

Chamberchat

SUMMER 2010



**Newbridge
CHAMBER**
IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

Living up to the Chamber's slogan of being 'In Business for Business' our recent Speed Networking evening went off really well. Participants said it was well worthwhile coming along for the evening and investing some two and a half hours in their business. Everyone got to meet between 15 and 20 contacts in one evening and, from what we hear, lots of agreements were made to do business together into the future!

Attendees from a great variety of businesses came along on the night, including diverse occupations such as IT Consultants, Taxis, HR Recruitment, Property people, Accountants, Financial Planners, Solicitors, Bankers, Beauticians, Energy Consultants, Phone suppliers and a Wedding Planner.

In her welcome address President Eilish Sparrow thanked Paul Duane of MPS (Mobile Phone Services) who kindly sponsored the event in conjunction with Vodafone and also The Curragh Racecourse for the great venue. In these times when everyone has to go that extra mile for new leads and sources of business, events such as these are the way to go to fill the gaps. Being a member of an organisation like Newbridge Chamber makes it easier to get your name out there and see if there is a demand to match your supply from other people in the locality and beyond.

If you missed this evening, why don't you come along to a future event – see below



Kate Shortt (AIB), Paul Hughes (Newbridge Technology Solutions), Mark Norman (Dooley Insurances), Sharon Nolan (Sharon's Urban Escape), Eimear Lenehan (Bank of Ireland), Paul O'Hara (Paul's Cabs)



Eimear Lenehan (Bank of Ireland), Barry Fitzsimons (Fitzsimons Finance) and Barry Goulding (Energy Consultants)



Paul O'Hara (Paul's Cabs), Mark Norman (Dooley Insurances), Sharon Nolan (Sharon's Urban Escape) & Carl Heywood (MPS)

or www.newbridgechamber.ie for ongoing dates and details. Or if you have your own idea for an event, please contact Breda McHale at the Chamber office on 045 438296 to discuss your thoughts and make them a reality.



Paul Duane (MPS) handing over the all important sponsorship cheque to Eilish Sparrow, President Newbridge Chamber

It's a Classic!



Newbridge Chamber's Golf Classic is currently being planned. Always a popular event on the calendar, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Newbridge Silverware, it is scheduled for Friday 10th September 2010 at the Newbridge Golf Club in Roseberry.

The fee for a team of four is still at last year's reduced bargain price of €250 and that covers the golf, fabulous prizes, tea/coffee + sandwiches ahead of the shotgun start at 2pm, and dinner afterwards in the Clubhouse. Alternatively or additionally, you may sponsor a hole on the course for the day for €100.

The entry form will be issued during the Summer; in the meantime we suggest you tee up your team! To book now, simply call the Chamber office on **045 438296**.

Forthcoming dates for your diary:

10th September – Newbridge Chamber Golf Classic at Newbridge Golf Club kindly sponsored by Newbridge Silverware.

14th October – Annual President's Lunch at Hotel Keadeen kindly sponsored by Grant Thornton. Guest Speaker: Fergus Finlay, CEO Barnardos and social, economic and political commentator.

A full Activities & Events Calendar 2010 can be downloaded from www.newbridgechamber.ie/events.htm



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

Sponsored by Donovan Printing Ltd **DONOVAN** printing limited

CHAMBER COMMENT

Newbridge Chamber President speaks out

I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on what is happening at the Chamber at the moment. As I promised at the AGM, we have held a series of intensive Planning Meetings to map the short to medium term for Newbridge Chamber and district. We are currently putting the initial plans in place to ensure we continue to support businesses in a relevant way for today's demands and also to grow in a methodical and sustainable fashion into the future.

On a personal level, I would like to advise that I have been transferred from my job to manage Carlow Branch of Bank of Ireland and so must regretfully resign as President. I am, however, very glad to be able to announce that I am passing the mantle into the safe hands of David Wright, of Horse Racing Ireland, who has been a strong and energetic Newbridge Chamber committee worker for many years. Aiding David will be Con McNamara who is stepping into the role of Vice President. Both appointments take effect from 1st July 2010.

I very much enjoyed my time with Newbridge Chamber and would like to thank the hardworking committee who helped me discharge my responsibility in what I hope was a productive fashion. I look forward to working with you all in the future from my new Carlow base and developing stronger regional links between neighbouring chambers.



