

JULY & AUGUST 2020
CHAMBER CHATTER

THE VOICE OF LOCAL BUSINESS IN TAUNTON

TAUNTON
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

Welcome

BACK

...TO OUR MEMBERS IN THE RETAIL & HOSPITALITY SECTOR!

#SupportLocalBusiness #PositiveTaunton



THE GREAT
WESTERN HOTEL
— TAUNTON —



The Little Wine Shop
& Social
Wine Bar

The
Castle
at taunton



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR LATEST NEWS & EVENTS.

You can now connect with us on linkedin @Chamber of Commerce Taunton



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

7TH JULY 2020

Although trading conditions are still difficult for many, the gentle easing of the lockdown with the opening of non essential shops last month and the hospitality sector opening on the 4th July at least feels like progress. It has been great to see during the last months how many of our members have adapted their working methods to at least keep trading, but we welcome everyone back now, and look forward to what we hope will be a better period during the summer.

Although the focus recently has been on the retail and hospitality sectors, we must also welcome back all our other members in the professions, manufacturing and construction who themselves have been welcoming back furloughed staff and getting back to business again.

Nigel Pearce



TAUNTON CHAMBER EVENTS UPDATE

'THAT FRIDAY FEELING AT FIVE' 17th & 31st July & 14th August

Join us online in our 'virtual pub' every fortnight for the opportunity to raise a glass to the weekend with business friends- no pitches, no formal introductions just a great chance to catch up what's new in the local business community and to meet some of the people behind our wonderful local businesses – have your glass of something chilled at the ready!

Secure your FREE place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/106217064098>



WINE TASTING SOCIAL EVENT with The Little Wine Shop & Social Wine Bar 5th October 6pm – 8.30pm

Join us for this exciting social event hosted by The Little Wine Shop & Social Wine Bar. Max and Philippe, the owners, are Taunton's wine and charcuterie experts and will be giving us a warm welcome to a great evening of socialising in their exclusive premises at the heart of Taunton's Independent Quarter. You will have the opportunity to sample 5 different quality wines, accompanied by either cheese, bread or charcuterie expertly selected as perfect paring partners by Max and Philippe.

Secure your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/90951980823>

The Little
Wine shop
Social
Wine Bar

WATCH BACK OUR RECENT WEBINARS

During June we were delighted to hold the following free webinars:

Taunton Business Briefing with the leaders of Somerset West and Taunton Council
'I'm an Employer, Get Me Out of Here!' Covid-19 Related Employment and HR Topics with Pardoes Solicitors.

If you missed either of these, or would like to watch back again, the viewing links are available via our website www.taunton-chamber.co.uk



Wilkins Safety Group

THE WILKINS SAFETY GROUP takes the worry of dealing with Health & Safety regulations off your hands, leaving you free to concentrate on running your business the way you want to.

A corner stone of our business is the provision of on-going Health and Safety support to our customers who cannot justify the expense of employing a full time Health & Safety Manager. We also provide full CDM support services enabling us to act as 'Principal Designer' as well as CDM support for Architects and Designers and also as CDM support to Principal Contractors.

Our experts advise you on any actions you may need to take to comply with the law in as cost-effective a manner as possible, and we are on hand to support you whenever you need it. The Wilkins Safety Group work with all sizes of business across all kinds of industries and are also recognised providers of Health and Safety Training.

As a business owner in the current climate, you're probably thinking about your next steps when it comes to opening the doors of your business both to your team, and your customers. Wilkins Safety Group are offering professional support and guidance, with many free resources available on the website and have developed a New Covid-19 Assurance Assessment Service helping you ensure you have suitable controls within the workplace, and which is designed to ensure you are 'Covid Secure'

**Award Winning Health & Safety Consultants
Your Business is Safer in our Hands**

www.wilkinssafety.co.uk



SUPPLIER OF QUALITY REFRIGERATION THROUGHOUT UK MAINLAND

A&T Refurbished Refrigeration was established in April 2016 and specialised in the refurbishment of used commercial Remote, Integral Refrigeration and Condensing Units.

We were born out of necessity as we realised that not everyone within the retail sector can afford to or wishes to purchase new refrigeration.

Due to both Partners' vast expertise and experience we added a range of additional services the following year - please see the full range listed below.

Offering these services enables us to provide a complete turnkey solution for the development of retail stores. We are able to work with clients to develop and improve existing stores, as well as designing the initial concept and carrying it through to completion. Most recently we have completed two complete developments, taking newly built stores from empty shell to successful trading in two weeks.

