

# Hate dinosaurs... love progress



ayrshirechamber

of commerce and industry

## YOUR INTERACTIVE GUIDE TO JOINING AYRSHIRE CHAMBER

AYRSHIRE CHAMBER, like all good businesses, has always relied on the traditional values of quality products, value for money and exceptional customer service.

They have been the cornerstones of the Chamber's reputation as Ayrshire's premier voice for business, and three of the finest reasons for becoming a member.

Modern technology, however, has become an equally important part of the successful day-to-day running of companies large and small. Those who fail to adapt become extinct.

New technologies can speed up the production process, enhance quality control and tailor administrative systems to individual requirements.

Its effective use identifies companies as forward thinking, progressive and effective.

Modern technology, and the Internet in particular, has also provided the Chamber and its members with a fast and reliable way to communicate with present and potential customers.

So welcome now to the most advanced electronic communication – the Chamber's Membership E-Pack. It's a perfect example of new technology in action.

In the pages that follow you will find easy-to-read sections on some of the major benefits of joining Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

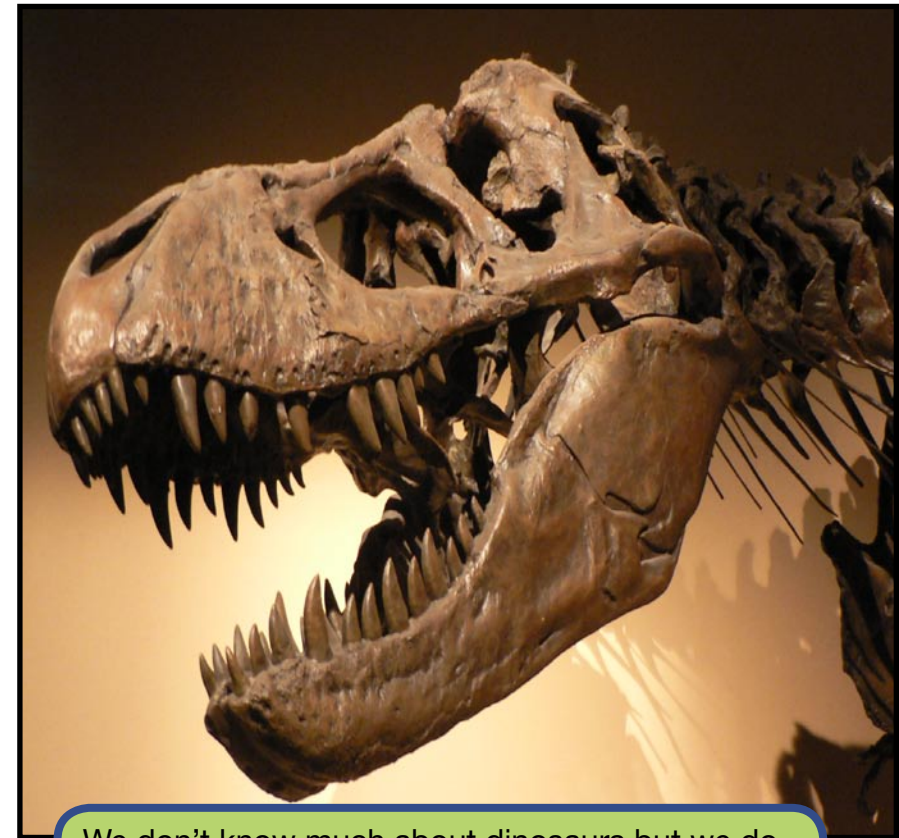
Written in no nonsense plain English it will spell out how the Chamber can help businesses of all shapes and sizes to grow

and prosper, save hundreds of pounds on important services like staff management and legal services, and, most importantly, become an active and successful member of Ayrshire's thriving business community.

Move easily from page to page by clicking on the relevant buttons or go directly to the page of your choice by clicking on the photographs below.

Each section has a clear link to the relevant section of the Chamber website, where you can find more detailed information on all the E-Pack content. A simple click on the link button will take you within seconds to your chosen section.

You can also use the print option button that will automatically link to your office printer and provide paper copies in A4 format.



We don't know much about dinosaurs but we do know how to adapt to new environments.

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# Keeping business on the rails

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS SUMMARY

AYRSHERE Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a modern, innovative, membership-based business support organisation that can help you rise to the opportunities, challenges and demands facing businesses of all sectors... and avoid the little accidents!

