



Chamber Communication - Chamber News Update

CHAMBER BENEFITS >>

EVENTS >>

EMAIL THE CHAMBER >>

Sourcing local products and services?

New businesses are being added to our database everyday. Visit http://www.lancaster-chamber.org.uk/local_sourcing.asp

To include your own special event, promotions or news stories under our Members' News section send details to <mailto:info@lancaster-chamber.org.uk>

CHAMBER NEWS UPDATE – 21st December 2009

Content:

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Ann, Janet, Vicky, Mary & Mike (Chamber staff) send you Seasons greetings and wish you a happy holiday and healthy and prosperous 2010. Thank you all for your support of Chamber activities over the last year.

In lieu of Christmas Cards, we have made, on your behalf, a donation to Lancaster Homeless Action, Christmas Shelter Appeal.

Membership

New Members

[CLICK HERE](#) for a list of businesses that have recently joined the Chamber.

Members' News & Information

Graham Orr seeks Sponsors for annual cycle sportive [MORE...](#)

Keith Simpson invites participants in the Wrynose or Bust cycle

race 2010 [MORE...](#)

Central Lancaster High School does “THE APPRENTICE”

Central Lancaster High School has completed the first round of its own version of “The Apprentice”. Chamber Members supporting the enterprise challenge included Trevor (Sir Alan) Bargh, Charter Solutions, Bob Partington of Thomas Associates, and the Chamber’s own Ann Morris. The project ran over two days with all year 10 pupils being involved in the “Soapbox Challenge”. [MORE...](#)

Business Support News

£1.4m funding available for rural businesses in North Lancashire

A £1.4 million funding pot is available for rural businesses seeking to improve productivity and development in the districts of Lancaster, Wyre and Fylde. [MORE....](#)

Finance for Business

Follow this link for information, advice and guidance from NWDA’s range of finance for business.

<http://www.nwdabusinessfinance.co.uk/>

Training News

February 2010

[Emergency First Aid at Work \(Appointed Person\) Training Course - 11th February](#)

March 2010

[Basic Health and Safety \(CIEH\) Training Course - 24th March](#)

April 2010

[Emergency First Aid at Work \(Appointed Person\) Training Course - 21st April](#)

FREE Companies Act 2006 & Webfiling Seminars

Companies House are to host a free seminar at Holiday Inn, Lancaster on 14th January from 9.30am to 2pm. If you file for one or many companies, or simply feel you need to know more, you can book on-line at <http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/eventbooking>

Chamber Representation News & Information

Chamber Energy keeping costs down

The substantial increases in energy costs, particularly electricity have been well documented in the press and by Government sources. This is going to have a significant impact on members’ businesses in the next 2/3 years, at a time they can least afford it. Contact the FREE Chamber Energy Service for advice [CLICK HERE](#)

Dispelling the M6 Link Road Myths

Construction of the Heysham M6 Link will not mean long term closure of junction 34. This was the re-assuring message given to Members of Lancaster District Chamber of Commerce by senior representatives of Lancashire County's Environment Directorate when they met with local businesses last week. [MORE...](#)

Lancaster City Business Forum



Comment from Heather McManus, Director of Economic Development and Regeneration, Lancaster City Council, concerning business engagement through the Chamber's new City Business Forum. [MORE...](#)

The next meeting of the City Centre Business Forum will take place in February. If you would like to be included, please notify <mailto:ann.morris@lancaster-chamber.org.uk>

Lancaster City Retail Group Minister comes bearing gifts

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, John Denham MP, visited Lancaster on Thursday and met with Chamber representatives to discuss tackling the impact of the recession on town centre retail. [MORE...](#)



Pic shows John Denham MP, Oliver Wilson-Fish owner of Juicafe and Chair of the Chamber's Lancaster City Retail Group, Clive Grunshaw, Labour's candidate for Lancaster & Fleetwood, Jerry North, Chamber Director and Manager of St Nicholas Arcades shopping centre.

Centros re-affirms commitment to Lancaster development

Developers issue up-beat statement on retail profitability and their commitment to the Lancaster mixed use development on canal

corridor site. [MORE...](#)

Late payment a serious problem for the economy

As part of the Chamber's research in to the ongoing problem of late payment, will you help by completing an online survey? The survey should take no more than five minutes to complete and all responses will be kept confidential. The results will be used to inform policy makers regionally and nationally and if appropriate, support calls for action to strengthen late payment legislation.

