

Otford Parish Council

March Newsletter 2007

No 155

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

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Youth Community Football Tournament

This is taking place on **Sunday 22nd April** kicking off at 9am on the Recreation Ground in Otford. Thank you to everyone who has shown an interest and we now have our 8 teams made up from Otford, Shoreham and Dunton Green. Thanks to those businesses, who are already sponsoring a team but we are still looking for more so if you are interested in joining in this community event and sponsoring a team for just £10, then please contact Sue on 01959 524808. We are now looking forward to hearing back from all the teams and what names you have chosen for yourselves. There will be a presentation at the end of the day by Chief Inspector Gillian Ellis from Kent Police of a Cup and Shield to the winning teams. Refreshments will also be provided.

Well Done

First the Duke of Kent, then Safer Kent and now the High Sheriff of Kent.

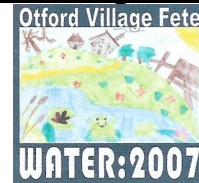
We would like to send our warmest congratulations to PCSO Dave Birchall who on the 21st March is being presented with a commendation from the High Sheriff of Kent for his bravery after the incident in August 2006 when he was shot at in Sevenoaks. The ceremony will take place at Maidstone Crown Court.

Otford Village Fete

In January an open meeting was held about the future of the fete and there was a great turnout from the local community. During this meeting nominations were received and the new Committee was duly elected with all positions filled. The outgoing Committee members were very pleased with the support and turnout at this meeting and are pleased to hand over the reins of this very successful event to an enthusiastic and capable group. The new Committee are very pleased to confirm that the Otford Village Fete will be held this year on **Monday 28th May**. The following members have been elected

to the committee: Patty Chatterjee - Chair, Alex Isted - Treasurer, Tracey Rowe - Secretary, Jacky Cottrell - Procession, Jo Denham - Raffle, Mark Stevens - Past Treasurer, Debbie Terry - Attractions, Andy Wallace - Fete Infrastructure. This year the theme for the fete is 'WATER', and the very colourful parade will be led by a steel band. If you would like to be part of the parade, or have a stall at the fete or be a volunteer on the day please contact Tracey Rowe on 07876 197077 or email tracey_rowe@btinternet.com or Jacky Cottrell on 01959 525870 or email d.jessey@tiscali.co.uk. For more information contact the Chair, Patty Chatterjee on 07769 706047 or have a look at otford.net

Village Fete Logo Competition



The theme for this year's parade and fancy dress competition is Water. The event is a truly village affair and this year the Fete Committee held a logo design competition with the children of Otford Primary School who were asked to design a graphic that had a water based theme. All the entries were of a high standard and the Committee were delighted at the effort and thought that went into their work. The winning entry came from Amelia Lewis who drew a colourful village scene with a water feature. This picture has now been reproduced and is the official Otford Village Fete logo as seen above. Amelia was presented with the winning prize of a framed photograph from the Harry Potter movie, signed by the three stars. Runners up in the competition were Charlie Jessey and Sonny Denham who also received a certificate. The Fete Committee would like to thank all those who took part.

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 26th March** at 7.30pm. This is your chance to ask questions about what is happening in the village, so please attend if you can.

Parish Council Elections

If you would like to become more involved in the life of your village have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor. Parish Council Elections will be taking place on **3rd May 2007**. Nomination papers are available from the Parish Council office and need to be returned to Sevenoaks District Council by **4th April**.

'Lennie the Post'

Lennie Metcalfe retired on the 3rd March after over 38 years as a postman in the village. If you would like to show your appreciation to a little retirement present for him please take your contribution to the Parish Council Office, Telston Stores, The Post Office or Stan's. A presentation will be made on **Saturday 24th March**. At 12 noon in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome. Lennie who has already run 15 marathons is already training for this year's London marathon. In retirement he intends to take it easy, improve his house and garden and go off for trips in his campervan.

Telston Stores

The Parish Council would also like to say congratulations to Yvonne in Telston Stores, Telston Lane and thank her for her dedication, for this year she has been running the shop for 30 years. For lots of people in the west end of the village the shop is simply a lifeline. Well Done Yvonne.

Congratulations

We send our congratulations to Otford Cricket Club's Under 13s who won the 'Team of the Year' and all other Otford residents who also won awards at the Sevenoaks Chronicle's first ever sports awards ceremony held at the Hotel Du Vin in Tunbridge Wells on 16th February. Well done to you all.

