

# Bulletin

Nov 2011

The 1st Thursday of Every Month.

Thursday 3rd November 3 top acts

Only £10 in advance for a great local night out

Why not treat your team? Call 01727 862456 to book now



### Networking Lunch and Business Card Exchange

The majority of companies join the Chamber of Commerce to network. This informal lunch is an opportunity to introduce your company's products/services to other members and local companies – a chance to make new business contacts in this stunning Chamber venue. Welcome drink, Two Course Lunch and Coffee included

LUSSMANN'S

#### MENU

(to be shared by 2 persons)

#### STARTER

Hertfordshire free-range chicken liver & Armagnac parfait  
South Coast devilled sprouts  
Warmst cherry with stilton, pear & walnuts

#### MAIN

Traditional fish pie  
Steak frites

Chestnut mushrooms & Swiss chard cannelloni

Served with a glass of Corney & Barrow House Red or White with complimentary coffee & chocolate truffles

Don't Just Join..... Join In!  
£23.00 (+ VAT) for members, £28.00(+VAT) for non-members  
Book now online [www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/events](http://www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/events)

Chamber members from across the District attended the business breakfast at The Quality Hotel, St Albans to hear what Professor Quentin McKellar had to say about changes and challenges higher education.

Professor Quentin McKellar, Vice Chancellor of the University of Hertfordshire (UH) proudly informed local business delegates that the university had won the award for 'Entrepreneurial University of the year 2010' and of 7,500 universities from across the world assessed recently our University ranked in the top 4%. This is really quite an accolade when you think that it has only been established as a university 20 years ago! There are currently 19,000 students on campus and 2,700 staff are employed at the Hatfield site.



He told us that the University is a business with a £260M turnover. Students are encouraged to develop and embrace a business facing agenda so that they are 'business ready' upon graduation. The values they teach students on campus are to be global citizens, employable, positive attitudes to work hard, problem solving and to be active members of communities supporting charities and volunteering.

He spoke about feedback from businesses regarding attributes they look for in graduates, unsurprisingly they are: to be good at problem solving, going the extra mile, good interpersonal skills, social responsibility and to have intellectual depth,

breadth and adaptability.

One delegates asked about internships, Professor McKellar said he felt it can be difficult to demonstrate the vast benefits to students as they can often be reluctant to take an extra year out before earning – this is a big ask! But there are significant vocational benefits to be gained, UH is one of very few universities to waive fees for the year in which a student is in such a placement.



## ARLA ACCREDITATION FOR MARTIN & CO, ST ALBANS

TREND setting St Albans letting agents Martin & Co have joined the industry's main professional and regulatory body.

The company is now a licensed member of ARLA, the Association of Residential Letting Agents.

Franchisee Richard Cleal said: "ARLA's code of practice means members must ensure they operate to a professional and ethical standard far higher than the law demands.

"A client can be assured that they are in the safest and best possible hands when they choose a letting agent with ARLA accreditation.

"We have always conducted ourselves in that way but it is always nice to be able to offer the customer – landlord or tenant – that little extra reassurance including your money being protected by the client money protection scheme."

ARLA is recognised by government, local authorities, consumer interest groups and the media as the leading professional body in the private rented sector.

Martin & Co, St Albans is now in its second year of trading and is part of the national Martin & Co, network with over 170 offices across the country.

Richard Cleal (pictured) said the lettings market was still buoyant in St Albans and surrounding areas with strong tenant demand but high quality properties to rent remain in short supply.



### **Sherrards Solicitors boosts its London presence and franchise expertise through the merger with City firm Staal & Staal**

London & Hertfordshire law firm, Sherrards Solicitors LLP is pleased to announce the merger with London City firm Staal & Staal, effective from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Founded in 1996, Staal & Staal is a commercial law practice with expertise in commercial property, particularly in the franchising sector. The firm has a strong client base that includes well-known retail and franchise brands including the global hairdressing and education business, Toni & Guy.

Founder Partner, Robin Staal has over 30 years legal experience in the City and throughout that time has been involved in complex, multi layered property and corporate transactions particularly in the retail, franchise and transport sectors.

He additionally carries out much investment work and has strong international credibility. Partner Dawn Staal has 20 years' experience of dealing with large portfolios of property particularly for retail, transport and hire businesses.

Staal & Staal is currently based in Gresham Street, EC2, but the merger will see Robin, Dawn and a small team of staff move to Sherrards' London offices based in the heart of Oxford Circus.

Alasdair McMillin, Sherrards' Managing Partner, commented:

"Sherrards continues its ambitious growth plan in a challenging market environment. Robin and Dawn's extensive experience in the commercial property and corporate arena will strengthen our offering in London and add to our acknowledged reputation in the franchise, retail and investment sectors.

The merger comes on the back of the arrival of Jean-Paul da Costa as Head of Corporate & Commercial and Keith Robinson as Head of Corporate Finance in the last two years and we now have a powerful team of skilled, commercially focused Partners leading the London team."

# Spurs Legends v BAM

Tickets available on the day at the turnstile or at the Peace Hospice Shop Watling Street Radlett

TICKETS £8 adults  
£3 senior citizens and under 12



Come and support the **BAM X1** as they take on a **Spurs Legends X1**

All monies raised will be donated to The Peace Hospice



charity reg no: 1002878



**St Albans City F.C.**

York Road St Albans Hertfordshire AL1 4PL t: 01727 848914



**ST ALBANS DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Get your glad rags on and let's have a ball!**  
**Saturday 19th November 2011**  
**Sopwell House Hotel**  
**Cotton Mill Lane**  
**St Albans**

## Annual Chamber Ball

Kindly Sponsored by

Bring your clients, wives, husbands and partners to celebrate this special evening  
Bucks Fizz Reception  
3 Course Dinner  
Dancing to live band 'The Slaves'

www.theslaves.net

### THE SLAVES

Tickets at £55  
Tables of 10 at £500

7.00pm for 7.30pm  
Carriages at midnight  
Dress: Black Tie

For further details contact the Chamber Office on 01727 863054  
or email: [lisa@stalbans-chamber.co.uk](mailto:lisa@stalbans-chamber.co.uk)  
**BOOK NOW ONLINE**  
[www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/buy-online/events/](http://www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/buy-online/events/)

## President's Message



Dear All

It is not long now until the festive season starts. We kick it off with the Chamber ball on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and this year it is back at Sopwell House. The Slaves return again so I am sure it is going to be a great evening. There are only a few tickets left so if you are planning to attend I would call Lisa this week.

I am delighted to say that the Chamber is getting more involved on behalf of our members in local business issues and now has representation on the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) so if you have anything you want to raise at county level please drop Lisa an email.

We have had some really positive feedback about the recent breakfast at The Quality Hotel. There is a networking lunch coming up soon at Lussmanns which is always a nice relaxing way to end the week.

**We start December's events on the 1<sup>st</sup>** December with a breakfast at Kashu. We have Daniel Goodwin as our guest speaker for the fourth year running. I am sure that with everything happening in the public sector his presentation will be fascinating.

Finally to finish December off we have Evensong at the cathedral followed by a drinks reception.

I look forward to seeing you all soon .

Graham Lane  
Chamber President



**Rayner Essex Accountants entertained over 100 clients at their annual themed party on Friday 21st October at Woolhams, Harpenden Road.**

All members of the St Albans based office dressed up to suit the occasion as well as some brave guests!

Traditional German food was served, the beer was flowing and musical entertainment was provided by a very jolly Bavarian brass band from.....North London!

It was an excellent evening hosted by Antony Federer and his team with great company, food, songs and beer.....Prost!!!!

**Mokoko Refurbishment**  
St Albans Cocktail bar Mokoko on Verulam Road has recently had a major make over! The bar has doubled in size and Jass the owner is now serving fabulous afternoon teas in addition to his delicious cocktails! Pop in to have a look soon.



## Questions & Answers



**Q: I'm thinking of taking on an employee, but can you tell me what the minimum is that I can pay them please?**

**A:** The National Minimum Wage (NMW) rates are reviewed each year by the Low Pay Commission and from 1 October 2011 they are as follows: the main rate for workers aged 21 and over is £6.08

- the rate for workers aged 18-20 is £4.98
- the rate for workers aged 16-17 (i.e. above school leaving age) but under 18 is £3.68
- the apprentice rate, for apprentices aged under 19 or 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship is £2.60

If you would like any advice or assistance with setting up your payroll scheme, please feel free to contact your local TaxAssist Accountant.

**Q:** I normally work in the UK but my employer is sending me on a short-term secondment to our French offices. Will I still pay UK taxes or French?

**A:** You are deemed to be a 'posted worker', i.e. you normally work in the UK but have been temporarily posted elsewhere in the EEA. Provided your work in France is not expected to last more than 24 months, you should continue to be insured in the UK and have to pay UK National Insurance contributions as if you were here. Your employer should apply to HM Revenue & Customs for a certificate A1, so that you will not normally have to pay contributions to the other country's social security scheme as well. Your employer is also likely to continue to calculate and deduct PAYE tax in the normal way. Your employer should give you a letter including the following details though:

- the date you went abroad to work
- your gross pay from the start of the tax year to the date when you were sent abroad
- the tax deducted from the start of the tax year to the date when you were sent abroad

If you would like to discuss the implications of your secondment further, please do not hesitate to contact your local TaxAssist

## ***Don't Just Join.....Join in !!!!***

### New Members

We look forward to welcoming the following companies to the Chamber:

#### Chirp Magazine

*Free Daily magazine/Newspaper*

Tel: 01727 884816

Web: [www.chirp-magazine.com](http://www.chirp-magazine.com)

Contact: Mike Bickerdale

Position: Business Development Manager

Email: [mike@chirp-magazine.com](mailto:mike@chirp-magazine.com)

#### Guyz N Dolls Hair Salon

*Hairdressing/Beauty*

5 The Quadrant

St Albans

Herts

Tel: 01727 839119

Contact: Mark Roberts

Position: General Manager

#### Santander

*Banking/Lending*

P O Box 1360

Hemel Hempstead

Herts

HP1 9LJ

Tel: 07801 979883

Contact: John Lally

Position: Business Development Director

Email [john.lally@santander.co.uk](mailto:john.lally@santander.co.uk)

#### Impact Promotional Merchandising Ltd

*Promotional Branded Products*

26 George Street

St Albans

Herts

AL3 4ES

Tel: 01727 790400

Contact: Steve Pears

Position: Managing Director

Email [steve.pears@impact-uk.com](mailto:steve.pears@impact-uk.com)

### Blue Feather Photography

*Commercial, advertising  
& PR photography.*

*On location & in the studio.*

10 The Mall, Park Street, St. Albans, HERTS. AL2 2HT.

P 01727 872850 M 07958 977324

W [bluefeather.co.uk](http://bluefeather.co.uk) E [spike@bluefeather.co.uk](mailto:spike@bluefeather.co.uk)

## *Festive Evensong with Christmas Music*

*at St Albans Abbey*



*Wednesday December 7th 2011*

*5pm prompt*

*With the St Albans Cathedral Choir*

*followed by Mince Pies & Mulled Wine in the  
Cathedral Refectory with Christmas Music*

*£15.00 per person*

*A donation will be made to Albans Bereavement Network*

*Book Now online*

*<http://www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/buy-online/events/>*

*Or call the office to reserve your tickets 01727 863054*



*St Albans • Stpenden • Lucke Cities*