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- Simple application process

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**\*Please see the flyer enclosed for more details on this exclusive offer...!**

## Upcoming Events – “At a Glance”

<b>17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>08.00 -10.00</b>	Networking Breakfast Connect, Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway
<b>7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>09.00-12.00</b>	BT Business Growth Club, Venue TBC
<b>14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>18.00-20.00</b>	Green Evening, Living & Working more Sustainably, Pines Calyx, Bay Trust
<b>11<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>08.00-10.00</b>	Networking Breakfast Connect, The Grand

For Further details, contact Tracy Reynolds on **01303 270022** or email: [info@channelchamber.co.uk](mailto:info@channelchamber.co.uk)

**To find out how we can help your business, please visit us at one of our offices below:**

**Channel Chamber of Commerce (Head Office)**  
 Shepway Business Centre,  
 Shearway Road, Folkestone,  
 Kent – CT19 4RH

**Channel Chamber of Commerce (Ramsgate Office)**  
 161/165 High Street,  
 Ramsgate,  
 Kent - CT11 9RZ

**Channel Chamber of Commerce is the official BCC Accredited Chamber for East Kent working to create a single voice for the local business community, networking and business-to-business opportunities along the coast From Dungeness to Margate.**

2010

# June Newsletter



## After the election, making business’s voice count



Above: Dr. Adam Marshall, Director-Policy & External Affairs, BCC  
 Source: [www.britishchambers.co.uk](http://www.britishchambers.co.uk)

As Westminster politicians and hacks emerged bleary-eyed into daylight following the election count, the talk was of minority governments, coalitions, and political horse-trading. And during the week of negotiations that resulted in the new Tory-Lib Dem coalition, the parties’ talked of the ‘national interest’, though it seemed their own tribal interests were really front and centre.

Watching the results unfold, two questions stuck in my mind: what about business? Will the new coalition be able to recognise and deal with business concerns about prolonged uncertainty? As the example of Greece shows only too well, a protracted political crisis can have a direct and serious impact.

Britain, fortunately, is not in such a dire position as Greece. But markets at home and abroad are sensitive to politics these days – and as the BCC Quarterly Economic Survey has shown, our economic recovery remains fragile. The voters’ choice of a hung Parliament will have an impact on the markets and on our companies.

More than ever before, business needs a clear message – so that collectively, we can hold Britain’s new coalition Government to account for its actions over the coming weeks and months. It is our duty to remind Messrs Cameron and Clegg that there are two priorities that matter to this country’s economic future: cutting the deficit and creating an environment that lets businesses deliver jobs, profits, and tax revenues.

In many countries with a tradition of coalition government, plans to pare back public spending are one of the first victims of an inter-party pact. Given the UK’s unprecedented budget deficit and rocketing levels of debt, we in the business world must not allow this to happen. Business must be clear: there can be no back-room deals to protect large swathes of public spending, whether we’re talking about health, benefits, or the annual allocation to particular countries or regions.

This is no time to shirk from the tough decisions. The BCC wants a clear plan for public spending cuts within ninety days, with an immediate freeze in the public sector wage bill complemented by targeted cuts across Government beginning in 2011. The Coalition’s early priorities – an Emergency Budget in fifty days, with moves toward £6bn in spending cuts in 2010 and more from 2011 – seem to recognise this. Yet business must remain vigilant, to ensure that serious deficit-reduction measures are real rather than just the stuff of early headlines.

There’s another set of tough decisions that need to be taken alongside deficit reduction – decisions that result in a better environment for business growth. The biggest single statement that the Government could make to business early on is a complete and comprehensive roll-back of the 1pc rise in employers’ National Insurance scheduled for next April. The BCC has proposed a VAT rise to replace the revenue – and continues to make the argument that a tax on jobs, rather than consumption or profits, cannot be good for economic recovery. The Coalition’s promise to implement Tory NI plans, which include a partial roll-back, are a step forward. But they are not enough. We need to secure a complete roll-back so that business can create jobs and re-start the economy.

There’s more the new coalition Government could do to help business. Speedy announcements to freeze new employment regulation, stabilise the planning system, and guarantees for vital infrastructure projects will give companies the confidence to drive growth and higher productivity. It’s going to be an exciting, if unpredictable, summer. Britain has not seen a coalition in over sixty years. From my perspective, it’s the perfect time for businesses up and down the country to speak with one voice – and set the agenda for the politicians, rather than the other way round. Dr Adam Marshall is director of policy and external affairs for the British Chambers of Commerce ([www.britishchambers.org.uk](http://www.britishchambers.org.uk)).

## Helping unemployed youngsters in Thanet

Channel Chamber, the only officially accredited Chamber of Commerce in East Kent is playing a key role in getting Thanet's unemployed young people into work.

Since February, Channel Chamber of Commerce has been busily recruiting a total of 30 young people, aged between 18 and 24 years as part of the Government's Future Jobs Fund which is being managed locally by Thanet District Council. These youngsters all live in Thanet and have been unemployed for almost a year. They are now working as a team at Channel Chamber's new offices in Ramsgate for a period of six months during which time they will each receive a tailor-made training and development programme.

