



Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting Wednesday 16th November 2011 – Churchill Bar, Wadebridge

President: Mr D Rowe

Chairman: Mr D Walford

Vice Chairman: TBA

Hon. Secretary: Mr A M Gregan

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs A Jackson

Present: Darren Rowe (Riverside Financial Planning), Dominic Walford (Plug into the Sun), Ann Jackson (Treasurer), Stephen Knightley (Mayor - Wadebridge Town Council), Rupert Wilson (Seafood Restaurant & PATBF), Grenville Stanbury (Kittows), Lesley & Steve Icome (Shooting Star), Sara Young (River), Darren Lewarne (Natwest Bank), Phillip Mutton (Trebtor Estates), Rachel Daniel (One Step Ahead), Mel Hardie (Arty Crafts), Maggie Mutton (Wadebridge Twinning), Andrew Jolley (North Cornwall Advertiser), Richard Alexander (Alexander & Co), Yvonne & Clive Robinson (The Heat Store), Jenna Heywood (Anns Cottage and Minute Taker)

Apologies: Richard Hatch (Trudgeon Halling), Steve Coom (Razor Solutions), Nicky Ryland (The Tea Shop & Flo's Carnival), Mike Walford (Folk Festival), Nigel Wiggett (Bridge Nike Hire), Jason & Randi Henderson (Elixir), Susan Stanbury (Kittows), Tristan Lang (Green Gecko) Robin Moorcroft & Phil Chanter (Devon & Cornwall Police)

Minutes of the last meeting were proposed as accurate by Darren Rowe.

Dominic begins the meeting by welcoming new members Sara from River and Lesley and Steve from Shooting Star. After formal introductions the meeting begins.

Matters Arising

PATBF

There was not much to report, however in the New Year Dom will be engaging more with Tina from the PATBF. Dom will be judging their festive window displays on the weekend of their Christmas festival. (Friday 2nd December - Sunday 4th December 2011)

Regatta

No further news to report on the Regatta, Rupert and Dom are both keen to get more people involved. Stephen (Mayor) reports that at the *What's On Wadebridge* meeting on Monday, the Wadebridge Kayak club said that they are very keen and they would like to show everyone the cardboard kayaks they have to use!

Vice Chairman

Dom asks the chamber if there are any volunteers for the role of Vice Chairman, unfortunately no-one steps forward, if you are interested in this rewarding role please contact Dominic. Please be aware that in the New Year the Chamber will hold it's annual AGM in February. If no new Chairman and Deputy come forward the Chamber will be disbanded.

Treasurers Report

The Christmas Fireworks have now been paid for and members fees have come in from Bridge Bike Hire, Wadebridge Kitchens and REG Windpower who own the St Breock wind farm. Dom said that REG would also like to donate a proportion of their income, they may do this through WREN because it is a non-profit organisation and it will mean no extra costs.

The chamber have received a fantastic donation from Bridge Bistro, they have raised £300 from giving out homemade cookies for a small donation in their collection box! Well done Bridge Bistro! The cinema have also donated £150, this was helped along by Ann who recently passed them the minutes as a reminder that the chamber needs donations. The problem is some businesses may be happy to help, but they don't hear about how much the chamber needs it, so please spread the word. Many thanks to all that have donated.

Crime prevention

There was no crime report from the police, however they will get it to us as soon as they can.

Events Committee update

Stephen (Mayor) tells us that *What's on Wadebridge* had a meeting on Monday 14th and all is going along nicely, the next big event is of course the Christmas weekend. Stephen says that although he has had great interest in the Santa Run, (which will take place on the Sunday) not enough people are actually signing up yet. To boost this Stephen is going to have a stand in the town this coming weekend and actively try and get people to sign up.

Mel suggests asking one2one fitness in Trenant Industrial Estate, to help promote the run. The mayor says he has also spoken to local sports teams who are interested. Darren Rowe says that we really have to make it easy for people to sign up and that having a stand in the town will be a great help. The mayor has 200 suits, which includes around 75 children's suits. Dominic says he will take some of the suits to his businesses and get people to take part. Mel suggests that Stephen talks to Stuart Robinson (Jewellers) who can get the event put on an educational website, so that plenty of parents and children can hear about the Santa Run.

