

Bulletin

October
2012

The great and the good from across the local business community gathered to celebrate the 5th St Albans Chamber of Commerce Community Business Awards at the very glamorous City centre venue Havana. 150 guests enjoyed a delicious buffet provided by Richard McFarland catering followed by a whole evening of entertainment hosted by Chamber Directors: Paul Rosenthal & June Cory Our winners this year are pictured below.

The Chamber is always so impressed at the quality of the finalists this year and the amount of fantastic talent we have in the area. The awards each year aim to recognise and champion the hard work, achievements, selfless personal commitment, ambition and entrepreneurial spirit demonstrated by our finalists. We are very proud to meet such outstanding people and would like to thank our sponsors for being involved: **Debenhams Ottaway Solicitors, St Albans District Council, Harpenden Building Society, Hertfordshire Life Magazine, Oaklands College and Hertfordshire Business Independent.**



CSR Award:
John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance



YOUNG PERSON Award:
Zoe Jackson, Living the Dream



GREEN Award
Jarvis



BEST RESTAURANT Award
Bar Espresso

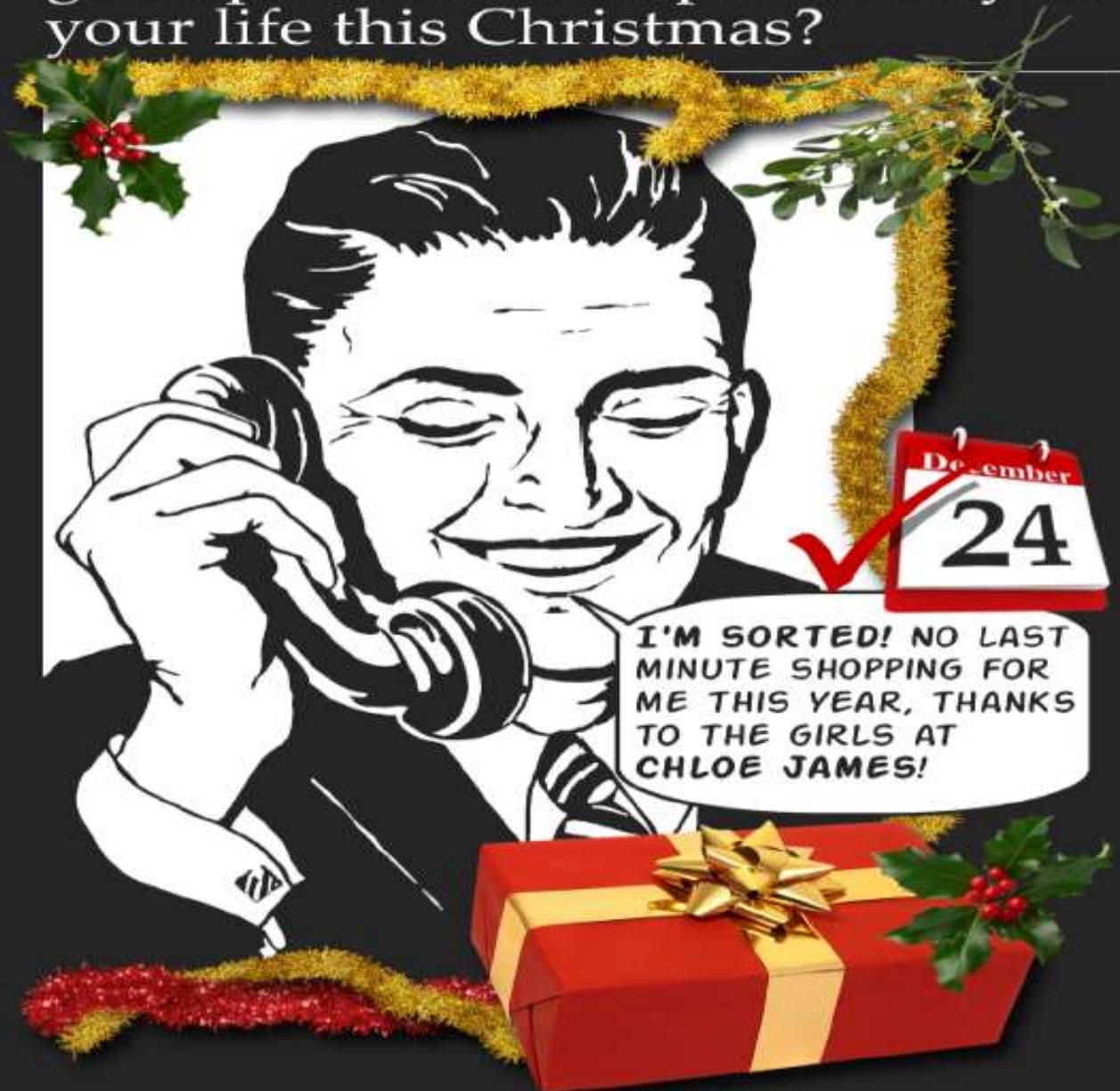


NEW BUSINESS Award
Feel Hot Yoga



PRESIDENTS AWARD Award
David Clarke

Are you a husband, boyfriend, son or brother who's stuck for a good present for a special lady in your life this Christmas?



Let Chloe James Lifestyle help sort out all your Christmas shopping needs (...including the wrapping!!).

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And if you're passing by, we'll be very pleased to help you in store too!

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St Albans • Harpenden • London Colney

Event kindly Sponsored by
www.wmtllp.com



Business Breakfast Meeting

Wednesday 24th October 2012

7.30am – 9.30am

The Quality Hotel.

234 London Road

St Albans

Herts

AL1 1JQ

The dos & don'ts of raising equity money to deliver growth

Looking to raise money? Whether you are a start up or a more established business looking to raise equity to fund growth is always a challenge. Depending on the stage of growth you are at that equity may be from Private Equity or individual investors.

Come along and hear our panel of speakers including **Jonathan Caswell** from **LDC**, the UK's leading regional mid-market private equity house and **Bill Morrow** from **Angels Den** the home of angel investment for business owners seeking start up capital. They will give their views on how to approach the equity raising options available to you and explain what investors are looking for and what returns they expect.

