

Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce February 2011 Newsletter

Welcome to the February newsletter. The month has flashed past despite the bitter weather. After our January meeting at the wonderful Caffè Baglioni in Swan Yard we have organised a varied schedule of meetings and events and for the year. Something to please everyone I hope!

Executive Committee Meeting - Tuesday 8th February 2011, 6pm, Castle Gardens

This will be an executive committee only meeting. Any last minute agenda items to Cordelia as soon as possible please.

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

Following on the success of the first event, there is a small group from Sherborne going along and one place available. Please contact Cordelia.

Monthly Meeting - Monday 7th March, 6pm, Town Mill Bakery

Trevor Hedger, Business Support Team Leader, West Dorset District Council, has kindly offered to come and speak to us about where we are with a Dorset LEP. The talk will last about 10-15 minutes and there will be a chance for Q&A. There will be time for a short informal meeting afterwards and an opportunity to network. Please see survey below.

All members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Report of Meeting Monday 10th January 2011, Caffè Baglioni – Litter Campaign

Councillor Peter Rhodes spoke to us about his litter campaign. Bill Butters, Castle Gardens, Magna Housing Association, Sherborne International College & Dodge Interiors have jointly donated £2,500 for equipment & publicity.

Peter asked Members to sponsor/co-sponsor the purchase of new litter bins at £175.00 including VAT. Sponsors will be acknowledged on the bins, as in Paddock Garden. If members are interested please contact Peter on prhodes123@btinternet.com or 01935 816946.

We then held a meeting to plan 2011 events. Details below.

Chamber Meetings and Events 2011 (Offers of venues most welcome!)

Up until now, we have always had monthly meetings at which 'everything' is done, plus a few open meetings a year. We have agreed that as we do more and more, and now we have a committee of 12, we need to structure things differently.

Our February meeting will be exec ONLY and the March meeting will be OPEN TO MEMBERS. We have fixed most dates, and detail to follow.

I promise to keep you updated and assure you that the programme of meetings and events is varied and interesting!

Please note that I have included the dates for some major events in which Chamber may get involved.

Monday 10th January, 6pm - Caffè Baglioni Peter Rhodes speaker

Tuesday 8th February, 6pm - EXEC ONLY - Castle Gardens - Present cheque to Clive Sargent

Monday 7th March, 6pm - OPEN TO MEMBERS - Town Mill Bakery - Trevor Hedger to speak.

Tuesday 8th March - The Three Wishes Pancake Race - details to follow.

Tuesday 5th April, 6pm - OPEN TO MEMBERS venue TBC - SPEAKER TBC

Friday 29th April onwards - Sherborne Music Festival and Royal Wedding Weekend

Spring Chamber OPEN Event Details to follow.

Tuesday 10th May, 6pm - EXEC ONLY - The Three Wishes

Sunday 22nd May - FRENCH MARKET PROPOSED

Monday 13th June, 6pm - OPEN TO MEMBERS venue TBC speaker TBC

Monday July 4th, 6pm - EXEC ONLY venue TBC

Summer Chamber OPEN Event - Eastbury Hotel - Music TBC

Monday 12th September, 6pm - OPEN TO MEMBERS - venue TBC speaker TBC

Tuesday 11th October, 6pm - EXEC ONLY - venue TBC

Autumn Chamber OPEN Event

22 OCTOBER ONWARDS - Sherborne Film Festival

Tuesday 8th November, 6pm - OPEN TO MEMBERS venue TBC - SPEAKER TBC

Sunday 4th December - Festive Shopping Event.

Monday 5th December, 6pm - OPEN TO MEMBERS Christmas Drinks Venue TBC

Ice Representations

At our January meeting we decided to make representations to various bodies including our MP, about the ice situation on the streets and in the car parks in Sherborne. Please could you send your 'one line' comments to Cordelia by 4th February so that they might be included.

Dorset LEPs

You may or may not be aware of forthcoming changes to business support and Business Link in the next 12 months, together with the role that Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) may play.

