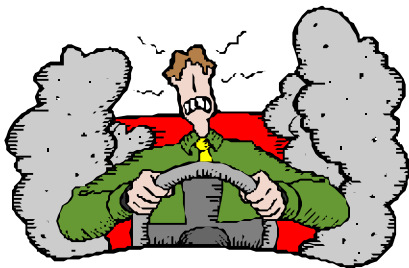


**Otford Parish Council
June Newsletter 2003
No 113**

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

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The School House, 21, High Street, Otford,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PG
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otfordpc@btinternet.com
Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri

**Road Closure
Monday 23rd June to Friday
29th August**



Don't get yourself into a tizzy and forget that the High Street will be closed to through traffic (between The Horns and Rye Lane) between the above dates. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times via a temporary footbridge and the car park, village hall, businesses and shops will be open as usual. Please support the local shops during this period. Please be patient, be neighbourly and offer lifts to those unable to get about so easily. By the end of the summer at least we will all be a lot fitter!

Update from Chief Engineer

The general programme of work over this period is outlined below:

Week 1 – Set up site, cut and cap water / gas mains.

Week 2 – Dismantle parapets, erect footbridge.

Week 3 – Excavate fill around services.

Week 4 – Demolish existing deck, prepare abutments.

Week 5 – Place new deck slab.

Week 6 – Rebuild parapets, waterproof deck.

Week 7 – Connect water, gas mains, place kerbs and fill.

Week 8 – Resurface High St.

Week 9 – Place road markings, remove footbridge.

Week 10 – Tidy up and remove diversion.

“Once again I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for inconvenience caused during this period and assure you that I am working closely with the Contractor and the gas company with a view to reducing the above programme to a minimum. If you have any queries or wish to discuss matters further please do not hesitate to contact me David MacKay on 01622 666141”

Buses



The bus from Sevenoaks via Bat & Ball will terminate at the Pond. OBM gave permission for the bus to continue down the High Street and turn around in their entrance but unfortunately the low – slung bus grounded on the steep entrance ramp of OBM and the idea had to be dropped. We are grateful to Arriva, Southlands Coaches and KCC Transport for their investigations and trial runs over a period of 2- 3 weeks. The bus from Sevenoaks via Dunton Green, Telston Lane and Willow Park will terminate at Rye Lane and return to Sevenoaks via Pilgrims Way West. Revised timetables for both routes will be available shortly from the Parish Office and various shops.

Rubbish Collections

During the period of the road closure rubbish collections will take place on the normal day however timings may vary.

Station Road Refuge

The pedestrian refuge in Station Road is almost complete but awaits lighting connection by Seaboard, white lining and warning notices to pedestrians that footways are about to end and that they should cross at the refuge.

Station parking

Fences are being renewed and amendments made to lighting and CCTV. **BUT** the new parking company enforce their regulations (displayed by the ticket machine) very rigidly and will impose a £50 fine and clamps if your car overlaps the white lines (being renewed shortly)

Village Fete – Monday 26th May

The following is from the Chairman of the Otford Village Fete Committee Mark Stevens.

“Bank Holiday Monday dawned bright and sunny and so it stayed for much of a fantastic Fete day. The village was looking at its very best for the thousands of visitors who came to see the South and South East England Village of the Year and to enjoy the Fete. This was the best attended Fete for a number of years and certainly since my involvement began in 1998. Over 7,000 people enjoyed the day and, at one stage, the car parking on the Recreation Ground was close

to full with over a thousand vehicles. Apologies for the traffic chaos – the price of success!

The procession started off the day as usual from Hale Lane via the pond to the Recreation Ground. We had a smaller number of floats this year than in the past. What we had was great and much appreciated by the crowds lining the route. For next year, there will need to be a much bigger response otherwise the future of the procession will be in doubt.

