



Hounslow Chamber supporting business across the borough

A New President for Hounslow Chamber of Commerce

At the AGM on 13th March, held at Fullers Brewery, Christine Baden-Semper stood down as President and Ela Grabinska-Raubusch was elected as President.

Chamber Centenary



The Chamber is celebrating its centenary this year as 1908 saw the formation of The Hounslow Tradesmen's Association, which changed its name in 1909 to Hounslow Chamber of Commerce. There will be a centenary celebration on 15th May at the Holiday Inn, Brentford Lock, when Chamber members will be entertained by Terry Neason. Terry, the Communications Diva, is a much sought after 1 to 1 performance coach, communications adviser and corporate entertainer. Terry will put 25 years of experience as an award-winning singer and actress to work for our benefit, with an entertaining cabaret-style performance designed to make you think and smile.



Christine Baden-Semper reported that the past year has been another good one for the Chamber, with 62 events organised. Of these 39 have been provided free of charge for Chamber members. At last year's AGM membership was running at 280 and membership today is running at just under 300. The website has been re-launched and includes a member to member benefit scheme, and a full directory of all members, accessible to all visitors to the site.

Ela has been a Committee member since 2006 and is a qualified professional Personal and Business coach and she runs Alter-Ego Coaching, a coaching practice with private and SME clients, based both locally and nationally. She is the Vice-Chairman of the Hounslow Education Business Partnership, and is also a member of Hounslow Chamber Women.

Hounslow 'Green Fair' - Sat, 21st June

Mark Frost, Transport Planner at Hounslow Council and a number of other officers are in the process of organising the first ever Hounslow 'Green Fair' - to be held at the Civic Centre and Lampton Park on Saturday, June 21st. If any Chamber members, who are involved in providing environmentally themed products or services, are interested in exhibiting or would like more information please let Mark know on 020 8583 5037 or mark.frost@hounslow.gov.uk

One of Ela's first duties was to thank Christine for all her hard work and dedication over the past year and to say how pleased she is that she has been elected as Vice-President so her expertise will not be lost. Gurpreet Singh was elected as the second Vice-President. Ela outlined her vision for the Chamber, which is celebrating its centenary this year. 1908 saw the formation of The Hounslow Tradesmen's Association, which changed its name in 1909 to Hounslow Chamber of Commerce. There will be a centenary celebration on 15th May at the Holiday Inn, Brentford Lock.

The AGM was well attended and David Bilson MBA, Borough Commander of Metropolitan Police, was the guest speaker and he said, "Crime and the fear of crime are important factors that impact on how we feel about our community.

- Amongst the proposed themes are:
- Sustainable Transport (walking, cycling, low emission fuels, public transport etc)
 - Renewable energy
 - Energy efficiency
 - Recycling (as well as reducing waste and reusing objects)

MIPIM

West London Business led a group of private and public organisations from across the sub-region at the annual MIPIM (Marché International des Professionnels d'Immobilier) event in Cannes.

MIPIM is one of the world's leading property fairs with over 30,000



Ela Grabinska-Raubusch (right) thanking Christine Baden-Semper with past President, Les Robinson, looking on.

Making the borough a safer place for all communities is the partnership's top priority." He encouraged the businesses present to complete the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership questionnaire: Help us Beat Crime. He then took questions from the floor.

visitors, and at such an event it is vital that West London is promoted as an investment destination. The project included a stand in the London Pavilion, a promotional brochure and a reception for West London with guests including MP John Gummer, the Conservative Spokesman for Sustainability.



Russell Harris (Deputy CEO) addressing the reception flanked by Co-Chair of the West London Partnership, John Izett and Rt. Hon John Gummer MP.



GENERAL INTEREST

From the President

Welcome to the May 2008 edition of the Chamber newsletter. I am very honoured to be elected President of the Chamber following my one year as Vice President. Thank you to everyone.

