

To Sevenoaks... with best wishes from Buckingham Palace

Why did His Majesty King Charles III send a letter from Buckingham Palace to congratulate the community of Sevenoaks?

The letter read:

"His Majesty was deeply touched to hear of the community effort involved ... and hopes that you will be so kind as to convey The King's warmest thanks and good wishes to everyone who was part of this important initiative."



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Turn to pages 3 & 7 to find out more



GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS IN SEVENOAKS PAGES 4&5

Sevenoaks
CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

NEW: Family-friendly daytime slot this year for our Christmas Lights Switch-On on Saturday November 30. Event is 3pm-5.30pm (switch on 4.30pm). See page 5 for more details.



PLUS:

Sevenoaks festive market, Panto at the Stag Theatre, Christmas concerts, Best Dressed Window competition, and our Holly Party!

Scan QR code to read on phone or tablet



SCAN ME

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Dates for your diary—winter 2024/5

Sunday 10

November 10.50am Remembrance Day Service and Parade at the Vine War Memorial.

The Service will be led by Revd Canon Angus MacLeay of St Nicholas Church. The Eynsford Concert Band will play at the Service and render the Last Post.



Saturday 30 November 3pm-5.30pm Christmas Lights Switch On event, High Street, Sevenoaks (Lights switched on at 4.30pm—see page 5 for full details).

Saturday 30 November 7-9pm Sevenoaks Sings: Seasons of Evergreen. St Nicholas' Church, Sevenoaks. Scan QR code on poster on page 5 to buy tickets.

Saturday 7 December 7.30-11pm Holly Party, Bat & Ball Centre. Join the Christmas party (see poster on page 4 for details and how to buy tickets).

Saturday 7 December 7.30pm Handel's Messiah, St Nicholas' Church, Sevenoaks.

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir with Sevenoaks Philharmonic Orchestra. See poster on page 5. Tickets on the door or www.ticketsource.co.uk/sevenoakspilharmonicsociety

Wednesday 11 December to Tuesday 24 December 9am-4pm Sevenoaks Christmas Market, Bligh's Walk, Sevenoaks TN13 1DB Candles, decorations, gifts and more.

2025

Monday 17 March 6.30pm for 7pm start, STC Annual Town Meeting, Bat and Ball Centre, Cramptons Road. (See page 8) Have your say & find out what the Town Council has been doing.

Saturday 5 April 10.30am-4pm Vegan Market on the Vine Gardens (see advert on page 15).



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Offices also at Tunbridge Wells and Paddock Wood





Mayor reflects on busy year for town and looks ahead to 2025

On 23 September I was surprised and delighted when we received a letter from Buckingham Palace.

The message was sent on behalf of King Charles congratulating residents of the town on their efforts to secure and preserve the ancient woodland of Longsprings Wood as a Community Asset.

As you will know, the King has been a lifelong advocate for preserving our natural environment; it was most gratifying to see the town's extraordinary success in achieving its goal of buying the woods for future generations recognised in this way. You can read the full message on page 7. It has been a busy Autumn for me with many opportunities to enjoy a full calendar of community events and to see just how much goes on in Sevenoaks on a regular basis supported by an army of volunteers across the community.

To mention just a few of these



Cllr Libby Ancrum,
Mayor of Sevenoaks

evening with the D'Vine Singers also celebrating a 10th anniversary and I have joined the fun on **Apple Day** at Quaker's Hall Lane Allotments. We are so lucky in Sevenoaks to have committed individuals prepared to meet the varied needs of residents in the town. If you would like to make volunteering one of your aims for the New Year, see the Volunteering opportunities on page 11.

On Saturday 12th October, Knole Park was host to around 120 horses and their riders engaged in a sponsored ride in support of **Bradbourne Riding for the Disabled**, one of the two charities I have chosen to support this year.

Once again, this event would not have happened without the huge effort and support of volunteers in the community. It



The Mayor at the Riding for the Disabled event in Knole Park and (left) at the Civic Service earlier this year



events, I have enjoyed a barbecue with the **Sevenoaks Ladies Joggers and Oaks Blokes** celebrating their 25th and 15th anniversaries respectively; I have been led blindfolded around town by a **Guide Dog**; I have enjoyed a very special

was a pleasure to walk the course and talk to both riders and volunteers including representatives from the air cadets. It was an added attraction on that day for visitors to Knole Park to see the riders there enjoying the

opportunity to gallop along the valley.

This is an important year for the town as we look forward to future development over the next decade. The consultations on the **Masterplans** for the town and for the St John's area have provided an opportunity to have your voice heard and we look forward to the outcome of these in 2025. We also look forward to the consideration of further traffic calming measures in the town.

