

Dec
2013

Bulletin



St Albans • Harpenden • London Colney

Business Breakfast Meeting

Wednesday 15th January 2014

7.30am – 9.30am

Quality Hotel

232 - 236 London Road

St Albans

Herts AL1 1JQ



Event Sponsored By



The St Albans Film Festival

A dynamic business breakfast where St Albans Film Festival Director Leoni Kibbey will reveal the festival's aims and visions for the future and how this can benefit the city.

Discover how the festival is a vibrant high quality arts event which is about more than just film and find out ways your business can be a part of it.

Plus - Whilst the festival prepares for Year 2, get a first sneak preview of what is to come in 2014!

This is a great networking opportunity, come along to our first business breakfast of 2014 and meet other like minded people from your business community.

This event will sell out quickly—please book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited!

Book now on-line www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/buy-online/events/
£21 (plus VAT) for members, £26 (plus VAT) for non-members.

Or email your booking to us

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

Shredathon Week in aid of Peace Hospice Care

www.peacehospice.co.uk

Week commencing 20th January 2014

Please bring your confidential paper waste to Humphreys Data Management Ltd and have it shredded in return for a donation* to Peace Hospice Care .

**Open Weekdays 9am until 4pm
Saturday 10am until 4pm**

1 Sydney Road Watford WD18 1XX

The event is open to the General Public and Local Businesses, larger loads by appointment.

No need to remove staples or paperclips our shredder will even cope with Lever Arch Files.

Last Year we raised in excess of £2100. Please help raise even more money this year.

For more information please contact
Richard Walters
01923 252447



*Recommended donation £5 per sack

Forthcoming Events

- **Business Breakfast**
Wednesday 4th December 7.30am
Venue : The Peahen
Speaker: James Blake & Julian Daly
£21 Members
£26 Non Members
SOLD OUT
- **Business Breakfast - Sponsored By Collinson Hall**
Wednesday 15th January 7.30am
Venue : The Quality Hotel
Speaker: St Albans Film Festival
£21 Members
£26 Non Members
BOOK NOW ONLINE
- **SAVE THE DATE**
Friday 25th April 2014
Venue : Sopwell House Hotel
St George's Day Luncheon
Tickets not on sale yet
SPONSORS NEEDED

Major City Centre Events Before Christmas

St Albans Daily Christmas Market
- The Vintry Gardens from Thurs 28/11 to Sat 21/12

<http://www.christmasmarkets.com/UK/st-albans-christmas-market.html?review=true>



Hertfordshire Online Advertising Agency My Mustard Awarded Top Accolade as a Google Partner

Anyone can do Google AdWords, the adverts known as pay per click listings that appear at the top of Google's search pages. When you click on the advert, the advertiser pays Google a fee; this is how Google makes billions of dollars every year.

But only trusted agencies can earn Google's seal of approval and quality is the key to becoming a Google Partner. The Google Partner badge shows the world that Google trusts the company and that potential clients can too.

So it's no small feat that My Mustard, a small Hertfordshire based online advertising agency, has just been awarded the coveted title of Google Partner. My Mustard invested over half a million pounds of client's money with Google Adwords last year and the return on client investment was just over £10million.

June Cory, owner of My Mustard says "Our figures sound a lot but in London agency terms it's probably quite small. However, we are right on the doorstep for many successful regional businesses and Google Partner status not only demonstrates our expertise but shows that we are doing a good job for our clients."

Achieving Google Partner status is not supposed to be easy and the criteria are extremely tough. It takes advanced AdWords knowledge, which requires Google certifications from at least two exams and Google demands a track record of high-quality results demonstrating that the agency has mastered the skills required to be effective.

A healthy amount of activity in financial terms and longevity is also required across managed accounts and My Mustard has had a Google AdWords MCC (my client centre) since January 2007 and its last 90-day click spend was just under £200,000

An agency with Partner status needs an active and healthy book of business to let Google know that they will stand the test of time and must demonstrate a range of qualities such as good business practice and a high level of customer service. Being a Google Partner says a lot about an agency, they must be a healthy, competitive and trustworthy business in addition to demonstrating AdWords excellence.