As those of you who attended the AGM at Fullers in March know, this year will be the centenary of the formation of the Hounslow Tradesmen's Association which reconstituted in 1909 to the Hounslow Chamber of Commerce; many, many years before the Borough of Hounslow itself came into being. This 100 year old tradition of serving the interests of local business also means, to the best of my researches, that we are the oldest Chamber of Commerce in West London. I do hope you will be able to join us on May 15th for our centenary celebration business cabaret. We have many other interesting events planned and details of some are already available on the website, others will be posted as and when we have further particulars. Remember, Hounslow Chamber is the most active of all local Chambers with three free business networking lunches each month as well as other networking opportunities and business seminars. As you know, all work and no play makes all of us dull boys and girls so we also have some fun events planned of which the business cabaret is just the first. Come and join us, meet other members and, well, take it from there.

2008 promises to be an interesting year for all sorts of reasons and in all sorts of ways, and you can be sure that the Chamber will be there to support you and uphold you in your business endeavours.

Here's to the next 100 years!

May '08



Office Space

A small charity, Stepping On Out, which supports the work of people with special needs in the community, has some office space near Twickenham Green, available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is suitable for one or two people who are looking for a quiet place with



desks and internet access. Stepping On Out is happy for anyone to have occasional use as and when required. The space can also be used for meetings for up to 10 people.

The cost is £15 for a four hour session (for charities) £20 for commercial businesses. This includes lighting, heating, hot water and access to the kitchen. Please contact Alice Maslen on 0208 744 8440 or 07906 277849.

Stables in Gunnersbury Park

Local Architect, William Hardman, has started a campaign to have the historic stables in Gunnersbury Park restored. These important buildings have been covered in scaffolding for over 20 years, and are now regularly being vandalised. As a result they appear to be an ugly eyesore, when they should be a fine asset to the area. Deterioration is continuing even though the stables are Grade II* listed buildings that the local authority is required to protect. The stables were designed by the Victorian Neo-Classical Architect Sidney Smirke (1796-1864) who was also responsible for the round reading room at the British Museum. These stables have been listed for many years and as Grade II* means that are particularly important buildings of more than special interest. Only 4% of listed buildings are considered of this level of importance. Over the last 20 years or so more than 33 proposals for the buildings have been considered and rejected by the authorities. During this period they have continued to deteriorate, and the decline is accelerating.



William proposes that the buildings be restored to their original use as stables, and the former paddock which is in Gunnersbury Park, but is an area of land that is almost completely unused, be reinstated too. As a Grade II* listed buildings, the buildings are probably eligible for English Heritage grants for urgent major repairs. Please visit www.gunnersburystables.com to support the campaign.

Are your employees legal?

The Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 came into force on 29th February 2008 and replaces the previous legislation. From March, employers are legally obliged to check on the status of new members of staff and if found to be employing illegal workers can be fined up to £10,000 per worker.

The Home Office have a website designed to help employers stay on the right side of the law. Go to www.businesslink.gov.uk/whatsnew and click on the 'Employing Migrant Workers' window, which offers targeted information and guidance.



Will it make it?

MEMBER NEWS

The Mongol Rally

Chamber member, Kanbee, a creative production agency based in Chiswick, is embarking on a crazy adventure for charity - the Mongol Rally. Starting from Hyde Park in London on 19th July, they'll travel almost 10,000 miles to Ulan Bataar, the capital of Mongolia.

Team Captain and Managing Director of Kanbee, Robert Young said, 'the rally isn't just about adventure, it's about raising lots of money for charity. We're focussing on Mercy Corps, which supports rural communities in Mongolia; and Hope & Homes for Children, which gives hope to the poorest children in the world by closing down state institutions where conditions are poor and relocating them to loving family homes. Last year the rally raised over £200,000 for charity.'

Team Kanbee is appealing to individuals and businesses to make donations via their charity website: www.willwemakeit.com/teamkanbee. They're also offering a range of sponsorship opportunities for local businesses. The Mongol Rally receives huge amounts of press coverage - local, national and international - and will feature on Discovery Channel. If Chamber members would like to take advantage of this exposure by having their logo on the car please contact Robert on 020 7785 6940. Some companies sponsoring the team will be eligible for a free video for their website, highlighting their support for the event. Finally, Robert would love to hear from any local companies willing to donate useful items (e.g. car tyres, camping gear etc) to the team.

