

# Insight



## Ballymena

Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry



President of the Ballymena Chamber of Commerce & Industry Thomas McKillen and special guests who attended the 10th annual Ballymena Borough Business Awards in Tullyglass Hotel. Back row, L-R, Cllr Lynn McClurg of Carrickfergus Council, North Antrim MP Ian Paisley and Chief Executive of Ballymena Borough Council Mrs Anne Donaghy. Front, L-R, Thomas McKillen, Mayor of Ballymena Alderman PJ McAvoiy and Deputy Mayor Carrickfergus Cllr Terence Clements.

## 2012 BUSINESS AWARDS GALA EVENING

Ballymena businesses were out in force on Thursday 11th October at the Gala evening in Tullyglass House Hotel to celebrate the 10th Ballymena Borough Business Excellence awards. The awards are organised annually by Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Principal sponsor this year was Ballymena Borough Council.

Chamber President Thomas McKillen welcomed everyone.

He said "On behalf of Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here tonight to celebrate our 10th Ballymena Business Excellence Awards.

When we organised the first awards in 2003, little did we

*think that it would become such a major event in the Ballymena business calendar.*

*The fact that there are 440 people present here this evening, a record attendance, clearly illustrates the high esteem in which the local business community hold this event.*

*Continued overleaf...*

Tonight is about celebrating the success of the Ballymena Borough Business Community and focusing on the huge contribution made by local Businesses and to highlight the commitment made by individuals. As a Chamber we see this as an excellent event to promote Ballymena to the rest of Northern Ireland as a great place to live, work and do business.

I would like to thank all our sponsors, especially our principal sponsor Ballymena Borough Council. Chamber has had an excellent working relationship with the Council in recent years and we look forward to building on that relationship in the future. To our individual category sponsors, many of whom return year on year to support the awards, we really are grateful for your support”.

Ballymena Mayor PJ McAvoy said “As Mayor of Ballymena, I am delighted to have been invited to speak at tonight’s awards. This is the 10th year of these Awards, the purpose of which is to demonstrate the commitment to excellence shown by many of the businesses within the Borough of Ballymena.

As principal sponsor of the Awards, Ballymena Borough Council is fully committed to creating the environment that commerce can operate in. Ballymena can be a place for business excellence and we are proud to be home for some great globally recognised organisations. The Economic climate only makes us more determined to collaborate jointly and dovetail our strategies and plans together for the benefit of our local people. Such partnership working can assist and support the growth and prosperity, both now and in the future, for our people and our place - Ballymena.

Ballymena Council have launched their Corporate Plan 2012 - 2016 this year which focuses on creating jobs, increasing skills and education, growing our local economy, improving health and wellbeing of our citizens, delivering quality, value for money services and continuing to invest in a strong and shared future for the people and place of the Borough of Ballymena. This clearly indicates our commitment to Ballymena, making it a great place to be”.

Mayor McAvoy then introduced a DVD presentation which gave guests a great overview of the tremendous work of the local business community, as well as communicating the many positive aspects of life in our Borough.

Seven businesses have been sponsors since the awards began in 2003 and in recognition of this, Alison Moore and Chris Wales presented certificates to:

- Ballymena Borough Council
- Ballymena Business Centre
- First Trust Bank
- Gallaher/JTI
- Invest Northern Ireland
- Michelin Tyre PLC
- Ulster Bank

After an excellent meal came the highlight of the evening, the presentation of the awards. Gene Fitzpatrick was the compere and the atmosphere was electric and there were great scenes of jubilation as the winners were announced. To celebrate the fact that this was the 10th year of the awards and also that it was Olympic year, all winners received a commemorative gold medal and all finalists a silver medal.

Audrey Wales MBE received a standing ovation when she was awarded the Commitment to Ballymena award. Her citation included many examples of the work she had done in the Borough and concluded:

“Tonight’s recipient of the Commitment to Ballymena award is an enthusiastic and passionate supporter of business and has driven several key initiatives, instigating real progress for the Northern Ireland and Ballymena business community and the local economy. As a result, she is one of the most networked individuals and has developed links, synergies and contacts across many business forums. Although now technically retired this has only given her more time to focus and assist local businesses and the community - most of this work being voluntary”.

During the evening a draw was held for the Northern Ireland Hospice and the excellent total of almost £3500 was raised.



To mark the tenth anniversary of the Ballymena Business Awards presentations were made to the seven companies who have been sponsors of the awards during those ten years. Our picture shows representatives of those companies with Chamber of Commerce & Industry members Alison Moore and Chris Wales. Back, L-R, Wilton Crawford (Michelin Tyre plc), Geoff Wilson (JTI), Chris Wales (Chamber of Commerce), Trevor Robinson (Invest Northern Ireland), James Perry (Ballymena Business Centre). Front, L-R, Kevin McWilliams (First Trust Bank), Anne McCoy (Ulster Bank), Alison Moore (Chamber of Commerce), Alderman PJ McAvoy (Ballymena Borough Council).



Two of Ballymena’s most prominent business men William Wright CBE (left) and David Patton MBE (right) make special presentations for 10 years service to Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce & Industry to Chris Wales and Alison Moore at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.





