

Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce January 2010 Newsletter

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

We start off the New Year with an Open Meeting on Wednesday 13th January 2010, at the award – winning Eastbury Hotel, Sherborne.

It is the perfect start to the new year. We will enjoy an inspiring and entertaining talk from Steven Fudge of Fudges Bakery, who will tell us the story of his very successful business and his recent trip to a cocoa plantation in Ghana. Business Law Solicitor Richard James of Dyne Drewett LLP will tell us how to get our business into shape for 2010 and focus on some specific issues to get up-to-date and build your business. Wine and nibbles will be on offer.

If you are interested in coming along to the Open Meeting please let Cordelia know.

You are welcome to come along!

Sherborne Festive Shopping Event – Sunday 6th December

The Chamber of Trade members worked hard to make this year's Festive Shopping Day the best yet. Many sectors of the community were involved to make a festive and fun atmosphere throughout the town.

It was absolutely fantastic. There were lots of things happening, like the steam-powered traction engine and organ, the Two Castles Youth Band and The Sherborne Chamber Choir. The superb Crystal Creature wandered among the crowd and gave an extra sparkle to the event. It was a lovely day and a great atmosphere. People were heard to say that it was the best we've ever had.

The decorations looked lovely and it was great to see the children scuttling around spotting the stars in the shop windows for the Christmas competition.

In the afternoon, Olympic Gold Medallist Andrew Simpson MBE switched on the new lights while mulled wine and warm mince pies were served.

Thank you and well done to everyone involved. Sherborne deserves a pat on the back.

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

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

Tony McDermott Steps Down as Treasurer

Tony McDermott, our Treasurer for many years, has, as planned, decided to step down. He has been of great service to the Chamber and the town. His involvement has gone beyond the role of Treasurer, organising the hanging baskets and Christmas trees for years, even enlisting the help of his wife Maureen. He will be sorely missed. Thank you for everything Tony.

The Chamber held a farewell drinks party for Tony at The White Hart last month and presented him with a hanging basket amongst other gifts. Lanham and Francis will

remain a member of the Chamber and Tony will come along to meetings to share his unparalleled knowledge of the town, which is so valuable.

New Treasurer

Nick Hunt of Hunts Accountants has bravely agreed to step into Tony's shoes and is now the Chamber Treasurer.

Free Car Parking

Despite a rocky start, the free car parking in Sherborne during December appeared to work well. Please give us your views on whether the scheme should be repeated next December.

Gryphon Gifted and Talented

Are you available to visit the Gryphon School on 13th January, 3:00 - 4:30 pm to assist some gifted and talented students prepare a pitch for local businesses in the run up to 2012 and the legacy likely to be left for this part of Dorset.

Please contact Lizzie Kingsbury at the school for details. Tel 01935 810152.

Gas Works in Cheap Street

There will be works taking place around the town over the next six months, including Cheap Street. Andrew Maddock from Mid West Office Equipment has kindly agreed to liaise between the authorities and traders. Work is estimated at present to start in April.

High speed broadband Opportunity

The Portland National Sailing Academy for the Olympic games will need a high bandwidth fibre optic connection that will support data, voice, media and mobile communication during Games but could also provide a unique opportunity to fast-track high quality broadband provision across Dorset.

BT, and other communication providers, will require a strong business case of the potential on-line demand and usage in order to further invest in Dorset's digital infrastructure. Substantial demand for hi speed connectivity will be needed in order to influence BT and others to install and roll out these broadband services across Dorset. Please increase our chances by completing the survey below <http://www.teamdorset.or#382A7A> .

Town Centre CCTV

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/sherborneccctv> . Responses needed by 15 February.

Sherborne Police

Sherborne Police held a Partners and Communities Together Meeting and Surgery in December. Measures are being taken to reduce problems in and around the town. If you are interested, I am happy to update you.

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.rsonline.org.uk>

The Abbey Pharmacy Western Gazette Show Case

The newly refurbished Abbey Pharmacy will feature in this month's WG Chamber

article.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due to go out late January. 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.