

# Otford Parish Council

## November Newsletter 2009

### No 184

Kent and South & South East England  
Village of the Year 2002  
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### Otford Christmas Shopping Festival



On **SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Victorian Characters. Father Christmas will also be visiting and there will be many other exciting things to enjoy including free mince pies distributed by the Otford Methodist Church. 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Parish Council

For those interested in all the activities of OPC, the minutes of meetings are available in the library, and all minutes, agendas and newsletters can be obtained via the web (also available in the library). They can be read via <http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil>. The newsletter is also available on the website.

The next meeting will be on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

### Helplines Directory

A revised copy of the Parish Council Helplines Directory is now available on [otford.net](http://otford.net). Hard copies can be obtained from the Parish Office.

### St Bartholomew's Christmas Market

St Bartholomew's will be holding their Christmas Market in the Church Hall on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November** between 10am to 12 noon. Stalls will include: gift wrapping, cards, Christmas tree and table decorations, candles, cakes, winter woollies (scarves, gloves, hats etc), sweets and chocolates. Refreshments will also be available

### Indoor Boot Fair

There will be an Indoor Boot Fair at Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 21st November**. From 9am and 1pm. To book a table at a cost of £8 please contact Claire on 01959 525582 (evenings) or Donna on 01959 522236 (evenings). Entrance will be 50p and refreshments will be available.

### Guide Christmas Post

The Guide Christmas Post Box will be in Otford Library between **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November** and **Friday 18th 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 19<sup>th</sup> - 20th December and all the proceeds will be divided between Bradbourne Riding for the Disabled Association and St John Ambulance Kent. Stamps will be 20p per card and all the money will go to the chosen charities. This is an important year in Guiding as we are celebrating our Centenary and we would like our Christmas Post Service for the village to be really successful, so please give generously and support us by posting early

### Otford Village Fete Committee

We did it! Yes we can have a fete without rain and as a result we had over 6,000 visitors. This ensured that our seriously depleted bank account was topped

up and as a result we have been able to help the following associations and clubs in Otford.

#### Otford Cricket Club

Contribution towards new two lane permanent net

#### Otford Memorial Hall

Purchase of 10 new chairs

#### Otford Parish Plan

Contribution towards the preparation of the Parish Plan

#### Otford Players

Help with the decorating costs for their storage site

#### Otford Scouts

New sleeping tents for the scouts

#### Otford Solar System

Contribution towards the production of an information board

#### Otford Tennis Club

Help with the replacement of a lockable gate

#### PlayPlace

Contribution for young people to attend a performing Arts programme

#### Norman Catt

Contribution towards the purchase of a finishing mower for use within Otford

#### Otford Parish Council

Purchase of Portable PA System

and the good news is that we still have some money left! Any Otford based organisation who would like to make an application to the Fete Committee for funds should do so using the application form which can be found on our website ([www.otford.info/villagefete](http://www.otford.info/villagefete))

Applications should be received by the end of January 2010. The Otford Fete Committee AGM will take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in the Village Hall at 8pm

### Otford Parish Plan

#### Phase Two

Like the hard-paddling swan not much may appear to have happened since you completed your questionnaires in June, but the Parish Plan Steering Group have been working very hard at assimilating all the responses and sorting out all the very helpful comments that were made. And what a really excellent response we got. We received hundreds of completed questionnaires and can now clearly see those things which most concern the community.

We will now present these findings to your Parish Council and then hold a 'Drop-In' event at the Memorial Hall on a Saturday in December so everyone will get the chance to attend. The date will be extensively advertised throughout the village in advance.

You will be able to see which subjects you judged to be the most important for needing attention. You will

also get the chance to scan through the hundreds of comments we received on a whole range of issues.

The next stage is to form groups who can address particular problems and discuss possible solutions that can help the future of our community. These smaller groups won't be alone. They can get support – and ideas – from a wide range of professional people who are available to help us in this task. If you think you would like to take part in this process, pick up a form at the Saturday drop-in event.

So thank you Otford for showing how much you care.

Thank you all the many older residents who also provided their helpful views

And thank you to all the younger residents whose responses will go a long way to addressing their concerns in the future.

### Otford Village Hall - Treasurer

Otford Village Memorial Hall needs a new Treasurer! Keith Stockman, who has been our Treasurer for about three years now, is finding that his new business venture is making it impossible for him to continue to look after the Village Hall's finances as well. Keith has done a super job, not least in computerising all of our accounts, but we now need someone to take over.

This really isn't a particularly onerous task and would suit someone with a basic knowledge of accounting or book-keeping, a little time and a dash of public spiritedness. The Hall provides a tremendous facility for the community with over 1700 bookings each year. We do ask that the Treasurer attends the four quarterly Trustees meetings each year but these only last for about 1½ hours (and, sometimes, can even be interesting!). Please ring me, Ron Dullage, Secretary to the Trustees, initially and we'll progress things from there. You can contact me on either 01959 525181, 07887 780576 or e-mail me on [ovmh.manager@otford.net](mailto:ovmh.manager@otford.net).

### Otford Primary School Christmas Bazaar

The Otford Primary Christmas Bazaar will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December between 12 noon and 3pm. Do go along and join in the fun, Carol singing, teas, crafts, Santa's grotto and many other stalls.

### The Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club are pleased to announce that they are holding a Latin American Wine Tasting in the Otford Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 25 November, starting at 8 p.m. There will be wine to taste together with entertainment so a good time will be had by all. As usual it is free to members but guests will be charged £5. Why not come along for a good night

out amongst friends? Also tickets for our Christmas Dinner and Social on Saturday 12 December are selling like hot mince pies so ring the Secretary on 01732-761359 if you would like to come. The evening will begin with a welcome glass of sherry; a full Christmas Dinner with five choices of each course; a raffle and dancing - all for £24 - so don't delay book today!

