

Otford Parish Council September Newsletter 2006 No 149

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

Alice in Wonderland

An outdoor production of 'Alice in Wonderland' took place on Friday 21st July in the grounds of Otford Primary School. It was a perfect summers evening and approx 150 people enjoyed picnics and PTA refreshments before and during a lovely production of this classic story. A big thank you to the school for the use of the grounds and for the PTA for all their hard work. A very nice family occasion.

Playground Project

We were delighted to learn that this project is to be supported (80% of the cost) under the England Rural Development Programme by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund. With the money already donated we have very nearly achieved our community target and we thank you all who responded to the appeal and particularly the Otford Society. If you would still like to donate then cheques should be made payable to The Otford Society and sent to School House. It is hoped to start the work in the very near future.

Community Football Match



Dave Birchall and OPC would like to arrange another community football match to take place on **Sunday 1st October** kicking off at 11am on the Otford Recreation Ground. Any males from boys aged 14+ yrs; Dads or Granddads would be welcome to play. If you are interested then please get in touch with Sue at the Parish Council Office on 01959 524808 as soon as possible leaving your name, age and contact number. If anyone would be willing to referee or run the line for us that would be most welcome as well. Players will need to supply their own kit. Refreshments will be served.

Sponsored Bike Ride

Congratulations

Well - done Dave Birchall, a great achievement by him on our behalf. He set out from Sevenoaks Police Station at 8am on Sunday 3rd September in the drizzly rain and arrived at Brighton Pier in 4hrs - 58 minutes - 23 seconds. After some refreshments he was then given a well - deserved lift home by his backup crew. He sends a huge thank you to Stan who accompanied him (Well Done Stan) and to all of you who sponsored him he is very touched by your generosity The total amount pledged is approx £1300 and if you sponsored Dave please can you bring your money to the Otford Parish Council office (8.30-12.30pm Mon - Fri). Thank you. Photo hopefully in next newsletter.

The Pond

Yes, it has started at last, the fish have been relocated and the ducks have gone to their temporary home and are being well looked after. The duckhouse has been removed and it will be refurbished and redecorated including central heating / air con before its return! (That's straw and doors to the rest of us). Work has to be carried out on the walls and the base will be re-puddled. It will be planted up and all will hopefully be perfect again. As before NO FISHING is allowed in the Pond and please DO NOT place any unwanted fish in the Pond as we need to keep the stocks properly regulated. Thank you. A big thank you to all who contributed money over the last few years to the Pond Fund. It is now being spent at last.

Otford Builders Merchants - Parking

Otford Builders Merchants Ltd would like to remind local residents that parking in their Car Park and Access Way during business opening hours of 7.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am to 12noon Saturday is not allowed. There have been a number of incidents recently where cars have been 'clipped' by lorries having to make tight turns into the yard because of rogue parked vehicles. They thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Blood Donor Unit

The National Blood Service will be holding their blood donor sessions in Otford Car Park on Thursday 28th September.

Sessions will run from:

- 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- 5.30pm - 8.00pm

'Do something amazing Give Blood'

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 14th September** between 11am and 12.30pm. Please come and see him if you have any problems.

Dave would like to remind you to be careful concerning callers to your door recently there have been Males with Irish accents purporting to be Water-board officials. Always check ID before allowing anyone to enter your house and if you are not sure you **DO NOT** have to let them in.

Recently our Community Police Officer Jon Wilkinson and Dave were patrolling together on their bikes when they stopped a male acting suspiciously who was found to be in possession of stolen property and arrested. Well done. PC Wilkinson has also made a large number of arrests concerning the problem of graffiti that has occurred in Sevenoaks and all the surrounding villages. He is a very proactive officer and we thank him (and Dave) for all the largely unseen work he does in the village.

Nuisance Calls

If you are the victim of nuisance calls at home you can report them to the Nuisance Calls Bureau on 01622 654040 (9am -5pm) or to British Telecom.

Support Our Theatre Campaign



A coffee morning is being held in the Club Room of the Otford Village Hall on **Tuesday 12th September** to chat about the future of the Sevenoaks Playhouse and show support for the campaign. Go along between 10am and 12 noon and enjoy coffee and cake with your friends. Even if you are not able to offer any active help, your support will be welcome. Contact Jen Lewis on 01959 522887 for more information.

