

Otford Parish Council

October Newsletter 2004

No 127

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

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Duck Stories



Recently we have been reduced to only 1 duck because the other one was dragged off and killed by a fox. The remaining duck (and subsequent ducks) asks if you could please stop feeding foxes -it would help greatly. The remaining duck had to be taken to the vets because some idiot had been fishing in the pond (NOT ALLOWED) and the duck had a large hook impaled on its foot. Fortunately it was caught and taken to the vet just in time. Whilst there are no ducks in residence the duckhouse has been taken away for refurbishment.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery will take place on **Wednesday 3rd November** and PC Jackie Allen will again be joined by Lorraine Chapman from West Kent Housing. So if you have any concerns please come and see them between 10am and 12 noon.

Dog Fouling - Poster Competition

Otford Parish Council is holding a design a poster competition concerning Dog Fouling.

Dog mess is an unpleasant sight and a serious health hazard and as a Parish Council we are concerned about the problem of dogs fouling paths, pavements and open spaces. We are giving you a chance to design a poster to encourage dog owners to clear up after their dogs.

The poster must be

- ❖ In colour, Size A4
- ❖ Labelled with your name, address and age.

There is a £20 cash prize for each age group 7 years and under, 8-11 years and 12 years +

The deadline for entries is now the 31st October and all entries should be sent to Otford Parish Council, School House, 21, High Street, Otford.

Open Meeting - Village Fete

The Otford Village Fete Open Meeting will be held on **Monday 18th October** in the Hope Room of the Village Memorial Hall starting at 8pm. All villagers are welcome to attend to discuss this year's event and start planning for next year. Part of this planning includes choosing a theme for 2005.

Fireworks Display

The Annual Otford Scouts Fireworks evening will be held on **Saturday 6th November** in The Chalk Pit. It commences at 6.30pm with the first firework at 7pm. Tickets cost £4 in advance from Andrew Hicks on 07836 325084 or on the gate Price includes a hot dog or hamburger. Children under 5yrs are free. The Scouts supporters would like to thank the Crown PH for their support.

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

Otford Players

The Otford Players' November production will be *'The Noble Spaniard'* by W. Somerset Maugham. The play is directed by Christina Edwards and performance dates are **November 11th, 12th & 13th** at 8pm in the Otford Memorial Hall. Tickets £5 (Thurs), £6 (Fri & Sat) from the Box Office on 01959 522786.

The play is a romantic comedy with plenty of characters of a colourful nature in true Maugham style. The Players look forward to welcoming you to the play in November. They are sure you will enjoy it.

Over 60's Social Club Autumn Programme 2004

- ❖ Wednesday October 27th - Fish & Chip Lunch - at Pappas Barn, Ditton
- ❖ Wednesday November 10th - Christmas Sale

For further details please contact Jill or Ed Yates on 01959 525775

Calendars

Views of Sevenoaks & District including Otford feature on a new 2005 Calendar, which is now on sale from the Parish Office and Heritage Centre. The calendars have been produced by the Sevenoaks Round Table in conjunction with The Sevenoaks Chronicle. The cost of the calendar is £5 and all money will go to local good causes.

Library

Otford Library is holding a Bumper Winter Book and Video sale starting on **Tuesday 2nd November**. Please take a look.

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 September TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 114

2nd Prize £15 - 235

3rd Prize £10 - 152

Congratulations to this month's winners and thank you to everyone who continues to support the school. Don't forget forms are still available from the School office, Parish Council, the Chemist and Post Office for those who would like to take part.

Otford Gardeners' Society

The next lecture will take place in the Otford Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 2nd November** at 8pm when they will be holding their AGM and Seasonal Show. Admission is 50p for members and £1 for non-members.

Glaucoma Support Group

There will be a Coffee Morning in the Club Room of the Village Hall on **Wednesday 3rd November** between 10am - 12 noon. If you suffer from Glaucoma or have a family member who has the condition please do go along and meet the very friendly members. There will be a Bring & Buy stall and Raffle and the speakers will be Mrs Val Greaterox and Mr David Webster from the International Glaucoma Association. For more information please contact Hilary Johnson on 01959 522917.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting of The Embroiders' Guild (Sevenoaks Branch), is on **Saturday 30th October** when they will be holding their AGM and Annette Collinge is paying a return visit and talking on her visit to India and *'The Textiles of Bhutan'*. This meeting will begin at 2pm and be held in Otford Village Memorial Hall. For more information please phone Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

