

## **Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce September 2010 Newsletter**

**Sherborne in Bloom and Stop the Litter Campaign Meeting, Wednesday 8th September 2.00-4.00pm, Digby Hall.**

All invited to come along to the Sherborne Stop the Litter Campaign meeting.

**Sherborne Chamber of Trade Meeting, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm, Onward Driver Training, The Old Fire Station, Ludborne Road**

We look forward to a presentation from member Phillip Hastings and an update on action group progress.

**Sherborne Chamber of Trade Open Meeting, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 6pm, The Eastbury Hotel PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND VENUE**

This meeting will feature a short presentation by Nick Taylor of HR Dept and Dorset Business followed by an update meeting.

**Chamber Links Launch Event (organized by Dorset Business), Crown Hotel, Blandford, DT11 7AJ, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 6.30 -8.00pm**

All Chambers of Trade, Commerce & Industry are welcome to attend to discuss best practice, network and hear about the latest developments in Dorset.

Refreshments will be served on arrival, followed by a short presentation and welcome from Dorset Chamber of Commerce & Industry. This first event will include valuable information with regards to Local Enterprise Partnerships and how this will affect your business and your county.

Guests are then invited to network with other businesses in the Dorset area, and learn more about how your counterparts in other Chambers operate.

Not only is this a great opportunity for Chambers to meet their neighbours in Dorset, it's also a great opportunity for members to network, gain new business contacts and raise their profile in the community!

Thelma, Cordelia and Nick Taylor are attending. Please book with Karen Homer (contact details below) £5 a ticket and contact Cordelia to share transport.

**Wolfgang Grulke Talk 'Lessons from the Future: How to understand a changing world.' The Powell Theatre, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 for 8.00.**

An opportunity to hear a fascinating talk already presented world-wide to businesses, government and educational bodies. Hundreds of thousands of people have heard it and it has opened their eyes to how we may live and work in the future.

Tickets are available from: Ian Crawford-Smith on 01935 815879, Sherborne Tourist Office and Sherborne School, Joanna Farrow on 01935 810554 @ £10 per person including a glass of wine and nibbles

**Sherborne Chamber of Trade Christmas Party, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November, The White Hart**

A date for your diary. Details to follow.

**Business Link/WDDC/Sherborne Chamber Event – Creating a Marketing Campaign with Little or No Budget, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, The Gryphon School (TBC), 9.30 – 2pm**

Booking Details available soon.

**Constitution/Rules Action Group Report**

Group Leader Anthony Elliott-Square and the other members have come up with draft documents, which will shortly be distributed to members for perusal. An EGM will be arranged in due course.

### **Member Benefit Scheme Action Group Report**

How would you feel about a staggered membership fee system? Should you pay less if you employ 3 staff rather than 30? That got your attention! Would you like to offer a member-to-member benefit? Would this be regular, seasonal or once-off?

We would like any members who have comments or feel able to offer a member benefit to contact Liz at Home Sweet Home please.

The idea is to keep spend in Sherborne, we need a new, more glossy mission statement, a review of businesses in the town and categories of what is on offer, discounts for advertising and a redesign of Chamber stationary and possibly logo. Ideas to consider are that that benefit could be discount or service-related. Seasonal benefits could be promoted through the newsletter, Chamber Feature or online (as done successfully by Margaret Balfour earlier in the year).

### **Development of Relationship Action Group Report**

We now have a link to Yeovil Chamber, a presentation lined by Dorset Business, a Towns Chamber Network First Meeting coming up and Business Link are staging an event with us in November. Our link with Rotary is working well in several areas. Cordelia has agreed to be on the Steering Committee of The Dorset Towns Forum, and will attend her first meeting this month. This should raise the profile of Sherborne and help us to be aware of funding opportunities.

### **Shopping Guide Action Group Report**

Nearly 70 businesses have committed to advertising already, and not many spaces are left. The guide will be finalized by the end of this week, and will be printed by Shelleys of Sherborne by November. If you have a last minute entry, please contact Dom at [dominic@designjunction.biz](mailto:dominic@designjunction.biz) or call 07812 663934.

### **Christmas Action Group Report**

The Christmas Social Event will take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November at The White Hart. The Festive Shopping Day will take place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Nick Hunt has submitted the Christmas Grant Application. We are looking for a suitable street entertainment act for the day, and a celebrity to turn on the lights. Please contact Cordelia with any ideas you may have in this regard.

