

Otford Parish Council
June Newsletter 2008
No 169

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

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Otford Village Fete

The Show must go on - and it did!

Over 2,000 visitors braved yet another typical wet Bank Holiday Monday by turning out to support our annual village fete. Following last year's atrocious weather the committee had a contingency plan in place, thereby ensuring that as many stall holders as possible were relocated to the Memorial and Church Halls as well as the new Methodist Hall. The fete began with a procession, which ran from Hale Lane to the Recreation Ground. Richard Worssam, the new vicar of St Bartholomew's Church, judged the entries as well as formally opening the fete. Main prizes were awarded to the Evening W.I., The Young Entertainers Dance Studio and all the enthusiastic participants of the Keith Dancing contingent. Without a doubt, the highlight of the fete was the dog show run by Elands Veterinary Clinic. Eighty eight dogs entered and 'Bud', Mr Morris's stunning two year old Vizla, won the 'Most Handsome Dog' and then went on to win the Clinic's 'Best in Show' category judged by vet Philip Lhermette. The Fete Committee would like to thank the residents of Otford for their wonderful support as well as all others involved in this annual event. To view pictures taken at the fete check out the website www.otford.info/villagefete

St Bartholomew's Church Fair



Have a lovely family afternoon out and go along to St Bartholomew's Church Fair, on **Saturday 21st 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, 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.

Shoreham Village Fete

Celebrating 60 years in Shoreham the Shoreham Village Fete takes place on the School Field, Filston Lane on **Saturday 28th June** between 12 noon and 4pm. Lots of stalls and attractions.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 24th July** between 11am and 12.30pm at School House. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Dave would like to point out that checks are carried out on a regular basis on vehicle tax so make sure that you are up to date.

Parking Leonard Avenue

It is appreciated by the police that it is an unfortunate necessity to have to park on the pavement on one side of the road. However, please do so with consideration for other residents and leave enough room on the pavement for pedestrians and buggies to get past.

Otford Society Garden Party

The Otford Society Garden Party will be held on **Saturday 28th June** from 6pm to 8pm at The Corner House, The Green, Otford, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Rod Shelton. If wet in the Memorial Hall. Tickets are available from Carol Griffiths on 01959 523140.

Otford Heritage Centre

How many children have you had ask "What's an Oast House for?"

There is now a new exhibition in the Heritage Centre titled 'From Poke to Pocket'. It tells the story of how hops - the mainstay crop of our village for centuries, are dried, pressed and stored for market in the village Oast houses. Old vs. new photos of all the Otford Oast houses will be on display as well as old and new parish maps showing the location of the hop gardens. Centre of the exhibition will be a dolls house style model of a working Oast house where children and adults can look inside to see how the whole Poke to Pocket process took place

Otford Village Memorial Hall

Otford Village Memorial Hall is urgently looking for a new Hall manager to replace Michael who is now leaving after 10+ years' service. The role involves general maintenance work and liaison with hirers and assisting in the day-to-day running of the Hall. The new manager would be required to attend the Hall for a couple of hours each morning Monday to Friday

and to assist with clearing up and locking up after weekend social events, currently around nine or ten this year. There will also be occasions when the Hall will need to be opened at other times but these are kept to a minimum. This position would, ideally suit someone who has taken early retirement and is looking for some part-time work. An attractive salary package is available to the right applicant. For further details or a brief chat please call Ron Dullage on 01959 522007

Otford Allotments Association

As we are approaching the middle of the year, and the longest day - yes we really are - allotment gardeners are beginning to harvest some of their fruit and vegetables, and congratulating themselves that they had the sense to rent an allotment when all seemed doom and gloom during the winter months. If you want to see the results of these efforts, there is an 'Open Day' on **Saturday 19th July** from 10am, so why not go along and see for yourselves, you will be most welcome and may even want to put your name down for a small plot for yourself. Or you can always ring Barbara Hine on 01959 525468 or call into the Parish office any weekday morning and have a private view.

Otford Community Warden

Paul Robertson our KCC Community Warden holds a weekly surgery to discuss any problems and community issues at School House every Tuesday between 11am and 12 noon.

