

Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce February 2010 Newsletter

February Working Group Meeting – Monday 8th February 2010, 6pm, Kafe Fontana

Sarah and Nigel are hosting the next working group meeting. Please let Cordelia know if you have any items for the agenda, and if you are planning to come.

Hearts for Haiti Event Saturday 13th February 2010

A fundraising day has been planned in the town centre. There will be buskers, entertainers, a raffle, a food fair and toy exchange. There will also be collection pots. Jane Read is organising the event. For more detail please see the press release and poster attached to this newsletter. Jane may be contacted on 01935 873 809 or mobile 07973296142.

January Open Meeting Report – Wednesday 13th January 2010, 6pm, The Eastbury Hotel, Sherborne

A few weeks ago we held an open meeting at the award – winning Eastbury Hotel in Sherborne. It was the perfect start to the New Year. Chamber President Thelma Drabik said ‘We had a good turn-out, with familiar faces and some new people. It was an interesting and entertaining evening, topped off with some delicious Fudges treats.’

Chamber Member and Business Law Solicitor Richard James of Dyne Drewett LLP started off the evening by telling us how to get our business into shape for 2010. He focused on some specific issues to inspire us to build our businesses. Richard said ‘Businesses can be expanded through taking on new investors, expanding geographically and the often overlooked route of franchising.’

Richard is an expert Business Solicitor with considerable experience. Please feel free to contact Richard at Dyne Drewett for an initial discussion about any business or commercial matter.

We then enjoyed an entertaining and motivational presentation by Stephen Fudge of Fudges Bakery, who told us the story of his very successful local family business. Fudges have been producing award-winning bakery products in Dorset since 1926. Steve, his brother and his sister are the third generation of the family to run the business, now supplying every major supermarket chain and many independent stores with their exquisite products.

Fudges source every ingredient for its flavour, and seek out vine fruits, spices, nuts and pure extracts from around the world. In the pursuit of satisfaction of today’s consumers, Steve recently visited a fair trade cocoa plantation in Ghana. Steven had a great slide show which really brought it all to life. One member who attended the meeting said, ‘I shall never look at chocolate the same again. It is even more wonderful to me now.’

Sherborne Festive Shopping Event Thank You – Sunday 6th December

A special thank you note is attached to this newsletter, which lists all the individuals and organisations who helped make this event such a success.

Town Centre CCTV – Your Response Counts

There are plans to install CCTV in the town. If you have an opinion, now is your chance to air it. Please take the time to complete the following survey

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/sherborneccvt> . Responses needed by **15 February**.

Chamber opinion is that it is wrong to fund CCTV out of parking charges. As a visitor a big hike would give even more incentive to buy online or go to a supermarket. It can only harm business in Sherborne for very little benefit.

High Speed Broadband Opportunity

Please increase our chances of benefiting by completing the survey at <http://www.teamdorset.or#382A7A> .

The Market & Coastal Towns regional Conference is on Saturday 20th February in Tiverton.

This is about Climate Change and the Sustainability of Market Towns, and looks to be a really interesting mix of speakers, workshops and the opportunity to meet others from across the South West. Contact Cordelia for more detail.

Also, the Dorset Towns' Forum website is now live! Its at www.dorsettownsforum.org.uk

Business Link Event – Around the World in 80 Trades –24th February, 6pm, Kingston Maurwood, Dorchester

Come and see Conor Woodman of Channel 4 fame give his motivational presentation. He has seen the world of commerce at both ends of the scale. After making his living as a high-flying City market analyst, he quit and haggled his way across four continents. Coffee, horses, tequila and fish were among the commodities he bought and sold, and, although he had varying degrees of success along the way, ultimately he managed to double his own £25,000 stake in just 5 months.

He will present his unique insight into what makes the world of commerce go round. Book for this free event at <http://www.businesseventsindorset.co.uk/>

Sherborne Environment Forum Meeting 14:30 on Thursday 25th February, 2.30pm at Sherborne Town Council, Newland, Sherborne

There will be a presentation of the Food Waste Recycling and Composting scheme that WDDC is introducing, with effect from April 2010, for Sherborne and area. The scheme will apply to schools and commercial outlets.

West Dorset Community Plan

WDDC would like responses from businesses to help shape the final plan, which can be accessed through www.dorsetforyou.com/communityplan/west

Per Te – Farewell to Karen

Unfortunately member Karen Finch is closing down her shop Per Te in Swan Yard.

The lease is for sale with Gilyard Scarth and she is having a closing down sale with 70% off. She has all kinds of fixtures/fittings/window/jewellery display items for sale, including 3 mannequins, a cheval mirror and a vitesse portable steamer. Everything is in excellent condition and less than 5 years old. She also has FREE coat hangers of all styles.

If anyone is interested in anything or would like further information Karen can be contacted on 07745781309

New Member - Linda Hall

Linda offers legal services, specialising in probate and Lasting Powers of Attorney. She covers all aspects of the probate process from the initial gathering of information on assets, assistance with all estate tax forms and the application for the grant through to the post-grant distribution of the estate and estate accounts.

With Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA) she can complete all the forms required to make the application and register the LPA with the Office of the Public Guardian.

Her clients may include private individuals, solicitors or accountants and she offers a service tailored to the particular client's needs. She is happy to do home visits if required and there is no charge for the initial meeting. Tel 01935 389699 or mobile 07950 834916.

Dorset Business Affiliation

Don't forget our affiliation with Dorset Business. Check out their website www.dorsetbusiness.net and take advantage of the fantastic events and courses on offer.

Rural Services Network

This is a useful organisation, to look at what they offer and subscribe to the newsletter check out the following link <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk>

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due to go out late February. All contributions to me before then 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 Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am - 1pm.