



South & South East in Bloom 2018

Entry for Upper High Street Gardens

By Sevenoaks Town Council



Upper High Street Gardens is a small (0.25ha) garden situated in one of the oldest parts of Sevenoaks.

The gardens were gifted to the town in 1949 by Miss Constant who lived in the 'Old House' on the opposite side of the road. A memorial tablet is set into the northern boundary wall commemorating the donation by the family. A new welcoming sign has been installed this year at the entrance to the gardens.

The Conservation Area Appraisal refers to the gardens as 'the only notable area of open space within the town' and the gardens provide an invaluable place for relaxation in a very busy urban area.

The gardens are accessed by a gate from the Upper High Street. In 1996 an access ramp was installed with financial assistance from Sevenoaks District Council ensuring equal access for all. The Town Council will continue to seek funding for a further ramp to permit access to the lower part of the gardens.

The upkeep of the gardens is undertaken by Sevenoaks Town Council staff. There is annual bedding, together with perennial planting and a wide variety of roses, shrubs and trees. New roses have been planted this year.

This year a volunteer group has been initiated to assist with the maintenance of the garden and a local café has also committed to helping with litter clearance and gardening.

Several benches are located around the gardens, as well as an ornamental shelter in the lower area of the gardens. This year a new memorial bench commemorating the end of WW1 has been installed in the lower garden.

Litter bins are provided and the gardens are regularly inspected with litter removed by Town Council staff. They are also vigilant for any signs of anti social behaviour and drug or alcohol usage which is promptly reported to the police and necessary remedial actions taken.

Although small, these gardens are of infinite importance to the local workers providing a tranquil haven to unwind, as well as being visually attractive to local residents.

