



# Ballymena

*Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

*Newsletter*

Issue: 9 Nov 2008

## **Business Awards Gala Evening**

The gala evening for the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October in the Tullyglass House Hotel. This was the sixth year of the awards which are organised by Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry and without doubt the most successful to date. There were almost 450 people representing Ballymena Businesses present for the gala evening.

Paul Clarke from UTV was the compere for the evening. After welcoming everyone he invited Chamber President Alison Moore to say a few words. Alison said that she was delighted to see so many businesses gathered together.



"This is the largest turnout we have ever had for our gala evening. The Chamber has been working very hard over the past few months to ensure that tonight is a success, and it makes all this effort worthwhile when you see so many people here. I would like to thank all our sponsors and advertisers, especially our major sponsor, Michelin Tyre PLC. Without your support it would not be possible to organise tonight. I would like to congratulate all the finalists who are here tonight. The judges were very impressed with the number and standard of entries. Every competition has to have a winner but tonight every one here is a winner. The Chamber will be launching a new website on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. All the photographs and details about tonight will be on the new website, which will have a dedicated Business Awards section. The Chamber is very grateful to Bustedmedia who has done all design work free of charge. Congratulations to all the finalists and I hope everyone enjoys their evening".

Graham Whitehurst from major sponsor Michelin then said "This event has and continues to be a huge success, and credit for this goes to the Ballymena Chamber of Commerce for the excellent organisation of the event. Michelin is delighted to have been the major sponsor for this year's awards and to have such an excellent opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to be involved in the wider community".

The Mayor, Councillor Maurice Mills said "Ballymena Borough Council is delighted to be involved in the Business Awards once again this year. We have been involved ever since their inception. I thank the Chamber for all their work in organising the awards. I have no doubt that these awards are a superb way to promote the Borough, and they are now recognised as one of the leading business events of this type in Northern Ireland".

The Tullyglass as usual then served up a superb meal and then the excitement began to build – you could feel the tension as Paul Clarke announced the finalists and then the winners, the cheers (and the groans!!) rang round the room.

That concluded the formal events of the evening and the party then began with dancing to the Housem8s.

The Chamber would like to thank everyone who donated prizes for the NI Hospice raffle, and a great total of £3731 was raised.



Darrell Shields (left) and Darrell McDowell from Hire Class, winners of the Customer Service Award (Independent Retailer) are seen here with Colm Ross (centre) of category sponsors Bank of Ireland.



Sinead Mulholland and Catherine Wallace of Halo Hairdressing Portlengone receive the Customer Service Award (Service and Hospitality) from Mark McKeown (left) and William McKean of category sponsors First Trust Bank.



Ann Diamond and Hilda Richmond of Benetton receive the Customer Service Award (Multiple Retailer) from Rodney Davis (left) and Richard Rea of category sponsors Imagine Formal Hire.



Becky Topping and Joanne Quinn of Grafton Recruitment receive the Customer Service Award (Management) from Rodney Stewart of category sponsors Gallaher Ltd.



Stephanie Bloomfield (left) and Laura McManus of Gillies Restaurant at Galgorm Resort & Spa receive the Best Eating Establishment Award from David Patton of category sponsors the Patton Group.



Catriona and Philip Brown of Scoffwell receive the Best Small Eatery/Coffee Shop Award from Mark Prentice (right) of category sponsors firmus energy.



Trevor Barr (right) and Michael Surgenor (left) of Barr's Butchers receive the Best Small Business Award from Cecil Caldwell of category sponsors Michelin Development Ltd.



Kate Rodgers (left) and Geraldine Donnelly of Bank of Ireland receive the Best Workplace Award from Graham Whitehurst of sponsors Michelin Tyre PLC.



David Barnett (left) and Mark Nodder of Wrightbus receive the Export Business of the Year Award from Gren Armstrong of category sponsors Invest N.I..



Alan (left) and Neill Armstrong of CIGA Healthcare receive the Business Growth Award from Colin Massey (centre) of category sponsor Ulster Bank.



David Paul (left) of Twelve Tribe Records receives the Best Website Award from Austin McGillian (2nd left) of category sponsors New World Developments. Also included are Jamie Robinson and Fintan Beatie of website designers Eyekiller.



Trevor Barr receives the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from David Robinson of category sponsors the Robinson Group.



