

TAUNTON
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

MARCH & APRIL 2021

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 coming up in March and April
- Hear about our collaboration with the Barclays Thriving Local Economies project to increase the FREE resources available to local businesses
- Hear from Rebecca Pow MP on her recent work on behalf of local businesses and the Taunton community
- Welcome our newest Taunton Chamber businesses in our 'Spotlight on New Members' section and catch up with the good news from across our membership.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR LATEST NEWS & EVENTS



Join us for our March & April Events

...ALL ARE FREE OF CHARGE!

12th & 26th March, 9th & 23rd April

'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!

17th March 10am

'DEVELOPING AMAZING TEAMS - WITHOUT A HEFTY TRAINING BUDGET'

Join Taunton Chamber and member business **Green Door People Development** for this workshop on simple and costless ways to help businesses build skilled and high performing teams, using easily accessible personal development techniques that are equally relevant when working remotely or on site!

15th April 10am

'BUILDING CONFIDENCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN 2021'

As we enter a new financial year, what do you think the next 12 months might look like for your business? While 2020 was an unprecedented year, we still face 2021 with much uncertainty. So how do we as business owners have the confidence to make the right business decisions? This online session with Taunton Chamber member business **Jane Phillips Coaching** will talk about the current economic climate and predictions, how to future proof your organisation and as a small business owner how to build your personal resilience and confidence to finish this financial year on a business high.

27th April 10am

'PREPARING FOR INTERVIEWS - BEING MINDFUL NOT MIND FULL'

Part of our 'Restructuring and Resources' Support Services, aimed at helping those needing to look for their next job opportunity, join Taunton Chamber and member business **Teresa Wort, Mindfulness and Compassion Teacher** for this hour long online session, full of tips and techniques to help you get into the best mindset for interviews, pitches and presentations.

29th April 5.30pm

TAUNTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGM

Join the Taunton Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee online for our AGM and review of 2020. Hear how we tackled the complexities of a very different year and our forward look to 2021/22. There will be opportunity to submit questions for our Executive team as part of the registration process.

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

scan here 



www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/taunton-chamber-of-commerce-15354648391

EDUCATE THROUGH KEY INSIGHTS AND KNOWLEDGE

This spring, Taunton Chamber of Commerce is delighted to be partnering with members Barclays to deliver a series of FREE events to support local businesses, as part of the Barclays Thriving Local Economies initiative. Set aside an hour in your diary to gain insights and knowledge from the experts. These events aim to help protect businesses by giving real insight into important subjects, covering critical topics from risk and security to unlocking commercial opportunities.

9th March at 5pm:

Certainty is having a Savings Plan:

Ideal for you, your teams or family members, this interactive personal finance session will help you to kick start or update your savings plans. If you are keen to save, or keen to save smarter, this session is for you!

10th March at 11am:

Unlocking New Growth Opportunities

In the current pandemic situation, we know that many businesses are looking at ways to create new revenue streams. It doesn't matter what type of business you run, boosting turnover is probably one of your top priorities right now. But how do you do it? What approaches and techniques do the most successful firms use? In this webinar you will hear from Steve Young, Director of high growth Consultancy 'Winning Pitch'. He is a specialist in helping leaders to grow their business' faster and stronger even in these unprecedented times. His workshops and webinars have transformed the growth in thousands of small to medium firms across the country and overseas. During this webinar Steve will use real world examples, showing how leaders like you have moved from a survive to thrive mindset by taking action and applying these practical and proven techniques.

Registration link: <https://events.barclays.com/ehome/604680>

24th March at 11am:

Data Privacy – what you need to know

Consider the importance of data privacy and make sure your business complies with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements. Consequences of non-compliance under GDPR could lead to fines of €20 million or 4% of your total turnover. During this session, you will be

given an overview of GDPR as well as how GDPR has strengthened individuals' rights. We will also discuss why data privacy is so important and the impacts it can have on your business if not taken seriously whilst also pointing out what support is available to you and where to find it.

31st March at 5pm:

Clarity is being on top of your finances

Ideal for you, your teams or family members, this interactive personal finance session will help you develop clear savings and budgeting plans for your family finances – packed with ideas and advice, if you are keen for your family finances to be less complicated and you need your money to work harder, this session is for you!

21st April at 11am:

Making your Business Digital

In this session we will explore the use of cloud based applications and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), considering how they could potentially improve the efficiency of your business. Understand HMRC's digital tax and learn how to use cloud applications to help improve the performance of your business. Looking at cloud applications and how they can be used to make efficiencies. Also includes an overview of the Making Tax Digital initiative.

Barclays Thriving Local Economies:

"At a time of economic change, it's really important to work together to help the UK to go forward. We believe that economic success comes from the hard work of people and businesses in local communities around the UK. Partnering with them and others, we are learning about different types of economy and committing to action on the ground – beyond our day-to-day products and services – to help those economies thrive"

*Registration is easy - simply email lucy.partridge@barclays.com with 'event registration' as the email title and let Lucy know which of the above events you would like to attend. Barclays will then ensure a joining link is issued to you in advance.

WELCOME TO OUR New Members



Whilst Taunton's Brewhouse Theatre and Arts Centre has been closed as a result of lockdowns over the last 12 months, there has been a significant amount of activity going on behind the scenes, literally.

With a new CEO, Amy Bere taking the new lead role, at the time of writing, it is very much hoped that the doors can open once more and everyone can be #BackOnStage again very soon.

There has been a period of review and consultation with over 1300 responding to an online survey about the future of the theatre and arts scene in Taunton and beyond. The Brewhouse also secured a £136,000 grant from The Garfield Weston Foundation's Weston Culture Fund for its 'HomeBrew' development projects and employment opportunities over the coming months.

The theatre spotted a number of opportunities when it was forced to close its doors to audiences and diversified into the digital space through an innovative HomeBrew development programme. It also expanded its physical offer to appeal to a young, more diverse audience.

The HomeBrew programme introduced new artists to a wider audience in the digital space, while the theatre supported local artists with a package of commissioning, mentorship and showcase opportunities to ensure The Brewhouse remained as a vital creative hub for artists and audiences in the area.

For more information on the range of digital opportunities and future activities at The Brewhouse, please visit www.thebrewhouse.net or follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. We promise an exciting time ahead when we lift our curtain once more!

the
brewhouse
theatre & arts centre

PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICESHIPS

Professional Apprenticeships have opened an apprenticeship academy in Somerset! The company recruits and trains apprentices studying Business, Digital Marketing, IT and various Management Qualifications. There is also government funding available to put existing staff through the training with only a 5% contribution to the cost. This helps companies to train and retain their staff which is so crucial in the current climate.

When recruiting new hire apprentices, Professional Apprenticeships go above and beyond to recruit the highest level apprentices for businesses from school leavers to graduates. They celebrate their 5th birthday this April and their new Somerset Apprenticeship Academy is based in Victoria House in Taunton.

The company set up in 2016 in Bristol but with an increase in need within the Somerset area the Co-Founder Carina Bush said *"We've been panning the move into Somerset for some time due to a real need for providers in the area. The more rural areas of the Southwest tend to have less apprenticeships offered, and we plan to change that in Somerset. We will be raising the profile of apprenticeships for both employers and apprentices alike"*.

If you would like more information then please contact Director and Co-founder Adam Rooke on 0117 422 4000 or alternatively email info@professionalapprenticeships.co.uk



WHITE FINANCIAL SERVICES

White Financial Services was launched in May 2013 with a vision to offer a bespoke Mortgage Broker service and create a culture that is service driven, always ensuring our advice is best suited to each client.

We provide Independent advice on all types of Mortgage Finance in both mainstream and specialist lending areas such as Complex Income Types, Fixed Term Contractors, Self Employed, Limited Company Directors, Investment Properties (Buy to Lets) for personal and SPV/Limited Company ownership, Ex-Pats and Older Borrowers.

Independent advice means that we have no restrictions when researching the market to obtain the most cost effective solution. We work for the client and the advice we provide has been tailored to their circumstances and requirements, ensuring they have the very best advice with access to market leading rates.

