

Otford Parish Council
June Newsletter 2004
No 124

Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002
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St Bartholomew's Fair

Have a family afternoon out and go along to St Bartholomew's Church Fair, which is to be held on **Saturday 19th June** at 2pm 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. The theme this year is celebrating 1400 years of Rochester Diocese.

Otford Village Fete

The Annual Village Fete took place on Bank Holiday **Monday 31st May**. Contrary to expectations it was a gloriously sunny day and the village was full to bursting with visitors who enjoyed the large number of superb stalls and attractions. The Fete Committee must be thanked and congratulated on another wonderfully well, organised and successful fete. One sour note was that the end of the day was marred by drunken youths intent on causing damage and disruption to the clearing up on the field. The police had to be called and a couple of them were taken away. It would be nice if these individuals and their friends could be named and shamed but we can only hope that they are ashamed enough already.

Police Surgery



The next Police Surgery will take place on **Wednesday 7th July 2004** and PC Jackie Allen will again be joined by Lorraine Chapman from West Kent Housing. So if you have any concerns please come and see them between 10am and 12 noon.

Wind in the Willows



A stunning new outdoor production based on Kenneth Grahame's classic novel will be performed by Chalkfoot, the touring and outreach arm of Channel Theatre Company on **Friday 16th July** at 7pm in the grounds of Otford Primary School.

'Emerging from his subterranean home one spring day, Mole is unaware that his life is about to change forever. His encounters with boat-loving Ratty, the boastful Mr Toad and society-hating Badger propel him into a series of whirlwind adventures involving motor cars, jailbreaks and disguises - not to mention a pitched battle with the terrifying creatures of the Wild Wood'. This production is suitable for all the family. The Otford Primary School PTA will be serving refreshments on the night to raise funds. Tickets are priced at Adults £5, Concessions £4, children £3 with under 3's FREE. and are available from The School House on weekday mornings. Do come along and enjoy a performance of this well loved story.

Rose & Summer Show



On **Saturday 10th July** the Gardeners' Society will be holding its Rose And Summer Show featuring early fruit and vegetables, summer flowers, flower arrangements, photographic, cookery and junior classes. This will take place in the Otford Memorial Hall between 2.15pm - 4.30pm. Admission is 50p, under 16's free.

Calling all Flower Arrangers



ALL flower arrangers are invited to take part in the new Open Class at the Otford Gardeners Society Summer Show on **Saturday 10th July**. The title of the class is 'A Summers Day' - to fit an alcove size of 20" overall. The entry fee for non-members will be 20p (members usual fee). For further details and application form please contact Sheila Dickerson on 01959 524183.

Churches of Otford

Otford Christians, who worship in Otford Churches and beyond, will be meeting to pray for our village life and activities on **Saturday 10th July** from 9.30-10.30am in the Holy Trinity Catholic Church. You are welcome to attend or send prayer requests for yourself or group activities to Kath Pawlett on 01959 522195.

Otford Methodist Church

The Methodist Church will be holding a Guest Café style evening at the Otford Methodist Church on **Sunday 4th July** from 6.30pm - 8.00pm. Join them for this informal evening providing an opportunity to talk or listen around tables over coffee about matters large or small.

Otford Over 60's Social Club

The next meetings will be:

- ✓ **Wednesday 9th June** when they have a speaker who will talk about the work of the Ellenors Foundation (non members are welcome with tea provided at £1)
- ✓ **Wednesday 23d June** - Club Birthday Celebration at a local restaurant.
- ✓ **Wednesday 7th July** - A representative from Kent Air Ambulance will be speaking (non members most welcome as above)

Any enquiries to Jill or Ed on 01959 525775 or leave a message if necessary.

Train News



The new timetable is valid from 23rd May 04 to 16th January 05. The main addition is a new Monday to Friday up train from Maidstone calling Otford at 06.38 then Swanley, Bromley South, Elephant and Castle reaching Blackfriars at 07.19

Don't overlook the 16.14 and 19.14 trains from Cannon Street and London Bridge first stop Otford at 16.49 and 19.47 respectively. Otherwise there are no significant alterations.

School Trains

There has been considerable support for retiming the school trains and ensuring that there is a through train to and from Tonbridge, High Brooms and Tunbridge Wells. South East Trains are aware of your proposals and comments but say that there is no hope of any alteration in the immediate future.

