

Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce January 2009 Newsletter

FESTIVE SHOPPING WEEKEND

A huge thank you to everyone involved in making the Festive Shopping Weekend. Sherborne again demonstrated what a fantastic community spirit it has.

Sherborne Town Band
Two Castles Youth Band
The Rotary Club of Sherborne
Sherborne Tourist Information
Western Gazette
Blackmore Vale
The Conduit Magazine
Community Times
Mid West Radio
The Three Wishes
Sherborne Castle Estates
Superplants
Karen and her circus skills
Dominic Elliot - Mayor
Thelma Drabik - Melbury Gallery
Chris Blaize - Blaze Electrics
Val Todd - Sherborne Town Council
Nigel Simms - Caffè Fontana
Paul Arthur - MidWest Office Supplies
Nigel Hamman
Alex Ferris - Castle Furnishings
Anthony Elliot Square - Third Dimension
Dominic Drabik - Finger Print
Sally Westlotorn - Sherborne Area Partnership
Tony McDermott - Lanhan and Francis
James Brinsford Finger Print
Sainsburys
Oxley Sports Centre
Toy Box
Toy Barn
Present Finder
Gryphon School for the angels
Brian King - Castle Gardens.

If I have forgotten someone, sorry, please let me know.

We would welcome comments on the weekend, and your suggestions for next time. We are looking at ways to close the road at manageable cost for next year as our main priority. Other suggestions are a creche and an ice rink. Please get in touch with me, and let me know your thoughts.

Polish Exchange Student Malgorzata Gebaska (also known as Gosia)

Gosia will be coming to Sherborne next week and will stay for three months, to gain some work experience and practice her English. She will be working

for two days a week for the Chamber, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We have a number of projects lined up for her, including an update of members' details, and a survey of members' expectations of the Chamber and other businesses in Sherborne. Please be considerate to Gosia when she comes to visit you. She will hopefully add to quality of the service you receive from the Chamber. We are sponsoring her English language course, which she will attend on Monday mornings.

Membership Renewal Invoices

Due to requests from members for invoices, we are attempting to put a system in place to invoice members for membership renewal, hanging baskets and Christmas trees. Your invoices for 2009 membership should be with you within the next few weeks. Please be patient with us, as the system is new for us too, and has to fit in around our regular work!

Winter Hanging Baskets

The baskets are up, and we have received good feedback from traders. I hope that they will begin to look bright and colourful soon, particularly once the trees are down later this week.

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

Christmas Trees

The Christmas trees looked beautiful again. The trees are much admired and really add to the ambience of the town. **Again, if you have not yet paid Tony for your tree, please do so asap.**

Steam Dreams

On Thursday 18th December the ever popular Steam Dreams train arrived in Sherborne. Sally Westlorton and Sue Home went up on the train and distributed the Sherborne Guide to nearly 400 travelers. The train times were slightly different to those initially advertised and many people made a big effort to accommodate the visitors. For those of you who missed the train, and the photos in the Western Gazette – it really was impressive (and deafening)!

Publicity

This month we have so far featured in the Western Gazette, Blackmore Vale, Marshwood Vale and the Community Times. We have the opportunity of bringing more attention to Sherborne through the Discount–Age scheme and the pancake day event. More details to follow.

Marche de France

Le Marche de France are planning their market dates for 2009. We are looking at a date sometime in April or May.

If you would like to be involved in planning the market, or if you have any strong feelings regarding the market please let me know or come along to the meeting at the Swan on Tuesday 13th January at 6pm. I understand that there have been problems in the past, but the market also brings a lot of people into the town.

Dorset Air Ambulance Bottle Top Appeal

Alex Ferris, renowned for her tree decoration skills, is collecting used red, green and blue milk bottle plastic screw tops to recycle. The proceeds will go to the Dorset Air Ambulance charity.

Please drop them off to Alex in her shop at the top of Cheap Street, **Castle Furnishings**.

Sabins Promotion

From 5th January Sabins is offering a "7 meals for 7 days" meal delivery service. Seven freshly prepared meals (from a set menu) for £24.95 delivered FREE if you live in Sherborne. This offer is particularly good for those who are either housebound or find it difficult to get out regularly in the winter. Call for order details/enquiries 01935 816037.

