

Otford Parish Council

June Newsletter 2005

No 135

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

otfordpc@btinternet.com

Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri

Annual Assembly

Only 25 people attended the Annual Meeting of the Parish on Monday 16th May in the Village Hall. Congratulations to 9yr old Kameron Reid who was presented with the Kirsch Cup for his achievements in the sport of Trampolining. He will be a name to follow in the future. Parish Council Committees, The Police, The Otford Sports Association, Otford Primary School and the Allotments Association all gave reports on the years activities and successes.

Police Surgery



The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **SATURDAY 25th June** between **11am and 12.30pm**. The change of day is to help those of you who cannot make the normal weekday surgeries. Please come and see him if you have any concerns. Also you can purchase your shed alarms from him at £5 or £10.

PCSO Dave Birchall would like to meet the younger side of the community between the ages of 10-17 yrs to have an informal chat and hear about your issues. Please come prepared with some questions and ideas and meet him on **SUNDAY 3rd July** at the Heritage Centre between **1pm - 2pm**.



The Annual Village Fete took place on Bank Holiday Monday 30th May. The procession started from Hale Lane Recreation Ground at 12.15pm after the most torrential thunderstorm but it didn't dampen the spirits of those who took part led by the Tonbridge

and St Andrew's Pipe Band. Despite further downpours the fete was a great success with some 3000 people attending. The sun came out in time for Peter Rutterford and his aerobatics display and all the stallholders had a busy afternoon. The Parish Council would like to thank John Roberts (Chairman) and the Fete Committee for all their hard work and we are sure that there are people out there who would be willing to help with the planning for next year's event which will take place very soon. If you would like to help continue this great Otford tradition, then please contact John Roberts on 01959 522521.



St Bartholomew's Fair

By kind permission of the owners, St Bartholomew's Summer Fair is once more held in the beautiful gardens of Castle House on **SATURDAY 2nd July** at **2pm** Programmes will be on sale from the middle of June at 50p for adults and children over three years. Children under three years are free of charge. All proceeds will be going to Church funds. There will be a Children's Art Competition on the theme 'Buildings of the Future' with two age groups - under 7 and 7-11 years inclusive. Don't forget to bring a rose as your entry for the Single Rose Competition. There are attractive prizes to be won in both competitions!

The Bartholomew Wind Band will be entertaining guests at the tea marquee. For the children there will be many attractions, including the 'Fishing Game', a Bouncy Castle, a children's tombola and football. As in the past, there will be many stalls selling a wide range of things including CD's, videos and DVD's, books for children and adults, plants, tools and garden equipment and the very popular White Elephant stall. The popular Food Hall will sell a variety of home made cakes, puddings, pies as well as home - grown produce.

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 May TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 181

2nd Prize £15 - 134

3rd Prize £10 - 45

Congratulations to this month's winners and thank you to everyone who continues to support the school. Don't forget forms are still available from the School

office and Parish Council office, for those who would like to take part.

VE DAY Display

Please come and have a look at the new display in the Heritage Centre put together to celebrate the End of the War in Europe Day. There are numerous interesting items to see and read.

Otford Guides

A message from Caroline Scales Otford District Commissioner

"Jane Lawrey and Tricia Saward have had a long association with the Guides in Otford and this July they will be stepping down. We plan to have a picnic on the Recreation Ground on **FRIDAY 22nd July** from **6.15 - 8.00pm** (in the Memorial Hall if wet). We cordially invite anyone who has been involved in Guiding in Otford to bring a picnic and join us to thank them both for providing so many opportunities for girls in the village."

Sevenoaks Library, Museum & Art Gallery



Sevenoaks Library will shortly be undergoing an exciting period of redevelopment to provide 'the Kaleidoscope' an innovative approach to integrated service provision. Principally paid for by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project is also supported by KCC, SDC and Sevenoaks Town Council. £995,000 Lottery Funding will remodel the building to provide improved access to heritage, arts, knowledge and ideas through high quality facilities and KCC is planning to invest an additional £50,000 in bookstock over the next two years. Inevitably, the building works associated with such an exciting and ambitious capital project will result in some temporary impact on the level of service. The existing building will close August 2005 and reopen at the end of May 2006. They are still looking for alternative temporary accommodation in town but suitable property is scarce so the following arrangements will probably take place.

- Transfer of the children's library and family-centred services to the adjacent leisure centre.
- Siting a mobile library in the library car park to provide adult lending services.
- Extending the opening hours at Kemsing, Otford, Riverhead and Seal libraries to 6 days per week including late night and Saturday opening.

- Providing access to copies of the Sevenoaks archive collection at Seal library
- Providing Business Information services at Kemsing and Seal.

As more detailed information becomes available we will publish it in subsequent newsletters.

Otford Allotments Association

There are one or two allotment plots now available for which no rent will be charged until 1st October (the new allotment year). This is therefore an opportunity for you to try your hand at allotment gardening and experience the reward this can give you. Interested? - then give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 - don't miss the moment.

Picture of the Month

The artist for June / July is Edward (Eddie) Lake. He is a self-taught painter with a life long interest in art. Originally from South East London, Eddie moved to Kent eighteen years ago and has lived in Otford for the past six years. His pastel drawing shows the river footpath linking Lullingstone Castle and the Visitors Centre.

The Otford Art Group

For the budding Mr & Mrs Rolf Harris!

The Otford Art Group meet in the Methodist Hall on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12.30pm. Anyone interested in painting is welcome to come for the summer term from 19th July to 30th August at a cost of £1.50 per morning session. Please contact Betty Cooper on 01959 525383 or Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183. Anyone with three legs need not apply!

Otford & District Wine Club



Very many thanks to everyone who helped at the Otford Wine Club Ice Cream Stall at the Otford Fete. Many of us were soaked to the skin and we did not sell as many ice creams as we would have liked, but everyone kept cheerful and worked very hard to make it as successful as possible in adverse conditions. The next event of the Wine Club is our Lunchtime BBQ at Sidehill, Pilgrims Way, Kemsing on Sunday 26th June, which starts at 12.30pm. Please bring your own drink, cutlery, glasses and a chair (if possible). There will be sausages, hamburgers and chicken, salad, baked potatoes, strawberries and ice cream. We are having lots of games with prizes and a raffle. It is free to members and £4 for guests. If

you are not sure of the location please ring the Secretary. We must have numbers for this a week in advance so please let the Secretary know if you are coming on 01732 761359

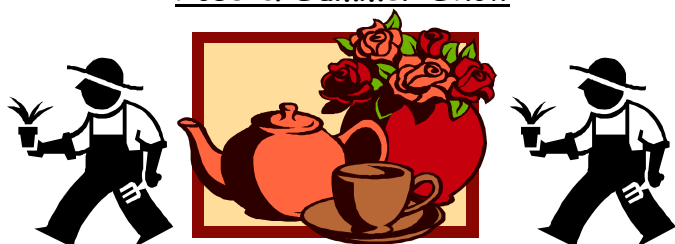
Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **SATURDAY 25th June** when WORKSHOPS will be held in the Parish Hall. The meetings begin at **2pm** and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

CAB Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 4th July** between **10am and 12 noon**.

Otford Gardeners' Society Rose & Summer Show



On **SATURDAY 25th June** 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**. Refreshments will be served. Admission is 50p, under 16's free.

For further details contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or visit www.otford.info/gardeners.

On **SATURDAY 9th July** Otford Gardeners' Society have organised a coach trip to Hampton Court Flower Show and there are spaces available. The cost of the trip is £32 for non - members which is inclusive of travel and entry to the show. There are discounts for Otford Gardeners members and RHS members. Please contact the secretary Janet Finney on 01959 523760 for details or collect an application form from the Library or Parish Council office.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons 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 months speakers and events are as follows: -

June

- 15th - Outing to Hadlow College
- 22nd - Missionary Garden Party

29th - Sevenoaks Network Meeting

July

7th - Tea at Ellenors

Free Saturday Refuse Collection

The following are the collection dates for 05/06

Tudor Drive - 1.15pm to 1.45pm

Bubblestone Road - 2pm to 2.30pm

16th July, 24th September, 3rd December and 11th February 06

Hale Lane near pavilion - 12 noon to 12.45pm

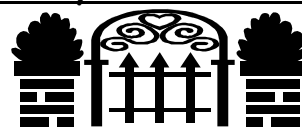
The Charne - 1pm to 1.30pm

23rd July, 1st October, 10th December and 18th February 06

They regret that they cannot accept fridges, freezers, cookers, cast iron boilers or baths, long metal poles, building materials, manure, paint, oil or large parts of engines or vehicles.

Compostable garden waste cannot be accepted. The Council operates a separate, fortnightly Garden Waste Collection Service. Special Council Garden Waste sacks (available at School House) or a wheeled bin and an annual permit can be purchased for a modest fee. For more information please contact 01732 227000

St Bartholomew's - Secret Gardens and Teddy Aerial Runway



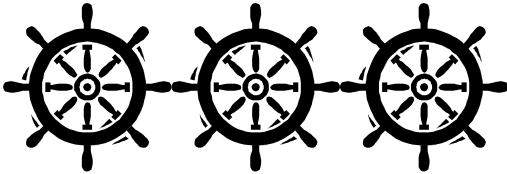
The Secret Gardens weekend to raise money for the St Bartholomew's Church Building On fund was an extremely busy and very happy occasion with a very large number of residents and visitors enjoying the 10 gardens that had opened to the public. They also enjoyed buying cakes and jams, plants, books and T shirts and enjoying cream teas, cakes and ice cream in the gardens. The Teddy Bear Aerial Runway was a huge attraction and some 300 bears and assorted animals including a dragon, Mickey Mouse and a orang-utan bravely descended from the top of the church tower after first being checked out by a doctor to check that they were fit to fly! and when they had safely landed they all received a signed certificate to prove how courageous they had been. Over £4,000 was raised over the weekend and we hope that everyone who attended enjoyed yourselves and saw something in the wonderful gardens to inspire you.



Teenage Drop-In

The owners of the Bus Stop Café in Sevenoaks Bus Station have agreed to stay open every Friday from 7pm to 9.30pm for 15 - 17 year olds to meet in a no drugs, no alcohol environment and it is being overseen by the 'Churches Together' team in Sevenoaks. Why not give it a try.

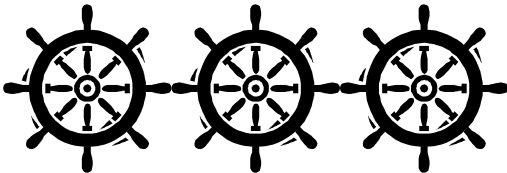
Otford & District Historical Society Summer Outings



Saturday 23rd July - all day visit to Greenwich - includes a visit to the 'Nelson & Napoleon' Exhibition at the National Maritime Museum marking the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Coach leaves Otford Pond at 9.00am

Cost per head is Full £19.20, Concessions £17.00



Saturday 3rd September - all day visit to Portsmouth Dockyard with all visitor attractions including HMS Victory, HMS Warrior - when completed in 1861 was the world's most formidable warship and the Mary Rose - built in 1511, Henry VIII's flagship for many years, sank in the Solent in 1545, raised in 1982 and undergoing conservation ever since.

Coach leaves Otford Pond at 8.30am

Cost is £22.00 per head

For bookings and further details please contact Cliff and Elizabeth Ward on 01959 522384.

Dog Fouling

Despite many pleas to dog walkers to clear up their pet's deposits on our public recreation grounds in the centre of the village and Hale Lane, and also footways, it is becoming an even greater problem - and a serious health hazard. Of course, failure to clear up is an offence.

Always take a plastic bag with you when you go for a walk and use it please. Bags can be put in ordinary waste bins but there are now dog bins on the Recreation Ground, Hale Lane and Telston Park (Plastic carrier bags are available from the parish office when open) Remember that under the Dogs

(Fouling of Land) Act 1996 the law says that all dog owners **must** clean up after their dog fouls in a public place. If you don't you risk having to pay a fine of up to a maximum of £1,000 or a fixed penalty of £25. Dog wardens do patrol the area and every effort will be taken to discover who is responsible and when caught, fined.

Litter Picking

Please do not drop litter in this your village, there is no need to do so as rubbish bins are provided at a number of locations. If all residents would please pick up a piece of litter as you walk around the village it would help keep our village as lovely as it should be as befits our title of Village of The Year for Kent and South and South East England 2002.

'KEEP OTFORD TIDY'

South East Open Studios

The 2005 South East Open Studios Guide is available now from sites around the village, including the Heritage Centre and the Library. This year's event will be run from the 10th to the 26th June, and regulars Angela Bishop and Sarah Cunnington will be joined by two new artists, Wendy Peck and Stepan Terteryan. Both Angela and Stepan's studios are in Broughton Road, Sarah's in Pilgrims Way West and Wendy's at The Studio in the High Street. Opening times are in the guide.

Planning

The following applications will be 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/05/01092 **Umberslade Shoreham Road**
Removal of existing dwelling and the construction of two 5 bedroomed detached houses

SE/05/01110 **Becket House Old Otford Road**
3rd floor extension to form additional office accommodation

SE/05/01264 **21 Willow Park**
Loft conversion with rear dormer

SE/05/01296 **Russell House School**
New temporary staff room at rear of site

SE/05/01306 **87 Willow Park**
Front porch extension