Parish Power flexes Muscles in Kent

The following article appeared in 'Rail' Magazine 'Parish Councils are often dismissed as an irrelevance in today's modern, centralised world. As far as transport goes, their powers are nil, and the image of a bunch of retired well-meaning people sitting round discussing the siting of park benches is perhaps what colours a lot of peoples perceptions. Yet in many villages the Parish Council is a real source of energy and community action: even for railways! Otford, in rural Kent, is a good example. The Parish Council has just published an excellent leaflet extolling the beauties of the Darent Valley and how easy it is to get there by train. The leaflet has been produced with the help of South Eastern Trains, Sevenoaks District and Town Councils, Kent and Medway Rural Transport Partnership and the neighbouring Parish Council for Shoreham. It's an easy-to-use guide to four villages, all-accessible by rail: Farningham, Eynsford, Shoreham and Otford itself. A map for each village is combined with suggestions for places to visit, like the Mill House in Farningham, where Captain Bligh (of Bounty fame) once lived. Eynsford offers a Roman Villa, a classic Kentish church and Norman Castle, Shoreham is a historic village with a aircraft museum, and Otford has the remains of the Archbishop's Palace, a Millennium Mosaic and a scale model of the Solar System!

Congratulations to all the partners, but a special 'well done' to Otford Parish Council. The leaflet can be obtained from South Eastern Trains booking offices or from the Parish Council on 01959 524808.

St Michael's School

The history of St Michael's School, Otford is now available to purchase from the author Sally Jones, or from the school. This 256 page hardback book with over 100 photos paints a vivid picture of the school from its foundation 132 years ago to the present day. The school has been at its 90acre site off Row Dow sine 1925 and up until the late 1980's was a tiny prep boarding school for 50 or so boys and a handful of staff. The book is predominantly made up of memories from the people who actually attended the school - stories of pranks and dares, wartime adventures, missing home, harsh conditions and unappetising food. But it also reveals a tremendous sense of loyalty and camaraderie from the boys who say St Michael's as home. These days the school is a leading co-educational prep school with more than 400 pupils. The book costs £20 and can be purchased from the author at sally@sevenoaks-life.co.uk or on 01732 464533, from the school or from the Heritage Centre where there is currently a temporary exhibition about the school.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoon

Women's Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings which take place at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall and a list of the next two months speakers and events are as follows: -

June

23rd - Missionary Garden Party

30th - Sevenoaks Network Meeting

July

7th - Tea at Ellenors

Otford Tennis Club

The summer programme is now available and new members are welcome. Would you also like some tennis coaching? This is being arranged for adults, whether club members or not, on Saturday morning from 10th June for four weeks from 9.30am to 11.00am, and also for four weeks from 17th July at the tennis club, adjacent to the Recreation Ground. The cost will be approximately £30 depending on numbers. If you would like any further information about either of these sessions, please e-mail mary.a.evans@btinternet.com or call the Secretary on 01969 522736.

Otford & District Wine Club

Many thanks to all members of the Otford Wine Club who helped at our Ice Cream Stall at the Otford Fete and to all those who brought ice creams! We had a very successful, though tiring day! A reminder to all members that the next meeting will be the annual barbeque on Sunday 27th June, starting at 1pm. As usual this will be held at Sidehill, Pilgrims Way, Kemsing. Please bring your own drink, glasses, cutlery and seats, if possible (we have some spares!). There will be a raffle and some exciting games! As usual it is free to members but there will be a charge of £4 for non-members. Any queries ring Laurie Young on 01959 523676. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Embroiders' Guild

'Too bead or not to bead' is the question being asked by Eliza McClelland at the next meeting of The Embroiderers' Guild - Sevenoaks Branch to be held on Saturday 26th June at 2pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Visitors are welcome and for more information please contact Barbara Savager on 01959 523484.

Otford & District Historical Society

The next Historical Society Summer Outing this year takes place on: Wednesday 7th July with a full day

trip to Wimpole Hall and Estate, near Royston, Cambs. Coach leaves Otford Pond at 8.30am

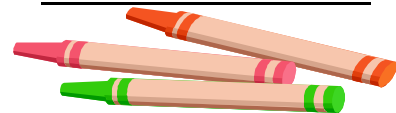
A guided tour will take place around this magnificent 18c house, which stands in an extensive wooded park, the garden having parterres, very colourful in July. Refreshments are available. Total Cost is Full - £30.75 and NT members - £21.75

For more details and bookings please contact 01959 522384.

