

JULY & AUGUST 2021

# CHAMBER CHATTER

*by local business, for local business*

Offering support to help your business recover and grow

## IN THIS EDITION...

- Meet our newest member of the Taunton Chamber volunteer Executive Committee
- Sign up for the exciting face to face events we have planned for September: informal opportunities for you to reconnect with the local business community
- Read about the fantastic local businesses who have recently joined Taunton Chamber and catch up with good news from across our membership.

**TAUNTONTOGETHER.CO.UK**





# Welcome on board

## Lucy Hawkins joins Taunton Chamber Executive Committee

Taunton Chamber of Commerce President Adam Townley and the Executives are delighted to announce that Lucy Hawkins has joined the Committee this month. Lucy will bring added enthusiasm to the work of the Executive, and will enable Taunton Chamber to strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with the local education sector.

Members will remember that at our recent online AGM at the end of April, Adam talked about the opportunities for members of our business community to join the Executive, to ensure a wide representation of business size and sector, so it is especially pleasing that Lucy has come forward.



“

*Lucy says: "I am a Business & Relationship Manager at Bridgwater and Taunton College. I work with a variety of organisations, both on a local and national scale, to support their training needs, particularly within apprenticeships. I also oversee our business development and sales activity across the team. I am delighted to be part of the Taunton Chamber as I am passionate about supporting local businesses; it will be great to understand how the College can further support our local community and the organisations within it"*

If you would like the opportunity to become more involved in the direction of the Taunton Chamber and its work, please contact Adam  
[president@taunton-chamber.co.uk](mailto:president@taunton-chamber.co.uk)

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](mailto:office@taunton-chamber.co.uk)

# Upcoming Events

Whilst we will still be taking our usual break from events over the summer period, members do have the opportunity to join us online for a midweek cuppa and chat on **28th July & 25th**

**August at 11am: for our Chamber Chatter LIVE - Wednesday Wins session.** No pitches, no formal introductions just a great chance to catch up with what's new in the local business community and to meet some of the people behind our wonderful local firms - have your cuppa and biscuits ready!

## September Welcome Back events

We know that members have been looking forward to the return of face to face events, and that many of the businesses joining us in 2020/2021 have not yet had the chance to meet everyone in person. That's why we are delighted to announce the following events for September, giving everyone the opportunity to make and re-establish contacts (as well as enjoying some delicious food!)

**Friday 10th September 8am - 9.30am**

**BREAKFAST AT MR MILES TEAROOMS**

**£9 PER TICKET**

Join us for relaxed breakfast and have the opportunity to meet up with new and familiar faces from the local business community. Choose from a selection of Mr Miles' famously good breakfast options when you book, plus your choice of Mr Miles' signature drinks.

**Thursday 30th September 6pm - 8:30pm**

**PIE & PINT NIGHT AT VIVARY GOLF CLUB**

**£9 PER TICKET**

Cullen's Catering, who run the golf clubhouse at Vivary Park have a great reputation for hospitality and delicious dishes. Choose from a selection of Jackie's homemade pies when you book and your first drink at the bar is included too. This will be a great chance to 'wind down the week' and make some new business connections at the same time.



To celebrate the return to face to face networking and business events, we are delighted to offer these Taunton Chamber of Commerce members event at a subsidised rate. A maximum of 2 tickets are bookable per member business.

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

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/taunton-chamber-of-commerce-15354648391](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/taunton-chamber-of-commerce-15354648391)

Scan here



# WELCOME TO OUR New Members



**Amanda-Louise Knight works with clients ensuring their event is memorable for all the right reasons!**

My aim is to make wedding days be one to remember for a long time filled with celebration and wishes for the future. Specialising in high end venue weddings or exquisite outdoor locations, I create traditional with a modern fresh feel weddings, and renewal of vows, with an abundance of love and laughter, importantly bringing people together and involving them.

**Celebrant of Distinction** - passionate about 'your story', as a creative writer I love to curate ceremonies that lift off the page and visual elements not seen before. From baby namings, weddings, renewal of vows, and funerals.

**Independent Wedding Planner** - I source venues and suppliers for busy couples, giving them time to enjoy while I focus on project management and even, on the day, take the heat 'off your shoulders'.

**Master of Ceremonies** - As a former public speaker trained by the BBC, I compere at receptions and events, ensuring announcements made with warmth and charm!

