

## **Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce November 2008 Newsletter**

Christmas has been in the air for a while within the Chamber, organising the Festive Shopping Weekend for Sherborne – 5/6/7 December 2008.

### **Winter Hanging Baskets**

The baskets are assembled and will be put up next week. I look forward to seeing the baskets up. Thank you to Tony for his hard work in dealing with the administration and financial side of this worthwhile task. Remember that if you have not contacted Tony about the baskets, we cannot read your mind! The onus is on YOU to respond to US! If you would like to help with the voluntary distribution of newsletters and notices, or would be interested in collecting order forms please let me know.

Please settle any outstanding hanging basket invoices asap. Thank you.

### **Christmas Trees**

Christmas trees are being put up this week, thanks in part to a generous grant from Sherborne Town Council. The trees are much admired and really add to the ambience of the town. **If you have not sent your cheque to Tony at Lanham and Francis, you need to get in touch with him TODAY.** Again, if you would like a tree, you must order and pay for it. If you have had a tree before and we have not heard from you, we shall assume that you would like one this year.

Superplants will be asking shop owners to switch on their trees on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, so that we have some uniformity and a good overall effect.

### **Christmas Shopping Weekend 5/6/7 December 2008**

Sherborne's Mayor Dominic Elliott will officially light up the town at 6pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December. We hope that people will stay to shop and eat afterwards and enjoy the lovely atmosphere in the town. Sherborne Town Band will play some carols and Father Christmas will be handing out sweets.

The fun will continue on Saturday and Sunday, with the market and farmer's market. Sherborne Town Band and the Two Castles Youth Band will perform on the Saturday and Sunday respectively. There will also be carols from a local choir.

Father Christmas will be in his grotto, in the newly refurbished Swan Pub. Children may like to have their face painted while they wait to see him. The Toy Box will have a Santa's Post Box with a guaranteed reply provided the name and address is included!

I am tremendously impressed by the angel competition. Children have the chance to win some beautiful prizes donated by local businesses by spotting twenty angels that will be placed in shop windows around the town. Competition entry forms will be distributed to primary schools in the area and

will available in Mid West Office Supplies and Melbury Gallery. The angels are made and decorated by pupils of the Gryphon School. Paul Arthur of Mid West Office Supplies may ask you to display an angel in your window!

Outside the town centre, The Toy Barn and Castle Gardens will have their own festivities running. Shoppers can even relieve that post shopping stress with a half price swim afterwards at Oxley Sports Centre.

The Chamber would like individual members to promote the weekend in their own businesses. Shops are offering promotions and delis and cafés are offering tastings and special menus. Some galleries are offering mince pies and mulled wine to clients. If you are an accountant, solicitor or hairdresser you may wish to invite your clients into town to watch the lighting up and have a glass of wine with you.

The distinctive flyer, (thanks to Dominic of Finger Print and Design) and press releases have been finalised.

### **Publicity**

This month we are focussing on the Festive Shopping Weekend. We have editorial in The Western Gazette, Blackmore Vale, Conduit Magazine, The Visitor, Community Times, Dorset Magazine, Western Daily Press and Dorset Echo. We shall also let local radio know what we are planning.

### **Christmas Tree Festival 6 -14 December, Cheap Street Church**

Sherborne Chamber is again sponsoring a tree. Alex Ferris from Castle Furnishings has finished collecting in the business cards and is busy decorating them. The unusual festival is really worth a visit, thanks to Alex for the exercise of her artistic skills.

### **Busking and Street Entertainment**

WDDC have produced a draft proposed Street Entertainment & Busking conditions. Christina Squires has met with me and explained what is involved. I have a copy of the proposals, and if anyone is interested, please contact me in the first instance. The documents that I have are for circulation to the members of Sherborne Chamber of Commerce only, and any comments or observations would be most welcome.

### **Chip and Pin Advice to Retailers**

I have been sent information from Mark Harper (Crime Reduction Officer, Dorset Police) to pass on an important piece of guidance relating to the use of Chip and Pin. This information is posted on Sherbornetown.com

### **Grants Available for Leadership and Management Training**

This amazing opportunity for £500 or £1000 free training was brought to our attention through Dorset Business. If you are interested, go to their website, or contact me and I shall forward you the e-mail from them.

