

LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT

~ CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ~

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011

UNILEVER ARE 'FIT BUSINESS'

Leatherhead based, FMCG company Unilever, is running a Department of Health pilot sharing its employee wellbeing programme, Fit Business, with eight local businesses. The pilot has been set up to establish how large organisations can support smaller businesses in improving workplace health, the benefits of which include reduced absenteeism and higher employee engagement. The pilot has been running since March covering a number of areas, including healthy eating and physical activity. The next three months is all about 'mental wellbeing', including tips on actions individuals can take to make a positive difference, for example, eating a balanced diet, getting enough sleep, playing a sport, getting involved in community activities. Some pilot businesses have also been participating in The Global Corporate Challenge to walk 10,000 steps a day for 16 weeks, helping participants become more active and healthier. The pilot will be evaluated later this year.



PRESIDENTS PEN



Greetings Chamber Members and welcome to the new regular Newsletter, which has been compiled by our new Chamber Co-ordinator Louise Fowkes. Lou will be looking after the event organisation, admin and communication side of the Chamber and assisting the Directors with the legwork often required when organising initiatives and events. I would also like to thank a couple of Directors who have recently moved on from the Board - Chris Leveritt and Simon Fielder, for their valuable time and efforts and to welcome our two new Co-opted Board Members - Jackie Quinn from Jackie Quinn Estate Agents and Helen Bullen from Fine Fettle, both of whom will initially be helping to increase members and act as Ambassadors for the Chamber in the Ashted and Bookham areas.

The Chamber here in Leatherhead has had a real surge in growth over the past few years and, as a result, has had to adapt to manage the changes and increase involvement in the local community. John Hickey, our immediate Past President, has now assumed the role of Executive Director, which will maintain the stability of the Chamber. John will also continue his work with the Business Community and local council, giving us a strong voice in the region.

We have many events planned (see panel left), offering further opportunities to network and learn new skills, which in turn will help your business to survive during these difficult economic times. Our Website is continuing to grow - please do go and have a good look around if you have not already done so, and make sure you keep your profile up to date. I welcome any suggestions and input via email from our members, so please do make your voice heard. Our organisation is there to support you, so your views are very important to us.

Finally I welcome the many two wheeled visitors to the area over the coming weeks, and indeed next year for the Olympics, as we look forward to the London-Surrey Cycle Classic, giving us a real opportunity to test out the plans for the 'Big One' in July next year. Looking at the bigger picture, these events are putting our region in the spotlight, which will attract many new visitors and show the world what a beautiful area we live in.

The long term legacy from the Olympics could have a major impact on the future, so lets embrace it and remember that the short term inconveniences of road closures and parking issues is for the greater good. We are very lucky to be hosting these events, so lets make the most of it and show the world what wonderfully hospitable people we are here in the Mole Valley!

Andy Newbold
President

EVENTS LIST

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Venue: Unilever

Date: Tuesday 9 August

Time: 7.45pm

Note: There are no parking facilities at Unilever House. Shuttle buses run from Leatherhead Station, where 'Pay and Display' parking is available.

AGM

Venue: Fetcham Park House

Date: Wednesday 28 September

Time: 7.00pm

Please Note: Chamber Members Only

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Venue: TBC

Date: Tuesday 11 October

Time: 7.30pm

ANNUAL CHAMBER QUIZ

Venue: Police Federation

Date: Friday 14 October

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Fish & Chip Supper Included

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Venue: Holiday Inn

Date: Tuesday 13 December

Time: TBC

To find out more about these events, and to book your place, please fill out the online booking form, located on our 'Chamber Events' page, on the website.



SPOTLIGHT ON..... 'ADVOCATE GALLERY'

After several successful years in Wimbledon Village, Caroline Burns decided to relocate her business, Advocate Gallery to Ashted, Surrey.

With a growing client base from Surrey, combined with living and raising a family in the area, the time was right to make the move. So when the perfect location presented itself, in the form of the old bank in Ashted, it was an easy decision.

Advocate Gallery aims to be the premier gallery in Surrey specialising in the best of British contemporary fine art. Establishing good relationships with those artists that they exhibit is key to their success, enabling them to select the newest works first and in turn offer exclusivity to their clients.

"Exhibiting British art is something I feel strongly about, there's amazing talent in this country and to be able to showcase the best of it is very rewarding. I have always been passionate about art and want the gallery to reflect this."

By not importing work, dealing in reproductions or trading with mass market suppliers, Advocate Gallery can offer something unique to its clients. Over the coming months the gallery will be exhibiting work from established artists such as celebrated landscape painter Chris Rigby. A selection of his new work, an exploration of the Surrey landscape, will be displayed at the gallery from 16th September.

"We're extremely excited about relocating to Surrey, not only will we be nearer to many of our current clients, but are looking forward to forming new relationships in and around the area. I think we've created a welcoming space in which to showcase our works of art. I certainly enjoy walking into the gallery everyday and hope others will too," says Caroline. Conveniently located on the A24, between Leatherhead and Epsom, there is ample free parking for visitors.

