

Otford Parish Council November Newsletter 2006 No 151

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

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Otford Christmas Shopping Extravaganza

Sunday 26th November



Come shopping, support your local traders and enjoy a warm welcome on **Sunday 26th November** between 11am and 4.00pm. The perfect chance to get your Christmas Shopping done hassle free + gift wrapping, mince pies, mulled wine and a lot more including Otford Primary School Choir and other entertainment and a Free Prize Draw. Come and join in the fun.



PCSO Sponsored Bike Ride

There is still quite a bit of money outstanding for Dave Birchall's bike ride to Brighton which he undertook for the new children's playground project so if you put your name down on a list please come to the office to pay your dues or drop it through the letterbox if the office is closed. Thank you.

Otford Village Fete AGM

The Otford Village Fete AGM will take place on **Wednesday 22nd November** at 8pm in the Hope Room of the Village Memorial Hall. More members are urgently needed to join the committee to ensure the success of the 2007 fete so come on go along and lets all help to continue part of village tradition.

Bull Car Park

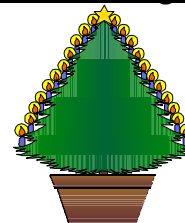
To all parents of Primary School Children: Please do not use the Bull Car Park for dropping or picking your children up from the school. There have been a number of near misses recently and we do not want a serious accident to occur.

Dog Fouling - Recreation Ground



DO NOT let your dog foul on the Recreation Ground. Whilst doing some strimming recently near the new pavilion a member of the public was covered in dog mess that had been left there. This was horrible for him and totally unnecessary. Do keep an eye on your dog the whole time he is running around or all dogs will have to be kept on their leads. Bins are provided **SO USE THEM** there is **ABSOLUTELY NO EXCUSE.**

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 8th 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.

Otford Society

The Parish Council would like to thank the Otford Society for looking after the village donations paid to them in anticipation of the necessary repair works to Otford Pond. Now the works have been nearly completed they have paid the funds to us, which in total amounted to £5553.

Also a big thank you to them for organising and looking after the community donations towards the cost of the new children's playground and youth shelters which has now almost reached its target of £1385.

Twinning

We are looking forward to welcoming M. Francois Salagnac and his wife Mme. Geraldine Salagnac to Otford during the weekend **25/26th November** in anticipation of the possible twinning of Otford with Précigné near Angers in France. There will be a formal meeting at 4pm on Saturday afternoon in the Gatehouse (at the Vicarage end of the Otford Palace) where those interested in the twinning will be able to ask questions and make suggestions. If you would like

to attend please phone 01959 522360 and leave an answerphone message. There will be another opportunity to meet M et Mme Salagnac informally over a cup of coffee in the Club Room of the village hall between 11am and 12 noon on Saturday morning 25th November.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 16th November** between 11am and 12.30pm. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Dave has asked us to warn you concerning a recent scam where a person was calling at houses asking for sponsorship for a charity event they were taking part in. They were very plausible but please do not part with any money in this way at your door unless you are absolutely sure that it is legitimate. Remember you do not have to answer your door and you can just say no.

And also now that the Christmas season approaches he asks you 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. The number to ring for Sevenoaks Police is 01732 771055.

Underage Drinking

During his patrols, after reports of underage drinking taking place at Hale Lane and the main Recreation Ground PCSO Birchall has recently confiscated alcohol off a number of 16 yr olds. Be sure that this behaviour will not be tolerated. Please be aware what your youngsters are doing during these winter evenings. Picking up broken bottles and rubbish in the play area and around the shelter is becoming an almost daily occurrence.

Ball Games

After a few problems that have been reported can you be careful when playing ball games in the Rye Lane area. We don't want to spoil anyone's fun but when you are out playing please respect other people's property. Thank you.

SDC - KASH Scheme

The Sevenoaks District Council KASH scheme is able to offer the following deals on a first come first served basis until funding runs out.

- Loft Insulation - £199 for any loft no matter property type or the top up amount.
- Cavity Wall Insulation - £149 for terraced and semi's and £179 for detached properties.

