

Minutes of Meeting of The Wotton Chamber of Trade
Held at the British Legion on Thursday, 20th October

Attendance: Joanne Taylor; Nicki Train; Sarah McCabe; Pippa Shennan; Andy Burns; John Dansie; Gareth Kitchen; Alex & Claire Wilkinson; Gary; Peter & Hilary Roberts

- a) Welcome by Alex, President of Chamber of Trade
- b) Apologies – received from Keith & Wendy Bryon; Marge; Verity; Jacqui Moore; Bridget & Martin; John Cordwell; Judy.
- c) Approval of Minutes of last meeting – proposed by Gary; seconded by Peter.
- d) Membership update – membership stands at 59 with all traders now visited.
- e) WPC Wren; Cindy Pickersgill; Crime Reduction Officer P.Cs. Phil Hastings & Rick Pellett were welcomed and P.C. Phil Hastings addressed the meeting on shop security.

P.C. Hastings outlined numerous ways retailers can protect themselves from shoplifters, inc. bells on doors, stamping of goods, c.c.t.v. & security cameras. Also outlined various ‘round-robin’ schemes whereby retailers keep each other informed of incidences around the town and the various ways this can be done, i.e. use of telephone (pref. designated mobile) or the more expensive radio telephone. Also gave advice on detaining and/or banning offender(s). Copies of banning letters were circulated to members.

All these points are available in print known as RETAILIATE, and copies were circulated to everyone present. More copies can be obtained from the Police + banning letters.

Information on the BOBB scheme is also available in print and anyone interested can pick up a copy from the Police.

- f) Christmas event update – The Christmas Committee working very hard on the event and things progressing well. Raffle tickets are now printed (2,000) at £1 a book. Prizes from local businesses have been donated – meal for 2; large screen t.v. wine, etc. All retailers will be approached to donate a small prize for hampers. 16 stalls have now been signed up (£10 per stall). Students from Cirencester College are helping to promote Christmas event as a project, and will be sending information to local radio stations, etc.

Christmas trees – so far 42 Christmas trees have been ordered thanks to personal visit by Alex to all traders. Also this has brought in 8 new members.

- g. Karin Gray from Wotton Directory introduced her new project, a community magazine specifically for Wotton-under-Edge promoting local businesses and initiatives and points of interest, which is completely different from other local directories. The magazine is published once a month. Chamber of Trade members are offered a 5% discount on their advertising costs in the magazine.

The Christmas event will be included in this publication. Distribution is to about 2,000 households, with various copies being available in libraries, community shops and other public places. It was suggested that in the future the outlying villages could be included and pubs were suggested as a suitable location.

h. Any other business – It was noted that attendance at this meeting was very poor, especially in view of the talk by our local police.

Alex proposed sending out letters to all members urging attendance. Discussion ensued on ways of making the meetings more attractive, i.e. inviting a speaker and perhaps making it more of a social event. It was suggested that the November meeting could be in the form of a social event, i.e. cheese and wine. Members could also bring a guest. The committee to look into the purchase of wine through The British Legion. **Action – Alex.**

Date of next meeting – Thursday, 17th November at the British Legion at 7.30 p.m.