**Are you a dog lover** - there's no better way to love your dog than to invite them as honorary guest or part of ceremony. My team arranges dog collection, chaperone and board ensuring your furry friend is well cared for whilst being part of the fun.

**Training courses** are delivered helping increase confidence when speaking in public.

Having a wealth of experience in these areas, I also work with venues on a consultancy basis helping them increase enquiries into sales.

[www.alkcelebrant.co.uk](http://www.alkcelebrant.co.uk) | 07879 220046  
[hello@alkcelebrant.co.uk](mailto:hello@alkcelebrant.co.uk)

# costgard

**YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS UTILITIES EXPERTS**

**Did you know that many businesses in the UK still pay over the odds for their UK business utilities?**

With over 20 years' experience in the UK business utilities industry, costgard will ensure that you can take advantage of the best prices, services and suppliers out there. Not only can we save your business money, but we also monitor the accounts for you, saving you both time and hassle. We support businesses all over the UK in finding the right commercial utilities supplier for them.

Our knowledge of the constantly changing UK business utilities market gives us the best grounding to support your business in switching to more beneficial contracts.

We have strong relationships with most UK business utilities suppliers to ensure that we can offer you the best packages, prices and services. We can help you avoid the impact of rising commercial utilities prices, and we do not charge you a management fee, nor take a share of your savings as our commission is included in the rates we achieve.

There is a UK commitment to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 and we can help businesses benchmark their carbon footprint and set about reducing their emissions.

We know there's a lot to consider when choosing suppliers, so we work with you to find the ones best suited for your business - but we don't stop there! We are your point of contact for any queries. It couldn't be simpler.

[maria@costgard.co.uk](mailto:maria@costgard.co.uk)  
[www.costgard.co.uk](http://www.costgard.co.uk)



**"In an unstable world, we believe in a safer future by providing stability and peace of mind to our clients and their people so that they can focus on what they do best."**

Cerberus Consultancy is a Security, Risk and Investigations consultancy based in Taunton operating on local, national, and international projects. Our aim is to create continued, sustainable business partnerships by providing highly professional services, advice and support, and ensure that our clients risk exposure is minimised so they can focus on their business growth, innovation, and goals.

Our consultants are qualified specialists within the industry, utilising a wealth of experience from the public and private sector when providing solutions for you. With fluency in dealing with a broad range of clients, from private individuals to corporate markets including the Diplomatic, Oil & Gas and Legal sectors.

We offer solutions for our clients in the following areas:

#### **Security & Risk**

- Security Risk Management
- Threat Assessments
- Security Surveys
- Personal & Travel Security

#### **Investigations:**

- Private Investigations
- Surveillance
- Workplace & Accident Investigations
- Person Tracing
- Legal Support

If you are interested in our services and what value we can add to your business through risk reduction and mitigation for you, your assets, your reputation and most importantly your staff, please contact us on:

[info@cerberus-consultancy.com](mailto:info@cerberus-consultancy.com)

01823 740071

[www.cerberus-consultancy.com](http://www.cerberus-consultancy.com)



**"We are driving a revolution in the way people view mobility products, one scooter or power chair at a time!"**

**Although Making Life Easier has been based in Taunton for 35 years, for many, it is the sort of business you only really find out about, when you absolutely cannot go on without it. However, we are about to change all that!**

Making life Easier has a vision to start a revolution to brighten up mobility products and start a conversation about needing help.

I'm Lizzie Biggs; wife, mother of four and owner of MLE. I come from a large family and have been surrounded by elderly relatives my whole life. Therefore, I know that we are in denial and often start talking about needing help, well past the point help was first needed. When we need assistance with day-to-day activities, due to a physical impairment, we find there are so many "workarounds".

When I look back at my own father's life, I wish I had known about the products available to make his life easier. I wish I had known then, what I know now, about mobility scooters, power chairs, rollators, bath lifts, walking aids, rise and recline chairs, profiling beds and much, much more. I know about them now and I want you to know about them too.

Our many years of experience enable us to guide you to the best solutions for your individual needs. We are very proud of our reputation for exceptional customer service. We really do mean it when we say you can try before you buy.

Making Life Easier is determined to be involved in the local community. We want to be the first place you think of should you ever need help with mobility or disability issues.

