Otford Parish Council
June Newsletter 2010
No 191

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

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 13th July at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

St Bartholomew’s Church Fair

Have a lovely family afternoon out and go along to St Bartholomew’s Church Fair, on Saturday 19th June at 2pm in the beautiful grounds of Castle House, by kind permission of the owners. Stalls will include Plants, Cakes, Toys, Crafts, Music, White Elephant, Books, Children’s Games and other attractions. Refreshments will be served all day. Programmes will be on sale before the fair and on the gate for 50p children under 5 free. In aid of the Church Tower Fund

Otford Primary School Fete

Otford Primary School will be holding its summer fete on Saturday 3rd July from 12 noon to 3pm. Admission is £1 for adults and children is free. There will be a wide range of stalls and entertainment including a BBQ and refreshments. It’s a fun event for all the family so do come along and support the school.
Vote for Paul

Our Community Warden Paul Robertson is in the running for the national 'Council Worker of the Year' award and now needs your votes to win.

Paul thinks nothing of going the extra mile in fact during the snow earlier this year he walked the 6 miles from home then walked between Otford and Shoreham delivering essential medication and then walked home again! He makes sure he is there for our most vulnerable residents, victims of crime and people in need, being a listening ear and helping keep us safe. He is regularly to be seen outside the schools being a visible presence to the parents and children and motorists. Paul’s hard work often goes unnoticed so this is a chance to say thank you - many of you already know Paul as he is a familiar face in the area, either touring the village, visiting all the elderly activities in the area or at the weekly lunch club and of course since he has been our warden he has completed both the National 3 Peaks Challenge and the Yorkshire 3 Peaks to raise money for village clubs and equipment. Watch a short film about Paul and vote at www.localgovernmentchannel.com/awards (Community Engagement Category) or by texting LGATV 1 PaulR to 80039 or sign the forms which you can find in the Parish Council Office, Post Office, Library, Chemist, Stan the Barber, Yvonne’s (Telston Lane). The closing date for votes is 8th July.

SO COME ON OTFORD - LETS HELP PAUL TO WIN - HE DESERVES IT -THIS IS FOR OTFORD SO PLEASE MAKE TIME TO VOTE. THANK YOU. Paul can always be contacted on 07813 713366.

Community Warden Surgery

Paul holds his weekly surgery to discuss any problems and community issues at School House on Tuesdays between 11am and 12 noon.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with PCSO Jane Wright will be held at Otford Post Office on Tuesday 22nd June from 1pm to 2pm. Please go along and see her if you have any concerns.
**Concerned about speeding in your area?**
Otford Parish Council are looking for volunteers to set up a Speed Watch initiative to help reduce speeding within the area. Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership have funded a community speeding board that volunteers can use to monitor speeding in their community.

The speed board flashes the speed of passing vehicles and volunteers can pass on information to their local Neighbourhood Policing Team. You will be fully trained by Kent Police on how to use the speed boards and all locations will be risk assessed. If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact 01959 524808.

**Otford Allotment Association**
Dare I mention that there is one plot available for renting from today. Get in quick before the rush as these items are precious. Give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 for more details.

To note that the association Open Day is on **Saturday 17th July** when a team of enthusiasts will take you round to show you how and why they enjoy this healthy pastime of growing your own.

**Otford Gardeners’ Society**
The Rose and Summer Show will take place on **Saturday 26th June**. This is the best show to come to if you are a fan of the scented garden. On display will be roses as well as other summer flowers and plants. Fruit and vegetables, floral arrangements, preserves and cookery, photographic classes and junior classes are included. The show takes place in the Otford Village Memorial Hall and opens to the public at 2.15pm. Admission is 50p, under 16’s admitted free. Teas will be served until 4pm and there will be a sales table open all afternoon.

**Home Library Service**
Do you need, or know someone who may benefit from the FREE Home Library Service. This is available to anyone who is unable to access the library due to ill health or disability. After finding out your reading and/or listening preferences, they will arrange a regular delivery of items such as books, spoken word cassettes and spoken word CD’s to your home. Please call 01959
Twinning