Our additional services include:

- * **New Refrigeration & Freezers ***
- * **New Chilled & Frozen Cold Rooms ***
- * **New Air Conditioning Systems ***
- * **Cabinet Refurbishment ***
- * **Design & Shopfitting Services ***

www.refurbishedrefrigeration.co.uk

TAUNTON LIFE

MOBILE APP

Two local business people have joined forces to develop and deliver a brand new mobile app for Taunton called 'Taunton Life'. The app is an interactive information portal and local directory for the businesses, service providers, tradespeople, charities, and organisations of Taunton. The app works across all platforms including mobile, tablets, laptops, and PCs and will contain digital loyalty schemes and special offers from advertisers. Taunton Life App can be downloaded via a QR code or URL link.

John Compton - App Developer & Business Owner

John is the owner of Time For You Cleaning Company. The current pandemic and recent lockdown have given John the idea, drive and passion to create something that would be beneficial for the businesses and organisations of Taunton as well as the residents and visitors to the town in order to try and help the Taunton economy recover and thrive.

Trish Caller - Marketing and PR Manager

Trish is the owner of Genius PR & Events, similarly passionate about making Taunton a great place to live and visit, and a regular Somerset County Gazette columnist about all things 'positive Taunton'.

The monthly subscription will include a listing about your, shop, business, organisation, charity, club, service or trade etc. The listing will include a description, a link to your website (if you have one) and a link to your social media pages. People will be able to ring or email you through the app and get directions if required or some or none of these - up to you! The app also has 'Special Offer' and 'Digital Loyalty' schemes which will further help increase footfall and revenue.

To download the app please click the below and save to your device:
<https://webapp.tauntonlife.co.uk>

If you would like to enquire about advertising on the Taunton Life App please contact Trish or John on marketing@tauntonlife.co.uk



Taunton & Somerset

ARMED FORCES DAY **SHOW YOUR SUPPORT**

The annual Armed Forces Day is a chance for everyone to show their support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community, from current serving troops to service families, veterans and cadets. Taunton and Somerset Armed Forces Day Group first held a successful celebration event in 2019 held on Wilton Lands, next to Vivary Park, and had received backing from Somerset West & Taunton Council to hold a bigger and better event for 2020 in Vivary Park itself with the aim of making it a county-wide celebration of our Armed Forces, Reserves, Cadets and Veterans, supported by local businesses and open to all the community with free entry.

Despite the setback of the 2020 event cancellation due to the covid-19 pandemic, Taunton and Somerset Armed Forces Day Group are determined to ensure the festival goes ahead in 2021, and are hoping to build on the 100 stalls, arena displays, marching bands, free fall parachute drop, Tug-0-War, and Cadet Drill competition that were due to take place this year.

Not resting on their laurels, the group have continued to support the local Taunton community in a number of ways, not least through the Coronavirus Community Help Taunton organisation, where members of the group took part in the free NHS BBQs at Musgrove Park and Wellsprings hospitals: "heroes of the past supporting the heroes of today".

www.tauntonarmedforcesday.co.uk

[www.facebook.com/groups/
TauntonVetsBreakfastClub/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/TauntonVetsBreakfastClub/)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Somerset Jobs .co.uk

Somerset Jobs is a new place to advertise job vacancies across Somerset.

After a few years working in the media industry and advertising job vacancies on a very local Taunton level it soon became clear of the gaps in the market for something else. So after a lot of research Somerset Jobs was born.

One thing I noticed was a lack of places to advertise career related events, so an events guide for jobs & careers fairs, company recruitment open days and apprenticeship information events has been included. If people are job hunting I felt it was logical to show them what's on locally on the same website.

Something else that really stood out when researching was that job hunters often ask questions on social media job groups for things like evening jobs or jobs for under 18s. With the built in "quick search" option job hunters can find matches quicker and set a more personal job alert. This should make job hunting a little easier.

There are some great training & development providers in Somerset. The information about adult learning courses and / or apprenticeships

for those who want to further themselves or start training and how to get in touch with them will be showcased.

Companies can also utilise video to showcase themselves to job hunters plus they can use screening questions.

For job hunters it's so annoying to find out of date and duplicated jobs. I aim to avoid showing the jobs that are no longer available. This was something really obvious when doing research.

I have teamed up with 2 radio stations currently, Tone FM in Taunton and Radio Ninesprings in Yeovil. Both stations read out on air a "job of the day" and have website pages active.