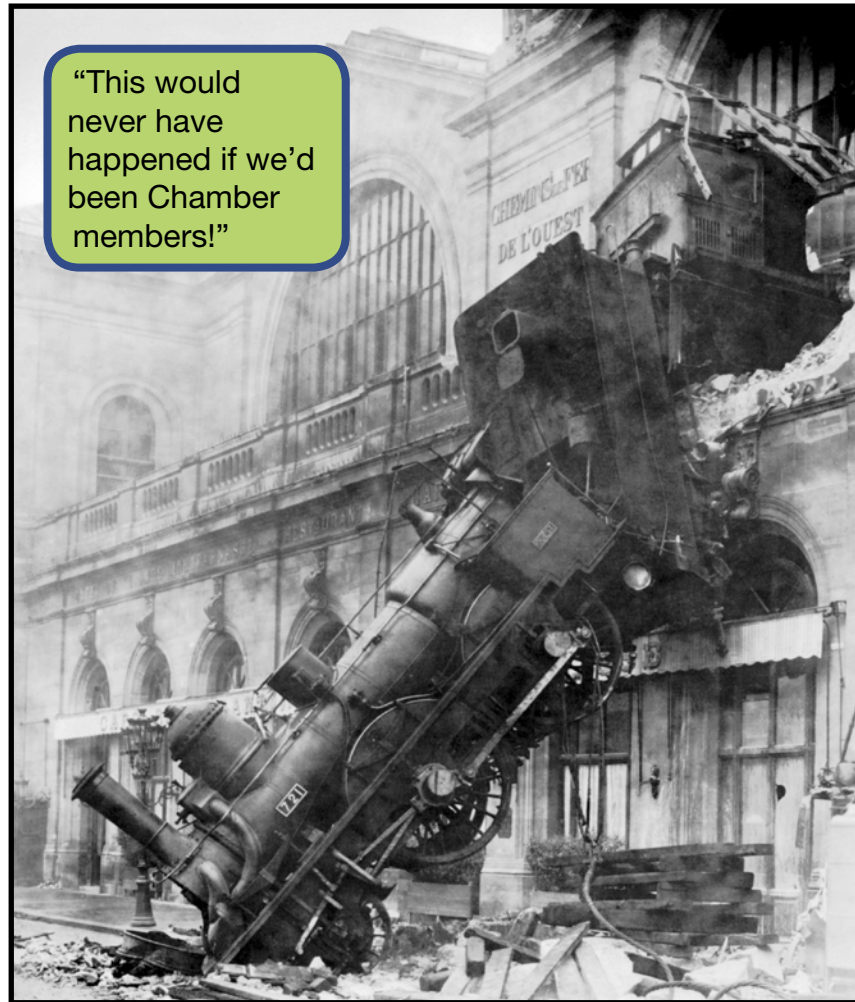
It is an accredited member of the British Chamber of Commerce and has established itself as the prominent independent business voice in Ayrshire over the last 60 years.

With more than 700 members representing thousands of employees in member businesses, the Chamber has much to offer today's businesses - from sole proprietors to the largest companies employing over 1000 people.

Chamber membership covers a wide range of sectors including textiles, industrial, tourism, retail, manufacturing and many more.

It offers you the chance to strike up and build profitable relationships with other local and national businesses through our range of networking events, business forums and informal gatherings.

"This would never have happened if we'd been Chamber members!"



## All this from only £95 a year

AYRSHERE Chamber provides you with access to several programmes that can offer real savings to your business, including:

- **Chamber HR** - a FREE comprehensive human resource service delivered online and by phone offering advice and a range of valuable documentation normally costing hundreds of pounds from private suppliers.
- **Chamber Legal** - instant protection from legal expenses essential for any business in today's increasingly litigious and compensation driven society. Worth at least £125 to the smallest business member.
- **Exclusive Chamber Health Plan** - designed to help companies improve employees' general health and reduce absenteeism by providing a range of specialist preventative services and treatments at an affordable price.
- **Chamber Connect Card** - this new card provides a range of additional benefits, allowing members to save pounds on a wide range of goods and services from our nationwide network.

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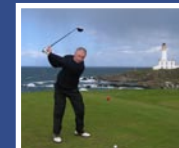
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# Have YOU got free HR?

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES DOCUMENTATION PLUS 24 HOUR SUPPORT



DUE to the increasing burden of employment legislation and the proliferation of 'no win no fee' solicitors, dealing with employment issues is becoming increasingly difficult, time consuming and costly.

For example, did you know that if you employ at least one person you need a compliant Contract of Employment and a Grievance and Disciplinary Procedure? Failure to comply could lead to financial penalties being imposed by an Employment Tribunal.

