



Chamber Newsletter

Issue
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PROMOTING BUSINESS, SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

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Pictured at the Chamber's Retailers Forum were (from left) Clifford Sullivan, Chamber Vice President, broadcaster and Forum Facilitator Myles Dungan, Eugene Greene, Henry Street & Mary Street Retail Partnership, and Jason Cooke, Chamber PRO.

Forum Chairperson, and Jason Cooke, Chamber PRO. Speaking after the Forum, Jason Cooke said that the Forum was the first step towards developing an integrated retail policy response for Bray to ensure the future of the commercial offering in Bray Town Centre.

"This event was designed to provide all of us with an interest in developing retail in the town with the opportunity to begin drawing together a set of initiatives that retailers themselves want delivered for Bray. We were delighted with the highly positive response from all those retailers who attended, and in particular to the general acceptance of some of the core initiatives recommended to Bray retailers by our keynote speaker Eugene Greene.

"Building on the Forum, the Chamber has been receiving submissions from retailers in Bray and to date, an additional 40 submissions have been made over and above those made at the Forum itself. These submissions are currently being compiled into a Retail Policy Initiative for Bray, which is unique in that it has been designed by Bray retail and business interests. We believe that this document and this response by retailers will be one of the most important yet, and it will, we envisage, provide a blueprint for presentation, consideration and implementation by all the stakeholders in our retailer community – whether Town Council members or officials, developers, state agencies, Government or retail interests."

The Chamber's Retail Policy Initiative is due to be launched by September, at which point it will go forward for public consultation and presentation to all key stakeholders. Bray Chamber's Retailers Forum can be contacted at anytime at (01) 282 8248; info@braychamber.ie.

We look forward to building a new retail environment with you!

Over 80 retailers attend Chamber's 2005 Bray Retailers Forum

Over 80 Bray retailers attended the Bray & District Chamber of Commerce-hosted Retailers Forum, held on Tuesday 14th June, in what the Chamber has confirmed will be the first in a set of key campaign initiatives designed to improve Bray's overall retail offering.

Scores of retailers gathered in the Royal Hotel to hear Eugene Greene, Chairman of the highly-successful Henry Street-Mary Street Retail Partnership, outline activities which have been undertaken over the past 10 years to rebuild that urban centre's attractiveness for consumers. Following Mr Greene's presentation, RTE broadcaster Myles Dungan led a 90 minute workshop-style Open Forum in which the key issues of concern for Bray retailers were discussed, along with solutions or responses for each proposed. Key concern areas for retailers and other interested business parties attending included:

- **THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE PARKING**
- **IMPROVED TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS**
- **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**
- **MANAGEMENT OF THE TOWN CENTRE INCLUDING CLEANLINESS, SHOP FRONTAGE, STREET REPAIRS, ETC.**
- **DELAYS ON THE FLORENTINE CENTRE**
- **THE INTEGRATION OF THE PIZARRO DEVELOPMENT INTO THE MAIN STREET AND SURROUNDING TOWN CENTRE TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CURRENT RETAIL OFFERING**

Addressing these issues, attending retailers put forward a selection of solutions, ideas and concepts for inclusion in a Retail Policy Initiative currently being drafted by Bray & District Chamber of Commerce.

The Retailers Forum was organized by Liam McGarry, Chamber Executive member, along with Clifford Sullivan, Chamber Vice President and Retailers



Ma Samba lead a rhythmic cead mile failte to the return of the Chamber-organised St Patrick's festivities to Bray. For story see page 5.

Bray Chamber welcomes Pizarro development & Florentine application

Bray & District Chamber of Commerce welcomes the recent planning application from Pizarro for the development of Bray Town Centre on the old Golf Club lands. It is the view of the Chamber that this proposed development provides a significant opportunity for creating class-leading retail facilities in our town centre with important job creation and investment potential. The proposal is also significant in that it is expected to deliver a complementary mix of civic and recreational facilities, with improved infrastructure and services, plus accommodation.

