

Otford Parish Council
September Newsletter 2010
No 193

See otford.info/parishcouncil for Village Helplines Directory

Kent and South & South East England

Village of the Year 2002

Clerk: Mrs. B.J. Darby

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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). Copies of the Helplines Directory can be printed off for residents if required. They can all be read via <http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil>. The next meetings will be on Monday 13th September and Monday 11th October at 7.30pm in the Club Room of Otford Village Hall.

Report from OPC Environment Committee



The Environment Committee try to meet once a month, usually in a room at the Parish Office. Residents are welcome to attend, but may not vote.

We oversee the following:

- All footpaths, each Parish Councillor has some to report on at each full monthly council meeting (together with roads, verges and footways in our parish).
- The Pond and Village Green.
- Raising the Flag on specific dates during the year or national occasions.
- Palace Approach and Palace Field.
- Palace Park Wood.
- Our Cemetery and Woodland Burial Area.
- The Chalkpit area above Otford Station.
- The main Recreation Ground.
- Telston Park.
- Hale Lane Rec.

- Oxenhill Meadow and Shaw, where together with representatives from Kemsing Parish Council we meet twice a year with Sevenoaks District Council to discuss and plan the management of the area.

A member or members have attended meetings for a number of years at the Cory landfill site and Tarmac (the Sevenoaks Quarry).

Consortium meetings with other parishes along the Darent Valley where we draw on each other's experiences over parish matters and try to plan for the future of the Darent Valley.

We have also contributed to publications and surveys for the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Any letters received at the Parish Office concerning environment are discussed at our monthly meeting and action taken where necessary.

It is a legal requirement that all letters on behalf of the parish have to be read, signed and sent by our Parish Clerk, although they can be drafted by a committee member or chairman. This applies to all the other committees of the Parish Council.

For a considerable number of years we have entered the Kent Men of the Trees competition. Some years we have won and others we have been highly commended.

Working parties organised by the committee have planted bulbs in verges around the village, planted pruned and mulched various trees in the rec and other parts of the village, have cleared fallen leaves and cut back brambles, nettles and ivy. We also suggest those trees around the village that require professional attention.

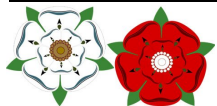
The work is usually carried out by a local contractor and paid by the parish.

Otford is surrounded, and we hope protected, by the Metropolitan Green Belt, an act passed by Parliament in 1947 to preserve the open countryside, once designated, to prevent urban sprawl. This protection must be maintained.

Otford is also within the protection of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Special Landscape Area giving some access for passive recreation and containing the spread of development. The pressure on these areas is likely to increase as land within the confines of the village become more scarce. As you must now realise planning and environmental issues go hand in hand.

The committee are looking forward to the publication of the Parish Plan and count it an honour being involved with the Parish Council's continuing efforts to protect, and pass on to future generations, a flourishing independent village and a community that will always be able to enjoy the surrounding outstanding countryside.

Otford & District Historical Society 60th Anniversary Celebration Lecture



To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Historical Society they are hosting a special lecture in St Bartholomew's Church, Otford on Friday 8th October at 8pm. The well known and popular

British Author and Historian ALISON WEIR has been invited to talk on *'The Wars*

of the Roses' Tickets are available from the Parish Council Office and cost £6 for adults and Students £4 to include refreshments. Or reserve at otfordpc@btinternet.com.

'Alison Weir has perfected the art of bringing history to life'.

Otford Evening WI Boot Sale



Clear out your attics, sheds and garages and make some cash. Come to the Otford Evening WI Boot Sale which is taking place on Saturday 2nd October between 9.30am and 12.30pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The price of a table is £8 pre-paid or £9 on the day. Please contact 01959 525468 to reserve a pitch. Admission will be 50p with children free and there will be refreshments and home made cakes on sale. Do go along and support them.

Top UK Folk Duo to play in Otford



The UK's top folk-roots duo, Show of Hands, together with Miranda Sykes, will perform a special concert in St. Bartholomew's church, Otford, on Thursday 14 October as part of their national 'Spires & Beams' tour.

Undeniably one of the strongest current forces in acoustic music, Show of Hands are England's finest and most popular roots duo and something of a "people's band", regularly voicing the hopes, fears and life stories of scores of ordinary folk in song. Show of Hands has won numerous BBC music awards and has sold out the Albert Hall on at least three occasions. This is a rare chance to see them play in a unique and intimate setting, right on your own doorstep!

