

IN BUSINESS



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

SEVENOAKS PLAYHOUSE

After being closed for 107 days, it was great news that the Playhouse re-opened on Sunday 12th November with a performance from the Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra which was greatly appreciated by patrons. The two cinemas re-opened shortly thereafter with up-to-date films. There is the very welcome addition of a coffee bar in the foyer. The new firm running the Playhouse, in an interim capacity for 6 months, is Kino Holdings with its ambitious director, Paul Corcoran at the helm. We wish the Playhouse Management every success and call on all the people of Sevenoaks to continue to support this well-loved venue. After the 6 months is up, the District Council will carry out a tender process for an agreement lasting between 10 & 25 years. The closing date for these tenders is 22nd January, 2007.

CCTV in Sevenoaks

Unfortunately, CCTV is going to be installed at the Vine grounds in Sevenoaks due to several incidents in the area. But this is the way of life today and it does help to contain criminal elements as proved by the capture of two women arrested for theft after a "shopping spree!" captured on CCTV! recently in the town centre. A big thank you to the police for their vigilant actions.

One piece of good news is that the treasured tea kiosk on Sevenoaks Vine has been undergoing repairs, overseen by Sarah Arding of the Sevenoaks Town Council, after the fire that destroyed the thatched roof. The new thatch has been treated with a fire retardant coating which hopefully will deter any further attacks by arsonists.

SEVENOAKS HOSPITAL

There was some good news for the Sevenoaks Hospital with the unveiling of a new heart monitor in its Minor Injuries Unit. League of Friends chairman, Roger Hope, said the Minor Injuries Unit treats 14,000 patients a year suffering from a wide range of complaints and saves patients travelling to hospitals in Tunbridge Wells and Farnborough.

Sevenoaks Library

The Sevenoaks Library is due to open its doors on Monday 4th December at 9.00am. Kent County Council's member for communities, Cllr Elizabeth Tweedy is to speak at the unveiling of what is to be expected from libraries nationwide today. The Tourist Information Centre will also be moving into their new home which will be of great delight to the public and staff.

There is free access for library members to source information via the library website www.kent.gov.uk/onlinelibrary at home, your business or in the library.

We hope that the new library will be greatly appreciated by all who use it and wish everyone at the Library the best of luck for the future.

Parking Fees

Car Parking charges in the town centre could rise by as much as 25% in a bid to boost Sevenoaks District Council's £1.5 million annual parking revenue.

There are mixed feelings with regard to this increase, some say it will alleviate a lot of problems with private residences where commuters park and cause difficulties for residents. Other members of the public, who use Blighs on a regular basis, object to paying more every time they want to visit the town for shopping with their families. SDC spokesman, Daniel Whitmarsh said if approved by the council's cabinet on November 23rd, the proposed charges will be "advertised for formal public consultation as part of the process to amend the council's car park order." This is an on-going debate.

Rogue Traders

Rogue companies maybe targeting businesses trying to extract money from them. The companies send out letter explaining the new fire safety laws, which require all premise occupiers to do a fire risk assessment. They offer a risk assessment starter pack for £137, sometimes more! The pack contains all the necessary documentation. Businesses DO NOT have to use the services of these companies as the forms can be downloaded for FREE from the communities and local Government website: www.communities.gov.uk Unsolicited mailings are being sent out to businesses in the form of an advertising feature cut out from a magazine with a post it sticker using the recipient's Christian name, inviting him to call the freephone number, implying the mailing was sent by someone known to him. It implies Government grants are available, after calling the freephone number callers are told that an information pack costs £250.00. Trader is going door to door targeting elderly people offering to buy antiques at cheap prices. Beware of cold callers and do not allow them access to your home. For your rights as a consumer call Consumer Direct 08454 04 05 06. For any complaints on Rogue Traders, Contact Trading Standards Rogue Hotline: 0845 450210.

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### **Riverhead roadworks**

There was great trepidation when the news came of further roadworks in Riverhead. Thames Water was due to move in early next year, for up to 8 months, to put in flood prevention through the heart of the village. But after much consultation, Thames Water decided not to go ahead with the works, to the collective sighs of relief from businesses in the area! Thames Water will come back with a different solution to the problem in the future.

### **Open Evenings**

The Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce has been running very successful Open Evenings in conjunction with Chamber Members who have very kindly offered to host these events. They are a chance for Members and friends to meet after work, in an informal setting, have a glass of wine and relax. But also to meet up and network with other Members. We have had Open Evenings at Helen Breeze Property Management, Sevenoaks Business Centre, Savills and Floss Agency which were very successful and well attended and wish to thank them sincerely for all their support. The next one will be held at Cooper BMW Sevenoaks, on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2007. All Members, friends and potential new Members are welcome.

### **Mayors Fashion Show at the Wildernesse Club**

The Mayor, Cllr Margaret Crabtree's, Fashion Show sponsored by Warners Solicitors was attended by more than 200 people and was an extremely enjoyable evening as well as raising money for charity. Over £4,000 was raised for Hospice in the Weald which delighted chief executive, John Ashelford. The models were all volunteers from Warners and they were excellent and very professional. It would be fabulous if this could be an annual event as it was a lovely evening out and also raised money for a very good cause.

### **Remembrance Day**

As usual there was an excellent turn-out at Remembrance Day on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. The vine was a poignant reminder of those who have sacrificed so much for us all in the past and today. Over 500 people attended the service and 30 wreaths were laid. The previous day, Armistice Day, the town came to a halt for two minutes in commemoration of those valiant men and women.

