

Corporate Social Responsibility for Dacorum businesses



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Shendish Manor Hotel



*Cllr Gbola Adeleke
Mayor of Dacorum*



Dr Gordon Woo

Welcome

Well, as another year draws to an end I have been reflecting back on 2015 and I feel very proud of each and every one of you that take the time to get involved in the local community. Corporate Social Responsibility is about how a company does it's business in an ethical and sustainable way, and then what it does with the profits to help their workforce, their environment and their community. Connect Dacorum is proud to serve you and I look forward to a great 2016.

Christmas Lunch

Friday 4th December saw our seventh Christmas Lunch to celebrate company support for the local community in the Dacorum area. Connect Dacorum hosted the annual Christmas Lunch alongside Dacorum Community Trust (DCT) and it was held at the stunning Shendish Manor Hotel in Apsley, and we invited all our supporting companies and friends.

Mike Penning MP and David Gauke MP both attended, as well as the Mayor and Mayoress of Dacorum, The Mayor and Mayoress of Tring and the Mayor of Berkhamsted and other local dignitaries. We had 132 guests including business leaders from large and small companies, state organisations and charities.

The annual lunch was sponsored by SA Law, B&M Care, Shendish Manor Hotel, NGK Spark Plugs, BP and Robert Dyas, without which we would not have been able to put on such a fabulous event.

Shendish Manor Hotel laid on a fantastic lunch of crayfish and prawn salad, traditional turkey roast and chocolate orange torte which was served after David Young from Hemel Hempstead Community Church said grace. The lunch was finished with mince pies and tea/coffee.

The Mayor of Dacorum, Cllr Gbola Adeleke welcomed everyone and talked about the importance of businesses, statutory organisations and charities working together as a community which helps create a better life for all in the Dacorum area.

Our special guest speaker was Dr Gordon Woo, Catastrophist at Risk Management Solutions and particularly relevant at this time as it was nearly exactly 10 years ago we had our own catastrophe – Buncefield.

Trained in mathematical physics, Gordon has consulted on all the various natural hazards for industrial corporations, government organizations, as well as the global insurance industry.

Gordon gave a very thought provoking speech around the theme “Why hasn’t this happened before” when a disaster happens. He talked about how many disasters do have warning signs and that in some instances they have happened before but on a smaller scale or that the disaster was averted. But it is not until it becomes a Disaster with a capital D that we do anything about it.

This was sadly Margaret Kingston’s final day as Manager at DCT and she used the opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the years, and hopes that you all continue the support as DCT continues under the leadership of the new Trust Manager, Lydia Flack.



Margaret Kingston

All of the event photos are available from Kris Gruber at www.krisgruber.com

Certificates of appreciation were presented to companies who were at the lunch which supported the two organisations during 2015:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Abode Bed & Continental | Hemel Rotary Club | RES |
| Alcomi Ltd | Herts Chamber of Commerce | Ryman Limited |
| Affinity Water | HH Community Church | SA Law |
| Ashfield Personnel | Holiday Inn Hemel Hempstead | Sasori Karate Club |
| Aubrey Park Hotel | Kings Langley School | Shendish Manor Hotel |
| B&M Care | Kris Gruber Photography | Sheng Nuo |
| BP plc | LT Consulting Solutions | Smile Events Ltd |
| Cavendish School | Lumina Technologies | Sue Mitchell |
| Chilterns Enterprise | Metro Bank | Sumner & Tabor |
| EcoService (UK) Ltd | NGK Spark Plugs | Ten2Two |
| EIC Insurance | Oomi Ltd | Tutor Doctor |
| Fresh DPS | Pebble Ltd | UK Power Reserve |
| Furnell Transport | Pendley Manor Hotel | Vantage IT Solutions |
| Hemel Cartridges | Ray & Co | Witts Moloney Solicitors |

