

The Networker

Events Diary..

Friday, May 9

Ladies Who Lunch 2008.
Radisson SAS, Glasgow.
Multiple Sclerosis Society fundraiser.
Contact Gillian Whiteley 0131 335 4050

Sunday, May 11

Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice
Ladies Lunch, Hilton, Glasgow
Sponsored by Slater Woman. Tickets
£40 each. Email info@ppwh.org.uk

Thursday, May 15

Economic Development Association
Scotland seminar, Business Support for All.
CCA, Glasgow. £25 for EDAS members,
or £50. Contact ebone@edascot.org.uk.

Friday, May 16

Glasgow Chamber of Commerce speed
networking lunch. Marriott Hotel, £29.78
(members), £59.56 (non-members). Con-
tact marketing@glasgowchamber.org

Thursday, May 22

First ever Scottish Accountancy Awards.
Hilton Glasgow, 6.30pm for 7pm, event
hosted by Fred McAulay. Event details on
www.scottishaccountancyawards.com

Fairytale story for old friends



A CHANCE meeting in a pub between two former business partners could result in a new children's publishing sensation.

Brian Cairnduff, left, and Phil Burns were founder directors of Glasgow software house CINTRA Retail Systems in the 1990s but had fallen out of touch

After re-meeting in a Helensburgh drinking den during the 2006 World Cup, the pair have produced The Adventures of Jack the Little Giant and the Clock Tower.

Cairnduff said: "I told Phil I was writing stories for my grandson. He told me he had got back to painting – he is a really talented artist – and things just took off."

Visit www.anelephantcant.com for more.



LIGHTER SIDE: Frank Blin

Room for a laugh at awards event

FRANK Blin managed to throw in a few jokes alongside his more serious observations at the Scotland PLC Awards.

The crowd of more than 500 at the Glasgow Hilton were treated to some time travelling at the 10th anniversary bash as the head man in Scotland for PricewaterhouseCoopers considered what business was like a decade ago.

He said: "In August 1998, Russia suffers a disastrous collapse in the value of the rouble. Despite an IMF bailout, the country is clearly an economic basket case. So that's them off the world

business map for the foreseeable future. Tell that to Abramovich and Romanov.

"Meanwhile, Russia's auld enemy, the United States Senate, passes Resolution 71, urging President Bill Clinton to take all necessary and appropriate actions to respond to the threat posed by Iraq.

"The President, however, is somewhat distracted. He has his hands full, as does one Monica Lewinsky – who is about to testify to the Grand Jury.

"Incidentally, 1998 was the year Viagra was introduced into the UK. I don't know what made me think of that.

"And still in the US, two optimistic geeks, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, believe that one day, someone's going to make money out of this internet thing.

"On September 7th they create a small start-up named Google."

Back to the present day, Blin admitted things were tough with difficulties in the financial and housing markets.

However, among pledges on rebuilding trust and confidence he still managed to raise a smile with: "A year ago the wider public wouldn't have known a sub-prime market from a fish market."

Adventure firm marks 11-year rollercoaster



THE 10th anniversary just slipped by in a flurry of activity, so leading outdoor activities company Alba Adventures is going to hold a party this year to mark its 11th birthday.

And the firm has added new adventures – along with a new logo – to mark the occasion.

Managing director John Johnston said: "We were so busy in 2007 that we simply forgot that the company was 10 years old, so we decided to celebrate our 11th birthday instead.

"We're looking forward to our birthday year with an increased sense of confidence in our ability to lead in our market sectors."

Founded in 1997 as a one-man operation, the

Glasgow firm now has a small core of full-time employees and over 25 freelance guides and instructors leading groups on adventures like rafting, pictured, gorge walking, climbing, abseiling and mountain biking.

Recent additions to the Alba range of outdoor adventures include boogie boarding – getting wet whizzing down rivers on special boards – a climbing wall and Geogadget Works, where participants combine hi-tech gadgets with adventure.

A key factor in the success of the company has been use of outsourced, freelance management.

Marketing, business development, strategy and finance are all delivered by contractors and some have worked with Alba Adventures for years.

John added: "The company's growth has been a vindication of our policy of buying in the best expertise we can afford."



MONKEE: Peter Tork

Big name stars to hit Fife stage

FORMER Monkee Peter Tork will join ex-Wings musician Denny Laine and the frontman of chart topping Amen Corner – Andy Fairweather Low – on the music programme for Fife this summer.

They are among a host of big names who have been signed up to appear in the Rock at the Stables Live gigs at the Inn at Lathones, near St Andrews.

The Inn at Lathones got together with music manager David Mundell, former owner of the Famous Bein Inn in Glenfarg which won Music Pub of the Year twice running, to entice stars.

Nick White, proprietor of The Inn at Lathones, said: "We are delighted to welcome David and so many of these amazing musicians to the Stables at the Inn.

"To be in the same room as these artists makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. They have played to 100,000 people in their day."

The first gig in the 2008 Rock at the Stables Live series will be later this month.

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THURSDAY 22ND MAY 2008 HILTON HOTEL, GLASGOW

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