Sevenoaks
TownCrier
Sevenoaks Town Council

From Sevenoaks Town Council for the community of Sevenoaks November 2019

A message from the Sevenoaks Mayor, Councillor Nick Busvine OBE

I must begin on a sad note. We lost another World War 2 veteran and hero, Harry Garrett, in September. Harry reached the grand age of 101. He survived Dunkirk, he fought with the Desert Rats and had many narrow escapes. Since the war, he managed to raise over £60,000 for the Poppy Appeal. He took a close interest in the Pontoise Close play area. The Town Council planted a tree there in his honour to celebrate his 100th birthday. On behalf of Sevenoaks, I would like to pay tribute to and thank Harry for what he did both for his country and his local community.

Harry planting a tree in Pontoise Close play area

To continue on the veteran theme, I attended a wonderful concert in Rochester Cathedral in aid of the veterans' charity, SSAFA, which I am supporting. The Cathedral was founded in AD604 by Justus, who was one of those who accompanied St. Augustine on his mission to convert southern England. A couple of weeks earlier, I attended the Justice Service for Kent at Canterbury Cathedral. What a wealth of history there is in our county.

Closer to home: there have been some excellent achievements to celebrate. The Bat and Ball Station refurbishment continues to draw plaudits, winning the Sevenoaks Society's Frank Marshall Award for Townscape Improvement jointly with Sevenoaks School's Science & Technology Centre and Global Study Centre. I opened the Bat & Ball ramp – that allows direct access for able and disabled passengers to Platform 1 from the Community Centre site. A big thank you to our Town Clerk, Linda Larter, and the amazing STC team for all their hard work on this.

Sir Michael Fallon

Construction of the new Community Centre is getting underway – and Sir Michael Fallon and I buried a time capsule there to celebrate. I was also honoured to unveil the new Stag statue to celebrate 10 wonderful years since the Stag Theatre was rescued by the Town Council in 2009. Linda has been central to so many of these achievements – so it was wonderful to see her contribution recognised with her appointment as President of the Society of Local Council Clerks. Well done Linda!

The annual Sevenoaks in Bloom competition saw us win gold awards for both the town centre and the Vine. The Vine really is a superb location for community events. How can I forget the gathering of all those Ferraris in support of the Mayor's charities? Setting off a record-breaking number of runners for the Pink Week run in support of Breast cancer care was also very moving.

I gave gliding lessons on a beautiful September day to Mary Hogarth and Howard Rogers, who had both contributed generously to my charities.

Finally, I can't resist mentioning my solo attempt to imitate The Beatles Abbey Road zebra crossing walk – all in support of the wonderful Lewis project, which helps address mental health issues through music therapy. All you need is love…

Here is a selection of events taking place in the Sevenoaks Town area from November to March

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Friday 29th November from 6pm

Sevenoaks Town Centre

See the advert below for full details

Christmas Lights, Carol Singing & Mince Pies!

Tuesday 3rd December 4-5.30pm

Bat & Ball Station, Bat and Ball Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5AP

Come along to see the Christmas lights at Bat & Ball Station. The Mayor will officially switch on the lights, there will be carol singing by a local school choir and everyone can make a decoration to put on the Christmas tree. Hot chocolate, mulled wine, Christmas biscuits and mince pies will be on offer to help you get into the Christmas spirit.

There's no need to book – just turn up with friends and family and enjoy this festive event!

Quiz Night

Saturday 8th February at 7pm

The Stag Plaza, TN13 1ZZ

See the advert below for full details

Annual Town Meeting

Monday 16th March at 6pm

The Stag Plaza, TN13 1ZZ

Meeting chaired by the Mayor, Cllr Nick Busvine OBE. Come and meet your local Town Councillors. The Town Council's Annual Report will be available and grant cheques will be presented. There will be opportunity to make comments on any matters relating to Sevenoaks.

There are advertising opportunities available in Town Crier!

We currently distribute hard copies across Sevenoaks Town and email it out to many addressees, some of whom send it on to their own distribution lists.

If you are interested in placing in an advert and reaching the whole of Sevenoaks Town, please contact us on towncrier@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or call Ruth on 01732 459953.

Full A4 page - £150 +VAT | **Half A4 page** - £100 +VAT | **Quarter A4 page** - £50 +VAT

Linda is new SLCC President

At the SLCC annual general meeting held in Hinckley, Leicestershire at the beginning of October, members unanimously confirmed Linda Larter MBE, our Town Clerk, as their President for the coming year.

