

# Insight



## Ballymena

Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry



L-R Shaun O'Neill and Jim Flanagan (Ballymena Guardian), Mayor Maurice Mills, Jean O'Neill, Ian Paisley Jnr MP and Fiona Paisley

## 2010 BUSINESS AWARDS GALA EVENING

Over 400 guests attended the Gala evening for the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass House Hotel on Thursday 28th October. This is the eighth year of the awards which are organised annually by Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Comper for the evening was Nuala McKeever and after welcoming everyone she invited Chamber President Raymond Ruck to say a few words. Raymond said that it was great to see so many businesses present on the evening. He said "I would like to thank all the sponsors and advertisers, and special thanks to Principal sponsor Ulster Bank. Without your support there would be no awards. Events like this do

not just happen, a lot of work is required. I wish to thank Alison Moore and Chris Wales for all their hard work over the last few months. Congratulations to all the finalists. The standard of entries this year was exceptionally high and I wish you all good luck not only for this evening but also for the months and years ahead. I hope you all enjoy your evening".

(continued overleaf)

Ballymena Borough  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry,  
4 Wellington Court,  
Ballymena,  
BT43 6EQ

Tel 07876 758797  
Email office@ballymenachamber.co.uk



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



President of the Ballymena Chamber of Commerce & Industry Raymond Ruck (back centre) and his wife Susan (front centre) are seen here with Terry Robb (back left) of principal sponsors Ulster Bank, and his wife Elizabeth (front left), Chamber of Commerce Business Development Manager Chris Wales (back right) and Immediate Past President Alison Moore (front right) at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel.

Terry Robb, head of Ulster Bank Ballymena Business Centre said "Ulster Bank is delighted to be principal sponsor for the 2010 Business awards. The Ulster Bank has worked closely with the Chamber for many years, and we have been award sponsors since the inception of the awards eight years ago.

Ulster Bank has been in Ballymena since 1838 and we are very proud of our strong local connections to the Ballymena Borough. Ulster Bank has a great record in supporting local businesses, helping them grow and develop, and we look forward to continuing and strengthening that support in the years ahead".

Mayor Maurice Mills said he was delighted to attend the Gala evening. He said "This is one of the biggest and most important events in the Ballymena calendar. It helps demonstrate to the rest of Northern Ireland and even beyond the calibre of businesses in the Borough. I hope that the awards continue to thrive for many years to come and I thank Chamber for organising them. Good luck to all the finalists this evening".

Tullyglass then served an excellent meal, after which Nuala McKeever entertained the audience with a very witty and humorous speech. This was followed by the highlight of the evening – the presentation of the awards.

The Commitment to Ballymena Award was awarded this year to the late Maurice O'Neill, who had been editor of the Ballymena Guardian for 34 years. He enjoyed a retirement of only a few months, passing away in August. Maurice's wife Jean received the trophy on his behalf from the Mayor Maurice Mills.

Nuala McKeever read a very moving citation, giving details of his career and his involvement with many community groups in the Borough. The announcement that Maurice was the recipient of this prestigious award was greeted with a standing ovation.

Everyone then danced the evening away with music from Marty Fay and the Bandidos.

During the evening a raffle was held with proceeds going to the NI Hospice. Over £3000 was raised, a truly magnificent amount.

Thank you to all who contributed and special thanks to the following who donated prizes for the raffle:

- firmus energy
- NI Hospice
- Tullyglass House Hotel
- Barrs Butchers
- Designer Homes and Interiors, Broughshane
- Galgorm Resort and Spa
- The Patton Group
- Michelin Tyre PLC

Organised By

Principal Sponsor



**Ballymena**

*Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

**Ulster Bank**

You can see more photos of the evening at the Chamber website [www.ballymenachamber.co.uk](http://www.ballymenachamber.co.uk)



Cllr Jim Alexander, Mrs Elizabeth Coulter and former President Mr Robert Coulter at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel



Joanne Hennessy, Margaret Duff and Sinead Donnelly of Next at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel.



Kate Rodgers, Conan McToal, Geraldine McCambridge and Geraldine Donnelly of Bank of Ireland at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel.



Diamond Recruitment staff at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel. Back L-R, Lauren Young, Rachael Aulds, Eunice Campbell, Louise McCollum. Front, L-R, Amanda Bell, Ashleen Reid, Ashley Lyle and Karen Hill.



Carla Bradley, Deborah Clifford and Kathy McNeill of Grafton Recruitment at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards dinner in the Tullyglass House Hotel



Chris Quigg, Nigel McNell and Paddy Ford of Dunbia at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel



Staff and management of the Nobel Cafe celebrate winning the Best Small Eatery/Coffee Shop at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel.



