

## A TIME OF CHANGE

The last few months have seen tremendous change around Newbridge.

Every day one is out and about doing business in the town it seems to be wall to wall yellow jackets, cranes and road works! The big driver of all this upheaval is the construction of the White Water Shopping Centre, which will of course dramatically change the face of retailing in Newbridge. It is expected to open on 6th April next and heralds the arrival of an expected 100,000 plus shoppers per week into our town.

To support this development, the road network needed to be upgraded and improved, which is currently causing temporary inconvenience to consumers and business alike. We hope it will be worth it all when the new



Construction in full swing at the White Water Shopping Centre.

infrastructure is in place and we can welcome the extra activity into Newbridge.

Since last August the Chamber was very active in trying to garnish collective commercial opinion on the best way to implement these necessary changes in roads structure. We hosted public meetings for both the Main

Street and the Industrial Estate areas, to get everyone's opinion on the proposed Inner Relief Road works. This was followed up by making written and oral submissions on the subject to the Kildare Area Committee in the Kildare County Council offices in Naas.

In an attempt to diffuse the confusion and annoyance caused through a lack of information in the public domain, last December we offered our services to both Kildare County Council and the White Water Shopping Centre to act as a medium of communication for businesses to know what's going on. We hope you have found the information we subsequently sent out to members of interest. We will continue to send you bulletins as we receive information from either party.

We look forward to an exciting and bright future ahead for business life in the town. We urge all our members to get in contact with us if you want to get more involved in any aspect of this growth. It's in all our interest to do so.

## Brand new era for Newbridge Business

Newbridge Chamber of Commerce launched a new corporate brand in January, and is now known simply as Newbridge Chamber. The new corporate identity for the chamber is part of a national re-branding of Chambers Ireland (CI) which was also unveiled by 45 of the accredited chambers throughout Ireland on the same day. Minister Seán Power, T.D. formally launched the new brand for Newbridge Chamber in The White Water Café/bar, at a 'Member meets Member' evening, which was very much enjoyed by all who attended.

Chamber President Deirdre Coghlan-Murray described the new brand launch as a significant day in the history of Newbridge Chamber. "The new brand will provide Newbridge Chamber with a strong corporate and professional image. Although all the chambers around Ireland



Some of the current Newbridge Chamber committee and staff proudly unveil the new look with Minister Seán Power, T.D.

shared common objectives and goals, the fact there were lots of different logos, some of which were 170 years old, helped obscure the shared ground. The new identity presents chambers as a cohesive network with all the consequential

benefits that entails," she said.

"Local chambers are at the heart of local business, helping companies to drive forward and secure the buoyancy of the local economy and the new identity reflects this *raison d'être*," she remarked when interviewed by the local media.

The new logo comprises a circular disk, the name of the chamber and the motto 'In Business for Business.' On the disk, five curved figures represent a meeting or 'network' of people, ideas, cultures and knowledge.

Central to the design of the new logo was retaining some traditional elements. The gold stamp reflects the original function of chambers as 'stamping' official documents and underpins the attitude that a document with a chamber 'seal of approval' is legitimate.

### FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

8 March 2006 – AGM, Keadeen Hotel

End March 2006 – Preview of White Water Shopping Centre

21 April 2006 – Business Breakfast at Ross Morgans

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email: office@newbridgechamber.ie  
[www.newbridgechamber.ie](http://www.newbridgechamber.ie)

## CHAMBER COMMENT

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

Having been established for over 38 years, Newbridge Chamber has, like most businesses, gone through peaks and troughs. 2006 is the beginning of another peak. Our committee has worked very hard to focus on what we believe local businesses want and need from a Chamber of Commerce. We have two fantastic employees in Breda McHale, our Membership Co-ordinator and Celia Quinn, our Office Administrator, who between them co-ordinate Events, PR, Training and the services we offer to our members.

There is a saying that *you get out of something what you put in* – this applies to the Chamber. For us to be the voice of business for Newbridge, we need business people to get involved with us, share with us what they really need and support the many networking, training and educational events we have throughout the year.

Newbridge is a vibrant, expanding and competitive business environment. Industrial, commercial and domestic development is at an all time high. It is crucial that we have the infrastructure to support this development, and that as a town we put no obstacles in the way of ensuring these developments are a success for us all. We have all learnt from the White Water development that such a large scale development has an impact, be it positive or negative, on everyone. For the business community, this means we must have a voice and build relationships with our councillors, our county council and each other.