Further information is available at www.kanbee.com/mongolrally

West Thames College wins Beacon Award

Chamber member, West Thames College has been awarded with a National Beacon Award for its outstanding contribution towards Equality & Diversity in the Further Education sector by the Association of Colleges (AoC). West Thames College is the only college in the UK to have received this award for its pioneering work in this area. The award, together with a cheque for £5000, was presented to college Principal, Thalia Marriott and Chair of Governors, Linda Penny on 12 February 2008.

National Beacon Awards are awarded to colleges who demonstrate exemplary and innovative approaches to teaching and learning in the Further Education sector - colleges that set benchmarks and standards of good practice, acting as role models for others to follow. It is the first time ever that a Beacon Award for Equality & Diversity has been awarded, so it is of national significance.

The Beacon Award for Equality and Diversity, sponsored by the Learning & Skills Council (LSC), was awarded to West Thames College because of its general ethos of inclusivity - ensuring all sections of the community are able to participate in education and succeed. Particular praise was given for:

- Its pioneering work to recruit and train more black and minority ethnic (BME) teachers and managers to reflect the local community and student body. The college set up and led a consortium with the other 6 west London colleges to address this important issue.
- Its work to tackle the issues behind the under-achievement of young black male students.
- The college's excellent work around disability issues. The college has a Student Disability Forum which



Chair of Governors, Linda Penny and Principal, Thalia Marriott receive the Beacon Award cheque from Joe Billington of the London Region LSC

gives students a place to air their concerns, and a proactive Disability Support Manager, Victoria Oliver, who herself received a runner-up national Star Award in November 2007 for being one of the unsung heroes of the FE sector - always going that extra mile to improve the 'student experience'.

- Its excellent working relationship with its Community Advisory Committee and for the composition of its governing body which reflects the diversity of the local community.
- Its 'Outstanding' Ofsted grade in 2007 for Equality of opportunity and educational and social inclusion. The Ofsted report stated, "The college's promotion of equality of opportunity is outstanding... All statutory duties for race, sex and disability are met fully and rigorous child protection procedures are in place."

West Thames College Principal, Thalia Marriott said: "We are delighted to win this award which, together with our excellent Ofsted report in May and our outstanding student success rates, helps demonstrate the hard work and commitment of our staff to build a college in which all sections of the community can succeed. We still have much work to do, but this award has motivated us to work even harder in the coming months and years."

Property Week Challenge Cup - Sunday, 6th July

For some years now, Chamber members, St George, has entered a team into the British 10k Open Road Race in central London in aid of the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. They are delighted that the events have been very successful and last year, through the generosity of their sponsors, they raised over £20,000.



The Challenge Cup this year has been put up by Property Week, and St George are once again entering a team. If you would like to sponsor the team please contact Joanne Hope on 020 8917 4000 or joanne.hope@stgeorgewl.com. All pledges will be very motivating for the team and will give much needed help to the individuals and families who experience a neuromuscular condition.



MEMBER NEWS

Inaugural Run of the newly restored Bull Engine at Kew Bridge Steam Museum

The Bull Engine is one of the five original Cornish pumping engines housed at the Kew Bridge Steam Museum in Brentford. It is the largest of its type in existence and the only example remaining in its original location. The Bull is similar in operation to the traditional Cornish-type beam engines to be seen elsewhere in the Museum. However, unlike the other engines the Bull has no giant cast-iron racking beam, as the steam cylinder is inverted directly over the main pump. This type of engine is named after the engineer Edward Bull who was responsible for the early development of the design in the 1790s.

Bull's design was one of the many new designs that fell foul of James Watt's famous engine patent, which many considered to be unclear in its scope and a barrier to legitimate competition. Watt took legal action against Bull and an injunction was granted forbidding Bull from building further engines. Edward Bull died in 1798 shortly before the final court ruling in favour of Watt was made. Construction of Bull-type engines ceased for a while but following the expiry of Watt's patent in 1800 the design was taken up again. By the 1830s the Bull engine type re-emerged in association with Messrs Harvey and Co of Hayle, Cornwall.