Our theme was Circus this year and the procession plus the circus attractions in an additional marquee brought this theme out well. We had a great turn out from village organisations all of who worked extremely hard to make a vital contribution to the success of the day. We also had a number of our usual attractions (such as the carousel, laser game and road train) plus the return of donkey rides and the pillow fight. If you managed to try all these and more you will have had a busy afternoon! That the Recreation ground was thronged right through the afternoon was gratifying for all involved. It was also a delight to see the high profile coverage in the local press.

The Fete Committee now has further funds available to support village activities and organisations. If you are an individual or organisation associated with the village and you need funds to assist you, it is a good time to make a request for a donation from the Fete Committee. There are no hard and fast rules as to who will qualify but generally you have to have a non commercial or charitable purpose, the monies have to have a long term benefit to the village (we generally won't fund day to day expenses) and if they benefit children all the better. We consider every application on its merits. If you wish to apply contact me at 32, Leonard Avenue, Otford.

Also, we always need members for the Fete Committee. Consider joining us. We do have fun, it isn't that difficult to do and, even though it sometimes feels like hard work, it is always rewarding. Personally, I have found it an excellent way to get to know the village better. Contact me and I will explain more.

I cannot finish without saying thank you to all the people who made the success of the day possible. The Fete Committee who have had to put up with me all year; those former members of the Committee and other volunteers who stepped in to help us man the gates at short notice; all the village organisations who manned the stalls, put together floats and/or lent a hand before, during and after the day; David Knell; The Parish Council and everyone else involved who I have not had space to mention.

The Fete Committee are always grateful for any feedback. You can contact me or come and put your views at the Open Meeting in September. It is there that we set the theme for next year. Here's to 2004 and another success”

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. If you own one of these hedges or trees, please arrange for it to be cut back from the footway as soon as possible. Lessening of traffic due to the High Street closure will be a wonderful opportunity to check whether your hedge could be cut back even more to provide a slightly wider footway.

St Bartholomew's Church Fair



Have a family afternoon out and go along to St Bartholomew's Church Fair, which is to be held on **Saturday 21st June** at Castle House, by kind permission of the owners. Stalls will include Plants, Cakes, Toys, Crafts, Music, White Elephant, Books, Tools / Gardening Equipment and other attractions. Refreshments will be served all day. Programmes will be on sale before the fair and on the gate for 50p for adults and 30p for children.

Annual Songs of Praise

The Annual Village Songs of Praise will be held on **Sunday 6th July** at 6.30pm at St Bartholomew's Church. This year's theme is 'The People of God'. Do go along and add your voice to the singing of God's praise

Oxford Methodist Church

The Methodist Church is having preliminary discussions with the Sevenoaks District Council planning department regarding the development of facilities on the present site. If you have any comments or questions please ring the minister, Rev Kath Pawlett on 01959 522195

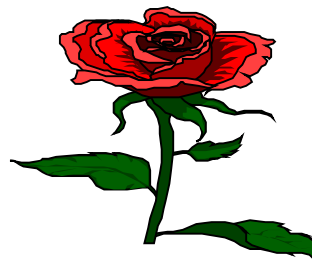
There is a Coffee Drop – in **every Friday** from 9.30am – 11.30am in the Methodist Church Hall, behind the Library. Everyone is welcome.

Oxford Christians, who worship in Oxford Churches and beyond, will be meeting to pray for our village life and activities on **Saturday June 28th** from 9.30am – 10.30am in the Methodist Church Hall. You are welcome to join them or send prayer requests for yourself or group activities to Kath Pawlett.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with PC Jackie Allen will be held **Wednesday 2nd July** between 10am and 12 noon in School House. If you have any problems or concerns about crime please come and see her.

Oxford Gardeners' Society



The Gardeners' Society Rose and Summer Show will take place on **Saturday 28th June**. On show will be roses and other summer flowers, vegetables, flower arrangements, cookery, photography and junior classes. The show starts at 2.15pm and refreshments will be served all afternoon. Admission will be 30p

Bonfires

We have received complaints about unsocial bonfires. Please remember that bonfires can be damaging to the environment in terms of the effect on your neighbours, pollution, wildlife and health effects. It is more beneficial to either compost material or recycle it. If you must have a bonfire please be neighbourly and **DO NOT** light bonfires during the day, especially on those nice days when your neighbours may have their washing out but wait until evening. Remember that if you allow your bonfire smoke to drift across a road you face a fine if it endangers traffic. Please be considerate in this matter.