June Cory concludes "I am delighted that My Mustard is one of the first pay per click agencies in Hertfordshire to be awarded Google's new seal of approval. Achieving Google Partner status is very satisfying and I thank our clients for the trust they put in us to deliver results on their behalf."

For further information contact June Cory 07734 846855
www.mymustard.co.uk june@mymustard.co.uk

Chamber Ball 2013

Our Sponsors.... Pictured with Chamber President Peter Goodman & Cllr. Annie Brewster



Jamie & Wendy Allam—Amthal Fire & Security



Nicola & Tom Bond - 51 Pegasus Ltd



Lee Francis & Guests—Santander Corporate & Commercial



Vicky Latrobe—Fourpoints Management



Sabra Swinson & Jane Thompson—Cerco Communications



Richard Marrett—Hertfordshire Hoteliers Association

Chamber Ball 2013

Other guests enjoying themselves during the evening....



Ginny Cooper, Philip Cooper, Pam Lidford & Peter Goodman



Lisa Bates, Natalie B, James Brown & Sarah Iovane



Tom Bond, Alasdair McMillin & Cllr. Beric Read



John Brian, Kavita Shiebert & Jonathan Shreeves



Dionne Atwill & Shelley Doyle



Mark Worsencroft and Clare Donovan



Rich Silverman, Sarah Lister Morford & Marianne Gearing



Lisa Bates, Lerraine Rand & Jane Josphe



Barney Laurence, Julia Laurence & Amanda Rosenthal



Morgana Evans, Paul Brewster & Bobby Armstrong



Paul Gallagher & Liz Mann

TaxAssist Accountants launch Business Confidence Survey 2013

The UK's leading accountancy and tax service for small business has unveiled its [Business Confidence Survey 2013](#) in a bid to measure positivity levels in the UK's small business sector.

With economic recovery now seemingly heading in the right direction, it is hoped the results will help to pinpoint regions that are benefitting most from the steady financial upturn.

Small business owners are invited to fill out the survey to gauge confidence levels ahead of the Autumn Statement that Chancellor, George Osborne is due to present on 5th December 2013.

James Mattam, Business Development Manager of TaxAssist Accountants, said: "It is encouraging to note increasing levels of GDP growth in the UK this year. But it is important to measure the impact it is actually having on the small business sector that is still widely regarded as the engine room of the national economy.

"Our Business Confidence Survey 2013 will hopefully demonstrate the areas of the country that require additional assistance and financial support to drive small business expansion, revenue and profits."

To further support the small business community, TaxAssist Accountants is offering free business clinics after-hours on Thursday 5th December 2013, ahead of the government-led campaign, '[Small Business Saturday](#)', to raise awareness of independent businesses and the role they play in the local community.

The business clinics will provide practical, useful, jargon-free advice to help guide small business owners through any problems they may face.

The results of the Business Confidence Survey 2013 will be unveiled in due course. [Complete this simple, anonymous survey today](#) and get your voice heard.

The St Albans, Harpenden and Radlett TaxAssist Accountants team offer clients a personal service helping them to profitably build their business and develop local contacts. We take care of the time consuming paperwork and tax filing requirements so our clients can focus on their business. We also offer access to a whole range of financial and other services tailored specifically for the small business owner. For a free consultation call

01727 899200 or email stalbans@taxassist.co.uk  <http://www.taxassist.co.uk/accountants/st-albans> Please see our brochure [here](#) for what we do.

Follow us on:



Local Herts man is rewarded for Outstanding Achievement at leading excellence in governance awards

London, 14 November 2013 – Craig Hunter, a resident of St Albans, Hertfordshire, has been presented with an award for outstanding achievement by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA). He received his award at ICSA's fifth annual Excellence in Governance Awards on 13 November, at an event in London hosted by Financial Times Journalist Lucy Kellaway which saw individuals, teams and companies rewarded for outstanding achievement in the field of governance.

The Outstanding Achievement award is a special award presented by ICSA in recognition of a significant and long-lasting contribution to the profession of company secretary. Craig has a wealth of international experience in both commercial roles and in an elite multi-sport environment. Deputy Secretary of a FTSE 100 plc for seven years, he then moved into sports management, initially with British Swimming where he managed the GB team at the 2000 and 2004 Olympics and the 2002 and 2006 Commonwealth Games. He then chaired the Commonwealth Games Advisory Group before acting as England Chef de Mission at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, leading the whole England team comprising over 560 team members across 17 sports. Craig managed participation in one of the most challenging ever environments in New Delhi under extreme political pressure and media scrutiny, and delivered England's most successful overseas team results.

