Kerbside Recycling Scheme
Now that the kerbside recycling scheme has been going for a few weeks we will cover a few of the issues raised by residents.
The most common enquiry has been about where people can obtain extra sacks. Residents can get two sacks at no cost from the Sevenoaks District Council offices, or purchase a full roll of 20 sacks from SDC or from the Parish Council office for only 50p; this is to cover the cost of the sacks. No profit is made, and with an extra roll of sacks residents with large families can avoid multiple trips into town.
A second concern of residents is about the fortnightly kerbside collection of newspapers and magazines. This ceased shortly after the scheme started and all paper should be placed in the clear sacks now.
Another public concern is seeing both recycling and black sacks being collected by the same vehicle; residents fear that the clear sacks are not being recycled. SDC have asked us to assure residents that although collected together, the sacks are separated at the recycling facility and all the clear sacks are then sent for recycling. The collection vehicles do not crush the sacks; the mechanism at the rear of the vehicle pushes all sacks into a spacious hopper. The vast majority of clear sacks – properly tied shut by residents - do not burst and arrive at the recycling facility intact. Please do not overfill your sacks.

Otford Players
The next production by the Otford Players is ‘HAPPY FAMILIES’ by John Godber, directed by Eileen Smith. It is a comedy with deeper undertones concerning growing up and changing lifestyles. It takes place in the Village Hall on Thurs 13th, Fri 14th and Sat 15th November. Tickets are £4 for Thurs and £5 for Fri and Sat. The Box Office number is 01959 522786.

Otford Evening WI Craft Group
The Otford Evening W.I. Craft Group will be holding a coffee morning on Friday 31st October between 10.30am and 12noon, in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall. Admission is £1, which will include a cup of coffee or tea and a scone. There will be a display of past and present projects and members own work. Everybody is very welcome to attend and they look forward to seeing you there.

St Bartholomew’s Church – Christmas Market
St Bartholomew’s Church, Otford will be holding a Christmas Market on Saturday 8th November at the Church Hall in Otford from 10am to 12noon. There is no admission charge and stalls will include cakes, jams and preserves, puddings (and anything else edible!), Christmas decorations and presents, craft and jewellery, plants and flowers, children’s stalls and sideshows. Tea and Coffee will be available within the hall. Proceeds will go to the Mission work of the Church. Please do go along and get those early Christmas presents.
AGM on

The Otford & District Wine Club are holding their AGM by the club. The usual Homemade wine will be a light buffet supper with wine provided after the business of the AGM is completed. There should be paid for the coming year. The Committee will be elected and subscriptions of £6 per member should be paid for the coming year. Members will then be invited to sample the puddings and award points. The Kirsch Cup will be awarded to the winning pudding maker. Any sort of pudding will be accepted as an entry but they are hoping for some old-fashioned entries such as jam roly-poly and spotted dick. Tickets for the Christmas Social will also be available. As usual the evening is free to members, but visitors will be charged a small fee. Why not go along for an enjoyable evening. Any enquiries to the Secretary on 01732 761359

Friends of Shoreham School

The Friends of Shoreham School (FOSS) are asking for donations of Bric a Brac, unwanted gifts and non-perishable foods for their Christmas Bazaar, which is to be held in Shoreham Village Hall on Saturday 6th December. Donations can be left at the school, or for collection by Susan Plant on 01959 523357

Front Garden Competition

The following are the results of the Otford Parish Council Front Garden Competition, organised by the Otford Gardeners’ Society,

1st Prize - Mrs Jean Wylie 17, Rye Lane.
2nd Prize - Mrs Alison Baldwin, 67, Willow Park
3rd Prize - Mrs Christine Jarman, 17 Station Road

Highly Commended certificates were won by: 21 Coombe Road, 4 The Old Walk and 40 Willow Park.

Commended certificates were given to 24 Willow Park, 57 Sidney Gardens, 59 Sidney Gardens, 27 Twitton Meadows, 2 Pickmoss, 21 Dane Road and 19 Hale Lane.

Congratulations to all the above and a big thank you to all the judges and to everyone whose hard work in their gardens help to make the village so lovely at all times of the year.

Remembrance Day Service

You will be most welcome to attend the Remembrance Day Service in St Bartholomew’s Church on Sunday 9th 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 if you are asked to stop for a few moments or try to avoid this period if you are travelling through the village.

Otford Folk Dance Club

On Saturday 25th October from 8pm in the Otford Memorial Hall the Otford Folk Dance Club welcome John Meacham from Nuneaton (not to be missed) calling with the Footnotes Band from 8pm. Admission is £5.50 in advance £6.00 on the door, with enough finger food for yourself to add to the buffet!

