

# 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

## Parking Review

The Chamber now has a new representative on the Parking Review Committee, namely Jacqueline Heywood, Board Member.

The next meeting is being held on 4<sup>th</sup> December to discuss the parking issue which has been a highly contentious issue for many months.

## Dangerous Road Situation

The intersection at Suffolk Way and the High Street which has been of major concern to the Chamber for a long while was discussed by the STC at a meeting held in November.

Kent Highways has advised its contractors to draw up proposals for the phasing of the lights to provide the safest means of crossing for pedestrians.

## Undeveloped Sites in Sevenoaks

There has been much debate in the Chronicle and amongst businesses in and around Sevenoaks about the appearance of our town with many abandoned shops and undeveloped sites which greet visitors when exiting the station to come into the town.

The former Railway and Bicycle pub which closed a decade ago and the Farmers pub which was demolished in 2006 are two examples. There are now signs that work has started on the Farmers site but at the Railway & Bicycle site work has come to a halt after news that Constantgreen, the developer has gone into administration.

## Tesco

Tesco's plans to expand the Riverhead Store by 50 percent have been backed by Sevenoaks Town Councillors.

The Supermarket on Aisher Way had already received permission to extend the building and has submitted revised changes to the store, which include a front café, improved toilet facilities, a front lobby and extra parking space.

The extension was met with a lot of opposition over the past year or so but permission was granted to the Supermarket in March.

**For Members Details Don't Forget to Check Our Directory on the Website.**

## "Credit Crunch"

There has been much in the media regarding the "credit crunch" with many retrenchments hitting the South East but fortunately, up to the present time, here at the Chamber we have not heard of any of our members having to lay off staff.

Many businesses report that times are quiet and they are experiencing some difficulty but other businesses seem to be holding firm.

We can only hope that we all can pull through this difficult time and come out the other side, stronger and more resilient to the challenges thrown at us.

## Sevenoaks Stag Theatre

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 the SDC agreed to the transfer of the Stag Arts Complex to Sevenoaks Town Council as part of a long term lease agreement which was excellent news for the many campaigners who have worked tirelessly to re-open the theatre over many months since the closure of the Stag on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2008.

Initially the SDC will enter into a short term lease allowing the Stag to open early in the New Year. The long term lease will be agreed upon thereafter.

The Town Council is also looking into the prospect of relocating the Tourist Information Centre into the Stag. Cllr Elaine Bracken said "STC has put forward a detailed proposal and business plan to reopen the Stag early in 2009, which is great news for the local arts community and for Sevenoaks."

## Sevenoaks Chronicle

If you have a story concerning Sevenoaks, the Sevenoaks Chronicle report Kirsty Bourne is now available to speak to you every Wednesday at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre from 2 – 4pm.

Or contact Kirsty at 01732 228000 or email: [reporters@sevenoakschronicle.co.uk](mailto:reporters@sevenoakschronicle.co.uk).

## Information on Our Web Page

Perhaps you are not aware that on our Web Page under 'Links' there are many informative sites to log onto from CAB to Eurostar to Inside No. 10!

The other local Chambers of Commerce are also listed.

## Open Evenings & Networking Events

Our November Open Evening/Networking Event was hosted by Thai Square and was well attended by 26 members and guests.

The Annual Christmas lunch, held in association with Sevenoaks Business Ladies will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the Sun Do Restaurant.

## Why Not Bring a Colleague Along and Introduce a New Member: Earn £10.00 Off Your Next Annual Subscription.

## Discounts for Chamber Members

Did you know, some of our Chamber Members offer discounts to fellow Members??? Please mention that you are a Chamber Member when using any of our Member's many and varied services or look at our 'Benefits' section on our home page [www.sevenoakschamber.com](http://www.sevenoakschamber.com).

## Forum on the Chamber Website

The Chamber now has an interactive Forum on our website where you can have your say on any issues which concern you.

