

Otford Parish Council March Newsletter 2005 No 132

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

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APPEAL FOR INFORMATION

Dangerous Dumping on Emergency Slip Road

On Tuesday 15th March within an hour or two of midday a load of large pieces of concrete and other rubble was dumped in the centre of the M26 slip road, completely blocking it for emergency vehicles or cars.

The vehicle probably had four axles and was a tipper truck of some kind. It may have had a grab for handling large items but clearly this rubbish was simply tipped out of the vehicle. The Environmental Agency cleared access for emergency vehicles within hours, but obviously there could have been serious consequences for any accident on this stretch of motorway.

If you saw a large vehicle, which may have contained rubble turn into or out of the slip-road around this time, or if you were in the car park or woodland when dumping occurred (it must have been very noisy) please let the parish office or police know.

This type of dangerous tipping has occurred on other slip-roads and help is needed in stopping it.

ever wondered or been dissatisfied about decisions on building developments in Otford, this meeting on **Wednesday 20th April** commencing at 7pm in the Hall at Otford Primary School will inform you of procedures and may assist when responding to future proposals. It is the government's intention that in future the authority making the decision will consult people affected by the development. All residents are welcome to attend.

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 16th May** at 7.30pm. This is your chance to ask questions about what is happening in the village, so please attend if you can.

New Pavilion

Many residents will have seen the start of building Otford's pavilion for our footballers and other sports' people who use the Recreation Ground. This has been planned for many years and has been awaiting sufficient grant money. It is necessary for our football club to have a pavilion near to the pitch if they are to proceed to a higher league. The facilities will also be used by other clubs. We expect it to be finished by the middle of the summer.

At the moment heavy building material is being taken across the ground on mesh netting. This prevents bad rutting by the heavy vehicles, but the surface is already uneven and needs care when you walk on or near it. Obviously a stronger permanent road or track would have been very expensive and unnecessary after a few months, and the mesh will be adequate for the required emergency access in the future.

Police Surgery



The next Police Surgery with PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Monday 18th April** at School House between 10am - 12 noon.

You are asked to be aware of security on your garages and sheds following a spate of thefts recently. Do not leave your garage door or shed open whilst at the shops or having lunch or just a cup of tea, as opportunist thieves will take advantage. Dave has a couple of shed alarms that are available to purchase at £5 or £10. He has these with him when he is patrolling to show people or they can be obtained from Sevenoaks Police Station.

Planning - Public Meeting



A Public meeting with the officers and members from Sevenoaks District Council Planning Department, has been arranged so residents may learn more of existing procedures and policies, and the changes that may occur under the new framework. If you have

Mobile Phone Mast

The proposed mast in Twitton Lane has been rejected. It was put for approval by the officers but rejected unanimously by Sevenoaks District councillors. There were many factors involved and the related information and arguments for and against would fill a small book. The Parish Council and local branch of the CPRE were among those objecting to the proposal.

Otford Library



- ❖ Otford Library will re-open on **Tuesday 5th April** at 9.30am after modernisation improvements which includes
- ❖ New, improved lighting
- ❖ Complete re-decoration of public areas
- ❖ Attractive shelving and furniture
- ❖ New carpet

New stock has been purchased for the library, based on customer comments and suggestions including all of the following: Biographies, Rural Life, Crime Fiction, War, Science Fiction, Books in large Print, Humour, Genealogy and Classic and Modern Fiction.

If you are not a member, just take along 1 piece of ID and you can be registered straight away.

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 February TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 40

2nd Prize £15 - 127

3rd Prize £10 - 195

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.

Sevenoaks Area Youth Forum

Steve Hanks is the Kent County Council Area Youth and Community worker for Sevenoaks. He is trying to restart the Sevenoaks Area Youth Forum and would like to get a representative group of young people together (Young people should be aged between 12 -

19). If you are interested please contact him at Junction - Swanley
Swanley Youth and Community Centre
St Mary's Road
Swanley
Kent
BR8 7BU
Tel no. 07752 884547 - mobile
Tel no. 01322 662779 - work
steve.hanks@kent.gov.uk

Otford Allotments Association



If you are one of those 'last minute' people, now is the time to change a habit of a lifetime and make a decision as spaces at the Allotment Boot Fair on **Saturday 16th April** are being taken up fast. If you want to take this opportunity of your own personal sale of goods, give Eve Wiltshire a ring on 01959 524887 or leave a message on 01959 525468 and all details will be revealed, but get cracking. As indicated in the last newsletter tenancies on the allotment site tend to be a little fluid as the winter syndrome kicks in. We do have two vacancies on small plots (5 rods) for immediate renting. Please give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 if you are interested, and now is the time to take over and make any plot your own - why not join the green team and help the environment on the way.

Picture of the Month



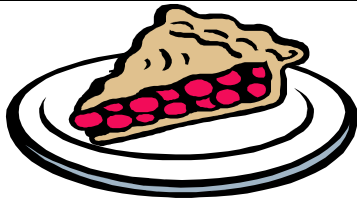
The artist for March / April is Janet Davies. Janet has lived in Otford for twenty years and works part-time for Kent Libraries. She has been attending adult education classes in Botanical Watercolour Illustration for four years. Botanical illustration is currently undergoing a revival and Janet particularly enjoys the precise, clean lines of this art form. She has exhibited her work at a number of local venues and at the annual exhibition of the Society of Botanical Artists' in Westminster.