Keith Brown from **Paythru** a locally based m-commerce payments provider who has been through the equity raising process will be offering his insights and key tips gained from his experience. **Andrew Williamson** from **WMT**, a leading Hertfordshire based accountancy firm will conclude the line up and will chair the Q&A session.

So if you are may be looking to raise equity now, in the future or would just like to be aware of your options we recommend that you join us at this event.

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

ST ALBANS DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL BALL

Get Your Glad Rags on and Let's Have a Ball!

Saturday 24th November 2012
Sopwell House Hotel
Cotton Mill Lane
St Albans

Event Kindly Sponsored by

 **Santander**

CORPORATE BANKING



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

Bring your clients, wives, husbands along to a very special evening, Bucks Fizz Reception and 3 Course Dinner followed by live Music from 'Alibi'

**Tickets at £60
Tables of 10 at £600**

**Sponsorship
Opportunities
are available**

For further details contact the Chamber Office on 01727 863054
or email: lisa@stalbans-chamber.co.uk

BOOK NOW ONLINE

www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/buy-online/events/



Checking VAT numbers

Q: I read a story about a woman who had not checked the VAT number of one of her foreign customers. When **she informed HMRC that the customer's VAT number** was invalid, they raised an assessment against her and charged her penalties. How do I avoid this happening to me?

A: It is important that you check the VAT number of your EU-based customers, as fraudsters are creating false or hijacking VAT numbers. Furthermore, HMRC may issue you with an assessment and misdeclaration penalties if you have incorrectly zero-rated a sale: which is what happened with the case you mentioned.

You can check VAT numbers by calling the HMRC helpline on 0845 010 9000.

Alternatively, there is an EU VAT number checker online. However, this database is only updated every month. Plus, the results simply tell you whether the VAT number is valid- it does not necessarily tell you who the VAT number belongs to.

Calling HMRC is preferable, because they can check the number given agrees to the business name and their data should be more current.

Sick pay and holiday pay

Q: I've paid an employee statutory sick pay as he's been **off for two weeks and it looks like it's going to last a bit** longer. However now he wants to take some of it as annual leave, because he's struggling to make ends meet on just his sick pay. Do I have to agree this as I have already run payroll, paid him and printed his pay-slip?

