



TOWN TEAM UPDATE: (DECEMBER)

November turned out to be a very busy month for the Town Team, and indeed, the businesses and residents of Sevenoaks.

It opened with the Autumn Vegan Market which took place in Vine Gardens. It was pleasing to see that 27 traders arrived, coming from all over South East England and while vegan food was the main attraction there were stalls selling candles, perfumes, cork handbags and even bamboo toothbrushes!

During the market live music acts, provided by the Listening Room Music Agency, played on the bandstand and this greatly added to the ambiance of the event.

For those who like to plan ahead, the Spring Vegan Market will be at Vine Gardens again on Saturday 9th April 2022.



Many of the events in Sevenoaks are organised by others including the Fireworks. This year the attendance was magnificent, with 10,000 tickets sold. Sevenoaks Round Table organise and run the evening which includes a torchlit procession through the town before the bonfire lighting and display. While it is the Round Table's occasion Sevenoaks Town Council and Town Team help with the setting up and logistics.

The **Christmas Lights Switch-On** takes place on the last Friday in November and though a chilly night, there was a great turnout to launch Christmas this year. Revellers enjoyed several stage acts, a host of street food outlets, a funfair and of course Santa's Grotto.

This occasion is expensive to run, and it would not happen without the generosity of sponsors and the Town Team wishes to thank Manak's Solicitors, Specsavers and Bligh's Meadow for their major contributions. Other donations came from Francis Jones, The Chapel and Wettons and we'd like to thank them for their generous contributions.



Currently the children's "Santa Needs You" town trail is running. There is a terrific prize awaiting the winner of the draw for those who complete the trail. Click through here to see the details: [Sevenoaks – High Street Safari](#). Once again, the Town Team has received the support of the business community in facilitating the event and this time it is Warners Solicitors.

And there is more Christmas activity....

Take a look at the shop windows in town. Most are now decorated for Christmas and many are taking part in the "Best Dressed Window" competition, organised by the Town Team. There are two categories: retail and non-retail. Judging will be by Mayor Cllr Marilyn Canet and Dawn Blee, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce which has kindly put up a bottle of champagne for the winners.

Some of the shops will also join Window Wonderland, [Sevenoaks Window Wonderland 2021 – Window Wonderland](#). If you want to admire Christmas lights all around the town then take a look at Sevenoaks homes and businesses that are brightening up the evenings and plan your route to see them.

The poster features the Sevenoaks Town Team logo at the top left and Warners Solicitors logo at the top right. The main title "Santa Needs You!" is in large, red, stylized font. Below it, a green banner reads "A FREE, AUGMENTED REALITY TRAIL". The central text says "HELP SANTA DECIDE WHO WINS!" followed by instructions: "THERE'S A SPOT ON SANTA'S SLEIGH TEAM THIS YEAR AND IT'S OPEN TO THE WHOLE OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM. CAN YOU HELP SANTA DECIDE WHO'S GOING TO FLY WITH THEM? FIND THE 10 CONTESTANTS IN BUSINESS WINDOWS AROUND TOWN. SCAN THEIR QR CODES, READ THE STORY AND TAKE SELFIES WITH THEM IN AUGMENTED REALITY. FINALLY, CAST YOUR VOTE ON WHO GETS THE SLOT. GO TO THE BELOW WEBSITE TO START YOUR FREE FAMILY ADVENTURE." The event dates are "SEVENOAKS TOWN CENTRE 26TH NOVEMBER - 24TH DECEMBER". A circular badge on the left says "WIN! £200 WORTH OF BOOK TOKENS". A QR code is on the right with the text "TRY OUT THE AR ↑". The website "SANTANEEDSYOU.COM" is at the bottom. The background shows a cartoon Santa sitting at a table next to a Christmas tree.

And finally, looking forward to next year the Sevenoaks Business Awards are now being organised.

They are being held on 25th March at the magnificent Bat & Ball Centre. To register an interest in entering or to enter your favourite business please email townteam@sevenoakstown.gov.uk, and when they are back from the printers, an entry form will be sent to you.



Latest updates for businesses affected by Covid-19



This afternoon [Prime Minister Boris Johnson](#) held a press briefing announcing that England will be moving to plan B, while continuing to work closely with the Devolved Administrations. The measures announced include:

- **The re-introduction of guidance for everyone who can to work from home. This will be introduced from Monday 13 December.**
- **From Friday 10 December, face coverings will become compulsory in most public indoor venues, such as cinemas, theatres and places of worship. There will be exemptions in venues where it is not practical to wear one, such as when you are eating, drinking or exercising. For that reason, face masks will not be required in hospitality settings.**
- **From Wednesday 15 December (subject to parliamentary approval) the NHS Covid Pass on the NHS App will become mandatory for entry into nightclubs and settings where large crowds gather, including:**
 - Unseated indoor venues with more than 500 people
 - Unseated outdoor venues with more than 4,000 people
 - Any venue with more than 10,000 people.

The NHS Covid Pass can still be obtained with two doses but will be kept under constant review as the boosters roll out. Having considered the evidence since the emergence of Omicron, proof of a negative lateral flow test will also be accepted.

The Prime Minister also outlined as Omicron spreads in the community daily tests for contacts will be introduced instead of isolation. People are being advised to test using a lateral flow device, particularly before entering a high-risk setting involving people they wouldn't normally come into contact with, or when visiting a vulnerable person. Lateral flow devices remain free of charge and can be collected from local pharmacies.

The government will keep the data under constant review. The regulations are set to expire six weeks after implementation, with a review after three weeks. Guidance on [GOV.UK](#) will be updated to reflect these changes in the coming days.

