Otford Parish Council
September Newsletter 2008
No 171

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
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otfordpc@btinternet.com

The Pond

Soon the walls will be completed and the ducks will return and it will as soon as possible be stocked up with various pond plants. BUT IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL that nobody dumps any fish in the pond. Fish will be reintroduced but it HAS to be the right fish or the plants will just be eaten up! So please DO NOT do it. Thank you.

PCSO Dave Birchall

Our PCSO Dave Birchall is leaving Kent Police to pastures new and we would like to say a huge thank you to him for the amazing care, enthusiasm and commitment he has shown to the village. He will be greatly missed. Over the four years that Dave has looked after us he has arranged and played in 3 football matches against young people in the village and also a 5 a side football tournament involving surrounding villages as well. He initiated last year the Otford Young Achiever Award and he has also ridden to Brighton on his bike for the refurbishment of the Children's play area and of course has just taken part in the 3 Peaks Challenge to raise money for the Primary School. Over those years with his cheerful, helpful demeanour he has built a wonderful rapport with all members of the community and with all his many talks at our schools and clubs he became known by almost everybody in the village who were highly reassured by his visible presence whether by car, bicycle or foot. He was a true professional and we were very lucky to have him here. We wish him well for the future.

Through the newsletter Dave would like to thank everybody who has helped and supported him with his work and events over the years especially PC Jon Wilkinson, Otford Parish Council, Barbara Darby, Paul Robertson our Community Warden, Sue Stephenson our Assistant Clerk and the community of Otford.

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.

Support your shops
Over the quiet holiday and post holiday period please support your local shops. We have some wonderful shops in our village and many have sales either happening or coming up for you to pick up those bargains both antique or new.

Commuter Parking in Residential Roads
Sevenoaks District Council is over stretched at the moment as this problem is replicated across the District as people everywhere are trying to avoid station parking fees. To help with this they are trying to recruit a new member of staff at the moment that should help to speed things up. Otford is still in the queue and has not been forgotten. The first stage of the process is to conduct a survey of the roads involved to come up with some possible solutions that can be put out to public consultation to the residents that would be affected. They are reluctant to carry out this survey over the summer months, because although the parking situation is bad at the moment, it will probably be worse in September when more people return to work.
Once they recruit this extra member of staff, the District Council is hoping to have a public consultation in Otford around Christmas time.
Our District Councillors will make sure Otford is not forgotten. SDC know it is frustrating for affected residents having all this commuter parking, but for the reasons highlighted nothing can be done immediately.

Police Surgery
The last Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on Tuesday 23rd September between 11am and 12.30pm at School House. Please come and see him if you have any problems.
Dave would like to point out that checks are carried out on a regular basis on vehicle tax so make sure that you are up to date. Also underage drinking will NOT be tolerated in the village and if you are stopped the alcohol will be poured away. Parents please be aware what your youngsters are doing or in some cases shouldn't be doing!
Also in the Tudor Drive area there have been reports of car horns being used in the early hours of the morning. Please DO NOT do this it is very anti social.
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 Worsam. The sessions will be on Tuesday evenings at 8pm in the Church Centre at fortnightly intervals.

- **Tuesday 7th October** - From Roman times to medieval Catholic England
- **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.

Garden Waste Sacks

Please be aware that only Sevenoaks District Council Green Garden Waste Sacks will be collected by the crews not other bags purchased from a local garden centre. Thank you. SDC Bags are available from Otford Parish Council office at £5 for 12 bags.

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.

Social Event of The Year 2009

Otford Village Memorial Hall are planning a number of fund raising events during 2009 in order to finance a number of initiatives to further improve the facilities offered to hirers. One of the main events will be a Mid-Summer Ball to be held in a marque on the Recreation Ground. This will be a black tie event and will include a three course meal with wine, dancing and other entertainments until the small hours of the morning. A lot of the detail (including the date) is yet to be finalised but they are currently working on a ticket price of between £50 and £60 per head. If you would like to go with some friends, group tables will be available. They would like to get some indication of the numbers likely to attend so if, even at this early stage and with no commitment whatsoever, you think it possible/probable that you would please let them know (including the number of tickets you are likely to require) by either emailing ovmh.chairman@otford.net or call on 07887 780576 and leave a message.

Elizabeth Remembered

450 years ago, when Otford was well known to Tudor Monarchs, Elizabeth I became Queen, to steer England through 45 turbulent years. In Otford Village Memorial Hall on **Saturday 4th October** at 7.30pm there will be a commemoration of her life and times with a community presentation sponsored by the Otford Players and the Otford Society. Tony Wiltshire conducts the singers and contributes original music and the words have been put together by Ken Gunderson. Admission by programme will be £6 which includes interval refreshments. Call the Box Office - Carole Cole on 01959 525404 to book your seats.

Safer Plate/Mower/ Power Tool marking

On **Saturday 20th September** from 10am in Otford Car Park members from Neighbourhood Watch and other agencies will be available to fit tamper proof screws on car number plates to prevent theft and they will also be marking mowers and gardening and power tools. So if you are interested please go along.

Property Marking Kits

You are now able to purchase easy to use Property Marking Kits from your West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association. Each Property Marking Kit contains its own unique marking adhesive, along with property and window stickers. The adhesive turns clear once applied, and shows up under UV light. The adhesive also contains 'microdots' which contains you own unique registration code. Once you have marked your property, the items are registered to your address, and placed on a secure database. Therefore if anything that has been marked is ever stolen, it can easily be linked back to you. You are able to mark up to 50 items in and around the house, including televisions, mobile phones, tools, garden furniture, sat nav's and much more. Marking your property in this way can help to prevent crimes, by acting as a deterrent to any would be offender. For more information please contact your Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, Suzanne Daniell on 01322 422 518 or 07980 770548.

