

Export Business of the Year Award

Winner: Dunbia (Ballymena), Fenaghy Road

Finalists: New World Developments, Woodside Road
Portable Kitchens, Kildrum Industrial Estate

Innovation Award

Winner: Selling Services UK, Broughshane Street

Finalists: Airviews NI, Galgorm
New World Developments, Woodside Road
Portable Kitchens, Kildrum Industrial Estate

Best Business Website Award

Winner: Northern Regional College, Trostan Avenue

Finalists: 12 Tribe Records, Ballymena
Grafton Recruitment, Wellington Street

Employee of the Year Award

Winner: Nicola Barr (Spar Cullybackey)

Finalists: Louise Connolly (Diamond Recruitment)
Tim Law (K & G McAtamney)
Stacey Thompson (Riada Recruitment)

Business Sustainability Award

Winner: Dunbia (Ballymena), Fenaghy Road

Finalists: Barrs Country Kitchen, Cloughwater Road
Harrison, Ballymoney Street

Employer of the Year Award

Winner: Moore Concrete Products Ltd., Woodside Road

Finalist: Mothercare, Fairhill Shopping Centre

Involvement in the Community Award

Winner: firmus energy

Finalists: Ahoghill Traders Association
Ballymena Business Centre
The Patton Group

Commitment to Ballymena Award

Awarded to Billy O'Kane OBE

Sponsor: The Wright Group



Sponsor: Invest NI



Sponsor: Fairhill Shopping Centre



Sponsor: Grafton Recruitment



Sponsor: Ulster Bank



Sponsor: Robinson Services



Sponsor: Diamond Recruitment



Sponsor: Ballymena Borough Council



Ballymena

Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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Business Awards Gala Evening

Ballymena businesses were out in force on Thursday 22nd October) at the Gala Evening for the Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards. This is the seventh year of the awards which are organised by Ballymena Borough Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Jackie Fullerton was the compere for the evening and after welcoming everyone he invited Chamber President Alison Moore to say a few words.

Alison said that it was great to see so many businesses from across the Borough gathered together. "This is now the major event in the Ballymena business calendar. The Chamber has been working very hard for several months to organise the awards and it is very gratifying to have almost 450 people here this evening. This demonstrates the resilience of businesses in the Borough during what are undoubtedly tough economic times" she said. "I would like to thank all our sponsors and advertisers, and especially our principal sponsor, Invest Northern Ireland. Without their support it would be impossible to run the awards. Finally I would like to wish all finalists here this evening the best of luck. The judges were highly impressed by the standard of the entries. There are no losers tonight – everyone here is a winner".

Kevin McCann, representing principal sponsor Invest NI said "Invest Northern Ireland is delighted to be the principal sponsor of the 7th Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2009 and share in the success of local businesses. As the lead delivery agent for economic development, Invest NI aims to provide a comprehensive and individually tailored package of support to enable business owners to realise their ambitions and their growth potential".

He continued "Congratulations to all the award winners and to the Chamber for organising such a great event. It is important to recognise success and business excellence - this event provides examples of best practice and reminds all companies that success is achievable, even during difficult economic times".

Tullyglass House Hotel then served an excellent meal, and after the meal came the climax of the evening, the announcement of the winners. The evening concluded with dancing to the Chevy's.

A raffle was held during the evening, the proceeds of which will be donated to the NI Hospice and over £3500 was raised. Thank you to everyone for their generosity and to the following who donated prizes for the raffle: Galgorm Resort and Spa, Alexander Bonar and Co. Ltd., Michelin Tyre PLC, Barrs Butchers, Tullyglass House Hotel, NI Hospice, The Thatch Inn Broughshane and firmus energy.

For more photographs of the evening, visit www.ballymenachamber.co.uk



Chamber president Alison Moore with (L-R) Chris Wales (Chamber of Commerce), Jackie Fullerton (Master of Ceremonies), Kevin McCann (Invest NI) and Mayor James Currie MBE



Willie McKean (centre) of award sponsors First Trust Bank presents the Customer Service Award Retail Sector (Independent Retailer) to Leanne Wiseman and Darryl McDowell of Remus Uomo



Austin McGillian of award sponsors Ace Fixings presents the Customer Service Award – Service and Hospitality Sector to Sinead Mulholland (left) and Catherine Wallace of Halo Hairdressing Portlengone



Rodney Davis (left) and Richard Wright of award sponsors Imagine Formal Hire presents the Customer Service Award Retail Sector (Multiple Retailer) to Sylvia McCullough (2nd, left) and Myrtle McCartney of Okaidi



Jim McMaster (centre) of sponsors Gallaher Ltd. presents the Customer Service Award (Management) to Stacey Thompson and Paul Muir of winners Riada Recruitment



Roger Craig (centre) of sponsors Sams Yard presents the Customer Service Award (Convenience Store) to Heather Davis and John Reid of Spar Texaco, Ahoghill



Neil Patton of sponsors The Patton Group presents the Best Eating Establishment Award to Claire McKervey of Montgomerys. Looking on L-R are Richard, Mark, Timothy and Stephen Montgomery

Best Small Eatery/Coffee Shop Award

Winner: Nobel Café, 102-104 Church Street

Finalists: Bentleys, Church Street
Merchant Fish Bar, Linenhall Street
Subway, Ballymoney Street

