



From Sevenoaks Town Council for the community of Sevenoaks

August 2019

A message from the Sevenoaks Mayor, Councillor Nick Busvine OBE

This my first sitrep since becoming Mayor in May. I think I have just about managed to keep up with a host of engagements, while juggling furiously with work commitments in London and duties as a flying instructor.

The wonderful thing about being Mayor of Sevenoaks is that one is given a privileged opportunity to witness at first hand all the fantastic work that local residents are doing – very often on a voluntary basis – to support our local community. The best thing the Mayor gets to do is to say 'thank you' to those who selflessly give up their time to help other people or to make Sevenoaks a better place to live. Without our volunteers, we would be enormously worse off. I would urge anyone who wants to do something special in their spare time to look for an opportunity, large or small, to get stuck in. You will feel better about yourself and you will win peoples' respect – including that of the Mayor!

Over the past three months I have visited schools, care homes, Stag theatre performances, scout events, nature reserves, allotments and play parks. I have cut ribbons at fetes and charity events, opened the Sevenoaks Summer Festival and given out prizes at the Three Arts Festival and Sevenoaks in Bloom. Stand-out memories have been: setting off hundreds of walkers into the teeth of pouring rain in support of Hospice in the Weald. A great show of British grit in the face of truly awful weather. I was very moved by Spadework, a garden centre near Borough Green that is supported by an army of volunteers with learning disabilities. This week, I sat down with one of the co-founders of The Lewis Project, a charity born out of personal tragedy, that looks to support individuals with mental health issues through collective music projects, which meets every Monday at the STC-supported House in the Basement at the Stag.

There have been scary moments too, such as when I was challenged by a 6-year old girl to climb up and then tumble down a very steep bouncy castle slide with my chain on!

I hosted a very successful cocktail evening on the Vine in support of my own charities: SSA-FA, the Air Cadets and the Stag. We had amazing support from the local business community and I would like to thank again the teams at Wagamama, Santander Bank and Tonbridge Old Fire Station, as well as the Vine Cricket Club for supplying the venue and marquee.



On a sad note, I should pay tribute to the Second World War and D-Day veteran Pat Moore, who died a couple of weeks ago. Many of you will know Pat. Not only was he a hero, but he was also a staunch member of our local community. He was an active member of the Royal British Legion – and was always there to help commemorate those who fell during the World Wars. He was proud to have had the strength to visit France during the recent 75th anniversary D-Day celebrations – where he met both Prime Minister Theresa May and President Macron. Not only did the French award him the Legion of Honour, but during this visit the residents of Graye-sur-Mer named a local school after him. Pat also devoted himself to the Sevenoaks branch of Mencap for over 30 years. I last spoke to Pat when he attended my mayoral Civic Service at St Thomas's church. I can report that he had a twinkle in his eye to the end. So, as Mayor, it is my honour to say "Thank You Pat" – and to all the other residents of Sevenoaks who continue to make it the wonderful town that it is.



Here is a selection of events taking place in the Sevenoaks Town area from September to October

Community Rail Partnership Launch Event

Sunday 1st September 11.15am-12 noon

Bat & Ball Station, TN14 5AP



Join us for the launch of this new CRP at Bat & Ball Station and find out more about the CRP and how to get involved. The Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership will bring together six local stations; Swanley, Eynsford, Shoreham, Otford, Bat & Ball and Sevenoaks. Its aim is to promote local tourism, non-car transport and raise awareness of local heritage.

Free event.

For more information go to:

batandballstation.com

Greensand Commons Fair

Sunday 15th September, 10am

Sevenoaks Common, Letterbox Lane

Further information about this event can be found at:

www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/get-involved/our-projects/sevenoaks-greensand-commons

Ferrari Day Parade and static display

Sunday 15th September, 10.30am-4pm

The Vine Gardens, TN13 3UH

Come along and see a fantastic display of about ten Ferraris, including the Formula 1 car!

There will be entertainment, refreshments and the chance to win a ride in one of the cars.

