

# Otford Parish Council

## April Newsletter 2005

### No 133

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

### Mr Drake

Yes, he's back. Last Saturday he was reintroduced to the pond and with a lot of splashing and quacking, he has settled down very nicely with his specially adapted duckhouse full of comfy straw for him to sleep in. As always please drive slowly and carefully around the pond. The Parish Council gives grateful thanks to his carer and the local vets who looked after him so well and we hope that he will soon have some female companions to make his return complete.

### Planning - Public Meeting

Don't forget the public meeting with the District Council on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April** commencing at 7pm in the Hall at Otford Primary School

### Otford Society

The Otford Society is holding its Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April** at 8pm in the Otford Village Memorial Hall. After formal business and refreshments there will be an Open Forum where local issues can be discussed and the Committee questioned.

### Annual Assembly

This is notification for the Annual Assembly of the Electors of the Parish, more commonly called the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held, in the Village Hall on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm. This is your chance to ask questions about what is happening in the village, so please attend if you can.

### Otford Evening W.I. - Boot Fair

The Otford Evening W.I. are now taking bookings for their annual **BUMPER BOOT SALE** which is taking place on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May** in the Village Hall at

9.30am. The price of the table has been held at £8 so give Barbara (01959 522995) or Diana (01959 522981) a ring if you wish to sell. They always have a great variety of goods to purchase so if you don't wish to sell, come along to browse and possibly buy. Entrance 50p and children are free.

### Otford Library

Otford Library reopened on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April after being newly refurbished. Please go and have a look round and the staff will be pleased to hear your comments. There is new lighting, carpet and redecoration, and a wonderful new range of books for adults and children. Did you know that they provide free use of the internet and word processing and a fax service? They also stock spoken word cassettes, DVDs and videos.

Regular events held at Otford Library include:

- Storytime - every Tuesday during term time from 2.30-3.00pm
- Coffee and Chat - a chance to talk informally about books on the second Thursday of the month from 10.30-11.30am.

### 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 March TOP Draw are:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £50 - 128

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15 - 310

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 - 470

Congratulations to this month's winners and thank you to everyone who continues to support the school. Don't forget forms are still available from the School office and Parish Council office, for those who would like to take part.

### Otford Allotments Association

Now is the time of year to get your garden underway - in this case I mean your allotment garden. If you want to make that special bit of Otford your own ring Barbara Hine on 01959 525468 or call into the Parish Council office to see what is available.

An Allotment Open Day is planned during National Allotment Week in August when you can have a guided browse around the site, and hopefully be encouraged to try to 'grow your own' and enjoy the benefits.

### Picture of the Month

The artist for April / May is Rossalyn Ward. Rossalyn has lived in Otford for ten years and is married to John, a local Driving Instructor. She works on the collection team for the National Blood Service and also does temporary work for both Sevenoaks and

Pembury Hospitals. Rossalyn took up art only a few months ago and says that she is thoroughly enjoying the classes. She is looking forward to becoming a Grandmother, for the second time, in May.

### Otford Cricket Club

#### Colts 2005

The Cricket Club are actively seeking new Colts to join the 60+ children, both boys and girls, who are currently members of the club's junior section. Membership is open to all children between the ages of 7 and 15 (school years 2 to 10). The club has weekly coaching on a Sunday morning for two hours from 8th May to 24<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am on the Village Recreation Ground. The juniors also play friendly matches, tournaments and compete in the Bat & Ball Sports Mid Kent Youth League at under 11, under 13 and under 15 age groups. The Club is in the process of achieving the Sport England ClubMark, to prove that it is a safe, effective and child-friendly Club. For further details of Club activities and how to join, please contact Colts Secretary Angie Stevens on 01959 523881.

#### New Second X1

The Club has also set up a new Saturday second X1 for the 2005 season. This new team is entered in the third division of the Kent County Village League. They need new players form this team and for the first X1 which is in the first division of the same league. If you would like to join a friendly, progressive Club please contact Club Secretary Jonathan Pyman on 01732 465629 or second team captain Dave Cahalin on 01732 844770.

### Otford Methodist Church

#### 40 days of Purpose

"What on earth am I here for?" is a question that you may have asked or which others have asked you. "40 Days of Purpose" seeks to answer that question and point us towards the purposes of our lives.

