



A N.E.W. OPPORTUNITY FOR NEWBRIDGE

Announcing Newbridge

Environment Week – N.E.W. 08

Unveiling Newbridge Chamber's ambitious Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) plans for 2008 at its AGM in February, President Joe Fennell said "Under our Team Newbridge Banner, and CSR in particular, this year we are looking at the bigger picture of the environment and increasing the awareness of the environment in our community. As business leaders we are taking the lead role and hope to champion the cause. We are working on a core programme in conjunction with Bord na Mona under the three headings of **water, waste and energy.**"

Following the success of the "Don't Budge from Newbridge this Christmas" campaign; if the same level of support can be garnered, twin objectives of:

- 1) improving our environment and
- 2) saving money for all

can be achieved.

The climax of this initiative will be on **World Environment Day 05/06/08** with a programme of public involvement initiatives on how to protect the environment and save money. This will include seminars and demonstrations for the public on the three



President Joe Fennell shows committee members Orla Rooney & John Commins the Newbridge Environment Week (N.E.W.) 08 logo, designed by David Cooke of Cooke Design.

core areas in Newbridge Credit Union's building. Activities are being extended to the four days around World Environment Day in order to gather some momentum and the programme is called **N.E.W. 08** – short for Newbridge Environment Week 2008.

Joe concluded "We believe we are the first Chamber in Ireland to launch such a programme and I now call on all like-minded businesses in Newbridge and its environs to participate in our programme."

Do you feel your company could add any practical support? For example:

- ◆ Bring people across your threshold to show how your business has embraced some eco-friendly aspects in the running of your organisation?
- ◆ Run retail offers of discounted shopping/voucher scheme that week in conjunction with the N.E.W. 08 seminars & demos?
- ◆ Provide free receptacles for the correct recycling of certain 'difficult to dispose of' items during N.E.W. 08 week?
- ◆ Promote your products at the forthcoming seminars & demos in Newbridge Credit Union?
- ◆ Promote N.E.W. 08 in your place of business to prompt awareness of staff and the public?

If you can answer 'YES' to any of the above suggestions or you have better ideas on how you can play a role in this exciting CSR/Environmentally-friendly promotion across our Newbridge community, contact us NOW!

Please call **045 438296** or email breda@newbridgechamber.ie to get involved.

Forthcoming dates for your diary:

11th April 2008 – President's Lunch with Guest Speaker Tánaiste & Minister for Finance Brian Cowen, Hotel Keadeen, Newbridge kindly sponsored by Grant Thornton

15th May 2008 – Free HR Legalities Seminar, Newbridge

26th June 2008 – Pre-Derby Newbridge Chamber Garden Party, Hotel Keadeen, Newbridge

A full Activities & Events Calendar 2008 can be downloaded from www.newbridgechamber.ie/events.htm

President's Lunch 11th April 2008



Grant Thornton

Leading business and financial advisor Grant Thornton is



sponsoring the President's Lunch for 2008 on Friday 11 April, with guest speaker **Brian Cowen**, Tánaiste & Minister for Finance.

April 2008 marks the first anniversary of the opening of Grant Thornton's Newbridge office which provides a complete range of financial and taxation advisory services to existing clients in the area, whilst also providing specialist services such as tax and succession planning, wealth management, corporate finance and corporate recovery to the local business community in Kildare, Carlow and Laois.

Tickets for a super Hotel Keadeen lunch and Brian Cowen's address are on sale from the Chamber office at €60 each or a table of ten for €550. But be warned, they are going fast....

Newbridge Chamber
Canning Place, Newbridge, Co. Kildare
Tel./Fax: 045 438296
email: office@newbridgechamber.ie
www.newbridgechamber.ie

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CHAMBER COMMENT

Newbridge Chamber President speaks out

It's hard to believe I've started my second year as President, what a quick 12 months it has been. 2008 has started with a bang for the Chamber. First up we had a brilliant Speed Networking event. The participants got to meet a minimum of 15 new business contacts on the night. From talking to them, they all want another Speed Networking event and I hope to deliver that for all members later in the year or early next year.