Meanwhile, the Sevenoaks calendar becomes even busier as we move towards Christmas celebrations with the turning on of the **Christmas lights** on 30th November, the Council's Holly Party, and the Pantomime at the

Stag. Further afield it has been a pleasure to link up with our counterparts in Swanley and enjoy some joint activities.

On 17th October Sevenoaks and Swanley jointly hosted a trip for visiting dignitaries along the length of the beautiful Darenth Valley to enjoy the Autumn colours. The starting point was **Bat and Ball station**, one of our splendid Heritage Assets with a visit to Swanley Park at the other end.

May I take this opportunity to wish you **Seasons's Greetings** and to express thanks for the many invitations I have received to events in the community. Thanks also to the team at the Town Council who make all of this possible.



Your guide to Christmas in Sevenoaks



Visit the Festive Market at Bligh's



Follow a trail of the best dressed window displays



One of the well known and much-loved features of Sevenoaks in the run up to Christmas is the Best Dressed Christmas Window competition, organised by Sevenoaks Town team, which this year is sponsored by Berry & Lamberts solicitors. Stunning Christmas windows help make Sevenoaks into a beautiful place at Christmas for shopping, visiting, and enjoying the eateries and cafes plus the Panto and shows and films on at the Stag.

Sevenoaks 
CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS SWITCH-ON
With the cast of...

Snow White
Saturday 30th November
Live music, Carols, Carnival rides, Attractions, Santa's Grotto, Stalls, Streetfood, and much more...
ROAD CLOSURE
1:30PM - 6:30PM
EVENT
3:00PM - 5:30PM
LIGHTS SWITCH-ON
4:30PM

SEVENOAKS TOWN TEAM
DJ | LIVE MUSIC | BUFFET | BAR
HOLLY
Party
A SHARED CHRISTMAS PARTY
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2024 | 7.30PM-11PM
BAT & BALL CENTRE, CRAMPTONS ROAD, TN14 5DN

 
Starring our fabulous musical acts for the evening
JUNE B
ABBA TRIBUTE DUO CHIKATITA

Tickets available through Eventbrite: £25
Contact townteam@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or phone 01732 459953
 18+



Your guide to Christmas in Sevenoaks



Sevenoaks CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Sevenoaks Town Council is delighted once again to provide a Christmas Lights Switch-On event to launch the festive season in Sevenoaks.

This family-friendly outdoor event will take place on **Saturday 30th**

Christmas Lights Switch-on event 3-5pm
Saturday November 30 (switch on at 4.30pm)

November 2024 in Sevenoaks from **3pm to 5.30pm.**

The Mayor will switch on the lights in Sevenoaks High Street at **4.30pm.**

The event will include live entertainment, fairground rides, Father Christmas' Grotto, stall holders, food stands and street

entertainment from 3pm.

The High Street and part of Akehurst Lane will be closed from 1.30 -6.30pm.

Thanks to our sponsors:



See West End stars in Stag Panto

Silly Billy and Dame Elaine Staige are back for the Stag annual panto, and this year three West End stars are joining them for **Snow White**.

Courtney Stapleton (Six, Beauty And The Beast), Billie Hardy (Chicago, Time Traveller's Wife) and Michael Levi (Jersey Boys, Kinky Boots) will play the Wicked Queen, Snow White and Prince respectively, along with seven cartoon dwarfs!

The show runs from 6-31 December with a relaxed performance on Tues 10 at 5pm, and two very special adults only performances on 13 & 20 December.

For tickets go to www.sevenoakspanto.com



Seasonal concerts

At St Nicholas' Church, Sevenoaks



Saturday 30 November 7pm

Sevenoaks Singers: Seasons of Evergreen.
Scan QR code above for tickets.

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir
with Sevenoaks Philharmonic Orchestra
conducted by Robyn Sevastos

Messiah Handel



7.30pm
Saturday
7 December

St Nicholas Church
Sevenoaks

Tickets £16.50; £15.50 over 60s; £5 students and U21
available from choir members,
www.ticketsource.co.uk/sevenoakphilharmonicsociety
www.sevenoaks-philharmonic.org.uk 07802 335585
or on the door (subject to availability)

Saturday 7 December 7.30pm

Handel's Messiah by Sevenoaks
Philharmonic Choir. www.ticketsource.co.uk/sevenoakphilharmonicsociety

Here are all the entries of our **Design A Christmas Light** competition for children up to age 11yrs. The winner was not confirmed at the time of going to press but watch our social media for updates!



