

Chamber Chat

Glovers motivational techniques revealed!



Gary Johnson, Manager of Yeovil Town Football Club

In one of the most eagerly awaited Chamber Business lunches ever, Gary Johnson, Manager of Yeovil Town FC and his motivational guru Mark Layder, will be demonstrating how their massively successful motivational techniques can be applied to make a difference in every business.

The lunch which is kindly being hosted at Yeovil Town FC will take place at noon on **Wednesday 14th January 2004** in the club's conference room.

David Mills, President of the Chamber welcomed the opportunity for this fascinating insight by saying "The club are very strong supporters of the Chamber and when they suggested that they were prepared to share the motivational techniques they have used so successfully over the last two years, I had no hesitation in accepting as I knew local businesses would jump to snap up this opportunity. You never know, after January 4th, maybe the Liverpool team will be signing up to learn something as well!"

With only 50 places available at this event, demand is expected to exceed supply and pre booking is therefore essential. Bookings should only be made via the Chamber on **(01935) 427427** or via secretary@yeovilchamber.org. The charges applying will be £5 per person for members, £10 per person for non members.

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Free staff training for local businesses

The South Somerset Business Support organization is kicking off the New Year with a great way to give your business a boost. They are offering a free training audit to assess your staff training needs and free short training courses to get you started – all delivered at a time and place to create the least disruption to your business operations.

All the evidence shows that the most successful businesses are those that have invested in staff training and this is a chance to reap the benefits of having a more efficient and better motivated staff, at no additional cost. Training is not about sitting in a classroom learning the theory – it's about practical, on the job skills, which could help you to run your business, better, cheaper or more effectively

Why not make staff training your New Year's resolution and give them a call to discuss your needs. **Contact Shirley on 01460 77778 or email shirley@ssbso.org.uk**

Will you be affected?

Timetable for water works programme

| Location | Traffic Management | Start Date | Duration |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------|----------|
| Sherborne Road | Lights | 9/2 | 2 weeks |
| Flushing Meadow | | 9/2 | 1 week |
| Pen Mill | | 16/2 | 1 week |
| Sherborne Road | Lights | 23/2 | 1 week |
| Sherborne Rd/Middle St | Lights/Rd closure | 1/3 | 2 weeks |
| Newton Road | Lights/Rd closure | 1/3 | 2 weeks |
| Wyndham St | One way | 8/3 | 1 week |
| Earle St/Central Rd | | 8/3 | 2 weeks |
| Central Road | Lights | 15/3 | 1 week |
| Reckleford | Road closure | 22/3 | 1 week |
| Middle Street | Evening work | 29/3 | 1 week |
| Glovers Walk | Evening work | 29/3 | 1 week |
| Brunswick Street | Lights | 5/4 | 2 weeks |
| Park St | Lights | 12/4 | 2 weeks |
| Central Acre | | 19/4 | 2 weeks |
| Addlewell Lane | | 26/4 | 2 weeks |
| South Street | Access for car parks | 3/5 | 2 weeks |
| Mill Lane | | 3/5 | 2 weeks |
| Woodland Grove | | 10/5 | 1 week |
| Vicarage St | | 10/5 | 1 week |
| Stars Lane | 4 way lights | 17/5 | 1 week |
| Summerhouse Terrace | 4 way lights | 17/5 | 1 week |

Water works misery reduced



The interior of a pipe needing to be renewed by Operation Clearflow

The Chamber has been building on its growing relationship with Wessex Water to help reduce the impact of forthcoming road works in the eastern end of Yeovil.

Wessex Water is carrying out mains rehabilitation in Yeovil as part of its Operation Clearflow project to improve water quality and maintain high standards of drinking water.

Along with a number of other groups and the Council, the Chamber has met with Wessex Water to try and make sure that the works, which are scheduled to start in the Babylon Hill area of the Town on 9th February, working their way into town via the Sherborne Road over the following few weeks, cause as little disruption as possible.

David Mills, the President of the Chamber said "There is no doubt these roadworks will cause disruption, but having seen the condition of the pipes Wessex Water needs to renew, there is absolutely no doubt that this work needs to be done and cannot be left – regrettably because of housing in the area, out of business hours work is not possible for the majority of the project".

Wessex Water rescheduled its works to February to avoid disrupting Christmas trade in the town.

Between now and when the works start, Wessex Water will be carrying out public consultation exercises as well as talking to individual businesses that will be effected and the Chamber is confident that Wessex Water will be responsive. Commenting on this point David Mills said "Wessex Water has adjusted its proposals as much as it can to minimise disruption and I am sure it will be equally responsive to any new reasonable points made"

Members wishing to learn more about the project prior to being contacted by Wessex Water should call Operation Clearflow on 0845 600 4600.

South Somerset Local Plan

The next stage of the local debate about the draft deposit plan, which outlines areas proposed for development, will take place during December and January at a series of council committee meetings. Councillors will be considering the responses to the Inspector's recommendations on the Local Plan Deposit Draft and responses to the Yeovil Employment Study.

All meetings are open to the public and information about the plans, the meetings and the procedure for putting forward comments is available from David Vaughan on 01935 462589.

Timetable for meetings

Area East Committee: 16/12 at 2pm
Wincanton Churchfields meeting room

Area North Committee: 17/12 at 9.30am, long
Sutton Village Hall

Area West Committee: 17/12 at 12.30 Victoria
Hall, Market Sq, Crewkerne

Area South Committee: 6/1 at 2pm Gateway
Meeting Rom, Yeovil

District Executive: 15/1 at 10.30am, Council
Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil

Full Council: 22/1 at 7.30pm, Council Offices
Brympton Way, Yeovil

Building Safer Communities

The Home Secretary recently launched a consultation paper on the next stage of police reform which sets out a broad vision for a modernized local police force.

