

IN BUSINESS



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

SEVENOAKS PLAYHOUSE

The Sevenoaks Playhouse is to revert back to its former name and former glory as 'The Stag.' Kino is opting for the name change after unanimous support from the public. Kino has been awarded the long-term lease to run the facility which is good news for the future of the Stag. We all wish Paul Corcoran of Kino and the Stag success, prosperity and a settled future for this well-loved local facility.

DISTRICT IS THE SAFEST IN KENT

Sevenoaks District has again been named the safest area in Kent for the fifth month in a row which is excellent news. Robin Hales, Chairman of Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership says "It is reassuring to know that at the start of the New Year, Sevenoaks District is the safest area in Kent, which is one of the safest counties anywhere in Britain." Residents in Sevenoaks District can help ensure the District remains the safest in Kent when a range of community safety & crime reduction devices are distributed in the area this month. The timer switches, shed alarms, personal alarms & other devices are all funded by the SDC Safety Partnership and will be distributed by Police Community Support Officers & KCC Community Wardens over the coming weeks. For further information please contact: Steve Mandaluff on 01732 227162 or email:

steven.mandaluff@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

On the other hand a milkman from Sevenoaks who loved his job, has been forced to quit after 32 years due to continuous attacks and on one occasion was hit in the face with a golf club. It is a sad fact of life that innocent people are violently attacked when they are offering a traditional and valued service.

SEVENOAKS HOSPITAL

There is still an air of uncertainty regarding the Sevenoaks Hospital, as Michael Fallon, MP of Sevenoaks, asked health chiefs to pledge their support for the town's hospital. But Steven Phoenix, the man who holds Sevenoaks Hospital's future in his hands has refused to rule out its closure which is very worrying for all concerned with the Hospital. A decision by the PCT board will be made at their meeting on 24th May, so we will have to wait and see what transpires.

Sevenoaks Library

The Sevenoaks Library had its grand reopening on Friday 16th February, 2007, with a Chinese Lion Dance and officially opened by Michael Fallon, MP for Sevenoaks. It was great fun and was attended by more than 70 plus guests. £1million was given from the Heritage Lottery Fund for this project which was, on times, a nightmare as it came in over budget and was delayed due to the initial contractor abandoning the project.

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.

The only downside is that after the grand reopening of the Library there is country-wide cost-cutting which means that there will be redundancies across the area.

Sevenoaks Twin Town

Sevenoaks chiefs have found a new site to dedicate to their German twin town. Town councillors decided to rename part of the Vine Gardens as the Rheinbach Gardens, in honour of one of their two twin towns. The ceremony is planned for the Germans' visit in September.

Rogue Traders

For any complaints on Rogue Traders, Contact Trading Standards Rogue Hotline: 0845 450210.

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## **Council Tax increase**

The average council tax increase set at 2 pence a day. The Sevenoaks District Council has set an average Council Tax charge at £160.38 a year, an increase of £7.38 or an additional 2p a day.

The Council's budget of £16.9m for 2007/08 will be funded from the following areas:

Council Tax £7.9m

Government Grant £6.2m

Money taken from the Council's savings £1.6m

Interest from Council savings £1.2m

## **Sevenoaks Smokefree District**

As you are aware, from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2007, Sevenoaks becomes a smokefree district. What do I need to do?

Sevenoaks District Council is running two smokefree seminars on 23<sup>rd</sup> April & 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 to help prepare businesses for the new legislation and will also be hosting a licensing forum on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2007, to help licensed premises get ready for the new law. For further details please contact the Council on 01732 227000.

## **New Fire Safety Legislation**

Safety regulations from October 2006 - Employers, Occupiers & Building Owners become responsible for fire safety. Important changes in legislation mean that any person who has some level of control in premises must make sure an assessment has been done and adequate fire safety systems are in place. Free Seminars were held at Tonbridge Fire Station on 21<sup>st</sup> March & 27<sup>th</sup> March which were very informative and run by Jason Gawel 01732 369429.

For further information please log on to:

[www.kent.fire-uk.org](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org)

## **Parking Fees**

As mentioned in the Winter newsletter, parking charges are to increase. "Following an Annual review of car parking charges and in order to meet the budget target set for car parking revenue for 2007/08, the Council's Cabinet has proposed increases in short stay and long stay parking charges and to season ticket charges in various car parks in Sevenoaks, with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2007. All other existing charges remain unchanged." The Sevenoaks District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Amendment No.1) Order 2007.

## **Conservation Council**

The last Conservation Council meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December and attended by our representative Michael Mammalis. Minutes of the meeting are available at the Chamber Office if anyone wishes to read them.