### **Parking Action Group**

A parking action group has been formed, headed by Nicki King of The Eastbury Hotel. Along with Nicky, Rachel Watkins (Abbey Pharmacy), Thelma Drabik (Melbury Gallery), and Deborah Frankland (Fired Earth) will be involved in parking issues. Please contact any of them, or Cordelia if you have an interest.

### **New Member Representative**

Is there a member who would like to welcome newcomers to business in the town? I also have three contacts who are interested in joining and would like to speak to a member. Please contact Cordelia if you are interested in helping with this. It is a great way to get known in the town if you are a newcomer!

### **Abbey Pathway?**

A story featured recently in the Western Gazette about Sherborne Town Council spending £30,000 on a new pathway next to the abbey. We are considering a

Chamber response, if you have an opinion, please make it known to us. For details see <http://www.thisisdorset.co.uk/news/Public-enclosed-plan-spend-163-30k-smooth-path/article-2569074-detail/article.html>

### **Employers Tax Update**

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has issued an alert to employers who use its Employer CD-Rom to help run their payroll systems.

Employers who are using the CD-ROM must update it now, to ensure it has the most up-to-date guidance and calculators.

HMRC will be replacing the Employer CD-ROM for employers with a new downloadable application – ‘Basic PAYE Tools’ – in February 2011, and downloading the September update will ensure that employers can take full advantage of this new product.

The September update can be downloaded free from the HMRC website at [www.hmrc.gov.uk/employers/cdrom](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/employers/cdrom).

HMRC is also urging employers to register for its email alert service, which notifies employers when new information is available on the HMRC website. Register at [www.hmrc.gov.uk/payef/forms-publications/register.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/payef/forms-publications/register.htm).

Stephen Banyard, Director of HMRC’s Business Customer Unit, said:

“I encourage all employers who use our CD-ROM to download the update as soon as possible, and also register for our email alert service, to ensure they receive all the latest employer news.”

### **Western Gazette Chamber Page**

In August we focused on Sherborne in Bloom. If you are interested in showcasing your business, or if you have some positive news to share, please contact Cordelia.

### **Police Link**

Latest minutes available from Cordelia. Are you interested in getting involved? The next PACT meeting is Monday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Gryphon School.

### **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.

Meetings are held every other month from 6.15pm to around 9pm and there are no membership fees or supper costs. If you would like to attend a meeting, please could you complete the 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 they are on the mailing database and will receive all future meeting information.

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.

Arena Business Centre, Holyrood Close, Poole, Dorset, BH17 7FJ

Telephone 01747 821761 | Mobile 07715 539389 | Facsimile 01747 821761

| Customer Service 0845 600 9966

Email [val.potheary@businesslinkwessex.co.uk](mailto:val.potheary@businesslinkwessex.co.uk)

| Website

[www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest)

### **Dorset Business Affiliation**

Don't forget our affiliation with Dorset Business. Why not take advantage of the fantastic events and courses on offer. This month there are several networking events and some really motivating training organised. As a member of Sherborne Chamber you are entitled to benefit from the member rate.

Karen Homer is the Membership Manager and her contact details are Dorset Chamber of Commerce & Industry Chamber House, Acorn Office Park, Ling Road Poole, Dorset, BH12 4NZ

Telephone: [44] (0)1202 714800 Direct: [44] (0)1202 714809 Fax: [44] (0)1202 747862 E-mail: [karen.homer@dcci.co.uk](mailto:karen.homer@dcci.co.uk)  
Website: [www.dcci.co.uk](http://www.dcci.co.uk) & [www.dorsetbusinessawards.co.uk](http://www.dorsetbusinessawards.co.uk)

### **Dorset Business Third Quarterly Economic Survey**

The quarterly economic survey is an opportunity for businesses in Dorset to express their views on a number of issues affecting their day-to-day business.

The results are analyzed and delivered locally to sponsoring organisations and nationally to the British Chambers of Commerce. BCC uses this data to exert influence on your behalf with central government.

It only takes a couple of minutes online, please [click on this link](#) password: EconomyChamber ID: 32

Your opinion is important, and this is your chance to have it heard; so please help by responding accordingly before 20th September 2010.

### **Next Newsletter**

The next newsletter is due to go out at the start of October. All 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**  
**Tel. 07594 805013**

I am usually available for Chamber business Mondays and Tuesdays 9am - 1pm.  
[www.sherbornetown.com](http://www.sherbornetown.com)