Otford Allotments Association

Otford Allotments Association would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who visited their stall at the recent Fete and spent some of their hard earned cash. This has enabled them to get nearer to their target for the purchase of a new equipment shed, now installed. This will be officially opened during National Allotment Week and particularly on the Open Day on 14th August when they hope to welcome you on to the site to see what can be achieved in the production of fresh fruit and vegetables from plot to plate. More details later. In the meantime to celebrate the 50th year of the Association through the expertise of the Secretary, Roger Clay, will be producing a commemorative newsletter in July containing a brief history of the allotment movement and in particular the history of our own allotments. This newsletter will be on sale for a nominal sum in a further endeavour to raise some more money for our funds. It should be available from various sources, but keep a look out if you would like a copy. All plots at the moment are fully tenanted and at this time of the season there isn't a lot of coming and going, but space will be available in the not too distant future so if you would like to be part of the 'green team' - they have one person waiting just now don't delay - give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 or call into the Parish office on weekday mornings.

Picture of the Month



Edna Coleman moved to Otford in 1982 and soon joined the Evening WI and other societies, in order to meet local people and hopefully make friends. She has always wanted to paint but had no idea how to start. When at school during the war both paper and teachers were scarce and very little help was available. Edna was delighted when the Otford Art Group started and joined straight away. She enjoys painting in all mediums, oils, watercolours, acrylics and gouache and always looks forward to the friendly atmosphere of the class.

Otford Oast W.I.

Their next meeting will be on **Thursday 17th June** when the subject is 'The Cloud Garden'. Tom Hart Dyke's love of orchids has led him on a search to some of the most remote areas of the world and involved him in many exciting experiences. He will be talking about some of these events and about his book, which will be on sale. So why not go along and give it a try, you can be sure of a warm welcome. There is a free crèche at every meeting. The first visit is free, second visit £1.50 and Annual membership is £20. For more information please contact Mrs D Metcalfe on 01322 271873

Otford Folk Dance Club



The next Thursday night special is on **24th June** at 8pm in the Parish Church Hall with Otford band Footloose who supported the April Charity Dance with Eddie and Morris calling. Admission is £1.50 with tea, coffee and squash included.

The regular 'Thursday Nights' run from 8pm in the Parish Church Hall and mostly finish at 10pm. Admission and membership is £1.50. The first visit is FREE! Including Tea / Coffee and biscuits. They have dancing to Eddie and Morris each usually taking half of the evening. But on the last Thursday in the month they are supported by visiting callers or musicians.

They welcome new members at any time. All dances are walked through first and called. Enjoyment takes first place over skill. Don't be put off, because you can't commit to regular visits. They have over 100 members, many of whom just go along from time to time when they can. So why not go along when you can and enjoy the friendly atmosphere of the Otford Club.

Website <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/otfordfdc2>

CAB Surgery

An adviser from CAB is at the Otford Parish Council office on the 1st Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on **6th 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/04/01068 32 Greenhill Rd

Replacement dwelling

SE/04/01022 5 Tudor Crescent

New 2 metre fence to side and rear of the property
SE/04/01159 2 New Barn Farm Cottages Telston Lane

Front porch extension

SE/04/01162 46a High Street

Creation of new access and dropped kerb

SE/04/01249 12 Coombe Road

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of detached dwelling and garaging with living accommodation over

SE/04/01278 48 High Street

Rear conservatory

SE/04/01279 48 High Street

LBC - Rear conservatory

SE/04/01265 10 Great Till Close

Conservatory

SE/04/01341 1 Great Till Close

Conservatory to rear

SE/04/01377 62a Well Road

Rear conservatory

SE/04/01319 16 Greenhill Road

Erection of a two storey front extension, rear conservatory and garage extension together with detached double garage and stable

SE/04/01361 St Bartholomew's Church, The Green

Proposed extension

b. Amended applications

SE/04/00551 Land rear 18-20 Tudor Crescent

Erection of a dwelling (revised scheme)

SE/04/00647 67 Pilgrims Way West

Replacement dwelling

SE/04/01265 10 Great Till Close

Conservatory

c. Results Received

SE/04/00647 67 Pilgrims Way West

Replacement dwelling. Revised curtilage received
6.5.04 *Allowed*

SE/04/00761 68 Evelyn Road

Demolition of existing bungalow and outline

application for the erection of 2x 2 storey dwellings
Allowed

SE/04/00805 Rosebank, Twitton

Rear conservatory

Allowed

SE/04/00811 54 Well Road

Proposed single storey extension

Allowed

SE/04/00983 33 Tudor Drive

Conversion of garage at side of house to habitable room

Allowed

SE/04/01022 5 Tudor Crescent

New 2 metre fence to side and rear of property

Allowed