For more information contact:

admin.tp@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Talk – Thomas Crampton

Wednesday 18th September, 5.45pm for 6pm start

Bat & Ball Station, TN14 5AP



Local historian Roger Johnson will give a short talk about the English engineer, Thomas Crampton, his work and connection to Bat & Ball Station. The talk will be followed by a Friends of Bat & Ball meeting which will start at 6.30pm.

All welcome.

For a free Talk ticket please e-mail

heo@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Heritage Open Day

Saturday 21st September, 10am-4pm

Bat & Ball Station, TN14 5AP



Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture. This year is the 25th Anniversary and STC are hosting a free community event at Bat & Ball Station giving the local community an opportunity to learn more about the people who helped shape the history and heritage of the Station. Activities will include talks, arts and crafts and the unveiling of a community artwork. Visitors can also take a ride on a vintage bus from the Station, through the town then up to Knole Park.

For more information go to:

batandballstation.com or heritageopendays.org.uk

Sevenoaks Literary Festival and the Young Readers Festival

Saturday 21st September - Thursday 3rd October.



As well ticketed events, there are also lots of free events and activities in Vine Gardens and Sevenoaks Bookshop.

The Young Readers Festival is on Saturday 21st September.

For more information, and to buy tickets, go to: sevlifest.com

Pink Run for Breast Cancer Care

Saturday 5th October, 9.30am

The Vine Gardens, TN13 3UH

This 5km run/walk is the brainchild of Sam Palmer of Sevenoaks Ladies Joggers and is now organised every year between her and Pink Week Founder, Steph Harrison, as well as Sevenoaks Town Partnership. The Mayor of Sevenoaks usually sees the runners and walkers off, and everyone is greeted back at The Vine with tea and cakes courtesy of Café on the Vine.

Sevenoaks Pink Week has raised £178,000 so far, and it is now in its 10th year.

This year, organisers are hoping to hit the £200,000 mark, making

Sevenoaks the only town in the country to raise that amount of money for the charity.

For more information go to:

sevenoaksladiesjoggers.co.uk/new-events/2019/10/5/pink-run-for-breast-cancer-care



There are advertising opportunities available in Town Crier!

We currently distribute more than 1,500 hard copies across Sevenoaks Town and email it out to many addressees, some of whom send it on to their own distribution lists.

If you are interested in placing in an advert and reaching the whole of Sevenoaks Town, please contact us on

towncrier@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or call Ruth on 01732 459953.

Full A4 page - £150 +VAT | Half A4 page - £100 +VAT | Quarter A4 page - £50 +VAT

Sevenoaks in Bloom



**Sevenoaks
in bloom**

We hope you are enjoying the floral decorations in the town this year – red, white and blue; AND have you noticed the edibles? Included in the floral troughs around the town centre and in The Vine and Upper High Street Gardens, you will find herbs,

tomatoes, beans and peas. Please pick these and enjoy!

Sevenoaks Town Council has received a lot a positive comments about the inclusion of edible plants and will be continuing the edible theme in next year's entry.



As part of the competition, a **'Pot to Plate' soup competition** was held and the winners were the Year 2 Gardening Club at The New Beacon School.

For the first time this year an **In Bloom Best Window** competition was held with a massive amount of support from local businesses. We would like to congratulate the winners: **Mousetrap, The Chequers and The Hardware Centre.**

The In Bloom Committee are hoping the judges liked Sevenoaks Town Council's entries into this year's competition, the results of which will be announced in September.

If you are interested in Sevenoaks in Bloom and would like further information, or to volunteer, please contact Ann White email: dtc@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Sevenoaks Business Awards

Sevenoaks Town Partnership will be hosting the Sevenoaks Business Awards on Friday 13th September, and they are pleased to announce their very special guest speaker will be the incomparable Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards. Eddie, famous for his 1988 appearance at the Winter Olympics, will regale us with stories from his career. We will also hear from Sevenoaks MP, The Right Honourable Sir Michael Fallon.