Eilish Sparrow
President
Newbridge Chamber

Swanning around Newbridge

The recent installation of a new sculpture entitled "Cosantóir" (protector) of a Swan at the entrance to the Newbridge Town Park was created by local sculptor Annette McCormack and is a most welcome addition to the park, greatly enhancing its entrance. The piece was sponsored by Droichead Nua Town Council - for which they should be strongly commended! Tidy Towns activist Deaglan dePaor tells us this sculpture has been erected as part of the Newbridge Heritage & Arts Trail which is



'Cosantóir' guarding the Newbridge Town Park entrance

almost completed at this stage, with Heritage Signage now erected on many of the older historic buildings / locations in the town.

almost completed at this stage, with Heritage Signage now erected on many of the older historic buildings / locations in the town.

Newbridge in Bloom

Newbridge Chamber is proud to play its part to support the fantastic work of Newbridge in Bloom for 2010. Kate Shortt is seen here presenting a cheque on behalf of Chamber members to Jimmy Sheridan Treasurer of Newbridge Tidy Towns, along with Chairman Ger Ahern.



Ger Ahern, Kate Shortt and Jimmy Sheridan

The aim of Newbridge in Bloom is to have a significant floral display in the town during the months of May to September, which bring a splash of colour to the main commercial centre of the town. From humble beginnings in 2004 this summer sees an amazing 160 planters in position in the town's main commercial centre! Congrats to all the volunteers involved - the displays attract the attention of residents and visitors alike, and help showcase Newbridge as a major residential and retail centre.

Securing a successful future for Newbridge Chamber

As committed at the 2010 AGM earlier this year, the President and her chamber committee have been busy all through May and June attending Business Planning Meetings with a view to updating the organisation's short to medium term plan. With the generous facilitation of Noel Caffrey of The 2 C Company, the committee members debated and prioritised objectives and actions to finally agree what is needed to support Newbridge Chamber members going forward.

The outcome of these meetings will be released and shared with members shortly. Securing a future to match the quality of the last 40 years' legacy is a huge priority for the current team. Ensuring this chamber will continue to adapt and meet the demands of a modern Business Support group is an onerous responsibility but one about which the committee feels very passionate.

Meeting Members: The Keadeen Hotel – still “growing beautifully”

Mrs. Rose O’Loughlin and her hotel The Keadeen’ have been members of Newbridge Chamber going back as long as most of us can remember. On the 8th December 2010, they will celebrate their 40th anniversary in business. In these times, that is certainly an achievement!

It all started for Rose when she met her husband Joe while they were both attending Hotel School in Shannon in 1961. They went on to gather work experience in Switzerland, Germany and Canada. On returning home, together with Joe’s father and his brother Eddie and his wife, they bought the beautiful private house named “Keadeen” and set about turning it into a hotel. This partnership continued until 1987 when the parties amicably moved on and The Keadeen moved into the separate ownership of Rose and Joe.

The original house was built in 1903 and named thanks to the view of Mount Keadeen and its fellow Wicklow Mountain peaks from the then upstairs rooms. Prior to the O’Loughlins’ purchase, the house was owned by a number of people, most notably the legendary trainer Paddy Prendergast and so has a rich history of association with the Kildare racing industry. While we chat in the hotel’s plush interiors today, this link continues as Rose faces another busy Derby week where the tradition of celebrating The Curragh’s most famous race is synonymous with The Keadeen.

Its motto of ‘growing beautifully’ also describes what the hotel has achieved in the past. Following on from the shocking passing of Joe in 1994, Rose employed UK expert Richard Daniels in 1995 to redesign the Ballroom to the fantastic facility it offers today. Rose then spearheaded the building of the impressive Leisure Centre in 1996 in order, she explains, to seriously compete for corporate business. In 1997, they extended the premises by 20

extra bedrooms. In 2003, another 24 bedrooms were added and in 2005 the new Club Bar was built. When asked if all this constant improvement was to ensure the hotel keeps its 4 star rating, Rose replies “You make your own stars - once you have pride in your product and strive for the highest standards.”

The stars mentioned could easily refer to the staff rather than the building and perhaps that’s what she had in mind! Today, the loyal and well trained staff is what gives this hotel the edge over its NAMA and other competitors. It’s hard work to be always improving and trying to stay ahead of the competition but Rose’s secret arsenal must be her staff. Many employees proudly boast long service including her right hand man, Manager Joe O’Gorman. He came back to her in 1996 after working in the USA for 12 years; having previously been at The Keadeen in the early days of his career. The hotel has had the same Head Chef, John Hughes, for 34 years. He keeps the food coming like a well oiled machine, while bringing in new influences to keep up with current trends. In addition, Rose’s daughter Anna now works alongside her in the business, having earned her stripes of experience in Switzerland like her parents before her.