Tickets cost £16.50 each. A special allocation of tickets has been set aside for Otford residents, call 07798 767770 to book now - first come, first served!

Council Worker of the Year



Our Community Warden Paul Robertson was unfortunately unsuccessful in the final. He did however get thousands of votes and was one of the runners up. Well Done Paul. You are in winner in Otford anyway. Paul can always be contacted on 07813 713366.

Paul holds his weekly surgery to discuss any problems and community issues at School House on Tuesdays between 11am and 12 noon.

Police Contact Numbers

To contact our neighbourhood Police Officer Ben Clatworthy please call 07980 770581 or PCSO Wright on 07772 226036. To report a crime please call 01622 690690. Please see the Crime Prevention advice on back page of newsletter.

1940 Remembered



This year marks the 70th Anniversary of what Winston Churchill called 'Britain's Finest Hour'. To mark the occasion, the Otford Players and the Otford Society have sponsored an original production, to pay tribute to the people of 1940 who led the world from the brink of disaster to eventual victory over the menace of Nazism. 1940 Remembered tells an illustrated story of the events from the outbreak of war to Christmas 1940, with dramatic interludes portraying the effects on the lives of a group of imaginary neighbours. Songs and music familiar to the times will recreate the mood and atmosphere of the Peoples War. '1940 Remembered' will take place on Saturday 18th September in Otford Village Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Admission by programme only, ordered in advance from 01959 522709

Congratulations Bethany



Bethany Crawley aged 15 from Otford has gained the highest award achievable in the Guide section of the movement. She has been presented with the Baden-Powell Challenge award on a recent unit trip to the Girlguiding UK centenary maze in Crystal Palace Park. Bethany completed 10 challenges from 5 different zones including Healthy lifestyles, Global Awareness, Discovery, Skills and Relationships and Celebrating Diversity. After completing the challenges, to finish of the award she took part in a residential adventure at the Girlguiding's Commonwealth HQ in London.

Bethany is now a Young Leader with Otford Guides who have gone from strength to strength since having to close for a term two years ago due to lack of adult volunteers. Following an advert in the newsletter new leaders were found and the unit re-opened.

Guiding -Help Required

In order for the Guide unit to continue to expand and to open up a desperately needed second Brownie unit so that more local girls can experience Guiding more volunteers are needed. If you are female aged 18 – 65 and able to help or would like more information please telephone Otford District Commissioner Jane Woodrow-Clark on 01959 523342

Twining

Would you like to visit Hardelot, between Boulogne and Le Touquet, on Friday 17 September, travelling out by car to walk around the town, walk along the beach and return through the forest, visit a World War 2 exhibition, eat at a local restaurant/cafe, play petanque, lie on the beach, or.....? If so, please contact Jane Lawrey via the Parish Office for further details.

Otford Village Fete - 2010

For the second year in a row we were blessed with a warm sunny day which resulted in over 6,000 visitors attending our annual fete.

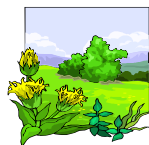
The highlights were undoubtedly the Dog Show run by Elands Veterinary Clinic, the Rock Choir, who were raising money for Hospice of Hope based in Otford, Gary King who performed Elvis' songs and movements and the Warlords Re-enactment. Three new acts this year which seemed to delight all ages.

As a result we managed to raise over £5,000 after costs have been taken into account. We have already donated some of this to local associations including Otford Primary School and St Bart's for their tower fund. We welcome applications from other organisations.

Application forms can be found on our website www.otford.info/villagefete

Otford Allotment Association

"The allotment year is coming to an end and I am delighted to say that we have had a full tenancy for that period. However, this is also the time that tenants move on or change to a different location or even change lifestyle all of which means giving up their plots, which also means that we could have some become available to satisfy the small waiting list for plots that we have. Please give Barbara Hine a ring on 01959 525468 if you would like to be included on this list - now is the time to start thinking seriously if you have been considering an allotment plot - a wonderful way to keep fit and healthy over coming months and years."



