Otford Parish Council
May Newsletter 2009
No 179

Otford Village Fete - Monday 25th May

With only a few days to go until the annual village fete, final preparations are being made and new attractions being booked. You can find a complete programme on our website www.otford.info/villagefete

As in previous years there will be a procession through the village. This will start at Hale Lane at 12 noon and travel through the High Street, round the pond and into the Recreation Ground, arriving about 12.30pm. The Fete will officially open at 1.00pm although visitors will be able to gain entry from 11.30am in order to register for the Dog Show. The attractions will not begin until 12.30pm.

Visitors who wish to take part in the Teddy Bear's Picnic should also bring their bears to the Fete and register at the Bear Marquee, which will be located centrally on the Recreation Ground.

We still need volunteers to assist setting up on the day. This is your fete and we need your help. Please email villagefete@otford.net if you are able to help, even a couple of hours would be wonderful.

Otford Pond

A new listed building application was submitted to Sevenoaks District Council on Monday 20th April. We now await their decision!!! The Parish Council hopes it will be returned to the Pond we all love very soon.

Otford Lunch Club

Do you live alone, confess to feeling lonely just occasionally? Why not try coming to the Lunch Club held here in Otford Village Hall on Thursdays. It is not just a lunch, it's a way of meeting residents that a few years ago you would have seen and conversed with at our now non existing food shops in the High Street. So long as you are over 60 you would be made very welcome. After all 80 is now the new 60 we are told! Transport can be arranged. To find out more please ring 01959 522789

Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge

Dave, Paul & Sue did it! We took just 10hrs 44minutes to complete so well under the 12 hr challenge. The weather was very kind on the day and although it was a very, very long walk and the hills were very steep and the feet, knees and legs were very very sore it was great fun. Thank you to everyone who very kindly sponsored us and we will let you know next month how much we collected and to who it has be presented to. Thinking already of next years challenge!!

Congratulations Paul

Our congratulations to our Kent County Council Community Warden Paul Robertson who was KCC Warden of the Month for February. During the heavy snow fall he walked 6 miles to and from his home to check on the more vulnerable residents in Otford & Shoreham. This shows the fantastic commitment he has to his role. Well Done

Information

Be on your guard if anyone tries to sell to you on your doorstep. Known conmen have been selling carpet door to door in the Sevenoaks area. The cons include carpet not being delivered when the full money has been paid; sample shown being different to what is delivered and customers being shown rolled up carpet which is faulty in the middle.

Don’t part with your money on the doorstep and never part with money upfront.

Otford Clubs & Associations Showcase

On Saturday 16th May between 10am and 3pm there will be a carnival atmosphere at the Memorial Hall. Almost all the clubs and associations in Otford will be there. It will be a bit like a ‘freshers day’ event. You’ll be able to find out about what is on offer and what clubs you might like to join. Sports, Art, Quilling, Petanque, you name it! There will be tea and coffee available on the stage. Another event to bring our community together. Be certain to visit. You won’t go away empty handed.

Otford Cricket Club

Otford Cricket Club now has over 175 junior and senior members and has been looking to improve the cricket facilities available on the Recreation Ground. A new permanent cricket net facility is proposed which will be available for all users of the Recreation Ground.
This is an important development for the Club and the recreation facilities available to the village. The cost of over £20,000 will be borne by the cricket club with the help of grant funding. The ongoing maintenance will also be the responsibility of the cricket club. For more information and pictures please look at details on otford.info.

**Longacre Nursery**
On behalf of Longacre Day Nursery they would like to congratulate the hard work of the staff and thank the families for their support which has resulted in the nursery obtaining an OUTSTANDING in their recent Ofsted inspection.

**Otford Links with Neufchatel-Hardelot**
Unfortunately formal twinning with Precigne has not been as successful as we would have liked, although informal links may continue. However, we are in contact with Neufchatel-Hardelot, which is a town with a population of £3,700 on the Pas-de-Calais coast, just south of Boulogne, offering a lovely sandy beach as well as good sporting and cultural facilities. This should enable visits to or from either side of the Channel to be completed within a day. We believe this will be of interest to many individuals and families in Otford and surrounding areas. To this end there will be a visit on **Saturday 16th May** 2009 to Otford Recreation Ground of 2 teams of 8 young French footballers aged 9-10 who will play against local footballers. The matches will start at 11am. Do come along, support them and meet them. We are hoping to develop direct relationships between individuals and families as well as clubs and societies on both sides of the Channel. Please look up their website for more details, maps etc [www.villeneufchatelhardelot.fr](http://www.villeneufchatelhardelot.fr) Anyone interested in pursuing these ideas further could they please forward contact details together with any particular interests direct to the Otford Parish office on Tel number / email shown at the top of this newsletter.