While supporting the development, the Chamber of Commerce is strongly of the opinion that the decision of Bray Town Council not to allow for the development of a vehicular access from the proposed new retail centre across the Dargle towards the DART station and up into the town needs to be re-considered. We note that the provision of such a bridge is of significant importance to retailers in the existing town centre area. The decision to allow the construction of such a bridge by the developers rests with our elected town councillors alone.

The Chamber believes that a significant debate needs to be undertaken about the desirability of creating a separate road access to the site from the Wilford/M11 roundabout along the north beach, linking to the site.

Bray Chamber announces 2004 Endeavour Awards heroes

HUGE COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE AT DELL-SPONSORED AWARDS CEREMONY

Bray's own drama queen, the indomitable Gladys Sheehan, has been named Bray Person of the Year at the 2004 Bray Endeavour Awards, presented by Bray & District Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by DELL. The Awards, which included a range of presentations to Bray's civic, cultural, community and commercial heroes, were made at a gala awards ceremony attended by over 250 guests held in the glamorous Barracuda Restaurant on Bray Seafront on Friday 6th May 2005.

Co-ordinated by Endeavour Chairperson and Chamber Executive member Phyl Farrelly, the awards recognise and reward outstanding contributions to the local economy, as well as Bray & District's cultural and civic development, whether by individuals, businesses or local organisations.

Sponsored by DELL, hundreds of nominations for this year's Endeavour Awards were received by the Chamber from members of the public for their civic, cultural, community and commercial heroes.

Speaking at the Awards, Chamber President Dave Tew paid tribute to all those who had been honoured in this year's awards. "At Bray Chamber, we see these awards as our opportunity, and the opportunity of the community, to say thank you to the countless unsung heroes for the tireless efforts that they've made to better the business and community life of our town in our community! We also see these awards as reflecting what we in Bray & District Chamber of Commerce are all about: promoting business, and supporting the community," Mr Tew said.

Each award winner was presented with a specially commissioned piece of handcrafted Dublin Crystal. Following a superb Buffet Supper, the awards were made during a Gala Awards Presentation Show presented by hosts for the evening Jason Cooke and Patricia McHugh, during which tributes were paid to each of the award winners. The celebrations continued as the 250-plus guests danced well into the night.

Commenting after the event, Endeavour Awards chairperson Phyl Farrelly said: "We are absolutely delighted with the success of this year's awards and in particular with the superb reaction which each of our winners, and especially our Person of the Year, Gladys Sheehan, received. These Awards are unique in that all recipients are nominated by the people of Bray, making the annual Endeavour Awards the premier public accolade that our community can bestow upon that great band of heroes that we have in our town, and there is no doubt this year's winners are some of the most remarkable achievers in our community."

The challenge for all stakeholders in the town will be to ensure that this new development is integrated to optimum effect into the existing town centre infrastructure to ensure that the development's new retail offering brings added value to our traditional town centre, and in particular in a manner that allows our existing retail base to grow, develop and enhance its current offering. That is a challenge that all of us interested in the development of a sustainable retail base in the town, as well as a thriving town centre straddling both the old two centre and the new, must rise to and meet. The full text of the Chamber's policy can be viewed on www.braychamber.ie

In addition, Bray & District Chamber of Commerce welcomes the submission of a revised planning application for the Florentine Centre. The delay surrounding the Florentine development had caused a great deal of uncertainty in the town. The Chamber has remained strongly of the view that the development should only proceed if it included a strong retail offering, despite calls from some sectors that the proposed development be scrapped and the site be returned to car parking only. The revised Florentine application provides the new retail offering our town centre needs while securing the parking that retailers and consumers alike have long been promised.