Although not built in the same numbers as the traditional beam engine, many were put to work in the mining and water supply industries both in Britain and abroad.

The engine at Kew has a cylinder diameter of 70 inches and was built by Harvey and Co. It was installed by the Grand Junction Waterworks Company between 1957 and 1959 and put to work pumping water from the filter beds next to the pumping station at Kew to the Company's high level reservoirs at Campden Hill near Notting Hill Gate. The engine was decommissioned along with the other steam engines at Kew in 1944. Following award of grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the PRISM fund, restoration work commenced in 2001.

Mulberry Week

The Mulberry Centre, the walk in cancer advice/care centre, raised £14,741.00 through events and donations during Mulberry Week (25 February – 2 March). Claire James, Centre Director would like to thank all supporters for their help, time and energy. The centre can only exist through donations and she would like to thank all involved on behalf of those who will benefit from the services offered by the Centre.



Claire James, Vince Cable MP and far left Mary Burns Mulberry Liaison Officer and volunteers.

TOPICAL TAX TIPS

Property Taxation – Buy to let – tax relief for property expenditure

With such a huge increase in Buy to let activity in recent years, accountants are forever being asked what expenditure will qualify for deduction against tax. The first thing to establish is what type of deduction is being sought. In general, revenue expenditure will be allowed as a deduction from rents in arriving at the net rental income on which income tax is charged. (corporation tax for companies.)

Capital expenditure on the other hand is not allowed as a deduction from rents. It is, however, allowed as a deduction (together with acquisition costs) from the disposal proceeds in establishing the gain on which capital gains tax is payable. (Companies pay corporation tax on their chargeable gains.)

What is capital expenditure?

Where you make a fundamental change to what was originally acquired, it is likely to be capital. Examples will be an extension, a porch, or anything else that was not part of the original property you acquired. It will usually include structural alterations and improvements.

So what is revenue expenditure?

Normal repairs and maintenance of the property required to keep it in good order.

There are often grey areas and it can be difficult to determine what is capital and what is revenue. HMRC accept that following technical improvements and advancement, the replacement of a part of a property with the nearest modern equivalent is allowable as a repair for tax and it is not disallowed as a deduction from rental profits as an improvement. The replacement of single glazed windows with double glazed

equivalents will also qualify as a repair. Repair expenditure should not be disallowed simply because the amount expended is substantial. A roof replacement for example should qualify for deduction as a repair. The replacement of a kitchen or bathroom with a similar one should also qualify as a repair, but if extra units or equipment are introduced, then a reasonable apportionment between revenue and capital is required. If there is a substantial upgrade of the whole kitchen, then the cost of the whole expenditure could be regarded as capital. Problems can often arise where substantial expenditure is incurred soon after a property is acquired and before any letting takes commences. This would particularly be the case where a property could not be let without the expenditure, as this would be indicative of improvement. Where extensive expenditure is envisaged, and you are seeking deduction from rental profits, try to commence letting before incurring all such expenditure.

What about furniture and equipment?

These are usually treated as capital and where a property is let on a furnished basis, tax relief against rental profits is normally claimable by way of a wear and tear allowance each year at a rate of 10% of rental income.

One final point to note. Rental losses can only be used against future rental profits. They cannot be offset against other income and more particularly, they cannot be offset against capital gains on the sale of a property. You may therefore want to think twice about fighting too hard to secure revenue relief if you already have substantial rental losses because of interest payments.

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May '08



Hugh Howell, Director of Hounslow for Business, with a client.

Hounslow Chamber

supporting business across the borough

MEMBER NEWS

Hounslow for Business

Hounslow Chamber has for many decades supported businesses across the borough. Hounslow for Business (HfB), our business arm, continues in that tradition by seeking to encourage enterprise at grass roots level. HfB operates a grant-funded scheme from the London Development Agency and through this programme, accredited business advisors offer free business advice to borough residents who are looking to start their own business.

