



Corporate Social Responsibility

December 2013

Issue Thirty Five

for Dacorum Businesses

The Connect Dacorum / Dacorum Community Trust's Christmas Lunch 2013



Guests enjoying the lunch

This is the fifth year that Connect Dacorum and Dacorum Community Trust welcomed guests to celebrate the commitment of local businesses and statutory organisations to local charities, and it was also Jeoff's final Christmas lunch before his retirement in March. A record 140 people attended the event at Shendish Manor Hotel.

The lunch was sponsored by Dacorum Borough Council, SA Law LLP, Shendish Manor Hotel, NGK Spark Plugs UK Ltd, Hillier Hopkins LLP, West Herts College, BP and B & M Care Homes.

Our honoured guests were Cllr Mrs Penny Hearn the Mayor of Dacorum, Carol Lawrence The Mayor's Guest, Mike Penning MP for Hemel Hempstead, David Gauke MP for South West Herts, Cllr Mrs Roxanne Ransley The Mayor of Tring, Cllr Mr Ian Reay The Mayor of Berkhamsted and our guest speaker was Vernon Hill, Founder and Chairman of Metro Bank.



Cllr Mrs Penny Hearn
The Mayor of Dacorum

The meal of melon, traditional Turkey roast and Chocolate tart was served after Graham Richardson of the Hemel Hempstead Community Church said grace. The lunch was finished with mince pies, tea or coffee.



Vernon Hill

Jeoff introduced Cllr Mrs Penny Hearn, The Mayor of Dacorum who welcomed the audience and praised all the businesses for their contribution to the local community.

Margaret Kingston of Dacorum Community Trust then appealed for money for the increasing number of people in Dacorum who have fallen on hard times. Margaret then introduced our inspirational guest speaker Vernon Hill, CEO and founder of Metro Bank who had flown in from America for the lunch.

Vernon talked about the philosophy of Metro Bank and how he wants

Sponsored by



Christmas Lunch continued

to change how banking is done – to concentrate on providing a good service to their customers. He encouraged us to think about “who we are, what we are, and what our customers expect.” He asked companies to look at how not to be a “me too” company but to add value. How many companies have rules that we don’t know why they were made in the first place? Vernon also asked us to kill five stupid rules in your business or charity next week, then five the week after. Then we are only left with the rules that really matter.

Jeff was last up and thanked the sponsors, Community Action Dacorum, his Steering Committee, Dacorum Borough Council and all Connect Dacorum Members for their continued support. He gave a



Jeff Colls and Margaret Kingston

potted history of Connect Dacorum over the 10 years he has been in charge and looks forward to his retirement and a new shed!

He gave an update on the Dragons Apprentice challenge and highlighted upcoming events which include the next two networking meetings in February and April, the Big Business Quiz on March 20th and the Dragons Apprentice Finals evening on March 24th.

Last, but not least was the raffle, which raised over £700.

Certificates of appreciation were then presented to the following companies:-

Shendish Manor Hotel and Golf Course, Dacorum Borough Council, Caritars, Kodak Ltd, Herts Chamber of Commerce, Hemel Hempstead Rotary Club, S A Law LLP, Metro Bank, Hillier Hopkins LLP, NGK Spark Plugs Ltd, RES Group, West Herts College, BP, B & M Care, FFEI, Georgina’s Science, Furnell Transport Ltd, Maurice Phillips Partnership, Kris Gruber Photography Ltd, EIC Insurance, Maddison Business Systems Ltd, E K Procure Ltd, Eckoh UK Ltd, Pendley Manor Hotel, Hemel Stags RLFC, Aubrey Park Hotel, Business Buzz, The Snow Centre, Ruth George HR Consulting, Fresh Design & Print Ltd, Santander Bank, Pictons Solicitors, Friends of Vivo D’Arte, Sheng Nuo Ltd, Kip McGrath Education Centre, ECO Service UK Ltd, Watford FC Trust, Affinity Water.