Davina Kerr, Kelly Ann Greer and Graine O'Kane of Ulster Bank were at the Ballymena Business Awards dinner in Tullyglass Hotel.



Nadia McMurray, Nicky Pattison & Laura Carson of Goldsmiths in the Fairhill Centre who attended the Ballymena Business Awards dinner in Tullyglass Hotel.



Pauline McWilliams, Ashleigh McGrellis and Shauna Scott of Garage Door Systems were at the Ballymena Business Awards dinner in Tullyglass Hotel.



Laura McManus and Marie Smyth of Castle Couture Bridal Wear were at the Ballymena Business Awards dinner in Tullyglass Hotel.



Lorna Clyde and Shelley Surgenor of Ground Espresso Bar attended the Ballymena Business Awards dinner in Tullyglass Hotel.



Brett Thompson and Deborah Law from Studio Shake were at the Ballymena Business Awards dinner in Tullyglass Hotel.





Kevin McWilliams (centre) of category sponsors First Trust Bank presents the Customer Service Award - Retail Sector (Independent Retailer) to Patricia Perry of Gloonan Gallery while looking on are L-R, James Perry, Sarah Perry and Christopher Perry.



Johnnie McKillen of category sponsors McKillens Footwear presents the Customer Service Award - Retail Sector (Multiple Retailer) to Joanne Watson, Ciara Crilly (left) and Lorna Wallis (right) of The Perfume Shop at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



President of Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry Thomas McKillen presents the Customer Service - Convenience Store Award, to Lorna McLean, Steven Barr (left) and Jonathan Cameron of Eurospar Cullybackey.



Mr David Patton MBE of category sponsors Patton presents the Best Eating Establishment Award to Anne and Patrick McGarry of Millside Restaurant, Gracehill at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Michael Scott of category sponsors firmus energy presents the Best Small Eatery/Coffee Shop award to Laoise McCann, Jennean Henry (left) and Aine Cochrane of Nobel Cafe at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Paul Muir of category sponsors Riada Resourcing presents the Customer Service Award (Service Sector) to Jacqueline (left) and Naomi Kennedy of Jacqueline Kennedy Hairdressing & Grooming for Men at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Autoline Insurance Group Commercial Manager John O'Brien (centre) who presented the Customer Service Award (Hospitality Sector) to winners Patrick and Anne McGarry (left) of Millside Restaurant, Gracehill and a Highly Commended award to Maire and Laoise McCann of Nobel Cafe at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Fairhill Shopping Centre Marketing & Commercial Manager Natalie Jackson (left) presents the Business Premises Award to Victoria Brown of Galgorm Resort & Spa at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.





Graham Lapsley of category sponsors Northern Bank presents the Best Business Website Award to Lauren Neeson of Patton at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Geoff Wilson of category sponsors JTI presents the Excellence in Customer Service Award to Malachy McAleese (left) and John O'Brien (right) of Autoline Insurance at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Geoff Wilson of category sponsors JTI presents a Highly Commended award for the Excellence in Customer Service section to Cherith Bankhead, Graham Lapsley (left) and John Taggart of Northern Bank at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Two of Ballymena's most prominent business men William Wright CBE (left) and David Patton MBE (right) make special presentations for 10 years service to Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce & Industry to Chris Wales and Alison Moore at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Ronan McCann of category sponsors Black Advertising presents the Right Place to Work Award to Laura Carson (left) and Laura Gaston of Goldsmiths, Fairhill Shopping Centre at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



James Perry (centre) of Into Business Magazine presents the Most Promising New Business Award to Chris Atchison (left) and Aaron Klewchuk of ballyprint.com at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Wilton Crawford of category sponsors Michelin Tyre plc presents the Best Small Business Award to Kieran (left) and Gordon McAtamney of K&G McAtamney Butchers at the tenth Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Mr William Wright CBE of Wrightbus presents the Export Business of the Year award to Sinead McAllister of Francis Dinsmore Ltd while looking on are colleagues, L-R, Philip Hoey, Rachael Kerr, Barry Corrigan and Ian Wallace.





Alan Egner (left) of category sponsors Power NI presents the Environment Award to Alan Stewart of Patton at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Trevor Robinson of Invest NI presents the Innovation Award to Sean McAllister, Teresa McErlean (left) and Leona McAllister of Discovereverafter.com at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Eunice Campbell (centre) of category sponsors Diamond Recruitment presents the Involvement in the Community Award to Natalie Jackson (right) and Danielle McCaughern of the Fairhill Shopping Centre at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Dr Catherine O'Mullan of category sponsors Northern Regional College presents the Apprentice of the Year Award to Michael Curtis of Grant Electrical Services at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Stefanie Magowan (centre) of category sponsors Grafton Recruitment presents Employee of the Year Awards to Brian Kerr of Nampak Plastics and Stella Grant of the Adair Arms Hotel at the tenth Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Anne McCoy of category sponsors Ulster Bank presents the Business Growth Award to Kieran (left) and Gordon McAtamney of K&G McAtamney Butchers at the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.



