

Otford Parish Council
October Newsletter 2008
No 172

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

Otford Village Fete

There has been a fete in Otford for over 65 years and it is generally recognised as one of the best in Kent. We are looking for an additional four villagers to join the fete committee. We hope that the new members would introduce fresh ideas and be part of a happy and focused group. If you would like more information on the roles available please email patty.wallis@virgin.net

The Pond



We are hoping that work will start again very shortly. There was a planning glitch!!!

Otford Young Achiever Award



Send in your nominations now please for this years award.

WE WANT TO KNOW

- Who's making a difference in the village, showing respect for those around them, standing out from the crowd, caring about their village

Tell us who deserves this award. Nominations welcome from parents, grandparents, carers, teachers, neighbours or friends.

ARE THEY

- Volunteering to do things without being asked, Helping their parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends, Picking up litter / caring for the village, Dissuading their friends from anti social behaviour, Fundraising for village resources, Performing well at school, Other endeavours

Please send your nominations by letter or email to Otford Parish Council at the address above.

Living Stones – The interweaving of history and architecture in St Bartholomew's Church

St Bartholomew's Church is the oldest building in the village. Its stones bear witness to great tides of change in history. Embedded in its fabric are clues to changing currents of thought in theology, worship and ministry over the ages. You are warmly invited to find out more in a three-session series presented by the Vicar, Richard Worssam. The second and third sessions will be as below at 8pm in the Church Centre.

- Tuesday 21st October – The impact of the reformation and the publication of the Book of Common Prayer
- Tuesday 4th November – 19th and 20th Century developments: the Oxford Movement and the modern ecumenical movement.

Come and discover more about your local heritage in the heart of the village community.

Road Closures

Please note that the following road closures are planned for work to install ducts for EDF.

- Ivy House Lane – period of 3 days from 17.11.08
- Rye Lane (from Station Road to Pilgrims Way West) - period of 4 days from 20.11.08
- Pilgrims Way West (from Polhill to Filston Lane) - period of 6 weeks from 24.11.08

Otford Primary School – Open Day

On Friday 24th October between 1.30pm and 3.30pm the school gates will be open during this Staff Development Day to new parents considering the possibility of sending their children to the school. This will be an excellent opportunity to take a guided tour of the school and its grounds, view some of the children's work and to meet the teachers in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. At 3pm in the Hall, the Headteacher Peter Denereaz will deliver a speech detailing some of the school's recent successes, during which he will outline some of the exciting plans for its future. No appointment is necessary.

Otford Allotments Association

October sees the beginning of the allotment year but not pleasant for the gardener who had to dash between showers to keep their plots properly

tended, and then dash back home to dry out and get warm. Currently tenancies are all taken, with two patiently waiting, and it is great delight to see so many young families taking up the vacant plots as and when they occur. Please give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 or call in the Parish office on any weekday morning if you would like more information.

Otford Community Warden

Paul Robertson our KCC Community Warden holds a weekly surgery to discuss any problems and community issues at School House every Tuesday between 11am and 12 noon.

Fellowship at St Bartholomew's

Everyone is welcome to an afternoon of fellowship in St Bartholomew's Church Centre at 2.30pm on Wednesday 22nd October. Richard, our vicar will give a short talk and this will be followed by refreshments.

SRTA Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association is being held at 8pm at Christ Church Hall, Kippington Road on Tuesday 14th October. South Eastern officials will outline the changes necessary as a result of the closure of Blackfriars terminal platforms in March 2009 and improvements to main line services.

Otford Society

The Autumn meeting of the Otford Society will take place on Thursday 16th October at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. The speaker will be Nigel Britten the local chairman for the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Darent Valley Choir

Our Christmas concert this year will be held in the United Reform Church (Christ Church) in Littlecourt Road, Sevenoaks - just below Sevenoaks Station with ample parking across the main road. Our Musical Director Ben Odom, has chosen excerpts from Handel's Messiah and Vaughan Williams Christmas Fantasia and well loved carols of course. Tickets will be available at Sevenoaks Bookshop and by calling 01959 523279 or 01474 815591 or at the door on the night of Saturday 6th December.

Otford - Precigne Twinning

Adults, Teenagers, Couples, Families - Don't miss the opportunity of a lovely long May Bank Holiday weekend (2-4th May 2009) in France visiting Precigne, near Le Mans, cost of travel - low,

accommodation - free, French food and wine - delicious. We were made very welcome with warm hospitality two years ago and are invited to return with a larger party next year. For further information please contact Jane Lawrey on 01959 522360 or Parish Council Office on 01959 524808 as soon as possible

There will be a Beetle Drive for all ages taking place on Friday 28th November from 7.30pm in the Club Room of the Otford Village Memorial Hall. There will be a French Ploughman's Supper at a cost of £7.50 or £5 for youngsters, please bring your own glasses, drinks and nibbles as required. There will be a Raffle in aid of Otford - Precigne Twinning. If you remember how to play please come or if you would like to learn please come. Fun for all. For tickets please contact Jane Lawrey or the Parish Council Office on the numbers above.

JUST A POLITE REQUEST TO THE PERSON WHO BORROWED THE FRENCH FLAG THIS YEAR FROM THE FLAG POLE THAT WE WOULD LIKE IT BACK PLEASE.

What is a Soroptimist

The Soroptimist Club of Sevenoaks recently celebrated its 70th Birthday, yet many people have no idea what this worldwide organisation is all about. Sevenoaks club members give practical or fundraising support to many local projects, such as Spring House and Rockdale. Sevenoaks organisations, such as the CAB and the Hospital League of Friends, have a Soroptimist representative at their meetings. In Britain, Soroptimists have researched and advised nationally about how railway stations and trains can be made safer for women travelling alone. Internationally, the organisation has a representative at the League of Nations. It supports worldwide charities working in developing countries, with a different project selected every four years. The current project is working to transform the lives of some of the most deprived women and children in the world in Sierra Leone. Inviting women members of all ages, cultures and ethnic groups in management and the professions, Soroptimists give service to others. Each club identifies the needs of its community, then sets up projects to address those needs. Members are proud to have 'A global voice for women' - they also broaden their circle of friends and associates, have fun, and have many opportunities to network internationally. Sevenoaks member, Kate York, said, 'As a teacher, I have made friends with others in many different professions and that has broadened my horizons. I have travelled to Africa and India as a result of being a Soroptimist. In October, I am going to our Regional

Conference in Barbados'. For further information, contact Kate York by e-mail at yorkacm@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01959 565409.

Knole DFAS

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat & Ball. On 16th October Ian Kelly will talk about *'Beau Brummell, a Life as Art: Dandyism and the Birth of London's West End'* The Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm and finish by 3pm. Anyone interested in attending a lecture or joining the Society please contact Alison Davis on 01732 780453.

Otford Methodist Church

The Kemsing Singers and Melanie Jones will be in concert at the Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 18th October at 8pm. Please join them for this musical evening. Entrance is £8 including refreshments. For tickets and information contact Joy Billimore on 01732 762692 or Kath Pawlett on 01959 522196

Otford Methodist Exercise Group

The Serendip exercise group meet every Thursday from 9.30-10.30am in the Otford Methodist Church Halls. The group is for men and women over 50 and lead by a REPs level 3 supervisor. Refreshments and chat afterwards, followed by Table tennis or Chess. The cost is £2 per session. You will be welcome for all or one of the activities. Phone David Knight on 01732 743056 for details.

Otford Short Mat Bowls Club

The Otford Short Mat Bowls Club will be holding another OPEN DAY on Sunday 21st October 2008 commencing at 2.15pm. If you would like to try your hand at Short Mat Bowls please come along. Bowls will be provided and assistance will be given to increase your interest in this game. Age is not a bar but as long as you can bend up and down this is the game for you. As we have to preserve our mats you will need to have completely flat soled bowls shoes or you may play in your socks. Just turn up or call Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 for further information.

Otford Afternoon WI

The Otford Afternoon WI's next meeting will take place on 14th October when Mr H Newman will talk about *'My Favourite Things'* For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

Otford Oast WI

On 16th October Jane Barnes, a former employee of the Bill Skinner Studio, who now has her own business making jewellery will be demonstrating some of her techniques and you will have an opportunity to purchase and / or order some of her beautiful creations. The meetings start at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free.

Looking ahead Otford Oast WI are holding a fund raising Quiz Night on Saturday 25th October at 7.30pm in the Otford Scout Hut. There will be teams of 6 - 8 people, tickets are £5 per head and bring your own drinks and nibbles. Contact Patsy Groom on 01959 524156 to pre-book a table.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Hall on Saturday 25th October when there will be all day workshops and Pat Trott will talk about 'Three Dimensional Stitches.' Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

The Sevenoaks Embroiderers Guild have opened an exhibition of their work at the Heritage Centre. Their inspirational designs and incredibly detailed pieces count among some of the finest local work in this medium. See it and wonder. For further information please contact Pat Curtis on 01959 532391. The Heritage Centre is open everyday from 9am to 12 noon and every weekend afternoon from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on Tuesday 4th November between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Kemsing Health Walk

Run by Sevenoaks District Council and meeting every Tuesday at 10.30am in Kemsing. Meeting and finishing at the Car Park, High Street (next to the Wheatsheaf PH)

- No Booking necessary
- it is FREE so just turn up
- The walks are led by trained walk leaders
- all ages and abilities welcome
- buggies and wheelchairs welcome
- walks last about 45 minutes
- wear comfortable footwear

Children under 16yrs must be accompanied by an adult.

Otford Petanque Club



Every Thursday at 3pm the Otford Petanque Club plays on the new purpose-built terrain in the High Street Recreation Ground and makes good use of the tea making facilities in the nearby Eric Dilley Pavilion. Why not join them? You would be most welcome and no previous experience is required. For further information contact the club secretary Margaret Chandler on 01959 523620

Otford Primary 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 - 153

2nd Prize £15 - 232

3rd Prize £10 - 285

Hospice in The Weald - Fundraising events

Literary Lunch - on Friday 31st October at the Ashdown Park Hotel near Forest Row. The speaker is best selling crime author Peter James. For further information and tickets please call Amanda Wyatt on 01892 820532.

Christmas Market - On Monday 3rd November between 11am to 4pm at the Hospice, Maidstone Road, Pembury. More stalls than ever for all your Christmas shopping. New Food Hall, refreshments, cakes and light lunches available. Admission free. For further information please call 01892 820508.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons

Women's Fellowship

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

October

15th - '*Associated countrywomen of the world*' - Jean Barsby

22nd - Meeting with St Barts in Church Centre

29th - Lunch at Shoreham Golf Club

November

5th - '*A master tailor*' - Robert Bright

12th - tba

19th - Pub Lunch in Shoreham and Polhill visit

Dog Fouling

This is still a big problem, which should NOT be a problem at all, on the Recreation Ground especially around the new pavilion. Thank you to those who do pick up but please DO NOT then throw the bag into the hedgerow but used the bins provided. It is very anti social and potentially health threatening not to pick up after your dog. If you don't you risk having to pay a fine of up to a maximum of £1,000 or a fixed penalty of £25.

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/08/02364 33 Well Road

Single storey rear and front extension

SE/08/02523 The Old Oast House Shoreham Road
Residential dwelling

SE/08/02556 Little Coombe Shoreham Road
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling

b. Results received

SE/08/01904 49 Knighton Road

Single storey rear extension, replacing existing flat roof with pitched roof and internal alterations to garage Allowed

SE/08/01397 Roundabout west of Sainsburys Petrol Station, Otford Rd

3 non-illuminated sponsorship signs Refused

c. Amended applications

SE/08/01283 26 Warham Road Extension to existing garage and conservatory to rear of dwelling

d. Planning appeals

SE/08/01780 Land north of Pilgrims Oasts Station Road

Erection of 4 bedroom detached house with associated parking Appeal against refusal - written representations

STOP PRESS



A date to put in your diary is Sunday 30th November between 11am and 4pm when our lovely shops will be open for you to get your Christmas presents and treats. Also there will be street entertainers and other surprises. LETS HOPE FOR BETTER WEATHER THIS YEAR!