Otford Parish Council
September Newsletter
2003
No 115
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
otfordpc@btinternet.com
Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri

High Street
Well it’s all over! Opened again two weeks ahead of schedule and now everything is back to normal! Thanks to all residents and businesses for their forbearance during the closure – the engineer and contractors were most impressed by the interest and friendliness of the village. Unfortunately some traffic is still travelling much too fast on the wonderfully smooth surface but the new refuge near the junction with Rye Lane should help to stop idiotic drivers from overtaking at speed at that point. The widening of the pavement at the Bridge is also marvellous and helps to make pedestrians feel a lot safer at that point.
This is a plea though to those drivers who think that speed limits don’t apply to them, the High Street is a 30mph zone and just because there is no traffic ahead of you does not mean you can go any faster. Please keep your speed down to make it safer for everyone using the High Street – motorists and pedestrians. This applies also to Shoreham Road, Station Road and Sevenoaks Road, sections of which have no pavement. The Police do carry out spot checks at various locations without warning and report that most drivers stopped live locally. This is terrible really so next time you get into your car please

10th Anniversary Issue
The first Parish Council newsletter was produced in September 1993 in a one - page format all from the garden shed in which the Parish Council Clerk used to work. A lot has changed since then, now printed by a local firm it is a four – page format full of hopefully good and useful information concerning village and surrounding local events. We hope that you find it interesting to read and welcome entries from village organisations that wish to publicise events or any other village matters. We would also very much like to recruit some more newsletter distributors. So if you feel that you could deliver the newsletters in your road or any other part of the village then please contact the office.

N.B There are also changes to the Victoria trains – timetables are available at the Station and Parish office.

Otford Fete Committee
The Otford Village Fete Committee are holding an Open Meeting in the Hope Room of the Village Hall on Monday 22nd September at 8pm. They are looking for new people to join the committee so please do go along. It is not hard work and you would help to maintain it as the biggest and best in Kent

Litter Dumping
We have had reports of dumping of garden rubbish in Palace Field, Telston Park and the Chalk Pit This is so unnecessary - you can get your garden rubbish taken away by the dustman using green bags, which can be purchased from the Parish Office, alternatively take it yourself to the rubbish dump at Dunbrik.

Dog Fouling
This is still a problem, not only on the Recreation Ground but also on pavements, footpaths and even in residents’ front gardens. Please pick up after your dog, 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. Dog wardens do patrol the village and every effort will be taken to discover who is responsible and when caught, fined.
Otford Tennis Club

Finals Day at Otford Tennis Club on 16th August proved to be a very interesting and happy occasion and consisted of playing off the various Inter Club Tournaments. Janet and Anthony Shea were the winners of the Ladies and Men’s Singles (keeping it in the family), with Rosemary Tuck and Tricia Cave taking the Ladies Doubles trophy. John Tuck and Paul Giering went well ahead to win the Men’s Doubles Finals and Paul Giering and Joanne Hearsum clinched the Mixed Doubles match in straight sets 6-2, 6-3.

As well as a delicious afternoon tea, the day was rounded off with a BBQ, which also included a wonderful array of desserts provided by the members (Stan Shenton, the Chairman, is famous for his treacle tart) and darkness had fallen by the time everyone trudged home across the Rec.

August has also been a busy time for coach, Mary Evans, with a programme of Mini Tennis courses – this section is now a very important part of the Club and it’s amazing to see the progress made by children from the age of four upwards.

This is also a reminder that Ladies Coaching will start again on Friday Morning 5th September from 9-10.30am. These sessions, are ‘pay as you go’ and everyone, members and non-members are welcome. Just turn up or ring Mary Evans on 01959 523701. All abilities are catered for. For all other enquiries about the Club please ring Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

Age Concern Autumn Fair

The Age Concern Autumn Fair will take place on Saturday 20th September in the Village Hall between 10am and 12noon. Attractions include, books, cakes, cards, a raffle and tombola. Refreshments will be served.