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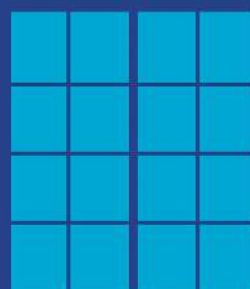
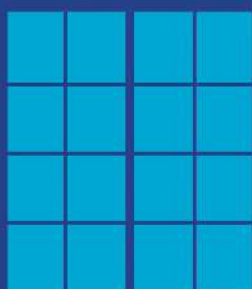
THE STAG IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CHARITY

Box Office 01732 450175

www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk



SEARCH STAG SEVENOAKS



THEATRE

AN EVENING WITH PAUL MERSON
RHIANNON FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE
OTB COMEDY - CHRIS McCAUSLAND
SEVENOAKS ENTERTAINERS - SLEEPING BEAUTY
AND SO MUCH MORE!

PLAZA

OTB COMEDY - ZOE LYONS
A SINGIN' SWINGIN' CHRISTMAS SHOW
BABY BROADWAY CHRISTMAS SHOWS
A CHRISTMAS WISH (FAMILY BALLET)

THE FOOTLIGHTS BAR

A SERIES OF INTIMATE ACOUSTIC SETS:
THE SPIRIT OF SPAIN: GUITAR CLASSICS
CHARLIE DORE WITH JULIAN LITTMAN
CLOSE KEYS GUITAR

STAG SELECT - supported by

ANDRÉ RIEU'S 2024 CHRISTMAS CONCERT
ROYAL BALLET & OPERA 2024/25 SEASON:
CINDERELLA
THE NUTCRACKER

FREE HOT DRINK OR POPCORN

STAG
SEVENOAKS

ENJOY A FREE HOT DRINK
OR SMALL POPCORN ON
PRODUCTION OF THIS VOUCHER
AND A VALID THEATRE OR CINEMA TICKET.
VALID UNTIL 01/01/2025



B18

WITH NEW EVENTS ADDED REGULARLY
AND THE CINEMA SCHEDULE
UPDATED EVERY WEEK



Royal message of thanks for Sevenoaks



King 'deeply touched' to hear local residents pledged over £100,000 to save ancient woodlands for the town

The successful campaign to save Longspring Woods for Sevenoaks has received a surprise message of congratulations – from His Majesty King Charles III.

Sevenoaks Town Council received the following message from the King ahead of a recent celebration of the purchase of the ancient woodlands.

The Royal greeting received on headed paper from Buckingham Palace read:

"His Majesty was deeply touched to hear of the community effort involved in preserving this ancient woodland for public use and hopes that you will be so kind as to convey The King's warmest thanks and good wishes to everyone who was part of this important initiative.

His Majesty trusts that you, the Town Councillors, and residents of Sevenoaks, will enjoy a most memorable celebration."

Those who had donated to the pledge campaign came together to celebrate in the ancient woodlands they raised money to save for future generations. Supporters ranging from school children to pensioners and local businesses made pledges to help Sevenoaks Town Council secure the 400-year-old Longspring Woods before it went on the open market.

Local residents pledged more than £100,000 in 23 days - in fact, more than £77,000 was raised in the last week alone as the deadline loomed.

The Town Council matched this with £100,000 from its funds from a previous sale of land, which needed to be spent on Capital Projects including acquisition of land. Those who were unable to donate

pledged help in kind including litter picking, gardening and manual labour. Even the conveyancing work for the purchase was given free by local firm Warners Solicitors.

Longspring Woods is comprised of 14 acres of ancient woodland at the top of Sevenoaks, in Oak Lane. Ancient woodland is defined by The Woodland Trust as an area of woodland which has persisted since 1600 in England.

According to The Woodland Trust, the UK's ancient woodlands, once vast, now cover just 2.5 per cent of the UK, at just 609,990 hectares. And around 1,225 ancient woods are currently under threat.

Up to 70 per cent of ancient woods have been lost or damaged due to conifer plantations, overgrazing and the spread of invasive species like rhododendron.

Yet the ancient and long-established woodlands store an estimated 77 million tonnes of carbon, roughly equivalent to the carbon emissions from a whole year's electricity use in every home in the UK. Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Libby Ancrum, said: "The purchase of Longspring Woods is an important contribution to the greening of Sevenoaks town and the pathway to Net Zero carbon reduction plan. It is great to see the community benefit from this council initiative in its 50th anniversary year."

She added: "As an enthusiastic dogwalker and nature lover, I am personally delighted to see this ancient woodland preserved for future generations. And it's wonderful to know that so many people in Sevenoaks share this view to the extent of contributing to our successful appeal."



