
**STOP PRESS
NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE
OF EVENT DATE
SEE BELOW**

JUNE/JULY 2009 NEWSLETTER

(Photographs have been removed for sizing purposes. If you would like to see the full newsletter please just get in touch.)

Dear WEB Member

Thank you to those of you that have contributed news items for this bumper edition. I hope you enjoy reading all the activity that is happening across our network of businesses. Do take the opportunity to contact one another to look at ways of working together. Remember all member contact details can be accessed from our 'Members Only' directory on our website www.westlancashireinvestmentcentre.com. To update your details please just drop me an e-mail with any amendments.

I have tried to make this newsletter more visually appealing with some great photos from our last event, with thanks to photographer and WEB member **Paula Scalycz of Nicole Photography**.

Enjoy the read and send me any articles that you would like included in the next edition, which will go out in September.

FEEDBACK FROM HOMESTEAD FARM NETWORKING EVENT

For those of you that attended our event on 21st May, hosted by **Margaret Seddon** at her recently launched restaurant, I am sure you will agree that the surroundings and food were excellent.

A big thank you to Margaret and her family for opening their doors to our members and making us so welcome. Our event gave us a sneak preview of the venue before the official launch, which took place on 9th June. The launch was a huge success and attended by over 80 people from Margaret's family and friends, fellow businesses and officials from West Lancashire and the Tourist Board. Margaret enjoyed a double celebration in June as the restaurant was also shortlisted as a finalist in the Lancashire & Blackpool Tourist Board 'Taste Lancashire' award, which is an excellent achievement considering the restaurant has only been open for around six months.

If you have not paid a visit yet then do try it, especially as a treat for a cooked breakfast at the weekend. A big thank you also to **Ann-Louise of Hartley's Nurseries** for providing such a beautiful arrangement of flowers for a draw on the evening, which was won by **Nicola Byrne of H R Liaison Ltd**.

Our speaker on the evening, David Cotton, provided us with an extremely thought provoking highly interactive session on developing a strategy for your business, including materials to help us focus our thinking in this area. The feedback from those attending has been excellent, with comments such as one from a new member, **Linda at Rebel Sheep** who said "Thank You" for the evening at Homestead Farm. I thought it would be a bit daunting, but the atmosphere was great, and the speaker was excellent. It gave me a lot to think about."

For more information on Homestead Farm visit their website on www.homesteadfarmsshop.co.uk.

To contact David Cotton visit his website www.wizeup.co.uk

FEEDBACK FROM 1ST JULY EVENT

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH YOUR FINANCES WITH GUEST SPEAKER HAYLEY HUDDART.

My thanks to Hayley for providing an extremely informative presentation on what can be a complex subject. Hayley has a unique style in presenting, which is always received well by our members. Her down to earth and humorous approach is refreshing and yet her message is quite firm and clear in terms of best practice for running your business effectively.

We had an excellent attendance at the event and the feedback on all aspects of the evening including the food, presentation and the welcoming atmosphere, was excellent and certainly makes all the work that goes into organising WEB events very worthwhile indeed. One particular comment which summed up the general feel of those that attended, taken from our evaluation forms was: "Excellent advice, delivered in a humorous and very clear way. More of the same please!"

We will certainly try our best to give you more of the same at future events. As promised, a copy of Hayley's presentation is attached together with her quick questionnaire to see how you score on managing your finances.

If anyone would like to contact Hayley direct then please visit her website on www.hmhltd.co.uk.

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF EVENT DATE

Apologies for another change to the calendar. The event planned for August at **Edge Hill University**, hosted by member, **Sue Murrin-Bailey**, is now going to take place on the evening of **Thursday 6th August** commencing at 6.30 p.m. Event details will be circulated nearer the time. Attached is an amended Calendar of Events for the remainder of 2009.

MEMBER NEWS

Jane Windle of 'The Best of Ormskirk' would just like to say a big thank you to all those who supported and attended the **best of ormskirk** festival on Saturday 30th May! A great day was had by all; the Park Ranger estimates that they had approximately 3,000 visitors again over the course of the day.

The sun shined all day and Jane had great feedback from all who visited the event with even more attractions this year to entertain the masses. Unfortunately the business exhibition was not as well attended as was hoped, mainly due to it being on a Saturday (& the FA Cup Final!) and staffing constraints for businesses at weekends. They will be returning to a Thursday event next year so watch out for the date when it is advertised as it is definitely worth a visit.