As usual we held our AGM in February and I took the opportunity to launch N.E.W. 08, which plans to be the seed for future years in the environment sphere for the Chamber. So keep a look out for more details nearer World Environment Day 05/06/08.

For the ladies we organised a "Colour Me Beautiful" event followed up by a Business Leadership event in March, while both totally different each was very well supported and the feedback has been excellent.

I hope you have booked a place at my President's Lunch on 11th April in Hotel Keadeen. I have Brian Cowen, Minister for Finance, as my guest speaker. How opportune to have the Minister speaking about the economy with all the doom and gloom being mentioned in the media daily. I really look forward to meeting you all on the 11th and if not then at some of our other events during the year.

Finally thank you all for your continuing wonderful support.



Joe Fennell
President,
Newbridge Chamber



Claire Condron, Grant Thornton, Michael Kilcullen, Clark Recruitment & Breda O Driscoll, LEAP Advisors

Chamber Chosen Charity

Newbridge Chamber handed over a cheque for €4,500 in January to Annie Griffith, Director of **The Samaritans**, Newbridge & Kildare. She accepted with gratitude on behalf of their 70 volunteers and over 20,000 callers per annum in Co. Kildare. This money donated will help to fund the annual bill of €60,000 needed to run the voluntary centre. President Joe Fennell made the presentation on behalf of the businesses and members of Newbridge Chamber who raised the money through various events during 2007, including the Pre-Derby Garden Party, Annual Golf Classic raffle and Budget Breakfast. The fundraising was also facilitated through the involvement of local sponsors at these events; Bank of Ireland, Newbridge Silverware and Campbell & Company, Chartered Accountants.



Joe Fennell, presenting Annie Griffith, Director of The Samaritans (Newbridge & Kildare) with a cheque for €4,500 - the proceeds of Newbridge Chamber fundraising for 2007.

Joe exercised his prerogative to retain The Samaritans as the Chamber's "**Chosen Charity for 2008**" in the second year of his Presidency, much to the delight of Annie and her colleagues. They are also always seeking volunteers to help, so if you have even an hour a week to spare, Annie would love to hear from you at **045 435 299**.

And they're off! Curragh gets green light

Two years after the initial planning application was lodged with Kildare County Council, planning permission has been granted by An Bord Pleanála for the redevelopment of the grandstand at the Curragh Racecourse.

The Stewards of the Turf Club and the Curragh Development Committee are in the process of examining all the conditions of the planning permission and will reappraise the

financial implications for the project as a result of the planning decision being delayed for so long. Racing for 2008 goes ahead as planned with 19 race days. It is envisaged that construction work will commence in October.

Don't forget the Curragh Racecourse's special Affinity Network deal for Chamber members - for preferential 2008 racing membership rates please see www.newbridgechamber.ie/network.htm

Members LEAP ahead in Newbridge

March's *Member meets Member* event '**LEAP Ahead with your Business**' provided much food for thought. The seminar was held in Hotel Keadeen on 6th March, in conjunction with LEAP, a nationwide business advisory company, and was designed to provide business owners and senior management with practical tools for immediate improved business performance. The correlation between effective Leadership and business success was examined by the speakers.

Mike Gaffney of LEAP kicked off proceedings, after a warm welcome to fellow Chamber members by Vice-President **Tim Dooley**. Mike discussed the specific Leadership challenges facing Irish businesses and examined how these challenges can be overcome by understanding your personality type and playing to your strengths. Next up, **Cathal O'Donohue**, M.D. **O'Donohue's Bakery**, Tullamore, Co. Offaly spoke about his experiences in the food industry, the challenges his management team faced and how he planned for the future of his business. Those present agreed this practical application of the theories suggested was very insightful.



Tim Dooley, Dooley Insurances & Mike Gaffney, LEAP Advisors

Many of the attendees left with ideas to implement on returning to the coal face. We would encourage members to discipline themselves to take advantage of opportunities like this, to take even an hour or two out of your busy day to see the woods *and* the trees.... If anyone missed the event and would like to learn more, please contact Mike at **(01) 824 5711** or info@leapadvisors.ie.