This event, at the wonderful Knole Academy School in Bradbourne Vale Road, is an annual event held to celebrate all that is good about the Sevenoaks Business community. Members of the public nominate businesses in several categories including: Independent Retailer of the Year, National Chain, Apprentice of the Year, New Business, Customer Choice (the only award voted for by the public), Micro Enterprise and Judges' Choice. All winners receive the famous Oak Trophy and a bottle of champagne to celebrate.





Stag Theatre celebrates its success with exciting Arts Festival line-up

Bestselling author, **Lissa Evans**, will be headlining this year's arts festival at The Stag Theatre, it has been announced.

The award-winning writer and former BBC producer will be in conversation with BBC Radio Kent's breakfast presenter Anna Cookson for what promises to be a fascinating night about her career and life. She will also be discussing some of her books including *Old Baggage*, *Crooked Heart* and *Their Finest* – now a major film, and how her career started in stand-up comedy.

The Stag Arts Festival, which runs throughout September and is sponsored by Specsavers, will this year also celebrate ten years since Sevenoaks Town Council took over the management of the arts venue, changing it to a not-for-profit charity.

The Stag's Business Development Manager, Lisa Whitbread, said: "We are delighted to offer this great line-up for our second arts festival. Since the Town Council took over and The Stag became a charity in 2010, it has helped generate more than £9 million for the local economy, and we are enormously proud of that. This is an opportunity to join us in celebrating and thanking all those who have and continue to support The Stag both on and off stage."

Events featuring in this year's Stag Arts Festival include:

A live screening in the Stag Cinema of author **Margaret Atwood's** interview at the National Theatre about her hotly anticipated sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*. 10th September.

(Discounted copies of Margaret Atwood's new book *Testaments* will be on sale courtesy of Sevenoaks Bookshop.)

New play, *Burn* presented by former members of the **Stag Youth Theatre (SYT)** and written by their leader, Simon Cossons. 13th September.

A series of exciting new, short plays chosen to be performed as part of the **Page to Stage** new theatre writing night. 15th September.



To celebrate just some of the successes of the arts venue over the last ten years, artist Alison Berry has been commissioned to create a **unique piece of art** for The Stag which will be displayed on the art wall in the café.

Throughout September, there will also be a display of specially made bunting flags by local people at the Kaleidoscope Gallery as part of the Flying the Flag **community art project**. Part of the Stag's festival, the display is in partnership with the Sevenoaks Visual Arts Forum which also celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

Sevenoaks' **first dance festival** taking place at Walthamstow Hall Senior School. 21st-22nd September.

Despite difficult times for arts venues across the country, The Stag has continued to develop. It relies on hiring out its facilities to professional and amateur shows, its cinema, donations and the sponsorship and support of local businesses.

Did you know:

- The Stag sees more than 300,000 visitors a year.
- It has created more than 200 jobs within its organisation and the wider community.
- It is open 364 days a year and features a 450-seat main house, studio space, two-screen cinema, café bar and a variety of meeting rooms.
- In March this year, the SYT took part in the National Theatre's Connections showcase celebrating new plays for young people across the country.
- The first Stag Arts Festival was in 2018 titled *Sevenoaks Remembers*, marking the end of the First World War. It featured history talks, a war poetry night, film screenings and the performance of a new play about Belgian refugees who came to live in Sevenoaks during the war.

stagsevenoaks.co.uk



The Vine has, once again, been recognised by the **Green Flag Award Scheme** as one of the very best parks in the world.



The Vine is among a record-breaking 1,970 UK parks and green spaces, and 131 in 13 other countries around the world, that received a prestigious Green Flag this year

Sevenoaks Town Council knows how much quality green spaces matter to residents and visitors, and this award celebrates the dedication that goes into maintaining The Vine to such a high standard.



The Mayor, Councillor Nick Busvine, at the 'Peppercorn' ceremony, with Lord Sackville and Andy Richardson, Chairman of the Vine Cricket Club, when a peppercorn rent is paid for the cricket ground.

