

Bulletin

March
2013



Chamber AGM 2013

Photo: Spike Brown, Blue feather photography

During the last twelve months the Chamber has continued its regular and very successful business of networking events. We are increasingly grateful to the sponsors of these events as the financial stability of the Chamber is essential if we are to continue to flourish.

We have continued to work closely with other local organisations. We've had meetings with Bedfordshire Chamber, Dacorum District Council, Hertfordshire Chamber, Watford Chamber, Look! St Albans, St Albans District Council and the Institute of Directors,.

Two initiatives stand out.

My firm and others were visited by two of the three St Albans District Council Cabinet members and by Maria Cutler our liaison with SADC. The politicians actually wanted to know what we thought and acted on it. Well done Julian Daly and Beric Read. We're sorry to see the departure of Daniel Goodwin, CEO of SADC and welcome to James Blake, the new CEO with whom we hope the good relationship will continue.

My fellow director, Alastair Woodgate has worked hard as Chairman of the Retail Business Forum which aims to improve the city centre and local business landscape for retailers. One of their main initiatives is the appointment of a City Centre Manager, which we support and I hope you do too.

When I became President last year it was clear that although we were doing well our finances were a little precarious. Our net current assets were £4,338 which represented a reserve of only four weeks administrative outgoings. We've increased net current assets to £15,383 which encourages me greatly. I thank the Chamber members for their support.

Thank you to STANTA from whose building we operate without paying rent at a time when Stanta needs all of the support it can get.

Finally a big thank you to the team that runs the Chamber. We have only one paid employee, our new Executive Director, Lisa Bates. However it's also a big thank you to my fellow directors who have invested a great deal of unpaid time in the Chamber. Without them the Chamber wouldn't exist.

Peter Goodman,
Chamber President

St Albans District Chamber of Commerce

ST GEORGE'S DAY LUNCH

Friday 19th April 2013



at Sopwell House Hotel,
Cottonmill Lane,
St Albans,
Herts AL1 2HQ

Bring your clients, wives, husbands and partners to celebrate this special day

- 12.30 pm: Welcome Drink
1.00 pm: Three Course English Lunch and Coffee
Followed by a charity auction



Followed by Guest Speaker
Terry Waite CBE



Terry Waite CBE



Terry Waite, born in 1939, has led a remarkable life as a diplomat and a humanitarian. A world-renowned agent of peace, he is a testament to the power and resilience of the human spirit. Long devoted to humanitarian causes, inter-cultural relations, and conflict resolution, Waite garnered international recognition in the 1980s when, serving as a special envoy to the Archbishop of Canterbury, he successfully negotiated the release of hostages in Iran and Libya. He was himself held captive between 1987 and 1991.

Following his release, Terry was elected Fellow Commoner at Trinity Hall, Cambridge where he wrote his first book, *Taken on Trust*. This quickly became a best seller prompting a career change, thereafter, Terry devoted himself to study, writing, lecturing and humanitarian activities. He is President of several charities including Emmaus UK.

Waite has recently returned to Lebanon, 25 years after he was kidnapped and tortured by a cell linked to the militant group Hezbollah. He said the British people would think him "crazy" for going back, but added he wanted to consign his suffering to the past and forgive his captors.

Join us for an afternoon with this remarkable man and support his charity **EMMAUS UK**

This event has been Kindly Sponsored by:



This event is completely **SOLD OUT**
Please refer to our website for our **Terms of Business**

Raising funds to support
The Prince's Trust



All net proceeds donated to The Prince's Trust (registered charity no. 1039076)

ROCK NIGHT

FEATURING

THE ROCK CHOIR

THE ROCKABELLAS

AND

SCARLETTE FEVER

PANDEMONIUM DRUMMERS

HOSTED BY

CHRIS CLARKSON

(HOLLYOAKS AND EMMERDALE)

WITH

AVIV DANCE PERFORMING COMPANY

PETER SIEGELSTRANG

(BOTH HELPED BY THE PRINCE'S TRUST)



18 MARCH 2013

8PM, GORDON CRAIG THEATRE, STEVENAGE

STEVENAGE ARTS & LEISURE CENTRE, LYTTON WAY, STEVENAGE, HERTS SG1 1LZ

TICKETS FROM BOX OFFICE: WWW.GORDON-CRAIG.CO.UK

Chamber Directors Spotlight - Mel Hilbrow



Mel worked for 20 years in Sales and Marketing for various companies and in various markets in the UK and then spent 12 years as Managing Director of a catalogue sales and contract furnishing business based in Hertfordshire. Mel has been Executive Director of STANTA since 2004 and has given advice to about 2,000 pre-start and start-up businesses in a wide variety of sectors.

