

Otford Parish Council November Newsletter 2002

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Village of the Year 2002 Otford – National Judges

Sunday 17th brought us to the final stage of the Calor Gas 'Village of The Year' competition. The day was foggy but dry when the four National Judges arrived at the village hall together with the competition organiser and the Events and Communications Manager from Calor Gas. After introductions a presentation was made similar to that in the Regional stage, starting at 10am and lasting precisely two hours. Unfortunately due to the exceptionally heavy rain over the previous week it was not possible to take the minibus on the Recreation Ground, and as a result our schedule slipped somewhat. The judges asked many searching questions and time, as previously, was of the essence. It was important that we completed this visit in the allotted two hours.

Fortunately we were able to make up time on the 'whistle stop' tour round the village and returned to the Parish Office & Heritage Centre where further questions were answered by 12 noon.

A film company working for Calor Gas follows the judges round each of the 6 villages that are in this final stage, and they will be compiling an hour long programme to be shown on satellite UK Style programme on 18th January 2003.

Now Otford has to wait until the Award Ceremony in London on 10th December to know how we have fared overall.

Once again a big **THANK YOU** to everyone for the commitment to the village entry, and help in the many aspects that have arisen since 17th September, when we first heard that Otford had become 'Kent Village of The Year'. Then and now, from end to end, the village really did look at its best.

During the compilation of the last two stages many aspects of our village have been scrutinised and pondered. It has given us much food for thought for possible new initiatives to continue to maintain Otford as a wonderful place to live. Watch This Space!

Thank you to all those concerned in the running of and those who attended the Coffee morning held in aid of Kent Air Ambulance which took place on the regional judging day in October when £100 was raised.

Tree of Light



This Christmas the Tulip tree on the village Green will be used as a 'tree of light' to raise money for the Kent Air Ambulance. A donation in honour or in memory of a loved one will sponsor a tree light Labels for you to write on your message are available from the Parish Office and Heritage Centre. The Tree of Light Service will take place at 7.30pm on Friday 13th December and will be followed at 8.00pm with the traditional united churches Carols around the Christmas Tree on the Green. Seasonal refreshments following these events will be offered in the Methodist Church Hall.



Guide Christmas Post Box

The Christmas Guide Post Box will be in Otford Library between Tuesday 3rd December and Friday 20th December inclusive, during opening hours. Stamps are 15p. The Christmas cards will be delivered in the village of Otford by the Guides during the weekends of 14/15th and 21/22nd December.

Last year, through the Ugandan Scouts Sunrise Project for street children they were able to sponsor two boys for two terms at the Koboko Vocational School in North West Uganda. They are most appreciative of your support and are hoping that we shall be able to continue the sponsorship into the New Year. The Guides would like to thank the Librarians at Otford and also to

all residents for allowing them to deliver your cards last year and they look forward to another busy Christmas this year.

St Bartholomew's Christmas Events

- ◆ Christingle: **Sunday 1st December** at 3.30pm in Church.
- ◆ Choir Concert: **Sunday 8th December** at 7.00pm in Church.
- ◆ Otford Primary School Carol Service: **Wednesday 11th December** at 2.00pm in Church.
- ◆ Russell House School Carol Service: **Thursday 12th December** at 6.00pm in Church.
- ◆ Nativity Play by Sunday School Children: **Sunday 22nd December** at 11.10am in Village Hall.
- ◆ Service of Nine Lessons and Carols: **Sunday 22nd December** at 6.30pm followed by seasonal refreshments in the Church Hall.

Christmas cards from the Churches in Otford, listing all the church services over the Christmas period, will be delivered to every house in the Parish from the middle of December.

Support your shops in Otford

We are very fortunate in having such a number and variety of shops, pubs and restaurants in our village, Our local traders rely on your support especially at Christmas, so please shop in Otford as much as you can.

Bill Skinners will have a late night opening till 8.00pm on **Thursday 28th November** and then on **Thursday 5th December** a number of other shops in the High Street will also be open until 8.00pm

Late Night Christmas Shopping in Sevenoaks

Late Night Christmas shopping will take place this year on **Friday 6th December**, between 6.30-8.30pm. Most of the shops will be open and there will be street entertainment and carol singing. Coffee will be available at the end of the evening in the Sevenoaks Leisure Centre. Are you Disabled or a Senior Citizen without transport?

Sevenoaks Rotarians (with support from the Sevenoaks Town Council) can if no other means are available arrange for you to be picked up from your home and returned afterwards. If you are interested, please contact Brian Brauns on 01959 524474 as soon as possible.

