

TAUNTON
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2020 CHAMBER CHATTER

by local business. for local business

Offering support to help your business recover and grow



IN THIS EDITION:

- Sign up for the wide variety of Taunton Chamber events taking place across November - many of which are FREE of charge
- Hear about our 'Restructuring and Resources' support as we continue to work with Somerset County Council to reduce the loss to Somerset of key expertise
- Welcome our newest Taunton Chamber businesses in our 'Spotlight on New Members' section
- Catch up with good news from our members, and how businesses are 'Making Green Normal'

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR LATEST NEWS & EVENTS



Welcome to our November and December Events...



“ We are thrilled to be offering many events FREE of charge, or at significant discount, and many of our events offer additional value with opportunities for complimentary, bespoke follow up sessions at no cost. Alongside the Taunton Chamber Executive Committee, I look forward to welcoming you to our events.

Bethan Turner
Membership
& Events Manager

All events are bookable
via our **EventBrite** page
unless otherwise stated.

scan here →



6th & 20th November and 4th December, 5 - 6pm **'THAT FRIDAY FEELING AT FIVE'**

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!



10th November, 10 - 11am **'HOW WELL IS YOUR WEBSITE WORKING FOR YOU? THE SECRETS OF SEO'**

Your business website may look great, but how do you make sure that it works as well as it looks? Join Taunton Chamber of Commerce and our industry experts to learn the 'Secrets of SEO'. Explained in easy to understand terms, Pam Knight from **White Knight Marketing** and Tim Church from **Somerset Web Services** will help you understand how SEO works and where you can start. They will demystify the process and share with you some quick wins that will improve the visibility of your website. You will find out the 4 key areas you need to cover off to have a great website.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to sign up for a FUNDED one to one follow on to help their business website perform better.*

WHITE KNIGHT
MARKETING



16th November 9.15am - 12.30pm **MENTAL HEALTH SME TOOLKIT WORKSHOP**

We are delighted to be offering a second opportunity to benefit from this exclusive workshop with **New Leaf Mental Health Training** on how to promote the well being of your team and support good mental health at work, providing you with a SME Toolkit for Mental Health and Wellbeing. This workshop has now also received CPD accreditation and fees are subsidised through grant funding.



19th November, 10 - 11am **FACEBOOK ADVERTISING WORKSHOP - FIND YOUR IDEAL CUSTOMERS WITH BRAND AWARENESS!**

Social Media experts **Purely Personal Marketing** will take us through this interactive online session around attracting ideal customers through the use of Facebook Ads. Expect lots of practical advice, step by step guidance and plenty of opportunity for asking questions. All attendees will also receive a free social media content prompt to help with their posting ideas, and Taunton Chamber are funding a FREE one to one follow up session for each attendee to discuss specific social media advertising questions and advice.



23rd November 2- 3.30pm

'LEADERSHIP IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY'

Online Panel Discussion with Industry Experts:

Join Taunton Chamber and our local industry experts as we discuss the importance and characteristics of inspired leadership - particularly in the light of the current challenging times for business. The event will take the format of a panel discussion, with ample opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the panel - either in advance or during the event itself.

TAUNTON
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

26th November, 10 - 11am

CYBER SECURITY: KEEPING YOU AND YOUR TEAM SAFE ONLINE

Keeping you and your team safe online is now more important than ever before - so much more of our business tasks and operations are done digitally, and more of our teams are working remotely in light of the pandemic. Join **Avon & Somerset Police** for expert and up to the minute advice and guidance to ensure that your business data and operations are safe online.

This session will be ideal for both business leaders and their individual team members and attendees will come away with simple, practical steps they can take to ensure cyber safety.



WATCH BACK OUR RECENT WEBINARS:

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

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RESTRUCTURING & RESOURCES SUPPORT SERVICES

This Autumn we launched 'Restructuring and Resources' Support Services. These are opportunities where we can signpost expert advice for those businesses seeking to recruit and for those needing to reallocate staffing resources. Furthermore, this covers the offering of routes and opportunities for those becoming out of work, with the aim of supporting the Somerset County Council key objective of enabling swifter redeployment of skilled individuals within the local economy, thus helping to reduce the loss to Somerset of key expertise to outside of the area.

