



## Cork People

With Martina O'Donoghue



Amy Jane Keating, Atrium Business Centre, Blackpool, and Gillian Keating, JW O'Donovan Solicitors.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy



Abina Kenneally, from Quintas Group, sponsors of the Cork Chamber Christmas lunch.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy

## CORK CHAMBER HOSTS ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH IN



Ashley Hennessy, chairman Marketing Institute, Louis Copeland, guest speaker, Conor Healy, chief executive Cork Chamber, and Alf Smiddy, Quintas Group, at the Cork Chamber Christmas lunch held in the Maryborough Hotel in association with the Marketing Institute, Southern Region, and sponsored by Quintas.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy



Sharon O'Donoghue, from Brook Catering, at the event.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy



Colm Reid, Innr Energy, and Seán MacSweeney, Quintas

Picture: Gerard McCarthy

# Festive cheer for

THE recent cold snap had caused the postponement of the Cork Chamber Christmas lunch already — but just like the resilient nature of Cork businesses in the past year, the lunch was destined to go ahead six days after the original date.

Run in association with the Marketing Institute Southern Region, it is one of the highlights of the Cork Chamber calendar and generally heralds the start of Christmas for the business community, albeit slightly delayed this year.

Sponsored by Quintas Group for the second year, it took place at the Maryborough Hotel, where a packed foyer saw business people from many sectors gathered together discussing inevitable topics such as the Budget — but also exchanging Christmas greetings.

Inside the main function room I was seated alongside the Radisson Hotel's financial controller Eugene Harrington and marketing manager Colette

O'Callaghan sporting seasonal red and black. Also included at the table were Greg Canty, Deirdre Waldron and Doreen O'Mahony from Fuzion Communications who recently celebrated ten years in business.

The Cork Chamber team responsible for putting the lunch together was made up of Lucy O'Donoghue, Sean O'Leary, Leigh Gillen, Margaret Goode, Catherine Fitzpatrick, Siobhan Horan and Barbara Anne Richardson, while also present were the organisation's CEO Conor Healy and president Ger O'Mahoney.

Ger addressed those gathered, expressing gratitude for the fact that "we are all here and have businesses that are successful". He spoke about how there is now €14 billion more in savings than there was in the days of the SSIA and that he hopes consumers will be given the confidence to unlock some of that money and self invest in our own economy once more.

He introduced Quintas chairman Alf Smiddy, who acknowledged that it had been a difficult year for business, not

helped by the arctic weather conditions which adversely affected retail over a two-week period.

He said because of the recession, the survival instinct was for businesses to slash their marketing budgets, something he sees reversing in the future as brands will once again seek to gain the trust of consumers. Therefore he is urging young people to study marketing and commerce as he believes they will be key employment areas in time to come.

He said we needed to consider the arrival of the IMF as a moment to create a future based on honesty and one of inspiring and visionary leadership, quoting John F. Kennedy: "Those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future".

Among the audience were Robert and Patricia Quinlan of Caremark, Mary Power and Kevin Nolan of Westboro Partners, Terence O'Sullivan of Terence J. O'Sullivan solicitors, John Boylan from McNulty Boylan solicitors, Ruth Gaffney of New Ireland Assurance and William O'Brien Sr.

## ASSOCIATION WITH THE MARKETING INSTITUTE SOUTH REGION



Patrica Quinlan, CareMark, Mark Scally, Hayfield Manor, and Deirdre Waldron, Fuzion PR enjoying the Cork Chamber Christmas lunch.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy



Michael O'Keeffe and Mary Murphy, from ISS.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy



Brian McCarthy, Vodafone, Der O'Mahony, TCH, and John Herbert, Vodafone.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy



Rory Cogan, Ulster Bank, John Byrne, CHK, and Dan Kelleher, Ulster Bank.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy



Doreen O'Mahony, Fuzion PR, at the Chamber lunch.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy

# Chamber

from William O'Brien Plant Hire in Bishopstown.

Chamber board member Gillian Keating from JW O'Donovan Solicitors was there with her sister Amy Jane Keating from the Atrium Business Centre in Blackpool, while also in attendance was Joan Lynch of JL Communications.

Marketing Institute members included chairman Ashley Hennessy and PRO John Lotty, along with Norina O'Callaghan, who is also the sales and marketing manager at the SilverSprings Moran Hotel.

Also spotted were Cathy Dwyer of Career Training Internships, Edel Clancy from Musgraves, Sam Beamish from Ulster Bank, Fergal Keniry from Whisper Marketing Consultancy, Mark Exshaw from Nat Ross, Pat Kierans from H&A Marketing and photographer Neil Danton.

New Chamber member Angela O'Sullivan from Arwen Consulting in

Killarney was there, while also from The Kindom came Linda Hanley of the Brehon Hotel.

Guest speaker was successful tailor and businessman Louis Copeland who left school at the age of 14 but who now has eight stores around the country.

A man renowned for his keen business sense, he delivered amusing anecdotes from his years as a tailor. An inspirational man, he has carried on the family business created by his grandfather Hyman Copeland in the early 1900s and is proud to say it is a business that continues to grow and adapt to change.

The lunch also featured a quirky **trivia** quiz with special prizes for each table and a raffle draw with proceeds going to Chamber member charities.

● To contact me with a view to covering a forthcoming social event please e-mail [martina.odonoghue@eecho.ie](mailto:martina.odonoghue@eecho.ie)



Linda Kiely, VoxPro, Angela O'Sullivan, Arwen Consulting, and Tina Costigan, Mail Maker 123.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy

● See Friday's Social Diary for Wardrobe Wishes hosted in Ballincollig in aid of the Make A Wish Foundation