

Weekly Newsletter:

Weekly News & Information:

24/11/20



Sold Out Panto Performances - 5,000 people have their tickets!

This year's full scale socially distanced panto at the Stag is selling fast - some performances are already sold out, and with 5,000 tickets already snapped up, don't wait or you might be too late!

Whilst the theatre is closed, you can quickly and easily book your seats online. Each booking (of up to six people) will automatically include a Covid-safe bubble of empty seats surrounding your party, and you can book with confidence, as if for any reason the show cannot go ahead as planned, all tickets will be refunded in full.

Jack and the Two Metre Beanstalk, starring Sevenoaks favourite Silly Billy, is an all singing all dancing ninety minute panto packed with family fun, that also stars Britain's Got Talent magician Mandy Muden, and West End performers Rosie Glossop and Jacob McIntosh.

Tickets are priced from just $\pounds 14$ (booking fees apply), and the show runs from 18 December - 3 January.

To book tickets, and to read more about how the Sevenoaks Panto team are putting on a panto in a pandemic, visit <u>www.sevenoakspanto.com</u>.

Contact Us:

Please feel free to contact us and let us know of any useful information which we can share with our community.

It can be difficult to find inspiration for Christmas presents, especially now as many shops are closed.

Have you thought about a flower subscription? We can provide this at a frequency that suits you from as little as £30 per delivery, which is FREE within the Sevenoaks area.

The benefits of using The Sevenoaks Florist are that we:

- Provide a unique, hand crafted product by one of our highly trained florists.
- Tailor the flower selection to your preference.
- Offer a highly flexible service, around your significant dates.
- Supply the finest grade of flowers that are personally delivered by our own drivers.
- Include a "gift certificate" with the first flower delivery to let the recipient know that more beautiful flowers will be on their way!

If this unique and highly personal gift could solve you Christmas present quandary, please call us on 01732 450145.

FREE parking to support of our town centres

Sevenoaks District Council has agreed to free parking offers to support the District's town centres when we come out of the national lockdown in the run up to Christmas.

To encourage visitors to stay longer, shop safely and support our local businesses, the first hour of parking will be free in the majority of the Council's short-stay car parks in Sevenoaks and all the Council's car parks in Swanley and Westerham for a month after the current lockdown ends, currently the 2 December.

Visitors will still need to display a parking ticket or register their stay with MiPermit.

Sevenoaks District Council is also making parking free in all its car parks and on street across the two weekends before Christmas - Saturday 12 and Sunday 13, and Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 December.

Visitors will be able to park for up to three hours in the Blighs car park in Sevenoaks, and longer in other car parks, helping to spread the Christmas cheer as widely as possible.

There will be no need for drivers to show a pay and display ticket or log their stay with MiPermit for this offer.

Cllr Peter Fleming, Leader of the Council, says: "As we come to the end of a year no one could have predicted, the importance of December as a trading period for many of our town centre businesses is more important than ever. These offers form part of our overall package of support to reopen our towns safely and support our local economies"

The Council will continue to patrol its car parks as normal during December to ensure they operate as smoothly as possible. For parking locations, visit <u>www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/carparks</u>

Choose to Shop Locally this Christmas

Consumers can double the amount of money that stays within their local economy by consciously choosing to shop more with independent, local businesses, finds a new report from Visa and the Cebr (Centre for Economics and Business Research).

For every £10 spent with an independent business - from a Christmas turkey to a bottle of wine or a gift for a loved one - \pounds 3.80 is retained locally.

Over half of Brits (54%) plan to do some of their Christmas shopping locally this year, either online or in store, while four in five (81%) are supporting local businesses as much, or more than, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite this support, three in five consumers (62%) are worried independent businesses will not survive if their local community does not back them through this time.



The community benefits of shopping local

Over half of Brits surveyed (54%) say it's important to them to shop locally because they know how much their custom means, while 43% say they get a boost of happiness when they support local shopkeepers. Consumers also believe that local businesses contribute to their community by employing local people (49%), making the area into a nicer place to live (39%) and keeping it vibrant and buzzing (38%).