Otford Gardeners' Society

Don't forget the *SPRING SHOW* in Village Hall on **Saturday 31st 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 3rd April** at 8pm when the lecture is 'A Day out with Darwin' by Irene Palmer.

For further details telephone Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or email gardeners@otford.net

Mobile Phones

It is illegal to use a handheld mobile phone when driving and the penalties are going up. This also includes when you are stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic. From 27th February 2007 you will receive a £60 fine and three penalty points on your licence. Points can mean higher insurance costs. You don't have to be caught many times to be disqualified. If you get just six points in the first two years after passing your test, you will lose your licence under the New Drivers Act.

'Switch off before you drive off'

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 19th April** between 11am and 12.30pm at School House. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Jumble Sale

Otford Primary School are holding their Spring Jumble Sale on **Saturday 17th March** from 10am to 11.30am. Entrance will be 50p for adults and children are free. Refreshments will be available. Please come along and grab yourself a bargain whilst supporting your local school. For further information call 01959 522441 or 01959 524600.

Otford & District Historical Society

The next talk in the programme will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 21st March** at 8pm when Julia Page will talk on 'Britain v Napoleon V - Wellington & Waterloo 1815'

Membership is £5 per year and visitors are welcome at £1.

Otford Evening WI News

Otford Evening members enjoyed a most interesting talk by Monty Parkin at their February meeting entitled 'Women in Print' - the print being advertising and the part this has played on women's lives throughout the centuries.

Stalls at our Boot Fair on **Saturday 21st April** are rapidly being snapped up. If you want to dispose of your unwanted items, which could be just what someone else can't live without, ring Diana on 522981 without delay to book a table. The cost is only £8, the place Otford Village Memorial Hall.

Aikido - a new Sports Facility

Having recently been awarded a grant under the 'Awards for All' programme by the Lottery Grants for Local Groups fund, which enabled necessary equipment to be purchased, the Goshinaikikwai Aikido Club (Otford) is looking for beginners to take up the sport of Aikido. Aikido can benefit everyone, male and female, young and old and all can enjoy health and fitness and practice a non-aggressive, defensive Martial Art, which encourages harmony of mind and avoidance of confrontation in its practice. The club is based in the Scout Hall, near the railway station and the club night is on a Tuesday starting at 8pm. The age group is 16+ and anyone interested in taking up a sport in a friendly and controlled environment can ring 01959 522011 for further details or just turn up on practice night. Beginners are individually coached, by British Aikido qualified coaches until they are

considered capable of being integrated into the main class. The Goshinaikikwai Aikido club (Oxford) is dedicated to the practice of Tomiki Aikido and to providing an additional sports facility for the local community, so come along and enjoy.

Oxford Allotment Association

We are still awaiting the return of the better weather so that we frustrated allotment gardeners can get on to our plots and start being creative in the production of some fresh fruit and vegetables. We are also being frustrated by the works being carried out by the builders of the Methodist Hall but hopefully this will end soon. The three new water points are being installed (and should be finished by the time you get this newsletter) this will be of great benefit to all allotment gardeners, although the subject of water is not of the greatest interest just now. We still have a small waiting list for plots, but you know what to do if you want to join that list - give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 or call into the Parish office on any weekday morning. We will be pleased to hear from you.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Oxford Church Hall on **Saturday 31st March** when there will be a talk on 'Seascapes' by Chris Rose. The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE**

Darent Valley Book Fair

The next Darent Valley Book Fair in the Oxford Village Hall will take place on **Saturday 14th April** between 9am to 2.30pm. Admission free. There are hundreds of second-hand books for sale.

Oxford 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

21st - Lunch in New Methodist Hall - Alan Turner-Smith - 'Disability'

28th - Rev P Hills - an Easter meditation

April - 4th and 11th - No meetings

Knole DFAS

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks

Community Centre, Bat & Ball. On the **15th March** Digby Hague-Holmes will talk on 'Elgar - The Man of Contradictions'. The following lecture will be on the **19th April** when Valerie Woodgate will talk on 'Primitivism and the Exotic in 19th Century Art'. 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.

Wildlife Gardening Workshop

Sevenoaks District Council are holding a FREE Wildlife Gardening Workshop on **Thursday 26th April** at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Cramptons Road, Sevenoaks from 6.30pm. Places on the workshop are limited and must be booked in advance. Places can be reserved by calling 01732 227000 or via email sus.dev@sevenoaks.gov.uk. The workshop aims to give you first hand advice on how to use features in your garden to attract and protect wildlife.

