



## BUILDING NEW BRIDGES

A big thank you to all local businesses and the public who got into the spirit of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative for Newbridge this year! We have now executed three of four phases with great success.

Following the launch in March, the recycling of **spectacles, medicines and mobile phones** was encouraged around town in April and continues on an ongoing basis. Once gathered, these items can provide a new lease of life for those who benefit by their recycling; either directly with the spectacles or indirectly with medicines and mobiles from the use of component parts by experts.

In May, Newbridge people played their part in turning 'people in need' to 'people who read' via the third CSR phase which was the **books recycling** aspect. The Chamber's invitation to the public to root around their houses and find

all those books which are no longer used, was taken up in great numbers. At the beginning of June we then gathered all the books from the various businesses around town. We managed to fill two pallets of books which are being brought by Curragh Carpets free of charge to Book Aid International in the UK, who will then ship them to 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This simple, but critical, step plays a vital role in breaking the poverty cycle. We're told each book will be used by at least 13 children.

You can be justifiably proud of the role you played in the rollout of any of these three CSR phases. Through this initiative, Newbridge businesses are building bridges to help those less fortunate reach a new, fairer, world. For that the committee and staff of Newbridge Chamber thank you. Watch out for the fourth and final 2007 phase coming soon, courtesy of Bord Na Mona....



Shane Nolan at Curragh Carpets unloading some of the books donated by Newbridge people for Book Aid international

## Blooming Marvellous



Presenting the €3,000 cheque are Joe Fennell and Breda McHale, Newbridge Chamber with Deaglan de Paor, Newbridge in Bloom

The stalwart work of Newbridge Tidy Towns committee and Newbridge in Bloom continued throughout May and June to get our town ready for judging in the annual Tidy Towns competition. Newbridge Chamber played its part by donating a cheque for €3,000 on behalf of our members to Newbridge in Bloom last month. In accepting the presentation, Deaglan de Paor said that the money will go towards the purchase of some new permanent planters in the town. Having seen them already in situ, it appears to have been money well spent.

## Newbridge Silverware does it in Style!

Since its official opening to the public on June 1st, the Newbridge Silverware Museum of Style Icons has welcomed hundreds of visitors to its spectacular showcase in downtown Newbridge! Hollywood has come to Newbridge with the arrival of the 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' dress and a host of other iconic pieces from Hollywood legends.

The Museum showcases artifacts associated with some of the most legendary stars of the silver screen and also features signature pieces from Ireland's most notable designers.

"Our great love of iconic design and fashion has propelled us to create a showcase for some of the world's most inspiring and influential style idols" says William Doyle, CEO, Newbridge Silverware. "It is our intention to create a centre of excellence within which our greatest contemporary designers can exhibit their signature pieces. We will continuously add more notable style pieces to this Museum endeavouring to have one of the greatest collections in the world."

Yet again the vision of the management of this company inspires all of us to see what can be done with some lateral thinking and a bit of imagination! William invites all members to bring your friends and colleagues to see this amazing free exhibition on our doorstep.

## Forthcoming dates for your diary:

**Monday 10th September 2007**  
– Annual Golf Classic, sponsored by Newbridge Silverware, at The Curragh Golf Club

**Thursday 4th October 2007** – Member Meets Member evening with The Office Centre, Newbridge at An Chistin

A full 2007 Activities & Events Calendar can be downloaded from [www.newbridgechamber.ie/events.htm](http://www.newbridgechamber.ie/events.htm)

**November 2007**  
– Speed Networking Event at The Keadeen Hotel

**Thursday 6th December 2007** – Annual Budget Breakfast sponsored by Campbell & Company, Chartered Accountants

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## CHAMBER COMMENT

Newbridge Chamber President speaks out

*"Everything in the Garden is Blooming"*

Firstly thank you all for your brilliant turnout at our first 'Pre-Derby Garden Party' in the Keadeen Hotel on June 28th last. We all had a great night - with some lasting longer than others! I think it really kick-started the Derby weekend. Thanks to Rose and her team in The Keadeen for their help and support.