**We look forward to welcoming you to the showroom soon!**

01823 335 505 | [info@mlesomerset.co.uk](mailto:info@mlesomerset.co.uk)

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



**I started Surveys with Altitude in late 2020 during the height of the lockdown as a future project to add to my Construction Consultancy Practice.**

I have been involved in Quantity Surveying and Construction Management for longer than I care to remember (and sometimes longer than I can remember) and have always (tried) to maintain a currency with tech that can assist with my profession, or as my wife and daughter put it "It's just an excuse to extend the collection of big boy's toys". So harsh.

Anyway, despite this amazing support, I undertook various online studies to achieve the A2 C of C qualification and, following a successful practical exam, the GVC qualification.

#### **Basically, I can fly wee drones and big ones!**

The "current fleet" comprises a Mavic Air 2 (small with a great camera for those awkward places); a Parrot Anafi Thermal (small again with a dual camera for photography and thermal imaging) and a Yuneec H520E (hexacopter for larger jobs and surveys: it's bright orange and I call it BOB).

Whilst the above introduction is written in a light-hearted manner, I take the requirements of safety, preparation and flying very seriously. Flying drones safely and correctly is highly regulated by the CAA and I follow the regulatory requirements at all times.

Here are couple of shots to show what can be safely achieved and welcome any enquiries that you may have.

It's a pleasure to be a member of the Taunton Chamber of Commerce.



**I can be contacted on 07799 480162  
or jim@surveyswithaltitude.co.uk**



#### **WE WILL DAZZLE YOU**

We manage each and every clean with the skill, experience and reliability our clients have come to expect and love in an industry where this falls short. We stand proudly behind the quality of our work, with customer satisfaction being our top priority.

Our team of 'Dazzlers' are all employed, fully trained, insured, DBS Checked. Following health and safety guidelines and are COVID-19 Compliant. We take pride and comfort that we 100% self regulate our business, ensuring we are fully compliant and have the welfare of our team and clients at heart.

#### **Domestic Cleaning**

We offer personalised one-off or regular cleaning of your home, tailored to your requirements. Conscious of our environment? Here at Poppy Dazzlers, we are able to provide eco-friendly/green cleaning using our industry leading green range. All products and equipment are supplied, hourly rates apply.

#### **Commercial Cleaning Services**

Providing a clean office environment is a key component of a modern, effective organisation. Cleanliness is of paramount importance to a company's brand persona and client perception. A major role to play for employee health and well-being and can directly influence productivity through the prevention of absences from work. We offer an ad-hoc or regular service, personalised to your own requirements and business hours.

#### **We also dazzle with:**

- End of Tenancy Cleans
- Holiday Let Changeover Cleans
- Carpet Cleaning
- Decluttering Service

We are a proud business partner of Shop Somerset, and are working with a number of Chamber members - we are delighted to have joined Taunton Chamber of Commerce.

**Call 0345 222 0185, text us on 07511 601238  
or email: [hello@poppydazzlers.co.uk](mailto:hello@poppydazzlers.co.uk)  
[www.poppydazzlers.co.uk](http://www.poppydazzlers.co.uk)**



## OUR STORY

**It all began  
with a bar...**

**We are Bobs and Suze, based in Taunton in the heart of beautiful Somerset. We make artisan pizza baked in our mobile, wood fired pizza oven, at events and private functions in and around the South West.**

We believe in good food and make everything ourselves using fresh, quality ingredients which are locally and sustainably sourced wherever possible.

Our business is founded on ethical and environmental principles and we work with suppliers who share our vision.

Our pizza trailer was built using mostly upcycled and recycled materials, large parts of the trailer and stainless steel began their lives as parts of caravans before being transformed into our fabulous wood fired oven.

### Why the Name?

Stone Artisan Pizza is named after a bar that we used to frequent; it was a simple bar with a projector screen on one wall and long wooden benches that promoted easy conversation. It had a little pizza oven in one corner from which they used to produce a steady stream of high quality food that fuelled many a nights drinking with great friends into the small hours. Sadly that bar no longer exists but we remember that bar with fondness and we aim to honour their memory!

