

Chamber NEWS

“Representing & working for Somerset business”

The Somerset Chamber
cordially invites you to attend
**Business to Business
Dinner**

Wednesday 17th March
7pm for 7.30pm

At The Swan Hotel,
Sadler Street, Wells

Kindly sponsored by



Please read and complete the
enclosed flyer – don't forget, you can
book and pay on-line!

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Rupert's Ramblings

March should see the start of Spring and the appearance of the first “green shoots” in our gardens. Daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops are the first to appear in the Cox Garden as they embark on another English season.

What of our economy? Do we really see “green shoots of recovery”? Those who know me will also know that I am a “cup half full” man, so I remain positive that Somerset's economy appears to be holding up well.

Evidence from the 4th Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) of 2009 showed Somerset firms being particularly confident on future investment with 31% having invested in plant or machinery in the last quarter, 49% experienced increased sales, and 24% looking to increase staff numbers with only 5% looking for staff reductions.

Qualitative evidence also suggests that things have not got as bad as we might have thought. We were delighted to host the Governor of the Bank of England in Somerset during January where he was surprised to learn of positive stories from companies involved with food packaging, refrigerated transport, retail village outlet, tourism, agricultural & rural retail and industrial cleaning. There are still some negative sectors including commercial property and development – although there is light at the end of the tunnel, and any business relying on public investment which is shrinking.

It has been harder to gauge jobs losses. While unemployment in the county remains relatively low at about 3.7% (UK 7.8%), this masks the extent of the losses in 2009 as we have anecdotal evidence that the East European workforce has shrunk in some sectors with individuals not “signing-on” and becoming a statistic. As all economic migrants have done throughout history, they have moved on to where more lucrative work is available.

The first enquiries for the Hinkley Point development have materialised with Costain seeking access to the Somerset supply chain. I was delighted with the responses from Chamber members who not only wanted to register themselves as interested, but also from the “professions” who sought to register their clients interests. More of these enquiries will follow so stay alert and register as a soon as requested to do so.

Rupert Cox, Chief Executive



WHO ARE WE ? Icon Business Solutions' is a network of successful, highly experienced, dedicated and passionate, local business advisors who are focused on helping to improve the lives of small to medium size business owners.



WHAT DO WE DO? When working with an Icon Business Solutions' advisor you are supported through tried and tested systems and the experience of a global network. Together, you and your business advisor will examine all the key drivers of the business; including:

- Sales
- Marketing
- Human Resources
- Finance
- Production

The objective of the Icon Business Advisor is to help you, the business owner, move your focus and time, away from working in the business, to working on your business' development. Not only will this enable you to achieve sustainable growth, but it will also allow you more freedom to enjoy the lifestyle you have only dreamed about.

To ensure we deliver sustained success for the owner, the advising is a two-way process between you and your advisor, to ensure that you both consistently meet targets and timeframes, providing a system that is accountable and results-oriented.

**Martin Sawyer ~ martinsawyer@iconbusinesssolutions.com ~ Telephone Number: 01823 337423
Mobile Number: 07866855622 ~ Website: www.iconbusinesssolutions.com**



Leading Edge

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Releasing Potential. Improving Performance

Playing Your Cards

Listening last year to Simon Weston, I was struck by his positive attitude. It is twenty-seven years since he was thrust into the 'limelight' when Sir Galahad was bombed, but nonetheless, his irrepressible approach remains inspiring. In the question and answer session after his presentation, he said several times that his attitude was "it's not the cards you're dealt, but how you deal with the cards you're dealt". His attitude has much to commend in these difficult times and, from a business perspective, it links closely with 'Area of Interest and Area of Influence'.

Of course we are interested in the current economic climate and whether interest rates will rise, but there is no much we can personally do about them - we just have to accept whatever happens. How we deal with those changes will mark us out as leaders. Our role is to understand the impact of those changes on our business, identify with our teams the opportunities and challenges that come with those changes, and to communicate any resultant actions in a positive way – without of course being naively optimistic.

So as leaders, our psychological state is of vital importance. If we cannot get ourselves in the right place internally, it will quickly become apparent externally. An easy way to ensure we are in the right place is to listen to ourselves. If our internal voice is marked by resentment (they shouldn't have done this) or resignation (there's nothing I can do about this) then it will quickly become apparent in our external behaviour and we are actively disempowering ourselves – and our teams. What we need to do is to accept 'What is...is' (to quote the Dalai Lama) and then look for opportunities. That is where personal and business growth will come from and, to quote Simon Weston, we'll be dealing with the cards we're dealt!

