

Otford Parish Council

September Newsletter 2009

No 182

Kent and South & South East England

Village of the Year 2002

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The Pond - At last !



All the work is nearly now complete on the Pond, the edges have been turfed and seeded and we ask if you can keep off that area please until it has taken, the fencing will remain up for a while. New ducks have also been placed on the Pond and they have been nicknamed, Bill, Ben & Ted. As requested before please **DO NOT** put any unwanted fish in the Pond, it will be stocked with the correct type of fish who will not dig up the bottom or eat the plants which will be put in the pond. To celebrate its belated restoration it will be dedicated on **Sunday 27th September** at 11.30am. This will be followed by a 'Bring Your Own' Picnic to be eaten meeting residents and friends on the Village Green ending at 1.30pm. Please come along.

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). They can be read via <http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil>.

The next meeting will be on **Monday 12th October** at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Parish Council's Services Committee

Report

A new 24 hour bus service runs 2 hourly from outside Sevenoaks train station towards Godstone and Gatwick, costing £13 for adults and £8 for children for the return journey and in the other direction towards Maidstone and Medway towns including the Historic Chatham Dockyard. Tickets can be booked in advance at www.airportbycoachmedway.co.uk, at the Sevenoaks Tourist Office in Buckhurst Lane, where full details including times can be found, or they can

be bought on the buses. Concessionary fares are accepted. Do use this new facility or we shall lose it.

If you are travelling further afield to Europe do be sure you have an up-to-date European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which replaced the old E111 and entitles you to free medical treatment. This must be renewed every 3 to 5 years which can be done on-line at www.dh.gov.uk/travellers or by phone 0845 6062030.

Can we make a real effort to keep our lovely village litter free, both by not dropping litter ourselves, tying our rubbish bags up tightly and perhaps not leaving them out all night for the foxes, and by picking up any litter we pass as we walk through the village? Living in a rural village of which we are justifiably proud, could we also take a pride in our grass verges, discouraging vans and cars from parking on them? Some verges are a real credit to those who do maintain them and please cut back overhanging hedges so that pedestrians can pass freely.

This year is International Year of Astronomy, but would you be able to direct a visitor to the Otford Solar System Model? We are hoping to find funding for additional signage.

Otford's unique and world renowned Solar System Model requires an enthusiastic, caring Assistant to help David Thomas in the maintenance and preservation of this wonderful and awe inspiring creation. Willing volunteers please contact the Parish Office on 01959 524808.

We have had no response to our enquiry for interest in twinning with Neufchatel-Hardelot near Boulogne, Pas-de-Calais in France. If you are reading this Report, please make contact with the Parish Office, either positively or negatively, details above, so that we can gauge whether or not we have enough interest to pursue the idea. Again please make use of this offer or lose it.

Police Surgery

The next Police surgery with PCSO Jane Wright will be held on **Thursday 17th September** between 12 noon and 1pm at Homebase, Otford Road.

Free Monday Night Football

Supported by Kent Police and West Kent Xtra starting on **Monday 7th September** for 4 weeks from 5pm to 6pm there will be football coaching by Charlton Athletic at Hale Lane Recreation Ground for 8 - 13yr olds and 14 - 19yr olds. (There will be an opportunity to attain a coaching qualification - ask on the night). There is no need to book and it is free of charge. For more information please call 07904 965816.

Buy with Confidence

The Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership is encouraging people to log onto Kent County Council Buy with Confidence website www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk to find details of approved traders in their area. The site is free to use and features only local businesses that have passed the rigorous assessments carried out by Kent Trading Standards. Once approved onto the scheme, the businesses are permitted to use the Buy with Confidence logo and benefit from increased consumer confidence and promotion of their business. A number of services are listed on the site including home improvement companies, air conditioning, insurance services and financial advisers, all of whom have been checked and monitored by Trading Standards officers. For more information call Consumer Direct on 08454 040506

Living Heritage

A new Autumn series of talks

Following on from last year's Autumn series of talks entitled 'Living Stones' in which the Vicar Rev Richard Worssam looked at the history, theology and worship embedded in the fabric and architecture of St Bartholomew's Church, this year the series will be entitled 'Living Heritage'. These talks will focus on the historical development of the Christian faith and the parish system in these Isles, from Roman times through the formative period of the Anglo Saxon Kingdoms to the spirituality of the early medieval Church. The talks will draw on local history and archaeology, on Saxon texts and medieval wall paintings. You are warmly invited to come along and gain a deeper appreciation of the Living Heritage that has been entrusted to us. The talks will be on four consecutive Tuesday evenings starting on **29th September** at 8pm in the Church Centre. The talks will then continue on the following dates the 6th, 13th and 20th October.

