

Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce January 2011 Newsletter

Welcome to the January newsletter. Happy New Year! Thank you to all those who helped make the Christmas Promotion such a great success. You all make Sherborne such a wonderful little town. Please note the venue change executive committee members for the January meeting.

Executive Committee Meeting - Monday 10th January 2011, 6pm, Caffè Baglioni, Swan Yard

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. 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, please contact Cordelia to forward you the booking form. There will be a group from Sherborne going along.

Festive Promotion Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone involved in making the Festive Shopping Event in Sherborne such a success, and demonstrating, once again what a fantastic community spirit the town has. 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 vintage tractor- pulled trailers, the steam organ, Sherborne Chamber Choir, Clog Treacle Eaters, Belladonna, and the front page act Cat in a Hat who cruised up and down town adding an extra bit of fun to the event. It was a lovely day and great for trade, many members saying it was the best they have ever had!

The decorations looked very pretty, and it was delightful to see the children scuttling around the shops looking for the wonderfully decorated Christmas Cakes produced by Filigrana Cakes and Town Mill Bakery with the help of children of Trent Youngs Endowed School.

In the afternoon, Mayor Jane Smith, with the 'help' of Cat in a Hat, switched on the 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.

We were again delighted with the illuminations, organised by the Chamber of Trade, with the support of Sherborne Town Council, Sherborne Castle Estates, The Rotary Club and Superplants, not forgetting of course the individual traders, who order and pay for their trees!

Sherborne Chamber of Trade will make a donation to the following organisations in recognition of their support – Clic Sargent, Sherborne Chamber Choir, Clog Treacle Eaters and Belladonna.

Particular thanks go to the following individuals and organisations in no particular order:

Sherborne Town Council, Thelma Drabik of Melbury Gallery, Liz Burt of Home Sweet Home, Mid West Radio, Mid West Office Supplies, Naomi Barr of Filigrana Cakes, Nick Hunt of Hunts Accountants, Anthony Elliot-Square of Third Dimension, Mrs Sally Westlorton, Bob Twiggins of the Rotary Club, Dominic Drabik of Design Junction, Mayor Jane Smith, Blaze Electricians, Kafe Fontana, Sherborne Castle Estates, all the shops who displayed cakes, Town Mill Bakery, Toy Box, Present Finder, Superplants, Clic Sargent, Sherborne Chamber Choir, Clog Treacle Eaters, Belladonna, Trent Youngs Endowed School Class 4, Western Gazette, The Conduit, Sherborne Community Times, Blackmore Vale Magazine, Dorset Life, Dorset Magazine, Cat in a Hat, South West Signs, WDC Legal Services Department, Dorset County Council Highways, Sherborne Police, Dodges Interiors and Sherborne Tourist Information Office.

Apologies to anyone who has been forgotten and THANK YOU!

Parking Action Group

We have a letter from WDDC regarding a review of parking charges. There is a short consultation period and we need to get back to the council by Friday 14th January with our views. The basics of it are that town centre short stay charges will be frozen for the sixth consecutive year. Long stay charges will be raised by 40p a ticket and £90 a year for an annual ticket. Shoppers permits will be valid for one use per day, and penalty charges appear to be the same, except that the £10 reduced penalty charge for staying overstaying the paid for time period will be stopped.

Gas Works

Message from Richard Owen, Southern Gas Networks:

I am writing to advise you that Southern Gas Networks will shortly be working to upgrade the local gas supply network in Sherborne. The existing metal gas mains and services in Cheap Street/South Street will be replaced with modern plastic polyethylene pipe designed to ensure a continued safe and reliable gas supply to the local area.

This essential work will begin on Monday 24th January 2011 and forms part of our ongoing gas mains replacement programme, developed with the Health and Safety Executive, to replace metal mains with plastic pipe which has a minimum lifespan of 80 years. The project will see 400metres of 10 inch diameter main replaced and is expected to take approximately 12 weeks to complete.

The scale and extent of the project and the large diameter of the pipes require heavy plant and equipment to be used. To allow room for manoeuvre of this equipment and to ensure everyone's safety, it will be necessary to implement a road closure during the course of the project.

Work that we previously carried out in Newland Sherborne has allowed us to downsize our mains in Cheap Street to allow us to insert the existing main with a new plastic one, rather than open cutting a route the length of Cheap Street.

We plan to carry out the work as follows:

We anticipate carry out these works with a rolling closure to assist business with Deliveries.

A full vehicular diversion route will be signed. Pedestrian access through the site will be maintained at all times.

We have been working closely with Dorset County Council and the emergency services to plan this project in such a way as to keep disruption to a minimum while meeting emergency access and pedestrian safety requirements. Advance warning and diversionary signs will be in place and access to homes and businesses will be maintained.

We understand this will be difficult for the local community, but please be assured we wish to work with you to minimise disruption.

I would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience that may be caused by our work. Should you require any further information or advice before or during the works please do not hesitate to call us on 01202 545566

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.

Poppy Appeal Thank you

Message from David Haynes, Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser for Sherborne:

The Poppy Appeal in Sherborne had raised £21,800 by 30th November, which is just ahead of what had been raised by this time last year – an excellent result for the appeal due to the generosity of the public, the hard work of the collectors and other volunteers, and the tremendous support by Chamber members who decorated their windows during the appeal and had collecting boxes on display.

The winner of the Poppy Appeal window display competition organised by the local branch of The Royal British Legion was Maclachlan Solicitors, joint second were Spirit of the Andes and Occasions, with third place being Save the Children. The standard was very high again this year with several excellent windows.

On behalf of the Poppy Appeal, Thank You.

Olympic Business

I am still receiving the Olympic Bulletins, and have a short business readiness report, which may whet your appetite and think about what opportunities may exist for your business. If you would like me to forward the report to you, please email me.

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 February. Any contributions to Cordelia 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
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I am usually available for Chamber business Mondays and Tuesdays 9am - 1pm.
www.sherbornetown.com