### Police Surgery

The next Police surgery with PCSO Jane Wright will be held at Parish Council Offices on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December between 11am and 12 noon.

### 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.

### Twinning - Neufchatel-Hardelot

There will be an opportunity to see informative posters of the area during the coffee morning in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall on Saturday 28 November between 10.30am and 12.15pm. Do come along. No knowledge of French necessary!

### Otford Front Garden Competition

The Otford Front Garden Competition organised by the Otford Gardeners' Society on behalf of the Parish Council was judged in August with the following result

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Mr & Mrs Yeldham - Sidney Gardens
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Mrs Y Brown - Hale Lane
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Mr & Mrs Brauns - The Old Walk

#### Highly Commended

- Mr W Woestmann - Coombe Road
- Mr G Vickers - Sidney Gardens
- Mrs J Wylie - Rye Lane

#### Commended

- Mr & Mrs Parkin - Hale Lane
  - Mrs A Baldwin - Leonard Avenue
  - Mr & Mrs Brotherton - Warham Road
  - Mr & Mrs Akhurst - The Charne
  - Mr & Mrs Streat - Great Till Close
  - Mrs M Parker - Twitton Meadows
  - Mr & Mrs Thornhill - Willow Park
  - Mr & Mrs Brake - Willow Park
  - Mr D Hubner - Coombe Road
  - Mr & Mrs Howie - Hillydeal Road
- Well Done to all of you

### Otford & District Historical Society

The Otford & District Historical Society next meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm when the subject of the lecture by Anne Carter will be '*Rochester Cathedral*'. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Annual Members Subscriptions are £5. Visitors are welcome for £1. After the outstanding success of the first publication, the new Otford - Past in Pictures II Book is now available for sale at £7. It makes a perfect Christmas Present. They are available from the Parish Council Office / Heritage Centre, The Crown PH, The Chemists, The Post Office, Willow Tea Rooms, Yvonne and Sevenoaks Bookshop

### Otford Oast WI

On 19<sup>th</sup> November Murray Letham will talk about '*Internet Security - How to keep our families safe on the internet*'. Then on 10<sup>th</sup> December Chris McCooley will talk about '*Kentish Tales - Come and be entertained with exciting stories about Rogues, Rascals and Rebels*'. Do join them. The meetings on a Thursday once a month start at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free.

### Otford Afternoon WI

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month. On 8<sup>th</sup> December they will have Pull the Other One - something to put you in the party mood. For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

### 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. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details

#### November

- 18<sup>th</sup> - Chris Towers - '*Spitzbergen*'
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Pub Lunch - 'Polhill visit'

#### December

- 2<sup>nd</sup> - David William - '*History of Seal*'
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Christmas mediation
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Lunch - Willow Tea Rooms

### St Bartholomew's Church

Please join them for these early Christmas events

#### Sunday 6th December

4.00pm - Christingle

#### Sunday 13th December

7.30pm - Choir Christmas Concert

## Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2009/2010 lecture season continues on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November when Mr Robert Gowland will talk about '*The Identification of Oriental Rugs and Carpets*'. Then on 10<sup>th</sup> December Mr Lars Tharp will talk about '*A Grand Tour of Kent 1732*'. After the December meeting the Committee invites you 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.

## The Sackville Singers Concert

There will be a Concert of Carols by the Sackville Singers Adult and Children's Choirs in The Chapel, Tonbridge School on Saturday 12th December at 6.30 pm - Tickets £16 to include mulled wine & mince pie. This is a very special concert in a stunning venue. All the proceeds from this event will go to the Rockdale Appeal. This Appeal is running to raise enough funds to build a new residential home for the elderly in the centre of Sevenoaks. Rockdale is a charity that has been running since 1948 which provides sheltered housing and a residential home for the elderly. For more information email: [appeal@rockdale.org.uk](mailto:appeal@rockdale.org.uk) or 01732 458762

## Otford Methodist Church.

Otford Methodist Church would like to invite you to join them at the following events during December  
Sunday 6th at 6.30pm - A Cafe Evening with Nick Cuthbert. Tea and cakes provided, no entrance charge

Saturday 12th at 8.30 am - Men's breakfast at Darenth Valley Golf course

Sunday 20th at 10.30 am - Nativity Service

Sunday 20th at 6.30pm - Carol Service

Thursday 24th at 5pm - Christingle Service

Friday 25th at 10.00am - Christmas Morning Service

For more details on any of the above except the Mens Breakfast please contact Kath Pawlett on 01959 522196. For the Men's Breakfast please contact Derek Baxter on 01959 523687

## Knole DFAS

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. The next lecture will be on 19<sup>th</sup> November when Marina Vaizey will talk about '*Two Americans in England: Sargent and*

*Whistler*'. Former Sunday Times Art Critic Marina Vaizey will examine the careers of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century American expatriate artists John Singer Sargent and James Whistler. 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.

## Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting of the Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild will be on Saturday 28th November in Otford Village Hall when they hold their Christmas Party. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoon at 2pm. For more information please call 0208 304 4416.

## Picture of the Month

The artist for November / December is Sheila Vizard. Sheila says 'Anyone who lived in Otford in the 70's and 80's will probably remember Ros and Brian Snow. My picture is a pen and wash painting of their beautiful farmhouse near Rodez, in the South of France'. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

## 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:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £50 - 359,

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15 - 121

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 - 140

## Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on Tuesday 1st December between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

## 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/09/02325 8 Hillydeal Road - Proposed pool house

b. Tree Works

09/02223/WTCA The Corner House The Green

CA fell 1 conifer tree. Pursuant to previous

application 09/01960/WTCA (Reduce 1 fir tree by one third and reshape canopy)