



Central Lancashire Business Club

bringing local businesses together

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Newsletter

Issue 2, October 2007

WELCOME
to your new look newsletter!

Issue 2 of the Central Lancashire Business Club Newsletter! Its nice to see more members writing in this month its good to hear from all of you so do please keep it up.

Don't miss the christmas dinner booking form, we have lots more places this year and its shaping up to be a good do!

Any comments or contributions just contact me with the details overleaf.

Enjoy your newsletter! ED.

noticeboard

St George's Girl Guides are raising money to fund a trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico in 2008. Any donations, fund raising ideas or prizes that you would like to donate would be fully appreciated. If you would like to be involved in any way please contact lisa@impressiondesign.co.uk or call me on **01257 413328**.

Young Enterprise are short of advisers in Central Lancashire. If any one would like to get involved contact John Shorter, Young Enterprise North West call **01254 584 045** or email john.shorter@youngenterprisenw.org






LET US HELP YOU

OPEN THE DOOR TO BUSINESS FINANCE

FREE BUSINESS ADVICE EVENT
OPEN THE DOOR TO FINANCE
 TO BE HELD AT
WELLINGTON PARK, CHURCH ROAD, LEYLAND
 11th OCTOBER 2007 4PM - 7PM
FREE BUFFET
 GUEST SPEAKER:
ALLAN JONES (Porter Lancastrian Chorley)
 To book your place Call Claire Smith on
 01772 903429 OR email c.smith2@preston.gov.uk

Supported By:
 Business Venture Group | Business Link Northwest | Lancashire County Developments Limited
 Lancashire County Council | North West Centre of Excellence | Preston City Council | Preston College
 Chorley Borough Council | Runshaw College | South Ribblesdale Borough Council | Tintags | UCLAN

network produced @ trivegi.com



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Lee Morris of Brothers of Charity Service
www.brothersofcharityservice.org.uk
 Supporting adults with learning difficulties.

Jackie Finney of Inglewood Luxury B&B
www.inglewooduk.com
 Luxury Bed and Breakfast.

THE NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 7.45 for 8pm

2nd OCTOBER 2007

October sees a talk by Donna Hall, Chief Exec of Chorley Borough Council - 'How the Council Works and the Future Direction of Chorley' and Chorley Voice, a new, free, local newspaper, coming to Chorley very soon.

The publication will be distributed across Chorley and surrounding villages direct to residents doors. The aim is to provide local news stories, community information and other reader friendly features including a free classifieds section.



THE CHAIRMAN WRITES

It's getting dark earlier!

I am not a winter person and so the sight of earlier and earlier darkness each evening is quite depressing. It signals less time for Ben, our dog, to run free in Cuerden Valley and the fast approach of walks on the lead Monday to Friday instead. Less time to walk through the fields, just Ben and I, alone with our thoughts – it's amazing how many business problems I solve whilst walking through the valley, probably because Ben never disagrees with anything I suggest and never complains – the perfect employee or the perfect client.

How different life can be in the workplace where, only this week, I heard one employee refuse to do a task their manager had requested because, simply, they didn't want to do it, they only wanted to do things they liked doing! Compare that attitude to the things Alex Kevill told us last month about employee conditions in America. It was interesting to hear just how different things can be in two major industrial nations.

Our main speaker at our October meeting will be Donna Hall, Chief Executive of Chorley Council who will be talking about how a local council operates. The problems faced in operating a council are, I am sure, similar to those we all face in our businesses but on a much larger scale. I would like to thank Donna for finding the time in her very busy schedule to visit us. Our second half speaker at the October meeting is a representative from Chorley Voice, Chorley's new free newspaper.

As I mentioned in my spreadsheet presentation last month I will be organising some Spreadsheet workshops in the near future, probably early in the new year. I have decided to organise these events following the numerous requests I get for advice on spreadsheets. Discounts will be offered to club members, please let me know if you would be interested in these workshops.

Whilst, as I said earlier, I am not a winter person the onset of earlier darkness does signal the approach of one of my favourite events of the year, the Central Lancashire Business Club Christmas Dinner. This year's event is on Monday 10th December and Steve will be issuing full details soon – book your place early. See you on the 2nd October for what promises to be another very interesting meeting, please do your best to attend.



Attack of the Killer Undies



Back ache, forever saggy boobs, constipation... horror stories of pregnancy and breastfeeding which in many cases can be caused by your underwear... And women with rounder figures can be victims of "killer undies" too!

The search for bra and panties that fit properly can be a frightening prospect in itself.