The 2004 Bray & District Chamber of Commerce Endeavour Award winners are:

PERSON OF THE YEAR:

Gladys Sheehan, for services to her community during a lifetime of promoting drama, acting and training the young stage and screen stars of the future

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY:

Domino Design, for outstanding delivery of kitchen design and installation for over 17 years

COMMERCE

George McGarry, for an unrivalled contribution to the development of some of Bray's landmark retail, industrial, civic and commercial facilities

TOURISM

The Boathouse Coffee Dock, for its unique and highly praised premium seafront café

CULTURE/ARTS

Henry Cairns & Owen Gallagher, for the services to local heritage through the publication of their annual Pictorial Histories of Bray



Dave Tew, Chamber President, and Patricia McHugh, Chamber Executive, present the Person of the Year Award to Gladys Sheehan.

RETAILER/SERVICES

Bannon Jewellers, for the creation of a premium jewellery and lifewares retail outlet on Bray Main Street

CIVIC AFFAIRS

Bray Lions Club, for a remarkable voluntary contribution to helping those less fortunate in society and in particular for their highly successful fundraising campaign for Loughlinstown Hospital's Diabetic Retinal Scanner

OPEN CATEGORY

Bray Summerfest, for the creation by a voluntary team of a new-look, more vibrant and fresher cross-community summer festival that rivals the best staged by the nation's major event promoters

DIAGEO PUB OF THE YEAR

Holland's Bar, for its unique and warm hospitality and ongoing development to meet changing consumer choices

In addition, Bray & District Chamber of Commerce made a special award this year to mark the significant achievement of some of Bray's young sporting heroes. The Chamber's Young Achievers Through Sport Awards were presented to:

Darren Randolph

Republic of Ireland and Charlton Athletic soccer star

Lorraine Whelan

Gold medalist skier in Special Olympics

Gary Messitt

Ireland flagbearer and soccer star at Para Olympics

Katie Taylor

International Boxer & Soccer Player of the Year!!

Bray Emmet's Girls Snr Football Team

First time winners of back-to-back leagues



Dave Tew presents a Young Sports Achiever Award to Darren Randolph



Dave Tew presents a Young Sports Achiever Award to Gary Messitt



Dave Tew presents a Young Sports Achiever Award to Aoife Heffernan representing Bray Emmets Ladies



Sharon Woodcock presents the Commerce Award to George McGarry



Clifford Sullivan presents the Civic Award to Bray Lions Club President Joe Codyre and his pride of Lions



John Doyle presents the Culture Award to Henry Cairns and Owen Gallagher



Oliver Mahony presents the Open Award to John Ryan of Bray Summerfest



Phyl Farrelly presents the Retailer Award to Michael and Mary Bannon and family of Bannon's Jewellers



Dave Tew presents a Young Sports Achiever Award to Katie Taylor



Annette Hynes presents the Pub of the Year Award to Syl and Ann Holland of Holland's



Dave Tew presents a Young Sports Achiever Award to Lorraine Whelan



Ruth Behan presents the Manufacturing Award to Wally Kavanagh of Domino Design



Seamus Reynolds presents the Tourism Award to Marian O'Reilly and Noreen Kelly of the Boathouse Coffee Dock

Bray & District Chamber of Commerce
*'Promoting Business,
Supporting the Community'*

25,000 spectators salute new-look Bray St Patrick's Carnival & Parade

"AFTER FOUR YEAR GAP, THE WAIT WAS WORTH IT!!"

Over 25,000 spectators thronged the streets of Bray in the blazing sunshine to salute the return of St Patrick's Day festivities in the town. The new-look **St Patrick's Carnival & Parade** drew the biggest spectator turnout in Bray in recent memory as families from across the community came out in their tens of thousands to bask in the celebrations promised by the all-new, bigger and better **St Patrick's Carnival & Parade**.



After a gap of four years, St Patrick's festivities returned to Bray at last this year – and, according to promoters Bray & District Chamber of Commerce, the new format and the terrific response to it means "the wait was worth it!"

Commenting, Cllr John Ryan, Chairman of the Chamber's Carnival Committee, said the spectator turnout and the huge response to the parade had blown everyone away. "None of the organizers of this new-look event could have foreseen the level of support that we would receive from the community, both to participate in the parade and to be a part of the celebrations as a spectator," John Ryan said. "The thousands upon thousands who lined the new parade route demonstrated in the best way possible the depth of the hunger that existed for a return of St Patrick festivities to the town. After a gap of four years, we're delighted that everyone feels that the wait was worth it."



Promoted by Bray & District Chamber of Commerce, and generously supported by Bray Town Council, the all-new **Bray St Patrick's Carnival & Parade** not only brought out the largest number of spectators ever seen in the town, but also the biggest line-up of participants ever. Over 40 community, youth, civic, sports and arts groups took to the Town Centre streets and Seafront to take part in the parade, with over 1,200 participants stepping out for the celebrations.

The celebrations kicked off at 2pm with the DELL Beat on the Street – a live outside broadcast which brought all the colour and excitement of the Parade build up and the event itself direct to the 25,000 spectators – no matter where they were on the parade route. Meanwhile, on the Seafront, families could enjoy the Best of Funderland as a rollercoaster weekend of fun opened at the Carnival's outdoor Family Funfair.



The **Bray St Patrick's Carnival & Parade** was an explosion of colour and fun, as well as a celebration of the traditional. The hour-long parade was greeted with cheering and applause as the fruits of the tireless efforts on the part of all the participants were celebrated by the thousands viewing it pass-by. Winning organizations included:

BEST OVERALL:

Ma Samba, with their infectious mix of Afro and Brazilian vibes

BEST MARCHING / UNIFORM:

County Wicklow Civil Defence

BEST ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT:

Pauline Fegan School of Irish Dancing

BEST COMMUNITY:

St Fergal's Resource Centre

BEST SPORTS:

Bray Wanderers Football Club

BEST OPEN:

Members of Bray's Filipino Community



St Patrick's Committee Chairman, Cllr John Ryan, and Bray Town Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Ann Ferris present the Best Community Award to Anita Carroll of St Fergals Resource Centre

The 'ceol agus craic' continued after the Parade at the Bandstand's Céilí Mór, sponsored by Takeda, which entertained the crowds into St Patrick's Night.

Elsewhere in the town, Patricia Byrne of The Bodhrán Café on Novara Avenue was celebrating as her spectacular festive display saw her win Bray & District Chamber of Commerce's inaugural **St Patrick's Carnival Window Display Festival**.

The return of St Patrick's festivities to Bray was also celebrated nationally, with both RTE and TV3 featuring the event. Indeed, Ireland's No.1 breakfast television show, **TV3's Ireland AM**, broadcasted live on the Seafront on Wednesday to celebrate the launch of Bray's all-new **St Patrick's Carnival & Parade**.

Commenting on the success of the St Patrick's Carnival & Parade, Committee Chairman Cllr John Ryan said the all-new event couldn't have happened without the great support that was received from all the wide variety of groups in Bray, including event-patrons Bray Town Council, as well as such groups as the Gardaí, the Order of Malta, Bray Town Council's outdoor staff, Iarnród Éireann and Dublin Bus, and sponsors DELL and Takeda.



Pictured at the Down2Business PR seminar were (from left) Brendan O' Regan, Bank of Ireland, David Burke, Sean Murphy CCI and Jason Cooke Chamber PRO.

Chamber gets Down2Business for PR and Marketing

At a time when more and more businesses and organizations are turning to public relations and marketing to deliver increased business success, Bray & District Chamber of Commerce hosted a business breakfast seminar in April designed to empower Chamber members to utilize the tools of PR and marketing to maximum effect.

The event, sponsored by Bank of Ireland and held at The Esplanade Hotel in Bray, was the first of Bray & District Chamber of Commerce's new series of **Down 2 Business** seminars.

The seminar series is only the latest in a set of initiatives launched by the Chamber in recent months to further enhance the organisation's set of services available. The **Down 2 Business** briefings, which are hosted free of charge for members and their guests, are designed to provide business proprietors and managers with core insights that will assist them in further developing their product or service... and ultimately delivering increased profitability.

