

JUNE MForum NEWS



Bath - Swindon

Dear MForum Members,

Welcome to the **June** edition of MForum News **2011**.

This month our networking event is taking place on **16th June** at Great Western Wine in Bath, a fun wine tasting evening, sponsored by Monahans. We are almost fully booked for this, so if you want to come along, please let me know **ASAP**.

We are in need of a sponsor for next months event, to be held on **21st July** in Swindon, if you'd like to take this opportunity, please get in touch.

Other events coming up are:

15th September - Bath

20th October - Swindon

17th November - Bath

15th December - Christmas Lunch, Bradford on Avon

If your company would like to sponsor any of these, please do let me know.

Kind regards,

Clare Way

T: 01225 785580

E: clare.way@monahans.co.uk



To view back copies of the MForum newsletter, click on this link:
<http://www.monahans.co.uk/web/services-corpfinance-mforum.asp>



Peter Lugg



Alison Bradshaw



Jenny McArdle



Dominic Bourquin

Our Corporate Finance Team provides all the advice and support you may need when buying or selling a business, or if you simply need help in developing strategies for growth. Our offering is dedicated to the smaller business sector and takes into account the lack of management resource available. Consequently, we are 'hands on' in our approach helping to ensure a successful outcome.

Our dedicated team is solely committed to the delivery of this service and has gained considerable experience working with a wide range of organisations across many industries.

Meet the team...

Peter has been a partner in the firm since 1988. He has developed a particular expertise in advising small and medium sized businesses in financial planning and corporate finance, with a particular interest in family owned companies.

Alison joined Monahans in 2008. She is well known across Wiltshire and Somerset having worked in the banking industry for 15 years. This experience enables her to advise on all aspects of finance from raising funds for expansion to ensuring that our clients bank facilities are structured to meet their business needs.

Jenny is the teams Researcher and Administrator and provides support to Peter, Alison and all of our contacts.

Dominic leads the Monahans tax consultancy team and is involved in most transactions the Corporate Finance team handle, ensuring that our clients pay as little tax as possible.

Bath

Lennox House
3 Pierrepont Street
Bath
BA1 1LB

T 01225 472800

Chippenham

16a Forest Gate
Pewsham
Chippenham
Wiltshire SN15 3RS

T 01249 766966

Glastonbury

3 Landmark House
Wirral Park Road
Glastonbury
Somerset BA6 9FR

T 01458 836810

Swindon

38-42 Newport Street
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 3DR

T 01793 818300

Trowbridge

Clarks Mill
Stallard Street
Trowbridge
Wiltshire BA14 8HH

T 01225 785520

Celtic Sheepskin Investment

Piper, a leading private equity specialist in consumer brands, has announced it has invested a minority stake in Celtic Sheepskin, providing growth funding to this fast-growing direct (mail order and internet) sheepskin boots and natural clothing business.

Based in Newquay, Cornwall, Celtic Sheepskin was founded over 20 years ago by husband and wife team Nick and Kath Whitworth. In its early days its sheepskin boots were the original British Ugg boots until the couple licensed the UK trademark to Ugg's American owners and re-branded their company as Celtic Sheepskin. Over the years, the business has developed its expertise in designing, sourcing and manufacturing footwear, outerwear and clothing from natural fibres. Celtic Sheepskin now has sales exceeding £8m and grew by more than 20% last year.

Nick Whitworth, founder of Celtic Sheepskin stated: 'we are immensely proud of what we have built at Celtic but recognised that we needed to work with a partner to support us through our next phase of growth. Ours is a family business with strong values and a passion for providing exceptional products for our customers. Piper clearly understands and respects what we do, and the team have demonstrated already during the due diligence phase their ability to add significant value to our business'.

www.celtic-sheepskin.co.uk



Local Solicitor to climb Mount Kilimanjaro for Help for Heroes

Local solicitor, Chris Kane of Withy King Solicitors in Bath, Swindon and Oxford, will be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro next month to raise funds for Help for Heroes.

Chris will be joining David Barnes, the Bath and former England Saxon and Barbarian rugby player, and other current and past rugby players and supporters, to raise money for a number of charitable causes as part of David's testimonial year.

Chris and David will be part of a 40 strong team of men and women attempting to reach the summit of the world's highest free-standing mountain at 5,895 metres. The trip is taking place from 2nd – 12th June 2011 and a camera crew from the International Rugby Board funded *Total Rugby* programme will be accompanying the trip.

The cost of Chris's trip is being funded by the generosity of Withy King, HSBC and Baker Tilly. This ensures every penny raised from Corporate Sponsors and individual donors will go direct to the charity.



Chris commented: "I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the tremendous courage and commitment shown by our injured servicemen and women and make just a small contribution to their rehabilitation. Help for Heroes is a fantastic charity and makes a real difference to the lives of some extraordinary men and women".

Help for Heroes was founded by Bryn and Emma Parry in October 2007 out of a desire to help the wounded Servicemen and women returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. The charity provides direct, practical support to those injured in the current conflicts when they need it most.

