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## Students embrace bazaar mission

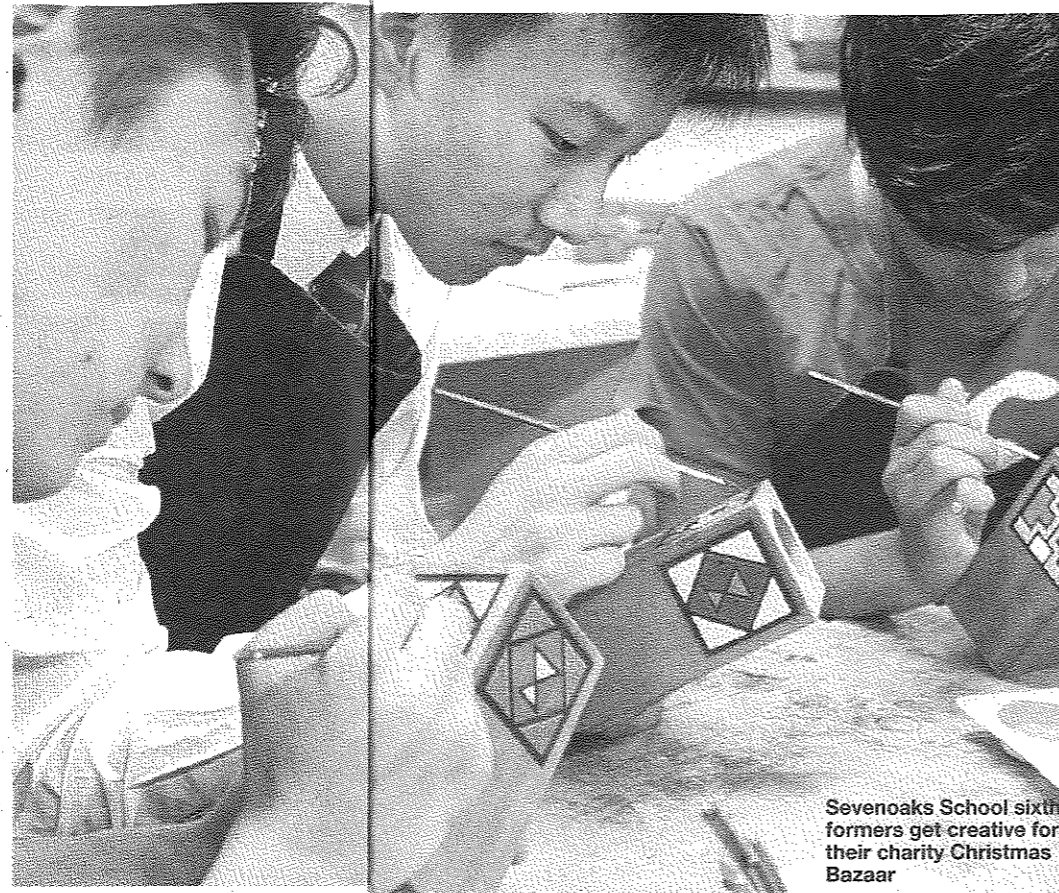
**A**PPRENTICE-STYLE entrepreneurship challenges have long since been thematic of school co-curricular programmes, but it is not often enough that these business initiative tasks are put into action.

Until now. Events such as the upcoming Sevenoaks School Christmas Bazaar are historically run by parent associations and school charity committees, however this year, the organisation has been split between a group of keen students, parents and teachers, adding a new dimension to the pastoral programme at Sevenoaks.

Not only are students given the opportunity to put on a charity-orientated event – with all profits going to our three charity projects in India and Cambodia to support disadvantaged children with education and healthcare – but they are also provided with an education in business, from the organisation of logistics, marketing and planning, to skills of communication and leadership.

The 18 keen sixth form students, aged between 16 and 17, have helped with all of the planning, including the production of flyers, the organisation of stalls and music, and social media marketing.

The task was first



Sevenoaks School sixth formers get creative for their charity Christmas Bazaar

undertaken six weeks ago, at the beginning of term, when roles were first assigned – these included things like: secretary, events manager and both print marketing and web marketing managers.

After the initial meetings, the students began organising stalls, creating flyers and spreading the word.

After many regular meetings and conversations determining points of action and areas for development, the students are excited and pleased that they

have remained on top of all of their tasks, and are almost at the point where the event is totally ready.

On the day, the team of 18 will arrive at 7.30am to set up the room, and will spend the morning coordinating the stalls, live music and crowds, as well as meeting and greeting the numerous parents, pupils, friends of Sevenoaks, Old Sennokians and Sevenoaks townspeople that they hope will attend.

