

Otford Parish Council
March Newsletter 2009
No 177

Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002
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Otford Pond Update



The parish council believed it had permission to complete the work, which started in 2006, and continued in 2008 but it then appeared permission had expired in 2007 and the Parish Council was ordered to stop work in 2008.

The work could not be done as originally specified which involved pouring concrete behind the existing wall to stop roots going through and pushing the facing down because, when the pond was drained to repuddle the base, it was found the 'wall' was simply a crumbling facing of lumps of ragstone which would have fallen (as they have done in the past) if disturbed.

A wall of concrete blocks was therefore built on the chalk base and original stones, probably from the ruins of the Palace, were cemented to it. The concrete wall would of course be behind the stones and not be visible.

Sevenoaks District Council Conservation Officer and Planning Officers said this was not the same as when the pond was listed in 1975. However, until 2006 nobody had seen what the facing looked like and realised how insecure it was and the risks of collapse and leakage.

A fresh Listed Building Application was submitted but, when discussed at the Development Control meeting last month, councillors voted 7:5 against the parish's wish to build a secure pond facing.

After further discussions with SDC Officers the Parish Council has decided to reapply for permission providing further and new evidence of the history and recent state of the pond facing, to convince Officers and Members of the need to ensure that this highly valued and listed structure should be as safe and secure as possible. The parish will also appeal against the past decision; this is expected to take some time, and the result of our resubmission will probably come first.

A great deal of work is being done on this basis at the moment, however the contractor could not start work until the weather is suitable, and this is likely to be May/June.

We can assure you of the frustration felt by the council, and that several people are working to convince SDC that a listed pond has to be functional. Other listed buildings above ground can simply be picturesque ruins; ponds must hold water - safely.

Otford Village Fete- Monday 25th May



The theme for this years fete is 'FANTASY' so come on get your imaginations working and take part in the annual parade which precedes the fete. You will be most welcome. Elands Veterinary Clinic will be running the DOG SHOW again this year which was such a popular success last year even though the weather was dreadful. So get those beloved pooches scrubbed up and looking their best. More information about the Fete will be published in subsequent newsletters and on the website www.otford.info/villagefete

Police / Warden Surgery

Our PCSO Jane Wright will be holding a surgery with Paul Robertson our KCC Community Warden on Tuesday 14th April at School House between 11am and 12 noon. Come and see them if you have any concerns.

Please be aware that bogus callers have been going around the village. Remember to make sure you are shown some id by the caller which you can phone to check first, always use a door chain if you have one and remember you DO NOT have to open your door.

Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge



On 1st May Paul (our Community Warden) Dave (our ex PCSO) and Sue (Assistant Clerk) will be completing the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge covering 26 miles in 12 hours including climbing 3 peaks.

Money raised will go to the Over 60's Club and to the Otford Primary Swimming Pool Appeal. Please support us if you can. Thank you. Sponsorship forms in Primary School and Parish Council Offices.

Otford Society AGM

The Otford Society AGM will be held in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Thursday 26th March at 8pm. The speaker will be from a local charity.

Indoor Boot Fair



There will be an Indoor Boot Fair at Otford Village Hall on Saturday 4th April. Doors will open at 8.30am and last entrance will be 12 noon. Entrance will be 50p. To book a table at a cost of £8.50 please contact Sharon Taylor on 01732 463108. Sharon is taking part in the challenge of the Breast Cancer Care Trek in Peru this September.

Otford Gardeners' Spring Show



The SPRING SHOW will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 28th March between 2.15pm - 4.15pm, admission 50p, under 16's free. Refreshments are available till 4pm. There is an Easter Bonnet competition for under 16's. There are three age groups, under 8's, 8-11's and 12 and over. Anybody can take part and decorated hats should be brought to the hall between 9.30am and 11am on the day of the judging

The next meeting of the Otford Gardeners' Society will take place on Tuesday 7th April when Mark Nelson the head gardener from Emmetts Garden will talk about his travels in *'Gardening on the roof of the World - plant collecting in the Himalayas'* Meetings start at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Admission is 50p for members and £1 for non-members to include refreshments.

Girlguiding in Otford

Following the recruitment of 3 new leaders, 3rd Otford Guides are 'up and running' again. The unit is open to any girl aged 10 - 14 and they currently have spaces available. Being a Guide is all about learning new skills, making your own decisions, having fun, making new friends and achieving personal goals within a safe environment. Any girls wishing to join can contact the new unit leader Linda Stromberg on 01959 523897. Both the Rainbow unit (girls aged 5 - 7) and the Brownie unit (girls aged 7 - 10) are full at the moment but you can add girl's names to the waiting list by contacting Esther Collens on 01959 524671 for Rainbows or Jane Woodrow-Clark on 01959 523342 for Brownies.