Also receiving certificates are: AFCC Ltd, Apex 360, Audit Bureau of Circulations, Berkhamsted Local Directory, Capricorn Security and Training Ltd, Dee TV, Fresco Properties Ltd, Giant Steps, Hemel Hempstead School, Hemel Stags (RLFC) Ltd, Hertfordshire Internet Consultants, Kingston Smith LLP, Lloyds TSB Commercial, Longdean School, Lorica Insurance Brokers, Martin Brower UK Ltd, MBS Workplace Environments, Riverside Shopping Centre, Ruth George HR Consulting, Santander Bank, Satellite Creative, Serene Beauty and Spa, SJ Locks, Storax Racking Supplies, The Healthy Working Partnership, The Mount Prison, The Professionalism Group, The Snow Centre The Watered Meadow Ltd, TM Development Associates, Tonic Fusion, West Herts College



Connect Dacorum's 10th birthday celebrations

In 2016 Connect Dacorum will be 10 years old and we are going to celebrate our birthday on Thursday 12th May 2016 with a unique special event.



Mike Penning MP

We are organising a three course dinner for 60 people in the Churchill Room at the Houses of Parliament with **Mike Penning MP** for Hemel Hempstead who is Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice, and **David Gauke MP** for South West Hertfordshire who is Financial Secretary to the Treasury. They will also do a tour of the Houses of Parliament for our guests before dinner.

Our four sponsors for this event are Abode Bed & Continental, SA Law, RES and Belvoir. Invitations will be going out in the New Year so keep an eye out.



David Gauke MP

Dragons' Apprentice Update

The Dragons' Apprentice Challenge for 2015/16 was launched in October with 8 teams from schools across Dacorum. Each team has been matched with a business mentor (Dragon) and a local charity, and their aim is to turn £100 into £1000 or more for their charity.

With guidance from their Dragons, the teams will learn about entrepreneurship, managing a business, communication, finance, organization and other job related skills.

All the teams have now submitted their business plans which show some wonderful ideas on how they intend to raise the money. Each team is using their skills and talents in a variety of fundraising activities. They have thought about how they will organise the events and what money they are hoping to achieve at the end. They have also allocated roles within the group. I will keep you updated on their progress as the challenge develops.



Employability Days – volunteers urgently needed

Following on from last year's very successful Employability Days at Longdean School and Hemel Hempstead School, Connect Dacorum is again running the programme in 2016 and Cavendish School are also taking part.

They are first up at the beginning of the year on Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th January.

This is a half day session (from 8.30am to 1.30pm) whereby volunteers from businesses help small groups of students (8-10 in each group) in Year 10 go through an interactive morning of CV writing, application forms and interview techniques.

Everyone of us has experience of writing CVs and going for interviews, so I would be grateful if you could get the word around your organisations and let me know if you have any volunteers. **I am looking for around 15 people for each day.** I will also arrange a briefing session before each event. **If you can help, or know someone that can, please email me urgently.**



Great Companies doing Great Things in Dacorum



RES in Kings Langley kindly donated over 100 mugs which went to both Herts Mind Network and Cavendish School



EIC Insurance had a client who donated a printer to Dacorum Communities for Learning



Dacorum Community Trust donated their old printer to the Rennie Grove Hospice.



2016 Dates

Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th January - Employability Days at Cavendish School

Thursday 25th February - Networking Lunch

Tuesday 19th April and Tuesday 26th April - Employability Days at Longdean School

Wednesday 27th April - Dacorum Celebrates Business, Litter picking and networking Lunch

Thursday 12th May - 10th Birthday Celebrations at the House of Commons

Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th July - Employability Days at Hemel Hempstead School

Full details on the next lunch and on the 10th anniversary dinner at the House of Commons will follow shortly.

Whatever your business: large, medium or small,

Cindy can help you support your community in many different ways. Give her a ring or email to arrange an informal appointment to discuss the best form of CSR for your company.

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Connect Dacorum is a service provided by Community Action Dacorum (charity number 288080) and is supported by Dacorum Borough Council, The Volunteer Centre Dacorum, Dacorum Community Trust and numerous other organisations and local businesses.

