On SUNDAY 30th November the only place to be and 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. There will be street entertainment to watch including Bobbo the Clown, Rob the fire juggler and Morris ladies dancing. Father Christmas will also be visiting and there will be many other exciting things to enjoy. 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.

Tree of Light

The Tree of Light service will take place on Friday 12th December at 7.30pm on the Village Green. Following that there will be seasonal refreshments 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.

Road Closure

The good news is that after consultations with EDF they have put off the Pilgrims Way West 6 week road closure until early January 2009.

Guide Christmas Post

The Guide Christmas Post Box will be in Otford Library between Tuesday 25th November and Tuesday 16th December inclusive during opening hours. A second box will also be available in the Parish Council office on Monday to Friday between the same dates. All cards will be delivered over the weekend 20th - 21st December and all the proceeds will be divided between Demelza House Children’s Hospice and Kent Air Ambulance Trust. Stamps will be 20p per card and all the money will go to the chosen charities. Please support us by posting early. The Brownies, their leaders and helpers will continue to organise and run the Christmas Post for the village this year with the Guides who we hope will be able to meet again in the near future.

St Bartholomew’s Christmas Market

St Bartholomew’s Church will be holding their traditional Christmas Market on Saturday 22nd November in the Church Hall between 10am and 12 noon. Stalls will include cakes, gifts, crafts, candles, Christmas decorations, gift wrapping, tea and coffee, stollen and biscuits.

Sales of Poppies 2008

The closure of the OTFORD branch of the Royal British Legion on 30th September last means that there will be no organised sale of poppies in the village this year. The nearest sale points will be: Sainsbury’s, Home Base and Halfords. Arrangements for the purchase of wreaths for village organisations will however be continued. Any persons interested should contact Mr M Hankinson on 01959 522967. Please remember that traffic will be halted at the pond during the times of between 10.45am and 11.15am on Remembrance Day Sunday 9th November. So if you are making a journey please get through before but if you do get caught please just be patient and remember why you are waiting. WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE. Thank you.
Otford Young Achiever Award

Send in your nominations now please for this year's award.

WE WANT TO KNOW

• Who's making a difference in the village, showing respect for those around them, standing out from the crowd, caring about their village

Tell us who deserves this award. Nominations welcome from parents, grandparents, carers, teachers, neighbours or friends.

ARE THEY

• Volunteering to do things without being asked, Helping their parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends, Picking up litter / caring for the village, Dissuading their friends from anti social behaviour, Fundraising for village resources, Performing well at school, Other endeavours

Please send your nominations by letter or email to Otford Parish Council at the address above.

NONE RECEIVED SO FAR !!!!!

Otford Primary School Christmas Bazaar

Otford Primary School will be holding its Christmas Bazaar in the School on Saturday 6th December between 12 noon and 3pm. Stalls will include a Grotto, Tea room, Craft Stall, Tombola, Face Painting, Toys, Books and many more. Please go along and help support the school.

Otford Evening WI

Otford Evening WI meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Otford Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm.

At the Annual Meeting in October Diana Jeremiah was re-elected as President and the committee members were elected for 2009. The speaker at the 13th November meeting will be Mrs Kenwynne Barber who will take them across the north pole on one of the many marathons she has undertaken to raise money for Cancer and Children's charities. Visitors are assured of a warm welcome despite the chilly subject. There will also be a Christmas Trading Stall at the meeting. For further details ring Diana Jeremiah on 01959 522981.

On a personal note “Diana Jeremiah wishes to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and condolences on the death of Peter. It was a wonderful turnout and please keep in touch”.

Otford Village Fete

The Annual General Meeting of the Otford Village Fete Committee will take place on Wednesday 26th November at 8pm in the Club Room of the Village Memorial Hall.

Talk at Otford Library

‘The Pound in your pocket’

Go along to Otford Library on Monday 17th November at 7.30pm when local expert David Sealy will talk about forgery in today's coinage. Tickets are £1 to include refreshments. For more information ring 01959 522488

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2008/2009 lecture season continues on 13th November with Mr Denis Moriarty talking about ‘John Piper, an Artist's Life in Architecture’ Then on 11th December Dr Colin Bailey will talk on ‘Shepherds and Kings – The Nativity in Art’ After the December lecture the Committee invites everybody to join them for wine and mince pies. The meetings are held at Walthamstow Hall Senior School, Hollybush Lane, commencing at 8.15pm. Please contact Mrs Maggie Llanwarne on 01732 460709 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information and membership.

Otford Allotments Association

What a difference another few weeks make- last time I told you of a waiting list – this time we have some vacancies as two stalwart tenants have had to give up because of ill health leaving a great swathe of unused plots. However, these are gradually being allocated but there are one or two plots which need some tender loving care - can you provide that? If so please give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 or call into the Parish Council office on any weekday morning. A report on the AGM will appear next time and hopefully some better news.
Otford Community Warden
Paul Robertson our KCC Community Warden holds a weekly surgery to discuss any problems and community issues at School House every Tuesday between 11am and 12 noon.

