



Sevenoaks Town Crier

From Sevenoaks Town Council for the Community of Sevenoaks

August 2016

the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Andrew Eyre

Tempus fugit. As a phrase, “Time Flies” has a simplicity and innocence but it is only in real life that it comes into such close focus and with such apparent speed.

I am in week 10 of my Mayoral year and I have been proud to represent our beautiful town in 54 events so far with many more booked. But it is what goes on that is more important than mere numbers.

Meeting and seeing the smiles on young cub scouts receiving their awards after such hard work and success in their endeavours. Meeting 99 year old Sydney Lane and listening to his tales about the allotment he still tends growing his own veg. Meeting so many people at Knole House working on the restoration there starting with the opening of the Gatehouse which I thoroughly recommend both for its careful and informative demonstration of the heyday of Eddie Sackville-West but also for the spectacular view from the roof over the house and the grounds.



I have visited so many different schools, studios and theatres in and around our town (and beyond) to see such talent in art and music and drama from all ages but especially from the young such as for Young Musician of the Year and the Lydian Orchestra.

I was also proud to have visited our German twin town of Rheinbach and to have met the Bergermeister there. It was very interesting to have been there in the days after the Brexit vote in Britain and to discover there is far more which joins us than separates us. The bonds between Sevenoaks and Rheinbach are strong and will remain so whatever happens with the European Union.

We discussed common problems such as planning and development and how the town looks and is coping with the need for added housing, schools and training for the young. The problems of large delivery lorries driving through such a picturesque town. But also the wonderful contribution made by townspeople volunteering to help the elderly, the under-privileged and simply making the town a better place in which to live.

In Germany I saw many cyclists going shopping and in and around town on the roads. No lycra-clad specialists and no racing cyclists haring along in large groups. Just people safely sharing the roads whether on two wheels or four and I hope this cultural shift can be brought to the town centre roads of Sevenoaks.

I look forward to opening the Town Partnership’s Food Fair on the Vine Gardens on Friday September 9 which runs throughout that weekend and then in the evening of the ninth go to the Business Awards. Have you voted for your favourite Sevenoaks business yet? You can vote via the Sevenoaks Chronicle website <http://www.sevenoakschronicle.co.uk/your-vote-sevenoaks-business-awards-2016-customer-choice/story-29572295-detail/story.html>

Dr Alasdair Rankin, Director of Research at DiabetesUK recently said: “Being a family together, eating well together and exercising together. These are things that are difficult to build into our modern lives. But it is what makes our lives better.” Sufferers from diabetes whether Type 1 (like our new Prime Minister) or Type 2 have to make choices on exercise and nutrition. Those choices are often the best route for us all.

I am proud to have Diabetes UK as my Mayoral charity this year and I hope we continue to get such an excellent response to both fund-raising and to awareness. If you wish to know more or to make a donation then please contact the Town Council office on 01732 459953 or write to me at mayor@sevenoakstown.gov.uk. I hope I get to meet you in Council, at an event or simply in town – please do come and have a chat.



Fairy Door Trail

A large investment has been made by the Town council this year in the renovation of the Environmental Park and Buckhurst Lane Play Area. In addition to this, a 'Fairy Door' Woodland trail has also been created in the area to encourage discovery of the surrounding flora and fauna, with bird boxes and bug boxes installed to encourage more wildlife in the area.



SUMMER FAMILY FUNDAYS 2016

FREE Community games & entertainment organised by Sevenoaks Town Council

Wednesday 10 August 2pm – 5pm at Hillingdon Rise Play Area	Wednesday 17 August 2pm – 5pm at The Vine Gardens
Wednesday 24 August 2pm – 5pm at Greatness Recreation Ground	Wednesday 31 August 2pm – 5pm at Julian's Meadow Play Area

South East In Bloom 2016

Sevenoaks Town Council has again entered into the National South & South East in Bloom competition. Judging took place on Thursday 14th July from 10am at the Vine Gardens.

