

InShape

The newsletter of Sevenoaks District Council

Our FREE Family Fun Days are back!

Get ready for four weeks of action-packed activities over the school summer holidays.

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In this issue...

Our new Council Leader

Cllr Julia Thornton sets out her ambitions and priorities for the next four years



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Sevenoaks town cycling & walking plan

Have your say on proposals for a safe, environmentally-friendly walking, wheeling and cycling route




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Leisure centre community fun days

Thousands joined Olympic gold medalists for the reopening of Edenbridge and Sevenoaks Leisure Centres



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 **CE**
APPROVED

For August bank holiday entertainment we don't have to look far to find top quality days out that all the family will enjoy.

With years of heritage, the 'E&O' Show is a key date in the South East farming calendar, and it's really not to be missed! Cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and horses all compete in their sections for the coveted Supreme Champion rosettes. Local growers present their prize vegetables and floral art in a beautiful horticulture marquee.

The organisers have been careful to keep the show aligned with its traditions and values. You'll find everything from rural craft demonstrations to Gundogs, archery and one of the very finest gatherings of vintage agricultural vehicles and cars. Local food and drink takes centre stage along with a wide range of quality trade stands with country clothing and items for homes and gardens.

Monster trucks will be thrilling the crowds in the Main Ring and new for 2023 there are special performances from the highly skilled and very entertaining Dorset Axe Men.

Tickets bought online are valid for either day.

EDENBRIDGE & OXTED
AGRICULTURAL SHOW
Celebrating the country way of life since 1837

 **A fabulous family day out!**

 **Don't miss the monsters!** 

August Bank Holiday
Sun 27th & Mon 28th August 2023

 **Ardenrun Showground,**
near Lingfield - RH7 6LL



Farm animals
Horse competitions
Gundogs and terriers
Birds of prey

Flowers and vegetables
Rural crafts
Vintage vehicles
Local food and drink

Early bird discounted tickets available from   **@EdenbridgeOxtedShow**

www.edenbridge-show.co.uk

Family Fun Days are back!

Our ever popular and FREE Family Fun Days return for four weeks of action-packed activities over the school summer holidays.



They include crafts, games, sports, face-painting and more in a friendly and safe environment.

There's no need to book, simply turn up and have fun. However, children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times. Activities are provided for children under the age of 12, but they may not be suitable for very young children.

Please bring waterproof clothing, sunscreen and your own refreshments.

We recommend that you check www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/summerfun or our social media accounts before setting off as the schedule may change at short notice if there's wet weather.

The days are funded and organised by us, run by Play Place and supported by town and parish councils who are providing the venues.

Family Fun Days dates and locations:

Monday 24 July 10am to 2pm

Seal Recreation Ground, High Street, TN15 0AF

Tuesday 25 July 10am to 2pm

Knockholt Recreation Ground, Main Road, TN14 7LQ

Wednesday 26 July 10am to 2pm

Dunton Green Recreation Ground, London Road, TN13 2UR

Thursday 27 July 10am to 2pm

Crockenhill, Harvestfield, Harvest Way, BR8 8LH

Friday 28 July 10am to 2pm

West Kingsdown, Gamecock Meadow, London Road, TN15 6BZ

Monday 31 July 10am to 2pm

Sevenoaks, Greatness Recreation Ground, Mill Lane, TN14 5BX

Tuesday 1 August 10am to 2pm

Hextable Heritage Centre, College Road, BR8 7LT

Wednesday 2 August 10am to 2pm

Eynsford, Anthony Roper School, High Street, DA4 0AA

Thursday 3 August 10am to 2pm

Swanley Park, New Barn Road, BR8 7PW

Friday 4 August 10am to 2pm

Leigh, The Green, TN11 8QP

Monday 7 August 10am to 2pm

Fordcombe Cricket Ground, The Green, TN3 0RT

Tuesday 8 August 10am to 2pm

Hartley, Woodland Avenue Recreation Ground, Woodland Avenue, DA3 7DB

Wednesday 9 August 2pm to 4pm

Halstead Recreation Ground, Station Road, TN14 7HG

Thursday 10 August 10am to 2pm

South Darenth, Heathside Recreation Area, DA4 9AZ

Friday 11 August 10am to 2pm

Chiddingstone Causeway Sports Field, Tonbridge Road, TN11 8JS

Monday 14 August 10am to 2pm

New Ash Green, The Minnis, Centre Road, DA3 8HH

Tuesday 15 August 10am to 2pm

Four Elms Field, (behind Four Elms School), Bough Beech Road, TN8 6NE

Wednesday 16 August 10am to 2pm

Fawkham, St Marys Church, Fawkham Valley Road, DA3 8NA

Thursday 17 August 10am to 2pm

Westerham, King Georges Field, Brasted Road, TN16 1BN

Friday 18 August 10.30am to 2pm

Chipstead Recreation Ground, Chevening Road, TN13 2SA

Your new Council

Thousands of people voted in the local elections on 4 May 2023 to have their say about who should run Sevenoaks District Council.

After all the votes were counted, the Conservatives had a majority of 33 seats on the Council.

The remaining seats were claimed by 14 Liberal Democrats, four Green Party Councillors and three Independent Councillors.

Of the 54 Councillors elected, 23 were new faces and 22 were women.

Women now make up 40% of our Councillors. This is above the national average which is closer to 33%

according to figures published just before the election.

Your District Councillors decide the policies and priorities of the Council. They represent the needs of local residents and are available to help with local issues.

Find out more about your local District Councillors, including their contact details, by turning to pages 20 and 21 or visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/councillors.

