



Sevenoaks District Arts Council is funded
by Sevenoaks District Council

Sevenoaks District Arts Council Newsletter

Edition 69 Mar 2025



SDAC News

Dear Friends,

Spring certainly seems to have arrived and this newsletter is full of interesting information about a wonderful variety of entertainment happening in our area in the near future.

We have no doubt that those involved are enjoying their rehearsals and drumming up support by selling tickets too. It is also heartening that groups support each other as much as they do.

Enjoy!

A heads up that the 2025/2026 affiliation fee will be due from 1st April so please could you make your payments to the account details as follows:-

SDAC Account - Sort Code -20 76 55 - A/C number- 00811777

Email – SDACweb@gmail.com :



Follow us on Facebook

Website - sevenoaksdistrictartscouncil-sdac.com

Eden Valley Creation

**Saturday 7th June at Edenbridge
Parish Church**

Edenbridge A Cappella ladies' choir celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, with a concert on 7th June. As the name implies, A Cappella sings mostly without accompaniment, but will be revisiting a work the choir originally produced for the 2012 Edenbridge Festival - a new musical interpretation of the Creation story, featuring a mini-orchestra and children's choir, drawn from the local community.

The *Eden Valley Creation* interweaves the formation of the local Eden Valley area with the Bible sequence, in a dramatic musical work linked by short pieces of narration. The original inspiration was drawn from the opening lines of the History of Edenbridge book written by the Rev Somers-Cocks in 1912.

The concert venue is Edenbridge Parish Church, starting at 7.30pm with the first half of the programme featuring the musicians and choirs performing a variety of their chosen pieces on a "nature" theme. The second half of the evening will consist of the Eden Valley Creation presented as a single work.

Entry is by donation at the door, raising funds for Kent Wildlife Trust and for the Church as host for the event.



Situation Still Vacant

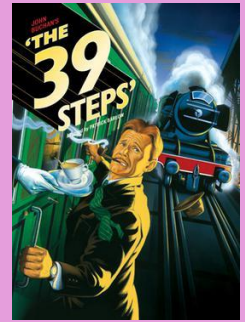
We are still looking to fill the position of Secretary within the SDAC Executive Committee, could we please ask if anyone is interested or knows of someone who could fill this position then please let us know, drop us an email at SDACweb@gmail.com.

Meetings are held around 6 times per year at the Bat and Ball Centre, Sevenoaks, (usually a Wednesday evening). Minutes need to be taken then emailed out, an agenda needs to be distributed about two weeks before each meeting and finally the arrangements for the AGM need to be administered prior to the AGM. Support will be readily available.

Kemsing Players

APRIL 2025 – THE KEMSING PLAYERS PRESENT *The 39 Steps*

Who doesn't love a good spy story? And *The 39 Steps* is certainly that: a thrilling blend of adventure and romance to keep any audience on the edge of its seat. John Buchan wrote the original novel in 1915; perhaps the best known of several screen adaptations is the Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 film with Robert Donat in the lead role of Richard Hannay.



On stage, the fast-paced and hilarious version written by Patrick Barlow has achieved great popularity in recent years. First performed at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in 2005 before a successful nine-year run in the West End, it has since toured in thirty-nine countries and has been seen by more than three million people around the world. This is the version that the Kemsing Players will be presenting. Barlow's adaptation remains faithful to the cliffhanging adventure of the original story whilst introducing a strong element of physical comedy. The result is a great evening's entertainment with mysterious women, sinister villains, a terrifying pursuit and... you'll have to come and see it to find out what happens!

The performance dates are 10, 11 and 12 April 2025 at 8pm at St Edith Hall Kemsing. The doors and cash-only bar open at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 (£10 concessions available on Thursday night only) and are available in person from Dynes Road Dry Cleaners in Kemsing, by e-mail at boxoffice@kemsingplayers.com or by phone on 07976 835895.

Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Chair of Sevenoaks Shakespeare Company. It is a real honour to take on this role in such a vibrant society after acting in their productions for many years, and I look forward to working with our talented actors, dedicated team, and enthusiastic audiences to continue bringing the works of Shakespeare to life in exciting and innovative ways.

We have some fantastic events lined up, starting with our return to the Sevenoaks Bookshop for an day of 'pop-up' Shakespeare on 26th April. Our actors will be surprising book shoppers again with an array of well-known monologues and duologues from the Bard's greatest works—alongside some hidden gems. It promises to be a wonderful way to bring Shakespeare's words to unexpected places and audiences.

Looking ahead to summer, rehearsals for our production of *Much Ado About Nothing* will soon be underway. This sparkling comedy of wit, romance, and mistaken identity will be performed in the charming outdoor setting of the White Rock Inn, Underriver, from 26th–29th June and 3rd–6th July. But that's not all! We will also be taking the production on tour to the stunning St Briavels Castle in Gloucestershire on 19th and 20th July.