Welcoming presentations to the judges, Jim Buttress & Paul Dalby were provided by the following people:

Mayor, Cllr Andrew Eyre – Welcome to Sevenoaks address

Linda Larter, Town Clerk/Chief Executive of Sevenoaks Town Council – Introduction, development and sustainability of the local initiatives and evidence of on-going projects

Neil Jackson, Coolings Nursery – Business participation, school competition and RHS volunteers

Adrian Cheeseman, Sevenoaks Living Landscape Projects – Wildlife volunteering group and examples of year round involvement

The judges were taken on a tour around the Town including the following locations:

- The Vine Gardens
- Buckhurst Lane Play Area
- Bus Station
- Bligh's and the Shambles
- Post Office Area
- Stag & House in the Basement Youth Café
- Rockdale
- Six Bells Lane
- Sevenoaks School
- Upper High Street Gardens



It is hoped that this year the Town would receive the all important extra points for a Gold Award, having previously won Silver Gilt for the past two years. Awards would be announced in September.

Sevenoaks Business Awards 2016

This year's Customer Choice category sponsored by Specsavers can be voted for via the Sevenoaks Chronicle website from 1st to 31st August. The nominees are as follows:

Antwis Engineering
 CA Financial Services
 Devine
 Donnington Manor
 Eat n Mess
 Johnny's Little Sister Florist
 Kall Kwik
 Kevally Cleaning
 Lakeview Accountants
 Open Architecture
 Sevenoaks Bookshop
 Sevenoaks Plans Ltd
 St Julian's
 Café on the Vine
 TreeAbility

Other award categories:

- Apprentice of the Year *sponsored by Kent County Councillor Margaret Crabtree*
- Home Enterprise *sponsored by Amherst Accountancy*
- Independent Retailer of the Year *sponsored by Athena Wealth Planning*
- National Chain Retailer of the Year *sponsored by Kall Kwik Sevenoaks*
- New Business *sponsored by Sevenoaks District Council*
- Judges Choice *sponsored by Warners Solicitors*



Improvements to the Vine Gardens continue

During the past couple of years the Town Council has carried out the following improvements to the Vine

- Refurbishment of Bandstand
- Refurbishment of Band Practice Room to Café on the Vine
- Refurbishment of Public Toilets
- Installation of play equipment
- Introduction of a Premises Licence to enable events to take place.
- Monthly Farmers Market
- Band Concerts Thursdays and Sundays during the summer

All of these improvements have transformed the Vine Gardens and surrounding areas into a green community hub in a central location within the town where key events can be held.

The following additional improvements are also planned for this year

- Exterior refurbishment of Vine Pavilion
- Exterior refurbishment of thatched Tea Kiosk
- New bridge over the fish pond.

All of the horticultural work on the Vine Gardens is undertaken by Sevenoaks Town Council direct staff. We receive many compliments from local people for this work. Each year we have a colour theme to ensure that we try different displays and plant combinations. Plants are sourced from a nursery using low peat or zero peat compost. All spring bulbs are re-used being dried, then planted again in beds and borders.

Early in 2016 the Littlevine Nursery & Pre School which operates from the Vine Pavilion requested a small plot of land to encourage its very young members to be involved in gardening. The Town Council was happy to agree to this and the gardening space is progressing.



Fly Tipping

Despite challenging financial times Sevenoaks District Council have recently appointed an Environmental Enforcement officer to investigate fly-tipping offences across the District. Many householders are not aware they have a duty of care to check that the contractor they employ to dispose of their rubbish is licensed to carry such waste and that it will be taken to a licenced disposal facility. Since May 2016, enforcement officers may issue a fixed penalty notice fine in the sum of £400 as an alternative to court prosecution to those proven to have fly-tipped waste.

If you see fly-tipping the following details are invaluable but you should never put yourself at risk in gathering this information.

- The name and address of the person tipping the waste if known
- A full description of the incident including the precise location and any vehicle registration numbers, identifying names, markings or phone numbers
- A full description of the waste and whether you actually witnessed it being deposited
- The time and date of the fly-tipping

The Environmental Enforcement officer will be working closely with Town and Parish representatives, neighbouring Council enforcement officers, Kent County Council and Environment Agency colleagues to gather evidence and share intelligence. If you wish to report fly-tipping on the Highway for clearance please call Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000. If you have witnessed or have information relating to a fly-tipping offence please either contact your Parish Clerk or call Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000.

