



Town Clerk's Update

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



15 August 2025

VJ Day 80 – 15 August 2025

I was pleased to provide an interview for KMFM this week to outline how Sevenoaks Town Council is enabling local residents who wish to commemorate VJ Day.

VJ Day, as with other commemorative events, will stir up different memories and reflections for people who themselves had personal involvement or were close to those who did, sadly few of them are likely to be happy memories. Cllr Lionel O'Hara has a personal connection to VJ Day as his heritage is from Burma, and he was born there. His mother, who is 93 next birthday, lived through that war running from the Japanese in the jungles of Burma as a small child with her younger sister and family.

We have started to install Bob Ogley's plaques providing information about bomb sites. The first was installed at Walthamstow Hall School, seen below in a picture with the Headmistress. The second was installed at the Vine today, see the photo with Bob and the Mayor.

There is another commemorative event taking place this evening with Jessica De Giudici performing Vera Lynn classics and popular 1940 songs at the Bandstand on the Vine starting 6 pm until 8 pm. For more information, visit:

https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/_virDir/CoreContents/Events/Display.aspx?Id=24801



Sevenoaks Town Council team

A big thank you to all the STC Team who have gone well above and beyond their daily tasks to help us provided the best possible entry for the National Britain in Bloom competition. Fingers crossed all the hard work will pay off when the results come in later in the year.





Britain in Bloom judging

I think we are all delighted that the Bloom judging has finally taken place even though it was on one of the hottest days of the year.

Sevenoaks entry was a huge community team effort, and this was recognised by the judges who engaged with many people involved – aged from 3 – 100 years old.

We were followed around by a camera man who was filming for the BBC One Show, although he took a lot of footage, we expect this to be condensed down to one or two minutes if we are lucky during the Awards week in the autumn.





Thank you so much to everyone involved with Sevenoaks in Bloom!

There are so many people and organisations to thank for all their hard work in helping to make Sevenoaks in Bloom a success for judging day. These include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sevenoaks in Bloom Committee• Academy Consulting• Ann White• Bakes by Sam• Barclays Bank• Best Dressed Shop Window entrees• Bonnie Flawn• Community Payback Team• Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership• Duke of Edinburgh students• Emma Kopke• Everyone who knitted bugs and painted rocks• Forget Me Not Café attendees• Knit & Natter Library Group• Knole Estate Head Gardener Justin Wilson• Lady Boswell's C of E Primary School• Lauren Duncan• Living Landscapes• Lord Sackville• NFU Mutual• Oakley Nursery and Preschool	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purelake Ltd• Rockdale Housing Association Team• Sevenoaks Allotment Holders Association• Sevenoaks Cricket Club• Sevenoaks Day Nursery• Sevenoaks District Council Open Spaces Team• Sevenoaks Living Landscape Project• Sevenoaks Otford Beaver Scouts• Sevenoaks Soroptimists• Sevenoaks Town Council Team• Sevenoaks Town Crier Chris Conlan• Sevenoaks Town Team• South Eastern• Spadework• St John's Primary School• Stag• The Lions Club• Trinity School• U3A• Walthamstow Hall School• Weald of Kent Grammar School• West Kent Housing• Willow Loudon
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Town Centre Masterplan – public consultation

We continue to consult on the Town Centre Masterplan. This is an important consultation wide ranging from how the town centre looks in the future, to options to consider for changing traffic routes, whether one way or potentially pedestrian areas. Visit our website for more information. Town Councillors will also have a stand at the Street Food Festival at the Vine on Saturday 6th September.



Complete our survey about the transfer of local assets

The government's plans for Local Government Reorganisation are moving forward as the government says, 'At Pace'. Sevenoaks Town Council are not involved in the future of Kent County Council or Sevenoaks District Council, this is for them to agree plans with the government. However, the Town Council is very concerned about the future of local community assets which makes living, working and visiting Sevenoaks the town it is.

The Town Council already operates many community facilities but there are some which belong to Sevenoaks District Council and the concern is that when the District Council ceases to exist, these assets will automatically move to a new Unitary Authority who will be a considerable distance away and is likely to be overwhelmed with social care responsibilities and unable to have the capacity to worry about local parks or markets etc in Sevenoaks.

The Town Council is seeking feedback in a survey from local residents on this matter. The survey can be found at https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/_VirDir/CoreContents/News/Display.aspx?id=76535 or paper copies can be collected from the Town Council's office on Bradbourne Vale Road.

Sevenoaks Markets



It is obviously always nice to receive compliments. The following was received from the market traders this week:

"Hello I would like to report to you that the advertising of the Saturday market on Facebook was quite successful, at a 'quiet' time of the year (children's school holidays) we were surprised the effect of the advertising made. Can I ask that you continue to advertise the Market, thank you."

Sevenoaks Market takes place in the High Street on Wednesdays and Saturdays. There is also a Market in Bligh's on Saturdays.



Free summer band concerts at the Vine

Continuing this week and every Thursday and Sunday until 7th September.

Following feedback from previous years, we have introduced a more family-friendly atmosphere for our Thursday night performances. To support this, we are providing a bouncy castle (subject to weather) as a child-friendly attraction.

Thursdays 6 pm to 8 pm

Sundays 3 pm to 5 pm

Next concerts:

- Sunday 17th August: Ian Fox
- Thursday 21st August: Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band



More free entertainment for children during the holidays:

- 27th August - a free photo workshop: book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-photo-workshop-hitb-for-young-people-aged-11-17-tickets-1512150626229?aff=oddtcreator>
- 19th to 22nd August - free children's theatre: Fungi Frida and Myco Heroes



Save the date

Visit our events page for more information: www.tinyurl.com/STCNewsEvents

Date	Event	Event
15th August	VJ Day Bandstand Concert at 6pm	Vine
17th August	Bandstand: Ian Fox	Vine
19th August	Children's Theatre: Fungi Frida & Myco Heroes	Bat & Ball Centre
20th August	Children's Theatre: Fungi Frida & Myco Heroes	Pontoise Park
21st August	Children's Theatre: Fungi Frida & Myco Heroes	Greatness Recreation Ground
21st August	Bandstand: Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band	Vine
22nd August	Children's Theatre: Fungi Frida & Myco Heroes	Vine
24th August	Bandstand: Kent Police Band	Vine
28th August	Bandstand: West Kent Concert Band	Vine
31st August	Smash Cricket	Vine
6th September	Street Food Festival	Vine
7th September	Bandstand: Almost the Last Night of the Proms with Oxted Band	Vine
20th September	Sevenoaks Bike Festival	Vine
4th October	Vegan Food Festival	Vine
19th March	Mayor's Charity Concert	Stag

Wishing you all a good weekend.

Linda

