

“Ryder Cup Newbridge-style” at The Curragh Golf Club!

This year’s Annual Golf Classic took a twist to celebrate Kildare’s hosting of The Ryder Cup. A week ahead of the international event, 20 Newbridge teams teed off at The Curragh Golf Club to fight it out for the heaving table of prizes provided by Newbridge Silverware. The teams were split into groups of ‘Team Europe’ and ‘Team America’ and at the end points were added up to see which side won... America won the day – luckily not an omen for the real deal! The Curragh Racecourse provided a very suitable prize for the winning ‘American’ team – tickets to the Shelbourne/Goffs Million Race Day and practice day at the K Club. All players came home a little damp, in need of a warm dinner in the Club house, which was served quickly and went down very well.

Additional sponsorship, to make the day a great success, was gratefully received from:

- ❖ Cox’s Cash & Carry
- ❖ Creative Performance Ltd.
- ❖ Horse Racing Ireland
- ❖ Michael Murphy & Co. Ltd.
- ❖ The Curragh Racecourse
- ❖ Tony Donohoe Engraving

Full details of the winners are listed on <http://www.newbridgechamber.ie/events/golfclassic092006.htm>

After dinner, Chamber President Deirdre presented the fabulous prizes and thanked those who sponsored prizes and donated raffle gifts too. The raffle in aid of Teach Tearmainn, Newbridge’s Women’s Refuge, was generously supported, with almost €700 raised for this worthy local charity. Thanks to all those who supported this element of the evening.

For the record, the top three teams home were as follows:

Place: 1st	Team: The Curragh Racecourse
Place: 2nd	Team: The Leinster Partnership
Place: 3rd	Team: Con McNamara Team

Congrats to all of you who participated this year! Looking forward to seeing you, especially more **new members**, next year for a great day.

‘Member meets Member’ evening – Wine Tasting at The Wine Buff



Tim Dooley, Celia Quinn and Joe Fennell at The Wine Buff event in June

The arrival of Summer in Newbridge this year was accompanied by a taste of some chilled chardonnay! Proprietor Peter Donnelly of The Wine Buff, on Eyre St., invited Newbridge Chamber members to come along for some seasonal wine tasting on 13th and 14th June. Whilst there, we received some excellent tips for future enjoyment and purchase of wines to suit all tastes.

Sponsored by:



The Office Centre team of Michael Colgan, Liam Brennan, David Lillis and Steve Preece pose for our birdie



Winner all right! The Curragh Racecourse team collect their first prizes: Jimmy Fullam, Paul Hensey, Deirdre, Noel Hensey & Pat Kelly



A successful partnership! The Leinster Partnership team who claimed second prize: John Leddy, Catherine O'Reilly, Deirdre, Vincent O'Reilly & Dermot Kelly



Third prize winners who carried off beautiful coffee tables courtesy of Michael Murphy & Co: Norman Farragher, Mick Ryan, Deirdre, Tim Riordan & Con McNamara

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Chamberchat

AUTUMN 2006



Floral arrangements on the new bridge

NEWBRIDGE BLOOMTOWN!

minimisation, and would like to explore this area further with the Chamber”.

The Adjudicators were pleased with their first impression on entering the town, and the work done by Wyeth, Old Connell / Ballymany Studs, and the Curragh Racecourse merited mention in the report. Improvements at the new bridge, the newly constructed White Water Shopping Centre and Credit Union, and the major road and footpath improvement works undertaken by the Council in a number of locations during the winter months also contributed to the improved marks.

Newbridge is now ranked 3rd in Kildare and 9th overall in its population category nationally – this category includes towns like Ennis, Letterkenny, Malahide, Carlow Town, Clonmel, Tralee, Dundalk and Kilkenny City.

If you can spare some time to help out this valuable work, contact Newbridge Tidy Towns at newbridgetidytowns@eircom.net / www.newbridgetidytowns.com.

2007 here we come!

Good news came this month for the hard working Newbridge Tidy Towns Association when the 2006 competition delivered a good result for the town. We tracked down their spokesperson Déaglán de Paor to learn all about this year’s entry. He began by saying “We are very pleased with the result this year, achieving third place overall in Kildare was a bonus on top of a significantly improved score on previous years.” We extend our congratulations to the team of workers who plan and carry out this year-round work to make Newbridge such a pleasant place, on behalf of all of us who live and work in the town.

A great deal of effort went into planning Newbridge in Bloom for 2006, and building on experience of previous years they significantly expanded the number of planters on the streets, as shown in our front page photo this issue. According to

Déaglán “this could not have been achieved without the active support of the Local Authorities, the Business Community generally, and the most welcome donation from Chamber’s own funds”. Obviously we feel a vested interest here, as we are delighted to see the funds we donate on members’ behalf being put to such good use; helping to create a positive self-confidence about the town.