Our new Council Leader

Cllr Julia Thornton was elected as our new Council Leader at the Annual Council meeting on 23 May 2023.

Cllr Thornton was born in Sevenoaks and has lived most of her life close to the town, only moving away during her university years. She was first elected to the Council in 2011 and was our Cabinet member for Planning and Conservation from 2019 to 2023. Prior to becoming a Councillor, Cllr Thornton worked in marketing and communications for 20 years.

Cllr Thornton says: "It's such an honour and a privilege to have been elected as the Council Leader. My dad was a Kent County Councillor for

12 years, so public service is in my blood! I cannot wait to get on and deliver our residents' priorities.

"I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Peter Fleming, who was our Leader for 18 years. He made us one of the most revered and financially sound local authorities in the country, winning Council of the year and Council Leader of the year.

"Despite being in a uniquely strong financial position, as with all councils, we have challenges ahead. But these are also exciting times and we have a new Cabinet who will be at the forefront of delivering our vision and ambitions.

"Our immediate focus is protecting the Green Belt from inappropriate development and retaining our

weekly waste and recycling collections. We will continue to work to reduce the Council's carbon footprint while supporting our communities to cut their carbon emissions.

"We'll continue to invest in the District, helping to regenerate our town centres, while ensuring we remain financially self-sufficient so we can support the services that matter most to our residents."

After being elected, Cllr Thornton announced the appointment of portfolio holders to the Cabinet as follows:

- Cllr Julia Thornton – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Improvement & Innovation
- Cllr Perry Cole – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing & Health
- Cllr Kevin Maskell – Portfolio Holder for Finance & Investments
- Cllr Lesley Dyball – Portfolio Holder for People & Places
- Cllr Margot McArthur – Portfolio Holder for Cleaner & Greener
- Cllr Simon Reay – Portfolio Holder for Development & Conservation



From left to right: Cllrs Perry Cole, Kevin Maskell, Margot McArthur, Julia Thornton, Lesley Dyball and Simon Reay.

STAGE • SCREEN • COMMUNITY

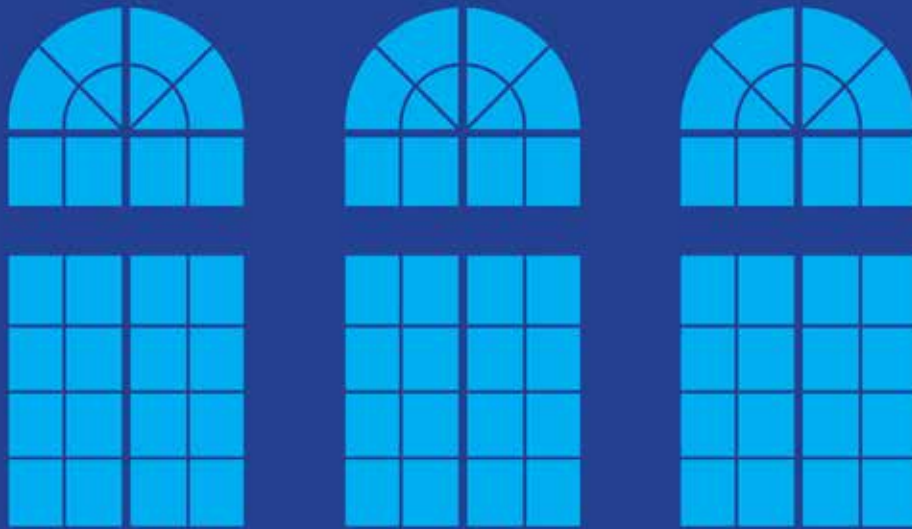
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www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk



SEARCH STAG SEVENOAKS



WHAT'S ON STAGE

CHANCE TO DANCE 1993-2023

CLOUDBUSTING - THE MUSIC OF KATE BUSH

COMEDY CLUB - CHRIS McCAUSLAND & JEN BRISTER

OUTSIDE THE BOX COMEDY CLUB - SARA PASCOE

SWINGIN' ON A STAR

TIMESLIP - 1980s NEW WAVE NIGHTCLUB

NAVI - THE KING OF POP

THE GEORGE MICHAEL LEGACY

WHAT'S ON SCREEN

ALL THE LATEST NEW RELEASES INCLUDING:

INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY

BARBIE

OPPENHEIMER

STAG SELECTED:

MATTHEW BOURNE'S SLEEPING BEAUTY

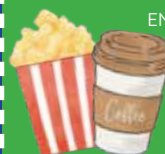
ANDRÉ RIEU'S 2023 MAASTRICHT CONCERT

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

THE STAG SEVENOAKS, LONDON ROAD, SEVENOAKS, TN13 1ZZ

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ENJOY A FREE HOT DRINK OR POPCORN ON PRODUCTION OF THIS VOUCHER AND A VALID THEATRE OR CINEMA TICKET.



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SEVENOAKS

Get into gear with our **FREE** family cycle rides

Our ever popular cycle rides return to Brands Hatch this summer.



Whether you're on a bike, trike or tandem, the rides are open to all, and are especially suited to families with small children.

The rides give you a chance to try out the renowned Brands Hatch racing circuit that was once home to Formula 1. You can cycle at your own pace for up to two hours on the route that includes some gentle hills. You can even have your picture taken by the famous finish line as well!

Due to demand, we have arranged extra rides this year. The rides are taking place on:

- Monday 31 July 10am and 2pm
- Wednesday 2 August 10am and 2pm
- Friday 11 August 10am and 2pm
- Saturday 23 September 10am and 2pm

Places must be booked in advance by calling us on **01732 227000** or visiting www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/cyclerides. Bookings will open from mid-July.

