

# Otford Parish Council March Newsletter 2004 No 121

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

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## Annual Assembly

This is notification for the Annual Assembly of the Electors of the Parish, more commonly called the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held, in the Village Hall on **Monday 22nd March** at 7.30pm. This is your chance to ask questions about what is happening in the village, so please attend if you can.

## Post Office

It is understood that arrangements are being finalised for the Post office to continue trading as a Post Office and shop. Whilst this is good news for the many residents who use the Post Office, we shall be very sorry to lose Jennifer who has given such excellent service over the last few years.

## Otford Bakery

The Bakery is now open again. As with all the shops in the village they need our support so please use them and help them to stay open.

## School Train



In the February Newsletter we mentioned the efforts to get the through school trains to Tonbridge and back reinstated. Almost all the schools have written to support this suggestion together with a number of parents. We would be grateful for letters or e-mails of support if any parents have the time to write, the written word is always better ammunition.

## Traffic Calming

Sometime later this year it is hoped that the following actions will be taken.

## The Community Speedwatch Partnership

A team of six volunteers from the parish will be trained by the police in the use of a hand held radar gun. In partnership with the Community the scheme will address the actual or perceived problems of speed related offending in circumstances where direct enforcement is inappropriate and / or police resources are inadequate to meet the expectations of the parish. The team will only be able to report information direct to the police. If you would like to volunteer please let us have your name and address and contact number.

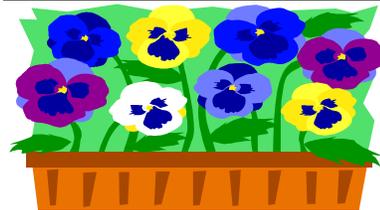
## Speed Limit Roundels

Amendments have recently relaxed the strict criteria for using roundels painted on the road adjacent to existing speed limit signs in 30mph areas. Kent Highways will carry out a survey in May to establish the best siting for the roundels.

## Interactive Speed Sign

Kent Highways intend to install this sign on the A225 just before Beadles Garage on the approach to Otford. The sign will flash at any approaching vehicle exceeding the speed limit.

## Otford Gardeners' Society



The Spring Show will take place in the Village Hall on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March** between 2.15pm - 4.30pm, featuring spring bulbs and flowers, flower arrangements, cookery, photographic and junior classes. Admission is 50p with under 16's free.

The next lecture will take place on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April** at 8pm when Berney Baughen will give an illustrated talk on '*Iris the Year Round*' Admission is 50p for members and £1 for non - members.

## Police Surgery



The next Police Surgery will take place on **Wednesday 5th May 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.

## Oxford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons

### Women's Fellowship

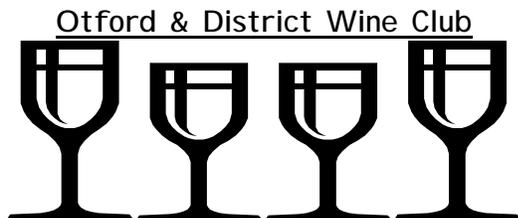
Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings which take place at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall and a list of the next two months speakers and events are as follows: -

#### March

17<sup>th</sup> March - Alan Denton - *Old Tyme Music Hall*

24<sup>th</sup> March - Macmillan nurses

31<sup>st</sup> March - Easter Meditation



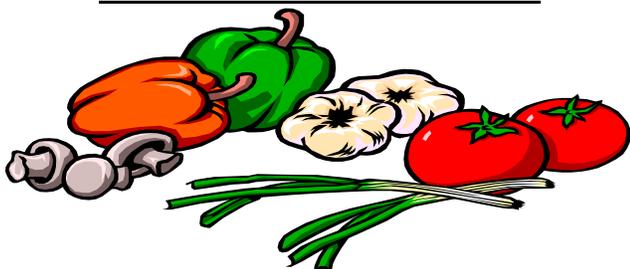
### Oxford & District Wine Club

The Oxford & District Wine Club cordially invite you to a Spring Buffet Supper which will be held in the Oxford Memorial Hall on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March beginning at 8pm. The buffet will consist of Eggs, Prawns, Cold Meats, Fresh Poached Salmon, Salads and Hot Potatoes together with a variety of desserts. The price, which includes wine, will be £10 for members and £12 for non - members. Please take your own glasses. There will be music for dancing and a cabaret. If you would like to go, please contact the Secretary on 01732 761359 or the Treasurer on 01959 523676, but let them know as soon as you can, as they have to let the caterers know the numbers at least a week before the event.