Pictures by Anna Rosinska



20mph limits now officially in force in Sevenoaks



Installation works of the new signage-only 20mph scheme has been completed, making the new speed limits fully legal and compliant with traffic regulations.

Residents will have noticed signs and road markings being installed throughout the scheme, with larger "gateway" roundels erected onto posts to identify where the speed limit has changed from 30mph to 20mph, and smaller "repeater" roundels erected onto posts to reinforce the speed limit.

The scheme has been funded fully from Community Infrastructure Levy contributions paid to the Town Council from developers.

20mph speed limits are designed to be self-enforcing, therefore raising awareness of the scheme is vital to ensure maximum compliancy. Schools, residents associations, businesses and local people are encouraged to share the news with their contacts. The Town Council is offering free promotional

materials for raising awareness of both the 20mph roads as well as 30mph, available on request from Sevenoaks Town Council's Offices located on Bradbourne Vale Road. These include stickers, posters, and bin stickers and are courtesy of Kent County Council.

Installation of this new 20mph scheme comes following two public consultations for the proposals; the first in 2022 on a larger version of the scheme as designed by Kent County Council, and the second on a reduced version as amended by Sevenoaks District Council's Joint Transportation Board in 2023. Sevenoaks Town Council, as the

most local public authority and promoter of the scheme, agreed to consult on the amended proposals as well as fund any resulting scheme, pending public endorsement. The results confirmed a majority in favour of the 20mph scheme, and work commenced from August 1st 2024. For further details on the scheme, including background, list of schools included within the scheme, consultation responses, and map of the roads included, please see the following link: <https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/Consultations and Projects 47978.aspx>

Interaction with the East to West walking, wheeling and cycling route

Some of the roads within the Sevenoaks Town 20mph scheme overlap with those due to receive engineering works via a separate scheme, referred to as the "Sevenoaks Town East to West walking, wheeling and cycling route".

This project is being delivered jointly by Kent County Council and Sevenoaks District Council. For more information on the scheme, please visit this website <https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/www>




Main sponsor
Knocker & Foskett

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South & South East In Bloom Awards 2024



Gold for Sevenoaks Vine, Town Centre & Upper High Street Gardens at In Bloom



THE VINE-PARK OF THE YEAR GOLD AWARD & BEST IN CLASS



Sevenoaks Town Centre Gold Award

Upper High Street Gardens Gold Award

And House in the Basement youth cafe awarded 'Thriving' in RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood' campaign

**Thank you to our open spaces staff
and our valued volunteers**

www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk



Sevenoaks Annual Town Public Meeting

Monday 17th March 2025
Bat & Ball Centre
Crampton's Road
Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN

Livestreamed on YouTube:
[Sevenoaks Annual Town Public Meeting 7pm 17-03-2025 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SevenoaksAnnualTownPublicMeeting7pm17-03-2025)

**Your opportunity to have your say on matters relating to
Sevenoaks Town.**

Meeting starts at 7:00pm

**Free Refreshments from 6:30pm
& Exhibition by Voluntary Organisations**

6:30 – 7:00pm
Opportunity to talk to the Mayor, Cllr Libby Ancrum, and your local Councillors, and visit volunteer stalls, before the meeting starts

Please submit any questions you would like to ask the Town Council by
Wednesday 12th March 2025 to: council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Sevenoaks Town Council to present its Annual Report 2024/2025

Guest speaker, to be announced nearer the time

Grant Awards to Local Organisations

Stag Theatre Annual Report Presentation

For more details, please contact Sevenoaks Town Council:
By telephone: 01732 459953
By email: council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Agenda available two weeks before meeting on Town Council website: www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Survey of the affordable housing needs for town

The Rural and Community Housing Enabling service (RACE) is working with Sevenoaks Town Council and Sevenoaks District Council to undertake a housing needs survey in Sevenoaks Town.

The purpose of the survey is to find out if new **affordable housing** for people all ages with strong local connections to the Town is needed. This might be due to people living in insecure/expensive private rented housing, a young person unable to move from the family home or essential workers who have had to move away to find cheaper housing elsewhere. The survey also seeks to understand whether there are **older homeowners** who need alternative housing, maybe because their present home is too

large or unmanageable, but they want to remain living in the town community.

It is widely recognised that people living on low or even average incomes can face real difficulties trying to find a secure and affordable home in the area where they live and/or work. RACE is working with the Town Council to understand what the local housing need is and how local people can be supported to stay close to their support networks, work or education.