Simon Hollington; Tel: 01823 325301 ~ Email: simon@lepd.org.uk ~ Website: www.lepd.org.uk

JOHNPEPPER

CONSULTANCY

Business and Management Solutions

John Pepper Consultancy Ltd is a new local company formed in 2009 offering Business and Management Solutions across the South West of England. John Pepper, its Principal Consultant, has over 30 years management and business experience primarily in the public sector across the UK and overseas. John started his professional life as a Land Surveyor in the East Midlands before moving to Southampton as a Technical and Management Training specialist. He gained his post graduate qualification in Marketing and Strategic Planning from Bournemouth

University Business School and has held senior positions in Product Development and Management, Marketing, Business Consultancy, Business Development and Strategy and Policy. He is an active member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM), a Chartered Marketer and a Member of the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM). He is also a Director of the Association for Geographic Information (AGI).

We provide business services and solutions to allow you to maximise your potential. We are able to help you develop and deliver your Business Strategy and / or Marketing Plan to ensure you are targeted at the relevant markets with products and services that are appropriately priced and presented. We also provide Change Management and Performance Management Training, Coaching and Mentoring at the team or individual level in your business.

We are experienced in providing report based consultancy using our internal skills base to answer a specific query or offer guidance on an issue. This service can be provided in as little as two days depending on your requirements. We are also experienced in working with our clients on longer term requirements and development programmes.

For more information or to contact us, please call **01823 325045** or **07733 266597** or e-mail us at info@johnpepperconsultancy.com. Please also visit our website at www.johnpepperconsultancy.com

A 2010 message from BCC President, Neville Reyner, CBE DL

Happy 2010 to all Chambers and members in the UK. I hope you all, like me, are looking forward to an eventful and exciting year ahead.

We recently published our fourth quarter 2009 Economic Survey results, which had responses from over 5,400 companies. Although we are not quite out of the woods yet, the results were promising and reinforced the latest GDP figures, confirming that the UK is now out of recession after the economy saw growth of 0.1 per cent in the last quarter. The improvements in employment and exports within the manufacturing sector were particularly encouraging. British exporters are likely to benefit from the weak pound which will strengthen Britain's trade position globally, and help rebalance the economy away from the public sector.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally commend British businesses for their resilience, and also thank Chambers for their continued and much-needed support to the business community during these difficult economic times.

So, what is in store for the BCC over the coming months? During 2010, the BCC will reinforce its strategy around the five themes of governance, international, accreditation, policy and commercial services, which will further strengthen our relationships within the network.

We are in discussions about the forthcoming party conference season and how best to make sure our presence is felt at each event. This year, the Conservatives are in Birmingham, Labour will be in Manchester and the Lib Dems in Liverpool, so we are working together with the relevant Chambers to plan our own events in each city. It will be particularly interesting this year, as it will be the first party conference season after the General Election in May, and we are looking forward to seeing what the outcome will be.

In the meantime, we will continue to focus on our three campaigns - tax and regulation, infrastructure, and trade - to make sure our views on these subjects are heard at the highest level of Government.

The BCC would not have been able to achieve this milestone without the help and dedication of the Chamber network, and we look forward to building upon these relationships over the coming months as we move from recession to recovery in 2010.

The message from business is clear: reduce the deficit and scrap the NICs hike

While the political parties continue to squabble over the urgency and severity of spending cuts to bring down the UK's ballooning budget deficit, British business has sent politicians a clear message.

41% of companies that responded to the British Chambers of Commerce's (BCC) latest Monthly Business Survey believe that an incoming Government should make reducing the budget deficit its number one priority.

22% of firms said that slashing the red tape burden should be the Government's top priority, while 13% argued that the focus should be on making the UK's tax system more competitive.

Businesses also revealed that an increase in National Insurance Contributions would be the most damaging tax rise for the Government to impose on them - just 6% felt that a NICs rise would be the least damaging option, compared to 36% for VAT.

According to the Treasury's "Tax Ready Reckoner", raising VAT by just 1% - to 18.5% - would net the Government an extra £4.5 billion in revenue. The 1% increase in NICs, planned for 2011, would provide a similar sum, raising £5.1bn. With these figures in mind, the BCC is arguing that the planned NICs hike should be scrapped, and substituted by a VAT rise coupled with targeted spending cuts.