Business support, free of charge, is also available to recent start-ups - many Chamber members are in this position and can make use of this service.

Over the past 12 months of the LDA contract, 276 business advice sessions have been held. From these 24 Hounslow residents have created and set up their own businesses, and advice and support was provided to 63 existing businesses in the Hounslow and West London area. Some of these businesses are now Chamber members and, for marketing, attend one or more of the free business lunches.

For Chamber members HfB also provides a platform for them to promote their services through workshops. Over the year we have run several evening workshops and we are repeating the service this year.

During the course of providing business advice we also have the opportunity to meet some excellent businesses and we have been fortunate to share our own modest business needs with them. So if you are at the Chiswick Business Lunch and need IT support or a graphic designer then please do seek out two

Chamber members, David Shattu and Ana Abrahamian who have both assisted HfB. We are not receiving a commission for this plug - its just great to be in a position to help!

Finally, if you would like some confidential business advice or are able to run a business relevant workshop please do speak to Sally Smith or contact HfB on 0845 330 9105.

Energy Performance Certificates are coming

Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) will affect us all this year. They are already required when a home is constructed or sold. Between now and October 2008 they will be extended to commercial premises and residential lettings, becoming compulsory whenever a building is constructed, sold or let.

In addition large public buildings will need a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) showing how much energy they are using.

EPCs and DECs represent a major step towards combating climate change and a significant challenge for property, building, commercial, retail and public sectors. This will bring a mixture of business opportunities and obligations to clients.

Make sure you are fully up to speed by visiting www.energy-assessors.org.uk

An overview of the Hounslow Chamber committee...



Christine Baden-Semper
– Vice President.

Committee member since 2005, and President last year,

Christine teaches the Alexander Technique, practising from clinics in Twickenham and Hammersmith. She is a member of Hounslow Chamber Women, which developed from a core group of Hounslow Chamber members. christinebs@talk21.com



Gurpreet Singh
– Vice President.

Committee member since 2007, Gurpreet has experience of working with blue

chip organizations as well as small to medium size businesses in UK, USA and India. He offers Online Business Services including Consultancy, websites, online marketing and traffic analysis through his company Purple

Orchard. Gurpreet works as a Business Advisor for Harrow in Business where he offers online business advice to young businesses. He is a founder member of Network Curry, a business networking club. g Singh@purpleorchard.co.uk

Two new committee members were elected at the AGM:

Jackie Patel of Kotecha & Co, solicitors

Martin Goldthorpe – Martin runs The Best of Hounslow Borough, a local online web directory that champions the best local businesses in the Borough, it is linked to over 400 other local sites across the UK. Martin also organises regular evening networking events across the Borough for local SME's. hounslow@thebestof.co.uk

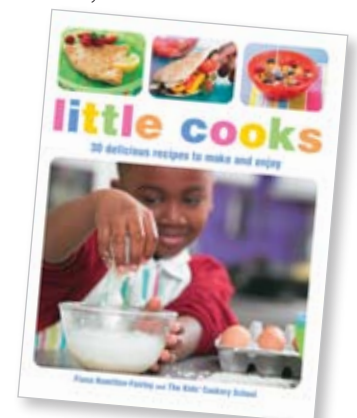


- The Kids' Cookery School's fantastic new cook book
- 30 easy-to-follow recipes
- Tried and tested by kids
- Hardback and full-colour
- £12.99 [free P & P to UK addresses]

Available to buy from 1st May 2008 at: www.thekidscookeryschool.co.uk

Chamber member, The Kids' Cookery School is a Registered Charity based in West London. It is a unique cookery school, welcoming all children aged 3-16 years, including those with special needs and those who are economically or socially

disadvantaged. At KCS, students learn how to cook delicious dishes from fresh ingredients in an inspiring, supportive environment. It proceeds made from books sold through their website go straight to KCS. For more information please contact: 020-8992-8882 or info@thekidscookeryschool.co.uk





Left: Claire Bertschinger speaks at the recent West London Business Women's networking event.