Advertising your vacancies at no cost with member business Somerset Jobs

Taunton Chamber of Commerce members are now able to advertise their vacancies **FREE of charge** with our member business **Somerset Jobs**, using the Standard Package which would normally attract a value for money fee of £19.99.

For members wishing to use the Upgraded Package, there will be an exclusive Taunton Chamber discount of £10. More details on the packages available can be found at www.somersetjobs.co.uk/pricing/



To discuss your needs further,
and initiate the discount, please
contact Stuart Wright 07771 731495
stu@somersetjobs.co.uk



LinkedIn Job Seekers' Workshops with Introtweet

Alongside Taunton Chamber member business **Introtweet Ltd** we are offering **FREE of charge** LinkedIn Workshops, focused on how the platform can be used to make you stand out from the crowd, and how to create the perfect recruitment post to find new opportunities. There will also be the chance to book a funded, bespoke follow-up session suited to the attendee's individual needs.

**The first workshop will take place on
13th January at 10am.**



FREE of charge Candidate 'Glow Up' Sessions

Alongside Taunton Chamber member business **OD Talent Solutions** we have offered **FREE of charge** Candidate 'Glow Up' Sessions aimed at supporting those needing to look for their next job opportunity. The sessions look at helping job seekers to smarten their approach and are an opportunity to get some recruiter insight and advice around what happens on the employer side during recruitment and tips and advice on all stages of the application/interview process.

**September & October sessions have been well
attended - we have a further session on
27th November.**



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page unless otherwise stated.

WELCOME TO OUR *New Members*



Broomhead & Saul are looking forward to being a part of the Taunton Chamber of Commerce business community, and have recently welcomed Lucy Milton-Downes who joins the firm as a partner, heading up Litigation and Dispute Resolution.

Lucy brings to the practice over 14 years of experience in litigation covering a wide variety of highly technical litigation and dispute resolution work, including: personal injury claims, representing clients sectioned under the Mental Health Act, regulatory work for the Health & Safety Executive and prosecuting on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

Lucy is extremely conscious of the cost involved in litigating a claim through the courts as well as the stress this can cause for her clients. As a result, she is pragmatic and advises her clients on the risks versus the benefits of pursuing a claim through the courts and her strategy is to identify solutions that may benefit both sides, where this can avoid a lengthy and expensive court process. It follows that she is a strong advocate of alternative dispute resolution. She is a fully qualified mediator.

Lucy has a deserved reputation for being friendly and approachable as well as someone you can trust. She puts her clients at ease, and this enables her to establish quickly an excellent rapport with her clients. She adopts a similar approach with her professional opponents whenever this is possible.



Taunton Office:
01823 288121
www.broomhead-saul.co.uk
lucy.milton-downes@broomhead-saul.co.uk



Prosperity Consulting exists to support local small and small to medium-size businesses in the strive to survive the many challenges that their marketplace and the wider economy can present.

Our vision is to be the trusted partner for positive change across the business community we serve. This is underpinned by our open, approachable, and dependable culture, where our desire is to help ensure health and positivity across our local economy.

We are sympathetic in the realisation that many businesses within our catchment may not have the time or resources to dedicate to extended change initiatives. Equally, we recognise that most will be dissuaded to work with business consultancies due to the often-correct perception of high cost for little return. Prosperity Consulting is a different proposition.

Our team of high achieving business undergraduates can apply advanced knowledge of academic theory and proven 'best-practice' business management principles to a wide range of strategic and operational situations. We provide clear, unbiased, and fresh insight towards how a business can both sustain and increase its competitive market presence. Moreover, we do so by focusing on quick wins, typically working in short, sharp, affordable, and beneficial episodes, rather than long, drawn-out, 'take it or leave it' epics.

Our passion really is to help local businesses prosper. We are affordable, approachable, and aspiring.

www.prosperityconsulting.co.uk

Julia Ngapo

BUSINESS COACHING

I work predominantly (but not exclusively!) with women, giving them not only the practical, but the mental, emotional, and spiritual tools they need to achieve business success.

