

Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce July 2009 Newsletter

With the sun in the sky, Sherborne in Bloom just around the corner and tickets now on sale for the summer barbeque, Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce are happy to announce that summer is officially here.

Summer Barbeque - Thursday 13th August, 7.30 at The Eastbury Hotel, Sherborne

On Thursday 13th August, Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce will be holding a Summer Barbeque at the Eastbury Hotel.

The barbeque looks set to be a great event, with local business people from the Sherborne area coming along to chat informally with contacts new and old.

The event has been organised as a response to the business survey conducted by Sherborne Chamber of Trade earlier in the year. Over fifty local business people, who are not already members, expressed an interest in finding out more about the Sherborne Chamber of Trade. The majority of existing members who responded to the survey mentioned that they would like more networking events in Sherborne, organised by us.

Paul King, owner of the Eastbury Hotel, has offered his very attractive hotel gardens as a venue for the event. Many people in the area are familiar with the Eastbury Hotel, and will welcome the chance to enjoy the delightful gardens at this time of year!

Paul has booked Julie Dunn, jazz musician and vocalist as entertainment for the evening. Julie is a talented singer and has a good local following. Her rich and warm voice, perfect for a summer's evening, can be sampled at her website www.juliedunn.co.uk.

Tickets are on sale from The Three Wishes, Sherborne Tourist Information Centre and the Toy Box, priced at a very reasonable £15 (inclusive of VAT) to cover costs. The ticket price includes a drink on arrival and food prepared by the Eastbury Hotel chef! Salads and vegetarian option will be available. The event will start at 7.30pm and we anticipate will finish late.

Sherborne Chamber of Trade President Thelma Drabik says ' We are all looking forward to this lovely evening, and meeting contacts old and new. Tickets are limited to 120, so buy your ticket soon to make sure that you do not miss this important event!'

Visit sherbornetown.com for more information about the Summer Barbeque or contact Cordelia on 07594 805013.

Sherborne in Bloom and Summer 2009 Hanging Baskets

Each year for the past five years Sherborne has been entered for the South -West in Bloom Competition. Many cities, towns and villages in the region enter this competition and rivalry is usually fierce. Each entry is categorised by its size and Sherborne is classed as a small town, in competition with Wells, Seaton, Glastonbury and Midsomer Norton.

Sherborne is entered into the competition because residents are proud of their town and enjoy living in a community where so many people contribute to the natural environment. Much is gained not only from the town looking fantastic, but also from

so many individuals and groups working together for a common purpose. Tourism plays an important role in our local economy, particularly in the current economic climate, when we are looking to protect local employment and investment.

Sherborne Chamber of Trade plays its part in the competition by organising approximately 85 hanging baskets and a dozen tubs around the town.

The Sherborne in Bloom organisers are asking all local businesses to decorate their windows along the judges' route, and help in any way they can. Please contact Caroline Rowland - Sherborne in Bloom Co-ordinator - 09135 816961 c.rowland@sherborne-tc.gov.uk for more information.

July Working Group Meeting – Monday 13th July, 6pm at The Eastbury Hotel, Sherborne.

At this meeting, in addition to usual business, we shall discuss loyalty/discount schemes and the crime situation in Sherborne. If you have something to contribute to the discussions, please let Cordelia know that you are planning to come along.

June Working Group Meeting at Kafe Fontana on Monday 8th June.

Members discussed the survey results and summer barbeque, amongst a lot of other news and business concerning trading in the town. One issue that arose is that we need to be aware of crime, and in particular shoplifting. There have been a number of incidents reported recently – so please be aware! Minutes of this meeting are on the website.

Vineyards Annual Charity Wine Fair aims to raise even more this year for Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance

The magnificent landscaped grounds of Sherborne Castle will once again be the venue for Vineyards Charity Wine Fair on Wednesday, July 1st from 5pm until 9pm. An annual event, which last year welcomed 600 people through the gate, is a mix of great wines, food and music in a setting which is breathtaking in the evening sunshine.

“Last year we were so pleased with the results of the Wine Fair as we were able to donate £3,000 to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. We would like to raise a record amount this year and we are already selling tickets to people who are determined not to miss the event,” said Hannah of Vineyards, the only independent wine shop in Sherborne.

Entertainment this year (for listening or dancing!) is by The Cabernet Six Jazz Band and to keep the energy levels up there will be more than 250 wines, champagnes and spirits to sample and order in the main marquee. There will also be special feature areas for Sherborne Castle Wines, St Austell Brewery Ales and Somerset Distillery.

“Last year people asked for more food so this year we have invited our friends at The Eastbury Hotel and Sabins Deli to come along and serve some delicious local produce, there will also be cheeses from Dorset Blue Vinny, fresh bread from Oxfords Bakery, locally pressed oil and dressings from The Seed Company and the perfect accompaniment to all the wines - olives, snacks and tapas from Olives Et Al of Sturminster Newton.

