

Chamber Chatter

The Voice of local business in Taunton Deane

June 2011

TAUNTON
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

Chamber of Commerce helps shape the future of Taunton Deane

At a recent event hosted by Taunton Chamber of Commerce at which representatives from Taunton Deane Borough Council updated delegates on the future of the Borough Council's proposed Core Strategy for the Deane, Chamber Members were invited to "have their say" on the future detail of the emergent Strategy.

Further to the event, and subsequent meetings of Chamber representatives and Member businesses with Taunton Deane Borough Council, it appears that the concerns of the business community have been listened to by the Local Authority with those concerns being turned into actions resulting in amendments to the Core Strategy.



Commenting on this turn of events, Chamber President Chris Mitchell, emphasised how important the role of the Chamber has been in challenging the Local Authority's proposed Strategy and ensuring that the voice of local businesses is heard at strategic level, adding how essential it is that Chamber Members take every opportunity to comment on the Strategy as its eventual implementation will affect us all in Taunton Deane, not only those

in business but from a residential, retail and communication point of view.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Members and Guests Welcome

JUNE - Weds 29th June

Lunch at Holiday Inn with Jobcentre Plus
Guest Speaker: Tracey Lock, Jobcentre Plus
"JCP Services to Employers & "Get Working Britain" Campaign
Booking form attached

JULY - FRI 22nd July

Networking Lunch at Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club in association with Concept Staffing - in support of Taunton Women's Refuge
Further info and booking form to follow

AUGUST - Summer Break

SEPT - THURS 15th September

Joint Business to Business Dinner with Somerset Chamber of Commerce at Queens Conference Centre
Further information 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

"Pride in your Community"

Taunton in Bloom is once again looking to Taunton Chamber of Commerce Members for help and support in this year's Britain in Bloom campaign.

It is not only about the floral displays, but other important factors including no graffiti, no flyposting, no littering as well as community involvement and recycling. As a result of cut backs this year and even more next year, we all need to work together to make Taunton a Gold Medal winning town, offering clean streets and parks, and showcasing how businesses and community groups can work in partnership together to improve and clean up the eyesores.

For this reason I am asking for Volunteers - to help weed out around street furniture in the town centre, Business representatives to be available on Judging Day to show their support and as always, Taunton in Bloom is on the look out for new Committee members.



If you, your colleagues or your business can help in any way, then please contact Jane, Chamber Administrator in the first instance.

Many thanks
Shaun Cregan
Co-ordinator - Taunton in Bloom



Taunton Schools Celebrate

Congratulations to Chamber Members, **Taunton School** and **Richard Huish College** who both have reason to celebrate.



At the recent Young Enterprise Somerset County Finals, "New Experience" the team from Taunton School won "Best Company Trade Stand", supported by Taunton Chamber of Commerce, "Best Company Report" and were "Company Programme" Overall Winners - supported by Clarks, with "Spectrum" from Richard Huish College winning "Best Company Presentation".

NEW EXPERIENCE will now go forward to represent Somerset at the SW Regional Finals in Torquay on 14 June.

We wish them all the best!!



Welcome to New Members: **Bediwin Information Services**



Need solid IT support? Try someone with no risk!

IT has become vital to businesses of all sizes – but for many, the service can still be somewhat lacking. We all know someone who's complained about the IT support they receive, but feels unable to do anything about it.

The current economic climate compounds that problem – any mistake made in business can be very expensive, and this is not the time to be making expensive mistakes.

Bediwin Information Services has a solution. We offer a range of IT support and consulting services for businesses with 5-50 PCs and we back them up with a 100% satisfaction guarantee.

Customers signing up for ongoing support can simply raise any concerns within 28 days of their agreement starting and we will issue a credit note for any outstanding invoices, remove anything we've supplied and walk away – no matter what the reason.

One-off contract work gets a similar promise – raise your concerns within 28 days of being invoiced and if we can't resolve your issue, we'll undo whatever work we can, remove any equipment we've supplied and issue a credit note.

All we ask is that you give us an opportunity to resolve the issue – and if we can't, tell us exactly what you're unhappy about so the same mistake doesn't get repeated.

