

Otford Parish Council
October Newsletter 2007
No 161

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

Clerk: Mrs. B.J. Darby

The School House, 21, High Street, Otford,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PG

Telephone/answerphone: 01959 524808

Fax: 01959 525298

Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri

otfordpc@btinternet.com

The Pond



As you will have all noticed by now Mr Drake our long in residence white Aylesbury has moved on to a better place and we have a new Mr Drake, a Muscovy. He seems to have settled in very well now and Mrs Duck seems very happy too!

It has been a lovely sight this summer to see a family of wild ducks born and brought up on the pond and who adopted the resident ducks as granny and granddad. They still return for a family reunion occasionally. Next Spring the walls of the pond will be rebuilt, which will complete the original pond renovations. It is then hoped to plant up with water lilies etc and re stock with the correct type of fish.

On that subject a note to the person(s) who put a quantity of fish in the pond without any permission please be advised that it is **ILLEGAL** to dump fish in any water course or pond as they may make their way into the river system and damage the eco system.

The Parish Council is responsible for the pond, its environs and its inhabitants so please contact us if you have any concerns. Out of office hours please contact 07831 833688. Thank you.

Applause Performance

We look forward to welcoming the London Philharmonic Skiffle Orchestra in the new Otford Methodist Hall on **Thursday 8th November** at 7.30pm. They are described as '*A multi-instrumental/ vocal four piece comedy show band which performs virtuoso musical madness from all points of the globe. To the LPSO, skiffle means 'anything goes' as long as it is entertaining and fun. Their performances are energetic, colourful, bizarre, tuneful and hilarious, incorporating a wealth of instruments (fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, harmonica, double bass, accordion, trumpet etc), costume changes, audience*

participation and numerous props. They include many songs and tunes you will know and love but given that special LPSO treatment. Humour is the key, but they are skilled musicians, too. Nobody sleeps when they are on, and they are full of surprises'

Tickets are available from School House at £5 for adults, £4 for concessions and £3 for children. Do come along and enjoy what should be a fun evening.

Otford Society Autumn Meeting

The Otford Society Autumn meeting will be held on **Wednesday 24th October** at 8pm in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall. There will be an update on Traffic Issues and a short talk on 'Keeping Otford a Green and Pleasant Place'

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 25th October** between 11am and 12.30pm at School House. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Boxing

Keep letting us have your names if you would be interested in joining a boxing club and you are aged between 10 - 17 years. Please let Sue at the Parish Council Office know your details on 01959 524808.

Community Football Match

This third match between Otford Youth and Kent Police organised by PCSO Birchall and Otford Parish Council was a very competitive match played on a lovely morning in front of a good crowd of spectators. The score was a happy one for the police this time with a 5 - 3 win. Well done and thanks to all concerned especially all the boys who played, Dave, Dennis his colleague, and their team, Paul our Community Warden who refereed and Norman and Andy. Man of the Match trophies were presented to both teams and a Winners shield was also presented.

Young Achiever Award

It seems unbelievable that no entries have been received for this PCSO Birchall inspired idea. There is still time if you think there is a youngster out there who deserves recognition please let us have your nominations as soon as possible.

Remembrance Day

The Remembrance Day Service and Parade will take place on **Sunday 11th November** at 11am. Please be

advised that the traffic will be stopped at the pond during the laying of wreaths at the War memorial. Please be patient.

Otford Afternoon W.I

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Membership is £22 per year. The next meeting is on **9th October** when Mrs Allinson will talk on 'Life in a Victorian Workhouse'. Then on **13th November** they will hold their Annual meeting. Please contact the Secretary on 01959 522736 for more details.

Otford Shops Opening



As Christmas is practically in all the shops already please don't forget to save yourselves for

SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER

between 11am and 4pm when our lovely shops here in the village will be open for business. Street entertainers, a raffle, Father Christmas, Morris dancers and carol singing will all be part of this exciting day. More detailed information will be in the November newsletter.

Autumn Jumble Sale

Otford Primary School are holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday 13th October between

Tree of Light

Still thinking ahead The Tree of Light service will take place on **Friday 7th December** at 7.30pm on the Village Green. Donations will once again going to The Hospice in the Weald.

Handel's Messiah

Why not go along and sing Handel's Messiah from scratch on **Saturday 13th October** as part of the continuing celebrations for the opening of the new Church Centre at St Bartholomew's. There will be a performance of this much loved work in the church at 7pm, in which they hope as many people as possible will take part. For more information and tickets which cost £6 for performers and audience contact Kevin or Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117 or the Church office. There is a rehearsal on the day at 3pm and refreshments will be available.

Otford Scouts' Bonfire

It's that time of year again - The Otford Scout Group are holding a Bonfire and Fireworks evening on **Saturday 3rd November** from 6.30-9.00pm in the Chalk Pit. Previous years have been a great success, so don't delay, buy your tickets now! The cost is £4 per person (including a burger, or sausage), children under 5 are free. Please support the Scout Group and have a marvellous evening.

