

Otford Parish Council

November Newsletter 2004

No 128

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

Clerk: Mrs. B.J. Darby

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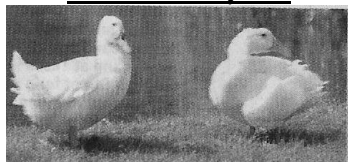
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Duck Story II



Our one remaining duck is still recovering and to date has had 8 visits to the vet and 17 injections! The Parish Council is very grateful to the vet for not charging for this treatment. We are currently looking for a female companion for him (the duck, not the vet) and they will be returned to the pond with their newly refurbished duck-house.

The Parish Council would like to express its sincerest thanks to Mrs McWilliams who has been looking after the ducks for us and has recently given notice of her wish to give up and who officially retired on the 31st October.

Road Closures - Please Note

Resurfacing will be taking place around the Pond during the weekend of **Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st November**. The High Street will be closed at the Pond end with only occasional limited access and there will be traffic light control on the A225.

Access can be gained to all shops and facilities via Pilgrims Way West.

Then on the weekend of **18th and 19th December** Pilgrims Way East will be closed between the A225 and Row Dow for resurfacing. Access from Tudor Drive as directed

Contact Daniel Cumberland at SDC on 01732 227326 for further details.

Tree of Light

Again this Christmas the Tulip tree on the Village Green will be used as a 'Tree of Light' to raise money for The Hospice in The Weald. 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 Council Office. The Tree of Light Service will take place on **Friday 10th December** at 7.30pm at the Tree 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 Vicarage.

Guide Christmas Post Box



The Christmas Guide Post Box will be in Otford Library between **Wednesday 1st December** and **Friday 17th December** inclusive, during opening hours. Stamps are 15p. The Christmas cards will be delivered in the village of Otford by the Guides. This year proceeds will be shared between Pembury Portage providing support for local special needs pre-school children and their families and the Trust for the Education and Care of Child Workers in Ecuador (TECCWE). Further information in the library.

Plastic Bottle Tops

A great thank you to all of you who collected your plastic bottle tops and took them to 22 Telston Lane. Unfortunately it seems that after collecting bin bags full of them the resident Mrs Hacker cannot now find out where they should go. It seems as if this is some sort of scam and she has not been able to find any charity that can recycle the tops for the purchase of wheelchairs. If anyone can help, please contact her on 01959 524489. In the meantime please don't deliver any more as storage is becoming a problem. Thank you.

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 October TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 162

2nd Prize £15 - 194

3rd Prize £10 - 20

Congratulations to this month's winners and thank you to everyone who continues to support the school. Don't forget forms are still available from the School office, Parish Council, the Chemist and Post Office for those who would like to take part.

Otford Methodist Church

The following is from Kath Pawlett. "The October planning meeting of the Sevenoaks District Council granted permission for the redevelopment of the

Methodist Halls and Church site as a two phased development. We want to share with you that our plans are to move forward with Phase One, the Halls complex, as soon as funding and practical matters make this possible, hopefully sometime next year. We will then return to reconsider the Church building itself at some future date, possibly some years away, when more detailed consideration can be given. The Halls project, which we are now focusing on, is an exciting one for the Church and Village. It will provide a hall, coffee lounge, meeting rooms and office, with good access for the disabled, facilitating greater use by Church and Community. We are glad that St Bartholomew's congregation are also able to move forward with the building of their much-needed facilities at this time". If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Kath Pawlett, Minister of Otford Methodist Church on 01959 522196.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting of The Embroiders' Guild (Sevenoaks Branch), is on **Saturday 27th November** when Pauline Verrinder will talk on 'Fibre Fusion' This meeting will begin at 2pm and be held in Otford Village Memorial Hall. For more information please phone Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

Calendars

Views of Sevenoaks & District including Otford feature on a new 2005 Calendar, which is now on sale from the Parish Office and Heritage Centre. The calendars have been produced by the Sevenoaks Round Table in conjunction with The Sevenoaks Chronicle. The cost of the calendar is £5 and all money will go to local good causes.

NADFAS in Sevenoaks

To put the record straight after last months article there are in fact two local groups and prospective members have the choice between joining an evening or a midday group. SEVENOAKS NADFAS meets at 8.15pm in the Aisher Hall on the second Thursday each month, while KNOLE NADFAS meets at 1.45pm (preceded by a sandwich lunch at 12.30) at The Community Centre on the third Thursday each month. Further information can be obtained from Pamela Pitcairn-Knowles on 01959 523154.

Apology

Unfortunately the performance of the Noble Spaniard by The Otford Players has had to be cancelled due to illness to a member of the cast. It is hoped to put on the production now in March.