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 Society

The Autumn meeting of the Otford Society will take place on **Thursday 16th October** at 8pm in the Memorial Hall.

Darent Valley Choir

The choir begins rehearsals on the **10th September** in the Anthony Roper School in Eynsford. From 8 - 10pm they will enjoy singing excerpts from Messiah and Christmas Fantasia by Vaughan Williams to be sung at our Christmas concert. They welcome all voices (especially men). We are a friendly choir and don’t have auditions so they look forward to seeing you. Singing is a great relaxation as well as enjoyable.

Visit to Precigne

Don’t miss the opportunity of a visit to Precigne, near Le Mans in France, next May bank Holiday weekend on 2 - 4th May 2009. The cost of travel is low and the accommodation is free. Please contact the Parish Office for further
Followed by Table tennis or Chess. The cost is £2 per

**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 will be on 18th September when Valerie Woodgate will talk about ‘Picasso and his Women’. Then 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.

**First Steps**

FIRST STEPS recommences in the Methodist Halls on Wednesday 10th September meeting between 9.30 - 11.30am on alternate Wednesdays during school term. A warm friendly welcome to Mums, Dads or other carers with babies and pre-school children. Activities and stories for the children are Bible-based and run jointly by the Otford Methodist Church and St Bartholomew’s. Call Hazel Terry on 01959 523047 for more information.

**Otford Methodist Church**

**Forthcoming events in September**

- **Dinner with Yahuda Zabari** – An opportunity to hear the story of an Israeli soldier who discovered the truth about Jesus. On Saturday 13th September 6.30pm for 7pm in the new Methodist Hall including a professionally catered meal – Tickets £10 from Derek Baxter on 01959 523687. You are warmly invited to bring friends and relatives.
- **Alpha Course** – A wonderful opportunity to explore the meaning of life and think about the Christian faith in a relaxed social setting – a meal is included. A ten week course in the Methodist Halls starting on Tuesday 16th September. For more details or to book ring Kate Baxter on 01959 523687 or Kath Pawlett on 01959 522196.
- **Back to Church Sunday** – Come and join your local congregation at Otford Methodist Church at 10.30am. On Sunday 28th September we will be celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving and it is a great day to join others in a time of thankfulness for all we have. There is a Harvest lunch to follow and we hope you can stay. For more details ring Kath on 01959 55196.
- **Café Quiz Evening** – Please join us for a quiz evening on Sunday 7th September at 6.30pm to support ‘Christian Aid’ at Otford Methodist Church Hall. Coffee and cake served throughout the evening.

**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

**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 Gardeners’ Society**

The next Gardeners’ Society meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th October at 8pm when they will enjoy ‘An evening with Denise Thompson Designer Florist’ – Otford’s own florist.

For further details telephone Janet Finney on 01959 523760 or email gardeners@otford.net

Thanks are due to the Gardeners’ Society Committee for clearing and tidying School House back garden. Ten bags of plant material were collected for composting!

**Otford Afternoon WI**

The Otford Afternoon WI’s next meeting will take place on Tuesday 9th September when Mrs L Gould will talk about the ‘Life of a Japanese Woman’. Then on 14th October Mr H Newman will talk about ‘My Favourite Things’. For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

**Otford Oast WI**

On Thursday 18th September they will be having a guest speaker from Ellenor Hospice who will explain how money raised helps to care for children with serious or terminal illnesses. Then 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.

**Hospice in the Weald**

Hospice in The Weald in Pembury is having an Open Day on Thursday 18th September from 10am to 4pm where members of the public can come and have a look around the newly extended Day Therapy Centre and the gardens. There will be presentations from the Chief Executive and Director of Nursing at 11am and 2pm. Admission is free...
and refreshments will be available. For further information please call 01892 820508

**Picture of the Month**
The artist for September / October is Chris Towers. Chris has chosen a watercolour of his favourite flower, a tall Bearded Iris named 'Crowned Heads' Chris started growing Irises so that he could paint them and then joined the British Iris Society. He soon added to his collection and now has over 400 Irises needing three allotments to grow them on. Whilst always sketching on holiday he rarely got around to finishing a picture and framing it. However, on joining the Otford Art group he had plenty of encouragement from both tutors and members and has now got into the habit of finishing a painting. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

**Tai Chi Classes**
The General aims are to improve the general health, strengthen the legs, improve balance and co-ordination, promote better circulation, whilst bringing relaxation and increased energy. The courses will also work on improving posture and breathing.

**Sevenoaks** - The Bradbourne School from Thursday 18th September 6.35pm - 7.30pm

**Sevenoaks** - St Luke's Church Hall, Eardley Road from Friday 19th September - Over 50's lunchtime course 12.05pm - 1.00pm

13 week course at the same time each week. Trial session £5. Remaining 12 weeks £115.

Contact james@taiji.co.uk or phone 0208 8883 3308 for more information.

**Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild**
The next meeting will take place in Otford Village Hall on **Saturday 27th September** when after the AGM, Kay Dennis will talk about 'Stumpwork from the 17th Century until today' 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 7th October** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

**Kemings Health Walk**
Run by Sevenoaks District Council and meeting every Tuesday at 10.30am in Kemings. 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.

**Planning**
The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council in September. 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**

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