The Sackville Singers

The Sackville Singers will be putting on a performance entitled 'Except the Lord, Build the House' a programme of verse and song, both sacred and light-hearted, paying homage to Edward Elgar born 150 years ago on **Saturday 10th November** at 7.30pm in St Bartholomew's Church. Tickets for £10 are available from Hospices of Hope Shop at 28a High Street on 01959 524322 or the office at 14a High Street on 01959 525110.

Women's Breakfast

Come along to a Women's Breakfast at the Otford Methodist Church Hall on **Saturday 20th October** between 8.15am and 10.15am. Guest speaker: Helen Cooke. Cost is £4 per person at the door. Please phone Margaret if you can come on 01959 522046 or email Sue at johnandsueward@btinternet.com

Sevenoaks Music Club

The Sevenoaks Music Club are having a Chamber Music season beginning in October. The first concert will take place on **Saturday 20th October** with the internationally renowned Endellion String Quartet playing - Haydn, Elgar and Smetana.

The concert will take place at 8pm in the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall School, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent. Tickets are £16 and Students £5.

If you are interested in the brochure or tickets for any concerts, do call Richard Hargreaves on 01732 453251

Otford Allotment Association

Allotment interest is continuing to gather pace creating a continuing small waiting list for a plot. However, this is the time of year when tenancies have to be paid for and it is then that some vacancies occur, so if you are interested please let Barbara Hine know on 01959 525468 or call into the Parish Council office. As a matter of interest the allotments were the subject for the Chipstead Art Group in August and they were blessed with some good weather to help create their artwork and then

in September as part of the Sevenoaks District Council Gardening for Wildlife Scheme Celebration Evening they were credited with an award for their Wild life area. Well Done

Also Congratulations to the following residents who won awards in the Competition.

- Gold - Barry Davies
- Bronze - Rod Shelton

Well done to you all.

Citizens Advice Bureau

CAB surgeries take place on the first Tuesday of the month between 10am and 12 noon at the Parish Council offices for free confidential and impartial advice. No appointments are necessary. Use this local service.

Otford Oast WI

The next meeting of 2007 in the Otford Memorial Hall is on **Thursday 18th October** at 9.30am when Jackie who runs the tearooms at Hadlow College will be demonstrating some new soup recipes made with seasonal local produce for later sampling. Then on **15th November** they will hold their Annual meeting. If you would like to learn more or just come for the company, they are a young WI and have a free crèche for your children. Everyone is welcome. First visit is free, second visit £3 and Annual membership £26. Tea/Coffee 50p.

St Michael's School Grounds

A reminder to those who may be using the School grounds including the Warren, especially dog walkers (as the area is used by children and the mess is hazardous). There are **NO** rights of way or footpaths across the school property. The access policy is also confirmed by the Right to Roam publications. The North Downs Way runs along the northern boundary of the school grounds and can be accessed from Row Dow. Trespassers will be asked to leave any area within the school property. Thank you for your co-operation.

Poppy Appeal Campaign 2007

A message from Peter Jeremiah the Otford Poppy organiser 'As the door to door Poppy Appeal collection tends to produce less return for this village, the branch this year will be concentrating on shops, schools and outside Homebase, the Petrol Station and Car Parks'

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Hall on **Saturday 27th October** when there will be a

Branch Exhibition. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588.

Knole DFAS

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. The next lecture will be on **18th October** when Sarah Lenton will talk on 'Opera, the Melting Pot of Culture' The following one will take place on **15th November** when Lois Oliver will talk on 'Rubens: a Master in the Making'. The Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm preceded by refreshments at 12.30pm. Anyone interested in joining the Society or who would like more information, please contact, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529 and Alison Davis on 01732 780453.

Picture of the Month

The artist for October is Betty Cooper. The ducks that visit our village pond in the spring inspired this painting. Betty is a member of the Otford Art Group and just paints watercolours for pleasure. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2007/2008 lecture season continues on **Thursday 8th November** at 8.15pm when Mr Daniel Snowman will talk on 'The Guided Stage: A Social and Cultural History of Opera' Please contact Mrs Maggie Llanwarne on 01732 460709 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information and mem

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons

Women's Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. Phone Rosemary Cracknell on 01959 522325 for details / transport.

October

10th - St Barts Church Centre -Bobbie Fairclough - Prisons

17th - Peter Kendall - *Here come the navvies*

24th - John Coomber - *Country scenes*

31st - Rev Kath Pawlett - *The Bible and me*

November

7th - AGM and games

14th - The Kenward Trust - *work with addicts*

21st - Cracknells and Rev P Hill - *The Methodist Church in Europe*

