

Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce December 2010 Newsletter

Welcome to the December newsletter. This month we have made great strides forward with the introduction of our dynamic new Chairperson Kate Heal, and her dedicated executive committee of 12. We have launched the new Shopping and Business Guide and have the Festive Shopping Event this Sunday! It feels as though Christmas has come early.....

Sherborne Festive Shopping Event – Sunday 5th December, 10 – 4.30

The Festive Shopping Day will take place on Sunday 5th December, with lighting up at 4.15 by the Conduit with the Chamber Choir. We are fortunate to have the steam engine and organ again, Cat in a Hat to entertain, The Clog Treacle Eaters and Belladonna to perform. Christmas Cakes are on display in shop windows for the children's competition. Many thanks to Naomi of Filigrana Cakes for her time and expertise. Entry forms available on the website. Thanks also to Malcolm Balmer who has allowed us to use his wonderful photograph of the Cheap Street again in our publicity materials.

Steam Dreams Train – Tuesday 7th December, 2.00 -5.30

The Steam Dreams should arrive 2pm for Abbey Carol Service at about 3pm, then depart at 5.30pm. What a great trading opportunity. Any volunteers to distribute the Shopping Guide?

Yeovil Chamber Tapas Evening, Mulberrys - Wednesday 15th December, 5.30 - 7.30 Message from Jason Livingstone, member of Sherborne Chamber:

A lot of us who are active within the Yeovil Chamber are having a Tapas Evening on the 15th as a get together for the business community at Christmas. Tickets are only £8 for chamber members and £12 if not. Mulberrys offer great food, lovely beer, and there will be loads of business friends to talk to and put the world to rights with!

Do come along and enjoy an early evening after work (starts at 530pm) on the 15th with others from the business community in Yeovil. See old friends and make some new ones. It is Christmas after all! A time to moan about the Government inflation, the economy, speed cameras, red tape.....

Why not buy a few tickets and take some others from the front office, or the back shop, or stores.....? Bring a friend or even an enemy but please try and make it on the 15th it would be nice to see you! Book through Gina 01935 804999 or <mailto:secretary@yeovilchamber.org>

Executive Committee Meeting - Monday 10th January 2011, 6pm, Town Mill Bakery

Councillor Peter Rhodes will speak to us briefly about his litter campaign, followed by the first 'proper' executive committee meeting to decide on 2011 events and activities.

Dorset Business, Chamber Links Event Wednesday 9th February at the Hotel Grosvenor, Shaftesbury, 6pm

Following on the success of the first event, please contact Cordelia to forward you the booking form. There will be a group from Sherborne going along.

Sabins Deli News

Sabins are thrilled to announce that they have exchanged contracts to take the lease on 53 Cheap Street, Sherborne which was formally Stokes the Greengrocers.

We know how much Stokes is missed in the town so we will intend to reopen next week (w/c 6th December) as a greengrocer.

This is an exciting new chapter for us and our business and hope you will all support us in this new venture. We are sure that, in light of the current debate raging in the town about the influx of national chain retailers, it will be a real filip that we are opening an independant greengrocers.

We will be completing the lease assignment this week and will be opening the doors again towards the end of next week. We have even approached the original staff, most of whom are delighted to be offered their old job back so you will see some familiar faces. We hope that once we reopen the shop will look and feel like it has never been closed!

We look forward to seeing you in the new shop soon.

Report on Extraordinary General Meeting

The constitution documents were passed, and 12 committee members were voted in. Please look at the website for details and photograph. We are delighted to have such an active chamber in the town, and will plan 2011 activities at our meeting in January. Thank you to Nicky and Paul King for hosting this event.

Sherborne Chamber of Trade Pre-Christmas Drinks Report

Thank you to Steve and Lorraine for a glass of something and nibbles in their lovely pub. We had a lively social time, marked by the arrival of the Shopping Guide and Festive Shopping Event publicity materials.