Our ethos is to arrange suitable Mortgage lending to those who can afford it at all times. We therefore also arrange suitable protection cover for borrowers to protect their Mortgage debt against unforeseen circumstances such as death, critical illnesses, long term health complications and disability.

We provide an initial consultation free of charge and we are committed to ensuring that we only work with those where we feel we can add value.

We are also very proud to have been listed in the VouchedFor guide to top rated advisors as seen in the Times for 2016, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

We are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, members of Society of Mortgage Professionals and Association of Mortgage Intermediaries.



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I am a coach specialising in Executive and Life Coaching along with Nutritional Advice. To become our best self, we need a balance of all three. Why nutrition? Because what we eat not only feeds our bodies, it fuels our brains as well. Good nutrition makes us better at work and home.



Who I help

Are you a busy professional or small business owner looking to increase momentum in your business growth?

Are you interested in growing towards your best self in your personal life as well as at work?

Do you have an interest in the role that food plays in how well we work?
Then I can help you

How I help

I provide accountability and speed up your success. My clients get a suite of tools to use in their business and home life to achieve their goals faster.

What my clients say

"Working with Jane is a real pleasure, and I always look forward to our meetings. She allows me to seamlessly blend threads of my work and home life as I find balance and confidence for my new unfolding professional life, which is both exciting and reassuring! She is part of my journey, and I'm all the better for it." Mo

FREE RESOURCES

Access free slide decks, interviews and follow my fortnightly podcasts and blogs at www.janePhillipsCoaching.co.uk

Book online at
www.janePhillipsCoaching.co.uk
Or get in touch:
jane@janePhillipsCoaching.co.uk



**CMT Services is very excited to be opening
up in Taunton once again!**

We have been operating in Taunton as a Training and learning centre for 12 years, providing upskilling opportunities for the employed and unemployed – offering;

- Health and Safety
- Environmental
- Food Hygiene
- Warehousing
- Fork Lift
- Construction
- CMT deliver courses in-house, or in our scheduled courses.

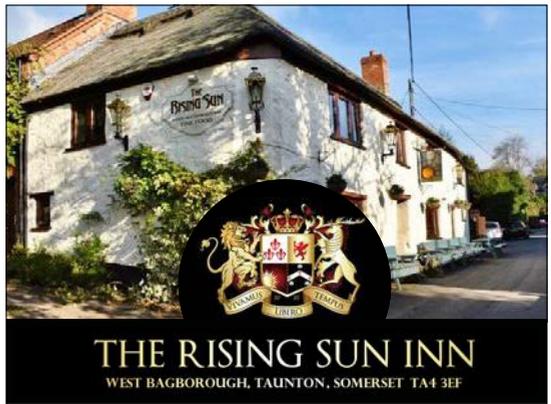
We also offer Maths, English, Digital Skills, ECDL and many more qualifications.

We are proud to be one of the top 3 providers of training to the Unemployed in the southwest, with exceptional service levels.

We also provide Careers Information Advice and Guidance, and are very pleased to be continually headhunted for contracts across the southwest.

Our new centre will be opening to the public in late June. Here, we will offer Corporate Training, Careers Advice (through the National Careers Service Contract) as well as on-line learning. In addition to this, we will also be able to offer our new services of training unemployed individuals with skills required by Companies post Covid. We are looking forward to helping businesses solve their unemployment needs and benefiting the people of Taunton, and Employers alike!

In order to facilitate this, we will be looking to recruit new staff to deliver this, so please do check out our website for job availability!



The Rising Sun Inn is believed to have been first licensed in 1573, and Michelle & Paul Fabian are delighted to take their part in history as the new custodians of West Bagboroughs famous pub. Its new Latin slogan is “Vivamus Libero Tempus”, translated “Time to Live Free”.

The couple’s vision is to return The Rising Sun Inn to a quintessentially classic British country pub by taking traditional pub cuisine to new levels of culinary excellence, taste and value for money. Whilst the new classic menu will be complemented and paired with a fresh selection of local and international wines, Michelle and Paul are fully committed to maintaining and delivering a warm and welcoming level of service to each and every patron and will continue to serve the popular local ales, lagers and ciders that The Rising Sun has become famous for.