It is shaping up to be a

wonderful day – and all for a good cause! The Sevenoaks Charity Christmas Bazaar will take place on Saturday December 2, and will run from 9.30am to noon. Stalls featured will include Love From Kent, a local artisan candle shop, Blazer Bears, who makes teddy bears out of re-conditioned school blazers, and Woolly Pebbles, who sell homemade hand knitted items, as well as the stalls from the school's art and technology departments, and the geography department's charity calendar.

on Saturday December 2 at 7.30pm, and the church is delighted that it is to be given by James McVinnie, international ecclesial organist and former Assistant Organist of Westminster Abbey. Admission is £10 for adults and £6 for students. Tickets are available from Sevenoaks Bookshop, or at the door on the night, or by contacting the church's Director of Music [gloria.toplis@sevenoaks.org.uk](mailto:gloria.toplis@sevenoaks.org.uk)

## Planning

**Ash:** The Venture, Hodsock Street, Demolition of existing garage and utility room. Erection of a single storey side and rear extension, roof alteration to accommodate a hip-to-gable loft

Road, Addition of a carport; 30 Chipstead Park, Demolition of chimney. Erection of an infill to the front and raising the roof for a loft conversion with dormers to the front. Alterations to fenestration; The Thatched Cottage, Chevening Cross Road, Details pursuant to condition 2 (samples of materials) of planning permission SE/17/02767/FUL; The Thatched Cottage, Chevening Cross Road, Details pursuant to condition 3 (Landscaping) of planning permission SE/17/02767/FUL; The Paddock, 1 Packhorse Road, Bessels Green, Erection of a three storey rear extension, enlargement of existing porch and partial infill to the front. **Dunton Green:** 14 Lennard Road. Erection of a dropped

Demolition of existing dwelling; erection of replacement dwelling and single storey garage and associated works; Edenbridge Bookshop, 79 High Street, Proposed change of use of the former Edenbridge Bookshop floor space at ground floor to residential floor space; Edenbridge Bookshop, 79 High Street, Proposed change of use of the former Edenbridge Bookshop floor space at ground floor to residential floor space. **Farningham:** Mount Pleasant, Sparepenny Lane, Various works to trees CA. **Halstead:** 3 Gardeners Cottages, Halstead Place, Removal of dead limbs, reduce crown 2-3 metres to 1 Robinia tree TPO; 10 Fort Halstead, Crow

between Ash Rd And Church Rd) Ash Road, Ash, various works to trees TPO; 13 Old Downs, Erection of detached outbuilding in rear of garden. **Hever:** Land North Of Syliards Farm, Five Fields Lane, Four Elms, Change of use of land and buildings from equestrian to part equestrian/commercial workshop/garage/storage in breach of condition 2 on planning permission 90/1388 and stationing of residential caravan; 4 Lodgewood Cottages, Hever Road, Erection of garage; Willow Cottage, How Green Lane, A lawful development certificate is sought for an existing use of garage. **Kemsing:** The School House, High Street, Removal of chimney.

Way, Details pursuant to condition 4 (watching brief) of 14/03245/HOUSE.

**Knockholt:** Little Acres, Rushmore Hill, Demolition of existing outbuildings and rear roof of dining room to erect a single storey rear extension. Erection of a balcony with railings to the rear at first floor level; Ashgrove Cottage, Chevening Lane, Non-material amendment to 14/02289/FUL.

**Otford:** Mallards, Old Otford Road, Erection of a single storey rear extension.

**Penshurst:** Shirley Hall, Legs Lane, Speldhurst, Construction of new tennis court and pool with pool house; Petersbank & Peterscot, Penshurst Road, Bidborough, Demolition of Petersbank, Peterscot, stabling/riding arena and all outbuildings on site; Erection of 2 No. dwellings, new access arrangement, parking and landscaping.

**Riverhead:** 2 Uplands Way, Erection of a single storey rear extension to house, new raised terrace to rear with railings and new rear boundary fence.

**Seal:** Wildernesse Golf Club, Park Lane, Provision of toilet and storage facility adjacent to the 9th hole and demolition of existing summerhouse; Land South Of Styants Bottom Road, Replacement stables.

**Sevenoaks:** Ashwood, Ashgrove Road, Erection of a side extension at the first floor and in filling the porch. Conversion of garage into living accommodation with replacement hipped roof.

Alterations to fenestration; Land West Of 17 Wickenden Road, Erection of a new detached dwelling on land adjacent to 17 Wickenden Road with off-street parking and the creation of new off-street parking in front of the existing 17 Wickenden Road; 69 St Johns Road, Non-material amendment to 15/03906/HOUSE; 11 Farnaby Drive, Works to various trees; Aragon House, Ash Platt Road; Works to various trees; 3 Holly Bush Lane, Non-material amendment to 16/02993/HOUSE.

**Sundridge:** Faulknors Hill Farm, Faulknors Hill, Ide Hill, Proposed barn and silage clamp together with enlargement of existing brown water lagoon and new harvested clean water attenuation lagoon; Broadlands, Nightingale Lane, Ide Hill, Removal of existing single storey infill extension with new infill addition, along with replacement of existing windows and roof tiles; Kiln Ridge, 1 Mount Pleasant, Camberwell Lane, Ide Hill, Demolition of garden room.

Erection of a pitched roof side extension. Demolition of store to existing garage. External alterations to existing garage.