Looking forward, Rose is next planning a Gardens makeover, to further develop this hugely popular aspect of The Keadeen’s attractions. From 2011 the hotel plans to limit weddings to one per day and so the gardens will play their role. While family-run hotels are 24/7 hard work, this family’s dedication and single mindedness has brought them to where they are today. Be it for conferences, dining, weddings or wakes, the Chamber wishes The Keadeen every success and hope it continues to grow beautifully in Newbridge for many more years to come.



Mrs. Rose O’Loughlin

Close up on Committee



In this issue we meet **Kate Shortt** of **AIB**, Newbridge. AIB has been a long standing member of Newbridge Committee for many years and earlier this year, Kate joined the committee. She is already playing her part in keeping this voluntary group on track! Kate is a career banker, having been with AIB since the tender age of 18. This included stints in Portlaoise, College St. Dublin, Maynooth, Blessington, Naas, Clane, Kildare, Dunlavin and Newbridge branches. She was appointed Retail Manager in 2008 and is a QFA – Qualified Financial Advisor. Today she is busy managing Customer Services and Sales at AIB Newbridge which incorporates looking after all the Personal and Business (SME) Customers’ needs; ranging from deposits, investment to lending etc.

A Kilcullen woman born and bred, Kate comes from a horse racing background, with her father being the well known character Frankie Shortt. Her mother Mary ran Kilcullen Post Office for almost 30 years, until her recent retirement. Kate also helped out here for a few years during a career break in the last decade! Her brother Dermot won a gold medal for Ireland at the Special Olympics in 2003, a feat of which she is extremely proud.

Keeping the blood undiluted Kate married Kilcullen man Ger Peacocke and they have two children Jayne and Howard, both of whom play GAA for Kilcullen and Kildare. A busy woman no doubt, but you know what they say “If you need something done....”

You can contact Kate at AIB Newbridge on tel. **045 431744**.

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
Ms. Liz Bowes	Derrynine Candles	Candle Manufacturer
Mr. Andy Nolan	Hibernian Securidean	Contract Cleaner
Mr. Jamie Stafford	Newbridge Golf Club	Golf Club
Ms. Sharon Nolan	Sharon’s Urban Escape	Beauty Salon



Connecting over Coffee?

Our informal Coffee Morning which took place on 11th June proved very popular! The idea was to keep it all very casual, drop in for fifteen minutes or more between 8.45a.m. and 10.30a.m. and say hello to new and familiar faces who are also members of Newbridge Chamber. Over a chat and a cuppa you never know what contacts you might make!

Judging by the success of this Coffee Morning, we may run more after the Summer season, so watch out for updates on your monthly Members' News Notices and on www.newbridgechamber.ie



Lisa Bothwell (Bothwell & Vogel Graphic Design Consultants), Kate Shortt (AIB) & Paul Hughes (Newbridge Technology Solutions)



Sasha Kerins (Grant Thornton) with Anne & Shauna Channon (Newbridge Greyhound Stadium)



Carol Ann Potter (Johnstown Business Centre), Paul Matthews (The Man's Shop) & Con McNamara



Brid Nolan (Falcondale Properties Ltd.) & Michael O'Farrell (O'Farrell Associates)



Helen Colleton (Horse Racing Ireland) & Aileen Maher (Shades & Shapes Hair Design)



The hosts, Donal & Siobhan Hurley of An Chistin, take a well earned rest after the Coffee Morning.



Tracy Maher (Shades & Shapes Hair Design), Andy Nolan (Hibernian Securiclean) & Pat Sutton (O'Kelly Sutton Financial Consultants)

FOR THE MONTH OF JULY ONLY

Get 500 full colour business cards, 2 sided & matt laminated

for €90* +VAT

*Price is for artwork supplied

DONOVAN
printing limited

The Complete Design & Printing Services

CONTACT:
Donovan Printing,
Newbridge on
045 433874

We encourage Chamber members to source goods, services or professional advice initially from fellow Chamber members if possible, and after that, from within Newbridge or Co. Kildare in general.