

Wotton Chamber Of Trade
Meeting - 3rd September 2007

Prior to the Supper Club
with Guest Speaker - Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP

- ❖ Jacqui Moore welcomed all in attendance including new members & Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP.
- ❖ JM reported that membership currently stands at approximately 45 and stressed the need for more members and directed diners to the membership packs for all to pass onto potential new members.
- ❖ All were informed of an overview of the planned Xmas Under-The-Edge event to be overseen by paid organiser Val Smith who will welcome any help offered by members of the business community. Raffle donations will be asked for, which will be a crucial money raising part of the event. It was reported that last year the whole event made a loss. The key points for the 2007 event were as follows:
 - a) Special deals for Chamber members in the form of heavily subsidised, professionally installed Christmas Trees. (The Chamber are applying for funding to help with this from the Town Council)
 - b) Subsidised adverts in the Wotton Directory. The programme will be in the centre spread again and will be extended this year.
 - c) Father Xmas will be located in the Chipping Manor Dental Practice.
 - d) The event will be kept to the High Street and not spread into side streets.
- ❖ AOB
 - 1) The Chamber extended their congratulations to Nicola Jotcham Brown on the opening of her new shop, Nicola Brown's, and wished her every success.
 - 2) Shop Local bags with both long & short handles and with a more local design will be available to be sold at £1, the cost TBA and will be subsidised by the Town Council.
 - 3) Concerns that the Co-op have been selling certain lines already being sold by other traders locally have been addressed and the pressure exerted on the co-op has culminated in the withdrawal of certain lines. If any other businesses have similar concerns, please write to the Chamber of Trade.
 - 4) Xmas Dinner Dance last year was highly successful and over subscribed. The Chamber's views were canvassed on the subject of whether to offer places again to staff teams or solely to chamber members.
 - 5) Gareth Kitchen asked Mr G Clifton-Brown MP to investigate the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme which saw Stroud DC being awarded nearly £750K. This money was earmarked to maximise economic growth yet GK has been unable to get any answer as to where the money has been spent. MR GC-B to try and find out and will feed back his findings.

Future Meetings /Events

- 1st October Supper Club @ The Swan Hotel and an opportunity to **'Meet the Experts'** who will include : **Jamie Neave** (24/7 assist – IT)
,
Steve Bushall (Wotton Accountancy), **Terry Morgan** (FSB/Y Waste),
Jacqui Uzzell (Lloyds TSB).
book online www.wotton.biz or call into Cookability.)
- 5th November Supper Club @ The Swan with Guest Speaker
Mr Michael Stone (Former High Sheriff of Gloucester &
Owner of Calcott Manor)
book online www.wotton.biz or call into Cookability.)