Commenting, David Frost, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said:

"The message from business is clear. After an election, we have to get a serious grip on the country's public finances and escalating debt. Cutting the deficit means making tough decisions on spending, like freezing the public sector wage bill and reforming public sector pensions.

"Companies have and will continue to play their part in creating wealth and jobs, generating economic growth and driving recovery, but the right environment needs to be in place. Raising a damaging tax on business, like NICs, will be counter-productive. It will mean fewer jobs and less tax revenue in the long-term. While businesses fully understand the need to bring down the UK's deficit, they are clearly saying that using VAT would be a less damaging way to achieve this.

"So let's scrap the NICs 'tax on jobs' and offset it with a 1% VAT increase. It's a tough call, but we have to be realistic about repairing the public finances, and promoting recovery."



The Exchange Health Club...

The Exchange Health Club offers a fantastic range of facilities to ensure members and non members can enjoy all the benefits that regular activity has to offer.

A fully equipped gym and varied class programme ensure that you can experience a tough cardio workout or a more relaxing class such as yoga.

You can then relax in the sauna or steam rooms knowing you have taken a step closer to improved health and fitness.

If you are already thinking 'I should' or 'I will' go to the gym...become the person who says 'I do' go to the gym and I love how it makes me feel!

Bring this article to the club to receive a complimentary day pass.

The Exchange Conference...

With the most innovative state of the art meeting and conference facilities to offer, the exchange can provide for all your needs whether small or large.

With a variety of day delegates and room hire packages, this high quality yet affordable centre is available to host your next meeting or event. Visit our website for our latest offers or contact **Kirstie** today on **(01278) 459997**.

The Exchange Café...

Offering Costa Coffee and cooked breakfasts as well as a range of freshly prepared sandwiches, salads, homemade soups, hot baguettes, panini's and jacket potatoes the Exchange's stylish café is great place to stop for breakfast or lunch.

Or just relax, sit back and enjoy an afternoon break with a fresh coffee, pastry or cake.

We are open to all and also offer complimentary WiFi access.

Express Park, Bristol Road, Bridgwater, Somerset. TA6 4RR
www.theexchange.uk.com

WELCOME TO THE FIVE BUSINESSES THAT HAVE JUST JOINED THE SOMERSET CHAMBER

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Business and Management Solutions

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rd analytical
audit, analysis and consultancy

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Email: rjohnstone@rdsanalytical.com

Website: www.rdanalytical.com

Apprenticeships ...

Would you like to find out how you can earn £2500* by taking on a 16 - 17 year old Apprentice?

Did you know that Apprentices can make your business more effective, productive and competitive?

83% of employers rely on their Apprenticeship programme to provide the skilled workers they need for the future (Apprenticeships, survey conducted by Populus on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council, February 2008).

To find out more about Business Apprenticeships contact
Yeovil College Business Training
on 01935 845392

Apprenticeships ... "Opening the doors to a better future"

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Somerset
BA21 4DR

t: 01935 845392
e: training@yeovil.ac.uk
w: www.yeovil.ac.uk

Apprenticeships

* Terms & Conditions apply.
Grant available until the end of
March 2010

Somerset Chamber & Partner Events Diary for 2010

Date & Time	Event	Venue	Partner Organisation / Sponsor	Cost (inc. VAT)
17th March 7pm for 7.30pm	Business to Business Dinner (see enclosed invitation)	The Swan Hotel Wells	Strode College Macoc	£27.50 members £37.50 non members
April	Business to Business Dinner	West Somerset	TBC	TBC
5th May 12 noon for 12.30pm	"Meet the Neighbours" Business Lunch	The Eastbury Hotel Sherborne	Dorset Business	£28 member £38 non member
27th May 12noon	Lunch at the County Ground	Somerset County Cricket Club Taunton	Taunton Chamber of Commerce	£TBC
13th October 12 noon for 12.30pm	"Meet the Neighbours" Business Lunch	Haynes International Motor Museum Sparkford	Dorset Business	£28 member £38 non member



South West Training Services Course Calendar - March 2010



Course Date	Course Title	Course Duration	Course Location	Cost PP	Provider Name & Tel no
12th March	Telephone Sales Skills	9.30 - 4.30	Ilminster	£99.00	SweetSkills - Tel No. 07974 161279

Taking the Fear out of Presentations Seminar

"It's not what you say, it's the way that you say it..."