Meanwhile, one in five (18%) own or are employed by a local business themselves so understand first-hand what community support means to them. Despite this, three in five consumers (62%) remain worried that independent businesses will not survive if their local community does not back them. "Where we choose to shop matters. While for many of us, shopping locally is simply a convenient way to purchase goods and services, for local business owners it's the lifeline they rely on, especially in these challenging times. Our research with the Cebr has found the extent to which communities prosper when we all support local businesses, so continuing this support at Christmas – and beyond – will have a profound impact on how our communities recover.







Sevenoaks District Council launches high streets reopening strategy

Sevenoaks District Council has pledged its commitment to the safety and recovery of its high streets with the launch of a series of initiatives, including a business recovery toolkit.

In addition, a new team of 'Town Centre Ambassadors' will provide support and advice to businesses and visitors, complementing the proactive measures that individual businesses are putting in place. Hand sanitiser stations have been positioned in the town centres of Sevenoaks, Edenbridge, Swanley and Westerham, and free parking will be available in the lead up to Christmas.

Sevenoaks District Council's business recovery toolkit includes:

- Details of the help and information available, including business grants and Council support from its economic development team.
- Downloadable social media assets, unique to each high street's distinct identity
- Free posters to promote health and safety messages.
- Advice on how to operate safely, including topics such as face coverings, managing queues and NHS Test and Trace.
- Town centre initiatives, including 'Town Centre Ambassadors', hand sanitiser stations and free parking offers.

Cllr Peter Fleming, Leader of Sevenoaks District Council, says: "We understand how challenging 2020 has been for local businesses and we want to support them wherever possible. We've set out how we are encouraging people to shop safely on our District's unique high streets in Sevenoaks, Edenbridge, Swanley and Westerham.

"In preparation for shops re-opening after the national lockdown, our business recovery toolkit outlines the support available and the latest health and safety guidelines. It also covers the initiatives Sevenoaks District Council has implemented as part of our work to support our town centre, such as the Town Centre Ambassadors', hand sanitiser stations and free parking offers.

"We have also created some free posters, which you can download, print and display to clearly promote the health and safety messages. As well as a number of social media assets, which will help to promote businesses and our District's high streets. We are confident that together, we can keep our high streets safe."

To find out more about the campaign and to download the assets, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/highstreets

We have a new freephone number and extended opening hours

For free, independent, confidential and impartial advice please call

0808 278 7810 Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm

Or email your enquiry to advice@nwkent.cab.org.uk



Subject to public health guidelines at the time

Mayor of Sevenoaks Clir Nicholas Busvine OBE to open the new Bat & Ball Centre 10.00am Fri 4th Dec 2020

Open For Public Viewing 10.30am – 2.00pm Fri 4th & Sat 5th Dec 2020

> The new Bat & Ball Centre is one of Sevenoaks Town Council'sCommunity Investment projects and part of its Northern Sevenoaks Masterplan. For more details see www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk

The project has received financial assistance from Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council.



COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Towns lights being turned on this Friday 27th November





Magical Walking Trail Map available to download on Friday at:

sevenoakswindowwanderland-2020

Window Makers - are your windows decorated and ready to light up on Friday?

Would you like to be on the Sevenoaks Town walking map?

If you haven't done so already, please register your window via the link above by Thursday noon. This will ensure that you are included on the map.

Walkers – please download the map and follow the trail to admire the festive displays created by your friends and neighbours, brightening the streets around Sevenoaks town over the next few weeks

Friday 27th November to 31st December 2020





Join us for a free, family day out this Christmas.

Bet you haven't heard about Albert Claus, well he's just as important as his famous brother and he's missing! The fate of the Spirit of Christmas is at stake!

We need you to speak to the 10 Christmas 'Spirits' and find out what has happened to Albert.

Will you help us save Christmas?

See the merry Christmas characters burst to life by simply :

- 1. Scanning the QR code below to start
- Hunt down the characters using the map
 See them burst to life by scanning their QR codes with your
- smartphone
- 4. When you've found them all read the free Christmas adventure eBook

ChristmasSpirit Trail.com

Town Team

#ChristmasSpirit Trail



FOR THE SAFETY OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Please remain 2 metres apart whenever possible. Thank you.