Avon and Somerset Police are inviting comments on the proposals through an online questionnaire which will be used to inform their response to the Government.

The consultation paper, called *Policing: Building Safer Communities* can be accessed at:

www.policereform.gov.uk/docs/building_safercommconsult

The response questionnaire can be accessed by logging on to www.aspola.org.uk/private and then entering the user name 'consultation' and the password 'a&spa'

County Chamber backs Yeovil re A358 Scheme



Somerset Chamber of Commerce and Industry is backing the Yeovil Chamber's support of a proposal to improve the A358 link to Taunton.

Earlier this month the Yeovil Chamber slammed the alternative option, to widen the A303 through the Blackdown Hills, as both being the worst option for the environment as well as the least beneficial commercially and backed the plan to widen the A358 between Ilminster and Junction 25 of the M5.

James Middleton Stewart said "We strongly believe that the A358 option is by far the best choice. It is essential that communications in this area are upgraded and the provision of a dual carriageway route to the M5 at Taunton would deliver wider access and competitiveness benefits for the economy of the Yeovil area by linking us both northwards to Bristol and the Midlands as well as south to Exeter and Cornwall. We see the idea of upgrading the A303 to Exeter through the Blackdown Hills as being so fraught with expense and environmental controversy that it's deliverability must be questionable and even if pushed through the benefit would be far less than our preferred option of upgrading the A358"

These calls are being backed by the Somerset Chamber which is coordinating a county-wide alliance of Chambers and is to lobby the Minister for Transport in support of the A358 option. The Highways Agency has commissioned a report which is expected in Jan 2004 and will be considered by the regional Assembly prior to determining their response to the Minister.

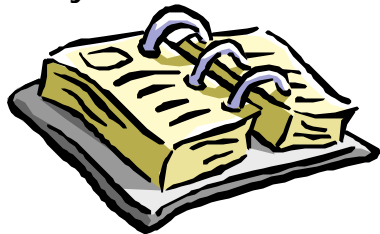
David Mills President of the Yeovil Chamber said "It is only sensible that we focus our local efforts via the County Chamber, who have powerful national lobbying abilities. I would urge anyone with interested to email the County Chamber with their views at stephanieberry@somerset-chamber.co.uk.

Don't forget to return your rates valuation form

Businesses are being reminded of the need to promptly return valuation forms sent to them by Valuation Offices.

Recent changes in the law mean that although businesses now have 56 days to return these forms a penalty of £100 can be applied if this time limit is exceeded.

Diary Dates



14th January : Yeovil Chamber Business Lunch at Yeovil Town Football Club. Phone/email the Chamber for details

23rd January: Somerset Chamber Presidents Dinner at Kings College Taunton. Call 01823 321231 for further details

Chamber Diary and Yearbooks available

The 2004 Chamber Diary and Yearbook is hot off the presses. Anyone who would like additional copies should contact Shirley on 01935 427427. Copies are free of charge and we would like to have the publication circulated as widely as possible.

Time to renew your subscription

Letters are going out to all members requesting that they renew their Chamber membership subscription as soon as possible.

Chamber membership remains excellent value for 2004 and we would be very grateful if you could forward your remittance as soon as possible. If you have any queries contact Shirley on 01935 427427

Good news on Broadband !

Good news on broadband was announced by BT at a meeting of the Somerset Business Forum on 27 November. There are now twelve enabled exchanges and a further thirteen that are either in build or awaiting a date. Many more have been set a trigger level. For information ring Somerset Chamber 01823 321231.

Chamber news

The Chamber's go-ahead Executive Committee is looking for new recruits for March 2004 onwards.

If you are an existing (or would be) Chamber member who wants to have an impact on the local business scene give the Chamber a call to find out more information.

Chamber member profile

New services at Yeovil Chiropractic Clinic

The Yeovil Chiro Clinic is now offering an even wider range of services at their clinic in Sherborne Road with specialists now available in Podiatry and Psychotherapy. The range of services now includes:

- Chiropractic services
- Homeopathy
- Allergy Testing
- Aromatherapy
- Rehabilitation Clinic
- Podiatry
- Psychotherapy

Robin Black, Fellow of the Royal College of Podiatry, is now available to help with lower limb problems, spinal symmetry, hip knee and foot functions. An initial consultation involves an examination of all lower limb muscle groups to assess the problem, with x-ray facilities and computerized analysis available at the clinic, and an appropriate exercise plan is developed to address the patient's specific needs.

Judith O'Hagan, a member of the UK Council for Psychotherapy and part of the therapy team at the Bristol Cancer Care Help Centre, now offers help for patients with cancer, depression, stress related illness personal issues and bereavement.

Antionette Young from the Clinic says " We feel that these two additional practitioners will complement the range of treatments available at the clinic and we are delighted to be able to offer a wider range of services to patients in the

New Chamber web site

The Chamber is working on plans to develop a new website to provide up to the minute information for existing members and to showcase the chamber to prospective new members. Discussions are underway with a website developer and we hope to have the site completed early in the new year. Suggestions from members about what they would like to see on the site would be welcome, together with any other ideas about how to make the site as useful and relevant as possible.

Just email Shirley secretary@yeovilchamber.org or phone 01935 427427

Somerset Schools need Governors

Dorset and Somerset Education are appealing for more people to step forward to serve as school governors. They are looking for people who care about education and have the energy and enthusiasm to support teaching and learning, be friends to a school, and help to solve problems. For more details contact 01823 355757