Otford Parish Council
November Newsletter 2005
No 140

Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002
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HRH The Duke of Kent
The big news about the visit of HRH The Duke of Kent is that it did not take place! Bad weather in London prevented the helicopter taking off which was taking him to his first engagement in Maidstone from where he was coming on to Otford. A huge disappointment but we understand that the visit will be rescheduled for sometime next year.

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 9th 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.

Trafalgar Remembered
On Saturday 22nd October Otford celebrated a famous victory ‘Trafalgar Remembered’ was conceived, researched, scripted, produced, directed and acted in by Ken Gunderson. A ‘community’ cast including the Otford Players and the WI Pilgrims Way choir filled the stage and in the hall, which was brim full, an appreciative audience, which included the Sevenoaks Town Mayor, Mr R. Piper applauded it to the rafters. The cast included singers, musicians, young and mature actors and emphasised the community nature of the production. It was a fitting celebration of an historic victory. It would be invidious to select names of the numerous helpers who assisted in making this a success but mention must be made of two. Firstly, Barbara Darby whose photographic backcloths added so appreciably to the quality of the production and Marian Wills who miraculously combined the duties of stage management, costumes and narrator. However, a lot of work was done by many people and Otford's thanks are due to them all. 'Trafalgar Remembered' will be long remembered!
Hopefully it added in some small part to the feeling of patriotism which lurks somewhere in all of us which is particularly relevant today. Well Done Ken.

School children planted Oak trees on the Recreation Ground to mark the occasion, an event attended by the OPC Chairman, Council members and the Primary School Head teacher. The exhibition of paintings by local artists, organised and manned by the WI Art Group in the Church Hall, attracted over 200 people. The Otford Society would like to thank all who supported these events. The Society has presented to the Village Hall exhibition stands and boards, which will be available to village organisations at the discretion of the hall management. They also thank the Fete Committee for its contribution towards costs of £100. For those who missed Trafalgar Remembered a video / DVD (£6.50) is now on sale at the Heritage Centre or ring Barbara Darby on 01959 523339 £1 of each sale goes to the Heritage Centre and £1 to Otford Players.

Guide Christmas Post Box
The Christmas Guide Post Box will be in Otford Library between Tuesday 29th November and Friday 16th December inclusive, during opening hours. Stamps are 15p. The Christmas cards will be delivered in the village of Otford by the Brownies and Guides. This year proceeds will be for Hospice in the Weald and Kent Air Ambulance.

Crime Prevention
PCSO Dave Birchall has asked us to remind you all that as the Christmas season approaches to be extra careful about leaving newly brought gifts on view in your houses and cars. Bags of presents left visible in
your car are very vulnerable so always put them in your boot out of sight. Keep your curtains closed during these dark winter evenings and keep your eye out for any suspicious people or vehicles, make a note of their details and index numbers if possible and report to the police. Also please be aware of Bogus Callers. If you are not sure who they are or if they fail to provide adequate identification, please call the police. Remember you do not have to open your door. The number to ring for Sevenoaks Police is 01732 771055.

Police Surgery
The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on Thursday 15th December between 11am and 12.30pm. Please come and see him if you have any concerns.

Otford - Late Night Shopping
Late night shopping will take place on the evenings of Thursday 24th November and Thursday 1st December until 8pm. We have some lovely shops so please support them and get those special presents without the queues.

Public Notice
Licensing Act 2003 - Application for the grant of Premises Licence
An application to vary the Public Entertainment Licence at Otford Village Memorial Hall has been made by the Trustees of the hall. Any person wishing to view details of the application can contact the SDC licensing team on 01732 227339/73270/7299/7033.

Treasurer of Otford Village Memorial Hall
For years now, the Treasurer of the Village Memorial Hall has been threatening to retire. He has now actually put this threat into action and will be standing down in a few months time so we need someone to take over. Although the accounts are handled manually at present this job would be highly suited to someone who can computerise the system. If the Trustees need to buy Sage, Quickbooks or whatever we will do so. The job itself is relatively straightforward for somebody with some experience of accounting or bookkeeping. John Bolton, the current Treasurer will be able to tell you more. We do ask that the Treasurer attends Trustees meeting but these are only 4 times a year and last for no more than 1 1/2 hours. If you think that you could spare a few hours a week to help with the efficient running of one of the village’s main amenities then please either call Ron Dullage, Chairman on 01959 522007 or John Bolton on 01959 522789.