A: **No, you are under no obligation to do what he's asked.** Employees have a right to request annual leave but you do not have to agree to the request. If an employee becomes sick during a period of annual leave, they have the right to have it converted to sickness rather than holiday; but not vice versa.

You might want to agree a request for leave for a period of time in the future though. This would solve your employee's cash flow problems and mean that you aren't faced with a large amount of leave to fit in when he returns.

For more information and tax advice please contact

Mark Fordham , Chamber Treasurer

markfordham@taxassist.co.uk T. 07852 923996

Raising Money For



BIZ QUIZ!

Quiz Masters:
Richard Crook & Daniel Seebly
of Co-op Bank

When?
Thursday 8th November
6.30pm for 7.00pm

How?
Contact Nicola King
on 01442 820732 or email
nking@irhh.org

Where?
St Albans City FC

mcgowan's The co-operative
bank

What?
£16 a ticket, includes a meal

Ideally tables of 6

Tickets are limited so book early!



ST ALBANS CITY
FOOTBALL CLUB



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Charity Number: 1140386

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
The Peahen . 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



A St Albans pub has been named as the ‘Best Spirits Pub’ in the Great British Pub Awards 2012.

Mokoko in Verulam Road was announced as the winner of the national title at the Publican’s Morning Advertiser awards dinner at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane London (Thursday September 13).

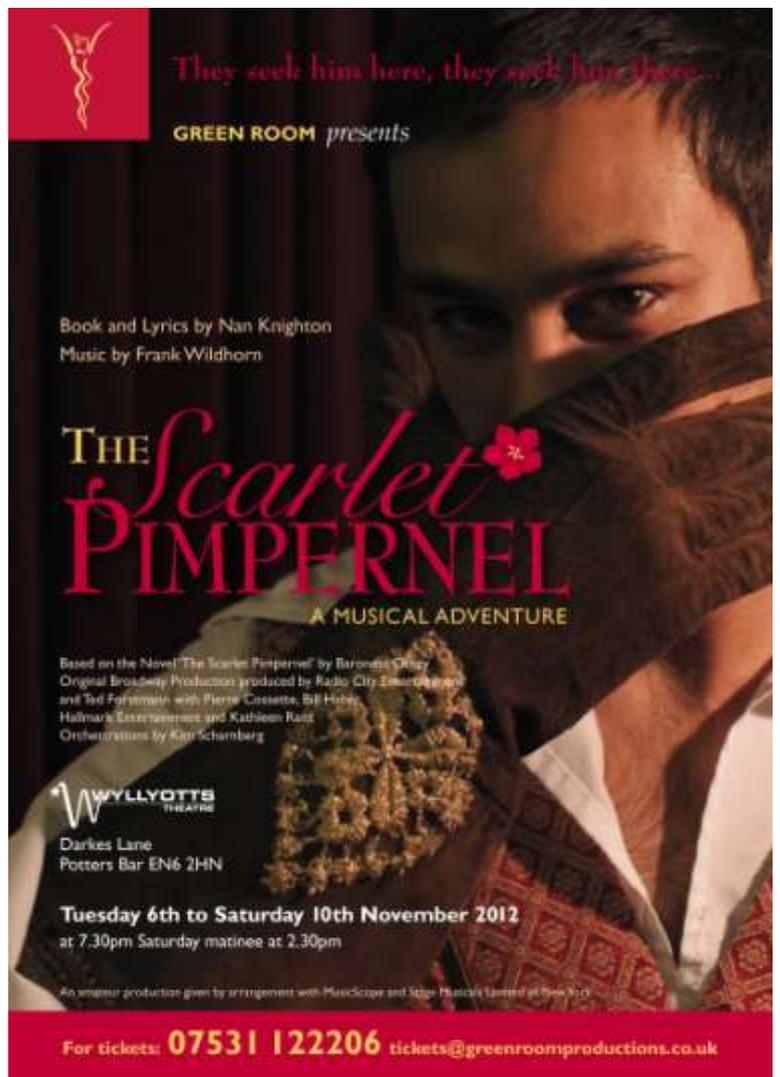
The awards, organised by leading pub industry magazine, the Publican’s Morning Advertiser, are recognised as the Oscars of the pub world.

The pub is run by Jass Patel.

