



Drogheda and District Chamber Digest – Wednesday 20th May 2009

Please note that the weekly digest is strictly for the information and use of Drogheda and District Chamber members and must not be reproduced elsewhere – unless specifically stated.

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If you have news that you would like to share with your fellow Chamber members drop us a line: enquiries@droghedachamber.com

*******INTRODUCTION*******

Welcome from President Patricia Rooney

The pace of work here at Drogheda and District Chamber is not slowing down at all – the plans for the new Drogheda Chamber Enterprise Centre have been submitted to Drogheda Borough Council and our plan is to get the project underway this coming winter. This will provide high specification enterprise space for local business both in the start up and growth stages. We will have details of the plans added to our website in the coming days.

We are working closely with the County Manager, Town Clerk and the other representatives on the Drogheda Economic Development Forum and the Louth Economic Development Forum. These two organisations strive to strengthen the economic future in Louth in sectors such as Enterprise and Education as well as others. I will be in touch with updates as the months progress so that you are aware of the work we are doing.

My colleagues on the various sub-Committees are working hard representing their sectors and a special word of thanks to the Tourism Sub-Committee who worked so hard to ensure that Drogheda yielded maximum benefit from the Irish Open last weekend. Despite the weather it was great to see so many people all over town, enjoying all that Drogheda had to offer.

We have lots more Chamber news below for you to read – and lots of events coming up for you to network and meet potential new clients. Put the dates in your diary and do join us – the more the merrier. And remember if you have news you want to share with us, don’t hesitate to get in touch, we’d love to hear from you!

Patricia Rooney - President

*******CHAMBER NEWS & EVENTS*******

1. Think Drogheda – Shop Local

The Drogheda and District Chamber ‘**Think Drogheda – Shop Local**’ Campaign has received a massive response. Our colleagues at the Drogheda Independent tell us that they have been receiving an unprecedented number of entries every week. We are also getting great feedback from business that it is good to see positive stories about business printed every week. The winners have been delighted with their win and have enjoyed using their €500 shopping spree in local stores.



The 10 week campaign is now drawing to a close. Drogheda and District Chamber and the Drogheda Independent are pleased to confirm that we are going to launch another ten week campaign. Sarah has been inundated with companies wanting to get involved for phase 2 but any places that become available will be prioritised for paid up Chamber members. The cost of getting involved is €200 and this includes your company in the promotion for 10 weeks. All the subscription monies go directly into the prize fund so they go back into the local economy.

If you want to register for the campaign please contact Sarah Gardiner, Business Development Executive here at Drogheda Chamber on s.gardiner@droghedachamber.com or 041 9833544. Any places that become available will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

2. You are invited to experience ... TANKARDSTOWN HOUSE

Tankardstown House invite Drogheda and District Chamber members to join them to launch their new bar and bistro at Tankardstown House, Slane, Co. Meath. The event, will take place from 6.00-8.00pm this Friday 22nd May 2009. You will be treated to drinks, finger food, music and a tour of Tankardstown RSVP: 041 9824621 or by stephen@tankardstown.ie.

Don't know Tankardstown? It is a joy to discover. A period country house with all the luxuries of a modern hotel. Manicured gardens, tennis courts, cosy cottages, superb food, wonderful staff and fabulous attention to detail. You can find out more about Tankardstown by visiting their website www.tankardstown.ie. Voted "The Best House To Rent in Ireland 2009" by Conde Nast Traveller Tankardstown promises not to disappoint. Tankardstown House are proud members of Drogheda and District Chamber.

We will be there – we hope you will be too!

3. Back by popular demand ... Speed Networking!

Long standing members of Drogheda and District Chamber often talk fondly about a Speed Networking event that we staged several years ago. Now, by popular demand, we are reintroducing "Speed Networking". It is a great way to get to meet lots of business people in a short period and generate new customers for your business. It is also a great way to grow your business network.

This event is open to all paid up members and is free to attend. Attending this event is beneficial to businesses large and small, old and new. The event format is simple. Just like speed dating you have two minutes to talk to another business person about your business and they have two minutes to tell you about theirs. If there is potential for you to work together you swap business cards and arrange to meet again for a more detailed meeting at another time.

TOP TIP: Practise your pitch before coming to the event so you know what the key messages are that you want to get across. Make your pitch about a minute long so you also have time to answer questions.

We are delighted that this event is being hosted by the wonderful Andersons Cafe at the Highlanes Gallery. The event will take place on Thursday 28th May and will run from 6.30-8.30pm. Light refreshments will be served. **Drogheda and District Chamber extend our sincere thanks to Andersons Cafe at the Highlanes Gallery for their generous support of this event!**

4. AGM and Chamber Social

A formal notice will follow under separate cover but the Drogheda and District Chamber AGM will take place on Thursday 11th June 2009. The event will be coupled with a Chamber social event to allow members to get together, chat, network and learn from each other. Pop the date in your diary now and we will forward further details closer to the date.