One for the ladies – Hair & Beauty
We would like to welcome Marianne, a new business, who is now based at Hair & The Beauty Rooms in The Parade, Sevenoaks Road. She provides Beauty Therapy, Reiki, Hypnotherapy and Relaxation courses. So go on pamper yourselves.

Blood Donor Session
- United Reformed Church Hall, St John’s Road, Sevenoaks - Tuesday November 29th - 2pm - 4.30pm and 5.30pm - 8.00pm

‘Do something amazing – Give Blood’

Football v Shoreham
Another youth football match, this time between Otford and Shoreham is trying to be arranged. If you are aged between 9-11 years and would be interested please contact the office. We still have the names of all who played in the match against Kent Police. It is early days and there is no date or time at the moment but details will appear in subsequent newsletters.

Otford & District Wine Club
The next meeting of the Otford & District Wine Club is on Wednesday 30th November and will be a talk by Tony Andrews on his early days as a Pharmacist. Tony has been a practising chemist for many years and we are sure he will have a lot of entertaining and interesting stories to tell us, so please come along and give him your support. As usual the evening will begin at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. It is free to members but guests will be charged a small fee. Cheese and biscuits will be supplied but please bring your own liquid refreshment.

The Club has started selling tickets for its Christmas Social, which will be held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th December. The evening will begin at 7.15pm with a welcome glass of sherry and then there will be the usual Christmas dinner, plus mince pies, coffee and mints, a raffle, a joke competition followed by dancing to the music of Bernard de Soy who was excellent last year. The price for members is £15 and guests will be charged £18.50. Please ring the Secretary on 01732 761359 if you would like to come, but do not delay as this is normally a very popular event.
Calendars
Calendars for 2006 are now on sale from the Parish Office and Heritage Centre. The calendars with local pictures have been produced by the Sevenoaks Round Table. The calendars cost £3 each or 2 for £5.

St Bartholomew’s Church Christmas Events
4th December - Christingle Service at 3.30pm
11th December - Choir Concert at 7.30pm
18th December - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight at 6.30pm followed by seasonal refreshments in Village Hall

RSPCA - Coffee Morning
The West Kent Branch of the RSPCA will be holding a Coffee Morning in the Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 26th November. You will be able to chat to the local RSPCA Inspector Charlotte Baumann and members about the work of the RSPCA. Please join them from 10.30am onwards

Sevenoaks Music Club
Sevenoaks Music Club has been delighting audiences with classical music concerts of world class for the last 71 years. The 72nd Season offers a superb programme of six concerts the second being on Saturday 26th November at 8pm with the Kungsbacka Piano Trio who will be performing Beethoven's Piano Trio in G Op.1 No.2, Faure’s Piano Trio in D minor Op.20, and Rachmaninov's Trio elegiaque No. 2 in D minor Op.9. The concert will take place at the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall School, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks. Everyone is welcome and tickets are £14 for the first 5 concerts and £16 for the premium concert in April. Student tickets are £5. A Season Ticket costs £48 thereby giving you 2 free concerts. If you would like a copy of the brochure giving full details, please contact 01732 464218.

Well Road Development
The Local Inquiry for the 3 applications from Laing Homes for development of the site at 64/66 Well Road is to be held at the Sevenoaks District Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks on Tuesday 22nd November commencing at 10am. The Inquiry could last for 3 days. Any interested residents can go along and listen.

Otford Allotments Association
There is now one sad plot for a loving tenant. This plot needs some TLC as it has become rather overgrown. It could be yours RENT FREE for a year! If you would like some winter exercise in good fresh Otford air, then maybe this plot is for you. If you do take this on and join the Allotment Association, they have equipment you can use to help clear the plot and lets face it at the end of the winter you may have some crops to harvest. If you are interested, give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468, who will be delighted to show you the poor thing.

