

Otford Parish Council
October Newsletter 2010
No 194

See otford.info/parishcouncil for Village Helplines Directory

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

Parish Council

For those interested in all the activities of OPC, the minutes of meetings are available in the library, and all minutes, agendas and newsletters can be obtained via the web (also available in the library). Copies of the Helplines Directory can be printed off for residents if required. They can all be read via <http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil>. The next meetings will be on **Monday 11th October and 8th November** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Parish Council Chairman News

Our roads Government decisions on cuts to funding are affecting Otford in various ways. At least one of the items of work listed for Otford last year has vanished, as have the speed reviews for all Kent. The areas in Kent where speeds have been reviewed so far will not generally be implemented, and speeds in west Kent will not be now be assessed in the overall plan but we hope to have measurements made on main roads in the village.

We have managed to get the old ugly Armco barrier at the junction of Shoreham and Station Roads removed and modern signs and posts erected. hope that the ugly and incorrect "roundabout" sign in the car park will be replaced with a junction sign.

Work for young people The pavilion/changing rooms in West Otford Recreation Ground required extensive work to bring its electrical system up to date and many repairs - including replacing some doors and windows. It is intended that the youth club that meets there will paint the inside walls. We await decisions by the government and County Council on funding the youth workers who run this club, without such funding the future of the club next year will be in doubt.

Attractive Otford I would like to thank all those who kept our village looking tidy and colourful during the summer with their front gardens, caring for our planters and flower beds, keeping their hedges neat and not overhanging the footway. The Gardeners Society looks at all front gardens visible to passers by for the annual competition and had more attractive gardens on its shortlist for the judges than for many years. The winner was a garden in The Old Walk; second and third prizes went to gardens in Hale Lane and Sidney Gardens, respectively. Fourteen other gardens were commended.

Councillors and friends helped celebrate ten years since Palace Park Wood was planted by having a celebration there, supported by the Woodland Trust, last bank holiday. There was a nature treasure hunt, mainly for children, enabling them to find some of the fascinating things we now have because of the wood.

Otford Primary School

Otford Primary School has a vacancy for a Community Governor to join the Governing Body of the School. If you would be interested and feel you would be able to give some of your time or expertise then please contact the Chair Bryan Finn on bryan@bizeconomics.com or the Clerk Sue Stephenson on otfordpc@btinternet.com

Otford & District Historical Society 60th Anniversary Celebration Lecture

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Historical Society they are hosting a special lecture in St Bartholomew's Church, Otford on **Friday 8th October** at 8pm. The well known and popular British Author and Historian **ALISON WEIR** has been invited to talk on '*The Wars of the Roses*'. Tickets are available from the Parish Council Office and cost £6 for adults, students £4, to include refreshments. Half the proceeds will be going to St Bartholomew's Church Tower Appeal.

'Alison Weir has perfected the art of bringing history to life'.

VOCE Choral Concert

VOCE (Voices of Cambridge Ensemble) will be performing a varied programme of choral music at 7.30pm on **Saturday 9th October** at St Bartholomew's Church. Most of VOCE's members met as choral scholars at Trinity College Cambridge. The group has performed extensively in cathedrals, churches and concert halls around the country to critical acclaim. Its versatility enables it to perform a wide repertoire, from Renaissance polyphony through 20th Century church music to light-hearted close harmony. Tickets (on the door) are priced £7 adults, £4 youth. All proceeds go directly to the Church's Tower Appeal.

Top UK Folk Duo to play in Otford

The UK's top folk-roots duo, Show of Hands, together with Miranda Sykes, will perform a special concert in St. Bartholomew's church, Otford, on **Thursday 14 October** as part of their national 'Spires & Beams' tour.

Undeniably one of the strongest current forces in acoustic music, Show of Hands are England's finest and most popular roots duo and something of a "people's band", regularly voicing the hopes, fears and life stories of scores of ordinary folk in song. Show of Hands has won numerous BBC music awards and has sold out the Albert Hall on at least three occasions. This is a rare chance to see them play in a unique and intimate setting, right on your own doorstep!

Tickets cost £16.50 each. A special allocation of tickets has been set aside for Otford residents, call 07798 767770 to book now - first come, first served!

