



# Facts about Sevenoaks

## *Did you know that...??*

- The town's name is derived from the Saxon word "Seouenaca", the name given to a small chapel near seven oak trees in Knole Park.
- It's a popular myth, that the town is named after the seven oak trees that lined the boundary of the Vine Cricket Ground. Those trees were one of several sets of seven oaks around the town that were planted to commemorate the Coronation of King Edward VII.
- Sevenoaks grew from the merging of the two main roads from London and Dartford into one main route heading south through the Weald to the coast. It was then became a market town because of its excellent location.
- In 1456 the Cardinal Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, purchased the 100 acre estate of Knole and built the great house which lies to the eastern side of the town. This was later appropriated by Henry VII and then passed on to Queen Elizabeth I, who gave it to her cousin Thomas Sackville.
- Today Knole Park is 1000 acre park inhabited by deer and several million trees. Knole House is still the home of the Sackville family (the Earls of Dorset), and is owned and maintained by the National Trust.

## Local Towns & Villages:

Nearby **Westerham** is a small town with lovely buildings surrounding a picturesque village green. There is a plentiful supply of antique shops to browse on route to nearby Chartwell, the former home of Winston Churchill, whose imposing statue can be found in the village, near to the church. Birthplace of General James Wolfe, Quebec House is his childhood home which is open to the public and owned by the National Trust. Squerryes Court is just outside the town, home of the Warde family since 1731, and displays a wonderful collection of Old Master paintings, furniture, tapestries and porcelain, all collected from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. It has a restored formal garden which is lovely all year round.

**Edenbridge** is on the fringe of the Weald in the extreme south-west of Kent and stands on the River Eden, which flows into the Medway at **Penshurst**, dating from about 100AD when the High Street was originally a section of the Roman road leading from London to Lewes.

**Swanley**, to the north, is a modern town easily accessible to the motorways M20 and M25 and with good rail links to London. It has a variety of leisure facilities, and a very popular weekly market.

**Brasted** is an extremely pretty village situated between Sundridge and Westerham. The village features attractive cottages which date back to the Tudor period. The main street is dominated by numerous high quality antique shops and there are several pubs.

**Chipstead** is a beautiful village which lies to the west of Riverhead and just a couple of miles from the centre of Sevenoaks. It has a village store, 2 pubs and a pottery shop.

**Eynsford** village lies between Shoreham and Farningham in an attractive valley. In the centre of the village is a stone bridge over the river Darent which was built over 450 years ago and is still in use to this day. Next to the bridge is the ford. The village has a range of small shops, several pubs and restaurants.

**Otford** is 3 miles from Sevenoaks. The village is a very picturesque; in the centre is a pond featuring one of the smallest listed building in England - a duckhouse!

**Shoreham** is an attractive village located on the banks of the River Darent. With a beautiful church and several attractive pubs the village has a rural feel. On the hillside across the valley is a large cross carved into the chalk commemorating those who died in the two World Wars.

**Chiddingstone**, with its row of 16th and 17th century houses, is one of the most attractive hamlets in Kent, a county famous for its vernacular architecture. The houses were built at the height of the Wealden iron industry and are all that remains of a much larger settlement that was demolished to make way for the park of Chiddingstone Castle. The village, including the Castle Inn, are now owned by the National Trust.

### **Penshurst Village**

With the original 'Leicester Square' which includes the 15<sup>th</sup> century Guildhouse and historic church nearby, there are also two tea rooms, pubs, the old forge, now the village stores and post office and Penshurst Place & Gardens to visit. Beautiful walk from Chiddingstone to Penshurst village and Leigh (Eden Valley Walk Guide 10). For further information about the village visit [www.penshurst-online.co.uk](http://www.penshurst-online.co.uk).

## **Countryside:**

**Sevenoaks is surrounded by stunning countryside and picturesque villages for visitors to explore!**

The town is also home to the National Trust's **Knole Park** with its stunning acres of deer park and woodland, which is the only remaining medieval deer park in Kent. Also the **Vine cricket ground**, one of the oldest in England.

**Farningham Woods Nature Reserve** is an ancient woodland classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, due to its rare Lime Trees. The site also features a 1.6 mile Waymarked walking route.

**Oxenhill Shaw & Meadow** nature reserve is situated between Otford and Kemsing at the foot of the Kent Downs. It is a large grassland site with a historic woodland. It can be accessed from Nightingale Road, in Kemsing or Tudor Drive in Otford.

**Dryhill Local Nature Reserve** is on a former quarry site, which closed in 1950 and since then nature has reclaimed the site, creating woodlands. Dryhill is a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its rocks and fossils and is the first 'geological' Local Nature Reserve in Kent.