The event supported a local charity, The Legacy Rainbow House, and they got some great publicity for everyone involved, particularly as Dune FM broadcast their radio show from the event between 10.00 and 2.00 and BBC Radio Lancashire did a live interview for their breakfast show. To view a video of the event, which was produced by WEB member **Jane Hickson** and her husband Neil, visit their website www.creativemixedmedia.com

Christine Clarke has asked me to make you aware of a forthcoming conference entitled 'Communities, Change and the Crunch : Anchoring the future in an uncertain present'. The conference will look at change, collaboration and new funding for community organisations. Details are attached.

Christine also organises hostess style Bag and Jewellery parties. Her range of bags are well known labels including Kathy van Zealand, Joshua Taylor, Tommy & Kate and they sell at less than a third of high street prices. The jewellery ranges from costume to fine silver, pearls and gemstones. No single item in her current stock is priced over £40. Anyone who is interested in hosting a party will benefit from 10% of the party takings. Please contact Christine on 07789 484429 or by e-mail on affogy@blueyonder.co.uk

Jane Hickson of Creative Mixed Media was commissioned to help WEB member, Colette Greenwood and her husband's **plumbing business**, Leaky Solutions, **to improve their website and grow their client base.**

Jane and her husband Neil produced new photography and copy for their website and sent a press release to the local newspapers. As a result their photography of Leaky Solutions (Colette and Lee Greenwood) appeared on the front page of The Skelmersdale Champion, which is circulated to 17,000 addresses across the Borough and would normally have cost £375 for a front-page advert.

Following on from that Leaky Solutions have been contacted by 'Take a Break' magazine who want to do a feature about their business so Collette will now be getting some national press coverage. A great example to show that professional photography and good copy writing really does work in marketing your business.

Manda Kent-Burns of The Hattery in Ormskirk has started offering taster sessions on a variety of creative themes. Throughout June, Manda held fascinator-making sessions on Wednesday evenings at a cost of £5.00 per person to cover materials. All ladies were able to make up to two colour fascinators so look out for these events coming up again soon. The next theme Manda is running is coming up on Wednesday evenings in July and will be taster sessions on Vision Boards and the Law of Attraction, again at £5.00 per person. For more information on dates and times and to register for the July events, contact Manda by e-mail on: manda@the-lady-zone.co.uk.

Amanda Shaw of WiFi Solutions was once again appointed to install the wireless network at the Liverpool International Tennis Tournament at Calderstones Park and they were also sponsors of the event. WiFi Solutions also recently won a contract with National Museums Liverpool venues to enable wifi throughout their facilities so anyone who is on the move around the Liverpool area can take advantage of the free wifi connection in all of their café areas.

Amanda is also running the **Let's Evolve West Lancs** networking events with WEB member **Gwen Coyle**. Events are held regularly at O'Este Restaurant in Ormskirk and are going very well indeed. Further information on forthcoming events below.

Lisa Walters, set up her children's cookery business, '**Feed Your Future**', in 2008. The business came about as a direct result of bringing up and feeding two small but very discerning food critics (otherwise known as children!). The business aims to inspire young children to get involved in cooking and enjoy healthy food whilst having lots of fun. Hands-on cookery classes for children are held in a safe and structured environment and encourage independence, confidence, social skills, motor skills, numeracy, literacy, creativity and fun. Children enjoy the opportunity to experiment with food, explore new tastes and learn skills that will last them a lifetime. Parents enjoy the opportunity for children to learn these skills in someone else's kitchen without having to clear up after them! Classes take place in schools, as after-school clubs, in nurseries, holiday clubs and as an alternative kind of birthday party.

Look out for a feature article on Lisa and her business in the July issue of Lancashire Life. Also Lisa is being interviewed on Radio Lancashire on Tuesday 7th July. Well done to Lisa for getting such good publicity.

Nicola Byrne has recently set up her business called HR Liaison Limited; a niche consultancy with a passion to ensure that small businesses are not phased by Human Resources but indeed are able to use people principles to their advantage to ensure a successful and profitable business. Nicola offers professional support on contracts of employment, handbooks and policies and procedures, role descriptions, recruitment and selection and staff turnover management as well as development for your teams, bespoke to your environment and sector. Nicola is offering a FREE one-hour consultancy audit on a subject of your choice for all new clients. For more information, contact Nicola on 07590 732834 or e-mail on info@hrliaison.co.uk. The website will be going live in the coming weeks so keep check out www.hrliaison.co.uk.