Having owned and run several businesses, I understand the particular blocks and issues that women in business may encounter, because I've faced them, too. My passion is helping women to succeed. To help them understand their why and align that with their business goals and objectives. To help my clients gain the confidence to run a successful business.

I combine 20 plus years of corporate experience, owning, running, and managing a variety of businesses, with my naturally empathic and intuitive side, developed from studying Reiki, Seichem and Shamanic Healing. This means that a "one-size-fits-all" approach just isn't me.

Instead, I take a 360-degree, holistic approach to my clients and their business, tailoring my services to each individual client's needs. I help my clients to strip away the blocks that may be holding them back, whilst providing the tools they need to gain business clarity, vision, and strategy - a winning combination!



hello@juliangapocoaching.co.uk
07891817697
www.juliangapocoaching.co.uk

Introtweet

MAKING SOCIAL MEDIA WORK FOR YOUR BUSINESS



Introtweet was established in July 2013 by Laura Brown & since then has grown into a successful Social Media business with a brilliant reputation both in their local Taunton area & across the UK.

Laura, Peter and Ginine help businesses maximise the potential of Social Media either via Social Media management, 1-1 training or workshops - either in person or online. Some of their clients include world leaders in their industry - Burgess Yachts, South West Water & Heidelberg and in 2018 they won the prestigious Somerset Business Award for Business of the Year.

Once the Coronavirus pandemic caused a lockdown back in March Introtweet had to quickly innovate to take their Social Media training sessions online. The team did this successfully but always had the aim of one day updating their technology to hugely up their online training game to make it as clear, professional and useful to businesses as it could be. Roll on to September and the team found out they were successful in applying for the Heart of the South West Kickstarter Grant which they have used to achieve their aim. The funding has been used to purchase technology and equipment to level up their online training and the feedback already received has been fantastic.

We are hugely excited to become valued members of the Taunton Chamber!

www.introtweet.com





At Maven Marketing, we offer marketing support for businesses of various sizes and sectors. As an environmentally-conscious company passionate about sustainability, we love working with companies who share our dedication. Not only do we work with like-minded businesses, but we promote sustainability and green initiatives too! From 2020, we have committed to planting trees to offset our carbon footprint. Plus, we will soon become the official media partner of a local tree planting scheme.

Our founder, Joanna Benbow MSc MCIM, is a Chartered Marketer certified by Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) and provides outsourced marketing services. It includes digital and social media, web design, PR, brand design and positioning, strategic support and marketing management.

Become a 'Maven'

Did you know, our prime word 'Maven' means 'Expert'? Our mission is to educate and support your business to help you to find your Unique Selling Points and the right marketing strategy for your business. We will plan, analyse, set objectives and goals to reach the right target audience, analyse competition, plan budget and implement your strategy.

Contact us and find out how we can help your business to become an expert in its own field by using the best marketing practices.

Outsourced marketing support

Do you need outsourced marketing support? You can customise your marketing needs with us. We can help you to choose the marketing package that best fits your business objectives and budget.

This flexible approach is perfect for companies that require continuous marketing support and have a set budget in mind.



Davina Warden, General Manager and her team at Mecca Bingo Taunton are delighted to be joining the Taunton Chamber of Commerce. Situated on Corporation Street in one of Taunton's most iconic buildings, officially one of the most beautiful bingo venues in the UK, we sit at the heart of the town centre community. Our venue has also been captured as a 360 tour by fellow Taunton Chamber members 360 South West.

Hundreds of Taunton folk come through our doors each week, and we pride ourselves on offering a warm welcome, a good time and some great value sessions. We always do what we can to support the local community, and have been delighted to be the hosts of events such as 'Taunton's Got Talent', part of Taunton Live - The Creative & Performing Arts Festival, giving incredible local talent the chance to perform in the same venue as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Elton John and Rod Stewart have done in the past.

We are open seven days a week and you can find out all you need to know about our timetable and booking on our website or by calling us on 01823 272282. Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with all the latest bingo news and events, and it's easy to become a club member by completing the simple online form:

www.meccabingo.com/bingo-clubs/taunton



SPAEDA (Somerset Partnership Arts Education Agency) is an independent arts education charity, providing training and resources, model projects and advocacy across the arts for the education sector. We act to maximise children and young people's engagement with arts and culture, reducing barriers to participation and building confidence and skills in arts leaders.