Dominic also says that the Santa Run can be put on the chamber website. Stephen can talk to Steve Coom from Razor Solutions about this. Phillip says that the event is aiming to draw both people who want a race and families who want to join in for fun, Stephen says that two routes have been devised, one for families with dogs and children, plus one for the runners which takes them down to Grogley halt. Padstow are holding a Santa Run the week before and the Mayor has offered for them to come with their own suits, as the more the merrier!

Dominic offers his help if Stephen should need it, plus states that the event should be put in both the Guardian and Advertiser.

Christmas Weekend 9, 10 & 11th December

Firstly both Dom and Darren said a big thank you to Mel from Arty Crafts for getting all the local retailers together to discuss plans for the weekend, it really shows that people are behind this event. Darren says there will be a window competition again, which Mel won last year, this will be judged on Friday 9th. It was suggested that Tina from the PATBF could do the judging. (She has since confirmed she will do this)

Darren said that they are looking into not only getting people on the Piazza and Molesworth street but the extremities of the town. Darren said that plenty of entertainment should keep people interested and get them into different spots, such as Polmora Walk and Foundry Court. Dominic said he has a 'drumming' band interested in playing, so they could be put down Polmora walk. Rachel points out that it would be a good idea to move this sort of band around! Jan from one2one fitness is very keen to get involved and has organised St Breock School to come and join in. Treats on Trikes are coming for the three days with their crepes and they may also do roasted chestnuts. Lesley from Shooting Star asks if they can have a stall to direct people to their shop and tell the chamber about how in their previous town they hired singers, story tellers and stilt walkers to help the festivities. Mel said that it may be a bit late this year but an idea for the future. Darren explains that the Shipwrecks will move around the town. Mel suggests maybe organising a volunteer to move the singers and entertainers on after 10 minute slots. Dom said it will definitely be a good idea to 'timetable' entertainers in, so Dom and Darren will get together and rota the bands.

Andy tells us that Caroline from the Molesworth has got the Fandangos to come and play after lunch on the Sunday, she has also said that she will share them if anyone would like to. Rachel suggests getting hold of a local busker called Tony Taylor who is very good. Phillip says that during Saturday will be a great time for extra entertainment as the Friday night will be busy anyway. Darren says that the St Minver Band are definitely coming on the Friday and possibly the other days also.

The discussion then turns to whether or not to have food stalls. A lady who sells hotdogs and candyfloss, apparently out of a stall the size of a wheel barrow has been interested in attending. Phillip says do we really want to import other people in? Mel explains that she had complaints at her meeting regarding food stalls, she suggested that if people don't want the overheads of opening up, then why doesn't everyone club together and buy a trestle table and hot pot and work together! Darren says that the hot dog lady is happy to pay £25 to come along, however this may not be enough. He just wants to

control how many catering stalls there are, because one year a burger van ended up outside Bridge On Wool! Andy tells us that Caroline from Molesworth is going to put on a hog roast and warm Pimms, Grenville said that lots of pubs may like to do something on the Friday, so maybe the pubs should have first refusal? Phillip thinks the little stalls like this hot dog one are ok, but no big trailers should be allowed. Darren said if the parents can buy their children a hot dog to keep them happy then they may shop longer! Plus other food options should be available as children will not be allowed in the pubs. So Darren suggests that just Treats on Trikes come on the Friday and let other food stalls come the Saturday and Sunday. It was decided that the Treat on Trikes will be near the front of Co-op and the Hot Dog lady will be on the Piazza but could move around. Dominic suggests charging £50 for the whole weekend