For further information, contact James Cort on 01823 478547 or email james.cort@bediwin.co.uk

'Green' network gets together

A group of West Country companies from Devon to Somerset and Bristol gathered recently for the first network meeting of businesses involved in the £750,000 Knowledge Exchange at Genesis (KEG) project, held at **Somerset College** in Taunton.

The companies have all signed up to KEG, which aims to help businesses in the South West develop knowledge and expertise in sustainable construction and green technology. It is funded by the South West European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and South West Regional Development Agency, as well as partners Somerset College, which is leading the project in the region, Weymouth College, City of Bristol College, City College Plymouth, and University of Plymouth.

The networking event was the first since the project was launched, aiming to help companies interested in the green economy forge links with complementary members across the region. Members also heard a talk by Lucy Pedler, Director of the Bristol based The Green Register, one of the UK's leading organisations promoting sustainable building practices and providing unique industry-led training events.

KEG will also be a regional learning resource for businesses in the South West, providing tangible, practical learning and acting as a conduit between education and the business community.

The partner colleges will ensure the transfer of knowledge about sustainable construction and green technologies from education to businesses, and also work to understand business needs and best practice so that young people in college gain appropriate skills for a green economy.

Trevor Payne, Knowledge Broker for the KEG project, aims to sign up at least 75 companies throughout the region as KEG members, and is well on target with over 30 so far.

Nigel Howells, Head of ERDF Competitiveness said: "A priority of European funding is to support the development of green practices in the South West and this project means businesses can benefit from one another by sharing best practice and knowledge. We look forward to seeing how this aids businesses in the future."



ADK WEB DESIGN SURVIVES THE 'DRAGON'S DEN'

Taunton web designers selected to launch Steri-Spray website for BBC Dragon Deborah Meaden

Somerset based web design business, **ADK Design** was chosen by BBC Dragon, Deborah Meaden to develop and launch the website for her latest investment, www.Steri-Spray.com.


Inventor Ian Helmore won a £145,000 investment from Deborah Meaden and Theo Paphitis for a 20% stake in his Steri-Spray business. Steri-Spray offers a range of patented showers that prevent Legionnaires' disease by using ultraviolet light at a low voltage to keep the shower head free from water borne bacteria.

At launch, Steri-Spray will bring a new level of hygiene to owners and users of communal showers. Hotels, hospitals and health clubs will benefit from this new product and ADK Design was chosen because it is a web design company that understands business and marketing, bringing a suite of skills to the project. ADK created a whole new look for Steri-Spray, incorporating the latest internet design systems and technologies, forming a key part of the launch campaign.

Andrew Knutt, director of ADK, adds, "The launch of Steri-Spray and working with Deborah Meaden's team has been an exciting project, allowing ADK to demonstrate our expertise in brand management, as well design and marketing on a national scale. ADK continues to expand its list of high profile clients who recognise the power of great web design and search engine optimisation in maximising the effectiveness of their brand strategy."

For further information please contact:
Andrew Knutt – 01823 331097
Alternatively visit www.adkdesign.co.uk

ADKDESIGN
STRATEGY, DESIGN, MARKETING & GROWTH

 Stage Six of Britain's biggest professional cycle race will take place on **Friday 16th September**, beginning in Taunton and finishing in Wells, taking on a 145km route that includes the King of the Mountains climb of Cheddar Gorge.

This stage will begin from East Reach in the centre of Taunton via Durston and Knapp and across West Sedge Moor to Langport and onto the Somerset Levels. After skirting Somerton and Street, The Tour of Britain heads for Cheddar and the world-famous climb of Cheddar Gorge.

Taunton is looking forward to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity when the iconic Olympic Torch Relay visits the county town this time next year as part of the nationwide tour in 2012.



The Olympic flame - symbol of the biggest sporting event in the world - will be coming to Taunton on **21 May 2012** when the whole town will light up with an evening of top class entertainment showcasing Somerset's culture and heritage thanks to investment and support from Taunton Deane Borough Council.

TAUNTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE welcomes
new Member:-

Taunton Voluntary Action

Chamber of Commerce Publications
kindly sponsored by:-



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Print and Copy
Services

7 Bridge St. Taunton
Tel: 08000 978897
Email: info@mbetaunton.co.uk

To contact us: call: **01823 353353**
Email: **office@taunton-chamber.co.uk**
Write to: **First Floor, 12F Fore Street, The Orchard 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.