The survey can help shape new housing delivery in the Town. The results of the survey will be published on the Town Council's website. If you or anyone in your household has a housing need, even if they've had to move away,



Meeting local housing needs

ARE YOU, OR A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY, STRUGGLING TO FIND AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOCALLY?
OR
ARE YOU AN OLDER PERSON NEEDING TO MOVE FROM YOUR CURRENT HOME?

Then our local housing needs survey needs you!

RACE is working with Sevenoaks District Council and Sevenoaks Town Council to undertake a housing needs survey in Sevenoaks Town.

The purpose of the survey is to find out if local people of all ages need **affordable housing** (rented at 50%-80% of private market rents or low-cost home ownership).

We **also** want to know if there are **older homeowners** who need to downsize or move to more suitable housing.

All households will receive a postcard about this in November. Paper surveys can be obtained from the Town Council office at Bradbourne Vale Rd, or by calling the Town Clerk on 01732 459953. The survey closing date is 10 January.

You can use this link or QR code to complete the survey online
<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/sevenoaks>

If you do need alternative housing, please complete this important survey so that we can get an accurate picture of housing that is required locally.

RACE The Rural and Community Housing Enabling service (RACE) is an independent service for Kent, working in partnership with Communities, Parish Councils and Local Authorities to deliver local needs housing. kenthousinggroup.org.uk/race

please return this survey by **10th January 2025**. Households might be single people, couples or families.

The survey should take around **10 mins to complete**. You can complete the form online at: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/sevenoaks> or by scanning the QR code on the poster above.

Update on Masterplans for Town Centre and St John's area

Work on the Sevenoaks Town Centre and St John's Area Masterplans is progressing positively, with the second Key Stakeholder events for both Masterplans having since been held early November 2024. During these sessions, feedback was sought on our consultants' initial proposals for the Masterplans, collated using feedback from the first Stakeholder events as well as the two "Use and Satisfaction" surveys which the Town Council has been advertising for collection of local opinions on how both areas can be improved.

The Town Council's consultants are now working on the draft Masterplans, using feedback received from key Stakeholders as well as the general public on what and how improvements can be made to enhance the spaces in the Town Centre

and St John's Area. Once completed, the Town Council will hold a public consultation to allow residents to have their say on the proposals. This is expected to take place January 2025, with the final Masterplans to be prepared in February 2025.

What is a Masterplan?

The two Masterplans will provide a spatial vision for Sevenoaks Town Centre and St John's Area, identifying key opportunities for future development and proposing design guidance on how to enhance these areas to deliver maximum benefit to the public and to how the spaces are used. The purpose is to set out a clear vision – informed and endorsed via public consultation by local people – on how future development should include

improvements to aspects such as walking and cycling opportunities, the local economy and Cultural Quarter, green infrastructure, links to key destinations and improving the public realm.

The St John's Masterplan will also be supported by a parking and beat survey which has recently been undertaken by the Town Council's consultants, the results of which will be influencing any potential recommendations for how to improve parking in this area.

More information

More information and background on the Masterplans can be found on Consultations page of the Town Council's website www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Thermal Image Camera Loan Scheme

“ Recent user review:
I could tell which parts are low temperature in our house, and entry of cold air/damp. I'll do some repairs. It's great I could borrow this and great service. Thank you very ”



Give your home a free thermal MOT!

As part of its Green Investment Plan, Sevenoaks Town Council has created a Thermal Imaging Scheme to help local residents identify cold and damp spots and where heat may be lost within their home.

The council has purchased two Thermal Imaging Cameras which are available to borrow for residents within the Town Council's parish boundary.

Thermal Imaging accuracy is dependent on weather conditions with dark, colder days being most useful to identify problem areas.

Internal and external areas of the building can be scanned, however if the weather is bright and sunny, it will not be possible to take exterior scans as the

sun's rays will distort readings.

Thermal Imaging Cameras can be borrowed by residents at no charge; however, the Town Council will charge a late fee of £25 a day if the Camera is not returned on time.

This is to cover the additional administrative processes required to re-arrange bookings for other users and ensuring the camera is set up in good time.

Residents using the camera will also be asked to complete and agree to Terms and Conditions of Hire and complete a short questionnaire so that the success of the scheme can be evaluated.

Visit www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk or call 01732 459953 for information.