Otford Methodist Church will be starting 40 days of Purpose on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April and they invite you to share in any of the activities of those 40 days especially midweek small groups in homes daytime or evening. For more details please contact Kath Pawlett on 01959 522196

### Otford Tennis Club

Otford Tennis Club are busy preparing a full programme for the new season, starting with a family tennis and barbeque on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** from 6-8pm. Junior coaching starts on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April (Junior weekday coaching is free to all full junior members). New members are always welcome. For

further details please contact Mary Evans on 01959 523701 or mobile 07881 653936.

The tennis club will also be taking part in Play Tennis on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May** from 10am - 1pm. There will be free coaching for adults and children from 3½ years upwards (both tennis and mini tennis), the chance to play against the coaches (who will be using unconventional "rackets"), fastest serve competition, barbeque and refreshments, spot prizes and much, much more. For more details or to book in please contact Mary Evans as above. Everyone is welcome to what promises to be a lot of fun.

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The Tennis Club always welcomes new members, it is a very friendly and informal club. The Club has three excellent hard courts on the far side of the Recreation Ground, which adjoins the village car park in the High Street. Also floodlighting is about to be installed on two courts and will be ready by August.

The first event of the summer season is a 'Mixed Doubles Charity Tournament' on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April** at 10.30am. All of the proceeds will be donated to a Charity, which will be chosen by the entrants on the day. Any single entries will be matched up on the day. The £5 entrance includes a Ploughman's Lunch, and anyone is invited. If you play tennis and would like to take part, this would be an ideal opportunity to see you play tennis and would like to take part this would be an ideal opportunity to see the Club facilities and to meet some members. To book your place please ring 01732 450549 or e-mail doncave@onetel.com

### Otford Short Mat Bowls

Otford Short Mat Bowls Club is holding an 'Open Day' on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April** at Otford Village Memorial Hall and would like to invite anyone interested in trying the game of bowls to come along and join them. The session will commence at 2pm and all they ask is, if you do not have a pair of bowls shoes, that you provide yourself with thick socks, to avoid damage to the mats. Bowls will be provided and coaching given. You will receive a warm welcome whether you are in your twenties or sixties plus, so why not give it a try and give yourself some gentle exercise? They regularly play at the Village Hall on Sunday and Thursday afternoons and Wednesday and Friday evenings. For more information please contact Doug Dickerson on 01959 524183.

### Otford & District Wine Club



The Otford & District Wine Club held a very enjoyable Spring Buffet at the end of March, when

members and guests were treated to a delicious supper prepared by Brenda Montague of Kemsing, and were entertained by a Cabaret which featured some of our more talented members so a great time was had by all! However, on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April**, we are having another exciting evening in the Otford Memorial Hall starting at 8pm in the form of a Tasting of the Wines of the Upper Loire, accompanied by a talk by John Goddard, entitled "*The River Loire - An Unconventional View*" describing the wine, food and geography of the region. John has been interested in wine and its history for a number of years, and although he modestly declares he "cannot be called an expert" he certainly has a unique knowledge of wine and can certainly be described as a connoisseur. As usual cheese and biscuits will be served and the evening is free to members, but guests will be charged £3.50. So why not take the opportunity of sampling some intriguing wine with friends? It should be good fun! John has been Any queries please contact the Secretary on 01732 - 761359.

### Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April** when there will be a workshop with Kim Thittichai. The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Pat Curtis on 01959 532391.

### CAB Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at School House between 10am and 12 noon.

### Otford Gardeners Society



The next meeting of the Gardeners' Society will take place on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** when Robert Wiseman will talk about '*Miniature Roses*' - Growing and Showing for fun or exhibition

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

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On 9<sup>th</sup> July Otford Gardeners' Society have organised a coach trip to Hampton Court Flower Show and there are spaces available. The cost of the trip is £32 for non - members which is inclusive of travel and entry to the show. There are discounts for Otford Gardeners members and RHS members. Please contact the secretary Janet Finney on 01959

523760 for details or collect an application form from the Library or Parish Council office.

### Otford & District Historical Society

The next meeting of the Historical Society will take place on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April** at 8pm in the Village Hall when Martin Lloyd will talk on the *History of Passports*. Membership of the Society is only £3 a year, which includes 6 winter talks and usually 3 summer outings. Visitors are welcome to all meetings at just £1 and children are admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

### Otford Afternoon W.I

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month. Membership is £21 per year and Tea at the meeting is 30p.