A Song for James



A Charity Concert of Classical, Traditional and Folk Songs with the Senior Music Pupils of Janet Godden in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust will take place at St John's United Reformed Church, Mayfield Avenue, Orpington on **Saturday 28th June 7.30pm – 10.00pm** and **Sunday 6th July 2.30pm – 5.00pm**. Tickets are £5 to include light refreshments. There will also be a Prize Raffle Draw. The programme will include piano solos, piano duets, violin, flute, oboe, double bass, vocal and trumpet. Tickets available from Janet Godden on 01689 829379

South East Open Studios

They say that the West Bank of the Seine is the Artistic quarter of Paris. Well, this year, we have our own 'West Bank' between Friday 6th and Sunday 22nd June, with three Otford studios among 220 across the region, that are taking part in the South East Open Studios 2003. Watch out for the signs bearing the distinctive paint tube logo along Pilgrims Way West and turn off for Angela Bishop in Broughton Road. Then go on to Jaquie Allen in Rye Lane, and finally along Pilgrims Way West, you'll find Sarah Cunnington sharing her studio with Kim Rowlands. For full details of opening times, get a copy of the guide from the Library or the Parish Office / Heritage Centre.



Sevenoaks Summer Festival

The Festival runs between Saturday 21st June and Sunday 20th July. There are more than 50 items in this wide ranging festival – classical, jazz, lectures, films, theatre, opera and dancing – it's all happening in Sevenoaks and surrounding villages. Programmes are free and available in many shops and the Parish office and Heritage Centre in the village

Citizens Advice Bureau

Ending a relationship can be distressing and bring many problems. Volunteer advisers at the Sevenoaks CAB have access to plenty of information, which may help. There can be practical matters to sort out: to do with children, property, money, benefits, debts, wills and so forth. Who will stay in the home? Who will leave? Or can the client separate but continue to live in the same house? Is there mental or physical abuse? The CAB has detailed and up to date information on ending a cohabitation, separating informally, drawing up a separation agreement, judicial separation or extensive information on divorce. There may be religious or cultural considerations to discuss. And, who do you inform and what you can take if you were to leave home? Advisers can explain the terms used by solicitors and take time to find out about things that are worrying clients. The CAB provides a free, confidential, impartial and independent service to all.

To find out more contact them at The Library, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HW. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday 10am and 1pm appointments for form filling

(Tel No : 01732 - 454443

(Fax No : 01732 - 463164

(e-mail : 7oakscab@dial.pipex.com

web page : www.7oakscab@dial.pipex.com

An adviser from CAB is at the Otford Parish Council office on the 1st Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12 noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on 1st July.

Planning



The following applications were considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in June. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk or the Strategic Services Director, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

a. New applications

SE/03/01074 20 Coombe Road
Extension to front porch

SE/03/01116 Russets Hillydeal Road
Extension to existing garage

SE/03/01218 Brambles Shoreham Road
Single storey extension to existing house to provide special ground floor area

SE/03/01158 2 Wickham Field
Loft conversion with roof lights and front porch

SE/03/01246 The Shaw Shoreham Road
Details pursuant to condition 4 (landscaping) of SE/01/00846

b. Amended applications

SE/03/00570 Sainsbury PFS Otford Road
Extension of petrol filling station kiosk and kerbline, extension of canopy, provision of additional fuel pumps, new ATM machine and associated works. Revisions to forecourt/petrol filling station as letter dated 08.05.03

SE/03/00935 The Woodman High Street
Formation of decking in side garden area

c. Results Received

SE/03/00426 Broughton Manor Oast, High Street
Amendment to existing permission, two storey rear extension to existing house

Allowed

d. Tree work in Conservation Area

324.110/03.02 The Grange High Street
Application to prune/fell five trees - no objection