Linda has been a clerk since 1990, working for councils with population ranging from 250 to 80,000 plus. These varied size councils have provided her with the experience of working as the only member of staff and in positions managing a large team. In 2000 Linda was nominated by the Millennium Commission for an MBE for raising funds and completion of a community centre.

During her year of office Linda will be support two charities - Breast Cancer Now and Sevenoaks Mencap. Each year the SLCC President is supported with sponsorship from businesses within the local council sector. Linda sincerely thanks her sponsors for the next year and looks forward to working with them: Blachere Illuminations, Edge IT, Wellers Hedleys and Wicksteed.

Julians Meadow Outdoor Gym

Sevenoaks Town Council is pleased to announce that a new Outdoor Gym has been installed at Julians Meadow play area. Grant funding was obtained from Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund and the new equipment which includes a rower, health walker and much more is now in place for the public to use free of charge.

Joe Bancroft, unit manager for Tarmac at Sevenoaks said: *"We are pleased to have been able to support the Town Council with the grant towards the outdoor gym. We hope that the local community enjoys the new equipment."*

Open Spaces & Leisure Committee Chairman Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet said:

"Sevenoaks Town Council is encouraging everyone to enjoy our parks and gardens and public spaces and to get fit with exercise. Why should children have all the fun? We hope you all enjoy using this new, free facility."

Bat & Ball Station Restoration Project joint winners of Sevenoaks Society's 2019 Frank Marshall Award for Townscape Improvement

Cllr Nicholas Busvine OBE Mayor of Sevenoaks and Linda Larter Town Clerk were delighted to collect the Frank Marshall Award from the Sevenoaks Society at their Annual General Meeting on 9th October 2019.

The Award was presented in recognition of the Bat & Ball Station Restoration Project and recognised the conservation of a listed heritage building at risk which creates a contemporary environment with modern facilities for use by the community and a focus for wider regeneration of the area.

The Bat & Ball Station Restoration Project was joint winner with the new development at Sevenoaks School.

As well as this award, Bat & Ball Station has also been nominated for the following awards during 2019:

Winner - AJ Retrofit Awards

Shortlisted - AJ Architecture Awards

Shortlisted - RIBA South East Regional Award

Shortlisted - National Railway Heritage Awards

Café on the Vine appoints new manager

The Council would like to extend a warm welcome to the Café on the Vine's new manager, Linda Crees.

Pictured: Linda and Charlie Wicks (front)
Cameron Durant and James Hinks (back)

Contact:
vinecafe@sevenoakstown.gov.uk
01732 452210

SEVENOAKS IN BLOOM 2019

Sevenoaks Town Centre and The Vine Gardens have both been awarded **GOLD** again this year in the South & South East in Bloom competition. The judges were particularly impressed with the 'incredible edible' displays of both vegetables and flowers in the annual displays and also the amazing community involvement in making the town so colourful. In addition, Upper High Street Gardens received **SILVER GILT** and Sevenoaks Common was awarded **SILVER**.

The gardens at Rockdale Housing were especially commended. Sevenoaks Town Council would like to build on this year's achievement and to hear from any companies or individuals who would like to help in keeping the town colourful and vibrant. Please contact Ann White on dtc@sevenoakstown.gov.uk for more information on how to become involved.

Get yourself a plot at the Quaker's Hall Allotments and enjoy the health benefits you gain from growing your own produce

Imagine picking your own sun-kissed strawberries. How about sweet corn picked fresh and cooked just minutes later? Salad? You can have lettuce in June – and in January. Do you make your own jam? It tastes a lot better than store-bought and

better still when made with fruit from bushes you have lovingly tended yourself. As do freshly-dug potatoes and fresh brassicas, which could provide part of your five-a-day throughout the winter.

If this appeals to you, have you thought about having your own allotment? We currently have vacancies at the Quaker's Hall Allotments in Sevenoaks managed by Sevenoaks Town Council. If you start now, you could be harvesting your own produce by the summer.

Of course, having your own allotment requires time and effort and, like any farmer, you will sometimes battle with elements, be it the 'beast from the east' or the scorching summer of 2018. But the rewards of hard work and patience can be considerable, and you will have the pleasure of working with nature in a beautiful environment where many of the plots offer stunning views of the North Downs.

For families, the allotments provide the ideal opportunity for little ones to engage with the natural environment and discover where some their food comes from; and that hard work in the fresh air also brings health benefits for young and old alike.