PAST EVENTS

West London Business Women's Network

The latest meeting in the series was held on 7th March when the guest speakers were Dame Jo Williams, Chief Executive of Mencap, who spoke on the unique nature of the Third Sector and leadership from a woman's perspective. Jo has spent over 30 years in local government, the last 10 as a Director of Social Services.

Jo was followed by Claire Bertschinger who worked as an International Red Cross nurse in Ehtiopia during the famine of 1984 and was the central figure of a BBC news report sent by Michael Buerk, broadcast in October 1984, which inspired Bob Geldorf to launch the Band Aid charity recording.

Her book Moving Mountains tells of that harrowing time, when at the age of just 20 and a newly qualified nurse, she had to choose which children would receive food. Michael Buerk has described Claire as an ordinary woman who did extraordinary things. Claire finished her incredibly moving talk by telling us that no individual is too small to make a difference – if that is what you think, try sleeping in a room with a mosquito.

The third speaker was Sarah McKenzie, director of Philanthropy UK, the leading resource for free and impartial advice to aspiring philanthropists who want to give effectively. Please visit www.philanthropyuk.org

For a woman in business the Women's Network meetings are invaluable and the Chamber sends out details to all members of Hounslow Chamber Women.



John Sproson in action

Sales Seminar

The recent seminar on 2nd April at the Holiday Inn, Brentford Lock, organised jointly by Hounslow for Business and Hounslow Chamber led by John Sproson of BreakthroughSolutions was very illuminating. John started his presentation by pointing out that Readers Digest see a half per cent response to their direct marketing as a good return on its cost, however a

small business cannot waste 99.5% of its resources – you have to be smarter.

He used the example of selling Marmite; there is no point trying to sell Marmite to people who don't like it, you have to find out where the Marmite lovers congregate; which magazines they read. His presentation ended with a seat swapping exercise, so more self confident guests had a one to one with a member of the group with less confidence. The event was sponsored by Business Link London and more are planned for the future.

May '08

Action Acton - 6th Annual Business Networking Event

This year's business to business event took place on Friday, 4th April and was the busiest to date. About fifty business took display stands and 80 visited on the day. The day started at 11.00 am with John Blackmore, Chief Executive of Action Acton welcoming guests. At 12.00 noon there was a presentation by Craig Hanna on how to increase your business using the web. This was followed by lunch and then there were sponsor presentations and one minute presentations by all the guests.

Hounslow Chamber is pleased to promote the event and as evidenced by the number of our members taking stands and visiting on the day, it is proving a welcome addition to our events calendar. Many thanks to Mike Morris of Action Acton for ensuring it is such a successful event.

Below: John Blackmore, CEO of Action Acton and Ealing and Councillor David Millican, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development talking to Royda Manda, Director of Manda Foods Limited, one of the exhibitors. Manda Foods is a company selling Zambian hot chilli sauce. (www.mandafoods.co.uk)



Power Breakfast

Hounslow Chamber joined forces with West London Business for the Power Breakfast on 29th February. The inspirational speaker was Grant Leboff, founder of the Intelligent Sales Club. He spoke for about 45 minutes and gave many insights into how and why people decide to buy. People do not like change so you need to take away as much risk as possible. Think of the John Lewis strap line: "never knowingly undersold" – they are providing reassurance. Customers don't know the choices available; they know the needs and issues. For example if Henry Ford had asked people what they wanted they would have said a faster horse! These joint meetings are always well attended and a great way to make new contacts.

LEGAL ADVICE

Discrimination by Association - Disability discrimination can apply even when you are not disabled

An anticipated decision from the European Court of Justice (ECJ) is likely to extend protection from discrimination and harassment in the workplace to carers of disabled and possibly also to carers of older people.

The issue centres on the case of *Coleman v Attridge Law*. Ms Coleman is not disabled but her son is and she is his main carer. Ms Coleman complained that she suffered less favourable treatment because of her association with her disabled son and was therefore discriminated against and harassed under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995).