Otford Players present 'BLITZ' - A Musical



Otford Players' next production is a Musical 'BLITZ' directed by Jan Snook. At Otford Village Hall on **Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th November**

Tickets are adult £8.00 and children £5.00 from the Box office

on 01959 525404.

Music and lyrics by Lionel Bart and book by Lionel Bart & Joan Maitland

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.

Put this date in your diary - Not to be missed.

Living Heritage - The Medieval Era

You are warmly invited to the third series of historical talks looking at our heritage of faith over the centuries. Do come along and discover more about how this has had an impact on our village and St. Bartholomew's Church.

All sessions are on Tuesday evenings at 8 pm in St. Bart's Church Centre.

5th October - Otford's Archbishop's Palace and Church-State power games (Rod Shelton)

12th October Medieval Stained Glass (David Reid)

19th October The spirituality of Julian of Norwich (The Vicar)

Artists at Work



Make a note in your diary of **Tuesday 2nd November** when Otford Art Club welcomes you to an Open Morning between 10.30am and 12 noon at the Otford Methodist Church Hall. You can enjoy watching members doing their varied art work and also see some of their completed pieces which will be

on display.

Otford Front Garden Competition

The Otford Front Garden Competition organised by the Otford Gardeners' Society on behalf of the Parish Council was judged in August with the following result

1st Prize - 4 The Old Walk

2nd Prize - 19 Hale Lane

3rd Prize - 57 Sidney Gardens

Highly Commended

21 Hale Lane : 17 Rye Lane : 2 Coombe Road : 16 Leonard Avenue

Commended

24 Willow Park : 41 Willow Park : 12 Hale Lane : 9 Hale Lane : 21 Dane Road : 17

Orchard Road : 7 Great Till Close : 21 Coombe Road : 42 Knighton Road : 11 Hillydeal Road

Well Done to you all



Community Warden Surgery

Paul holds his weekly surgery to discuss any problems and community issues at School House on Tuesdays between 11am and 12 noon. Paul can always be contacted on 07813 713366.

Police Contact Numbers

To contact our neighbourhood Police Officer Ben Clatworthy please call 07980 770581 or PCSO Wright on 07772 226036. To report a crime please call 01622 690690. Please see the Crime Prevention advice on back page of newsletter.

Halloween



We know that many people are worried about people coming to their door at Halloween particularly those calling late in the evening and especially if you live on your own. You do not have to answer the door to them. You can make this clear by displaying a poster as above. These are available from the Parish Council.

Bonfire Night



The Scouts Bonfire Night will be on **Saturday 6th November** this year, at the Chalk Pit, off Station Road. Tickets are £.400 per person (under 5's free), gates open from 5.30pm, and the evening starts about 6.00pm. There will be two Firework displays, with an interval for refreshments. Burgers, hotdogs and soup will be available.

BUY IT BABY! Baby & Toddler Fair and Nearly New Sale

In Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 9th October** between 1pm-3.30pm
Buyers - £1.00 entrance fee, free for under 16's.

Following the success of our summer events, BUY IT BABY! are back with our Autumn sale in Otford. With a new selection of stalls, there will be plenty of items and information to collect all under one roof! Local activity groups, arts and crafts, free photo shoots and an abundance of nearly new stalls will be available for you once again to find those stocking fillers in time for Christmas!

Nearly New items on sale for those expecting their pending arrival, those with new arrivals, and those with active toddlers!

Promotions and freebies also available for BUY IT BABY visitors. See our website for further details...

We also welcome small local businesses to use our event as a platform in promoting their goods by renting tables at small fees.

FACE PAINTING, Colouring Competition and refreshments will also be available... A great afternoon out!

TO HIRE YOUR STALL OR FOR MORE INFO, Caroline@buyitbaby.co.uk or call 07958 762828 www.buyitbaby.co.uk

Otford & District Historical Society

The Otford & District Historical Society will be holding the next meeting of its new programme on **Wednesday 20th October** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Edwin Thompson will be talking about '*Sevenoaks Recollections of the 50's, 60's and 70's with photographs*'. The Hall will be open from 7.30pm for enrolment. The Annual Membership is now £6 and £2 for visitors.

Local History Fair - at Sevenoaks Library on **23rd October** from 10am. You will be able to see historian **DAVID STARKEY** who will be giving a talk and book signing.

The Otford Society Autumn Meeting

The Otford Society Autumn Meeting will be held on **Thursday 21 October** in Otford Village Hall at 8pm. The talk is '*Village and Vicar*' by Rev Richard Worsam. Tea & biscuits.

Otford Allotment Association

The Otford Allotment Association will be holding their Annual Meeting on the **9th October**. A full report on how they are doing will be in the next newsletter.

Twinning News

You Really Have To Go To Friendly Hardelot!

Four of us set out for a painting weekend on Friday 13 August on the 9.15 ferry to Calais, where we shopped for a few bargains before taking the coast road to Hardelot, stopping on the way for lunch at Wissant .

We had been given copies of the programme for the weekend with details of who our overnight hosts would be. As we chatted on the journey we began to realise we had become part of Otford's involvement and would be helping to forge and strengthen the ties between Otford and Hardelot.

Once we had arrived, events moved quickly from meeting our hosts to a wonderful evening meal in the home of Fanny and Jean-Pierre Lesage, where we finished the meal with a chocolate gâteau never to be forgotten!! Saturday breakfast was served in the tourist office and we then spent the day painting, together with about twenty local artists, in the lovely village square and then on to the prizegiving, where Otford acquitted themselves well in the water colours category. After that, back to our hosts' homes to freshen up before we all gathered at a wonderful beach restaurant, where many new friendships were cemented over good French food and wine.

After a good night's sleep, coffee at the home of Brigitte and Roger Lecocq and many promises to meet again soon, we reluctantly said our farewells. We wandered around the Sunday street market for an hour or so before setting off for Calais, pleasantly tired, though delighted with the whole experience.

Hardelot is full of friendly, welcoming people, who are keen to link with Otford. Like Otford, they are an active community with many and varied interests which they would love to share with us.

COME ON OTFORD, JOIN IN, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE MISSING!

Visit by a group of Otfordians to Hardelot on Saturday 17 September

We left early to catch the ferry to Calais and drove along the old coastal road (wonderful clear views of White Cliffs) via Boulogne to Hardelot. We arrived at around 10.00a.m. at the Tourist Office together with several members of the two Twinning groups. After a snack brunch we had a leisurely stroll (1 of the 8 walks about which information is available at the Tourist office) with an English speaking guide through the town and along the beach between the sea and the sand dunes. It was interesting to see the remains of concrete Blockhaus from the last war. We then climbed shifting sand dunes to walk back via changing woodland to Le Château d'Hardelot, before going to the home of one of the French Twinning committee for a very welcome late lunch. Some of our party also visited the tennis courts and the horse riding facilities. It was a most enjoyable day enhanced by lovely weather.

For more information on Twinning please contact Jane Lawrey on 01959 522360.

Computer Buddie



Computer Buddie at Otford Library every Friday Afternoon 2pm until 4pm. Our Computer Buddie can help you with setting up e-mail, introduction onto E-Bay, Microsoft Office Applications i.e. Word,

Excel, Access, CVs, Powerpoint, Desk Top Publishing etc. and general computer applications. Timeslots can be booked in advance by calling 01959 522488.



Home Library Service now available at Otford Library for anybody who is no longer able to get to the Library. Books would be delivered to your door and picked up when read and taken back to the Library. Please call for more information 01959 522488.

Ladies' Church Events

Women's Breakfast on **Saturday 9th October** at 8.30am at Otford Methodist Church. The speaker is Nusrat - a Muslim background lady who has become a Christian and has a story to tell. To reserve a place phone Margaret on 01959 522046. Cost £4 on the door

On **Wednesday 13th October** from 2.30pm to 4.00pm ladies from St Bartholomew's and Otford Methodist Church will be joining together in St Bartholomew's Church Centre for fellowship and refreshment. Entertainment will be light poetry and music performed by members of Sevenoaks Poetry Society. Everyone is welcome

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

6th - AGM

13th - Joint meeting as shown above

20th - Robert Irwin - *'Kent Fire Safety in the home'*

27th - Brian Nobbs - *'Food for birds - eat in or take away'*

Otford Oast WI

The meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The next meeting will take place on **21st October** when they will have a talk on *'Demelza House'*. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them.

Otford Afternoon WI

Meetings are held in the Otford Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meeting will take place on **12th October** when the subject of the talk by Peter Shearan is *'All for your Delight'*. Annual Subscription is £29.50 and visitors at £2 are very welcome. For further details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

Visitors are very welcome, and further details can be found on the Otford Village web site at www.otford.info with the link to the WI.

Otford Evening WI

All meetings take place on 2nd Thursday of each month in Otford Village Hall. The next meeting will take place on **14th October** when Stuart Robinson will talk about '*Curiosities in the City of London*'. For more information please call Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887 or Joan Beacom on 01959 524304

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in the Otford Village Hall on **Saturday 30th October** when there will be an all day workshop with Hazel Everett on '*Goldwork Embroidery*'. The morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm, during which tea and homemade cake will be served. More information can be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117

Picture of the Month

Our artist for the month of October is Doug Dickerson. Doug took up painting in later life, at evening classes and since retirement, with the Otford Art Group. He says that once you start painting, concentration takes over and you forget any worries that you may have. He chairs a couple of village societies, helps with the Heritage Centre and is a member of many Otford organisations. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Hospices of Hope



There is now an unwanted goods donation drop off point inside the Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop, 11a High Street, Otford which is open Monday - Friday 10am - 4.30pm and Saturday 10am - 5.00pm.

The well stocked second hand bookshop contains good quality paperbacks and hardbacks, children's corner and themed displays.

Pop in and browse at your leisure whilst enjoying a scrumptious cream tea! At Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop"

Next Events

Saturday 16 October | Quiz Night | Otford Tea Rooms | £12 ticket, light supper whilst being challenged by our Quiz Master

Friday 29 October | Fashion Show | Christchurch Tunbridge Wells | £5 ticket, Bucks Fizz on arrival, goody bag, mini treatments available for just £5, fashion show and shopping!

For further information on any of the above, please contact wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk on 01959 525110

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 take place on **21st October** when Leslie Primo will talk about '*The Cult of the South Pacific: From Cook to Gauguin*'. Set against the background of Captain Cook's voyages to the South Pacific, Leslie Primo will discuss the enduring Western obsession with the so-called 'noble savage' and the works of art this has inspired. The lecture will also consider related developments at home from Joshua Reynolds to Paul Gauguin. 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 or email knoledfas@gmail.com.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgeries will take place at School House on Tuesdays **5th October and 2nd November** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.

Planning



The following applications are 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/10/01799 **Wayside Shoreham Road**

First floor extension to existing house. Erection of a two storey rear extension.
Erection of no 2 single storey side extensions

SE/10/01804 **26 Rye Lane**

Provision of a sand school measuring 40m x 20m silica sand with rubber topping

SE/10/02340 **Forest Lawns 49a Greenhill Road**

Erection of a garden fence extension above 2m high

SE/10/02386 **19 Orchard Road**

Erection of two storey side extension, rear conservatory and pitched roof over front porch

SE/10/02505 **Bankside Cottage Shoreham Road**

Demolition of existing side extension, conservatory, garage and outbuilding and construction of new single storey side and rear extension (including garage) together with ancillary works

b. Results received

SE/10/01961 **93 Well Road**

Erection of single storey rear conservatory

Allowed

SE/10/01971 **ElmwoodTudor Crescent**

Demolition of existing house, garage and annexe and bungalow to facilitate erection of two no. two storey four bedroom houses with integral garages *Allowed*

SE/10/02110 **St Bartholomews Church, The Green**

LBC - Demolition of redundant lean-to utility building with external and internal repairs to tower *Withdrawn*



**Kent
Police**

Police Advice

Otford is a safe place to live but there are things you can do to make yourself, and the young people in your family, even safer - whether you are at school, at home or out and about. Here are a few tips on staying safe now that the new school term has begun:

- If you are out and about it is a good idea to walk with a friend or group of friends so that you can look out for each other.
- Always try to walk in well-lit areas and avoid shortcuts such as alleyways or wooded areas.
- Always let someone know where you are going and tell them when you arrive.
- Stay alert - try to avoid talking on mobile phones or texting when walking. Listening to iPods or MP3 players can also be dangerous as they stop you being aware of what is going on around you.
- Get your mobiles, iPods and expensive items marked by putting your house number and postcode on them with an 'invisible' security pen.

Visit the Kent Police website - www.kent.police.uk - and click on the link for crime reduction advice. You can then go to a section about personal safety for young people, which takes you to lots of useful links that will give you advice.

If you've got something to say about local policing issues you can find out who your local neighbourhood officer is by visiting www.kent.police.uk and entering your postcode. There are also other ways to contact police. If the matter is an emergency or a crime is in progress always call 999. To report a non-urgent crime you can call 01622 690690.

Financial scams - how to protect yourself

Criminals regularly invent new scams to try and make money from you illegally. While the methods may change, the ways to protect yourself remain the same - staying alert and taking some simple precautions.

What is a Scam? - A scam is an illegal scheme to make money by deception. Scams come in different forms, including letters, emails, telephone calls and text messages. Many scams rely on you handing over or being tricked out of information that you usually keep secret.

To protect yourself, always be wary about giving personal information to anyone you don't know (or haven't checked out), or to a company or person you're unsure of.

Check the latest information about scams

Several organisations provide information about current scams and give advice on what to do if you suspect you may be a victim. These are:

Financial Services Authority (FSA)

The FSA's MoneyMadedclear website provides information about current financial scams. Some common scams include:

- 'phishing' (pronounced 'fishing') - you receive an email that looks as if it comes from a bank or credit card company, asking you to submit personal details of your account; these are used to steal money from your account or to steal your identity.
- 'share scams' - a stranger rings you out of the blue and tries to sell you shares in companies you've probably never even heard of
- 'fund transfer scams' - an advert or email asks you to receive a payment into your bank or building society account, take it out as cash, and send it abroad in return for receiving a commission
- 'advanced fee scams' - you get a letter, email or phone call offering you a large sum of money if you can help someone transfer millions of pounds out of their country; you're asked to send details of your bank account and an administration fee to initiate the transaction
- 'identity fraud' - someone impersonates you without your knowledge or consent, or uses your personal information in order to obtain money, goods or services
- fake websites - eg masquerading as banks or internet auction sites

Identity Protection

Identity fraud (also called identity theft) is when somebody pretends to be you. They may do this in order to buy things in your name, and leave you and your bank with the bill.

How your identity can be stolen

There are many ways that someone can steal your identity, including:

- finding out your bank details
- taking your passport or driving licence, or copying the details
- copying your credit card details
- accessing your personal information through a fraudulent website or email
- taking junk mail that has your personal information on it
- going through your dustbin to find receipts or other information
- You may not know straight away that your identity has been stolen. It is important that you make sure to protect your details and be aware of any signs that your identity might have been stolen.

How to stay safe from identity theft

Using just a few of your personal details, criminals can apply for bank accounts, credit cards, benefits and official documents in your name. Here are some tips to help you stay safe.

Online tips

- delete suspicious-looking emails without opening them
- don't use the same password on all websites
- refuse to give personal information to any company that emails or calls you unexpectedly
- keep your credit card within view when paying at restaurants or shops
- don't respond to emails that seem to be from your bank asking you to 're-enter' your personal details; your bank will not ask you to do that

Offline tips

- shred all personal information before throwing it away in your rubbish; this includes bank statements, anything containing National Insurance details, salary information, even old membership cards
- tear off and destroy the name and address on the envelopes you receive before throwing them away
- don't leave personal documents visible in your home; keep them somewhere safe
- keep your banking and credit card PIN numbers safe - no bank will ever phone you to ask for your PIN

Personal details should only ever be revealed when it is your decision to give them out. Your bank will never ask you for your PIN or your online account password, and neither will any trustworthy online retailer, credit card or auction site.

To keep your information safe you should **never** give out your personal details to a telephone caller, such as your date of birth or mother's maiden name

STOP PRESS



On **Sunday 28th November** between 11am and 4pm our lovely shops will be open again for you to get your Christmas presents and treats. Also there will be street entertainers and other surprises. Do come along and support them.



Don't forget the clocks go back on Sunday 31st October