If you reside in the village and paint in any medium, would you like to have one of your pictures exhibited in the Heritage Centre? Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 for further information

Otford Short Mat Bowls

Otford Short Mat Bowls Club is holding an 'Open Day' on **Sunday 17th April** at Otford Village Memorial Hall and would like to invite anyone interested in trying the game of bowls to come along and join them. The session will commence at 2pm and all they ask is, if you do not have a pair of bowls shoes, that you provide yourself with thick socks, to avoid damage to the mats. Bowls will be provided and coaching given. You will receive a warm welcome whether you are in your twenties or sixties plus, so why not give it a try and give yourself some gentle exercise? They regularly play at the Village Hall on Sunday and Thursday afternoons and Wednesday and Friday evenings. For more information please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183.

Otford & District Wine Club



The Otford & District Wine Club are pleased to announce that they are holding a Spring Buffet Supper on **Wednesday, 30th March**, in the Otford Memorial Hall beginning at 8pm prompt. There will be a charge of £9 for members and £11 for guests. The Buffet will consist of a roll and butter, eggs, prawns, ham, salmon, salads and hot potatoes, a variety of sweets, coffee and mints. Brenda Montague of Kemsing is doing the catering once again and everyone who attended in 2004 said they had a wonderful meal. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. They hope to have a cabaret, music and a raffle, so it should be a really good evening out at a reasonable cost. They would be grateful if everyone could book and pay for the evening by Tuesday 22nd March at the latest as they have to let the caterers know the numbers in good time. To book please ring one of the following: the Secretary on 01732 - 761359, the Treasurer on 01732 - 885356 or Olive Cherry on 01732 - 458240

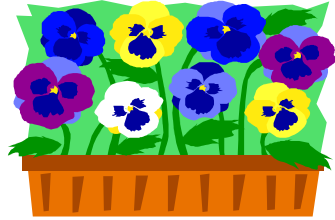
Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 26th March** when there will be talk from Pam Page on 'The Quaker Tapestry'. 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 on Tuesday 5th April at School House between 10am and 12 noon.

Otford Gardeners Society



The next meeting of the Gardeners' Society will take place on **Tuesday 5th April** when Ken Turner will talk about 'Water Gardens'

Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further details contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or visit www.otford.info/gardeners.

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: -

March

23rd - no meeting

30th March - no meeting

April

6th - *Rye and Romney Marsh* - John Coomber

13th - *Namibia* - John and Joyce Allen

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting of the Historical Society will take place on **Wednesday 20th April** at 8pm in the Village Hall when Martin Lloyd will talk on the *History of Passports*. Membership of the Society is only £3 a year, which includes 6 winter talks and usually 3 summer outings. Visitors are welcome to all meetings at just £1 and children are admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

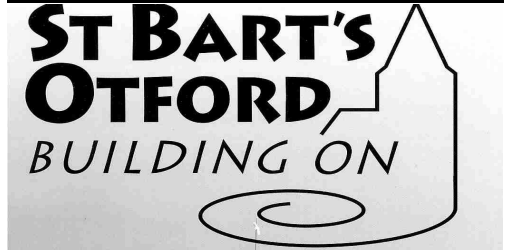
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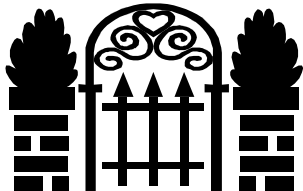
Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Membership is £21 per year and Tea at the meeting is 30p.

The next meeting takes place on **12th April** with Judi Abbott talking about 'Life as a Cruise Director'. Contact 01959 522915 for more details.

St Bart's - Auction of Promises



The fund-raising committee for the extension to St Bartholomew's Church would like to say a big thank you to all those who donated items, attended or took part in any way in the Auction of Promises held in the Primary School Hall on Saturday 5th March. A total of £6,000 was raised and everyone had a good and happy time.



The next major fund raising event will be 'Secret Gardens' taking place over the weekend of 4th and 5th June when you will have a chance to look around village gardens, most not normally open to the public, you will also be able have tea, buy your bedding plants, and much more and there will be a treasure hunt for the children. Put the date in your diary now.

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

21st May, 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

28th May, 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

Planning

The following applications will be 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/05/00361 **48 Pilgrims Way East**

Erection of a rear conservatory

SE/05/00370 **14 Tudor Drive**

Conservatory to rear of existing dwelling

SE/05/00375 **1 Colets Orchard**

Erection of first floor to existing bungalow to create chalet bungalow

SE/05/00378 **18 Telston Lane**

Single storey rear extension

SE/05/00395 **64-66 Well Road**

Demolition of existing dwellings, construction of road, nine houses and garaging

SE/05/00441 **The Farm, Twitton Lane**

Establishment of an electricity sub-station

SE/05/00473 **58 High Street**

Extension to left hand side and new porch

SE/05/00489 **Godfreys, DPTS House, Cramptons Rd**

Removal of condition 2 of SE/96/00005

SE/05/000492 **Telecomms Eqpt Recreation Ground, High Street**

Replacement of 13m high lighting column with 17m high telecommunications mast, with three antennas, one 200mm diameter dish antenna, radio equipment housing and ancillary development

b. Results Received

SE/04/02656 **68 High Street**

Construction of rear extension and carrying out of improvement works to side (S and E) elevations

Allowed

SE/05/00169 **7 Station Road**

New access to road and parking space *Allowed*

A Happy, Peaceful and Joyous Easter to you all