Advocate Gallery

56, The Street
ASHTEAD

Surrey KT21 1AZ

01372 274 068

www.advocategallery.com

Opening times:

Monday - Friday 8.30am – 6pm

Saturday 10.30am – 4pm

Or by appointment

NB: If you are new to the Chamber and would like your business featured in future Newsletters, please contact Chamber Co-ordinator Louise Fowkes by email at louise.fowkes@virgin.net

FREE EVENT Your Games, your business



Opportunities to win new business

The London 2012 Games are just around the corner; discover how your business can benefit from opportunities to win new customers at 'Your Games, your business', a free event for businesses in the South East.

As well as a keynote address from an expert on opportunities arising from The Games and an inspirational session from a London 2012 Games hopeful, this FREE event will also offer breakout workshops focusing on:

- How to win business contracts associated with The Games
- Specific business opportunities for the retail, hospitality and tourism sectors
- Planning and maintaining productivity through The Games
- Opportunities to enter new markets and win customers overseas

Networking will follow.

- 6 September, Holiday Inn Oxford
- 7 September, Holiday Inn Maidenhead
- 8 September, Holiday Inn Guildford
- 13 September, Holiday Inn Eastleigh
- 14 September, Holiday Inn Gatwick
- 15 September, Holiday Inn Chatham

All events are 9am-1pm (8.30 registration)

Don't miss out – act now and reserve your place at this unique event.

For more information or to book your place, visit:

www.blseevents.co.uk or call 0845 600 9 006

This event is not an official London 2012 Games event and has been organised independently by Business Link South East.



NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

The Leatherhead & District Chamber of Commerce are delighted to welcome the following new members:

Caroline Burns
Advocate Gallery
56, The Street
Ashted
Surrey KT21 1AZ
caroline@advocate-art.com
www.advocategallery.com

Victoria Hadley
Babel Fish PR
Wesley House
Bull Hill
Leatherhead
Surrey KT22 7AH
vicky@babelfishpr.co.uk
www.babelfishpr.co.uk

GRUBS UP!

Three catering companies in the South East have been lucky enough to secure contracts to supply food to the Olympic venues next year, providing a fantastic boost for the local economy.

And you could too! Make sure your business does not miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity and register your company now on www.competefor.co.uk

MARKETS

The **Leatherhead Chamber** manages the Leatherhead High St Market. Markets take place on **THURSDAYS** & **SATURDAYS** each week and **CONTINENTAL MARKETS** are also held throughout the year.

For further information, please contact the Market Co-ordinator
Mr Tom Spoons on:
0208 393 9636

MOLE VALLEY 2011 EVENTS

There are some excellent events planned for the Autumn/Winter - so put the dates in the diary now..!

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 September
Free events in celebration of Mole Valley's heritage.

ARTS ALIVE STREET PARTY

Saturday 1 October from 10.00am-4pm
Leatherhead & Dorking Town Centres
Opening day for the annual Arts Alive Festival.

HALLOWEEN

Monday 31 October from 3:30-6.00pm
Leatherhead Town Centre
Spooktacular fun for the whole family.

ITALIAN FOOD MARKET

Friday 11 November from 9.00am-4:30pm
Leatherhead Town Centre

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Saturday 3 December from 10.00am-4.00pm
Leatherhead Town Centre
Festive family fun with the chance to see Santa!

YEHUDI MENHUIN ENTERTAIN CHAMBER MEMBERS

Dorking, Cobham and Leatherhead Chamber members enjoyed a special evening of music from children at the Yehudi Menuhin School in Stoke D'Abernon recently and of course a spot of networking.

The social evening brought together members from the three Chambers, in an attempt to network more broadly across the region. The event will hopefully be repeated next year to give more members the opportunity to experience the excellent standard of music which is taught at this very special venue.

A big thank you to Manager Ambrosine Desoutter and Headmaster Dr Richard Hillier (pictured) for inviting us along and to Leyla and Sam - pupils at the school along with accompanist Nigel Hutchison - who performed for the guests. Also in the photo below are Rick Parrish - President of Dorking Chamber and Andy Newbold, Leatherhead and District Chamber President.



WEBSITE PROFILES

Our website at the Chamber (www.leatherheadchamber.co.uk) has always been, and continues to be, an invaluable resource for both our members and outside visitors to the site.

It is therefore imperative that your company details listed are up-to-date. Why not take a minute to check this is the case? Just go to the 'Our Members' section, search for your listing by 'type of business' or by 'business name' and if your profile requires amending, please email the changes to Chamber Co-ordinator Louise Fowkes at louise.fowkes@virgin.net and they will be updated straight way!

Additionally, to add 'value' to our Membership Package, would you be willing to offer discounts to other Chamber members? This is something we are very keen on introducing, as it benefits everyone. Do let us know your thoughts, either by email or at one of our next meetings.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Andy Newbold

Andy Newbold Photography

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

John Hickey

Buchanan & Curwen

COMPANY SECRETARY/TREASURER

Paul McWhirter

The McWhirter Partnership

JOINT PLANNING DIRECTOR

Lucy Hanson

Leatherhead Town Centre Management

JOINT PLANNING DIRECTOR

Patricia Lawless

Swan Centre Management

MARKET DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

David Smith

Simon Fielder Productions

DIRECTOR

Peter Snell

Barton's Bookshop

CO-OPTED MEMBER

Helen Bullen

Finefettle Multi-healthcare

CO-OPTED MEMBER

Jackie Quinn

Jackie Quinn & Co Estate Agents

CONTACT US at: **Leatherhead & District Chamber of Commerce**

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