

NEWSLETTER



October 2009

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

2009/10 MEMBERSHIP: 1 July 2009 marked the beginning of the new membership year. The fee for 2009/10 is maintained at £40 to include a free entry in our online Business Guide at www.burnham-on-sea.com/shopping.shtml. Only by joining can you influence the Chamber's work, speak and vote at meetings, display the membership badge, take advantage of discounted services through affiliation to the Somerset Chamber of Commerce and take part in Chamber events.

THE BIGGER THE MEMBERSHIP, THE BIGGER THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN THE TOWN.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

This year's Carnival takes place on Monday, 9 November 2009, with the parade starting at 7.30pm. The Chamber urges local businesses to support the Carnival, especially those on the route. In particular, given the large crowds anticipated, late night opening is encouraged.

The Somerset Chamber is holding a networking dinner at the Webbington Hotel at Loxton on Wednesday, 7th October, which will be attended by Burnham Chamber representatives. For late bookings contact Sue Higgins at the Somerset Chamber:

www.somerset-chamber.co.uk or **01823 444924**

PROMOTION OF THE TOWN'S BUSINESSES - SHOPPERS' GUIDE

Promotion of the Town's Businesses remains a fundamental objective of the Chamber. Supplies of the 2008 edition are almost exhausted. That means since 2006 the Chamber has distributed almost 150000 copies of the Shoppers' Guide! So would you support a 2010 edition of the Shoppers' Guide? Please let your Committee know. An opportunity to discuss this will be available at the forthcoming meeting

BUSINESS NEWS UPDATE

PERSONAL ACCOUNTS: From 2012 'Personal Accounts' will be introduced, which are a means of compulsory pension saving. Businesses will have to pay a contribution of 3% of band earnings, loosely between £5035 and £31000 for all employees. Some employers might prefer the control offered by their own pension scheme but this would need to meet exemption requirements. This is another cost employers in all industries will have to find and a change of government is unlikely to reduce the burden.

MINIMUM WAGE RATES: The Minimum Wage increased to £5.80 per hour for Adults from 1st October 2009. The 18 to 21 year old rate also increased to £4.83 and the under 18 rate increased to £3.57.

A-BOARDS REMINDER: The Town Council will only allow advertising boards where pedestrians are allowed 6ft (1.8m) of clear pavement. Otherwise, boards should only be flat against premises. Under no circumstances may boards be attached to street furniture, or obstruct the highway. **Compliance does not negate the possibility of civil action in the event of injury.** Please contact the Town Clerk on 788088 for further guidance.

RECYCLING BANKS CAMPAIGN: At the January meeting, members expressed concern that the recycling banks in the Pier Street West Car Park, situated next to the Coach Park, are an unsightly welcome to Burnham-on-Sea for those arriving on Coaches. The Chamber communicated these concerns to Sedgemoor District Council and the Somerset Waste Partnership and is pleased to announce that the banks will be removed by the end of the year and re-sited in the Lynton Road Car Park.

REGENERATION: A meeting took place between representatives of SWRDA, the Chamber and the defunct Regeneration Partnership on 19th August 2009 to discuss the decision not to fund the Town Centre project. Your representatives challenged SWRDA's assertion that a recent Government Report concluded that Public Realm projects provided insufficient value for money. SWRDA was asked to explain why Cinderford would be receiving money for a similar scheme when it too had received money from a Tesco planning application. Other inconsistencies and delays were brought to their attention. SWRDA promised a written response by **12th September 2009**, which has only recently been received. The response confirmed the earlier decision to withdraw funding. However, the Chamber was not satisfied with the content of the letter and continues to pursue this through appropriate channels.

Following the last members meeting which included a very positive exchange of views with Nichola Slawski from Sedgemoor District Council, the Chamber continues to work with Civic Pride and SDC to achieve the best possible outcome for businesses, shoppers and residents of Burnham regarding improvements to the town.

REPORTS OF OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS

SOMERSET CHAMBER: Representatives attended the annual Somerset Chamber Towns Forum in Ilminster on 22nd September. This meeting was an opportunity for Burnham Chamber to exchange ideas with other Town Chambers in Somerset, the best of which can then be applied for the benefit of Burnham's businesses.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – ESPLANADE & CONCESSIONS

At a recent meeting attended by Jonathan Walter on behalf of the Chamber. The subject of concessions for the Esplanade was raised, the chamber wanted to ensure there would be no more food concessions allowed. It was announced that all current concessions were up for renewal early 2010. It was agreed that a further meeting would be arranged with Sedgemoor DC, Burnham Town Council and the Chamber to discuss the renewal of current concessions and any proposed new ventures. If any Chamber members have a view on a current concession or any new concession please forward to Jonathan.

FARMERS MARKET MEETING

Held on Monday 21 September, attended by Jonathan Walter. The meeting agreed that changing the Market to fortnightly didn't work for the Town or the Market Traders, Market will only be held on the last Friday of every month during 2010. The Market Traders asked if trading could be extended till 2pm to cover all lunch time trade, this was agreed in principle. The Chamber asked if any traders from the Market wanted to attend this years Christmas Lights switch-on event, to be held on Saturday 28th November between 2 and 5pm on Victoria Street.

NEWS RELEASE



SIMPLIFIED ACCESS TO BUSINESS SUPPORT

More than 50,000 businesses in the South West turn to Business Link for information, advice and support to help them launch, grow and succeed every year. Their needs vary widely – from help with online marketing, accessing finance and new product development, to staff training, accessing international markets and much, much more.

Business Link recognises the needs of local

businesses and has developed their service to enable an array of experienced and highly knowledgeable business advisers to work closer within communities. Businesses in Burnham and the surrounding area can benefit by booking appointments with advisers that undertake one-to-one meetings at various locations, including at the Burnham on Sea Somerset Skills & Learning Office. The adviser will review the current position of the business and suggest areas to move the business forward. They provide impartial advice and will review your progress on a regular basis.

The service also includes workshops and events and has an extensive website with online business tools for you to assess your business needs. To find out more about the events and services available from Business Link, just call 0845 600 9966, email enquiries@blpeninsula.co.uk or visit the Business Link website at www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest.

NEWSLETTER: All businesses can sign up to receive this newsletter, and other Chamber communications, by email through the Chamber webpage at:

www.burnhamonseachamber.org.

Committee:

Chairman: **Geoff Shickle...786446**

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

Secretary: **Jonathan Walter...07808 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**
