

Otford Parish Council October Newsletter 2002

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Village of the Year 2002 Otford – Regional Winners We did it!



After the dreadful weather at the beginning of the week Thursday 17th dawned bright and shining. Otford looked at its best. A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make it look that way. The wonderful smell of the luncheon club's cooking impressed the three judges as they sipped their coffee and watched a 12 minute video of village life, made by Barbara Darby. A walk over the recreation ground followed, whilst being told about cricket and the village fete, to the Solar System model and a tour of the planets. Then a drive back via the football pitches and tennis courts and the allotments. A stop at the Mosaic next and a walk up the High Street to see the shops and to admire the Pond, Church and Village Green. They then walked past the Palace and through Palace Field and were picked up at the Parade for a whistle-stop tour of the rest of the village from the Vestry to the Station, Hale Lane and back to the Heritage Centre. The sun shone all the way and the tour was completed with two minutes to spare! We were up against villages in Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex (East and West) and Wiltshire. We now go through this all again for the National Judges at a date yet to be decided in November and we will be up against 5 other regional winners. The winners will not then be known until 10th December at the award lunch in London attended by the Princess Royal.

Otford came to the fore again on Tuesday 8th October when BBC TV showed pictures of the Planet system on the National 6pm news bulletin

Traffic Calming

To date, no further information has been received on this proposal. As previously indicated the full facts will be printed in this newsletter when available

Station Refuge

We understand that negotiations between Kent County Council and Railtrack are almost complete. It is anticipated that work will commence early in 2003 but will publish further information as soon as received.

Mill Bridge – High Street

Kent County Council have told us that the High Street bridge over the Mill Stream needs replacing. Plans are being drawn up for the work to be carried out at some time in the New Year resulting in **TOTAL CLOSURE OF THE HIGH STREET** for a period of about **SIX WEEKS**. A Temporary pedestrian bridge will be provided over the Mill Stream.

Applause Programme 2002/03

Cat Weatherill – 'Ghost'

This production takes place on **Saturday 2nd November 2002 at 7.30pm** in the Village Memorial Hall.

'Ghost' is new collection of spine-tingling stories swept up from the hearth sides of the British and Irish folk tradition. Proving that stories really are for everyone. Cat conjures up a spooky and magical atmosphere where listeners are taken completely under her spell. Please come along and support this production. Tickets are priced at £5 or £4/£3 for concessions and are available from the Parish Office. All profits will go to the Heritage Centre. Not recommended for under 12's

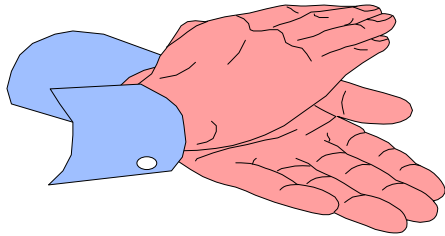
Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery will take place on **Wednesday 6th November** between 10am and 12 noon in School House. If you have any problems, please come and see her.

Otford Society Meeting

The Otford Society Autumn meeting will take place in the Village Hall on **Thursday 24th October** at 8pm Everyone is welcome to attend.

Well Done



Congratulations to Barbara Darby (Video) who entered her video 'The Otford Village Sign' into the Kent Amateur Film Festival held at Canterbury on 28th October. Her video won her the 'Maiden Entry Trophy' for contestants who have not won a trophy in the Kent Festival. The judge, in his comments, indicated that this was an excellent documentary on the design and production of the Millennium sign for Otford Village. He was particularly impressed that the movie maker was also the key character in the construction of the video – clearly a truly talented lady! – Well done Barbara.

Train Noise

There have been a number of complaints about Train Noise especially from residents living close to the railway line through Otford. The problem is caused not only by Eurostars and heavy Continental and High Speed line construction traffic but in particular by the increasing use of Networker trains which have particularly loud horns. A meeting to discuss this problem was held on September 18th and representatives from Railtrack, Connex, SDC, OPC and local residents attended. Railtrack emphasised that drivers were only bound to use their horns between 7.00am and 11.30pm. Horns should NOT be sounded between 11.30pm and 7.00am except in an emergency. Railtrack promised to advise all depots employing drivers on the Otford line to abide by this regulation but this may take some time. If horn sounding continues at prohibited times after January 1st, please advise the Parish Office of the time and date and we will forward the information to Railtrack.

It was also agreed that additional usage of Footpath 48, not only from Tudor Drive and Crescent but also from Kemsing would lessen the usage of the pedestrian crossing. OPC emphasised that we could only support this proposal if there was extension of the lighting from Station Road to Tudor Drive with considerable cutting back of the foliage, shrubs and trees.