The concept of discrimination by association is not new, but generally only applies to discrimination on the grounds of race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The DDA 1995 prohibits discrimination and harassment in the workplace "against a disabled person", however a successful decision for Ms Coleman would significantly extend the scope of the DDA 1995 to people caring for a disabled relative. For this reason, the case has been sent by the Employment Tribunal to the ECJ for adjudication.

The final decision is not expected until later this year, however it is widely expected that the court will follow the opinion of the Advocate General who stated that protection from workplace discrimination should be extended to carers of disabled people. To do otherwise would undermine the ability to protect the dignity of disabled people.

For employers, careful thought will be required when considering requests for flexible working from an employee who wishes to change their working pattern to allow them to look after a disabled relative. Further, comment or criticism of an employee for anything connected to their caring role could also amount to discrimination.

NEW MEMBERS

In Ms Coleman's case this included disciplinary action over her repeated absences, which could also amount to discrimination.

While it is difficult to estimate the number of employees likely to be affected by this decision, it could be upwards of 2.5 million people. If the ECJ do support the opinion of the Advocate General, then there is a school of thought that suggests that protection from discrimination by association could also be extended to cover carers of elderly people under Age Regulations.

If you are concerned with anything raised here or any other aspect of employment law the Employment Group at Solnick LLP will be happy to assist. For further information please visit our website at www.solnick.com or contact Jonathan Keighley on 020 8996 4706



New Members

Brasserie Chez Gerard
Building on the success of Chez Gerard in London over the past 30 years, The Brasserie Chez Gerard menu draws on French influences from around the globe; from delicious Moroccan 'Tajines' to 'the best steak and frites this side of Paris'. The Brasserie is a fantastic place to relax with friends, colleagues or family. Join us for casual or formal dining, or simply drinks at the Zinc Bar.

Light, bright and airy with a diverse range of menus, Brasserie Chez Gerard, 163-165 Chiswick High Road, London W4 2DT is the perfect place to experience the French tradition of all day dining. Open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 11.30pm, Sunday 10am to 10.30pm. Please call 020 8742 1942

Cosmeros Ltd is the home of two fantastic natural product brands. Lydia Dainow, skin essentials from Switzerland with its outstanding natural cosmetic products, special treatments and the herbal alternative to micro-dermabrasion. Peeling Velours for scars, marks or facelift as well as the new Phytolift products as an alternative to botox are all plant based and natural.

Forever Living Products based around Aloe Vera and supplements complete the back to nature aspect and complete the company's holistic idea.

Cosmeros: cosmeros@lydiadainow.com or visit www.lydiadainow.com

Orchard Growth Partners provides part time Finance Director services to companies primarily in the SME sector. Such companies will often have a competent Financial Controller or Bookkeeper in place but may lack a senior finance professional with the broad range of experience and expertise necessary to add strategic insight on financial issues at Board level. Such a person can add real value by improving financial performance, but the cost and risk of employing a full-time FD is often prohibitive for SMEs, so their part-time solution could be the answer. For more information about what they can do to help you improve your profitability and grow your business please call Antony Doggwiler on 07802 395224 or go to <http://www.orchardgrowth.com/services.asp>.

Pitman Training Twickenham offers Secretarial, PA and Microsoft Office diploma courses, plus short courses on Accounts, Book-Keeping, Shorthand, Typing, Web design and many more. Their qualifications improve your job and earning prospects.

Learn at your own pace using their successful training methods. Nothing could be easier. Call on 0208 892 3014

The Gym is an exciting new, 'no frills' concept with membership from only £ 9.99 per month. With over 160 pieces of high quality Cybex exercise equipment in a 15,000 sq ft Gym in the Blenheim Centre at Hounslow near Asda, this will be the first of a national roll out programme. The Gym will be open 24/7 and there is no membership contract. For further details please visit www.thegymgroup.com

The St Giles Hotel offers both quality & value for money. Located just south of the airport, opposite the mainline station in Feltham. Ideal venue for training & presentations with excellent facilities and 10 purpose built suites. 300 bedrooms, restaurant & bar, gym, ample parking & Wireless, High Speed Internet Access throughout. Visit www.stgiles.com