Community Safety Day

Run by the Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Partnership this will take place on **Wednesday 16th September** from 10.30am - 3.00pm in Blighs Car Park, Sevenoaks by the Clock Tower. The following will be available:-

- Safe Plate Scheme - Police will replace screws on number plates for tamper proof ones FREE.
- Crime Reduction advice and information.
- Housing Information from West Kent Extra and Moat Housing
- Dog Micro-chipping £15 by SDC dog warden

- Fire advice & smoke alarms from Kent Fire & Rescue Service
- Substance misuse information & advice by KCA Young Persons Service and Kenward Trust

Coffee Morning

There will be a MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning in Otford Church Hall on **Saturday 3rd October** between 10am -12 noon. There will also be cakes, plants and crafts for sale and a tombola.

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.

Otford & District Historical Society

The Otford & District Historical Society will be meeting on **Wednesday 16th September** at 8pm in the Village Hall. Many items of the Society's archives will be on show for members to look at and David Thomas of Solar System Model fame will explain the workings of an Orrery. Will members please note that subscriptions for the Society will not be collected until the **14th October** meeting when the subject of the lecture will be 'Sevenoaks in Literature'

Hatha Yoga Class

The new term for your friendly Hatha Yoga class at Otford Church hall starts on **15th September**. Classes are weekly between 7.30 - 9.00pm in term time and cost £8 per lesson. Beginners and all abilities are welcome. For further details and to reserve a place please contact Brenda Hambrook on 01959 525969 or yoga @otford.net

"Otford Village Hall

On **Sunday 11th October**, the Trustees will be hosting a 1940s style tea dance in the Village Memorial Hall. This is part of our ongoing fundraising campaign to provide new chairs for the village hall. Music will be provided by Jeff who regularly hosts swing dance parties in our hall and he will provide a variety of music for ballroom and swing dancing to suit all tastes. We hope that as many Otford residents as possible will support us on this occasion as the hall is a vital part of our community providing a venue for so many of our local clubs and societies. Come along just to listen and enjoy the atmosphere or join in! Entry will be £5 which includes free tea/ coffee / squash and a doughnut - all profits to the

hall. Event will run from 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm. Tickets available in advance from Pam/Ron Dullage on 01959 525181 (hall booking line)."

T'ai Chi Classes

General aims: The aims are to improve the general health, strengthen the legs, improve balance & coordination, promote better circulation, whilst bringing relaxation and increased energy. The courses will also work on improving posture and breathing.

Sevenoaks: **Thursday 17th September** 6.35-7.30pm at The Bradbourne School, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks. TN13 3LE. ALSO: **** NEW **** Class for **T'ai Chi Fan** Form - on Thursdays at 8.35-9.30pm.

Friday 18th September 1) 12.05-1.00pm & 2) 1.05-2.00pm both at St. Luke's Church Hall, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks. TN13 1XT.

The 1st class is specifically aimed at the over-60s, but anyone can attend.

Length & Cost of Course: 14 weeks [Try-out session: £5 & the remaining 13 weeks of the course : £135]

Email: james@taiji.co.uk and website addresses are below.

The website address is below.

Phone: 020-88833308

Mobile: 07836-710281

Website: www.taiji.co.uk & www.qigonghealth.co.uk

Otford Methodist Church Marriage Course

Want to enrich your marriage? Then the marriage course is for you. For young or old the Marriage Course is designed to help couples build foundations and strengthen their relationship to last a life time. Starts **22nd September 2009**, every Tuesday evening for 7 weeks: held at Otford Methodist Church Hall. Evening starts with a meal followed by video sessions and private individual communications; its fun whilst at the same time challenging. We've done it - call Michael & Helen 01959 525159 for more info.

Otford Methodist Church Ladies

Breakfast

Ladies, please come to our breakfast meeting on **Saturday 3rd October** at 8.30am at the Methodist Church Hall when we are delighted to have **Julie Sheldon** as our guest speaker. Please call Margaret on 01959 522046 to book your place or email Sue at johnandsueward@btinternet.com

Hospice in the Weald Events

Tunbridge Wells 10K Run and 1K Fun Run - Sunday 20th September

Runs start at Lower Cricket Ground. Start time 10am. The 10K is a challenging course through Broadwater Forest. The 1K Fun Run is open to Juniors, Mums, Dads, Grandparents etc and is a lot less exhausting! All proceeds to Hospice in The Weald. For entry forms and further information call 01892 820508

The Rhythm of Life - Saturday 10th October at 7.30pm - Jubilee Theatre, Holmewood House School, Langton Green.