Can you paint? Would you like to paint a picture in Hardelot?
The Tourist Office in Neufchatel-Hardelot is organising on **Sunday 18 July** and again on **Sunday 15 August** “A day for Artists in the Street”. They would like to invite the artists in Otford within the framework of the future twinning. These days have welcomed between 30 and 40 amateur artists over many years. The artists arrive at the Tourist Office at 9am in the morning to have their canvas stamped and they will be offered breakfast. They then paint in different places in the village on a theme which they will be given in advance. The Jury comes to La Place de la Fontaine in Hardelot at 5pm where all the pictures will be displayed and the prizes will be distributed at 6pm with an aperitif (oil, acrylic, pastel, water colour, charcoal, ink)
Registration of participation is requested in advance.
We can discuss transport and accommodation. Further details from Jane Lawrey, via the Otford Parish Office (524808 or otfordpc@btinternet.com)

Would you like to spend the morning on the beach?
Can you run 1 kilometre? Are you aged 5-9?
Can you run 2 kilometres? Are you aged 10-14?
Can you run 10 kilometers? Are you aged 14 and above, including adults?
Would you like to go to Hardelot (between Boulogne and Le Touquet) on **Saturday 4 September**?
We can discuss transport. Contact the number as shown above.

Are you interested in Walking and Learning at the same time?
Walks will be taking place with the following themes.
History and Nature **Tuesday 6 July**
Tides and Shells **Tuesday 20 July**
Geology, flora and fauna **Tuesday 3 August**
Would you just like to go to Hardelot (between Boulogne and Le Touquet)?
We can discuss transport and accommodation. For further details contact Jane Lawrey, via the Otford Parish Office (524808 or otfordpc@btinternet.com)
**Sevenoaks Embroiderers’ Guild**

The next meeting will take place in the Otford Village Hall on **Saturday 26th June** when in the afternoon session Ann Dingsdale will be ‘Celebrating Remarkable Women’ with machine embroidered portraits. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm, during which tea and homemade cake will be served. More information can be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117

**Otford Oast WI**

The meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 17th June** when Wendy Small will talk about ‘The Donkey Sanctuary’. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them.

**Otford Afternoon WI**

Meetings are held in the Otford Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 13th July** when there will be a talk by Barbara Stevens on ‘Village Shopping in Downe 100 years ago’

Annual Subscription is £29.50 and visitors at £2 are very welcome. For further details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

At their May Meeting and AGM Linda Dunning was re-elected as President and Kath Larkin, Secretary and Jeanne Barsby has been looking after our accounts since the resignation of Elaine Babbage.

The Resolution discussed at the AGM, which will go forward to the National Conference in June, was for the compulsory labelling with country of origin of all meat and fish sold in the UK.

Visitors are very welcome, and further details can be found on the Otford Village web site at www.otford.info with the link to the WI., or telephone Joyce Shaw at 01959 522736.

**Otford Evening WI**

All meetings take place on 2nd Thursday of each month in Otford Village Hall. The next meeting to be held will be on **8th July** when Bob Ogley will talk about 'Kent in the 19th Century'. Visitors are always welcome at the meetings which start at 7.30pm
At the meeting on 13th May Eve Wiltshire was re-elected president and Joan Beacom took over as secretary. For more information please call Eve on 524887 or Joan on 524304

**Picture of the Month**

Our artist for the month of June is Christine Masson. Christine has lived in Otford, with her husband and two daughters, since 1965. She is a member of the Otford Evening WI and recently joined the Otford Art Group. She says that she has drawn and painted for as long as she can remember in both oils and watercolour. Having always been interested in the Arts, Christine is also a member of the Otford Players. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

**Otford Green Team**

The Otford Green Team is putting on a free film show on **Friday July 9th** at 7.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Otford. 'The Age of Stupid' stars Oscar-nominated actor Pete Postelthwaite. It tells the story of Global Warming and the impact it could have on our planet. The film will be followed by a brief discussion of the issues raised.

**Voting for your Parish Plan**

The preparations and proposals for the Otford Parish Plan are almost complete. On **Tuesday 29th June**, at 7.30 pm in the Village Memorial Hall, the whole community is invited to meet to hear the proposals for the Plan and to vote on them. The Parish Plan is not just about planning for the here and now: it represents the aims and hopes of our community for many years ahead. It has been prepared by the community for the community, with support from the Parish Council. It will be very much a joint endeavour. From this meeting the final Plan itself will be prepared.