Speakers at the **Down 2 Business** seminar were Sean Murphy, Director of Public Affairs, Chambers of Commerce of Ireland, and Jason Cooke, PRO of Bray & District Chamber of Commerce and a Senior Consultant with leading Dublin PR agency, Slattery Communications. Addressing the seminar attendees, Sean Murphy outlined some of the rules of engagement for communicating with the media and getting your business message across using public relation

In his presentation, Jason Cooke outlined the changing face of PR and marketing today, drawing particular attention to the need for all business proprietors to embrace the value of marketing and PR in their business. Commenting, Jason Cooke said: "The template to good PR and marketing is still a relatively simple one. Every business can adopt a solid PR and marketing template to their core business strategy. What it does require is belief in the value of PR and marketing, and the commitment by business proprietors of both time and resources to developing an effective communications programme for their business and brand."

Full details of the presentations given by both Sean Murphy and Jason Cooke are available on the Bray & District Chamber of Commerce website – www.braychamber.ie

Alpha CC Down2Business seminar drives IT to the fore

60 local businesses attended the Alpha CC-sponsored **Down 2 Business** IT Breakfast Briefing, held in the Esplanade Hotel on Wednesday 27th July. The seminar was the second in the Chamber's **Down 2 Business** Breakfast Briefings. The focus of the seminar was to inform local business owners and managers on how to make the most out of recent technological developments for their businesses.

As a full-service IT company, Alpha CC was well-positioned to advise local businesses on how to utilize the latest technologies in a cost-effective and secure way. This seminar was part of Alpha CC's overall strategy to make local businesses aware of how to maximize the benefit they gain from their IT infrastructure. Alpha CC is also offering free IT audits and consultancy

sessions to Bray & District Chamber of Commerce members.

Key Alpha CC speakers at the **Down 2 Business** seminar included Sean Donnelly, Managing Director, Eoin Byrne, IT Manager, Eoin Doran, Senior Engineer and Jonathan Donnelly, Business Development Manager. Also speaking was Niall Gorman of O2 – one of Alpha CC's many business partners.

Addressing the seminar attendees, Sean Donnelly outlined how Alpha CC's growing presence in the IT market is built upon 20 years of experience. Jonathan Donnelly, spoke about the virtual office and outlined how more people are able to work from home and on the road through the use of technology. Some of these technologies were demonstrated by Niall Gorman of O2. In his presentation, Eoin Byrne ran through the different uses businesses are making of the internet and demonstrated how even minimal investment in internet technologies can deliver great benefits for the average SME. He also discussed some of the more practical elements of how to make the most of the web. Eoin Doran identified the main security risks that exist for companies today and the legal and commercial implications that these risks include. Eoin demonstrated to attendees how the implementation of server technologies can help secure a network against most threats. The complete presentation can be downloaded from www.alphacc.ie/alphacc.ppt or can be obtained by contacting Jonathan Donnelly in Alpha CC on (01) 286 1800 or email jd@alphacc.ie



Pictured at the IT Briefing were (from left) Chamber President Dave Tew, Chamber Administrator Liz Dodd, Alpha CC's Sean Donnelly, Niall Gorman of O2 and Justin Mulhern from Totterdell Communications.

New Bray Chamber initiative to stem rising health and safety costs for business

Bray & District Chamber of Commerce in association with Chambers of Commerce of Ireland and Eagle Star has launched a significant new initiative designed to stem the rising costs associated with implementing Health & Safety requirements for business.

The initiative programme, ChamberSafe, was launched by Bray & District Chamber of Commerce, CCI and Eagle Star at a mini-seminar held at the Glenview Hotel, Bray, in April. The ChamberSafe programme is designed to help small businesses tackle rising costs by addressing the immediate issues of Health & Safety in the workplace and the costs associated with non-compliance. At the launch expert speakers addressed the whole area of Health & Safety in the workplace, and the benefits of risk assessment and management. They also looked at the most recent legislation outlined in the Health & Safety Bill 2004 which is due to be written into law in June 2005. Details of the presentations given can be found in the news section of the Chamber website at www.braychamber.ie



Pictured at the ChamberSafe launch were Sean Kelleher, Qualtec; Denise Brennan, CCI; Liz Dodd, Bray Chamber; Teresa Corkish, Wicklow Chamber; and Brian Reid, Eagle Star.

