

Chamber Chatter

The Voice of local business in Taunton Deane

March 2010

TAUNTON
CHAMBER
OF
COMMERCE

Taunton Chamber of Commerce supporting Young Enterprise South West (YESW) Somerset



Young Enterprise is the UK's leading enterprise education charity – bringing business and education together to inspire more than 300,000 young people aged 4 -24 each year with the skills, attitudes and behaviours to succeed in the world of work.

With more than 45 years' experience, Young Enterprise has developed programmes based on the principle of 'learning by doing' which involve practical, fun, hands-on activities led by volunteers in partnership with teachers – using a specifically designed range of exciting materials.

Here in Taunton, YESW Somerset has a successful track record of working in partnership with Taunton Chamber of Commerce, Taunton Deane Borough Council, ROK Group, BSI, Marks & Spencer, HSBC amongst many others. With the support of these committed partners, we are delivering enterprise at every level – to all the Taunton Deane primary schools right through to Bishop Fox's Community School, Richard Huish College and Taunton School.

Young Enterprise programmes provide all young people, regardless of their ability and background, an opportunity to nurture and realise their enterprise capability as well as develop general business and economic understanding.

To find out more about Young Enterprise visit the main website: www.young-enterprise.org.uk.

If you would like to support YESW Somerset to make a real difference to the lives and potential of young people here in Taunton – please call Wendy Horton on 01398 332472 or email: wendy.horton@yesw.org.uk – who will be happy to tell you more about these proven and successful programmes that can change the lives of young people.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Members and Guests Welcome

MARCH

Mon 29th March – Tour of Somerset County Museum – Refurbishment Works in progress **5.00 for 5.30pm prompt (for H&S reasons numbers limited to 15 per group, so book early)**

APRIL

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

MAY

THURS 27th - Joint Event with Somerset Chamber of Commerce at Somerset County Cricket Club

JUNE - Just Confirmed ...

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

Weds 30th - Business Breakfast at Porter Dodson Solicitors

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

Fredericks
foundation

unlock your future



Fredericks is a charity set up to provide small loans enabling people to achieve the dignity and self respect of supporting themselves through enterprise. They work with the local business community, chambers of commerce, local councils and local entrepreneurs, and so far have worked with more than 600 enterprises.

They held an event in February in Taunton to launch Fredericks in Somerset, and are looking for business people to provide their time in mentoring, participating in lending panels, marketing, fundraising, investing, in fact anything that will benefit the entrepreneurs they seek to support.

Typically these entrepreneurs are disadvantaged in some way, and specifically have been refused a loan from their bank. Their average loan is £3.5k, but could be as high as £10k for a start-up, or 20k for an established business.

Fredericks are now open for business in Somerset, and have an initial fund of £100k to invest in entrepreneurs who meet their criteria – which includes a business plan, cash-flow forecast and financial records. Their process is stringent, but they are there to fill a recognised current gap in business funding.

Taunton Chamber of Commerce will be supporting Fredericks Foundations in making their Somerset venture a success.

For further information, take a look at their website www.fredericksfoundation.org and contact their local representative in our area, Annie Popham annie@fredericksfoundation.net

INTRODUCING NEW MEMBER

Rene Kilner — The Wealth Care Partnership



PAYING FOR CARE FEES? THERE IS A SOLUTION

Rene Kilner is a Taunton based independent care fees specialist with an award winning firm, The Wealth Care Partnership. "When paying for long term care, people need peace of mind that their capital is protected. There are special financial products which guarantee high levels of tax free income to meet the needs of those paying for care" says Rene.

Rene advises on the use of Immediate Care Plans (ICPs) in individual circumstances. "ICPs provide the means of capping the cost of care whilst ensuring fees are paid for life." says Rene "A recent development provides an alternative to selling property to fund care".



Making an informed, timely decision is essential. Anyone paying for care should obtain specialist financial advice as a delay in taking action could reduce the number of options and lead to erosion of capital.

The Wealth Care Partnership produce an annual 'Guide to Care Fees Planning'. The guide is available free and Rene is pleased to receive introductions to your clients or contacts with a need to fund care, call her on 01823 271046 to discuss opportunities.

TAUNTON TOWN CENTRE PEDESTRIANISATION PROPOSALS - An opportunity to have your say



Tuesday 23 March
Taunton Library Meeting Rooms, Paul Street, Taunton
6.00 for 6.15pm start

Somerset County Council (SCC) wishes to consult with local businesses, landlords and business groups regarding proposals for pedestrian improvements to Taunton Town Centre.

Taunton Town Centre Company (TTCC) represents over 750 businesses through the BID programme and is supporting SCC to bring together local businesses representatives in a meeting to advise you of the County Council's plans and to receive your feedback on the proposals.

You may be aware that SCC held a public consultation during the period December 2009/January 2010. SCC and TTCC feel this is an important issue for businesses and that is why together, we are arranging this further opportunity for consultation and for the views of businesses to be heard.

The **Town Centre Company** is co-ordinating the meeting arrangements; attendees are asked to register attendance in advance of the meeting. You can register your attendance by completing the attached form and return it using the FREEPOST service (you don't even need a stamp) by email to info@tauntontowncentre.co.uk or by fax 01823 354299.



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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.