On Thursday 30th October they have Octobers 'Thursday Nights' run from 8pm in the Parish Church Hall and most finish at 10pm. Admission and membership is £1.50. The first visit is FREE! Including Tea/ Coffee and biscuits. They have dancing to Eddie and Morris each usually taking half of the evening. But on the last Thursday in the month they are supported by visiting callers or musicians. There are also the occasional bigger dances, details on the club website of http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/otfordfdc2. They welcome new members at any time. All dances are walked through first and called. Enjoyment takes first place over skill. Don’t be put off, because you can’t commit to regular visits. They have over 100 members, many of whom just go along from time to time when they can. So why not go along when you can and enjoy the friendly atmosphere of the Otford Club.

Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club are holding their AGM on Wednesday 29th October at 8pm in the Village Memorial Hall. There will be a review of the events of the past year and the Committee will be very interested to hear suggestions from members about the running of the club. A new Committee will be elected and subscriptions of £6 per member should be paid for the coming year. After the business of the AGM is completed there will be a light buffet supper with wine provided by the club. The usual Homemade wine competition will not take place this year due to dwindling entries over the past few years. Instead they will be holding a Pudding Competition and members are invited to submit homemade puddings (hot or cold – the former can be heated up in the hall kitchen). Members will then be invited to sample the puddings and award points. The Kirsch Cup will be awarded to the winning pudding maker. Any sort of pudding will be accepted as an entry but they are hoping for some old-fashioned entries such as jam roly-poly and spotted dick. Put away your diet books and get out your recipe books! It should be fun! Tickets for the Christmas Social will also be available. As usual the evening is free to members, but visitors will be charged a small fee. Why not go along for an enjoyable evening. Any enquiries to the Secretary on 01732 761359.

Blooming Wonderful

The changes in the growing and selling of garden plants are recalled from 1950 to the present day. The evolution of soiless composts, container grown shrubs, plastic pots, garden centres, automation in horticulture, plant propagation (plugs etc), new varieties. All of this and much more will be revealed by Mike Cooling F.I. Hort from over 50 years ‘hands on’ experience as a nursery man and one of the ‘First Generation Garden Centre Owners’ on Wednesday 29th October at 2pm at Coolings Nurseries, Rushmore Hill, Knockholt. Admission is £5, (payable at the door). All proceeds to go to Hospice in The Weald.

Otford Bazaar, which is to be held in Shoreham Village Hall on Saturday 6th December. Donations can be left at the school, or for collection by Susan Plant on 01959 523357.

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Otford & District Historical Society
The second meeting of the Historical Society will take place on **Wednesday 19th November** at 8pm in the Village Hall when Julia Page will talk on the subject of ‘Britain begins the Peninsular War 1808-9’.

Membership of the Society is only £3 a year, which includes 6 winter talks and usually 3 summer outings. This year members and guests visited Sandringham, The Red House, Bexleyheath and Orford Castle and Sutton Hoo. Visitors are welcome to all meetings at just £1 and children are admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

Embroiderers’ Guild
The Sevenoaks branch of The Embroiderers’ Guild will next meet on **Saturday 25th October** at Otford Village Memorial Hall. The morning session, which begins at 10am, will include a visit to St Bartholomew’s Church to view the ecclesiastical embroideries. This will be followed at 2pm by the AGM after which Sylvia Grafton and Betty Bishop will give a talk on their work on these embroideries. Advance Notice – On Saturday 29th November the branch will be holding its first exhibition of members work. Please put this date in your diary and come along to see what they do. For more information please contact Barbara Savanger on 01959 523484 or Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

Bonfire Night
Otford Scouts will be holding their Annual Fireworks extravaganza on **Saturday 1st November** between 6.30pm and 9pm in the Chalk Pit. Tickets are £3.50, which includes a Hamburger or Hot Dog. Children under 5 are free. Tickets available from Andrew Hicks on 01959 525120 or Patsy Groom on 01959 525413/524156.

The Parish Council hopes that all residents will consider their neighbours if they have a display (particularly if it is not near the 5th Nov) and not to have one very late in the evening. Please also consider where your rockets may come back to earth! Nevertheless, we hope all will enjoy the Guy Fawkes celebrations in Otford this year.

Sevenoaks & District Glaucoma Support Group
A coffee morning will be held at 10am in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 29th October**

Glaucoma is the name of a group of eye conditions in which the optic nerve is damaged, unfortunately sight can be lost without the patient being aware of any symptoms, so it is very important to have regular eye checks particularly if there are relatives with the condition. The group meets twice a year and would be pleased to see you if you are interested. The speaker will be Mrs Hazel Wilby, a dispensing optician who will give advice about choosing frames to suit your particular face type and colouring. It is always a problem to those of us who wear glasses to see whether the frames suit us if we cannot see without our spectacles! All are welcome particularly on this occasion as the talk may appeal to anyone who wears glasses. For further information please contact Hilary Johnson on 01959 522917.