CHAMBER ACTION ON TOWN CENTRE AT COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE MEETING

Efforts to have Bray Town Council respond to Bray Chamber's suggestions and concerns over the maintenance of Bray's town centre and environs took a major step forward at the beginning of March. John Doyle, Future of Bray Group's chairman, Chamber representative on the Council's Infrastructure Planning & Development Municipal Policy Committee, supported by Chamber President Dave Tew, addressed the MPC's recent meeting, calling for action on the town centre and environs. The Chamber presented the meeting with more evidence of broken footpaths, collapsed drains, sunken paving, damaged utility covers, blocked outlets for rainwater run-off, damaged signage, weed growth etc., prior to the meeting. John Doyle contended that the MPC, including its membership of elected Council members, officials and representative bodies like the Chamber of Commerce and the Bray & District Council of Trade Unions, should now take responsibility for tackling these issues and demonstrate real signs of our pride in the Town. The Chamber proposal for increased powers for the MPC received general support from the Committee. Cllr Pat Vance, supported by Cllr Brid Collins, formally proposed that these issues be brought before a full meeting of the Town Council and a report be sought from the Town Engineer. Commenting, the Chamber's John Doyle said that while reports may be fine, there was enough evidence on the table to demonstrate what needs to be done in the town. "What is really required is a commitment to action – followed by that action," he said.

CHAMBER ENHANCES TRAINING PRODUCTS

Training and up-skilling is a key driver of success for both business owners and employees. Bray & District Chamber of Commerce continuously strives to provide a training offering to its members which is relevant and effective from both a time and cost perspective. Already this year we have facilitated over 10 companies in our ChamberSafe Programme and we are delighted to now announce two further offerings.

Our new 3-day **Human Resources Development Training** programme has a proven track record having been rolled out on a pilot basis in the Western Region. Over 230 companies, which accounted for over 360 employees, attended the 'People Management Skills' and 'Performance Management' training programmes delivered by trainers Collier Broderick, with participants giving satisfaction ratings of over 98% for the course and its content.

If you are currently trading outside the jurisdiction or plan to do so in the future, our **Certificate in International Trade** is very important for you. Over 6 days you will learn everything you need to know about international trade, exporting, importing and international marketing. The aim of the training is to provide knowledge and skills that will set participants apart in today's global marketplace.

Both programmes are part-funded by FÁS and are both competitively priced at only 480. To find out more contact Liz Dodd at the Chamber office on (01) 282 8248 or by email at info@braychamber.ie

BRAY'S YOUTH "TREAD THE BOARDS!"

Vodafone and Bray & District Chamber of Commerce are delighted to announce that the Dry Rain Youth Theatre has been honoured with a Vodafone Passion for the World Around Us Award. The Award acknowledges the enormous contribution that the group has made to youth culture in Bray since its foundation in 1990. The Group was represented by Ronan MacRaois who collected the award at a special presentation ceremony at Bray & District Chamber of Commerce offices in May. Dry Rain is the first recipient of a Passion For The World Around Us Award in the Bray area this year.

For the past 15 years, the Dry Rain Youth Theatre has been an invaluable cultural outlet for the young people of Bray. The group caters for those in the 14 to 21 age group and runs weekly workshops on all aspects of theatre including acting, directing, lighting, sound and stage management. The group puts together two major productions annually with past favourites including; *Playboy of the Western World*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Romeo and Juliet*. The company also partakes in numerous street theatre events and festivals.

Dry Rain Youth Theatre is a completely voluntary organisation and is run by professional theatre practitioners, who give their time freely. Speaking at



Fionnán Murray of Vodafone (left) and David Tew, Chamber President (right), present the Passion for the World Around Us Award to Dry Rain's Ronan MacRaois and Conor Cremins.

the presentation ceremony, Ronan MacRaois, Chairperson of Dry Rain Youth Theatre, said: "Receiving this award is wonderful recognition for the voluntary staff who gives their time so graciously to ensure that all members have fun, learn and get the opportunity to display their inner creativity through theatre."