As a result, we at Ayrshire Chamber have teamed up with Qdos Consulting and Composite Legal Expenses to provide the Chamber HR human resource solution as part of your membership benefits.

Chamber HR is a complementary service to the Legal Expenses Scheme. This means not only will you receive proactive advice through Chamber HR but also reactive insurance to cover the cost of representation and awards in respect of Employment Tribunal claims.

Chamber HR gives Chamber Members access to:

- Over 150 downloadable policies, forms, documents, letters, templates and fact sheets
- Unlimited FREE access to a 24 hour, seven day Human Resource and Health & Safety Advice Line

Also included:

- A compliant Contract of Employment
- A compliant Employee Handbook
- A compliant Health & Safety Policy
- A description of the law and considerations relating to the major pieces of legislation covering Employment Law and Health & Safety
- Preferential rates for bespoke Human Resource and Health & Safety Consultancy

Once you join the Chamber you can access the Chamber HR Advice Line and also the downloadable section. For more information, click on the website link here:

 [www.chamberhr.co.uk](http://www.chamberhr.co.uk)

or contact the Chamber on 01292 678666.

## What one member says about the service:

"I'd been looking at HR systems around the time Chamber HR was launched and had been quoted between £3 - £400 for a personalised employee handbook and contracts of employment etc. After checking out the Chamber HR website I found just about everything that I was looking for and was able to download them and create my own handbook at no cost at all!"

**Toni Dawson, Bean and Leaf**



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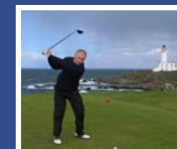
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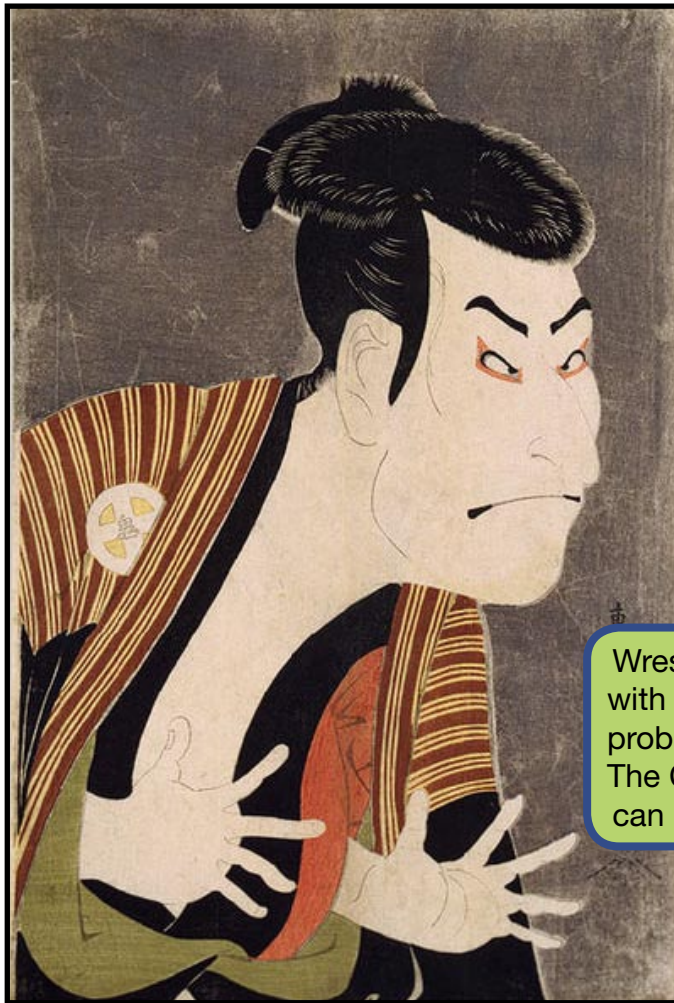
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# Don't get angry... get Chamber Legal

FREE LEGAL EXPENSES INSURANCE PLUS A 24 HOUR ADVICE LINE



AS companies concentrate on core business activities and focus on survival, what would happen if they were faced with an escalating personnel issue, the threat of litigation or a health and safety problem?

Do they have the expertise in all these fields to protect their business?

If these issues affect you - then Ayrshire Chamber is here to help.

## Legal Advice line

As a Member of the Chamber you can gain access to the 'Chamber Advice Line'. This scheme is provided to fully paid Chamber members only. The service is provided by Composite Legal Expenses Ltd., a leading national consultancy that is endorsed by the BCC

and is committed to reducing the burdens of dealing with the regulations facing businesses today.

