



BBA News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BEMBRIDGE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Autumn 2008 Issue 9

www.bembridge.org

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the BBA Newsletter.

The credit crunch is now biting most of us quite hard, although the village appears to be surviving with only one empty commercial premises – the recently vacated Opticians which the Parish Council have been actively marketing and we now understand that Mike & Ruth Curtis, who run Captain Stan, intend to open a 'wet fish' shop there which is indeed great news.

We used the Street Fair in May to launch our village promotion initiative – the visionary "Bembridge Shopping Bag" – the brainchild of Committee member Tom Robinson (*Bembridge Outboards*) and the uptake has been very promising and if any retailers would like to stock them please contact Tom.

Although summer is normally a quiet period, BBA activity has been particularly subdued this year. Once again we are struggling to hold onto

Committee members, although for very good reasons: our Secretary – Michelle Jude (*Pilot Boat Inn*) – has had to retire due to work commitments (good luck Michelle with the new job!) and Peta Hodge (*Off Wight*) who only recently joined us has had to step down for family reasons. Therefore if any members would like to help the Committee, please step forward – the work is not very arduous, we meet about 10 times a year and usually manage to keep meetings to about an hour or so. Please contact any Committee member if you are interested.

Please make a note of our next social (details below) and the ever popular Lights of Love event on Saturday 13 December.



Brian Cantwell (*Desktop Studio*)
Vice Chairman

Message from the Honorary Treasurer

As a business owner myself I know there is a tendency to wait for invoices to be chased before paying them.

Please remember though that the BBA is not a business, and the time given by the Honorary Treasurer is unpaid. It would really assist me if invoice and subscription reminders were paid when members were given notice to do so, as it greatly increases the time I have to spend when I have to chase up these late payments.

David Groom, Vectis Web Design

We welcome new members:

Andrea Lesley Soft Furnishings (*Weavers Yard*)

M C Carpentry

Charlotte Hodge Thomas (*Artist - Walls Road*)

Wight Home Inspections

Hello! is there anybody out there?

Despite frequent appeals for membership feedback we are constantly met by a deafening silence - this is your association - if it's going to survive we must know what you think!

Diary Date

Professional Business Advice Evening & Social
Not one, not two, but THREE speakers
who will give us the benefit of their professional wisdom
Wednesday 15 October
7pm BHYC

SAVE A LIFE ~ GIVE BLOOD

Every day hospitals in Britain need 7,000 units across England & Wales and the need for people to give blood is great.

Just a single donation can potentially save three lives and the National Blood Service (NBS) is always in need of new and returning donors.

If you'd like to help then please call 0845 7 711 711.

Currently only four per cent of the population that can give blood actually do; and 15 per cent of donors are lost every year through ill health, old age, and relocation.

NBS spokesperson Daniel Clarke said "Blood is used for a wide range of acute and chronic conditions, including childbirth, cancer, accident and emergencies, and malignant blood diseases. For these patients blood is vital to saving their lives."

Across England and north Wales, hospitals require 7,000 units of blood daily to ensure patients receive their necessary treatment. At the NBS, hard work is put in to meet that demand. But a lot depends on the generosity of volunteers. It may be the life of a complete stranger, but you never know when someone you love may need blood. In a recent survey, it was found that one in three people knew someone who needed a blood transfusion. So call today 0845 7 711 711 or click on www.blood.co.uk



A reminder to any members who may need more 2008 Village Guides - just pop into Desktop Studio where we still have a few hundred left.

It is also a good time now to think about next year's advertising as we will soon be banging on your doors for your 2009 advert!

Committee & Officers as at September 2008

Chairman: Robert Pigot, X-Isle Sports,
tel: 8731111 email: robert@xisle.co.uk

Vice Chairman: Brian Cantwell, Desktop Studio,
tel: 874874, email: desktop_studio@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer and Membership: David Groom, Vectis Web Design
tel: 873853, email: mail@vectis-webdesign.co.uk

Hon Sec: Richard Weaver, Weaver Bros
tel: 872598, email: richard@weaverbros.co.uk

Committee:

Chris Perkis, Phil Howden, Carol Pearce, Tom Robinson, Paul Rainford, Shaun Burden

Bembridge Youth & Community Centre

The BYCC have recently written to us with news that due to various circumstances the annual village summer carnival had to be postponed, but in its place held a traditional village fete in Steyne Park on Sunday 14 September which was very successful. Hopefully this will become a regular feature in the Bembridge calendar.

Donations, offers of help, loan of equipment, etc., from local business and individuals, are always gratefully appreciated, so if anybody can help in any way please contact one of the following:

Alanah Woodford on 874050

Loraine Whelan on 874055

Jean Briggs on 873567

Committee News

Your Committee has been busy discussing various initiatives over the summer and one point which keeps cropping up is membership. We feel that at present we probably only have about 50-60% of local businesses enrolled in the Association

Therefore we are launching a concentrated membership drive... but we need your help ... so if any friend, colleague or relation is in business in the Bembridge & St Helens area and they are not members, please have a word and invite them to join. You can refer them to any of the Committee for further information.

For some time we have felt that our web site was looking "tired" and have decided that a "refurb" is necessary and should be carried out professionally. To date the site has been maintained on an ad-hoc, voluntary basis which inevitably leads to an out-of-date feel. A specification has been drawn up and will shortly be put out to tender, with anticipated completion by the end of 2008.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

We are pleased to confirm the date & venue for this year's Christmas Social – Monday 8th December at the Bembridge Coast Hotel.

Application forms will be going out soon so make sure you return them promptly as space is limited - first come, first served for this very popular event.