Town Councillors 2015-2019

NAME	PARTY
EASTERN WARD	
Cllr E T Waite	Liberal Democrat
Cllr A S Clayton	Liberal Democrat
Cllr Mrs P C Walshe	Liberal Democrat
KIPPINGTON WARD	
Cllr A Eyre	Conservative
Cllr R J Parry	Conservative
Cllr R L Piper	Conservative
NORTHERN WARD	
Cllr Mrs R E Parry	Conservative
Cllr P E Towell	Conservative
Cllr M Canet	Liberal Democrat
ST JOHNS WARD	
Cllr M A Chakowa	Conservative
Cllr R M C Hogarth	Conservative
Cllr S G Raikes	Conservative
TOWN WARD	
Cllr N J L Busvine OBE	Conservative
Cllr E Parson	Conservative
Cllr O Schneider	Conservative
WILDERNESSE WARD	
Cllr S L Arnold	Conservative

To contact a Sevenoaks Town Councillor, please use the following email format:
Cllr.surname@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

i.e. To contact Councillor Piper, the email address would be:
Cllr.piper@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Functions & Facilities Provided By Sevenoaks Town Council

Precept

The Town Council's portion of the Council Tax for the Financial year 2016/2017 is £973,618 per year equivalent to £105.53 per Band D House.

- ALLOTMENTS
- ARMED FORCES DAY TOWN SUPPORTERS
- BETHEL ROAD BURIAL GROUND
- BRITAINS COMMON
- BRITAINS LANE WOOD
- BUCKHURST LANE PLAY AREA
- BUS SHELTERS (*Dartford Road x2, St John's Hill x3, Bradbourne Vale Road x1, London Road x4, Seal Road x1, Tonbridge Road x1*)
- CHRISTMAS TOWN CENTRE ILLUMINATIONS
- CIVIC FUNCTIONS
- CONSULTEES (*Planning, Highways, etc.*)
- FREE SUMMER CONCERTS/ VINE BANDSTAND
- GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS
- GREATNESS PARK CEMETERY
- GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND & PLAYGROUND
- HANGING BASKETS
- HILLINGDON RISE PLAY AREA
- HITB (HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT) YOUTH CAFÉ
- HORSE TROUGHS (*Old Police Station, Rheinbach Gardens, St Boltophs Road*)
- INFO-PODS & DIGITAL DISPLAY SCREENS
- THE GREEN, HILLINGDON RISE
- JUBILEE CLOCK (*Old Market House*)
- JUDD'S PIECE
- JULIANS MEADOW & PLAYGROUND
- KIPPINGTON MEADOW
- LAND AT:
 - LETTERBOX LANE
 - LITTLEWOOD
 - TONBRIDGE ROAD
- LITTER BINS AND GRIT BINS
- SPORTS PITCHES
- MARKETS
- MIDDLEINGS WOOD
- MILLPOND WOOD
- MOUNT CLOSE OPEN SPACE & PLAYGROUND
- NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
- ORBITAL NO 8 BUS
- PLANTERS (*The Shambles, Dorset Street, Pembroke Road, London Road, Buckhurst Lane*)
- PONTOISE CLOSE OPEN SPACE & PLAYGROUND
- PUBLIC TOILETS (*The Stag, The Vine, Lower St Johns*)
- RALEYS CAR PARK
- RALEYS & KNOLE PADDOCK
- RHEINBACH GARDENS
- SEVENOAKS COMMON
- SEVENOAKS COMMUNITY CENTRE – Available for hire – meetings, conferences
- SEVENOAKS TOWN PARTNERSHIP
- SEVENOAKS YOUTH COUNCIL
- STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE
- STREET LIGHTS IN SOME UNADOPTED ROADS
- THE POUND
- TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES / CHAMBER – Available for hire – meetings, conferences
- TWINNING WITH PONTOISE AND RHEINBACH
- UPPER HIGH STREET GARDENS
- VARIOUS PUBLIC SEATS, VINE GARDENS (*including Public Toilet*)
- VINE CRICKET GROUND & PAVILION (*including Tea Kiosk*)
- VINE CAFÉ
- VINE WASTE
- VINTAGE BUS
- WAR MEMORIAL
- WHITE HART BEECHES
- WOODSIDE ROAD OPEN SPACE
- YOUTH COUNCIL

Sevenoaks Town Council

Town Council Offices; Bradbourne Vale Road;
Sevenoaks; Kent; TN13 3QG
Tel: 01732 459953 Fax: 01732 742577
Email: council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk
Web: www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Saturday Markets



Wednesday Market

High Street & Bligh's Meadow



Buckhurst Lane

