
MINUTES

1. Attendance

Apologies: Chris Bryson, Liz Pippett

The chairman Matt Crabtree (MC) welcomed the audience and our speakers for the evening. MC welcomed new member businesses to the Chamber since the last general meeting:

- Povey Communications
- Bay's Brewery
- The Prince William
- Liberty
- Another Chapter
- Inspirations & the Boutique of Booze
- Greenway Ferry & River Boat Cruises
- Play Torbay

2. Pauline Neal – Time and Tide Bell

Pauline thanked the Chamber for the recent donation of £500 towards the Tidal Bell project. The installation of the bell onto breakwater beach is currently in the planning process. There will be another public meeting after the planning is granted, Chamber members will be invited.

3. Chair's Update

MW updated the audience on several topics:

- Windy Corner roadworks – MW read a recent email from Torbay Council outlining the expected timetable of works.
- White Rock roadworks – no update was available from the council before this meeting
- Freshwater / Oxen Cove car parks – the Chamber was not informed of the current developments before they started, we were alerted when members of the public noticed a sign places 2 days before the works began. Along with councillor Stockman and others, the Chamber has managed to maintain coach parking spaces within the car park and allayed fears from coach drivers including an article in Coaching magazine. We are waiting for an update about when and how much of the Oxen Cove car park will reopen for parking.

4. Jamie Brown – Brixham Theatre

The theatre was taken over in May 2018 by a new community interest organisation, at a time when it might otherwise have folded.

In the first year the theatre sold a total of 3635 seats across their various shows. They had a gross revenue of £53,000 and a total expenditure of £42,000 leaving it in a healthy position going into the second year. NB There are a number of annual costs including rent which were not charged in the first year.

A wide range of events are already booked throughout 2019 including community theatre, links with children and primary schools, local and national theatre groups.

Membership of the theatre organisation costs £10 per year and new members and volunteers are strongly encouraged.

Advance ticket booking continues to be a challenge.

5. Mary Thompson – Pride in Brixham

Mary set up Pride in Brixham in 2006 because her mum was reminiscing on former times when people were proud of the town and kept it clean... 13 years on the group has 20 volunteers and performs an incredible civic duty each year, painting and repairing and replacing railings, benches, toilets, flower beds, lamp posts...

The most recent project has been 6 weeks' work in the new Brixham Does Care day centre garden.

They have supported the Brixham in Bloom initiative since 2009 and led judges around the town for the last 2 years, winning Gold both times.

6. Richard Povey – Povey Communications

Richard is a marketing specialist who has recently moved to Brixham and joined the chamber. He informed us of how he helps clients and gave some examples. He has a competition for a free marketing health check running until Thursday 6th July.

7. Alex Foley – Seafood Feast

The Seafood Feast this year runs from September 20th to October 6th. The festival is a series of events around Torbay including restaurant evenings, guest chefs, food workshops, seafood-themed tours or activities...

Local businesses can get involved by creating their own event or using the fact that the Feast is happening nearby as an additional way to attract customers.

8. Duncan Haddrell & Lisa Blatcher – ITB Studio

Duncan and Lisa run ITB studio, an ambitious and successful interior design company. They gave some examples of their work in commercial, residential, new build properties. Lisa has won multiple awards for design and lives in Brixham.

9. Simon Lewry – Torbay Leisure Centre

Torbay Leisure Centre has recently been through a major renovation project with a total investment of £1.7m from LexLeisure, the organisation which runs the centre.

Simon showed pictures of the transformation inside the centre, from the entrance hall and changing rooms to the expanded gym and upgraded outdoor hockey pitch.

10. AOB

Pauline Neal informed us that the Brixham Means Business networking sessions are set to recommence in the autumn, most likely as a breakfast club. Any interested businesses should contact Pauline at Corraline Health.

MW and Alex Foley introduced the Chamber's summer networking event, Monday July 1st, 7-9pm on the Golden Hind.

MW showed the audience the 2019 Brixham guides and maps which have been produced and distributed by the Chamber.

Date of next meetings:

Executive Meeting: Tuesday 11th June, the conservative club 6pm

General Meeting: Tuesday 23rd July, Berry Head Hotel, 7pm