In partnership with



Pay-As-You-Go Vehicle Rental in Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks residents two year offer:

Join for ~~£120~~ FREE & get £20 free driving credit

Quote offer code: SEVENOAKS20



*First two year's annual plan membership FREE (usually and thereafter £60/yr). £20 driving credit valid for 90 days and excluding mileage, applied once application is approved. For Sevenoaks residents only. Offer valid until 30/12/2026. 10% off Enterprise Rent-A-Car is valid for UK and Ireland reservations only. For full terms and conditions, please visit www.EnterpriseCarClub.co.uk/tc1. ©2024 Enterprise Car Club M06063 04.24. AP



Volunteering opportunities

Will your New Year's Resolution be to get involved in voluntary work as a way of making new friends and helping others? Here are some ideas. For more visit www.kentvolunteers.org.uk

Sevenoaks Larder is a food support service that helps the residents of Sevenoaks who are struggling to pay for their weekly food shop. We welcome volunteers for all of our different roles - packing bags, delivering food, shopping, manning the 'shop', giving basic cookery tuition, or helping with admin. www.sevenoakslarder.co.uk

West Kent Mind is based at Sevenoaks Wellbeing Centre. Roles include: admin, gardening, arts and music, fundraising, marketing and more. For information look on www.westkentmind.org.uk and you can also apply via www.kentvolunteers.org.uk

Bradbourne Riding for the Disabled (chosen as a Mayor's

charity for 2024-5) welcomes volunteers from age 14. The volunteers assist in a wide range of activities which help disabled riders make the most of their time at Bradbourne, including the summer residential camps. www.bradbourne-rda.org.uk

Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees (chosen as a Mayor's charity for 2024-5)

Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees is a local charity formed in 2017. It helps refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine to resettle in our area. There are a variety of volunteer roles. Visit www.sevenoakswelcomesrefugees.org

Samaritans See advert (right). Go to www.samaritans.org for more information on volunteers.

SAMARITANS
Sevenoaks

Do something you're proud of

Join our team of fundraisers

Help us find new and exciting ways to raise the money we need to keep our services running day and night.

We will train, mentor and support you all the way.

To find out more and apply, visit samaritans.org/volunteer

Volunteers welcome!

Forget-me-not Cafés

Companionship over a cuppa

Dementia-friendly cafe at Bat & Ball Station

TN14 5AP
10:30am - 12:30pm

Every last Wednesday of the month. Enjoy a warm welcome plus interesting talks and activities with refreshments. Free event.

DATES TO JAN 2025

<u>28th August</u>	Being the Town Crier of Sevenoaks, a talk by Chris Conlan
<u>25th Sept</u>	Local Kent Heroes and Heroines, a talk by Bob Ogley
<u>30th Oct</u>	The Roman villa at Otford, a talk by archaeologist Kevin Fromings
<u>27th Nov</u>	Christmas Crafts from Creative Minds and festive refreshments
<u>29th Jan</u>	First cafe of 2025! Talk on Pearly Kings and Queens

Parking:
There is free parking at Bat & Ball Centre or free Blue Badge parking in the Station carpark.

Any queries please contact Helen Cook
Comms@sevenoakstown.gov.uk 01732 459953

Join the Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground!

Why Join?

Help Make a Difference: Play a direct role in enhancing the beauty and utility of our park.

Community Spirit: Meet like-minded neighbours and work together on exciting projects.

Family Fun: Great opportunities for family activities and educational projects for kids.

Health & Wellness: Enjoy the physical and mental benefits of spending more time in nature.

Contact Us:
Email: osl@sevenoakstown.gov.uk
Phone: 01732 459 953

SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL
Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks TN13 3QG 01732 459953 www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk
Follow us on social media on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SevenoaksTC) @SevenoaksTC [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/sevenoakstowncouncil) @sevenoakstowncouncil [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@7oaksEvents) @7oaksEvents



A review of successful events in the town with more to come in 2025

Recent week have been very busy in Sevenoaks with the Town Team taking a very active role in many events.

September saw the very successful **Street Food Festival** which moved to The Vine as being a fitting town centre setting. This was then followed by the first **Sevenoaks Bike Festival**, again in Vine Gardens. This was hugely popular not just with visitors, but the exhibitors from the biking fraternity and plans are afoot to extend it in 2025.

In October we saw the return of the **Vegan Market**, and for future diary planning, this is now going to be held on the first Saturday in April and October each year.

During the Autumn the Town Team organises the **Sevenoaks Business Awards** which includes the ever popular "Customer Choice" public vote. This year there were 1,936 votes cast with the winner being newly established MooBoo, a bubble tea company. The **Awards Gala Dinner** was held at the Bat & Ball Centre where Lennox Cato DL was the speaker and Bob Pound provided a magical session.

By the time you read this, the **Vine Lights** will be illuminating the trees in Vine Gardens. Uplighters have been installed and while they will mainly show white, colour will be used on special occasions. The lights were "switched on" on 5th November and the trees were in red until the close of Remembrance Day.