There will be a full presentation of all the proposals, and those attending will have the opportunity to vote on them, or speak briefly on any suggestions, objections or amendments you would like to raise. The Parish Plan must be a reflection of the views of the community. It can only be prepared with your support. Please make every effort to attend this meeting at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 29th June at the Village Memorial Hall.
Hospice in The Weald Moonlight Walk

Come and join us for our largest annual fundraising event. This eight mile sponsored walk starts and finishes at Hospice in the Weald in Pembury. **Friday 18th June** is Girls On The Town fiesta night with hot Latin sounds, cooling sangria and oodles of chocolate! **Saturday 19th June** is Family Party Night with live music, party goodies and chocolate treats! £15 per adult, under 16s free. For entry forms please call 01892 820508 or download a form from our website www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk

Hospices of Hope

There is now a donation drop off point inside the Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop, 11a High Street, Otford which is open Monday - Friday 10am - 4.30pm and Saturday 10am - 5.00pm

On Wednesday 12th May, the Duchess of Norfolk recorded a BBC Radio Appeal on behalf of Hospices of Hope, a local charity that has been supporting the development of hospice care in Romania and surrounding countries since 1991. The Duchess, who is a patron of the charity, shared her journey, starting with her first visit to Romania in the early nineties, and ending with a very recent meeting with a young orphan who is being cared for by one of the hospice teams. With the appeal due to be broadcast on Father’s Day, it will be a poignant story for listeners. The Duchess also shared the charity’s future ambition to build a new hospice in Bucharest, capital of Romania, and expanded on ways that listeners could help achieve this goal. Hospices of Hope hopes that lots of people will tune in at 7.55 a.m. or 9.26 p.m. on **Sunday, 20th June** and also tell their family and friends to listen to the appeal and make a donation that will help change the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in South Eastern Europe.

For more information contact wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk or 01959 525110

The Sevenoaks District Council Garden Waste Service

The Sevenoaks District Council Fortnightly Garden Waste Collection Service makes it easy for you to dispose of compostable garden waste right from your property.
boundary, all year round. Collected fortnightly, garden waste is collected on the same day of the week as your rubbish and recycling, but by a separate crew. There are two options to choose from. Sevenoaks District Council garden waste collection sacks can be purchased for £11 for a bundle of 25 sacks, or an annual permit, affixed to a 240 litre wheelie bin, on loan from the Council, can be obtained for £41. For more details call 01732 227000 or look on the Sevenoaks District Council website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/recycling

Local Diabetes UK Group

The local branch of Diabetes UK, which covers Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge, are holding a free public meeting, for anyone living with diabetes, on Tuesday 7th September 2010 at Riverside Lounge, Angel Centre, Tonbridge, starting at 7.30 pm. The meeting focuses on the importance of Diabetic Retinal Screening with an opportunity for people to share views with NHS West Kent and the Paula Carr Trust regarding the current service and how it can be improved. The important Screening programme aims to reduce the risk of sight loss amongst people with diabetes by early detection and treatment of sight threatening diabetic retinopathy. The Tunbridge Wells and Districts Diabetes UK Group holds quarterly meetings for anyone with Type 1 or 2 Diabetes living in this area. Inspiring and informative guest speakers provide advice at each meeting on important diabetic topics to give support and guidance to sufferers and their families. All are welcome, free entry and refreshments. For further information contact the group via it's website: www.diabetestunbridgewells.org.uk

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 17th June when Anne Anderson will talk about ‘Victorian Art Pottery: From De Morgan to Doulton. Art Pottery was a phenomenon of the last 30 years of the 19th Century. Anne Anderson will discuss both individual
manufacturers and the role of Art Pottery in the Aesthetic ‘House Beautiful’ inspired by the art of Greece and Rome and how they were constantly striving to give Victorian England their vision of the classical idyll. 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 8th July when Mr Douglas Skeggs will talk about ‘Barbizon and Impressionists’ The meetings are at The Ship Theatre at Walthamstow 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.

Oxford Primary Top Draw
TOP DRAW - The Oxford Primary Draw. Your chance to win cash prizes and raise money for your local school.
The winning numbers of the April TOP Draw are:
1st Prize £50 - 419, 2nd Prize £15 - 336, 3rd Prize £10 - 107

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery
The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on Tuesday 6th July between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