Otford Gardeners' Society

The Otford Gardeners' Society will be holding their next meeting on **Tuesday 7th September** in the Village Hall when Mark Saunders will talk about '*A Head Gardeners Year*'. Mark is the Head Gardener at Fittleworth House in West Sussex and his talk is a peek behind the scenes from a gardener with 25 years of experience. Then on **5th October** Chris Wade will talk about '*A Four Seasons walk through Kent*'. Chris is a footpaths officer for KCC and his talk should give us some inspiration for how to spend those days away from our gardens.

For details of all the events please contact the Social Secretary, Janet Finney on 01959 523760.

Otford & District Historical Society

The Otford & District Historical Society will be holding its first meeting of its new programme on **Wednesday 15th September** at 8pm in Otford Village Memorial Hall when Mrs Harris will be talking about 'The Blitz'. The Annual Membership is now £6 and £2 for visitors.

Litter



If you have picnics / parties on the Recreation Ground / Chalk Pit areas please dispose of your litter properly and if the bins are full DO NOT leave bags on the ground beside them as these encourage vermin and look unsightly, but take home and dispose of it there. The big Wheelie bin in the car park is for Parish Council use only. We would like to thank those who do pick up discarded rubbish and dispose of it in the correct way.

Otford Oast WI

The meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 9.30am in Otford Village Memorial Hall. The next meeting will take place on. Thursday 16th September when there will be a talk by The Samaritans. There is a crèche and the first visit is free. Do join them.

Otford Afternoon WI

Meetings are held in the Otford Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Tuesday each month. The next meeting will take place on 14th September when Phillip Pretty will entertain with a Nature Quiz audio and visual. Annual Subscription is £29.50 and visitors at £2 are very welcome. For further details please contact Joyce Shaw on 01959 522736. Visitors are very welcome, and further details can be found on the Otford Village web site at www.otford.info with the link to the WI .

Otford Evening WI

All meetings take place on 2nd Thursday of each month in Otford Village Hall. At the July meeting they enjoyed listening to the ever-popular Bob Oglely tell them about Life in Kent in the 19th century. An age of turnpike roads, high crime, deportations and also of well known people such as Lady Hester Stanhope and Charles Darwin to name just two. Bob described the changes that came with the advent of the new railways and it was a fascinating talk. Mary Grant won the Best Flower Competition, taking home the silver rose bowl and the money raised will be sent to the Otford Youth Club. Then in August members heard about what life in the workhouse in the early 19th Century was like with Helen Allinson, when meagre wages, ill health and the ending of parish relief meant this was an ever present dread to farm labourers and their families in Kent. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 9th September when Kenneth Tappenden will talk about the 'Perils of a Toastmaster.' For more information please call Eve Wiltshire on 01959 524887 or Joan Beacom on 01959 524304

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in the Otford Village Hall on **Saturday 25th September** when in the afternoon session after the AGM Myfanwy Hart will talk about *'An afternoon with the Embellisher'*. Morning sessions begin at 10am and afternoons at 2pm, during which tea and homemade cake will be served. More information can be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117

Darent Valley Choir



The Darent Valley Choir begins rehearsals on **Wednesday 8th September** for their Christmas Concert at Swanley. These are held in the Anthony Roper School, Eynsford from 8 - 10pm and parking is not a problem. They welcome newcomers of all voices and if you enjoy singing then do give them a try and even bring a friend with you.

Yoga Class

The new term for your friendly Hatha Yoga class at Otford Church Hall starts on **Tuesday 14th September**. Classes are weekly, 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.

Picture of the Month

Our artist for the months of September/October is Doug Dickerson. Doug took up painting in later life, at evening classes and since retirement, with the Otford Art Group. He says that once you start painting, concentration takes over and you forget any worries that you may have. He chairs a couple of village societies, helps with the Heritage Centre and is a member of many Otford organisations. Please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183 if you would be interested in displaying your work in the Heritage Centre.

Hospices of Hope



There is now an unwanted goods donation drop off point inside the Otford Tea Rooms & Gift Shop, 11a High Street, Otford which is open Monday - Friday 10am - 4.30pm and Saturday 10am - 5.00pm. They are in great need of any type of clothing and accessories, books for the book room, dvds and colour printers. For more information contact wendy@hospicesofhope.co.uk or 01959 525110

The next fundraising event will be on **Monday 20th September** with the Annual Golf Tournament at Ifield Golf Course, proven to be one of the most attractive and challenging tests of golf in Sussex and offering a good challenge to all at any golfing

ability. 18 holes to include lunch & dinner @ £50 | person. 27 holes to include breakfast, lunch & dinner @ £65 | person

Please contact Carole Ford 01959 525110 or at carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk

Brighter Futures

Brighter Futures is a project run by the Sevenoaks Volunteer Centre which helps to keep older people aged 60+ independent in their own homes.