**Bobs & Suze at  
STONE ARTISAN PIZZA  
[www.stoneartisanpizza.co.uk](http://www.stoneartisanpizza.co.uk)**



# TOWNSEND

LETTING & MANAGEMENT

**We are one of Taunton's leading specialist property letting and management agents and take great pride in giving outstanding customer service with a personal touch. We are an independent company with no sales distractions meaning our clients benefit from 100% of our attention throughout their property journey...**

We firmly believe in the importance of regulation and by being a licensed member of ARLA Propertymark – the Association of Residential Letting Agents – it gives both tenants and landlords peace of mind that they are dealing with a regulated agent they can trust. We are also a member of the Property Redress Scheme (PRS) and subscribe to their code of practice for Letting Agents. Both of these memberships ensure we offer a professional service of the highest standard and help us act with integrity and care.

Jane Townsend, Managing Director, has over 34 years' experience in all aspects of the residential property market. Due to her long experience with the rental market, she is available to provide invaluable information on the best type of property purchase to ensure landlords make the most objective business decision when looking to invest. Nick Townsend, Jane's husband, is on hand to both landlords and tenants to answer any queries, ranging from day to day maintenance works, to offering advice on refurbishment, obtaining quotes for complete renovation and overseeing works to completion. They also have a great team of supporting staff and trusted contractors to deliver what they say they will.

### Two recent Google reviews:

*'We would happily recommend Townsend Lettings to any property owners. Since the original instructions everything has run smoothly - we are kept fully up to date - and the supporting documentation (accounts/charges/income/tax etc) is hugely helpful. Experience counts!'*

*'I can highly recommend Townsend Lettings. They are incredibly efficient and helpful. Heads above any of the other Letting Agents. I feel I can relax and trust them to look after the needs of the tenants and myself.'*

**16 Bridge Street, Taunton, TA1 1UB  
01823 257 400  
[www.townsend-property.co.uk](http://www.townsend-property.co.uk)**

# Member Good News

## MEMBERS JACKIE & ED CULLEN RECEIVE SOMERSET MEDAL

The Somerset Medal was launched by Somerset County Council to say a heartfelt thank you to the 'best of the best' unsung heroes in the Somerset community – with the winners announced as the county celebrated #SomersetDay in May.

SCC had the following to say about the reasoning behind the Cullen's award: "Ed and Jackie Cullen made the facilities of their catering business available to provide Sunday lunches for the housebound, initially funding free meals themselves and then working in partnership with organisations such as Taunton Rotary Club to provide meals funded by donations. They



**CULLEN'S**  
EVENT BAR  
& CATERING



partnered with Home Instead care providers to ensure that older people had a Christmas meal delivered and helped promote their Easter egg appeal. They have ensured that veterans have both received meals and helped deliver them to others. Ed and Jackie are rightly and richly deserving of public recognition"

For a full list of winners, visit;  
<https://somersetnewsroom.com/2021/05/11/unsung-heroes-of-the-pandemic-honoured-with-somerset-medal/>

## MEMBERS PKF FRANCIS CLARK LAUNCH NEW PODCAST 'BUSINESS NOODLES AND DOODLES'

Taunton Chamber of Commerce members PKF Francis Clark are fascinated by business people and what makes them tick.

In their brand new Noodles & Doodles podcasts, they meet entrepreneurs and business leaders with interesting stories to tell.

In each episode, Mark Greaves, corporate finance partner at PKF Francis Clark, talks to someone who has built a successful business,

finding out what drives them and what they have learned from the challenges they faced along the way.

Whether you're an aspiring entrepreneur or simply interested in the world of business, we think you'll enjoy listening to their stories.

Catch up with the latest episode and details of what's coming soon here: <https://podcasts.pkf-francisclark.co.uk/>

## Business Noodles and Doodles

Our monthly podcast where we talk to business leaders

Brought to you by

**PKF  
FRANCIS  
CLARK**  
Shared Ambition





## WORD GETS AROUND



## CHAMBER CREATIVES COLLABORATE!

Last November saw graphic designer **Paul Smith from Word Gets Around** take on a new role as part-time Associate Lecturer at Bridgwater & Taunton College. He joined the team to offer closer links to industry for the students and brings over 20 years experience in design and marketing with him. Paul is a former student himself and although he has been working with the college for several years now this is a more permanent position working with the 3rd year BA Graphic Media and Communication students.

As their degree came to fruition students are required to carry out a Viva Vosa Presentations. Paul used his new role to invite along fellow graphic designer and Chamber member **Sally Maidment from Design Bean** for the afternoon

on 27th May. The students had 15 minutes for the presentation of their work and were then asked questions from Paul and Sally. The aim is for them to share their work and be able to confidently deal with questions and conversation around graphic design and associated themes and issues.