All jobs added to Somerset Jobs are added to social pages and groups and linked with Google Jobs.

What's more, we are currently giving recruiters the opportunity to use our Standard package FREE of charge until 1st August.

www.somersetjobs.co.uk

DB DESIGN BEAN.

have a sneaky peek at my new website...

designbean.co.uk



Corporate Law FAQs Signing and Witnessing Documents



Whilst most businesses have now worked out how to meet virtually to make decisions, be that simply using the telephone or through video conferencing, some questions do remain regarding witnessing documents. Porter Dodson's Corporate Commercial Team has been answering some of your questions, most recently about signing and witnessing documents.

How do I execute documents?

Documents can be validly executed by the party signing in either 'wet ink' or electronic form. The latter may be the only option where a party does not have access to a printer.

Electronic signing can take many forms, including:

- an actual signature
- typing a name into the execution clause of the document
- adding a name to an email which confirms and expressly assumes responsibility for the contents

What if I need a witness?

Where a party is required to sign in the presence of a witness, both the individual signing and the witness attestation must be within the same execution clause. Both parties can sign electronically.

To reduce later evidential issues, best practice advises that the witness should be physically present whilst the individual signs rather than witnessing through a live medium, such as video calling or conferencing.

Even with current social distancing there are ways to achieve this, which Porter Dodson is happy to advise on.

Are there any restrictions on who can witness? Whilst an adult independent witness is preferable for best practice and evidential purposes, a document can be validly witnessed by a signatory's spouse, family member or co-habitee provided they are not also party to the same document. An individual under 18 years can also witness provided they have sufficient maturity and understanding of their function as witness.

These provisions should assist in overcoming certain difficulties posed by the current government guidance on working in a "secure" way.

For any other questions relating to corporate commercial law, please contact Partner Evelyn Adfield on 01823 625848 or evelyn.adfield@porterdodson.co.uk.

Porter Dodson has a dedicated Covid-19 support hub to help you with any queries you, your family or your business may have: <https://www.porterdodson.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19>



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Richard Huish College tops the latest league tables, once again.



huish
RICHARD HUISH COLLEGE

In the latest national league tables, published in March 2020 by the Department for Education (DfE), Richard Huish College has excelled across all categories, outperforming all other colleges in the county. The league tables set out comparisons on college performance for A Level and vocational courses in relation to measures such as average grades, value added (progress) and the number of students achieving top grades in facilitating subjects such as Maths, Sciences, English, History, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages.

As a result of the high levels of success the students achieve, compared to other schools and colleges in the South West and nationally, the College attracts students not only from the local Taunton catchment but from a wide regional area. Young people are attracted to study at Huish from schools such as Uffculme, Tiverton High, West Somerset College, Huish Episcopi Academy, Holyrood Academy, Wadham School, Stanchester Academy and the independent sector.



A Levels - Huish has the highest grade averages of B-, higher than all other local colleges who recorded between C+ and D+ average grade. The national average is a grade C+.

Vocational subjects - the average grade at Huish was a Distinction-, one of the highest grades compared to other local colleges, with the national average being a Merit+.

Facilitating Subjects - Huish students also topped the tables for the percentage of students achieving AAB or higher in at least two facilitating subjects.

Grade and Point Score - In A Levels, Huish had a point score of 35.64, the highest of all the local colleges.

Principal Designate, Emma Fielding commented, "At Huish, we put our students at the heart of everything we do. Students are happy, supported and challenged. They are well informed when making their course choices and are guided to choose a programme that plays to their talents and strengths and that will open the doors to them in the future. All of this, combined with the excellent teaching, as evidenced by Huish's ongoing status as Ofsted Outstanding, makes Huish one of the best colleges locally and nationally for post 16 study and Apprenticeship opportunities. We are delighted that the success of our students and staff is now recognised by the Department for Education with the publication of these league tables."

DfE PERFORMANCE DATA FOR SUMMER 2019 - Published March 2020

A Level Performance

Colleges	Type of College	Number of students at the end of A Level study	Average Grade	Value added A Level	Point Score*	Achieving AAB or higher in at least 2 facilitating subjects	Grades for a student's best 3 A Levels
Richard Huish College	S6FC	640	B-	+0.1	35.64	15.2% 558 students	C+
Strode College	Tertiary College	267	C+	+0.2	34.75	14.4% 216 students	B-
Exeter College	Tertiary College	1035	C+	+0.1	31.87	10.4% 753 students	C+
Yeovil College	GFE	58	C-	-0.16	26.27	5.6% 35 students	C-
Bridgwater and Taunton College	GFE	252	D+	-0.41	23.50	2.8% 177 students	D+
National Average for Schools and Colleges	All state funded Schools and Colleges	NA	C+	0.00	32.87	14.1%	C+