Dom said he has had enquiries from things like helium balloon sellers and bungee ropes for kids, but they will refuse on those. It was suggested that maybe a carousel might be nice, Dom said the only one he knew was in Truro but doubtful that they would be able to move. Dominic said that he likes the idea of storytelling and face painting. Phillip said that the buskers should come on the Saturday as they may get a bit lost on the Friday. The website has drawn plenty of interest from potential stall holders and Phillip tells us about the people having stalls so far. He would ideally like 18-20 so if anyone is interested please let us know. Phillip had not yet received any money, but after asking the group it was suggested that he gets the money upfront. Especially if it rains and no-one shows up! So far he has Cherry Tree Preserves, a stall selling mobile phone accessories, a jewellery stall, Bodmin Nursery will be coming along with Christmas trees in pots and so on, a Caribbean cook wants to come along – Cynthia Hassan, Phillip asks if anyone knows this lady, our new member Sara does and says she will pass on contact details. Also in the mix is a jewellery stall selling seashell and silver jewellery, the Cornish Pork Pantry, Jenny Millman, the Cornwall Running Store, Louise who sells marble goods and a lady called Charlie Daniels who sells felt and children's activity packs. Also the Friends of the Camel Trail will be there, so it looks to be a great selection of stalls so far.

Darren re-iterates that it needs to be easy for people to have a stall or join the Santa Run, the easier the better. However some people will just turn up on the day to the Santa Run. Phillip says that the retailers down Orchard Walk and the Fearless shop will be open on the Sunday. Barnecutts needs to be approached to see if they want to open on the Sunday. Bricknells should be open and also the toy shop. Mel suggested that if any problems with toy shop, they could always just have a stand.

Darren has some good news on the light fittings. Nigel and Stef from Davey Electrical Services have bought the kit needed to test the fittings, which has saved £1,000's. They will be checked the day before the Christmas lights go up. The day for putting up the Christmas lights is Sunday 27th, volunteers start at 8pm and then it will work in shifts. Mel suggests that the Fire Brigade help, Dominic will look into this. Darren says how great the people who hire us the cherry pickers are, Phillip suggests giving them tickets for Bistro Mix? Dom and Darren both like this idea.

Friday night the Rotary club will be marshalling the fireworks. The next thing needed is plenty of collection buckets. Darren suggests almost creating a wall of people to get as many donations as possible. The chamber needs to refill the Christmas light fund as next year bulbs will need replacing and Darren would like to extend the blue canopy and also extend the lights to Polmora Walk. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer money collector then please contact the chamber.

Dom asks the chamber about manning the Grotto, Jenna from Ann's Cottage will do the first hour on the Friday and one hour on the Saturday. Yvonne from the Heat Store volunteers for the 7-8pm shift on the Friday. Mel and Darren suggest using a youth group such as Avalon to come along, dress up and help with the Grotto. They could then promote their February play. Darren will contact Avalon.

Andy will be helping to put together the Grotto, which we hope will take a bit of money to help the chamber out. Darren also says that Holly Day from Pirate FM will be there on the Friday night with her 'Love Bus'.

Mel tells us about how her meeting with the other local retailers is going to help with the advertising of the Christmas weekend. They have got six 4x4 boards together which will clearly show the date of the weekend. These will be placed by Tesco's, Ball Roundabout, in Egloshayle and Clapper with other suggestions being possibly out at Washaway. Adrian from Matchbox will put them up.

Mel has also organised posters for the shops who will be open over the Christmas weekend. These can then be put in shop windows telling everyone who is open and what times. Also 5,000 A6 leaflets will be printed which retailers can have in their shops. The shops will be offered 300 leaflets for £5, they can then put them in carrier bags. The chamber has kindly picked up the bill for these prints.

Rupert suggests using the Padstow Christmas festival as a chance to give out leaflets, maybe the chamber could organise a volunteer to hand out leaflets on the Friday night? Andy says they are cheap to print if we need anymore. Tina could also put a poster up in the TIC.

To help further with advertising; businesses in surrounding areas such as in St Minver and St Kew could have posters. It will also be a good idea to get advertising in the regional newspapers. Andy will run a feature in the centre pages of the

December Advertiser with a big push on the Sunday trading. Anyone that advertises can have a listing or a listing will be £10. The chamber will also speak to Emma from the Guardian. Dom said he would contact the centralised marketing department for the regional newspapers.