Meet Newbridge Chamber Committee for 2008

The 2008 AGM, (13/02/08), elected the following members onto Committee for this year:

NAME	COMPANY	BUSINESS TYPE
Joe Fennell (President)	Bank Of Ireland	Banking
Tim Dooley (Vice-President)	Dooley Insurance & Mortgage Brokers	Financial Services
Peter Byrne (C.E.O.)	Newbridge Chamber	Chamber of Commerce
Evan Arkwright	The Curragh Racecourse	Racecourse Management
John Commins	JC Financial Services	Financial Services
Colette McGrath	The Office Centre	Office Supplies
Fiona McLoughlin	Privateseller.ie	Online service selling homes privately
Michael Mullally	Management Consultant	Management Consultancy
Brid Nolan	Falcondale Properties Ltd.	Property Management
Linda O'Neill	Creative Performance Ltd.	Motivation & Training
Orla Rooney	Coughlan White O'Toole	Solicitors
David Wright	Horse Racing Ireland	Horse Racing Authority
Justin Young	Whitewater Shopping Centre	Shopping Centre Management

If you wish to contact any of the above committee members, please call the Chamber Office at 438296 or email office@newbridgechamber.ie.

AGM update

At the **40th** Newbridge Chamber AGM in the Keadeen Hotel, on 13th February last, President Joe Fennell unveiled plans for the coming year. Highlights include Tánaiste & Minister for Finance Brian Cowen as a high profile Guest Speaker at the President's Lunch on 11th April and an



Getting down to business at the AGM: Brid Nolan, Larry Sheridan, Joe Fennell & Peter Byrne

invitation to all businesses in Newbridge to come on board with the Chamber's unique environment initiative for 2008. Heading into his second year in this office, during his presidential address he outlined his intention to continue the success of Team Newbridge into 2008. Under the Team Newbridge banner and CSR in particular, this year the Chamber is looking at the bigger picture of the environment and increasing the awareness of the environment in our community (see lead article on page 1).

In addition to this major initiative Joe emphasised that the Chamber intends to continue to give value to members by providing a top class service and events calendar; with opportunities to network locally. The Chamber will also continue to lobby on the important area of Local Government reform. It's another year of rolling up the sleeves to get some serious work done!

Adrian Kane of the **Newbridge Fair Trade Town** committee also spoke at the AGM and announced that their organisation had just received the good news that they had been allocated the much sought after status of a Fair Trade Town! Ahead of Fair Trade Fortnight Adrian encouraged everyone to put a Fair Trade focus on their business – both as retailers and consumers.



Adrian Kane, Newbridge Fair Trade Town Committee

Meet New Members *We extend a welcome to recent new members:*

NAME	COMPANY	BUSINESS TYPE
Kathleen Lucey	Lucey Enterprises	Husse Pet Food Distribution
Micheál Lambert	M Lambert ASCS MRICS	Quantity Surveying & Building Cost Consultancy
Paddy Carroll	Morrin Mortgages Newbridge	Financial Services
David Nolan	Newbridge Gas & Fireplace Centre Ltd.	Manufacture & Installation of Natural Gas products
Paul Murphy	O'Brien's Wines	Wine retailing
Richard Burke	RB Picture Frames	Picture & Memorabilia Framing
John McCormack	Rebate Financial Solutions	Financial Services
Tony Clarke	Valant Ltd. t/a Kettlebell Naas	Virtual Office & Telephone Answering Service

Close-up on Committee



In this issue we meet **David Wright, HR Manager of Horse Racing Ireland** who has been working on the Chamber committee in Newbridge for the past three years. A graduate of Arts from Trinity College Dublin, David is also a Fellow of the CIPD (The Institute for Human Resource practitioners). In the 1970's, like many other Irish, he sought work in England and worked for the British equivalent of FÁS, later returning to work in Donnelly Mirrors, Naas. He worked with FÁS, Tallaght in the 1980's, until he become self employed as Wright Consultancy Limited.

