

TAUNTON
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

CHAMBER CHATTER

by local business. for local business

All the latest news from the Taunton business community

2023
NEW YEAR EDITION

In this edition...

- Read about the large number of fantastic local businesses who have recently joined Taunton Chamber
- Book your tickets for our upcoming events
- Catch up with good news from across our membership including a raft of wonderful award wins!

Cover photo taken by Beth Dua

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 **www.taunton-chamber.co.uk**

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2023

NEW YEAR EDITION

Happy New Year one and all!



I'm pleased to be writing this at the end of a fantastic 2022 for the Chamber, with many new members having joined us over the course of the year. Welcome to you all, both old and new!

It's clear that this growth in numbers is due to the opportunities for promotion that we are able to provide members, both here and on our active social media channels.

We have also proven to be a valuable knowledge-sharing resource. I hope you have been able to gain value from the regular informative emails Bethan has been able to cascade out to the membership.

I'm also pleased that 2022 saw us continue to strengthen our relations with key decision makers in the town, most obviously those at SW&T council who have kindly attended our committee meetings so that we could inform them of local issues and push for solutions to be actioned.

Some of our committee members were also able to meet with our local MP at Bridgwater and Taunton College recently which provided us with the opportunity to detail challenges facing the Construction, Hospitality and Further Education sectors. We will ensure that we continue to create even more opportunities to feed back to those making key decisions concerning the town in 2023.

Finally, we know many members appreciate the opportunities for networking that we provide with our regular Tech Breks and Cuppa and Cakes. We have these and more all lined up again in 2023 and I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible at these events over the coming year.

Adam Townley President



our mission

To design and print quality products, at fair prices,
with outstanding customer service, while focusing on
sustainability and reducing our impact on the environment.



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carlypress.co.uk

Join us at our 2023 Events

Don't miss out on the following opportunities across to meet with fellow members, make new connections and learn something new!



Join us for Cuppa & Cake

2nd February, 11am - 1pm, £8 per ticket

Join us in 2023 for our popular relaxed networking events at the **Great Western Hotel** - an easy stroll from the town centre and with parking nearby at Kilkenny Car Park.

A relaxed opportunity to enjoy delicious refreshments, catch up with all the latest from the local business community and to make some new connections at the same time.

Four new dates for 2023:

3rd April, 7th September, 2nd November.

NEW REARRANGED DATE!

TECH BREK



Microsoft 365 insights



25th January, 7.45am - 9.30am, £15.50

Come and find out all the latest Microsoft 365 tips with experts **SRD Technology UK** and enjoy networking over a hearty breakfast at the same time! Alongside the tech talk, there'll be plenty of opportunity to network as well as enjoy the delicious (traditional or vegetarian) Full English Breakfast that Mr Miles Tearooms is famous for!

Further breakfast dates for your 2023 diary:

21st March, 23rd May, 27th June,
3rd October, 28th November.

Save the date for the following popular Taunton Chamber events also returning for Spring 2023:

WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH:

Celebration of International Women's Day

THURSDAY 27TH APRIL:

Annual Cream Tea and AGM Event

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

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

scan here →



Many of our Taunton Chamber members hold regular events throughout the year - visit our online events calendar to see what is on offer:

www.taunton-chamber.co.uk/events

WELCOME TO OUR New Members

edventure



Edventure is energised by the vision of a society where all of its citizens have opportunity and agency; where people have meaningful livelihoods that enable them to make a positive contribution to their communities; where local people and organisations come together to tackle the issues that matter to them and build a positive future for people, place and planet.

Our passion for supporting community entrepreneurship through educational programmes, events, and partnership projects comes from its transformative impact on people and the places they live in. We provide a route to flourish and build livelihoods, skills and confidence, especially for those not engaged in mainstream education, work or looking for a career change.

We create practical solutions to both global challenges & local issues on the grassroots level, helping to build community resilience and the society we envision one venture at a time.

Edventure came to Taunton in 2022 and hopes to continue to build strong community roots and tap into existing networks.

building a
positive future
together

www.facebook.com/edventuretaunton



Berensens

SOLICITORS

We are a group of senior lawyers who have left the world of big law firms behind, in order to practice law in a new way; a way which offers you, our clients, better service and better value. We believe traditional law firms have become too expensive, too remote and too impersonal. Berensens Solicitors offers the best of old school service and respect, while at the same time being a highly efficient, modern law firm.

We opened our offices on the Crescent in Taunton in 2022, dedicated to offering the very highest levels of legal advice and customer service to clients in the locality. This may be dealing with the conveyancing for a property, administering an estate through the probate process, handling a dispute, providing advice following the breakdown of a relationship, or preparing wills, inheritance tax advice and powers of attorney.

Our first duty is to our clients, not our profit margin, and our first objective is to build strong, long-lasting relationships with local clients, their families and businesses, based on trust and integrity.