**Swanley:** 58-88 Northview, Non-material amendment to 15/03663/FUL; 133 Archer Way,

Manor Farm, Wickhurst Road, Weald, Construction of outbuilding between existing walls; Hale Oak Farmhouse, Hale Oak Road, Conversion and extension of barn to create a two bedroom dwelling; Hale Oak Farmhouse, Hale Oak Road, Conversion and extension of barn to create a two bedroom dwelling; Peeters, Long Barn Road, T1 Mature Oak: Reduce height and average radial spread approximately 3.5 metres and 2.5 metres.

**West Kingsdown:** Knatts Valley Caravan Park, Knatts Valley Road, Knatts Valley, Details pursuant to condition 5i (a – f) of SE/14/03569/FUL, allowed on appeal APP/G2245/W/15/3097698; Knatts Valley Caravan Park, Knatts Valley Road, Knatts Valley, Details pursuant to condition 7 (Ecological Management Plan) of SE/14/03569/FUL, allowed on appeal APP/G2245/W/15/3097698.

**Westerham:** 2 Old Gaysham Cottages, Croydon Road, Demolition of conservatory and part rear of property. Erection of a rear double storey extension with Dutch gabled hipped pitch roof to accommodate kitchen at ground floor and rearrangement of bedrooms to first floor. Alterations to fenestration; Telecommunications Equipment At Gas Valve Compound, Croydon Road, Five equipment cabinets, an electric meter cabinet, and related works at ground level.

## Helping Hands



Volunteer team  
01732 454785  
[volunteering@imago.community](mailto:volunteering@imago.community)  
www.imago.community  
For more information about local volunteering opportunities please telephone Volunteer Centre Sevenoaks on 01732 454785 or email [volunteering@imago.community](mailto:volunteering@imago.community)  
Visit [www.imago.community](http://www.imago.community) to find out more about volunteering.

## Sevenoaks Citizens Advice



0300 330 9001  
[info@sevenoaks.cab.org.uk](mailto:info@sevenoaks.cab.org.uk)

## Pensions

YOU can claim state pension

pension is usually when you're 55 – you should check this with your pension provider. You might be able to get your pension sooner if you're retiring due to ill health.

### Checklist of things to do when you near retirement

It's a good idea to start planning when you're nearing retirement age. Here's a checklist of things to do so that you'll be ready:

■ Work out what money you'll have coming in and think about how your spending might change once you're retired – our budgeting tool <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting/budgeting/work-out-your-budget/> can help with drawing up a budget

■ Check whether you're entitled to any benefits for older people <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/older-people/benefits-for-older-people/> – you might be able to get benefits like Carer's Allowance, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction

■ Work out how much is left to pay on your mortgage (if you have one) – you might want to pay off what's left with a lump sum, but you should get financial advice first <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/getting-financial-advice/>

■ Get an estimate of your state pension – the gov.uk state pension calculator <https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age> can help you with this

■ Track down any pension providers that you've lost contact with – the Pension Tracing Service can help with this. Call them on 0845 6002 537 or use their online form to find a lost pension <https://www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details>

■ Get in touch with all your pension providers and let them know you're planning for retirement – they'll usually send you important information about your pension

■ Get financial advice or help from Pensionwise <https://www.pensionwise.gov.uk/en> if you have a personal pension so that you know your options for how to take your pension – you might have to pay for financial advice but it can save you money in the long term

■ Consider leaving your pension pot to someone when you die – there'll be tax implications for doing this, so you should talk to your pension provider or an independent financial adviser

## Pension scams

PENSION scams have become more common since April 2015, when new rules allowed people to take some or all of their pension pot as a lump sum. These scams are fake investments designed to con you out of your money.

Telephone advice – 0300 330 9001.

E-mail advice – please provide your name, address and full details of your enquiry.

## Weather



Peter Rogers  
[pnr Rogers@kent2.co.uk](mailto:pnr Rogers@kent2.co.uk)

## Haricot Beans and the Weather

AS a result of climate change much research is being put into making crops more widely available. A new research project at the University of Warwick's Crop Centre has developed to make it possible to grow haricot beans in Britain.

At present they are mostly imported from North America because the crop cannot grow in the cool, wet British climate. This is important because 1.5 million cans of baked beans (which are made from haricot beans) are consumed in Britain every day.

The research in Warwick has developed a variety called Capulet which can withstand the British climate; for instance it grows in less sunlight and cooler weather and so is ready to harvest in only 100 days, as opposed to 120 days in America.

Further breeding will hopefully produce a taller size suitable for combine harvesting. The chief drawback, however, is that it is highly unlikely that British grown haricot beans will be able to compete with the imports used in baked beans.

The beans are a great source of cheap protein, as an alternative to meat, which is needed to help curb greenhouse gas emissions.

## Sevenoaks RSPB

AT the November meeting of the Sevenoaks RSPB group, Dr Brett Lewis, a freelance ecological adviser, gave a talk Travels with my camera.

In the course of his work he visits many wildlife sites and normally takes his camera with him. Some of the pictures are for work purposes, but he stressed that using a camera is important as a memory of what you see and also of sharing that enjoyment with others.

The amazing and diverse wildlife photos he showed to the group included a gannet with a beak full of hair to be used for nesting, Duke of Burgundy butterflies in a cowslip meadow, hibernating dormice and adders.

Dr Lewis also gave the group tips on how to get good photos. Slightly overcast conditions are