

Otford Parish Council
July / August Newsletter 2008
No 170

Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002
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WE DID IT!



Dave, Paul and Sue have done it and completed the 3 Peaks Challenge. The weather was very kind but the feet and knees are now sore!

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored us (not too late) and the total raised will appear in a later newsletter. The money will be going towards the provision of an outside storage and planting area at Otford Primary School and Shoreham Pre School. Please have a look at us on www.lisashoreham.blogspot.com

3rd Otford Guides

The two current leaders of this thriving unit are giving up at the end of this term and without a new leadership team the unit will sadly have to close.

We have two ladies who would like to be part of the new team but we urgently need to find another to 'spread the load' and maintain the regulated child: adult ratios. We know it is a great responsibility to take on but one that is extremely rewarding. If you can help or would like more information please call either Alison Crawley (Leader) on 01959 525128 or Jane Woodrow-Clark (District Commissioner) on 01959 523342.

Outdoor Summer Theatre Comes to
Otford

On Sunday 27th July starting at 7.30pm the amazing, touring show NOAH BABEL'S ARK, comes to

Otford for one performance on the Recreation Ground. This one off event should not be missed.

Slapstick, live music and a lot of comic - often acrobatic- movement typifies this Commedia Dell'arte- inspired show. It has won critical praise from both the Independent, the Times and the Telegraph reviewers. Get more details on the web site on www.therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk The professional troupe is now in its 10th year as a touring company. Its outdoor, hugely popular performances sees them return to villages across Kent and Sussex year after year.

There are special family rates. Senior tickets are at £9. For information and tickets please contact the Box Office on 01323 501260.

So bring your own chairs and rugs and enjoy an evening picnic with friends and family before the start. There will be a Pimms bar and a raffle.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on Thursday 24th July between 11am and 12.30pm at School House. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Dave would like to point out that checks are carried out on a regular basis on vehicle tax so make sure that you are up to date. Also underage drinking will NOT be tolerated in the village and if you are stopped the alcohol will be poured away. Parents please be aware what your youngsters are doing or in some cases shouldn't be doing!

I Don't Believe It

Well can you? Otford Scout Hut has been the target of some unusual attention in it's time, but this just about beats them all. At the end of June a person has gone to the hut and lifted nearly 30 paving slabs (now 40 he has been back!) from a patio and taken them away. If people can be this petty, then things are getting pretty bad. Has your neighbour got a new patio including second hand 450mm square slabs? You may now know where they came from. If anyone has any suggestions, could they either contact PCSO Dave Birchall on 01732 379371 or give Ray Groom a ring on 01959 525413.

Otford Primary School Fete

Otford Primary School PTFA would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who organised, helped, took part and visited the Summer Fete on Saturday 5th July. After a shaky start, weather-wise, the day turned out bright and breezy to ensure an amazing turnout and a wonderful afternoon. So many pupils, staff, parents, carers and supporters were involved

behind the scenes, donating items, manning stalls, flipping burgers and serving teas. Not forgetting those kind souls who helped with the giant clean-up afterwards! We were enjoyably entertained by football tournaments, art and dancing displays and competitions, not to mention Mr Denereaz, who bravely faced the long queue of punters waiting to 'wet sponge' the headteacher! Finally, a sincere thank you to the many local businesses and individuals that sponsored stalls, raffle prizes or promotional materials - we really value your support. The summer fete is the main fundraising event of the year for the PTFA and early indications show that we have raised over £5000, which is absolutely fantastic.

Otford Village Memorial Hall

Otford Village Memorial Hall is urgently looking for a new Hall manager to replace Michael who is now leaving after 10+ years' service. The role involves general maintenance work and liaison with hirers and assisting in the day-to-day running of the Hall. The new manager would be required to attend the Hall for a couple of hours each morning Monday to Friday and to assist with clearing up and locking up after weekend social events, currently around nine or ten this year. There will also be occasions when the Hall will need to be opened at other times but these are kept to a minimum. This position would, ideally suit someone who has taken early retirement and is looking for some part-time work. An attractive salary package is available to the right applicant. For further details or a brief chat please call Ron Dullage on 01959 522007

Otford Allotments Association

We look forward to welcoming you to our Open Day on 19th July - but if you miss it don't worry Barbara Hine will be pleased to show you around and talk about allotment gardening, which is very popular just now because of all the bad news about 'fresh' food, by giving her a ring on 01959 525468 or call into the Parish office any weekday morning and have a private view.

