

IN BUSINESS



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

Local Employment for young people

Five local young people have been given a step on the employment ladder thanks to a new scheme implemented by the SDC. After Sevenoaks District Council secured £32,500 in funding from the Government earlier in the year, the Council has taken on its first ever Future Jobs Fund trainees. The Future Jobs Fund is a Government scheme set up to provide job opportunities to young people aged 18 – 24 years old who have been out of work for nearly a year. The Council secured the funding in partnership with Kent County Council. The five trainees, who will work in the housing, health and youth development teams, each have a six month placement at the Council. Cllr Carol Clark Sevenoaks District Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for economic development says: "We're determined to do everything we can to help young people who are affected by unemployment. We believe its right to help people through the difficult times so that local communities can come through this sooner and stronger. Not only will it benefit them in terms of experience, they will also help provide useful services for our local residents." We at the Chamber feel this is a very positive and encouraging sign for our local young people. For economic business advice, please contact SDC by email: business@sevenoaks.gov.uk or visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/business.

General Election Result 2010 Sevenoaks

Michael Fallon was elected to represent the Sevenoaks Constituency. Congratulations Michael! The results were:

Alan Bullion

Liberal Democrats: 10,561 votes

Mark Ellis

Independent: 258 votes

Michael Fallon

Conservative: 28,076 votes

Paul Golding

British National Party: 1,384 votes

Christopher Heath

UK Independence Party: 1,782 votes

Gareth Siddorn

Labour: 6,541 votes

Louise Uncles

English Democrats: 806 votes

The turnout for the election was 71.1%

Coalition between Conservatives & Liberal Democrats

After a period of days of uncertainty after the general election and a hung parliament, David Cameron, leader of the Conservatives and Nick Clegg, Leader of the Liberal Democrats, agreed to a coalition for the good of the country on Tuesday 11th May, 2010. Here at the Chamber we can only hope that this partnership will prosper and have a direct impact on our economy, leading to stability in the market place which will filter down to our local economy. Although we can expect tough times ahead with various cuts and increases in Tax/Vat; let's hope we as a local business community can weather the storm, support one another and come through the other side stronger than before.

Open Evenings & Networking Events



The **Free Coffee Mornings/Network** Events at the Lodge Coffee Bar at the Stag have continued to draw businesses to the events for networking. The April event was sponsored by Derek Griffin, Ditto and was well attended and the May event was sponsored by Demelza Hospice Care for Children and was also very well attended. Donna Wells gave a short talk on what Demelza actually offers to the local community. The coffee mornings continue to grow from strength to strength and are a definite sign that networking 'does work.' The next Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 2nd June, 2010, sponsor to be announced. The events are held each 1st **WEDNESDAY** of each month.

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

News in Brief

A 10K sponsored Twilight Walk is taking place in aid of Demelza Hospice Care for Children on Saturday 10th July in Sittingbourne at 10.30pm. Entry only £15 which includes tutu, medal and bacon roll! To enter contact: Clare Emmett on 01795 845204 or email: events@demelza.org.uk. Demelza also run a weekly £1000 Lottery plus 52 additional cash prizes. For more info please contact Demelza directly.

Loss of Victorian Post box in Sevenoaks. A Victorian post-box that has stood at the junction of Bayham Road and Hollybush Lane was removed during building operations and unfortunately fell apart due to the age of the post-box - more than 100 years old! Sevenoaks Town Councillors very much regret the destruction of the Victorian Post Box and have vowed to continue their campaign to have the Post Box re-instated. To this end Councillors have agreed to either fund the repairs to the broken post box or assist the procurement of a replacement. Contact: Anne White, Deputy Town Clerk, or Laura Gardner, Planning Commitment Clerk, 01732 459953.

Appointments at Clarkson Wright & Jakes LLP
Kate Ellingsworth Qualified as a Solicitor working in the Wills & Estates Administration department.

Victoria Jarrett Qualifies as a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives and is part of the Wills & Administration of Estates team.

The Equality Bill finally became law in the scramble to rush through legislation in the final hours before Parliament was dissolved in the run up to the General Election. In the main, the Act just consolidates and simplifies existing discrimination law, but it does extend existing law in certain areas too. For further information please contact: Amanda Mehlin on 01689 887808 or email: Amanda.mehlin@cwj.co.uk.

More Oaks for Sevenoaks

The first of the new "Seven Oaks" was planted by Sevenoaks Mayor Cllr Ann Dawson on Brittain's Common. Each Mayor for the next seven years will plant an oak tree on the common to form the new series of trees. Cllr Dawson said "We chose Brittain's Common because there are no oaks at the north end of the town and we had acquired this piece of land, which is quite close to the main London Road but far enough back that we hope it will attract picnickers."

Robbery in Sevenoaks

One of our loyal Chamber Members, Francis Jones Jewellers had a most unfortunate and upsetting incident on Tuesday evening when their shop was broken into at around 11.50pm. Jewellery was taken and the thieves made their getaway on bicycles. Police are asking if anyone saw the incident or two men on cycles going towards Oak Lane around midnight to contact the police on 01732 379217 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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

Sevenoaks Stag Theatre

The Management of the Stag Theatre will continue to be led by Linda Larter until September 2011, following a town council meeting. Ann White has been promoted to Deputy Town Clerk of STC. The Plaza Suite is an excellent venue for events such as our recent Business Show.

