

Otford Parish Council

November Newsletter 2007

No 162

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

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Otford Christmas Shopping Festival



On SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER

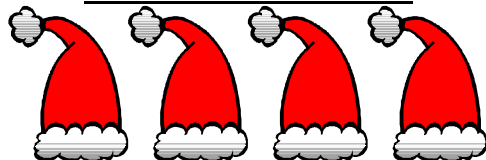
the only place to be seen between 11am and 4pm is your own village of Otford when our lovely shops here in the village will be open for business.

Itinerary

- Church Bells - 11am
- Bobbo the Clown - 11am
- Primary School Choir on the Green - 12 noon
- Raffle Draw - 2.00pm
- Fire Juggler - 3.00pm

Also Father Christmas, Morris dancers and chestnuts and mulled wine. Please come, bring your friends and family and enjoy this fun day and support your shops who help to keep this such a lovely, lively, thriving village.

Guide Christmas Post



This year will be the 25th year of the Guide Christmas Post when Guides and Brownies will deliver Christmas Cards in Otford Village. The stamps have been designed this year by the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and all the proceeds will be divided between Hospice in the Weald and Valance School Children's Wish List. The Post Box will be in Otford Library between **Monday 26th November** and **Tuesday 18th December** inclusive during opening

hours. A second box will also be available in the Parish Council Office on Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 12 noon between the same dates. Stamps will be 20p per card and all the money will go to the chosen charities. Please support us by posting early and make this 25th year a great success.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 15th November** between 11am and 12.30pm at School House. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Otford - Precigne Twinning

There will be a Quiz Evening with a French flavour on **Friday 16th November** at 8pm in the Club Room of the Otford Village Hall. Please apply for tickets @ £5 per head to include ploughman's supper to Jane Lawrey on 01959 522360 and bring your own bottle and glasses. There will be a power-point presentation by two teenagers who recently visited Precigne, near Le Mans, France and an opportunity to see photographs of the visit to Precigne by adults in May. We do hope that you will support this international venture to ensure its success in bringing together young people in particular.

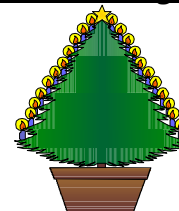
Young Achiever Award

There is still time if you think there is a youngster out there who deserves recognition please let us have your nominations as soon as possible. We have had three nominations so far.

Remembrance Day

The Remembrance Day Service and Parade will take place on **Sunday 11th November** at 11am. Be advised that the traffic will be stopped at the pond during the laying of wreaths at the War memorial. Please be patient.

Tree of Light



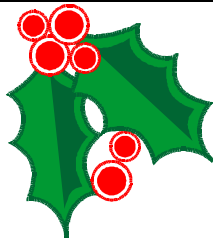
The Tree of Light service will take place on **Friday 7th December** at 7.30pm on the Village Green and will be followed at 8.00pm with the traditional United Churches Carols around the Christmas tree on the Green. Seasonal refreshments following these events will be offered in the new St Bartholomew's Church Centre.

Labels for you to write your message on are available from the Parish Council Office. If you cannot get into the office during opening hours (8.30am - 12.30pm) then please phone up and we will write your card for you. Cheques for your donation need to be made out to Otford Parish Council. The Tree of Light will remain lit up until after the New Year. Donations will once again be going to The Hospice in the Weald.

Boxing

Keep letting us have your names if you would be interested in joining a boxing club based in The Weald. If you are aged between 10 - 17 years please let Sue at the Parish Council Office know your details on 01959 524808.

St Bartholomew's Christmas Market



This annual event takes place in the Church Hall on **Saturday 10th November** between 10am to 12 noon. There will be a range of stalls including Christmas gifts, crafts, toys and cakes, try your luck at the competitions and enjoy a chat over coffee and cake. Entry is free.

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 next meeting is on **13th November** when they will hold their Annual meeting. Then Mr P Shearan will give a talk entitled 'Bah Humbug' on the **11th December**. Please contact the Secretary on 01959 522736 for more details.