Congratulating Ronan and the group on the award, Fionnán Murray, local Vodafone Manager said; "As a communications company we at Vodafone applaud any initiative which encourages interaction between people. Dry Rain Youth Theatre has fostered a love of theatre in the young people of Bray and the surrounding area as well as giving them a safe environment in which to socialize.

"Speaking at the presentation ceremony, David Tew, Chamber President, said; "The social and cultural life of Bray has been greatly enhanced by the Dry Rain Youth Theatre. We at Bray Chamber of Commerce recognise the importance of the arts and especially theatre as a recreational outlet for young people. In a society where there is a lot of negativity surrounding youth culture this theatre group is an example to us all of how great young people really are.

EQUALITY PARTNERSHIP

The Chamber is delighted to announce an association with Bray Partnership to present an Autumn Series of workshops for employers which will look at best practice in the area of Employment and Equality Legislation. It is planned to run monthly workshops over four months from September to December '05. Admission is free. To register your interest contact Liz Dodd at Bray & District Chamber of Commerce on (01) 282 8248 or by email at info@braychamber.ie

CHILDCARE ON AGENDA FOR MEMBERS FORUM

The second Members Forum of 2005 took place in April at Bray Golf Club. Members attending were informed of recent Chamber activities by Chamber PRO Jason Cooke, before being addressed by Jeremy Kynaston of the County Wicklow Childcare Committee on the topic of Family Friendly Policies in the Workplace. Suggestions for employers given by Jeremy are available in the news section of our website: www.braychamber.ie

ACCESS FOR ALL IS GOOD BUSINESS

The Bray Partnership Disability Cluster Group (which includes representatives from disability groups in Bray) will hold a seminar on October 4th in the Esplanade Hotel which will address the topic of 'Accessibility in Bray'.

The morning seminar, including light breakfast, will be an interactive event with panel discussions from well-known personalities with disabilities who will discuss their experience accessing services and businesses. This will be followed by a discussion on the concept of 'Access for All' – Good Practice Standards of Accessibility.

Following on from these, panel discussions groups of related interest (e.g. pubs, shops, banks) will meet to identify improvements that can be made to their premises with little or no expense involved. Information displays will also be available, as well as supports available such as employers grants and examples and costings of simple accessibility modifications. To register your interest in participating contact Eileen Byrnes at Bray Partnership on 01 2868266 or e-mail eileenb@braypartnership.ie

Dave Tew begins second term as Chamber President

NEW FACES ELECTED TO CHAMBER EXECUTIVE

David Tew, the Current President of Bray & District Chamber of Commerce, has been re-elected President for a second term, with Vice-President Clifford Sullivan remaining in his role for 2005-2006. The re-election of both men to their respective offices was made at the AGM of Bray & District Chamber of Commerce, held on June 23rd.



Chamber President Dave Tew (centre) with members of the Chamber's 2005-2006 Executive - (back row l-r) Oliver Mahony, Eugene Finnegan, Frank Gallanagh, PJ Minogue, Jason Cooke; (third row l-r) John Doyle, Noreen Kelly, John Nolan, Seamus Reynolds; (second row l-r) Annette Hynes, Phyl Farrelly, Pat McHugh, Mary Savage; and (front row l-r) Vice President Clifford Sullivan and John Ryan.

Commenting after his re-election, David Tew said: "2004-2005 was a very busy and successful year for the Chamber. In terms of re-generation of the Chamber itself we increased our ranks by over 35% with 70 new members having joined since October 2004.

"More importantly, however, we have lived up to our new motto 'Promoting Business, Supporting the Community' by reaching out into the community with events such as the St Patrick's Day Carnival & Parade, the 150 Railway Celebration and the promotion of the Bray Head Ferris Wheel, and also by establishing even closer links with both elected representatives and officials of Bray Town Council.

