

# 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



The **Free monthly '1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays' Coffee Mornings/Network** Events at the Plaza Suite, Stag Theatre continue to grow from strength to strength each month and are attended by many local businesses and Kent Invicta Members from further afield.

Members who host the event each month give a short talk telling attendees the nature of their business and what they can offer and have found the morning hugely beneficial in making new contacts and increasing their business portfolio.

**If you are a member and would like to host one of these very successful Networking events, please contact the office.**

Hosts for our forthcoming events are:

- 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 – GMP Public Relations & Marketing
- 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 – Warners
- 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2012 – Opus
- 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 – Sevenoaks Amherst Rotary Club
- 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 – Vine Cricket Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2012 – Thackray Williams Solicitors LLP

We would like to say a big Thank you to the Stag for the use of the Plaza Suite and all our hosts at these events, without your support the Coffee Mornings would not continue to be such a huge success and benefit to the local business community.

## Sevenoaks named as Britain's most successful town centre

In October, Sevenoaks was named as Britain's most successful town centre for its size in a new report which looked at retail occupancy rates on Britain's High Streets. The Annual report, called 'The Good, the bad and (very) ugly' was produced by the Local Data Company. It found that Sevenoaks town has an occupancy rate of more than 95%, the highest in Britain for a town of its size. This is nearly three times better than the national average where 85% of town centre units are occupied.

Here at the Chamber we feel this report illustrates the fact businesses do have economic faith in the town by continuing to invest in new business locally. Several new businesses have opened in recent months in the town centre and after months of doom and gloom, really is a positive sign for the town. We cannot as businesses become complacent, however, as there are still tough times ahead and the economic climate is unstable, but positives like the report do boost confidence and Sevenoaks folk are known for pulling together so hopefully this is a sign of a more stable and profitable period for us all.

## Christmas Free Parking/Late Night Shopping and Christmas Lights Turn-on

For all shoppers, free parking will be available in Sevenoaks, Swanley & Westerham on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 and as this period is one of the most important times of the year for businesses, can only be of benefit to businesses.

The late night shopping and Christmas Lights took place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 with the Panto Parade starting at HSBC Bank and proceeding down to the main stage at the bottom of the High Street. The Mayor, Cllr Margaret Crabtree switched on the lights with a huge roar from the crowd to support the event. Roger Kasper was the compere for the evening and got everyone into the Christmas spirit. There was a fantastic turn-out for the evening and the weather was extremely kind on the night.

## Local News.



We now have 111 traders who have joined the Loyalty Card Scheme which has proved to be successful beyond our expectations. Every month a draw is held and the winners drawn by either a celebrity or local person. On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 the draw honours were done by international author, Martina Cole who lives locally. First prize was Don Pilgrim of Wilderness Mount, winning him £150 worth of vouchers to spend in participating stores. Judith Dalziel won £100 of vouchers and Isobel Burr of Hamlin Road, Riverhead won £50.00 worth of vouchers. The November prize draw was done on the evening of the Christmas Lights Switch on and parade. Winners to be announced. For more information on the scheme and to see the list of businesses participating so far, please log onto our website – Sevenoaks Loyalty Card.

### Christmas Best Shop Window.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Margaret Crabtree and Avril Ferguson, Administrator at the Chamber will be judging the Best Shop Window from 12 noon on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2011. A trophy and a bottle of Champagne will be presented to the winner on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.

### **Chamber Member/Business News in brief**

**Members please don't forget this is your space for any news about your business or forthcoming events you may wish to advertise.**

### **Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce**

One of the numerous benefits of our affiliation with the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce this year is that you can also attend various networking events they have on offer, please visit: [www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk](http://www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk) or call 01233 504838 for more details. If you are a member of the Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce, you also qualify for member's rates at these events.

## Thackray Williams Solicitors LLP

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**14 OCTOBER 2011**

### **Kent Solicitor shortlisted in Law Society Excellence Awards**

Employment law specialist Emma Thompson has been shortlisted in the category 'Junior Lawyer of the Year.' Emma was brought up in Kemsing and attended Weald of Kent Grammar School. She joined the Bromley based legal firm Thackray Williams as a trainee solicitor in 2006. Since qualifying as a solicitor in 2008 she has established an extensive following of clients and a first rate reputation. Her clients include local schools and businesses as well as individual employees. Emma's employment advice articles regularly appear in local publications, she is a volunteer advisor at St Cecilia's Leonard Cheshire home and a founding member of the Bromley Young Professionals Group. Thackray Williams' Managing Partner Robert Goddard said "Emma is an exceptional lawyer and a wonder ambassador for our firm."

