

Bulletin

September
2012

St Albans District Chamber of Commerce

**2012
Community
Business
Awards**

**Presentation
Party**

**Thursday 27th September
7.30 'til midnight**

**HAVANA
Victoria Street, St Albans**

£25.00

**including a welcome glass of bubbles and a buffet dinner
We have a fantastic evening of entertainment lined up for you!**

Save the Date



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

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**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **Business Breakfast Meeting**
Wednesday 24th October 7.30am
The Quality Hotel
- **Chamber Ball 2012**
Saturday 24th November 7.00pm
Sopwell House Hotel
- **Business Breakfast Meeting**
Wednesday 5th December 7.30am
Venue TBC Speakers:
Cllr. Julian Daly & Daniel Goodwin
- **Chamber Festive Evensong**
Thursday 13th December 5.00 pm
*St Albans Cathedral followed by a
reception at The White Hart Hotel*

**Congratulations to Darcy's
Restaurant
Celebrating their recent
10th birthday**



DARCYS

To make a reservation call 01727 730777

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





St Albans • Harpenden • London Colney

Event kindly Sponsored by



Business Breakfast Meeting

Thursday 20th September 2012

7.30am – 9.30am

Jamie's Italian.

22 Chequer Street

St Albans

Herts

AL1 3YD

Have you got your head in The Cloud?

Cloud Computing is a hot topic at the moment with companies such as Amazon, Google and Microsoft investing \$billions into Cloud technology and bringing it into the mainstream.

With Cloud Computing being touted as the future of IT for businesses, the Chamber presents the opportunity for you to look at the key drivers cited for your company to move into the Cloud!

Come along to this business breakfast and find out:

- *What The Cloud is*
- *How The Cloud works*
- *The 3 different types of Cloud Services*
- *How The Cloud Can benefit your business*

Our events do sell out quickly so please book early to avoid disappointment!

There are limited places available at this event

£21 (plus VAT) for members, £26 (plus VAT) for non-members.

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

Or email your booking to us

office@stalbans-chamber.co.uk and we will invoice you directly



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 • Leetchesley



University of
Hertfordshire

HAVANA

A red carpet fund raising evening
for Bailey Sarwa

13th September 8pm - late

Charity Auction . Raffle . Disco . Special Guests

Tickets £15.00



50 Victoria Street, St. Albans, AL1 3HZ

email: enquiries@havanastalbans.co.uk

tel: 01727 862456

www.havanastalbans.co.uk

www.baileysarwa.co.uk

To make a donation to the Bailey Sarwa fund go to:

<http://www.justgiving.com/HavanaRedCarpet>

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

New Members

We welcome the following companies to the Chamber:

CCOMM I T Solutions
I T Managed Services Provider
Alban House
12 Parkway, Porters Wood
St Albans
AL3 6PA
Tel: 01727 758005
Web: www.ccommit.co.uk
Contact: Mr. Lee Hatwell
Position: Business Development Manager
Email: lee.hatwell@CCOMMIT.co.uk

HBB Financial Ltd
Independent Wealth & Pension Advisers
HBB House
52—56 London Road
St Albans
Herts
AL1 1NG
Tel: 01727 862477
Www.hbbwealth.co.uk
Contact: Lawrence Watts
Position: Director
Email : lawrence.watts.co.uk

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

Eternity
Jewellers
12 Holywell Hill
St Albans
Herts
AL1 1BZ
Tel: 01727 868689
Web: www.eternityjewellers.com
Contact: Mr Richard Cohen
Position: Director
Email: rich@eternityjewellers.com

Canopy Law
Business law & Employment Law
34 Gustard Wood
Wheathampstead
Herts
AL4 8RR
Tel: 07890 831315
Web: www.canopylaw.co.uk
Contact: Mr David Hughes
Position: Director
Email: david@canopylaw.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

Retrospective VAT de-registration

Q: I registered my business for VAT voluntarily, because I thought it would be beneficial for my **business. But looking at the numbers, it doesn't** look that way so I will be cancelling my VAT registration in due course. I was just wondering if I could retrospectively cancel it- so that I could recoup the VAT I have paid on my sales so far?

A: I am afraid retrospective cancellation of your VAT registration is not possible. The cancellation only applies once HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has received your de-registration form- HMRC Form VAT 7 which is available from their website www.hmrc.gov.uk. You may opt for a future date though.

There are lots of considerations when de-registering for VAT such as the date to de-register and the VAT you have recovered on your stock and certain capital items.

Rent-free period

Q: I have just entered into a five-year lease for a shop and my landlord has given me a two-year rent-free period because he struggled to get a tenant. My annual rent once the rent-free period is over will be £15,000 per annum. How will I treat the rent in my accounts for the next five years

A: The total rent you will pay over the term of the lease will be £45,000 (being £15,000 x 3 years).

Then you simply spread this across each accounting period. Assuming your first accounting period is a full year, you will have tax relief on £9,000 each year (being £45,000 ÷ 5 years).

So even though you won't have physically paid any rent in the first two years, you will get tax relief on £18,000. As these figures are fairly significant, you would be advised to discuss this further with your advisors to ensure that the accounts and tax treatment are correct.

To discuss this for any other tax issues further Contact Mark Fordham markfordham@taxassist.co.uk



HERTFORDSHIRE HOTELIERS ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN

Hertfordshire Hoteliers Association chairman Jon Kett-Reynolds is standing down from the post after five years as a result of being appointed general manager of a hotel in Milton Keynes.

Mr Kett-Reynolds (pictured top left) , who has been general manager of the Quality Hotel in St Albans for 10 years, founded the HHA with a group of like-minded colleagues in 2007 and has watched it grow to its present strength of 27 members.

Association vice-chairman Eric-Enno Snel, general manager of the Novotel Stevenage, has been elected the new chairman, and Richard Marrett, general manager of St Michael's Manor Hotel in St Albans, (pictured bottom left) has been elected the new vice-chairman.

Ibis Stevenage hotel general manager Ruslana Yarmolyuk, who is a qualified accountant has been elected treasurer, succeeding Andrew Antoniades, general manager of the Comfort Hotel, St Albans.

Mr Kett-Reynolds said: "The wide range of hotels in Hertfordshire and the high standards they set have been key to the growth of the HHA. I'm sorry to be leaving the county but I am confident the association's influence will continue to be a factor in welcoming more and more visitors on business and leisure trips."