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 Petanque Club

Every Thursday 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 contact the club secretary Margaret Chandler on 01959 523620

Youth Van

Team games, circus skills, parachute games, arts and crafts and much, much more can only mean one thing - Sevenoaks District Council's Youth Zone van will be out and about again this summer. The van and team will be visiting:

- ❖ Date: Friday 15th August
- ❖ Time: 11am - 3.30pm
- ❖ Place: Hale Lane Recreation Ground, Otford
- ❖ Event: Youth Van

There is no need to book in advance or reserve a place on the programme as all activities are run on a turn up and join in basis. All children are registered when they arrive and children over 8 can be left with Youth Zone staff for the day. It is recommended that children bring a packed lunch and a sun hat. The fully equipped van includes seating for up to 10 people, disabled access, music, video, DVD and PC facilities as well as loads of equipment for a wide variety of sports, arts and circus skills.

Free Fun Days coming to Otford

West Kent Xtra, the community development arm of West Kent Housing are also running free fun days in Otford thanks to funding from the Big Lottery Children's Play Programme, secured through the Sevenoaks District Play Partnership. Children and young people can have fun for free this summer with these 4 Play days on offer in Otford this August. These Play Days are totally free and all children aged between 8 and 15 years can come along for the day, with younger children also very welcome as long as their parent stay and play too! There is no need to book, just come along on the day. There will be a variety of sports, games and activities, arts and crafts, dance and drama, special guests and lots of different things to play with. The days run from 10.30am - 3.30pm and whilst they will provide free drinks and snacks those staying all day will need a picnic lunch. It is suggested that old clothes are worn as you may get messy.

Dates to put in your diary:

High Street Recreation Ground

- Tuesday 5th August
- Tuesday 12th August.

Hale Land Recreation Ground

- Tuesday 19th August
- Tuesday 26th August.

Keep an eye out for leaflets and posters nearer the time. They would like to hear from any parents or

children and young people who have ideas about what activities they want at their Play days – call Heather on 01732 749487 and they will try to include your suggestions

Front Garden Competition

The Otford Gardeners' Society are again organising the Village Front Garden Competition on behalf of the Parish Council. Preliminary judging will be taking place during July and August and members of the Society will be touring the village taking notes. The competition is based on the front gardens that would take the eye of a stranger to the village, without him or her having to peer over or around a hedge, fence or wall. Please talk to the members, when you see them, they are all very friendly

Otford Gardeners' Society

On Saturday 6th September the Gardeners' Society will be holding its Autumn Flower and Craft Show featuring vegetables, late flowers, photography, flower arrangements, handicrafts, art, cookery and junior classes. This will take place in the Otford Memorial Hall between 2.15pm – 4.15pm. Refreshments will be served. Admission is 50p, under 16's free. Refreshments are available until 4pm.

The next Gardeners' Society meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd September when Margaret McKendrick will talk about '*The National Collection of Cultivated Plants*'

For further details telephone Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or email gardeners@otford.net

The Music Man

Otford WI are running a trip by coach to see a matinee performance of 'The Music Man' at the Chichester Festival Theatre on Saturday 2nd August and have some tickets available. Please contact 01959 522915 if you would like to join them.

Otford Afternoon WI

The Otford Afternoon WI's next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th August when there will be a members meeting. Then on 9th September Mrs L Gould will talk about the '*Life of a Japanese Woman*'. For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

Otford Oast WI

On Thursday 21st August they will be having their Summer Outing. Do join them. The meetings start at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free.