**Stubbs Wood** is located within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and offers visitors fantastic views over the surrounding countryside. The Site of Special Scientific Interest is home to many rare animals and plants, including English Oak trees and bluebells.

**Shoreham Woods** is one of the largest sites owned by Sevenoaks District, overlooking Darent Valley and Shoreham Village. The woods are made up by 5 different woodlands and include 3 Waymarked trails – the Lizard Walk (1 mile), the Owl Walk (3 miles) and the Orchid Walk (4 miles).

**Kemsing Downs** situated on the North Downs, above the village of Kemsing. The chalk downs on the east feature 9 different varieties of orchids, as well as views as far east as Delling.

For more information visit: [www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/explore-kent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/explore-kent)

### **Penshurst Place Parkland**

Set within the High Weald, the ancient historic parkland of Penshurst Place Estate is a rich mix of landscapes, habitats and activities resting by the rivers Medway and Eden. Open all year, and free to visitors, there are also two self-guided walking trails available to purchase from Penshurst Place Gift Shop (open all year).

## Walking routes:

**Darent Valley Path** is a picturesque riverside route which visitors can view history, beautiful scenery and delicate habitats. The 19 miles route follows the course of the Darent River as it flows from the banks of the River Thames to the Greensand Hills above Sevenoaks.

**Eden Valley Walk** is a 15 mile linear route along the valleys of the River Eden and the River Medway. The walk, between Edenbridge and Tonbridge, enters the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and passes through parkland, woodland and open fields.

**Otford Walk** (5.3 miles) begins in Otford and passes the Otford Solar System model, built to celebrate the millennium. There are also views of the North Downs countryside and the trails back into the village of Otford.

**North Downs Way** in Kemsing is 6.5 mile route through Kemsing village and the North Downs area. It offers walkers amazing panoramic views across the weald.

**Edenbridge Walk** is a 3 mile circular route that begins in the Marlitt Hill area of Edenbridge and leads out through the countryside to Broxham Wood, passing the spot where Broxham Manor stood in the 13th Century.

There is a set of 10 walks around Edenbridge and the Eden Valley available free from Edenbridge Visitor Information Point at Doggetts Barn, 72A High Street, Edenbridge TN8 5AR. Tel: (01732) 865368 or email: [info@edenvallekent.org](mailto:info@edenvallekent.org)

## Cycling



### Regional Route 12 - Tonbridge Castle to Penshurst Place.

An almost entirely traffic-free cycle ride from the heart of Tonbridge alongside the River Medway, out into the countryside as far as the glorious buildings of Penshurst Place, some five miles to the west. Child friendly with plenty of attractions on route including an open air Lido plus this route is easily accessible by train: Tonbridge Station is just 30 min by rail from London Bridge or Ashford International stations. Website: [www.sustrans.org.uk/sustrans-near-you/south-east](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/sustrans-near-you/south-east)

## Places to visit

### Gardens:

#### **Penshurst Place and Gardens**

Penshurst  
Nr Tonbridge  
Kent, TN11 8DG

One of the oldest gardens in the country, set in the Weald of Kent. The existing Tudor gardens are laid out as a series of 'rooms' around a romantic medieval house.

Tel: (01892) 870307

Email: [enquiries@penshurstplace.com](mailto:enquiries@penshurstplace.com)

Website: [www.penshurstplace.com](http://www.penshurstplace.com)

**Squerryes Court**

Westerham,  
Kent, TN16 1SJ  
Tel: (01959) 562345  
Fax: (01959) 565949  
Email: [enquiries@squerryes.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@squerryes.co.uk)  
Website: [www.squerryes.co.uk](http://www.squerryes.co.uk)

**Riverhill Himalayan Gardens**

Riverhill,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent, TN15 0RR  
Tel: (01732) 458802

**Emmetts Garden**

Ide Hill,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent, TN14 6AY  
Tel: (01732) 868381  
Fax: (01732) 868193  
Email: [emmetts@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:emmetts@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
Website: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Charts Edge Garden**

Hosey Hill  
Westerham  
Kent  
TN16 1PL  
Tel: (01959) 565541  
Website: [www.heartofkent.org.uk](http://www.heartofkent.org.uk)

**Estates & Castles:****Chartwell**

Mapleton Road,  
Westerham,  
Kent, TN16 1PS  
Tel: (01732) 868381  
Fax: (01732) 868193  
Email: [chartwell@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:chartwell@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
Website: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Knole**

Sevenoaks,  
Kent, TN15 0RP  
Tel: (01732) 450608  
Fax: (01732) 465528  
Email: [knole@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:knole@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
Website: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Lullingstone Castle & World Garden**