The presentations were recorded and form part of their overall grade for assessment.

Sally really enjoyed the experience and said;  
*"It was a real eye-opener to see the new talent we have here in Taunton. I was chuffed to be asked along by Paul - thank you!"*

The students are now looking for their first design position where their ideas can really flourish.

## CHAMBER MEMBERS CITIZENS ADVICE TAUNTON WORK HARD TO BE READY TO RE-OFFER FACE TO FACE SUPPORT

An enormous amount of thought and preparation has gone into making St Mary's House, the base of Taunton Chamber of Commerce members Citizens Advice Taunton, compliant with coronavirus best-practice.

### Measures to ensure safety include:

- Modifications to the Interview Rooms - clients and advisors will be in adjacent rooms, separated by a glass panel and communication via a hatch or if needed conference call. Interview rooms have new UV-C machines for air purification.
- All entrances have hand sanitiser stations, government advice posters and are controlled to ensure 2m social distancing.
- Temperature sensors are available to record body temperatures of clients as well as volunteers and paid staff if they wish as they arrive in the foyer. A track & trace QR code is displayed prominently. The reception area now has full screen separation from the entrance foyer.



citizens  
advice



- Paid and volunteer staff have completed individual risk assessments and discussed issues such as transport, shift start and finish times and expectations over maintaining social distance on stairs and in offices.
- Extensive consultations have been conducted with volunteers and paid staff.
- Our cleaner will complete additional shifts.

Jon Shoesmith CEO at Citizens Advice Taunton explains further: *"During the pandemic we delivered advice using Telephone and Email only, and found that we helped far more people than ever before. Because of this we will steer visitors those channels, and will only initially offer a first response via Face to Face contact for those that can't use the telephone and email channels"*

[www.citizensadvicetaunton.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicetaunton.org.uk)

Telephone Support - call 0808 278 7842 free-phone, open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm  
Online Support - complete our advice form at: <https://citizensadvicetaunton.org.uk/advice-form/>

# MEMBERS CARRIER PIGEON AND BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE COLLABORATE TO CREATE SOMETHING SPECIAL!



Local entrepreneur and MD of Taunton Chamber of Commerce members **Copper Dot Group**, **Oliver Pyle-Santini**, has engaged with both Bridgwater & Taunton and Exeter colleges to offer 5 Industry Placements to students studying the new Digital T-Level, that was launched in Autumn 2020. Taunton Chamber members since 2019, Copper Dot Group's Carrier Pigeon project is an interactive digital signage based advertising platform for independent and start up businesses in Taunton. We caught up with Oliver recently who had this to say about the students and their Industry Placements:

*"Our local colleges are an often overlooked resource in business and are often deemed 'too risky' due to the fear that teenagers can't be trusted with decisions or that they have no experience and could therefore 'break something' in our precious businesses. The students have been a breath of fresh air but more than that their level of understanding of the tech space is exceptional. Tech is all about dreaming and then being able to implement that into a practical environment"*

The students have helped Carrier Pigeon develop a unique product to assist student-led business via a digital signage based platform using the tools Carrier Pigeon's screens have given them, as well as what they have been taught at college. This has culminated in a fantastic platform for students to trial business ideas and get investment from their peers, all in a protected environment with little real world risk.

Oliver explains further:

*"Carrier Pigeon Entrepreneurs Edition, is an absolute game changer for colleges across the*

*country as it will give students a tangible platform to road test their ideas and dream businesses but to also get real world rewards."*

*"Passion and confidence are key in business and that's what I impart to 'my' students. They in turn have given me understanding of how the next generation will react to some of Carrier Pigeons more quirky concepts and have helped round these out so they are foundationally sound now. Bringing the colleges into the B2C + B2B world has been a fantastic experience for both the students and me and I can't wait to bring the projects we have worked on through to market over the next 12 months."*

Oliver summarises:

*"Working with the colleges has been a simple exercise in communication with catch up Teams calls and a couple of forms to fill out, really nothing to put off anyone with a work ethic. We should be proud of our local education providers for working as hard as they are to implement these initiatives, the Chamber fully supports these interactions and what we believe to be a fantastic building block for our children to help them gain the valuable experience necessary to grow into a working world and maybe even fix a few societal issues along the way?"*



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](mailto:office@taunton-chamber.co.uk)

[www.taunton-chamber.co.uk](http://www.taunton-chamber.co.uk)



# costgard

Through Covid times companies have, been perhaps keener than normal, to check they are receiving the best deal on their utilities. To keep on top of demand Costgard appointed an additional administrator, Gillian Jorge in January 2021.

