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February Newsletter



Chamber News for February 2019 Written By Jan Sparrow of Cirencester Scene

Evening Networking Meeting 13th February

This month we ventured out of our usual haunts and held our Networking Meeting at Cirencester Golf Club. It's as well it's such a big space as we had a phenomenal turnout, fifty plus. Not sure if it was the lovely setting or the smell of the craft ale that brought them out! Probably a bit of both.

After brief introductions round the room, which took a fair while even though most attendees appreciated the need for brevity, our host Richard gave a short talk about the Golf Club and its facilities. He emphasised the availability of space to hire for conference and meeting rooms, and events, plus the use of the beautiful outside garden space. Then

Shaun Gibson representing the Rotary Club of Cirencester, discussed how they and The Chamber could perhaps unite in supporting some community projects as well as inviting us to attend their meetings.

The main speaker was Lucy Cordrey, known locally as the Empress of Corinium Ales. Lucy gave us an insight into how the idea of her micro-brewery was conceived and the steps she took to make it a reality. She told how she had resisted would-be investors, as it was her baby and she wanted to grow it in her own way. She believes in going steadily and thoroughly and consolidating before moving onward. In this way, Lucy, in conjunction with her partner Colin Knight (the Emperor), have produced a solid and popular business that continues to build on its own success. We all enjoyed this lively talk and the beer samples. Sadly, only one person could win the raffle of four bottles of Corinium Ale, and that was John from Mainstream Digital.

President Annemarie Thurgood and Vice President Adam Vines led a short brain storming session on issues in the town that members might want the Chamber to lobby on their behalf. We await the results.

Breakfast Meeting 21st February

We met at Jesse Smiths on the Industrial Estate and were treated to a fabulous breakfast, but first we listened to a short talk by Guy from Aura Care who told us about Stratton Court, the luxury retirement community recently built in Cirencester to meet the needs of those who have the means and the desire to shape their own lives in later years. He also described the various facilities it opens to the public. He was followed by Luke Halsey, Entrepreneur in Residence at Farm 491, which is located above the Growth Hub Offices next to the RAU. Although locally educated at Deer Park School and Ciren College, Luke had worked in Silicon Valley for several years before returning to these shores (if a little reluctantly). He is using his experience to explore the role technology has to play in the future of British Farming.

After breakfast Georgina Shanly, Student Enterprise Co-Ordinator at the RAU, invited us to support the Youth Market in Cirencester on Wednesday March 20th. It will showcase the town's budding entrepreneurs. If you are 30 or under and want to take part, please email enterprise@rau.ac.uk.

Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Events 2019

Chamber events
Chamber Evening Meeting 13th March 2019 6pm
at Cirencester Growth Hub

Chamber Breakfast 21st of March 2019 at 07.15am at Kings Head Hotel, Cirencester



We are very pleased to announce that this month's meeting is kindly being hosted by Cirencester Growth Hub

Feel free to bring a guest – we love meeting new people.

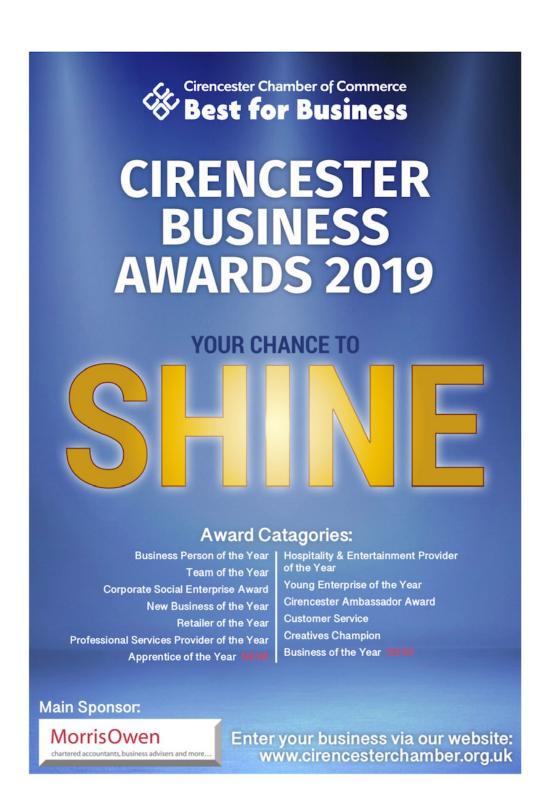
Just register yourself, colleagues and guests through the link below

Chamber Evening Meeting Book Here



The Chamber will be holding the March Breakfast meeting at The Kings Head we hope you can join us.