STAG ARTS FESTIVAL

BRINGING YOU AN EXCITING SERIES OF EVENTS THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER. ALL SUPPORTED BY THE STAG SEVENOAKS AND CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUPPORT FROM SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL.

<p>MARGARET ATWOOD LIVE IN CINEMAS (15) AUTHOR INTERVIEW SCREENING THE STAG CINEMA TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER</p>	<p>PAGE TO STAGE NEW WRITING NIGHT THE STAG PLAZA SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER</p>
<p>AN EVENING WITH LISSA EVANS TALK WITH AUTHOR AND FORMER BBC PRODUCER THE STAG PLAZA SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER</p>	<p>BURN NEW STAG YOUTH THEATRE ALUMNI PLAY THE STAG PLAZA FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER</p>
<p>SEVENOAKS DANCE FESTIVAL WALTHAMSTOW HALL SCHOOL 21ST TO 22ND SEPTEMBER</p>	<p>CELEBRATING THE STAG BESPOKE ARTWORK BY ALISON BERRY THE STAG CAFE THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FLYING THE FLAG COMMUNITY ART PROJECT KALEIDOSCOPE GALLERY THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER</p>	

SEARCH STAG SEVENOAKS

BOX OFFICE 01732 450175
 WWW.STAGSEVENOAKS.CO.UK
 LONDON ROAD, SEVENOAKS, TN13 1ZZ

S U M M E R F A I R

Quaker's Hall Allotments Summer Fair a huge success!

Sunday 14th July dawned chilly and rainy, but this didn't deter the stalwart members of Sevenoaks Allotment Holders' Association from holding their popular Summer Fair at the STC-owned and managed site. The rain had cleared up by the time several hundred people, mostly families, came through the gate to bunting, balloons and a Disney-themed scarecrow competition, which was won by Carol Pike with Aladdin's Genie, emerging from his watering can 'lamp'.



Visitors enjoyed traditional games, face painting and a nature-themed treasure trail as well as the usual stalls such as allotment-grown produce and flowers, jams and chutneys, tools, books and home made cakes with a cuppa.

A bee keeper was on his plot and had a steady stream of interested visitors who enjoyed a description of what was happening inside the hive, as well as a taste of the honey his bees were producing.

A record £2,000 was raised for Hospice in the Weald.

There are currently a few plots available at Quaker's Hall Allotments. Rents are £4 per rod, per year (from 1st October 2019), and we can offer 10-, 5- and 2.5-rod plots. If you would like further information, please contact Ruth on allotments@sevenoakstown.gov.uk, or visit our website and complete the application form: www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/Allotments_21381.aspx





Saturday Market
High Street
9:00 - 2:00



Wednesday Market
Buckhurst Lane
8:00 - 2:00



Bligh's Walk Market
Saturdays
9:00 - 2:00



These markets are run by Sevenoaks Town Council, for more information please contact us on;

01732 459953
or alternatively e-mail
osl@sevenoakstown.gov.uk



Bat & Ball Centre (previously known as Sevenoaks Community Centre)

Background

The Sevenoaks Community Centre, although used extensively as a community hub, was more than 30 years old, and the fabric of the building required costly maintenance and was uneconomic to operate. Public feedback also indicated that it was no longer a venue where they would want to hold a special family occasion e.g. wedding. Also, a larger venue had been requested by businesses and public for events with a sit-down capacity for 250. Currently, people requiring such a venue need to go out of town.

Sevenoaks Town Council had made a commitment to the regeneration of Bat & Ball area and believed that a new community centre was a key component to this.

Initially, the Town Council considered selling its office site and combining capital income to build a two-storey community centre, which would have its offices on the first floor. Unfortunately, there were planning problems relating to this idea on both sites. At the same time, the Red Cross relinquished its building, and this provided an opportunity for its development.

