

President's Lunch

Newbridge Chamber hit the headlines this April when, with remarkable foresight, Joe Fennell's choice of speaker for his President's Lunch was none other than Taoiseach-elect Brian Cowen! Minister Cowen honoured his long standing commitment to come and speak at this popular event sponsored by Grant Thornton in The Keadeen Hotel. Not surprisingly it was a packed house with all attendees curious to see the 'man of the moment' in action. Concentrating on his area of expertise as the one in charge of the country's finances, he spoke of the need to continue with a programme of capital investment in infrastructure, in order to be ready for the upturn in the economy when it comes. Reassuring those present he maintained the fundamentals of the economy were sound and that businesses should not lose their nerve. He complimented the Chamber movement, whose members he said are committed to excellence and delivering second-to-none customer service nationwide. And say so all of us!



Joe Fennell (Newbridge Chamber) and Noel Delaney (Grant Thornton) put their heads together in the lead up to the 2008 President's Lunch



Joe Fennell, Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin & Brian Cowen T.D.



Colonel John Courtney, Paul Hensey & Jim Kavanagh



Annette Irwin, Siobhan O'Hara & Shirley Mulpeter



Bernard Healy, Fionnuala McLoughlin & Michael Mullally



Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick, Larry Sheridan & Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.



Ocala, Florida Twinning delegation with Newbridge Town Councillors at Pre-Derby Garden Party sponsored by Horse Racing Ireland on 26th June



Minister Brian Cowen T.D. addressing the packed audience at the 2008 President's Lunch



'Enjoying the Environment' N.E.W '08 Primary School Art Competition winners at The Riverbank Arts Centre on Friday 6th June 2008

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Chamberchat

SUMMER 2008



ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY NEWBRIDGE?

The inaugural Newbridge Environment Week – N.E.W '08 – went off with great success. Thanks to the hard work behind the scenes of sponsors Bord na Móna and AES plus the steering group of volunteers, it evolved from ambitious starting suggestions to final fruition and delivery. A packed programme of public events ensured something for everyone in Newbridge from World Environment Day on 5th June until 8th June.

Bord na Móna constructed an 'Environmental Visitor Centre' in a marquee in their grounds off Main St. Newbridge for the duration of N.E.W '08. After a **formal opening** here by Mayor Paddy Kennedy in the presence of Chairman Fergus McArdle and the full complement of Bord na Móna board of directors, Gerry O'Hagan, Director of Marketing and Commercial Development, welcomed everyone and said "Bord na Móna is delighted to be involved in this excellent initiative with Newbridge Chamber. The issues of water, energy and waste management are subjects with which we are very familiar, since much of our business is focused on developing products and services; both for improving our own work practices and to provide sustainable environmental solutions in these areas".

Chamber President Joe Fennell thanked all those who had responded to his call enabling a small idea last year to become a huge reality this June. "From the initial theme of 'Team Newbridge' a massive commitment to CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) has emerged and without the energy (*no pun intended!*) of all those involved including Tidy Towns and of course the tremendous backing of Bord na Móna, it simply could not have happened."

The **Environmental Visitor Centre** marquee showcased Bord Na Móna's



Duncan Stewart speaking at N.E.W '08 on 5th June 2008

progressive renewable energy options, eco friendly fuels, green waste composting, water and wastewater treatment, waste recovery and recycling / environmental amenities to visitors.

An **Environment Bus Tour**, (bus courtesy of KARE), proved a great hit with the public as it wove its way around town on the Thursday and Friday. After viewing the Bord na Móna marquee with Grainne Maguire, Brand Manager, Bord na Móna Environmental, passengers got to see the dizzy heights of Newbridge Silverware's photo voltaic cells and its customized engine run on rape seed oil as an alternative way to generate some of the electricity needed to run their factory, offices, restaurant and showrooms. Jim Doyle, engineer at **Newbridge Silverware**, shared his considerable wealth of knowledge on alternative energy options with all.

(article continued on page 2)



At the launch of N.E.W '08 at Bord na Móna, 5th June 2008

It's bright – turn off your light!

Newbridge Chamber members played a key role in the roll out of N.E.W '08 when they turned off their lights from 9am to 10am on World Environment Day. This highlighted the town's commitment to promoting public awareness of environmental issues.



Brian Cowen comes to town

April 11th last saw Newbridge Chamber welcome then Minister and Tánaiste Brian Cowen – see article on back page.

BORD NA MÓNA

Forthcoming dates for your diary:

Monday 8th September 2008 – Annual Golf Classic sponsored by Newbridge Silverware, at The Curragh Golf Club.

Thursday 4th December 2008 – Annual Budget Breakfast sponsored by Campbell & Company, Chartered Accountants.

October/November 2008 – Member Meets Member evening. Details to be advised.

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

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(continued from front cover)

CHAMBER COMMENT

Newbridge Chamber President speaks out

Now that we are in July let's hope the weather picks up and we get some sunshine that we all need.