David Gauke MP presenting their certificate of appreciation to SA Law LLP

Certificates given in absence to :-

DSG International, Crispin Rhodes, Blue Shield Fire Protection Ltd, The Professionalism Group, Riverside Shopping Centre, Noble Solicitors, Lloyds TSB Commercial, Splash Resolution Consulting, HMP The Mount, John Grimes Yoga, SWR Ltd, Taylors Letting, Storax Racking Supplies Ltd, The Stationery Company, Work Solutions, Astley Cooper School, KM Design Ltd, Kingston Smith LLP, Aitchison Raffety Group, Longdean School, Adeyfield School, ABC, The Healthy Working Partnership, MGI Technologies Ltd, Holiday Inn Hemel Hempstead, Adeyfield School, Kings Langley School, Handlesbanken Bank, Bobsleigh Hotel, Parker Hannifin Ltd, Journey Therapy Ltd, Haven Holidays, Alpine Press Ltd, EPOSability Ltd, Martin Brower UK Ltd, Cobham Consulting, Serene Beauty and Spa, Roar Accounting Ltd, Bull Information Systems Ltd, J.F.Dyson Associates, Waste King Ltd, Andrews Computer Services, Diverse HR Solutions, Assi Transport Ltd, U-Print Ltd, Dee TV, Mang Creative Ltd, Mansell & Wells Ltd, M2 Chartered Accountants, Lorica Insurance Brokers, AFCC Ltd, Berkhamsted Local Directory, Baker Tilly LLP, University of Hertfordshire, Industrial Floorcare Machines Ltd, My Mustard, Hemel Hempstead School, Wilkins Kennedy LLP, Cavendish School, Britvic Plc.

All of the event photographs are available from Kris Gruber Ltd on www.krisgruber.com

Smile Events Ltd kindly supplied all of the sound and visual equipment free of charge.

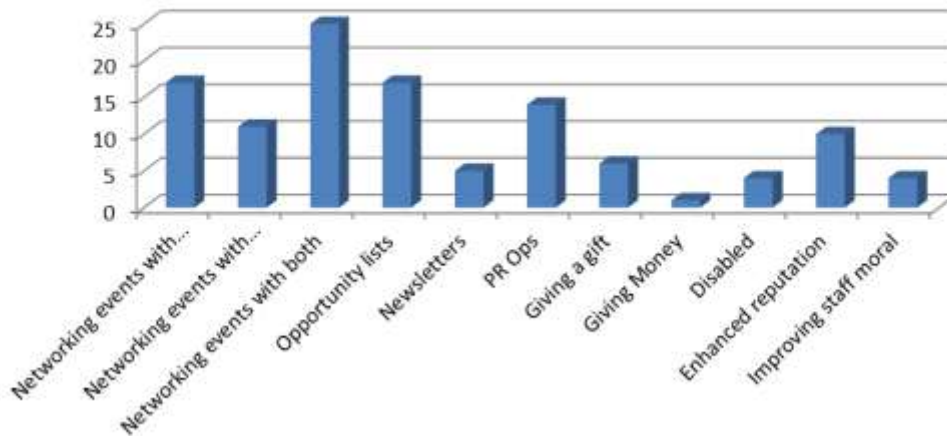
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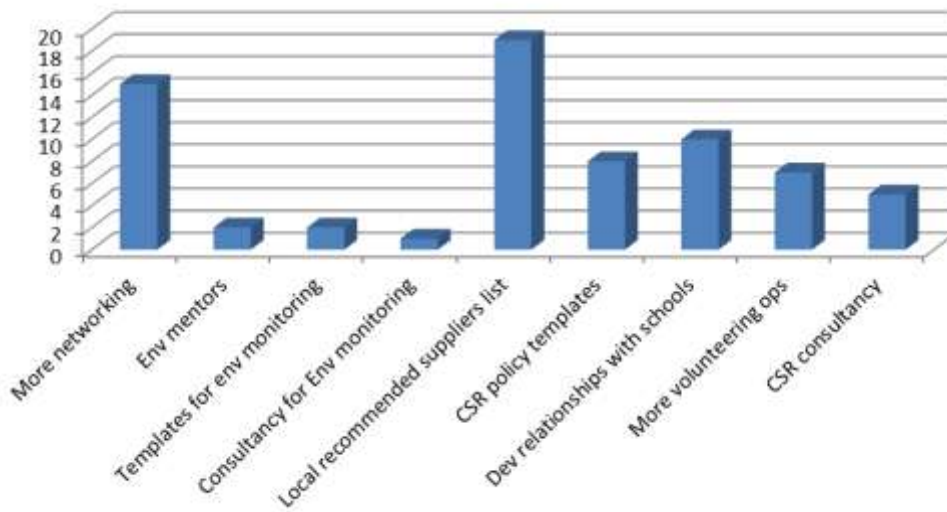
Survey Results

In November we sent around a questionnaire to all our members to find out what you like about Connect Dacorum and what you would else you would like us to do. We had 42 responses from businesses and 18 responses from charities and here are the results:

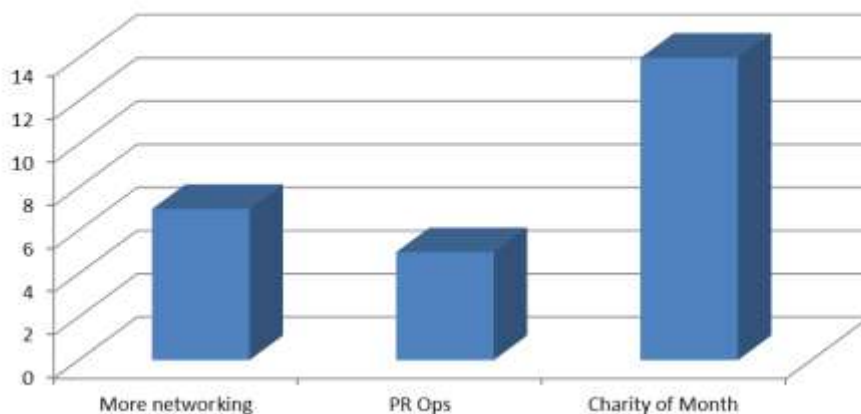
What do you see as the benefits of membership with CD?



What else would Businesses like to see?



What else would Charities like to see?



Dates for your diary

Following from the results of the survey and in response to your request for more networking lunches, for 2014 we have increased the events from 4 to 6 (including Christmas Lunch).

So that you can put them in your diaries early, the dates for 2014 are:

Thursday 13th February – Environment

Wednesday 23rd April – Volunteering

Friday 27th June – Employing a Disabled or Disadvantaged Person

Tuesday 19th August – Giving Money

Thursday 16th October – Offering Technical Advice

Friday 5th December – Christmas Lunch

Full details on the next lunch will follow shortly. If you have something to share with our audience on the topics above and would like to be considered as a guest speaker, please contact Cindy.

We are currently working on the other opportunities that you would like Connect Dacorum to offer and will keep you updated on all developments.



Dragons Apprentice Update

The Dragons Apprentice Challenge for 2013/14 was launched in October with 13 teams from 8 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 £1,000 or more for their charity.

With guidance from their Dragons the teams will learn about entrepreneurship, managing a business, communication, finance, organisation 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 are 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.

Richard Foan, Managing Director of Audit Bureau of Circulations in Berkhamsted is a Dragon for one of the teams at Ashlyns School and their charity is Sunnyside Rural Trust. Richard says "The team have made a great start and are well on their way to a great result for Sunnyside and themselves with fantastic support and commitment – Students and Sunnysiders! Thanks again for asking me to be involved in such a great initiative with great people."

Great Companies doing Great Things in Dacorum



Furnells Transport helped Dacorum Heritage Trust with moving some filing cabinets.



Cobham Consulting gave a 4 drawer filing cabinet to Gaddesden Place RDA Centre.



Ashridge Management College have donated storage units to the Hospice of St Francis and Sunnyside Rural Trust.



Storax Racking Supplies kindly donated 6 bottles of port to 6 local charities. All are being used as part of a fundraiser for their charity.

Organisations that have joined Connect Dacorum recently are:-

Longdean School

Sumner & Tabor Solicitors

Friends of Vivo D'Arte

Berkofest

Ecoservice (UK) Ltd

MGI Technologies

Audit Bureau of Circulations

Santander



*Jeoff and Cindy of
Connect Dacorum*

*Would like to wish you all a very
Happy Christmas*

and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year



Whatever your business, large, medium or small,

Jeoff and Cindy can help you support your community in many different ways. Give them a ring or e-mail to arrange an informal appointment to discuss the best form of CSR for your company.

Connect Dacorum
c/o Dacorum Borough Council
Civic Centre, Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead
Herts, HP1 1HH

www.connectdacorum.org.uk

Tel:- 01442 228216

Jeoff Mobile:- 07933 021115

Jeoff Email:- jeoff.colls@dacorum.gov.uk

Cindy Mobile:- 07908 896281

Cindy Email:- cindy.withey@dacorum.gov.uk

Connect Dacorum is a Community Action Dacorum service. Charity No 288080

It is actively supported by Dacorum Borough Council,
The Volunteer Centre Dacorum, The Dacorum Community Trust
and numerous other organisations and local businesses.

