



Sevenoaks District Arts Council is funded  
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# Sevenoaks District Arts Council Newsletter

Edition 65 November 2023



## SDAC News

### SDAC Showcase Event.

Our very first Showcase Evening took place on the 27th September in the Alexandra Suite, Swanley Civic Centre for which no charge was made and it had free parking and we are so grateful. The idea came a year ago when we realised at our AGM, when the business was done and reports read out from the groups attending, and we retired for coffee and cake, it was the discussions which took place which seemed both enjoyable but also helpful. A Showcase Evening was proposed and a sub-committee was formed - Cllr Chrissy Hudson, Darren Coleman, Town and now SDC Cllr Victoria Granville-Baxter, Roger Lee and Doreen Pascall. Meetings took place over the next months and so invitations were sent out to our Affiliated Groups, our designated Councillors and special guests.

We were delighted with the response and so the evening proved to be exactly what we had hoped for – a chance for all to have a welcome drink and nibbles, to chat together and for groups to promote their upcoming productions to all present. An official welcome by our Chairman and later three short performances presented by the Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society, Eynsford Concert Band – a video!, and Sevenoaks Players were very much enjoyed.. More networking, packing up and we have had so much feedback and networking has happened in the last weeks!

Thank you all for coming!

*The groups who participated were: Axtane Players, Bitesize Drama, Eynsford Concert Band, Howard Venue, Kaleidoscope Arts Group,, Kentish Opera, Samuel Palmer Trail, Shoreham Village Players, Sevenoaks Arts Club, Sevenoaks Camera Club, Sevenoaks Players, Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society, Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival, Swanley and District Arts Society and Swanley Light Opera Group (SLOG)*



Photos: L to R:

Back Row: Sevenoaks Players entertain, Social Time: groups networking! Sevenoaks Players -100 years!

Middle Row: An avid audience, S/oaks Shakespeare entertain, SDC Chairman Alan Hayward and his wife admiring a display

Front Row: Kentish Opera and the Axtane Players displays, Eynsford Concert Band, SDAC President Sarah Rogers and Chairman Alan Pett

Email – [SDACweb@gmail.com](mailto:SDACweb@gmail.com) :



Follow us on Facebook

Website - [sevenoaksdistrictartscouncil-sdac.com](http://sevenoaksdistrictartscouncil-sdac.com)

Our AGM was held recently, we narrowly made a quorum, and the Executive Committee remains virtually unchanged. They were elected unanimously, as was Doug Williamson, our Hon Auditor.

Sarah Rogers (President) Margaret Holgate (Vice-President) Alan Pett (Chairman) Darren Coleman (Vice-Chairman) Patrick Michaels (Treasurer) Doreen Pascall (Secretary) Bryan Richardson (Applications Secretary) Sandra Lane (Membership Secretary) Peter Harlow (Sevenoaks (Three Arts Festival) Colin Hill (Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society) Roger Lee (Sevenoaks Camera Club) Christine Hudson was elected on to the Committee and represents Swanley and District Arts Society. Three of our Designated Councillors from SDC attended and reports were received from representatives from Hartley Players, Sevenoaks Summer Festival, Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival, Eynsford Concert Band, The Young Musician of the Year Competition, Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society, Sevenoaks Philharmonic, Sevenoaks Camera Club and Kentish Opera.



***Glorious!: The True Story of Florence Foster Jenkins,  
the Worst Singer in the World***  
by Peter Quilter

Based upon a true story, this is a hilarious and heart-warming comedy of the worst singer in the world. In 1940's New York. The performer who everyone wanted to see live was Florence Foster Jenkins, an enthusiastic soprano whose pitch was far from perfect. Known as 'the first lady of the sliding scale', she warbled and screeched her way through the evening to an audience who mostly fell about with laughter. But this delusional and joyously happy woman paid little attention to her critics, instead she was surrounded by a circle of devoted friends who were almost as eccentric as she was.

Director: David Street

Musical Director: Gillian Noakes

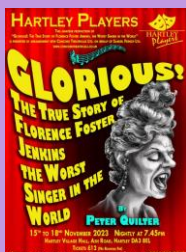
Cast: Carol Arman-Addey, Tom Masters, John Wilson, Tessa Pina, Margaret Bown, Vanessa Bartlett, Martin Arman-Addey

15 to 18 November at 7.45pm (**please note new time**)  
at Hartley Village Hall, Ash Road, Hartley DA3 8EL  
Tickets £12

**Book online at** <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/hartleyplayers>  
(no booking fee) to choose your seats

If you wish to book a space for a wheelchair or have any questions or you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Box Office Manager on 0845 260 2545  
All profits will go to MODS (Southend Mencap Operatic and Dramatic Society).

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals](http://www.concordtheatricals)



This December both the first and second prize winners in the 2023 Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year Competition will be returning to the town to delight audiences. The competition, held each March, attracts talented students studying in this country at leading music colleges and academies.