Village Community Performance
Village Community Players are now rehearsing for their production of 'JOE CARPENTER AND SON', an English Nativity Play, to be performed in St Bartholomew’s Church on Friday 28th and **Saturday 29th November, 2003**. This play, by Graham Clarke the artist and humourist is directed by Tibbs Finch and features amongst the cast, the choir of the WI and children from a local school. Profits from the performances will be shared between the Church and Hospice in the Weald.

Citizens Advice Bureau
Telecommunication masts are erected by mobile phone companies to carry mobile phone messages across and beyond England & Wales. Each mobile phone company operates a network of masts, many of which are located in the countryside. Besides spoiling beautiful views, there are concerns about the potential health risks of mobile phones. So what can be done if you hear that a mobile phone mast may be erected near you?

A mobile phone company can erect a mast of up to 15 metres. However, it must make a planning application and the local authority will then give members of the public 56 days in which to make representation about the application. So you will be able to put forward any objections you may have. The local authority must take into account health and environmental concerns. It must also consult with any nearby school or college. Also, local authorities must encourage the sharing of masts by multiple companies.

You should find out as much details about the proposals as possible. Any objections must be in writing to the planning officer. The planning officer cannot reject an application simply because lots of people are against the proposals. All relevant comments will be taken into account when the decision is made. If you feel you have valid objections, you might want to contact other neighbours and set up a campaign group to publicise your opposition. In England, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) publishes guidance on the erection of masts, entitled Planning Policy Guidance Note 8:
Telecommunications and a Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development’ Copies of both documents can be obtained from the ODPM, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU. Tel: 0207 944 3000 or visit www.odpm.gov.uk

To find out more contact the CAB at The Library, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HW. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday 10am and 1pm - appointments for form filling

{ 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 12noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on 4th November.

J&J Careline
J&J Careline are a small community care agency that started 3 years ago and expanded to a larger agency covering about 550 hours providing personal care, washing and ironing for private clients and also working for local authorities. They can also offer domestic services. The agency works 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday and they have an out of hours policy. Domestic runs - 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday only and no emergency out of hours. Contact them at Pond View House, 6a High Street, Otford. Tel No: 01959 525906 Fax: 01959 525907

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 months speakers and events are as follows:

October
22nd – Audrey Curnow – Hymn for all
29th – Pamela Colveson – Music and Methodists!

November
5th – To St Batholomew’s
12th – Annual General Meeting
19th – Eric Keys – Old Sevenoaks

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/03/02104 Beadles Sevenoaks Rd
Proposed canopy to jet wash area

SE/03/02126 52A Pilgrims Way East
Creation of basement beneath recently approved replacement dwelling (ref SE/02/02794)

SE/03/02215 2 New Barn Farm Cottages Telston Lane
Change of use from agricultural to residential land to allow newly purchased adjacent land to be contained within residential curtilage

SE/03/02220 Land adj 7 Greenhill Rd
Proposed single dwelling house and garden

b. Amended applications
SE/03/01478 Wayside Shoreham Rd
Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of two detached bungalows and garages

SE/02/01272 Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve Bradbourne Vale Road
A comprehensive strategy for the Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve by enlargement, security, enhancement and management for ecological benefit and a close care centre for the elderly, comprising 73 units and associated support facilities, amplified by transport assessment and amended by letter and financial statement received 2/06/03.

c. Results Received
SE/03/01152 4 High Street
Proposed ground and first floor extensions

SE/03/01758 Otford Primary School High St
Erection of a previously used single storey modular building for use primarily as a privately run after school club with occasional use by the school

SE/03/01818 Bank buildings Station Rd
Single storey rear extension

SE/03/01660 J Sainsbury plc Otford Rd
Application for consent to display 1 internally illuminated wall mounted sign

SE/03/01660 J Sainsbury plc Otford Rd
Application for consent to display 3 internally illuminated free standing signs

SE/03/1960 Russell Hse Sch Station Rd
Removal of 2 portable classrooms, construction of 2 storey classroom block

SE/03/02005 La Casa Rye Lane
Change of use of private garage to ancillary residential accommodation and associated alterations (revised scheme)

SE/03/02126 La Casa Rye Lane
Change of use of private garage to ancillary residential accommodation together with an extension, formation of bay window, increase in roof height and construction of dormers to create first floor accommodation.

d. Tree work in Conservation Area
324.110/03.54 Palace Field Sevenoaks Rd
Notice of intention to cut down, prune, reduce or uproot trees in a Conservation Area

e. Tree Preservation Order
TPO 31, 2003 7 Greenhill Rd
TPO made on a beech tree adjoining road at this address

f. Planning Appeals
SE/03/01475 La Casa Rye Lane
Change of use of private garage to ancillary residential accommodation together with an extension, formation of bay window, increase in roof height and construction of dormers to create first floor accommodation.