This is an exciting evening of World Music featuring local bands playing Samba, Zydeco, Latin American and Irish music. The tickets cost £10 (concessions £8). This is part of the international Voices for Hospices event. All proceeds to Hospice in the Weald. For tickets please call 0892 820508

Come and Sing - Saturday 10th October - A celebration of English Music - St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks.

A wonderful opportunity to sing a selection of great choral works and to be part of the International fundraising Voices for Hospices event. For an application form please call 01892 820533.

Otford Gardeners' Society



The Otford Gardeners' Society will be holding their next meeting on **Tuesday 6th October** in the Village Hall when Russell Bowes will talk about 'The Painted Garden'. He is a garden historian who shows just how the garden has been depicted by successive generations of artists.

Otford Oast WI

On **17th September** they will be visited by Jo Hall founder of 'The Bazaar' who will be telling them how she started her fair-trade crafts business after visiting India. And then on **15th October** they will be holding their AGM. Do join them. The meetings on a Thursday once a month start at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. There is a crèche and the first visit is free.

Otford Afternoon WI

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. On **13th October** Mr J Pearce will be talking about 'Murder Comes Giftwrapped.' For more details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736.

Otford Allotments Association

"The end is nigh! no not that end but the end of a very successful allotment year. We have had a full tenancy with some patient potential tenants waiting in the wings. Hopefully we shall be able to satisfy some of those in the coming year, but there is a lot of pressure for allotments just now and if you are one who has an allotment already you will know the benefits that can be gained from 'growing your own' and why those lucky enough to have one make sure they keep it year on year. You are always welcome to have a look round if you give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 who will be pleased to take you on a tour."

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 be on **17th September** when Valerie Woodgate will talk about *'Tradition and Innovation: A New Approach to Familiar Themes in Art.'* She will discuss the way in which modern artists treat their subject matter in contrast to the approach of the old masters, and how this changes our understanding of the subject and its message. 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.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting of the Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild will be on **Saturday 26th September** in Otford Village Hall when they will hold their AGM followed by a talk. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoon at 2pm. For more information please call 0208 304 4416.

Picture of the Month

The artist for September / October is Lee-Anne Stephens. Lee-Anne came to England from South Africa in 2000 where she studied art and fashion. It was not until she had her first child 2 years ago that she felt the desire to take up the paintbrush again and finds that she is fulfilled in doing so. Her favourite mediums are oil and charcoal, working with just seven colours from the oil palette. Her favourite subject is anything that captures emotion, tugs at her or tells a story. Anything from people in poverty to a tranquil setting, using colours and light versus dark to capture the heart of the viewer. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 6th October** between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary.

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

SE/09/01398 **30 Knighton Road**

Single storey rear and side extension to provide an enlarged kitchen and family room plus WC/shower. As amended by plans received 25.08.09

SE/09/01628 **39 Tudor Drive**

Erection of two storey rear and side extension

SE/09/01833 **88 Evelyn Road**

Erection of rear extension and alterations. Insertion of one roof light on rear (east facing elevation) and four roof lights on rear gables above kitchen. Widening of front driveway and creation of further parking

b. Results received

SE/09/01183 **18 Coombe Road**

Roof extension to provide habitable rooms in first floor with dormers to front and rear **Allowed**

SE/09/00531 **42 Hillydeal Road**

Extension & alteration work to enlarge existing detached 4 bed property and erection of a detached garage. Re-submission of SE/08/03091FUL as amended by plans received 11.06.09. Further amendment following receipt of plans 15.07.09

Allowed

SE/09/01366 **6 Orchard Road**

Erection of a second storey side extension, two storey side extension and front porch **Allowed**

SE/09/01389 **Greenhill Manor**

Construction of detached garage with studio space over. (Substitution of design o that previously approved under refs SE/08/03386FUL & SE/09/00631FUL) **Allowed**

SE/09/01475 **26 Pilgrims Way East**

Erection of gable end with hipped top to front of dwelling. Demolition of existing garage, erection of new **Refused**

c. Appeals

SE/08/02885 **Newlands Shoreham Road**

Demolition of existing house and erection of two new detached houses with garages Appeal dismissed

SE/08/03172 **Rear of Darentmead 4 Hillydeal Rd**

Two storey dwelling with integral double garage with access from Shoreham Road **Appeal dismissed**