Beyond the stage, we were also delighted to lend our voices to the Archbishop's Palace in Otford's *Tales of the Tower* project. This initiative brings history to life through dramatic storytelling, as visitors to the palace can now experience the voices of past inhabitants and guests by linking to online recording onsite at the Palace.

It is an exciting time for Sevenoaks Shakespeare Company, and I invite you all to join us—whether as a performer, supporter, or audience member—as we embark on another year of celebrating the brilliance of Shakespeare. Thank you for your continued enthusiasm and support, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Cathy Bourne

Darent Valley Choir

 **Darent Valley Choir**
Musical Director, Vicki Dowsett
Accompanist, Jenny Smith

"Blue Skies"
Haydn to Holst, Bruckner to Berlin, and more!
Saturday May 10th 2025



St Peter and St Paul's
Shoreham TN14 7SB at 7:30 pm

ADMISSION £12 (Under 18s FREE)
Tickets from Choir Members, on the door or
email: darentvalley@gmail.com

Bar available (donations)
*My idea is that there is music in the air, music all around us;
the world is full of it. *Edward Elgar
Patrons: Sarah Hart-Dight and Robert Bond

MINDS



COLLAGES: VICTORIA GRANVILLE

2ND - 19TH APRIL 2025

KALEIDOSCOPE GALLERY, LIBRARY, BUCKHURST LANE

Sevenoaks kaleidoscope gallery
A Sevenoaks Visual Arts Forum artist-led space
Sevenoaks Arts, Sevenoaks, TN11 1LH

www.sevco.uk

Sevenoaks Philharmonic

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir
with Sevenoaks Philharmonic Orchestra
conducted by Robyn Sevanto

Requiem – Fauré
Cantique de Jean Racine – Fauré
Ubi Caritas et Amor – Durufle
Requiem – Durufle

7.30pm
Saturday
5 April



Pamoja Hall
Sevenoaks School

Tickets £17, £16 over 60s, £5 students and U21
+ £3 booking fee per ticket
On line: sevenoaksphil.co.uk/event/501
Phone: 01752 867765
From choir members
On the door (subject to availability)
Registered Charity No 263930

Sevenoaks Young Musician - 2025 Report

Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year

SUNDAY 9 MARCH 2025

The Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year Competition took place at The Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall Senior School on Sunday 9th March. Fifteen young instrumentalists, ranging in age from 12 to 21, gave performances which included the piano, cello, violin, clarinet, harp and recorder. Each gave a 15-minute recital in front of two professional adjudicators, Tim Barratt and Nancy Litten, who remarked on the exceedingly high standard and the broad spectrum of instruments represented.



All Competitors



The title of Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year 2025 and First Prize was awarded to 14-year-old Nirvana Che-Lai, a violinist, who attends Eltham College in London. She also receives the opportunity to give a concerto performance with the Lydian Orchestra at their December concert. For her winning recital, Nirvana played Bach's Sarabande Partita No.2 and Zigeunerweisen by Sarasate.

Second prize, the Sevenoaks School Prize, went to 15-year-old Joseph Sainsbury (Recorder), a pupil at University College School, who played Mudai by Fumiharu Yoshimine and Antonio Vivaldi's Recorder Concerto RV445, 1st movement.



Third Prize was awarded to Danyue (Justin) Peng, age 17 (Violin), a pupil at Yehudi Menuhin School, who played Carmen Fantasy by Sarasate and Bach's Allemande from Violin Partita in B minor. Special mention was given by the Adjudicators to Ivan Carrillo, age 19 (cello) and to Firoze Madon, age 21 (Piano).



The Winners, Adjudicators Tim Barratt and Nancy Litten and Sevenoaks Mayor, Cllr Libby Ancrum

The Sevenoaks Young Musician Competition, an important prestige event for Sevenoaks, has become a prominent part of the musical life of the town. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors Sevenoaks School, Black Cat Music & Acoustics; and to our other sponsors Sevenoaks Town Council, Sevenoaks District Arts Council, Sevenoaks Music Club and the Lydian Orchestra.