Businesses in Sevenoaks will be becoming familiar with the concept of creating a **BID** (a **Business Improvement District**) for the town.

This is a programme, independent of any Council, through which all kinds of initiatives can be introduced to make a town more attractive for shoppers, and business visitors of any kind.

At the time of writing views of business are being sought to decide whether this is a proposal to be fully developed.

Sevenoaks is generally regarded as a great place to live and work, often being in the top rankings of towns surveyed by national and regional newspapers and magazines. However, it takes investment of all kinds to



Sevenoaks Bike Festival (above) drew families and biking enthusiasts to the Vine



achieve that and this needs to be constantly maintained with competition all around from neighbouring towns and the digital world.

To learn more, please visit www.sevenoaksbid.co.uk

Next on the schedule is organising the **Best Dressed Christmas Window** competition, which this year is being sponsored by Berry & Lamberts solicitors.

Meanwhile, the activities of the Town

Team, and some of those of Sevenoaks Town Council, are often supported by sponsorship from local businesses and we would like to recognise the significant contribution being made by Bluebird Care who are new "Star level" sponsors of the Christmas Lights.

They have also taken the initiative to contribute through volunteering as their staff have now taken over maintenance of the gardens at Bat & Ball Station.

Youth facilities



Follow us on TikTok @houseinthebasement Insta @hitb_youth_cafe
FB @House in the Basement www.houseinthebasement.co.uk



OPENING HOURS:

Tuesday: 5pm - 8pm (SEN CLUB)
Wednesday & Friday: 4pm - 8pm
Saturday: 2pm - 8pm
(School Holidays - begins at 2pm instead of 4pm)

AVAILABLE
FOR HIRE

In the Basement of the
STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE
London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1ZZ

01732 466 593
info@houseinthebasement.co.uk

@houseinthebasement
houseinthebasement



Open Mic Night
for Ages 11-17

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 6-8 PM
FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY 6-8 PM

Where is HitB?
House in the Basement Youth Cafe,
London Road,
Sevenoaks,
TN13 1ZZ

What3Words: Actual.Covers.Intervals

Scan the QR code below to see the google maps location of House in the Basement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
DAREN MOUNTAIN MANAGER OF HITB ON:
MANAGER@HOUSEINTHEBASEMENT.CO.UK

HOUSE IN THE Basement

HOUSE IN THE Basement
YOUNG PEOPLE'S WINTER CLOTHES COLLECTION

Do you have an unwanted or ill-fitting coat, Jumper, Scarf or Gloves this winter?

Drop off your unwanted clothing items at House in the Basement during our opening hours. Your donations will help ensure a young person in need stays warm this winter.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday (SEN Club):	5 - 8 PM
Wednesday:	4 - 8 PM
Friday:	4 - 8 PM
Saturday:	2 - 8 PM

(During School Holidays we open at 2 pm instead of 4 pm)
House in the basement is FREE for all to attend.

Share the Warmth
Help us keep young people warm this winter!!

Where is HitB?
House in the Basement Youth Cafe, London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ZZ

What3Words: Actual.Covers.Intervals
or Scan the QR Code for Hitb's google map location.

For more information regarding this please contact:
info@houseinthebasement.co.uk
01732 466 593

House in the Basement Youth Cafe
In the Basement of the Stag Community Arts Centre, London Road, TN13 1ZZ.
01732 466 593 www.houseinthebasement.co.uk
Please follow us on Social Media on @houseinthebasement @hitb_youth_cafe @houseinthebasement

Scan Me!

HOUSE IN THE Basement **Sevenoaks**

Moving Forward

For 11-16 year olds

Not in school? Not Working? Join Us!

- Develop practical skills for the future.
- Meet inspiring speakers
- Meet new people in a safe, supportive environment.

Tuesdays: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Stag Community Arts Center, London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ZZ.

To enquire about places please email:
Manager@houseinthebasement.co.uk

HOUSE IN THE Basement **House in the Basement Youth Cafe**
In the Basement of the Stag Community Arts Centre, London Road, TN13 1ZZ.
01732 466 593 www.houseinthebasement.co.uk
Please follow us on Social Media on @houseinthebasement @hitb_youth_cafe @houseinthebasement





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Providing care is one of the most rewarding jobs in the world, day in, day out.

Our care assistants are driven, resilient and compassionate people, who empower our customers to live independently in the community.

