

Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce May 2009 Newsletter

May Chamber Meeting – Monday 11th May 2009, 6pm at Kafe Fontana, Cheap Street, Sherborne.

Members are welcome to attend this meeting. We will be working through a lot of outstanding material and we would really welcome any offers of help. This is your chance to get involved in the workings of the Chamber.

Report on the AGM which was held at the Swan Pub on Tuesday 28th April.

The Chamber held its AGM a few weeks ago. This was a lively and well-attended event. We had an update from Thelma, Tony, Anthony and Cordelia. Amongst other things we decided to hold regular monthly meetings on the second Monday of every month. The venues will vary. See newsletters and sherbornetown.com for details. We are also planning a summer social event.

Thank you to Nigel of the Swan Inn for allowing us to use his superbly renovated pub. It is a lovely venue.

The French Market is coming to Sherborne!

After a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes, we are delighted to announce that Le Marche de France is coming to visit Sherborne on Sunday 31st May.

For those of you who are not familiar with the French market the publicity information follows after information to traders.

Cheap Street will be closed to traffic all day, from 7am until 6pm to allow for setting up and dismantling. An emergency lane will be on the left hand side of Cheap Street looking down the hill. The stalls will be set up on the right hand side of the road and in front of the Post Office.

Would any trader in this part of cheap Street please let me know as soon as possible if they plan to be open on Sunday 31st May, and in particular if they would like their frontage and/or entrance left clear. We shall need approximately 80metres of frontage for the stalls, and we need to mark out any areas to be left clear before the actual day of the event.

All residential premises in that part of Cheap Street will be informed that the market is taking place along with any businesses that do not keep in touch with the Chamber of Trade in order to minimise any possible disruption.

Le Marche de France will bring a great range of high quality & fresh produce from all regions of France for everyone to enjoy. The event has been organised with the support of Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce as well as Sherborne Town Council. A financial contribution will be made in support of Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Le Marche de France, has been established for 8 years now and is regularly holding French Market events across the whole of the UK. French traders are coming from Normandy, and produce comes direct from the producers. This guarantees not only the origin of the food, but also the quality and freshness of the food that will be presented. We are assured that costs are kept down as far as possible to please customers as far as possible.

We are promised a wonderful selection of genuine French produce. There will be a magnificent cheese lorry with a truly enormous selection of French cheeses. Bread will be baked onsite, in front of visitors, and the smell of bread, croissants and patisseries should hopefully spread throughout the whole town.

There will be the charcuterie with wonderful sausages, olives, Turkish delights, smoked ham and pate. Pure butter, homemade biscuits, cakes and gingerbread, mustards, sauces and, of course, garlic will be on offer as well! For those with a sweet tooth, wonderful natural farm made jams and natural cider & apple juice and calvados as well the hugely popular crepe stall.

For those with a little room left in their tummies, the sweet stall will also be making fresh pralines, as well as almond and cashew nut delicacies on site.

The South of France will be represented, visitors will find soaps from Marseille, lavenders, tablecloths and wines from Provence... Oh, la la...!!

The market will take place in SHERBORNE, Cheap Street, on Sunday 31st May 09.

The market will be open for trade from 9 to 4. For more information, email marche-de-france@wanadoo.fr and see the local press.

We expect the town to be buzzing with atmosphere, which will be added to by some of the local shops and cafes, which plan to be open for business as well.

I have the poster advertising the event on my desktop, and will be happy to either send it to you or print it out for you if you would like to notify your customers of the market!

Summer 2009 Hanging Baskets

All orders are now in for the summer hanging baskets. The winter baskets will be taken down early next week. The summer baskets are due the last week of May or first week of June. I am looking forward to seeing the bright and cheerful colours this year.

Sherborne Hotel News from Jo Lock

The hotel has had a successful start to the New Year even with a credit crunch. The last few weeks we have 100% occupancy and a number of functions. The Sherborne Guides are very popular with our guests and tour guides and drivers. We have also been in a position to recruit a number of new staff within the hotel. The hotel as an individual site was nominated for a Commitment to Diversity award with the Local Job Centre and were runners up in the category which was announced at a recent award ceremony. We were nominated in the top 3 employers for the south west region a great achievement for the hotel.

The hotel in association with Dymond-White Elite Travel of Sherborne are hosting a Business Networking Lunch at the hotel on Wednesday 3rd June 12.00 Noon – 2pm. This will be a free event but will appreciate donations for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance who will be doing a presentation on this day and subject to operations attending the event. The hotel will be providing welcome drinks and a finger buffet for all attendees.