Our aim is to;

- Create more opportunities for children and young people to get involved in high quality arts activities
- Provide a web of information and support for schools and families
- To advocate for best practice in arts education

At SPAEDA we believe that putting the arts and creativity at the heart of education supports the well-being of both staff and pupils and provides space for richer learning experiences. We know that exploring and participating in the creative arts stimulates imagination, raises confidence, encourages problem solving and increases emotional intelligence and we are passionate about the difference the arts make to the lives of children and young people.

SPAEDA works with schools, community and family groups to provide as many opportunities as possible for creative learning. Examples of our work include; workshops and projects in schools led by professional artists; artist led programmes for children with additional needs and their families, Art Coordinator and Art Leader training for teachers; consultancy across the arts, education and cultural sectors and Arts Award and Artsmark programs to incentivise education leaders.

If you would like to support our work by becoming a trustee or volunteering please get in touch.

01823 4100160 | www.spaeda.org.uk

**Hestercombe Gardens, Cheddon Fitzpaine,
Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8LQ**

Registered charity no. 1083241 - Company no. 4043022



Omnia Business Management was founded by Julia Ngapo in 2017. Julia and her team offer social media management, social media training and marketing consultancy.

Our services are borne out of an understanding that in order to compete in the digital marketplace, our clients need to not only make their mark but to stand out amongst the competition.

Quite simply, we help them achieve this with strategic direction, creation and management.

Our holistic approach means we take time to understand your business, your goals and objectives, allowing us to build a strategy that is both workable and achievable.

We work with clients internationally, from sole traders to corporates and pride ourselves on our ability to flex our services to match their individual needs as well as budgets. Whether you require full management or something simpler, we can help.

Alternatively, if you prefer to keep your social media management in-house, we can give you the training to help you navigate your chosen platform, grow your following and increase that all-important engagement

Our advice is based upon 20 years of marketing experience and early adoption of social media as a business marketing tool.

Our services don't stop with social media and marketing. We also offer a full digital marketing service, so whether you want to create a website, update an existing one or build an email marketing campaign to grow your leads, we can help.

www.omniabusinessmanagement.co.uk



Taunton Mortgage Centre is a locally run small business covering Taunton, Bridgwater, Wellington and everywhere in between, offering bespoke mortgage advice and search thousands of mortgages to help find the right deal for you. We are part of the Mortgage Advice Bureau, a leading mortgage network as well as the UK's most recognised intermediary consumer brand, winning over 150 national awards for the quality of its advice and service.

Our comprehensive guidance and no jargon approach to mortgages see our clients recommending us again and again:

"Matthew Potter is an incredible professional, extremely courteous and really helpful. Highly recommended! He took time to understand my needs, and clearly did his best to find the most suitable and money efficient solution he could locate. He was very prompt with my questions (a lot of them) as we worked this through over a series of days. He's helped me so much during the past 3 months making this process almost stress-free"

"Matthew Potter thanks a million you have helped my partner and I every step of the way! You made remortgaging a breeze. We would definitely recommend Matthew to anyone buying their first home, remortgaging or for any life protection"

**Call and speak to your local expert
Matthew Potter**

**Call us on 01823 740027
or 07733 749202
or email matthew.potter@mab.org.uk**



Founded by Werner Zeelie, Warrior Communications Ltd is an agile marketing agency, pulling resource and knowledge from an expansive group of skilled individuals who have separately and collectively delivered for some of the world's biggest brands.

As a start-up our innovative business set up offers clients bespoke marketing packages across all the marketing channels. Delivering success for our clients is always our main focus, no matter what the client's goals.

Our virtual offering enables us to provide clients with a more efficient, insightful and nimble working partnership. From corporate communications requirements to customer insights or brand positioning, we strive to be the agency that delivers outstanding results time and time again. Our mission is simple - establish the market, be front-of-mind, accessible and consumer-focused while developing a clear strategy delivered across all relevant marketing channels.

