

Dia Dhíbh a cháirde.

Tá fáilte romhaibh go léir anseo tráthnóna as son Cumann Tráchtála na Gaillimhe agus tá an áthas orainn bheith anseo i Brasserie on the Corner i lár Cathair na Gaillimhe.

You are all very welcome.

Galway Chamber is one of the largest Chambers in the country. The Chamber movement in Ireland is established and strong.

We promote the economic and social development of communities in order to make them a better place to work, live and do business.

We are all business people, we are acutely aware of the challenges that face our member companies and it is our mandate to address these issues.

We do that in a variety of ways: we provide networking opportunities.

Like tonight. We are promoting Galway Chamber and what we do. We are promoting our member company Brasserie on the Corner and we are giving you an opportunity to network and to do business with like-minded people.

It has been recorded that over 60 percent of members do business at Chamber events.

We give support to members in business development, knowledge and skill sets and in representation for their business to local and national government and to

development agencies. We specifically promote member businesses to other members and to the wider community.

We offer workshops, information seminars, training, talks, conferences and Awards to businesses. We work with other organisations, agencies and groups to promote business in Galway and the region.

Chamber members are from all business sectors, all business sizes and all geographical locations. Tonight, while based in Brasserie on the Corner and while celebrating the Heart of Galway, you will be able to meet and start a relationship with businesses from all over Galway, large and small, from multinationals to retailers. This variety and scope is unique to Chambers.

We are all about inclusion, being part of an organisation that makes it easier to do business. We know we are stronger together. We know we can achieve more together. We know that our businesses can be better if we work together.

That's why we are involved in the Galway Technology Centre, The Tidy Towns initiative, the Purple Flag, Business Watch, Salthill and City Centre Rejuvenation, the Special Policy Committees in both Galway City and County, the new PorterShed initiative at Ceannt station, and the promotion of the Development of Galway Port.

The principle of joining together to create a greater force for change is also relevant to Galway's European Capital of Culture 2020 Bid. The European Capital of Culture designation would be great for Galway and the Region. It will

only happen if each and every one of us gets behind it and makes it happen.

We're going to have stiff competition from Dublin, Limerick and a South East group comprising Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny.

We know that the benefits and the legacy from winning will be enormous but in order to win, we must not be complacent.

Patricia Philbin, Project Manager of Galway European Capital of Culture 2020 said this week that more of the same will not win this for us. She said that we must appreciate what we have but we must raise our ambition and look at how Galway can create its own future. Patricia and her team's office is in the Cornstore and each of you is encouraged to visit and to get involved.

Finally I'd like to thank Emer Killian, General Manager, Brasserie on the Corner and Tanya Hennigan, Sales and Marketing Manager for their welcome and hospitality tonight.

Proprietor of Brasserie on the Corner and Board Member of Galway Chamber John Mannion cannot be with us tonight but I would like to extend my thanks to him for hosting this occasion and for his continuing work in making Galway a better place to do business.

Earlier this week Brasserie on the Corner won Best Gastro Pub in Connaught in the Irish Restaurant Awards 2015. The award is well deserved. This is a wonderful restaurant and

bar on a great street in the middle of our fabulous city. I'd encourage you all to come here, to keep the spend local and to have a great summer season in Galway.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir!