

Otford Parish Council

June Newsletter 2006

No 147

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

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Best of the Best VOY

Just heard from the judges that we did not get through to the next round, oh well we know that they have got it wrong! Many thanks to all who helped and please don't stop picking up the litter!

Otford Village Fete

A message from the Fete Committee Chairman. "This year the fete dodged the showers and brought over 5000 residents and visitors to the recreation ground. Despite a keen wind from the north, fun was had by all and many people have commented on the success of the day. The parade based on the theme of 'Books' involving many residents and local children opened the fete at 1pm. As always apart from being fun the fete also provided many clubs and societies with a fund raising platform and the fete committee itself also managed a profit of several thousand pounds, which will be redistributed back to projects and needs around the village. The need for new members and helpers for the Fete is still urgent. To date none of the 5000 people who attended have called the number in the programme to offer future help. If you do not actively support events in our village they will eventually peter out. My huge thanks to this year's committee who have worked miracles again, and the ring of helpers who annually rally to the cause. I am forced to exit from the role of chairman in July due to my living in India for the next two years. A core of people are already trying to put together a team for next year's event, but we need a new infusion of talent, muscle and inspiration. Why not you? Call me John Roberts, on 01959 522521".

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 24th 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 children under 5 free.

Playground Project

A big thank you to all who have so far donated to the appeal to raise the £13,850 needed. Thank you also to the Otford Society for organising the appeal. Any donations should be made out to the Otford Society and dropped into School House please.

Alice in Wonderland

An outdoor production of 'Alice in Wonderland' by Chalkfoot Theatre Productions will be taking place in the grounds of Otford Primary School at 7pm on **Friday 21st July**. Tickets will be available from School House at £6.50 adults, £5.50 concessions and £4.50 for under 16's. If you purchase your tickets 7 days or more before the performance there will be £1.50 discount on each ticket. The grounds will be open for an hour before for picnics (fingers crossed for sunshine) and the PTA will also be serving refreshments for school funds.

Security Advice

PCSO Dave Birchall would like to remind residents to be aware of bogus callers currently in the area. With any callers unknown to you, firstly verify their identification, ask to see an ID card if they are claiming to be from a utility company or council employee. Be most wary of builders, gardeners etc calling on spec claiming that work needs to be done. Please look out for your neighbours especially if they are elderly and living alone. Remember you do not have to open your door, always use a door chain and if in doubt call the police. The number to ring for Sevenoaks Police Station, is 01732 771055. Dave would also like to remind you to keep your sheds and garages locked to help prevent the seasonal problem of theft of garden machinery.

Otford Over 60's Social Club

HELP NEEDED! Is there anyone who could help me organise and run the OOSSC on a voluntary basis. We have about 25 members and meet every other Wednesday afternoon (except August). If you think you are interested please ring Jill on 01959 525775 for a chat or leave a message and she will ring you back or e-mail jill.Yates@tesco.net.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Wednesday 5th July** between 11am and 12.30pm. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Help required

For many years the border on Palace Approach has been maintained by residents, unfortunately due to declining health it has now become very difficult for them to maintain. They are now asking for help, which doesn't have to be on a large scale and just a few hours per month would be very much appreciated. Initially this year it is in a very bad state but once under control, a morning once a month would be ample to keep it looking attractive. If you would be willing and able to help please contact the parish council office on 01959 524808.

Oxford Library

The library was refurbished last year and is well worth a visit, you will find a good range of up to date books for adults and children. You can have free use for up to an hour a day of 2 computers.

STORYTIME for pre-schoolers (term time only) Tuesdays 2.30-3.00pm. **BOOKCHAT:** enjoy lively discussion on the second Thursday of the month at 10.30am. Why not get more involved? Join the **LIBRARY USER GROUP** and have your say! The next meeting will be at the library on **Monday 26th June** at 3.30pm. The library is also starting a **BABY BOUNCE** and **RHYME** session: stories and songs for Mums and babies. Ask at the library for more details on 01959 522488

Oxford Library Club

All children aged 8 and over are welcome at the Oxford Library Club on Wednesdays between 4pm and 5pm (term time only) Come and play board games, do jigsaw puzzles and play cards with your friends. If you want, you can bring along your homework: there are two volunteers (Oxford teenagers Richard and Jonathan Davies) to help you get your work done. The club is free, and you don't have to belong to the library. Children under 8 are welcome, but they have to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 4th July** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

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 May TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 40

2nd Prize £15 - 236

3rd Prize £10 - 204

Oxford Gardeners' Society

Rose & Summer Show

On **Saturday 24th 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 Oxford 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.oxford.info/gardeners.