**Otford Petanque Club**
Every Thursday at 2.30pm the Otford Petanque Club plays on the new purpose-built terrain in the High Street Recreation Ground and makes good use of the tea making facilities in the nearby Eric Dillely Pavilion. Why not join them? You would be most welcome and no previous experience is required. For further information contact the club secretary Margaret Chandler on 01959 523620

**Otford Allotments**
We still have quite a few gardeners waiting for plots, but don’t let that put you off applying for one if you are also a keen gardener in waiting. We have an annual ‘Open Day’ on the morning of the 18th July when all are welcome to come and have a guided look around, but if anyone would like a personal guided tour before that please ring Barbara Hine who would be most pleased to hear from you on 01959 525468 to make an arrangement.

**St Michael’s School Grounds**
A gentle reminder to local residents, that there are no rights of way or public footpaths across the land belonging to St Michael’s School. This includes the area known as ‘The Warren’. The Parish Council holds plans of the area should you wish to familiarise yourself with the area. The School grounds are bounded to the north by the North Downs Way and to the South by the Pilgrims Way.

**Poppy Appeal**
The Poppy Appeal is looking for a co-ordinator in Otford. Please contact County co-ordinator Mrs Anne Hill on 01227 770217 or County Staff Contact Mrs Clare Saunders on 01622 791269. Mrs Hill would be happy to meet someone to talk about the duties etc.

**Otford Gardeners’ Society**
The next meeting of the Otford Gardeners’ Society will take place on **Tuesday 3rd June** when John Edwards-Winser will talk about Beekeeping. There will also of course be a Plant Stall at the Otford Fete. Meetings start at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Admission is 50p for members and £1 for non-members to include refreshments.

**Otford Oast WI**
On **Thursday 21st May** they will be talking and voting on this year’s resolutions. 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. On **9th June** Mrs M Martin will provide a light hearted afternoon with ‘Poetry that pleases’ 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.

**The Darent Valley Choir Spring Concert**
Ben Odom, the Musical Director has chosen the very moving music of Bach’s St John Passion for the choir’s next concert. The date is **Saturday 30th May** at 7.30pm in the United Reform Church (Christ Church), Littlecourt Road, Sevenoaks, just below the train station. Please join them for this lovely music.

**St Bartholomew's Church Fair**
Have a lovely family afternoon out and go along to St Bartholomew’s Church Fair on **Saturday 20th 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 & District Wine Club**
The Committee of the Otford & District Wine Club hope that members have enjoyed our Winter programme of events most of which were well attended. Our Summer programme begins with our Ice Cream Stall at the Otford Fete on Monday 25th May. Please come along and help out if you can – it can be good fun in fine weather! After that we have the BBQ on Sunday 5th July, beginning at 12.30pm with the usual range of delicious food and games. It would be appreciated if the members could volunteer to make salads. As usual it is free to members but guests will be charged £5. On Saturday 1st August we have our outing to see ‘The Wizard of Oz’ by the Riverside Players. Then we will be back in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 30th September for our flu-free Mexican Evening! So you have plenty to look forward to! Please ring the Secretary on 01732 761359 if you have any queries about any of these events. Have a good Summer.

**Otford Evening WI**
Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month and start at 7.30pm in the Otford Memorial Hall. For more information please contact Diana Jeremiah on 01959 523752.

**What a load of Rubbish**
Can you imagine the whole of the Vestry Estate covered with rubbish? That’s how it was in the 1920’s. Imagine it with a huge quarry taking up most of the area. That was the scene in the 1860’s when it was supplying the bricks to build Sevenoaks. In the Heritage Centre (School House, High Street) you can actually see detailed models of what it really looked like as it underwent so much change. Fascinating displays of Victorian bottles and pot lids, all dug up from the Vestry along with contemporary photos of work in the brick works; give us a glimpse of what Victorian life was like in Otford. A great display and well worth a visit. The Heritage Centre is open weekdays from 9am – 12 noon and weekends from 2.30pm – 4.30pm.