Mill Pond improvements

We are investing more than £60,000 to rejuvenate a historic pond for the benefit of wildlife and people.

The Mill Pond in Seal Road, Sevenoaks is relatively small, but has the potential to have a big positive impact on the environment. It is home to birds, insects and fish, including spawning salmon, and is much loved by local people.

But over the years it has become silted allowing certain vegetation to take hold impacting on its appearance. It has also suffered from pollution.

Mill Pond is fed by nearby springs and storm water from highway drains.

Silt from roads and nearby building projects has, over time, built up in the pond. Oil and other pollutants

from the highway have washed into the pond and in 2021, the Mill Pond suffered contamination from a Thames Water culvert.

In recent years, the Greatness Residents' Association secured funding to transform the pond into a nature reserve. This included new silt traps, putting in nature friendly plants and installing benches. To help with the Association's ambitions, we started a big clean-up operation in March.

To start, we brought in a specialist contractor to desilt the pond. This work has removed most of the

contamination that has built up over years. We've also put in new wildlife friendly plants.

The wooden boardwalk has rotted and now needs replacing. We are exploring options, which could include a new path and railings, allowing better access and helping us to maintain and clean the pond going forward.

We're also in discussions with Thames Water about new measures to stop further pollution.

In the coming months and years, we expect the Mill Pond to flourish again for both nature and residents.



Have your say on our walking, wheeling and cycling plans

As we move forward with a new walking, wheeling and cycling route linking east to west Sevenoaks town, we're asking for your views on our proposals.

The route, drawn up with help from transport experts Sustrans, will provide walkers, wheelers (people on scooters, parents with prams and wheelchair users) and riders with safe routes to six schools and Sevenoaks Rail station.

This will provide safer opportunities for residents to exercise, benefitting their health, while improving air quality and helping to move the District towards Net Zero. The route could also take some cars off the road, especially at busy times, helping to reduce traffic congestion, so there is something for everyone.

The two mile route will link Amherst and Riverhead Schools in the west with Trinity School and

The Weald of Kent Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys annexes in the east.

The proposals include widening existing footpaths, the creation of new links between existing footpaths and upgrading road crossings.

The route would be delivered in partnership with Kent County Council with £1.2 million already secured from the Government.

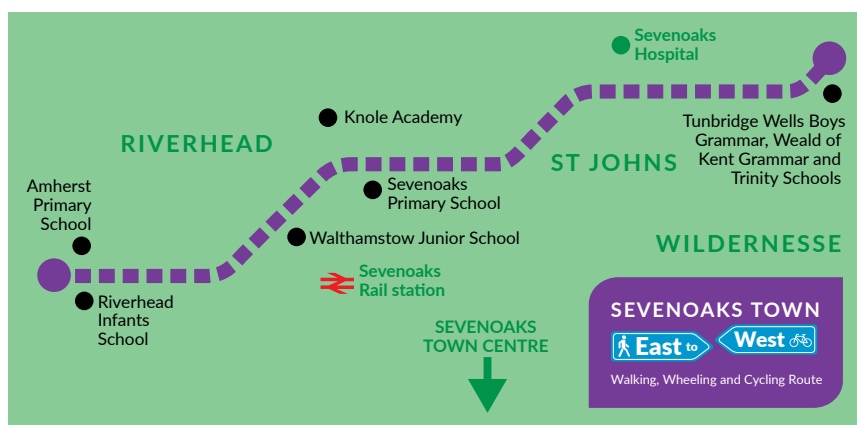
Work on the route is expected to begin in 2024.

We have also secured additional funding to progress two further walking, wheeling and cycling routes linking Sevenoaks and Otford and a new walking, wheeling and cycling plan in Swanley.

Cllr Julia Thornton, Leader of the Council says:

"Encouraging our residents to use safe, sustainable forms of travel is a top priority and forms part of our Net Zero ambitions. By improving transport connections, this safe and sustainable travel route, we hope the route will be popular with children, commuters and the wider community."

"We have the funds and a plan in place to deliver this important project, but we really want to hear the views of our communities before we take the next steps."



Have your say

Our survey will be open until midnight on Friday 14 July 2023. The survey asks for your views on the overall proposals as well as some road layout options.

For more information, and to have your say, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/walkwheelcycle.

New Chairman Alan is in the driving seat!

After taking pole position to become our Chairman, Cllr Alan Layland has got off to a flying start with his sights set on supporting a local charity that's close to his heart.

Alan, who moved from East Dulwich to Edenbridge 56 years ago, worked as a health and safety co-ordinator for Eaton-Williams, an air conditioning company based in Edenbridge.

Alan says: "I was passionate about health and safety and proud to work for a business that exported to virtually every country you could think of. With manufacturing sites across the UK, I'd travel far and wide doing my bit to ensure my colleagues had a safe workplace."

But work wasn't Alan's only passion, as he explains: "I've always loved living in Edenbridge. It has given me so much over the years so I've always wanted to give something back.

"As well as being an Edenbridge Town Councillor and a Sevenoaks District Councillor for the past eight years, I'm an honorary member of the Edenbridge Chamber of Commerce.

"In 2014, we organised a fabulous event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of John Surtees winning the F1 World Championship. John, who was also passionate about the town, drove his original 1964 race winning car through Edenbridge High Street followed by 36 classic Ferraris.

"Naturally, with my professional background, I was in the lead safety car! It was an honour to take part in such a fun event.