Ducklings Nursery Pre-school

Are you looking for a nursery for your child? Ducklings, take children from 2½ years to Primary

School entry. Ducklings, offers a safe and caring environment at St Bartholomew's Church Hall. They are open Monday to Friday 9.15am to 12.15pm (until 3.15pm on Mondays and Wednesdays). Ducklings, more than meets OFSTED requirements and gained an excellent report on the last inspection in June 2004. As a not for profit nursery, they ensure that all the money is used for the children's benefit. There are a few places for January 2005. Book now for Sept 2005. Contact Ducklings on 07720 955717 (times as above) or Maureen Perry on 01959 524298 (weekdays after 6pm)

NADFAS in Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks Society is a member society of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS). Acclaimed experts in the decorative and fine arts present their monthly lectures on a variety of topics. Outings are also arranged to places of historic and artistic interest, where accomplished guides meet the group for a lecture or guided tour. Each spring and autumn there is a study day devoted to a specific topic or aspect of the fine arts. The day comprises of 3 lectures with lunch. They meet in the Aisher Hall at Sevenoaks School on the second Thursday of each month (except for March and April 2005, which will be the third Thursday) from October to July with lectures commencing at 8.15pm.

Otford Allotments Association

This month sees the beginning of a new allotment year, but don't be put off by the fact that all allotment plots are let, as there is a constant flow of those who have had to give up for one reason or another and others who may wish to take up a vacant plot. Most plots are let because those occupying them are aware of certain facts (taken from Saga Magazine article)

Firstly - varieties; there are dozens of strains of each type of vegetable, and to make commercial harvesting for the grower (say supermarkets) they are bred for size, colour and precocity of yield to produce most of the crop at the same time.

Secondly - freshness; as soon as a vegetable is harvested its cell structure begins to break down and sugar turns to starch - even the freshest supermarket vegetables are days away from the field, and as they age so taste deteriorates.

Thirdly - irrigation; commercial growers need a clean uniform crop and plentiful supply of water is the key to part of this. Irrigated crops have a higher content of water and consequently less intense flavour. As allotment gardeners are not constricted by these facts - misshapen fruit and vegetables and a prolonged fruiting or cutting season is no

disadvantage, indeed some of these can be seen as positive benefits - as can be demonstrated by the marked difference in taste. This is not to say that all shop vegetables are bad but it does explain why more and more people are turning to growing their own, say on an allotment. A further benefit is, of course, lots of exercise in good fresh air in an area of outstanding natural beauty when you choose a plot in Otford. Call in at the Parish Office for more details or give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468

The Parish Council would just like to remind residents that allotment holders plots and produce are off limits to all but their owners. Please do not trespass on the allotment gardens. Thank you.

Pension Service

The dates for the next 3 information surgeries in Otford Library are **15th October**, **19th November** and **17th December**. They are there to give help and specialist information on your State Pension, Pension Credit and all related entitlements. Do drop in to speak to an officer from the Pension Service to find out what you might be entitled to.

Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club invite all members and friends to their Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 27th October**, which is being held in the Otford Memorial Hall beginning at 8pm. As usual they expect the Club's business to be disposed of fairly promptly and then they are holding a finger buffet, with wine, which is free to all paid up members. The Homemade Wine Competition, which used to be held at the AGM, has been dispensed with as only about two members still make their own wine. Instead they will be holding a Savoury Flan competition, which will be judged by the members as part of the buffet! The winner will be awarded the Kirsch Cup. So start studying your recipe books and you may win this prestigious cup! Please put this date in your diaries, as it should be a very pleasant, sociable evening with friends, when Club subscriptions can be paid and the programmes for 2004/05 will be available. If you have any queries, ring the Secretary on 01732 761359

Picture of the Month

The artist for October/November is Ann Jones, who despite having lived in Otford for nearly 30 years and having been an admirer of watercolours has only recently plucked up courage to join the art group and have a go! She says "As an absolute beginner it is a really enjoyable way to learn"

School Trains

SE Trains have written to the Parish Council explaining that they had tried very hard to alter the timetable to accommodate a later through train to Tonbridge. They hope that deliveries of new trains in the New Year may enable them to do this.

SRTA

The AGM of the Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association will take place at the United Reform Church (bottom of Kippington Road) on **Thursday 28th October** at 8pm The meeting will be addressed by Michael Holden - Chief Executive of South East Trains

Road Closures

We understand there is still about 4 months work to be finished - including the High Street, Pilgrims Way East beyond Row Dow and Sevenoaks Road.