In a desire to work locally, David joined Horse Racing Ireland as Manager – Human Resources in 2005, now based in Ballymany, The Curragh. The organisation has a remit to develop, as market leader, the Irish thoroughbred racing and breeding industry. Horse Racing Ireland has 100 employees in Ballymany and another 80 employees based in the racecourses in Leopardstown, Fairyhouse, Navan and Tipperary.

He claims to be an exception in the racing world, having limited knowledge of the thoroughbred industry. (He adds there are not too many thoroughbred horse trainers in his native Shercock, County Cavan!) David is now a Kildare man by adoption and a resident of Naas for 31 years, close to his second love in life, Naas Rugby Club. In the past he would have been known throughout rugby playing County Kildare as a rugby referee for over 12 years.

His first love, i.e. his wife Daphne and children Diane & Catherine are also enthusiastic about rugby and all sport. Diane has played rugby for Naas and is currently playing for Galwegians and Connacht. David's skills are much appreciated by Newbridge Chamber and it would be lost without his regular input across the professional and social spectrum!

You can contact **David** on 045 455455 / email dwright@hri.ie

Networking at Speed in Newbridge

Members got down to business at the Chamber's 'Speed Networking Event' on 7th February last at The Keadeen Hotel when President Joe Fennell (a.k.a. "Becks" for the evening) kept the action moving at a fast pace!

Participants got two minutes each to talk to another person seated opposite them until Joe blew a loud whistle to let them know it was time to move on to the next person. In between saying hello and goodbye, everyone got a chance to showcase their business *raison d'etre* and win some spot prizes along the way.

All attendees had alter egos of famous couples to keep the night on a light note and when the first few met their match they earned wine, chocs or mugs for their colleagues to share when they got back to work the next day. Michael O'Brien of FÁS and Jennifer Kenny of The Office Centre were the first to earn their prizes as Tarzan met Jane in the business jungle of today...

The serious side of the evening was of course to introduce people to one another in a time effective and informal way to see if more business can be conducted locally around Newbridge and environs. According to the happy but exhausted participants, it was a roaring success all round!



A bird's eye view of all those busy beavers!



Ivor Hegarty, Premiere Hygiene Products and Donna Hill of Noel Recruitment meet



Sean Francis, PlusPoint meets Kathleen Lucey of Lucey Enterprises

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Throwing colourful shapes at Shades N Shapes



Lots of colour at Shades N Shapes on the night

Shades N Shapes Hair Design provided a welcome piece of R'n'R, after the hectic Speed Networking night held earlier that month, at the **Colour Me Beautiful** event on 27th February. It was exclusive to Newbridge Chamber's female members and was a great fun evening. Hosts Tracey and Aileen Maher welcomed everyone into their George's St. premises where Colour Me Beautiful Analyst Aileen, and their new Carlow based partner Rebecca Delaney provided lots of advice on this season's fashions in clothes and makeup.

They gave ideas on what's hot right now and also on how to make the transition from a business 'look' to that suitable for social situations. If you feel like treating yourself or a friend to a private consultation, just contact Aileen on 087 9188946 or Shades N Shapes on 045 432888. Aileen also provides customised corporate Colour Me Beautiful sessions for staff groups.



The 'victim' – Rose Barrett O'Donoghue looking gorgeous after her professional makeover



Aileen & Tracey Maher with President Joe Fennell at the event's outset (before he made a hasty departure!)

Hot 2008 looks for ladies

- ◆ Feminine flowers to bold, ethnic and safari looks
- ◆ Lots of prints – but be careful!
- ◆ Lots of floaty, light and delicate fabrics – more romantic feel
- ◆ Accessories are stronger than ever – shoes in particular

Some timely tips

PRINTS

- ◆ Always wear prints to your scale
- ◆ Block dressing (i.e. one colour) will give slimmer look and wear printed shoes, bags and belts instead

FOR THE ETHNIC LOOK

- ◆ Ethnic patterns can over scale you so maybe just go with an armful of bangles or crafted jewellery instead