

September Lunch **Lansdowne Strand Hotel, Calne**  
**Friday 26th September at 12.15pm for 12.45pm**

# Chambernews

## Calne Town centre flower power!



“The Town Clerk Linda Roberts, Deputy Town Clerk Daryl and their staff have made a fantastic effort in transforming our town. From the CTC to the sponsors of the roundabouts to the floral displays in the individual town businesses I feel a huge thank you is due”

### Vice President please step forward

The chamber takes a rest from operations in August and December so we have only three more lunches before we greet the New Year.

In the absence of any other volunteers I have agreed to stand as president for a fourth and **Final Term** but we desperately need a **Vice President for 2009** who will take over as **President in 2010**.

The position has its hard bits and its fun bits but on balance, I can honestly say that it offers a great deal for anyone who wants to get involved in business related community events.

**If you would like to find out more about the post please contact me – I look forward to hearing from you. Email [mick@cmttd.co.uk](mailto:mick@cmttd.co.uk)**

### Social Events

In my view we should attempt to increase the contact we have with each other through social interaction.

Over the past year or two, I believe that we have improved our lunches by trying places like the **Spice of Bengal** and by our visits to **Springfields School** and **St Mary's**. Regular diners know that the events are low key and very often very useful and informative – I recall particularly the recent talk we received from the ladies of the Probation Service. I feel that by developing a stronger social foundation we build a stronger Chamber structure.

The committee is hoping to hold a **quiz** in October and **bowling and skittles events** early in the New Year. We are also exploring the possibility of holding a **Spring Ball at Bowood**. This would be a major

departure from our traditional ventures but would in my view put us firmly on the map.

If this happens it is likely to be in May 2009 and you would be notified well in advance. Please let me have your views – face to face or by telephone or email.

Chatting to Tim, Manager of the **Lansdowne Strand Hotel** he told me that his brewery organises tours of their brewing facilities – with free beer tasting! Recently he put together a coach load of some 40 people so if you are interested please let me know and we will see if we can set up a trip for chamber members and friends.

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### Community Showcase

You may recall that with the support and assistance of the Calne Town Council we held a showcase event earlier this year.

I was talking to Deputy Town Clerk Daryl recently and we agreed that it was so successful that we should hold another in 2009.

This event gives businesses the opportunity to show their products and services and without becoming too paranoid about the difficulties that we are all currently experiencing. I for one feel that we could use this as a launch pad for business in Calne.

*Continued overleaf..*

### Highlights in this issue

- 1st Choice Stairlifts **Member feature**
- Skills Direct **3 Peaks success for Alex**
- Lansdowne Lunch **26th September**
- Spice of Bengal Lunch **24th October**
- **Start-Up Business** Win a bottle of wine
- **Social Events** Quiz, bowling or Bowood?
- **Community Showcase** £25 each
- **Chamber President** Put your name in!

Contact the editor with your story email: [mick@cmttd.co.uk](mailto:mick@cmttd.co.uk)

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“If you’d like to sponsor a future issue of Chamber News please call me on 01249 818620.”

The showcase stalls cost about **£25 each** and provide a platform to show what you do in your business, so why not give it a try? I will keep everyone informed about progress with this initiative.

### Flower Power

I would like to say a big thank you to Town Clerk Linda Roberts, Deputy Town Clerk Daryl and their staff for the fantastic effort they have put into transforming our town into a great display of flowers. I would also like to acknowledge the great work done by a number of Calne businesses for the way they too support the effort to improve the appearance of the town. From the CTC to the sponsors of the roundabouts to the floral displays in the individual town businesses I feel a huge thank you is due.

### Start up business

I know I have been sounding off about this for the past couple of months but the subject is important for both the Chamber and the business community of Calne.

If you get the slightest whiff of a new business coming to Calne please let me know. We will give a **bottle of wine** to everyone who introduces us to a new business that goes through the very simple process of completing the application form and follows through with a business plan. Our town is on the verge of major regeneration so we need new quality businesses to fill the additional retail outlets that will be available. New businesses will help provide the development the town so desperately needs. Please keep us informed.

### Castle Combe

Following on from the previous paragraph the annual **Start-Up Business event** was held recently at Castle Combe Race track. I was totally unaware that Wiltshire College have a raceway technical centre there in which young people are trained up to degree level in all things about high performance cars.

It was a privilege to talk to the Principal of the facility and to hear his stories about the ways the young people respond to the challenge of building and repairing classic and high performance cars. The enthusiasm of the teaching team is infectious – so much so that I have asked **Haydn Earl**, Manager of the facility to talk to us at our next lunch on **Friday 26th September**. Please try to attend; you will be enthralled by the tales you hear and the commitment to young people exhibited by the college staff.



### Member Feature

**1st Choice Stairlifts, based on Calne’s Porte Marsh Industrial Estate, are Wiltshire’s only stairlift company specialising in the installation and maintenance of stairlifts in the county and surrounding areas.**

1st Choice Stairlifts was set up by Coral Affleck and Colin Major in 2004, when the company was the first winner of the “double” – namely the New Business Competition for Calne then went on to win the North Wiltshire District final.

Since then the company has grown from strength to strength, almost doubling year on year, and now occupies two factory units on Maundrell Road, and employs a team of 9 staff. The company has new exciting products to add to its portfolio and are about to launch a range of bathlifts and wheelchair lifts for public buildings to compliment their range of stairlifts.

From their range of stairlifts they can provide solutions for almost any stair types including narrow, straight, curved and even spiral stairs.

Contacts:

**1st Choice Stairlifts Ltd**  
**Unit 4, Maundrell Road,**  
**Porte Marsh Enterprise Workshops**  
**Calne, SN11 9PU**

**Tel: 01249 814528**  
**Email: email@1stchoicestairlifts.com**  
**Web: www.1stchoicestairlifts.com**

### Three Peaks for the British Heart Foundation

Alex Morgan of **Skills Direct** reports that having climbed Ben Nevis, driven six hours and had three hours sleep, his team were woken by marshals at 2.45 a.m., in time for their 3.30 a.m. start on Scafell Pike “through the dark we completed the climb in five and a half hours and were then on the road again to Snowdon.

### What are your President’s plans for summer?

Given the print deadlines for our Newsletter, I am sitting at my PC late in July writing this message. I am off to Egypt in the morning with Pauline, Sarah, Paul and the grandchildren, I have been told that at this time of the year the temperature can rise to 130°F so plenty of swimming and scuba diving for the teenagers will be indicated!



We started Snowdon at 15.00 and finished the Three Peaks at 19.45 after climbing for sixteen hours in a mixture of sun, rain and believe it or not SNOW.

In total we raised in excess of **£5,000 for the British Heart Foundation** and although the response from the Chamber was disappointing my thanks go out to the few who supported this excellent charity”.

Congratulations and thanks for your contribution Alex. Any other reports from members gratefully received.

That’s about it for this month. Don’t forget to put a note in your diary for the **October Lunch on the 26th at the Spice of Bengal**. You’ll remember what a great success this was last year – book early!

Best regards,

*Mick Devonport*

Mick Devonport

**PS. Please send us your stories and company news. Deadline for the October issue is Friday 12th September. Email mick@cmttd.co.uk**