Otford Oast W.I.

Their next meeting of the Otford Oast WI will be on **Thursday 18th November** Members will be holding their Annual Meeting and electing their new committee. This is your chance to volunteer to join in and give your ideas to the group. Give it a try, you can be sure of a warm welcome. There is a free crèche at every meeting. The first visit is free, second visit £1.50 and Annual membership is £20. For more information please contact Mrs D Metcalfe on 01322 271873

St Bartholomew's Church - Christmas Market

St Bartholomew's Church, Otford will be holding a Christmas Market on **Saturday 6th 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

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 the next two months speakers and events are as follows: -

October

20th - Meeting with St Bart's at Parish Church Hall - *Trees - Gillian Shilling*

27th - Annual General Meeting with tea

November

3rd - *It shouldn't happen to a B&B - Margaret Matthews*

10th - *Living in Zimbabwe - Pat Shaw*

Remembrance Day Service

You will be most welcome to attend the Remembrance Day Service in St Bartholomew's Church on **Sunday 14th 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 & District Historical Society

The first meeting of the Historical Society will take place on **Wednesday 20th October** at 8pm (open from 7.30pm for enrolment and refreshments) in the Village Hall when Karl Wittwer will talk on the subject of 'Gavelkind - a Kentish Inheritance'. 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 Hampton Court, Wimpole Hall and Hall Place. Visitors are welcome to all meetings at just £1 and children are admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

Otford Folk Dance Club

The next Thursday night special takes place in the Church Hall on **28th October** from 8pm when Roger Letley from Rochester will be playing with Jack Hamilton. They played for the group in August and were much appreciated.

On **Saturday 30th October** Bernard Chalk will be calling. He has had several trips to the USA to call for dancers there. The Hersham (Surrey) Revellers Band will be playing the music for this event. As they are expecting a big turnout for Bernard's visit the dance will be in the Otford Memorial Hall starting at 8pm. Tickets in advance £5.50. On the door, £6.00 if still available. Please phone 01959 522355 for availability. Bring enough finger food for yourself to add to the buffet.

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/04/02110 **22 Knighton Road**
Room in roof with alterations to roof and rear dormer
- SE/04/02208 **24 Tudor Drive**
Single storey side extension, new front pitched roof section/gable to replace flat roof and garage conversion to habitable room and parking area.
- SE/04/02244 **34 Greenhill Road**
Demolish bungalow and erect new dwelling
- SE/04/02269 **32 Leonard Ave**
Two storey rear extension and enlarged porch
- SE/04/02346 **Hillway Pilgrims Way East**
Insertion of 3 no. dormers in west roof slope to existing bedrooms
- SE/04/02398 **8 Greenhill Road**
Construction of single storey side extension, conservatory to rear and alteration to front porch/bay window roof. Non sweep drive. Renewal of application no SE/99/01808 Approved 11.11.99
- SE/04/02410 **Sainsbury's Petrol Station**
Erection of 3no. non illuminated spoke signs

b. Amended applications

- SE/04/01752 **The Old Vicarage Shoreham Road**
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 3 detached dwellings with integral garage

c. Results Received

- SE/04/01849 **Park Farm High Street**
Retention of mobile home for agricultural student worker accommodation on permanent basis
Refused
- SE/04/01858 **Claremont House Shoreham Road**
Pitched roofs to existing flat dormers and new porch
Allowed
- SE/04/01874 **J Sainsbury plc Otford Road**
3 ATM panel signs with associated information signs and spacer panel (split decision) *Allowed*
- SE/04/01874 **J Sainsbury plc Otford Road**
5 no. external spoke signs to front of main store and 6 no external spoke signs on forecourt of petrol filling station (split decision) *Refused*
- SE/04/01888 **58 High Street**
Extension to left hand side and new porch
Refused
- SE/04/01985 **93 Willow Park**
Domestic garden *Allowed*
- SE/04/02013 **9 Tudor Drive**
Erection of a two storey front extension with porch, single and first floor rear extensions and side dormers *Allowed*
- SE/04/02028 **35 Tudor Drive**
Loft conversion with rear dormer *Allowed*
- SE/04/02045 **12 Flowerfield**
Two storey side extension *Allowed*
- #### d. Tree work in Conservation Area
- 324.110/04.82 **11 Bubblestone Road** Application to prune trees within Otford Conservation Area