Otford Primary School Fete

As everyone's thoughts turn to summer, here is a early reminder to 'keep the date free' for the Otford Primary School Summer Fete being held on **Saturday 5th July** at 12 noon. It is always an immensely popular event with lots of stalls and attractions. There will be arena events, an inflatable assault course and mega slide, teas and cakes, a grand raffle, BBQ and beer tent, face painting and lots, lots more. Entrance is 70p and children are free. Come along and support your local school - it's sure to be fun for all the family.

Otford Gardeners' Society

The Otford Gardeners' Society will be holding their Rose and Summer Show on **Saturday 28th June** in Otford Village Memorial hall from 2.15 to 4.15pm. Admission 50p, under 16's free. Refreshments will be served. See roses and summer flowers, early vegetables, photography, flower arrangements, cookery and junior classes.

3 Peaks Challenge



The day of the challenge is quickly approaching so please support Dave, Paul and Sue as they put on their boots to raise money for Otford Primary and Shoreham Pre - School. Sponsorship forms are available in the Parish Council Office, Stan's Hairdressers and Telston Stores. Many thanks.

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 on the **19th June** when James Malpas will give a talk on '*The beginnings of Abstraction: Kandinsky and the Blue Rider Group*'. The Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm preceded by refreshments at 12.30pm. Anyone interested in joining the Society or who would like more information, please contact, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529 and Alison Davis on 01732 780453.

Otford Afternoon WI

The Otford Afternoon WI's next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 8th July** when Mr B D'Arcy will be telling some chilling stories of '*Living with ghosts of the Tower*' For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736

Otford Oast WI

On **Thursday 19th June** Dr Suzanne Henwood, NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming) Master Practitioner, will be talking about how to help children learn to spell more effectively and confidently. Do join them. The meetings start at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free.

Otford Wine Club

On **Sunday 29th June**, they will be holding their annual BBQ at Sidehill, Pilgrims Way, Kemsing starting at 12.30pm. Please bring your own liquid refreshment, glasses, chairs and cutlery. Members are free but guests will be charged £5. Most of you know the location and where to park, but if you have any queries, ring the Secretary on 01732 761359.

Picture of the Month

The artist for June / July is Elizabeth Ward. Elizabeth is a Parish Councillor and a very busy lady. She says that she has enjoyed painting watercolours

since early childhood and in recent years has ventured into acrylics. She likes painting both botanical art and landscapes. Having painted historical backdrops and displays while working for many years in a school, the formation of the Heritage Centre gave her a challenge and an opportunity to paint her largest work to date. This is the 56 foot Timeline portraying the history of Otford over 4000 years on the wall in the Heritage Centre. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2007/2008 lecture season continues on **10th July** with Dr Colin Bailey on 'Painting, Politics and Propaganda' Please contact Mrs Maggie Llanwarne on 01732 460709 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information and membership.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Parish Church Hall (NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE) on **Saturday 28th June** with a talk by Janice Lawrence on a 'Picture of Peru' Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

The Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild have opened an exhibition of their work at the Heritage Centre. Their inspirational designs and incredibly detailed pieces count among some of the finest local work in this medium. See it and wonder. For further information please contact Pat Curtis on 01959 532391. The Heritage Centre is open everyday from 9am to 12 noon and every weekend afternoon from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons

Women's Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm in the new Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details

June

18th - Missionary Garden Party - Water Aid in Ethiopia

25th - Sevenoaks Network meeting

July

2nd - Tea at Ellenors

South East Open Studios

The South East Open Studios will be running from **6th to 22nd June**. During this time artists open their

houses and studios, discuss their work and explain their techniques and of course you can buy their work. Free guides and maps are available from the Heritage Centre and Library.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 1st July** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Otford Library Hours and Events



- Monday - 9am until 1pm
- Tuesday - 9am until 5pm
- Wednesday - Closed
- Thursday - 9am until 1pm
- Friday - 1pm until 5pm
- Saturday - 10am until 2pm

Monday mornings - Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time - 11am to 11.30am

Tuesday afternoons - Storytime for under 5's - 2.15pm to 3pm

2nd Thursday of every month - Reading Group - 10.30am to 12 noon

Kemsing Health Walk

Run by Sevenoaks District Council and starting on **Tuesday 17th June** there will be a new weekly health walk starting every Tuesday at 10.30am in Kemsing. Meeting and finishing at the Car Park, High Street (next to the Wheatsheaf PH)

- No Booking necessary
- it is FREE so just turn up
- The walks are led by trained walk leaders
- all ages and abilities welcome
- walks at your own pace
- walks last about 45 minutes
- wear comfortable footwear

Children under 16yrs must be accompanied by an adult and walkers will be required to complete a short health questionnaire prior to their first walk.