Book now for Breakfast





Are you interested in giving a presentation at one of our meetings? We are always looking for speakers and venues. Please email our secretary Claire on info@cirencesterchamber.org.uk to find out more.

Member's Offers & News

A great result for one of our members Kay Ransom

"As a photographer I make sure I enter around ten competitions a year (photography and business ones), it's a great way to gain some recognition for your work. So no matter what your industry I recommend this as good routine to be in.

This particular photograph I am very proud of it was taken at 8am in the Camel Estuary in Cornwall, I'm on a chase boat, being driven by professional water ski instructors, so I knew myself (and my very expensive equipment) were in safe hands. Being an estuary we had

the opportunity of the unusual background of the countryside. The early start gave us that gorgeous morning haze, which certainly makes the image!"



Congratulations, so far this is your most engaging photo that has inspired other members and has been awarded the Top Shot Award.





TOP SHOT AWARD - "View bug"!





Race Week 12th March till the 15th March
Breakfast at Cirencester Golf Club
Full English only £8.90 From 8.00am Tuesday to Friday
Telephone 01285 652465 to book

Contact Cirencester Golf Club



Howard Burr Managing Director of South Western Specialised Tapes Ltd & Cotswold Labels Ltd

is looking for someone to join his team Pre-Production & Customer Liaison Manager - it's a dynamic and challenging role working with Bespoke, Retail, Product and Industrial label customers.

Apply Here



Stratton Hotel Refurbishment update

The next phase of our refurbishment programme has happened, and we are delighted with the results. At Stratton House our function room 'Stratton Suite' has just undergone a major refurbishment to bring it in line with the requirements of all those wanting to utilise this space. Whilst chandeliers adorn the room, it also benefits from the modern facilities you would expect to find.

The Stratton Suite is now a bright, modern and lavish surrounding occupying its own bar facility for those requiring a venue to host dinners, events and of course weddings. The room is versatile for meetings & conferences and as it accommodates up to 100 people, it is a great destination within the corporate market.

If you are looking to arrange an up coming meeting, a corporate private dinner or just simply would like to come along and take a look, please just contact Pat Wood, our Meetings & Events Manager on 01285 651761 or email events@strattonhousehotel.com

Longfield Hidden Carers Project

We are working in partnership with Carers Gloucestershire and our project is funded by Hospice UK and St James Place which allows us to deliver this project free of charge for everyone that needs our support. We believe we can make a real difference to your staff that are caring for someone with a life-limiting illness and may not know of the services they can access through being a carer.

Here are a few stats about carers and why we are delivering this project.

The main aims of our project is to;

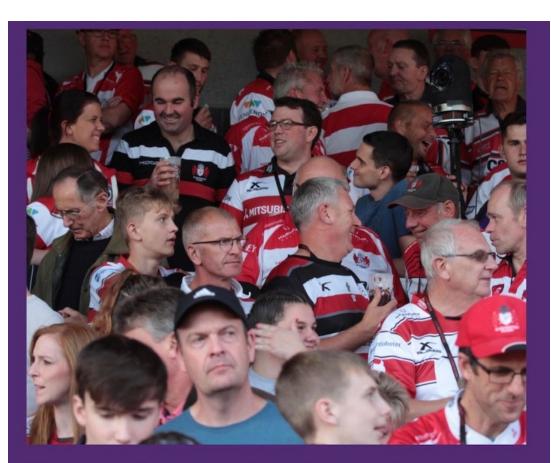
- · Help carers to acquire new skills, knowledge and understanding
 - Identify and support previously 'hidden' carers
 - Begin to create community support networks for carers
- Learn the most effective ways of helping and supporting carers

Why are we are doing this?

- 4,500 people in Gloucestershire per year care for somebody who is living with lifelimiting illness
 - 5,900 Gloucestershire deaths p.a. of which 75% were expected
 - Unpaid carers account for 12% of the UK working population
 - 20% of carers provide more than fifty hours of care per week

Carers in Employment Face Particular Issues;

- Very challenging due to time constraints juggling responsibilities
- Little time to access support may need any support to be in non-working hours
 - Caring responsibilities may not be known to employer or primary care
 - Less likely to self-refer for support
 - Approximately 42% of carers are men
 - Particularly likely to reject the term 'carer' ("It's my duty")
- Heightened embarrassment about needing emotional support but more likely to need and accept practical guidance
 - 306 carers referred to Longfield last year, of which only 15% were male



Some of these supporters may also be supporting someone with a life-limiting illness.