Bryn said: "When Emma and I decided to do our bit to help wounded servicemen in 2007 we had no idea so many people across the UK would decide to join us and together, create the Help for Heroes phenomenon. People have run, climbed, cycled, swum, parachuted, baked, in fact done just about anything honest and decent to raise money to support our blokes. The money raised, £86m to date, is all used to provide direct, practical support to those wounded in the service of our country. We have already spent £75m and we have a shopping list of future projects that will ensure they get the very best. We may not be able to prevent them from being hurt but we can certainly do our bit to help them get better. Chris' wonderful fundraising challenge is hugely welcomed; he should be congratulated and, on behalf of all those who the money will benefit, thanked. Well done Chris; Great effort!"

www.helpforheroes.org.uk

100 Not Out for Bank

Bath bank, Handelsbanken, has announced the opening of its 100th British branch. The new branch, located in the West Yorkshire spa town of Ilkley, will open for individual and corporate business over the coming weeks, once the local team is in place. The Bank employs over 800 staff nationwide, with 8 of these working in the local Bath branch.

With over 700 branches in 22 countries, Handelsbanken has built its success around a unique combination of decentralisation, customer satisfaction, and prudent financial management. An independent survey of British bank customers* has ranked Handelsbanken number one for satisfaction and loyalty among both business and personal customers for the second year running. This is a position the Bank has enjoyed in Sweden since surveys began in 1989.

Chris Johnson, branch manager of the Bath branch, said “Core to our growth has been satisfied customers and a preference for what is often referred to as “traditional banking”. For us it’s nothing new, the Bank has been run on the same principle of decentralisation for the last 40 years. My team makes their own case-by-case assessments and are empowered to make decisions here at the branch, from corporate credit lines to tailored saving and borrowing rates, and are able to serve our customers locally, without customers having to refer to call centres. We know our people and patch best, with head office there to support us. We always take a long-term view, investing time with our customers and focus on the needs of the individual and not on the sale of specific products.”

Despite the continuing economic downturn, Handelsbanken last year announced the opening of a record 27 UK branches, leading to the establishment of a third Regional Head Office in Birmingham to support further expansion in Great Britain, its fastest growing market.

Speaking ahead of a series of regional events to celebrate the 100th branch opening, Anders Bouvin, Chief Executive of Handelsbanken in the UK said: “This milestone has been reached thanks to the confidence that our customers have shown and by us sticking to our knitting, offering traditional community banking based on close personal relationships with customers. Our belief in entrusting local decisions to experienced local staff has seen us grow rapidly, both in scale and reputation, throughout the economic slump. Although we don’t set out with specific targets, we’re well on course for another record year of expansion in Britain, as more and more customers appreciate our way of local banking.”

Handelsbanken is hosting a series of events in London, Birmingham and Manchester to mark the 100th branch milestone across the Bank’s operating regions. The city centre events will bring together customers, staff and professional friends from each region, invited by local branch managers to share their views and experiences and discuss the factors behind the Bank’s growing popularity in Great Britain.

www.handelsbanken.co.uk

Sponsor an MForum Networking event and receive a full page advertisement in MForum News

For more information please contact clare.way@monahans.co.uk
or call 01225 785520

Booking Form

If you would like to attend the wine tasting evening on Thursday 16th June 2011, sponsored by Monahans, please complete your details below and return to:

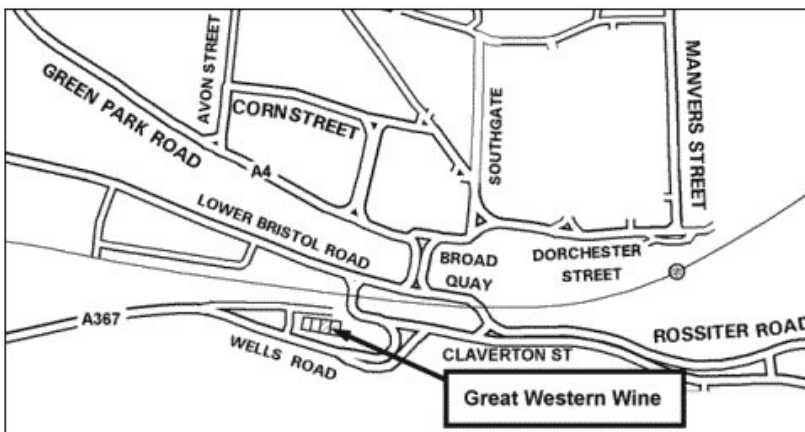
Clare Way
Monahans
Clarks Mill
Stallard Street
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8HH

Or email: clarew2@monahans.co.uk



Date: Thursday 16th June 2011

Venue: Great Western Wine, Wells Road, Bath. BA2 3AP



Please note that numbers are limited therefore we can only accept a maximum of two bookings per organisation, and places will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

Name:

Company Name:

Email address:

Telephone Number: