

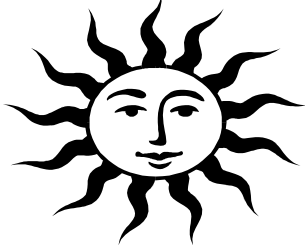
Otford Parish Council September Newsletter 2002

Clerk: Mrs. B.J. Darby
The School House, 21, High Street, Otford,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PG
Telephone/answerphone: 01959 524808
Fax: 01959 525298
otfordpc@btinternet.com
Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri

Traffic Calming & Station Road Refuge

Plans for both these works are proceeding and the final details are still awaited by the Parish Council. The pedestrian refuge in Station Road appears non-controversial, but the former will receive very careful attention by the Council and residents before anything is done. The complexity of designing both these road works is considerable and there have been administrative hold-ups that have nothing to do with the final design. This has led to delays that are frustrating for all concerned.

Solar System Walk – T Shirts



For those of you who participated in the Solar System Walk on Tuesday 4th June – your children's T shirt is available to be collected from the Parish Office along with a signed certificate by David Thomas if you did not receive one on the day itself and your completed passport.



Tree of Light

As last year we are hoping to have a Tree of Light at Christmas on the Village Green for you to sponsor a light and place a dedication on the tree. This year it is hoped to raise funds for Kent Air Ambulance. Further details will follow in later newsletters.

Otford Historical Society

Places are still available on the Otford Historical Society half-day trip to Eltham Palace on Wednesday 18th September. The coach leaves Otford Pond at 2pm.

Eltham Palace is the surviving remains of one of England's largest medieval royal palaces (Otford Palace, just as grand, was at that time in the hands of the archbishops of Canterbury, and the magnificent medieval Great Hall had its counterpart here). However, Eltham Palace and its grounds were ultimately rescued, and in the 1930's a breathtaking new Art Deco home was grafted on by Stephen and Virginia Courtauld, together with extensive and varied 20th century gardens. There will be a guided tour of the house, but, in addition audio commentaries are available. The house and grounds are accessible by wheelchair (available at the ticket office).

Cost is full price - £17 and concessions £15.50 (English Heritage Members - £10.75). Please remember to take along your membership card.

Electoral Registration

The District Council will be sending out voter registration forms at the end of August to make sure that everyone who is eligible to vote in next year's elections is able to do so. The whole of the District Council and all the Parish Council seats are up for election next May – there may even be a national referendum on whether to join the Euro currency zone at the same time so it's in everyone's interest to make sure their name is on the electoral register – if your name is not on you can't vote – it's as simple as that!

- ◆ There are some significant changes this year so do read the form carefully. From this December two entirely separate registers will be published : a 'full' register which will contain the names and addresses of everyone who is eligible to vote and may also be used for credit reference purposes and an 'edited' register which will contain only the names and addresses of those people who are happy to have their details sold and used for commercial purposes, including mailshots.
- ◆ You **must** complete and return the voter registration form by law – you can be fined for not doing so – but there is a column on this year's form where you can tick next to your name to make sure that your details are not included on the second 'edited' register.
- ◆ Another change makes it much easier for anyone who would like to vote by post to do so without having to apply by completing yet another form. Anyone who would like to vote by post and has not already applied, needs only to sign in the correct column, opposite their name on the voter registration form and they will automatically be registered to vote by post at all elections in the future.

- ◆ Last but not least, don't forget that if you move after the qualifying date for inclusion in the next register of electors (the qualifying date is 15th October 2002) you can change your registration address by completing a simple form available from the District Council. This will make voting locally a lot easier.
- ◆ A leaflet explaining these changes will be included with this year's voter registration form but if there is still anything you are unsure of there is a telephone helpline that you can ring for advice. The number is 01732 227000 and ask for extension 7243 or 7188 and speak to Margaret or Pat.

New Dog Waste Bins

New Dog Bins have been provided at Hale Lane Recreation Ground and at both exits of Telston Park in Telston Lane and Willow Park. Please use these new bins, also if you use Willow Park Green please dispose of it in these bins. Please Keep these spaces safe for children to play on.

Please clear up after your dog in all areas of the village, pavements, verges and especially the Recreation Ground where sportsmen don't want to spend time clearing their pitches before playing on them. Remember you can be fined on the spot up to a maximum of £1000. The Dog Warden does patrol this village.



Citizens Advice Bureau

Disability brings increased needs and there are two important state benefits that can provide vital financial support.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is available for those aged under 65yrs who have mobility and care needs. The criteria for DLA is that you need help – not that you actually get it. And even if sometimes your condition means that you have 'good days' and 'can cope', the bottom line is that if for the majority of the time you need the care and/or supervision from another person then you may be eligible for DLA. People suffering from ME, mental health problems and epilepsy for example, often do not realise that they may be able to get help. Filling in the 43 page long questionnaire requires stamina and advisors at the CAB are happy to help. Home visits may also be possible for the housebound.

Claiming DLA for mobility problems before the 65th birthday is particularly important as after that age, no benefit for this problem, is available. Attendance Allowance (AA) is for those over 65yrs who need help with 'bodily functions' or who need watching over for a substantial period of the day. Money from these benefits can make an appreciable difference – taxis can be paid or help in the house organised. You do not have to undergo a means test to receive these benefits. To find out more, just contact the Bureau at The Library, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HW. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday.

(Tel No : 01732 - 454443

(Fax No : 01732 - 463164

(e-mail : 7oakscab@dial.pipex.com

web page : www.7oakscab@dial.pipex.com

An adviser from CAB is at the Otford Parish Council office on the 1st Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12 noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on 1st October.

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 next two months speakers are as follows: -

September

18th – Anniversary Lunch 12.30pm –Speaker – Martgaret Killingray – *Personal relationships in a modern age.*

25th – Pat McCabe – Update on the Maidstone Christian counselling service.

October

2nd – Judy Brander – *How safe is our food?*

9th – Ian Audsley – *Of all the trees that are in the wood.*

16th – Margaret Goulding – *Missionary work ? It runs in the family.*

23rd – Martyn Berry – *Such sweet airs.*

30th – Meeting with St Bart's

Otford Fete Committee

The Otford Village Fete Committee are holding an Open meeting in the Hope Room of the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th September at 8pm. All are welcome

Studio Space Required

Does anybody have or know of any studio space (garage / shed) that could be available for artists to use as a studio / workshop. Please contact the Parish office if you can help.

Otford Website

Otford.org a website that gives information and details about all aspects of Otford life, has recently been redesigned and updated. It can be found at www.otford.org. All effort has been made to ensure that the information it contains is accurate and up to date, but if there are any omissions or inaccuracies please either telephone 01959 522521 or email anne@pondspider.com.

If you have a business or service, represent one of Otford's many clubs and societies that are not mentioned here or think that the site would benefit from any additional information they would be happy to include it. It is hoped that this will be a useful resource for Otford's online residents

Tiddlers & Toddlers

Sadly, Tiddlers & Toddlers group has had to close as a result of falling numbers and lack of volunteers.

Great Balloon Race

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Sevenoaks & District Volunteer Bureau. They are hoping to release about 5000 balloons, each one representing a local company, organisation or individual supporter, in return for a minimum donation of £1 per balloon. The owner of the balloon that travels the furthest will receive a superb prize as will the person who returns the winning label and every person who buys a balloon will go into a separate Prize Draw. This all takes place on **Sunday 22nd September at 3pm** in Bligh's Car Park. Contact the Bureau for details on 01732 454785

Bridge Tea

The Sevenoaks & District Volunteer Bureau are also holding a Bridge Tea in aid of funds on **Friday 18th October from 2pm – 5pm** in Otford Village Memorial Hall. Cost is £20 per table. For further details please contact Sevenoaks Volunteer Bureau, 34, Buckhurst Avenue, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1LZ. Telephone 01732 – 454785.

Hedges

Its been a good season for hedges and there are a number in the village which have grown over the public footway and are causing a nuisance to pedestrians, especially those who have poor sight. If you own one of these hedges, please arrange for it to be cut back from the footway as soon as possible.

Dancing

Enjoy Barn Dancing to live Otford Band 'Footloose' on **Thursday 26th September at 8pm** in the Church Hall with the Otford Folk

Dance Club. Admission and membership £1. For more details call 01959 522355. All welcome.

AGM

The AGM of the Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association will be held on **Thursday 26th September at 8pm** in Christ Church United Reform Church, London Road j / w Kippington Road. If you use the railways regularly you might like to go along.

Summer Concerts

A big thank you to Kevin Grafton for organising the summer concerts in St Bartholomew's Church together with all who took part.

Applause Productions

Put these dates in your diary now for the following productions which will take place in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

Saturday 2nd November 2002

Cat Weatherill – 'Ghost'

'Ghost' is new collection of spine-tingling stories swept up from the hearthsides of the British and Irish folk tradition. Proving that stories really are for everyone. Cat conjures up a spooky and magical atmosphere where listeners are taken completely under her spell.

Saturday 20th February 2003

Time of Our Lives Music Theatre

Celebrating English life and culture from 1940's to 1980's. Time of Our Lives music theatre brings us the 7th Retro Revue, a unique mix of music, songs, dance, reminiscence and comic sketches. It is a celebration of Restoration Comedy, Victorian Music Hall, Folk Music, Pantomime, Intimate Revue, Carry On Films, Beyond the Fringe and 60's satire to today's sketch comedy i.e. The Fast Show and Harry Enfield.

Saturday 29th March 2003

Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre – The Magic of the Mummy

The Magic of the Mummy is an open stage production with storytelling and a variety of puppets inspired by the wonderful rich culture of Ancient Egypt. Explore the myth behind the first mummy Osiris and find out how his wife's sorcery saves him from death as he floats down the Nile in a beautiful wooden carved box. This is a fascinating show for all children who love a good story and have an interest in the gruesome details of the past!

Planning

The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in September. 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/02/01735 **Umberslade Shoreham Road**

Outline application for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 x 2 storey dwellings with garages on subdivided plot

SE/02/01737 **The Shaw Shoreham Road**

Erection of replacement dwelling being revision to consent no. SE/01/00846 comprising 2 additional dormers to the west elevation and bathroom window to north elevation

SE/02/01765 **63 Willow Park**

Two storey side and single storey rear extension

SE/02/01800 **Russell House School Station Road**

Installation of 2 no. wheelchair platform lifts and associated works

SE/02/01851 **Otford Boarding Kennels Pilgrims Way West**

Two storey side extension incorporating garage, and pitched roof to existing dormer window.

SE/02/01869 **McDonalds Old Otford Road**

Installation of ATM in stand alone enclosure (revised location)

SE/02/01870 **McDonalds Old Otford Road**

Internally illuminated fascia sign on ATM building.

SE/02/01903 **Homebase Ltd Old Otford Rd**

Garden centre conservatory

SE/02/01908 **7 Rye Lane**

Proposed porch to front entrance

SE/02/01943 **Plot1 Greenhill House Shoreham Road**

Extension to approved dwelling

b. Results Received

SE//02/00691 **Homestead Farm Rye Lane**

Entrance walls and gates **Allowed**

SE/02/00949 **Greenhill House Shoreham Road**

Reserved matters pursuant to consent reference number SE/99/00259 for the erection of 2 detached houses with garages and vehicular access. Amended plans received with letter dated 17.6.02 **Allowed**

SE/02/01169 **9 Great Till Close Conservatory** to rear of the property, new detached garage and conversion of existing garage into family room with first floor extension above. **Allowed**

SE/02/01231 **15 High Street**

Change of use from antique shop to combined shop/pilates studio **Refused**

SE/02/01403 **Russell House School Station Road**

Development of new play area **Allowed**

SE/00/02424 **Elmwood Tudor Crescent**

Demolition and re-development of two dwelling houses two storeys high with roof space over. As amended by plans received 01.03.01. Further correspondence received 24.10.01

Refused

SE/01/02736 **Telecomms Mast Sepham Farm Old Polhill**

Replacement of existing 15m mast with 22.5m lattice tower, 6 x additional antennae, ancillary equipment cabins and new security fence and access gate to facilitate site share between operators **Allowed**

SE/02/01220 **St.Michael's School St Michael's Drive**

Contractor's temporary access roadway, car park and storage area **Allowed**

SE/02/01244 **19 The Charne**

New single storey extension and reconstruction of existing garage (demolition of single storey outbuilding) **Allowed**

SE/02/01344 **51 Pilgrims Way West**

Replacing flat roofs with pitch roofs for dormer and rear extension **Allowed**

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 17th September – Fete Committee Open Meeting - 8pm – Memorial Hall

Sunday 22nd September – Sevenoaks Volunteer Bureau Great Balloon Race – 3.00pm – Blighs Car Park

Thursday 26th September – Otford Folk Dance Club – 8pm – Church Hall

Thursday 26th September – Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Ass AGM –8pm– United Reform Church London Road

Monday 14th October – Next Parish Council Meeting- 7.30pm - Memorial Hall

Friday 18th October – Sevenoaks Volunteer Bureau Bridge Tea – 2 to 5pm – Memorial Hall