Gillian headed to the UK, from Johannesburg, South Africa, mid pandemic, with her husband Bradley and settled in the South West with their two dogs, Hunter and Tuck.

Along with so many others, Costgard rapidly embraced home working. Bringing a new member on board meant the team used virtual meetings and calls to quickly build rapport.

Gillian says "Whilst new to the industry, I am loving learning and enjoy taking on challenges as they present. The whole team has been so welcoming. I look forward to my future in Somerset and at Costgard. I relish the opportunities the industry offers".

Maria O'Sullivan, Costgard MD said "*Gillian has risen to the challenges we face in the energy industry and is already a valued member of the team. It will be a joy for the whole team to meet all together soon. Gillian and Brad have certainly settled into the Somerset ways. Brad has even volunteered to help Costgard with fundraising for Ferne Animal Sanctuary with a parachute jump in August!*"

You can donate to their JustGiving page by clicking here:  
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BradandCostgard>



Image: Phil, one of our Level 2 HP Indigo Operators

## Quality Printing for 40 Years

"Whilst working for Summerfield Homes I have found Carly Press extremely efficient and the products they produce are superb. The service they have provided so far has been faultless and the staff are fabulously helpful. I would highly recommend them as a company"

Chloe, Summerfield Developments

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01823 667063

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

**carlypress**

## JUMPING BEAN

So after a year of lockdown, member Sally at Design Bean thought why not jump out of a perfectly good aeroplane... so that's what she is doing, and dragging her partner Craig in too!!!



But it's for a worth while cause, and jumping with Emma Green at Ferne also! Sally says;

"Craig and I (Sally / Sal Bean, Design Bean) will be part of a team completing a tandem parachute jump on 12th August this year to raise essential funds for Ferne Animal Sanctuary to care for animals in need. We will be jumping from 15,000ft (yikes!!) - and if I remember rightly, I am a little scared of heights!! But, it's for such a good cause we could not miss this, not after the last year!"

The last year has been incredibly difficult for charities and every single donation will help Ferne continue to provide a vital safety net for unwanted and abandoned animals. We need to raise £350 each, but whatever we don't raise we will top up from our own pockets. Wish us luck!!"

You can donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising-edit/skydivebean>

# DESIGN BEAN IS JUMPING FOR



Graphic design with a personal touch

## designbean.co.uk

sally@designbean.co.uk



graphic design.

branding.

print.

websites.



## MAIL BOXES ETC.

7 Bridge St. Taunton

Tel: 01823 322263

Email: info@mbetaunton.co.uk



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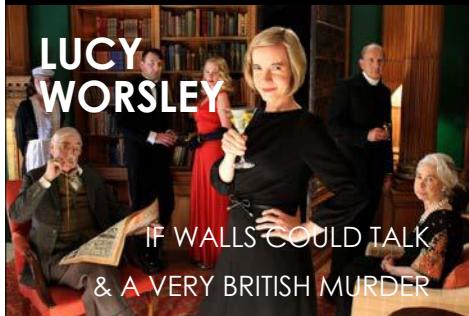
Mail Boxes Etc are proud to Sponsor  
Taunton Chamber of Commerce



# Tacchi-Morris

## ARTS CENTRE

COMING UP...



SUN 1 AUG, 2:30PM & 7:30PM

**TACCHI-MORRIS OPEN DAY**

**FREE and open to all the family!**

SAT 18 SEP, 12PM-3PM  
01823 414141 | tacchi-morris.com

### About us

We provide arts activities for the whole community hosting a busy programme of theatre, dance, music, comedy, exhibitions and community classes for all ages.