Business Link/WDDC/Sherborne Chamber Event. This event also served as the official launch of the new Shopping Guide.

I have had really good feedback about this event, which attracted over 70 delegates. The new Sherborne Shopping and Business Guide was officially launched, and is being distributed. Photograph of Chamber members present on page 16 of this week's Western Gazette.

Constitution/Rules Action Group Report

With the successful introduction of the constitution, job descriptions, and committee this group has completed its task. Thank you to all involved.

Member Benefit Scheme Action Group Report

Liz Burt has produced a package of member benefits, which will be distributed with membership renewal invoices this month. It is also on the website. Please contact Liz should you wish to get involved and offer a benefit to fellow members. Thank you Liz.

Links Action Group Report

Thank you to all members who have been involved with this ongoing project, particularly Thelma and Nick Taylor. Links are up for discussion at the January

meeting, as there are things afoot with other WDDC, Chambers, Dorset Business and the Association of Market Towns as well as the secure links that we have already formed.

Shopping and Business Guide Action Group Report

The guide was officially launched at the Business Link Joint Event on Wednesday 17th November, at The Gryphon School. Any questions about distribution please contact <mailto:dominic@designjunction.biz> Thank you Dominic.

Parking Action Group

Christmas parking with WDDC. Chamber have decided to take advantage of the offer of free Christmas parking in the town during the month of December. The free parking is in the short stay car parks in the town December afternoons after 1pm for 2 hours. Publicity information will appear on the Festive Shopping Event flyers and advertisements, as well as notices in the car parks. Please tell your customers.

West Dorset Council is offering free car parking in Sherborne on Sundays and from 6pm until 8am from 1 Nov 2010.

Telegraph Magazine: The Best Small Shops in Britain 2010

The Telegraph Magazine would like you to vote for your favourite small shops in Britain – independent fashion boutiques, bookshops, beauty emporiums, interiors shops, garden centres, delis and even corner shops; retailers that are holding their own against the big chains and supermarkets, and keeping our high streets alive. Please vote in as many categories as you like (but no more than once). The three shops in each category with the most votes will for a shortlist, from which a panel of Telegraph experts will select a winner. Retailers can vote for their own shops and win a Mary Portas Scholarship - for details, see below.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/7992321/Telegraph-Magazine-The-Best-Small-Shops-in-Britain-2010.html>

New Member - Stockwood Lettings

Stockwood Lettings was opened three and a half years ago. I had been employed by local Lettings Agents for eight years previously but grew increasingly disenchanted with company practices. I therefore decided that the only way forward was to open my own company.

My Company's ethos has always been to adopt a policy of transparency in an industry full of complication, to offer fair pricing structures for all, and most importantly to create a client relationship built on trust and goodwill.

Our core representation is to Residential property. However, we are also notably growing the company in the representation of Farmers and Landowners for the letting of their properties and also the management of land and Farm Business tenancies, I also aid in providing diversification plans for redundant buildings. Due to a keen personal interest in horses, we also represent several Equestrian yards, both in private use letting and commercial.

Our fees are modest and justifiable, with discounted terms being offered to members of the FSB, WDDC Accredited Landlords Scheme and Countryside Alliance, I would also be delighted to extend this offer of preferred terms to members of the Chamber of Commerce. I am also very proud that my company is able to offer support

and help to SSAFA (soldiers, sailors & airmen Families association), offering advice on housing for families or individuals who are or were in military service, but for whom life has got a little difficult.

Sherborne has always been an important town to me, my early school life being at St Anthony's convent, and my sisters being educated in the town also. I have seen the town change and grow, and understand the local influences that affect and model the rental market. I believe local knowledge is paramount to the industry.

Toy Box Promotion

'Darth Vader' will be visiting the TOY BOX on Sunday 5th December for the Sherborne Shopping Day 10.30 to 12 and 2.30 to 4pm and the same times on Saturday 11th & 18th December for all those star Wars fans out there. There will also be a free entry competition running between those dates and the prize is a Lego Star Wars TIE Defender - RRP £40.00

Toy Box has just opened their 8th room and have a huge number of new product lines. Sweets, stocking filler and pocket money toys are also doing very well.