One of the most significant inputs to this year’s submission in the Tidy Towns’ new category “Waste Minimisation” was an analysis of the results of a survey carried out on recycling and waste management amongst the Business Community in Newbridge. The report awarded 14 out of a possible 20 marks in this one category alone. When we talked this strong result over with Déaglán, he was, as usual, passionate in his reply; “We would hope to build on the obvious enthusiasm of the Business Community who have embraced recycling and waste

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- 28th October 2006** - Halloween Family Event at Marks & Spencer, Whitewater Shopping Centre
- 8th November 2006** - Member meets Member evening, Finlay Ford Showroom Sponsored by Finlay Ford
- 7th December 2006** - Annual Budget Breakfast meeting

A full Activities & Events Calendar 2006 can be downloaded from www.newbridgechamber.ie/events.htm

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CHAMBER COMMENT

Newbridge Chamber President speaks out about what's on her mind right now

Moving into the final quarter of 2006, it's a good time to take a look around and take stock.

One has to be impressed with the changes that have happened in Newbridge and the aesthetics of the town. The new bridge, the new roads and the official opening of the very impressive Newbridge Credit Union Building all create an impact. The last quarter has seen our Tidy Towns Committee put in enormous effort which resulted in a significant improvement over last year and has continued the momentum of improvement each year. We would encourage all businesses to take pride in the first impression we create and play our part in making Newbridge a better place.

Moving forward, our committee will be representing business with regard to policy which effects business growth & development in Newbridge. It is important we understand what the key issues are affecting all our members and we will be surveying our membership in the coming weeks to help identify these.

We have a number of events planned for the last quarter of this year and look forward to meeting you at them. Our membership has increased by almost 40% and we would encourage our members to take the opportunity to get to know and to support each other in business.

Finally, we are delighted to have Whitewater Shopping Centre as a corporate member and look forward to developing our working relationship with them over the next year.



Deirdre Coghlan-Murray
President Newbridge Chamber

First Kildare Salary Survey

Clark Recruitment shared with us their recent salary and benefits survey specifically focused on the M7 Corridor – including Citywest, Naas, Newbridge and Kildare.

This survey was the first ever conducted with this geographic focus. It contacted 250 companies across all sectors and 500 individuals working in the locality. Clark Recruitment undertook the survey as they regularly find that attracting and retaining staff is a challenge for all companies; with salary and benefits playing an important part. It is not unusual for a company to go to the market looking to attract a certain skill level and yet be offering a remuneration package which is not competitive.

The survey covered most job titles in the market with dedicated focus on Accountancy, Sales & Marketing, Office Specialists, Human Resources, Engineering, Health, Safety & Quality, and Manufacturing, Materials and Logistics.

- ❖ The average male:female employee ratio among participating companies was 56%:44% respectively.
- ❖ 55% of all companies surveyed had a dedicated Human Resources Department.

Corporate membership continues for Whitewater Shopping Centre

Pictured here is Newbridge Chamber President, Deirdre Coghlan-Murray presenting Steven Cleaver, Manager of the Whitewater Shopping Centre, with a certificate acknowledging their corporate membership of the Chamber for 2006/07. The financial support of corporate members is essential for the development and successful growth of Chambers in mid-size towns like Newbridge.

Steven has also generously offered meeting facilities at the Centre to Chamber members at half price. If you need somewhere to host meetings, you can use the Whitewater facility for as little as €60 per day. Please contact Breda or Celia at the Chamber office (438296) if you would like to avail of this opportunity.

Business at Whitewater is brisk with 58 units now open. Steven tells us they are looking forward to seeing lots more new faces coming to shop in Newbridge in their first ever Halloween and Christmas seasons just around the corner. Ten more units are scheduled to launch before the end of 2006.

Caring for the Environment

We chatted to Eugene Donovan on the latest eco-friendly direction printing has taken for the Newbridge based family business.

Being environmentally friendly is still a major issue for most businesses. Donovan Printing Ltd. has taken a major step in reducing the amount of waste chemicals they produce by installing a new plate making system for their printing machines. The new machine is completely chemistry free and has replaced all the old developing and fixing chemistry and has reduced the amount of waste chemistry by up to 95%. The new machine is a much cleaner and more productive system which will benefit both the environment and customers alike.



Presstek - computer to plate system

- ❖ 75% of companies conducted an Annual Performance Appraisal.
- ❖ 80% of all companies surveyed had the benefit of a pension scheme, 37% of these offered this benefit to specific roles only.
- ❖ 62% of companies offered above the statutory requirement of 20 days annual holidays.

Part of the survey focused on Staff Retention and surveyed both employers and employees to find out the main reasons people leave their jobs. Location turned out to be a key factor but lack of career growth, lack of benefits, poor recognition and reward also featured strongly.

The major challenges for businesses in today's market include the continuous increase in labour cost, retention of key people, changes in Employment Law and Health & Safety compliance.