Whether our client is looking for brand consultancy, design & innovation, communication planning or an uplift within their digital practices, Warrior Communications has the diverse knowledge base to succeed every time. Transport your business to the next level with a marketing agency that creates you a sustainable brand with integrity and substance.

Warrior Communications Ltd offers free consultations. See your business grow through marketing that supports and promotes your brands ethos.

**Call 0773 882 5960 or make an enquiry
www.warrior-agency.com**

worldpay from FIS

LET'S RE-INVENT SMARTER!

Kay Langley and Kevin Smith are proud to represent Worldpay in the South West and to be building wider local business support relationships through membership of the Taunton Chamber of Commerce.

Worldpay pride themselves on offering payment choices that work harder for you, and Kay and Kevin are on hand, whatever your business size to help you with:

- **Taking Smarter Payments**
- **Accepting Payments Securely**
- **Growing Your Business**

Furthermore, WorldPay have launched a special offer to support businesses to Kick Start smarter payment solutions, so if you are thinking about taking card payments, or switching payment provider you have the opportunity to pay just £1 initial monthly terminal rental fees for 9 months for each terminal.

The offer is valid until the end of November, so please contact Kay and Kevin for more information as soon as possible*

**Eligibility criteria, T&Cs and other charges apply - get in touch to find out more, including clarity regarding the 'other charges' involved.*



Scan here

KAY LANGLEY
Regional Business Manager
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Kay.Langley@fisglobal.com

KEVIN SMITH
Mid-Market Corporate Sales Director
07880 457673
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A REFRESHING APPROACH TO PAYROLL!

Zest Payroll Solutions provides monthly payroll services, specialising in helping small to medium size businesses, charities and domestic staff employers (such as parents employing nannies).

Established in 2008, Zest Payroll is a small Payroll Bureau run by Claire Meredith, an AAT qualified Payroll Administrator, based in Taunton.

Claire has worked in payroll for over 20 years. Her extensive experience spans from busy payroll departments (including the University of Plymouth, Wessex Water and Devon County Council) and running multiple payrolls for much smaller businesses while working in independent Payroll Bureaux as part of larger accountancy practices in the South West.

Zest Payroll takes care of all aspects of running a payroll - from registering with HMRC as you take the first tentative steps of becoming an employer for the first time, right through to providing monthly payslips and management reports.

Zest Payroll will also take care of all of the payroll related HMRC correspondence too. Zest Payroll offers all clients a friendly and reliable service, freeing them to concentrate on their own business or family lives.

We understand how overwhelming your payroll can be, so we aim to create a relationship with you free of the technical jargon - leave the calculating and worrying to us!

www.zestpayroll.co.uk
01823 288537

Teresa Wort

Qualified Mindfulness & Compassion Teacher

What Mindfulness and Compassion can bring to the workplace?

Mindfulness and Compassion involves learning to be fully present in the here and now. By understanding how our mind works regarding thoughts, emotions and habits it enables us to have the choice to consciously respond rather than to react to the present moment, whether it is pleasant or unpleasant. Often we are so busy living in the past or worrying about the future that we actually miss appreciating living in the here and now.

With this understanding taken into work, you will be more focused, creative and a greater team player.

Benefits in the workplace:

- Less absenteeism and turnover due to stress and anxiety
- Developing a happier, confident and supportive culture, awareness of self and others
- Improved self-esteem, concentration, productivity, resilience, communication and listening skills, meeting deadlines, targets
- With advice to take away and put into practice, self-care for your mind, body and spirit

With a working life experience in Sales, Training and Fundraising I am very aware of the challenges presented in a work environment of being focused, creative, being part of team, having good communication and listening skills, meeting deadlines, targets ... Mindfulness can help, having a positive effect on our wellbeing cascading through home and work life, with numerous scientific research and clinical studies to endorse this.



07768 447826 / 01823400232
info@teresawort.co.uk
www.teresawort.co.uk

Member to member offer

The Castle at taunton



We are delighted to announce that we have teamed up with members **The Castle Hotel** and **Brazz** to offer Taunton Chamber of Commerce members exclusive discounts. These treats would be ideal as a gift for birthdays, anniversaries and celebrations. They can also be used as a reward to a team member who has gone above and beyond, or as a special thank you to a client.