### **Christmas Lights Turn-On & Late Night Shopping**

The Annual Christmas Lights Turn-On and Late Night Shopping will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2006 at 6.30 pm. The lights will be turned on by the Mayor, Cllr Margaret Crabtree. Father Christmas will make his appearance to the delight of the children, there will be carol singing, a quiz show, tombola and a variety of stalls. Many shops are planning to stay open later for the shoppers to take advantage of early Christmas buying. Car parking in the town centre will be free for the evening which is a great bonus for everyone.

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### **Humour Corner**

At a wedding, there was a child that walked down the aisle. Every two steps he stopped, put his hands up in the air like claws, and gave a little roar. So it kept going. Step Step Roar, Step Step Roar. When he finally got to the altar the guests were in tears laughing. When asked why he was doing this he said, "I was the ring bear!"

### **MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY**

The Chamber Christmas lunch in conjunction with Sevenoaks Business Ladies Club will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Sun Do Restaurant, 61 High Street.

WHY NOT BRING A COLLEAGUE ALONG AND INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER.

### **EARN £10 DISCOUNT**

Have you looked at the Chamber web site recently?

See the Links – on line business information "ONE SOURCE"

### **BUSINESS TO BUSINESS BROCHURE**

It's not too late to let us have your A5 flyer. We are constantly sending out the brochure to new businesses coming into the area and numerous other enquiries. Promote your business and include your information in the "Business to Business" pack.

If you need further information, contact the office.

**TO JOIN THE CHAMBER IT COSTS  
£7.10P PER MONTH!**

### **Knole House Feature in Hollywood Blockbuster**

Wonderful news that the beautiful Knole House is to be used for the location of a Hollywood Blockbuster. The Other Boleyn Girl, starring Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman & Eric Bana with supporting performances by Kristin Scott Thomas & David Morrissey is due to start filming the weekend following the 20<sup>th</sup> November. The film, based on Philippa Gregory's novel should be an exciting development for Sevenoaks and could bring the town to the attention of many. Hopefully, this will also bring plenty of business to our town. The film will be directed by Justin Chadwick, who recently brought us the wonderful adaptation of Charles Dickens' Bleak Houston BBC.

An exciting event for Sevenoaks!

### **Fairtrade**

I am sure many of the businesses in Sevenoaks are aware of the Fairtrade Foundation, whose aim is to encourage workplaces to follow the widespread trend of switching to Fairtrade products. This is a very topical issue and they would like to do their bit to raise awareness of it. For information log on to:

[www.fairtradeatwork.org.uk](http://www.fairtradeatwork.org.uk)

**EUROPAGES** is a working tool for businesses with an international vocation, helping them to buy better and sell more in Europe.

[www.europages.com](http://www.europages.com) gives access to the full EUROPAGES database: 600,000 businesses in 36 European countries.



THE SEVENOAKS CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS & A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

## **NEW MEMBERS FOR 2006 - WELCOME**

**Sashani Jewellers – Phillip Chown** – for all your jewellery requirements. Telephone: 01732 740300 or email: [info@sashani.com](mailto:info@sashani.com)

**Ashton Burkinshaw – Wendy Close** – for all your Property Letting. Telephone: 01732 740074 or email: [wendy.close@ashtonburkinshaw.co.uk](mailto:wendy.close@ashtonburkinshaw.co.uk).

**The Showbusiness Company Limited – Kevin Aylward** – Entertainment & Event Management Consultancy. Telephone: 0845 8330749 or email: [info@theshowbusinesscompany.com](mailto:info@theshowbusinesscompany.com)

**Cavendish Accounting Limited – Jim Parsons** – Providers of Accountancy, audit, taxation & book keeping services to individuals & businesses. Telephone: 07770848845 or email: [jim.valley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jim.valley@tiscali.co.uk)

**The Flowersmith.** For all your floral needs. Contact **Sandra Belton**: 01732 741927 or email: [sandrachrisatlp@aol.com](mailto:sandrachrisatlp@aol.com) or call in at the delightful shop at 30 London Road, Sevenoaks

**Walker & Walker Solicitors** **Brian & Marlene Walker** of Walker & Walker are situated at 35 High Street, Sevenoaks. Telephone 01732 450699 or email [solicitors@walker&walker.co.uk](mailto:solicitors@walker&walker.co.uk)

**Tiga Creative Marketing Limited – Alan Bracken** – for all your graphic design requirements. Telephone: 01732 779111 or email [alan@tigauk.com](mailto:alan@tigauk.com) Also see your Business brochure which includes their information.

**House on the Hill Restaurant/Bar** We wish to welcome **Andre Woodward** of House on the Hill to the Chamber of Commerce. Give them a call on: 01732 450120 or visit them at: 115 London Road, Sevenoaks. We held a Chamber lunch there a short time ago and all agreed it was excellent.

**Full Circle Property Services Ltd** Contact: **Mick Thompson** for all your property requirements - as the name suggests all aspects of build to extensions, in fact a complete "full circle property service" is offered. Telephone 01732 461225 or email: [mick@fullcircle-psl.co.uk](mailto:mick@fullcircle-psl.co.uk)

**Action International** For all your Business Coaching call **Jonathon Peat** at: 0845 1305477 or email: [Jonathonpeat@action-international.com](mailto:Jonathonpeat@action-international.com)