Knole DFAS
Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Hall, Bat & Ball. The next lecture will be on 17th November when Dr Sam Newton will speak on ‘St Botolf-The Patron Saint of Travellers’. Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm preceded by refreshments at 12.30pm. Anyone interested in joining the Society or would like more information, please contact the membership secretary, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529.

Sevenoaks DFAS
The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Sevenoaks Evening Society) 2005/2006 lecture season continues on Thursday 8th December at 8.15pm in the Aisher Hall, Sevenoaks School with a talk by Dr David Cross on ‘Humour in Art’ Anyone interested in joining the Society, or would like more information should contact Mrs Honor McMillan on 01892 532651.

CAB Surgery
The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on Tuesday 6th December between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along and see the adviser who will be happy to help you with your problems.

Picture of the Month
The artist for November/December is Elizabeth Ward. Elizabeth has since early childhood enjoyed art and many other forms of craft. Her talent was used for many years in a primary school in Sussex. She enjoys painting and botanical illustration but landscapes are her favourite when she has the time. Elizabeth's greatest challenge to date was the 56 feet long 'timeline' that forms the frieze around the Heritage Centre depicting 4000 years of Otford’s history. In 1988 she and her husband Cliff returned to Otford where she has been a Parish Councillor for some 15 years and Secretary and President of the Afternoon WI. If you reside in the village and paint in any medium, would you like to have
one of your pictures exhibited in the Heritage Centre? Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 522183 for further information.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers’ Guild
The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on Saturday 26th November when Lee Ault will talk about ‘The Caged Lady, a look at Victorian Costume’. The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588.

Otford Afternoon W.I
Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Membership is £21 per year and Tea at the meeting is 30p.
The next meeting takes place on 13th December with Marianne Martin and ‘Humour in Verse’. Please contact 01959 522915 for more details.

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 months speakers and events are as follows:

November
16th - M Clarke - Trees - my life
23rd - Lunch at Pohill Garden Centre and Xmas shopping
30th - Rev Peter Hills - Sabbatical experiences

December
7th - Christmas meditation
14th - Lunch at Ellenors

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 October TOP Draw are:
1st Prize £50 - 403
2nd Prize £15 - 222
3rd Prize £10 - 151
Congratulations to this month’s winners and thank you to everyone who continues to support the school.

Planning
The following applications will be 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

- New applications
SE/05/02578 4 High Street
Proposed extension and alterations to the rear
SE/05/02585 The Old Vicarage Shoreham Road
Sub-division of plot and erection of one detached dwelling house to the east side; alterations to existing property including erection of detached double garage
SE/05/02622 The Castle House Sevenoaks Road
Creation of new driveway
SE/05/02623 The Castle House Sevenoaks Road
LBC - Creation of new driveway
SE/05/02725 Maunders, St. Michaels Drive
Demolition of dwelling and erection of detached house
SE/05/02733 56 Tudor Drive
Alterations to provide new cloak’s cupboard, w.c. and lobby
SE/05/02642 1 Beechy Lees Road
Formation of new bedroom at first floor level with new front dormer window (adjoining parish consultation)
SE/05/02648 4 High Street
LBC - Proposed extension and alterations
SE/05/02655 51 Knighton Road
New detached house and alterations to crossovers
SE/05/02659 80 Evelyn Road
Alterations and extension to existing roof conversion including new windows and roof lights
SE/05/02679 Chandler House Shoreham Road
Rear single storey balcony (not enclosed)
SE/05/02761 7 Hale Lane
Erection of a 2 storey side extension
SE/05/02787 34 Greenhill Road
Rear basement swimming pool
SE/05/02793 Godfrey’s, Old Otford Road
To change the use of 3 first floor rooms used for storage space to use as an exercise consultancy

b. Results received
SE/05/01435 The Chicken Farm Shorehill Lane
Knatts Valley
Change of use of four redundant agricultural buildings to a Class B1 use (as amended by plans received on 2nd August, 2005) Refused
SE/05/01972 4 High Street
Proposed extension and alterations to the rear Withdrawn

SE/05/02213 34 Greenhill Road
Rear basement swimming pool Withdrawn

d. Planning Appeals
SE/05/01926 64-66 Well Road
Demolition of existing dwellings, construction of road, 21 houses Appeal against refusal – Public Inquiry 22nd November (same date as other Inquiries for this site)