

IN BUSINESS



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

“Credit Crunch/Recession”

With reports of ‘green shoots’ in the media, we are all trying to be positive after an extremely difficult year but we are right to be a little cautious when some businesses are still finding the economy challenging and unfortunately businesses in the town are closing. During the week of 16th November, we heard of another restaurant closing, Café Piccolo being the latest casualty. The writer has regularly patronised this restaurant for the past six years and found the food and service excellent, so this was a disappointment. This closure will mean another empty shop in our High Street. But whilst one business closes, on a positive note, Lara’s Shoes which were previously at the top of St. John’s Hill has now re-opened in the old Revival Shop in Bank Street.

On another positive note, under a new Christmas letting scheme businesses can take over rental of a shop for a few months instead of the minimum five years. The former Adams in Bligh’s and 50-52 London Road have both been let on a short-term basis. With less empty shop fronts in the run up to Christmas this can only enhance our town.

Sevenoaks Stag Theatre

The Stag has finally received the good news that the future for the next 25 years is in safe hands after the STC was granted the management of the theatre. “Although the rent review remains in place, the Town Council has managed to get a number of clauses inserted into the small print. Any increase in rent has to take into consideration how much money the cinema and theatre complex has made.” However with the news that the theatre is fully booked for the whole of next year and a waiting list for 2011, this bodes well for the future of the Stag.

The Stag has many and varied programmes on offer, with Arts & Crafts Shows monthly in the Plaza Suite, on 1st November The Nutcracker was performed by Ballet Theatre UK and many music and entertainment programmes are on offer leading up to the Christmas Pantomime.

This year the Pantomime will be Dick Whittington with a star-studded cast which promises to be an excellent opportunity for the whole family to enjoy first class entertainment right on our own doorstep.

Business Show

In conjunction with the Stag the Chamber is proposing a Business Show in March next year. Unfortunately, the Business Show which was planned for October this year by Best of Sevenoaks and the Chamber had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

We at the Chamber do feel that a Business Show in Sevenoaks would still be an excellent opportunity to showcase your business. More details will follow in the New Year.



Christmas Lights & Late Night Shopping

The Christmas lights and Late Night Shopping event will take place on Friday 27th November. The Christmas lights will be turned on by the Town Mayor (outside Dorothy Perkins) at 7pm.

There is a fantastic evening of events planned from 6.30pm with a Pantomime Parade, Fire Eaters, Fairground Rides, a Christmas Market, Street Entertainers and Staged Entertainment. This year there will also be Santa’s Grotto at the Stag Plaza from 6pm. Children can bring their letters with a SAE to which they will receive a reply from Santa.

Best Shop Window - Sevenoaks

The Best Christmas Shop Window in Sevenoaks will again be judged by the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Ann Dawson during December and the winner and runners up will be announced shortly thereafter.

Best Shop Window - Riverhead

Riverhead will be hosting their own Best Shop Window competition for businesses in their area on 2nd December which is excellent news. The winner will receive a Christmas hamper courtesy of the Parish Council.

Open Evenings & Networking Events



The Free Coffee Mornings/Network Events at the Lodge Coffee Bar at the Stag have continued to be extremely popular with many non-members joining us to network their businesses and hopefully wishing to join the Chamber of Commerce as a new member. The events are held each **1st WEDNESDAY** of each month. The Open Evening/Networking events on the **3rd THURSDAY** of each month have been postponed during the summer months but resumed on **26th November** with the event hosted by Easistore Self Storage in Edenbridge. Our hosts offered a finger buffet and drinks and businesses had the opportunity to see what Easistore have to offer in the form of storage and also their new Business Centre, Eden House.

Job Club

The Sevenoaks Town Council held a seminar for professional job seekers on Monday 16th November. The target audience were those professionals who are currently out of work and university leavers who are looking to secure their first position in a company. An experienced business manager was on hand to conduct a presentation on effective interview techniques.

To receive further information, please contact: ann.white@sevenoakstown.gov.uk. Or phone 01732 459953.

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

Chamber of Commerce 'Live at the Plaza'

The turn-out by Chamber Members at Live at the Plaza on 6th November was quite disappointing but the evening nevertheless was extremely enjoyable with the excellent vocalist Shane Hampsheir and hilarious comedy entertainer Lloyd Hollett being very well received.

Business – Business Forum

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

There is also a popular Events Calendar for the Sevenoaks area at 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 and the Sevenoaks Chronicle.

News in Brief

Number 13-Lucky for Some Hole in One Winner receives cheque for £20,000. Clarkson Wright & Jakes LLP, a local firm of Solicitors and Chamber Member based in Orpington, recently sponsored a golf day hole in one competition for Selection Services PLC. An IT support and solutions company based in Bromley, Kent. The lucky winner was Joe Bichard of Walker Greenbank Plc. He won his £20,000 prize by achieving a hole in one on the 147 yard number 13 hole at the Warwickshire Golf Club.

In the winter, when Knole House has closed for the year, Knole Park with National Trust volunteers offer free guided walks in the park, revealing the history behind the landscape and the secrets of the abundant wildlife. Taking place twice a month, walks begin in the upstairs coffee lounge inside Sevenoaks Library at 11.15am and last for about an hour. Dogs are welcome on a lead. For more info, contact Sevenoaks Tourist Office (also in the library building) on 01732 450305.

"The Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce is extremely pleased to hear that Sevenoaks, as well as being the "happiest in the country", also has the smallest gap in the UK in relation to equal pay between male and female workers. We would encourage all organisations in the area to review their pay scales and policies in order to ensure that all staff are being fairly and consistently remunerated, regardless of gender. It is enlightening to hear that we are trailblazing the way for women's equality in this small corner of Kent."

FOR MEMBERS DETAILS DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUR DIRECTORY ON THE WEBSITE.

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.

TO JOIN THE CHAMBER IT COSTS FROM JUST £8.33P PER MONTH!

Affiliation with Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce / British Chamber of Commerce

After meetings with Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce and consultation with our members and the Chamber Board, it has been decided to affiliate with Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

The Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce will retain its own identity and the office at 54 High Street but we are confident that with the affiliation we will be able to offer more services to our Members. Kent Invicta membership will also offer an affiliation with the British Chamber of Commerce. We will be able to offer more networking events with the increased benefit of meeting more and more businesses in Kent. With the challenges we are all facing in the present economic climate, this move was seen as a positive way to proceed with the Chamber.

The annual membership fees will increase by only £10 per annum to incorporate the affiliation. Taking into account that we have not increased our subscription fees for two years and the fact that we are extremely competitive compared with other Chambers in Kent, we are sure that this increase will be seen to be extremely good value for money.

Sevenoaks Chronicle

If you have a story concerning Sevenoaks, Chronicle reporters Stuart Woledge, Harriet Cooper or Amy Andrews will be at the Sennockian Pub, High Street, Sevenoaks on Fridays from 11am to 1pm. Café Nero, High Street, Sevenoaks on Thursdays 9am to 11am and Tesco, Riverhead on Thursday from 6pm to 8pm.

Email: reporters@sevenoakschronicle.co.uk. Or phone 01732 228000. The reporting team is now based on the ground floor at 54 High Street, giving them a greater opportunity to meet up with the public.

Twitter

The Chamber is now on 'Twitter' on our webpage so please log on to the latest news and 'follow us'.

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.

Traffic Report on the website

We have a new link on our Website – a Road Traffic Report. Just log onto our website, go to LINKS and get up-to-date traffic information.

Remembrance Sunday

Nearly 600 people attended the Remembrance Day service at the Vine on Sunday 8th November which was conducted by Rev Angus Macleay of St. Nicholas Church. The Chamber laid a wreath at the war memorial and we thought it a particularly poignant service when we remembered that many of our soldiers are now on active duty at the present time. The event climaxed with a march past of members from the Royal British Legion, services and Scouts and Guides.

South East Water

Notification was received at the Chamber regarding an update of South East Water's £7million scheme to ensure high standards of water quality are maintained in Kent. This work includes constructing a new 3.8km long (10") diameter pipeline from their existing Borough Green, to Trosley, WTW. To comply with safety requirements, it will be necessary to temporarily close Ford Lane starting on Monday 16th November and this is expected to remain in place until Saturday 5th December. If you have any queries, please call SEW on 01634 873201.

