

Otford Parish Council
May Newsletter 2008
No 168

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

Clerk: Mrs. B.J. Darby

The School House, 21, High Street, Otford,
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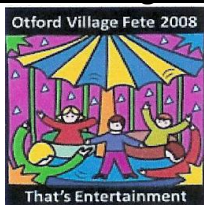
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Otford Village Fete



The Otford Village Fete will take on the Bank Holiday **Monday 26th May commencing at 1pm.**

The procession will start from Hale Lane at 12.30pm. The theme this year is *'That's Entertainment'* Also if you love your dog, then this is your year. Otford will vie with Crufts in a really extensive dog show and competition open to every pooch (and its owner) in Otford. It is being professionally organised by Elands Veterinary Clinic. So if your dog is big or small/ a puppy or just a puppy at heart and pawing you to be there on the day, contact Elands for an entry form (01732 452333). Please go along and support the fete and have a great time

PLEASE NOTE that the village car park will be closed on the day so please if you park there normally overnight can you relocate your vehicle elsewhere on this one occasion. Many thanks.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 5th June** between 11am and 12.30pm at School House. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Otford Village Memorial Hall

Otford Village Memorial Hall is urgently looking for a new Hall manager to replace Michael who is now leaving after 10+ years' service. The role involves general maintenance work and liaison with hirers and assisting in the day-to-day running of the Hall. The new manager would be required to attend the Hall for a couple of hours each morning Monday to Friday

and to assist with clearing up and locking up after weekend social events, currently around nine or ten this year. There will also be occasions when the Hall will need to be opened at other times but these are kept to a minimum. This position would, ideally suit someone who has taken early retirement and is looking for some part-time work. An attractive salary package is available to the right applicant. For further details or a brief chat please call Ron Dullage on 01959 522007

Otford Allotments Association

Otford allotments continue to provide good therapy and gardening rewards for those lucky enough to have a plot. We are now in the busy season so most people are working hard when weather permits. We will be running a stall at the fete at the end of the month so do come and say hello and join in the fun of the 'gardening game' or if you would like a guided tour of the allotment sites in peace and quiet at any other time please ring Barbara Hine on 01959 525468 or call into the Parish office any weekday morning.

Otford Community Warden

Paul Robertson our Community Warden will be holding a weekly surgery to discuss any problems and community issues at School House every Tuesday between 11am and 12 noon.

Otford Library

Local author **Chris McCooney** will be coming to Otford Library on **Wednesday 28th May** at 7pm to talk about his books on the past weird and wacky People of Kent. It should be an interesting evening. Tickets are £2 available from the Library.

Otford Solar System

A new 56 page colour book written by David Thomas on the Otford Solar System and 'Life as we know it' is now available from the Heritage Centre for £7. A copy had been sent to Sir Patrick Moore who has replied to David that it is a 'great fun book' and he will be writing a review for 'The Sky at Night' magazine.

Otford Primary School Fete

As everyone's thoughts turn to summer, here is a early reminder to 'keep the date free' for the Otford Primary School Summer Fete being held on **Saturday 5th July** at 12 noon. It is always an immensely popular event with lots of stalls and attractions. There will be arena events, an inflatable assault course and mega slide, teas and cakes, a grand raffle, BBQ and beer tent, face painting and

lots, lots more. Entrance is 70p and children are free. Come along and support your local school - it's sure to be fun for all the family.

Scouting in Otford

Otford Scout Group is flourishing. We now have nearly 90 boys and girls aged 6 to 15 from Otford and the surrounding area regularly attending, not just meetings, but also climbing, abseiling, pioneering, going on outings and camps etc, etc. The only thing we lack is leaders! Our Scout section (11 to 15yrs) now has 30 members, attending meetings on either Monday or Friday, and in both groups the present leaders will stand down in the summer. Can you help? We have volunteers to support both sections but need regular leaders. Lack of experience is not a problem, as full support will be given by others in the group and there is training available. **PLEASE HELP US KEEP SCOUTS IN OTFORD.** If you would like to know more about us, please ring Ray Groom on 01959 515413.

Otford Gardeners' Society

The next meeting of the Otford Gardeners' Society will take place on **Tuesday 3rd June** when Jackie Aviolet will talk about 'Hardy Geraniums' and there will be a selection of nursery grown plants for sale. Meetings start at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Admission is 50p for members and £1 for non-members to include refreshments.