Business Premises Award

Winner: K & G McAtamney, Greenvale Street

Finalists: Fairhill Shopping Centre, Ballymena
Remus Uomo, Fairhill Shopping Centre

Corporate Social Responsibility Award

Winner: The Patton Group, Woodside Road

Finalist: Michelin Tyre PLC, Raceview Road

Best Small Business Award

Winner: Barrs Butchers, Ballymoney Street

Finalist: Martin Engineering Supplies,
Galgorm Industrial Estate
Raceview Karting, Woodside Road

Apprentice of the Year Award

Winner: David Fleck (The Patton Group)

Finalist: Colin Byers (The Wright Group)

Best New Business Award

Winner: Selling Services UK, Broughshane Street

Finalists: Bentleys Café, Church Street
Gracehill Fine Foods, Gracehill
NISIT, Doury Road

Training & People Development Award

Winner: Michelin Tyre PLC, Raceview Road

Finalists: Bank of Ireland, Church Street
Peacocks Stores, Ballymoney Street

Sponsor: firmus energy



Sponsor: McKillens Footwear



Sponsor: Tesco



Sponsor: Michelin Tyre PLC



Sponsor: Northern Regional College



Sponsor: Ballymena Business Centre



Sponsor: First Choice Selection Services Ltd.





Neil Holland of sponsors firmus energy presents the Best Small Eatery/Coffee Shop Award to Maire McCann of Nobel Café



Rachel McKillen of sponsors McKillens Footwear presents the Business Premises Award to Kieran (left) and Gordon McAtamney of K&G McAtamneys Butchers, Greenvale Street



Claire Gough (centre) of sponsors Tesco presents the Corporate Social Responsibility award to Shauna Du Preez and Alan Stewart of The Patton Group



Graham Whitehurst of sponsors Michelin Tyre PLC presents the Best Small Business Award to Trevor Barr of Barrs Butchers



Director and Chief Executive Trevor Neilands of Northern Regional College presents the Apprentice of the Year Award to David Fleck of Patton Joinery



Audrey Wales of sponsors Ballymena Business Centre presents the Best New Business Award to Gregory White (left) and David Brown of Selling Services UK

Ballymena Borough Business Excellence Awards 2009 Winners, Finalists & Sponsors

Customer Service Award Retail – Independent Retailer

Winner: Remus Uomo, Fairhill Shopping Centre

Finalists: Imagine Wedding and Formal Hire, Mill Street
K & G McAtamney, Greenvale Street

Sponsor: First Trust Bank



Customer Service Award – Service and Hospitality

Winner: Halo Hairdressing, Portglenone

Finalists: Nobel Café, 102-104 Church Street
Tourist Information Centre, The Braid
Ulster Bank, Wellington Street

Sponsor: Ace Fixings



Customer Service Award – Multiple Retailer

Winner: Okaidi, Fairhill Shopping Centre

Finalists: Benetton, Ballymoney Street
McAtamneys Butchers, Thomas Street

Sponsor: Imagine Formal Hire



Customer Service Award – Management

Winner: Riada Recruitment, Broughshane Street

Finalists: Diamond Recruitment, Linenhall Street
Grafton Recruitment, Wellington Street
Nationwide, Wellington Street

Sponsor: Gallaher Ltd.



Customer Service Award – Convenience Store

Winner: Spar/Texaco, Ahoghill

Finalists: Spar Cullybackey
Spar/Texaco, Doury Road

Sponsor: Sams Yard



Best Eating Establishment Award

Winner: Montgomerys, Ballymoney Street

Finalists: Galgorm Resort and Spa, Galgorm
Millside Restaurant, Gracehill

Sponsor: The Patton Group





Paul Crean of sponsors First Choice Selection Services Ltd. presents the Training and People Development Award to Caroline Greenlee (left) and Jacqueline Wilson of Michelin Tyre PLC



Mark Nodder of sponsors The Wright Group presents the Export Business of the Year award to Nigel McNeill (left) and Chris Quigg of Dunbia (Ballymena)



David Robinson of sponsors Robinson Services presents the Employer of the Year Award to Margaret Elliot (left) and Arlene McConaghey of Moore Concrete Products



Louise Connolly (right) of sponsors Diamond Recruitment presents the Involvement in the Community Award to Neil Holland and Sue Robinson of firmus energy



Kevin McCann of sponsors Invest Northern Ireland presents the Innovation Award to Gregory White (left) and David Brown of Selling Services UK



Natalie Jackson (right) of sponsors Fairhill Shopping Centre who presented the Best Website Award to Nuala Brady and Mel Launder of Northern Regional College



Mayor of Ballymena Cllr. James Currie MBE presents the Commitment to Ballymena Award, sponsored by Ballymena Borough Council, to Tony O'Neill of O'Kane Poultry who accepts the award on behalf of Billy O'Kane OBE



Baroness Paisley, Dr. Ian Paisley MP with Chamber President Alison Moore



Cathie McNeill (right) of sponsors Grafton Recruitment presents the Employee of the Year Award to Nicola Barr of Spar, Cullybackey



Colin Massey (centre) of sponsors Ulster Bank presents the Business Sustainability Award to Nigel McNeill (left) and Chris Quigg of Dunbia (Ballymena)



Mary Lawn, Catherine Scott (Insight Mystery Shopping) and Audrey Wales