Newbridge Chamber is the ideal facilitator for all of this. We are part of a much wider network in Chambers Ireland and can learn from other towns and cities in Ireland who are going through or have gone through similar growth.

***So if you are not actively involved with your Chamber - we need you to be.***



**Deirdre Coghlan-Murray**  
President  
Newbridge Chamber

## Hot Training at Cool Prices!

February got our 2006 training programme off the ground. These Chamber Business School courses are FÁS funded and offer training with top providers, locally, at cost price! This is a very practical benefit of your Chamber membership. Participants were very impressed with the level of training received in The Keadeen Hotel on the following topics:



**People Management Skills** - February 2nd/9th/16th. Cost: €360 (Usual cost: €1,200)

**Performance Management** - February 28th, March 7th/14th. Cost: €255 (Usual cost: €850)

We will be providing further training on other topics (mostly one day courses) later in 2006. We would like to organise courses on topics that YOU want for you and/or your employees.

**Please let us know what these are and we'll get on to it straight away.** If you don't tell us then we'll never know and that's a wasted opportunity!

## ChamberSafe

A Health & Safety training opportunity called 'ChamberSafe' has been developed exclusively with Chamber members in mind. The programme offers a number of unique advantages to members:

- Equips SMEs to be fully compliant with the new Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005
- Offers potential for significant discount on liability insurance with Eagle Star following successful course completion
- Highly subsidised, low-cost training specifically targeted for retail, professional services
- Combines a one day face-to-face training session with an on-line learning programme so participants can complete the course in their own time
- Certified by the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH).

If you are interested in attending this course in the near future, please register your interest with Breda on email [breda@newbridgechamber.ie](mailto:breda@newbridgechamber.ie) or tel. 438296 and we will tailor a local training course to suit demand.

## Update from The Curragh Racecourse

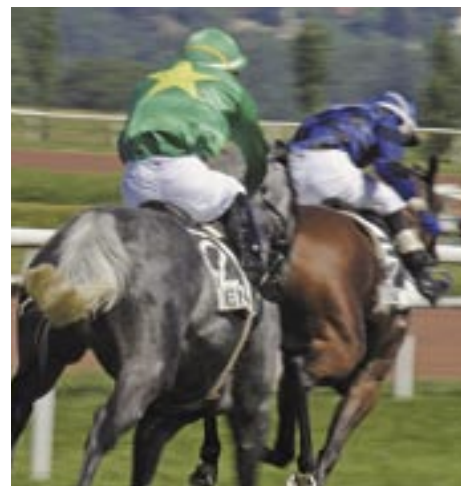
Not every town can boast its own top of the range racecourse, and Newbridge is the envy of many other towns in this regard!

An exciting new season for this Chamber member starts on Sunday 26th March with a 20 race day schedule. Taking place as part of the Ryder Cup event programme, the Goffs Million on September 19th will be Europe's richest race for two year olds.

The 21st Newbridge Parishes Race Day is on Sunday 9th April. The 8 race programme will include races supported by Michael Murphy Newbridge, Ray O'Brien Group, Peter Byrne, PJ Duffy & Sons and the Keadeen Hotel. The committee, headed by Father Joe McDermott and Rev Dr. John Marsden, offers another exciting programme of entertainment and competitions for all the family. A fund raising lunch will also take place at the racecourse on the day in the Derby Club Room, costing €70 per person. All enquiries to Lisa McGoldrick at the Curragh 045 441205 or [lmcgoldrick@curragh.ie](mailto:lmcgoldrick@curragh.ie).

### Curragh Development News

Bord Pleanála recently approved the realignment of the road and the construction of the new 72 bedroom hotel as part of the Curragh Racecourse redevelopment. Planning



permission for the new grandstand has been submitted and it is hoped that a positive decision will be received in order for construction of the new facilities to commence at the end of this season.

Racing will continue during 2007 and it is hoped that the "New Curragh" will be unveiled during the Spring of 2008.

### Don't forget the Membership Offer:

Newbridge Chamber members can enjoy a special discount on Curragh Membership in 2006. Just visit [www.newbridgechamber.ie/network.htm](http://www.newbridgechamber.ie/network.htm) or contact the Chamber office at 438 296.

