

NEWS



Issue 8 Dec/Jan 08

GET A FRIEND TO JOIN TODAY – IT WILL BE THE BEST £35 THEY'VE SPENT THIS YEAR. CALL 01273 581612 FOR MORE DETAILS

Welcome

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S CHAIR – Phil Armstrong - Chairman

IT'S quite extraordinary for me to think that our Chamber is heading towards celebrating its first Christmas. This first year has gone remarkably quickly and I am personally delighted that from its official launch last February, the Peacehaven & District Chamber of Commerce has just recruited its 62nd member.

Looking back over the year, the efforts of the committee and I initially concentrated on building up the Breakfast Club. To start with we met in the Anzac Room in the Meridian Centre and although we liked the location, catering proved to be a problem. From there, we moved to the Paradisio Italian restaurant. This location proved quite successful but due to circumstances beyond our control and after about six weeks the restaurant closed down and we were on the move again. Since we landed at the White Schooner in the spring, numbers have increased and on December 11 we recorded a record 21 members as attending. At the same time, we also worked hard at setting up monthly structured evening meetings and although some meetings were quite well attended they were not as successful as we would have liked. And so we hit upon the idea of Informal Networking which takes place on the second Wednesday of every month at the Sussex Coaster. This regularly attracts 16 -20 members and prospective members and looks set to become as successful as The Breakfast Club.

Don't forget the AGM on February 6 and also we'll be looking for additional committee members. And finally, Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you and your families.

NEWS IN BRIEF



BREAKFAST CLUB

THE Breakfast Club meets Tuesdays - 7 - 8.30am at the White Schooner, South Coast Road. Breakfast is £5. The next meeting is Tuesday January 8.



INFORMAL OPEN NETWORKING

THE Sussex Coaster on the South Coast Road is the venue for the **Informal Open Networking** evenings. The next is on Wednesday January 9. Pop in after work between 5.30pm and 8pm have a drink and talk to like minded people.

LILLE CHRISTMAS MARKET

A great day out was enjoyed by Chamber members and their families in Lille on December 1 and 8 and special thanks goes to James Austin of Jasmin Coaches.

NEW MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP now stands at 62 and we welcome the following new members: Marian's Flowers, Dane Europe Technologies Ltd., Karen Rayner (hand crafted jewellery), Enever & Co and Integration Access and Advice Referral Agency Group.



THANK YOU

A big thank you to: A-ZTech Systems, Barwells, David Jordan Estate Agents, Haven Security, James Pollard Chartered Accountant, Jarlands Financial Services, Lawson Lewis & Co, Peacehaven Car Sales and W.A.S.P. for displaying Chamber promotional material at their business premises.

THE WASP STING By Bob Welch

Mother Christmas says to Santa "What's the weather like"? Santa replies, "Looks like reindeer"!!!!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Peacehaven & District Chamber of Commerce AGM takes place at 7.00pm on Wednesday February 6 in the main hall, Meridian Centre. If you'd like to get more involved why not consider putting yourself forward as a committee member - see reverse. In January all members will receive an invitation to the meeting and further details. At the AGM the committee will be elected and officers' posts filled. Wine and light refreshments will be provided and it will be a good time to meet up with your fellow members.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

THE Town's Christmas Festival takes place in and around the Meridian Centre on Saturday December 22.



IT TIP OF THE MONTH by Aztech Systems

To help you get the most out of your IT system, this month we start our IT tip of the month section and first up is Shortcuts.

You can create your own shortcut-key combinations to your favourite programmes and applications by right-clicking the app/doc of choice and selecting Properties. Under the Shortcut tab, enter your own key combination, such as Ctrl+1, in the "Shortcut key" field. If the combination you choose is already taken, Windows selects something similar. This will make opening regularly used programmes much quicker.



MANAGING YOUR TIME

By Clare Evans
Handling Emails

TIME is precious and costly and is always slipping away. This month we give you advice on how to save that precious commodity.

Ignore incoming emails - if you've set your mail system up to get an alert each time you receive a new email, switch it off and check your emails two or three times a day ONLY! Morning, after lunch and late afternoon before you go home. Unless email is a key part of your business, no email is so critical that you need to answer it within minutes of it arriving!

The Chamber's Annual General Meeting is YOUR opportunity to shape the Chamber for the following twelve months.

Although our young Chamber is going great guns we believe it can get better. That's why turning up on February 6 is so important. For as well as voting in a new committee, you can ask questions and make suggestions.

At the moment the Chamber committee consists of 7 elected officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Press Officer, Membership Secretary and a Social Secretary.

From February we are looking also for fresh blood to support the officers – if only to help brainstorm or keep them in check!

To join the committee no specific skills are required. The level of commitment for a committee member **without** portfolio is not too great – just 2-3 hours per month.

Putting yourself forward for the committee is easy. Simply complete the form below, ask a **fellow Chamber member** to countersign your nomination and return it to the Council Offices.

For voting purposes: **one** member business/organisation, **one** vote.

Nomination Form

Chamber Committee 2008

I would like to **stand** for the committee of the Peacehaven & District Chamber of Commerce.

Name:

Business/Organisation:

I would like to stand as (please circle): Chair Vice-Chair Treasurer Secretary Press
Officer Membership Secretary Social Secretary Committee Member (without Portfolio)

_____ (Your Signature) _____ (Date)

I wish to **nominate** the person named above for a position on the Peacehaven & District Chamber of Commerce committee.

Name:

Business/Organisation:

_____ (Your Signature) _____ (Date)

Return completed form to **Town Council Offices, Meridian Centre, Peacehaven BN10 8BB**. Nominations must be received by **Wednesday 23 January 2008**. All current Chamber members are listed on the Chamber website at www.peacehavenchamber.co.uk or contact the secretary on 01273 583484.