Mel, as well as being a director of STANTA and its two operating subsidiaries, is Chair of Age UK Herts, Chair of Herts Visual Arts, which runs the Open Studios programme and helps Hertfordshire artists promote themselves and their work, and is a director of St Albans Business Against Crime (SABAC). Mel is representing the Chamber on the steering group for LOOK St Albans (see the banner currently displayed on the Old Town Hall!) and regularly attends the Retail Forum meetings.

Mel is married with three grown-up daughters, and is interested in most things to do with the arts, including theatre, opera and music as well as the visual arts.

Contact: advice@stanta.co.uk 01727 837760

YOUR FUTURE FAIR

Tuesday 12th March 2013

Alban Arena, Civic Centre, St Albans, AL1 3LD

Your job. Your course. Your choice...

Come along and find the perfect job, plan your next step in education and gain invaluable advice & guidance.

Employment

10.30 am – 1.30 pm

- Find the perfect job
- Invaluable advice on careers, CV writing and interview techniques
- Representatives from a wide range of companies and organisations



Post School Options

2.00 – 8.00 pm

- Impartial advice and guidance
- Wide variety of local and national education and training providers
- Apprenticeship presentations and information



For further information

visit: www.oaklands.ac.uk
email: info@oaklands.ac.uk or call 01727 737770



Entry

Free entry, parents & carers welcome
Suitable for ages 15 plus





Chamber Speed Networking

with a buffet & glass of wine

Tuesday 21st May 6.00pm at
The Bistro, Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre
Holywell Hill
St Albans
Herts
AL1 2DL



SPEED NETWORKING

The fastest and most cost-effective way to positively promote your business - and it's really good fun!

GET MORE BUSINESS FAST - book now for Business Speed Networking hosted by June Cory of My Mustard. Speed-Networking works like speed dating - only you make lots of new business contacts, not romantic ones!

In fact, you'll make more business contacts in just one evening of Speed-Networking with us than in weeks of what we call ordinary "slow" business networking. It's remarkably cost-effective and gets you great results for your business.

Many people tend to gravitate towards those they may already know at networking events, never getting the opportunity to meet others who could be great business contacts. Come along to this event and meet every single delegate! Market your business effectively and enjoy a buffet and a glass of wine at this superb new Chamber venue. All delegates will receive a tour of the facilities and will be entered into a draw for treatment at their Verulamium Spa!

PLEASE BOOK EARLY AS SPACES ARE LIMITED

£20 (+VAT) for members £25 (+VAT) for non-members.

Non members welcome as guests

BOOK NOW ONLINE

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

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

New Members

We welcome the following companies to the Chamber:

Bar Meze

Restaurant/Bar

8 Adelaide Street

St Albans

Herts

AL3 5BH

Tel: 01727 847799

Web: <http://www.barmeze.co.uk>

Contact: Fouad

Position: Managing Director

Email : info@barmeze.co.uk

Regus

Office Space Solutions

St Albans Victoria Square

Fountain Court

2 Victoria Square

St Albans

AL1 3TF

Tel: 01727 884700

Web: <http://www.regus.co.uk/>

Contact: Rose Capozzi

Position: Account Executive

Email: Rose.Capozzi@regus.com



St Albans • Harpenden • London Colney

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **St George's Day Lunch 2013**
Friday 19th April 12.30pm
Sopwell House Hotel
Speaker: Terry Waite CBE
SOLD OUT
- **Networking Breakfast Meeting**
Wednesday 8th May 7.30am
Woolhams, OA Rugby Club
Speaker Anne Main MP
BOOK NOW
- **Speed Networking Evening**
Tuesday 21st May 6pm
Venue : The Bistro, Westminster Lodge
Hosted by : June Cory, My Mustard
BOOK NOW
- **Business Breakfast with iOD**
Wednesday 12th June 7.30am
Venue : St Michael's Manor Hotel
"Surviving the Triple Dip"
BOOK NOW

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Raise your company profile by sponsoring one of our events. If you would like further information please contact the office

01727 863054