"Taking the Fear out of Presentations", is suitable for anyone who has to give presentations on a regular basis, anyone who would like to improve their presentation skills and anyone who is new to presenting.

Whether you are in sales or management, there comes a time when you have to stand up in front of an audience and present. Either trying to persuade or inform, the means by which you communicate your message is of paramount importance and this seminar will develop your presentation skills to transform you for inexperienced speaker to confident presenter!

The seminar costs £200+ VAT for members and £250+ VAT for non members which includes training materials, three course lunch, afternoon tea and refreshments.

This seminar is brought to you by **Portfolio Directors** and for more information on this or any of the courses run by them, please contact info@portfoliodirectors.com



The **Somerset Business Awards** are back and will be bigger and better than ever this year!

With more Awards up for grabs and even more benefits available to winning companies you cannot afford for your business to miss out!

More details available over the next few months - keep checking the website

www.somerset-chamber.co.uk
for more information

More from the BCC: MPC must keep its nerve in the face of temporary inflation rise

Commenting on the January inflation figures, released by the ONS, David Kern, Chief Economist at the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), said: "The rise in inflation, to a level necessitating an explanatory letter from the Bank Governor to the Chancellor, was widely predicted. In fact, the actual January outcome was marginally lower than many analysts expected.

"On the basis of these figures, the MPC can maintain its credibility without overreacting to the inflationary threat. The British economy is still weak, businesses continue to experience numerous pressures, and it would be wrong for the MPC to contemplate a hike in interest rates at this time.

"By maintaining its current position, the MPC would make it easier for the Chancellor to present a more detailed plan for cutting the UK's huge deficit in next month's Budget – something that businesses across the country urgently want to see."

South West businesses to benefit from graduate internship programme

Businesses in the South West are set to benefit from over 800 funded graduate internship placements, as the Government pledges to help graduates find work.

Recent reports have revealed that competition for graduate level vacancies will remain extremely high in 2010 as, even though the graduate recruitment market is beginning to show signs of recovery, many of this year's vacancies will be filled the graduating class of 2009.

In response, the Government, through HEFCE (the Higher Education Funding Council for England), has announced funding for 8,500 graduate level internships across the UK as part of its 'New Industry, New Jobs' initiative. Through the combined effort of Universities South West (the region's higher education association) and 12 of the South West's universities, the region has secured a total of 820 of these placements; bringing £ 1.3m into the area.

By placing recent graduates on funded short-term work internships in businesses in the South West, the programme aims to help graduates build on the skills they gained at university whilst providing real work experience to support their future employment. Through participation in the scheme and taking on an intern, businesses are able to access a diverse pool of highly skilled, creative and innovative talent. The Government has announced its strategy to support key employer sectors in order to stimulate growth, assist economic recovery and improve manufacturing and services. The employer sectors/themes identified for support are:

- Low-carbon products and services
- Digital industry
- Life sciences and pharmaceuticals
- Advanced manufacturing
- Professional and financial services
- Engineering construction
- Industrial opportunities

Universities South West, which has over six years experience of delivering such placement projects in the region, recognises the real benefits that internships bring to both students and business.

To ensure that the application & allocation process is as simple as possible, the university run graduate recruitment service Gradsouthwest will be acting as a portal for the initiative. To find out more about the benefits to either join the scheme as a business or as a graduate go to – www.gradsouthwest.com.

Have a Heart Appeal – 15th to 19th March 2010

Through our first Have a Heart Appeal, Heart radio will be supporting Starlight Children's Foundation to provide lasting, year-round entertainment directly onto the wards for children in hospitals in Somerset. The funds from the appeal will also help Starlight to increase the number of wishes it grants to seriously and terminally ill children. The aim of the appeal is to:

- Help Starlight to provide Fun Centres, which incorporate the latest technology including HD flat screen TV, Nintendo Wii and the latest games and film releases all straight to young patients' bedsides.
- To help Starlight to significantly increase the number of wishes they are able to grant for children every year to 2,500 wishes, which is the estimated number of children diagnosed with life-threatening illness every year.
- Every Heart radio listener's child that needs treatment in hospital, however minor or serious, could benefit from this project.
- A lasting legacy...each Have a Heart Starlight Fun Centre will entertain an estimated 5000 children every year during its lifetime. Over five years Heart will help 750,000 sick children aged 3-18 yrs.