Some further enhancements to the Rising Sun menu will also include a new and varied selection of kids meals, vegetarian and vegan menu, along with light-bites and some healthy snack options and, lets not to forget, the new doggie menu for our four-legged family members who are always welcome.

The Rising Sun Inn’s new opening hours will be 7days a week for coffee, tea & breakfast, lunch and dinner, with the bar opening at 1200 noon every day. An exclusive “bubble and an afternoon Tea” for the ladies will also be offered from Wed to Sat.

However, Michelle and Paul are most looking forward to meeting their fellow members of the Taunton Chamber of Commerce and becoming part of the team. Working with all fellow local business owners, suppliers, and producers will always remain their priority to ensure the local area’s growth and promotion.



Talking Stick Global is a family business based in the village of North Petherton just off junction 24. Founded by Marc Reading, the company was started in 2006 as a sales and marketing company that represents safari lodges, boutique hotels and hotel chains in Southern Africa, East Africa, and India. Effectively a middleman between them and the travel agents in the UK. Relocating from Dubai, David (Marc's son) and Digital Marketing Manager partner Zoey have recently put to plan their expansion of Talking Stick. With Zoey's skills and the change in consumer buying trends they expanded the portfolio of Talking Stick Global and launched Talking Stick Digital.

Talking Stick Digital is still a family run business based in Bridgwater with an office of 5 team members after just 10 months of trading looking after B2B and B2C companies. Their client portfolio ranges from a investment management, beauty products, protein, 2-way radios & Wi-Fi provider, retail, e-commerce, tour operators and more.

If you're a start-up there is limited data available, we test the water on specific platforms and see what drives interest, we then build a strategy around that to gather more relevant data for maximum results. If you are a mid-level business looking to take the next steps for further development, we delve into past data and performance and see what makes you tick and what does not. If you are a multinational company, we work closely with your team to put a strategic digital marketing plan to scale your underperforming campaigns and expand on your successes.

The global business market has changed dramatically in the last 12 months and we are continuing to evolve to provide the best support and marketing for all our clients.

talkingstickglobal.com | talkingstickdigital.com

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Member Good News



AppleFM is your local Community Radio Station broadcasting on 97.3FM but you can also listen online, smart speaker or our dedicated APP, available on IOS or Android. Run entirely by volunteers broadcasting around the clock we have the widest selection of shows to entertain, from Country Music on a Tuesday evening to HipHop on a Thursday evening, from Golden Oldies at Lunchtime to Kick Up The 80's on a Friday night, plus weekdays there is Breakfast and Drive keeping you up to date with local news, weather and travel.

We are here for the community and want to get involved with promoting local charities, get in touch to promote your cause we can offer free exposure with an interview where you can talk directly to the community.

We are also here for the business community of Taunton working closely with the Chamber offering sponsorship or advertising packages in a variety of lengths to suit budgets and campaigns, if your budget for advertising

does not match our prices, talk to us.
Contact: sales@applefm.co.uk

If you would like to join us, as a presenter, help run our website or social media, help in the background or with fundraising we are always looking for new members please contact us
hr@applefm.co.uk

You can also follow us in Facebook, Twitter and Instagram just search @AppleFMTaunton



Teresa Wort

Teresa Wort Qualified Mindfulness and Compassion Teacher and fellow Taunton Chamber of Commerce member business is very excited to be joining Apple FM on 1st March presenting weekly, **The Mindful Monday Show from 8pm - 10pm**. A mixture of Mindfulness and Compassion, meditation, wellbeing and relaxing music plus interviews with someone local from the world of business, charity, wellbeing therapists and clubs.



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WORD GETS AROUND

CELEBRATE 10 YEARS IN BUSINESS!



With their successful proven track record, they revel in steering companies to market themselves more effectively. As graphic designers, marketeers, magazine publishers, print experts, and event hosts they have launched, promoted and advised many other companies to achieve success.

