



SEVENOAKS SOUVENIR BROCHURE

H.M. Queen Elizabeth II

Platinum Jubilee Year, 1952-2022





The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Message

Official message from Her Majesty The Queen released by Buckingham Palace on 5th February 2022, the 70th anniversary of The Queen's Accession to the throne.

Tomorrow, 6th February, marks the 70th anniversary of my Accession in 1952. It is a day that, even after 70 years, I still remember as much for the death of my father, King George VI, as for the start of my reign.

As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service.

As I look ahead with a sense of hope and optimism to the year of my Platinum Jubilee, I am reminded of how much we can be thankful for. These last seven decades have seen extraordinary progress socially, technologically and culturally that have benefitted us all; and I am confident that the future will offer similar opportunities to us and especially to the younger generations in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth.

I am fortunate to have had the steadfast and loving support of my family.

I was blessed that in Prince Philip I had a partner willing to carry out the role of consort and unselfishly make the sacrifices that go with it. It is a role I saw my own mother perform during my father's reign.

This anniversary also affords me a time to reflect on the goodwill shown to me by people of all nationalities, faiths and ages in this country and around the world over these years. I would like to express my thanks to you all for your support. I remain eternally grateful for, and humbled by, the loyalty and affection that you continue to give me. And when, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes King, I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support that you have given me; and it is my sincere wish that, when that time comes, Camilla will be known as Queen Consort as she continues her own loyal service.

And so as I look forward to continuing to serve you with all my heart, I hope this Jubilee will bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities – after some difficult times for so many of us – in order to enjoy the celebrations and to reflect on the positive developments in our day-to-day lives that have so happily coincided with my reign.

ELIZABETH R





From the Mayor of Sevenoaks

We all wish to celebrate our esteemed Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

Working towards this, many trees have been planted and lots of shrubs and new hedges, by the Town Council, the Mayor, residents, businesses and volunteers in honour of the Queen and our environment.

Many changes have resulted after over two years of many challenges to our society and our town. I think that we have come to appreciate how much we rely on each other and how precious our environment is to our enjoyment of life. Sevenoaks Town is in the last seven finalists for the Britain in Bloom competition, to be judged in late summer.

The Town Council is coordinating efforts to make Sevenoaks the best that it can possibly be now. Please join us to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and our town in the events detailed in this brochure.

Some of the events will take place on the Vine.

After many months of difficulties and loss, let's celebrate together some of the things that we share and hold precious in what we hope will be a 'glorious June' weekend.

On behalf of all who live and work in Sevenoaks may I wish you a happy weekend.

God Save the Queen.

Councillor Marilyn Canet

Mayor of Sevenoaks, April 2022



Sevenoaks' Town Crier - Chris Conlan

Dear citizens of Sevenoaks

It is an honour to be the official town crier of Sevenoaks and take on his historical mantle.

Undertaking the role in 2020 presented both pros and cons as though I was unable to get straight into the role due to the constraints of the pandemic, it gave me time to prepare and consider just how I wanted to serve you all. Over the past year I have enjoyed every minute of my experiences working amongst you all and I am overjoyed to head into my most significant role so far, celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of our dear Queen Elizabeth, the longest reigning monarch ever to grace this fair island.

Included below is the special Platinum Jubilee proclamation, written and put together by the Queen's pageant master and a member of the Guild of Town Criers.

Oyez, Oyez, Oyez

Today in our nation - and throughout the Commonwealth - we are celebrating our glorious Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Elizabeth - the second of that name - our most beloved sovereign and Head of the Commonwealth for seventy years.

How apt that this should be the Platinum anniversary of her accession - platinum - that most noble of metals, more precious than even gold.

And so it is in honour of this unique occasion that beacons will be lit this evening throughout the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the UK's Overseas Territories - and in all the capital cities of the Commonwealth.

Let it be known, in proclaiming this tribute to Her Majesty the Queen on her Platinum Jubilee, that we are one nation and one Commonwealth.

God Save the Queen.





Sevenoaks - Brief History and Royal Visits

On June 22, 1897 Sevenoaks celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne with a momentous festival which began at daybreak and continued with non-stop, almost breathless entertainment until a grand firework display at dusk. It was an occasion to celebrate ecstatically; the longest reign ever known and one, perhaps, never to be repeated.

But it was repeated. In June 2012 Sevenoaks, along with the rest of the country, once again let its hair down and enjoyed three days of sheer fun with street parties, fireworks, ox-roasts and musical events for Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. The Stag featured the Sevenoaks film 'Look, Love and Preserve', a local brewery introduced jubilee ale and there were street parties in most of our villages.