Boryana Chimbulena and Archie Stewart from the Blackstone Bar receive the Best Licensed Premises Award from Alison Moore of category sponsors Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



Wilbert Moore and Margaret Elliott of Moore Concrete receive the Business Premises of the Year Award from Thomas McKillen (right) of category sponsor McKillens Footwear.



Fiona McCambridge (left) and Danielle Agnew of Too True receive the Best New Business Award from P.J. McAvoy of category sponsors Ballymena Business Centre.



Claire O'Neill (left) and Dr Catherine O'Mullan (right) of Northern Regional College receive the Training and People Development Award from Aileen Mark of Category sponsors First Choice Selection Services.



Liam McEvoy of the Patton Group receives the Employee of the Year Award from Cathy McNeill of category sponsor Grafton Recruitment.



Seamus Clarke of Barr's Butchers receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce & Industry president Alison Moore.



Sharon Mullan (left) and Cecil Caldwell of Michelin Tyre PLC receive the Involvement in the Community Award from Eunice Campbell of category sponsors Diamond Recruitment.



Mayor of Ballymena Cllr Maurice Mills presents the Commitment to Ballymena Award to Christopher McLean, Joanne Hamill and Sandy Wilson of Broughshane Community Association.



David McGarry (left) and David Barnett (right) of Wrightbus receive the Innovation Award from Bobby Gilbert of category sponsors BMS Glazeguard.



UTV's Paul Clarke, who was guest speaker at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards evening in the Tullyglass House Hotel, is seen here with Mayor of Ballymena Cllr Maurice Mills and President of Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce & Industry Alison Moore.

Organised by



Principal Sponsor



## Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2008 Winners & Sponsors

Customer Service Award Retail Sector – Independent Retailer **Bank of Ireland** 

WINNER: Hire Class, Wellington Street

Customer Service Award – Service and Hospitality

WINNER: Halo Hairdressing, Portglenone



Customer Service Award Retail Sector – Multiple Retailer

wedding & formal hire  
**imagine**

WINNER: Benetton, Ballymoney Street

Customer Service Award – Management

**GALLAHER**  
LIMITED  
A member of the **JTI** Group

WINNER: Grafton Recruitment, Wellington Street

Best Eating Establishment Award

WINNER: Gillies Restaurant at Galgorm Resort and Spa



Best Small Eatery/Coffee Shop Award

WINNER: Scoffwell, Broughshane

taking natural gas further  
**firmus**  
energy

Best Licensed Premises Award

WINNER: Blackstone Bar, Hill Street

 **Ballymena**  
Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Business Premises Award

WINNER: Moore Concrete Products Ltd, Woodside Road

**McKillens**<sup>®</sup>  
RELANDS AWARD WINNING FOOTWEAR RETAILER

## Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2008 Winners & Sponsors

Best New Business Award



**WINNER: Too True, Greenvale Street**

Training and People Development Award



**WINNER: Northern Regional College, Trostan Avenue**

Employee of the Year Award



**WINNER: Liam McEvoy (The Patton Group)**

Best Small Business Award



**WINNER: Barrs Butchers, Ballymoney Street**



Best Workplace Award

**WINNER: Bank of Ireland, Church Street**



Export Business of the Year Award

**WINNER: Wrightbus, Galgorm**



Business Growth Award

**WINNER: CIGA Healthcare, Kildowney Road**



Best Website Award

**WINNER: 12 Tribe Records, Ballymena**



Entrepreneur of the Year Award

**WINNER: Trevor Barr**

## Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2008 Winners & Sponsors

Involvement in the Community Award



**WINNER: Michelin Tyre PLC, Raceview Road**

Innovation Award



**WINNER: Wrightbus, Galgorm**



Commitment to Ballymena Award



**WINNER: Broughshane Community Association**

Lifetime Achievement Award (Services to the Butchery Industry in Ballymena)

**WINNER: Mr. Seamus Clarke**



**NEW CHAMBER WEBSITE**

*Reminder to visit the new Chamber website which is being launched on 5th November.*

[www.ballymenachamber.co.uk](http://www.ballymenachamber.co.uk)

(designed by Bustedmedia)



# 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 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 6PM**

**MONTGOMERYS,  
BALLYMONEY STREET**

RSVP to Chris Wales by email:  
[office@ballymenachamber.co.uk](mailto:office@ballymenachamber.co.uk)  
or by phone: 07876 758797