

## NEWSLETTER – March 2009

Welcome to the Business Forum's regular Newsletter, covering our successful March 2009 meeting, and including all usual areas of interest to members.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 at the County Offices Sports Club, Plas Newton Lane, Upton, Chester, starting 6.30pm for 7.00pm, with usual bar & buffet.

**This evening will include with the Forum's 2009 Annual General Meeting, to which all members are encouraged come to support the Forum in its work for local small businesses.**

**The speakers on the evening will be Geoffrey Prince of BSB who will discuss "Keys to success", and Clive Richards of West Cheshire & Chester (council), who will explain Local Government reform.**

**Nominations** for Committee positions have been received, but we are always on the lookout for 'new blood', so if you want to make a contribution, please contact any current committee member. Details below, or from our website; [www.cepnforum.co.uk](http://www.cepnforum.co.uk)

### **PRIZE DRAW FOR MEMBERS ONLY!!!**

**A draw for £250 for goods or services to be purchased from a Member Company will be held at the end of the evening.**

**All paid-up members who have been in membership for more than 3 months (i.e. joined before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009) will be entered into the draw.**

## Members Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009

The theme of this meeting was “**The Chester, Ellesmere Port & Neston Business Forum – meets – The Chester, Ellesmere Port & North Wales Chamber of Commerce.**”

This was a brilliant networking Opportunity for members of both groups, and was introduced by Lesley George (Forum Chair) and Dave Roberts (Chamber Management Manager), and was attended by members of both groups

A **speed-networking** opportunity was run for the members of both groups, giving the members the chance to meet specific targeted individuals after initial “15 seconds of fame” introductions. It was noted that all participants entered into the spirit of the evening, with enjoyment and energy. Many people stayed late into the evening, once they had met up with good business contacts and leads.

We also conducted our usual raffle, with deserving winners!! Another excellent reason to be a Forum member.

Our thanks also go to **Evans Easyspace** for hosting the evening.

As you can see there is always a full programme for our meeting. If you would like to feature in any meeting, you can always agree to speak at one of our Members’ Showcase slots. Alternatively, if there is a topic you would like to have covered at a meeting, please let us know. Contact Les George at [chair@cepnforum.org.uk](mailto:chair@cepnforum.org.uk)

## Website News

Did you know that the Forum operates a website where your membership and business will be advertised? We can also set up a link to your own website.

Read this Newsletter on the Forum’s website, where we had 1808 visits in the last 4 weeks. You’ve got to be in it to win anything from it!!

Why not log on, visit the site and find details of our strong membership by reading about your fellow members? Is your entry up to date? Do we need to change any member details?

Let us know by emailing Mark Ireland-Jones at [mark@wirralphoto.com](mailto:mark@wirralphoto.com)

## Members

With new members joining us on a regular basis, and with old friends deciding to move on to new opportunities, our member numbers are at a healthy 61 this month.

The Committee is actively promoting the Forum on behalf of the membership, but if you know of any Start-up Businesses or existing SMEs you think will benefit from membership, please don't hesitate to tell them about us, or bring them along to our next meeting!

## Member News

**\*\*\*CALLING ALL FORUM MEMBERS\*\*\***

Would you like the chance to join our Members Showcase for 2009? We need presentations of between 5 -10 minutes. You can let all members know all about you and your business, including interesting facts or offers for other members. Speakers still required for June, September, October and November.

Please contact Les George on 01244 512117, or at [lesley.george@chester.ac.uk](mailto:lesley.george@chester.ac.uk) or at [chair@cepnforum.org.uk](mailto:chair@cepnforum.org.uk)

In addition, you can also have 200 words about your business published here on our Newsletter. If you have any special offers or events you are planning in the near future, you could publicise them here too.

Please send your 200 words to [keith@ehrservices.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:keith@ehrservices.fsnet.co.uk)

## Attendance at our monthly meetings

All members receive a copy of this Newsletter by email. Members are also now sent a reminder about the meetings approximately one week beforehand. If possible, we would like members to confirm their attendance, or to indicate that they are unable to attend, so that we can cater for correct numbers.

You can help us by emailing the Forum Chair, **Lesley George**, at [chair@cepnforum.org.uk](mailto:chair@cepnforum.org.uk). Thank you.

..... and finally,

don't forget our next meeting on **2<sup>nd</sup> April**. All current members and guests welcome – come and meet the Committee and fellow members, and take part in important forum business at our AGM.