Lullingstone Park,  
Eynsford,  
Kent, DA4 0JA  
Tel: (01322) 862114  
Fax: (01322) 862115  
Email: [info@lullingstonecastle.co.uk](mailto:info@lullingstonecastle.co.uk)  
Website: [www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk](http://www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk)

**Squerryes Court**

Westerham,  
Kent, TN16 1SJ  
Tel: (01959) 562345  
Fax: (01959) 565949  
Email: [enquiries@squerryes.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@squerryes.co.uk)  
Website: [www.squerryes.co.uk](http://www.squerryes.co.uk)

**Quebec House**

Quebec Square,  
Westerham,  
Kent, TN16 1TD  
Tel: (01892) 890651  
Fax: (01892) 890110  
Email: [quebechouse@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:quebechouse@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
Website: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Chiddingstone Castle**

Chiddingstone Castle,  
Hill Hoath Road,  
Chiddingstone,  
Kent.  
TN8 7AD  
Tel: (01892) 870347  
Email: [events@chiddingstonecastle.org.uk](mailto:events@chiddingstonecastle.org.uk)  
Website: [www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk](http://www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk)

### **Riverhill House Gardens**

Riverhill,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent, TN15 0RR  
Tel: (01732) 458802  
Email: [jane@riverhillgardens.co.uk](mailto:jane@riverhillgardens.co.uk)  
Website: [www.riverhillgardens.co.uk](http://www.riverhillgardens.co.uk)

### **Penshurst Place and Gardens**

Penshurst  
Nr Tonbridge  
Kent, TN11 8DG  
Ancestral home of Viscount De L'Isle, set in the Weald of Kent, with a stunning medieval Baron's Hall and Tudor gardens; the Staterooms contain fine furniture, tapestries, porcelain and portraits.  
Tel: (01892) 870307  
Email: [enquiries@penshurstplace.com](mailto:enquiries@penshurstplace.com)  
Website: [www.penshurstplace.com](http://www.penshurstplace.com)

## **Archaeological Sites:**

### **Lullingstone Roman Villa**

Lullingstone Park, Eynsford, Kent, DA4 0JA  
Tel: (01322) 862114  
Fax: (01322) 862115  
Email: [info@lullingstonecastle.co.uk](mailto:info@lullingstonecastle.co.uk)  
Website: [www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk](http://www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk)

### **Eynsford Castle**

The remains of one of the earliest Norman stone castles, built c. 1100 and little changed afterwards, including the full height motte wall and part of the hall. New information panels tell the story of the castle.  
Tel: 0870 333 1181  
Email: [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk)  
Website: [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

## **Shopping:**

### **Sevenoaks High Street**

Also leading to Blighs Court & London Road  
High Street,  
Sevenoaks  
Kent, TN13

### **Otford High Street**

High Street  
Otford  
Kent

### **Swanley Market**

Swanley  
Kent  
Tel: 0871 716 2575  
(Every Wednesday morning)

### **Antique Shopping in Westerham, Brasted and Edenbridge.**

## **Museums & Galleries:**

### **Eden Valley Museum**

Church House  
High Street  
Edenbridge  
Kent TN8 5AR  
Tel: 01732 868102  
Email: [curator@evmt.org.uk](mailto:curator@evmt.org.uk)  
Web: [www.evmt.org.uk](http://www.evmt.org.uk)

### **Otford Heritage Centre**

The School House,  
21, High Street, Otford,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent TN14 5PG  
Tel: 01959 524808  
Email: [parishcouncil@otford.net](mailto:parishcouncil@otford.net)  
Website: [www.otford.info/parishcouncil](http://www.otford.info/parishcouncil)

### **Sevenoaks Museum (part of library)**

Buckhurst Lane  
Sevenoaks  
TN1 3LQ  
Tel: 01732 453118  
Fax: 01732 742 682  
Website: [www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/)

### **Shoreham Aircraft Museum**

13 High Street,  
Shoreham Village,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent, TN14 7TB  
Tel: 01959 524416  
Email: [mail@shoreham-aircraft-museum.co.uk](mailto:mail@shoreham-aircraft-museum.co.uk)  
Website: [www.shoreham-aircraft-museum.co.uk](http://www.shoreham-aircraft-museum.co.uk)

### **Kemsing Heritage Centre**

The Heritage Centre has no permanent home at the moment but during 2009 there will be a series of displays at Kemsing Library, Dippers Close, Kemsing TN15 6QD  
Tel: 01732 761772  
Email: [info@kemsingheritagecentre.org.uk](mailto:info@kemsingheritagecentre.org.uk)  
Website: [www.kemsingheritagecentre.org.uk](http://www.kemsingheritagecentre.org.uk)