Over the next year, Alan is planning to raise the profile of the Sevenoaks Area Dementia Friendly Community. Alan says: "Like so many others, I've been touched by dementia as both of my parents had the disorder. I know from personal experience it often has a profound impact on the loved ones of those living with the condition.

"I've worked with Sevenoaks Area Dementia Friendly Community for some time and I've seen their amazing work first hand. I want to do everything possible to support this amazing cause during my year as Chairman.

"In addition, I'm keen to continue supporting the Town Council's work to make Edenbridge a dementia friendly town.

Alan, who has been married to Lyn for the past 46 years, adds: "It's both humbling and a privilege to be elected as the Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council. Lyn and I are really looking forward to meeting residents, volunteers, businesses and community groups across the District in the coming year to hear about their amazing work and stories."

Alan welcomes invitations to community events. To invite Alan, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/chairman or call 01732 227247.

You can also follow Alan on Twitter at [@sdc_chairman](https://twitter.com/sdc_chairman).





Audrey Batchelor collected the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' from Cllr Lesley Dyball



Lennox Cato presented the 'Best Business Award' to Dawn Blee from the Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce



Dr Hilary Jones presented the 'Healthy Living Award' to Neil Biddle for his Swanley tennis project

Recognising our community heroes

Volunteers and community stalwarts were once again honoured at our 'Making it Happen' Community and Voluntary awards.

This year's ceremony was held on 15 March at St Nicholas' Church, Sevenoaks.

The awards were handed out by Good Morning Britain's Dr Hilary Jones MBE and resident Antiques Roadshow expert Lennox Cato, amongst others.

The awards celebrate the amazing volunteers and community groups across the District who selflessly give up their time to help others.

There were ten categories up for grabs including Volunteer Group of the Year, Contribution to the Environment and the Healthy Living Award.

The prestigious Lifetime Achievement was given to Audrey Batchelor for her lifelong dedication to the voluntary sector in Edenbridge and beyond.

Cllr Julia Thornton, Leader of Sevenoaks District Council, says: "What an incredibly inspirational and humbling evening. It was wonderful to be surrounded by such selfless and caring people from across our community. We are so fortunate to have so many individuals and groups who give their time to help others.

"Judging the competition was very tough this year and everyone who was nominated absolutely deserved their certificates and awards.

"I really want to thank Dr Hilary Jones and all the other presenters and those who attended for making it such a special evening."

For more information on the awards and to view photos of all the winners and runners up, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/voluntaryawards.

This year's winners:

Best Business in the Community
– **Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce**

Community Arts or Sports Group of the Year – **Swanley Rugby Club**

Healthy Living Award – **Neil Biddle Tennis, Swanley**

Older Person's Group of the Year – **Every Step Counts**

Charity Project of the Year - **Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees**

Contribution to the Environment - **Fidelity Weston**

Volunteer Group of the Year - **The Bridges Centre Edenbridge**

Youth Group of the Year - **Sevenoaks District Youth Mentoring Project**

Local Hero - **Steve Grange and Shirley Brigham**

Lifetime Achievement – **Audrey Batchelor**

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Meet the 'Meeting Point' team

The Meeting Point in Swanley is now open and ready to welcome businesses, homeworkers and groups to this state-of-the-art business and events hub.

As you walk into the hub you'll be greeted by Meeting Point Assistant, Ben Moore, who's based on the reception desk and is there to make sure everyone has what they need within the centre.

We spoke with Ben to find out more about this exciting new venture. Ben says: "We're really proud of Meeting Point and we can't wait to welcome more businesses and individuals to our co-working space.

"We offer private offices, dedicated desk space, hot desks, a large meeting room, event space and an informal open area. There's also access to a



shared kitchen, hot drinks, a concierge service, ultrafast 1,000 Mbps broadband and a printer-copier.

"It's conveniently located on Swanley High Street and is a perfect alternative to home working or if you're looking for a professional space to meet clients on a regular basis.

"What makes Meeting Point stand out from the competition is our

onsite support. Anyone who uses Meeting Point has exclusive access to business development support, which includes advice on grants, training, reducing carbon emissions and lots more to help your business thrive. We're also lining up lots of exciting events from a wide range of business experts.

"What's great about the hub is our flexible membership packages, which include competitive daily, weekly and monthly rates so you can choose how much time you need."

Find out what Meeting Point can do for you and your business or book a tour today at www.meetingpoint.org.uk.

Support for your business

Local businesses can access a free business support programme delivered by industry experts, Smarter Society.



The support includes 1-2-1 mentoring, training and networking sessions, events and a business support helpline. You'll also be invited to the Annual Festival of Business, an event showcasing West Kent businesses and entrepreneurs.

This is a fantastic opportunity for business owners to gain new skills, network and expand their organisations.

For more information visit www.westkentbusiness.com.

The business support programme is being organised by the West Kent Partnership with funding from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

Advertise for free!

Did you know we have a FREE business directory? Sign up to showcase your business to thousands of potential customers and be the first to hear about all our business support schemes and other benefits.

Visit www.moresevenoaks.co.uk/business-directory.

Walking back to health!

'Steps to Wellbeing' is our brand new walking initiative to help improve your overall health.

Walking is a fantastic form of exercise. It can build stamina, burn excess calories and make your heart healthier. Walking with others is also good for your mental wellbeing as it grows confidence, helps you socialise and meet new people.

We have four walking groups that run regularly:

Swanley - weekly on Tuesdays leaving at 2.30pm and Wednesdays at 2pm.