5. Meet and Greet Networking Evening

Our Meet and Greet evenings allow business owners the opportunity to meet elected representatives and local authority officials in a relaxed informal environment. It is a great opportunity for elected representatives to get to learn about the challenges facing the business community. This will be the first official engagement of the new Drogheda Borough Councillors following the first sitting of the newly formed Council on Monday 15th June. Watch the Chamber Website for more details of this event.

6. Fancy Getting Involved? Join a Chamber Committee

With the AGM coming up next month this is the time to consider joining a Chamber Committee. Would you be interested in:-

- Marketing and Events
- Retail
- Tourism and Heritage
- Strategic Planning
- Finance

Being part of a Committee is a great way of getting involved, meeting other people and building up your profile in the organisation. It is also a way of giving your time and expertise to affect real change in the area. If you would like to become involved in a committee contact Karen Devine our Business Services Manager on 041 9833544 or e-mail k.devine@droghedachamber.com



*****MEMBERS NEWS*****

1. Welcome to our new members:-

We delighted to welcome six new members to the Chamber:-

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Nino Binns Consulting | nino.binns@nbconsulting.eu |
| • Drogheda United Football Club | www.droghedaunited.ie |
| • Tankardstown House | www.tankardstown.ie |
| • Close Invoice Finance | www.closeinvoice.com |
| • Gary Kelly Cancer Centre | www.gkcancersupport.com |
| • Content Shed | www.contentshed.ie |

Chamber members have so much to offer each other in terms of networking, business experience and the potential to do business with each other, now more than ever. We welcome our new members and we look forward to seeing them at some of our forthcoming events. If you know anyone who could benefit from being part of the Chamber don't be shy – tell us about them. Sarah would love to hear from you – she can be contacted on s.gardiner@droghedachamber.com or 041 9833544.

2. North County Leader - Focus on Drogheda

Watch out for next weeks North County Leader where you will find a special "Focus on Drogheda" feature. Readers of the North County Leader in Balbriggan, Rush, Lusk and Skerries have had a long standing tradition of visiting Drogheda for shopping so this feature should remind them of all that we have to offer. Pick up your North County Leader next week or check it out on line by visiting their website www.northcountyleader.ie.

3. Cashflow Challenges? Meet Close Invoice Finance

Drogheda and District Chamber are delighted to welcome Cathal Ryan of Close Invoice Finance to the Chamber. Part of the Close Brothers merchant banking group headquartered in London, Close Invoice Finance (www.closeinvoice.com) is an independent funding provider dedicated to meeting the evolving cash flow needs of Ireland's small and medium sized business community. Cathal is based here in Drogheda and is the Regional Sales Director for Close Invoice Finance in the Republic of Ireland. You can find out more about how Invoice Finance can help relieve cashflow challenges by calling Cathal on 01 6319039 or 087 9631154 or by e-mailing cryan@closeinvoice.ie.

4. Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre

Drogheda and District Chamber salute the work of Chamber members The Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre and the services they deliver to cancer patients and their families. The mission of the Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre is to create a safe and holistic environment, to preserve the dignity and privacy of the person at all times and to provide counselling, information and psychological support for people to affected by cancer and those who care for them.

The Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre are looking for volunteers to take part in the Women's Mini Marathon which will take place on June 1st, 2009. For further information contact Ann at 041 9805100 or 086 3870277.

5. Content Shed

Introducing Content Shed, a new and innovative Drogheda based website management company. Your website is the primary point of contact for new and existing customers:

- Do you have a website but don't have time to update it?
- Is your website stale and out of date?
- Do you design websites but find it difficult to source content?
- Do you have responsibility for a corporate website?

If you answered 'Yes' to any of these questions, then Content Shed can help you. Content Shed are experts in managing websites, writing and maintaining eye catching content and driving new and repeat business to your site. With 10 years experience in maintaining and updating large corporate sites, Content Shed can act as your personal content team. They can provide regular updating services, advise on site redesigns and write snappy eye catching content that will get your website noticed. For more information contact Gabi on 086 6028096 or gabi@contentshed.ie

6. Easy Pen

Drogheda Chamber are delighted to work with Easy Pen, who are kindly sponsoring our new Drogheda and District Chamber pens. Watch out for them at our next event.



Drogheda & District
CHAMBER
IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

*If you have any questions or require assistance from the Chamber please contact
Marian Caddell on 041 9833544 or e-mail enquiries@droghedachamber.com*