The Stag Cinema to Introduce 3D Technology
The Stag Cinema has announced plans to introduce 3-D technology before the end of the year. This exciting new development is another example of how the new management of the Stag will continue to invest in the facility and will mean the venue can compete against the multiplex cinema operators for a share of the 3-D market. A 3-D (three-dimensional) film is a motion picture which enhances the illusion of depth perception. Special projection hardware will be installed at the venue to provide the illusion of depth when viewing the film. Eyewear will also be purchased and
there is an opportunity for an entrepreneurial local company to sponsor these and have their logo visible. Linda Larter, Chief Executive said: “We are pleased to be able to bring residents the latest technology in cinematography. This is one of many new developments we are introducing this year for the benefit of the whole community. We would like people to think ‘Stag Cinema’ whenever they see a trailer or preview for a new film in the media. We get the blockbuster films on the day of release which used to be unheard of for a small independent. Our film bookers and distributors along with our own box office and cinema manager are always looking at improving the service we offer to customers and 3-D has been in our sights since we first took over the management of the venue just over a year ago. Going from a zero audience to over 10,000 per month is a great achievement and we are grateful for the support by our excellent volunteers who keep the wheels in motion. We are always on the look out for new volunteers - 16 and over - so if readers are thinking they would like to lend a hand and be part of this thriving new business our volunteer co-ordinators would love to hear from them. “Anyone who wants to hire the cinema for their own screening of a 3-D film will be able to do so.” For further information contact: Gabrielle Stapleton on Tel: 01892 825157 mob: 07887 812346.

KENT OPEN WEEKEND – Orienteering at Beacon Wood

Country Park 25th July

As part of the Kent “Open Weekend”, London 2012, Kent Sport and Dartford Orienteers have come together to bring you a unique opportunity to experience the sport of orienteering and celebrate the forthcoming London Olympiad in the idyllic Kent country park setting of Beacon Wood.

“Olympic Course for Under 12s”

With the Olympics in mind, the centrepiece of the event will be a specially themed “tag course” where the aim will be to navigate a way between Olympic cities (specially designed markers) mapped out around the country park. Electronic timing equipment will be used by participants to record their successful “capture” of each city and their times. You can run or walk around
the course at any speed and kids will especially enjoy finding short-cuts through the undergrowth. Don’t worry about getting lost, it will all be completely safe and there will be prizes for all children completing the course.

**Personal Challenge**
The event will appeal particularly to families and young people that may have limited or no experience of orienteering but enjoy exploring the outdoors. Several different courses will be available to suit all ages and abilities including more experienced orienteers and runners. For more adventurous older children and adults more challenging courses through Beacon Wood can be tackled and will take anything from 20 minutes to an hour.

**Details**
- **When:** **Sunday 25th July** - Starts from 10.30 - 12.00. Course close 2.30
- **Where:** Beacon Wood Country Park, Southfleet Road, Bean, Kent DA2 8BS
- **Cost:** Adults £4, children FREE. Hire of Sportident timing equipment £1
- **For more details:** [www.dfok.co.uk](http://www.dfok.co.uk) Supported by Kent CC

**Planning**
The following applications are considered by the Parish Council in June. 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/10/00483**  **The Horns PH 66 High Street**  
  Installation of new decking on an existing patio area with hand rails, new steps and boundary fence (retrospective)
- **SE/10/01041**  **The Horns PH 66 High Street**  
  Conversion and extension of existing restaurant including the demolition of existing front, side and rear extensions and erection of new two storey rear extension to create 2 no family dwellings
SE/10/01110  10 Hopfield Close
Erection of conservatory to rear
SE/10/01298  26 Tudor Drive
Conversion of rear conservatory to tiled roof single storey extension

b. Results Received
SE/09/02829  McDonalds Restaurant
Various signs in line with refurbishment including 4 fascias, 4 freestanding and 1 customer order display  Allowed
SE/10/00482  Elmwood, Tudor Crescent
Demolition of existing house, garage, annexe and bungalow. Erection of two, 4 bedroom houses with integral garages  Refused
SE/10/00508  43 Greenhill Road
Erection of a two storey rear and side extension  Allowed
SE/10/00541  Land north of Pilgrims Oasts Station Road
Erection of a 4 bedroom dwelling house with integral garaging  Refused
SE/10/00606  The Oast House Twitton Lane
Demolition of attached garage and construction of single storey attached structure to form habitable room with pitched and cantilevered roof  Allowed
SE/10/00673  Martins, Shoreham Road
Retrospective application for timber deck  Allowed
SE/10/00867  Bag End Shoreham Road
Retrospective application for minor regarding works within rear garden, including provision of retaining walls, to provide level area of 126m²  Allowed

c. Amended Applications

d. Appeals
SE/09/02586  Bag End Shoreham Road
Retention of wooden decking over existing paved terrace with 2 smaller additional areas and one set of stairs repositioned  Appeal dismissed

STOP PRESS
It was a wonderful fete as always and we would like to say a big thank you to the Fete Committee and all their helpers and everyone who took part on a cloudy but thankfully dry day. A report will appear in the next newsletter.