Picture of the Month

The artist for July / August is Roger Clay. Roger has two hobbies, his painting and his allotment. He had loved painting during his school days but lapsed for 45 years. It was during a conversation on his allotment some years ago with a friend that he learned of the Otford Art Group and was invited to join. And so as well as producing beans, peas and potatoes he now also produces paintings galore. He says "I paint in oils because the medium is so tolerant of all my mistakes". Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Hall on Saturday 28th July with an all day workshop 'Contemporary Whitework' with Tracey Franklin. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

The Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild have opened an exhibition of their work at the Heritage Centre. Their inspirational designs and incredibly detailed pieces count among some of the finest local work in this medium. See it and wonder. For further information please contact Pat Curtis on 01959 532391. The Heritage Centre is open everyday from 9am to 12 noon and every weekend afternoon from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on Tuesday 5th August between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Otford & District Historical Society

The Historical Society are visiting Lavenham in Suffolk on Saturday 6th September leaving at 9am from Otford Pond. If you would like to join them please phone 01959 522384. The cost is £21.75 or £18.75 for National Trust members.

A Fond Farewell from Richard McDowall & Family

Having lived in Otford since the age of TWO (apart from a brief interlude, meeting my dear wife Christine and having two fine sons Andrew and Joshua) I have seen many changes as will others. There is no doubt, Otford IS a beautiful place to live and the 'village spirit' is a real force. We are very

proud to have been part of it. It is therefore, with some sadness naturally but hopefully no regrets, that we leave Otford for the farthest shores of New Zealand! Having obtained full residency, we cannot deny ourselves the opportunity. It remains only to say goodbye to you all and Godspeed, particularly our closest friends (we hope you know who you are?!) who we shall miss ever so. Departing the UK on 28th August, we expect to be back to visit in two years or so. Farewell. Richard, Christine & Boys.

Anyone wishing to contact us after 1st September can do so at christine_mcdowall@hotmail.com

Otford Library Hours and Events

- Monday - 9am until 1pm
- Tuesday - 9am until 5pm
- Wednesday - Closed
- Thursday - 9am until 1pm
- Friday - 1pm until 5pm
- Saturday - 10am until 2pm

Monday mornings - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 11am to 11.30am

Tuesday afternoons - Storytime for under 5's - 2.15pm to 3pm

2nd Thursday of every month - Reading Group - 10.30am to 12 noon

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 - 476

2nd Prize £15 - 445

3rd Prize £10 - 77

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/08/01329 Little Coombe Shoreham Road
Replacement dwelling and garage

SE/08/01424 Dial House, 8 Hillydeal Road
Demolition of existing extensions. Erection of two storey side, rear and front extensions and loft conversion

SE/08/01432 5 Greenhill Road
Erection of two storey side extension and new detached garage to rear of property

SE/08/01420 Orchard Hey Rye Lane

Alterations and extensions to existing chalet bungalow with removal of existing detached garage and area of garage used as part of permitted area for extension

b. Results received

SE/08/00529 4 Hillydeal Road
Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with two detached dwellings with access from Hillydeal Road *Refused*

SE/08/00867 Yew Tree Cottage 48 High Street
Erection of single storey timber summerhouse to rear *Allowed*

SE/08/01001 Land adj 41 Knighton Road
Erection of single storey 2 bedroom bungalow *Refused*

SE/08/01087 28 Ryecroft Road
Erection of two terraced houses *Refused*

SE/08/01112 28 Ryecroft Road
Erection of end terrace house *Withdrawn*

SE/08/01136 1 Wickham Field
Erection of dwelling within curtilage *Refused*

SE/08/01157 21 Broughton Road
Erection of conservatory to rear of property *Allowed*

c. Amended applications

SE/07/03718 Frog Farm Road Pilgrims Way West
Application to rebuild existing agricultural barn incorporating 2 stables for personal use; resite agricultural building granted 21/10/05 ref 04/02835/AGRN0T; and construction of ménage, to include change of use to equestrian use 20m x 40m. As amended by plans received 29th May 2008.

SE/00/2739 Greatness Quarry
Details of temporary flare, for a period of six months, adjacent to main site office at Greatness Quarry Integrated Waste Management facility pursuant to condition 12 of planning permission SE/00/2739 - amendment to details of flare

d. Planning appeals

SE/07/01614 4 Hillydeal Rd and part Bramber House
Demolition of Darenthmead and construction of 3 part Bramber dwellings. Access from Hillydeal Road (2 units) and via House Bramber House (1 unit) (as amended by drawing no. 934/101a received with letter dated 19.07.07). Appeal to be heard at 10 am on 31.07.08 at Hollybush Indoor Bowls Centre



HAPPY HOLI DAYS