

Bulletin

August
2012

'Going For Gold'



Chamber 2012 Cocktail Party

**Celebrate London 2012 in spectacular style
at St Michael's Manor Hotel with the Chamber**

Thursday 2nd August 2012 at 5.30pm until 8pm

Enjoy themed Canapés and Cocktails whilst enjoying the live Olympic action on the big screen
Including: badminton, basketball, cycling, gymnastics but most importantly, Beach Volleyball!

There will be a volley ball challenge in the gardens on the day with prizes for the winners!

Bring your colleagues and clients along for a special treat to celebrate
and cheer on team GB in this perfect setting for a summer gathering after work

Tickets only £20.00 per person, which include canapés and two cocktails

(all guests will be offered priority booking to stay on for dinner at the hotel that day)



Book now online: www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/buy-online/events/



ST MICHAEL'S MANOR HOTEL

★★★★

St Michael's Manor Ltd, Fishpool Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 4RY
T: 01727 864 444 • F: 01727 818 909 • www.stmichaelsmanor.com



Save the Date



Ladies and Gentlemen, the Annual Chamber Ball will take place this year on :

**Saturday 24th November
at Sopwell House Hotel**

We have a very exciting new band lined up for your entertainment, so put the date firmly in your diary and tell your friends, Clients & Colleagues!

SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE:

Packages below starting at £250.00:

**Main Event Sponsor
Band Sponsor
Champagne Reception
Table Flowers
Starter
Main Course
Dessert
Event Programme
Chocolates & Coffee**

President's Message



The Olympics are finally underway. It seems to have been such a long time since the announcement in 2005. We were promised opportunities to gain Olympic contracts. A couple of clients of mine have been very successful but neither are St Albans based. It would be good to hear from you if the Olympics have benefitted your business, either directly or indirectly. Good news stories are always welcome at the Chamber.

The national economy appears to be in a state of gloom, three successive quarters of negative growth. Things are certainly better in St Albans where our unemployment remains well below the national average, but we'd all like to see a surge of confidence and optimism and hopefully that's where the Olympics will play a part.

One of my aims for the next year is to talk to other organisations and see how we can co-operate for our mutual benefit. In the last month I've spoken to SADC, Watford Chamber, Watford FC, Luton Chamber and Dacorum Borough Council. These discussions have already produced results and I'll expand on this in my next message.

The Chamber continues to flourish. We've had several interesting and enjoyable events during the four months of my Presidency. Coming up are our Garden Party at St Michael's Manor on 2 August and our breakfast at BRE on 22 August. I'll be at both and look forward to seeing you.

Regards.

Peter Goodman, Chamber President



**ST ALBANS CITY
FOOTBALL CLUB**

Dear St Albans Chamber Member

Lawrence Levy, John McGowan and Ian Ridley have pleasure in inviting you
to an evening of networking and football
at St Albans City Football Club, Clarence Park, St Albans AL1 4PL
on **Wednesday 1 August 2012** from **6.30pm**
at the
pre-season friendly against Watford

Tickets cost £20 each and include:

**Entry to the game
Light refreshments
Welcome drink
Match programme
Team sheet
Seat in the VIP stand**

We invite you to celebrate the new season and enjoy a great game

St Albans City v Watford
Kick off 7.45pm

Please RSVP (by 5pm Monday 30 July) to:
sabra@cercocommunications.com Telephone: 01727 847407 or 07785 917089

Please post cheques made payable to St Albans City Football Club Ltd
Clarence Park, York Road, St Albans AL1 4PL
Or
Pay by bank transfer/BACS to Sort code 40- 20- 22 Account number 71205811



Connect St Albans: Dragons' Apprentice Challenge 2013

Between September 2012 – March 2013 Connect St Albans are staging the fourth **Dragons' Apprentice Challenge** with lower 6th students from schools and colleges within the district of St Albans, Harpenden, Welwyn and Hatfield.

Teams of students (the Apprentices) will be set a challenge to turn £100 into £1,000 for a local community group or charity. The teams may do this in any way they choose as long as they prepare a clear plan stating what their business idea is and how they aim to reach their target. Sponsorship is only acceptable if it's part of an overall event organised by the team.

Each team will have a business mentor (their Dragon). Each Dragon will provide support in the form of advice, and access to resources, to help the team achieve their business goal and funding target. All profits made by the teams will go directly to their allocated charity. At the awards event in March 2013 a panel of judges (SuperDragons) will evaluate the performance of each team and announce the results.

Business mentors (Dragons) what we'd like from you:

- Minimum 3 meetings with your team between September 2012 – January 2013 at a mutually convenient time/place. The first meeting to be at your offices.
- Advice on marketing, finance, business planning, time management (appropriate to your team's business idea)
- Focus your team on raising money through "enterprise" rather than "fund raising"
- Advise your team on the preparation of their business plan (due Nov 30) and final report (due Feb 22)
- Note – this Challenge is for the "apprentices" not their dragon, all ideas must emanate from the students themselves
- Encourage the involvement and support of your staff in the team's work and group they're supporting. If appropriate involve junior members of staff, the "apprentices" respond well to someone closer to their own age and if offers valuable experience related to career development
- When relevant make resources available to your team (design studios, photo copier, materials, premises etc.)
- Make every effort to include your team's charity/voluntary group in early planning and activities
- Make yourself known to their school co-ordinator consult with them if you need their support
- Additional publicity for the challenge using your own internal and external channels of communication
- £50 investment in your team + participation fee payable by end September 2012
- Participation fee = £100 for businesses with <10 employees, £200 for businesses employing 10+
- Send a representative of your organisation to the launch event on **Wednesday 26th September 4.30 – 6.30pm** at St Albans Girls' School (STAGS)
- Advise your team on the best way of presenting their results to a wider audience (money raised/how they did it/what they learned) through a poster or table display at the final awards event
- Attend the final awards event at the Weston Auditorium, University of Hertfordshire **20 March 2013**
- Provide your logo + a single paragraph profiling your business to Penny **by August 30 latest**
- Please confirm your intention to participate, and acceptance of our terms **by July 31st latest**
- Teams will be paired on a geographical and "first come, first served" basis – we cannot guarantee matching with any specific school
- All teams will be matched with a local charity/community group by a draw on 26 September