With many experienced growers on site you will also find that help and advice are never far away. Supplies are available at very reasonable prices from the allotment Trading Centre every Sunday, which is where the staff, volunteers from Sevenoaks Allotment Holders' Association (SAHA), are on-hand to answer your questions.

Whether you are an experienced gardener or a novice, you can soon become part of the allotment community. Interested? Contact Ruth King at allotments@sevenoakstown.gov.uk and experience the rewards of allotment gardening.

WINNERS OF THE SEVENOAKS TOWN PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS AWARDS 2019

On Friday 13th September local businesses came out to celebrate the Sevenoaks Town Partnership's Annual Business Awards. Dressed in their finest, nominees, sponsors and dignitaries attended the black-tie event at Knole Academy and were regaled by guest speaker Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards.

The following results were awarded:

National Chain Retailer
sponsored by Manak Solicitors

Winner
COOK

Second Place
Space NK

Third Place
Seasalt

Independent Retailer of the Year
sponsored by Wildernesse House

Winner
Cryojuvenate

Joint Second Place
The Chinaman &
Sevenoaks Florist

Apprentice of the Year
sponsored by KCC Cllr Margaret Crabtree

Joint Winners
Jared Humphries
& Alex Bill

New Business
sponsored by Sevenoaks District Council

Winner
Cryojuvenate

Second Place
Prime Aesthetics

Third Place
Fisical Mind & Body

Customer Choice
sponsored by Specsavers

Winner
Wagamama

Second Place
COOK

Third Place
Sevenoaks Sports
Magazine

Micro enterprise of the Year
sponsored by Sevenoaks & District Chamber of Commerce

Winner
Curly Ellie

Second Place
Fine Styling

Third Place
Sevenoaks Plans

Judges' Choice
sponsored by Warners Solicitors

Winner
Sevenoaks Summer
Festival

Chairman of the Town Partnership, Cllr Andrew Eyre said: *"The businesses and people of Sevenoaks again had a wonderful evening at the Sevenoaks Business Awards. Together we celebrated success in training and development and success in businesses both large and small - established and as important, new businesses run by entrepreneurs all making Sevenoaks the wonderful market town it is. I look forward to the awards next year."*

Congratulations to all our winners and nominees for the Business Awards 2019. For further information about the Business Awards or any other Sevenoaks Town Partnership events please contact Steph Harrison on 01732 459953 or email admin.tp@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Time to celebrate at The Stag Theatre

Eagle-eyed visitors to The Stag will have recently spotted a new addition outside the Stag Plaza.

To recognise 10 years since Sevenoaks Town Council stepped in to rescue the arts venue, and to highlight its successes, guests gathered today (18th September) to help Mayor Nicholas Busvine OBE unveil a special stag statue.

The Stag Theatre, now a not-for-profit charity, has been proven to bring in around £7million to the local economy, and staff and volunteers work hard to continue to develop the venue. It sees more than 300,000 visits annually and remains open 364 days a year offering live shows, film screenings, community events and a café, while operating without local authority grants.

The event, which included Town Councillors, Stag staff and supporters, was also held to celebrate the second Stag Arts Festival, which took place in September. This year's line-up of special events included a cinema screening about Margaret Atwood's latest novel, a new play by the Stag Youth Theatre's leader Simon Cossons, a community art project, a painting workshop, the Page to Stage night of new plays, a dance festival and a local book launch.

Christmas Markets

It's that wonderful time of year again, which means our Christmas markets are back in town.

Blighs Market: 16th-24th December, 9am-4pm

High Street: Monday 23rd December, 9am-4pm

Wednesday Market: every Wednesday, 8am-2pm (excluding Christmas Day and New Year's Day)

There is free on- and off-street parking in the town on the weekends of 14th-15th and 21st-22nd December (courtesy of Sevenoaks District Council)

New access ramp to Platform 1 opened by Sevenoaks Mayor

Sevenoaks Town Council has recently completed its refurbishment of Bat & Ball Station and opened the premises as part of the National Heritage Open Day on Saturday 21st September, linking the station to Knole via the use of many heritage buses all available free to ride, kindly provided by Go Coach. The Open Day was a great success enabling visitors to view the restored building and community art, listen to talks provided by the Thomas Crampton Society, sample the café and ride on the heritage buses.

The Town Council committed to regenerating the station and local area and a key part of this was providing a step-free access onto platform 1. To enable this to happen, the Town Council made available some of its land on the community centre site and made land agreements with Network Rail and Southeastern.

On Monday 30th September, local residents joined Sevenoaks Mayor, Cllr Nicholas Busvine OBE and Sir Michael Fallon for the official cutting the ribbon ceremony.