A recent Mintel Report said one of the biggest things women need when buying maternity and breastfeeding underwear is "sympathy and understanding"; which is absolutely true for bigger-built women too. But even the friendliest and most interested sales assistants are guilty of giving terrible advice.

So you get home with your new bra, and discover within days that it cuts like a knife, bends you double or makes your boobs ache... or all three!

The solution is to leave this to the experts. There are manufacturers and suppliers who have dedicated themselves to best fit without sacrificing fashion. As a result, there are some superb ranges available to meet every body shape and health issue - including during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

They don't cost the earth, but they could save you lifelong health problems.

The double good news is, that this is one clothing sector that has really taken design and detail very seriously. Bras, pants, lingerie, and swimwear can still be everything from practical, through to superbly stylish and even luxuriously sexy.

But it's still mainly about getting the right items for your ever-changing body.

Women can request a fact sheet with hints on what to look for and get a wealth of good advice – online and by telephone – from www.bras4mums.co.uk. You can even book a free bra fitting by a trained and friendly professional via the site.

The Mintel Report drew attention to the emergence of both specialist fitting services, and online suppliers. Both are seamlessly combined in www.bras4mums.co.uk – which Mintel referred to in its sector report.

Bras4mums - based in Chorley - also offers probably the widest range options and sizes of any maternity underwear supplier.

For more information ring Tracey-Jane Hughes on **0845 373 3875**

CLBC POWERBOAT CHALLENGE



On an overcast July evening, 13 club members gathered at The Anderton Centre on Rivington Reservoir to do battle in the Central Lancashire Business Club Powerboat Challenge. One by one the competitors took to the water coached and encouraged by instructors from the Anderton Centre, George Livesey and Keith Blackledge.

As a precursor of the main event and to test the course, David Buckley had some practice at driving one of the Ribs and afterwards successfully completed the course. Not only was that the first time that David had driven a powerboat, he is also blind. Well done David.

The event was run by [Keith Ellison of Springboard Events](#) who spends his summer touring the country with the two Ribs in tow running the regional and national finals of the Honda RYA Youth Rib Championship. The boats have been seen as far north as Glasgow, south as Guernsey, west as Plymouth and east as Wroxham in Norfolk. The Championship is designed to encourage clubs to train youngsters as young as 8 to drive powerboats responsibly and safely but always with an element of fun. The course consists of a slalom, stopping exercise and a reverse exercise and is a test of boat handling skills as much as speed. Precision and control is rewarded more than outright speed in the final timings. Penalties are awarded for touching markers, not completing exercises and for flooding the boat when in reverse.

Timekeeper Jan Ellison assisted by [Rachel Gill](#) and [John Thompson](#) kept accurate timings from the air-conditioned splendour of the Honda CRV. Early leaders in the club competition were [Bill McCann](#) and [Tom Hamer](#), both of [Fair Phones Ltd](#) who must have been driven by hunger as they left early to attend to the needs of their stomachs. [Phil Lancaster](#) produced a personal best by not wrapping the reverse buoy's line around his prop for the first time. Bill and Tom held the lead until, in the gathering gloom of dusk, [Paul Ainsworth of Ox Systems](#) took to the water and produced a stunning run that gave him the title.

It was great to see people attempting the course having had no previous powerboating experience. With just a few minutes coaching from George and Keith and then onto the course, it was a remarkable performance from everyone.

Thanks must go to the RYA for allowing us to use the boats and equipment and also supplying medals and certificates, the Anderton Centre for allowing us the use of the water and facilities and George and Keith for volunteering to take on the white-knuckle job in the front of the Ribs. Mention must also be made of the sponsors without whom the Championship cannot exist, Honda, Ribcraft, Indespension and Icom. Thank you all.

As a footnote, in the National Final at the Southampton Boat Show recently, the 8 – 12 years champion was from the Wear Boating Association in Sunderland and the 13 – 16 years champion was from Largs Sailing Club in Scotland. Both youngsters win one of the Ribs, engine and trailer for their club. The winning time in the final was 1 minute 17 seconds on a tight course that was much more difficult than the one laid for our club competition.



FREE BUSINESS BANKING?

Call me an old cynic if you like, but I find it hard to believe that there is any such thing as a free lunch. More years in self-employment than I care to admit to lead me to believe that there is always a price to pay for any "free" service.

However, during an annual check-up with my bank Business Account Manager (usual an opportunity for them to sell me yet another service) I was very surprised to discover that there is a way that most of us small businesses can now have banking services for a very small charge indeed.