Otford Methodist Church

Otford Methodist Church would like to invite all ladies to a Women's Breakfast in their Church Hall on Saturday 4th April at 8.30am. You will be offered a splendid continental breakfast followed by a talk from Phillip Jasper Herbert who retired in 2002 from a lifetime in fashion and showrooms in Berkeley Square. The cost is £4 on the door. For more information please call Margaret on 01959 522046 or Sue at johnandsueward@btinternet.com

Otford Oast WI

On Thursday 23rd April they will have a talk about *'Kent Air Ambulance'* 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 Afternoon WI

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th April when there will be a talk by local historian Bob Ogley on *'Kent in the 19th Century'* For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

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.

St George's Day / Shakespeare Birthday Celebration



On Thursday 23rd April the flag of St George will be flying on Otford Green, and in the Village Hall at 7.30pm the Otford Society will be holding a community celebration of St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday. All are welcome to attend this annual event. There will be a cold supper with dessert and coffee or tea, but please bring your own drinks and glasses - especially if you want to join in the toast. Traditional songs will be sung: folk singer John Morgan will entertain: English verse will be spoken and there will be an illustrated presentation called 'An English Journey' Admission by ticket only £12. Please ring 01959 522709 and please book early or you may be disappointed.

Otford Evening WI

At their February meeting there was a good attendance despite the snowy weather to hear David Manz from the Kent Air Ambulance Trust explain about their work and illustrated with slides including the rescue helicopter landing in Maidstone High Street! Every donation, however small, is vital to help them carry on with their work. The next meeting on 12th March Karen Gambrell talked about Canterbury Cathedral, past, present and future. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month and start at 7.30pm in the Otford Memorial Hall and visitors are very welcome.

They are an active and friendly group and forthcoming speakers include Alan Harvey from Plaxtol Nurseries on 'Hanging baskets' in June, a retired Beefeater entertaining them with 'Living with ghosts in the Tower' in August and in September Senior Detective John Pearce (ret'd) will help them solve 'The Mystery of the Missing Nurse'. They will also be manning their usual cake stall at the village fete. For more information please contact Diana Jeremiah on 01959 522981.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2008/2009 lecture season continues on Thursday 9th April This includes the AGM at 7.30pm and then Louise Schofield will talk about *'From Troy to Mycenae: In search of Homer's Heroes'* The meetings are held at Walthamstow Hall Senior School, Hollybush Lane, commencing at 8.15pm. Please contact Mrs Maggie Llanwarne on 01732 460709 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information and membership.

Oxford Allotments Association

"Mamma Mia, here we go again, my my.....etc. Yes here we go again to get our allotment plots tidied after the winter frosts but which, should have broken up the soil so not quite so much to do - hopefully. We still have some patient souls waiting for plots so, please, let me know (Barbara Hine 525468) if you are struggling to keep up.

Allotment gardening is becoming more and more popular so hang in there if you can."

Oxford Library

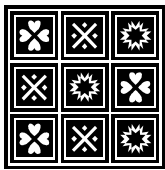
Oxford Library will be holding a talk by Carol Griffiths on Monday 30th March at 7.30pm called *'The Other Man on the Beagle'*. Tickets are available from the library.

Also Storytime for under 5's is held at Oxford Library every Tuesday at 2.15pm until 3.00pm. All are Welcome.

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 be on 19th March when Barbara Peacock will talk about *'Visions of Arcadia - The Creation of the Georgian Landscape Park'* Then on 16th April Jane Angelini will talk about *'Art and Tradition: Greek and Russian Icons'*. The Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm and finish by 3pm. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society please contact Alison Davis on 01732 780453.

Hope Quilters Group



The Hope Quilters who meet in Oxford Village Hall are holding their very first Quilt & Textile Exhibition at the Hall on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd May from 10am to 5pm each day with the proceeds going to both Breast Cancer Care and the Village Hall New Chairs Appeal

Oxford & District Historical Society

The next meeting of the Oxford & District Historical Society will take place on 15th April when Jonathan Fenner will talk about 'The Darent Valley'. Membership is just £5 per year and visitors are welcome to all meetings for just £1.