A grand charity raffle will take place during the evening, with prizes including mountain bikes, a magnum of Beaumet Champagne, a Home Sweet Home Hamper, vouchers from Margaret Balfour, Buzz and much more. Also, for one night only, guests can enjoy a 15% discount on wine and champagne orders (min 1 x 12 bottle

case) placed on the night.

This year the event is being generously supported by HSBC, Battens Solicitors and Hayward Bros (Wines) Ltd, along with Positive PR and The Gardens Group.

Tickets are available from Vineyards wine shop in Digby Road, Sherborne, and cost £7.50 each in advance or £10 on the day. Entry is restricted to over 18s (but with no upper age limit!).

For more details contact Hannah or Shelley at Vineyards on 01935 815544.

News from D2 - Visit to Lyme Regis, Monday 13th July

Mix work and pleasure and come to the seaside for the afternoon! D2 are arranging a half day visit to Lyme Regis to see what they are doing, such as a Fields Study project, problems of dealing with a redundant hotel in the High Street, Festivals, the Webcam project, the St Michaels Centre and much more. The meeting will start at 2.30pm, and go on to around 5.30-6.00, with an introduction to how Lyme Regis works and what's going on, then out in the town very much on a walk & talk basis, finishing with refreshments.

If you are interested, please put the date in your diary, let Hugh de Longh at hugh@dorset2.co.uk know you would like to come, and whether there is anything specific you are interested in, so we can include this in the visit. For a Chamber member, from Dorset, your travel costs may be covered. Apologies that its a Monday; we would normally set a date later in the week, but Monday is the only day which worked for this visit.

If you have not been to Lyme Regis before, take a look at the webcam www.lymeregistourism.co.uk/webcam !

News from D2 - Funding Updates

Villages SOS. I never thought reality TV would go this far! A partnership between the Big Lottery Fund and the BBC are looking for six villages with a great business idea which will bring new life to their community, and six Village Champions who can work with successful villages to launch their business idea. The best ideas will receive funding of up to £400,000 each, and the project's 'journey' will be filmed by the BBC. Village must have a population of less than 3000. Deadline for applications is 14th August 2009. Website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_village_sos.htm

News from D2 - economic situation updates and help

Retail. The Forest of Dean District Council has developed an excellent 'First Stop Local Shop' retail support toolkit, website www.firststoplocalshop.co.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=5185&tt=graphic

Impact of the recession. The Commission for Rural Communities has produced a series of papers on the impact of the recession on the rural economy, which could be useful if seeking to support funding bids with background info, or just to see if your area is facing the same issues. Website is www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/publications There are 6 papers to date, General (Nov & Dec 09), Business performance (Jan09), the Labour Market (Feb09), Housing (March09) & Debt/Credit (April09)

Thank you Hugh for all of that.

Western Gazette Chamber Page

This month we have submitted an article about the summer barbeque and Sherborne in Bloom. Next month we shall showcase the Toybox, and the month after Margaret Balfour.

Kafe Fontana Lunchtime Take – Away Menu

Nigel and Sarah have a splendid new lunchtime menu. They will make up virtually any sandwiches, rolls, paninis, salads, pastas in addition to their fantastic daily specials such as bacon, brie and cranberry paninis and soup of the day.

If you call them on 01935 812180, they will make up your order within about 10 minutes. With notice they will happily accommodate special dietary requirements.

They also offer a range of Movenpick ice creams and sorbets.

Call in and pick up a menu for inspiration.

Toy Barn News from Peter Hunt

The Toy Barn is running its inter-school competition again. Four schools are competing in a total of 8 teams including The Gryphon, Budmouth from Weymouth, Preston from Yeovil and Sturminster High.

The fact finding was at the Toy Barn and the final is at the Gryphon on the 3rd of July.

The teams have to develop an advertising campaign and pitch for the business. The winning team walks away with prize money of £200.00.

See [link](http://www.bbc.co.uk/dorset/content/.../*toy*_barn*_feature.shtml) of [last](http://www.bbc.co.uk/dorset/content/.../*toy*_barn*_feature.shtml) years comp.
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Sabins News

For those who weren't aware, Barclays Bank and 'The Sun' newspaper are running a campaign to find the BEST LOCAL BUSINESSES IN BRITAIN (www.thesun.co.uk/bbb) and we - lil'ol Sabins - have apparently been entered.

Firstly, thank you if you have nominated us. More importantly though, you all now need to go and vote to make sure we stand any chance of making it to the final.

Based in the heart of Dorset, we don't get to be involved in many things like this so we are really excited and really touched that our customers think we are worthy of selection!!

Vote Sabins!!! www.sabins.co.uk

News from Sherborne Area Tourism Forum – Sherborne in "The Times"

Forget US Independence Day! We're in the news.