Railtrack confirmed that they would discuss this proposal with SDC. The end result could be an application to close the pedestrian crossing but residents would have an opportunity to discuss this at a public meeting sometime in 2003.

Remembrance Service

You will be most welcome to attend the Remembrance Day Service in St Bartholomew's on Sunday 10th November at 10am followed by the two minutes silence and laying of wreaths at the War Memorial at 11am. Inevitably there will be traffic delays around the Pond between 10.50am and 11.10am so please be patient or try to avoid this period if you are travelling through the village.

Otford Gardeners Society

The Society will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 5th November in the village hall commencing at 8pm. As usual the AGM will be combined with the seasonal show. Old and new members are welcome.

The Annual Christmas Social will take place in the village hall on Saturday 7th December commencing at 7pm. Tickets can be obtained from Joan James, 27, Willow Park, Otford at £15 each and members and non-members will be very welcome.

Perform your Party Piece

The cancellation of the Otford Players autumn production leaves a gap in the village calendar and a vacancy at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 16th November. The Players would very much like to hold a celebration on that evening, with a few well-known songs for the audience to join in with, and some comic sketches etc together with a fish and chip supper (Bring your own drinks).

Time is short so have you a 'Party Piece' you could perform to foster the party spirit?

They need enough volunteers for the occasion, so if you can sing, play a musical instrument or act in any way, please let Ken Gunderson know as soon as possible on 01959 522709.

They also need an audience, so reserve the date – 16th November. Tickets cost in the region of £6 including supper. Profits, if any, to a charitable cause.



Coffee Morning

The International Glaucoma Association are holding a Coffee morning on Wednesday 20th November between 10am and 12 noon in the Club Room of the Village Hall. If you would like to learn more about Glaucoma and particularly if you suffer from the condition do go along. The speaker will be Gillian Crick daughter of Mr Ronald Pitts-Crick FRCS FRCOphth President of the Association. There will be a raffle and Bring

and Buy Stall. Contact Hilary Johnson on 01959 522917 for more information.

Charity Concert

A concert of classical, traditional and folk songs by The Grove Singers (a London based chamber choir) in aid of The Cystic Fibrosis Trust will take place on Saturday 9th November at 7pm in The Mill Lane Centre (behind Shell Garage on A25 Seal Road, Sevenoaks). Contact Barbara Darby (cake/video) for tickets on 01959 523339. Tickets by donation.

A Right Royal Celebration

Diana Edwardes MBE, will bring the production of her own celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Year to St Bartholomew's on Saturday 26th October at 7.30pm. It is a series of dramatised narratives presented by five story-tellers and concentrates on the stories of England's Queens Regnant, from Boadicea to Queen Elizabeth II, particularly Queens Mary, Elizabeth I and Victoria. Tickets available on the night are £5.



St Bartholomew's -Christmas Market

The market will be held on Saturday 9th November from 10am to 12 noon in the Church Hall. There will be the usual variety of Christmas gifts, decorations and stocking fillers for sale. Excellent cakes and preserves, as well as other food; craft items, books and plants; and things for children to buy and do. Get your Christmas shopping done early, enjoy a cup of coffee with your friends and try to win one of the competitions.

Buddhism in Otford

SGI-UK, a registered charity, is part of Soka Gakkai International, the world wide lay organisation practising the Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin. The aim of SGI-UK, is to create value through peace, education and culture. This Buddhism believes in the unlimited potential of the human being and encourages the active development of the qualities of wisdom, courage and compassion in order to overcome obstacles in daily life. Meetings and other activities are held

regularly in Otford and the surrounding area. For more information. Contact Graham Holman on 01959 522700.

Otford Village Fete

This is the latest list of general donations made by the Fete Committee from the 2002 fete.

- § Otford Guides – Refurbish Gatehouse
- § Otford Scouts – Scout Hut renovations
- § Otford Benevolent Fund – Elderly Christmas Box
- § Hospice of Hope Romania – Donation
- § Otford Cricket Club – Colts Equipment
- § Otford Heritage Centre – Display Cover
- § Otford Lawn Tennis Club – Repairs and cleaning
- § Otford Wine Club – New Freezer
- § Sevenoaks Volunteer Bureau – Printer
- § Spring House – Storage Shed

As you can see a wide range of donations have been made. Please contact the committee if you have a request. Also if you would be interested in joining the committee and helping out at the biggest village event each year then please contact Mark Stevens on 01959 523881

Arthritis Research Campaign

If you want to learn more about Arthritis the Sevenoaks Branch of the Arthritis Research Campaign invite you to an information morning at the Sevenoaks District Council Offices, Argyle Road on Monday 28th October between 10am to 1pm. There will be a talk and short video about arthritis and its implications at 10.30 and 12 noon. All are welcome, admission free. Enquiries Tel 01474 703610 or 01732 457483.

