“EGGSTRAVAGANZA”

The Parish Council will be holding an ‘EGGSTRAVAGANZA’ event in the village hall on Easter Monday 17th April. You are invited to bring your decorated eggs in any shape or form for judging by our ‘EGGSPERT’ who will award prizes in all age ranges from spring chickens to retired roosters! More details will appear in the next newsletter.

Best of the Best
Village of The Year

As previously reported we have been entered into this competition. Although there may be a call to arms for a major tidy up around the village, in the mean time please DO NOT drop litter anywhere. There is absolutely no need to do it as bins are provided all around the village. If you see any litter please can you pick it up and also look after the pavement and hedges outside your properties. Many thanks. The judging will take place on Tuesday 18th April from 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

Drought Update from SE Water

The Environment Agency and South East Water are reminding people it's essential for everyone to continue to use water wisely, as a lack of rainfall leaves the South East in the grip of a worsening drought. We have now had below average rainfall for the last 14 months across Kent, Sussex and Hampshire. That has left groundwater levels, some river flows and reservoirs well below normal levels for the time of year. Unless we get substantial and prolonged rainfall from February to April, significant recovery of these water sources seems unlikely. Bewl Water, which is owned by Southern Water but from which South East Water also takes some water supplies, is only 36% full. Customers can log onto www.southeastwater.co.uk for more information on water efficiency tips for home and garden. NOTE: A hosepipe ban remains in force for South East Water customers in the Sevenoaks District Council area. The ban includes the use of hosepipes for watering private gardens and washing private vehicles. It also prohibits the use of garden sprinklers, which use as much water in an hour as a family of six does in one day.

Oford Society

The Oford Society AGM will take place in the Oford Village Memorial Hall on Thursday 6th April starting at 8pm. The speaker will be Louise Shrubsole an Energy Conservation Officer with the District Council on the subject of ‘How to save energy, money and help the environment’

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on Thursday 23rd March between 11am and 12.30pm. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Here is a short story about community policing at its best. Dave and his colleague Dennis encountered 3 youths in Dunton Green daubing graffiti. The took their details, spoke to the parents and then got all the youths to get buckets and brushes to clean it off. Well done.

Crime Writers Evening

Otford Library will be holding a crime evening on Wednesday 29th March at 7.00pm with visiting authors Judith Cutler and Edward Marston. Tickets are £3 to include a glass of wine available from Otford Library 01959 522488, Kemsing Library 01732 762199 and Seal Library 01732 762510. This promises to be a very entertaining evening.

Parking on the footway

Please DO NOT park your vehicles on pavements in the village, especially in the High Street, Willow Park, Telston Lane and Hale Lane areas. It is very inconsiderate to pedestrians and unnecessary. The police will issue tickets to persistent offenders - so beware.

Primary School Jumble Sale

Otford Primary School are holding their Spring Jumble Sale on Saturday 18th March from 10am to 11.30am. Entrance will be 50p for adults and children are free. Refreshments will be available. Please go along and grab yourself a bargain whilst supporting your local school. For further information please call 01959 522441 or 01959 524600
**Otford Evening W.I Boot Sale**

Springtime and that means its time for our BOOT SALE. So clear out your cupboards, book a table and join us in the annual event. The venue is the Village Hall and the date is **Saturday 22nd April**. Buying starts at 9.30am and finishes at approximately 12.30pm. To book a table contact Diana on 01959 522981 and hurry as the tables are always sold out. Entrance is 50p with children FREE.

**Applause**

As part of the Applause programme the next performance will take place in Otford Village Hall on **Thursday 27th April** starting at 7.30pm. It is a concert by Eduardo Niebla a ‘world class virtuoso’ (Time Out) Spanish guitarist and composer. He performs amazing new compositions with his guitar accompanist in a ‘breathtaking’ fusion of flamenco latin jazz. This concert is an opportunity to see one of the world’s great musicians whose career encompasses concert tours worldwide. He has composed works for films and documentaries and music critics have declared him a world-class guitar player. The concert is suitable for all ages. Tickets will be available from School House for the usual cost of £5 per adults, £4 concessions and £3 children.

**Sevenoaks Minibus Service**

Many residents take advantage of this service, which is organised by Sevenoaks District Council. If you would like more information then call into the Parish Council office any weekday morning for a free leaflet.

**Sevenoaks Rural Energy Focus**

Look out for the Sevenoaks Rural Energy Focus Van, which will be visiting our car park on a Saturday in April. You will be able to get advice on energy saving items and thereby reducing your bills.