Cllr Nick Busvine OBE cuts the ribbon to officially open the new access ramp to Platform 1 at Bat & Ball station

Cllr Robert Piper, Cllr John Edwards-Winser, Chairman of the District Council and Sir Michael Fallon

Bat & Ball Station was opened in 1862; however this is the first time that passengers will be able to access Platform 1 directly. This will be of help to those with mobility needs and parents with buggies.

The build was complicated due to the need to address train-related high voltage cables and other infrastructure. The construction cost of the ramp has been met by Sevenoaks Town Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts and Sevenoaks District Council CIL contribution of £54,852. CIL is a charge on most developments over a certain size to fund local infrastructure.

Memorial Tree Planting

The Town Council regularly works with members of the public to plant trees in memory of family and friends, and would welcome any interest in tree planting in general.

Trees can be formally planted with a remembrance plaque or as part of a wider planting scheme within a woodland or copse. The Town Council will assist with supply and planting at no additional cost, so if you can think of a loved one who would be best remembered with a tree, please feel free to contact us on council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or 01732 459953.

Functions & Facilities provided by Sevenoaks Town Council

Precept

The Town Council's portion of the Council Tax for the financial year 2019/2020 is £1,882,554 per year, which is equivalent to £118.43 per average Band D household. This is an increase of £3.48 per year, or 7p per week, compared with 2018/2019.

OPEN SPACES & LEISURE

- ALLOTMENTS:
  - *Bradbourne Vale Road*
  - *Quaker's Hall Lane*
- BETHEL ROAD BURIAL GROUND
- BRITTAINS COMMON
- BRITTAINS LANE WOOD
- 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*
- MIDDLINGS 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 STATION BUILDING *(including Café and rooms available to hire)* batandballstation.com
- CAFÉ ON THE VINE cafeonthevine.com
- CONSULTEES (*Planning, Highways, etc.)*
- GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS
- GREATNESS PARK CEMETERY
- HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HITB) YOUTH CAFÉ *(available for hire)*
- 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 SEATS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- PUBLIC TOILETS (*The Stag, The Vine, Lower St Johns, Greatness Recreation Ground)*
- SEVENOAKS COMMUNITY CENTRE
  - *Available for hire: meetings, conferences etc.*
- SEVENOAKS TOWN PARTNERSHIP sevenoakstownpartnership.wordpress.com
- 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
- VINTAGE BUS
- YOUTH COUNCIL sevenoaksyouthcouncil.com

EVENTS

- ARMED FORCES DAY TOWN SUPPORTERS
- CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS IN TOWN
- CIVIC FUNCTIONS
- VINE BANDSTAND/FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

PROPERTY

- BUSINESS HUB *(former Red Cross Building)*
- BUS SHELTERS *(Dartford Road x2, St John's Hill x3, Bradbourne Vale Road x1, London Road x4, Seal Road x1, Tonbridge Road x1)*
- JUBILEE CLOCK *(Old Market House)*
- WARREN CLOCK *(above Brewers)*

Town Councillors 2019-2023

NAME	PARTY	NAME	PARTY
EASTERN WARD		**ST JOHNS WARD**	
Cllr A S Clayton	Liberal Democrat	Cllr S Camp	Liberal Democrat
Cllr T Morris	Liberal Democrat	Cllr R M C Hogarth	Conservative
Cllr E T Waite	Liberal Democrat	Cllr S G Raikes	Conservative
KIPPINGTON WARD		**TOWN WARD**	
Cllr A Eyre	Conservative	Cllr K Bonin	Conservative
Cllr R J Parry	Conservative	Cllr N J L Busvine OBE	Conservative
Cllr R L Piper	Conservative	Cllr Lise Michaelides	Liberal Democrat
NORTHERN WARD		**WILDERNESSE WARD**	
Cllr M Canet	Liberal Democrat	Cllr Mrs R E Parry	Conservative
Cllr V Granville-Baxter	Liberal Democrat	To contact a Sevenoaks Town Councillor, please use the following email format:: Cllr.surname@sevenoakstown.gov.uk eg. to contact Councillor Piper, the email address would be: Cllr.piper@sevenoakstown.gov.uk	
Cllr C Shea	Liberal Democrat		

Town Clerk/Chief Executive:
Linda Larter MBE:
townclerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Deputy Town Clerks:
Ann White:
dtc@sevenoakstown.gov.uk
Hugh D'Alton:
deputy.clerk@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

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