Oxford - the first and third Monday of the month leaving at 10am

Shoreham - the second and fourth Tuesday of the month leaving at 10.30am

Edenbridge - times and dates vary, please call for details of the next walks.

The walks last at least 45 minutes and generally explore wooded areas, countryside and local sights. These walks can involve hills and uneven walking terrains and are generally two or three miles long.

To confirm your attendance at a 'Steps to Wellbeing', please call us on **01732 227000**, or email healthy.living@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

If you're looking for a slightly slower paced walk over flatter ground, join the weekly Every Step Counts walks throughout the District.

To view all our walking groups visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/walking.

Help your community!

If you love walking and want to help local people, why not volunteer to lead some of our wellbeing walks?

We'll only need you for a few hours a week and you'll get a chance to spend time with other like-minded people.

If you're interested, email healthy.living@sevenoaks.gov.uk. Full training will be provided.



Hundreds turn out for charity event

'Run, walk or push against dementia' returned to Knole Park on Sunday 14 May raising thousands of pounds for local dementia services.

Residents from all over the District and beyond sacrificed their morning to pull on their running shoes for the 3, 5 or 10 kilometre courses.

The spirit of the day was fully embraced with participants running or walking alongside their families, dogs and even pushing youngsters along in pushchairs.

Entry fees, together with sponsorship and money from photographs, will help to fund the Sevenoaks Area Dementia Friendly Community, which provides cafés, singing groups and wellbeing days for people with memory issues.

You can still donate to the Sevenoaks Area Dementia Friendly Community at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/runwalkpush.

ADVERTISEMENT



Meeting Room Hire
Lakeside Pavilion is located on the Chaucer Business Park in Kemsing, a two minute walk from Kemsing Railway Station

- Board room for 12
- Seminar room for up to 40
- casual meeting room overlooking lake
- smaller meeting room

020 7834 5631



Leisure sites reopen with community fun days

Thousands of residents joined local Olympic gold medalists Kate French and Joe Choong to celebrate the reopening of Edenbridge and Sevenoaks Leisure Centres.

The two centres, now run by leisure operator Everyone Active, opened their doors to the public on bank holiday Monday 1 May with an exciting day of free events and activities.

Both leisure centres offered a wide array of free activities including gym and swim, group exercise and sports hall activity taster sessions, alongside face painting and balloon modelling.

Customers could meet and greet the attending Olympians, who visited both centres. Hundreds of residents took out leisure centre memberships on the day.

The open day followed hot on the heels of Lullingstone Golf Course reopening on Saturday 22 April. The golf course is also now operated by Everyone Active.

All three leisure sites had been run by Sencio Community Leisure for the past 20 years until the independent trust ceased trading on 17 March.

Within a month, Councillors agreed to provide £1.83 million in funding to cover reopening and running costs and we appointed Everyone Active to operate all three leisure facilities on an interim basis for up to two years.

Prior to reopening, the three sites underwent a deep clean, redecoration and other improvements.

Everyone Active has reduced the cost of memberships and many activities to encourage more people to get active.

Everyone Active has operated our new leisure centre in Swanley since February 2022. In the first year alone, some 400,000 customers came through the doors and memberships increased from just a few hundred to more than 3,000.

Cllr Lesley Dyball, our Cabinet Member for People and Places, says: "We're excited to be partnering with Everyone Active to manage Edenbridge and Sevenoaks Leisure Centres and Lullingstone Park Golf Course.

"They organised fabulous community events to mark their reopening with a wide range of activities, all for free.

"Everyone Active has an excellent track record of innovation and amazing customer service and has transformed leisure provision in Swanley by bringing hundreds of thousands of customers into the centre. With their new ideas and experience of running more than 200 leisure facilities, they will help to make health and leisure accessible to even more of our residents."



Contact your local leisure facility for information about activities, memberships and bookings:

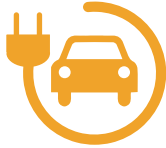
- Edenbridge Leisure Centre
www.everyoneactive.com/centre/edenbridge-leisure-centre
- Sevenoaks Leisure Centre
www.everyoneactive.com/centre/sevenoaks-leisure-centre
- White Oak Leisure Centre
www.everyoneactive.com/centre/white-oak-leisure-centre
- Lullingstone Park Golf Course
www.everyoneactive.com/centre/lullingstone-park-golf-course



Cutting our carbon footprint

We've committed to make the Council's operations Net Zero, helping the environment and saving Council Tax payers' money. Here's how we're doing...

Moved more of our fleet to electric. **More than 100,000 miles** have been travelled in electric vehicles



Installed electric charging points in our **car parks**, at our **offices** and **on street for taxis**



Working with **experts** to roll out **electric vehicle charging points** across **more locations**



Purchased new, **more efficient** and **less polluting waste trucks**



New waste rounds are **reducing fuel consumption & carbon emissions** by **5%**



Installed **motion sensitive lighting**



in our **decked car parks**

Produced our **first cycling & walking plan** and **secured funding** for a safe walking and cycling route



Hybrid working and **virtual meetings** have **cut staff and councillor travel to work** by a third, **reducing emissions**



Air quality has **improved** over the past **nine years**

Printing **In Shape** on **carbon neutral paper**



Built a new **energy efficient** leisure centre, **reducing energy and running costs**



Net Zero implications included in all major **Council decisions**



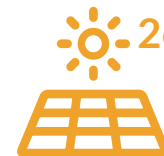
Working with **specialists** to **reduce energy consumption** in our buildings



Planted trees across the **District** to support **biodiversity** and **offset CO₂ emissions**



Led Kent's most **successful household solar scheme** with **264 residents signing up** for solar panels



Our **carbon emissions** have **dropped** by **39%** in the past **three years**

Find out more at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/netzero

Make A PACT to recycle right

It's so important that you put the right things in your clear sacks.
Just one item that doesn't belong in there could condemn the whole bag.