As you can see overleaf, I had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for €3,000 on your behalf to Newbridge in Bloom in early June. Doesn't the town look "blooming" gorgeous? Well done to Deaglan and his committee and keep up the good work.

Remember our Team Newbridge ethos... "if we can all do a little, it will help a lot". Please try to keep your own premises litter free.

Finally, I hope you all have a lovely Summer and that you get that deserved holiday. Be sure to get some golf practice between now and 10th September and be ready to win some of the fabulous Newbridge Silverware prizes on offer at our Annual Golf Classic.

Thank you for your continued support.

Joe

**Joe Fennell**  
President  
Newbridge Chamber



## Newbridge litter war continues

There was great disappointment when the results of the latest IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter) survey were announced on 18th June last. Despite all the great work being done to beautify our town by voluntary groups such as Newbridge Tidy Towns, the litter is still dragging our town, literally, in to the mud. Chamber President Joe Fennell has been actively encouraging all businesses to clean outside their own premises for many months now, indeed it has been a priority since the Chamber's AGM last February as part of his 'Team Newbridge' campaign.

Recently appointed Litter Warden Pat Conway spoke to Newbridge Chamber's committee at its April meeting and discussed how best the business community can help with this continuing problem. In Newbridge, he had found the biggest problem was with cigarette butts. Up to then he had been

## Round One nominations in for 2007 Passion Awards

The deadline for Round One nominations of 30th June has passed and the results should be known shortly as to who will be the first 2007 Newbridge winner of the Vodafone "Passion For The World Around Us" award. The adjudicating panel will meet in early July to make their decision. If you didn't get around to nominating one of your local heroes for this round, don't despair – you have two further chances to do so. The deadline for Round 2 (Business Round) is September 30th and for Round 3 is November 30th. **Contact the Chamber Office for a nomination form by calling 045 438296 or emailing [office@newbridgechamber.ie](mailto:office@newbridgechamber.ie)**



The aim of the Awards is to acknowledge people who demonstrate a keen commitment to improving the world in which we live. The awards programme will honour those people who have made a positive difference to their community.

## Newbridge Chamber Training a Spring success



Participants & trainers at the Customer Service course held last March

Everyone who attended the Chamber's Spring 2007 Training Programme expressed great satisfaction on the content relevance and quality of trainers. Once again we would remind you to check with the office if you have a training requirement and we can tailor a course to suit your needs, subject to sufficient numbers. Contact us at tel. 045 438296 or email [office@newbridgechamber.ie](mailto:office@newbridgechamber.ie) All our courses are at reduced rates due to subvention from the 'South Dublin & Kildare Skillnet'. A key feature is that they are delivered locally, which obviously prevents a huge headache in time-wasting for staff.

## 1st birthday celebrations for Whitewater

Newbridge's flagship shopping centre celebrated a year in business with Glenda Gilson launching their spring Fashion Fest. The fashion extravaganza commenced with a VIP evening on Wednesday 4th April and celebrations continued until Saturday 7th April with over 20 retailers showcasing their spring/summer ranges.

On Friday 6th April, Whitewater celebrated its actual 1st birthday with a host of entertainment and one lucky shopper was picked at random to receive €1,000 worth of gift shopping vouchers!

Centre Manager Steve Cleaver said, "This was a very exciting time for Whitewater. Our birthday was a real celebration for everyone involved. On our opening day last year visitor numbers exceeded 10,000 within the first hour and it has been a roaring success ever since. This year footfall increased by 34% during the week of our 1st birthday".



Some ladies enjoying the 1st birthday celebrations at Whitewater Shopping Centre

## Stephen Harvey office for Newbridge



Pictured at the official opening of the new Stephen Harvey Ltd. office on Cutlery Road, Newbridge: Aishling Hassett, Karen Harenberg, Canice Carroll, Murty Aspell (Mayor), Siobhan McClafferty, Stephen Harvey, Johnny Ingle & Darren Campbell

tackled by another agency.