**Ten2Two.**  
**Drop Kids Off.**  
**Have a Career.**  
**Pick Kids Up.**



A new specialist flexible and part-time resourcing organisation Launch helping local business beat the squeeze on budgets.

Ten2two, have recently launched and are a flexible and part-time working agency that helps women find professional part-time work with local businesses. Ten2two plans to bring them together with business that need **affordable** professional skills. Over the last few months, the Ten2two team have built a powerful community of women seeking professional part-time work to prove to local businesses, big and small, that there is a wealth of talent available to them, who'd love to work and help their business continue to thrive in this tough economic climate. Ten2two will work with women and businesses across West Kent and Bromley, including Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells. For more information, please contact the Ten2two team Andrea Starbuck or Kirsteen Allen on 01732 759849.

## Chamber Members News (continued)

### The Kings Head, Bessels Green.

Christmas has arrived at the Kings Head!  
Check our exciting Festive, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve menus  
on our new website at:  
[www.kingsheadsevenoaks.co.uk](http://www.kingsheadsevenoaks.co.uk)  
Looking forward to welcoming you,  
Anne & Allen Peeks

### Rockdale Housing Association Limited

#### **Carol Concert at The Chapel, Tonbridge School Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 6.30pm**

Come and listen to carols sung by the Sackville Singers Adult and Children's Choirs in this beautiful venue.

Don't miss the opportunity to buy tickets for this very popular event.

**Tickets £15.** Can be purchased on line at [www.rockdale.org.uk](http://www.rockdale.org.uk) (Click on News & Events) by credit/debit card or cheque

Or by post to Fundraising, Rockdale, Rockdale Lodge, Rockdale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1JT Tel: 01732 458762. Sponsored by Warners Solicitors.



#### **"Sevenoaks Summer Festival's Schools Music Stage - new sponsorship opportunity!!**

This popular feature of the Festival Fair, which marks the opening of Festival, was made possible in years past by the generosity of the previous owner of Bligh's Meadow, who paid for the infrastructure of the covered stage and adjacent marquees and made awards to assist the musical development of the students from participating schools. Unfortunately, that sponsorship came to an end this year and Chairman Ray Russell would be pleased to discuss the opportunity on offer for 2012 with interested organisations ahead of the Sponsors' Lunch to be held at The Royal Oak in January. Contact Ray on 01732 742213 or e-mail him as [rayrussell@sevenoaksfestival.org.uk](mailto:rayrussell@sevenoaksfestival.org.uk)

**WHY NOT BRING A COLLEAGUE TO ONE OF OUR NETWORKING EVENTS AND INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER : EARN £10.00 DISCOUNT ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

### Easistore Self Storage.



“On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Easistore Self Storage Ltd, Edenbridge held it's latest free networking evening. It was a fantastic success with support this month from Nick Richardson from the Grapebox who provided our free wine tasting sessions for the evening. Easistore host three events each year with our next one in early 2012. Should you be interested in attending and gaining more clients for your business, please do not hesitate to contact one of the team on 01732 86 26 26 or via e-mail at [jason.chatfield@easistore.co.uk](mailto:jason.chatfield@easistore.co.uk).”

### Sevenoaks Stag Theatre

The Stag are delighted to announce that a skating rink will be installed at The Stag Community Arts Centre in Sevenoaks from 19<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> December and that Santa will be in residence each day. Letters can be posted to Santa at The Stag Box Office, from 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2011.

For more information, please log onto: [www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk](http://www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk) or phone the Box office: 01732 450175.

The pantomime this year is Mother Goose, starring Eastenders Dirty Den, Leslie Grantham and will be showing at the Stag from 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 – 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2012. For more info, please log onto: [www.sevenoakspanto.com](http://www.sevenoakspanto.com).

### Sevenoaks Town Partnership

For all the latest news and information on the Sevenoaks Town Partnership, please log onto:

[Council@Sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:Council@Sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

### Olympic Flame to light up Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks District will become part of Olympic history when the London 2012 Olympic Flame Torch Relay travels through four local communities next summer. Local people can be part of the momentous occasion and can see the Flame in person as it travels through Seal, Sevenoaks, Riverhead and then finally Bessels Green on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 from midday. Details of the exact route in the District will be announced in early July in the local press and on the Council's website. People are invited to view the interactive map at [www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelaymap](http://www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelaymap).

## Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee

Sevenoaks Town Council will be organising events to celebrate her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee during the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2012. The STC would be delighted to hear from local organisations and charities, what ideas and functions are already planned to mark this mate. The Town Council is hoping to produce a commemorative brochure to mark the occasion detailing all the celebration events. Please email: [council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk) with your views and ideas.

## Sevenoaks Police Station

The Police Station is now located at the SDC, in Argyle Road. The council and police opening times are 8.45am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.45am to 4.45pm on Fridays.

## Sevenoaks Chronicle

If you have a story concerning Sevenoaks please contact the Chronicle office at 54 High Street or Email: [reporters@sevenoakschronicle.co.uk](mailto:reporters@sevenoakschronicle.co.uk). Phone 01732 228000.

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

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

## Twitter

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

## Traffic Report on the website

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.SevenoaksEvents.com](http://www.SevenoaksEvents.com) for its interactive community calendar and add your event / news item online.

## 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.

## The Lodge Coffee Bar

Why not utilise the Lodge Coffee Bar at the Stag which caters for lights meals and superb cakes daily from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday. Children's parties are also catered for. Contact David Martin.

## Kent Trading Standards

Officers from Kent County Council's Trading Standards Service used National Consumer Week on 21 – 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 to urge people to check, double check and check again when buying tickets and merchandise for sports events. The drive is part of the Trading Standards Institute's annual National Consumer Week.

As tickets go back on sale for the Paralympics from 2 December, now is the time to stay alert to fraudsters looking to cash in on unsuspecting customers.

The key message of the ‘Good Sports Don't Fake It’ campaign is that if you are not sure about what you are buying, get advice by phoning 0808 156 2256 or visit [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk).

Kent Trading Standards are also 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](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/kent).

Report any incidents to Consumer Direct <http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk/> or telephone 08454 04 05 06

## 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.

## 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).

## Tourist Information Centre

The Tourist Information Centre is now located at **The Plaza Suite, Stag Theatre.**

## Sevenoaks Job Club

The Job Club meets regularly in the Café at the Stag Community Art Centre on Monday mornings. Sevenoaks Town Council recommends that, and would welcome anyone in Sevenoaks who is looking for employment, attends these meetings.

## 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.

## Website Statistics

You can now view the Chamber website statistics anytime using [www.sevenoakschamber.com/stats](http://www.sevenoakschamber.com/stats). We are currently getting around 800 users a month, with around 3,000 'page' views.

## Discounts for Chamber Members

Did you know, some of our Chamber Members offer discounts to fellow Members??? Please mention 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. Or if you would like to offer a discount/special offer please contact the Chamber Office.

## 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.

## 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.

## Conservation Council

The website for the Conservation Council is: [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/conservation](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/conservation).

## Forum on the Chamber website

The Chamber has an interactive Free 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. Please use this site to advertise your business.

Just log onto: [www.sevenoakschamber.com/forum](http://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.

## Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

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**TO JOIN THE CHAMBER IT COSTS FROM  
JUST £9.16 PER MONTH!**

### **Contact Details**

Administrator: Avril Ferguson  
[info@sevenoakschamber.com](mailto:info@sevenoakschamber.com)  
[www.sevenoakschamber.com](http://www.sevenoakschamber.com)  
01732 455188  
Mobile: 07906094445

### **Board Members:**

Doug Parry – Riverside Insurance Brokers Ltd  
Kevin Aylward, The Showbusiness Company Ltd  
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 2011 per  
annum – includes our affiliation with  
Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce from  
January 2011**

**1 – 9 Employees - £110**

**10 – 19 Employees - £145.00**

**20 – 49 Employees - £175.00**

**50 Plus Employees - £230.00**

**Plus £50 joining fee for new members**

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



### **Thought for the Day**

*"Some people succeed  
because they are destined to  
but most people succeed  
because they are determined to."*

*Author Unknown*

### **Humour Corner**

Every now and again we will give wise, sage  
advice that will help you in your business life.  
Here is today's:

'To err is human. To blame it on someone else  
is just politics.'

'To err is human. To forgive is simply not  
company policy.'

And, if you want to get maximum attention  
today at work, simply make the biggest mistake.