Rescued Animals in Need

RAIN will be holding a Sale and Coffee Shop on **Friday 23rd June** in Oxford Village Memorial Hall between 11am to 1pm. Bric a Brac, gifts, books, toys, nearly new clothes, linen etc. Unfortunately they are unable to accept any items for sale due to the lack of storage space. For more information please contact June McCullen on 01959 533364.

Oxford Afternoon W.I

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Membership is £22 per year. The meeting on **11th July** is on 'Characters you may know' prepare for a good laugh from a fellow WI member Mrs Gray. Please contact 01959 522915 for more details.

Oxford Allotment Association

Dare I say this, but we do have a small plot to let, the reason for the treading lightly is that plots are taken up so quickly that by the time you read this it may have already gone. The plot needs a little TLC, but has a lot of fruit growing on it and has quite a substantial group of dahlias for you to enjoy whilst tidying the ground. It could be yours by ringing 01959 525468 or calling into the Parish Office weekday mornings - don't wait. The Allotment Association are planning an 'Open Day' during National Allotment Week on Saturday 19th August - details to follow.

The Pond

Urgent repairs and improvement may commence shortly. This will involve traffic delays and closure of the pond bank. Please take care.

Volunteers Wanted

Girl Guiding Oxford urgently require volunteers to keep the very popular Rainbow unit running for girls aged 5-7 years. They are holding an Open Evening on **Wednesday 5th July** at the Gatehouse, adjacent to the Vicarage from 7.30pm. Anyone interested in helping the Rainbows or any other section is welcome to come along and find out more and meet some of

the leaders already involved. Please telephone either Jane on 01959 523342 or Jeanette on 01959 523617 for more information.

Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club will be holding its Annual Barbecue in Kemsing on **Sunday 25th June** starting at 1.30pm. There will be the usual range of BBQ food supplied by our local butcher followed by strawberries and cream. There will be lots of games (with prizes!) and a raffle. It is free to members, but please bring your own cutlery, drink, glasses and chairs (if the latter is difficult, we have some spare). Guests are most welcome but there is a charge of £4. Why not come along for a pleasant day out in fresh air? For further details please ring Laurie Young on 01732 885356.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 29th July** when there will be all day workshop with Pam Watts 'Magic Machine Embroidery' The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588.

Picture of the Month

The artist for May/June is Anne Jones. Anne has lived in the area all her life and after 31 years in Otford will soon be moving away. She has been a member of the Otford Art Group for over two years and hopes to be able to continue with her art in her new location. She says she is hoping to find an Art Club there and that it will be as encouraging and enjoyable as the Otford group has been. Come on you budding and shy artists out there come and have your pictures exhibited. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you are interested.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Sevenoaks Evening Society) 2005/2006 lecture season continues on **Thursday 13th July** at 8.15pm in the Aisher Hall, Sevenoaks School with a talk by Dr David Bostwick on '*Changing Rooms: the development of the English Manor House from medieval to Jacobean times*'. Contact Mrs Honor McMillan on 01892 532651 for more information.

Petanque

When the new pavilion on the main recreation was first planned at least ten years ago! It was envisaged that it would also serve as a base for a boule club. The Kent Petanque Association has confirmed that

the facilities and situation are ideal and that little cost would be involved in providing the terrain. If you are interested in forming a boule club, please give your name to the parish clerk on 01959 524808.

Anonymous Letter re Dog Fouling

To the person who wrote an anonymous letter to a resident in Willow Park concerning dog fouling. Police have spoken to the resident and are reassured that the complaint is unfounded. The dog in question is a bitch, which obviously has to squat to do all its business. If the letter writer is still concerned could they contact PCSO Birchall on 01732 771055

South East Open Studios

This year, between **Friday 9th and Sunday 25th June**, among the large number of studios open across the South East they include Angela Bishop in Broughton Road, Wendy Peck at The Studio, 20 High Street and Hazel McNair at Montrose, 39, Park Hill Road. For full details of opening times and map, get a copy of the guide from the Parish Council Office/Heritage Centre.

Pen Pal

A request has been received in the office from a Mrs Audrey Ottewell maiden name of Underwood who lived in Otford almost 60 years ago and spent her happiest years here. She does not expect to be able to return to the village so she would love to keep in touch with another lady who lived in the village when she did. She lived at No 5 Rye Lane. If you remember her and would like to write and swap memories then please contact the Parish Council office.