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 months speakers and events are as follows: -

**September**
17th – Peter Knight – Beyond Animal Experiments
24th – Penny Morrish – The Violin Explained

**October**
1st – Mary Bestwick – Painting and Meditation
8th Penny & Robin Morrish – Duets for the Violin
15th – Women’s Lunch – Hugh Stirk – The Prince’s Trust

Citizens Advice Bureau

If someone knocks at your door selling goods or services, remember:

- Always ask for identification and never let anyone in that you have doubts about
- Ask yourself if you really want the item/goods and can you afford it?
- Get everything in writing and read all documentation
- Don’t be fooled by offers of free prizes, holidays etc – it’s rare to get something for nothing and there’s usually a hidden cost involved!
- If the call was unsolicited, you may be entitled to a cancellation period.

To find out more contact them at The Library, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HW. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday 10am and 1pm -appointments for form filling

- 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 12noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on 7th October.

Otford Gardeners’ Society

The next meeting of the Otford Gardener’s Society will be on Tuesday October 7th starting at 8pm. A practical demonstration and talk by George Puddefoot on ‘Winter Patio Tubs and Containers’. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments.

Ducklings Nursery Pre-school

Are you looking for a nursery for your child? Ducklings, has been established in Otford for more than 20 years. They take children from 2½ years to Primary School entry. Ducklings, offers a safe and caring environment at St Bartholomew’s Church Hall. They are open Monday to Friday 9.15am to 12.15pm (until 3.15pm on Mondays and Wednesdays). Ducklings, more than meets OFSTED requirements and gained a glowing report on the last inspection. As a not for profit nursery, they ensure that all the money is used for the children’s benefit. Contact Maureen Perry on 01959 524298 or Liz Williamson on 01959 523564 for details.
Otford Folk Dance Group

The Otford Folk Dance Group meet every Thursday in Otford Parish Church Hall at 8pm. Cost is £1 including tea, coffee and biscuits. All abilities and ages over 12 are invited to “enjoy what happens”. Check out the group web site on: http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/otfordfdc2

National Allotment Week

Otford Allotment Association celebrated National Allotment Week by inviting all and sundry to their Open Day on Saturday 16th August. Chairman, Ken Gunderson, had prepared some literary history of allotments for all to read – the weather was perfect with plots looking good despite the earlier heat wave, and those allotment volunteers who were prepared for visitors sat and waited; they did not have to wait long before a steady stream of interested passers by came in to be shown round. Others had been invited, some from the very well run Herne Bay Allotments, and other local ‘big wigs’, who all seemed to enjoy their tour (maybe it was the attraction of the afternoon cream teas to follow, but we like to think there was genuine interest). One visitor persuaded his wife to sign up for an allotment no doubt hoping to reap a bounty from her efforts! You too can sign up – now is the time to think ahead to next year, although plots are not immediately available, but waiting may not be too long – go on be the first in the queue – call into the Parish Council Office or give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468.

Bonfires

We continue to receive complaints about unsocial bonfires. Please remember that bonfires can be damaging to the environment in terms of the effect on your neighbours, pollution, wildlife and health effects. It is more beneficial to either compost material or recycle it. If you must have a bonfire please be neighbourly and DO NOT light bonfires during the day, especially on those nice days when your neighbours may have their washing out but wait until late evening. Remember that if you allow your bonfire smoke to drift across a road you face a fine if it endangers traffic. Please be considerate to your neighbours in this matter.

Excess Noise

Please help to avoid causing problems with your neighbours over excessive noise. If you are bothered by excess noise either from dogs barking, parties, music, DIY etc on a regular basis then contact the Environmental Health Department of the District Council for help and advice. Tel No 01732 227000 (switchboard) and ask.

Honey Show

The Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Branch of the Kent Beekeepers Association are holding a Honey Show on Saturday 27th September in Otford Church Hall. Open to the public 1.30-4.00pm. Go along and learn about beekeeping. There will be exhibits and displays and an opportunity to purchase honey and related products.