It is now June 2022 and an unprecedented moment in our history. This time a Platinum anniversary – and surely a royal feat never ever to be repeated?

Has there ever been a time in our long and illustrious history where we needed respite from the events of recent years that has dominated all of our lives? They can be described in two words, Pandemic and Putin – the grim statistics of those who succumbed to Covid, and then the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the terrifying events which unfolded.

This programme lists all the details of our four-day celebrations as we try to escape the memories of the last few years. But how will the Platinum weekend compare with the joyful occasion of 1897. And will it match the gaiety of the festivities of 1977 and 2002 when we celebrated the Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilees and people everywhere decked themselves in red, white and blue?

Much has happened between silver, diamond and platinum. The 70s were desperately bleak years; inflation hit 26 per cent, the miners walked out twice and almost every other week saw another IRA atrocity. Soon after the Silver Jubilee Sevenoaks was caught up in the 'Winter of Discontent'

when commuters were without trains, schools closed down, beeline taxis stopped running and panic buying ensued.

Despite the gloom of the recession today we live in healthier times and Sevenoaks, still basking in its one-time adjudication as the 'happiest town in Britain' is a far better place than it was on that rainy day in the summer of 1977, when the town was blighted with empty shops, horrific traffic queues and a fast fading commercial and recreational life.

Among the proudest moments in our local history have been the royal visits. The Queen last came to Sevenoaks in 1989 when she visited the new Dorton House School for the Blind. Accompanied by the headmaster, Peter Talbot, she and Prince Philip toured the school and then opened the new college of further education.

It wasn't her first official visit to the area. In 1972 the Queen and Prince Philip made a high-level visit to the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment at Fort Halstead in order to be given a thorough briefing on the country's most closely-guarded secrets. Hundreds of people lined the road from the top of Polhill as the cars carrying the royal party swept straight through the two security areas into the forecourt – probably the first-ever to pass the barriers without being subject to scrutiny.

How many people know that the Queen's wedding dress (1947) and her coronation robes (1953) were made of silk produced by the silkworms of Lullingstone Castle? Zoe Hart Dyke, credited with the art of reviving the 'art of sericulture' in the UK, would have discussed the dresses with the young Elizabeth in a series of private visits.

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, was also well known in the Sevenoaks area. In the autumn of 1939 at the age of 39 she visited Knole Park to give encouragement to the troops billeted here. All news of the visit was embargoed at the time but a photograph survives showing the Queen with the soldiers.

When the Queen Mother travelled to Chartwell on a bright





but cold November day in 1990 to unveil a bronze statue of Sir Winston and Lady Churchill, she was treading on familiar ground. As Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, president of the National Trust and personal friend of Winston and Clementine, she had visited the house and garden often. She enjoyed an 80th birthday visit to Knole; the people of West Kent were among her special friends.

More special than most, however, were the late Anthony Mildmay of Shoreham Place, who introduced Queen Elizabeth and her daughter to the thrills of steeplechasing just after the war, and the late Peter Cazalet of Fairlawne, Shipbourne, royal racehorse trainer for many years.

It was Lord Mildmay who persuaded the young Elizabeth to buy a horse from Cazalet's stables. A number of trips to Fairlawne ensued and, on the advice of the stable jockey, Tony Grantham, Monaveen became the first royal jumper. Trained at Fairlawne he won four races in the Queen's colours before breaking a leg. He was destroyed.

The Queen Mother was Honorary Air Commodore of 600 Auxiliary Squadron and a regular visitor to RAF Biggin Hill just after the war. It was her delight to see the 'weekend Air Force' reach peak efficiency flying new Spitfires and then Meteors.

Princes Charles also knows Sevenoaks well. He opened the Marley Sports Hall at Sevenoaks School in 1977, married Diana Spencer, formerly of West Heath School and nearly came to live at Chevening. He made several visits before deciding it was too close to the M25 and to the London tabloids.

Our royal family will know that Sevenoaks today is a bustling community, just as it was in the Middle Ages when it was an important market centre among a ring of farms on the northern edge of the clay and forest of the Weald.

Then the Sackvilles of Knole and other families of large landowners were cheerful and prosperous and so was the town which, in time, became a haven for retired gentlefolk. The town guide in 1839 describes Sevenoaks as a 'genteel little town, happy in its position under the shelter of its great house, proud of its school and church, busy with through traffic.'