For further information visit: www.heart.co.uk/haveaheart. To get involved in this great local cause please contact belinda.allen@heart.co.uk



Have a Heart is an appeal run by Global Charities and relies on fundraising to sustain its work.

HMRC scraps paper filing

Small business owners are no longer allowed to submit paper returns for employee pay records.

HMRC issued a warning reminding employers that all PAYE returns must now be filed online, even if you have fewer than 50 staff.

The changes come into effect this spring and mean that anyone who hands in a paper return is liable to pay a fine, regardless of whether they make the May 19 deadline.

"Major changes to PAYE filing and payment are only a matter of weeks away, so employers need to make sure they're well prepared for them," said HMRC's Stephen Banyard. "We will be writing to affected employers over the coming weeks, so please look out for this information, and take the time to read it."

As of May 2010, HMRC is also issuing penalties for late payments of all PAYE related bills including Income Tax, National Insurance Contributions (NICs), student loan deductions and Construction Industry Scheme Deductions.

However, business owners who think they may have trouble meeting the payment deadlines can avoid the penalties by contacting HMRC and agreeing a payment schedule. To contact the Business Payment Support Service call **0845 302 1435**. To file returns online, businesses must register with HMRC's PAYE online service at www.hmrc.gov.uk/payee. Free filing software is available for small businesses.

Great news from WPA, Somerset Chamber's preferred health insurance provider.

Insuring your health makes good business sense. You have the choice of specialist and hospital, with treatment in a clean and comfortable environment, to get you back on your feet quickly.

Special health and dental insurance offer – partner goes free! Join a WPA individual health or dental plan before 30th April 2010, and your partner or a second family member will be covered for free for the 1st year.



**Enjoy life.
Insure health.**

WPA can now offer easy switch terms for company medical insurance schemes with over 15 employees. Enterprise Flexible Benefits offers fantastic value for money with no complicated

forms to complete. You can even manage your policy online via our secure website.

It's easy to find out what WPA can do for you. Just contact your local WPA representatives to discuss your specific needs:-

Philippa McQueen

Tel: 07709 928424 ~ e-mail: philippa.mcqueen@wpa.org.uk

Philip Arnold

Tel: 07824 326225 ~ e-mail: philip.arnold@wpa.org.uk

Or visit www.wpa.org.uk/somerset for more information.

*Offer subject to terms and conditions: open to members of Somerset Chamber and new WPA customers only, subject to full medical underwriting.

**Philippa McQueen & Philip Arnold are Appointed Representative of WPA. WPA is authorised & regulated by the Financial Services Authority. 10/10082

Local Broker Towergate Risk Solutions warns that small businesses are vulnerable to survive major incidents



Taunton based insurance broker Towergate Risk Solutions today warned that many small businesses are not equipped to survive a major incident such as a fire, flood, act of terrorism, or a pandemic such as swine flu, particularly during the current economic downturn.

This follows independent research commissioned by the British Insurance Brokers Association (BIBA) which revealed that 45% of businesses have no, or limited plans to deal with the effects of flood or storm damage. This is despite the £3billion of flood claims from 2007 and that 80% of businesses affected by a major incident close down within 18 months. The research has also revealed that the number of small businesses who claim it would take more than six months for their business to recover has nearly trebled.

Lee Davey Managing Director of Towergate Risk Solutions Taunton said, "This research reveals that small businesses should have adequate plans in place to cover business resilience otherwise they could be putting their business at risk. By speaking with their local broker, a business can ensure that it is properly prepared in the event a major incident."

Julian Lawrence, TRS Taunton, **01823 625513**

Russell O'Connor, Towergate Partnership, **07760 282586**

Firms relocated and trading with the help of Into Somerset

Five new businesses have recently relocated and have started trading as a result of the Into Somerset project run by the Somerset Chamber of Commerce.

Gerard Tucker newly appointed Investment manager says:

"Demand for the services of Into Somerset is growing and we are working with a further 25 active enquiries as a result of recent marketing campaigns and leads from partners"

"Enquiries include a renewable energy company looking to relocate to the Bridgwater area, a Laundry company with the potential for 200 new jobs in South Somerset and a retail company with potential for 15 jobs once settled."

Enquiries have been received from a wide range of business sectors and the advice sought has been equally diverse, including land and property sourcing, economic and lifestyle information, business and planning advice.

Into Somerset is also working with local property agents to make sure that Somerset promotes a good offering of commercial property through the on-line property search on the Into Somerset website.