We continue to encourage everyone in Newbridge 'to do their bit' and to keep a positive attitude, despite the IBAL results setback.

## Broad welcome for National Broadband Scheme tender

Newbridge Chamber has welcomed the recent launch of a tendering process for the National Broadband Scheme by then Minister for Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, Noel Dempsey T.D.

The difficulty in accessing dependable broadband for business emerged as one of the top concerns of our members in our Policy Survey last year. In December last, a delegation of Newbridge Chamber members went to the Dail to lobby Minister Sean Power on this crucial issue for local business. After listening to the views and concerns of the delegation, the Minister assured those members that he would raise the issue with Noel Dempsey.

We have also kept in touch with Chambers Ireland to keep the pressure on nationally as it is a nationwide problem. Their spokesperson said: "The modernisation of rural exchanges will open up the digital marketplace to more businesses across Ireland and enable the development of sustainable local economies.

The National Broadband Scheme represents an important step on the road towards the creation of a future-proofed broadband network. The speedy delivery of a ubiquitous Next Generation Network must remain the focus of broadband policy in Ireland. In the interim, business and residential broadband customers should have access to the highest quality broadband possible. The needs of many Irish businesses have already surpassed the capabilities offered by 1MB broadband. Service providers involved in the tendering process should be encouraged to exceed the minimum requirements set out in the criteria outlined for the Scheme."

The policy sub-committee of Newbridge Chamber will watch with interest to see what the tendering process will bring, for Ireland and specifically for Newbridge. It is hoped this project will be top of the agenda for the new Minister with responsibility for this area, Eamon Ryan.

## Unique role for Nostra Systems

Nostra Systems is an IT company with a difference and that's not just because of its unique service based ethos – but its dynamic staff.... Rebecca Murtagh, Senior Account Manager at Nostra was runner up recently in the Young IT Person of the Year Award – at the 2007 ICT excellence awards! 23 year old Rebecca's contribution to Nostra Systems has been both through systems she has implemented and also in her 'go-getter' attitude to account management, office management and business development. Not to be out done, her colleague Senan Finucane has just published a white paper on the future of the "Business/Mobile Phone Office" which is getting interest from all over the world due to its practical and relevant content.

You may have read about Nostra on the Newbridge Chamber website - Affinity Network section - which offers all fellow members a full on-site IT assessment free of charge. See [www.newbridgechamber.ie/network](http://www.newbridgechamber.ie/network) for full details. Once your audit is finished, Nostra can provide advice on how to overcome vulnerabilities and thus operate in a more productive and efficient manner.

Based up the road in Rathcoole, there are 11 people employed in the only IT company in Ireland which guarantees a 30 minute response time. They say 80% of all IT problems are software based and, so can often be fixed remotely. Nostra partners with all major IT brands including HP/ Microsoft/ IBM/ Apple & 3Com. You can contact Nostra at tel. 01 669 4777 or check out [www.nostrasystems.ie](http://www.nostrasystems.ie)



Rebecca Murtagh of Nostra Systems

## Close-up on Committee

In this issue we meet **Steven Cleaver** of the **Whitewater Shopping Centre** in Newbridge, on committee since August 2006.



Managing a centre of this magnitude – the largest regional shopping centre in Ireland – is indeed a mammoth task. We caught up with him ahead of their involvement in the 'Meitheal Mor' - the major arts & community festival designed to promote Newbridge and its environs ahead of the 2007 Curragh Derby Festival.

From the UK originally, Steve spent six years as a Royal Marine Commando. Consequently, he's well travelled and we suspect there are not many things in life that would phase him too much! After that, he had approx. 15 years senior retail management experience in both food and non food. Prior to joining Whitewater last April, he was with DIY giant B&Q. He spent four years in the UK opening and managing their warehouse stores, and one year in China opening stores. He then came to Ireland for six months in 2001 to open the B&Q warehouse store in Liffey Valley and never left!

