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 grandad. 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 go 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 cooperation.

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 Guilded 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 Cracknells 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
A Chorus Line

The next production by the Stag Theatre Company following their highly successful staging of Noises Off in May Rehearsals are well under way for this talented local company’s next spectacular production, of A Chorus Line, directed by Chris Howland, with David Grubb as musical director and Jessica Miles as choreographer. ‘Casting for a new Broadway musical is in the final stages, with the line-up of hopefuls due to be whittled down to eight. For each dancer, this audition is the chance of a lifetime, but before he makes the final cut, the director Zach asks each of them to talk about themselves. One by one they come forward to talk about their lives, their families, their home towns, their lovers and their ambitions. This show, first created on Broadway in 1975, ran for an incredible 6137 performances at the Shubert theatre over 15 years. It won nine Tonys in 1976, a Pulitzer Prize and dozens of other awards. It was revived in 2006 and is once again playing to full houses on Broadway under the slogan THE BEST MUSICAL EVER. The music is by Marvin Hamlisch, the book by James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante, with lyrics by Edward Kleban, and the original show, devised from taped workshop sessions with real Broadway dancers, was choreographed and directed by Michael Bennett. The production will take place in The Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall School, Holly Bush Lane, Sevenoaks from **Tuesday 23rd to Saturday 27th October at 8pm**

The New Box Office Number is 0778 772 4440

Fundraising Events at Rockdale

- Fashion Show - Thursday 25th October
- Dorton House, Seal
- Doors Open 6.30pm with Champagne and Canapes reception
- Show Starts at 8pm
- Exclusive fashion accessories for sale
- Restaurant meals available on the evening (must be pre-booked)
- Sponsored by Ibbett Masely
- Clothes supplied by ‘Full Monty’ ‘Phase 8’ and ‘Country Casuals’.

Planning

The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council in October 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/07/02640 6 Darnets Field
Erection of roof extension to form bedroom

SE/07/02776 64 & 66 Well Road
Demolition of 2 existing residential dwellings and the erection of dwellings, including 40% affordable housing provision, together with associated car parking, new access road and landscaping

b. Results received

SE/07/01793 5 Ryecroft Road
Erection of two storey front extension and porch

SE/07/02014 14 Shinecroft
Two storey side and first floor front extension

SE/07/02214 Littlehurst Shoreham Road
Proposed side first floor extension over sitting room and pitched roof over garage and garden room

SE/07/02350 8 Knighton Road
Demolition of existing conservatory and rear porch and erection of ground floor extension

c. Planning appeals

SE/06/02229 Maunders, St Michaels Drive
Replacement dwelling - Appeal against refusal by SDC

SE/06/03069 18 Tudor Crescent
Single storey rear extension, second storey front and rear extensions and loft conversion - Appeal against refusal by SDC

d. Works to Trees

07/02762/WTCA Riverside High Street
Various works to trees