### Oxford & District Historical Society

The next meeting of the Society will take place on Wednesday 17th March at 8pm in the Village Hall. The talk is by Paul Cullen on '*Place Names of West Kent*'. Everyone is welcome to attend. Membership of the Society is just £3 per year and non - members are welcome to each talk for just £1.

### Oxford Allotments Association



Although the allotment site is fully tenanted as previously stated, two allotment holders have decided to relinquish some of their holding for reletting.

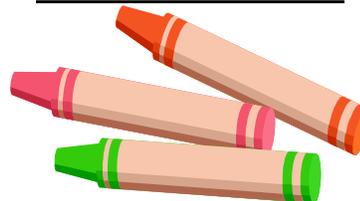
Therefore, don't get too excited about this but yes, there are now two small plots available for letting! And of course, now is the time to start preparing for the growing year ahead, and to appreciate fresh food from plot to plate. So if you are interested in taking up a tenancy please let Barbara Hine (01959 525468) or the Parish Office know. If you don't want to consider a plot at this time, why not come and have a look round anyway. Later this year the Allotment Association, who manage the site, will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an Open Day during National Allotment Week in August, and as a member of the Association, if you are a tenant, you will be able to enjoy some of the events now being planned. The Association started with a members evening on March 6<sup>th</sup> (more of this in a later newsletter) and on Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Village Hall during the morning they are running a Boot Fair - all 25 tables are let so there will be plenty of 'Attic Stuff' to peruse and which you may find useful to buy. Entry is 50p per person, light refreshments will be available, so do go along and enjoy a morning of interesting browsing.

### Top Draw

Coming Soon - TOP DRAW - The Oxford Primary Draw. Your chance to win cash prizes and raise money for your local school.

Oxford Primary School is launching a great new fund raising effort, which will provide the school with vital extra funds that will buy much needed equipment and really make a difference to the children's education. Watch out for the pale blue leaflet coming through your letterbox soon.

### Picture of the Month



The format to the Picture of the Month is changing. As the Parish Newsletter is normally produced in the middle of a month, it has been decided to make the change over of pictures at the same time. This will allow members of the public a much longer viewing period and a better chance to see the artistic talent that we have in the village. The artist for March - April is Ken Gunderson, who is well known in the village as the Chairman of the Oxford Society and the Allotment Association and as a local thespian with many other interests, including painting. He says that when he applied to join the ladies of the W.I. Art Group they were desperately low in numbers and were

ready to accept anyone – even him!! Other males soon heard of his good fortune and joined. He says that without the support and encouragement of this friendly group he would never have got down to putting brush to paper. He has now worked in pastel, acrylics, water-colour and oils and without the benefit of any previous training feels that he now has a greater appreciation of colour and composition.

### Oxford Oast W.I.

Their next meeting will be on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March** when they will have a dabble session creating a card with Handesigns. Let your imagination free to create a card with new ideas demonstrated by Lynda Grattidge. This is a hands on session so don't forget your glasses and a pair of scissors. 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

### Oxford Folk Dance Club



The next Thursday night special is on **25<sup>th</sup> March** 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 Oxford Club.

Website <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/oxfordfdc2>

### Embroiders' Guild

The next meeting of the Embroiderers' Guild will take place on **Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>**. Win Bond will be talking about 'Fine Cell Work', her voluntary work within the prison service. The meeting begins at 2pm. For more information please phone Barbara Savager on 01959 523484.