Otford Methodist Church

On **Saturday 24th November** the Otford Methodist Church is holding a Christmas Bazaar in the new halls from 10am to noon. There will be a variety of stalls and you can enjoy a cup of coffee whilst having your car washed.

Then on **Sunday 2nd December** when the village shops are open there will be Free Coffee and Mince Pies served in the new halls from 12 noon throughout the afternoon so go along and enjoy a relaxing few minutes in a busy day.

Otford Art Group Christmas Shopping

The Otford Art Group extend an invitation to their Art Exhibition and Sale, on **Sunday 2nd December**, in the Memorial Hall Club Room between 11am and 4pm, in conjunction with the Christmas opening of the village shops. Original paintings and prints etc will be on sale. There will also be teas, coffee and cakes.

Otford Evening WI

At its Annual meeting on 11th October Diana Jeremiah was re-elected as President and they had a clear, well presented treasurer's report and an excellent report from our secretary. The profit from the Boot Sale held in September has given a healthy boost to our funds and they enter the new WI year in a sound financial position. They send many thanks to all who supported it.

The Sackville Singers

The Sackville Singers will be putting on a performance entitled 'Except the Lord, Build the House' a programme of verse and song, both sacred and light-hearted, paying homage to Edward Elgar born 150 years ago on **Saturday 10th November** at 7.30pm in St Bartholomew's Church. Tickets for £10 are available from Hospices of Hope Shop at 28a High Street on 01959 524322 or the office at 14a High Street on 01959 525110.

Front Garden Competition

In the Parish Council's Front Garden Competition, organised by the Otford Gardeners' Society, the prizes were as follows:

- First Prize - Mr & Mrs R Yalding 59, Sidney Gardens
- Second Prize - Mr W Woestmann, 21 Coombe Road
- Third Prize - Mr G Vickers - 57 Sidney Gardens

Otford Allotment Association

With the commencement of the new allotment gardening year, all tenants are keen to keep going and continue to enjoy the produce that is generated throughout. The past year has been a very good growing year with the rain coming at the right time followed by some warm ripening sunshine. If you would like to be part of this growing team of keen gardeners - give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 or call in to the Parish Council office. Don't wait now it is time to get cracking and get some good exercise at the same time.

Citizens Advice Bureau

CAB surgeries take place on the first Tuesday of the month between 10am and 12 noon at the Parish Council offices for free confidential and impartial advice. No appointments are necessary. Use this local service.

Otford Oast WI

The next meeting of 2007 in the Otford Memorial Hall is on **15th November** when they will hold their Annual meeting. Then on **6th December** they will hold their Christmas Party with a 'Stockingful of Rhyme' when Stella Redman will be entertaining them with her humorous readings. Refreshments will be served. If you would like to learn more or just come for the company, they are a young WI and have a free crèche for your children. Everyone is welcome. First visit is free, second visit £3 and Annual membership £26. Tea /Coffee 50p.

Sevenoaks Music Club

The Sevenoaks Music Club are having a Chamber Music season. The next concert will take place on **Saturday 1st December** with Libor Novacek playing Mozart, Schubert and Liszt.

The concert will take place at 8pm in the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall School, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent. Tickets are £14 and Students £5.

Then on **Sunday 9th December** at 3pm there will be a concert by the Sevenoaks Young Musicians prize winners John Paul Ekins (piano) and William Cale (piano). Tickets are £10 and Students £5.

If you are interested in the brochure or tickets for any concerts, do call Richard Hargreaves on 01732 453251

Otford & District Wine Club

The next meeting of the Otford & District Wine Club is on **Wednesday 28th November** and will be an illustrated talk by Mavis Bubear who bravely travelled to the ghastly prisons of the Ukraine last year to provide spectacles to the inmates. Mavis has worked in the criminal justice system for over 20 years and we are sure she will have an interesting storey to tell us about her very worthwhile trip. Please do come along and give Mavis your support. As usual the evening will begin at 8pm and will be in the Otford Memorial Hall. It is free to members but guests will be charged £3. 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 8th 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 live music. Please bring glasses and your own liquid refreshment. The price for members is £19 and guests will be charged £22. 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, as the Otford Wine Club is now the only organisation in the area which holds an annual Christmas Dinner!