Conservation maps are now on the SDC website:

[www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/conservationareas](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/conservationareas)

## **Climate on the agenda for new group in the District**

A number of environmentally friendly local residents look set to tackle the issue of climate change at the introductory meeting of an innovative new group next week. The Sevenoaks Carbon Rationing Action Group will hold their first meeting on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at Otford Village Hall and will be looking at the issue of climate change and how individual impacts on the environment can be reduced. For more information contact David Bassendine on 0779004161 or email: [david@tonderai.co.uk](mailto:david@tonderai.co.uk).

## **Open Evenings**

The Open Evenings hosted by various Chamber Members have proved to be very successful with excellent support from Members. The Open Evening hosted by Cooper BMW on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January was well attended when you consider that during the day we had gale force winds and torrential rain! More than 25 people ventured out to attend for which we thank them most profusely. Our March Open Evening was kindly hosted by Challenge Finance Limited who stepped in at the last minute, as due to unforeseen circumstances, another Chamber Member had to cancel. It was a most enjoyable evening with two new Members attending. Our next Open Evening will be held at Warners Solicitors on 19<sup>th</sup> April. The Chamber Network lunch at Strada Restaurant on 7<sup>th</sup> March was also well attended with 27 Members coming along, some new Members too which was very encouraging and was enjoyed by all.

WHY NOT BRING A COLLEAGUE ALONG AND INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER : **EARN £10.00 DISCOUNT**

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## **2007 BUDGET BRIEFINGS**

Chamber Members can order the 2007 Budget Briefings from Horwath Clark Whitehill by visiting:  
<http://www.horwathcw.com/budget/main07.asp>

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 and new Members. 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!**

### **Discounts for Chamber Members**

Did you know, some of our Chamber Member offer discounts to fellow Members??? Please mention that you are a Chamber Member when using any of our Member's many and varied services.

For Members details don't forget to check our Directory on the Website.

**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.

## **Fairtrade Fashion Show**

You may not be aware that Sevenoaks is a Fairtrade Town which is an excellent way for our town to show that it is committed to fair-trade around the world. Fairtrade hosted a free fashion show at Christ Church URC Hall in Sevenoaks on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2007 which was very well attended. Clothing and various goods were displayed with free tea, coffee, cakes etc and even wine tasting. A very enjoyable afternoon all for a good cause. For more information: [www.fairtradeatwork.org.uk](http://www.fairtradeatwork.org.uk)

## **Charity Gala Dinner**

Councillor Margaret Crabtree, Town Mayor of Sevenoaks is hosting her last fundraising event during her term of office in aid of Hospice in the Weald. ‘Some Enchanted Evening’ a special black-tie Gala Dinner at St Nicholas Undercroft on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Entertainment by Alison Staff (Soprano), Michele Roszac (Mezzo Soprano) and Lynda Spinney (Pianist). For more information please check the Events Diary on our Website.

## **Humour Corner**

Oscar was an unlucky man. Having just spent many £££s on a skydiving class, he dove out of the aeroplane and pulled the ripcord. The chute emerged, tangled, and he cut it free. He then pulled the cord on the reserve chute, and it was also tangled. He prayed to his God and looked down to the ground below. To his amazement, a woman was coming up with equal velocity. “Hey you know anything about parachutes?” he shouted to her as they passed by each other. The reply “No.... you know anything about stoves?!”



## **NEW MEMBERS FOR 2007 - WELCOME**

**Elgee Pinks Solicitors – Nicholas Pinks/John Elgee** – for all your legal requirements.  
Telephone: 01959 568100 or email: [info@elgeepinks.com](mailto:info@elgeepinks.com)

**Vanbar Multimedia Limited – Stuart Kennaugh** – for all your web design, development & consultancy requirements. Telephone: 01732 741761 or email: [enquiries@vanbar.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@vanbar.co.uk)

**Specsavers Opticians Sevenoaks – Bhavesh Hansjee** – for all your optical requirements. Telephone: 07795147624 or email: [bhavesh\\_hansjee@hotmail.com](mailto:bhavesh_hansjee@hotmail.com)

**London House Services – Graham Chandler** – for all your banking, legal, insurance consultancy & investigations. Telephone: 01732 884290 or email: [tonbridge@lh-services.co.uk](mailto:tonbridge@lh-services.co.uk)

**Oxford.net Limited – John Hubbard** – for all your internet services. Telephone: 0871 7115427 or email: [info@otford.net](mailto:info@otford.net)

**Acorn Communications – Caroine Aitken** – for all your publishing & marketing services. Telephone: 01732 465666 or email: [caroline@acorncommunications.co.uk](mailto:caroline@acorncommunications.co.uk)