First Steps

First Steps has recommenced at the Otford Evangelical Free Church between 9.30 - 11.30am on alternate Wednesdays during school term. A warm friendly welcome awaits Mums, Dads or other carers with babies and pre-school children. Activities and stories for the children are Bible-based run jointly by St Bart's and Otford Methodist Church. Contact Hazel Terry on 01959 523047 for more information.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 3rd October** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

Local Country market

We have been asked to tell you that the Eynsford Country Market opening times are from 2pm to 3pm (not 3.30pm) every Friday afternoon. Give it a try.

Honey Show

On **Saturday 23rd September** the Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Branch of the Kent Beekeepers will be holding their Annual Honey Show at Otford Church Hall. The Hall will be open to the Public between 1pm and 4pm where the exhibits can be viewed. Honey and related products will be available for purchase.

Twinning

We would still like to hear from residents interested in the idea of twinning with the small market town of Précigné in Anjou, north - western France. If you would like to hear more at a public meeting please give your details to the Parish Council Office.

Apologies that in the last newsletter the town was misspelt with a 's' instead of a 'c' www.precigne.fr

Recycle Print Cartridges

You can now recycle your laserjet /inkjet print cartridges at School House. The bin is located in the foyer of the Heritage Centre. When closed you can place them through the letterbox.

Otford Methodist Wednesday Afternoons

Women's Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, which take place at 2.30pm and while the Methodist Hall is being rebuilt will be meeting in members' homes. A list of the next two months speakers and venues are as follows: -

September

13th - 2pm Outing to Coolings Nature Trail

20th - Rev John Curnow - '*Listening*' at 25 Brookfield

27th - Kevin Crawley - '*Over one hundred million connections*' - 27 Well Road

October

4th - 2pm in Village Hall with Over 60's for School harvest.

11th - *More Travels* - Michael Richardson at 23 Warham Road

18th - Games Afternoon

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 July TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 169

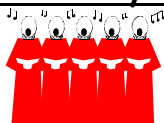
2nd Prize £15 - 141

3rd Prize £10 - 233

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 meeting on **12th September** has PCSO Dave Birchall giving advice on personal security. Then the meeting on **10th October** has Mr T Pearson from the National Trust giving a nostalgic and informative talk on The South Downs. Please contact 01959 522915 for more details.

Darent Valley Choir



The Darent Valley Choir is a local and very friendly choir with no auditions. They are rehearsing for their Christmas concert every Wednesday (from 6th September) at the Anthony Roper School in Eynsford from 8pm - 10pm. There is ample parking within the school grounds. They welcome new members of all voices and they would like to see previous members back with them again. If you would like further information please contact Phyllis Putt on 01959 523279 or the choir secretary Ann Ellson on 01474 815591.

Otford Allotment Association

Well here we are at the end of a very successful allotment year, with many new tenants enjoying the pleasures of allotment gardening - excellent exercise (no obesity), creative objectives (less stress), excellent community spirit, all-year sun-tan, and totally home-grown produce full of flavour, how can you not get excited at the prospect of renting your own piece of allotment - all you need to do is give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468, or call in to the parish office on any weekday morning. Currently we have two small plots available, and now is the time to think about taking one, or even two, on at the start of the new allotment year. Your call is awaited.

Otford Gardeners' Society

The next meeting takes place in Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 3rd October** at 8pm when the lecture is by Martin Haywood - 'Yellow Fever -

growing and showing daffodils' - an illustrated talk from a National Collection holder with an opportunity to buy specialist daffodil bulbs. Admission is 50p for members, £1 non-members. The admission price includes refreshments.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further details contact Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or visit www.otford.info/gardeners.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 30th September** when there will be a morning workshop 'Dorothy's Dollies' and in the afternoon there is the Branch AGM followed by Dorothy Poulton on 'A short history of Corn Dollies'. The meetings begin 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 first lecture of the 2006/07 programme will be on **21st September** by Nicholas Bagshawe on 'A Dealers Story'. 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 the membership secretary, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529.