You can also do your bit for the environment by making sure you don't put recyclable waste in your black sacks. On average, 20% of refuse in black sacks could have been recycled!

We're asking you to make A PACT with us to recycle more and remember what to put in your recycling bags:

Put all of these items in your clear sacks...



You can also help by making sure you put your waste out at 7am on your collection day to avoid attracting animals and the build-up of litter.

Hedge your bets!

Summer is here, which means lots more time enjoying the garden.

If you're plant potty about maintaining your outdoor space, sign up to our unbeleafably easy and environmentally friendly garden waste service!

Our thyme saving service means less trips to the tip and protects the inside of your car from mud and dirt. It's also good for the environment as all the garden waste we take away is composted then sold as a soil improver and fertilizer.

It's picked up fortnightly on the same day as your rubbish and recycling is collected, and there are two options to choose from:

- An annual permit for a 240-litre bin for £50 or a 140-litre bin for £35
- 25 garden waste sacks for £20

If we've sown the seed, lettuce take the stress out of gardening and apply for a permit today.

Visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/gardenwaste or call 01732 227000.



Time running out to enter In Bloom

There's less than a month to show off your blossoming garden in this year's In Bloom competition!

Run by Coolings garden centre in Knockholt, the competition is open to novice and expert gardeners alike, with each entrant receiving a £5 voucher to spend at Coolings. The deadline for entries is midnight on Friday 30 June.

There's lots of categories available, including front gardens, allotments, ornamental gardens, businesses and schools and above all it is fun as all the judges are friendly and looking at ways to award points for your efforts!

Judging will take place in July and the winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in September.

For details of this year's In Bloom categories and how to enter, visit www.coolings.co.uk.



Bring on the summer!

In the Sevenoaks District, we're lucky to have a wealth of festivals and outdoor events taking place over the summer, from family-oriented camping jamborees, to stylish productions, to lively folk celebrations, or perhaps a laugh around a campfire.

Here's a taste of just a few of the amazing events on offer...

Rhythm in Oaks

1 July 2023

Little Elses, Morley's Road, Weald.

A boutique, family-friendly music festival taking place at Little Elses camping ground. With a fabulous line-up of talented musicians, plus live DJ sets and delicious food, plenty of fun activities for everyone (outdoor lawn games, spray painting, wellbeing, arts and crafts), this will be a great day out. A shuttle bus from Sevenoaks railway station saves everyone the hassle of driving.

www.rhythminoaks.co.uk



Pig's Ear 'Folk Ale' Festival

13 to 16 July 2023

Eight Acre Field, Eggpie Lane, Sevenoaks Weald.

The people behind Folk Ale are lovers of folk music in all its forms. From the most traditional music to the amazing new crossovers and fusions happening along the way, this festival celebrates it all. There will also be an Open Mic session. With a solar-powered main stage, this is a safe, fun and communal few days in a beautiful location, with three performance tents, a pub, children's activities and walks. On site camping available.

www.folkale.co.uk

Hever Festival

August 2023

Hever Castle will pull out all the stops for its 40th year of hosting open-air theatre. With many of the usual popular companies returning with new shows, watch out too for a few surprises, including saxophonist Heather Hoyle, the energetic Duke's Theatre Company with 'Twelfth Night', or Wild Arts' show 'The Elixir of Love'. Firm favourites from Gilbert & Sullivan operas will feature, plus children's shows in The Orangery at nearby Chiddingstone Castle.

www.heverfestival.co.uk

Camp Wildfire and Camp Kindling

Camp Wildfire (25 to 28 August and 1 to 4 September 2023) is one for the adults. St Clere Estate, Kemsing

With over 100 amazing activities (acrobatics, making terrariums, quad biking or wood whittling) and 50 live bands and DJs, you can discover new skills and dance the night away. With wood-fired hot tubs, plenty of talks and games, there's a chance to relax as well.

Camp Kindling (18 to 21 August 2023) is aimed at families, with a similar level of activities, but this time geared towards a wider age range, with talent shows, parcourse, tug-of-war and more.

www.campwildfire.co.uk

Edenbridge & Oxted Show

27 & 28 August 2023

Ardenrun Showground, Lingfield Surrey RH7 6LL

A traditional agricultural show celebrating farming, rural life, fine food, drink and more. The two days are packed with family entertainment, including competitions for livestock, horses, gundogs and horticulture. Events include a novelty dog show, country sports, dramatic demonstrations by the Dorset Axemen, plenty of parades, displays of four-in-hand coaches (horses), rare breeds and vintage tractors and machinery. And, if you're lucky a motorcycle stunt show and monster trucks!



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www.edenbridge-show.co.uk

For more information about local events and activities this summer, go to www.visitsevenoaksdistrict.co.uk.



Celebrating five years of commons improvements

Over the past five years, dozens of local volunteers have banded together to help improve our local commons for the benefit of people and nature.

The Commons of Sevenoaks, Westerham and Seal had, over many decades, become neglected and overgrown. The sites were less well used by the public and rare habitats such as heathland, had declined.

But in 2018 the Council along, with the Kent Wildlife Trust, landowners and others, launched the Sevenoaks Greensand Commons Project to bring some much needed TLC to 120 hectares of the 300 hectare sites.

