

# IN BUSINESS



Check our website for information [www.sevenoakschamber.com](http://www.sevenoakschamber.com) E-mail: [info@sevenoakschamber.com](mailto:info@sevenoakschamber.com) Tel: 01732 455188

## FUTURE NETWORKING DATES

Garden Party – Networking Lunch on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005. The Venue will be "The Walled Garden". Invitations will be sent out in due course.

### Chamber AGM

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at the Wildernesse Golf Club, Sevenoaks

## PIPEWAY – HIGH STREET ONE WAY SYSTEM

Just to keep you all updated with regard to the town Pipe way works and repairs, one way System etc. You may have seen our letter in the Chronicle and correspondence was sent to SDC and KCC. A Transport & Policy meeting was held at SDC and matters discussed. At the present time all our complaints and comments have been forwarded to KCC, together with many other complaints I might add, for them to investigate and report back in due course.

KCC are very much aware of the poor workmanship and lack of organisation shown by Pipe way and as suggested also by SDC, not enough checks and monitoring by KCC in this particular instance.

We will keep you informed as and when more information is received, although we are advised any compensation to town centre businesses is extremely unlikely.

Just to add we are advised no one way system is being contemplated for the town centre, the rumours were pure speculation.

## Sevenoaks IT Centre (Part of West Kent College)

Half – Day IT Courses

Introduction to Mail Merge

Introduction to Digital Photography

Photoshop Advanced – Special Effects

Introduction to Touch Typing

Microsoft Office Specialist Certification

Please call Tim on 01732 458071

## Lime Tree Studios

Lime Tree Studios have now moved.  
Telephone 01732 451131  
Their new address is "The Walled Garden"  
Knotts Place, Sevenoaks, Kent

Contact@limetreestudios.co.uk  
[www.LimeTreeStudios.co.uk](http://www.LimeTreeStudios.co.uk)

## CC TV's triple whammy

Sevenoaks District Council's CCTV system highlighted how effective it can be in the fight against crime when it helped the police make three arrests in separate incidents yesterday (Wednesday 6 July 2005).

The CCTV control room took a report from a local trader in Swanley via the 'shop safe' scheme about an alleged shoplifter. The CCTV system monitored and assisted until police arrived and arrested the individual.

In another incident the CCTV control room staff were asked to look out for a Westerham resident who had a warrant out for his arrest. He was later tracked down in Sevenoaks by the CCTV system. The police were informed and he was then arrested.

Finally West Kent Police asked for help to monitor a stolen car, which was located in Sevenoaks town by CCTV staff. It was monitored until the police arrived on the scene to make an arrest.

Cllr Keith Loney, the Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety, says: "These three arrests demonstrate how effective our system can be in the fight against crime and how it compliments the work of our other community safety partners such as the police and other agencies."

North Kent Police Area Commander Supt. Martin Hewitt adds: "These are good examples of how CCTV is playing its part in delivering community safety and helping partner agencies to work together in catching criminals".

West Kent Police Community Inspector Simon Wilshaw adds: "This is the type of good news story that we are seeing more and more of as the links between ourselves and our partner agencies strengthen."

Sevenoaks District Council's CCTV system has 91 cameras covering priority areas in Westerham, Edenbridge, Swanley, New Ash Green and in Sevenoaks.

The system is manned 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by trained and highly skilled staff. It is operated and paid for by Sevenoaks District Council together with some funding from Kent Police.

For further information please contact: Daniel Whitmarsh on 01732 227414 or e-mail [daniel.whitmarsh@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.whitmarsh@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

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## Making the net more accessible

Information and access to local services have become even easier now that Sevenoaks District Council's new website is live with a modern design to make it even more accessible for the local community.

The new site, which can be viewed by logging on to [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk), has comprehensive information about Council services and details and links to other useful public sector organisations that provide services to local residents.

In addition, there are new services such as on-line refuse collection times, a powerful search facility, a simplified A to Z and site map as well as a comprehensive payments and on – line planning services that were transferred from the previous site.

The homepage now has links to all the main sections with a series of quick links to the most popular parts of the site. The main navigational headings have also changed. The Council has adopted the national "Local Authority Website Standards", which means there is continuity between Council's new sites and those other councils who have also adopted the headings.

The new site was paid for entirely by Central Government Implementing Electronic Government funding intended to help make as many council services available to the public as is possible.

## The New School at West Heath

A fabulous "Evening with Sheila Hancock" introduced by Peter Sissons, in aid of local charity "Fund a Child's Education" (F.A.C.E), a bursary fund for vulnerable and traumatised youngsters unable to access mainstream education. An evening of chat, entertainment, a glass of wine and book signing by Mrs Hancock. Book in advance, only £10 per ticket, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 7.00pm at the New School at West Heath, Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks. Telephone 01732 468995

## Legal eagles in the Red House

When you walk into the reception of the Red House in Sevenoaks High Street you are greeted by the imposing portrait of Francis Austen staring down from one of the walls. This is a wonderful reminder that this is the home of Knocker and Foskett the oldest established lawyers in Sevenoaks and possibly Kent. Austen started his Sevenoaks practice in 1730 and his enterprise has been handed down through a continuous succession of partners ever since.

Today's occupants Knocker and Foskett celebrate a 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Austen was born to a well-known Sevenoaks family and set up his practice at the age of 31. No one really knows where he lived at the time but he must have been successful because he was able to purchase the Red House in 1743 from a Dr Thomas Fuller. For many years Francis Austen practised alone but with the onset of old age he was joined by John Fellows Claridge – a companionship rather than a partnership, but one of such enduring quality that it set the seal on all who were to follow.

Austen's 12 year old great-niece Jane came to stay in July 1788 and, unknowingly put the Red house, Sevenoaks on the literary map of England. She wrote prodigiously even at that age but it was 26 years before she published *Pride and Prejudice*. By that time Austen's family had left the Red house and moved to Kippington. Today the Red House is home to Knocker and Foskett who have six partners and deal with clients who live and work many miles from Sevenoaks.

## Sevenoaks Library

We have written to Ms Anley Director of Arts & Library at KCC, Michael Fallon MP & Cllr John London who is also Chairman of KCC, regarding the temporary closure of the Sevenoaks Library.

Michael Fallon replied saying "I am totally opposed to the Library closing for a year and I have urged KCC to find a temporary site".

Two public meetings are being held at Sevenoaks Library So If you are concerned about the closure please attend and lodge your views.

Barclays Bank has kindly displayed a poster in the banking hall.

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