Are you?

Supporting or looking after a relative or friend who has a life-limiting illness can be difficult and stressful work, but much of it is hidden. Our practical information, workshops and courses will make a positive difference to you and the person you're looking after.

To find out more about how we could help you or somebody you know with their 'caring' responsibilities, please get in touch by calling Day Services on 01453 886868 or emailing Day. Services@longfield.org.uk More information about our workshops and courses can be found overleaf.



Benefit Workshops (within a group setting)

Providing information and advice on the resources and financial benefits patients and carers may be able to access.

- Monday January 28th / Monday April 8th / Tuesday June 4th. All 10.30 - 12.30pm at Longfield in Minchinhampton
- Monday July 22nd 1.30 -3.30pm at Longfield in Minchinhampton
- Tuesday September 3rd 10.30am 12.30pm at Abbeydale Community Centre, Glevum Way GL4 4BL
- Thursday September 19th 6.30 8.30pm at Longfield in Minchinhampton

Benefits Guidance

One-to-one guidance on benefits and financial issues particularly relevant to you.

 Thursday April 25th / Thursday July 25th and Thursday September 26th.
 All 6.00 - 8.30pm at Longfield in Minchinhampton.

Food and Nutrition Workshops

This enjoyable and interactive workshop will help you understand the importance of good nutrition for people with, or affected by life-limiting illness.

- Tuesday February 5th 10.30am
 12.30pm at Longfield in Minchinhampton
- Thursday July 11th 6.30 8.30pm at Longfield in Minchinhampton
- Monday September 9th 10.30am
 12.30pm at Abbeydale Community
 Centre, Glevum Way GL4 4BL

Positive Caring Courses (for those providing care)

This interactive four-week course is delivered in conjunction with Carers Gloucestershire. It provides practical information and support, and enables you to meet others in a similar position to share ideas.

- Starting Monday February 25th 10.30am
 -1.00pm at Longfield in Minchinhampton
- Starting Thursday June 6th 6.00pm
 8.30pm at Longfield in Minchinhampton
- Starting Tuesday September 17th venue to be confirmed

Care Necessities Workshops

A range of practical workshops focussing on some specific aspects of supporting and looking after someone with a life-limiting illness

- Let's Talk About Incontinence Tuesday February 12th 10.00am-1.00pm at Longfield in Minchinhampton
- Safe ways of helping someone when mobility becomes difficult - Monday March 25th – 10.00am-1.00pm at Longfield in Minchinhampton
- Let's Talk About Planning for the Future

 Thursday May 2nd 10.00am-1.00pm at
 Longfield in Minchinhampton
- Let's Talk About Incontinence Monday May 13th 10.00am-1.00pm at Abbeydale Community Centre, Glevum Way GL4 4BL
- One or two of the three topics above, depending on the demand from enquirers
 Thursday July 4th 5.30 -9.00pm and Thursday August 1st 10.00am-1.00pm at Longfield in Minchinhampton

Are there other ways we can help you?

Contact us to discuss other ways we may be able to help you and the person you support, either face-to-face or on the phone. Please call Day Services on 01453 886868 or email Day.Services@longfield.org.uk

Project supported by:







Just Mortgages

James Macpherson offers professional, no obligation advice on mortgages and protection.

Whether you are buying a new property, raising capital or simply looking to remortgage existing borrowing contact James to discuss how they can help make your mortgage work for you.



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Wednesday 20th March

10.30am to 2.30pm

The Market Place, Cirencester GL7 2NW

An eclectic market hosted by Cirencester's young entrepreneurs and business people. Great shopping, delicious food and live performances!

Fancy trading or performing this year?

If you are from the Cotswold Region within 15 miles from Cirencester and under 30 go to:

www.cirencester.gov.uk/youth-market

#cirenyouthmarket





Organised by E4 and Cirencester Town Council supporting and promoting young enterprise in the town

This event is supported by E4 representatives; Royal Agricultural University (RAU), Cirencester College, Kingshill School and Deer Park School







Join Bluestone Insurance Services at our complementary Employment Law, Health & Safety Seminar.