General Manager at The Castle Hotel Ronan Hunter explains: *"We are thrilled to be able to offer these **exclusive discounted vouchers** to our fellow members. Exclusive to the Taunton Chamber business community, the dining offer at Brazz includes **2 free glasses of Prosecco** and the overnight stay offer is a **saving of £34** on our normal rate for a deluxe double. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you, your teams, clients and family."*

Exclusive vouchers

Exclusive to Taunton Chamber members, these vouchers are not visible except via the direct QR codes below.

Please pass the information to anyone in your business who does not usually see 'Chamber Chatter':



Dining Offer



Overnight Stay Offer

Making Green Normal



PORTT & CO BECOME CARBON NEUTRAL

Taunton-based accountancy firm, Portt & Co, have taken positive steps towards a greener future by becoming carbon neutral.

By signing up to Bristol company, Ecologi, Portt & Co offset their carbon emissions by planting trees and investing in climate projects across the world. The climate projects are certified at the highest level by Gold Standard, who quantify, certify and maximise positive outcomes in projects in environmental markets.

Portt & Co's commitment includes their employees, which makes the team a Climate Positive Workforce and offsets their carbon footprint for all work and personal activities.

Speaking on their positive change, Portt & Co said; *"We're passionate about creating a better future for everyone, which means taking responsibility for the environment. Becoming carbon neutral was not only important for us, but also for our clients, who know that by working with us they are helping to raise awareness of climate crisis."*

A benefit of joining Ecologi is that Portt & Co have their own forest which you're able to view online. The virtual forest details exactly where trees have been planted as part of Portt & Co's commitment. There are currently 240 trees in the Portt & Co forest which support projects such as reforestation in Madagascar.

To view Portt & Co's forest online and find out more about becoming a Climate Positive Workforce, visit the Ecologi website here:

www.ecologi.com/porttco

www.portt.co.uk
info@portt.co.uk

portt
& Co



CLIMATE POSITIVE WORKFORCE

At A&T Refurbished Refrigeration we are determined to reduce our carbon footprint and help create a better future.

We are extremely pleased to announce that A&T Refurbished Refrigeration have signed up to Ecologi Climate Positive Workforce.

Ecologi are a Bristol based small business who are committed to fighting climate change. By signing up to Ecologi our employees' carbon emissions are offset by the planting of trees and investing in climate projects across the world, all of which are certified at the highest level by Gold Standard.

We aren't stopping there though, we commit to planting more trees for each New or Refurbished refrigeration cabinet we sell. We also have taken the decision now all our old stock has been used up, to move to Bio degradable bubble wrap and pallet wrap to help reduce our impact on the environment.

We will continue to look at other ways we are able to reduce our impact, these include replacing the foam protectors and cleaning products we use.

To view our Forest and the Projects we have supported please click here: www.ecologi.com/atrefurbishedrefrigeration



...BUSINESS IS BETTER WITH TREES!

Paper - it might not seem like an obvious way to support woods and trees. However, with a little bit of innovative thinking, Carly Press have teamed up with Premier Paper and the Woodland Trust to use a range of paper that helps businesses curb their carbon emissions by planting trees.

carlypress



Carly Press are one of more than 240 Premier Paper customers have signed up to Carbon Capture, which utilises the Woodland Trust's Woodland Carbon scheme to mitigate the CO2 emissions generated by the production, storage and distribution of the paper they purchase.

So how does it work?

An additional levy is paid for each tonne of paper bought. This is passed on to the Woodland Trust to fund the planting of trees, which can absorb carbon that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere. Through the scheme, Carly Press can offer your business a unique carbon reduction solution, enabling you to purchase sustainable print.

Since the scheme began, more than £900,000 has been raised. That's enough to fund the planting of 227,760 trees. 56,938 tonnes of carbon have been captured through the partnership – that's as heavy as 11,000 elephant or 11.3 billion sheets of A4 paper!