Jane Ramones and Kirsty Kenyon's business, **Kiddiroo**, provides a one-stop shop for all your children's gifts, toys and accessories from birth to five years. They are now offering WEB members the opportunity to be Party Hosts where you can enjoy an afternoon or evening of Kiddiroo shopping from the comfort of your own home. Alternatively you may be interested in becoming an independent Party Consultant, which involves starting your own business showcasing the range of products sold by Kiddiroo.

If you or a friend are interested in learning more about these opportunities, including a FREE trial, contact Jane or Kirsty at Kiddiroo via their website on www.kiddiroo.co.uk.

Linda Armstrong of Rebel Sheep, who runs an online giftware retail business, is now also offering two self-catering holiday chalets for hire on the Glan Gwna Holiday Park in Caernarfon, Snowdonia. Linda says the site has great facilities, the chalets are well equipped, and the local area is a haven for walkers, cyclists, etc. There are also lovely blue flag beaches nearby.

This is a new venture for Linda, which she started in February this year and so far the holidays have proved to be very popular and with this fabulous weather we are having, the summer months are almost fully booked. There is just one week left for summer 2009, which is week commencing 29th August at only £350 for a family of four. If you want to book this week or look for availability later in the year contact Linda on 07913 016028 or visit the website at www.kingfisherselfcatering.com.

Nichola Murphy of Geneva Facial Aesthetics, has recently joined WEB. Nichola is a registered nurse with 17 years experience and is now running her own business offering BOTOX treatments to clients from various clinics or in the comfort of your own home and is also hoping to expand her services in the near future to include dermal fillers and chemical peels.

Looks like we have our very own '10 Years Younger' miracle worker amongst us, so if you would like to have a chat with Nichola to learn more about her business and services please contact her by e-mail on geneva.facial@hotmail.co.uk.

Eleanor Maddocks of West Lancs Women's Refuge would like to share some information with WEB members about the services that are offered through the Refuge. If you or anyone you know is vulnerable please be assured that there is help available to you from Eleanor and her team. Please see attached document for more information and contact details.

Christine Lau of Ho Lee Chow Oriental Restaurant in Southport attended WEB for the first time last week and is keen to join as she found the event very helpful and although describing it as feeling like 'her first day at school' she enjoyed it and so hopefully we will see more of her at future events. Christine would like to invite members to take advantage of her restaurant's early bird banquets which are available Monday to Friday 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. at only £10.95. Please contact Christine to make a booking or for more information on 01704 551167.

Christine kindly offered to host a WEB event at her restaurant in the future so I will be contacting her to set a firm date for our 2010 calendar of events.

Maria Field and Cathy Bibby of Giggles Fun Centre have now opened a small nursery with the play centre, which accommodates 15 children from age 2-5 years. For more information contact Maria or Cathy on 01695 558392.

Paula Gamester of Connector Media, held a hugely successful 'Alternative Ascot Day' on 18th June – I am told that not all the glamorous women were in Berkshire at the real Ascot Ladies Day and this photo of Paula certainly supports that – Paula you look wonderful (photo supplied by **Paula Scalycz of Nicole Photography**).

2009 saw the 21st anniversary of the event and this year funds were raised for women who currently have or previously had breast cancer. The funds will pay for them to attend a creative writing course run by Connector Media. For more information on Paula's work contact her through her website at www.connectormedia.co.uk.

Elaine Roberts and Sue McGrath of Millhouse Training have announced that they became a Limited Company on 1st July. They are also offering a one-day 'appointed persons first aid' training course on Monday 20th July for just £75.00 per person inclusive of lunch, refreshments, course materials and certification.

Elaine and Sue are also working with a company called Xenon 54 who have asked if a questionnaire could be circulated to WEB members. A covering letter explaining everything and the questionnaire is attached for your completion to be returned directly to Xenon 54.

Also available is some funded training for women. For further information on this and any of Millhouse Training's services please contact them on 08444 125808.

Sharon Logan of Perfect Lifestyles is inviting WEB members to contact her if they or anyone they know has a health challenge, as she may be able to help. Also Sharon is offering WEB members an opportunity to earn some extra income as her business is expanding and more staff are needed in this area. Sharon can be reached on 07733 250742.