Firstly I would like to congratulate "Newbridge in Bloom", the town really looks well and the race goes at the Derby were very impressed by our town. Mentioning the Derby it was great to see An Taoiseach back in town for the big day. During his recent few words at my President's lunch he told a story about "having lost a few bob at the races"; so for those of you that are in a similar position after the Derby weekend, just remember what Brian was told by none other than Charlie McCreevy after he had "lost the few bob". "Brian", he said "they are not lost, we know where they are and we'll be back another day to get them back". I'm sure Paul Hensey and all the management of the Curragh Racecourse would be delighted to see you all back racing soon!

We have had a very busy few months at Newbridge Chamber, the highlight of which was N.E.W '08, which you can read about in this newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the N.E.W '08 steering group for their hard work, without their support the event would not have been as successful as it proved to be. Let's hope we can make N.E.W '09 a bigger success. No event can happen without a main sponsor so I really want to thank Bord na Móna for their sponsorship, their people and more importantly their time.

We are still recovering from our Garden Party. Oh what a night, with proceeds going to the local branch of the Samaritans, everybody danced the night away and looking at the "heels" I'd say there were more sore feet than heads, so thank you all for supporting this very worthy cause!

Lastly I'd like to wish everybody a really enjoyable summer and if you are travelling, do take special care on the roads and I look forward to meeting you all at our next event, the Annual Golf Classic sponsored by Newbridge Silverware, on September 8th at The Curragh Golf Club.

Joe Fennell
President,
Newbridge Chamber



A move up the road to **Braun Oral B** to meet HSE Specialist Peadar Donnelly ensured no-one present will ever look at their tooth brush in the same way again....! The company's recycling habits form an integral part of the manufacturing process, resulting in a massive 90% of waste being recycled, consequently only 10% going to landfill. The management and staff at Braun Oral B are, justifiably, very proud of this achievement. From Green Road over to Little Connell, the bus went into **Wyeth Medica**, where James McAlorum, Associate Director of Site Services, gave an overview of life at Wyeth and then showed each group around the new state of the art, (unlike any other worldwide) Waste Water Treatment Plant recently installed at the pharmaceutical plant.

The series of **Public Talks** organised by Bord na Móna held at Newbridge Credit Union's conference centre brought in high profile speakers over three days to share their expertise and tips on three core areas of **Energy, Water and Waste**. Duncan Stewart along with Aodhan Mac Phaidin and the Power of One roadshow looked at energy saving issues on Thursday 5th June. Tommy Standún, Suzanne Linnane and Anne-Marie Crowley gave very interesting talks relating to their experiences and tips on water issues the following night. To wrap up the series on Saturday 7th June, Newbridge College students gave a presentation on ideas they thought would appeal to our youth on waste reduction & recycling. Dr. John McNamara from AES explained precisely what happens once your blue bin is emptied outside your gate! Nuala Madigan gave a demo of home composting – 'worms n all...' - which nearly brought the house down before everyone exited into a beautiful summer's afternoon to enjoy the environment first hand.

Meanwhile, AES offered a **free waste collection** to anyone who wanted to get rid of unwanted organic and general waste on N.E.W's Saturday morning. Thanks to Tom Treacy who allowed access to an area in the Newbridge Retail Park, cars queued up to dispose of rubbish, garden waste wood, paints etc., all at no cost. Rumour has it some people emptied out their sheds that weekend into AES's skips!



At the Bord na Móna Public Talk on waste in Newbridge Credit Union on Saturday 7th June 2008

Commercial opportunities to highlight the environmentally preferable options on their product ranges were also promoted by businesses in the area during N.E.W '08. This included discounts offered by local stores Atlantic Homecare, DID, McLoughlin Cycles, Recharge and Woodies on certain items. Whitewater Shopping Centre also housed a cross-section display of Newbridge's very own passive house manufacturers Wolf Passive Homes.

All through N.E.W '08 **community initiatives** ran including batteries for recycling in Newbridge Credit Union and Whitewater, old mobiles for Barrettstown Gang Camp and cartridges for The Jack & Jill Foundation at five different KARE locations round town. Maginn Electrical accepted small electrical items to their Curragh shop for onward safe disposal and the Rotary Club embarked on an ambitious project to provide the elderly of Newbridge with lagging jackets.

The highlight of N.E.W '08 for younger participants was undoubtedly the **'Enjoying The Environment' art competition!** All Newbridge Primary schools were invited to submit entries on this theme and hundreds of colourful pictures flooded in. Newbridge Credit Union, sponsor of the event, got the hard job of choosing the winners in each of three age categories. The winners were announced at a prize giving ceremony at The Riverbank Arts Centre on Friday afternoon, 6th June, where there was great excitement among children and parents. Prizes of folders and cash were kindly awarded by Newbridge Credit Union Chairperson Pat Ryan after some refreshments. The full list of winners is on Newbridge Chamber website www.newbridgechamber.ie. N.E.W logo designer David Cooke of Cooke Design may not have too far to look for arty employees a few years from now!

