

Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce March 2011 Newsletter

Welcome to the March newsletter. This month we have a members meeting at Town Mill Bakery on Monday 7th March. The following week we will have our executive committee meeting at Kafe Fontana.

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.

All members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Three Wishes Pancake Day Race, Tuesday 8th March, 12.30

Now in its fourth year, members Nicky and Paul King, owners of The Three Wishes in Cheap Street, Sherborne will be holding their annual pancake race.

The pancake race will for the first time help raise money for Sherborne Primary School's summer term residential to Brenscombe Outdoor Centre, Purbeck. After the success of last year's children's heats, Year 6 from Sherborne Primary will be running their very own heat in the race.

"On behalf of Sherborne Primary I would like to say a big thank you to The Three Wishes for organising this event. Our residential is a very important part of the children's school experience and by raising funds like this we hope to ensure each and every child has the opportunity to go. I am really looking forward to the pancake race, and I know the children are excited already!" said Mr Barge, teacher of Year 6 at Sherborne Primary School.

Once again, parents, and members of the public are all welcome to join in the fun. Heats will take place for adults as well as children. The Three Wishes will also be selling pancakes all day, with proceeds going towards Sherborne Primary School's residential to Brenscombe Outdoor Centre.

"This will be the fourth pancake race we have organised and it's always a really fun event. I am delighted that this year we can help support the school, especially in organising the residential which both my children enjoyed during their time at the school." said Nicky King, owner of The Three Wishes.

If you fancy being the fastest flipper of 2011, it will cost only £1 per person to enter, with pancakes and frying pans provided.

For further information please contact The Three Wishes on 01935 817777.

Executive Committee Meeting Monday 14th March, 6pm, Kafe Fontana.

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

Report of Executive Committee Meeting on 8th February at Castle Gardens

Thank you to Castle Gardens for hosting this meeting, and providing such delicious sandwiches! A cheque was presented to Clic Sargent in recognition of their efforts at

the Festive Shopping Event. Minutes have been distributed to members.

Chamber Meetings and Events 2011

Up until recently, we have 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. A list of executive committee meetings, members meetings, open events and town events is on www.sherbornetown.com

Royal Wedding Weekend

Sherborne Town Council is supporting the 2 Rotary Clubs, the Lions and Inner Wheel to hold a Party in Pageant Gardens on Friday 29th April, 2-5. The wedding is at 11 so most of the TV coverage should be over. There will not be big screens. The event will be along the lines of an old-fashioned street party with something for all the family. There will be lots of bunting, the Town Band or Boys' School Swing Band will open the proceedings, there will be an MC and, hopefully, a bit of a sing-along and other entertainment. A fancy dress competition for the smaller children, games for the older children and their dads. The Museum are putting on a display of vintage wedding dresses and a number of the charities will have displays. There will be no official seating but everyone is welcome to bring their own picnic tables and chairs and picnic tea. There will be a tea / coffee tent, bar tent and wedding cake stall all operated by service organisations and charities. If you have any queries regarding the event please contact Tony Home on thehomes@clara.co.uk

Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce are supporting the event by holding a **Royal Wedding Shop Window Dressing Competition** during the week leading up to the wedding. Please let Cordelia know that you are taking part by Monday 18th April so that your entry may be considered by our esteemed judges on Thursday 28th April and put forward for recognition. Your display may consist of one item, the whole window or even a cardboard cut out of the happy couple!

New PAYE Tools for South West Employers

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has launched 'Basic PAYE Tools' to help the South West's employers run their payroll systems.

The new online resource replaces HMRC's popular Employer CD-ROM. It includes all the CD-ROM's interactive features plus an automatic update facility, to ensure the tools are up-to-date with the latest information and figures.

Employers who have used the CD-ROM will need the new tools for the remainder of the 2010-11 tax year and for future tax years. The tools can be downloaded by visiting www.businesslink.gov.uk/basicpayetools.

HMRC strongly recommends that employers keep up to speed with other important PAYE developments by signing-up to their free email alerts at www.businesslink.gov.uk/hmrcemployeremailalerts. HMRC will no longer be mailing hard copies of guidance to employers, so these alerts are now the best way to ensure employers are up-to-date with PAYE issues.

In addition, employers are being reminded that PAYE information, forms and guidance are all available online at www.businesslink.gov.uk/payeformsandpublications and that paper versions are

now only available in limited circumstances from the Employer Orderline.

Free Business Events

Free business clinics with a business coach and expert - Thursday 10th March, The Snug at Hotel du Vin, Poole.

Tasty Marketing and IBD UK are offering a day of health checks for your business. You can book 1 hour slots throughout the day for a one to one session with an experienced business advisor, Nick Andrews, an independent, experienced advisor, who will give you an objective assessment by which identifies inefficiencies and lost opportunities. It may make a huge difference to your business through greater understanding of problems and issues, and a prioritised action list to go away with.

People and Profit workshop event Tuesday 22nd March, 9-12, Wimborne Football Club

Marketing to attract the RIGHT clients
HR to manage your best assets – your team
How can posture ensure business success?
Using Facebook and Linked In to speak to your audience
Ample parking with tea, coffee and muffins on arrival.

Contact Cordelia for detail.

Events Action Group

Nick Taylor and Alison Nurton will report progress in organizing a spring and autumn open event at the next exec meeting.

Membership Action Group

A list of multiples and other businesses in the town has been prepared, and we shall work on our action plan for increasing membership at the next exec meeting.

Parking Action Group

Nicky King is awaiting a response from the council on revised parking charges and proposed South Street parking restrictions.

Tourism Action Group

Margaret Balfour is our action group leader and will keep us informed of developments. Please note dates of town events, such as the Sherborne Abbey Festival 29 April – 3 May, and think how your business could benefit. To my knowledge 5 members have supported this event and several have offers running alongside which will benefit their bottom line.

Olympic Business

I am still receiving the Olympic Bulletins, which may whet your appetite and think about what opportunities may exist for your business.

This week I have requests for technology value added resellers, a mobile app developer, provision of small works (e.g. civils, carpentry, power, containment, carpentry, trackways) for Olympic Test Events and Games time.

Please let me know if you would like me to forward information to you. I often get

several opportunities a day, which are varied in nature. If you do get involved in bidding for such work, please let me know.

Next Newsletter

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

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I am usually available for Chamber business Mondays and Tuesdays 9am - 1pm.
www.sherbornetown.com