



Alston Moor Business Association The Hills of the North Newsletter Issue 3 ~ October 2008

AMBA's Gourmet Barbecue was at Alston House on Saturday 2nd August 2008. The event was a great success, there were 50 adults and a number of children, making it a good event for families as well. Adults received a glass of summer punch upon arrival & everyone enjoyed an evening of good food and entertainment, provided by Tom, a local guitarist. It was also an excellent opportunity for people to network. Many people commented on how lovely the food was and that it was such a good chance to meet and speak to people that they may not otherwise have an opportunity to do so.

Laura Elston, Secretary



(Picture provided by P. Kempsey, Vice Chairman)

AMBA's Wine Train was at The South Tynedale Railway on Saturday 20th September 2008. The 39 guests arrived on the platform at Alston and enjoyed a glass of bubbly 'Prosecco Frizzante' (light hearted, fashionable fizz) whilst networking before boarding the train and making the short journey to Kirkhaugh. Upon arrival at Kirkhaugh a scrumptious buffet, supplied by 'The Moody Baker' was laid out for all to enjoy. Kath Brown our wine expert for the evening then began to pour the wines for the evening. Firstly, 'False Bay Sauvignon Blanc' (crisp Sauvignon with a cool coastal influence) followed by Vina Valoria Blanco', (just off dry with citrus fruit, very zappy & fresh) 'Les Almendros Carmenera' (delicious, medium bodied red) and finally ' Stellar Shiraz' (wild country and spice aromas with raspberry fruit and smooth tannins). All of the wines are available from Corkscrew Wines, Viaduct Estate, Carlisle. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their evening and upon returning to Alston many

continued the evening as it had begun by going to one of the local pubs.

Laura Elston, Secretary



(Picture provided by P. Kempsey, Vice Chairman)

Toilet Signage is now visible from the front of the town hall. I am sure you are aware that the Tourist Information Centre has recently been refurbished and is now operating as a joint service with the Alston Library within the Town Hall. This is a new partnership between Cumbria County Council & Eden District Council and the joint operation is known as Local Links. Included in their new signage, is a sign for the toilets. However, I am yet to see any signage at the bottom of the hill or opposite the Market Cross; the two other positions proposed for new signage. Therefore, I will be contacting Paul Brunson Architect, at Eden District Council in Penrith to find out the latest.

Laura Elston, Secretary

The Market Cross now has a regular stall holder Mr Paul Jackson. He can be found there every Tuesday & Friday morning, look out for his 'red van'. He has a good selection of fresh fruit, root vegetables, greens and salad for sale, he will take advance orders for fresh herbs or more unusual vegetables. He also has a selection of flowers for sale and in the spring will be bringing bedding plants for sale. Please do support him and who knows there may be others who wish to join him in the future.

Laura Elston, Secretary

Alston Moor Community Distribution System
What is a community distribution system? The aim of this project is to help Alston Businesses work together to move products and raw materials in to and out of Alston Moor.



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How does it work? Alston's location means it lies between several urban areas spread throughout the north of England. This often means businesses have to travel many miles in order to get the raw materials they need to function. It also means that businesses which export to other areas must have their goods transported there. There are many journeys made by many businesses which could be combined.

What does this mean for my business? Does your business need raw materials or stock from other towns? Do you have stock or materials delivered to you? Do you transport your products to other places in the area? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then the scheme can help you save money and help protect the environment by providing you with a platform to work with other businesses who will collect and distribute on your behalf. Likewise, businesses can work with you to get their raw materials picked up or products delivered.

I'm interested, when will the scheme start? It already has! Several local businesses are already working together to save themselves money, time and damage to the environment. Research shows that most businesses would like to improve their ethical stance by becoming greener, the scheme is perfect for making this become a reality.

Would you like to be involved or like to know more? Please contact Dave Baker on 01434 382003 or by e-mail: alstoncds@gmail.com

Dave Baker, Vice Chairman

The Christmas Lights Switch On will take place at the Market Cross in Alston on Friday 5th December 2008. Timings for the event are to be confirmed, but we hope the event to follow on from the closing of the first day of the Christmas Craft Fair, held at Alston Town Hall.

Planning for the event is under way. Christmas committee meetings will be taking place during October and November to plan it. Last year the evening was well attended and the local children enjoyed their lantern parade from the top of town to the Market Cross.

We hope once again to get the children of Alston Moor involved in the lantern making workshops. This year the children will given a choice of several themes to help them decorate their lanterns as follows:

- ◆ The Hospital's 100th year (2008)
- ◆ Alston Town Hall's 150th year (2008)
- ◆ Samuel King School's 50th year (2008)
- ◆ Alston Primary School's 100th year (2009)

The competition for 'Best Christmas Window Display' is open to everyone on Front Street, Businesses, Public Houses and residents. It will be Judged on Friday 5th December 2008 by 12:00 noon and the winner will be announced and prize awarded at the switching on of the lights.

We are hoping to draft in some local musicians & for everyone to join in with the singing of traditional Christmas Carols and enjoy warming refreshments around the Market Cross.

We would like to improve upon last year and make the event bigger and better. Once details have been finalised further information will be distributed to all. We hope that many more of you will be able to join us this year. Remember to wrap up warm!

Laura Elston, Secretary

New Bus Service to and from Newcastle

Alastair Robertson attended our committee meeting in October on behalf of Chris Johnson and asked me to let you all know about the new Wright Brothers bus service running to and from Newcastle for a 6 month trial due to start around the 3rd November 2008. The timetable is to be confirmed, but it is planned to leave Alston in time to reach Newcastle for 08:45 hrs and return from Newcastle at approximately 17:15 hrs. Anyone working or studying in Newcastle is urged to use the service or it will be lost like many others. Good news for the Senior Citizens of Alston who will be able to travel with their bus passes on this service despite the timings, which would normally prevent them using their pass. Please check the Cybermoor website for further information.

The next issue of this newsletter is planned for early 2009.