The service provides you with:

- Qualified advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Exclusive service, tailored to Chamber Members
- Guaranteed quality service from a national provider
- Dedicated Advice Line Card

It also provides professional help on Commercial

Law, Employment Law, Health & Safety Legislation, Environmental Health, Tax & VAT Issues and Construction Safety.

## Legal Expenses Insurance

Running a business without commercial legal expenses insurance is a risk you can't afford to take.

With legal fees of around £150 per hour and with compensation awards for unfair dismissal achieving up to £65,000, now is the time to act - and there couldn't be a better time.

Ayrshire Chamber has teamed up with Composite Legal Expenses to offer cover free of charge.

The insurance will pay up to £65,000 of your legal fees and up to £65,000 towards the costs of an employment related claim.

Cover includes: Employment related claims, prosecutions brought against your business, personal injury claims, business monitoring and landlord disputes.

Commercial Legal Expenses Insurance is provided by Composite Legal Expenses Ltd, a leading national consultancy, which is endorsed by the British Chambers of Commerce and with terms underwritten by Groupama Insurance Company Limited.

For more information, telephone 029 2034 9610 or click here:

 [Chamber website / Legal](#) 

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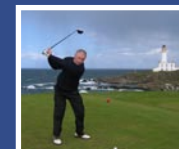
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# No pain... and plenty to gain

CHAMBER HEALTH PLAN - THE EASY WAY TO A HEALTHIER WORKFORCE

ABSENCE from work costs business and industry an average £13 billion annually.

In real terms, you are paying the cost - on average £438 per employee per year.

Most interestingly a CBI survey identified that minor illness is the major cause of absenteeism amongst employees. So investing in employee wellbeing makes sense.

As a member of the Chamber, you can take effective measures to reduce absenteeism and improve profits with the help of our new Chamber Primary Health Plan.

This exclusive plan, which has an entry level of just £1 per week per employee, has been partnered with Westfield Health Scheme, one of the UK's leading providers of healthcare plans.

Experience shows that when minor medical problems are treated immediately and effectively, employees can return to work sooner.

The Chamber Primary Health Plan

provides employees with the means to cover the cost of:

Dental Treatment, Sight Test, Glasses/ Contact Lenses, Physiotherapy, Acupuncture, Osteopathy, Chiropractic Treatment, Homeopathy, Personal Accident, Specialist Consultation and a 24 Hour Advice Line.

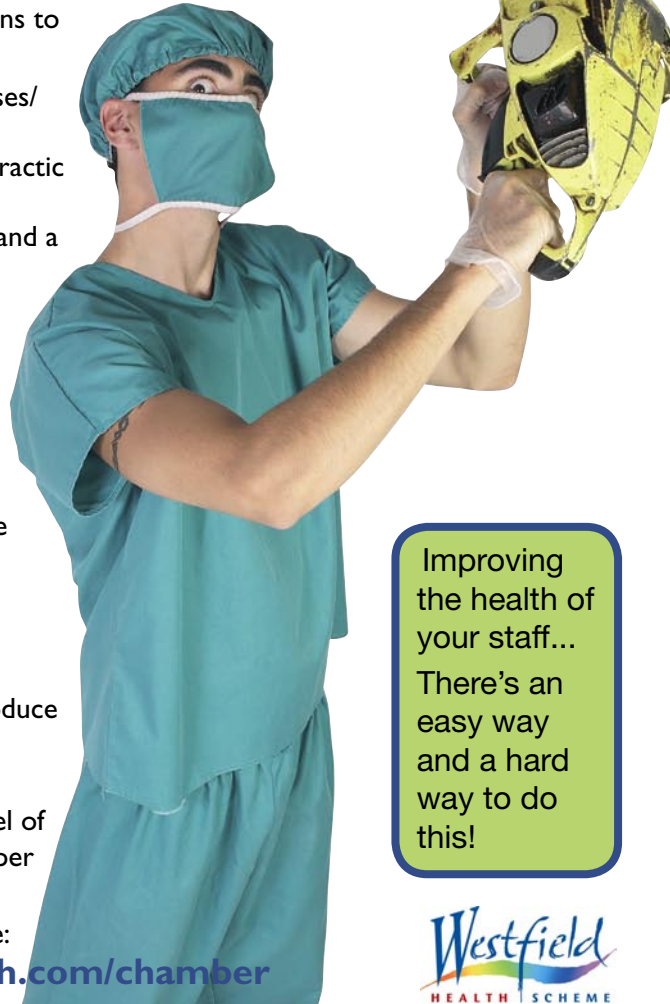
Reducing the cost of absenteeism and the other benefits of participating in the scheme will have a positive effect on balance sheets by improving productivity, maintaining loyalty and increasing job satisfaction. It will also provide an effective absence management tool as well as being an excellent employee benefit, which will be received well by all employees.