Specific roles are also being allocated to everyone at the Chamber, aiming to provide them with much-needed on-the-job skills and real practical experience of dealing with enquiries from chamber members. Operating from their headquarters at the Thanet Training and Support Centre (161-165 High Street, Ramsgate) The young Chamber team has spent the past few weeks updating the database of local businesses in Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate whilst some of these youngsters have already been busy delivering hundreds of the Open Day invitations by hand.

Peter Hobbs, Chamber Chief Executive is delighted to be leading this exciting challenge to help local young people into work.

"The Chamber of Commerce offers the perfect opportunity for many youngsters to make their first step in work. We have a wide variety of different roles to fill - some customer-facing others in administration and IT. The common element is that everyone is focused on helping to support the local business community and this brings our youngsters into direct contact with many business people on a regular basis. Within the next six months we will be introducing our team to all sorts of employers at our monthly Open Days and regular networking events across East Kent. As soon as these new team members have the confidence and ability to make a real contribution in the workplace, we will be approaching businesses to see if short-term placements can be agreed. We anticipate, many of these placements will be an ideal form of work-trial and lead to subsequent job offers being made. We have an amazing cross-section of youngsters, all of whom are keen to work and some who are passionate about particular careers such as child care, IT, tourism and hospitality".

## Is your business plan up to date..?

You MOT your car, but how often do you put your business through a comprehensive assessment to check which areas are running smoothly, and which issues need attention. Bouncing ideas around with a professional, qualified and impartial Business Link Adviser and firming up goals, are just two of the benefits of giving your company a free Business Review 'health check'.

This is what some of our customers said:

"I've used Business Link a lot in the past and they have been able to help with everything we have asked for, they are brilliant for getting direction."

**Chief Executive Wesley Baker,  
Kent Technology firm Scott Calvin Tech**

"We had always known about and used Business Link. Because we were so busy simply running the business we were getting behind on things like the accounts and the admin was building up. Our Business Link Adviser, made us realise that we were only getting behind because the business was doing so well and we were so busy. I'd definitely advise an established business to investigate how Business Link can help them. You can take as little or as much help as you want. You can call them whenever you need to and it's a really useful service."

**Company Secretary Julie Pankhurst,  
SHE Management (UK) Ltd, Maidstone**



Business Reviews take place in a Business Link office, your business premises or partner offices such as local libraries and council offices. The meeting allows you, as the business owner or senior manager, time to take an in-depth look at your company's operations, and together with a Business Link Adviser, to produce a comprehensive business action plan which focuses on practical measures and ideas designed to improve its performance.

To book your Business Review, call us on  
0845 600 9 006 or visit  
[www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast)

## Welcome to our "New Members"

### Early recruitment Ltd



Early recruitment Ltd is a new company that provides staffing solutions to businesses in Kent and the South East. Our team has over 18 years recruitment experience in the Industrial and Commercial sectors, 27 years in Logistics and Transport, 12 years in Estate agency and Financial services and 10 years in Catering and security making these our specialised sectors.

We can supply Temporary and Permanent staff in any situation, our extensive knowledge of recruitment can assure companies they can rely on a professional service suiting their individual needs.

We are members of the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) and adhere to strict codes of practice and are constantly training and educating ourselves on the ever-changing employment legislations within our industry.

Call Rosie McMullen on 01304 853595  
[rosie.mcmullen@earlyrecruitment.co.uk](mailto:rosie.mcmullen@earlyrecruitment.co.uk)

### Four Gold

Four Gold offers a comprehensive range of services to support the cruise, ferry and hospitality industries.

Working directly and through an extensive network of industry professionals, Four Gold can respond to many operational needs - often at very short notice.

Four Gold offer service and support tailored to suit the individual client requirements. That need may be anything from routine hygiene reviews, supply chain assistance to more comprehensive operational support, outbreak response and management, development and implementation of specifically tailored training programmes or recruitment of key personnel.

Four Gold has also established working partnerships with carefully selected suppliers and is positioned to satisfy individual requirements for many goods, including key hygiene-related products and services.

Call Grenville Cartledge on 0789 567 2 567  
[gcartledge@fourgold.co.uk](mailto:gcartledge@fourgold.co.uk)

### Oriac House Learning Centre



Folkestone based company Oriac Information Systems Ltd launches a new IT Training Centre called Oriac House Learner Centre, which officially opened on 1st June 2010. The Centre, situated in the Glenmore Centre in Shearway Business Park, provides a modern, friendly and comfortable learning environment. Learners will be able to work through interactive Learning modules at their own pace, fully supported by experienced tutors. More experienced Learners (and distant Learners) will also be able to work through their course material, seamlessly, from any computer that has Internet access, with the option of full telephone support if required.

**The Centre has been accredited by the Chartered Institute for IT, also known as the British Computer Society (BCS) as an Approved Test Centre.**

Call Monica Titterton on 01303 278 418  
[monica@oriac.co.uk](mailto:monica@oriac.co.uk)

### Folkestoneprinting.com



**FolkestonePrinting.com** Ltd has a new website! We've also expanded our product range to include business cards, compliment slips, letterheads, 300gsm satin, gloss and UV varnished flyers, leaflets, posters - laser to large format, vinyl banners, mesh banners and roller banners. If you need help designing your artwork, we've including a guide on how to supply it or alternatively let us design it for you. So visit us at [www.folkestoneprinting.com](http://www.folkestoneprinting.com) and start saving money on your print in three simple steps.