

**Wotton Chamber of Trade**  
**Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Prior to the Supper Club with Guest Speakers –**  
**Phil & Shaenna Loughnane, Chipping Manor Dental Practice**

- ❖ Alex Wilkinson welcomed the speakers Phil & Shaenna Loughnane, giving a talk and slide show on their fundraising activities and work in Africa. He welcomed new members present: Chris Pockett representing Renishaws; Warren Howell from 'O People', recently joined recruitment consultants specialising in ethical & organic companies; Michael Pain from Amber Business Services, a part time business development service. AW reported that The Novel Hovel had recently joined the Chamber, as had Sarah Rowberry from Strawberry Coaching. He welcomed other individuals who were representing various businesses at the meeting: Jo Roberts from Willow Accountancy, a new accountancy business; Sue & Ian from Tyndales, the retail arm of an ethical trading company; and Nick Elston from KN Office Supplies.
- ❖ Membership Update

It was reported that membership of the Chamber is now approaching a very pleasing figure of 80. Members were again asked to give Alex's contact number to any other business they feel would be able to benefit from Chamber membership. Alex will then invite them to a future Supper Club as guests of the Chamber.
- ❖ Preferred Discount Scheme

It was reported that Clarendon Press is going to be producing the membership cards, on the back of which will be space for advertisements. At a committee meeting prior to the Supper Club it was decided that sealed bids would be invited from members for the advertising space. The question of who should receive the member benefits was discussed, i.e. should it be the principle members or indeed all employees of a member business (Renishaws employs 1,500 people!) Businesses will be asked to specify their discount: which products/services and who will be able to claim the discount, etc. Chipping Manor Dental Practice who have 16,000 patients asked whether businesses would like to offer discounts to their patients on the production of an appointment card.
- ❖ House of Commons Visit

The visit will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Mr Clifton-Brown MP will be there if his schedule allows. There will be a coach organised. If anyone is interested in this trip, please let The Chamber know as there are only 30 spaces available and 7 have been taken already.
- ❖ Parking

Gareth Kitchen had reported to the committee that he had received an email from David Hagg about the LABGI money of which £575,000 had been awarded. This money is supposed to be used "To promote enterprise, jobs & local economic growth". GKi had suggested that we should write a letter asking them to use some of the money to fund the feasibility study on the proposed plans for the Civic Centre parking and to get the plans drawn up. The Head of the Regeneration Committee was coming to look at the site on 16/04/08. Parking issues will be pushed forwards and followed up. To date there has been more successful parking reinforcement activity in the town.
- ❖ Proposed Potters Pond Update

AW explained the past history of the proposed development of the Potters Pond site and reported that the Town Council had been unanimously opposed to the development. The Chamber had sent a letter to the planners representing the views of members. Nothing further to report at present.
- ❖ Supper Clubs

Future Supper Club Speakers:-

12 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Meet the Experts (background to the Credit Crunch)
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	-	Steve Berry (Himalayan Kingdoms)
July	-	BBQ evening

McQuiggs have offered to host the BBQ evening in their garden and this proposal will go back to committee to be discussed.
- ❖ A.O.B.
  1. Moira (Royal Oak) thanked all who had helped / donated towards their fundraising and she reported that they had raised £400 to be shared amongst Cobalt, Breast Cancer Care, Meningitis and Leukaemia in Children.
  2. Janet Walshe reported that the Wotton Electric Picture House was a co-operative social enterprise and now into its 3<sup>rd</sup> year has just made its 1<sup>st</sup> profit. She explained that there are 2 committees, a management one and a charity one. They aim to put money back into the town through various donations. They have recently had the small stage refurbished and will be staging events and ploughing the monies raised back into the town. Numbers are increasing and the cinema is doing well.

**Future Meetings /Events**

**12<sup>th</sup> May            Supper Club @ The Royal Oak with Guest Speakers from**  
**Lloyds Bank, Willow Accountancy and Gloucestershire Enterprise Business Services.**  
**who will be talking about the current financial climate**  
**book online [www.wotton.biz](http://www.wotton.biz) or call into Cookability.)**