Bearing all of this in mind, the Town Council reconsidered its original plan and decided to retain its office site, refurbish the old Red Cross building and keep the current community centre site for its original purposes, which had the benefit of the car parking not being so restrictive.

This proposal provides several advantages:

- Less pressure on car parking at the Bat & Ball Centre
- Less pressure on car parking at STC office site, also enabling nearby residents to use some car parking spaces during non-office hours
- Retains community assets
- Enables Sevenoaks Day Nursery to continue with its original plans (on community centre site)
- Enables a new Business Hub to be created on the STC office site

Plan for new centre

The driving vision for the new Bat & Ball Centre is to replace the tired and no longer fit for purpose 30 year old community centre with a facility that will be characterised by being a high quality contemporary building, within accessible and vibrant public realm, enabling a lively and eclectic mix of daytime and evening activities. It is intended to complement and be interactive with the refurbished adjoining Bat & Ball Station building.

- The new Bat & Ball Centre will be far more economical to operate and have improved aesthetics and extended community space.

Once the new building is constructed the external areas of the building will be landscaped to enable the exterior to also be a valuable community space.

What will the new centre provide?

The plans have been considered to ensure that current usage can continue and provide more flexible accommodation to enable additional usages.

- Large main hall - extended in size to current with sliding doors to enable link to smaller hall
- Smaller hall for multi-use including play schools (meeting Ofsted requirements)
- Catering kitchen
- Meeting room

What will it cost and how will it be funded?

- Project Budget: £2,775,208 and contingency £303,597 = **£3,078,805**
- Funded by: £1,200,000 CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Grant, £57,815 CIL Reserve, £420,990 Capital Reserves and £1,400,000 Public Works Loan Board (25 years fixed rate, annual repayment £74,202)

Progress to Date (June 2019)

- Extensive consultation taken place regarding provision of new community centre including articles in the press, *Town Crier* magazine, public meetings, Community Investment Plan, social media.
- Consultations taking place with users of the facility, residents
- Planning permission obtained
- £1.2m Community Infrastructure Levy grant obtained.
- Public Works Loan Board request submitted for £1.4m and approved
- Tender process completed via Government Contract Finder
- Tenders being reviewed and analysed
- Hirers relocated from building from 1st June 2019 to enable pre construction works to commence and contractor to be on site on 30th September 2019
- References for contractor and due diligence on contractor finances being reviewed
- Items previously value engineered out of the project being reviewed

Functions & Facilities provided by Sevenoaks Town Council

Precept
The Town Council's portion of the Council Tax for the financial year 2019/2020 is £1,882,554 per year, which is equivalent to £118.43 per average Band D household. This is an increase of £3.48 per year, or 7p per week, compared with 2018/2019.

OPEN SPACES & LEISURE

- ALLOTMENTS:
*Bradbourne Vale Road
Quaker's Hall Lane*
- BETHEL ROAD BURIAL GROUND
- BRITTAINS COMMON
- BRITTAINS LANE WOOD
- THE GREEN, HILLINGDON RISE
- HANGING BASKETS
- HORSE TROUGHS (*Old Police Station,
Rheinbach Gardens, St Botolph's Road*)
- JUDD'S PIECE
- LAND AT:
*Letterbox Lane
Littlewood
Tonbridge Road*
- MIDLINGS WOOD
- MILLPOND WOOD
- PLANTERS (*The Shambles, Dorset Street, Pembroke Road, London Road, Buckhurst Lane*)
- THE POUND, POUND LANE
- RALEY'S FIELD & KNOLE PADDOCK
- RHEINBACH GARDENS
- SEVENOAKS COMMON
- SPORTS PITCHES
- UPPER HIGH STREET GARDENS
- VINE CRICKET GROUND & PAVILION
- VINE GARDENS
Public toilet, telephone kiosk with defibrillator
- WAR MEMORIAL