Otford Gardeners Society

The Annual Christmas Social will take place in the village hall on **Saturday 7th December** commencing at 7pm. Tickets can be obtained from Joan James, 27, Willow Park, Otford at £15

each and members and non-members will be very welcome.

Otford Primary School

Otford Primary School needs midday meal supervisors urgently. The hours are from 12 noon to 1.15pm, with a choice of days to suit and a free lunch. The job is suitable for those over 18, including older people. The School also needs a part-time cleaner. Please contact the School office on 01959 523145 if interested in either job.

Urgent P.S. The Governors of the School are looking for a Clerk to act as Secretary for 5/6 meetings a year, usually at 4.30pm. Telephone David Matthews (Chair) on 01732 462485 for more information.

Christmas Bazaars

Hospice in the Weald are holding a Christmas Bazaar in Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 23rd November** from 10am to 3pm. Over 20 stalls including :

- ✓ Christmas gifts and decorations.
 - ✓ Silk fashions/ accessories/jewellery
 - ✓ Super men's gifts
 - ✓ Children's toys and books
 - ✓ Stationery
 - ✓ Cakes
 - ✓ Jays smoked fish
 - ✓ Raffle
 - ✓ Tombola
 - ✓ Bric-a-brac
- Refreshments and light lunches available.

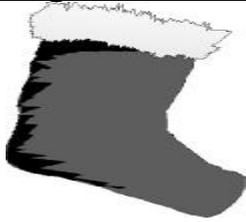
Spring House Family Support Centre (in the grounds of Sevenoaks Hospital) are holding a Christmas Bazaar on **Saturday 30th November** between 1pm to 3.30pm with Santa arriving at



2pm. Attractions include:

- ✓ Christmas gifts
- ✓ White Elephant
- ✓ Face Painting
- ✓ Cakes Stall
- ✓ Tombola
- ✓ Books, CD's and Tapes
- ✓ Toys
- ✓ Games
- ✓ Raffle

Stocking Fillers for Sale



Video's

All these video's are available from School House during opening hours and the Heritage Centre at the weekend.

- ✓ Otford's Chronicle of Millennium Events -£10
- ✓ Scale Model of the Solar System -£10
- ✓ The Village Mosaic - £10
- ✓ The Bells of St Bartholomew's - £10
- ✓ Reprint of The Kentish Village of Otford (Recollections of events during 1994) - £10
- ✓ Otford Down Under - £6
- ✓ Otford Village Sign - £6

Other items

Otford Sweatshirts – available in small 19" chest in Black & Grey and medium 21" chest in Black & Navy – Only £10.

An Otford Year – a lovely book which details the pleasures of the countryside with illustrations in and around the village and contains lists of Birds, Butterflies, Trees and Wild flowers observed within the Parish Boundary. It also contains a revised map of the Parish which includes all footpaths. Also makes a wonderful colouring book for younger residents. – Only £1.

St Bartholomew's Church Mugs - £2.50 and Diaries - £1

Other Local publications, leaflets and postcards – various prices

Otford Village Fete

The following information comes from the Fete Committee.

- ✓ They are still in a position to consider donation requests.
- ✓ They are in need of 2 new Committee members
- ✓ The theme for 2003 is 'Circus'

If you would be willing to help please contact Mark Stevens on 01959 523881 or Andrew Hicks on 01959 525120

Swing Dance

The Sevenoaks Swing Dance Club has been running weekly meetings in the Otford Church Hall for the last three years. Lindy Hop lessons (early jive – it's fun) are being taught every Tuesday evening. New members are always welcome. Classes for beginners are at 8pm followed by classes for intermediate dancers at 9pm. There is a period of free dancing afterwards for practice or pleasure. Entry £5 per night. For further information phone 01959 522810.

Emergency Team

In the current high security alert, it would be very useful if residents who would be willing to turn out in the case of a local emergency could submit their names and contact numbers and any special skills to the Parish Council office where the list will be kept and maintained.

Citizens Advice Bureau

Employment problems are one of the top three issues brought to the Sevenoaks CAB – along with those to do with housing and the law.

Working time regulations, transfer of undertakings, unfair dismissal, redundancy, discrimination related to disability, sex or race and fundamental changes to contracts are aspects of employment with which fully trained volunteers from the CAB are familiar.

Each month, the computerised CAB system is updated to include up to the minute information. This year has seen the introduction of the Employment Rights (Increase of Limits) Order 2002, which increased employment payments and awards and the Fixed Term Employees (Prevention of less favourable treatment) Regulations, which increased the rights of short term workers to be in line with those of permanent employees. A far reaching Employment Act is due to be implemented by the end of the year. If you have a problem at work, the Sevenoaks CAB may be able to help by providing information, helping with negotiations or referring on to local specialist solicitors. If you have worries or concerns just contact the CAB at The Library, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HW. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday.