We will be issuing questionnaires to get an understanding of the format and interest in holding future events on a regular basis.

Anyone interested is welcome to drop me an email on jlOCK@martyNleisure.co.uk

Per Te Bra Fitting Promotion Week

Per Te 3, Swan Yard, Sherborne are offering a free bra fitting service during the week Friday 12th June – Friday 19th June.

You will be offered 20% off when you purchase a Triumph bra, plus a free lingerie wash bag – whilst stocks last.

Triumph consultant in store on Friday 12th June 10.00 – 16:00.

Please call Karen to make an appointment on 01935 389977.

There will also be a free Lingerie Week Draw -no purchase necessary.

Market Town Event – message from Hugh de Longh

The Somerset Market Towns Forum has an afternoon event in Martock (not that far from Sherborne) on Wednesday 13th May looking at three projects, a community centre, helping the town to develop an effective Chamber of Commerce, and developing a community office. These are opportunities to see what others are doing as well as contribute your experience.

The Somerset Market Towns Forum has offered Sherborne up to 3 places, so if anyone is interested, can you please let me know as soon as possible!!!
I very much hope that this will be of interest to the Sherborne Chamber, and that someone will be able to go.

South West Market and Coastal Towns Forum

This group was set up last year and acts as an informal and inexpensive conduit for sharing mutually useful information.

We have been in touch with Hugh from D2, who facilitates the group. Is there a member who is interested in representing Sherborne to share information about trading during the recession with other towns in Dorset. Lyme Regis report a higher level of bookings for accommodation than last year (€ versus the £?) and Bridport think their independent shops are still doing well.

Please contact me if you are interested.

Dorset's Green Book and Directory

Kevin Waterfall of the Sherborne Environmental Forum has let us know about this publication, which Chamber members can get themselves registered for, as relevant to their businesses. Details to go onto the Chamber Advice page on sherbornetown.com soon.

Green Cone Message from Kevin Waterfall

You will probably have heard of "Green Cones", these home bio digesters are available and will be on special offer for one day only at the Sainsbury's in Sherborne on the 6th June 10am-3pm

They are going to be 500 there on a first come first serve basis and they are selling for £15 (RRP £68)

The sale is available to Dorset residents only as the funding for the subsidy comes from the Dorset Recycling and Reduction Group. So residents will need to bring some form of ID with address- usually a drivers license.

Quick information on Green cones

Although they look like a compost bin they are not. They are a food digester that takes cooked food meats veg. peelings etc. They do not take garden waste. We have to be careful when promoting the green cone to keep 'composters' and 'food digesters' separate as we have always promoted non meat fish and cooked food policy when home composting.

Green cones are dug into the ground and the site must be sunny and be on free draining soil. We do not want to sell a food digester without giving the client the full information on use and sighting. Information is available on the following web site, but a leaflet should be available next week for me to send out to you.

<http://www.greencone.co.uk/installation.asp?prid=10>

You may also be interested to know that on 1st May I had my photovoltaic solar panels commissioned. They generate electricity at up to 4.2Kw and on these sunny days are typically putting 3.5 – 4.0Kw of electricity back into the grid. If you want to know more about them and the supplier who installed them, please let me know,

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.

Business Network Club Message from Diana Whitehead

I hope that you will be able to join us for our next Speak to Business Networking Event on Thursday 25th June at the Carrington House Hotel, Knyveton Road, Bournemouth.

There will be an opportunity for 5 x 5-minute company presentations on the evening - so if you would like the chance to showcase your company in these difficult times, please contact me on 01202 205291 or email whitehead@bpc.ac.uk.

As always there will be excellent networking opportunities on the evening so please bring plenty of business cards and any marketing materials that you would like to circulate.

To download a booking form please click on the link below and send it to me with your cheque made payable to The College Foundation.

<http://www.thecollege.co.uk/downloads/foundation/SpeakToBusinessFlyer2-09.pdf>

I look forward to seeing you on 25th June for an evening of great networking. Tel 01202 205291

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

Sustainable Communities Act 2007 submission

I need to find a chamber member prepared to consider this short document. If you feel that you could be that person, please contact me asap. It needs to be done by the end of the month.

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.

If you attend the Sherborne event please let me have some feedback to encourage fellow members to attend next time.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due to go out during the first week in June, all contributions to me please by the end of May latest.

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.