**Otford Lawn Tennis Club**

The Club has three excellent hard courts on the far side of the Recreation Ground, which adjoins the village car park in the High Street. Two of the courts have floodlights, which are available to all members. LTA qualified coaches run both daytime and evening coaching sessions for adults and juniors, for details please contact Ricky Reardon of Breakpoint Tennis 0781 205 9778. The Club is offering full membership until March 31 (The Club’s Year-end) for only £15 to include an introductory coaching session (individually or in a group) absolutely free. Please contact the Treasurer 01732 450549 or Breakpoint Tennis. The first event of the summer season is a “Mixed Doubles Charity Tournament” on **Sunday 2nd April** at 10.30am. All of the proceeds will be donated to a Charity, which will be chosen by the entrants on the day. Any single entries will be matched up on the day. The £6 entrance fee includes a Ploughman’s Lunch. It is an ‘Open event’ so if you play tennis and would like to take part, this would be an ideal opportunity to try out the Club facilities and to meet some of the Members. To book your place please call 01732 450549 or email doncave@onetel.com

Later in the month **Sunday 23rd April** there is a Play Tennis Day at 10am when anyone of all ages can join in a programme of events; radar measured serving speed, playing against ball machines etc. completely free of charge.

There is a thriving Mini Tennis section for younger children from the age of 3½ to 8 years. For details of the Junior Section (aged 9-16) and Mini Tennis please call Mrs. Mary Evans at 01959 523701 or email mayer.a.evans@btinternet.com.

For further information about the Club or Membership or Events, please call the Secretary, Anthony Shea 01732 458968 or email janantshea@tiscali.co.uk

**Otford Gardeners’ Society**

Don’t forget the **SPRING SHOW** in Village Hall on **Saturday 25th March** between 2.15pm-4.15pm, admission 50p, under 16’s free. Refreshments are available till 4pm. Featuring spring flowers, photography, flower arrangements, cookery and junior classes. The next meeting takes place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 4th April** at 8pm when the lecture is ‘Growing Chrysanthemums’ Brian Everest will give an illustrated talk and practical demonstration on how to grow Chrysanthemums for the garden and for exhibition. Admission is 50p for members, £1 non-members. The admission price includes refreshments.

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

**Otford & District Historical Society**

The next meeting will be held in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 19th April** at 8pm when Griselda Barton will give us ‘A taste of Tudor Cookery’ Subscriptions are just £5 per year and visitors are welcome at £1.

**Young Women’s Health & Beauty**

A young women’s Health & Beauty session organised by Kent County Council will be held in Otford Library on **Thursday 27th April** from 7pm - 9pm aimed at 12-17 year olds. More details will appear in the next newsletter.
Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery
The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on Tuesday 4th April between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Otford Afternoon W.I
Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Membership is £22 per year. On the 11th April Mrs M Sowter will speak on '2000 years of the History of London' - Learn some fascinating details about our capital. Please contact 01959 522915 for more details.

Otford & District Wine Club
The Otford & District Wine Club are holding a Spring Buffet on Wednesday 29th March beginning at 8pm in the Otford Village Hall. It will be a 1920's theme evening so get dressed up and enjoy the short Cabaret and dancing afterwards! Brenda Montague is organising the buffet, which will consist of salmon, prawns and eggs, cold meats, salad and potatoes followed by a wide range of sweets. Everyone who attended last year will agree that Brenda puts on a popular evening (by 22nd March at latest). Please bring your own glasses and liquid refreshment. Members will be charged £9.50 and guests £11.50. They prefer cheques, which should be in favour of the Otford & District Wine Club. To book please ring the secretary on 01732 761359 for more details.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild
The next meeting will take place in Sevenoaks Community Centre on Saturday 25th March when there will be an all day workshop with Sam Beresford. The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588.

Picture of the Month
The artist for March / April is Sheila Dickerson. Sheila has lived in Otford for the past 30 years. Having always enjoyed embroidery, Sheila felt a need to discover how to draw and paint flowers and ten years ago started attending Adult Education classes to find different approaches to watercolour painting. Three years ago she was introduced to a Botanical Art class where she has been greatly encouraged to refine her skills in botanical art. She is a member of the Otford Art Group, the Sevenoaks Art Club and is a Friend of the Society of Botanical Artists. As we seem to have run out of Otford artists, would anyone who has a picture placed in the Heritage Centre, and would like to have another displayed, please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183

Knole DFAS
Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. The March lecture will be on 16th March with Elizabeth Linn lecturing on 'Images in Brass: An introduction to the Brass Memorials of Medieval and Tudor England'. Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm preceded by refreshments at 12.30pm. Anyone interested in joining the Society or would like more information, please contact the membership secretary, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons
Women's Fellowship
Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm. While the Methodist Hall is being rebuilt meetings will be in members homes and a list of the next two months speakers and venues are as follows: -
March
22nd - Energy Saving - Louise Shrubsole at 25 Brookfield, Kemsing
29th - India - Joyce and John Allen at 27 Well Road
April
6th - Easter & Holy Land - Peter Hills at 23 Warham Road

Sevenoaks DFAS
The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Sevenoaks Evening Society) 2005/2006 lecture season continues on Thursday 13th April at 8.15pm in the Aisher Hall, Sevenoaks School with a talk by Mr David Phillips on 'Fine Art Forgery - Craftmanship or Conjuring trick? Contact Mrs Honor McMillan on 01892 532651 for more information.