### Dog Wardens



Sevenoaks District Council has appointed two new Dog Wardens, Shirley Fiddock and Jacky Donaghy. The wardens have a number of responsibilities. Firstly, they patrol the district enforcing the Dogs Fouling of Land Act, where they can issue owners with on the spot fines of £50 with a maximum fine reaching £1000, if they fail to pick up after their dogs. They also pick up strays and either take them to kennels or reunite them with their owners if they have identification by means of collar and tag or microchip. They can offer a micro-chipping scheme at £15 to all pet owners in the district and is available by contacting them at the District Council. They are also on hand to offer advice about dog-related issues, and are currently contacting schools to promote the Dog Wardens role and good dog ownership. For more information about the dog wardens or speak to one of them call SDC on 01732 227000.

### Train Hooter Blame ?

This is the heading for the back page of the South Eastern Trains Passenger Newsletter (February edition). It mentions the complaints from people across the southern region who are concerned about the volume of the horns that give warning to track workers and pedestrians at level crossings. The article explains its deliberations with the Rail Safety and Standards Boards (RSSB). Copies of the Newsletter are available at the station or from the Parish Office

### Station

Some windows were broken and graffiti applied to the front of the station some time late last Saturday. The ladies toilet was damaged and rubbish strewn over the platforms and approach road. If you have any information please tell the station staff or report it to the Parish Office.

### The Green

Graffiti was also applied to the Telephone box and noticeboard on the Green and a bollard was thrown in the Pond. If you have any information on the offenders please report it to the parish office.

## CAB Surgery

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has warned gardeners to go to their nearest authority waste disposal facility to get rid of a range of withdrawn pesticides before the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Last summer, the EU halted the sale of more than 80 garden pesticide products as they contain six withdrawn chemicals. However, 32 of these products were sold in 2003 and these are the ones gardeners are most likely to have in their sheds.

Under EU law, these products can no longer be used. Gardeners have up to the end of March to dispose of them.

The substances were withdrawn from sale after manufacturers decided not to continue to submit information about them as part of a review programme.

This strict review process is designed to make sure that all products on sale meet modern safety standards.

They are not being withdrawn because of new health concerns but because manufacturers have chosen not to foot the bill to put them through the review programme. 71 of the withdrawn products are lawn weed-killers or weed and feed products, which contain dichlorprop, controlling dandelions and other broadleaved weeds. The remaining products contain either dikegulac, resmethrin, 2, 3 6 -TBA, tar acids or trifone.

Pesticides and herbicides should not be poured down sinks, drains or toilets but should be taken to the nearest local authority civic amenity site. Further information, including a list of the 32 products that were distributed in 2003 can be found on the Defra website at [www.pesticides.gov.uk](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk).

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](mailto:7oakscab@dial.pipex.com)

Web page: [www.7oakscab@dial.pipex.com](http://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 12noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on **6th April**

## Planning



The following applications were considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in March. 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/04/00223 Kent House The Green

New additions and rear extension over existing single storey wings of two storey detached dwelling

SE/04/00242 The Old Vicarage Shoreham Road

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of sixteen apartments

SE/04/00451 Umberslade Shoreham Road

Demolition of existing property and erection of 2 no. detached houses

### c. Results Received

SE/03/02779 7 Orchard Road

Two storey extension to side of property

Refused

SE/03/02978 Akenfield, 35 Greenhill Road

New dormer window to rear elevation providing light to existing loft storage area

Allowed

SE/03/02828 Land rear of 18-20 Tudor Crescent

Erection of a dwelling. Amended plan received 22.12.03

Allowed

SE/03/02904 56 High Street

Conversion of integral garage to additional living accommodation and erection of rear conservatory extension

Allowed

SE/03/03040 32 Greenhill Road

Erection of a replacement dwelling with integral garage

Refused

SE/04/00108 7 Tudor Drive

Single storey side and rear extensions

Allowed

### e. Tree Work

320.120/10.90/04.13

Tuscany, Row Dow

Application to fell one beech tree covered by TPO.