## 'Meet the Family'

Do you know who is representing you on Newbridge Chamber? The current line up is:

NAME	COMPANY	BUSINESS TYPE
Deirdre Coghlan-Murray (President)	Clark Recruitment	Recruitment
Joe Fennell (Vice President)	Bank of Ireland	Banking
Peter Byrne (C.E.O.)	Newbridge Chamber	Chamber of Commerce
John Commins	Commins Financial Services	Financial Services & Overseas Property Specialist
Tim Dooley	Dooley Insurances	Financial Services
Olivia McCarthy	White Water Shopping Centre Ltd.	Property Development
Fiona McLoughlin	Privateseller.ie	Online service selling homes privately
Eleanor Mullally Staunton	AIB 24 Hr. Banking	Banking
Jane Mullins	Kildare Post	Newspaper
Brid Nolan	Falcondale Properties Ltd.	Property Management
Linda O'Neill	Creative Performance Ltd.	Motivation & Training

If you wish to contact any of the above committee members, please call or email the **Chamber Office** at **438296** or email **office@newbridgechamber.ie**. The new committee for 2006 will be voted in at our AGM on 8th March at the Keadeen Hotel.

## Skills For Work – New FÁS Workplace Literacy initiative

Approximately 25% of Irish adults have difficulties with basic reading and writing. A new FÁS initiative focuses on raising awareness of the issue of literacy in the workplace, helping businesses identify their literacy needs and offering training for employees where needed. 'Skills For Work' operates on a broad definition of literacy, which includes reading, writing and spelling skills, working with numbers, basic computers and communication skills. Training under the 'Skills For Work' initiative is 100% grant aided by FÁS Services To Business until mid 2006.

If you would like to find out more about the supports that 'Skills For Work' can offer your business, contact Fiona Fay, Basic Education Co-Ordinator on 086-8116913 or ffay@nala.ie.

## Skillnets

This customised training facility is being currently finalised for clusters of similar business types within the Chamber. We hope to roll it out later in the year.

## Meet New Members

The past year has brought the following new additions to our membership:

NAME	COMPANY	BUSINESS TYPE
David Cooke	Cooke Design	Graphic Designers
Alva Dunne	Kill Equestrian Centre	Equestrian Centre
Sharon Butler	The Gift Tree	Online gift service of shrubs & plants
Catherine O'Reilly	The Leinster Partnership	Accountants/ Business Advisors
James Conlon	White Water Café Bar	Pub & café
Bill Delaney	FÁS	Services to Business
Michael O'Rourke	Horse Racing Ireland	State Body - representing the Irish Horse Racing industry
Paul O'Connor	The Health Store - Kildare	Health Food retail outlet
Andrew Bourg	Baker, Tilly O'Hare	Accountants/ Strategists
Sarah Deacon	KCSE Ltd.	Community Services to Employment
Kevin Cooney	ROI	Accountants/ Tax Advisors
Alan Naughton	i.2. Computers	Software Specialists
Bernadette Rock-Huspatel	Kildeal Enterprises	Web Design/Consultancy

Welcome aboard! It is good to see a variety of business types getting involved in the Chamber.

## Committee Close-up

Meet Fiona McLoughlin of Privateseller.ie

A member of the Newbridge Chamber committee for almost two years, Fiona now heads the Chamber Communications group.

Originally from Roscommon, Fiona started her working career as a nurse and after some years returned to NUIG to complete a degree in Law and Politics. Winning awards all along her academic route, Fiona continued her studies with a Masters in PR, communication and advertising. She then worked as a Marketing Manager that culminated in her overseeing the entire re-branding of a major national voluntary organisation.

Fiona now runs the leading nationwide service and website assisting people to sell their homes privately. 2006 sees the expansion of Privateseller.ie into assisting developers to make significant savings on commission also. They have received extensive coverage in most of the national newspapers and radio stations. For relaxation Fiona likes to spend time with her husband and son, to travel, dine out or in with friends and loves going to music events and recitals.



You can contact Fiona at  
086 8274433, info@privateseller.ie  
or via [www.privateseller.ie](http://www.privateseller.ie)

## Membership reminder

Are your details up to date?

Don't forget to let us know if any of your contact details change, especially your email address. This will enable us to keep you informed accurately on what's happening of interest in the area. In addition, it would be helpful to have your mobile number for our database – we will not release it to anyone else but it would be good for us to hold if we need to contact you with business opportunities!