The Publican’s Morning Advertiser Editor Rob Willock said: “Jass has targeted over 25s and the business audience with a drinks list lead by high-end spirits and cocktails.

“His success in developing a loyal customer base and growing his trade turned the judges’ heads.”

Mokoko also hosts tastings and cocktail classes and during the summer Jass offers a mobile bar to parties, weddings and fashion store events, which is a great marketing opportunity for the business.



On the tail of the Scarlet Pimpernel...

By day, Chamber Director Alastair Woodgate deals with the varied aspects of managing, developing and selling property. By night he can often be found ‘trading the boards’ with local theatre companies: his latest production sees him cast as the ruthless Citizen Chauvelin of the French Republic, on the tail of the elusive Scarlet Pimpernel, in the musical adaptation of Baroness Orczy’s classic novel.

If you like ‘Les Miserables’ you’ll love ‘The Scarlet Pimpernel’ says Alastair. “It’s a swashbuckling tale set against the backdrop of the French Revolution, combining justice, courage, humour, romance, suspense and intrigue. Taking on this role has been a challenge (not least the sword fighting) but one I have relished. And for those who have seen me in previous productions, I can assure you I keep my clothes on this time!”

The show is presented by award-winning company, Green Room Productions. If you fancy seeking out the show it runs from Tuesday 6th to Saturday 10th November, at 7.30pm, at the Wyllotts Theatre, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 2HN. There is already a Thursday night Chamber ‘Posse’ going (more details from Lisa Bates) but Alastair would be delighted to see you at any of the performances. You can call the Box Office direct on 07531 122206 or email tickets@greenroomproductions.co.uk for further information.

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

New Members

We welcome the following
companies to the Chamber:

Consilia Wealth Management
Wealth Management & Financial Planning
Clockhouse Court
5-7 London Road
St Albans
AL1 2LA
Tel: 01727 832166
Web: www.consiliawm.com
Contact: Michelle Midgen
Position: Partner
Email: info@consiliawm.com

Mercedes-Benz
Retail Motor Trade
91-93 Eleanor Cross Road
Waltham Cross
Herts
EN8 7JW
Tel: 01992 768682
Web: www.mercedes-benzretailusedcar.co.uk
Contact: Onno Termeulen
Position: Dealer Principal
Email : onno.termoulen@mercedes.co.uk

Pearldrop Ltd
Video Production, Live Events, Training Video
Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre
Lytton Way
Stevenage
Herts
SG1 1LZ
Tel: 07930 418635
Web: www.pearldrop.com
Contact: Denise Austin
Position: Director
Email : denise@pearldrop.com

Chloe James Lifestyle
Gifts, Jewellery, Fashion & Interiors
12 High Street
St Albans
Herts
AL3 7EU
Tel: 01727 843431
Web: www.chloejameslifestyle
Contact: Donna Nichol / Maria Allen
Position: Directors
Email: info@chloejameslifestyle.co.uk

Wilkins Kennedy
Chartered Accountants, Restructuring & Recovery
Anglo House
Bell Lane Village Office
Bell Lane
Amersham, Bucks
HP6 6FA
Tel: 01494 545520
Web: www.wilkinskennedy.com
Contact: Vee Bharakda
Position: Director
Email: vee.bharakda@wilkinskennedy.com

Fourpoints Management
Marketing Consultancy
11 Branch Road
Park Street
St Albans
AL2 2LU
Tel: 07787 408350
Web: www.fourpoints-management.co.uk
Contact: Vicky Latrobe
Position: Director
Email: info@fourpoints-management.co.uk

Bubble Booths Photo Booth Hire
Photo Booth Hire, Entertainment
75 Bedford Avenue
Barnet
Herts
EN5 2ES
Tel: 0208 4499495
Web: www.bubblebooths.co.uk
Contact: Mr Chris Windsor
Position: Owner
Email: chris@bubblebooths.co.uk



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Central Milton Keynes
Bucks
MK9 1LW
Tel: 01908 359589
Web: www.uk.gt.com
Contact: Mr Jeremy Read
Position: Director
Email: jeremy.d.read@ukgt.com

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>

spike@bluefeather.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@stalbens-chamber.co.uk with subject:

MEMBERS OFFERS