3 Peaks Challenge



Please support Dave, Paul and Sue as they take up this challenge to raise money for Otford Primary and Shoreham Pre - School. Sponsorship forms are available in the Parish Council Office and Telston Stores. Many thanks.

There will be a Garage Sale at Shoreham House, Church Street, Shoreham on **Saturday 31st May** from 10.45am to raise money for the 3 Peaks Challenge. Please go and support if you can.

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 the **19th June** when James Malpas will give a talk on 'The beginnings of Abstraction: Kandinsky and the Blue Rider Group'. 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 and Alison Davis on 01732 780453.

Otford Afternoon WI

The Otford Afternoon WI's next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 10th June** when they will have a light hearted afternoon with Martin Harrison and 'Comic Songs and Singers' Resolutions meeting and also a Quiz and Social Time. For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736

Otford Oast WI

On **Thursday 19th June** Dr Suzanne Henwood, NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming) Master Practitioner, will be talking about how to help children learn to spell more effectively and confidently. 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 Wine Club

As usual the Otford & District Wine Club will be running an Ice Cream stall at the Otford fete on Monday 26th May and they need help from the members to man it. If you could come along and put in an hour or so stuffing cones with ice cream it would be most appreciated. The last 3 ice cream stalls have been dismal failures, due to the weather, so please help to make this one a success. Then on **Sunday 29th June**, they will be holding their annual BBQ at Sidehill, Pilgrims Way, Kensing starting at 12.30pm. Please bring your own liquid refreshment, glasses, chairs and cutlery. Members are free but guests will be charged £5. Most of you know the location and where to park, but if you have any queries, ring the Secretary on 01732 761359. Please put these dates in your diary and pray for good weather!

Book Fair

The next Otford & Sevenoaks Book Fair is on **Saturday 14th June** at Otford Village Memorial Hall from 9am to 2.30pm. Admission is FREE. There will be 1000's of second hand books for sale both for the collector and avid reader. Any enquiries to Stephen Marshall on 01892 618191

Picture of the Month

The artist for May / June is Jean Cowhie. Jean has had a love of drawing and painting since childhood. It was after becoming a widow she took to painting more seriously as an antidote to teaching children in

Kent. Jean visited friends in England and Australia with her paint box and went on trips to France, Italy, Spain and Portugal learning about the techniques of painting in her favourite medium of watercolour from specialists. She now enjoys sharing her love of painting landscapes and still life at the Otford Art Group. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2007/2008 lecture season continues on **12th June** with Dr David Bostwick talking about *'Proud Northern Lady: Lady Anne Clifford 1590-1676'*. Please contact Mrs Maggie Llanwarne on 01732 460709 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information and membership.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 31st May** with a talk by Roz Snowden on *'Miniature Textiles and Lace'*. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

The Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild have opened an exhibition of their work at the Heritage Centre. Their inspirational designs and incredibly detailed pieces count among some of the finest local work in this medium. See it and wonder. For further information please contact Pat Curtis on 01959 532391. The Heritage Centre is open everyday from 9am to 12 noon and every weekend afternoon from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Nature Walk

There will be a guided woodland walk on **Saturday 24th May** around the hidden gem of Oxenhill Meadow & Shaw by the SDC forestry and woodland consultant Jonathan Webb. Meet at the gate at the end of Tudor Drive by 2pm. The walk will be no longer than two hours, there is no charge, no need to book and dogs on leads are welcome. Come and have a look at this fascinating and unique site.

Otford 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

May

21st - Pub Lunch

28th - No meeting

June

4th - NCH Tea Party

11th Outing to Yalding

18th - Missionary Garden Party - Water Aid in Ethiopia

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 3rd June** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Otford & District Historical Society

The Otford & District Historical Society are going on a half day trip to Bateman's, Burwash, East Sussex on **Wednesday 28th May** starting at 1pm with the coach pick up from Otford Pond. Following the society's recent talk on Rudyard Kipling they will be visiting the home where he lived from 1902 until his death in 1936, with the interiors much as he left them, including his book lined study. The 17thC house is set in delightful and varied grounds through which flows the River Dudwell, powering the watermill. Tea is available at the National Trust café.

The total cost is £19 per head but National Trust members go for £13.50. For more details please contact 01959 522384.

Footballs

A number of footballs have been handed into the Parish Council office, that have been brought in after they have been kicked into a garden in Saxon Close. If the owners would like to identify them and retrieve them some time. Thank you.