We look forward to meeting our fellow members of the Chamber in the year ahead. In the meantime, if you require our assistance then please contact us, and we can arrange an initial consultation.

www.berensens.co.uk



DRYAD GIN · Tree · Spirits

**CAPTURING THE SUBLIME BEAUTY
OF THE QUANTOCKS...**

Dryad Gin is very excited to be a new member of the Taunton Chamber of Commerce. We are a unique, small-batch Somerset gin made with majestic oak trees and infused with fragrant botanicals for a deliciously quaffable tippie rooted in natural mythology.

Our signature gin captures the sublime beauty of the Quantocks, from the wild, heather-soaked heathlands to the patchwork-like pastures where the gorse flowers bloom, making it the perfect gift for an authentic taste of Somerset.

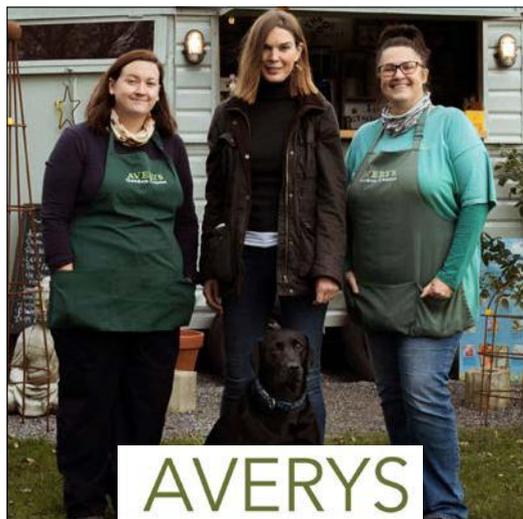
Inspired by the ethereal spirits who guard the woodlands, it's finished with subtle hints of cardamom, cinnamon, orange peel and almond for a rich, earthy edge. The Dryads are tree spirits who live in Oak Trees. Our gin is infused with Oak Bark. Some of you will know me already as Becky from New Leaf.

My gin distilling has been so good for me to create something working with eight local artists who have helped create the story of the Dryad, the beautiful artwork on the inside and outside of the bottle and the recycled wooden chopping boards and mats which got with it. Each bottle is a limited edition.

Everything celebrates the Quantock hills we have even opened a pop-up pub called The Dryad Inn to support our wonderful community.

I look forward to sharing some with you soon.

www.dryadgin.co.uk



AVERYS

GARDEN CENTRE

We are a small boutique Garden Centre, situated along the banks of the Norton Brook. We are Taunton's Independent and individual Garden Centre.

We stock everything (almost) that you could hope for to fill your home and garden with all year-round style, colour and individuality, sourcing interesting, unique garden architecture including garden mirrors, zinc planters and so much more. Our creative team prepare handmade flower and plant arrangements for your home and garden, they make great gifts!

If you are looking for artisan grown, hand potted plants, grown in our own nursery then we are the perfect place. We grow many of the plants we sell, with the remainder of our plants coming from specialist growers we know and trust.

If you are also looking for unique, hand curated items to add life and character to your home and garden, then we could, again be the perfect place. Vicky and the team curate a beautiful range of architectural wares to set off our ranges of house and garden plants to perfection.

If you are looking for a Somerset blended cup of tea, or a locally roasted cup of coffee to sip while listening to the Norton Brook, then, again, we could be just the place for you.

www.averysgardencentre.co.uk
Silk Mills Road, TA1 5AA
...we are open every day!



imprints
Garment Printing & Embroidery

The Exmoor Search and Rescue Team provides specialist Mountain Rescue services across large parts of Devon and Somerset. We assist the Police in locating lost or missing persons, and the Ambulance Service to recover the injured or ill from remote locations.

- We are made up entirely of highly skilled volunteer members.
- Team members are on call 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.
- Our operational area covers remote rural locations including Exmoor National Park and the Quantock Hills as well as urban areas such as Taunton & Barnstaple.
- We work closely with the emergency services including Avon & Somerset Police, Devon & Cornwall Police, South Western Ambulance Service Devon and Somerset fire and rescue and HM Coastguard.
- We are a charitable organisation and receive no government funding.
- We use our specialist skills and equipment in search, pre hospital medical treatment, casualty evacuation, technical rope and water rescue to locate, stabilise, treat, and safely evacuate casualties to a place of safety.
- All operational team members have a core skill set, including, search, navigation, communications, first aid, rope rescue, and water margin search; these skills allow them to operate safely and effectively in the situations we encounter.

Imprints have been trading in Taunton for over twenty years, providing individuals and companies with garment printing, embroidery and promotional merchandise. Remaining in the independent quarter we have just moved premises to a lovely ground floor unit in Foundry Road, adjacent to the new Coal Orchard development.

Since taking over in June 2022, the new owners have refreshed the branding, invested in technology and recruited qualified staff as well as fitting out and creating Imprints' new shop and production facility.

Imprints customer base is very diverse and covers all manner of local and regional businesses and organisations - from scout and dance groups to schools, sole traders, independent businesses and corporate clients.

As well as offering printing and embroidery to garments, we also provide branded merchandise and promotional items, including mugs, bags, caps and hats etc. The range of brands and items that we can supply is extensive, including workwear, hi-vis items, sports and hospitality.