Picture of the Month

The artist for March / April is Kirsty Collins. Kirsty has lived in Oxford since the age of four. She is now 15 years old and a pupil at Tonbridge Grammar School where, amongst other subjects, she is studying GCSE Art. She previously had her artwork displayed in the village encouraging dog owners to clean up after their pets. Kirsty is an occasional, and certainly the youngest attendee of the Oxford Art Group when she accompanies her grandmother, Betty Cooper, during school holidays. This month's artist is the youngest we have had to date. Are there any more young people in the village studying GCSE Art that would like to display their work in the Heritage Centre? Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2006/2007 lecture season continues on **Thursday 12th April** with the AGM at 7.30pm and then at 8.15pm a talk by Mr David Evans on 'Painting in Newlyn 1880 - 1914'. Please contact Mrs Jackie Bradforth on 01732 761631 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information.

Sevenoaks Music Club

The programme of the Sevenoaks Music Club continues on **Saturday 24th March** with the Kandinsky Piano Trio. Katya Apekisheva piano, Fenella Barton, violin and Alexei Sarkissov, cello. They will be performing Haydn - Trio in B flat, Hob XV.20, Ravel - Piano Trio and Mendelssohn - Trio No 1 in D

minor. The Kandinsky Piano Trio was formed in 2001 by three outstanding young musicians, all of which have won numerous awards. The concert starts at 8pm in the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall. For further information on their brochure, season ticket or ticket prices please contact Penny Hargreaves on 01732 453251.

Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club are pleased to announce that they are having a Spring Buffet with music on **Wednesday 28th March** 7.45pm for 8pm in the Village Memorial Hall. As usual the buffet is provided by Brenda Montague and will consist of salmon, cold meats, salad and potatoes plus a wide range of delicious sweets. There will be a cabaret by 'Sovereign' who will play and sing 60's music then there will be dancing afterwards. Please bring your own liquid refreshments and glasses. Visitors will be most welcome at a price of £13 and members will be charged £11.50. Do come along for a lively night out with plenty of good food and entertainment. Please contact 01732 761359 for details.

Lost Property

If anyone has found the lid of a dark green compost bin in the Pilgrims Way West area, which has gone missing could they contact the parish council office. Also a diamante effect hair-band has been found on the footpath off Tudor Drive. If you think this could be yours please also contact the office. Thankyou.

Dog Fouling

This is still a big problem, not only on the Recreation Ground but also on pavements, footpaths and even in residents' front gardens. Please pick up after your dog, it is very anti social and potentially health threatening not to pick up after your dog. If you don't you risk having to pay a fine of up to a maximum of £1,000 or a fixed penalty of £25.

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 Head of Development Services, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

a. New applications

SE/06/03331 **51 Tudor Drive**

Single storey side extension

SE/07/00354 **Hillview Shoreham Road**

Replacement summer house

SE/07/00380 **Springhill Shoreham Road**

Two storey side extension, boundary fence and gates to existing access - no objection in principle, seek details of fence & gates

SE/07/00383 **17 Greenhill Road**

Outline - New detached house and garage

SE/07/00420 **9 The Old Walk**

Double storey rear extension, single storey front extension, false pitched roof over garage and façade alterations

SE/07/00548 **97 Willow Park**

Two storey side extension

b. Results received

SE/06/03006 **2 Coombe Road**

First floor rear extension including widening of dormer. Construction and siting of summerhouse
Allowed

SE/06/03039 **109 Evelyn Road**

Single storey rear extension. Loft conversion with rear dormer
Refused

SE/06/03125 **Springfield 17 Hillydeal Road**

Conversion of existing double garage to an exercise gym, erection of first floor extension over existing front entrance/porch and erection of single story extension to rear to provide a conservatory and exercise pool
Allowed

SE/06/03265 **11A Hillydeal Road**

Erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions
Allowed

SE/06/03338 **7 Bubblestone Road**

Conservatory at rear of property
Allowed

SE/06/03339 **15 Telston Lane**

Proposed two storey side, single storey rear extension with internal alterations
Allowed

SE/06/03230 **76 High Street**

Demolition of conservatory and erection of single and two storey extensions together with window and flat roof alterations. As amended by plan received 11.01.07
Allowed

SE/06/03343 **Pond House The Green**

Internal alterations to re-open a fireplace, replace an internal door and the installation of above cupboards
Allowed

e. Tree Work in Conservation Area

LJ/TPO 7 2007 **New Forge House High Street**

To note the making of a TPO on a beech tree at the rear of the property.

Don't forget the clocks go forward on Sunday 25th March at 1am

A Happy, Peaceful and Joyous Easter to



you all and lots of chocolate!