The coalition Government has decided to end the work of the Regional Development Agencies, and to cease funding the Business Link service across the country by end of March 2012. It suggested that Local Enterprise Partnerships could be formed by business and public sector, led by the business community, and that these (in simple terms) may be strategic (lobbying government, setting local priorities, be involved in planning etc) and or more involved in delivery (getting people into work, bidding for and managing funding streams, help businesses to start up, survive or grow etc). The government did not define what geographic area a LEP should cover, only that it should be a functional economic market area.

In July 2010, Government invited applications for LEP status to be submitted by 6th September 2010, and was also suggesting that an area did not need to have LEP. A Dorset application was made after some hasty consultation with businesses and business groups, but was not successful in round one (announced at the end of October). In the south west, only 2 LEPS were approved (Bristol/Bath and Cornwall).

As a result, a number of business organisations, local councils and Business Link are cooperating in consultation with businesses to help define the boundary for a LEP for this area, together with the range of activities it may undertake.

Business Link have teamed up with the Local Authorities across Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole to ask small businesses for their views. A short survey has been developed to give you the chance to say exactly what you think the business issues are in the local area. We would be very grateful if you could take the time to complete this survey by clicking the link below. The closing date for responses is 8th February 2011.

[Dorset LEP survey](#)

Many thanks in advance for your views and should you have any further questions regarding the survey or LEPs, please contact matthew.butcher@businesslinkwessex.co.uk.

Environmental Management Support for Businesses - Grant Funding Available

I have been told about a new programme to help businesses reduce costs and introduce an environmental management system. There is grant funding available to support the project which could be in excess of £1,000. The details are below:

Everyone knows times are hard, especially for growing businesses, but what about an investment in your own company and people that not only gives you access to whole new markets, but could pay for itself whether you get new customers or not? You'd probably be even more surprised to discover that such a project not only saved you money, but could lower your resource use, ease cash flow, and even do something positive for the environment.

Not only that, because this project is partially funded you can prove your environmental credentials at a fraction of the normal cost.

This programme is designed for small & medium sized companies that want a sound basis for fast-track and low cost development of a UKAS approved ISO 14001 environmental management system (EMS). Companies who take part will be able to identify opportunities for savings as well as prove their environmental credentials allowing new public and private sector tender opportunities. And the benefits don't

stop there. Participating companies get:-

An effective Environmental Policy and environmental management structure
Opportunities for resource efficiencies and cost savings and a plan to achieve them
A register of environmental legislation that applies to their business and a plan for bridging gaps in compliance
A schedule of operational controls required by their business and opportunities for improvement
Mandatory documents & procedures required by the EMS

The programme costs only £2,750, however eligible companies will be entitled to a minimum grant of £1,000 bringing the cost down to an amazingly low £1,750.

To find out more about the programme, please contact either:

Richard Porter
The HSQE Department Ltd
01934 610168/07909 528942
<http://www.thehsqedepartment.com>

or

Wendy Carmichael
Business Link Wessex
01305 265 524/ 07789 901716
wendy.carmichael@businesslinkwessex.co.uk

Tourism Action Group

Janet Schoefield and Margaret Balfour have been reporting to and from the Tourism Forum for some time. Nicky King is also now involved in this focus area. We held a meeting with the new chairman, Roger Johnstone, who is full of bright ideas and enthusiasm about how we may promote Sherborne. A few of the events in the town can be cross-promoted, notably the Sherborne Music Festival, Royal Wedding Party in the Park and the Sherborne Film Festival. Roger will come along to one of our meetings and tell us about the group's plans. Does anyone know of any royal connections with the town?

Parking Action Group

Nicky King of the Eastbury Hotel has responded to the Council about the proposed new parking charges and putting our Chamber views across. Watch this space...

Gas Works

We were disappointed to see the rather negative coverage of this issue in the WG. The work is essential and Richard Owen of Southern Gas Network understands this will be difficult for the local community, but has assured us that they wish to work with us to minimise disruption (Tel. 01202 545566). What can you do to help your customers who may be affected? Could you carry their goods to the car for them?