Pre-Derby Garden Party sponsored by



HORSE RACING IRELAND



President Joe Fennell gets the party going!



Bank of Ireland staff



Grant Thornton guests



Noel Recruitment guests

Once again this year the rain blighted our attempts to host a sunny evening outdoors in the gorgeous gardens of The Keadeen Hotel! Undeterred however, members and friends got together indoors in a garden atmosphere to prepare for Derby weekend and support local charity The Samaritans, via the Chamber's Annual Garden Party, kindly sponsored by Horse Racing Ireland. Keeping up the racing theme, this year we were delighted to be joined by guests of the Curragh Racecourse, a delegation from Ocala Florida who formally twinned with Newbridge the following Saturday at the races. Newbridge Town Councillors made it up to The Keadeen after the Meitheal Mor parade and seemed glad to sit down and chat with the American visitors and other local attendees.

On arrival in the Beech room, guests were offered a glass of wine and a surprise musical treat courtesy of band 'Irish Mist'. The trio played some rousing Irish tunes and then gave a rendition of 'The Curragh Mist', the new anthem written for the Curragh racecourse this year by Mary Buckley Clarke and set to music by Kildare native Joe Giltrap. After the initial welcome drinks, everyone moved into the adjoining Magnolia room for a beef stroganoff supper and dancing to DJ Karl Ruffley. He must have played every song from 60s to the current day and many dancers had pains in their legs the next day to prove it! There was some blackmail threatened with camera phones at the ready at one point ('Rock The Boat' does it every time!) but despite that the evening drew to a successful if exhausted conclusion after the bewitching hour.

Whitewater renews Corporate Membership

Whitewater Shopping Centre, the largest shopping centre outside of Dublin, last month announced its continued support for the third year running, as a 'Corporate Member' of Newbridge Chamber. Commenting on the importance of corporate members, Newbridge Chamber President Joe Fennell acknowledged that "corporate members are the back bone of the not-for-profit Chamber, without whom we would not be able to undertake the work we do, support local businesses and run initiatives such as last month's Newbridge Environment Week".

During Newbridge Environment Week visitors to Whitewater Shopping Centre visited the 'Passive House' stand to learn environmentally friendly ways to reduce their energy bills, drop in batteries for recycling or speak with Chapman's of Kildare about biofuel cars.

Justin Young, Centre Manager at Whitewater Shopping Centre said, "We are delighted to be a corporate member of Newbridge Chamber again this year, and to support the vital work they undertake on behalf of companies in Newbridge. We were very keen to facilitate the Newbridge Environment Week in the Shopping Centre as Whitewater is a focal point for the town and allows the Chamber to get their message to the thousands of daily shoppers who visit the centre. We look forward to continuing our strong relationship with Newbridge Chamber this year, and into the foreseeable future."



Justin Young, Manager of Whitewater Shopping Centre being presented with their Corporate Membership certificate by Joe Fennell, President, Newbridge Chamber.

Meet New Members

We extend a welcome to recent new members and look forward to seeing you at future Chamber events:

NAME	COMPANY	BUSINESS TYPE
Mr. Darren Campbell	Champion Lettings	Letting Agents
Mr. Deáglán de Paor	Curragh-Tintawn Carpets	Carpet Manufacturers
Mr. Patrick Sutton	O'Kelly Sutton	Strategy, Marketing & Financial Consultants

Close-up on Committee



In this issue we meet **Orla Rooney of Coughlan White O'Toole Solicitors**, who has been a committee member with Newbridge Chamber for the past two years. She qualified as a Solicitor in 2005, having graduated from University College Dublin with an Honours Bachelor of Business and Legal Studies degree (BBLS.) in 2000, and subsequently earned a Diploma in Property Tax from the Law Society of Ireland (Dip. Prop. Tax.). Orla trained with the in-house Solicitor in Rochford Brady in Dublin and then worked with a practice in Carlow for nearly two years before taking up her current position with Coughlan White O'Toole Solicitors in September 2006. She now specialises in Residential Conveyancing, Probate and Family Law.

Coughlan White O'Toole Solicitors, (formerly Coughlan White & Partners) is an established and rapidly expanding firm of Solicitors with offices at Moorefield Road, Newbridge, and a branch office at 42 South Main Street, Naas. With a progressive and energetic team of over 40 people, the firm deals with a wide range of areas including Residential & Commercial Conveyancing, Probate, Family Law, Civil & Criminal Litigation, Debt Collection, Licensing and Employment Law. Reflecting their commitment to professional service, Coughlan White O'Toole has retained the prestigious Q-Mark Award since 1995, and was the first firm in Ireland to be approved by the EIQA (Excellence Ireland Quality Association), the redeveloped Q-Mark in 2002.

Orla is a long way from home here in Newbridge – she is originally from Barroe, a small suburb of Sligo. She has settled well here amongst the Lilywhites and now lives in Newbridge, from where she enjoys walking, swimming, horse racing, reading and movies.

You can contact **Orla** at Coughlan White O'Toole Solicitors on **045 433332**.