"Most recently we have spearheaded a campaign to bring life back into the retail heart of the town by hosting a Retailers Forum. Following on from this it is intended to publish a Retailers Policy Document, the content of which will be the work of Retailers themselves, in the coming months. We have also created a series of member events, such as Breakfast Briefing seminars, New Members events, and new and enhanced services for members.

"In my 2005-2006 term, I intend to continue to build on the work begun over the last year. One of my main aims is to begin the process of bringing an Enterprise Centre to Bray. I also want to actively work towards a better integration of Bray Main Street and the Seafront incorporating an Organic Farmers Market at a town centre location for midweek shopping; and finally ensuring that our Retail Policy Document is agreed with stakeholders and published in a timely way. All this while we continue to enhance our suite of products and services that the Chamber offers and provide both business and social networking opportunities for members."

A number of new faces have also been appointed to Bray Chamber's 2005-2006 Executive. The newly elected Executive Council is: President David Tew; Vice-President Clifford Sullivan; Honorary Treasurer Gordon Anderson; Honorary PRO Jason Cooke; Honorary Secretary Pat McHugh; Honorary Solicitor Joe Maguire of Maguire McNeice & Partners; Auditor Mary Savage of Savage Manley & Co.; and council members Mick Glynn, Noreen Kelly, Phyl Farrelly, Eugene Finnegan, Frank Gallanagh, Annette Hynes, Liam McGarry, Oliver Mahoney, PJ Minogue, John Nolan, Seamus Reynolds, John Ryan, and Sharon Woodcock.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Chamber continues to grow and we are delighted to welcome the following businesses to our ranks, including those new start-up businesses, and wish each organisation every success:

PAUL DOYLE

THOMAS DOYLE – 2BScene

PETER COSGRAVE – Cosgrave Developments

CAROL PETTERSONN & MICHELLE MANLEY – Hairtude

EMER VAHEY – Apache Pizza

LISA KENNY – Rainbows Ice-cream Parlour

ZAID AHMED – Cherry Blossom

SUSAN MULLANE – Milan & Co.

LIAM SCOTT – Scotts for Tools

DAVID FITZSIMONS – Timeless Interiors

BRIAN ELLIOT – Nabi BioPharmaceuticals Europe

DR JOHN MURPHY – Vevay Dental & Medical Centre

DR EDWARD DALY – The Dargle Clinic

EMLYN GRANT – Tuxedo

MARTIN MOLLOY – Munch

REG BYRNE – Reginalds Unique Drycleaners & Launderers

TREVOR PHILLIPS – Phillips & Co Tax Consultants Ltd

ED DODD – Dodd Construction

DON COUGHLAN – Greecom Telecommunications Ltd

Bray Chualann Historical Society has published its 2004 Journal which celebrates 150 Years of Railway in Bray. The Journal is available to purchase from the Chamber office at a special discount price to Chamber members of 5.

Members Syl and Annemarie Holland of Cheers Off-licence, Main Street, Bray, have launch Holland's Wine Club. Part of Holland's Bar & Lounge, Endeavour Awards Pub of the Year for 2004, Holland's Wine Club is open to anyone interested in learning more about wine. The aim of the club is to meet on a monthly basis with expert speakers invited to share their vinous knowledge and show their wines. For more information contact Jason or Christopher at the shop

Golf Classic & Social Evening

The 2005 Chamber Golf Classic & Social Evening will be held on Friday 9th September in Bray Golf Club. An excellent day for all our members is on the cards, including great golf on a stunning course with plenty of fun and interaction, followed in the evening by socializing, an excellent dinner, meeting fellow members and perhaps making new business contacts. If you are not a golfer, why not join us in the Clubhouse for dinner at 8.45pm when you and your guest(s) will be made very welcome. Tee off is 11am-4pm. To book your slot please complete Liz Dodd at Chamber House on (01) 282 8248 or Frank Gallanagh on (01) 286 2157 / (087) 243 1182 before Friday August 26th.

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