Kent Trading Standards

Kent Trading Standards are warning people to be wary of many scams that are taking place. For any advice please call Consumer Direct 08454 04 05 06 or Contact Trading Standards, Advice & Education, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8XU or log onto the website, www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/kent.

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.

Europages

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

www.europages.com gives access to the full EUROPAGES database: 600,000 businesses in 36 European countries

Recycling

Did you know you can 'recycle' your old bicycles at: www.freecycle.org.

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

Conservation Council

The website for the Conservation Council is: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/conservation.

Rogue Traders

If you want any advice about scams, contact Consumer Direct on 08454 040506 or if you want to simply report a scam visit <https://secure.consumerdirect.gov.uk/reportascam.aspx>.

Have you looked at the Chamber web site recently?

See the Links – on line business information “ONE SOURCE”

Citizen's Advice Bureau

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

Fairtrade in Sevenoaks

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

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.

Waitrose

Waitrose are to sub-let the old Woolworths store in the High Street until their move temporarily next year whilst the work on their existing store at the top of the High Street takes place.

Humour Corner

Credit Crunch humour from the BBC!

How do you define optimism? A banker who irons 5 shirts on a Sunday.

We've been playing office bingo with phrases like "In The Current Climate." to see how many times we hear it in a week..

What is a banker's favourite chocolate bar? A credit crunchie!

Contact Details

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Committee Members:

David Tudor, Barclays Bank
Doug Parry
Kevin Aylward, The Showbusiness Company Ltd
Derek Griffin, Ditto
Elizabeth Dolding, Warners Solicitors

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."

New Membership Fees for 2010 per annum – includes our affiliation with Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce from January 2010

1 – 9 Employees - £100

10 – 19 Employees - £135.00

20 – 49 Employees - £165.00

50 Plus Employees - £220.00



*The Sevenoaks & District Chamber of
Commerce would like to wish all our
Members a Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year*

NEW MEMBERS FOR 2009 - WELCOME

Goddard's Pies Limited. Pie & Mash & Outside Catering.

Contact: **Sean Horton**

Telephone: 01732 252525

E-mail: sean@pieshop.co.uk

Web: www.pieshop.co.uk

Happen Web Technologies. Web Design.

Contact: **Andy Ross**

Telephone: 01959 525137

E-mail: andy@happenweb.com

Web: www.happenweb.com

Sainsbury's. Supermarket.

Contact: **Andrew Curry**

Telephone: 01732 742561

E-mail: manager.sevenoaks@sainsburys.co.uk Web: www.sainsburys.co.uk

Wells Associates. Accountants & Business Advisers.

Contact: **Sonia Kesby**

Telephone: 01892 507280

E-mail: soniak@wellsassociates.com

Web: www.wellsassociates.com

Glendale Horticulture Limited. Nursery & Plant Centre.

Contact: **Richard Burton**

Telephone: 01732 770999

E-mail: richard.burton@best4plants.co.uk

Web: www.bestforplants.co.uk

Kikodo Limited. Complementary Therapies.

Contact: **Stephane Burton**

Telephone: 01732 451839

E-mail: info@kikodo.co.uk

Web: www.kikodo.co.uk

E Holmes & Company Limited Insolvency Practitioner.

Contact: **Emma Holmes**

Telephone: 01732 465822

E-mail: emma@waitrose.com

Acorn Recruitment Consultancy Limited Recruitment Agency.

Contact: **Geoff Newman**

Telephone: 01732 464469

E-mail: geoff@acornrecruitment.com

Web: www.acornrecruitment.com

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

Web: www.thaisq.com

Easistore Self Storage Limited Self Storage Facilities.

Contact: **Richie Wicks**

Telephone: 01732 862626

E-mail: richie.wicks@easistore.co.uk

Web: www.easistore.co.uk

Demelza Hospice Care for Children Hospice Care For Children.

Contact: **Donna Wells**

Telephone: 01580 714028

Email: laura.carey@demelza.org.uk

Web: www.demelza.org.uk

The Crown Point Inn Pub / Restaurant.

Contact: **Michael Wells**

Telephone: 01732 810669

Email: info@thecrownpoint.co.uk

Web: www.thecrownpoint.co.uk