Director Paul Smith has now been a graphic designer for over 25 years and started his business working from home in 2011. Paul threw himself into business networking and quickly realised the value. Later that year he launched the very successful Word Gets Around Networking, to offer support to the Somerset business community.

In December 2014 it became a family business, as Paul's father Clive joined to launch their community magazine in Taunton. They then launched their very successful sister magazine into West Somerset in 2018.

In November Paul fulfilled a lifelong dream to become a lecturer, at his former college at Bridgwater & Taunton College. This part time role allows him to grow Word Get Around and also inspire the next generation.

Paul said *"We would like to thank everyone who has played their part in our success with their support, inspiration and friendship"*.

They now have an office in a beautiful setting at Hestercombe Gardens and will be hosting a celebration networking event later in the year, once safe to do so, with details to follow.

**Paul & Clive Smith | info@wordgetsaround.co.uk | www.wordgetsaround.co.uk
T: 01823 765045 M: 07779 608482**



Taunton Chamber of Commerce members Copper Dot Digital have launched a brand new project! Carrier Pigeon is a versatile advertising platform which will offer interactive advertising screens located across Taunton town centre (coming May 2021). They are delighted to announce that Taunton Town FC will host the first of over 20 screens to be installed across the town centre during 2021.

It would be fantastic to see Taunton Chamber members supporting this local business initiative, helping the club survive whilst crowds

are not in the stadium as well as support the improvements of our local high street. And with this in mind, Taunton Town FC and Carrier Pigeon are inviting Taunton Chamber members to take advantage of an exclusive early bird offer!

Taunton Town FC and Carrier Pigeon are offering a 20% reduction on your first 2 weeks advertising via the Taunton Town FC digital advertising screen, which will be facing the main road (Lisieux Way/ Wordsworth Drive) outside the stadium. For just £8 per week you will be able to market your company on our digital notice board.

To sign up please fill out this short form <https://forms.gle/Mu2g5B1mDXKAvDQy9>, or you can Register through the website: www.carrier-pigeon.co.uk. For planning reasons we can only accept image based adverts so no video please.

If you would like to know more about Carrier Pigeon and how it will help Taunton, there will be a talk held by Copper Dot Digital MD Oliver Pyle-Santini on March 2nd at 1pm - to register please use the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/140135979487>

Taunton Update

FROM REBECCA POW MP



As your MP it has been more important than ever during this unusual, lockdown year, that I keep in constant touch with constituents, businesses and local stakeholders and given that getting out for personal visits is difficult my staff and I do this via email, phone and Zoom calls with individuals and groups. I then feedback concerns directly to Ministers as appropriate. This liaison has helped to secure some significant funds for Taunton Deane including £1.5m for a range of heritage and cultural facilities including The Brewhouse, Hestercombe Gardens Trust, Wellington Monument restoration project, funds for the homeless, for domestic abuse and £14m to deliver Highstreet transformation. I also secured £5m for the new Digital Hub on Firepool and funding to complete infrastructure at the Rail Station. All these funds will secure and protect jobs and create vital new opportunities.

A priority has also been making the case to Treasury colleagues that local businesses need the business rates holiday and the temporary reduction in VAT for hospitality and tourism businesses extended. Colin Barrell, has made this case vociferously for the Taunton Chamber.

Recently I have had Zoom meetings with the Somerset Youth Parliament; Somerset Young Farmers, head teachers from schools across Taunton Deane and pupils at Richard Huish College and Taunton & Bridgwater College to understand their experiences of lockdown and to work on ideas for the future.

Throughout the pandemic I have worked closely with Somerset County Council and the Public Health England team, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, the district council and Avon & Somerset Police and our hardworking teachers (all deserve huge praise.) I feed back to Health Ministers constantly to assist delivery on the ground here. With the vaccine rollout progressing well across Somerset I am now working with Government on the next phase that will enable us to transition to a more normal life.

For regular updates please sign up to my fortnightly e-bulletin through my website www.rebeccapow.org.uk/ and see my fortnightly column in the Gazette and Wellington Weekly.