The winner of the competition, Xinge (Grace) Dong, a 20 year old Chinese pianist is a student at The Royal College of Music.

Her prize includes the opportunity to perform a concerto with the Lydian Orchestra, the premier independent youth orchestra in the South East. Xinge has chosen to play Liszt Piano Concerto No.1 and at the Concert will be presented with a silver June Clements Memorial Medal. The medal is in recognition of June's outstanding contribution to the musical education and development of the young people of Sevenoaks. The Concert takes place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 20 December at The Pamoja Hall, Sevenoaks School. Further information is available on the Lydian Orchestra website [www.lydian.org.uk](http://www.lydian.org.uk).

The second prize winner, Sofiia Matviienko, a 21 year old flautist is a student at the Royal Academy of Music. She will appear at a Music Club Concert at Walthamstow Hall Senior School on Sunday 10 December. Sofiia, together with Siyu Sun on the piano will play items by Schubert, Tuncer, Ibert and Demersseman. This concert also features violinist Richart van Zyl, age 18, another competitor from the 2023 Competition, who with Will Hancox on the piano will perform items by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Paganini, Kreisler and a Van Zyl New Work. Tickets and further information for this 3pm concert can be found on the Sevenoaks Music Club website [www.sevenoaksmusicclub.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaksmusicclub.org.uk).



The next Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year Competition will be held on Sunday 3 March 2024. Entries for the 2024 Competition are now open and further information can be found on the Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival website [www.sevenoaksthreeartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.sevenoaksthreeartsfestival.co.uk)

## Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir

Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir are focusing on some really seasonal music to get you into the Christmas mood at their St Nicholas Church concert on 2nd December. Britten's Ceremony of Carols will be performed to a harp accompaniment along with lots of other Christmas music. Please see handbill for all the details.



## Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra

The Orchestra's sparkling programme on Sunday 19th November (3pm in the Stag) features two of the most brilliant composers of the late 19th/early 20th centuries and, arguably, their greatest works. Soloist Alexandra Stevenson will sing the *Four Last Songs*, Strauss's swansong of sublime beauty and power. Rachmaninov's *Vocalise*, the last of his 14 songs, uses no words but one vowel of the singer's choosing.

Strauss's *Don Juan* opens the concert with all the drama and energy one would expect from the title, and Strauss in unbridled youth. *Symphonic Dances* by Rachmaninov, his final and perhaps greatest work, closes this unforgettable afternoon of music.

## Sevenoaks Music Club

A lovely mix of concerts coming up at Walthamstow School, starting with a recital on 18th November at 7.30pm by a brilliant young harpist, Milo Harper, who is at home in all genres of music. SMC's December concert (Sunday 10th, 3pm), features two of the outstanding participants in this year's Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year competition, violinist Richart van Zyl, and Ukrainian virtuoso flautist Sofii Matvilenko.

Trio Gaspard's January programme (27<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm) will include piano trios by Haydn and Schumann, and Liszt's own arrangement of his Hungarian Rhapsody No 9 – a bravura work! February 24th (7.30pm) will see the season's largest group, a nonet. Meliora Collective will play a fascinating mix of works, concluding with Brahms' Serenade No 1. For further info see - [sevenoaksmusicclub.org.uk](http://sevenoaksmusicclub.org.uk)

## Sevenoaks Players

The Players are back with their latest pantomime, *Cinderella*, to be performed at the Otford Memorial Hall over two weekends in December. Their pantomimes have proved to be a real village hall favourite over the past several years and loved by their audiences so don't miss out! Book your tickets today by visiting their website - <https://sevenoaksplayers.co.uk/> or via Ticketsource!



## Westerham Amateur Dramatic Society



**Suddenly at Home**  
**29th November - 2nd December**  
**8:00pm**  
**Westerham Hall**

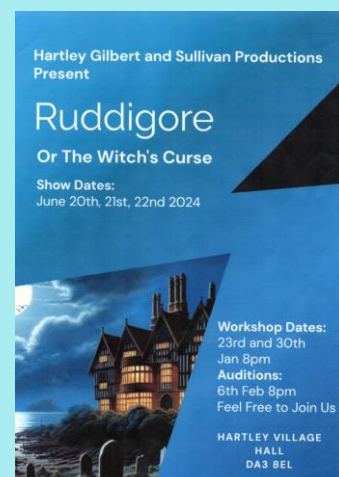
It is the early 1970s, Glenn Howard has decided to 'bump off' his wealthy wife, Maggie. He engineers a complicated but seemingly foolproof plan which would keep himself in the clear while implicating his wife's former lover Sam Blaine, but as they often say, 'the best laid plans!' Victim and victimized become intertwined in this startling Francis Durbridge thriller.