Ann Brady's article about Sherborne, following her visit to us a few weeks ago, is due to appear in "The Times" on Saturday 4th July.

News from Sherborne Area Tourism Forum – Sherborne Hotel Network Lunch

The Network Lunch earlier this month was a great success with over 70 people in attendance. The Hotel have planned future events for the 1st Wednesday of each month 12.00 Noon-2pm.

Please email sherbornereception@martylnleisure.co.uk for more information.

News from Sherborne Area Tourism Forum – Information about Open4Business (www.o4business.co.uk)

Open4Business is open to any businesses in South and West Dorset. We aim to provide a rural counterpart to the Dorset Business Awards which tend to have a Poole Bournemouth conurbation weighting. O4B started 6 years ago as a Weymouth & Portland annual programme in response to the withdrawal of the MOD. It was only last year that we extended the area to include territory immediately adjacent to the Borough, and it was not without its problems of identity and definition. However this year with greater involvement of WDDC we have stretched the area a bit further as an experiment, and are trying out some events further afield in locations other than Dorchester and Weymouth, largely due to a fortuitous link up with a Jurassic Coast business group.

As for leaving out Sherborne, we are open to any business from within W&P, WDDC, Purbeck. The publicity for O4B is in the open. The website can be accessed by any business. The media that we use reaches all those parts. Up to now given our gradual expansion we do tend to promote O4B at events closer to the core area, but that could change if this year's experiment is successful. So, I would say, encourage businesses in your area to participate but allow O4B time to adapt and grow sustainably.

Gareth Jones Economic Development Officer 01305 838476 07966 800 840

Estonian Folk Band and Wessex Morris dancing - Saturday 18th July, 11:30-13:00

This will take place in Cheap Street and on the Abbey Green.

Rural Enterprise Gateway and South West Business Link

We have some extremely useful information on our website regarding events and support available to help develop rural businesses in the south-west. Do take a look.

2012 Olympic Opportunities for Local Businesses

There are significant business opportunities available for local businesses in the run up to the 2012 olympic games. A local company has already secured a contract to construct an accommodation block on Portland.

Core areas set to benefit include: tourism, building, community engagement, sports participation, culture, and associated infrastructure.

Go to www.london2012.com, click on 'get involved,' then 'business network,' then 'compete for.' You will then reach the registration/logon page. You can also look at the www.businesslink.gov.uk/region and www.southwestrda.org.uk/region

Dorset Business

Sherborne Chamber is affiliated to Dorset Business. Please look at sherbornetown.com chamber advice page for a link to their website, detailing the member-to-member discount scheme and forthcoming events. The Sherborne event held at the Eastbury last month had a bumper attendance.

Dorset Business Awards 2009

I attended the launch of the Dorset Business Awards 2009 last month in Christchurch. Last year Fudges Dorset Village Bakery won the Family Business Category. It is great to see a local business benefit from the positive publicity that this event attracts. Go to www.dorsetbusinessawards.co.uk or contact Shirley Ewart on 01202 714812 for further information. It would be great to see a Sherborne business involved in this prestigious event.

News from Dorset Business Green Breakfast Club

Our next green breakfast club will be held at the Connaught Hotel on Tuesday 14th July. Come along and find out firsthand from the Connaught Hotel what is involved in implementing a 'green plan' and the success it brings (relevant to all business sectors). Envirowise will look at 'sustainable tourism' and introduce a new range of guides and tools to help you reduce your costs. Princecroft Willis LLP will present a brief review of some of the 'green tax' measures that have been introduced and look at practical opportunities for businesses to reduce their tax burdens.

If you have a green product that you would like to showcase (for a small additional fee) you can bring along a banner stand and your literature to display (includes table). Additional cost £10.00 members, £15 non members. To book a space in the mini exhibition please email lorraine.hubbard@dorsetbusiness.net or write on the booking form.

West Dorset Community Plan Review – Local prosperity Workshop: 13 July 2009

The West Dorset Partnership is in the process of reviewing its Community Plan, which was published in 2006. In reviewing the plan they are gathering together evidence from parish plans, local area partnership action plans and plans and strategies from partner organisations. As part of this review they will be holding a series of workshops to gather additional issues and check whether the issues currently gathered are still relevant.

They are inviting people to attend a Local prosperity Workshop on 13 July 2009, 2.00–4.30 at Stratton House (West Dorset District Council Office), Dorchester

The aim of the workshop will be to discuss:

- the issues affecting West Dorset
- possible solutions to the issues
- how can sustainability be improved?
- any specific issues in relation to equality and diversity

You can book your place with the Community Planning Officer, Maria Clarke at m.clarke@westdorset-dc.gov.uk by 1 July.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due to go out during the second week in August, all contributions to me please by the end of July latest. I shall be on holiday from mid July for a couple of weeks. If you have any urgent business with the chamber please contact Thelma, Anthony, Tony or Sally in my absence.

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.