Please click on the link below to access the survey:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/late_payment_survey

The deadline to respond is Friday 15th January 2010. Thank you.

Secure your premises for Christmas

- Make sure your premises are as secure as possible.
- Make sure that any CCTV is working, switched on and covering your premises.
- Have a quick check of your perimeter fencing to make sure it's secure.
- Check any alarms are working and set.
- Don't leave out anything of value that you don't want to disappear.
- If possible park any vehicles (especially HGVs) where access to the diesel tanks is either impossible or very difficult to get to.
- Ensure access gates and barriers are closed and locked.
- If no barriers/gates then put something across the entrance to stop any travellers' camps being set up. If private land you will need a court order to have any caravans etc removed.

Chamber Events

Meet the Buyer with Booths

With the help of Booths, we are offering you a once in a lifetime experience to present your product to one of Booths' senior buyers.

[MORE..](#)

January 2010

[Members Evening - 27th January](#)

February 2010

[Sage Accounting & Payroll - Taster Session - 2nd February](#)

[Women in Business Network Sponsored by Natwest- 5th February](#)

[Build a Better Business! - 9th February](#)

International Trade Network - Opportunities in International Markets - 24th February

March 2010

[Members Evening - 10th March](#)

[Business Lunch - Sponsored by NWDA - 18th March](#)

[Chamber 2 Chamber Networking - 23rd March](#)

For further details of any of these events please contact Vicky Lofthouse on 01524 381331 or events@lancaster-chamber.org.uk

Local News

Gritting affects street cleaning in City Centre

County have predicted severe frosts and have started the gritting of priority footpaths. Lancaster town centre's walkways are obviously included. The City Council therefore will not be able to do it's early morning clean with mechanical sweepers as this would remove the grit & rocksalt previously laid down. Cleansing Services will do their best to ensure that we have clean streets but unfortunately they may not be to the standard prior to this cold snap nor will the Town Centre be totally cleared by 8.00am.

Have your say on Council spending [CLICK HERE](#) or email consultation@lancaster.gov.uk

Police Authority seeks Independent Member

Lancashire Police Authority is seeking to appoint an Independent Member from the 1st April 2010. Further information regarding the vacancy can be found on the Authority's website at: www.lancspa.gov.uk The closing date for applications is: noon on the 23 December 2009.

Tackling Climate Change

LESS (www.lessuk.org) Lancaster's energy and climate change advice project are currently carrying out an assessment for the Local Strategic Partnership of how all sectors in the district are working to reduce carbon emissions. To help identify how local businesses are reducing their carbon emissions and to identify future support to help the private sector tackle climate change you are invited to complete an online questionnaire by following the link below:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dGJyRkRnNzBVOVFYRzIVSTdUZm1OeFE6MA>

Business News

For an up-date on local re-generation projects in the Lancaster District [CLICK HERE](#)

Cumbria open for business

The NWDA is investing £100,000 to push the message that Cumbria is ready to welcome visitors after the floods. Much of the county was unaffected directly by the flooding and even towns and villages that were affected, such as Workington and Keswick, are trading as usual.

On November 24th the NWDA launched a £1million Flood Recovery Grants package for small Cumbrian businesses but has granted Cumbria Tourism an additional £100,000 to support a national

marketing campaign. The NWDA also launched a national advertising campaign to encourage visitors to return and spread the message that Cumbrian businesses are ready to trade.

Temporary Road Closures

[Bare Lane, Morecambe 23rd and 24th January](#)

[Hasty Brow Road, 23rd February](#)

Pre-warning of cable works in Lancaster City Centre

High voltage cable works being undertaken by Balfour Beatty on behalf of United Utilities will cause disruption in and around Lancaster City Centre. Cable laying will follow a route from Castle Park, down Castle Hill then a direct route down Market Street to just behind the museum on the junction of New St/Market St. Work is expected to start on 1st February 2010 for a duration of six weeks. Those directly affected will receive letters after the Christmas holiday.

The Chamber has appealed for minimum disruption, maintained access to shop premises, minimum amount of area cordoned off (particularly for machinery) and maximum access routes across the streets. Work on crossing the A6 will take place overnight and diversions will be in place for HGVs servicing the Willow Lane and Lune Industrial areas.

Other Commercial News

North West Development Agency

Follow this link for the latest e-newsletter from NWDA

<http://nwdainteractive.com/1G3-2REG-C46Y9WTAC/cr.aspx>

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