

NEWSLETTER



July 2009

Chairman's Message...

In my position as chairman of your chamber, I would first like to introduce myself for those who do not already know me and secondly, welcome both existing and new members to the benefits of being part of probably the most vibrant and active Chamber in the South West.

I have lived and worked in Somerset for most of my life and have owned and operated Shickle Shoes since 1966, during which time most of the ups and downs of business have been experienced one way or another. In the last three years, we have developed an online presence which has proved very successful. I am always available to share with members any problems or issues with which you may find yourselves confronted.

The Chamber, as many of you will be aware, has grown under the chairmanships of John Edwards and subsequently Alex Turco. Whilst my style may be different, I hope in some ways I will be able to emulate their success and build on the foundations they have laid.

July is the start of the new membership year and I would ask you to renew your subscription promptly. If you have lapsed in the past, we would like to welcome you back. If you know of anyone new to the town or who has not joined in the past, please encourage them to come along to one of our open meetings.

We have some very important issues to deal with in the coming year. The loss of regeneration support from the Regional Development Agency and the poor understanding of the needs of the town by Sedgemoor District Council must be tackled. The committee is pleased to consider any aspects concerning trade in the town and district which affect our members. By maintaining the strength of the chamber we are a voice to be reckoned with.

I hope to see you at one of our meetings, where we shall continue to invite speakers of interest to our members. Meanwhile you are invited to contact me either by email: geoff@footwear4you.co.uk or telephone 07968 392258 if I can be of help.

Kind regards

Geoffrey Shickle

Membership:

The Vice-Chairman, Tom Ashton is taking on responsibility for tourism and membership. Everyone on the committee is happy to inform members and help with membership, so anyone can be approached to join. Tom will have an overview and try to open membership more to small businesses on the outskirts of the town. With this in mind an associate membership category has been provided which will be more appropriate for instance to the building trades, arts and crafts people, businesses run from home etc. Associate membership will be available at a rate of £20.00 per annum. The full membership rate has been kept at £40.00 per year. Both categories will be listed on the web page. An increase in membership will not only strengthen the voice of business people in the town but also encourage people to think about using local businesses to provide services. This is now the time of the year to renew membership. So that the committee can spend less time collecting subscriptions and the committee can be more effective in providing services, members are being asked to complete a standing order form instead. Please be prompt in completing it and remember only members have the right to speak and vote at meetings.

Members Meeting: This is an open meeting.

Wednesday 29th July 2009 - 6 p.m.

At the Town Council Offices Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea

REGENERATION WHAT NEXT?

**From Sedgemoor District Council: Doug Bamsey
and Nichola Slawski**

From the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)

A representative has been invited.

Folkfest, this year's plans Graham Cook

**The Search is on for the
Carnival Queen and her two
Princesses...**

The Carnival Queen Competition takes place on Friday 31st July 2009 at the Ritz Social Club. The winners will lead the Carnival Procession on Monday 9th November 2009, present awards to the winning floats and there is also some prize money. The entertainment will be hosted by Russell Dyson, with music provided by DJ Paul Hale. Entrance is £3.00. Entrants for the Carnival Queen must be over 15 years of age, whilst Carnival Princesses need to be between 7 and 15 years old. All entrants must reside within either 6 miles of Burnham or Highbridge.

This year the Burnham-on-Sea Lions has joined forces with the Chamber of Trade to present this year's Competition. Local shops and traders are being encouraged to sponsor an employee, member or friend to enter the Carnival Queen Competition at a cost of £10.00 per entrant although sponsorship can be obtained from other sources. Carnival

Princess competitors do not need sponsorship. Entry forms are available from burnham-on-sea.com or Homehardware, High Street, Burnham-on-Sea.

For further information contact Lion, **Andrew Bryant, 01278 792534.**

New Committee:

Chairman: *Geoff Shickle...786446*

Vice-Chairman: *Tom Ashton...786726*

Secretary: *Jonathon Walter...0780 988182*

Treasurer: *Nigel Kemp...787307*

President: *Gerry Germain...785031*

Publicity: *Mark Newman...07834 635797*

Christmas Lights: *Mike Ham...782568*

Trade Promotion: *Louise Parkin...786728*

Newsletter: *Rhonda Mills...783276*