Oxford 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

March

25th - Carol Griffiths - *'The other man on the Beagle'*

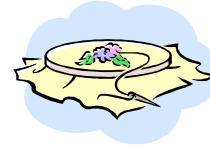
April

1st - Easter Meditation

8th / 15th - No Meetings

22nd - Robert Bright - *a master tailor*

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild



The next meeting will take place in Oxford Church Hall (NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE) on Saturday 28th March when Linda Miller will talk about *'In stitches'*. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

Picture of the Month



The artist for March / April is Chris Towers and his watercolour picture is entitled 'The Buddhist Monk' He painted it using photographs and sketches made during a visit to India and Bhutan. He found Bhutan very interesting with all buildings being constructed and decorated in traditional style by law, and the people wearing the traditional costumes. The people do not mind being photographed, nor do the monks while playing musical instruments or turning prayer wheels. Chris has also painted a series of pictures of the area in both watercolour and acrylics. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Oxford Methodist Church

Sunday 5th April Please join us for the village Palm Sunday Procession starting at 10.45 from the Methodist Church Car Park to the Village Green for an open air joint service with the other village churches.

Sunday 5th April We would like to invite you to join us for a special all age cafe evening at 5pm with Betty's Buddies Puppets. High Tea will be provided.

Easter Services

Thursday 9th April 8pm Maundy Thursday United Communion

Friday 10th April 10.30am Good Friday Service followed by hot cross buns

Sunday 12th April Easter Day Services at 8am, 10.30 am and 6.30pm

Aikido in Oxford



If you are aged 16 and over and interested in learning a defensive martial art and in improving flexibility, co-ordination, balance and quick reaction, then come and join our Aikido classes. Aikido is based on the use of circular movements by which an attacker's aggressive force is turned against itself and is an effective method of practical self defence. Beginners are individually taught the

basics of Aikido before being absorbed into the main class. We have been teaching in Otford for many years and have very experienced instructors who coach in a friendly but controlled environment. Why not come along and see for yourself at The Scout Hut, Station Road, Otford on Tuesdays 8.00pm – 10.00pm or Sundays 7.45pm – 9.45pm. For more information please ring 01959 522011 or visit the website at www.otfordaikido.co.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 7th April** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

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 - 291

2nd Prize £15 - 177

3rd Prize £10 - 46



The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council 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/08/03401 1 Tudor Crescent

Erection of two first floor side extensions

SE/09/00120 73 Willow Park

Conversion of existing conservatory to garden room

SE/09/00144 Defiant House Vestry Industrial Estate, Vestry Road

Demolition of detached boiler house. Demolition of single storey part of building and construction of wall to retained building. Replacement of dilapidated link. Infilling of door openings and Sevenoaks provision of new window and door openings, internal layout. Re-submission of SE/08/00856/FUL alterations. Provision of new parking bays, paths and resurfacing. Replacement of fence and provision of new gates. Change of use to sui generis - Royal Mail delivery office

SE/09/00243 2a The Butts

Addition of bay window to rear of living room.

Conversion of part of double garage into study.

Change one pair of sliding doors in rear elevation to French casement doors

SE/09/00233 10 Beechy Lees Road-Kemsing Parish

Side garage enlargement

b. Results received

SE/08/02416 Otford Village Pond The Green

Retrospective removal of walls and reconstruction including associated engineering works - LBC

Refused

SE/08/03391 2 Flowerfield

Two storey side and single storey rear extension

Refused

SE/08/03386 Greenhill Manor 17 Greenhill Road

Replacement dwelling including detached garage and associated access, as amended by drawings and letter received on 09/02/09.

Allowed

c. Amended applications

SE/08/02758 Land adj to Mount Path Cottage Pilgrims Way East

Re-profiling, widening and surfacing of existing track from Pilgrims Way East to Clan Cottage and High Point, and creation of a vehicle access and parking area on land at Clan Cottage, as amended by further details received on 17/11/08, 25/11/08, 17/12/08, 21/12/08 and 21/01/09

d. Planning appeals

SE/08/01420 Orchard Hey Rye Lane

Alterations and extensions to an existing chalet bungalow with removal of existing detached garage used as part of permitted area for extension

Appeal dismissed

SE/08/01780 Land north of Pilgrims Oasts Station Road

New 4 bed detached dwelling *Appeal dismissed*

SE/08/02255 Oakwood, Shoreham Road

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 x 4 bed dwellings together with associated alterations to accessing arrangements and landscaping works - appeal date for informal hearing set at 10.00 on 23.04.09 at Sevenoaks Town Council offices.

e. Tree Work in Conservation Area

09/00213/WTCA Otford Village Pond, The Green Works to weeping willow trees

TPO/05/2009 11-14 Hopfield Close

Making of a TPO on poplars to rear

09/00378/WTCA St Bartholomew's Church

Various works to trees

The Parish Council apologises if dates have gone past when you receive your newsletter as timings for deliveries cannot always be guaranteed due to pressure on our local printer and on the volunteer deliverers. Thank you.



Don't forget the clocks go forward on Sunday 29th March