Sevenoaks Music Club
Sevenoaks Music Club has been delighting audiences with classical music concerts of world class for the last 71 years. The third concert of the season will be held on Saturday 25th March at 8pm with a recital by The Kegelstatt Trio. They will be playing Brahms, Bruch, Gordon Jacob, Rebecca Clarke and Mozart's 'Kegelstatt' Trio in Eb K498. Since its formation in 1982 the Trio have performed widely throughout the UK, broadcasting for BBC Radio 3 & Channel 4 and in the Purcell Room on the South Bank. The concert will take place at the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall School, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks. Everyone is welcome and tickets are £14 for each concert and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.
£16 for the premium concert in April. Student tickets are £5. If you would like a copy of the brochure giving full details, please contact 01732 453251

**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 February TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 401
2nd Prize £15 - 212
3rd Prize £10 - 246

Congratulations to this month's winners and thank you to everyone who continues to support the school.

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**Spring Jazz Concert**

Age Concern Sevenoaks presents a Spring Jazz Concert starring Two Divas – Sally Higham and Lisa Twiss on **Saturday 18th March**. Doors open at 7pm and concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 per person to include a drink. Admission by ticket only, available from Cobden Road on 01732 454108

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**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/06/00152 23 Warham Road
  Two storey side extension
- 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
- SE/06/00193 Stradbrook Shoreham Road
  First floor side extension
- SE/06/00196 J Sainsbury plc Otford Road
  Various advertisements associated with erection of temporary marquee
- SE/06/00263 49 Greenhill Road
  Two rear first floor extensions, one rear ground and first floor extension and a number of window/door alterations
- SE/06/00363 Maunders, St Michaels Drive
  Demolition of dwelling and erection of a detached house
- SE/06/00416 St Michaels Sch St Michaels Drive
  Erection of new external escape stair to first floor accommodation

**b. Results received**

- SE/05/03116 20 Rye Lane
  Single storey rear extension
- SE/05/03145 8 Rye Lane
  Single storey and part two storey extensions
- SE/05/02420 Frog Farm Pilgrims Way West
  Demolition of existing farmhouse and erection of replacement dwelling, double garage and creation of replacement new vehicular access off Pilgrims Way West
  As amended by plans received 18.10.05 and 09.01.06

**c. Amended applications**

- SE/05/02915 Holly House Shoreham Road
  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. As amended by plans received 04.01.2006 and 07.02.06

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Don’t forget the clocks go forward on Sunday 26th March at 1am

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New roof on existing agricultural building – part retrospective

Conditionally allowed

SE/05/03081 Foyle, Pilgrims Way East
Single storey rear extension
Allowed

SE/05/03111 47 Sidney Gardens
Erect a pvcu conservatory to rear of property
Withdrawn

SE/05/03116 20 Rye Lane
Conversion of bungalow to house plus extensions to rear
Allowed

SE/05/03145 8 Rye Lane
Single storey and part two storey extensions
Allowed

SE/05/02420 Frog Farm Pilgrims Way West
Demolition of existing farmhouse and erection of replacement dwelling, double garage and creation of replacement new vehicular access off Pilgrims Way West
As amended by plans received 18.10.05 and 09.01.06

SE/05/03084 Bartram Farm
Use of an agricultural building for the storing of furniture and building materials (split decision) for use for the storing of building materials
Allowed

SE/05/03084 Bartram Farm
Use of an agricultural building for the storing of furniture and building materials (split decision) for use for the storing of furniture
Refused

SE/05/03133 The Farm, Twitton Lane
Telecommunications installation comprising a 17.5m “telegraph pole” style mast and base station. As amended by plans received 10.01.2006
Allowed

SE/06/00005 45 Pilgrims Way West
Resiting of approved detached garage to side of property
Allowed

SE/06/00007 21 Tudor Crescent
Single storey side and rear extensions, 2 storey front feature, porch extension
Allowed

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SE/06/00005 45 Pilgrims Way West
Resiting of approved detached garage to side of property
Allowed