**Sevenoaks DFAS**
The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2008/2009 lecture season continues on Thursday 11th June when Dr David Bostwick will talk about ‘Getting plasteres: The Art of Conservation of English Decorative Plasterwork 1570 – 1700’. 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.

**Kemsing Singers**
‘Madrigals to Musicals’ is the title for the annual Spring Concert of the Kemsing Singers. The performance will consist of a varied and tuneful programme of words and music. It will be in St Edith’s Hall, Kemsing at 8pm on Saturday 16th May. The choir will be directed by Len Ross and accompanied by Edwin Davis. Tickets at only £6, £5 concessions and £4 children are available from the box office on 01959 523752

**Otford Players**
Otford Players were delighted to have got going again with their recent production of Pick & Mix, and judging by the full houses on both nights you too were delighted. Thanks to all who came and supported us. Inspired by this we are now working on our next production in early November and hope to offer you something a little different. You will shortly receive a leaflet through your door (you may have already received it) giving you more detail and hopefully get more of you to come and join in – a warm welcome is waiting.

**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 21st May when Janet Canetty-Clarke will talk about ‘The Rake’s Progress: Stravinsky, Hogarth and Hockney’ 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.

**Nepal Trek Presentation**
There will be a presentation by Tony Grogan on his Trek in Nepal which he did in 2008 to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support in St Bartholomew’s Church Centre on Tuesday 14th July commencing at 8pm.

**Eynsford County Market**
Spring is nearly here- we hope and it is the time to get your garden sorted. Did you know you can get an excellent selection of bedding plants and perennials each week at the Eynsford Country Market. Whilst there, why not stock up on your homemade cakes, pastries, savouries, jams, pickles and home grown vegetables. Birthdays coming up find something on the craft stall and then finish off with a cup of tea and home made cake. The market is held every Friday between 2pm and 3pm in Eynsford Village Hall. This is opposite the Castle Pub and parking is available by Eynsford Castle.

**Sevenoaks Embroiderers’ Guild**
The next meeting of the Sevenoaks Embroiderers’ Guild will be on Saturday 30th May in Otford Village Memorial Hall when there will be All day workshops with Kathleen Laurel Sage. For more information please call 0208 304 4416.

**Picture of the Month**
The artist for May/June is Sheila Dickerson. Sheila has been painting for a number of years with a particular interest in botanical art. She paints mainly in watercolour; a
The winning numbers of the April TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 240
2nd Prize £15 - 301
3rd Prize £10 - 409

Orienteering
There was a record turnout of 140 competitors at the Kent Orienteering League event at Lullingstone on 18th April with lots of families and newcomers having a go.

If you want to try orienteering there is now a permanent practise course at Lullingstone Park (maps from the visitors centre). It is more fun to try the sport at an organised event where help can be obtained. The next local event is on Sunday 14th June in Knole Park. Email newcomers@dfok.co.uk for further details.

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/09/00616 22 Warham Road
Demolition of existing conservatory and new replacement conservatory SE/09/00670 26 Rye Lane
Demolition of existing conservatory, Single storey rear extension with single storey infill extension to side. Resubmission of SE/08/03394 SE/09/00631 17 Greenhill Road
Demolition of existing dwelling and garage.
Erection of replacement dwelling with detached garage and associated access
SE/09/00643 The Old Oast House Shoreham Road
Erection of dwelling in garden of The Old Oast House - SE/09/00749 8 Hillydeal Road
Demolition of existing two storey house and erection of new detached two storey house with accommodation in roof and double garage
SE/09/00858 Otford Village Pond
Retrospective removal of pond walls and reconstruction including associated engineering works

b. Results received

SE/09/00144 Defiant House Vestry Estate
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 provision of new window and door openings, internal layout. Provision of new parking bays, paths and resurfacing. Replacement of fence and provision of new gates. Change of use to sui generic Royal Mail Delivery Office
Withdrawn
SE/09/00327 Arum House17 The Butts
Conversion of existing double garage at front to form a habitable room. Erection of single garage at side. Alterations to the access to the highway and formation of a new vehicular access
Allowed

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.