See the [press release](#) and a [link to Plan B](#) for more information.

See all COVID-19 updates and guidance for businesses

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

12 Frauds of Christmas

Its day 2 of the 12 Frauds of Christmas. Today it is a reminder about HMRC Scams.

HMRC Scams

HMRC scams can take place in a variety of ways and can be convincing. If you receive an email or text do not open attachments or links as they may contain malicious software or direct you to a misleading site.

Remember the HMRC will never ask you to click on a link requesting financial or personal information. Additionally, they will never telephone you and request you pay a fine by buying Gift vouchers.

Forward suspicious emails to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk or texts to 60599.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or calling 0300 123 2040.

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice: 
[@KentPoliceECU](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceECU)



HMRC scams

If you think you may have fallen victim to this, then contact your bank immediately and report it to **Action Fraud**

Action Fraud
Report Fraud & Internet Crime
actionfraud.police.uk
or call
0300 123 2040



Kent Police

#12DaysOfFraud



**Kent
Police**

Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

www.kent.police.uk   

Covid regulations for business

kent.gov.uk/winterhealth

Protect Kent and Medway this winter

Medway
Serving You

NHS

Kent
County
Council

From 30 November 2021, there are some places where you must wear a face covering by law, unless you are exempt or have a reasonable excuse.



For full list of places see SCHEDULE 2 Relevant places PART 1 of [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Wearing Face Covering\) \(England\) Regulations 2021](#).

In England, you must wear face covering in the following indoor settings:

- Shops and supermarkets (places which offer goods and services for retail sale or hire).
- Shopping centres (malls and indoor markets).
- Auction houses.

- Post offices, banks, building societies, high-street solicitors and accountants, credit unions, short-term loan providers, savings clubs and money service businesses.
- Estate and letting agents.
- Premises providing personal care and beauty treatments (barbers, hair salons, tattoo and piercing studios, nail salons and massage centres).
- Pharmacies.
- Premises providing veterinary services.
- Retail galleries.
- Retail travel agents.
- Takeaways without space for consumption of food or drink on premises.
- Public transport (aeroplanes, trains, trams, buses, coaches and ferries), taxis and private hire vehicles.
- Any car or small van during a professionally delivered driving lesson, a practical driving test, or during one of the practical tests for giving driving instruction, and in all HGV lessons and tests.
- Transport hubs (airports, rail and tram stations and terminals, maritime ports and terminals, bus and coach stations and terminals).

[Download the poster for your business to meet the signage requirements](#)

[Download Regulation 5 for your staff to understand Reasonable Excuse](#)

FREE weekend parking before Christmas



Sevenoaks District Council is making its car parks free across the two weekends running up to Christmas - Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 and Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 December.

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

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

The Council will continue to patrol car parks as normal during December to ensure they operate as smoothly as possible.

For parking locations, visit: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/carparks



Sevenoaks Computers
Secure, Protect & Support.

How Cybersecurity Will Keep Your Business Safe Online

Whilst the value of bank account details and invoices might be more apparent, cybercriminals no longer solely focus on organisations that handle this type of information. There is inherent value in a much wider range of data, including contact lists, official emails and internal communications - now these might seem valuable but they can be manipulated by cybercriminals. For example, with access to information, cybercriminals might transfer funds with these details or create fraudulent invoices.

In this article we explore cyber security, how it impacts a business and the steps you can make to keep your business secure.



What is cybersecurity?

The core function of cybersecurity is to protect networks, devices and data from unauthorised access. This is achieved through securing sensitive information and systems from prohibited use whilst simultaneously ensuring the confidentiality, integrity and availability of all related data.

Read the article to understand the most common and dangerous types of cyber attacks businesses face in 2021

[Explore cybersecurity](#)



Sevenoaks



CHRISTMAS

MARKET

at Bligh's Meadow

*Organic beauty products - Handmade
Soaps - Jewellery and Gifts Food / Drinks
Much More*

*Thursday 16th December
to
Friday 24th December*

Sevenoaks 
TOWN COUNCIL

Sevenoaks

WINDOW WANDERLAND



A MAGICAL WALKING TRAIL TO LIGHT UP OUR STREETS

Friday 26th November - 31st December

- A fun community event that everyone can join in
- Take part in a unique event lit up by displays in local windows and gardens
- Go on an evening walk with a map to guide you and see your neighbourhood in a whole new light!

windowwanderland.com





****NEW** TELEPAL TELEPHONE CONVERSATION SERVICE.**

Do you live in the Sevenoaks District?

In conjunction with Sevenoaks District Council and Age UK we are relaunching Telepal, our telephone conversation service.

YOU MUST LIVE IN THE SEVENOAKS DISTRICT TO USE THIS SERVICE

Telepal is for people living alone or those who feel isolated. With Telepal you can talk to a friendly volunteer over the phone for half an hour each week.

To register, email [volunteering@westkentmind@org.uk](mailto:volunteering@westkentmind.org.uk)

Contact: Angela Riley

volunteering@westkentmind.org.uk

01732 744950

westkentmind.org.uk



 **Mind**
West Kent

Registered Charity 1044977



SEVENOAKS
SVAF
VISUAL ARTS FORUM



CHRISTMAS ART FAIR

SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER

10 – 2:30

Art stalls throughout the Sevenoaks Library Building

Come and buy direct from the artists

Paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, jewellery

As part of The SVAF OPEN 2021 68 Exhibiting SVAF Artists

Come in and vote for your favourite to win The Public Art Prize

Image credit Alison Berry

Sevenoaks **kaleidoscope** gallery

A Sevenoaks Visual Arts Forum artist led space

Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, TN13 1LQ

www.svaf.co.uk

in partnership with