The office tel. no. is 438296 or our email is [office@newbridgechamber.ie](mailto:office@newbridgechamber.ie).

# A Classic Day at The Curragh Golf Club

Monday 19th September 2005 saw Newbridge's brightest and best don their wet gear and head for the hallowed ground of the Curragh Golf Club – Ireland's oldest course in fact. The weather was particularly wet, but despite that, 23 teams turned out and enjoyed their game. Refreshments provided by Cox's Cash & Carry helped the players get around the course without collapsing. The sanctuary of the club house and excellent dinner afterwards were probably more appreciated this year than heretofore, as a welcome refuge from the elements!

A glittering array of prizes was displayed in the club house, courtesy of generous

Full details of the winners are listed on [www.newbridgechamber.ie/recentevents.htm](http://www.newbridgechamber.ie/recentevents.htm). For the record, the top three teams home were as follows:

Sponsored by:



Motoring ahead past all the competition were the overall winners on the night: **M.A. Finlay & Sons** team members Pat Bohan, Mary Finlay, Mick Bohan and Spider Maher accept their cocktail sets and bar trays from Deirdre and Pauline.



Banking on Second Prize were Tony McCormack, Brian O'Neill and Joe Fennell from the **Bank of Ireland** team who, along with Peter Cleere, collected very sharp steak sets for their trouble from Deirdre and Pauline.

CATEGORY	WINNERS	PRIZE	SPONSOR
First Place	M.A. Finlay & Sons Ltd.	Newbridge Silver cocktail set & bar tray	Creative Performance Ltd.
Second Place	Bank Of Ireland	Newbridge Silver steak cutlery set	AbbeyLeigh Properties Ltd.
Third Place	Falcondale Properties	Lamp Tables with granite inlay	Michael Murphy & Co. Ltd.



The **Falcondale Properties** team successfully swooped on Third Prize: Derek Craddock, Peter Craddock, Liam Kearney and Freddie Nolan walking off with the furniture on the night.

businesses around the town, principally Newbridge Silverware, the main sponsor for the event. Prizes were given out after dinner, with Chamber President Deirdre doing the honours, ably assisted by Pauline Ryan of Newbridge Silverware.

The raffle on the evening raised over €500 for 'Newbridge Meals on Wheels'. We then doubled this amount to give this worthy local charity a cheque for €1,000 to encourage them in their valuable work. Thanks to all the businesses who donated raffle prizes to enable this to happen.

*This year's Classic is scheduled for Monday, 11th September 2006. Make sure to put that date in your diary NOW!*

## Business Breakfast with Keith Wood *October 2005*

This event was organised by Ross Morgans at Newbridge Silverware to showcase their fabulous new restaurant to the business community of Newbridge. Keith Wood gave us a very interesting and humorous insight into the leadership qualities needed and experiences of being captain of the Irish rugby team.



Morgan McCabe (Ross Morgans), Keith Wood, Deirdre Coghlan-Murray and Willie Doyle (Newbridge Silverware).

## Budget Breakfast *December 2005*

This year's annual Budget Breakfast was held on Thursday 8th December 2005 at 8 a.m. A packed Ross Morgans Restaurant at Newbridge Silverware heard instant expert analysis on this year's Budget package and found out how it could effect them and their businesses.

Speakers Brian Walsh and Cathal Lawlor of Mazars gave an interesting business-focused

presentation. Further details are available from them at [bwalsh@mazars.ie](mailto:bwalsh@mazars.ie) and [clawlor@mazars.ie](mailto:clawlor@mazars.ie) respectively.

Over €1,000 was raised for St. Vincent de Paul, Newbridge. Thanks to all who contributed and of course Newbridge Silverware & Ross Morgans, whose generosity meant that we could host the event without an entry fee and thereby give all the €10 per head contributions to this worthy local charity.

## Speed Networking Evening *February 2006*

Getting business to blossom was Brenda Donohue's task recently when she hosted a Speed Networking event for Newbridge Chamber, sponsored by Clark Recruitment. A great night was had by all the participating members... and we are reliably informed there were results achieved!



Suzanne Fogarty (Baker, Tilly O'Hare), Brenda Donohue and Sharon Butler (The Gift Tree) get networking at the recent Speed Networking event.