If you would like a copy of the Clark Recruitment Salary & Benefits Survey, please contact Geraldine Leydon on 045 881888 or gleydon@clarkrecruitment.ie



Deirdre Coghlan-Murray with Steven Cleaver, Manager of the Whitewater Shopping Centre

Business gets passionate for Award



Joe Cullen, Vodafone, William Doyle, Newbridge Silverware, Deirdre Coghlan-Murray, Oonagh Doyle, Newbridge Silverware and Ger Canty, Nominator

Newbridge Silverware has become the first recipient of a **Vodafone Passion for the World Around Us** business award in Newbridge. The company was nominated by Optician, Ger Canty for their stalwart community work.

Vodafone introduced this new **business** category this year to recognise and reward businesses which make an effort to improve their local communities and who have been successful in making a positive contribution to the world around them. William and Oonagh Doyle, on behalf of Newbridge Silverware, received a certificate and a specially commissioned, handmade award designed by Irish artist Michele Hannan at a special presentation in Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge on Friday 15th September.

Of course Newbridge Silverware is a well known family business here since 1935 which has grown to be one of Ireland's business success stories, having achieved international brand recognition. However, they were selected as the winners of this award in light of their outstanding commitment to the local environment and to various charities, including Special Olympics Ireland, CARI (Children at

Risk in Ireland), Irish Famine Trust, St. Vincent de Paul, Focus Ireland and The Jack and Jill Foundation.

Deirdre Coghlan-Murray, President of Newbridge Chamber, presented William and Oonagh with the Passion award saying, "Newbridge is privileged to be home to a company such as Newbridge Silverware and I hope that other companies can follow their example. The company is superb for local employment and has helped the progression of Newbridge as a town, bringing it worldwide recognition. We hope that they will continue their great work and be an example to other local businesses in Newbridge and throughout Kildare."

Round 3 nominations for Vodafone's "Passion for the World around Us" community awards are now being considered by the adjudicating panel. The aim of these awards is to acknowledge people who demonstrate a keen commitment to improving the world in which we live.



Meet New Members

We extend a welcome to recent new members:

NAME	COMPANY	BUSINESS TYPE	NAME	COMPANY	BUSINESS TYPE
Donal & Siobhan Hurley	An Chistin	Café & External Caterer	Frances Gordon	Marks & Spencer	Department Store
Arthur Rainbow	Arthur Rainbow Hair Design	Hairdresser	Maura Donohoe	Maura Donohoe Auctioneers	Auctioneer
Deborah Roche	Aveo Beauty Therapy Spa	Beauty Salon & Spa	Eoin McDonnell	Oaktree Personal & Business Coaching	Life Coach
Naomi Rutherford	Bank of Scotland (Ireland)	Bank	Sean Francis	Plus Point	Purchasing Service Provider
Brian & Vivian Clarke	Clarke's Menswear	Men's Clothing Retailer	Gary Devane	Portland Barbers	Barber/Hot Shave Specialist
Glen Cullen	Coffey's Pub	Pub	Joan Tighe	Priory Marketing	Marketing Agency
Anne Marie McEvoy	Colm McEvoy Auctioneers	Auctioneer	Keith Rowe	R.A.C.E.	Training Academy
Ken Regan	Ken Regan Financial Services	Mortgage & Financial Services Provider	Celine Garvey	Riverbank Arts Centre	Theatre
			Marian Hennessy	TBD (TuiscintGno Ltd.)	Trainer and Coach to SMEs
John Holden	Lilywhite Print	Printer	Tony Donohoe	Tony Donohoe Engraving	Engraver & Trophy Supplier

Close-up on Committee

In this issue we meet **Brid Nolan** of **Falcondale Properties**.

Brid has been a constant in the evolution and development of Newbridge Chamber. Her relationship with the Chamber started in 1990 when she acted as secretary until 1997. She ran the then new office on a daily basis, giving the Chamber a new level of professionalism from 1997 to 2002.



Brid worked with the Strategic Committee of 1996, to achieve accreditation standard for Newbridge Chamber, from Chambers of Commerce Ireland. They also pushed a broader 5-year plan with an agenda to promote economic development for Newbridge. All of this work laid a firm foundation for what we have today – a vibrant, independent organisation of support to business in the town and environs.

In 2002, Brid moved on from the Chamber office to work in the accounts area of her family business Falcondale Properties, the very successful property management and letting company on Main St., Newbridge. At the same time Brid adapted her Chamber role to that of committee member and maintains an energetic interest and pro-active stance on all Chamber matters.

Living in Newbridge, she has long been a volunteer in Newbridge Credit Union and is very proud of their recent new office development. In her spare time, Brid plays cards weekly and has great memories and friends from her many years as Treasurer with the Kildare Federation of the ICA.

You can contact **Brid** at **Falcondale Properties**, Main Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Tel: 045 438800 / 438808. Email: info@falcondale.com