

IN BUSINESS

Check our website for information www.sevenoakschamber.com E-mail: info@sevenoakschamber.com Tel: 01732 455188

SEVENOAKS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU



- Sevenoaks Citizens Advice Bureau is a registered charity that offers the towns and surrounding villages their only source of free, confidential, impartial and independent advice.
- As nearly all government forms suggest people contact their local Citizens Advice Bureau, many are under the misapprehension that we are a government agency, whereas we are totally reliant on funding from grants and donations.
- We are staffed by 45 volunteers and 3 part-time paid staff.
- In 2004/5, the bureau assisted and negotiated on behalf of nearly 8,000 clients and dealt with over 10,000 issues.
- Problems range from welfare benefit and tax credit claims, debt, employment, housing, relationship breakdown and consumer matters.
- We offer specialist advice on debt, employment and welfare benefits/tax credit appeals.

Are you a small business?

Do you need to know more about...

- ✓ The new grievance procedure as of October 2004
 - ✓ Statutory Employment rights
 - ✓ Duties of employers
 - ✓ Dismissal procedures
 - ✓ Unfair/constructive dismissal
 - ✓ Employed vs. self-employed?
 - ✓ Holiday entitlement
 - ✓ Sick leave payments
 - ✓ Maternity leave
 - ✓ Tax Credits

We can talk to your organization – for more information contact:
Matilda Buckley
Bureau Manager
Sevenoaks CAB

NETWORKING EVENTS

Kind thanks to Tim Clark at West Kent IT for hosting a network evening on Thursday 19th May. Members attending very much enjoyed the evening and the plentiful hospitality.

Don't forget the next Networking event will be on the 8th June 2005 at the Royal Oak Hotel in Sevenoaks.

The lunch starts at 12.30pm for 1.00pm.

The price is £17.00 per person.

If you wish to attend please call or email the office.

SE businesses are doing it for themselves

Kent has become the fastest growing area in the South East for business start-ups, according to figures published by Barclays Bank.

They revealed an 11% increase in the past year, easily outstripping the growth rate of any other area in the region. The county has home to 11,600 new businesses in 2004, up 1,200 on the 10,400 recorded the previous year.

Medway saw a more modest improvement, up around five per cent from 1,700 to 1,800.

The South East region overall recorded 71,400 new start-ups. The most popular trades were painting and building contractors, reflecting a national trend that saw construction across sector grow by 34% across the UK.

It has been reported that there is a record number of small business start-ups that have been driven by the boom in the constructor sector as Brits' obsession with home improvement continues.

This is particularly true in the South East, where the trades you associate with DIY are enjoying substantial growth.

It is reported that the number of business start-ups by men was 297,400 and by women 155,000.

Sevenoaks Town Council and the Sevenoaks Festival Summer Concerts

The Town Council, together with the Sevenoaks Festival, has organised a number of FREE OPEN AIR CONCERTS to take place on the vine Bandstand this summer. No seating is supplied, so do remember to bring along a rug or a chair – perhaps even a picnic.

Set below for your information is a diary of events.

DATE	COMMENCES	ORGANISATION
26 June 2005	2.15	Wilmington Youth Music
26 June 2005	3.00	Eynsford Concert Band
2 July 2005	2.30	Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band
3 July 2005	2.30	East Peckham Concert Band

Sevenoaks Festival

The Annual Sevenoaks Festival commences on Saturday 18th June with the Town Fair. There will be many events and entertainment in and around Sevenoaks through to the 3rd of July.

Round Table Calendars

Would you like to sponsor a calendar page?

The Round Table is producing another Calendar for 2006 this will be sold via Lorimar's, the library and various other outlets in and around Sevenoaks. They will be producing about 1000 copies. The Round Table supports local charities. May be your organisation would like to Sponsorship one of the twelve months? The cost is approx £250.00
If anybody is interested in sponsoring a month on the Calendar please contact either the Chamber office or Robert Jones on 07979744992 or Robert.jones@group4securicor.com

Uniform fights MRSA bug

A Riverhead businessman has devised a new uniform for nurses to protect themselves against the MRSA virus. Bob Smart owner of **Ark Leisure** on London Road has created a range of clothing created using a unique thread which has anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties. He said "We believe that this new fabric could revolutionise the fight against MRSA. Surely it is futile for a carer to wash their hands regularly if the largest proportion of their body is still capable of spreading the bug. I hope that a number of NHS and private medical practises will consider investing in these uniforms to ensure in the long term we can put a halt to one of the biggest killers this country has seen in decades".

New Member

We are pleased to welcome Allan AS Ltd Accountants.
Daniel Allan is based at 15 Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green, TN15 8RQ.
Telephone 01732 885444
Email: Daniel@allanas.com

The line of clothing was first produced at the end of January and Mr Smart is keen for hospitals in the area to adopt the uniform.

Farmar & Shirreff Solicitors

The Chamber wishes to advise its members that Farmar & Shirreff will be closing after 150 years in business.

TOO SALTY

Kent Trading Standards is advising shoppers to watch out for high fat and salt contents in shop-bought sandwich fillings. This follows a recent analysis of 41 samples purchased from five major food retailers. Most of the test sandwiches contained either high fat or salt levels and five had excessive contents of both.

Gregg's Restaurant

We are pleased to welcome Gavin Gregg of Gregg's Restaurant to the Chamber of Commerce. Gavin is located at 28/30 High Street Sevenoaks TN13 1HX. www.greggsrestaurant.com

The restaurant, which was originally a coffee shop, is now arguably one of Kent's top restaurants having been awarded 2 AA Rosettes.

Gravitas Ltd

Martyn Nicholls of Gravitas is a wine producer. If you were unable to attend our recent networking evening and wine tasting you missed a rare treat. Martyn produces wine in New Zealand and imports and sells to a select clientele

For more information contact Martyn
On 01732 461598 or email him on ceo@new-zealand-wines.com

Sensible Business Computers

Peter Whittaker – 50 Granville Road, Sevenoaks. Peter is happy to help small to medium business with a complete IT service. Please contact him for more information on 01732 743305 or email him on peterw@sbc-it.net

Versheena

Welcome to Paul Weaser of Versheena. Paul is able to offer professional advice, help and expertise in HR and Career Management. He specialises in Recruitment, training, managing change effectively, job search strategies, CVs and interview skills. Paul is based in Otford and has 25 years experience. Contact him on 0776 262 9850 or email him at paulweaser@kent2.co.uk