

# NEWSLETTER



June 2010

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

You may have noticed that the AGM has not yet taken place this year. Reason? The calling of a General Election meant we could not have our main speakers, because they are government employees. Representatives from the Revaluation Office in Taunton were booked in response to members requests so the AGM has now been rescheduled to the new date of 16th June 2010 when they can address us and respond to questions.

Some members have expressed concern over the number and frequency of road closures and the problems caused particularly to sea front traders. If you have an opinion on this please contact me or the secretary so that information can be collated and conveyed to the appropriate authorities.

Small businesses, like the majority of those in Burnham are widely scattered so it is difficult to get opinions across to the powers that be. It is therefore in the interest of businesses to be members of Chambers which can then affiliate to County Chambers and through the networks be part of lobbying at county and national level as well as locally.

After being hit by the severe winter weather and some poor weather at Easter, most businesses seem to have made a good start to the season. Let's be confident and offer our customers, local and visitors, the service and quality that will keep them coming back.

Regards, *Geoffrey Shickle*

## CIVIC PRIDE UPDATE

The South West Regional Development Agency has paid £159000 worth of compensation following its decision to withdraw from funding Town Centre improvements. This money has been paid to Sedgemoor District Council and is ring-fenced for upgrades to the Town Centre. The Civic Pride Group, which comprises representatives from the County, District and Town Councils, businesses (including the Chamber) and residents met in April to work out a future direction.

The £159000 needs to be put to work along side other money, which is available or should be available, from seven or eight sources. Owing to the many plans drawn up over the last decade there is no desire to reinvent the wheel. Therefore, any future proposals will be based on plans previously consulted upon.

Many opinions have been expressed over the years by businesses and shoppers and the scheme put forward will take all of these into account. The aim must be to create a better shopping environment to encourage more shoppers to use our Town Centre. Greater footfall in turn will encourage further investment and make our Town Centre a better place to do business.

Jonathan Walter represents the Chamber at meetings of the Civic Pride Group. For continuity purposes, former chairmen, John Edwards and Alex Turco also attend. It is expected that final plans will be available for inspection, debate and consultation in the fourth quarter of 2010.

## TOWN CENTRE BEAT BOUNDARY REDRAWN

Following a re-structuring of the Town Centre Beat boundary, the whole of the town will now fall under the remit of PC Tracey Stiles who previously served the community of Burnham North. There will be no alteration to the structure of the PCSO's, who will remain as before. So the team will now be as follows:-  
Neighbourhood Beat Manager: PC Tracey Stiles,  
PCSO Eliot Green and PCSO Sarah England.

## REPORT ON BRIDGWATER AND BURNHAM SECURITY GROUP STEERING GROUP

For those members that are unfamiliar with this organisation it is the full name of the Retail watch and Pub watch schemes that run in our area. Scheme members have radios that directly link with the operators at the CCTV control centre. The radios can be heard by other users and the local police officers and PCSO's. Should members experience shoplifting, violent or abusive behaviour help can be summoned and the CCTV cameras trained on the business concerned. Escaping shop lifters can also be tracked through the town prior to apprehension and footage helps with evidence in prosecutions. The radios are also used to warn businesses if known criminals are spotted in the area so that losses can be avoided.

The meeting brought together Bridgwater and Burnham Members, police representatives, the CCTV manager, Council representative and Speakers. As a result of this meeting the organisation has been revamped to provide better ways of ensuring a secure environment for residents, visitors and traders alike. The Chair of

the Burnham group is now also the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Management and the Steering Group Committee (which oversees the Board), now contains both retail and pub based representatives for the Burnham area alongside the Bridgwater representatives. Amongst other decisions made at the meeting, the remit for the co-ordinator was redefined and therefore a new co-ordinator is to be appointed. **Watch this space!**

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### **WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE?**

Committee members this year have represented the Chamber on various organisations including: Civic Pride, BBSG, the Working Party trying to save Tourist Information and Somerset Tourism Association.

Representations have also been made regarding planning applications and to Councils on various other issues including trying to find ways for the Town to continue to have Christmas Lights.

The committee have planned to update and reprint the Shopper's Guide. This is currently being finalised and put into action. It is important to remind local and visiting customers of the businesses still operating in the town and inform them of the new businesses that have arrived. Complete your form and return it quickly to get your chance to **"Put Your Business on the Map"**.

We have not done a questionnaire to ask you what you want because this tends to close down possible answers.

**The Chamber NEEDS YOU TO ATTEND THE AGM, HAVE YOUR SAY AND HELP TO PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO THE BEST WAY TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES**

N.B. Benefits for members gained from our affiliation to the Somerset Chamber can be obtained by logging on to: [www.somerset-chamber.co.uk](http://www.somerset-chamber.co.uk)

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### **AGM TALK BY GRAEME CROSBIE**

Graeme Crosbie came to Business Coaching with a highly successful track record from both corporate life and as a business owner. His areas of responsibility have ranged from marketing and sales, through finance and IT to corporate planning, business process reengineering and general management. Graeme founded his Action COACH business in January 2006, and has since been involved with coaching and training well over 500 West Country SMEs out of his practice based in the heart of the Somerset Levels near Langport

Graeme derives huge satisfaction and motivation not only from the results and success this brings, but also from the personal growth and development enjoyed by the team members. To Graeme this is one of the key factors for success in his Action Coach business.

Graeme brings with him a strong belief that work should be a joy, not a chore, and that anything which destroys that enjoyment will destroy any chance of success.

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## **JOB ADVERT COMMITTEE MEMBER**

**(remuneration zero!)**

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***DO YOU HAVE...  
ENERGY?  
ENTHUSIASM?  
FRESH IDEAS?***

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Can you give **1 to 2 hours** to committee meetings, ten months of the year plus a few hours a month to carrying out tasks of your choice to help the chamber to keep a voice for the members?

The current committee has been short on numbers.  
The load needs to be spread to enable effective operation.

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**YOUR CHAMBER NEEDS YOU!**

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### **Committee:**

Chairman: *Geoff Shickle*...786446

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

Secretary: *Jonathan Walter*...07808 988182

Treasurer: *Nigel Kemp*...787307

Publicity: *Mark Newman*...07834 635797

Christmas Lights: *Mike Ham*...782568

Newsletter: *Rhonda Mills*...783276

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