Applied General Vocational Performance

Colleges	Type of College	Number of Level 3 Applied General Vocational Students	Average Grade	Value added	Point Score*
Exeter College	Tertiary College	86	Distinction	0.16	35.05
Richard Huish College	S6FC	143	Distinction-	+0.09	32.17
Strode College	Tertiary College	20	Merit+	-0.15	27.08
Bridgwater and Taunton College	GFE	16	Merit	-0.8	23.60
Yeovil College	GFE	73	Merit-	-0.1	22.72
National Average for Schools and Colleges	All funded Schools and Colleges	NA	Merit+	0.00	28.89

*Point Score is based on the challenge and size of the qualifications.

WORD GETS AROUND

BUSINESS CHAT SHOW



www.wordgetsaround.co.uk

Word Gets Around help people and businesses to market themselves more effectively. They are designers, marketers, magazine publishers, print experts and event hosts. They have an office in a beautiful setting at Hestercombe Gardens.

Like many businesses Covid-19 has had a big impact on their income and normal operations. Their May/June community magazines in Taunton and West Somerset had to be put on hold, as businesses shut down, advertisers pulled back on marketing spend and as safety became paramount.

They have also run Word Gets Around Business Networking for over 8 years. Events had to be cancelled as lockdown began. As people became accustomed to online meetings, they took some time to absorb what was happening and then see where they could make the most positive impact with a twist.

They decided to launch 'Meet the Business', as a series of short videos, where company director Paul Smith had a series of informal chats with Somerset business owners. It gave a window into their world, a chance to find out what they do, how they do it and more importantly, why they do it. It also gave a broad look into how Covid-19 has affected different business sectors and something to document this time to look back on. Informal chats were recorded via Zoom, and offered a chance to share tips, information and advice. There were 30 videos in total, each giving their own take on the crisis and putting a face to a name.

"I was very pleased to be asked by Paul Smith to take part in a live video interview as part of his Meet the Business initiative. Following Paul publishing the interview via LinkedIn and YouTube I received a lot of positive feedback and communications. I found it really valuable, and I am very grateful for the opportunity".

Trish Caller Genius PR and Events

The series was really popular and so spurred Paul to build on this. As a result, the Word Gets Around Business Chat Show was born, broadcasted live on YouTube. The format is very much in the same vein as the series; relaxed, informal, personal and unscripted.

For each episode they welcome three expert guests, to share their expertise, tips, and advice. There is then a chance for those watching online to ask them questions. At the end of the show one person takes home a prize to top off the night for the best question.

Their ultimate aim is to help people and their businesses to grow, by sparking ideas, collaborations, and increasing knowledge.

"I loved being a part of the show. It was so relaxed and I felt more open to share my thoughts. Paul has a natural talent with this to feel at ease. I enjoyed that I didn't need to prepare so I was my natural, authentic and genuine self. It's a great platform to introduce the person behind the business and celebrate our strong local business community".

Becky Wright New Leaf Life Design

If you would like to get involved, then please contact Paul at paul@wordgetsaround.co.uk.

Events are monthly streamed live on YouTube on Thursday nights from 8pm – 9:30pm.

You can subscribe to their channel here, and also find the original Meet the Business series:
<https://www.youtube.com/thewordgetsaround>

You can also sign up to their Meetup group to be kept up to date on future events:
<https://www.meetup.com/wordgetsaround/>

LAUNCH OF PARDOES PODCAST

JUNE 2020

Pardoes Solicitors LLP has launched its podcast – **The Friendly Law Podcast** – which is available to download and subscribe to on Apple and Podbean.

The purpose of the podcast, which was launched on Thursday 4 June, is to provide listeners with a free service where they can find out about areas of the law that matter to them. The format for the episodes is an informal chat between two colleagues discussing their area of specialism and answering questions that listeners have requested (with a few guest clients thrown in!).

Equity Partner Bhavani Hogarty comments: “In these difficult times and because we can no longer provide our free legal clinics, we wish to continue to help those who have legal issues but are wary of contacting solicitors so the podcast is our vehicle for removing barriers to legal advice.”

The initial episode strives to bust the myth about stereotypical solicitors by introducing the firm with a grilling of Bhavani as one of

the owners of the business. It also highlights Pardoes’ involvement in the local community and the fact that they help individuals, their families and their businesses. Future topics will refer to specific areas of the law.