In 1862 the railway came and life in Sevenoaks changed.

Now a man could go to London and back in a day. Large Victorian villas sprang up on the way to the station. Sevenoaks became the haven of the first class ticket holder. Big mansions made way for desirable estates. The population increased, the town spread and the roads grew thicker. An electric train service was introduced in 1935 and suddenly there were dormitory villas everywhere.

The prosperity and the cheerfulness remained intact until the 60s and 70s when Sevenoaks slipped into the doldrums after the collapse of a series of elaborate town centre schemes. A revitalisation process began after the opening of the M25 motorway.

Today, the real charm of Sevenoaks is the great house of Knole, its 1000-acre park, the Vine cricket ground, the Upper High Street, where there is a distinct relationship between Jacobean and Georgian and the wonderful countryside which encircles all our villages. The magnificent North Downs acts as a physical barrier to the metropolis beyond, and it always will.

Sevenoaks has enjoyed many festivals during the past 200 years. Six coronations, royal anniversaries, celebrations to mark the end of three wars, the 250th anniversary of cricket on the Vine and even a 'Hurricane Fayre'.

How many monarchs in world history have achieved a Platinum anniversary? The answer is 17 including Louis XIV of France, Sobhuza II of Swaziland, King Bhumibol of Thailand and Johan II of Liechtenstein – all of them a long time ago.

Now it is the turn of Elizabeth, our Queen, to reach this historic landmark. Enjoy the celebrations and the summer months which follow. God bless you all.

Bob Ogley





Sevenoaks Town Council



Sevenoaks Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Town-wide events being held and arranged by residents,

businesses and organisations of Sevenoaks:

Thursday 2nd June

Time	Venue	Event Details
1.00pm	Stag Theatre	Town Crier: The Town Crier will undertake the national proclamation announcing the lighting of the beacons that evening.
9.20pm	The Vine Garden	Meet at the Vine Garden and process together to the Beacon.
9.35pm	Beacon, opp war memorial	Pipers & Pipe Bands: As the sun sets across the UK and the Commonwealth, individual pipers and pipe bands are being asked to play 'Diu Regnare' as their personal tribute to the Queen.
9.40pm	Beacon	Bugler and Cornet Players: Before lighting the beacon, buglers are being asked to play 'Majesty' announcing the lighting of the beacons. This Bugle Call has been especially written by Bugler Sjt. A. W. Carlisle, Hillsborough Fort Guard, Northern Ireland.
	Beacon	Choirs: To coincide with the lighting of the beacons throughout the Commonwealth, choirs in local communities will be encouraged to sing a specially written song, which will be made available online.
9.45pm	Beacon	Beacon Lighting Ceremony: Mayor to light the beacon and everyone to sing <i>God Save the Queen</i> .

Friday 3rd June

Time	Venue	Event Details
12-6.30pm	The Vine	Big Picnic Lunch with various stalls and music representing the seven decades of the Queen's Reign.
11am-3pm	Green Court, Knole	National Trust Picnic Bring along your own picnic to enjoy in the beautiful surroundings of Green Court. Play with our giant games and put on our costumes to dress up as kings and queens. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole





Saturday 4th June

Time	Venue	Event Details
10am-noon	Sevenoaks St. John's Hill United Reformed Church	You are invited you to a plant and garden produce 'bring & swap' outreach event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Light refreshments will be served; please bring any excess seedlings for exchange.
12 noon	Brabourne Lakes	The Big Jubilee Lunch Residents of the Bradbourne Lakes area are invited to take a picnic to Bradbourne Lakes. There will be games and music from Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Training Band.

Sunday 5th June

Time	Venue	Event Details
12 noon	Brabourne Lakes	The Big Jubilee Lunch Residents of the Bradbourne Lakes area are invited to take a picnic to Bradbourne Lakes. There will be games and music from Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Training Band.
2pm	Kippington Care Home Grange Road, TN13 2PG	Queen's Jubilee Party . Stalls, refreshments, games, singer. Please come along and support us and help us enjoy a lovely day.

Tuesday 7th June

Time	Venue	Event Details
7pm	The Stag	Big Community Sing organised by Sevenoaks District Council

Sevenoaks Library will be encouraging you to **Read Through The Decades**, a special book promotion showcasing books published during each decade of the Queen's reign. The books have been selected by staff and this will run throughout June.


During Half term – week beginning 30th May

Find The Corgi – come and visit Sevenoaks library, and have a good look around to see how many Corgis you can find! A free event.