Otford Primary 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 - 99

2nd Prize £15 - 123

3rd Prize £10 - 35

Transition Town

The Transition Town idea is a community initiated and led movement with a fresh new way of looking at Climate Change and the energy crisis without getting depressed! The idea is to look at where we are as a community now and prepare and adapt positively so we can cope and thrive on fewer fossil fuels and ever changing climate. For example, we probably all want a safer, cleaner, friendlier place with healthier food, less noise, less traffic and a better quality of life with more time to do things we enjoy. A Transition Town would draw up a plan of how to get to the ideal scenario and the community would work together to achieve it. It would also help everyone drastically cut their carbon emissions and enable Sevenoaks/Otford/Kemsing and environs to make the 'Transition' to a more local, less energy reliant, more independent communities, with a thriving community that can take more easily the crises that Climate Change and Peak Oil (the end of cheap easy to get at oil) may bestow. There are 40 towns in the UK that have already begun and 600 more thinking about it! If you want to find out more look up www.transitiontowns.org and see what Totnes, Lewes, Forest Row, Brighton and Bristol have achieved. Even the 'Archers' are talking about it! To find out more about Peak Oil, look up www.peakoil.net. The film 'An Inconvenient Truth' will be shown on **Tuesday 17th June** at 8pm at the Otford Memorial Hall. To reserve a seat, please email: susanfallmann@hotmail.com. Watching the film is free but it is £2 each to cover hall hire charges. Discussion will follow the film with free refreshments. Please telephone Susan on 01732 454820 for any more information.

Planning

The following applications will be 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/08/01157 **21 Broughton Road**

Erection of conservatory to rear

SE/08/01186 **J Sainbury plc Otford Road**

Retention of modular building

SE/08/01339 **Land adj Mount Path Cottage Pilgrims Way East**

Re-opening of trackway from Pilgrims Way East to provide vehicular access to Clan Cottage and High Point

SE/08/01405 **16 High Street**

Two storey rear extension to form self contained flat above, internal alterations and external

alterations to shop front, previously approved under SE/08/00209. Amendment to include: increase the area of the balcony/decking at the rear on the second floor

b. Results received

SE/07/03637 **Land adj Mount Path Cottage Pilgrims Way East**

Re-opening of trackway from Pilgrims Way East to provide vehicular access to Clan Cottage and High Point
Withdrawn

SE/07/03889 **Friars Pool Station Road**

Demolition of single storey conservatory to rear and erection of single storey extension to rear and two storey extension to side of a detached dwelling. Demolition of glazed lean to entrance porch to front and provision of new driveway access to side. Amended block plan received 20.02.08

Allowed

SE/08/00332 **Sainsbury Petrol Filling Station Otford Road**

Extensions and external alterations to kiosk, erection of new plant room
Allowed

SE/08/00430 **Workshop to the rear of Block 13 Vestry Industrial Estate Vestry Road**

Subdivision of Block 13 to retain existing B1(c) use and creation of separate workshop for testing and vehicle repairs- *no longer valid, not under consideration.*

SE/08/00609 **Land to the rear of 22 The Charne**

Demolition of existing garages and erection of three two-storey terraced houses with private amenity space and parking
Allowed

SE/08/00642 **Land north of Pilgrims Oasts Station Road**

Erection of 4 bed detached house with associated parking
Refused

SE/08/00674 **The Chantry The Green**

Installation of gates to garage forecourt
Refused

SE/08/00675 **Greatness Quarry Bat and Ball**

Extension of extraction area and continued operation of existing processing and associated manufacturing plant and buildings and other operational areas.
Refusal recommended to KCC

SE/08/00800 **2B The Butts**

Conversion of existing garage to study.

Provision of three parking spaces to front
Allowed

SE/08/00926 **18 Tudor Crescent**

First floor and single storey rear extensions, loft conversion including front and rear rooflights and detached garage
Allowed