St Bartholomew's Church Fair



Have a lovely family afternoon out and go along to St Bartholomew's Church Fair, on **Saturday 21st June** at 2pm in the beautiful grounds of Castle House, by kind permission of the owners. Stalls will include Plants, Cakes, Toys, Crafts, Music, White Elephant, Books, and other attractions. Refreshments will be served all day. Programmes will be on sale before the fair and on the gate for 50p children under 5 free.

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 April TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 318

2nd Prize £15 - 426

3rd Prize £10 - 350

Thank you

Wolfgang and Ellen Bratby's family of 39 Tudor Drive would like to thank wholeheartedly everyone in Otford for the overwhelming attendance at the Thanksgiving Service held on the 22nd April, the morale support over the past months and the hundreds and hundreds of cards and letters of sympathy in respect of the untimely death of 'Granny Sally' at the end of February. She will be greatly missed by her family and the wider community of Otford.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Otford Colts for winning the Jack Standen Cup against LESSA Albion Reserves Football Club by 2 goals to 1 at Bromley Football Club earlier this month. The first goal was scored by Luke Blackaby and the winning penalty goal was scored towards the end of the second half by Billy Chapman. The age range of the Colts spans from their youngest player who is just 17 to the oldest at 47 and it was their sheer enthusiasm, loyalty and enjoyment of the game that carried them to victory. Well done.

Rockdale Diamond Jubilee Ball

The Rockdale Diamond Jubilee Ball will be taking place **on Saturday 21st June** at Wildernesse Golf Club in Seal. It will be a glittering occasion to celebrate 60 years of Rockdale providing services for the elderly in Sevenoaks. There will be a champagne reception for up to 200 guests at 7pm, followed by dinner at 7.30pm. During the evening there will be two magicians providing entertainment. Also James Braxton will be attending from BBC's 'Flog It' programme. After dinner there will be dancing to the 'Masqueraders Band' in the Marquee. Tickets are £75 each and the tables will be set for 8 people. Do not miss this special occasion on the longest day of the year. Please contact 01732 458762 for more details.

South East Open Studios

The South East Open Studios will be running from **6th to 22nd June**. During this time artists open their houses and studios, discuss their work and explain their techniques and of course you can buy their work. Free guides and maps are available from the Heritage Centre and Library.

Hedges

Hedges are growing very quickly at the moment and a number in the village have grown over the public footway and are causing a nuisance to pedestrians, especially those who have poor sight, use wheelchairs

or double buggies. Please check the boundaries of the property you are in and if necessary please arrange for it to be cut back from the footway as soon as possible. Thank you.

Planning

The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council in May. 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/08/00856 **Block 12, Vestry Industrial Estate**

Royal Mail delivery and sorting office

SE/08/00926 **18 Tudor Crescent**

First floor and single storey rear extensions loft conversion including front and rear rooflights and detached garage

SE/08/01087 **28 Ryecroft Road**

Erection of two terraced houses

SE/08/01112 **28 Ryecroft Road**

Erection of end terrace house

SE/08/01001 **Land adj 41 Knighton Road**

Erection of detached single storey 2 bedroom bungalow

SE/08/01136 **1 Wickham Field**

Erection of dwelling within curtilage

b. Results received

SE/08/00209 **16 High Street**

Two storey rear extension to form self contained flat above. Internal alterations and alterations to shop front

Allowed

SE/08/00384 **11 Coombe Road**

First floor side extension to provide en-suite bathroom (approx 3.5m x 1.5m) with windows to front and rear

Allowed

SE/07/03587 **5 Ryecroft Road**

Erection of single storey front extension, porch and first floor side extension

Allowed

SE/08/00481 **21 Pilgrims Way W**

Single storey rear conservatory

Allowed

SE/08/00335 **Sainsbury Petrol Filling Station**

Replacement totem sign, replacement of forecourt canopy signage, new fascia to kiosk new door sign adjacent to sliding door

Allowed

c. Amended applications

SE/08/00430 **Workshop to the rear of Block 13 Vestry Estate**

Subdivision of Block 13 to retain existing B1(c) use and creation of separate workshop for MOT testing and vehicle repairs

d. Planning appeals

SE/07/01074 **Land to the side of 17 Greenhill Road**

New detached chalet bungalow - Appeal against refusal by SDC

Appeal dismissed