Join our expert HR and health & safety speaker from Peninsula at this brief but invaluable event, which will enhance the way you run your business by giving you the knowledge and advice to resolve any employee challenge.

When |Wednesday 27th March 2019 Registration & Refreshments 9:30am 10am Seminar | 12:45pm Finish with Networking Lunch

> Where | Bluestone Insurance Services Ltd Esland Place, Love Lane, Cirencester GL7 1YG

To book your complimentary place, please email: events@peninsula-uk.com and quote 43798C or call 0844 892 2771

Market Comment from Phillip Bishop, Managing Director of Perry Bishop & Chambers 20 February 2019



Will this be the year of your move?

A new year is often an opportunity for a new start and, as expected, since the beginning of January we have already received a steady build-up of enquiries from applicants looking to make this the year they move. Rightmove reported a 5% increase in traffic to their

website in January 2019 and the number of viewings we conduct weekly are consistently hitting triple figures, indicating optimism in the housing market.

Current market conditions are helping First Time Buyers who are competing with fewer investors, but still have the advantage of historically low interest rates, allowing them to fix their mortgage rate. This then allows second steppers the opportunity to upsize into a home more suitable for their growing families. Mortgage lenders are facing stiff competition and are launching more attractive rates and products.

There is continuing uncertainty surrounding Brexit, and the disparity between asking prices and salaries making affordability an issue, has resulted in a fall in the number of transactions nationally and a lowering of asking prices. We put our energy into giving you the best advice for the market conditions, whatever they may be, and tailor that to your personal needs. We will spend time understanding the reason for your move, what lies behind your decision, and then ascertaining what is most important to you – the price you achieve, or the timescales for moving. We can then tailor a marketing strategy to suit your circumstances.

Our skilled negotiators are trained to get you the very best price they can for your home, but they don't stop there. They will also negotiate on your behalf to secure the property you aspire to move to. By working the price differential through the chain, we are successfully moving our clients on to the next chapter of their lives.

Brexit or no Brexit, we moved 71 more homeowners and their families in 2018 compared to 2017, an increase of 14%. Both our Cirencester and Tetbury branches enjoyed a very healthy start to the year, listing and selling more properties than in the same period last year. Our sales record speaks for itself. Rightmove stats show that our Cirencester team sold almost three times more homes than our nearest competitor in January.

Don't wait for Easter, or the summer, or for Brexit. If you are thinking of selling, or know someone who is, ask them to get in touch for a free, without obligation consultation and advice. We are here to help.



The New Growth Hub in Cirencester has lots of events and workshop taking place throughout February .

Growth Hub Events





The Cirencester College Apprenticeship Team will be opening their doors for an Apprenticeship Information Evening on March 7th. This event coincides with a host of other events planned for the National Apprenticeship Week which runs from March 4th to 8th 2019, and which will celebrate the positive impact that apprenticeships have had on local businesses, individuals and the local economy. If you would like to find out more and would like to attend the College's Information Evening on Thursday 7th March, between 6pm and 8pm then please register your interest on the Cirencester College website www.cirencester.ac.uk. There will be presentations at 6.15pm and 7.15pm, and the opportunity to speak to one of the team before or afterwards. Alternatively, employers can email the team on apprenticeships@cirencester.ac.uk and one of the team will happily arrange to come out and discuss how apprenticeships can work for you.



"We are delighted to have recently joined the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce and look forward to meeting members - thanks to those who have already reached out to us. We operate as a husband and wife team (we also run the ChipsAway - specialising in minor car body damage). At Miles Better, we are very excited at the prospect of helping members reduce their fuel bills and vehicle emissions with our award-winning engine upgrades - with the same technology used on 24,000 Openreach vans - saving BT £ millions on fuel. Our business officially launches on the afternoon Saturday 6th April - please keep the date in mind, you could combine it with a trip to Stroud to visit the farmers market in the morning!

Expect free food, drink and music and some very special launch discounts. In the meantime, have a look at our brand new website MilesBetter.net where you can submit your registration and get a free estimate. Hope to meet you all soon.



Why not join the Chamber today, membership from £50 per year

We will be sending a newsletter every month. If you have an event or offer you wish to share, please email our secretary Claire Wardell

info@cirencesterchamber.org.uk.

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