

Happy New Year & welcome to our latest update of Partnership activities, news & events.

If you've any questions or feedback, please ring us, call in (normal office opening hours are Tuesday-Thursday 9am-noon) or e-mail. Our contact details are at the end of this bulletin.

Membership

Welcome to **Ashbourne & District 50+ Forum** and **George Dutton Ltd** as new members this month.

For existing members, renewal is now due. We are entering an exciting & critical phase and your involvement is important. We hope you'll show your support for the work by renewing your membership, giving us your ideas & feedback and getting involved in activities when required.

A full list of renewed members will be published in the next bulletin. Thanks to those members who've already confirmed their renewal.

Events

It's very important we promote events, big & small, in and around Ashbourne. But we can't do this if you don't tell us what's going on. Please keep us informed on what's happening. We will put details on the web-site and promote the events in other ways if possible.

This year we'd like the events page to be as comprehensive as possible so everybody with internet access can easily see what's happening in Ashbourne and the local villages.

Event update on the web-site will start this month. We will also contact all local community groups and schools to gain details of events.

Ashbourne Partnership Retail, Pub & Restaurant Group

This steering group is up and running with an open meeting arranged for **31 January 2007, 6pm** at Ashbourne Town Hall. Full details & invites will follow. Likely topics for the evening will be: Ashbourne Loyalty Card; Retailers Marketing Workshops; Future Events; Publicity; Christmas 2007.

Steering group members are: Barbara Leyland – Wigleys Shoes; Neil Cochrane – Dimension Interiors; Emma Rosewarne – Chocolate Box; Vicky Brookes – Brookes Bridal; David Hidgcock – David Neil Mica; Richard Gregory – Ashdale Restoration and John Harrison (chair) –Acorn Country Stores.

Ashbourne Partnership Tourism Group

The Steering Team have now met and plans are underway to organise a Tourism lunchtime event in early spring. Peak District & Derbyshire Destination Management Partnership (DMP) will be the main speakers at this event. We can use this opportunity to make sure "Ashbourne" tourism plans align with the overall Peak District strategy.

New for 2007! – Ashbourne Business Breakfast Meetings

1st meeting 13 February 2007 – Quality Inn Ashbourne

A number of businesses have expressed interest in having a local club where they can meet; exchange ideas & good practices; listen to latest news etc.

Guest speakers will also be arranged to update us on relevant business topics e.g. employment law; environmental impact; staff motivation and so on.

These informal meetings are being arranged by local business people for local businesses.

Future meeting dates are: 13 March and 17 April.

All meetings start at 7am for 7.30am – when breakfast will be served; and will all be held at the Quality Inn with ample free parking.

Cost is £10 per event (includes breakfast) payable on the day.

Tim Polkinghorne, an Ashbourne resident & principal of local business Nirvana, has taken the lead on arranging these 1st events.

Contact Tim on 01335 348444 or e-mail tim@reachnirvana.co.uk for further details and to confirm attendance.

Festive Fun Night and Late Night Shopping : 8 December 2006

This was a really good night and showed what can be achieved if all of us work together. This was a great example of different groups and organisations working hard on an event which appealed to all ages.

Thanks to the people who responded to my e-mail asking for feedback on the night's events. Generally this was very positive and we will use this to help plan for 2007. We hope to have the 1st Christmas 2007 planning meeting arranged by the end of February 2007.

Improvement projects

i) **Town signage** is often mentioned as a key improvement area. Our project team is now up and running and has started work looking at the Welcome to Ashbourne signs and speaking to the relevant bodies involved in signage.

Ashbourne Partnership, 5 Town Hall Yard, Market Place, Ashbourne, DE6 1EW
Tel / Fax: 01335 301145 / Email: ashbournepartnership@visitashbourne.co.uk

ii) Resident loyalty card

Research continues on resident loyalty/discount cards. These have proved successful in other towns and we believe both residents and businesses will benefit. Further details will be presented at the Retailer Open Meeting on 31 January 2007.

Help required : The Ashbourne Area Access group

We speak for issues of general accessibility for disabled people as well as parents with push-chairs.

We are a small voluntary group who can advise members, shops and businesses or put them in touch with more specialised bodies. We have published guides listing Eating places, Public buildings and the town Shops. These are available free from the tourist Office. When advising on local buildings we can also suggest planning on more logical use of space for movement.

We would welcome offers of help in particular with revision of the guides.

More details: Peter Bishop, Hon. Secretary AAAG 01335-346294, or pbishop@beeb.net.
29.1.06

Help offered

BT Community Connections

Would your local playgroup, support group or the local charity you are involved with benefit from having a computer and internet connection?

The second round of applications is open for the BT Community Connections award scheme.

This year they are awarding 1,300 internet-ready PCs to groups (and they also contribute towards a year's broadband internet access through BT Total Broadband)

All you have to do is fill in their simple application form, to be in with a chance of your group being awarded one. Visit: www.btcommunityconnections.com for more information

ANDREA CROSS
ASHBOURNE PARTNERSHIP MANAGER
2 January 2007