The Conduit - free employment advertisements

The Conduit Magazine is launching a new free service for businesses and charitable organisations from January 2009. We will put a free advertisement into our Classified Section - similar to Our 'Bargain Hunters Corner'. This is ideal for part-time workers as well as full time. To advertise your job vacancies completely free of charge just e-mail: theconduit@onetel.com

The Conduit - Wine & Dine Promotion

The beginning of the year is always a quiet time for restaurants and pubs - too much rich food at Christmas, no money and cold weather all do not help to finding customers. However, for 4 months The Conduit Magazine will be running a special promotion. The cost is minimal - £11.90 i.e. 10p a day!!

For this small payment the magazine will promote your restaurant/pub within the special promotion which can be cut out and used by readers throughout the 4 months. All you have to do is say 'Yes you are interested' and be able to offer the magazine's readers a special menu, a discount, a bottle of wine over a certain spend, etc. In fact, the discount or offer you choose is up to you! To join this fantastic promotion which is fantastic value just e-mail: theconduit@onetel.com and they will send you full details.

Sherborne Area Partnership Meeting – 12 January 2009

I represent Sherborne Chamber of Trade on the Sherborne Area Partnership Steering Group. I shall report back on this next meeting. Sherborne Chamber is looking for someone with an interest in the environment to get involved! Please let me know.

An Environment Conference and Workshop will take place on 26th February at the Gryphon School. This promises to be a great opportunity for people of Sherborne and surrounding areas to hear from a variety of good speakers on environmental matters, discuss potential ways forward and to share their views on what needs to be done. Opportunities for developing actions for local traders and funding through the Chalk and Cheese mechanism will be included in this conference. For information please contact Kevin Waterfall on e-mail: kevin.waterfall@btinternet.com, tel: +44 (0)1935 812779, mobile: +44 (0)7825 152251.

Let's make Dorset a Fairtrade County – Please contact Caroline Rowland if you are interested to help get things moving with this idea! Tel. 01935

816961, email C.Rowland@sherborne-tc.gov.uk

Dorset Business

Sherborne Chamber are affiliated to Dorset Business. Please look at Sherbornetown.com Chamber Advice Page for details of their member-to-member discount scheme and forthcoming events.

Sherborne Sports Centre Promotion

In 2009 Sherborne School Sports Centre are offering an exciting new membership. It is called **Platinum Plus** and will give you FULL access to all facilities at the centre. This means you can use the gym, swim, take as many fitness classes as you like and play racket sports (squash, tennis, badminton & racketball) all for **just £35 per month** (or £400 pa, if paid in full).

As you know, we have been a well established and successful centre for many years now. Other centres may offer similar activities and promotions, but we are confident that the level of service and care we give to our members is second to none.

So to make this offer even more attractive, we are giving you your first months Platinum Plus membership absolutely free! (when you sign up for 6 months membership).

For more information please logon to our NEW website WWW.SHERBORNESPORTS.CO.UK Or call us on 01935 810549

Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce Way Forward Meeting Tuesday 13th January, 6pm, at the Swan Pub, Swan Yard, off Cheap Street, Sherborne.

At the next meeting we shall plan our next open meeting, the Pancake Day race, discuss recycling, the member survey, and the French Market. Coffee and biscuits will be on offer.

Should you wish to attend, please contact me on 07594 805013 or by email at cordelia@sherbornechamber.org.uk

March Way Forward Meeting - 6pm Thursday 12th March Oxley Sports Centre, Sherborne

A great opportunity to come up and look around when you attend the meeting!

Member Benefit at Oxley Sports Centre – An offer too good to resist...

Oxley Sports Centre are pleased to announce that they are able to offer Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce members a special deal of 20% discount off membership, with no administration fee on joining. Contact Matt for details: Matt Nelson Commercial Manager Sherborne Girls 01935 818350 mjn@sherborne.com

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due to go out in the beginning of February. All contributions to me please by the end of January.

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.

Happy New Year!

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

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