Citizens Advice Bureau

Thursday 10th October was World Mental Health Day. The CAB works closely with all the mental health organisations in Sevenoaks to try to alleviate the problems and discrimination experienced by those suffering mental ill health. Each year, one in four people will experience a mental health problem (such as stress, anxiety or depression).

- ✓ *Assert* creates and supports citizen advocacy partnerships for people with mental health problems. Advocacy is about helping people stand up for themselves and finding others who will take their side.
- ✓ *Reachout* is a member led network of self help groups for those aged 16 to 65, one of which is based in Sevenoaks. The groups are informal and offer mutual support, information and befriending.
- ✓ *Glen Dunlop* is a day centre offering a number of different activities, hot meals and good company in safe surroundings.

- ✓ There is sheltered accommodation in Sevenoaks provided by *Sevenoaks & District Association for Mental Health, Rethink severe mental illness* (formerly NSF) and the *Richmond Fellowship*.
- ✓ All the organisations are drawn together at the *Sevenoaks Mental Health Forum* and extensive publicity is undertaken by the *Sevenoaks Mental Health Awareness Group*. Finally, there are the St Johns Centre and Godden Green Clinic providing medical expertise.

Volunteer advisers are trained in mental health awareness and can help individuals with questions of benefit entitlement, housing issues, relationship problems, money advice and many other situations that can result from mental ill health. Advisers can put you in touch with any of the above organisations.

To find out more, just contact the Bureau at The Library, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HW. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday.

(Tel No : 01732 - 454443

(Fax No : 01732 - 463164

(e-mail : 7oakscab@dial.pipex.com

web page : www.7oakscab@dial.pipex.com

An adviser from CAB is at the Otford Parish Council office on the 1st Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12 noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on 5th November.

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 next two months speakers are as follows: -

October

23rd – Martyn Berry – *Such Sweet Airs*.

30th – Meeting with St Bart's

November

6th – AGM plus light tea

13th – Joyce Darracott – *I didn't know where to hang myself*.

20th Magda Sweetland – *U3A – Sevenoaks Style*

27th Gaye Reynolds – *Music and Meditation*

Planning

The following applications were considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in October. 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/02/01835 *J Sainsbury Plc Otford Road*

Erection of single storey car servicing building and ancillary parking

SE/02/01866 *40 Hillydeal Road* Replacement dwelling being revisions to consent number SE/01/2301

SE/02/01912 *25 Broughton Road*
Two storey rear extension and conservatory

SE/02/02135 *Foyle Pilgrims Way East*

Erection of new garage

SE/02/02182 *80 Evelyn Road*

Proposed kitchen and dining room extension and alteration to change existing kitchen to bathroom and utility room.

b. Results Received

SE/02/00055 *Beadles Garage Sevenoaks Rd*

Demolition of part of building and removal of external spray booth and associated flues. Reinstatement of gable end wall

Allowed

SE/02/01319 *Castle House Sevenoaks Rd*

Rebuilding of brick built lean to enclosure to form a new breakfast room. Replacement of kitchen window with timber door / window.

Allowed

SE/02/01651 *Beadles Garage Sevenoaks Rd*

Details pursuant to condition 8 (amended lighting scheme) of planning permission SE/00/02116

Allowed

SE/02/01735 *Umberlade Shoreham Road*

Outline application for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 x 2 storey dwellings with garages on subdivided plot. Allowed

SE/02/01737 *The Shaw Shoreham Road*

Erection of replacement dwelling being revision to consent no SE/01/00846 comprising 2 additional dormers to the west elevation and bathroom window to north elevation

Refused

SE/02/01800 *Russell House Sch Station Rd*

Installation of 2 no wheelchair platform lifts and associated works. Allowed

SE/02/01851 *OtfordBoardingKennels Pilgrims Way West*

Two storey side extension incorporating garage, and pitched roof to existing dormer window.

Refused

SE/02/01903 *Unit A Homebase Ltd Riverside Park*

Garden Centre conservatory. Allowed

SE/02/01943 *Plot 1 Greenhill House Shoreham Road*

Extension to approved dwelling. Allowed