01823 667063 www.carlypress.co.uk



TAUNTON
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Member Good News

Former Albatross restaurant bought by Little Wine Shop & Social

The building that housed Albatross Restaurant has now been purchased by Taunton Chamber members The Little Wine Shop & Social.

Phillipe Messy said:

"There won't be many changes to start with, but in March/April next year we will create a brand new restaurant and cocktail bar – with quality spirits. It has always been the plan for us to expand and buying the Albatross building was a good opportunity for us."

The existing Social Wine Bar has moved to the riverside building and then in the spring, the bar will move back to The Little Wine Shop on Foundry Road while a new restaurant and bar will be developed on the Riverside Place site.



**The Little Wine Shop
& Social
Wine Bar**

www.taunton-chamber.co.uk



CRESCENT FUNERAL SERVICES SIMON HELLIAR-MOORE

Crescent Funeral Services congratulate James Chorley on completing his Professional Training with the Independent Funeral Directors College.

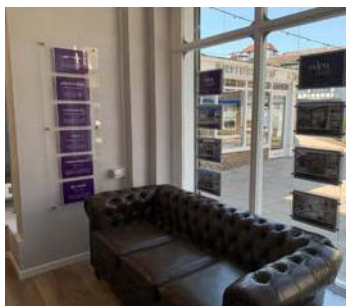
James came to work with Crescent Funeral Services, as an apprentice, after leaving Heathfield School when he was 16. Since arriving at the Funeral Director's, James has been receiving specialist tutoring from the IFD College to complete his Certificate in Funeral Practice. What makes James extra special is that he is currently the youngest ever in the country and in the IFD College's history to complete this qualification, at the age of 18.



The course James undertook, would normally take at least three years to complete, and he has completed and been awarded the qualification in just two.

Simon Helliar-Moore, Director of Crescent Funeral Services explained, *"It has been amazing to witness James applying himself to learning all aspects of the Funeral Profession. We have not held back from supporting James with his training, allowing him to experience all aspects of the profession and this has certainly helped him gain this qualification. Along with hard work and determination, James is a credit to the profession and has a bright career ahead of him."*

eden
may



3 Riverside Place, St James Street, Taunton TA1 1JH

Congratulations to Jayne O'Brien and the team at our members Eden May, who have recently moved to expanded premises due to the growth of the business.

Jayne says: *"We're really passionate about the Taunton Independent Quarter so we've moved around the corner from St James Street into the Riverside. All of our contact details remain the same. A lovely new, bigger premises and a huge heartfelt thanks to our team, families & our contractors for all their hard work in making this move possible. We stayed local for every purchase and every trade used. A big thank you too our lovely clients for their words of support. It's meant the world to us"*



TAUNTON LEADS THE NATION WITH COVID-19 SAFE WILLS

Dr Nicholas Bevan, of Broomhead & Saul, explains how a self-isolating client inspired a snap campaign that clarified the law on Wills.

MAKING A WILL

The formalities for executing a valid Will are prescribed by the Wills Act 1837. These include the requirements that a Will must be in writing and signed by the testator in the simultaneous 'presence' of two witnesses.

These preconditions have survived, little altered since the Statute of Frauds 1677. They endure because they are effective in safeguarding testators from fraud. Consequently, non-conformity risks intestacy.

CONVENTION

The legal profession has always assumed that a witness' 'presence' necessarily involves a physical attendance; how else can one see or hear the events one is supposed to attest to? This was deemed so self-evident that in 343 years of jurisprudence on Wills not a single judge has ruled on the point.

CHALLENGING CONVENTION

During the first few weeks of lockdown Dr Bevan was consulted by someone who wished to make a Will from his rural seclusion 150 miles away.

The uniform opinion of the legal profession, including the Law Commission and the Law Society, was that video conferencing could not be used to witness Wills online; a witness' physical 'presence' was insisted upon as an absolute requirement.

Our independent research revealed that the only absolute requirement is that a witness must have a 'clear line of sight' of the Will signing. On investigating video conferencing we discovered that it achieved this admirably. Furthermore, its ability to record the

participants simultaneously in multiscreen format actually enhances the protection against fraud. All it needs is competent management.