Jenny Watt, Laura McManus and Marie Smyth from Castle Couture Bridal Wear, Galgorm Courtyard who won the Business Premises Award at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010

# 2010 BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS



Chamber President Raymond Ruck with Chris Wales (left) and Alison Moore (2nd. left), both Chamber of Commerce, compere Nuala McKeever and Terry Robb (right) from principal sponsor Ulster Bank



Ronnie Morton of First Trust Bank presents the Customer Service Award Retail Sector (Independent Retailer) to the Perry family of Gloonan Gallery Ahoghill. Our picture shows Sarah receiving the award while looking on are L-R, dad James, mum Patricia and brother Chris



Galgorm Resort & Spa Hospitality Manager Paul O'Hanlon (left) receives the Customer Service Award, Service & Hospitality Sector from Riada Resourcing Business Development manager Paul Muir.



Ashley Rodgers (left) and Sharon McIlveen (right) of Game receive the Customer Service Award Retail Sector (Multiple Retailer) from Northern Bank Senior Branch Manager Carol Wilson.



Tracy Blacker (centre) of JTI presents the Customer Service Award Management to Roisin Mairs (left) and Brenda Harris of Nationwide.



Margaret Duff of Fairhill Shopping Centre presents the Customer Service Award, Convenience Store to Laura McLean (left) and Beth Reid of Spar Cullybackey



Neil Patton (centre) of the Patton Group presents the Best Eating Establishment Award to L-R, Darrel, Anne McGarry, Stephanie Gray and Patrick McGarry of the Millside Restaurant, Gracehill



Alison Moore (2nd left) of firmus energy presents the Best Small Eatery/Coffee Shop award to Maire McCann of the Nobel Cafe while looking on are Nobel staff members Laoise McCann (left) and Aideen Dunlop



Thomas McKillen of McKillen's Footwear, who presented the Business Premises Award to Marie Smyth, Laura McManus and Jenny Watt of Castle Couture Bridal Wear, Galgorm Courtyard.



Cecil Caldwell (right) of Michelin Development Ltd. presents the Best Small Business Award to Trevor Barr of Barrs Butchers.



Chairman of the Ballymena Business Centre Ald PJ McAvo (left) presents the Best New Business Award to Sally Ann Todd and Tim Roddy of Orthoplus



Trevor Neilands of Northern Regional College presents the Training & People Development Award to Shauna Du Prez (left) and Tracey Blair of The Patton Group.

# 2010 BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS



William Wright of The Wright Group presents the Export Business of the Year award to Linda and Ian Hayburn of Hayburn & Co.



Gren Armstrong (centre) of Invest Northern Ireland presents the Innovation Award to Roslyn McMillan and John Parkinson of Moore Concrete Products Ltd.



Michelin Tyre PLC Factory Manager Wilton Crawford presents the Best Business Website Award to Beth Swindlehurst of Galgorm Resort & Spa.



Deborah Clifford of Grafton Recruitment presents the Employee of the Year award to Gary McNeill of Michelin.



Terry Robb (centre) of Ulster Bank presents the Business Growth Award to Gordon (left) and Kieran McAtamney of K&G McAtamney Butchers & Deli.



David Robinson (centre) of Robinson Services presents the Employer of the Year Award to Sue Robinson and Neil Holland of firmus energy.



Diamond Recruitment Branch Manger Eunice Campbell presents the Involvement in the Community Award to James McNeill (left) and Alistair McNeill of James McNeill Grocery Ltd-VivoXtra, Broughshane



Mayor of Ballymena Ald Maurice Mills presents the Commitment to Ballymena Award to Mrs Jean O'Neil who accepted the award on behalf of her late husband Maurice, former editor of the Ballymena Guardian.

## 2010 BUSINESS AWARD SPONSORS





Alicia McLean, Claire Montgomery, Denise Montgomery and Kerry-Anne Traynor of Beau Beauty at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel.



Staff from Nationwide who won the Customers Service Management Award at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel.



Staff and management from Orthoplus celebrate winning the Best New Business Award at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel.



Benetton staff members who attended the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel. L-R, Katrina Neeson, Bronagh Crosskerry, Anna Tiplea, Ann Diamond, and Claire Worthington of Harrison.



Catherine and John Wallace of Halo Hairdressing Portglenone at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel.



Sammy and Jane Stevenson of the Patton Group at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2010 in the Tullyglass House Hotel.