoid disappointment! To reserve a seat or for further information please contact Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000.

Planning



The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council in July. 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/09/01183 18 Coombe Road

Roof extension to provide habitable rooms in first floor with dormers to front and rear

SE/09/01228 6a Hillydeal Road

Demolition of existing single storey side extension and rear conservatory to facilitate erection of two storey front and side extensions, single storey rear extension. Erection of single storey front extension to form garage.

SE/09/01236 West Kent Cold Storage, Rye Lane Dunton Green

Details of the siting, design and external appearance of the 68 residential units to be accommodated within phase 1 of the redevelopment of West Kent Cold Store site, pursuant to conditions 1,2 and 4, of Outline Planning Permission SE/06/00900/OUT; together with details of the means of access within the site (pursuant to conditions 1 and 4), landscape management pursuant to condition 16 (as far as it relates to phase 1) and sound attenuation within the western linear block (as far as it relates to phase 1); and details of compliance with condition 5 (land use), 6 (building heights), and 19 (code for Sustainable Homes level 3).

b. Results received

SE/09/00858 Otford Village Pond The Green

LBC Retrospective removal of pond walls and reconstruction including associated engineering works
Allowed

c. Amended applications

SE/09/00531 42 Hillydeal Road

Extension & alteration work to enlarge existing detached 4 bed property and erection of a detached garage. As amended by plans received 11.06.09

d. Planning appeals

SE/09/00230 Crookfoot, Rye Lane

Erection of single storey side extension - appeal against refusal of a lawful development certificate

e. Tree Work in Conservation Area

09/01298WTCA The Grange High Street

Various works to trees

f. Tree Preservation Order

HW/TPO/19/2009 Meadow Springs Sevenoaks Road

Making of a TPO to one silver birch

HAPPY HOLI DAYS

