

Business Diary



TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL

THE Belfast Linen Quarter (LQ) BID and Belfast City Council have come together to create RE[act] – a two-week festival kicking off today in line with COP26 and dedicated to inspiring Belfast's response to the global climate crisis.

The first festival of its kind, it will tap into various themes such as food, fashion, finance, transport, waste and more with international speakers, local experts and more contributing to the programme. RE[act]'s programme has been designed specifically so that all walks of life and all industries can attend.

Carol Lemmens of ARUP's Amsterdam team will lead an opening event discussing how Belfast can develop a more circular economy through how individuals live their lives, how organisations conduct their business and how city stakeholders should develop.

Sarah Longlands, chief executive of Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), will chair a workshop style session on Community Wealth Building which will offer participants the chance to discover what inequalities across the city may mean both for Belfast's societal wellbeing and long-term sustainability.

A two-day contemporary art project, open to all members of public, will take place at Queen's University, offering the chance to contribute to a striking piece of art made from discarded items.

Belfast Barge will screen a documentary on the

STEP ON IT

Belfast lord mayor Kate Nicholl joins Aidan McMeekin and Coyst Madine to launch the Take the Next Step Job Fair taking place at St George's Market on Tuesday November 9 (1.30pm-4pm). Over 60 exhibitors are taking part including key employers with current vacancies in a range of sectors including construction, transport, security, health and social care, enterprise, customer services and professional and business services. Aidan and Coyst are both participants on the council's Construction Employment Academy. For more information, visit www.belfastcity.gov.uk/takethenextstep.

consequences of food waste and provide inspiration for cooking with leftovers. Attendees will receive a recipe book along with some helpful tools to help reduce food waste at home such as rice measures and bag clips.

ALASTAIR CAMPBELL AT CHAMBER

WELL-known political strategist and media commentator Alastair Campbell, below, will speak to business leaders at an NI Chamber event in the Europa Hotel in Belfast this Thursday (5.30pm-7.30pm) as part of its Leadership Live series, delivered in partnership with Electric Ireland.



Best known for his role as former Prime Minister Tony Blair's spokesman, press secretary and director of communications and strategy, he is a former political editor whose extensive career has also included a secondment to NATO. Now a best-selling author, novelist and columnist, he is also a passionate mental health advocate.

Alastair will share his

experiences of leadership and success, touching on the period which saw him play a role during the 1998 talks process in Northern Ireland. He will discuss overcoming adversity and the importance of resilience, reflecting on how his own mental health journey has been a catalyst for his success.

The event is free for NI Chamber members and costs £75 for non-members to attend.

BELFAST HOMECOMING

THE Belfast International Homecoming conference, which connects the city with its global diaspora, will go green for its seventh annual conference in a hybrid event focused on the climate emergency.

Taking place at Titanic Belfast on Thursday, the event will be addressed by Pekka Timonen, mayor of the EU's 2021 Green Capital Lahti in Finland, who will be making his first visit to the city.

Chief executive of Plug Power, the world's leading \$20 billion hydrogen fuel company, Maria Bos and Assemblyman Mike Cusick, chair of the Energy Committee in the New York State Legislature, will also address

the conference virtually.

Supported by Ulster Bank, Phoenix Natural Gas, Ulster University, Belfast City Council, Belfast Harbour and MRP, the one-day event will focus on opportunities from the shift to a more sustainable economy, including the creation of green collar jobs in clean energy, electric vessels, and hydrogen fuel.

A gala celebration in City Hall will follow, including the 'installation' of a new cohort of Belfast Ambassadors who have been promoting the city globally.

For more information and to register to attend the conference, visit www.belfasthomecoming.com.

PUTTING THE FIZZ IN PITCHES

NI CHAMBER of Commerce will host its annual Meet the Buyer event online on Thursday November 4.

Delivered as part of the Winning Business with Bank of Ireland series, it provides local suppliers with the opportunity to pitch their products and services to organisations with significant procurements needs.

Large buyer organisations attending include Coca-Cola HBC, Harland & Wolff, Henderson Group, NIE Networks, Queen's University Belfast, Sandvik, Randox and Moy Park, among others.

The Chamber will complete a bespoke matching process, to set up relevant one-to-one meetings for November 4. As well as virtual meetings, on the day, attendees will be able to avail of digital networking and learning opportunities.

ENTERPRISING IDEA

Launching Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 at EDGE Innovate with councillor Paul McLean, chair of Mid Ulster District Council, are Sammy Jo Dickson, 14th Avenue, Dungannon; Niamh McAuley, Purple Dot, Dungannon; Darragh Cullen, EDGE Innovate; and Brian O'Neill, Coalisland Credit Union.

DIRECTOR MASTERCLASS

The Institute of Directors Northern Ireland, in partnership with Schroders Personal Wealth, is hosting a virtual Director Masterclass this Friday from 9am to 10.30am. It will provide directors with the opportunity to assess their knowledge of their legal and financial responsibilities as well as learn how to avoid issues that may lead to corporate governance failures.

The free webinar will be led by IoD tutor Sheelagh Duffield, a senior executive and qualified lawyer with over 20 years of board level experience and will also feature a panel session with senior directors who will be responding to audience questions.

For further details and to register, contact Chelsea Brennan at brennan@iod.com.

MEADE LEADS ENTERPRISE WEEK

RENOWNED international speaker David Meade heads this year's Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (November 8-12) which features a series of online, interactive events from Mid Ulster District Council.

A total of 11 webinars will take place across the week under the theme of 'Innovation, Creation, Inspiration', with Meade focusing on the leadership

skills required to keep a team energetic, enthusiastic and connected.

Inspirational entrepreneur, Aoife Doherty, founder of 'Sass & Halo', will tell her successful start-up story to BBC journalist and presenter Holly Hamilton, outlining how she turned her passion for fashion into a thriving business.

From start-ups to expanding enterprises, three business innovators - Darragh Cullen of Edge Innovate, Brigid Derry from Derry Bros Customs Clearance Ltd and Derry Bros Shipping Ltd and Sinead Welsh who leads Informed Minds Training and Consultancy Ltd - will be providing their audience with an insight into how innovation has helped to give their companies a competitive advantage.

Retaining talent by improving the culture in the manufacturing sector is also on the agenda when the former MD of Whale and the current Chairman of Nugent Engineering, Patrick Hurst MBE, will be joined by the Tim Monroe, Marketing Director at Smiley Monroe.

All events are virtual and free to attend. If you attend any webinar your name will go forward into a prize draw. To find out more and to book, visit www.midulstercouncil.org/enterpriseweek.



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