Jubilee Crafts – there will be drop-in crafts taking place during half term. Contact the library or check Sevenoaks Libraries Facebook for more details.

There will be a **Jubilations** display in Sevenoaks Museum in June with souvenir objects from the coronation day and QEII jubilees over the years.

Coronation Robe Display A variety of coronation robes will be on display in Knole's showrooms. These are rarely seen and have been carefully packed in our store to protect the precious textiles. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole





Local children have been designing crowns of all shapes and sizes, and their wonderful pictures will be transferred on to banners and used to decorate our town. Look out for the banners appearing around the Vine Gardens!







Fun Facts about Her Majesty The Queen


 The Queen was born at 17 Brunton Street in Mayfair, London, on 21st April 1926.


 As well as Great Britain and Northern Ireland, she also rules over Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Solomon Islands, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

 The Queen is the longest serving monarch. Only five other kings and queens in British history have reigned for 50 years or more. They are:


- Victoria (63 years)
- George III (59 years)
- Henry III (56 years)
- Edward III (50 years)
- James VI of Scotland (James I of England) (58 years)


 The Queen is the fortieth monarch since William the Conqueror obtained the crown of England.


 Since 1952 The Queen has given Royal Assent to more than 3,500 Acts of Parliament.


 Over her reign, Her Majesty has given regular audiences to 14 Prime Ministers. They are:


- Winston Churchill 1951-55
- Sir Anthony Eden 1955-57
- Harold Macmillan 1957-63
- Sir Alec Douglas-Home 1963-64
- Harold Wilson 1964-70 and 1974-76
- Edward Heath 1970-74
- James Callaghan 1976-79
- Margaret Thatcher 1979-90
- John Major 1990-97
- Tony Blair 1997-2007
- Gordon Brown 2007-2010
- David Cameron 2010-2016
- Theresa May 2016-2019
- Boris Johnson 2019-present


 Tony Blair was the first Prime Minister to have been born during The Queen's reign. He was born in early May, 1953 - a month before the Coronation.


 The Queen has attended every opening of Parliament except those in 1959 and 1963, when she was expecting Prince Andrew and Prince Edward respectively.


 There have been seven Archbishops of Canterbury during The Queen's reign (Archbishops Geoffrey Fisher, Michael Ramsey, Donald Coggan, Robert Runcie, George Carey, Rowan Williams and Justin Welby).


 There have been seven Roman Catholic Popes during The Queen's reign (Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul I, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis).


 Since 1952, The Queen has conferred over 404,500 honours and awards.


 The Queen has personally held over 610 Investitures. The first Investiture of the Queen's reign took place at Buckingham Palace on 27th February 1952. The first person to be presented was Private William Speakman, of The King's Own Scottish Borderers, who received the Victoria Cross for his actions during the Korean War.


 The Queen has answered around three and a half million items of correspondence.


 The Queen has sent over 175,000 telegrams to centenarians in the UK and the Commonwealth.


 The Queen has sent almost 540,000 telegrams to couples in the UK and the Commonwealth celebrating their diamond wedding (60 years) anniversary.


 The Queen has given out more than 90,000 Christmas puddings to staff continuing the custom of King George V and King George VI.

 Many of The Queen's official tours were undertaken on The Royal Yacht Britannia. It was launched by Her Majesty on 16th April 1953 and was commissioned for service on 7th January 1954. It was decommissioned in December, 1997. During this time, Britannia travelled more than a million miles on Royal and official duties.

 Since it was launched to mark The Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002, The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service has been awarded to over 1,500 voluntary organisations across all four countries in the UK.

 Winners of the award have included local scout groups, community radio stations, groups who care for the elderly and environmental charities.

 The Queen remains the only female royal family member to have entered the armed forces, and is currently the only living head of state who officially served in World War II. Despite the risks, the then Princess Elizabeth joined women's Auxiliary Territorial Service and trained as a truck driver and mechanic in 1945, when she was 18 years old.

 The Queen is the world's most well-travelled head of state, visiting more than 115 countries on more than 270 official state visits, but she doesn't even own a passport. Since all British passports are officially issued in the Queen's name, she technically doesn't need one.





go-coach livery changes for The Queen!

Sevenoaks' local bus company, **go-coach**, has changed the livery on one of its buses in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The striking design will be maintained until at least the end of the year.

Look out for the bus in and around town and the local area.



