



Central Lancashire Business Club

bringing local businesses together

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Impression

Newsletter

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LOCAL COMMUNITY STATION LAUNCH A NEW FREE SERVICE

Chorley FM announce the launch of their ONLINE

Business Directory to help combat the "Credit Crunch" blues

As local people prepare for the ever deepening national financial crisis, Chorley FM are looking to offer a helping hand to local businesses in the form of a free online business directory service, whereby local residents will be able to find important information about local companies and the services they offer.

Speaking of the new service, Nathan Hill, Director for Marketing at the local community station said "Everyone is feeling the pinch after Christmas and the New Year, and we realise that local business is no different.

"We offer great advertising packages at the station, but as a community organisation we wanted to go one step further and offer local businesses the opportunity to advertise their services 'online' to local residents for free. Everybody wishes they held the magic wand that could see us through these difficult times, but we hope that we can at least in some way offer a helping hand.

"Signing up to the service really is free - you can add your company logo, pictures and over the coming few weeks, we will roll out a clever online mapping service that will even direct people to your door!"

It is hoped that local businesses will make the most of the new service, on a website that has

received well in excess of 1.5 Million hits in less than 4 months.

Local businesses that wish to sign up for the new service should visit the Chorley FM website: www.chorley.fm and follow the links to the 'Business Directory'. The Sign up process is simple and takes only a matter of minutes to complete. All entries are checked and approved before being added to the directory so users of the website can be rest assured that the content is accurate and above all, safe.

Next time you need the number for a local plumber, or want to book a table at a local restaurant, why not have a look at the Chorley FM business directory and help to support local business!

Chorley FM is a voluntary community organisation, committed to improving the lives of everyone in the local community.

Chorley FM is always looking for new volunteers to join the station. If you have any suggestions, or would like to get more involved, please contact the station on 01257 262661, or email info@chorley.fm with your details.

THE NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 7.45 for 8pm

3rd February 2009

Mike Ridley
from Resolution -
'The Unusual Side Of
Cruising'

EASY TEES



Golfing enthusiasts have scored a hole-in-one after turning wayward shots into a potential money-spinner.

Business Club Vice Chairman Stephen Ward and fellow member and friend, Peter Rackham, an experienced IT professional, have launched a mobile phone program which uses GPS to work out where you are on the golf course.

PinPointGPS works like a handheld caddie, telling the golfer how many yards they are from the hole and where the hazards are.

Stephen said following changes to the rules of golf, to allow use of such technology, the golf-mad pals plan to exploit a "niche in the market".

Stephen said "There are other products on the market that can map out an entire course, but they are a lot more expensive. This is an easy to use, text based, low cost solution designed by golfers for golfers. It's very simple to use and will speed up play by instantly showing the yardage to the pin to help select the right club."

The first time you visit a course, you can plot each hole using the programme, and a database of course layouts is being developed on the website. It can be used on any course in the world.

It was a wayward shot last summer which was the inspiration for the device as Peter, 53, explained. "I was playing Leyland Golf Course and shot wildly into the rough. I was standing there wondering how far I was from the green when my phone, which should have been turned off, rang. I reached to switch it off and realised my GPS was on and that, with the right software, it could have told me how far I was from the pin."

The Leyland Golf Club members meet up weekly for a round. Stephen plays off 19, Peter off 11. They dispute claims that it takes the fun out of golf. Stephen said "There can be frustration on a busy golf course when someone is standing over the ball weighing up their next shot. This can remove that indecision."

"I am sure Peter developed this to try and help him beat me" said Stephen "and when I saw it in use, I said I wanted one and so would a lot of other people."

www.PinPointgps.co.uk which offers a free six-hole trial, is now live. To download the utility costs £19.95. Initially the programme is limited to the Blackberry family of devices, but in 2009 it will become available for all GPS enabled phones.

CHORLEY SMILE AWARD



I was both surprised and delighted when presented with the 'Chorley Smile' award, prior to the switching on of the Chorley Christmas Lights.

Many people put in a lot of work to achieve the spectacular results and in accepting the award, I acknowledge their involvement, and take the opportunity to thank all concerned, both on the committee, and those sponsoring the various events.

It was fantastic to see the tremendous turn out of both young and old, on such a cold and foggy day. The Ice Rink and performances on stage, hosted by Chorley FM and BBC Radio Lancashire, provided hours of enjoyment for all, and the culmination of the Grand Parade provided the 'icing on the cake'. The excellent window displays and those who took the trouble to dress for the occasion, added still further to the Dickensian atmosphere. I do hope that in the future, we will see greater numbers entering into the spirit of the moment in this way, particularly the market traders and town centre shops, thus ensuring that the event will continue to grow. The aim is, after all, not only to provide entertainment and pleasure for the towns' residents, but also to encourage greater footfall in the shops and market, providing greater prosperity for everyone. Once again, my sincere thanks.

Graham Archer



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This month – February

3rd: **Mike Ridley** from Resolution - 'The Unusual Side Of Cruising'

Future Events

Mar 2nd **AGM plus Annick Morris** - Equipment Needed To Enable Blind People To Work In Business

April 7th **Alan Childs** from PFEGB - The work of PFEGB

May 5th **Martin McKenna Evatt** - A bespoke screenplay highlighting the importance of team work.

