

SBCP Newsletter



February 2015

2014 - Best year yet!

SBCP had its most successful year yet in 2014. With a growing membership - now at 60 Members, Slough businesses have contributed to supporting the Slough community more than ever before!

In 2014, over 1,000 employee volunteers donated over 5,000 business hours to helping 145 local Community Challenges!

Both community groups and employee volunteers have benefitted from the 'hands on' support, skills exchange and resource donations and we hope to continue this success this year. Here's to a bigger and better 2015!

Below are just some of the projects that were completed - thank you to all our members, employee volunteers and the community for making this our best year yet!



SBCP Annual Conference - CSR, it's just good business...

The Slough Business Community Partnership's Annual Conference entitled 'CSR it's just good business' was held at Hilton London Heathrow Airport Terminal 5 on 20th November and was attended by 100 delegates.

The Conference presented the opportunity to showcase the achievements of SBCP in the last year, and recognised local businesses that have helped make a difference to Slough's Community.

Our keynote speaker was John Holland-Kaye – CEO, Heathrow and recently appointed as SBCP's President. He talked about the benefits of being part of an organisation like SBCP and about how Heathrow are supporting local communities around the airport. He said that "Slough Business Community Partnership is a unique organisation and I am delighted to be able to champion the organisation and the positive impact it delivers in the community. It is important that business develops a relationship with the community in which it operates and this positive engagement should be acknowledged and celebrated and Slough Business Community Partnership provides this opportunity."



John-Holland Kaye, CEO Heathrow and SBCP President & (Right) Rafiq Chohan, SBCP Chair

Rafiq Chohan, SBCP's Chair, encouraged more businesses to join SBCP and showcased some of its achievements in 2014 including, the brokerage of 897 employee volunteers who donated over 4,000 volunteer hours to support Slough's Communities. He said "As we emerge from a long and deep recession the support of our business community continues to be very important. The needs of our communities are multiple and complex and the fact that our business partners and their employees have participated in more activities than ever before in the last year highlights their continued commitment to the Slough community."

Fiona Mactaggart, MP for Slough, talked to delegates about the difference that local companies are making to the local community and how else they could help. She said "Thank you to the companies and the community for working together to make Slough a better place to live in".

The prestigious SBCP Awards were a particular highlight of the evening. The Company of the Year Award was awarded to Iris Software Group Ltd, which allows their employees three 'Giving back' days a year to support the local community and commenced their volunteering programme with SBCP's help in 2014. They have since shown a commitment to employee volunteering and supporting the community.

Six Business Mentoring Awards were presented to mentors from Sales Improvement Service, Mars Chocolate UK, Menzies LLP and Amazon who have all provided excellent support to key leaders of voluntary organisations in Slough.



Finally, SBCP's President's Award went to Shaida Akbar, Chair of Upton Lea Unity, an organisation that aims to bring the community together. She is also a school governor and in the summer was awarded the Get Berkshire Active 'Shining light' award for organising cultural and sporting activities. She was recognised by SBCP for making a significant difference to her community.

John-Holland Kaye presenting the President's Award to Shaida Akbar - Upton Lea Unity

Greetings new members!



We would like to warmly welcome Eacotts as a new member of SBCP. We look forward to working with them to support the Slough Community .

Business Meeting

The last SBCP Business meeting in 2014 featured presentations on Slough Borough Council's Budget Consultation and the opportunities and considerations arising from the changes to Pensions.

Joseph Holmes, Assistant Director, Slough Borough Council's Finance Department, spoke about the need to make reductions in spending for 2015 to meet strict budgets following the reduction in Government Grants. He went on to emphasise the importance of Business Rates, particularly as from 2013 the Council receives approximately 30p in the £1 from these rates and how important it is for them to grow Business Rate income. Finally, Joseph mentioned that the Council is looking to implement a 5 year plan focusing on key outcomes and that by retaining and growing the Business Rate base will help to meet the challenging targets being set.

Ben Simpson, CEO, Menzies Wealth Management, spoke about the freedom and choice in pensions following the budget. He highlighted the options available from April 2015 which include: Lifetime Annuities, Flexi-Access Drawdown Fund, Small Pension Pots and Trivial Pensions.

He went on to mention the changes in the new State Pension with effect from April 2016 and gave examples of how to maximise pension funds which will be subject to income tax.



Ben Simpson, Menzies Wealth Management outlining the changes to pensions following the budget

Business to Community Skills

SBCP welcomed three more companies in December to deliver key talks on three business areas that charities and community groups found very helpful for their organisations.

Ravij Joshi, Blake Morgan LLP, delivered a timely session on Family friendly Rights, updating delegates on legal changes that affect all organisations, including charities and community groups. He advised on



Ravij Joshi, Blake Morgan LLP delivering a talk

flexible working, shared parental leave and holiday pay rulings. Clare Fleming, Kidd Rapinet Solicitors, informed the group about Charitable Legacies and Inheritance Tax whilst Helen Riley advised on Tax and VAT for Charities. The event received positive feedback from delegates who commented that the session covered some important topics and they acquired some valuable information.

We would like to thank our speakers for their time and support and also thank the attendees for taking part.

Challenge Calendar Updates

The new challenge calendar for February - April 2015 is now available! If you or your colleagues wish to take part in a challenge - big or small - get in touch now by contacting Noreen Mian on noreen@sbcpc.co.uk.

Our members took part in **32 challenges** during the last quarter. Thank you to all who took part to support the Slough community. Here are just some of the projects employee volunteers took part in:



Provided an enthusiastic team who dedicated themselves to updating the main hall of the Upton Scout Group. The team leader said they had a "really enjoyable day, good spirit and great result".



Kindly donated a brand new camera to Meet and Mingle for use as a raffle prize at their Christmas fair



McDonalds took part in their first *two* Community Challenges! They donated meal vouchers to a local school towards their raffle and held a Fun-day at one of their stores - inviting local residents to take part in face painting, games and decorating.



Kindly donated office equipment to some local charities.

A lovely Project Manager from  gave their time by delivering a valuable workshop to young entrepreneurs from Creative Junction. The keen volunteer delivered a session on Project Management and it was commented that "each and every one of the participants left saying they had taken something away to think about".

Two teams from  delivered a Tea and Bingo session at two Age Concern Centres over the Christmas period. Clients enjoyed tea, biscuits and cake before the Bingo games begun. Fun was had by all!



Donated a much needed fridge to a local charity.



Invited Montem Academy's choir to sing carols to staff on December morning. The school went away with a donation and Amazon staff were left with Christmas cheer.



Donated several computers to various charities around Slough.

This quarter SBCP has help business engage with **148 employee volunteers** who have donated over **500 hours** and through their efforts have supported the Slough community. **Get involved and lets make 2015 our best year yet!**

What's next?

- **Business 2 Community Skills:** 26th February 2015, from 10am
- **Slough Working Well:** 25th March 2015, from 8am
- **Business Meeting:** 23rd April 2015, from 8am