

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2007



Michelin Tyre PLC received the Commitment to Ballymena Award, sponsored by Ballymena Borough Council.



Viyella sponsored an award for best dressed lady won by Marilyn Tate.



Alison Moore, William McKean and Audrey Wales MBE



Ballymena

Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry

We would like to invite you to our Christmas networking evening. Please come along and join us.

TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER AT 6PM

**MONTGOMERYS,
BALLYMONEY STREET**

RSVP to Chris Wales by email:
office@ballymenachamber.co.uk
or by phone: 07876 758797



Ballymena

Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Newsletter

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BALLYMENA BOROUGH BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Ballymena businesses were out in force on Thursday 25th October at the gala dinner where the prize winners were announced in the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards. There were 430 present at the glittering function held in Tullyglass House Hotel.

The awards are organised by Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the major sponsor this year was firmus energy.

Chamber President William McKean welcomed everyone. He said "It is great to see so many businesses here this evening. It is especially pleasing this year to note the large number of entries from right across the Borough, from large and small businesses and from multiples and independents."

He continued "I would like to thank all our sponsors, especially our major sponsor, firmus energy. Without the backing of our sponsors it would not be possible to run such a prestigious event. I would also like to thank Alison Moore for all her work in organising this evening."

Mark Prentice, General Manager of firmus energy said that firmus were delighted to be the major sponsor for such an important event. He said "Over the last couple of years firmus has done a tremendous amount of work in the Borough and I thank the public for their patience. We now supply natural gas to a large number of businesses in the Borough and we are working to increase our domestic network. The Chamber of Commerce do an excellent job in the organisation of the awards and we felt it entirely appropriate for firmus to be associated as major sponsor".

The Mayor, Councillor Maurice Mills praised the excellence of the business community in Ballymena stating "Once again, through the Ballymena Business Awards the excellence achieved by both local businesses and those that have located in Ballymena has been recognised, excellence that benefits our economy in the form of employment and investment. I believe that Ballymena provides that special formula of skills and location that make a difference, a difference that has

been demonstrated by the level of excellence of all the entrants. Ballymena Borough Council is again proud that they have supported the Ballymena Business Awards from their beginning. Support that I believe demonstrates the Council's commitment to the businesses of Ballymena and to the continued development of Ballymena as an economic hub within Northern Ireland."

At the conclusion of the awards ceremony William McKean made a special presentation to Audrey Wales in recognition of her being awarded an MBE for "Services to business and the community in Ballymena."

After an excellent dinner Colin Barkley made a very humorous speech and then compered the presentation of the awards.

There was a raffle for the NI Hospice which raised £3750 and the Chamber would like to thank everyone present for their generosity.



Colin Barkley, Mayor Maurice Mills, Alison Moore Vice President, William McKean President, Mark Prentice General Manager firmus energy



William McKean, Alison Moore and Chris Wales.

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McAllisters Butchers received the Customer Service Award, Retail, for Independent Retailer sponsored by **Ulster Bank**.



Marks & Spencer received the Customer Service Award, Retail, for Multiple Retailer sponsored by **The Patton Group**.



Barrs Butchers received the Best Business Premises Award sponsored by **McKilens Footwear**.



The Sitting Room received the Best New Business Award, sponsored by **Ballymena Business Centre**.



Grafton Recruitment received the Customer Service Award, for Service and Hospitality sponsored by **Bank of Ireland**.



The Thatch received the Award for Best Eating Establishment - licensed, sponsored by **firmus energy**.



Ground Coffee received the Best Eating Establishment, Non-Licensed Award, sponsored by **firmus energy**.



The Village Inn received the Best Eating Establishment, Non-Licensed Award, sponsored by **firmus energy**.

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2007



CIGA Healthcare received the Export Business of the Year Award, sponsored by Invest NI.



Michelin Tyre PLC received the Training & People Development Award, sponsored by First Choice Selection Services.

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2007



The Patton Group received the Best Marketing Initiative Award, sponsored by Diamond Recruitment.



Moore Concrete Products received the Business Growth Award, sponsored by ACE Fixings.



Michelin Tyre PLC received the Excellence in Business Practice Award, sponsored by NIE Energy.



Mercers Electrical Distributors received the Best Small Business Award sponsored by Michelin Tyre PLC.



Beth Reid of Spar, Cullybackey received the Employee of the Year Award, sponsored by Grafton Recruitment.



Northern Regional College received the Business Education Partnership Award, sponsored by Gallaher Ltd.



CIGA Healthcare - Winners again in 2007.



Moore Concrete - Award winners & finalists on the night.



Ballymena Credit Union received the Involvement in the Community Award, sponsored by First Trust Bank.



New World Developments received the Innovation Award, sponsored by Waveney Robinson Laundry.



Northern Regional College - Winners of the Business Education Partnership Award.



Benetton and Goldsmiths were amongst the runners-up for 2007.