- They offer a transport service, using volunteer drivers who are paid reasonable expenses. Drivers take people to social and medical appointments, shops, day centres and clubs as well as to visit friends or relatives.
- They can also help you with letter/ form filling, computers and technology and simple DIY tasks / small cleaning jobs.
- Working with partners they provide social trips during the summer months to places of interest, garden centres and pub lunches for less mobile clients.
- Falls prevention is the key to keeping older people mobile and independent. They run a session each week consisting of an hour of falls prevention exercise followed by refreshments and an activity, speaker or quiz. This gentle yoga or postural support increases muscle strength and mobility as well as providing a social element to meet friends

You pay an annual administration charge of just £10 to use any of the Brighter Futures scheme service. Registration Forms are available in the Parish Council office. For more information please contact them on 01732 469000.

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 16th September when Bertie Pearce will talk about 'Now You See It, Now You Don't - The Art of Deception: Optical Illusion, Camouflage and Trompe L'Oeil'. Magician Bertie Pearce will look at the art of visual deception. The stretching and distorting of perspective has been developed since Roman times and used to camouflage dangerous ideas, heretical statements and even erotic pictures. The effects discussed will include Trompe L'Oeil and the closely related anamorphic art, through to Salvador Dali and the Op-Art of the 1960's. 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 or email knoledfas@gmail.com.

Hospice in The Weald Event

Hospice in The Weald are holding a Tunbridge Wells 10K Run and 1K Fun Run on Sunday 19th September. The runs start and finish at the Lower Cricket Ground. The start time is 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 please call 01892 820508

India Bike Ride 3-12 November 2011

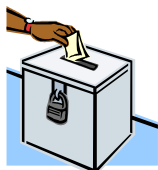


Join us on a trip of a lifetime and cycle for 5 days through rural Rajasthan along with other like minded people and raise funds for the Kent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Canterbury (KM Charity of the Year 2010). This will be the 2nd major fundraising event for the Centre which provides therapies, advice and support for people with MS in Kent. We are looking for over 30 people to take part in the event which finishes with a visit to the Taj Mahal. For more information and a registration pack call 01303 862 996 or e-mail info@lifecyclepromotions.co.uk or visit www.kentmstc.co.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau Surgery

The next CAB Surgeries will take place at School House on 7th September and 5th October between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary. To contact them at Sevenoaks please call 01732 454443.

Register to Vote



Now's your chance to register to vote in the Sevenoaks District and Parish Council elections on 5th May 2011; additionally, on the same day, there will be a referendum on the voting system. You must be registered in order to vote.

From 31st August voter registration forms are being sent to households throughout the area by Sevenoaks District Council.

Details can once more be confirmed online, by freephone or by using the popular text service, all of which saves bringing or sending the forms back to the Council.

A simple help sheet that explains how to use these services and answers the most frequently asked questions, is enclosed with the registration form.

So if you don't want to lose your vote in the forthcoming elections, don't delay in responding to the form, whether by phone, text, online or by posting the voter registration form back to Electoral Services at Sevenoaks District Council - only those people whose names are on the register will be able to vote.

Households that have not received a form by late September, or have any questions about completing the form can e-mail elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk or phone the helplines on 01732 227188 or 01732 227243

Otford Methodist Church - Alpha Course

Want to find out more about life, faith and God?

To seek answers why not join our daytime ALPHA course starting Monday September
27th at 12.30pm – Sandwich Lunch Provided

For more information please call Brian Pawlett on 01959 522196 or Kate Baxter on 01959 523687

Planning

The following applications are 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/10/01961 93 Well Road

Erection of a single storey rear conservatory

SE/10/01963 29 High Street

Demolition of a single storey rear extension and erection of new single storey extension

SE/10/02066 95 Well Road

Erection of single storey garage to side of dwelling

SE/10/02128 Hillway Pilgrims Way East

Erection of replacement dwelling

SE/10/02216 14 Telston Lane

Rear single storey extension

SE/10/02271 13 The Butts

Demolition of existing lean-to conservatory and erection of replacement single storey conservatory to rear

SE/10/02278 High Point Coombe Road

Demolition of detached double garage and erection of one x 1 bedroom annexe lodge with integral garage

SE/10/02110 St Bartholomews Church, The Green

Demolition of redundant lean-to utility building with external and internal repairs to tower

b. Results Received

SE/10/01244 Hawthorns, Station Road

Conversion of part of an existing outbuilding to form a self contained living unit.