Most banks currently offer a period of free banking to small businesses opening new accounts and I suppose we could all change banks every twelve, or in the case of my bank eighteen months, but I wouldn't recommend that. However, if you have internet access and are prepared to handle your account "on line" then an account at HSBC must be worth considering. The internet Business Current Account has a small monthly fee but then cheque payments, deposits, transfers etc are all free. The catch: you can only write ten cheques a month or pay in ten cheques month - and don't even think about paying in cash! Many club members have already discovered this account and have taken advantage. However, if you have suppliers who can't/ won't accept payments by BACS or need to deposit cash or lots of cheques then you may think this account is not for you. However, as I discovered, there is a way round this problem. If you also open an internet Business Money Manager account and apply for a paying in book you can deposit unlimited amounts of cash and cheques into the account without any charges, the account even pays interest! Online transfers between accounts are immediate and free. I am currently using both the above accounts with my business and am finding them easy to manage, available 24/7 and "free" – well almost!

There is one other account, that I have been told not to mention, (but if you Email me I might!) that pays a significant amount of interest and may be available. And finally, you may ask, why I should feel the need to recommend HSBC? The answer is quite simple. I was so surprised to have been shown how to reduce my bank charges, by several hundred pounds a year, that I mentioned I would be telling every member how to get almost "free" banking. Whereupon I was informed that not only does HSBC offer almost "free" banking but it also has a referral incentive scheme.

Open a new business account at HSBC (contact Elaine Stephenson – elaine.m.stephenson@hsbc.com), mention my name and I'll share the incentive with you!

Brian Wilding, Chordale Wine Merchants



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This month – October

2nd: Donna Hall and Chorley Voice

Future Events

- 6th November: Wine Tasting with Chordale Wines
- 4th December: Members presentations
- 10th December: Christmas Dinner at Leyland Golf Club
- 1bc January: Bowling challenge
- 5th February: Website Workshop



COMMITTEE CONTACTS

committee 2007-2008

Chairman - David Kevell

01772 629308 • david@kevell.co.uk

Membership Secretary - Phil Lancaster

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Treasurer - Mark Howarth

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Members Contact - Rachel Gill

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Publicity - John Thompson

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Newsletter & Website - Lisa Thomason

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GREEN ENVY

beautiful lawns

Each month Club member **GREEN ENVY** is going to give you hints & tips to keep your lawn healthy all year round.

October - Autumn Lawn renovation starts here!

Although your mowing schedule will now be slowing down now is a good time to start preparing for a beautiful lawn next year!

You should now be thinking about the following,

Moss Control - As we approach the end of the year moss will be trying its best to take over your lawn, thus ruining it. Apply a quality moss control product that will help kill the existing moss and will aid

Scarification later in the year.

Top Dressing - Give your lawn a light covering of good top soil which should level-out minor bumps and over seed any poor areas of growth!

Any queries about your lawn please

email info@green-envy.co.uk



LANCASHIRE COLLEGE HOSTS THE
CENTRAL LANCASHIRE BUSINESS CLUB'S
MONTHLY MEETINGS.

While many of the Business Club's members may recognise [Lancashire College](#) as a provider of adult learning, the college has much more to offer local businesses.

Lancashire College has a range of Personal and Professional Development courses on offer including National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), Language courses, Awareness courses and a range of Level 2 qualifications in areas such as Food Hygiene, Teaching and Mentoring. There is also a learndirect centre based in the college, giving learners access to a vast selection of courses offered via the Internet as a flexible learning route and an alternative to traditional classroom learning.

For companies who have a group of people with specific learning needs, [Lancashire College](#) can custom build a course to suit your needs, whether this is through weekly sessions or an intensive course, which can be taught at a venue of your choice or at the [Lancashire College](#) campus, where catering and accommodation can also be provided.

The residential aspect of the college also makes it the ideal venue for conferencing and seminars. The largest of the conferencing rooms can seat 80 people but smaller meeting rooms are also available at a very competitive rate.

For more information about any of the services on offer at [Lancashire College](#) please call Reception on **0845 6001331** or visit www.lancashirecollege.com.

...and finally

Arthur is 90 years old.

He's played golf every day since his retirement 25 years ago. One day he arrives home looking downcast. "That's it", he tells his wife. "I'm giving up golf. My eyesight has got so bad... once I've hit the ball, I can't see where it went."

His wife sympathises, and makes him a cuppa.

As they sit down she says, "Why don't you take my brother with you, and give it one more try".

"That's no good" sighs Arthur. "Your brother's a hundred and three. He can't help".

"He may be a hundred and three", says the wife, "but his eyesight is perfect".

So the next day Arthur heads off to the golf course with his brother-in-law.

He tees up, takes an almighty swing and squints down the fairway. He turns to the brother-in-law. "Did you see the ball?" "Of course I did!" "Where did it go?" says Arthur. "I can't remember".