The first episode is now available to download on Apple and Podbean with further episodes being uploaded bi-monthly.

The Friendly Law Podcast takes the solicitor from behind the desk and puts them face to face with you/the community, referring to issues you are currently dealing with and how we can help you address them.



Available now to download on
Apple & Podbean

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F: 01935 476150
DX 100500 Yeovil



LOVE LIFESTYLE



Love Lifestyle is making dream lifestyles come true, in the South West of England.

Sometimes, it takes a big life event to wake up and smell the coffee; you are working too many hours with little downtime to enjoy being with your friends and family. Love Lifestyle brings organisation and calm to families who feel overwhelmed with their current life.

Love Lifestyle helps people to navigate away from their current situation in the city to something more fulfilling, tranquil or exciting in the country, while giving back the precious gift of time to do the things they have always wanted to do, with the people they love the most.

Helen personally project manages a home relocation for her clients; offering an array of services to take away the stress of the move; from decluttering, staging and packing to property viewings, researching schools and a grocery shop to welcome you home.

Online research, property searches and furniture purchases are not always what they seem; can you afford to take that risk with your dream life? Let Love Lifestyle take your requirements and work with you to find you the dream home for your dream lifestyle!

If you are a resident of the South West, Love Lifestyle stages properties for sale and to settle, they style holiday homes in need of a makeover and declutter homes in need of organisation. Love Lifestyle believes in an exceptional customer service, your dreams are important to us.

www.lovelifestyle.org | helen@lovelifestyle.org

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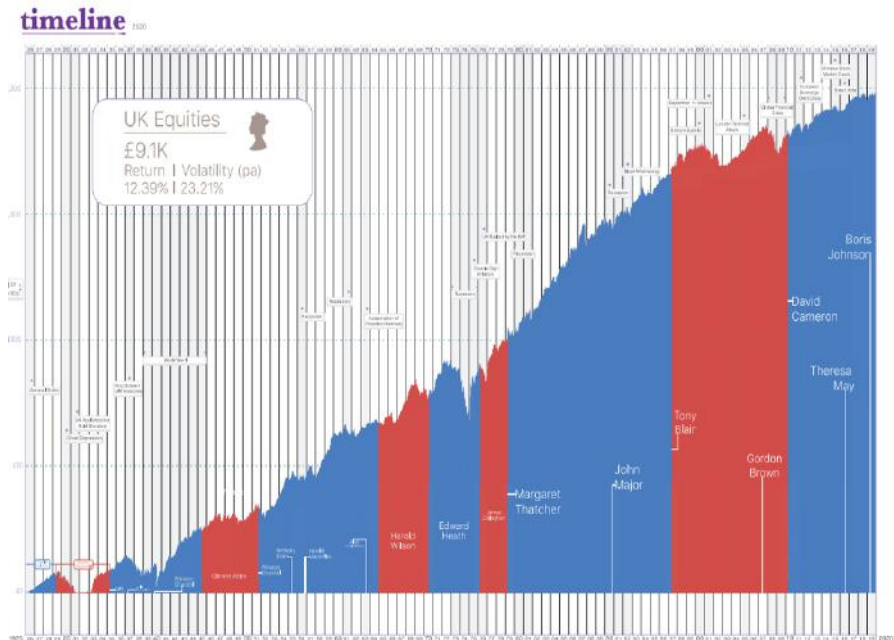
“Bull” and “Bear” Markets?

A Bull market is defined as a price increase of more than 20% and a Bear market a decrease of more than 20%. It is good to use the phrase “you had to grin and bear it” to remember that the Bear market is the falling one.

So, how common are these Bulls and Bears?

There have been 12 since the 1930s so on average every 7 1/2 years. This would mean the long term investor will probably experience a number of these during their investing lifetime.

To look at this another way, below is the growth of £1 since 1925, with the colours representing which political party was in power at the time. This graph illustrates why you would hear us talk about the permanent uptrend with temporary declines.



Significant temporary declines are very unpleasant as they are accompanied by some global event such as this Covid-19 pandemic, the Financial Crisis, the “Tech Wreck”, the Oil Crisis, etc but as one client said recently, “it’s like negative equity on a house when the investment falls in value, as in it’s not an issue unless you plan to move and why would you if you did not need to” - wise words.

**Contact Blackdown Financial on 01823 321616 or email
enquiries@blackdownfinancial.co.uk #AskBlackdown**

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