Lesley from Shooting star told the chamber of more ideas from her previous town, they had snow machines on the street which were a great hit and made the local papers. The snow 'bubbles' would safely dissolve and it would be a great attraction. Dom said they do have a small snow machine so this could be looked into. Rupert suggests that Wadebridge keep it simple this year and then re-group in January to think of other ideas for 2012.

Talk then turns to Sunday opening, Mel suggested in her meeting with other retailers that it would be an idea to get all the shops that are opening on the Sunday to put a Christmas tree or balloons outside their shop. So that when people look towards Molesworth Street they can clearly see that people are opening. Shops that are opening have decided to keep it to the hours of 10am-2pm, they will also joining in with the festive spirit and wearing silly headgear! Mel has also suggested that local buskers will add to the atmosphere for example harpists and flutists. Mel has also heard that Janet Young son's band is very good and has an Irish feel and that they would be a good addition to the night. They were concerned that as the lower part of Molesworth Street is mainly banks and estate agents and would be shut it was suggested that entertainment be outside to draw people up to the retailers, or possibly get some stalls in front of them, as long as they are not blocking the cash points! Darren Lewarne from NatWest said that this will be ok and to make sure that NatWest has posters and collecting tins for the event. Sara from River asked if it was ok to have music outside your shop, Dom confirmed that you are allowed. Mel finished by saying that Wadebridge should start talking more – retailers talk to your neighbours and spread the word.

New members

Finally our new members tell us more about their businesses. Lesley and Steve from Shooting Star are a jewellery shop, selling silver jewellery, plus their own designs and healing products. They are open 7 days a week and are keen to be involved with the chamber. Darren asks them if it is worthwhile opening on a Sunday, Lesley says it is but they do get lots of comments on how quiet Wadebridge is on a Sunday. Sarah opened 'River' 2 weeks ago and they specialise in organic beauty and massage. She will be opening on Sundays leading up to Christmas. Maggie Mutton is from Wadebridge Twinning and she tells the chamber about how Wadebridge is twinned with Longue in Brittany, France. It is a small town very similar to Wadebridge with independent retailers and a beautiful river. She has joined the chamber as she is keen to link up with people and keep them informed about the twinning. Maggie would like to have peoples email addresses for future possibilities with connecting sporting groups or shops. Longue residents will also be coming over next May and host families will be required.

She also passes around information for 'Riding for the Disabled'

Any other business

Darren tells us of a recent television programme about Gloucester Street in Bristol who claim to have the most independent retailers on one street in England. Darren is hoping to prove that Wadebridge has more! He is in the process of deciding which street to use and talking to the appropriate people. Everyone agrees that this will be great marketing. Clive from The Heat Store tells us how encouraging it is to find the Chamber meetings fun and positive, so please join us next time!

If you would like to donate, become a member or help out at Christmas as a volunteer please contact Dominic. Alternatively you can use the donation form below.

Dominic Walford: dominic.walford@plugintothsun.co.uk Mob: 07875760933

Next Meeting: 18th January 2012 at the Churchill Bars (upstairs) 5.45pm – all are welcome.

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Vice Chairman election
5. Treasurers Report
6. Crime Prevention
7. Events Committee update
8. Other business

Donations for the Wadebridge Christmas Festival 2011

Please send a cheque payable to **Wadebridge Chamber of Commerce** to the following address:
C/O Town Hall, Wadebridge

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**Thank you for your support
The Chamber Committee**

Annual subscription payment – due now please

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Would you like to be included on the website YES/NO

If so please provide us with the contact person and telephone number for Steve Coom of Razor Solutions to contact you
Name

Tel

**You do not have to attend the monthly meetings to be a member. Your financial contribution will aid the progress
and development of Wadebridge town and ultimately your business**

**Thank you for your support
The Chamber Committee**