Evening of Craft & Design

You are invited to an exclusive evening of craft and design on **Thursday 16th December** in Otford Memorial Hall between 7.15pm and 9.30pm. All the work is original and handmade by the artists present and includes greeting cards and pictures, hand painted home accessories and furniture, glass and metal jewellery, silk paintings and floral arrangements and wreaths. Complimentary mulled wine will be served (while stocks last!) and raffle tickets will be on sale in aid of N.S.P.C.C

Front Garden Competition

The Otford Parish Council Front Garden Competition, organised by the Otford Gardeners' Society has produced the following winners in 2004.

First Prize

Mr.R. Yeldham - 59 Sidney Gardens

Second Prize

Mr.W. Woestmann - 21 Coombe Road

Third Prize

Mrs.A. Baldwin - 67 Willow Park

Highly Commended

Mr. C. Towers - 40 Willow Park

Mrs. C. Jarman - 17 Station Road

Mr. G. Vickers - 57 Sidney Gardens

Commended

Mr & Mrs. K. Truman - 17 Orchard Road

Mr & Mrs. J. Beasley - 2 Darnets Field

Mrs. D. Hart - 21, Dane Road

Mr & Mrs. A. Hubbard - 19 Hale Lane

Mr & Mrs. D. Reid - Burway, Sevenoaks Road

Mr & Mrs. B. Brauns - 4 The Old Walk

Mr & Mrs. D. Hubner - 2 Coombe Road

Congratulations and well done to all the prize-winners.

National Federation of W.I.

Community Challenge 2002-2005

The aim of the project is to encourage members to develop projects, activities or campaigns that will improve the quality of life for women, their families and their communities.

Otford Afternoon W.I. contribution to the above challenge was to raise funds to purchase 6 chairs with arms for the less able who use the village hall.

Otford Allotments Association

As the new Allotment Year begins, so we see some changes in tenancies, which leaves two plots now available for re-letting. Now is the time, if you are interested in taking up a tenancy, to get your plot dug in readiness for planting next year and enjoying a wonderful harvest shortly after. When you take up a tenancy you can also avail yourself of becoming a member of the very active Association, to take

advantage of their seed scheme and join in one or two social activities, as well as receiving a regular newsletter. Call in at the Parish Office for more details or give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 but hurry as plots get taken up pretty quickly.

Pension Service

The dates for the next 3 information surgeries in Otford Library are **19th November** and **17th December**. They are there to give help and specialist information on your State Pension, Pension Credit and all related entitlements. Do drop in to speak to an officer from the Pension Service to find out what you might be entitled to.

Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club have started selling tickets for their Christmas Dinner and Dance on **Saturday 11th December**. As usual it will be held in the Otford Memorial Hall beginning with a welcome glass of sherry at 7.15pm and then a 3 course dinner will be served at 7.45 pm finishing with coffee and mince pies. Please bring your own glasses and refreshments. There will be a Joke Competition, a raffle and dancing to live music. The tickets are £14.50 for paid up members of the Club and £18 for non-members. Please contact the Secretary on 01732 761359 asap if you would like tickets and menus, as this is a very popular event and seating is limited.

The club is holding a Wine Tasting evening on **Wednesday 24th November** in the Memorial Hall starting at 8pm. This is free to members but visitors will be charged a small fee. As usual, cheese and biscuits will be provided, so do please go along and enjoy a pleasant evening out amongst friends.

Picture of the Month

The artist for November/December is Marianne Shelton. Marianne first discovered her love of art whilst living in Paris and on her return to London she worked as a leading casting director in films, theatre and television. Having put her career on hold to start a family, she was then commissioned to buy and sell early English watercolours. After a number of trips to Amsterdam and Venice she made the transition to picking up the paintbrush herself. Although she works in watercolours and acrylics, oils are her true passion and enjoys painting both still life and landscapes. To date she has had several successful exhibitions in Kent.

Otford Oast W.I.

Their next meeting of the Otford Oast WI will be on **Thursday 18th November** Members will be holding their Annual Meeting and electing their new

committee. This is your chance to volunteer to join in and give your ideas to the group.