Withdrawn

SE/10/01495 Kent House The Green

Alterations including ½ storey front and second storey rear extensions. Raising of roof height to side to achieve balanced hip roof ends, gables, balcony, covered porches and loggias. Installation of windows of similar design and bay window features

Allowed

- SE/10/01522 McDonalds Restaurant Old Otford Road
Erection of internally illuminated height restrictor monolith sign with pole
Refused
- SE/10/01523 McDonalds Restaurant Old Otford Road
Erection of one monument sign with internally illuminated golden arch on west side of site
Refused
- SE/10/01694 49 Greenhill Road
Erection of two, two storey rear extensions including enlargement of existing balcony
Allowed
- SE/10/01963 29 High Street
Demolition of a single storey rear extension and erection of newsingle storey extension
Not valid
- SE/10/02216 14 Telston Lane
Rear single storey extension
Not valid

c. Amended Applications

- SE/10/01552 J Sainsbury plc
Extension to existing store to provide additional retail sales floorspace, new warehouse (back-up) floorspace, relocation of customer restaurant on to a mezzanine floor, provision of a car park deck and associated alterations to the car park as amended by plans received 12.08.10

d. Appeals

- SE/10/01372 Land to front of Mayola, Station Rd
Erection of detached residential property with detached double garage - appeal against refusal by SDC
- SE/09/02329 Hopgarden Farm Telston Lane
Change of use of land for stationing of one static caravan and one touring caravan for residential occupation by single gypsy family with associated septic tank and hard standing and conversion of end stable for utility room. Temporary basis of 3 years. As amended by additional information received on 22/12/09 and 07/01/10 - appeal against refusal by SDC



**Kent
Police**

Crime Prevention Advice

Kent Police are working hard to ensure that your community is a safe place to live, so that people can go out without fearing crime. We are just writing to residents to remind you that you can reduce the risk of

becoming a victim of Burglary by following a few of these simple steps:
Homes with no security measures in place are ten times more likely to be burgled than those with simple security measures. Making just a few changes can make a big difference in keeping your home safe from burglary.

Here are a few tips:

- hide all keys, out of sight. Do not leave them near to windows or your front door.
- install a burglar alarm.
- install good outside lighting.
- leave radios or lights in your house on a timer when you go out or are away on holiday. This is especially important as the nights begin to draw in.
- store valuable items (including passports, driving licences and bank statements) out of view.
- hide cash and wallets away.
- secure bicycles at home by locking them to an immovable object inside a locked shed or garage.
- make sure the fences around your garden are in good condition.
- keep ladders and tools stored away; don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home.

In most burglaries, the criminals break into the house or flat through the door, so make sure your doors are strong and secure. If you are fitting new doors or windows, make sure the ones you buy are certified to British Standard BS7950 (for windows) or PAS 24-1 (for doors).

Glass panels on doors are particularly vulnerable. If you have one on your door, you could replace it with laminated glass, which is stronger. You can also buy a film in a DIY store that you can stick over the glass to make it harder to break.

Home security and DIY shops sell inexpensive, key-operated locks to fit most kinds of windows. Fit window locks (with keys) to all downstairs windows, and those upstairs that are easy to reach. Beware of bogus callers - 'Distraction burglars' (known as bogus callers) will distract your attention in order to get into your home to steal your money or belongings. If anyone you don't know turns up at your door, you should always ask to see their identification before letting them in. Only let someone into your home when you are absolutely sure they are genuine.

Join Neighbourhood Watch - You can help keep your street safer by getting involved with your local Neighbourhood Watch. By working with your neighbours, you can make burglars' work much harder.

For further advice on any of the issues discussed above, please contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team on 01732 379 371 or your neighbourhood officers on the numbers below.

PC Ben Clatworthy (07980 770581) & PCSO Jane Wright (07772 226036)