Steve and his wife Tonia live in Longwood, Co. Meath with their children Kieran (10) and Phoebe (8). His hobbies are gardening, family and a good malt (Irish) whiskey! You can contact Steve at Whitewater Shopping Centre Management on 045 449002.

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

| NAME                     | COMPANY                                 | BUSINESS TYPE                                     |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Ms. Anne-Marie Cullinane | Cullinane Opticians                     | Optician  |
| Mr. Damien Doyle         | Edward Harrigan's                       | Pub / restaurant                                  |
| Ms. Siobhan McFadden     | First Active plc                        | Building Society / Mortgage & Investment Provider |
| Mr. Noel Delaney         | Grant Thornton                          | Auditor, Accountant, Tax & Financial Advisor      |
| Mr. J.J. Egan            | J.J. Egan Auctioneers & Valuers         | Auctioneer & Valuer                               |
| Mr. Andreas Grunecoald   | Andreas Grunecoald Marine Engineering   | Marine Engineer                                   |
| Ms. Tracey Maher         | Shades n Shapes Hair Design and Academy | Hair Dresser & Training Academy                   |
| Mr. Darren Campbell      | Stephen Harvey Ltd.                     | Auctioneer  |
| Ms. Maggie Burns         | The Academy of Holistic Studies         | Training Academy for Health & Beauty industry     |
| Mr. Tom Doyle            | Tom Doyle Aggregates                    | Stone & Sand Quarry                               |

## New Committee member

At the June committee meeting, **Ms. Orla Rooney**, representing long-time member **Coughlan White O'Toole Solicitors**, was co-opted on to committee. This brings to 13 the current number of committee members who meet monthly and drive the agenda of the chamber on behalf of the membership. If you wish to contact any committee member, please call the Chamber Office at 438296 or email [office@newbridgechamber.ie](mailto:office@newbridgechamber.ie) and we'll put them in touch with you.

## And they're off! Pre-Derby Garden Party

sponsored by **Bank of Ireland** 

Ever since it was first suggested that the Chamber lend its support to the Meitheal Mor festival to encourage the extension of The Curragh's Derby Weekend commercial and community life into Newbridge, everyone seemed to love the idea of a Garden Party! The brainchild of President Joe Fennell back in January, tickets were snapped up once released at the end of May.

Despite the inclement weather, which is always a risk in this green land of ours, a wonderful evening was had in The Keadeen's beautiful Beech Room, overlooking their fabulous gardens.

Annie Griffith of The Samaritans was delighted with the capacity crowd, as the event was being run to support the quiet work done by the Newbridge branch of this excellent organisation.

Great fun was had by all with music provided by dynamic DJ Fergie Pearson. The dance floor was hopping! Hopefully some of you managed to take notes from the Curragh's tipster James Griffin and reaped some reward from your investments over the following race days! Hope all of you enjoyed the party and it looks like it may just have to be run again next year, such was the feedback received from members and other attendees....



*Joe Fennell and some of the Bank of Ireland attendees*



*The busy dance floor!*



*Naomi Rutherford and colleagues from Halifax*



*Privateseller.ie representatives relaxing*

## President's Lunch

Joe Fennell's President's Lunch was a sell out, with over 110 people sitting down to a lovely Keadeen lunch with colleagues and clients on 30th April last. The day after the 2007 General Election was called we were fortunate to host, as our



*Michael McDowell speaks to reporters en route to the Lunch*

guest speaker, one of the country's most controversial and interesting politicians Michael McDowell – then Tánaiste and Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform. He spoke of the PD's vision for the next period of Government and how he felt the country's economy would perform during that time. Michael's own prediction for the election was that they would win 10 seats, oh how wrong he was! It now appears we were witnessing a 'limited edition' at work, as Michael lost the battle for the 5th seat in his constituency, subsequently resigned as leader of the PDs and announced his retirement from full time politics.



*The Leinster Partnership table*



*O'Reilly Recruitment attendees*

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