Then on **Thursday 9th December** Andrew Redden our local wildlife artist who changed career from the city life a few years ago will talk about the background to his pictures and will have cards and prints for sale. It is also the birthday meeting so there will be guests from other institutes and refreshments will be served. Give it a try, you can be sure of a warm welcome. There is a free crèche at every meeting. The first visit is free, second visit £1.50 and Annual membership is £20. For more information please contact Mrs D Metcalfe on 01322 271873

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 the next two months speakers and events are as follows: -

November

17th - *Pilgrimages to Medujorge* - Marry Authers

24th - Games afternoon

December

1st - *Working in Bihar* - Michael Canning

8th - Christmas Meditation

15th - Lunch at Ellenor's

Otford Tennis Club

The Tennis Club held a very successful 50th Anniversary Dinner in the Club Room of the Village Hall recently, attended by 57 past and present members. During the evening trophies were presented to the winners of the 2004 Club Tournament and the results were:

Ladies Singles - Anne Waite

Men's Singles - Anthony Shea

Ladies Doubles - Anne Waite & Rosemary Tuck

Men's Doubles - Anthony Shea & John Tuck

Mixed Doubles - Rosemary Tuck & Paul Giering

Please note that Joyce Shaw is retiring as Secretary as from the 1st November and all enquiries about the tennis club should now be addressed to Anthony Shea Tel: 01732 458968, e-mail: janantshea@onetel.com

At the present time mixed Junior and Senior coaching is held on Saturday mornings and there is a Ladies session on Fridays during term time from 9-10.30am. For all information about the availability of coaching of any kind contact Mary Evans on e-mail: mary.a.evans@btinternet.com or John Prenelle on 07708 606010, email: tenniscoachuk@aol.com

Anyone who wishes to join in with tennis on Thursdays from 1-3pm would be very welcome. Contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736 or Jennie Webb on 01959 524317.

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting of the Historical Society will take place on **Wednesday 17th November** at 8pm in the Village Hall when Pat Mortlock will talk on the subject of 'Tonbridge Castle'. Membership of the Society is only £3 a year, which includes 6 winter talks and usually 3 summer outings. Visitors are welcome to all meetings at just £1 and children are admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

Dog Fouling

This is still a problem, not only on the Recreation Ground but also on pavements, footpaths and even in residents' front gardens. A particular complaint has been received from Tudor Drive. 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. Dog wardens do patrol the village and every effort will be taken to discover who is responsible and when caught, fined. Remember you can use ordinary waste bins if a dog bin is not close by. If you see someone letting their dog foul on a regular basis and not clear up after it do contact the dog warden at SDC.

The Parish Council Dog Fouling Poster competition entries will be judged shortly and prize-winners announced. Copies of the winning posters will be displayed around the village and hopefully will shame those dog owners who do not do the decent thing once they see what the young people think about it!

Recreation Ground

Recently people have been driving motorised vehicles around the recreation ground for fun. This is against the Byelaws so please DO NOT do it. Thank you.

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/04/02361 23 Tudor Crescent

Single storey side extension (replacement of utility) conservatory and front doorway modification

SE/04/02435 68 Evelyn Road

Details pursuant to conditions no 1,4,54 & 7 of planning permission SE/04/00761/OUT

SE/04/02456 5 Tudor Crescent

Loft conversion to make two new rooms with dormer window upon rear roof plane and insertion of two rooflights in front roof plane

SE/04/02513 The Farm, Twitton Lane

Installation of 1 no. 20m telecommunications tower to appear as a replica coniferous tree to accommodate 3 no. antennas, 1 no. 600mm transmission dish plus 5 no. equipment cabinets, electricity cabinet, 1.8m chain link fence, landscaping and ancillary development

SE/04/02514 115 Evelyn Road

Erection of single storey rear conservatory

SE/04/02673 11 Bubblestone Road

Rebuilding of existing workshop, enlargement of existing first floor store to make bedroom through insertion of dormer upon western roof plane, erection of single storey utility room to rear of property

SE/04/02676 64-66 Well Road

Demolition of existing dwellings, construction of new estate road and seventeen dwellings plus garages and parking spaces (33in total)

b. Amended applications

SE/04/01249 12 Coombe Road

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of detached dwelling and garaging with living accommodation over. Removal of ramp and wall arrangement between garage and house, reduction in height of garage, alterations to roof finish, received 27 July 2004

SE/04/02513 The Farm, Twitton Lane

Installation of 1no. 20m telecommunications tower to appear as a replica coniferous tree to accommodate 3no antennas, 1 no 600mm transmission dish plus 5 no equipment cabinets, electricity cabinet, 1.8 chain link fence, landscaping and ancillary development. Additional plans received 28.10.04

c. Results Received

SE/04/01068 32 Greenhill Road

Replacement dwelling, amended plans 19.08.04
Refused

SE/04/01840 Otford Methodist

Demolition of existing church and ancillary buildings and rebuild as a phased development *Allowed*

SE/04/02142 15 Tudor Drive

Single storey rear extension *Allowed*

SE/04/02208 24 Tudor Drive

Single storey side extension, new front pitched roof section/gable to replace flat roof and garage conversion to habitable room and parking area
Allowed

SE/04/02244 34 Greenhill Road

Demolish bungalow and erect new dwelling
Allowed

SE/04/02269 32 Leonard Ave

Proposed two storey rear extension and enlarged porch
Allowed