Otford Players

The Otford Players AGM will be held in the Village Hall on **Friday 14th July** at 8pm followed by cheese and wine. All members are asked to attend, friends and new members welcomed. The players need an infusion of new members if they are to continue the long tradition of amateur theatricals in Otford. Anyone with an interest or skill in drama, music or the performing arts is invited to come along. The next play will be on the 9th, 10th and 11th of November and will be chosen before the AGM. If you are interested in taking part then ring Marion Wills on 01959 522856 or Sue Simpson on 01959 522786 for further information.

Tree damage/Graffiti

The Parish Council are aware of some anti social persons chopping down trees in the Chalk Pit using a saw, this is totally unacceptable behaviour and will not be tolerated. The Police are fully aware and if you

are caught you will be charged with Criminal Damage. That goes for anyone who thinks that graffiti is art, it is not, it is also criminal damage and an eyesore, which we do not want in our lovely village. Thank you.

Deliverers Required

We are looking for volunteers please to deliver newsletters in Telston Lane, Willow Park and High Street. It only takes about 30 minutes once a month and you will get invited to a reception every year as a thank you. If you feel you could help please contact the office on 01959 524808.

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/05/02761 **7 Hale Lane**

Erection of a two-storey side extension

SE/06/00892 **38 High Street**

Ground floor rear conservatory

SE/06/00944 **39 Greenhill Rd**

Demolition of existing property and construction of new dwelling

SE/06/01072 **32 Greenhill Rd**

New garden store for existing dwelling

SE/06/01074 **32 Greenhill Rd**

Replacement dwelling, variation on earlier development (including erection of orangery upon rear elevation)

SE/06/01076 **32 Greenhill Rd**

Replacement dwelling, variation on earlier development including replacement of garage with study and erection of bay window upon front elevation

SE/06/01113 **Frog Farm Pilgrims Way W**

Change of use and conversion existing barns into offices and car parking

SE/06/01154 **105 Evelyn Road**

Change of use of redundant domestic garage to en-suite bathroom

SE/06/01160 **80 Evelyn Road**

Alterations and extension to existing roof for roof conversion including new windows and roof lights

SE/06/01161/62 **Mille Fleurs 12 High Street**

Single storey rear extension

SE/06/01177 **Telecomms Equip Otford Rec Ground**

Replacing the existing floodlight, installation of 1no 16m overall height dual use floodlight column housing 3no antennae at 14.57m AGL, associated radio equipment housing and ancillary development thereto

SE/06/01197 **64-66 Well Road**

Demolition of existing dwellings and erection of 21no dwellings together with associated garaging and roadway. Resubmission of SE/06/00795/FUL

SE/06/01212 **49 Greenhill Road**

Enlargement of central rear extension as previously approved SE/06/00263

SE/06/01231 **24 Pilgrims Way E**

Proposed pitched roof to existing flat roof dormer to front elevation

SE/06/01312 **Clyderhowe Sevenoaks Road**

Front, side and rear, part single and part two storey extension

b. Results received

SE/05/02915 **Holly House Shoreham Rd**

Two storey side extension, first floor extension to front, single storey rear extension, provision of pitched roof above existing garage, insertion of dormer in front roof plane, alterations and new access and landscaping to Shoreham Road

Allowed

SE/05/03072 **Unit 3 Block 5 Vestry Estate**

Change of use to B1(c) Light industry for classic car restoration

Allowed

SE/05/03090 **16 Greenhill Road**

Porch to front of existing house, replacement 3 car garage and mower store with office accommodation over as amended by plans and letter dated 05.04.06 received 06.04.06

Allowed

SE/06/00168 **J Sainsbury plc Otford Road**

Change of use of car park to allow erection of temporary marquee for the display and retail of horticultural and seasonal Products

Allowed

SE/06/00507 **30 Greenhill Road**

Proposed 1 no. detached five bedroom house with integral garage

Refused

SE/06/00544 **31 Pilgrims Way W**

Loft conversion

Allowed

SE/06/00698 **Telecomms Eqpt Recreation Ground**

The replacement of a 16m floodlight with a 16m floodlight monopole telecommunications mast, radio equipment housing and development ancillary thereto. As amended by plans received 28.04.06

Allowed

SE/06/00715 **11 Hillydeal Road**

Two storey side extension to provide new kitchen and bedroom and bathroom over, and increase in height of ridged roof of dwelling

Allowed

SE/06/00772 **The Croft, Mount Farm Row Dow**

Conversion and change of use of ground floor of annex from agriculture to self contained apartment.

Allowed

c. Amended applications

SE/06/00698 **Telecomms Eqpt Recreation Ground**

The replacement of a 16m floodlight with a 16m floodlight monopole telecommunications mast, radio equipment and housing and development ancillary thereto. As amended by plans received 28.04.06