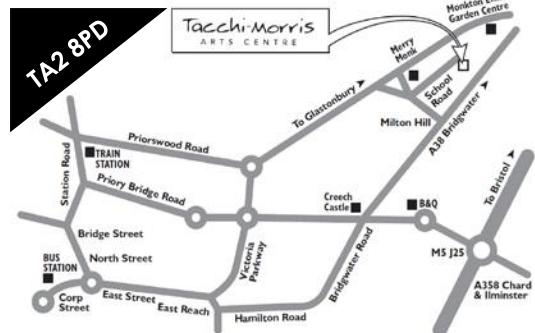
### Partnership/Sponsorship Opportunities

Working in partnership with Heathfield Community School, we are an organisation in the heart of our community. We are looking to explore ways we can work with businesses who would like to be aligned with the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre community.

### Conferencing/Meetings

We can accommodate a wide range of hire options including for conferencing and meetings. Hire includes technical support and ample free parking.

Interested? Email [andy@tacchi-morris.com](mailto:andy@tacchi-morris.com)



# How eco-friendly is your Taunton home?

eden  
may

For advice on your property and local market knowledge, call Jayne O'Brien at Eden May on 01823 478575 or email [hello@edenmay.co.uk](mailto:hello@edenmay.co.uk)

'It's Not Easy Being Green', was the song that Kermit sang on Sesame Street. Yet now being green is a normal way of life for most of us. Walking or cycling places instead of taking the car, recycling and even shunning meat are some of the things most Taunton households are trying to do their 'bit' for going green.

Our conduct may have improved but when it comes to our Taunton homes, there is still a long way to go. It is estimated around a fifth of carbon emissions come from home energy usage (nearly three quarters from heating and lighting). The country is releasing 37% less carbon into the atmosphere than in 1990, yet we have legally binding targets to hit 100% by 2050 - and the Committee on Climate Change has stated the UK will need to eradicate greenhouse gas emissions from homes to meet that target.

Landlords were hit first because since April 2018, the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) regulations with regards to eco-friendliness of the rental properties have required all rental properties to have a minimum Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of 'E' or above otherwise it is illegal to let out a property, bar a couple of exceptions. This has meant Taunton landlords have had to spend many thousands of pounds to improve their rental property's EPC rating (an EPC rating of 'A' being the best eco rating through to a 'G' for the worst - just like washing machine or fridge ratings).

But new Government plans could hit Taunton homeowners in the pocket as well.

The Government is planning to force banks and building societies to penalise people wanting a mortgage of draughty low-eco homes with an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of D or lower. For those properties not hitting the correct level of EPC rating, it is suggested some form of levy will be placed on the mortgage provider, who in turn will pass that on to the home buyers in the form of higher mortgage payments. Some are describing this charge as an 'eco-mortgage levy'.

Just under 6 in 10 (59.9%) homes in Somerset West and Taunton would be hit by this 'eco-mortgage

levy', thus potentially reducing the value of those homes.

Interesting when you compare this with the national average of 60.6%. In real numbers, 35,099 homeowners and landlords in our local authority area would either struggle to get a mortgage from a bank or building society or it would cost them more because they were a 'D' rating on their EPC or below.

## Looking at the EPC Register stats broken down for Somerset West and Taunton:

- 62 properties are classified as A
- 8,094 properties are classified as B
- 15,389 properties are classified as C
- 19,601 properties are classified as D
- 10,072 properties are classified as E
- 4,100 properties are classified as F
- 1,326 properties are classified as G

## So, what can Taunton homeowners and landlords do to improve their EPC rating?

Well surprisingly, it need not cost a lot to improve the EPC rating of your Taunton home. One of the most inexpensive ways to help improve your Taunton home's energy efficiency is low energy light bulbs with an estimated cost of just under £40 per UK property. Other efficiencies can be gained by insulating your hot water cylinder, draught proofing any single glazed windows, increasing your loft insulation and upgrading your central heating controls, all of which can be done for a total of around £750 to £850 per property.

If you want to know the EPC rating of your home, either google the phrase 'EPC register' or send me a message and I will find out for you.

Finally, as Kermit famously also said, "*Life's like a movie. Write your own ending*". If you are a Taunton homeowner or Taunton landlord, why not look at your property's EPC rating and look at the recommendations. You are going to have to spend the money sometime, so why not do it now and enjoy lower energy bills and when you come to sell, you won't be penalised ...a win-win situation for you and the planet?

