

Chamber News

October 2008

www.burnhamonseachamber.org



Next General Meeting:
Tuesday, 21st October 2008, 6pm
The Princess, Princess Street.

TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT FORUM:

DOUG BAMSEY: SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL
REGENERATION UPDATE

ADRIAN GARDNER: SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL
STREET CLEANSING

IOAN REES: SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL
PARKING & HIGHWAYS

SGT. IAN KENNETT: AVON & SOMERSET POLICE
CRIME & DISORDER

ALL SPEAKERS WILL MAKE A SHORT PRESENTATION BEFORE
TAKING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ISSUES IMPORTANT TO YOU.

OTHER BUSINESS:

MELANIE CHISWELL: CORPORATE AFFAIRS, TESCO
BURNHAM-ON-SEA STORE EXPANSION

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS 2008

OPEN TO ALL THE TOWN'S BUSINESSES

Please note only paid up members can speak and vote on motions.

2008/9 MEMBERSHIP:

1 July 2008 marked the beginning of the new membership year. The fee for 2008/9 is maintained at £40 to include a free entry in the new online Business Guide. A demonstration of this is now available 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.**

NEWS IN BRIEF:

SANDERS EXPANSION: The Chamber noted the planning application submitted to Sedgemoor District Council by Wyevale Garden Centres to expand their premises at Sanders Garden World. The Chamber has made a detailed response to this application and in particular focussing on the poor quality of the Retail Impact Assessment submitted. With 24% of the business premises in the Town Centre omitted from the assessment, 9% of premises incorrectly identified, and 92 businesses not identified as having competitive overlap when they sell comparable goods and services to Sanders, the assessment was seriously flawed. Consequently, in the Chamber's opinion this application does not meet planning policy guidance and so there is no reason why it should be considered by Sedgemoor District Council, let alone approved.

NAME THAT SHOP! COMPETITION: Thank you to the 18 businesses that displayed one of the winning entries in the HABA Visual Arts Festival Photography Competition and the 15 of those that took part in the Name that shop! competition. With 42 correct answers, the Judges had to consider the tie-break-question: I think Burnham-on-Sea is Picturesque because... The winner was Stella Ashton of Marine Drive with the answer: Away from 21st Century hustle and bustle you find unique, natural coastal beauty alongside easy-going, character shops and cafes."

TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE: Whilst the race was undoubtedly beneficial for the town's image and brought large crowds, business on the day was mixed, no doubt in part due to the poor weather. The Bike Hunt only attracted 17 correct entries, and the winner of the Giant Defy bike donated by Bicycle Chain was Mrs. J Larcombe of Burnham. If the race were to return to Burnham, the Chamber would wish to see much greater involvement in the organisational and decision making process from people with local knowledge.

SOMERSET CHAMBER: The networking dinner at the Woodlands Hotel on 25 September was a sell out. However, only eight of the attendees were Burnham Chamber members. This would seem to confirm that there would not be demand for a formal dinner organised by the Burnham Chamber.

ANNUAL FIREWORKS: Thank you to the many businesses that contributed financially to saving this important part of the Carnival weekend on Sunday, 9 November 2008. The fireworks start at 7pm, with viewing from the Esplanade as usual. All that's needed is some calm weather....

CARNIVAL: This year's event takes place on Monday, 10 November 2008, 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.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK: Since the July General Meeting your Chairman has been busy representing the Chamber at the following events: 2 Town Council meetings, 2 Town Improvement Committee Meetings, 1 Town Council Planning Committee Meeting, 2 Fireworks Working Party meetings, 2 Somerset Chamber Events, a Weston Chamber meeting, a meeting about the Tour of Britain, a meeting about the Regatta, the Sedgemoor District Council Grants Panel, a seminar with Ekosgen about retail development in Sedgemoor, a meeting with representatives from Tesco, as well as the Civic Service!

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

SHOPPERS' GUIDE: Already over 20000 of the new edition of the Shoppers' Guide are in circulation. If you are running low on supplies, please email shoppersguides@burnhamonseachamber.org or contact any committee member for more.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Saturday, 29 November 2008: Switch on of Christmas Lights (5pm), Thursday, 22 January 2009: General Meeting (6pm), Saturday 4 April to 18 April 2009 inclusive: Spot the odd item in the window competition, Tuesday, 21 April 2009: Annual General Meeting (6pm).

LEGISLATION: The Minimum Wage increased to £5.73 per hour for Adults from 1 October 2008. The 18 to 21 year old rate also increased to £4.77 and the under 18 rate increased to £3.53. From 1 April 2009 Statutory Holiday entitlement increases from 24 working days to 28 working days, for those working full time five days per week. Part time employees receive the increase pro-rata. Bank Holidays are included in the entitlement as a working day.

YOUR 2008/9 COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Alex Turco.

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Email: chairman@

Vice Chairman: Geoff Shickle.

(T) 786446. Email: vicechairman@

Past Chairman: John Edwards.

(T) 794751, 07742 390569.

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Secretary: Rhonda Mills. (T) 783276.

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Treasurer: Jonathan Walter.

(T) 07808 988182, Email: treasurer@

Christmas Lights: Mike Ham. (T) 782568

Committee: Mark Newman. (T) 07834 635797

Louise Parkin. (T) 786728.

Honorary President: Gerry Germain.

(T) 785031, Email: president@.

Membership Adviser (non committee role): Tom Ashton, (T) 786726.

Email the committee:

title@burnhamonseachamber.org.

Published by the Burnham-on-Sea Chamber of Trade, October 2008. All information contained is for guidance only and no responsibility taken for the contents of external websites referred to herein.