INVESTMENT CENTRE VIRTUAL OFFICE

Enquiries for virtual office facilities have risen over the past months due to the current climate and businesses looking to reduce their overheads. If you are looking to raise your business profile and have a secure and accessible environment to meet with your clients, please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss your requirements further. I have attached a brief outline of what the Centre offers to virtual office clients and I am very happy to meet with you to discuss further if you feel this is something your business could benefit from. Please don't hesitate to contact me to arrange a meeting on 01695 712601.

EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY STUDENT RESEARCH

A student from Edge Hill, Mrs Kerrie France, has contacted me to ask if WEB members would be willing to participate in a piece of research being undertaken as part of her dissertation. The study title is "A Qualitative study of Female entrepreneurs in Business management roles in the North West, who have previously been employed by the NHS". If you or anyone you know meets the brief and are willing to participate in the research then please contact Kerrie direct. Her contact details are in the document attached.

'MARY QUEEN OF SHOPS' WANTS YOU! Following the recent successful BBC2 television series, a unique and invaluable opportunity has arisen for independent retail businesses in market towns like our very own Ormskirk. Please see attached e-mail and pass on the details to anyone you know that might be interested.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS ACROSS WEST LANCASHIRE

West Lancashire has always been a fantastic place to live and work but for you it is now a fantastic place to do business. There are so many business opportunities available for local people that it is hard to believe that we are going through a recession. West Lancashire's active business community is buzzing from all the interaction and strong relationships that are being developed, helping to sustain your business into the future. Don't miss out on some of the forthcoming events taking place across the Borough in the coming weeks – register early to avoid disappointment:-

Edge Hill University – The Business School - Open Evening 13th July 2009

The Business School at Edge Hill University, St Helens Road, Ormskirk offers part-time study opportunities in business, computing, management and marketing. The Open Evening is running as a drop in event, any time between 4.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. and refreshments will be provided. If you would like to find out more about this event or get further information on the range of flexible part-time programmes being offered at The Business School, please email: bustalk@edgehill.ac.uk or call 01695 657601 / 7602

'Find Your Way' – 'Credit Crunch Event' 14th July 2009 @ West Lancashire Investment Centre

Lancashire County Council, West Lancashire Borough Council and Business Link have joined forces to bring to you an event, which will help you find your way through the maze of issues that need to be considered by businesses at a time like this. The event is being advertised in the press in the coming few days so WEB members are getting early notification if you wish to book on to the event. The details are attached and there is a

website you can visit to register which is www.findyourwaywestlancs.eventbrite.com. I would urge to register early to avoid disappointment.

Evolve West Lancs – Interactive Business Community – 16th July 2009 at O’Este Restaurant, Ormskirk

This recently established business network has been highly successful in attracting business people to attend their events, which are held regularly at O’Este Restaurant in Ormskirk. The next event is taking place on 16th July commencing at 6.30 p.m. until around 9.00 p.m. The cost for the event is £15.00 plus VAT which includes a two-course meal and coffee. Visit their website at www.ewestlancs.co.uk to register.

Best of Ormskirk Networking Event – 22nd July 2009 at The Swan Inn, Aughton

The ‘Best of Ormskirk’, organises regular business networking events, which are very well attended and held at various locations across West Lancashire. The next event is taking place on Wednesday 22nd July 2009 from 6.00 p.m. at The Swan Inn, Springfield Road, Aughton. The theme for the evening is “How to use Social Media to Grow Your Business”. Neil Hickson from Creative Mixed Media will be presenting an introduction to using social media such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to promote and grow your business. The event will also give you an opportunity to visit the recently refurbished Swan Inn who will be providing you with a welcome drink and a delicious buffet. The cost of the event is £15 with a discount offered to members of ‘thebestoformskirk’ at £10. Register via the website at www.thebestof.co.uk/ormskirk

Enterprising West Lancashire Workshops and Speed Networking Events

Thinking of starting a business or run an existing venture? The Enterprising West Lancashire Team have run yet another successful series of workshops and events over the past year and the programme will commence again in September after the summer break. Further details can be found on the Council’s website through the following link www.westlancs.gov.uk/enterprising. If you would like to reserve a place for any of the events running from September 2009 onwards please visit the website and register your interest or you can contact Lisa Ratican on 01695 712692.

Please don’t forget to read all of the attachments that came with the email.

**Hope to see you all at our next WEB event on 6th August
Have a great summer!**

**Clare Joynson
Women Excelling in Business
West Lancashire Borough Council**