## Leisure Centres:

### Edenbridge Leisure Centre

Stangrove Park,  
Edenbridge  
Kent TN8 5LU  
Tel: (01732) 865665  
Website: [www.sencio.org.uk/edenbridge](http://www.sencio.org.uk/edenbridge)  
Email: [mike.radford@sencio.org.uk](mailto:mike.radford@sencio.org.uk)

### Sevenoaks Leisure Centre

Buckhurst Lane,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent TN13 1LW  
Tel: (01732) 470700  
Website: [www.sencio.org.uk/sevenoaks](http://www.sencio.org.uk/sevenoaks)  
Email: [james.williams@sencio.org.uk](mailto:james.williams@sencio.org.uk)

## Parks & Woodland:

### Dryhill Local Nature Reserve

Dryhill Lane,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent, TN14 6AA  
Tel: (01732) 823570  
Website: [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

### Stubbs Wood

Nightingale Lane  
Sevenoaks  
Tel: (01732) 823570  
Website: [www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/explore-kent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/explore-kent)

### Lullingstone and Preston Hill Country Park

Kingfisher Bridge  
Castle Road  
Eynsford, DA4 0JF  
Tel: (01732) 823570  
Website: [www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/explore-kent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/explore-kent)

### Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve and Visitor Centre

Bradbourne Vale Road  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 3DH  
Tel: (01732) 456407

Website: [www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

A spectacular array of birds reside within this peaceful nature reserve, and wildlife enthusiasts of all levels will find something to delight. Facilities include a shop, tearoom, museum and nature trails, meaning there is something for everyone to see and do.

## Tourism Facts: Key headline figures for Sevenoaks for 2006

- ◆ It is estimated that around 278,231 overnight tourism staying trips were made to Sevenoaks in 2006. Of these trips, domestic visitors made 86% of trips (233,169) and overseas visitors made 14% of trips (45,062). From those visitors £44,417,360 was spent on their trip.
- ◆ It is estimated that around 3.4 million tourism day trips were made to Sevenoaks in 2006, generating a further £110,762,576 trip expenditure.

- ◆ In total £155,179,936 was spent by all visitors on their trip. In addition, expenditure by friends and relatives on visitors, and visitors spend on second homes (i.e. maintenance) generates a further £9,090,000. With the addition of other expenditure tourism activity generated £164,269,936 expenditure.
- ◆ It is estimated that 9% of total trip expenditure went towards the cost of accommodation. Approximately a third of total trip expenditure (34%) was spent in catering establishments and 30% was spent in the retail sector. Approximately 10% of total trip expenditure went on visits to attractions and other entertainment. Finally, the remaining 17% of total trip expenditure was spent in the transport sector.
- ◆ Of this expenditure, £153,669,000 translates into direct income for local business; and a further £46,100,700 of income is generated through indirect and induced effects (a total of £199,769,700 business turnover).
- ◆ This income supported 2,944 FTE jobs and 4,027 Actual jobs. Overall it is estimated that tourism expenditure supported 6% of local employment.

\*Figures from Cambridge Model 2006

## Accommodation figures for Sevenoaks:

Type of Accommodation	Bedrooms/ Units/Pitches	Bed spaces
Caravan & Camping	100	400
Self catering (Cottages, Barns & Houses)	18	66
Serviced (Hotels, B&B's & Inn's)	819	1,671
Group (shared accommodation)	29	154

\*Information sourced by Tourism South East

## Population Figures

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Population (Mid 2006)</b>	54,700	59,100	113,700
<b>Population Forecast</b>	-	-	-
<b>2011</b>			108,300
<b>2016</b>			107,000

Source: Population Estimates Unit, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

## To find out more, visit your local Visitor Information Centre:

### **Sevenoaks Tourist Information Centre**

Library Building, Buckhurst Lane,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent  
Tel: 01732 450305  
E-mail: [tic@sevenoakstown.co.uk](mailto:tic@sevenoakstown.co.uk)

### **Swanley Library and Information Centre**

London Road,  
Swanley,  
Kent  
BR8 7AE  
Tel: 01322 614660  
Email: [touristinfo@swanley.org.uk](mailto:touristinfo@swanley.org.uk)

### **Edenbridge VIP**

Doggetts Barn  
72A High Street  
Edenbridge  
Kent  
TN8 5AR  
Tel: 01732 865368  
Email: [info@edenvallykent.org](mailto:info@edenvallykent.org)

## Useful Tourism Contacts:

### **Sevenoaks District Council**

Council Offices  
Argyle Road  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN1 1HG  
Tel: 01732 227000  
Web: [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk)

### **Visit Kent**

Kent County Council  
Invicta House  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
Kent, ME14 1XX  
Tel: +44 (0) 1622 671411  
Website: [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk)  
[www.visitkent.co.uk/business](http://www.visitkent.co.uk/business)