Sevenoaks Swing Dance

Classes resume in September at the Otford Church Hall for lessons in the original swing dance ‘Lindy Hop’ with a teacher from Jitterbugs London. PLEASE NOTE Dates have had to be revised and they are now: Sept 16th, Oct 21st, Nov 18th and Dec 16th at 8pm. Beginners Welcome. For further information phone 01959 522810

Music Group

A pre School Music Group starts on Tuesdays in September in the St Bartholomew’s Church Hall, Otford. For more details please contact Jane Salisbury on 01732 741335

Rubber Bridge Drive

There will be a Rubber Bridge Drive and Afternoon Tea in aid of Sevenoaks Volunteers on Friday 17th October from 2- 5pm (Doors open from 1.30pm) in Otford Village Hall. Cost of £24 per table (please bring your own tables, cards, scorecards and pencils). For further details please contact Sevenoaks Volunteers, 34, Buckhurst Avenue, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1LZ. Telephone 01732 454785, e-mail info@sevenoaksvolunteers.org.uk

Otford & District Wine Club

The Otford & District Wine Club are holding their first meeting of the autumn season in Otford Memorial Hall on Wednesday 24th September beginning at 8pm. This will be a wine tasting hosted by Linda and Ray Neal who are new and enthusiastic members of the Committee. They have some original ideas up their sleeves so it should be an interesting occasion. The club is buying double the quantity of wine that they had at the January wine tasting in case they get a similar influx of visitors! Why not go along and...
have an enjoyable evening amongst friends. As usual cheese and biscuits will be provided and there will be a raffle. Guests will be charged a small fee but members are free of course. If you have any queries, ring the secretary on 01732 – 761359.

**Art Exhibition**

There will be an art exhibition and sale by local artists on **Saturday 11th October** in St Martin’s Church, Eynsford. 15% of sales of paintings and prints will go to St Martin’s. If you are interested in applying to exhibit then please call 01322 866287. Refreshments will be available on the day.

### Planning

The following applications were considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in August and September. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk or the Strategic Services Director, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

#### August

**a. New applications**

- **SE/03/01152 4 High Street**
  - Proposed ground and first floor extensions

- **SE/03/01536 8 Shinecroft Road**
  - Single storey flat roof extension and conversion of outbuildings to accommodation

- **SE/03/01647 54 High Street**
  - Proposed conservatory to rear of property

- **SE/03/01703 Block 1 Vestry Est, Vestry Road**
  - Erection of a warehouse with offices, parking and turning area (revised)

- **SE/03/01758 Otford C. P. School, High Street**
  - The erection of a previously used single storey modular building, for use, primarily as a privately run after school club with occasional use by the school

- **SE/03/01818 Bank Buildings Station Road**
  - Single storey rear extension

**b. Amended applications**

- **SE/03/01158 2 Wickham Field**
  - Loft conversion with roof lights and front porch

- **SE/03/01475 Lacasa, Rye Lane**
  - Change of use of private garage to ancillary residential accommodation together with a little extension, formation of bay window, increase in roof height and construction of dormers to create first floor accommodation

- **SE/03/01478 Wayside Shoreham Road**
  - Outline application for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two detached dwellings and garages

**c. Results Received**

- **SE/03/01265 38 Tudor Crescent**
  - Replacement of current 2m high fence and extension of fence to front of house

- **SE/03/01297 Foyle Pilgrims Way East**
  - New garage and side extension

- **SE/03/01419 Russell House Sch Station Road**
  - Single storey ancillary building for national curriculum requirements. Renewal of planning permission SE/98/0806 for a ten year period

- **SE/03/01438 Russell House Sch Station Rd**
  - Retention of double classroom building previously approved under SE/97/00708SE/97/00708 for a further 10 years

- **SE/03/01474 Lacasa Rye Lane**
  - Renewal of planning permission SE/94/1492 for the demolition of existing double timber stables and erection of five section stables plus hay store

**d. Planning Appeals**

- **SE/02/02489 The Shaw, Shoreham Road**
  - Appeal against refusal for new dwelling. Revised application for additional 2 Velux windows to west elevation and single window to north elevation gable, all at second floor level

- **SE/03/01475 La Casa Rye Lane**
  - Change of use of private garage to ancillary residential accommodation together with an extension, formation of bay window, increase in roof height and construction of dormers to create first floor accommodation

- **SE/03/01536 8 Shinecroft**
  - Single storey flat roof extension and conversion of outbuildings to accommodation

- **SE/03/01246 The Shaw Shoreham Road**
  - Details pursuant to condition 4 (landscaping) of SE/01/00846

- **SE/03/01647 54 High Street**
  - Proposed conservatory to rear of property