Mayor of Ballymena Alderman PJ McAvoyn of category sponsors Ballymena Borough Council presents the Commitment to Ballymena Award to Audrey Wales MBE at the tenth Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards in Tullyglass Hotel.

# BALLYMENA BOROUGH BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2012

*Championing the best of  
business within the Borough!*

# 2012 BUSINESS AWARDS: FULL LIST OF WINNERS AND FINALISTS

## Customer Service Award Retail Sector (Independent Retailer)

**Winner: Gloonan Gallery**

Finalists: K & G McAtamney (Butcher & Deli), Waveney Eye Care (NI) Ltd

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## Best Business Website Award

**Winner: Patton**

Finalists: ballyprint.com, Wee Voucher Book, Slemish Design Studios

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## Customer Service Award Retail Sector (Multiple Retailer)

**Winner: The Perfume Shop**

Finalists: Goldsmiths, Ann Summers, Clockwork Orange

SPONSORED BY



## Excellence in Customer Service Award

**Winner: Autoline Insurance Group**  
**Highly Commended: Northern Bank Ltd**

Finalists: Grafton Recruitment, O'Briens

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## Customer Service Award Convenience Store

**Winner: Eurospar Cullybackey**

Finalists: James McNeill Grocery Ltd, T/A Vivoxtra, Eurospar Doury Road, Spar Ahoghill

SPONSORED BY



## Right Place to Work Award

**Winner: Goldsmiths**

Finalists: Next, Debenhams, The Sitting Room Hairdressing

SPONSORED BY



## Best Eating Establishment Award

**Winner: Millside Restaurant (Gracehill)**

Finalists: The Wild Duck, Adair Arms Hotel, Go Sun Restaurant

SPONSORED BY



## Most Promising New Business Award

**Winner: ballyprint.com**

Finalists: Discovereverafter.com, The Music Rooms, Doggy Daycare

SPONSORED BY



## Best Small Eatery/Coffee Shop Award

**Winner: Nobel Café**

Finalists: Jensens Café, O'Briens, Caffe Nero

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## Best Small Business Award

**Winners: K & G McAtamney (Wholesale Butchers)**

Finalists: The Sitting Room Hairdressing, MET Healthcare Limited, Castle Couture

SPONSORED BY



## Customer Service Award Service Sector

**Winner: Jacqueline Kennedy Hairdressing & Grooming for Men**

Finalists: Tourist Information Centre, Fenaghy Veterinary Clinic, Grafton Recruitment

SPONSORED BY



## Export Business of the Year Award

**Winner: Francis Dinsmore Ltd**

Finalists: Garage Door Systems, Martin Engineering Supplies Ltd, Robinson Services

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## Customer Service Award Hospitality Sector

**Winner: Millside Restaurant (Gracehill)**

**Highly Commended: Nobel Café**

Finalists: Galgorm Resort and Spa, Front Page Bar

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## Environment Award

**Winner: Patton**

Finalists: Moy Park, Nampak Plastics

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## Business Premises Award

**Winner: Galgorm Resort and Spa**

Finalists: Mobalpa Kitchens, Eurospar Cullybackey, Cafe Couture

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## Innovation Award

**Winner: Discovereverafter.com**

Finalists: Autoline Insurance Group, Quad-X, The Wild Duck

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## Involvement in the Community Award

**Winner: Fairhill Shopping Centre**

Finalists: Front Page Bar, Ballymena Retailers Against Crime, Ballymena Arts Partnership

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### Apprentice of the Year Award

**Winner: Michael Curtis**  
**(Grants Electrical)**

Finalists: Paddy Quinn (Fearghas Quinn Hearse and Limousines), Nicola Pattison (Goldsmiths)

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### Business Growth Award

**Winner: K & G McAtamney**  
**(Wholesale Butchers)**

Finalists: Riada Resourcing, MET Healthcare Limited, Ground Espresso Bar

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### Employee of the Year Award

**Joint Winners: Stella Grant**  
**(Adair Arms Hotel),**  
**Brian Kerr (Nampak Plastics)**

Finalists: Deborah Law (Studio Shake), Ian Wallace (Francis Dinsmore Ltd)

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### Commitment to Ballymena Award

**Winner: Audrey Wales MBE**

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ORGANISED BY



*Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



# BALLYMENA BOROUGH BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2012

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Proprietors of Studio Shake, staff members and their guests who attended the Ballymena Business Awards dinner in Tullyglass Hotel. Back, L-R, Brett Thompson, Paul Stevenson, Adrian Kirkpatrick, Deborah Law, Rhonda Stevenson and Karen Kirkpatrick.



Paddy Quinn, Debbie Quinn, Paula Quinn and Fergus Quinn of Fergus Quinn Hearse and Limousines were at the Ballymena Business Awards dinner in Tullyglass Hotel.



Northern Bank staff at the Ballymena Business Awards dinner in Tullyglass Hotel were, L-R, Alison Kane, John Taggart, Carol Wilson, Donna Adams, Graham Lapsley and Cherith Bankhead.