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACON TRAIL

30TH APRIL - 12TH JUNE 2022

The trail is an experience where players visit 7 characters that have come to life from Buckingham Palace and are visiting your location on a day out.

As you spot each of the 7 characters around your location, you can scan unique QR codes to engage with the story and answer questions to choose how it progresses. You'll also get to learn about a different decade in Her Majesty's 70 year reign from each character.

Finally, you'll also be able to engage with the characters as they come to life in AR. Once you've collected all 7 stamps you'll be rewarded with the conclusion to the adventure and be able to take selfies with digital prize badges 'pinned' to yourself.

The trail takes about 45 minutes and works without the need for families to download or sign up to anything. With safety in mind, it has been designed so that there is no need to go inside the venues, but some participating businesses are offering discounts and vouchers to come in while players visit.

Not only is the trail an innovative and fun day out for players, but they can also choose to donate to Help for Heroes to support our veterans and their families. Melanie Waters, chief executive of the charity said: "We're thrilled to be the charity partner for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons Trail and really looking forward to taking part in this innovative, community-based activity, as part of our plans to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee this year."





The Queen's Green Canopy tree planting

On Friday 11th March 2022 as part of The Queen's Green Canopy Project, the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Dr. Merilyn Canet, planted an Avalon Plum tree at the Bat & Ball Centre in Crampton's Road Sevenoaks to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The day chosen was the seventieth day of the year in which The Queen marks the seventieth anniversary of her accession.



What is The Queen's Green Canopy?

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'.

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season between October to March. Tree planting will commence again in

October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.



Literary Competition

The Mayor has invited local young people to describe how they would spend the day if they were King or Queen for the day.

The Town Council is delighted with the number of entries and the winner of the competition will be announced in time for the Jubilee weekend.





Welcome to Soroptimist International Sevenoaks Club.

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer movement working together to transform the lives of women and girls with around 72,000 Club Members in 121 countries.

<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/>



Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) has 6,000 Members in 270 Clubs in 18 countries in Great Britain, Ireland and countries in Asia, the Caribbean and Malta, who work at a local, national and international level to educate, empower and enable opportunities for women and girls. <https://sigbi.org/>



SI Sevenoaks club is part of the SIGBI Federation and the South East England Region. Our club has been established for over 80 years in the town. During this period we have been working on projects through our Programme Action Work linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; completing community work, campaigning, petitioning and fundraising for our chosen charities

We meet once a month on the second Tuesday in the month in the Beatrice Wilson Common Room at Rockdale Complex Sevenoaks. A normal meeting is structured with a speaker first followed by our business meeting and we have social events too. Here is a link to our Club Website. Check out our Club News section as this will give you a feel for what we do and our projects including a photo of us all. <https://sigbi.org/sevenoaks/>.

President Patricia Downing MBE and Club Members invite you to join us at our stall at The Big Picnic Lunch on The Vine Gardens on Friday 3rd June 2022 from 12noon - 6pm. Come meet Club members and find out more about our club.

Please do also visit the Sevenoaks Library to see our knitted Celebration Blanket
SI Sevenoaks club members thank Her Majesty for all her hard work throughout her reign.
Wishing HRH The Queen joyous celebrations in her Platinum Jubilee Year.



900 YEARS OF SEVENOAKS TOWN Exhibition 22 June - 16 July 2022 Kaleidoscope Gallery Sevenoaks

Do not miss this one-time opportunity to view the incredible '900 Years of Sevenoaks Town' exhibition by the Sevenoaks Society to mark their Platinum Anniversary. Featured themes include Knole, Historic Town Centre, old Landed Estates, Farms, Coaching Inns & Public Houses, Industry, Schools, Churches, Social Housing, Community & Civic buildings, High Street & London Road changes, Recreation & Leisure and much more.

A rare display relating to the 900 year old *Textus Roffensis*, which contains the first mention of Sevenoaks, will be on view during the exhibition



TALKS AT THE KALEIDOSCOPE GALLERY DURING THE EXHIBITION

WEDNESDAY 29TH JUNE AT 3PM

Professor David Killingray

"People, politics, and progress: a new history of Sevenoaks, 1790-1914"

WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY AT 2.30PM

Bob Ogle

"Highlights in 900 years of Sevenoaks"

FRIDAY 8TH JULY AT 2PM

Jacob Scott from Rochester Cathedral

"Textus Roffensis: Kent's earliest documentary heritage."

Sign up for talks, and see more about the exhibition on:
WWW.SEVENOAKSSOCIETY.CO.UK



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