It was not until 1971 that Francis Durbridge wrote his first thriller directly for the theatre, before that he wrote mostly radio plays, most notably the Paul Temple series for the BBC. The play, *Suddenly at Home* (the title was taken from the death notice column of The Times newspaper) is not so much a "Who dun it" but more of a "Will he get away with it".

Book now and see if you can follow the twists and turns, it will keep you guessing till the very end?!

Tickets available from [www.wads.info](http://www.wads.info)

## Hartley Gilbert & Sullivan



## Kemsing Players

Kemsing Players November production will be *Goodnight Mister Tom*. Originally a children's book by Michelle Magorian, this stage version has been adapted by David Wood.

*Goodnight Mister Tom* is the captivating story of William Beech, a timid, abused child of a single mother, evacuated from London to the English countryside where he is taken in by a kind but gruff old widower, Tom Oakley. The ensuing relationship between Tom and William changes both their lives for the better. Everything is going so well until suddenly, William's mother calls him back to London.....

There will be 4 performances at 8.00 pm on Thursday 23rd November, Friday 24th November and Saturday 25th November. Performances are held in St Edith Hall, Kemsing which will open 30 minutes before the production times. A bar is available before the show and in the interval.

Tickets will be on sale from Monday 30th October in person at Dynes Rd Cleaners, by email to [boxoffice@kemsingplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@kemsingplayers.com) or by calling 07811 465061



## Sustainable Shakespeare

Sevenoaks Shakespeare has been bringing the works of Shakespeare to life in Sevenoaks and the surrounding area for 25 years. Next year promises to be their busiest yet, with three shows planned at one indoor theatre and three different outdoor venues.

The challenges ahead are exciting, and as part of their development they have committed to carefully examining their environmental impact. In line with other major organisations across the UK, such as the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the Royal Opera House, they are focussing on sustainability as a company.

During their 2024 season, they will be developing and trialling a practice of environmental sustainability in all of their work. While they have always had this as a background focus, from now on they will be bringing this to the fore of their work.

Using their upcoming production of 'Midsummer' as a pilot scheme for this, they are aiming for 50% of production materials to have had a previous life and at least 50% of used materials to go on to a future life beyond the show.

They will be committing to work towards the standards of the Theatre Green Book, which is an initiative by the whole of the theatre community to work in more sustainable ways. They will then be aiming to expand this scheme further into their main Summer production of 'As You Like It' and from August 2024 onwards, it will be standard practice on all future productions. It is part of their ongoing commitment to create theatre that uses less resources, recycles more, and controls energy usage in all aspects of their productions.

**Theatre Green Book**  
we're trialling a sustainable production

## Sevenoaks Summer Festival

This is to give you a 'heads-up' that there is a plan to hold a Festival next year from Sat 22 June to Sunday 7 July and would hope you/your group would wish to take part.

The application process will, as last year, be via their website and will be open from 1 November to 29 February 2024.

The Festival will be built around Community Groups and, depending on how many volunteers can be attracted to help with pre-Festival tasks, include as many of the usual features as they can, including Festival Fair, Festival Flags and a sprinkling of professional/celebrity events, with the Finale at Sevenoaks School's Pamoja Hall on Sunday 7 July.

Rough timetable is as follows:

- Open application process: 1 Nov 2023
- Close application process: 29 Feb 2024
- Process applications 1-31 Mar 2024
- Publish Events page on website and begin distribution of printed booklet in early-April.

If you wish to participate or help organise the Festival please contact:- [www.sevenoaksfestival.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaksfestival.org.uk)

## Shoreham Village Players –

**100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year**

Three exciting productions:-

**21-23 March, Shoreham Village Hall**

**TWO** by Jim Cartwright

A slice of life set in a village pub. The landlord and landlady and their customers give us insights into their lives: funny, vicious, happy, tragic, with a poignant ending. **6-8 June, Shoreham Village Church**

**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT**

By Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice

A perennial favourite. The church provides the ideal space for this vibrant show, with a live band and a colourful cast of 20+ Auditions 4 and 5 January, details 01959 523765

**21-23 Nov 2024, Shoreham Village Hall**

**ONE MAN TWO GUVNORS** by Richard Bean

A brilliant, hilarious adaptation of Goldoni's *Servant of Two Masters*. How to fulfil obligations to two employers without either suspecting the existence of the other, one of whom is not who s/he says s/he is!

All tickets from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/shorehamvillageplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/shorehamvillageplayers)

or ring 01959 523602

If you wish to advertise your next production/concert/exhibition etc or would like to submit an article for the next Newsletter then please contact either Doreen Pascall ([doreen@pascall.me](mailto:doreen@pascall.me)) or Sandra Lane ([SDACweb@gmail.com](mailto:SDACweb@gmail.com)). Submissions required by 15<sup>th</sup> February/June/October. **We'd love to have your news and views!**