



Looking Back: Moving Forward



www.dunbartonshirechamber.co.uk



Looking Back: Moving Forward



Events are at the heart of much of what we do at Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce.

We are involved in 70+ events a year attracting more than 1000 attendees. They are a vital to connect our members, to educate, to inform, to promote and to showcase. Most importantly they enable businesses to build relationships with each other and with the Chamber to create a real business community and stakeholder organisation.

Our programme takes in a variety of **networking events, workshops, seminars, business surgeries, tours and visits** and we ensure that they all provide the opportunity for guests to connect. Themes include everything from **International Trade, Innovation, Skills** and **Women in Business** to **Cyber-Security, Brexit, GDPR** and **Social Media**. We are privileged to be in the position to bring some of Scotland's top experts and business leaders to Dunbartonshire for the benefit of our local businesses and we finished 2019 on a high with around 100 guests at our **Christmas Lunch Seminar** hearing from our keynote speaker, **Liz Cameron OBE**, Chief Executive of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce.

We have set up and run a number of **Strategic Programmes** in the last 3 years with the establishment of our **Skills Development Programme – “Building Bridges”**, **Dunbartonshire Women in Business Programme**, **ChamberFORCE Armed Forces Programme**, **D-Biz Business Support Initiative**

and our **International Trade Programme**. These programmes are now embedded in our ongoing activities and are a key part of our plans to continue moving the Chamber along an exciting forward trajectory.

We are immensely proud of many of our achievements as a chamber but none more so than the successful launch in 2019 of the **Building Bridges Skills Development Programme** which is designed to help develop local skills to meet the needs of the local economy. A particular highlight was our inaugural **Schools2Business Week** that resulted in more than 300 local schoolchildren visiting local businesses to find out more about the career opportunities in the area and the skills needed.

Dunbartonshire Chamber continues to **Represent Business** at the highest level at round-table meetings with Scottish Government ministers including the First Minister. As a key member of **Scottish Chambers of Commerce** we attend annual visits to Westminster to meet with UK Government ministers and MPs. Most recently we had the pleasure of speaking directly to some of our country's policy-makers and influencers as well as having an input to key issues for business such as Skills, Funding and Productivity at the Business in Parliament Conference. At a local level we provide representation on Strategic Boards, Town Centre Forums and other local partnerships to support Economic Development and to provide “The Voice of Business”.

With the establishment of the **Dunbartonshire Chamber Business Hub** in Clydebank we now have a physical space to host a number of our events, workshops, development sessions and meetings as well as providing additional administrative offices and facilities. With the support of our kind donors and sponsors we are continuing to develop the Hub's capabilities and facilities with fast-broadband, conference-calling, large screen smart technology and flexible corporate event amenities available for businesses as well as for our own use.

Key to our ongoing success is to continue to grow our membership and business engagement, to increase our partnership working and to embed our relationship with companies and individuals that share our vision and want to support us. With this support, the continued roll-out of our programmes, the continued development of our events programme and the ongoing representation and participation in developing the local economy, the future of the Chamber in the next decade looks like an exciting one.

Make sure you are part of it!

**Damon Scott, Chief Executive,
Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce**

January 2020



Photos:

1. Damon Scott Image courtesy of Peter Sandground
2. Dunbartonshire Women in Business Image courtesy of Angelica Fraser Photography
3. Christmas Lunch Image courtesy of Nedka Nikolova/ Axiom Pic
4. Nicola Sturgeon during her visit to Dunbartonshire
5. Business Breakfast Club Networking Event

Chamber Highlights

- Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce is involved in the organisation of 70+ events a year
- We host more than 1000 guests at our events annually
- Chamber Programmes include: Building Bridges (Skills Development); ChamberFORCE (Armed Forces); D:Biz (Business Support); Dunbartonshire Women in Business and International Trade
- Our inaugural Schools2Business Week resulted in more than 300 schoolchildren registered to visit local companies.
- Dunbartonshire Chamber was the first Chamber in the UK to sign the Armed Forces Covenant along with ALL our Directors and Associated companies and are Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award holders.
- In 2019 we established our “Chamber Academy” brand and pool of “Chamber Experts” to help deliver our Knowledge Transfer Events (workshops, seminars, surgeries) and access to specialist advice.
- The Dunbartonshire Chamber Business Hub has been refurbished to provide a new physical space for meetings, workshops and seminars and a home for many of our Chamber Academy events.
- We represent business at UK and Scottish Government levels as well as through our work with both West Dunbartonshire and East Dunbartonshire Councils and support Economic Development across Dunbartonshire.

Additional Benefits of Full Chamber Membership include:

- Legal, HR and Health & Safety Helplines and Online Portal with access to almost 1000 up to date and compliant documents and templates.
- Business Mentoring
- Access to exclusive Health Plans
- Tax Advice and Support
- Rewards and Discount Scheme

Dunbartonshire Chamber of Commerce

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To be part of the biggest business network in the UK please get in touch on 0141 280 0272, email hello@dunbartonshirechamber.co.uk or visit the website at www.dunbartonshirechamber.co.uk