The project put out a call to the local community to support the ambitious project and many volunteers came forward. Andrew Willmore, the Greensand Commons Project Manager explains, they could not have succeeded without the help of these committed volunteers.

“We’ve been blown away by the response from the local community,” says Andrew. “So many volunteers have come forward and their support has been remarkable.

“Volunteers have learned how to lead a multitude of environmental tasks, use chainsaws and brush cutters and a variety of hand tools. They have even carried out various surveys for veteran trees, butterflies, reptiles and a range of flora.

“These skills have been put to use, for example in a Community BioBlitz in 2022, which led to the discovery of 75 species at Sevenoaks Common alone.

“Our achievements have included biodiversity enhancements across the sites. We’ve restored the lowland heathland at Bitchet, Crockham Hill and Seal Chart Commons, a habitat that’s rarer than Amazonian Rainforest.”

“Over 20km of access improvements have also been carried out. Walking routes and challenges have been developed to guide people through the fields, heaths, and woodlands.

“Skill sharing has been at the heart of the project, and we’re proud

to have delivered two 18-month apprenticeships during our time.

“On average, our volunteers have carried out 250 hours of practical conservation and access improvements every month. So far that’s equivalent to £90,000 of work.

“Thanks to their hard work and dedication, we’ve turned the tide of neglect and reignited interest in these magnificent assets.

“In March our volunteers were deservedly recognised for all their hard work when they picked up the Highly Commended Contribution to the Environment Award at the Council’s Community and Voluntary Awards. Fidelity Weston who has volunteered her time throughout the project won the overall Environmental Award for 2023.”

For more information and updates about the project, visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/greensand-commons.



Comedy returns to the STAG with big names and familiar faces from TV

Outside The Box Comedy Club is an award-winning company that brings together some of the biggest names and most outstanding up and coming comedians for one off shows.

Regular visitors to The Stag Sevenoaks will no doubt have seen one of its shows with the king of one-liners Milton Jones and Mock The Week regular Rhys James having already performed there this year.

Now there are two new shows coming up this summer. On 13 July a packed performance full of comedic talent will feature Chris McCausland, as seen on Have I Got News For You, Would I Lie To You and Cats Does Countdown.

Also on the bill is QI and Mock The Week regular Jen Brister who has also appeared on Live At The Apollo. You'll also be treated to the TikTok sensation Jack Skipper.

Carrying on into September sees STAG favourite, Sara Pascoe, return as the headline act. Pascoe is a TV regular, appearing multiple times on Live At The Apollo and even starring in her own BBC sitcom. Also featuring on the night will be Vittorio Angelone and Sharon Wanjohi who have both appeared on Comedy Central.

Both shows have Maff Brown as the host that will MC the evening. Maff has appeared on Mock The Week and is also the founder of Outside The Box Comedy Club.

To book tickets, visit www.stagesevenoaks.co.uk or call the Box Office on 01732 450 175.

Save time and do your planning online

If you want to submit or track a planning application, find out about planning restrictions affecting your property or make an application, you can do it all on our website.

Use our interactive planning policies map to view planning restrictions that could affect your property such as Conservation Areas, the Green Belt and Tree Preservation Orders.

You can apply for planning permission via the Planning Portal, available from our website. Once you've submitted your application, you can track its progress using our PublicAccess service.

PublicAccess also allows you to search and comment on any current planning applications as well as viewing historic applications going back to 1974.

You can also apply for permission to carry out works to protected trees on our website or even report a suspected planning breach.

To take advantage of all these services, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/planning.

Get involved with Better Together!

Our Better Together online community hub is now available for all residents and voluntary groups to promote their activities for FREE across the District.

Better Together also gives local people all the tools and support they need to help to set up new initiatives in their community.

The site also has a comprehensive directory of local services and volunteering opportunities.

We currently have two exciting volunteer opportunities to help with local projects:

- Postnatal powerwalking instructor
- Netball instructor

To find out more about these volunteering opportunities or to get involved in local activities or to promote your group, visit www.bettertogethercommunity.org.uk.



Sevenoaks District Community Safety Unit

To report or receive advice on: anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, graffiti, licensed premises, abandoned vehicles, environmental and noise nuisance, crime reduction, neighbourhood watch and other community safety issues, call **01732 227000** or e-mail community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Reporting crime

To report a crime that is taking place, always call 999. If the incident has passed, call Kent Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**

Social media

For the latest community safety news follow us on Twitter visit [@sdc_csp](https://twitter.com/sdc_csp)

Tackling domestic abuse

For support and advice for victims of Domestic Abuse, call the Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service on **01892 570538** or visit www.davss.org.uk
For the Community Domestic Abuse Programme for men call **07933 359210** or visit www.kentcdap.org

No one should have to live in fear

One of the top priorities for the Community Safety Partnership is to prevent domestic abuse and help all victims of domestic violence.

Domestic abuse is behaviour in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over a partner or family member. This can be through physical, emotional or sexual violence.

With our partners, we fund a number of support services. If you or someone you know needs help, you can contact the following:

- Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service **01892 570538** www.davss.org.uk
- Protection Against Stalking support@protectionagainststalking.org
- Look Ahead - **03000 010 4600** www.lookahead.org.uk
- Community Domestic Abuse Perpetrators programme **07956 228891** www.cdap.org

If you are in immediate danger, contact the police on **999**

For more information, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/domesticabuse.

Check your cabbie

It's important to make sure the taxi you get in is properly licensed as using an unlicensed vehicle could put you in danger.

Licensed taxi drivers must undergo rigorous background and criminal record checks as well as pass regular medical tests, while licensed vehicles have insurance checks and regular mechanical inspections.

If you're catching a cab, here are some top tips to enjoy a safe journey:

- **Pre-book** - plan ahead and always pre-book a Private Hire Vehicle through a licensed operator
- **Hail a cab** - You can hail a Hackney Carriage Vehicle in the street. These have roof lights but are not only London style black cabs
- **Check the vehicle** - make sure that the vehicle is plated with Private Hire or Hackney Carriage licence plates on the rear of the vehicle
- **Ask for ID** - If you're uncertain, ask to see the driver's ID. He or she is obliged to wear this badge and it must be visible at all times.

Changes to local policing

We're excited to inform you of the new Neighbourhood Policing model, which started in early June. It includes twelve police officers on a beat team managed by Sergeant Kevin Savill and Inspector Mark Stubberfield.

There is now a District based Neighbourhood Task Force, which consists of a Sergeant, four Police officers and four Police Community Support Officers.

There is also a Child Centred Police Team comprising of a Sergeant, two Police Constables and a PCSO. They make sure young people are supported in their personal needs and diverted away from the criminal justice system.



Your Councillors

Sevenoaks District Council's priorities and policies are decided by 53 Councillors who were elected by local people. The Sevenoaks District is divided into 26 smaller areas, known as wards and each ward is represented by one or more District Councillors. You are very welcome to contact the District Councillors to express your views and to ask for their help on local issues.

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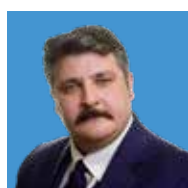
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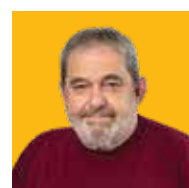
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How to contact your District Councillors

We have provided your District Councillors' phone numbers and e-mail addresses. If you would like to write to them, their postal addresses are available on our website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/councillors or by calling us on **01732 227000**. If you are unsure which ward you live in, please call us on **01732 227000**.

Local Plan survey – what you told us!

Late last year and into the New Year, we asked residents for their priorities for the new Local Plan – planning policies that will steer what can be built and where up to 2040.

The headlines from the survey showed that:

- 87% of respondents supported our proposed Vision up to 2040 – this included protecting the Green Belt, ensuring new developments support well-designed places and spaces promoting healthy communities and tackling climate change.
- 58% of respondents agreed we should focus growth in existing built up areas, speaking with our neighbouring councils to see if they can help to meet our housing need and only releasing Green Belt in exceptional circumstances.
- Respondents agreed there should be some increases in the density of new housing to help protect the Green Belt. However, they did not support building new developments at the maximum density.

We are proposing that new housing should be supported by new

infrastructure and respondents told us the four most important types of infrastructure were:

- Health and social care facilities e.g. GP surgeries and mental health services
- Providing highways and transport improvements, including changes to junctions and sustainable transport options
- Ensuring utilities such as gas, water, sewerage and broadband are upgraded to support new housing
- Providing new educational establishments such as schools, colleges and nurseries

Retail was also an important issue with over 50% of the responses referring to the need for better shopping facilities within the town centres.

Respondents' other priorities were protecting green spaces, providing better places for young people to socialise, considering safety, security and lighting in new developments and providing more and the right type of housing.

Next steps

We're now drafting the new Local Plan incorporating the most recent feedback from our communities. We intend to consult on a draft version of the plan towards the end of this year.

You can sign up for local plan updates at <https://engagement.sevenoaks.gov.uk>

We want to thank everyone who took the time to attend one of our drop-in sessions and events and the 600 residents and organisations who responded to our survey.

We were particularly pleased that around half of those who took part in the survey were young people who are traditionally more difficult to reach in planning consultations.

Place your waste at 7am

Help our amazing refuse collectors with their weekly rounds by making sure you put your black and clear sacks are put out at 7am on your collection day, along with your garden waste.

Putting everything out at 7am means our crews can complete their rounds as efficiently as possible with the minimum of mess.

For more information about waste, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/refuse.

Help shine a light on our local heritage

The Archbishop's Palace in Otford is one of the District's hidden historical gems. Once the inspiration for Hampton Court, today only a small part of the original Tudor structure remains.

However, a dedicated group of volunteers from the Archbishop's Palace Conservation Trust are working to raise awareness of this local landmark by restoring the remains and developing it into a hub of education, discovery and information about the Palace.

The Trust is looking to swell its ranks by recruiting new volunteers and trustees for this exciting project.

Getting involved would give you the opportunity to develop your skills in a wide range of areas including running a business to managing a historic building and educational outreach to social media and website development, plus lots more.



If you'd like to find out more, contact Nick Rushby by emailing secretary@otfordpalace.org or call 07968 721958.

Sevenoaks District Council at your fingertips

Main Office

Argyle Road, Sevenoaks,
Kent TN13 1HG
Open Monday to Thursday 8.45am to 5pm and Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm.
Telephone **01732 227000**, 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.
Emergencies (outside our usual hours) **01732 227000**
then listen to the options.

Leisure centres

Ash Green Sports Centre*
01474 707164

Edenbridge Leisure Centre**
01732 865665

Lullingstone Park Golf Course**
01959 533793

The Olympic, Swanley*
01322 669201

Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Club***
01732 451889

Sevenoaks Leisure Centre**
01732 470700

White Oak Indoor Bowls Club, Swanley***
01322 665571

White Oak Leisure Centre, Swanley**
01322 662188

* Operated by the local town or parish Council *** Operated by independent limited companies
** Operated by Everyone Active



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