- WHITE HART BEECHES
 - WOODSIDE ROAD OPEN SPACE
- ### CAR PARKS

- RALEYS CAR PARK
- ### PLAY AREAS
- BUCKHURST LANE PLAY AREA
 - GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND & PLAYGROUND
 - HILLINGDON RISE PLAY AREA
 - JULIANS MEADOW & PLAYGROUND
 - KIPPINGTON MEADOW
 - MOUNT CLOSE OPEN SPACE & PLAYGROUND
 - PONTOISE CLOSE OPEN SPACE & PLAYGROUND

- ### SERVICES
- BAT & BALL STATION BUILDING (*including Café and rooms available to hire*)
batandballstation.com
 - CAFÉ ON THE VINE cafeonthevine.com
 - CONSULTEES (*Planning, Highways, etc.*)
 - GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS
 - GREATNESS PARK CEMETERY
 - HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HITB) YOUTH CAFÉ (*available for hire*)
 - INFO-PODS & DIGITAL DISPLAY SCREENS
 - LITTER BINS AND GRIT BINS
 - MARKETS (*Wednesday and Saturday*)
 - MASTERPLAN FOR NORTHERN SEVENOAKS
 - NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
 - ORBITAL NO 8 BUS

- PUBLIC SEATS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- PUBLIC TOILETS (*The Stag, The Vine, Lower St Johns, Greatness Recreation Ground*)
- SEVENOAKS COMMUNITY CENTRE
Available for hire: meetings, conferences etc.
- SEVENOAKS TOWN PARTNERSHIP
sevenoakstownpartnership.wordpress.com
- STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE
Defibrillator in foyer
stagsevenoaks.co.uk
- STREET LIGHTS IN SOME UNADOPTED ROADS
- TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES/CHAMBER
Available for hire: meetings, conferences etc.

- TWINNING WITH PONTOISE AND RHEINBACH
- VINTAGE BUS
- YOUTH COUNCIL sevenoaksyouthcouncil.com

EVENTS

- ARMED FORCES DAY TOWN SUPPORTERS
- CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS IN TOWN
- CIVIC FUNCTIONS
- VINE BANDSTAND/FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

PROPERTY

- BUSINESS HUB (*former Red Cross Building*)
- BUS SHELTERS (*Dartford Road x2, St John's Hill x3, Bradbourne Vale Road x1, London Road x4, Seal Road x1, Tonbridge Road x1*)
- JUBILEE CLOCK (*Old Market House*)
- WARREN CLOCK (*above Brewers*)

Town Councillors 2019-2023

NAME	PARTY	NAME	PARTY
EASTERN WARD		ST JOHNS WARD	
Cllr A S Clayton	Liberal Democrat	Cllr S Camp	Liberal Democrat
Cllr T Morris	Liberal Democrat	Cllr R M C Hogarth	Conservative
Cllr E T Waite	Liberal Democrat	Cllr S G Raikes	Conservative
KIPPINGTON WARD		TOWN WARD	
Cllr A Eyre	Conservative	Cllr K Bonin	Conservative
Cllr R J Parry	Conservative	Cllr N J L Busvine OBE	Conservative
Cllr R L Piper	Conservative	Cllr Lise Michaelides	Liberal Democrat
NORTHERN WARD		WILDERNESSE WARD	
Cllr M Canet	Liberal Democrat	Cllr Mrs R E Parry	Conservative
Cllr V Granville-Baxter	Liberal Democrat	To contact a Sevenoaks Town Councillor, please use the following email format:: Cllr.surname@sevenoakstown.gov.uk eg. to contact Councillor Piper, the email address would be: Cllr.piper@sevenoakstown.gov.uk	
Cllr C Shea	Liberal Democrat		

Town Clerk/Chief Executive:

Linda Larter MBE:

townclerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Deputy Town Clerks:

Ann White:

dtc@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Hugh D'Alton:

deputy.clerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

The Town Council or its Committees meet on most Monday evenings at 7pm and members of the public are welcome to attend. For further details of the meetings please contact the Town Council Offices on 01732 459953.

council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Sevenoaks
TOWN COUNCIL