This offer is available through the Kent Energy Centre on 0800 358 6669

Guide Christmas Post Box



The Christmas Guide Post Box will be in Otford Library between **Tuesday 28th November** and **Friday 15th December** inclusive, during opening hours. Stamps are 15p, the same as last year and the cards will be delivered in the village of Otford by the Brownies and Guides. This year proceeds will be for Demelza House Children's Hospice and Spring House Family Support in Sevenoaks. Please post early!

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons Women's Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm and while the Methodist Hall is being rebuilt will be meeting in members' homes. A list of the next two months speakers and venues are as follows: -

November

1st - AGM

8th - Richard Dore - *Bramasole* at 23 Warham Road

15th - *Henry VIII and his wives* - Keith Lawrey at 27 Well Road

22nd - Pub lunch in Shoreham and Pohill visit

29th - Games afternoon at 30, Well Road

December

6th - *Christmas meditation* - Rev D Casiot at 23 Warham Rd

13th - Christmas party/ lunch at Ellenors

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 5th December** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

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 Oct TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 283

2nd Prize £15 - 236

3rd Prize £10 - 23

Otford Afternoon W.I

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Membership is £22 per year. The meeting on **14th November** is the Annual Meeting. Then on **12th December** Jonathan Fryer will be providing *An Entertainment* - a light-hearted approach to Christmas. Please contact 01959 522915 for more details.

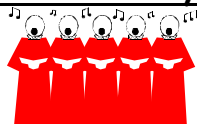
Otford Over Sixties Social Club

On **Wednesday 15th November** the club will have a Christmas Bring & Buy sale and musical bingo. Then on **29th November** they will be going to see 'My Fair Lady' at Tunbridge Wells Assembly Rooms and on the **6th December** they will be having a Christmas lunch. Details from Jill or Ed on 01959 525775

Otford Allotment Association

At the time of writing there are two 5-rod plots available, one of the three available last time having been taken up by new tenants. Enquiries are coming in, so if you would like one of those remaining to be yours, give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468. This is the time of year to really get cracking and clear the plot ready for planting. Also as the weather promises to get colder, what better exercise could you have to get warm and keep healthy, than digging an allotment garden - you wont regret it - ask the many allotment holders who have been enjoying allotment gardening for many years. All but two of last year's tenants have renewed their tenancies, which proves the point.

The Darent Valley Choir



The Choir is to hold its Christmas concert in St Peter's Church, Hextable again this year on Saturday **2nd December** at 7.30pm. The programme chosen by the Musical Director Ben Odom includes readings and favourite carols. Also another piece by John Rutter - 'Brother Heinrich's Christmas' and a version of the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' by Bob Chilcott originally written for the Sainsbury Choir of the Year 2000. Tickets will be available from Sevenoaks Bookshop on 01732 741705, 01474 805591 and 01959 523279. Early booking advised!

2007 Calendars

Calendars for 2007 are now on sale from the Parish Office and Heritage Centre. The calendars with local pictures have been produced by the Sevenoaks Round

Table and supported by The Sevenoaks Chronicle and local businesses. The calendars cost only £1.50 each.

Otford Gardeners' Quiz Evening



The Otford Gardeners' Society Committee warmly invite you to a Seasonal Fun and Quiz Evening at Otford Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 5th December**. Doors open at 7pm and quiz starts at 7.30pm. There will be a 'warm up' quiz to get the evening going followed by an 8 round general knowledge quiz with a picture running round. There are prizes for the winners and also a raffle. Nibbles will be provided but please supply your own drinks. The cost is £2 per head with a maximum of six people to a table. Book a table in advance or just turn up on the night. Contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or email gardeners@otford.net

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting of the Otford & District Historical Society will take place on **Wednesday 15th November** at 8pm in the Memorial Hall when Lee Ault will give a talk on Victorian fashions entitled 'The Caged Lady' Membership is £5 per year and visitors are welcome at £1.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 25th November** when there will be group project in the morning and a pre-christmas get together, with traders and competitions etc. The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588.

Knole DFAS

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. The 2nd lecture of the 2006/07 programme will be on **16th November** by Michael Howard on 'I'm a Simple Man' *The Mysterious Work of L.S. Lowry* 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 the membership secretary, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529.

Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club are pleased to announce that on **Wednesday 29th November** Gordon Darby will be giving a talk entitled 'A Vegetable Gardener's Year' Gordon has an allotment in Otford

and everyone who has tasted his delicious organic vegetables will be eager to come and learn how he does it. He has prepared three handouts on vegetable growing which will be distributed after his talk. As usual the meeting starts at 8pm in the Otford Memorial Hall and is free to members but guests will be charged a small fee. Cheese and biscuits will be provided but please bring your own liquid refreshment. The Club has started selling tickets for the Christmas Dinner Dance in the Memorial Hall on **Saturday 9th December**. Members are £18 and guests £20. If you would like to go please ring 01732 - 761359 or 01732 885356 for the menu choices of the delicious food provided by the caterers, Catercraft.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2006/2007 lecture season continues on **Thursday 14th December** at 8.15pm in the Aisher Hall, Sevenoaks School with a talk by Dr. Colin Bailey on 'Sex and Death in the Golden Age of Dutch Art'. Please contact Mrs Jackie Bradforth on 01732 761631 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information.

Sevenoaks Music Club

The new season of the Sevenoaks Music Club continues with a piano recital by Paul Roberts on **Saturday 18th November** at 8pm at the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall. He will be playing Debussy, Ravel, Liszt and Ireland. The next concert is on **Sunday 10th December** at 3pm with Sevenoaks Young Musician prize winners playing Ravel, Ysaye, Mozart, Chopin and Elgar. For further information on their brochure, season ticket or ticket prices please contact Richard Hargreaves on 01732 453251.

Boule

Earlier in the year, the Parish Council asked if there was any interest in forming an Otford Boule Club. There was a good response, but leaders are needed before a start can be made. If you feel you might be able to help in this way please have a word with the Parish Clerk.

Otford Heritage Centre

From Saturday 23rd December to Friday 5th January, the centre will only be open on weekday mornings when the Parish office is open. Normal weekend/bank holiday opening resumes on 6th January 2007.

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

a. New applications

SE/06/02466 **9 Greenhill Road**

Replacement roof and garage extension with room in roof

SE/06/02532 **19 Pilgrims Way West**

Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of two no 3 bedroom linked detached dwellings

SE/06/02521 **Orchard Hey Rye Lane**

Conversion of existing bungalow with dormers to a two storey dwelling, plus part two/part single storey side extension

SE/06/02675 **3 Coombe Road**

Application to remove condition 3 (windows to be maintained as obscure glazed) and 4 (no new windows in the eastern elevation) of approval

SE/05/00748FUL

SE/06/02710 **Red Roofs Rye Lane**

First floor side extension above garage (resubmission of SE/06/01911)

SE/06/02229 **Maunder, St Michaels Drive**

Demolition of dwelling and erection of detached house

b. Results received

SE/06/01819 **8 Greenhill Road**

Two storey extension to rear and raising of main and garage roofs *Refused*

SE/06/01949 **7 Bubblestone Road**

Conservatory to rear of property *Withdrawn*

SE/06/02038 **4 High Street**

Proposed extension and alterations *Allowed*

SE/06/02067 **11a Hillydeal Road**

Part two storey, part single and rear extension, new front entrance and tile cladding of first floor extension *Allowed*

SE/06/02193 **Beadles Garage** **Sevenoaks Rd**

Erection of fascia signs to the front of building and free standing road signage *Allowed*

SE/06/02197 **Beadles Garage** **Sevenoaks Rd**

Alterations to the external appearance of the front of the garage, including the creation of a new entrance feature and free standing Volkswagen signage pylon *Allowed*

c. Amended applications

SE/06/02372 **59 High Street**

Repairs, alterations and refurbishment works

SE/06/02440 **Fruit barn and Stable Barn, New Barn Telston Lane**

Farm Conversion of redundant barn buildings into 5 dwelling units (amended from Hopgarden Farm to New Barn Farm)

d. Tree work in Conservation Area

06/02699/WTCA **76 High Street**

Various works to trees