Darent Valley Choir
The Christmas concert this year will be held in the United Reform Church (Christ Church) in Littlecourt Road, Sevenoaks - just below Sevenoaks Station with ample parking across the main road on Saturday 6th December at 7.30pm. They will be singing chosen excerpts from Handel's Messiah and Vaughan Williams Christmas Fantasia and well loved carols of course. Tickets are £10 (£9 concessions) and available at Sevenoaks Bookshop and by calling 01959 523279 or 01474 815591.

Otford - Precigne Twinning
Adults, Teenagers, Couples, Families - Don't miss the opportunity of a lovely long May Bank Holiday weekend (2-4th May 2009) in France visiting Precigne, near Le Mans, cost of travel - low, accommodation - free, French food and wine - delicious. We were made very welcome with warm hospitality two years ago and are invited to return with a larger party next year. For further information please contact Jane Lawrey on 01959 522360 or Parish Council Office on 01959 524808 as soon as possible. There will be a Beetle Drive for all ages taking place on Friday 28th November from 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall. There will be a French Ploughman's Supper at a cost of £7.50 or £5 for youngsters, please bring your own glasses, drinks and nibbles as required. There will be a Raffle in aid of Otford - Precigne Twinning. If you remember how to play please come or if you would like to learn please come. Fun for all. For tickets please contact Jane Lawrey or the Parish Council Office on the numbers above.

Knole DFAS
Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. On 20th November Edward Saunders will talk on 'Georgian Architecture: an Era of Elegance and Proportion'. The Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm and finish by 3pm. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society please contact Alison Davis on 01732 780453.

Otford Methodist Exercise Group
The Serendip exercise group meet every Thursday from 9.30-10.30am in the Otford Methodist Church Halls. The group is for men and women over 50 and lead by a REPs level 3 supervisor. Refreshments and chat afterwards, followed by Table tennis or Chess. The cost is £2 per session. You will be welcome for all or one of the activities. Phone David Knight on 01732 743056 for details.

Otford Afternoon WI
The Otford Afternoon WI's next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th November when they will hold their Annual Meeting. Then on 9th December Mr C Baldwin will give a talk on ‘A Day in the life of a Toastmaster’ For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

Otford Oast WI
The next meeting will be on Thursday 13th November at 9.30am when they will hold their Annual Meeting and Sales Table. Then on 4th December at their Birthday/Christmas meeting Denise Thompson Otford's own brilliant designer florist will be creating a table decoration. There will also be guests from other Institutes and refreshments will be served. Contact Patsy Groom on 01959 524156 for more information.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild
The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 29th November there will be a talk in the afternoon by Barbara Walters on 'The Story of the Golden Mantle' Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery
The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on Tuesday 2nd December between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.
Kemsing Health Walk
Run by Sevenoaks District Council and meeting every Tuesday at 10.30am in Kemsing. Meeting and finishing at the Car Park, High Street (next to the Wheatsheaf PH)
- No Booking necessary
- it is FREE so just turn up
- The walks are led by trained walk leaders
- all ages and abilities welcome
- buggies and wheelchairs welcome
- walks last about 45 minutes
- wear comfortable footwear
Children under 16yrs must be accompanied by an adult.

Otford Petanque Club

Every Thursday at 3pm the Otford Petanque Club plays on the new purpose-built terrain in the High Street Recreation Ground and makes good use of the tea making facilities in the nearby Eric Dilley Pavilion. Why not join them? You would be most welcome and no previous experience is required. For further information contact the club secretary Margaret Chandler on 01959 523620

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 - 495
2nd Prize £15 - 107
3rd Prize £10 - 375

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons

Women’s Fellowship
Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm in the new Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details
November
19th - Pub Lunch in Shoreham and Polhill visit
26th - Open Meeting – Alzheimers Society
December
3rd - Christmas meditation
10th - Christmas lunch at Ellenors

Dog Fouling
This is still a big problem, which should NOT be a problem at all, on the Recreation Ground especially around the new pavilion. Thank you to those who do pick up but please DO NOT then throw the bag into the hedgerow but used the bins provided. 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.

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/08/675 Sevenoaks Quarry Bat & Ball Road
Sevenoaks
Extension of extraction area and continued operation of existing processing and associated manufacturing plant and buildings and other operational areas
SE/08/02758 Land adj Mount Path Cottage, Pilgrims East
Alterations to access to include widening and creation of turning and parking area
SE/08/02789 Crookfoot, Rye Lane
Demolition of outbuilding and erection of two storey side extension
SE/08/02783 35 High Street
Erection of ground floor rear extension

b. Results received
SE/08/02274 28 Ryecroft Road
Erection of end terrace house & works to highway. Amended plans received 19.09.08 Allowed
SE/08/02285 1 Tudor Crescent
Two first floor side extensions Refused
SE/08/02364 33 Well Road
Single storey rear and front extension Allowed
SE/08/02556 Little Coombe Shoreham Road
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling Refused

c. Tree Work in Conservation Area
08/02821/WTCA 30 High Street
Works to trees