

'Car park meeting' group's £1m boost

Businesses trade their services to beat recession

by **Lawrence Poole**
lawrencepoole@trinitysouth.co.uk

A NETWORKING group which began life with just a handful of members in a pub car park has gone on to generate £1m of local business in the midst of a recession.

The Chilterns Chapter first met in the car park of the Kings Arms in Amersham in September 2010 with founder members, accountant Su Jackson, Watford electrical wholesaler Geoff Cousins and Uxbridge florist Jules Warner.

The aim was to get local companies and traders talking to each other and generating business and earlier this month the group, which now boasts 30 members, signed off £1m of trading between members and their contacts.

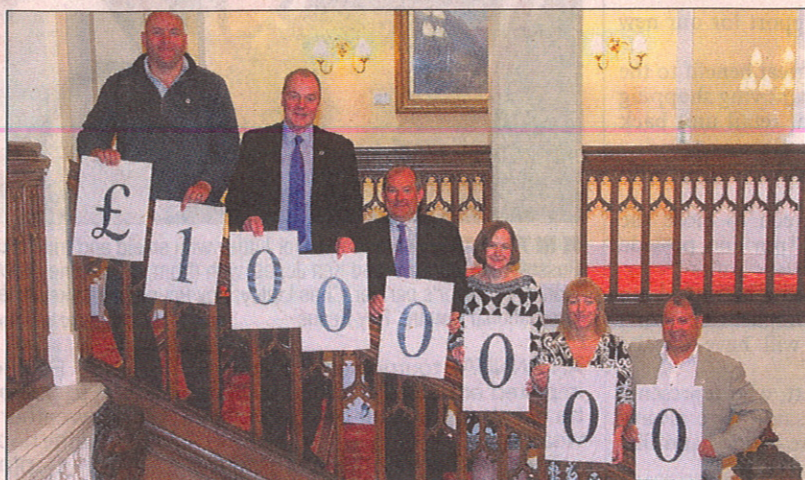
Mrs Jackson, who runs Main Street Accountancy in Great Marston, said: "It's an incredible achievement – I had no idea the group would be this successful."

"As the group's treasurer I am immensely proud. It just goes to show that effort generates enterprise – much needed in today's recession economy."

"I myself have managed £30,000 of extra business, which is fantastic and there's been a lot of money brought in through the building trade – we also have an architect too. It's all about keeping it local and benefitting the community."

The Chilterns Chapter is part of the BNI (Business Network International) where members speak to contacts for each other.

Mrs Jackson added: "It's gone really well, we've got a great group of members and we're always on the look out for more,



■ **SEVEN DIGITS:** Chilterns Chapter members (from left) electrician Adam Nunn, financial advisor John Thornton, insurance broker Eamonn O'Mahony, accountant Su Jackson, florist Jules Warner and electrical wholesaler Geoff Cousins, who have helped sign off £1m of business in the last 18 months

Contributed

I'd really like to attract a bookmaker as I think they would be great at keeping things in order for us."

"It's not an exclusive group, but because the members we have are of such a high standard, we are a bit picky as we want to keep the standard up."

The group now meets at the Latimer De Vere Hotel and is looking for more female members and a wedding planner, gardener, plasterer, independent travel agent, IT specialist, events planner and dentist.

The Chilterns Chapter meet each Thursday at 6.45am.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Su Jackson at su@main-street-accountancy.co.uk or call 07952 770 872.