dragonsapprentice@cvsstalbans.org.uk (Penny Mortimer, Project Mgr)

Wendy@cvsstalbans.org.uk (Tuesday & Thursday afternoons)

07887 895228

01727 852657



St Albans • Harpenden • Leetcheswell



University of
Hertfordshire

Chad Awarded Again!

CITY CENTRE RESTAURANT, CHEZ MUMTAJ HAS RECENTLY BEEN AWARDED 2AA ROSETTES FOR CULINARY EXCELLENCE. THE ONLY STAND ALONE RESTAURANT IN THE DISTRICT TO BE AWARDED SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



Rock 'N' Roll Night Saturday 6th October



Doors Open 7pm
Live Music & Entertainment
Dance with Rock 'n' Rollers
Delicious Buffet
Raffle Prizes



Tickets £20 each

Please book early to avoid disappointment



In support of



For further information or to
book tickets, please contact:

Quality Hotel
London Road
St Albans
AL1 1JQ
01727 857858



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **Going for Gold Cocktail Party**
Thursday 2nd August 5.30pm
St Michael's Manor Hotel
- **Business Breakfast Meeting**
Wednesday 22nd August 7.30am
BRE Innovation Park
- **Business Breakfast Meeting**
Wednesday 12th September 7.30am
Venue TBC
- **Community Business Awards 2012**
Thursday 27th September 7.30pm
Presentation Party at Havana
- **Business Breakfast Meeting**
Wednesday 24th October 7.30am
The Quality Hotel
- **Chamber Ball 2012**
Saturday 24th November 7.00pm
Sopwell House Hotel

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

New Members

We welcome the following
companies to the Chamber:

Pru Health

Private Healthcare for Businesses & individuals

9 Willow Drive

Barnet

Herts

EN5 2LQ

Tel: 07778 157210

Contact: Mr. M. Wood

Email: mike.wood@pruhealth.co.uk

Absolute Imaging Ltd

Visual Tour Photographers

The Old Pump House

1A Stonecross

St Albans

AL1 4AA

Tel: 01727 238535

Www.absoluteimaging.co.uk

Contact: Paul Kielty & Tina Borrett

Position: Business Owners

Email : enquiries@absoluteimaging.co.uk

Solario Racing LLP

Race horse Syndication & Hospitality

The Cottage

3 Castle Hill Farm

Castle Hill

Berkhamsted

Herts

HP4 1HH

Tel: 01442 877597

Www.solarioracing.com

Contact: Simon Double

Position: Racing Manager

Email : info@solarioracing.com

Hutt Professional Insurance &

Risk Management

Insurance Broker

21 Queens Road

Coventry

Warwickshire

CV1 3EG

Tel: 07786 494847

Www.huttprofessional.co.uk

Contact: Dominic Hutt

Position: Business development Director

Email : dominic@huttprofessional.co.uk



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www.mle80.co.uk

The One-Stop Entertainment Service



Spike Snaps

You all know Spike Brown the Chamber Photographer pictured above.

Spike has created a designated Facebook page where all photos from Chamber and other Hertfordshire community events can be viewed, including the networking lunch in May, the St George's Day photos & last months Midnight Walk in aid of Iain Rennie Grove House Hospice.

Here is the link to subscribe

<http://www.facebook.com/SpikeSnaps>



Property losses- do I need a tax return?

CIS Tax Refund

Q: I own a small company in construction and some of our customers have been deducting CIS tax from our payments. How do I go about reclaiming this?

A: If you have employees from which you have deducted PAYE and National Insurance (NICs), you may offset the CIS deducted by your customers from the amount you are due to pay to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) each month/ quarter. HMRC offer Form CIS132 to keep a record of how much CIS deductions have been offset.

Please note, if your CIS deductions exceed the amount of PAYE and NICs due, you cannot claim a refund. You must instead carry forward the surplus to the next payment you are due to make to HMRC.

You will need to enter the total CIS deductions taken on the P35 Employer Annual Return too, which is due at the end of the tax year by the following 19 May. HMRC will repay the company any balance of deductions that your company was not able to offset during the year.

Please note, only companies can use the P35 to recover CIS deductions taken from payments; not individual sub-contractors or partnerships.

If you don't feel confident dealing with, please feel free to get in touch with your local TaxAssist Accountant who would be happy to help you with this.

markfordham@taxassist.co.uk

Members' Offers — A Reminder

The Chamber promotes trade between members and we have an area on our website to specifically publicise offers between members for services.

If you would like to add any ongoing offers on our website please email them to me lisa@stalbans-chamber.co.uk with subject: MEMBERS OFFERS