"Company secretaries continue to face demands of increasing scale and complexity. The role is a pivotal one and requires a range of skills and experience in complementary disciplines. Top company secretaries combine technical expertise in law, practice and governance with the interpersonal skills necessary to manage and influence a diverse range of stakeholders," said ICSA Chief Executive Simon Osborne.

"Craig Hunter FCIS, winner of ICSA's Outstanding Achievement award, is a shining example. He has established a successful award-winning business providing corporate compliance and governance services to businesses around the world, as well as being a member of the UK Sport Mission Control Panel, which oversees the preparation of all Olympic and Paralympic sports for future games. As GB Chef de Mission for the London 2012 Paralympic Games, he was responsible for Britain's most successful Paralympic team, which just goes to show that company and chartered secretaries possess the necessary skill set to succeed at very high levels in all walks of life."

Craig Hunter commented: "I am extremely proud and honoured to receive this prestigious award from the ICSA. I could not have achieved this without the support of the people I have worked with. The role of the Chartered Secretary is very diverse and the skills I have acquired in the corporate world have helped me enormously with my roles in sport and vice-versa."

- Ends -

The nation's finest curry restaurants honoured at ninth annual British Curry Awards 2013 – the **'Curry Oscars'** Best Spice Restaurant South East: Chez Mumtaj, St Albans, Herts

The UK's favourite cuisine was once again celebrated at the ninth, annual British Curry awards on Monday 25th November 2013 at Battersea Evolution, as the nation's finest curry restaurants were honoured at undisputedly the most lauded event of the UK hospitality sector.

The event was organised by one of the UK curry industry's leading figures, Enam Ali MBE, and was hosted by TV personality, Chris Tarrant.

Our winner pictured:
Chad Rahman - Chez Mumtaj



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TEAM ST ALBANS CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER
ST ALBANS CITY
v CAMBRIDGE UNITED
FA TROPHY SECOND ROUND 3PM

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

New Members

We welcome the following companies to the Chamber:



Follow us on twitter!
@stalbanschamber

Intoto Kitchens

Kitchen Supplier and Designer

12 George Street

St Albans

Hertfordshire

AL3 4ER

Web: www.intoto.co.uk

Tel: 01727811488

Contact: Shantilal Panchani

Position: Sales Director

Email: stalbans@intoto.co.uk

Assign - IT Ltd

Onsite and Remote IT Support Services

Unit 17

Brick Knoll Park

Ashley Road Industrial Estate

St Albans

AL1 5UG

Web: www.assign-it.co.uk

Tel: 01727 843888

Contact: Chris Meaner

Position: Business Development Manager

Email: chris.menear@assign-it.co.uk

MHA MacIntyre Hudson

Chartered Accountants, Tax and

Business Advisors

Euro House

1394 High Road

London

N20 9YZ

Web: www.macintyrehudson.com

Tel: 02084460922

Contact: Jaqui Childs

Position: Partner

Email: jaqui.childs@mhllp.co.uk

NK Financial Management Ltd

Independent Financial Advisors Specialising in

Pensions, Investments, Equity Release, Mortgage

Suite 12c STANTA Business Centre

3 Soothouse Spring

St Albans

Herts

AL3 6PF

Tel: 01727 855607

Web: www.nkfm.co.uk

Contact: Nick Knapp

Email: nick@nkfm.co.uk

Quality Solicitors Bretherton Law

Legal Services

Alban Row

27-31 Verulam Road

St Albans

Hertfordshire

AL3 4DG

Tel: 01727 869293

Web: www.brethertonlaw.co.uk

Contact: Sonia Fenney

Position: Solicitor

Email: soniafenney@brethertonlaw.co.uk

Loud Bird Communications

PR Company

1 Prospect Road

St Albans

Herts

AL1 2AT

Tel: 07970 810302

Web: www.loudbird.co.uk

Contact: Angie and Sophie

Email: angie@loudbird.co.uk