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

Survey – What types of Business are missing in Sevenoaks?

The Chamber of Commerce would like to know from residents/other business owners what businesses they think are missing in Sevenoaks? Please download and complete the survey at www.sevenoakschamber.com/docs/BusinessSurvey.pdf and return to the Chamber.

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.

Sevenoaks Chronicle

If you have a story concerning Sevenoaks, Chronicle reporters Stuart Woledge, Harriet Cooper or Amy Andrews will be at Tesco, Riverhead on Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm.

Email: reporters@sevenoakschronicle.co.uk. Or phone 01732 228000.

Twitter

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

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.

News & Events around Sevenoaks

Looking for the latest news and what's on around the Sevenoaks town and district? Wanting to publicise your business event or announce a press release? Click on www.7oaks.info for its interactive community calendar and add your event / news item online.

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"

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.

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.

Forum on the Chamber website

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 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.

Contact Details

Administrator: Avril Ferguson
info@sevenoakschamber.com
www.sevenoakschamber.com
01732 455188
Mobile: 07906 094445

Committee Members:

David Tudor, Barclays Bank
Doug Parry – Riverside Insurance Brokers Ltd
Kevin Aylward, The Showbusiness Company Ltd
Derek Griffin – Ditto
Elizabeth Dolding – Warners Solicitors
Mark Tuvey – Opus Network Services

Office Address:

54 High Street
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1JG

Our Mottos

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

"KEEPING TRADE LOCAL"

Support our local businesses and keep trade local.

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

Plus £40 joining fee for new members

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

With our affiliation with the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce this year you can also attend various networking events they have on offer, please visit: www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk or call 01233 504838 for more details.

Enjoy the summer; hopefully it will be a hot one!!!!



Humour Corner

Job Interview Question

You are driving along in your car on a wild, stormy night. You pass by a bus stop, and you see three people waiting for the bus:

1. An old lady who looks as if she is about to die.
2. An old friend who once saved your life.
3. The perfect man (or) woman you have been dreaming about.

Which one would you choose to offer a ride to, knowing that there could only be one passenger in your car?

Think before you continue reading. This is a moral/ethical dilemma that was once actually used as part of a job application.

You could pick up the old lady, because she is going to die, and thus you should save her first; or you could take the old friend because he once saved your life, and this would be the perfect chance to pay him back. However, you may never be able to find your perfect dream lover again.

The candidate who was hired (out of 200 applicants) had no trouble coming up with his answer.

He simply answered: "I would give the car keys to my old friend, and let him take the lady to the hospital. I would stay behind and wait for the bus with the woman of my dreams." Never forget to "Think Outside of the Box."

An article in the Chronicle recently, courtesy of Bob Ogley's "From the Archives" brought a chuckle to us here at the Chamber!

50 Years Ago
From the Sevenoaks Chronicle, May 13, 1960:

A Rebel Trader has hit out at Sevenoaks Chamber of Trade over tickets to a lottery.

Cecil Brown branded it "disgraceful" that the tickets would be printed in Preston when there were traders in the town who could do it in Sevenoaks. It follows last year's decision to hold the annual dinner at the Grasshopper in neighbouring Surrey!"

Do Let's Keep our Trade local!

NEW MEMBERS FOR 2010 – WELCOME –

Christy Consulting. Coaching for Life & Work.

Contact: **Sue Christy**

Telephone: 0771 2837519

Email: sue@christyconsulting.co.uk.

Handelsbanken. Corporate & Private Banking

Contact: **Nick Green**

Telephone: 01892 547702

Email: nicg01@handelsbanken.se.

Sevenoaks Summer Festival. Annual Festival of Arts.

Contact: **John Levett**

Telephone: 01732 460143

Email: john@listeningroom.co.uk.

BMI Fawkham Manor Hospital. Private Acute Healthcare.

Contact: **Valerie Power**

Telephone: 01474 879900

Email: vpower@bmihealthcare.co.uk.

John Caruana Photography. Photographer.

Contact: **John Caruana**

Telephone: 01732 743316.

Email: john.caruana@sky.com.

Web: www.jcphotography.biz.

Strada. Restaurant. "Pizzas – as good as any you'll enjoy in Italy!"

Contact: **Ryan Hutchinson.**

Telephone: 01732 461706.

Email: sevenoaks@strada.co.uk.

Web: www.strada.co.uk.

Eightoaks Limited. Business Advisers Tax/Business Systems & Business Support.

Contact: **Sharon Keown**

Telephone: 01732 550030

Email: sharon.keown@eightoaks.ltd.uk

Web: www.eightoaks.ltd.uk

Riverside Insurance Brokers Limited. Insurance Brokers.

Contact: **Doug Parry**

Telephone: 01732 783505

Email: doug.parry@riversidebrokers.co.uk.

Web: www.riversidebrokers.co.uk

People Placements Limited. Recruitment.

Contact: **Miranda Etherington**

Telephone: 01732 746681

Email: jobs@peopleplacements.co.uk

Web: www.peopleplacements.co.uk

Fincello Finance Limited. Bookkeeping & Accounting Services.

Contact: **Harriet Finch**

Telephone: 07769 274690

Email: harriet.finch@googlemail.com