Sevenoaks Music Club

Quality classical music for all
Sevenoaks Music Club
2025-26



Tickets for individual concerts or discounted Season Tickets for all eight concerts available from our website

All concerts take place at Ship Theatre Walthamstow Hall School Hollybush Lane Sevenoaks TN13 3UL

Leon McCawley (piano)
Sat 20 Sep 2025
Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin, Franck

Milena Simovic (viola)
Jung Eun Séverine Kim (piano)
Sat 18 Oct 2025
Hindemith, Prokofiev, Brahms, York

Calathea String Quartet
Sat 15 Nov 2025
Imogen Holst, Britten, Beethoven

Sevenoaks Young Musicians
Sun 14 Dec 2025
Chelys Consort of Viols (quintet)
Fair Oriana (soprano duo)
Sat 24 Jan 2026
A Musical Menagerie

Trio Melythnia (flute, cello, piano)
Sat 21 Feb 2026
Haydn, Schumann, Hummel, Gaubert, Enesco, Farrenc

Wihan String Quartet
Sat 21 Mar 2026
Haydn, Dvořák, Beethoven

London Piano Quartet
Sat 18 Apr 2026
Haydn, Dvořák, Brahms




  

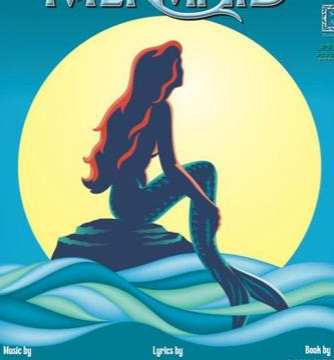
www.sevenoaksmusicclub.org.uk
01732 464218
Registered charity No 1181364

Sevenoaks Players

The Sea comes to Sevenoaks! Book your tickets today for this under water Disney classic coming to The Stag this April. The well known story of The Little Mermaid brought to the stage. Don't miss out on what promises to be a fantastic spectacle!

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID





Music by **ALAN MENKEN** Lyrics by **HOWARD ASHMAN & GLENN SLATER** Book by **DOUG WRIGHT**

The Stag Theatre April 24th, 25th, 26th

Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions
 Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker and written & directed by Rob Marshall
 This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtiinc.com



Sevenoaks Summer Festival 2025 – News Release

After missing 2023, Sevenoaks Summer Festival made a welcome return last year and plans are well underway for Festival Fair to start the 2025 celebrations on Saturday 21 June.

Centred in Bligh's Meadow, Sevenoaks, with entertainment for all the family, Festival Fair will have the familiar mix of music stages, children's entertainment, walkabout and street theatre throughout the day in Bligh's and The Shambles, with puppet shows in Stag's Footlights Bar. On the following Saturday, 28 June, Colourscape may be enjoyed on the Vine Gardens, where a children's event, Painting for Fun, will also be held. as well as music on the bandstand.

The Festival continues for the next 15 days until Sunday 6 July, when the Finale Concert will be held in Pamoja Hall, Sevenoaks School's award-winning performing arts centre, featuring Pam Ayres with her show "Doggedly Onwards."

The focus for 2025 remains on performances, exhibitions or other arts-related activities organised by local community groups – showcasing the breadth and diversity of opportunities offered by these groups, whether to perform or as audience – supplemented by a sprinkling of professional, celebrity events.

Leading local groups already committed to participate are:

- Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir - a joint concert with Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra at Stag Theatre
- Sevenoaks Shakespeare – outdoor performances of 'Much Ado About Nothing' at the White Rock Inn
- Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival's Prizewinners' Concert at Walthamstow Hall
- Sevenoaks Art Club's annual exhibition on the Vine Railings
- Green Street Blues in concert at The Drive Methodist Church

The professional line-up is:

- Liz Grand and her one-woman drama "The Second Best Bed" about Anne Hathaway's musings after the funeral of husband William – did he really write those plays? Sevenoaks School's Sackville Theatre on Monday 30 June.
- The BBC Big Band playing film score themes, including James Bond in Pamoja Hall on Saturday 5 July.
- Pam Ayres "Doggedly Onward" in Pamoja Hall on Sunday 6 July.

Tickets for these and the community events will go on sale (some already are) after Easter, when full information will be available on the Festival's website www.sevenoaksfestival.org.uk and in the printed brochure.

Information on sponsorship opportunities can be obtained by emailing chairman@sevenoaksfestival.org.uk or 'phoning Ray Russell on 01732 742213.



Events

TEMENOS Chamber Choir - *O Clap your hands* – a celebration of Orlando Gibbons 400th anniversary, with some of his best-known works and those of his contemporary Robert White. Very happy to be back in our 'home' church in Shoreham.
7 June, 7.30, Church of St Peter and St Paul, Shoreham TN14 7SB. <https://temenos-chamberchoir.org.uk/index.html>

Eynsford Concert Band – Feel The Heat – 7pm Sunday 27th April 2025.

Please join us for a fabulous programme that promises music of intensity, fire, passion and tenuous links, plus the world premiere of The Alchemists Lair by award winning composer David Hackbridge Johnson. The Space, Sevenoaks School. Tickets £14. under 16's free, tickets from Eynsfordconcertband.co.uk.

Kentish Opera – Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* – presented by Kentish Opera at the Stag Theatre, 1st – 3rd May 2025 www.kentishopera.co.uk

