

Chamber Chatter

The Voice of local business in Taunton Deane

April 2010

TAUNTON
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

NOTICE of Annual General Meeting

You are cordially invited to the

Annual General Meeting

at Mr Miles Tea Rooms, High Street, Taunton

to include Presentation from Mr John Halls, Director of D J Miles, tastings and light refreshments

on **WEDNESDAY 28th April 2010**

At 5.45 for 6.00pm

Kindly supported by D J Miles

**£ 10.00 per Chamber Member / £ 12.50 per non Chamber Member
Member and Guests welcome**

Booking Form attached

A warmer welcome

Visitors to Taunton will get a bright welcome in future thanks to colourful twinning signs just presented to Mayor of Taunton Deane, Cllr Bob Bowrah.

Taunton in Bloom, working with Taunton Chamber of Commerce, commissioned new town twinning road signs which will be put up at three sites on the approaches to the county town.

The old signs were looking outdated and tired, prompting comments from the public and Britain in Bloom judges, so the decision was made to replace them.

The new signs are far more striking and flag up the twinning link with Lisieux in Normandy – Taunton's French link for 60 years.

Shaun Cregan, co-ordinator of Taunton in Bloom, said once the signs are in place at Stonegallows, Shoreditch Road and Creech Castle, they will help create a favourable first impression and a warm welcome.

Cllr Bowrah said he was delighted by the generous gift from the two local organisations, adding: "The signs are a great improvement and I would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce and Taunton in Bloom for investing in the town to the benefit of all."



(Picture shows members of Taunton Chamber of Commerce and Taunton in Bloom presenting twinning signs to Mayor of Taunton Deane)

BUDGET NEWS

NON DOMESTIC BUSINESS RATES

In his Budget Statement on 24 March, The Chancellor said that:

Empty Property Relief (EPR): the temporary increase in the threshold for EPR will be extended to £18,000 for a further year, continuing the exemption from business rates for an estimated 70 per cent of empty properties in 2010-11.
Small Business Rate Relief: To provide help with the fixed costs of starting and running a small business, the Government will fund a temporary increase in the level of small business rate relief, so that eligible small businesses occupying properties with rateable values up to £6,000 will pay no business rates for one year from October. In addition, small businesses benefiting from the rate relief taper (rateable values up to £12,000) will receive significant reductions.

More details are available at :
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1517622.pdf>

Congratulations to Chamber Members:

C S Williams who have been nominated for a Considerate Constructors Scheme National Award in recognition of their work at Tyntesfield House

Colin Barrell of Mr Miles on the successful opening of Mr Miles tea rooms in the former Laura Ashley building in the High Street, bringing a very tasteful offering to the town centre and life back into a well deserved building

Chamber of Commerce Publications kindly sponsored by:-



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INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS:

Alchemilla Architects

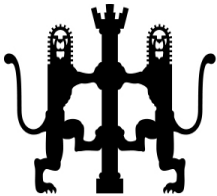
Alchemilla Architects is based in the Blackdown Hills, undertaking projects in the West Country and further afield.

Our portfolio ranges from small extensions, one-off houses, social and developer housing, high-end residential projects, commercial buildings and school and community buildings such as village halls.

We can help you with your entire project, from initial sketches and measured surveys, helping with and submitting planning applications, building regulations and working drawings to writing specifications, going out to tender and contract administration and inspecting the works on site. Our professional service ensures cost, quality and timescale are all under control as well as helping with your mortgage application.

Perhaps you are just after some guidance on how to make your building more energy efficient or how you can give it a complete make-over. As an RIBA Chartered Practice we are always at the forefront of new developments to help turn your ideas into reality.

We offer a practical, modern, fresh approach with a traditional twist. Your vision remains at the heart of the project whilst our expertise in sustainable building methods and technology ensures that your building will be comfortable, economical to run and beautiful to look at.



Please contact Wiebke Rietz at info@alchemillaarchitects.co.uk for a free initial consultation to talk about your plans and ideas and to give you guidance on how to best organise your project or ring 01460 234149.

alchemilla architects ltd

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Members and Guests Welcome

APRIL

WEDS 28th — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Mr Miles tea/coffee shop, High Street, Taunton to include a presentation from the Directors of D J Miles together with tastings and light refreshments
5.45 for 6.00pm

MAY

WEDS 26th - Joint Event with Somerset Chamber of Commerce at Somerset County Cricket Club

JUNE

Thurs 10th - Business Breakfast at Somerset College - **SW One Procurement with Ian Conner, Procurement Officer**

Weds 30th - Business Breakfast at Porter Dodson Solicitors

JULY

Mon 26th - Retail Forum at Exchange House from 5.30pm onwards – further details to follow

For further information or to book a place at any of these events, please contact Jane, Chamber Administrator on 01823 353353 or email: office@taunton-chamber.co.uk

RECESSION PROOF YOUR CAREER

We are pleased to be able to offer our members a discount on a new, fast-paced seminar being run by Taunton-based international etiquette and protocol consultancy firm, The English Manner. The seminar will cover various aspects of business protocol and it will help you create a successful international business image by increasing your awareness of the importance of essential elements such as dress codes, interaction with colleagues and peers, understanding global business protocol, learning how to communicate effectively by the written and spoken word, and how to build an international cultural understanding with those all-important first impressions.

Many overlook the little things in life, such as: what present does one take when visiting the home of an important Chinese client? How and where should one sit in an office when you are told to 'sit anywhere'? And how do you introduce colleagues of differing ranks and genders to each other? All these questions, and more, will be addressed at this new seminar, which takes place on the 8th July at Taunton School from 9am until 12pm.

Members of Taunton Chamber of Commerce are entitled to a reduced entry fee at £50 (normal price - £75). When booking, please quote the discount code of 'TAUNTONCC1'. Details of how to book can be found on The English Manner's website

http://www.theenglishmanner.com/event_recession-proof_your_career_morning-only_seminar.aspx



To contact us:

call: **01823 353353**

Email: office@taunton-chamber.co.uk

Write to: **First Floor, 12F Fore Street, The Old Market Centre, Taunton TA1 3TP**

Data Protection

The Chamber has your details held in a database that has been compiled from volunteered information.

If you no longer wish to receive E-communications from the Chamber please email Jane Burden. We will continue to hold your remaining details unless you specifically indicate otherwise in writing.

If you would like a colleague to receive these e-mails direct, please let us have their details and we will add them to our database.