The Health Plan is simple to introduce and simple to administer.

To introduce the plan to your employees, simply choose the level of contribution, either £1, £2 or £3 per employee.

For further information click here:

 [www.westfieldhealth.com/chamber](http://www.westfieldhealth.com/chamber)



Improving the health of your staff...  
There's an easy way and a hard way to do this!



## PLUS+PLUS+PLUS+PLUS Chamber Risk Insurance

Packaged and combined insurance solutions designed to protect beyond ordinary package cover.

## Chamber Payment Services

Huge savings on terminal and transaction charges.

## Learn new business skills

Ayrshire Chamber can help to develop your staff by providing training that will enhance their skills and make them more valuable employees. Courses include: First Aid at Work, Risk assessment and Presentation Skills.

## Make your voice heard

Ayrshire Chamber's aim is to influence any local or national decisions that may have an impact on the Ayrshire business community and this is done through regular meetings with MSPs, MPs and MEPs where we help to ensure that your voice is heard and your overall prosperity is safeguarded.

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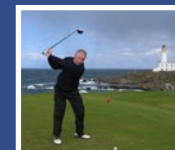
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# Meet interesting people...

...AND BUILD PROFITABLE NEW PARTNERSHIPS

MEMBERSHIP of Ayrshire Chamber offers you the chance to meet like-minded members of the business community through our wide range of events.

## Networking Events

Come and see for yourself what goes on at our regular networking events, each designed to maximise your exposure to useful business contacts in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

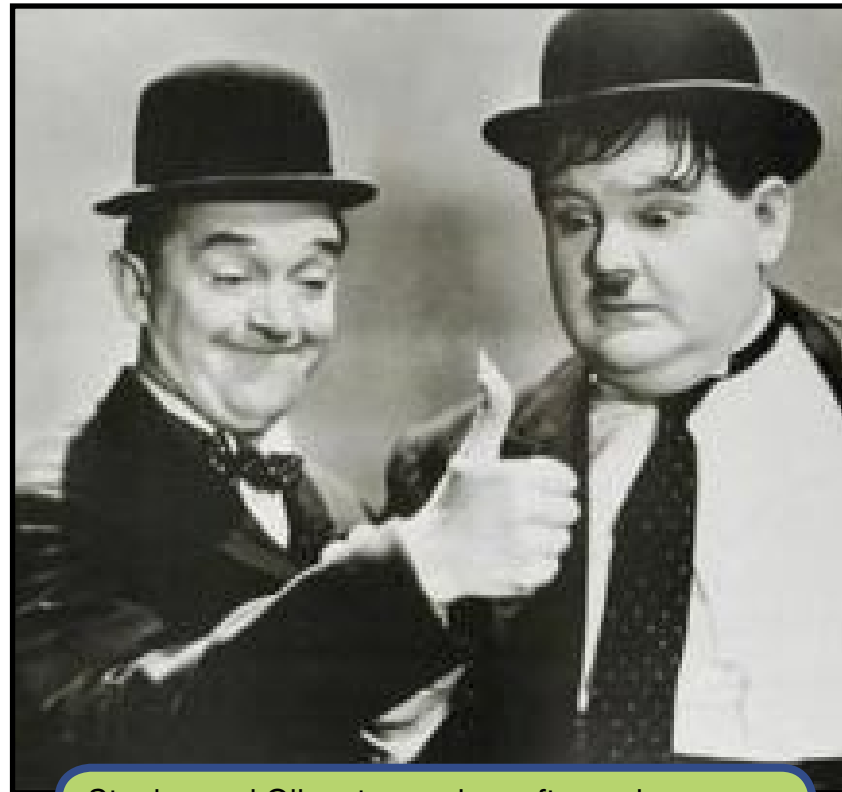
## Forums

We keep you "in the know" with a number of forums throughout the year - each based on a critical business topic that will help you to work smarter.

## Informal events

Our wide range of events include special days at the racing at Ayr, golf outings and competitions, visits to high profile local events and, of course, our annual dinner, Ayrshire's premier business event.

These are perfect opportunities to raise your business profile, reward key staff and strike up new and profitable relationships with current or potential customers.



Stanley and Oliver teamed up after a chance meeting at the Chamber... (Stop kidding - Ed).

## JOIN TODAY

There has never been a better time to join Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry to help grow your business links within the community.

For further information or to arrange a meeting please telephone Helen McBride on 01292 678666 or to join immediately click the headline link above.

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