Olympic Bulletins

I have a number of Olympic Tender Opportunity Documents which are being sent to me by WDDC. If you would like any to be forwarded to you please email Cordelia. Headings so far are - supplier of horse feed, hay, bedding and other equine products, stadium construction, temporary concession points, licensing opportunity: commemorative bricks, mobile stage and equipment hire - olympic and paralympic torch relays, post production services, entertainment production services, sports presentation production company, supply and installation of olympic halo mast lighting, and sustainability and regeneration work in the Olympic Park. Opportunities come in daily.

BT Broadband Infinity

To register an interest in BT Infinity (and thus in getting high speed broadband installed in the Sherborne area) go to:

http://www.productsandservices.bt.com/consumerProducts/displayTopic.do?topicId=29017&s_cid=con_FURL_infinity

Western Gazette Chamber Page

This month we will feature the Festive Shopping Event and in December The Toy Box. If you are interested in showcasing your business, or if you have some positive news to share, please contact Cordelia.

Police Link

The police do a fantastic job, and member Philip Hastings of Onward Driver Training has agreed to be our representative.

Business Link

We are strengthening our association with Business Link. For information on events, go to <http://www.businesseventsindorset.co.uk/>

Val Potheary of Rural Business Clubs would be very happy for any Sherborne

Chamber members to come along to the Abbey Club meetings. The purpose of the club is to provide a business learning opportunity in a friendly and relaxed environment but of course networking is also done informally over supper.

Meetings are held every other month from 6.15pm to around 9pm and there are no membership fee or supper cost. If you would like to attend a meeting, please could you complete an application form and either email it back to Val print it off and forward it to the Business Link office at Poole. This will ensure that you are on the mailing database and will receive all future meeting information.

Arena Business Centre, Holyrood Close, Poole, Dorset, BH17 7FJ
Telephone 01747821761 Mobile 07715539389 Email val.pothecary@businesslinkwesssex.co.uk | Website www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest

Douzelage Notices

1. Prienai Lithuania exchange

Last Year Jane Smith signed a friendship agreement with the town of Prienai in Lithuania. They have invited Sherborne Douzelage to visit them from 9th – 12th December to decorate a 3m high Christmas tree and provide some entertainment as part of their Christmas Tree Festival. We have engaged the primary schools and they have made some decorations, but rather less than we had hoped for. Therefore I wonder if some of your members have some decorations that they will not be using in future, and/ or a set of outdoor Christmas Tree lights that they would be willing to let us take to Lithuania. Please can you ask them to contact me if they are able to help.

2. Granville European Market

The 20 year anniversary of the formation of Douzelage will take place in Granville, France from 26 – 29 May 2011. As part of that there will be a European Market held on Saturday 28th May for towns to show off their wares and sell products that they take over. Moira Western, the current vice- chair of Sherborne Douzelage, is coordinating this activity for us and would like to know if any of your members wish to be represented by providing products for us to take to Granville. If they would like to come over themselves then we are happy to talk through ideas as we will be taking over a coach for most members of the party.

3. Volunteering Project 2011/ 12

In addition to our usual activities Sherborne Douzelage is preparing a bid for EU funding to hold a series of 3 events in Sherborne over 2011/ 12 and this could provide an opportunity for your members to take part in various aspects. I would like to participate in one of your meetings to let your members know what Douzelage is doing and planning to do. Please advise if this is possible, if so when and for how long a presentation/ discussion. Any feedback to Cordelia please.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due to go out towards the end of December. Any contributions to Cordelia 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 are one of our new members, please send me some information about your business so that we can introduce you to our members via the newsletter.

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.

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

I am usually available for Chamber business Mondays and Tuesdays 9am - 1pm.
www.sherbornetown.com