# A SUMMER CELEBRATION OF ARTS AND INCLUSIVITY!

Follow Your Heart Trail \* LoveWINDOWs  
Yarnbombing \* Exhibitions  
Outdoor Arts and Installations  
Rainbow Pathway \* Hand Painted Flags

Plus Saturday 17th July

# Festival Day!

On-line and in person

Events from midday at

Goodlands Gardens

Brewhouse Theatre

Creative Innovation Centre

Mambo

(Limited live audiences at venues)

Events subject to official COVID guidelines



Visit [tauntonlive.co.uk](http://tauntonlive.co.uk) for booking information



Somerset West  
and Taunton



# Member Directory

360 South West	Design Hive	Poppy Dazzlers UK
45Red Remote Solutions	Dirt Clean Industrial	Porter Dodson
A C Mole & Sons	& Commercial Cleaning	Portt & Co
A1 Ace Taxis	Dyslexia 4 Adults	Professional Apprenticeships
Albert Goodman	Eden May	Professional Cloud Solutions
Alder King Consultant Surveyors	Elevate Business Performance	Prosperity Consulting
Amanda-Louise Knight Ceremonies	Emerald First Aid Training Ltd	Purely Personal Marketing
Apple FM	Everys, Solicitors	Quantock Ecology Ltd
Arditti Carpets	E White & Son (Taunton) Ltd	Richard Huish College
A & T Refurbished Refrigeration	Gaines Supplies Ltd	Rising Sun, West Bagborough
Auditel	Genius PR & Events	Simply SIG
Barclays Business, Taunton	Green Door People Development	SkyMark Financial
Bath Place Traders Association	Go Create	Somerset County Cricket Club
Blackdown Financial	Great Western Hotel	Somerset Design Studio
Blue Penguin Chartered Accountants	Greenslade Taylor Hunt	Somerset Jobs
Bredons Sewing Machine Centre	Gurds Menswear	Somerset Web Services
Brewhouse Theatre & Arts Centre	Hatfield White Ltd	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Bridgwater & Taunton College	Hickleys Ltd	South West Property Reports
Broomhead & Saul Solicitors	Imperial Finishes Antiques	SPAEDA Arts Education
Buses of Somerset	& Restoration	SRD Technology UK
Business Labels	Initiis Ltd t/a Vodafone	Stantec
CABiz Networking & Academy	Introtweet Ltd	Stella Creations
Calverts (Taunton) Ltd	Jane Phillips Coaching Ltd	Stone Artisan Pizza
Carly Press	J P Gainsford Associates Ltd	Summerfield Devts SW Ltd
Castle Hotel (Taunton) Ltd	Jo Pavey Insurance	Surveys with Altitude Ltd
Cerberus Consultancy	Judith Goss Florist	Tacchi Morris Arts Centre
Cherwyn Developments Ltd	Julia Ngapo Business Coaching	Talking Stick Global & Digital
Chokoletti	Little Wine Shop & Social Wine Bar	Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club
CICCIC	Love Lifestyle	Taunton & Somerset Armed Forces Day Group
Citizens Advice Taunton	Ma Cuisine Bar & Bistro	Taunton Life App
Clarke Willmott	Making Life Easier Ltd	Taunton Mortgage Centre
Clean Footprints Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning	Mailboxes (Taunton) Etc	Taunton Team Chaplaincy Trust
Cleaning Solutions UK	Mango Tree Restaurant	Tone FM & Tone News
CMT Services Ltd	Maven Marketing	Townley Insurance Brokers Ltd
Company Spaces	Mayfayre Financial	Townsend Letting & Management
Cooper Associates	Mecca Bingo Taunton	Teresa Wort Mindfulness & Compassion Teacher
Copper Dot Digital	Michael Spiers Jewellers	Timeforgo
Corner House Hotel	Milsted Langdon	Warrior Communications Ltd
Costgard Ltd	Moore Scarrott Limited	White Financial Services
County Walk Shopping Centre	Mr Miles Tearoom	White Knight Marketing
Crescent Funeral Services	New Leaf Workplace Wellbeing	Whittlesea Mortgages
Croft Animation &	OD Talent Solutions	Wig & Hair Clinic Taunton
Accommodation Atelier	Omnia Business Management	Wilkins Safety Group Ltd
Cullen's Catering	Orchard Shopping Centre	Word Gets Around Magazines
Daffodil PR & Communications	Outposts Limited	Worldpay South West
Design Bean	Pardoes Solicitors LLP	Worshipful Mayor of Taunton
	Pearce Practice, Architects	You'll Know When You Get There
	PKF Francis Clark	Zest Payroll Ltd

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