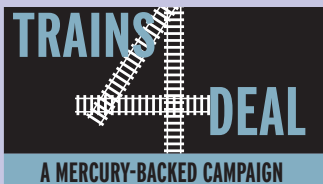


Deal & Walmer Chamber of Trade

Serving Traders & The Community



Joint approach on trains agreed

THE chamber has recently held meetings with Trains4Deal and other passenger forums in recent weeks and all have agreed that to move forward with a joint approach will be the ideal way to get our voice heard.

Although each group can and will be working independently it is hoped that regular meetings will come up with a single way forward to benefit the residents and traders alike.

Hours of work to turn on the lights

THE Christmas lights twinkle and sparkle and they are turned on in a 10-second countdown, but did you know that more than 600 volunteer man hours are needed each year to ensure that this event takes place?

The Chamber, ably supported by Deal Town Council, has to raise funds throughout the year to allow this special event to take place. Please support the Christmas lights funds whenever you see the opportunity.

Lending a hand wherever we can

THE Chamber does not just do lights.

The Trains4Deal campaign, business rates appeal, active involvement with the Quarterdeck planning, attending flood defence meetings, supporting the Landmark Centre job club and business breakfasts are just some of the items the chamber council is currently involved with.

Get your tickets for summer ball

SUMMER ball tickets will be available soon.

Please keep an eye out for the posters, emails and editorials to attend this increasingly popular event.

Advertisement feature

Backing business for more than a century

Deal has had its own independent trade association for more than 100 years, although it did not take on its present name of Deal and Walmer Chamber of Trade until 1937. Here we look back at some of the issues the chamber has focused on over the years



White Fullers outfitters was run by Cecil Prime who, like his father before him, was a former chamber president

In 1911 members were taken on a tour of Snowdown and Tilmanstone Collieries and in 1920 encouraged an application by Betteshanger Boring Co. to the Corporation, to acquire its mineral rights, to enable them to access the coal seams under the sea. When the pit was opened they considered the problems caused by the sudden influx of a large number of residents from other parts of the country and carefully watched any changes in trade. The Chamber increased in strength and numbers and concentrated on advertising and promoting Deal.

From the Second World War issues of red tape came to the fore. After rationing, evacuations, early closing, blackout and firewatching were no longer a problem the question of rebuilding and reconstruction was. Members were helped with trading licences and rating valuations and representations about the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act were made to ensure that members' interests were properly considered. Deciding not to change the early closing day from Thursday to Saturday was relatively

straightforward.

The Chamber changed its name to Deal and Walmer Chamber of Trade in 1937 and was incorporated under that name as a company limited by guarantee in 1948. A trades exhibition was held and there was a large increase in membership. The Chamber was very much in favour of replacing the pier and rejoiced in 1953 when a start date was announced.

In more recent years the Chamber took on the town centre management role that in other towns is performed by a paid employee of a local authority body and set up the Shop Watch radio scheme which enables retailers to communicate directly with the CCTV operations centre and with each other to warn about shoplifters and other suspicious people. This has now been taken over by Dover Partnership Against Crime and combined with Pub Watch for both Deal and Dover. To compete with the free parking offered by out-of-town shops a scheme was introduced to allow shoppers to get a refund of one hour's parking charge when they spent £10 with a participating member. Over the years much effort has been expended putting up lighting decorations in the town for the Christmas shopping period and a ceremonial switch-on with celebrity guests.

On the social front, in addition to annual dinners and other events, there was a stoolball match between a team representing the Chamber and one representing the Corporation in 1939 and in 1960 the Chamber arranged for a team from Deal to take part in the Southern Television show, Beat Your Neighbour.

We're backing plan to help job-hunters

THE Chamber would like to register its support for the job adverts project being undertaken at the Landmark Centre. Chamber president Bob Humphreys has attended a meeting to offer the Chamber's support to this worthwhile addition. Bob urges all local businesses to ensure that their job vacancies are advertised at the Landmark as well as the usual places.

Quiz funds will go to good causes

AT the time of going to press the result of the quiz night was not known.

However an early thanks to Bright & Bright, the Mercury, Cavells, Barracloughs, plus chamber council members for making up the 11 teams that competed on the night. Special thanks go to Kath and Paul, well supported by Sam, of the Hole in the Roof for allowing the use of their function suite.

It is expected to have raised more than £200 on the night for local charity Cordumus, a centre in Deal for families in crisis, and the Christmas lights fund. Results next month.

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