New Member Announcement – Sherborne Drainage

New member Sherborne Drainage offers a full drain clearance service. They also carry out a full repair and installation service for all drains. Sherborne Drainage offer

a full groundworks service, including mini digger for footings, driveways, paths, patios and so on.

As a member benefit, Sherborne Drainage offer 15% discount to members and 10% discount to their friends and family.

Contact Steven Hosie on 01935 817097 or 07940 488426. Email sdsdrainage@yahoo.co.uk or visit <http://www.sherbornedrainage.co.uk>

Welcome Steven, we are delighted that you have joined us.

Member Message - Adanac Independent Financial Adviser Firm Expands

Adanac Financial Services Ltd is pleased to announce that it has further strengthened its advisory team by the appointment of Stephanie Dyke as an Independent Financial Adviser (IFA). This takes the number of IFAs at Adanac to six.

Stephanie joins Adanac from Church House Investments where she was dealing with the investment requirements of high net worth clients and clients with complex pension arrangements.

The new role will allow Stephanie to provide full independent financial advice to those clients seeking clear and unbiased independent advice.

Scott Gibbons of Adanac stated "I feel very fortunate that Stephanie has chosen to take her career forward as an IFA with Adanac and I wish her every success in her new role".

If you are looking to appoint an adviser for your pension, investments or to guide you through a divorce or the complexity of a trust, then contact the advisory team at Adanac on 01935 848764 or visit us at www.adanac.biz.

Western Gazette Chamber Page

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

Conduit Magazine Message

The Conduit Magazine has switched to full colour printing, to coincide with their 10th Anniversary. This means that The Conduit is now the only free colour magazine covering the West Dorset and South Somerset area and with a 10 year track record as well as a loyal readership of over 31,000 is ideal for promoting your business to an A, B readership. Display ads start from as low as £21.40 in full colour which also offering a very competitive rate. If any business in Sherborne has any suggestions for new articles or columns please contact info@theconduitmagazine.co.uk

Olympic Business

I am still receiving the Olympic Bulletins, which may whet your appetite and think about what opportunities may exist for your business. If you are interested, please email me.

Business Women Awards

Do you know a woman in business or want to nominate a woman in business in the Dorset / BH Post code area which also includes the New Forest - if so please go to

www.businesswomenawards.com

Tara Howard, Managing Director of the exclusive Langtry Manor and Jackie Phillipson, Managing Director of P-PR Media Solutions created the inaugural Business Woman's Awards to recognise the efforts of business women in Dorset and the New Forest. Says Tara "Women often have to work harder in order to succeed in a man's world and I feel we need to be recognised for our efforts."

This year there are eleven award categories acknowledging the valuable contribution Dorset's businesswomen make to the local economy. All categories are sponsored by female friendly companies.

Please do enter the awards, you know that you have to be in it to win it!

Leonardo Students Update

Pablo Fernandez (23) from Spain spent 1st Oct -17th Dec at The Present Finder, which he thoroughly enjoyed – especially the really busy time during his final month.

Lucia Colilla (18) also from Spain and in Sherborne for the same period was the first Leonardo student at The Pear Tree Café & Delicatessen. She rose to the challenge of a foreign language and lots of customers to practise it in on with considerable aplomb and left feeling very much part of Anni's team who were sad to see her go.

Jan Jilkova (24), a law graduate from the Czech Republic. Leaves on 15th Jan after 3 months at Dyne Drewett and Sherborne CAB. Her fluency in English, enthusiasm to learn and high professionalism were very impressive.

Students of Administration, IT, Sports and Leisure and Child Care Care will be available shortly. Any members who want to provide a work experience placement may want to talk to Mark at The Present Finder and/or Anni to find out more about what it is like and then contact Nigel Engert at Sherborne Area Partnership if they would like to proceed.

Mobility Scooter Safety Event at Gryphon School 24th February

Contact Lizzie Kingsbury on 01935 810152 or lizzie.kingsbury@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk for detail.

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@businesslinkwsex.co.uk | Website www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due to go out at the start of March. Any contributions to Cordelia before the end of February 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