



# Town Clerk's Update

Council news and information from Sevenoaks Town Clerk, Linda Larter MBE



**17 November 2025**

## Remembrance Services

On Sunday 9th November, the Sevenoaks community joined together for a poignant Service of Remembrance on the Vine to honour all those who have defended our freedoms. Over 1,000 people gathered at the Vine. One attendee described the service as 'wonderfully moving', while another called it 'a lovely tribute and great coming together'.

Uniformed groups paraded to the Vine War Memorial including from Sevenoaks Sea Cadets, Air and Army Cadets, Sevenoaks Guides and Scout Council. The service was led by Revd Canon Angus MacLeay, with Fr Piotr from St Thomas's Church delivering a reading, and Sgt Engelbrecht reciting The Exhortation and Kohima Prayer. Music for the service was performed by the talented Eynsford Concert Band, while the Last Post was played by a Sea Cadet before the two-minute silence was observed.

The Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Tony Clayton, laid the first wreath, followed by HM Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, The Lord Colgrain DL, and Laura Trott MBE MP, then by more than 35 organisations and associations, each paying their respects.

Sevenoaks Town Council extends sincere thanks to everyone who helped organise the event, and to the community for coming together in such a strong display of remembrance.



## Continued...

Leading up to the event, Sevenoaks Town Council asked volunteers to knit poppies, which are now displayed around the Vine Gardens. Special thanks go to all those who took the time to knit these poppies including Seal Post-box Toppers, Library Knit & Natter, Knitters of Rockdale, Nicola Buckner, Sue Bradshaw, Pat Smith and Adele Crump.

On Tuesday 11th November, the Town Council also held an Armistice Day Service at Greatness Park Cemetery. The Mayor of Sevenoaks laid crosses on the war graves and Fr Robin Jones from St John the Baptist Church led prayers in remembrance of the fallen.



## Sevenoaks Town Council Assets

The Town Council operates a wide variety of assets which need maintenance and improvements from time to time. We are currently managing:

- Vine Pavilion – installation of new skylights
- Bat & Ball Centre – installation of solar batteries
- Buckhurst Play Area – continuing with improving play equipment
- Raleys Car Park – works to address overgrown tree roots
- Rugby Pitches – arranging demonstration to purchase new portable floodlights and seeking tenders for replacement of permanent floodlights.

## My recent meetings

- Planning & Environment Committee\*
- Greatness Pavilion Project Management Meeting
- SDC Leader re STC Town Centre Masterplan
- Britain in Bloom – Feedback from Judges
- Christmas Lights Switch On Event briefing
- Arts & Culture Working Group
- Town Team AGM
- STC Chair & Vice Chair Meeting
- Sevenoaks Business Awards

\*All of Sevenoaks Town Council's Meetings are open to the public and available to watch live on YouTube see [www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk) for details.



## Britain in Bloom – National Winners

Sevenoaks in Bloom won GOLD in Britain in Bloom 2025 and a special award in our category for the work in partnership with Rockdale. It was also wonderful to see individual national awards given to those involved in the Sevenoaks in Bloom:

### National Community Champion

Well done to Annette Whitney, Head Gardener at Rockdale, for this very well deserved reward. Not only engaging everyone involved at Rockdale but also the local children's nursery and secondary school students and integrating them with each other to produce a real display of community involvement in Sevenoaks in Bloom.

Rockdale Village recently celebrated the win for Annette and the overall win for Sevenoaks (pictured right).



### National Young Champions

Well done to Willow Loudon who spent many voluntary hours creating post box toppers to help with Sevenoaks in Bloom.

Also well done to Bonnie who arranged and carried out a sponsored litter pick with her friend, Emma. She raised £50 and spent this money on bedding plants, which she planted up at the Vine Gardens.

The Mayor and Cllr Canet recently visited Lady Boswell's School to present the Young Champion Award to Bonnie and also thank Emma.



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## Thanks to all involved

I took the opportunity to thank all of the staff who have been involved in Sevenoaks in Bloom. Most have been involved in either gardening (including admin staff), promotion, community engagement, liaising with schools, finances, sponsorship etc.

The Sevenoaks Soroptimist Gardening Group were also delighted with the results. This small group of dedicated gardeners have been involved for over ten years.



## The One Show

Sevenoaks in Bloom featured on the BBC's The One Show on 31st October. [Watch the program via this link.](#)



# Sevenoaks Business Awards Evening – 14 November

The Awards process started on 1 September and concluded on Friday when the Town Team hosted the Awards Evening. See the programme and discover the wide range of businesses which took part: [Online Flipbook](#).

Public interest in the competition was high with 2,760 people casting a vote for their favourite business. That's about 10% of the local population.

## 2025 BUSINESS AWARDS RESULTS

### Independent Business

1st Happy Tails Doggy Daycare  
2nd The Fish Shop  
3= Franks Barbers  
3= PizzaUno1

### Customer Choice

1st Happy Tails Doggy Daycare  
2nd Batch18  
3rd Pets Corner

### Larger Business

1st Rockdale Village  
2nd Bluebird Care Sevenoaks

### Sustainability

1st Franks Barbers  
2nd Pets Corner  
3rd Antiquarian Antiques

### Health & Wellness

1st Bluebird Care Sevenoaks  
2nd Miles Martial Arts  
3rd The Sanctuary

### New Business

1= Eleanor Clark Choreography  
1=Miles Martial Arts  
3rd The Sanctuary

### Judges Choice

Jamie Wilson



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We received generous sponsorship from: Specsavers, Berry & Lamberts, Warners, Sevenoaks District Chamber of Commerce, Thackray Williams, Knocker & Foskett and Sevenoaks Town Council.

A big thank you to Mike for all his organisational skills, also to Georgie, Kassia, Warren and Zi for helping to make the event a success.



## Save the date

Visit our events page for more information: [www.tinyurl.com/STCNewsEvents](http://www.tinyurl.com/STCNewsEvents)

Date	Event	Venue
Saturday 29 November	Christmas Lights Switch-On	High Street
Tuesday 2 December	Launch of Bob Ogley Book - Fundraising Event	Knole
Friday 5 December	Holly Party	Bat & Ball Centre
Wednesday 24 December	Carols at the Bandstand - Vine Baptist Church	Vine Gardens
Saturday 7 February	Mayor's Fundraising Quiz	Bat & Ball Centre