If you feel you have what it takes to care, call us, we'd love to hear from you.

bluebirdcare.co.uk/sevenoaks
sevenoaks@bluebirdcare.co.uk

**Bluebird Care
Sevenoaks**

Call us for a friendly
chat on

01732 655 065





SEVENOAKS VEGAN MARKET

FOOD & DRINK / SUSTAINABLE LIVING
COSMETICS / CHARITIES / & MORE!

SEVENOAKS TOWN TEAM

SATURDAY 5TH APRIL | 10:30-16:00
VINE GARDENS, TN13 3UH

VEGANMARKETS.CO.UK

LISTENING ROOM
MUSIC AGENCY
ESTD. 1999
Live Music for You

Sevenoaks Quarry Delivering for Sevenoaks

Tarmac's exciting proposals to redevelop the Sevenoaks Quarry received a resolution by Sevenoaks District Council to grant outline planning permission.

This will not only deliver new and affordable homes, but also community facilities, environmental benefits and much-needed improvements to infrastructure.

Our work with the community is only just beginning.

Tarmac is now working with the community to understand what the residents of Sevenoaks would like to see in the Reserved Matters applications.



Jo Brookbank from the Seal Scout Group with Michaela Kekerl, Development Manager from Tarmac on site after confirmation that the Seal Scout Group would have a permanent future on the site after Tarmac identified a barn for them to use.

Find out more!

Visit our website by scanning the QR code or by going to www.sevenoaks.tarmac.com



Have a question? Please do get in touch:

Call 0203 3706 735 or email georgekup@meeting-place.uk



Functions & Facilities provided by Sevenoaks Town Council

Precept

Sevenoaks Town Council's total revenue budget for the 2024/25 financial year is £1,907,304 per annum. The average Band D house would pay £145.33 per annum equating to £2.79 per week.

OPEN SPACES & LEISURE

- ALLOTMENTS:
Bradbourne Vale Road
Quaker's Hall Lane
- BETHEL ROAD BURIAL GROUND
- BRITTAINS COMMON
- BRITTAINS LANE WOOD
- GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND
- 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
- MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)
- MIDDLEINGS 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 CENTRE
(formerly Sevenoaks Community Centre)
Available for hire: meetings, conferences etc.
- BAT & BALL STATION BUILDING (*including Café and rooms available to hire*)
batandballstation.com
- BUSINESS HUB
- BUS SHELTERS (*Dartford Road x1, Bradbourne Vale Road x2, London Road x2, Tonbridge Road x1*)
- CAFÉ ON THE VINE cafeonthevine.com
- CONSULTTEES (*Planning, Highways, etc.*)
- GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS
- GREATNESS PARK CEMETERY

- HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HITB) YOUTH CAFÉ (*available for hire*)
www.houseinthebasement.weebly.com
- 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 CLOCKS (*Jubilee Clock Old Market House and Warren Clock above Brewers*)
- PUBLIC SEATS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- PUBLIC TOILETS (*The Stag, The Vine, Lower St Johns, Greatness Recreation Ground*)
- SEVENOAKS TOWN TEAM
sevenoakspartnership.org
- 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
- YOUTH COUNCIL sevenoaksyouthcouncil.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS IN TOWN
- CIVIC FUNCTIONS
- VINE BANDSTAND/FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

Town Councillors 2023-2027

NAME	PARTY	NAME	PARTY
EASTERN WARD		ST JOHNS WARD	
Cllr L Ancrum	Liberal Democrat	Cllr S Camp	Liberal Democrat
Cllr A S Clayton	Liberal Democrat	Cllr Dr P Dixon	Liberal Democrat
Cllr S Layne	Liberal Democrat	Cllr D Skinner OBE	Liberal Democrat
KIPPINGTON WARD		TOWN WARD	
Cllr C Daniell	Liberal Democrat	Cllr V Granville	Liberal Democrat
Cllr C Gustard	Liberal Democrat	Cllr L Michaelides	Liberal Democrat
Cllr N Varley	Liberal Democrat	Cllr G Willis	Liberal Democrat
NORTHERN WARD		WILDERNESSE WARD	
Cllr Dr M Canet	Liberal Democrat	Cllr N Wightman	Liberal Democrat
Cllr L O'Hara	Liberal Democrat	To contact a Sevenoaks Town Councillor, please use the following email format: Cllr.surname@sevenoakstown.gov.uk eg. to contact Councillor Ancrum, the email address would be: Cllr.Ancrum@sevenoakstown.gov.uk	
Cllr C Shea	Liberal Democrat		



Town Clerk/Chief Executive:

Linda Larter MBE

townclerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

RFO/Deputy Town Clerk:

Georgina Jackson

rfo@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