Acting on our findings, we executed the nation's first video Will on 1 May 2020. When the Law Society refused to alter its strictures, we published our research and embarked on a lone campaign to persuade the Ministry of Justice to intervene with guidance based on our findings.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

What transformed an act of defiance into a successful outcome was the prompt and effective support of our MP, Mrs Rebecca Pow. She deftly pulled strings that ensured that our research paper and proposal received attention.

Within just over a fortnight, we received a gracious reply from the Advocate General, Lord Keen QC, acknowledging the compelling force of our case and promising prompt action. That arrived on 25 July in the form of official Guidance that retrospectively sanctions video witnessing of Wills with a 'clear line of sight'. Then, on 7 September, the Government published temporary legislation that expressly authorises video Wills, hopefully giving enough breathing space for a more considered judicial determination.

TAUNTON SETS AN INTERNATIONAL PRECEDENT

Broomhead & Saul has developed an innovative remote Wills service for its local, national and international clients. On 29 July we administered the world's first cross-border execution of an English Will for an elderly client living in Crete; all managed from our offices at 10 Hammet Street, in Taunton.

Member Directory

360 South West
A C Mole & Sons
A1 Ace Taxis
Albert Goodman
Alder King Consultant Surveyors
Apple FM
Arditti Carpets
A & T Refurbished Refrigeration
Auditel
Barclays Business, Taunton
Bath Place Traders Association
Blackdown Financial
Blackdown Motor Company
Blue Penguin Chartered
Accountants
Bredons Sewing Machine Centre
Bridgwater & Taunton College
Broomhead & Saul Solicitors
Buses of Somerset
Calverts (Taunton) Ltd
Carly Press
Castle Hotel (Taunton) Ltd
Cherwyn Developments Ltd
CICCIC
Citizens Advice Taunton
Clarke Willmott
Clean Footprints Carpet
& Upholstery Cleaning
Cleaning Solutions UK
Company Spaces
Cooper Associates
Copper Dot Digital
Corner House Hotel
County Walk Shopping Centre
Crescent Funeral Services
Croft Animation &
Accommodation Atalier
Cullen's Catering
Daffodil PR & Communications
Design Bean
Design Hive
Digital Peninsula Network

Dirt Clean Industrial
& Commercial Cleaning
Dyslexia 4 Adults
Eden May
Elevate Business Performance
Every's, Solicitors
E White & Son (Taunton) Ltd
Gaines Supplies Ltd
Genius PR & Events
Go Create
Great Western Hotel
Greenslade Taylor Hunt
Gurds Menswear
Hankridge Arms
Hatfield White Ltd
Hickleys Ltd
Inspiration Engine Ltd
Introtweet Ltd
J P Gainsford Associates Ltd
Jo Pavey Insurance
Judith Goss Florist
Julia N'gapo Business Coaching
Lentells Chartered Accountants
Little Wine Shop & Social Wine Bar
Lloyds Bank, Taunton
Love Lifestyle
Mailboxes (Taunton) Etc
Mango Tree Restaurant
Maven Marketing
Mayfayre Financial
Mecca Bingo Taunton
Michael Spiers Jewellers
Milsted Langdon
Moore Scarrott Limited
Mr Miles Tearoom
New Leaf Workplace Wellbeing
OD Talent Solutions
Omnia Business Management
Orchard Shopping Centre
Outposts Limited
Pardoes Solicitors LLP
Pearce Practice, Architects

Peter Brett Assocs (Stantec)
PKF Francis Clark
Porter Dodson
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Professional Cloud Solutions
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Purely Personal Marketing
Quantock Ecology Ltd
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SkyMark Financial
Somerset County Cricket Club
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Somerset West & Taunton Council
South West Property Reports
SPAEDA Arts Education
SRD Technology UK
Stella Creations
Summerfield Devts SW Ltd
Tacchi Morris Arts Centre
Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club
Taunton & Somerset Armed
Forces Day Group
Taunton Life App
Taunton Mortgage Centre
Taunton Team Chaplaincy Trust
Tone FM & Tone News
Townley Insurance Brokers Ltd
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Compassion Teacher
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Your Launchpad to Happiness
Zest Payroll Ltd

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