## NEW MEMBERS FOR 2011 – WELCOME

### **Promentum Technologies Limited** – IT & Telecoms Goods & Services

Contact: Simon Colburn

Telephone: 01732 450900

Email: [simon.colburn@promentum.co.uk](mailto:simon.colburn@promentum.co.uk). Web: [www.promentum.co.uk](http://www.promentum.co.uk).

### **Ten2two** – Flexible Recruitment

Contact: Andrea Starbuck

Telephone: 01732 759849

Email: [andrea@ten2two.org](mailto:andrea@ten2two.org). Web: [www.tenwtwo.org](http://www.tenwtwo.org).

### **Karrison Property Consultants** – Property Consultancy & Chartered Surveyors

Contact: David Robinson

Telephone: 01959 563800

Email: [david.robinson@karrison.co.uk](mailto:david.robinson@karrison.co.uk). Web: [www.karrison.co.uk](http://www.karrison.co.uk).

### **Thackray Williams Solicitors LLP** – Solicitors

Contact: Vikki Herbert

Telephone: 0208 290 0440

Email: [vikki.herbert@thackraywilliams.com](mailto:vikki.herbert@thackraywilliams.com). Web: [www.thackraywilliams.com](http://www.thackraywilliams.com).

### **The Utilities Warehouse** – Utilities Provider

Contact: Barbara Taylor

Telephone: 07703 743588

Email: [taylors@utilitieswarehouse.org.uk](mailto:taylors@utilitieswarehouse.org.uk). Web: [www.lovelybills.co.uk](http://www.lovelybills.co.uk).

### **The Kings Head** – Traditional Pub & French Restaurant

Contact: Anne & Allen Peeks

Telephone: 01732 452081

Email: [a28peeks@btinternet.com](mailto:a28peeks@btinternet.com). Web: [www.kingsheadsevenoaks.com](http://www.kingsheadsevenoaks.com).

### **Stag Community Arts Centre** – Theatre, cinema, function suite, café, registered charity

Contact: Linda Larter

Telephone: 01732 451548

Email: [lindalarter@stagsevenoaks.co.uk](mailto:lindalarter@stagsevenoaks.co.uk). Web: [www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk](http://www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk).

### **Peak Skills Limited** – HSE Approved First Aid Training

Contact: Sam Pearce

Telephone: 01732 462781

Email: [sam@peakskills.co.uk](mailto:sam@peakskills.co.uk). Web: [www.peakskills.co.uk](http://www.peakskills.co.uk).

### **Better Body Shop** – Personal Training Centre

Contact: Jason Crow

Telephone: 01732 451979

Email: [info@betterbodyshop.co.uk](mailto:info@betterbodyshop.co.uk). Web: [www.betterbodyshop.co.uk](http://www.betterbodyshop.co.uk).

### **Sevenoaks Amherst Rotary Club**

Contact: Derek Williams

Telephone: 01959 522148

Email: [cornstalks@btinternet.com](mailto:cornstalks@btinternet.com). Web: [www.sevenoaksamherst.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaksamherst.org.uk).

### **Sevenoaks Computers** – IT Sales & Support

Contact: Frances Herd

Telephone: 01732 466666

Email: [frances@sevenoakscomputers.com](mailto:frances@sevenoakscomputers.com). Web: [www.sevenoakscomputers.com](http://www.sevenoakscomputers.com).

**Crest Retail Limited (Malabar) – Coffee Shop**

Contact: Julia Baber

Telephone: 01732 743055

Email: [crestretailtd@gmail.com](mailto:crestretailtd@gmail.com).

**7 Hotel Diner – Hotel & American Themed Diner**

Contact: Louise Brown

Telephone: 01959 853890

Email: [adrian@7hoteldiner.co.uk](mailto:adrian@7hoteldiner.co.uk). Web: [www.7hoteldiner.co.uk](http://www.7hoteldiner.co.uk).

**Wenlock Edge Marketing – Internet & Marketing**

Contact: David Hale

Telephone: 01732 808693

Email: [wenlockedgemarketing@gmail.com](mailto:wenlockedgemarketing@gmail.com) Web: [www.wenlockedgemarketing.co.uk](http://www.wenlockedgemarketing.co.uk)

**Bishopsgate Copywriting – Copywriting for Businesses & Websites**

Contact: Steven Shaw

Telephone: 07771 641498

Email: [steve@bishopsgateadvisory.co.uk](mailto:steve@bishopsgateadvisory.co.uk) Web: [www.bishopsgateadvisory.co.uk](http://www.bishopsgateadvisory.co.uk)