## **Gryphon School Business Breakfast**

The Gryphon School held a business breakfast, giving information about how local businesses may benefit from the 2012 Olympic legacy. Gary Fookes is an inspirational speaker, and we shall no doubt hear more from him in due course. The Gryphon also introduced members of the cast from their July 2009 film production of 'Far From the Madding Crowd'. If you are interested in sponsoring the production, and there are some intriguing opportunities there, please contact Lizzie Kingsbury at the school on 01935 810152 or <mailto:lizzie.kingsbury@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk>

## **Sherborne's Olympic Gold Medallist**

I had the joy of attending a civic reception held by the Mayor for Sherborne's own Olympic gold medallist. Andrew is a fantastic, down-to-earth guy as well as being a fantastic sailor. He is someone that Sherborne can be really proud of, and an inspiration to us. Andrew Simpson received a gift from the town, and we all hope that he and his lovely fiancée will remain in Sherborne for years to come. Those who attended had the opportunity to actually hold the medal, which was surprisingly large and heavy.

## **Report on Dorset Business Lunch**

This took place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at The Manor Hotel in Yeovil. It was a joint networking event for Yeovil, Somerset and Dorset Chambers. Anthony Elliot Square and myself attended. We strengthened links with Dorset Business, with whom Sherborne Chamber are affiliated, and met lots of interesting new faces. The Dorset Business Website is worth a look as they have some interesting and useful events and training. There is a link on Sherbornetown.com. You may see that as a member of Sherborne Chamber your details are listed in their directory and you can benefit from discounted rates.

## **From Tony McDermott, Lanham and Francis**

Small Business Rate Relief document is available on Sherbornetown.com  
This leaflet tells you how you can claim rate relief if you are a small business. Please take a look at this document. It could save you money.

## **From Dominic and Pippa, Sabins**

Hot soup to take away £1.85 a portion. Just what you need the next few days as the northerly winds remind us that winter follows autumn! We have recently invested in a top of the range soup kettle so that we can now serve delicious, fresh, HOT soup from the Dorset Blue Soup Company. Check the board in our shop or call us for the soup of the day.

We also sell hot paninis - another hot option!

Organic Fruit and Veg

At last!!!! We have sourced another supplier of AFFORDABLE, certified, organic fruit and veg. The ethics surrounding the food we feed our children and ourselves is important but in the current economic climate, price is king. We are delighted to have found this reliable wholesaler after three years of searching.

We hope that one of these new products interests you and look forward to seeing you in the shop soon.

### **From Sharon of the Toy Box**

The Toy Box has launched their Thank You Card scheme. When you spend £10 or more in the shop, they will stamp your Thank You Card. Once you have completed your card, you can choose £10 worth of full price stock absolutely free! Contact the shop for more information or visit their website.

### **From Katherine Vickery of Dorset Lettings**

Dorset Lettings calendar. Over the summer we ran a competition across the county for children (under the age of 16) to design their 'dream home'. We picked the best 12 and put them into a calendar, which will be sold to raise money for Julia's House, Dorset's only children's hospice. We have been selling the calendars in all our offices from the end of October at a cost of £5.00 and obviously I am really keen to sell as many as possible in order to raise as much money as we can for this brilliant charity. If there is any business in Sherborne or the surrounding area that would be keen to sell some for us then I would be delighted to hear from them.

### **From Peter Hunt of The Toy Barn**

We have a Father Christmas grotto on the weekends in December. The dates are as follows:

6th & 7th of Dec 11am to 1pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm  
13th & 14th of Dec 11am to 1pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm  
20th & 21st of Dec 11am to 1pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm

We are supporting the Yeovil Opportunity Group charity this year. giving them £1.00 for every child that visits Father Christmas. The cost is £5.00/ child visiting the grotto and includes a present from Father Christmas.

We are recommending that a reservation is made due to the popularity so as not to be disappointed, however booking is not essential.

### **Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce Way Forward Meeting Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 6pm, at the Eastbury Hotel, Sherborne.**

At the last meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, we welcomed new members – Mr and Mrs Simms from Café Fontana and Clare Jennings from Weekend.

The Chamber have a Festive Shopping meeting scheduled for Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 6pm, at the Eastbury Hotel, Sherborne. We shall be finalising

promotions and distributing publicity materials. Should you wish to attend, please contact me on 07594 805013 or by email at [cordelia@sherbornechamber.org.uk](mailto:cordelia@sherbornechamber.org.uk)

The next meeting after that will be Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 6pm at The Swan. Coffee and biscuits will be on offer, and we shall plan our next Open Meeting.

### **Next Newsletter**

This newsletter has come out early due to the high volume of news. The next newsletter is due to go out on 16<sup>th</sup> December, so all contributions to me please by 11<sup>th</sup> December latest please.

You are welcome to use the newsletter to tell fellow members and others who receive the newsletter about any offers or promotions you are running, achievements of your business or bring items of interest to the attention of others. You are also welcome to add interested parties to our distribution list.

If you read this and are not a member, please give me a call to discuss how the Chamber might be able to add benefit to your business.

Enjoy the Festive Shopping Weekend and the decorations!

**Cordelia McFarlane**  
**Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce**  
**Tel. 07594 805013**

I am available for Chamber business Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am - 1pm.