(Tel No : 01732 - 454443

(Fax No : 01732 - 463164

(e-mail : 7oakscab@dial.pipex.com

web page : www.7oakscab@dial.pipex.com

An adviser from CAB is at the Otford Parish Council office on the 1st Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12 noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on 3rd December.

Otford Methodist Wednesday

Afternoons Women's Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings which take place at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall and a list of next two months speakers are as follows: -

November

20th Magda Sweetland – *U3A – Sevenoaks Style*

27th Gaye Reynolds – *Music and Meditation*

December

4th Christmas meditation

11th Christmas Lunch/Tea/Party

Are you looking for a new challenge?

- Do you enjoy exploring the Kent Countryside?
- Do you work in the Kent countryside?
- Do you live in the Kent countryside?

If yes then the Kent countryside needs you Kent County Council are looking for people to join new groups which examine ways of opening up the countryside for generations to come.

If you are enthusiastic and represent the views and interests of either those who live, work in or simply enjoy exploring the countryside they want to hear from you. If you live in the West Kent area KCC want you to become involved. For further information contact Sonia Coventry, Local Access Forum officer at Kent County Council on 01622 221354, email access.forum@kent.gov.uk.

Otford.org

Anne Roberts would like to thank everyone who has contacted her about the web site over the past couple of months. If you have any new information, updates or links that you would like included please email her on anne@otford.org or call 01959 522521.

Community Learning

The following is from Pauline Rowe a Community Learning Adviser for Mid and West Kent.

" I thought I would take this opportunity to say Hello and introduce myself to local residents. I am employed by the Kent Guidance Consortium (KGC) as the Community Learning Adviser (CLA) for Mid and West Kent and have responsibility for Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks and districts.

The main focus of my role is to work with community groups and organisations in the area to offer support to encourage people to take up learning. Recent projects have included: computer skills for the retired, story time for mothers and toddlers, personal development for all, and a community garden project. Working in a 'brokerage' role I can offer the community a choice of courses from all the local education providers, thus ensuring your learning needs are met. I work closely with a team of Careers Advisers, known as Community Learning Mentors (CLMs) who provide advice and guidance to individuals and groups of learners in community settings. Perhaps your group would like to know more about what learning opportunities are available in the local area and what can be brought into your own community setting, or maybe you would like more information on what the KGC can offer then please do give me a ring. Remember that learning can be fun and that the sky is not the limit" She can be contacted on:01732 –358101

Mobile: 07879 605910 or by email: paulinerowe@wkc.ac.uk

The Kent Guidance Consortium also have a very useful website: www.learntowork.org.uk

Kent Youth Music Bursary Trust

The above Trust gives grants to budding young musicians who have lived or been educated in Kent for at least a year. But the Trust is short of funds and would be very pleased to see you at St Georges Church, Wrotham on Saturday 7th December for a concert of Advent and Christmas music by the Kent Chamber Choir conducted by Alan Vincent. The soloist will be Geoffrey Paterson (viola and organ) who is at present studying at Cambridge, and was recipient of a grant a few years ago. Tickets £5 (Students £3) from Ray Gulliver on 01959 523010 (No charge for the Wrotham Christmas lights and decorations!)

Planning

The following applications were considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in November. 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/02/02267 Hillview Shoreham Road
Replacement dwelling with integral double garage

SE/02/02259 21 Telston Lane
Erection of a first floor side extension, alteration from hipped roof to gable roofed dormer and formation of attic accommodation

SE/02/02324 3 Coombe Rd
First floor side extension and pitched roof over garage

SE/02/02400 Stradbrook Shoreham Rd
Demolition of existing detached single garage and erection of proposed double garage

b. Amended Applications

SE/02/02182 80 Evelyn Rd
Proposed kitchen and dining room extension and alteration to change existing kitchen to bathroom and utility room

c. Results received

SE/02/01438 42 The Charne Two storey rear extension **Allowed**

SE/02/01866 40 Hillydeal Road
Replacement dwelling, being revisions to consent number SE/01/02301 **Allowed**

SE/02/01869 McDonalds Old Otford Rd
Installation of ATM in a stand alone enclosure (revised location) **Refused**

SE/02/01870 McDonalds Old Otford Rd
Internally illuminated fascia sign **Refused**

SE/02/01908 7 Rye Lane Proposed porch to front entrance **Allowed**

SE/02/01912 25 Broughton Road
Two storey rear extension and conservatory **Refused**