The next meeting takes place on **10<sup>th</sup> May** with Resolutions, a light lunch and members memories of VE Day. Contact 01959 522915 for more details.

### St Bartholomew's - Secret Gardens and

#### Teddy Aerial Runway



The next major fund raising event will be '*Secret Gardens*' taking place over the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June when you will have a chance to look around 10 village gardens, most not normally open to the public, you will also be able to have tea, buy your bedding plants, cakes, local produce, gardening books and there will be a treasure hunt for the children with prizes. Put the date in your diary now.



Also calling all children and adults! - bring along your teddy bears (or other favourite soft toy) to the Church between 2.30pm and 4.30pm on both days and for £1 for children and £2.50 for adult bears see them descend the aerial runway from the top of the Church Tower. Each bear will receive a signed certificate to prove its bravery!

## Recreation Ground

The new pavilion is finally under construction nearly 10 years after first negotiations took place. Despite the use of protective matting, the heavy lorries have caused some damage to the grass. The matting will come up very soon and we intend that the ground will be reinstated to its former condition before the start of the cricket season.

## Otford Station

We are fortunate in having two booking clerks - Phil and Gordon - who man the station from about 6.30am to 6.30pm on Monday to Friday and rather less at the weekends. It is rumoured that one of these shifts will be removed in the near future. These cut-backs apparently affect all manned stations and will seriously affect the standard of service on South East Trains. The Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association are in contact with South East Trains on this matter but if you wish to write direct the address is Friars Bridge Court, 41-45 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8PG.

## Planning

The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in April. 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/05/00541 36 Knighton Road

Extension to dwelling (part side & part rear). Two storey attached to existing. To be built in brick with tiled roof to match existing. All according to drawing no AR5177

#### SE/05/00547 20 Rye Lane

Erection of first floor to convert bungalow into house and erection of part single/part two storey extension to rear.

#### SE/05/00595 5 Bubblestone Road

Side and rear extension. Replacing garage and adding an extra bedroom to first floor to side; adding a utility room to ground floor and enlarging a bedroom on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor to rear

#### SE/05/00625 32 Tudor Drive

Rear/side extension to enlarge existing cloakroom

#### SE/05/00646 14 Shinecroft

Second storey extension over existing kitchen to create a further bedroom

#### SE/05/00603 Holly House Shoreham Road

Two storey extensions and internal alterations

#### SE/05/00619 10 Tudor Crescent

Erection of a single storey timber framed glazed conservatory on a dwarf wall

#### SE/05/00699 52A Pilgrims Way East

Creation of basement to new dwelling. (Alternative to basement granted permission re SE/03/02126/FUL as part of replacement dwelling granted permission SE/02/02794/FUL).

#### SE/05/00722 26 Tudor Drive

First floor extension to front elevation

#### SE/05/00748 3 Coombe Road

Two storey rear extension and conservatory (alternative to 05/00088FUL to show a gable style roof to the proposed extension instead of hipped

#### SE/05/00778 22 Greenhill Road

Construction of pitched roof

### b. Results Received

#### SE/04/02513 The Farm, Twitton Lane

Installation of 1 no. 20m telecommunications tower to appear as a replica coniferous tree to accommodate 3 no antennas, 1 no 600mm transmission dish plus 5 no. equipment cabinets, electricity cabinets, 1.8m chain link fence, landscaping and ancillary development. Additional plans received 28.10.2004. *Refused*

#### SE/05/00088 3 Coombe Road

Two storey rear extension and conservatory (as amended by plan no E.837-SY-tp03B received on 8.3.05) *Allowed*

#### SE/05/00120 77 Sidney Gardens

Replacement of first floor flat roof with pitched roof and replacement of all roof covering. Demolition of outside W.C. coal bunker and boiler enclosure additions. Installation of first floor W.C. and shower room. *Refused*

#### SE/05/00335 14 High Street

Demolition of a timber garage and erection of a two storey storage building *Withdrawn*

#### SE/05/00361 48 Pilgrims Way East

Erection of rear conservatory. *Refused*

#### SE/05/00370 14 Tudor Drive

Conservatory to rear of existing dwelling. *Allowed*

#### SE/05/00378 18 Telston Lane

Single storey rear extension

*Allowed*