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Hall on **Saturday 24th November** with a Dickens Celebration - themed lunch followed by 'Dickens Characters with Lee Ault'. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons 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 next lecture will be on **15th November** when Lois Oliver will talk on '*Rubens: a Master in the Making*'. The 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, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529 and Alison Davis on 01732 780453.

Picture of the Month

The artist for November / December is Elizabeth Finch. Elizabeth, always known as Tibbs, has lived in Otford for 30 years moving from the North Downs to the village in recent years. Tibbs enjoys life to the full but her first love is drama with art running a close second. She says that belonging to the Art Group is one of life's enjoyments and regards all the fellow members as friends. Over the years she has owned eleven Irish Red Setters and bred four litters of puppies. She loves them because they are so gentle and beautiful. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Eynsford & District Country Market

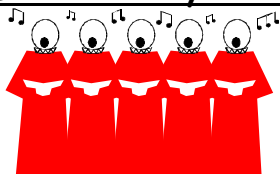
Beat the crowds this Christmas at the Eynsford Country Market when home produced fare will be on sale from **30th November**. On the same day why not try out the various pickles and chutneys ready for Boxing Day. Christmas crafts, floral table arrangements, bulbs to flower around Christmas, all

seasonal foods and preserves will be available for ordering. The last market on **21st December** when you can pick up your orders, buy your Christmas fare and get all your local grown seasonal vegetables. Tea and free mince pies will be available on 14th December. The market is open every Friday afternoon between 2pm and 3pm in Eynsford Village Hall. After Christmas the market will reopen on 11th January.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2007/2008 lecture season continues on **Thursday 8th November** at 8.15pm when Mr Daniel Snowman will talk on 'The Guided Stage: A Social and Cultural History of Opera' then on **13th December** Mr John Benjamin will talk about 'At the Sign of the Falcon: The Life and Work of Harry Murphy - Goldsmith, Silversmith and Arts & Crafts Designer' Please contact Mrs Maggie Llanwarne on 01732 460709 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information and membership.

Darent Valley Choir



The Darent Valley Choir presents a concert of Christmas Music including Bach and Charpentier at St Nicholas Church, High Street, Sevenoaks on **Saturday 8th December** at 7.30pm. Tickets -£10 (concessions £9) available from Sevenoaks Bookshop or from 01474 615591 or 01959 523279 or on the door.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons Women's Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details / transport.

November

14th - The Kenward Trust - *work with addicts*
21st - Cracknells and Rev P Hill - *The Methodist Church in Europe*

28th - Pub lunch in Shoreham and Polhill visit

December

5th - Christmas meditation

12th - Christmas party/lunch at Ellenors

Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting will take place in the Otford Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 21st November** at 8pm when Paul Bennett will talk on 'The latest Archaeology in Libya'. Membership is £5 per year for adults with children admitted free if accompanied by an adult. Visitors always welcome at £1 per meeting.

Dog Fouling

This is still a big problem, not only on the Recreation Ground but also on pavements, footpaths and even in residents' front gardens. 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.

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 - 281

2nd Prize £15 - 188

3rd Prize £10 - 404

Planning

The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council in November. 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/07/02783 36 Pilgrims Way East

Conversion of internal garage to living accommodation, minor changes to external elevations and the erection of a detached timber frame garage

SE/07/02985 2 Willow Park

Demolition of existing garage. Construction of two storey side extension. Amendment to SE/07/01848

SE/07/02896 Broughton Manor High Street

Extension to utility room

SE/07/02897 Broughton Manor High Street

Extension to utility room

SE/07/03114 Hillview, Shoreham Road

Gates and piers to drive entrance

b. Results received

SE/07/02300 47 Tudor Drive

Part two storey and single storey side extension, single storey rear extension and loft conversion to include rear facing dormer

Refused

SE/07/01074 17 Greenhill Road

Outline application for new detached chalet bungalow
Appeal against refusal by SDC