



# Lymington.biz

The e-newsletter of the Lymington and District Chamber of Commerce & Industry

November 2009

## Preparing for festive boost

RETAILERS in Lymington are preparing for a pre-Christmas sales boost – thanks to an exciting initiative spearheaded by Lymington and District Chamber of Commerce & Industry and supported by Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council, and [www.shopinhampshire.co.uk](http://www.shopinhampshire.co.uk).

'Yuletide in Lymington' will be the town's first festive street market showcasing the very best that Hampshire – especially Lymington and the New Forest – can offer.

And the event being held on Wednesday 9 December will make history: not only will the High Street be closed to traffic for the first time but there will also be free parking in all New Forest District Council car parks in the town from 12 noon.

"Our aim is to support small



independent retailers by encouraging more people to visit Lymington town centre and boost



**What: Festive street market and late night shopping**

**When: Wednesday 9 December '09, 1-8pm**

**Where: Lymington High Street**

local businesses operating in a difficult economic climate," explained Chamber President Jenny Welker.

Inside a large marquee there will be stalls selling a wide variety of local foods, crafts and Christmas goodies. Also there will be the Chamber as well as a beat surgery run by Hampshire Police.

Outside along the street there will be entertainment from buskers, Father Christmas to meet young visitors, and a hog roast to satisfy any hunger pangs.

Complementing the fair and also open until 8pm will be Lymington's varied range of independent and High Street shops as well as all four banks and the town's estate agents.

For the latest news about Yuletide in Lymington, please visit [www.yuletideinlymington.co.uk](http://www.yuletideinlymington.co.uk).

### Good news ... good news ... good news...

WITH the current economic climate proving tough for so many Chamber members, *Lymington.biz* is delighted to be able to report some good news.

At a recent Board meeting, it was agreed to hold next year's Chamber subscriptions – as well as the cost of breakfast networking meetings – at 2009 rates.

"We are sure that members will appreciate this decision and hope they

### No increases for 2010

will continue to support the Chamber and the events we are planning for 2010," said President Jenny Welker.

### THREE MORE SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE

THE Lymington Chamber continues to flourish, attracting new members from a variety of industries and business sectors.

Recent months have seen the following businesses sign up:

**At No 19 Interior Design of Milford on Sea**

**Balmer Lawn Garage of Brockenhurst and Dibden Purlieu**

**99p Store of Lymington**

For more information about these and other Chamber members, please visit [www.lymington.biz](http://www.lymington.biz).

Email:  
[chamber@lymington.biz](mailto:chamber@lymington.biz)

Website:  
[www.lymington.biz](http://www.lymington.biz)

# CHAMBER WEBSITE GIVEN REVAMP

**SINCE taking over responsibility for hosting the Chamber website earlier this year, the New Forest Online team haven't been resting on their laurels.**

For the site has been redesigned, giving it a fresh look and making it easier and faster to access information.

And new features have been added, too.

◆ With a PayPal account set up, you can now use credit or debit cards to

## Liz Wright reports

renew membership subscriptions and pay for breakfast networking meetings.

◆ There is an improved search facility: simply

## Easier and faster to access information

type in key words such as 'accountant' or 'shop' and you'll find it easier to find the local business you are looking for.

◆ There is a dedicated links page which

displays all Chamber members' own website links.

"Since we took over the Chamber website, we have also focused on its search engine rankings," explained New Forest Online's Mark Allen (who can be reached on 01590 688666).

"We have added a lot of search engine related material (mainly behind the scenes) and are pleased to report that the site has advanced considerably from a 'non-ranked' position to a 'high' position with Google.

"The Chamber is now receiving well over 400 visits a month from people potentially looking for local businesses."

## Cashless parking system introduced

**NEW Forest District Council is launching Parkmobile, a new cashless method of parking, in 39 of its car parks – with drivers able to use their mobile 'phones to dial 01590 202050 and pay.**

Registration is free. After providing their mobile 'phone number, car registration and credit card details, drivers will have instant usage.

Businesses using NFDC car parks regularly can register for an account which can include more than five vehicles and multiple mobile numbers.



**Chamber President Jenny Welker with Parkmobile's Peter O'Driscoll, Cllr Chris Treleaven and NFDC's George Bisson**

The current pay and display system and the parking clock scheme will run alongside the Parkmobile service.

## Enjoy festive get-together

**IS IT too early to think about Christmas and the festive season? Hopefully not ...**

For plans are in hand for a festive

get-together for Chamber members and guests on Monday 7 December, 5.30-7.30pm.



St Barbe Museum & Art Gallery is generously providing the venue for this early evening event which will include mulled wine and mince pies, a charity raffle, and of course the opportunity to mingle with business associates and friends.

St Barbe is an independent organisation governed by Lymington Museum Trust and is a registered charity. Since opening in its finished form in 1999, it has acquired a reputation as one of the finest museums and art galleries in the region.

Tickets for the Chamber's festive get-together cost £5, with reservations and payments to be made by no later than Wednesday 25 November.

## ALL AT SEA!

**SEA legs were the order of the day when Wight Sky, one of Wightlink's new 'W Class' ferries, provided a most unusual venue for a recent Chamber networking meeting.**

Almost 50 Chamber members and guests were welcomed aboard by Captain Digby and his crew – along with Wightlink's Commercial Director Clive Tilley and Marketing Manager Kerry Jackson.

During the Lymington to Yarmouth return crossing, the group not only enjoyed breakfast but was also given a rare opportunity to visit Wight Sky's bridge and learn more about the vessel's operation.

## News in brief

**MEMBERSHIP of the Chamber's breakfast networking team is about to change.**

Specsavers' Carol Slark (01590 647350) and Sue Hill of Lymington Directory (01590 643969) are taking over running these monthly events. They will be supported by Ann Jarman and Dudley Temple who have done such an excellent job over the last couple of years.

Dudley will continue to look after the administrative side – sending out flyers and handling payments, for example – while Ann is to concentrate on developing new events of interest to the Chamber's growing membership.