You may also introduce your business or display any special offers you wish to advertise. Just log onto:

[www.sevenoakschamber.com/forum](http://www.sevenoakschamber.com/forum)

to add an entry. The entry can be edited by yourself at any time to keep it topical.

There is also a popular Events Calendar for the Sevenoaks area at [www.7oaks.info/calendar](http://www.7oaks.info/calendar) where you can click the link to 'Add Your Own Event'. Most of the events you see there are entered by the Tourist information Centre in Sevenoaks, who are now using the system to 'feed' event details through to locally published magazines.

## Tourism Makes Significant Contribution to the District

A report from the SDC said Tourism activity contributed £200million to the economy of the District in 2006. The report commissioned by the SDC was carried out by Tourism South East. For more information on tourism in the District, please visit, [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/tourism).

## Recycling

Did you know you can 'recycle' your old bicycles at: [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org).

Sevenoaks District has increased its recycling levels from 10% to 33% in the last 10 years.

Read the Sevenoaks Community Forum [www.sevenoaksforum.com](http://www.sevenoaksforum.com) for details of the local Sevenoaks FreeCycle group.

## News in Brief

Several Businesses have relocated or closed down in Sevenoaks this year. A family run business is leaving town after 23 years. Edwards Electrical on the High Street is leaving because the building is being turned into an office block and luxury flats. They have other branches in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

Premier Alarms Limited has also relocated to Chaucer Business Park. Costa Coffee closed in November and Choice Travel also closed. Some of the reasons given are that rates and rents are so high in Sevenoaks. This is a worrying prospect for Sevenoaks' future as we do not want our High Street to go the way of many other High Streets in the UK with many empty premises.

Six people were arrested in the High Street on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November in connection with stealing from an 81 year old woman in Tonbridge and for selling fake gold. The perpetrators, all Romanians were later released without charge.

## Chamber news

The Chamber is now settled in our lovely spacious office at the Sevenoaks Chronicle, 54 High Street.

Please feel free to drop in with any queries you may have or even just to see the new office.

## Multi-Storey Car Park

For over 25 years a multi-storey car park has been considered but at last Rail bosses are giving the idea some serious thought. It would be a huge step in easing Sevenoaks' parking troubles if decking could be erected at the railway car park.

The train company which leases its car parks from Network Rail has drawn up provisional drawings to show how a deck could be built on top of the existing car park four, which would give an extra 150 parking spaces.

Sevenoaks has an urgent need for extra parking as being so closely located to London many motorists come from other towns to park and then catch a train to work in the Capital.

Southeastern Spokesman Nigel Jarrett said of the proposal "Work could begin as soon as next year if a suitable business case can be made. We have got to see whether it would be cost effective."

## Rogue Traders

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

## To Join The Chamber it Costs from Just £8.33 Per Month!



## Chamber Information

### Contact Details:

Administrator: Avril Ferguson  
E-mail: [info@sevenoakschamber.com](mailto:info@sevenoakschamber.com)  
Web: [www.sevenoakschamber.com](http://www.sevenoakschamber.com)  
Tel: 01732 455188

### Committee Members:

David Tudor  
Helen Page  
Doug Parry  
Helen Breeze  
Julian Gilchrist  
Bob Smart  
Jacqueline Heywood

### Office Address:

54 High Street  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1JG

### **Our Motto**

Sevenoaks & District Chamber of Commerce founded in 1910 "... to promote and assist businesses to benefit within the community and for the community."

### **Please Do Not Forget that the Main Function of the Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce ...**

... is being here for our Members and the business community.

If you have any queries or issues, please feel free to pop in to discuss this or contact the office via email or telephone and we will do everything in our power to help and offer advice wherever possible.

### **Have you looked at the Chamber web site recently?**

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

### **Fairtrade in Sevenoaks**

For more information about Fairtrade, please contact: Gwyneth Brearley at [Gwyneth.Brearley@ukgateway.net](mailto:Gwyneth.Brearley@ukgateway.net) or phone: 01732 762172.