Otford & District Wine Club

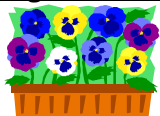
Everyone in the Wine Club will agree that they had a good summer with a very successful BBQ in June and a very enjoyable outing to see 'Oliver' in August. However, although the BBQ season is drawing to a close, we can still get out and enjoy ourselves! Why not come to a Beer Tasting Evening in the Otford Memorial Hall on **Wednesday 27th September** run by a true connoisseur of the golden liquid, Peter Boyd-Barrett. As usual the evening will begin at 8pm with plenty to drink and nibble, and lots of fun and games (with prizes!) plus a raffle. Everyone is welcome but there will be a small charge for non-members. Do come along for a great night out! Any queries, ring the Secretary on 01732 - 761359

Picture of the Month

The artist for September / October is Lindsay Connors. Lindsay says " I have lived in Otford for the past eleven years and have always been interested in art, returning to college part time, as a mature student, four years ago. I am now completing my BA in Fine Arts at Greenwich University. I work in oils and watercolour, but my favourite medium is printmaking, especially lino print, which I produce in a

studio I share in Sundridge. I would describe my work as a visual celebration of the ordinary and everyday. I exhibit locally and I am currently exhibiting at St Julians Club in Sevenoaks" Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you are interested in displaying your artwork.

Village Planters



The Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to Russell House School who have adopted the planter at the entrance to the village car park and Denise Thompson Designer Florist who have taken on the one by The Bull PH. Would anyone like to adopt the one outside the Chemist?

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Evening NADFAS) 2006/2007 lecture season continues on **Thursday 12th October** at 8.15pm in the Aisher Hall, Sevenoaks School with a talk by Mr Eric Shanes on 'Cezanne: The Father of Modern Art'. Please contact Mrs Jackie Bradforth on 01732 761631 or Mrs Mary Aldous on 01732 452209 for more information.

Sevenoaks Music Club

The new exciting season of the Sevenoaks Music Club opens with the internationally famous BRODSKY STRING QUARTET on **Saturday 14th October** at 8pm at the Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall. They will be playing Mozart, Shostakovich and Schumann. For further information on their brochure, season ticket or ticket prices please contact Richard Hargreaves on 01732 453251.

Hedges

Hedges are growing very quickly at the moment and a number in the village have grown over the public footway and are causing a nuisance to pedestrians, especially those who have poor sight. Please check the boundaries of the property you are in and if necessary please arrange for it to be cut back from the footway as soon as possible. Thank you.

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/06/01949 **7 Bubblestone Road**

Conservatory to rear of property
SE/06/01972 **11 Broughton Road**

Two storey rear extension

SE/06/01984 **32 Greenhill Road**

Replacement dwelling, variation on an earlier development (including erection of orangery upon rear elevation)

SE/06/01923 **Mount Farm, Row Dow**

Demolish existing greenhouse and oil store.

Construction of replacement oil store and potting shed

SE/06/01911 **Red Roofs, Rye Lane**

First floor extension above garage

SE/06/02117 **36 Willow Park**

Two storey side extension. Demolish existing garage, front & rear porches and extended crossover to drive (revision of SE/06/01673)

SE/06/01819 **8 Greenhill Road**

Two storey extension to rear and raising of main roofs and garage

SE/06/02076 **11a Hillydeal Road**

Part two storey, part single and rear extension, new front entrance and tile cladding of first floor extension

SE/06/02038 **4 High Street**

Proposed extension and alterations

b. Results received

SE/06/01458 **11 Broughton Road**

Conservatory

Refused

SE/06/01197 **64-66 Well Road**

Demolition of existing dwellings and erection of 21 no. dwellings together with associated garaging and roadway. Resubmission of SE/06/00795FUL

Refused

SE/06/01708 **55 Tudor Crescent**

Single storey rear extension

Allowed

c. Amended applications

SE/06/01950 **43 High Street**

Loft conversion to existing dwelling

SE/06/01764 **27 Pilgrims Way W**

Demolition of existing garage and erection of 2 storey side extension (including integral garage) as amended by plans received 18.08.06

d. Tree work in Conservation Area

06/02175/**WTCA Broughton Manor Oast, High Street** Removal of ten cricket bat willow trees

e. Planning Appeals

SE/05/02692 **38 Greenhill Road**

First floor bedroom and bathroom linking existing house and garage over existing ground floor living room - Appeal allowed

SE/05/01435 **The Chicken Farm Shorehill Lane**

Change of use of four redundant agricultural buildings to a Class B1 use (as amended by plans received 02.08.05) Appeal hearing to be held 21.11.06 at SDC offices