
AGENDA

1. Welcome new members and Guest Speakers - MG

MG to welcome new members, guest speakers and Dave Cawley and Roger Jordan from Dartmouth Chamber of Trade

Apologies – Sophie Bower, Alex Foley, Lynne Peets, Chris Slack

2. Guest Speakers – 20 minute presentations

Matt Roach, Exeter Airport

The role of Exeter Airport within the Devon community and its implications for Brixham.

Questions

Liz: London flight to Exeter is popular. With new link road London to Brixham is now much more practical for a short break. Would you be willing to advertise Brixham at Exeter Airport. Answer Yes want to work closer with local organisations. Liz will get in touch.

Sophie Bower, Brixfest

Sophie to announce details of an exciting new project being launched at this year's Brixfest.

Alasdair Anderson & Eunice Dodd - Friends of Brixham Library

The activities undertaken by the library in support of the library and its outreach work to the Brixham Community.

Working with businesses in town already to offer friends of Brixham library discount offers. Benefit to businesses and library to have people coming into town.

Want to work with any partners in the local community.

Questions:

Peter Hughes, Happy to work with library to give free talks on dementia, scam protection or other topics.

Mike Franchi, Could tourism information centre be in the library? Answer This has been suggested already and in hands of Brixham Town Council. We have also suggested this would be a good place.

Tony Stobart. Are the library doing anything for the reading challenge? Answer yes they will be supporting it.

Mike Franchi Seen Torquay Museum using popular culture to market the museum. They used star wars to encourage young people to visit which seemed successful maybe something that the library could look at.

Annie Wilson and Nigel Smallbones

BRIXHAM MARINE CONSERVATION DAY

Wanted to introduce a protocol of what happens if a dolphin or other marine animal gets stranded in the harbour. This is now in place. Also have two posters in the harbour explaining how people should act if a marine animal has become stranded.

Goal of conservation day is to educate people and attract people to the town. Lots of fun activities planned but need help advertising and spread the word. Need donations.

Want to raise people's awareness of marine conservation in Brixham. Promote boat trips to see dolphins, birds and other animals. We have the largest breeding colony of guillemots on the coast. These trips are attracting people from all over the country. Real opportunity of making a destination for this type of trip.

Links with South Devon are helping to promote marine conservation and this with the conversation day gives them an opportunity to promote Brixham as a Marine conservation hub.

Questions:

Mike Franchi: Agree we underestimate what we have here. Mike Franchi was talking to someone from visit England about the fish market tour but comments were they are not often enough and need online booking to sell this across the country. It would be great to package a weekend to include a boat trip, the fish market tour and then maybe a talk and fish and chips. Maybe link with the seafood coasts.

3. Consultation exercise on Love Brixham website

Activities suggested

- Fishing
- Boat trips
- Walking
- Dog friendly places
- Places to eat
- Brixham theatre
- Rugby games
- Festivals
- Art and crafts
- Markets

Overall well received.

4. Chair's Report

The Chamber Stand at the recent tourism exhibition on the 15th March, 2017 was very busy with lots of compliments for Brixham, The Chamber, The New Guide and the markets. Generally it was a good exhibition overall.

The majority of the people were Torquay and Paignton B&B's who were delighted to get a few guides and information. We only had about 50 x A5 market leaflets and they went in a flash. The chamber team also collected a list of establishments to whom we've promised to send new leaflets when they are ready. We took a box of the new guides and there were only a few left at 1ish!

Thank you to Alex Foley, Lynne Peets and Matt Crabtree for giving up their time to represent the chamber. It was very much appreciated.

For information, the 2017 Torbay Air Show is being held over the weekend of 3-4th June. Once again it is based at Paignton Green.

Thank you to Liz for working on the new event boards which have gone up around Brixham. They look really good and we have already received a lot of compliments upon them.

Thank you also to Sophie, who has very kindly been taking the minutes of our meetings for us in the absence of a secretary. It is much appreciated.

However, without a secretary, the combined workload of chairman and secretary is too much for one person. Summer is my only trading time, during which period I have to personally make every item that I sell. With the chamber demands upon my time, I have fallen significantly behind my usual stock position, which is something that I cannot allow to continue.

The chamber does a lot for local businesses with its executive working on behalf of all members. It is not right to expect a handful of people to freely give up their time without others coming forward to share the workload. We urgently need a secretary and I hope that someone will be kind enough to take the role on in the very near future.

5. Executive updates on activities and responsibilities within respective roles (5 minutes each)

6. Special announcements from members on their business activities

Date of next meetings:

Next Chamber executive meeting : Thursday 13th April, 2017, Millie and Me Café, 1800hrs

Next General Meeting : Tuesday 23rd May, 2017, Berry Head Hotel, 1900-2100hrs