## EUROPAGES

EUROPAGES is a working tool for businesses with an international vocation, helping them to buy better and sell more in Europe. Click [www.europages.com](http://www.europages.com) to give access to the full EUROPAGES database: 600,000 businesses in 36 European countries.

## Conservation Council

Conservation maps are now on the SDC website: [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/conservationareas](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/conservationareas) and minutes of Conservation Council meetings are available at the Chamber Office.

## Citizen's Advice Bureau

For any advice on consumer issues, go to the Citizen Advice website, [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) or contact Sevenoaks CAB on 01732 454443, email: [info@sevenoakscab.org.uk](mailto:info@sevenoakscab.org.uk).

## 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.

The Chamber has been overwhelmed with the response to our request for new flyers and the membership pack is now more fully representative of all the members and the services they can offer.

### **Humour Corner**

It was the day of the big sale.

Rumours of the sale and an advertisement in the local paper were the main reasons for the long line that formed in front of the store by 8:30, the store's opening time.

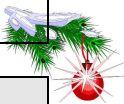
A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed back amid loud and colourful curses.

On the man's second attempt, he was punched square in the jaw and knocked around a bit, then thrown to the end of the line again.

As he got up the second time, he said to the person at the end of the line: "That does it! If they hit me one more time, I don't open the store!"

### **Merry Christmas**

A very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to you all from Avril and the Board Members at **YOUR** local Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce



## NEW MEMBERS FOR 2008 - WELCOME

**E Holmes & Company Limited** Insolvency Practitioner.

Contact: **Emma Holmes**

Telephone: 01732 465822

E-mail: [emma@waitrose.com](mailto:emma@waitrose.com)

**Acorn Recruitment Consultancy Limited** Recruitment Agency.

Contact: **Geoff Newman**

Telephone: 01732 464469

E-mail: [geoff@acornrecruitment.com](mailto:geoff@acornrecruitment.com)

Web: [www.acornrecruitment.com](http://www.acornrecruitment.com)

**Better Body Shop** Sevenoaks Fitness & Personal Training Centre.

Contact: **Jason Crow**

Telephone: 01732 749640

E-mail: [jason@betterbodyshop.co.uk](mailto:jason@betterbodyshop.co.uk)

Web: [www.betterbodyshop.co.uk](http://www.betterbodyshop.co.uk)

**Catering UK Limited T/A Thai Square** Thai Restaurant.

Contact: **Jeff Wilder**

Telephone: 020 7839 3000 Booking for the restaurant, please telephone, Area Manager Tang: 01732 462785

E-mail: [jeffwilder@btconnect.com](mailto:jeffwilder@btconnect.com)

Web: [www.thaisq.com](http://www.thaisq.com)

**Easistore Self Storage Limited** Self Storage Facilities.

Contact: **Paul Collings**

Telephone: 01732 862626

E-mail: [paul.collings@easistore.co.uk](mailto:paul.collings@easistore.co.uk)

Web: [www.easistore.co.uk](http://www.easistore.co.uk)

**Demelza Hospice Care for Children** Hospice Care For Children.

Contact: **Laura Carey**

Telephone: 01580 714028

Email: [laura.carey@demelza.org.uk](mailto:laura.carey@demelza.org.uk)

Web: [www.demelza.org.uk](http://www.demelza.org.uk)

**The Crown Point Inn** Pub / Restaurant.

Contact: **Angus McLelland**

Telephone: 01732 810669

Email: [info@thecrownpoint.co.uk](mailto:info@thecrownpoint.co.uk)

Web: [www.thecrownpoint.co.uk](http://www.thecrownpoint.co.uk)

**Bloss Legal Services** On-line Dictation Services

Contact: **Marie Bloss**

Telephone: 01732 746656

Email: [marie.bloss@btconnect.com](mailto:marie.bloss@btconnect.com)

Web: [www.onlinedictationservices.co.uk](http://www.onlinedictationservices.co.uk)