Gerard added:

"The Into Somerset team has strong relationships with public and private sector partners as well as business networks across the region which helps us assist businesses to realise their dream of relocating to Somerset - but a really good starting point is to visit our website"

For more information log onto

www.intosomerset.co.uk

£700 million lending boost for small firms

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has announced it will provide £700 million to 3,000 small businesses through the UK's banks that are participating in the scheme. The Government announced in the Pre-Budget Report 2008 that there would be up to £4 billion worth of EIB finance provided between 2008 and 2011. Banks involved in the scheme include Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Lloyds TSB and Santander UK.

LSC defends Train to Gain mismanagement claims

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) claims that small businesses are "reaping the benefits" of its Train to Gain scheme, despite a recent Government report accusing the LSC of "serious weaknesses" in the way it has managed the scheme. In January 2010, the House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts said in a report that although "some employers have seen business benefits", there is now "too much training in the pipeline and employers are being turned away". However, the LSC claims it has "kept a firm grip on demand and spending".

Fredericks somerset

unlock your future

Launch of Fredericks Somerset

An excellent and well attended launch of Fredericks Somerset took place at Taunton Racecourse on Tuesday 2nd February 2010. Paul Barry-Walsh gave an inspiring speech about why he started Fredericks Foundation and this was well received by attendees from Somerset businesses, Somerset and Taunton Chambers of Commerce and local authorities in West Somerset and Taunton Deane regarding the need for ethical lending when banks refuse to lend to customers with no security or track record.

Fredericks Somerset are putting together an advisory board and a list of loan panellists and many of the audience came forward to offer help and support inspired by client presentations and the DVD shown of clients who have already benefited from Fredericks loan finance.

The Advisory Board will run Fredericks Somerset Hub from a local perspective, knowing the local area and what works in Somerset.

Taunton Racecourse proved to be the perfect venue for the meeting and guests enjoyed lunch and an afternoon of racing having been entertained beforehand by Tom Scudamore from the successful racing stable of local trainer David Pipe.

The third race of the day was the aptly named Fredericks Foundation Beginners' Steeple Chase sponsored by Paul and Jane Barry-Walsh who presented the prize to the winning owner of King's Forest, Mr R J Lavelle

We hope we can support Somerset entrepreneurs to be WINNERS!!!

www.fredericksfoundation.org

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Make your life fruitful

THANK YOU!

 **Brainwave**
Unlocking Children's Potential
Specialising in Speech and Language Therapy

Every Christmas since **Red Berry Recruitment** opened for business, MD, Helen Lacey chooses a designated Charity to support.

After **Brainwave** won "Charity of Year" at the 2009 Somerset Business Awards, Helen decide that Brainwave, run by CEO Christine Cryne was going to be their charity of choice for the 2009 Christmas appeal. Brainwave works with families to deliver individual home based therapy and exercise programmes that help children with disabilities and development delay to achieve their potential.

Helen and Natalie went to the Charity's office in Bridgwater to deliver DVD.s, TV's, clothes and books that had been donated by their clients. On behalf of Red Berry Recruitment and Brainwave, Helen and Christine would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has kindly donated. If you would like more information about Red Berry or how you can help Brainwave then you can contact **Red Berry Recruitment** on **01749 330630 / www.redberryrecruitment.co.uk** or **Brainwave** on **01278 429089 / www.brainwave.org.uk**

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Member Benefits

LOOK! This is what you get for your Chamber membership!

- A range of **FREE** services provided through the British Chambers of Commerce
- Access to 11 exclusive Chamber offers from national and local Premier Providers
- **FREE** telephone legal advice service exclusively for Chamber members
- Business Networking events with the opportunity to network with up to 1,000 Chamber Members from across Somerset.
- Regular events organised with neighbouring county Chambers providing access to the entire South West Chamber network.
- Informative seminars to share knowledge and best-practice.
- Initial **FREE** publicity and discounted advertising rates for New Members in "Chamber News" and on the website www.somerset-chamber.co.uk
- Sponsorship opportunities in Chamber publications and at Chamber events.
- Access to a range of additional money saving discounted services through the Inter-Member Discount Scheme.
- Access to an Export Documentation service.
- Effective business lobbying representation at local, regional & national levels.

Visit the website for more details

www.somerset-chamber.co.uk

01823 444924

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Call 01823 444924 for more Information

Event sponsorship packages also available from just £350 + VAT
Please contact
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for further information