Other New Members

- **Arora Property & Electrical Services**
– 07794 871325
- **Aspire Mortgages**
– 020 8737 0028
- **Bradleys** - fishmonger retail & wholesale – 020 8890 3169
- **Calliope's Realm**
(writing services) – 07914 333905
- **Dhaba Tandoori & Curry Restaurant**
– 020 8568 5959
- **Esporta Chiswick Park**
Health & Fitness – 020 8987 5818
- **K & K Contracting** (recruitment)
– 01784 459361
- **Montague Lambert**, solicitors
– 020 8997 2288
- **Newsquest**
– 020 8744 4285
- **Overseas Property Development**
– 07958 509019
- **Sue Plumtree** (trainer in personal development) – 020 8940 7056
- **Technology Partners Ltd**
– 0845 644 8770



Future Events

14th May	Hounslow Chamber Women
7.30 - 9.30 pm	'Let's talk about food' – Fiona Hamilton-Fairley, founder of The Kids' Cookery School. Free for Chamber members The Kids' Cookery School, 107 Gunnersbury Lane, Acton, London W3 8HQ
15th May	Business Cabaret Evening with Terry Neason of TLC Powertalk
6.30 - 9.30 pm	Holiday Inn, Brentford Lock, High Street, Brentford TW8 8JZ. Come to help the Chamber celebrate its centenary. Hear some songs, some tall stories and be prepared for edutainment! £15 per member and £25 for non-members
21st May	Feltham Business Lunch
12.45 pm	St Giles Hotel, Hounslow Road, Feltham TW14 9AD Free Event
21st May	Hounslow Business Forum
6.30 - 9.00 pm	Hounslow Business Centre, Spring Grove House, West Thames College, London Road, Isleworth TW7 4HS WTC will showcase what the college can offer your business. Free Event
28th May	Chiswick Business Lunch
12.45 pm	Esporta Health & Fitness. Chiswick Park, 566 Chiswick High Road. London W4 5YA. Free Event – sponsored by The Divorce Coach
5th June	Hounslow Chamber Women
7.30 - 9.30 am	Venue to be confirmed. Kathleen Stubbings and 'Jake' of Blue Merle Clicker Academy quality learning for you and your dog. Free for Chamber members, £7 for non-members

11th June	Hounslow Business Lunch
12.45 pm	Yates, 1 Bath Road, Hounslow TW3 3BJ Free Event
12th June	Performance of A Chorus Line
6.30 pm	Arts Educational Schools, 14 Bath Road, Chiswick, London W4 1LY £15 per member, £25 for non-members
18th June	Feltham Business Lunch
12.45 pm	General Roy, 2 Poplar Way, Feltham TW13 7AB Free Event - sponsored by Imtech
23rd June	Pitstop Riverside Networking
6.30 - 9.30 pm	Bell and Crown, Thames Road, Strand on the Green, London W4 3PL Please visit pitstop-for-business.com
25th June	Chiswick Business Lunch
12.45 pm	Esporta Health & Fitness. Chiswick Park, 566 Chiswick High Road. London W4 5YA. Free Event – sponsored by FGE Mobile Communications
3rd July	Canal trip on Elsdale II West London's floating classroom. Event sponsored by Groundwork Thames Valley and Thames Water Cost to be confirmed

Events are being added all the time. For the most up to date information please visit: www.hounslowchamber.org.uk

The Doughnut Factory

Action Acton has newly completed The Doughnut Factory. This is a spacious, flexible and competitively priced workspace, primarily aimed at creative and multi-media businesses or start-ups which are based in, or looking to move to, West London.


The Doughnut Factory provides an affordable premises solution for individuals and small businesses looking to expand. By licensing on a desk basis rather than m2, customers don't waste funds on space they don't need or can't fill, and have the flexibility to grow or reduce when they need without penalty.



The Doughnut Factory is also more than just office space. It has been designed to encourage an exciting creative and commercial mix where people meet, create new partnerships and exchange ideas.

For more information or to arrange a visit, please call 020 8993 9605 or email business@actionacton.com 10 Warple Mews, Acton, W3 0RF.

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