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sally@designbean.co.uk



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Mother's Day 14th March

Click and Collect High Tea

£15 per person



Selection
Hamper £25



Gift Vouchers from £5

For more details call 01823 322288

Open Mon-Sun 9am-2pm

High Tea pre-order only by 10th March

Collection Sat 13th or Sun 14th

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Member Directory

360 South West	Eden May	Portt & Co
A C Mole & Sons	Elevate Business Performance	Professional Apprenticeships
A1 Ace Taxis	Emerald First Aid Training Ltd	Professional Cloud Solutions
Albert Goodman	Everyys, Solicitors	Prosperity Consulting
Alder King Consultant Surveyors	E White & Son (Taunton) Ltd	Purely Personal Marketing
Apple FM	Gaines Supplies Ltd	Quantock Ecology Ltd
Arditti Carpets	Genius PR & Events	Richard Huish College
A & T Refurbished Refrigeration	Green Door People Development	Rising Sun, West Bagborough
Auditel	Go Create	Simply SIG
Barclays Business, Taunton	Great Western Hotel	SkyMark Financial
Bath Place Traders Association	Greenslade Taylor Hunt	Somerset County Cricket Club
Blackdown Financial	Gurds Menswear	Somerset Jobs
Blue Penguin Chartered Accountants	Hatfield White Ltd	Somerset Web Services
Bredons Sewing Machine Centre	Hickleys Ltd	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Brewhouse Theatre & Arts Centre	Imperial Finishes Antiques & Restoration	South West Property Reports
Bridgwater & Taunton College	Inspiration Engine Ltd	SPAEDA Arts Education
Broomhead & Saul Solicitors	Introtweet Ltd	SRD Technology UK
Buses of Somerset	Jane Phillips Coaching Ltd	Stantec
Calvert's (Taunton) Ltd	J P Gainsford Associates Ltd	Stella Creations
Carly Press	Jo Pavey Insurance	Summerfield Devts SW Ltd
Castle Hotel (Taunton) Ltd	Judith Goss Florist	Tacchi Morris Arts Centre
Cherwyn Developments Ltd	Julia Ngapo Business Coaching	Talking Stick Global & Digital
CICCIC	Lentells Chartered Accountants	Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club
Citizens Advice Taunton	Little Wine Shop & Social Wine Bar	Taunton & Somerset Armed
Clarke Willmott	Love Lifestyle	Forces Day Group
Clean Footprints Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning	Mailboxes (Taunton) Etc	Taunton Life App
Cleaning Solutions UK	Mango Tree Restaurant	Taunton Mortgage Centre
CMT Services Ltd	Maven Marketing	Taunton Team Chaplaincy Trust
Company Spaces	Mayfayre Financial	Tone FM & Tone News
Cooper Associates	Mecca Bingo Taunton	Townley Insurance Brokers Ltd
Copper Dot Digital	Michael Spiers Jewellers	Teresa Wort Mindfulness and Compassion Teacher
Corner House Hotel	Milsted Langdon	Timeforge
County Walk Shopping Centre	Moore Scarrott Limited	Warrior Communications Ltd
Crescent Funeral Services	Mr Miles Tearoom	White Financial Services
Croft Animation & Accommodation Atalier	New Leaf Workplace Wellbeing	White Knight Marketing
Cullen's Catering	OD Talent Solutions	Whittlesea Mortgages
Daffodil PR & Communications	Omnia Business Management	Wig & Hair Clinic Taunton
Design Bean	Orchard Shopping Centre	Wilkins Safety Group Ltd
Design Hive	Outposts Limited	Word Gets Around Magazines
Dirt Clean Industrial & Commercial Cleaning	Pardoes Solicitors LLP	Worldpay South West
Dyslexia 4 Adults	Pearce Practice, Architects	Worshipful Mayor of Taunton
	PKF Francis Clark	You'll Know When You Get There
	Porter Dodson	Zest Payroll Ltd

Taunton Chamber of Commerce are committed to support you as the positive voice in our Taunton Deane Business Community.

Call: 01823 230898 **Email:** office@taunton-chamber.co.uk

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