BOWLING NIGHT 2009

After several years of hurt - including the memorable 2007 event when they were pipped to the title by just one point - Thomas Cole Solutions are finally able to celebrate success in the Central Lancashire Business Club Annual Bowling Night. Six teams of six players apiece - comprised of members and friends of the CLBC - competed over two frames at Preston's Tenpin on Tuesday 20th January for the highest aggregate score, while a special prize was also awarded for the highest individual frame score during the evening of friendly rivalry. Business Venture put in a good performance in fourth place, previous champions BusinessGiftUK.com were third and Club chairman David Kevill's team of assorted club members were runners-up with 1,193 points. The winning total was an excellent aggregate of 1,247 points secured by directors and staff from Thomas Cole Solutions of Brinscall, including the best single frame of 158 by Ross Johnson. The top three teams all received CLBC prizes, the winners being presented with commemorative winners' desk sets by chairman David Kevill. Club vice-chairman Steve Ward proposed a vote of thanks to Phil Lancaster of Euxton Lock Services for arranging the evening and to Keith Ellison of Spring Board Events for verifying the scores.



THE RUNNERS UP



THE WINNERS



RESOLUTION CORNER

with Resolution Opportunities

Flying Sheds

T'was way back in 77, around Christmas, in fact, Boxing Day. This was in Northumberland, Corbridge to be precise, approximately 16 miles from Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Christmas day was as normal, food, presents, food, drink, food, TV, visitors, snooze, bored, food, drink ...

You know it all, well by Boxing Day I needed to escape. So, off to the Insti.

The Insti, or Working Men's Institute (club) was the like most venues closed on Christmas day, but now it was open! To the bar (tap room) and some drinks were in order, it was lunchtime and it was very quiet. Obviously there was the barman, two gents next to me and another 2 or 3 on the other side of the room.

The previous day had seen extremely severe gales with substantial damage occurring. The man standing next to me was muttering about his new shed was now upside down. His next comment will stay with me for eternity.

He said "Well, I'll be able to creosote the bottom" I laughed out loud, we had a great laugh and a couple of drinks, so funny!

This was an example of diverse thinking, who else would have thought of painting the bottom? and also, having some humour in the face of adversity.

With some forward planning the shed would have not been upside down, the weather forecast had it been listened to would have been tied down and the shed filled with heavy items etc.

A disaster can happen at any time, it's not if but when, therefore be prepared, plan ahead mitigate your risks.

Mind you, laughter does help ease the severity of the disaster. Keep smiling no matter what - if you can!

Be Prepared, Be Resilient.
Failure to Plan is Planning to Fail

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THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

Happy New Year

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very healthy, happy and successful 2009.

I hope that you all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and New Year break and are fully refreshed to face what I expect will be an interesting and difficult year for us all. I am sure that if we all, as members of the Central Lancashire Business Club, continue to support each other as we have in the past the difficult trading period we are in will be just that little bit less daunting.

I would now like to say happy birthday to our club. Having originally been formed in 1984 the club is now in its 25th year. For such an organisation to go from strength to strength for a quarter of a century is an enormous credit to those with the foresight to start the club and to everyone who has supported it over those 25 years. I would be grateful for any ideas you may have for marking this special year.

By popular demand we began the year with our annual ten pin bowling. Over 40 people took part in a very enjoyable, not to mention competitive, evening. It was nice to be joined once again for this event by our friends from Business Venture. Congratulations to the Thomas Cole team who took both team and individual prizes. Thanks to Steve Ward for organising the prizes and conducting the award ceremony but a special thank you to Phil Lancaster for organising this event yet again. Phil works very hard to ensure that we enjoy our bowling challenge every year.

We have an excellent series of speakers lined up for 2009. All our speakers give their services free of charge and the best thank you we can give them is to have as big an audience as we can. Please do try your best to attend the club meetings.

FREE Breakfast Event

'Surviving the Credit Crunch - How Sage can help'

The Pennine Lancashire Business Net is holding a free e-business breakfast event - under the No Limits brand - in Accrington on 29 January '09.

This breakfast meeting will cover using Sage 50 to manage your business cash flow, keep on top of outstanding debtors and chase debt easily and quickly. Find out about all of the program's new and improved benefits, including how to work 'smarter' in the current climate, where the words on everyone's lips are "Credit Crunch".

Email Simon Westgate at ddu@blackburn.gov.uk for more information or to book a place.

They are very relaxed, enjoyable and informative events and remember the more you participate the more you are likely to benefit from your membership.

What else are we planning for 2009?

We really do intend to spread our wings into Preston. For reasons beyond our control our plan to hold a satellite meeting at Preston North End did not come to fruition last year but we will hold a Preston meeting as soon as this can be arranged.

This year we are also going to issue membership cards. You will receive your card shortly after your membership fee is paid. The committee feel that having a membership card increases the feeling of belonging but don't worry, you will not be expected to show your card to enter any club events. We do hope as the year progresses to arrange a number of offers for club members from local businesses and for this membership cards are essential.

Also hopefully 2009 will bring a change of Chairperson. I feel that it is important to have a regular flow of fresh ideas and approaches into an organisation such as ours to ensure we maintain a strong offering and therefore, after having served in the position for 3 years, in line with our two previous Chairmen, the time is now right for a change. I can assure whoever takes over the role that you will have the support of an excellent committee and indeed the support of the membership as a whole. Please don't be shy in volunteering for the role, a role which I have thoroughly enjoyed.



Decembers Presentation Speakers and below
December Prize Winners