Our fully qualified graphic designer supports our clients with their artwork and together with our friendly and ambitious team, we are looking forward to strengthening relationships with long established customers, as well as developing new ones. The new owners are committed to continued investment and growth in 2023.



www.exmoor-srt.org.uk

www.imprintstaunton.co.uk



Load 'o' Waffle



We founded our company 'Load 'o' Waffle' with the aim to provide something different to the street food scene. Forget everything you know about the humble waffle! Ours are stuffed and topped with luxurious toppings. We can rock up in our horse box or pop up inside at your chosen venue, treat your guests to the theatre of live cooking!

Our waffle batter is always gluten free, and we use buttermilk in order to achieve the fluffiest waffle. We also make vegan batter which sets us apart. All our mousses and meringues are made using French or Italian recipes. Whether you want sweet, savoury or a bespoke waffle canapé service, we can help you wow your guests.

All our dishes are definitely a satisfying meal in their own right, whether it be sweet or the delicious southern fried chicken, your guests will definitely be leaving with a full tummy, happy memories and high expectations for your next event!

We have had over 25 years catering experience both in the UK and Belgium. Contact us now to book us for either outside catering from a lovely food truck or an inside pop up.



www.loadowaffle.co.uk



Reminiscence Learning

Specialising in Dementia Care, Activity & Reminiscence

Training & Community Projects

Based in Wellington, our award-winning charity Reminiscence Learning specialise in Dementia Care, Activity, Reminiscence, Training and Community Projects. The charity was formed 20 years ago with the overall aim of supporting those living with dementia, their family carers and local community.

Our services include:

- Respite Activity Sessions (RAS) - With the overall aim of supporting carers and those they care for including those with memory problems and dementia
- Archie Intergenerational Dementia Awareness Project - Linking primary schools with care homes and the community
- Forest School Outdoor Activities - For younger people with dementia and memory impairment who are more physically fit
- Training Workshops - For health care professionals, family carers, volunteers, businesses, and the general public
- Carer Support Groups - Supporting family carers in the community
- Community Activity Sessions - Including Funday Friday and Together in Sport
- Activity Angel Sessions - Tailor made activities for residents within care home settings

Reminiscence Learning's mission is to make communities more dementia friendly.



www.reminiscencelearning.co.uk

Studio.Lemonade

Hello!

We're Studio Lemonade, a multi-disciplined creative design agency tucked away in the Blackdown Hills. We specialise in helping companies realise their full potential and assist in making their brands, products or services more successful. Our two creative partners have over 45 years' experience in the industry. This includes local design experience combined with working for major global brands.

Like humble Lemonade we believe in being Simple, Honest and Fresh;

Think SIMPLE:

Connecting ideas to people in a busy world

Be HONEST:

In our relationships with our clients and team

Look FRESH:

Original design creates greater customer interest and interaction

Based on these guiding principles our small team has the knowledge to strategically help create and develop brands. We craft your identity, packaging, communications and online presence and unify them into a singular brand message.

We're always looking for new partnerships. So please reach out for a no-obligation chat on how we can help fortify your businesses health.

NICK. Creative Partner

+44 (0)7764 444 969

nick@studio-lemonade.co.uk

STUART. Creative Partner

+44 (0)7975 551 306

stuart@studio-lemonade.co.uk

www.studio-lemonade.co.uk



TAUNTON HOME TECH

I'm Simon Clarke and I set up Taunton Home Tech in November 2021 with the aim of giving independent help and advice on all things technical around the home and small office.



Whether it's advice on a new phone or repairing a computer I want to make sure the most cost effective and suitable solution is found that meets the customers' needs, not a salespersons bonus!

I have and always will offer free over the phone advice, including email or text, but if it's not possible then offer very competitive rates for callouts and fixed price repairs.

Completely independent and zero profits on parts means impartial advice that you can trust.

- Laptop/PC repairs and upgrades
- Home network/WiFi
- Online safety and security
- Smart home - Phones and tablets

Happy to help small / home office businesses too.

www.tauntonhometech.co.uk



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Welcome Aboard

EXPERIENCED AUDIT PARTNER JOINS PKF FRANCIS CLARK

PKF Francis Clark has appointed an experienced audit partner to serve its growing client base of owner-managed businesses in the Bristol and Somerset area.

Rob Whitehead has relocated from Yorkshire, where he gained over 30 years' experience in audit, accounts, business planning and tax, most recently as a partner in a regional accountancy firm. His clients have included businesses in recruitment, engineering, IT, haulage, property and the motor trade.

Based in PKF Francis Clark's Bristol and Taunton offices, Rob will advise businesses in a wide range of sectors, utilising his previous experience.

He said: "I've always enjoyed the people side of my role and I find it rewarding being a trusted adviser on business ideas, not just accounting matters. Clients use me as a first point of contact and facilitator if they are facing challenges or undertaking strategic projects – if I can't help, I'll know someone who can."

"PKF Francis Clark's culture is a great fit with my belief in building long-term relationships with clients and developing a genuine understanding so we can use our expertise to help them succeed."



Rob is a Xero certified adviser with expertise in cloud accounting, a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA) and an affiliate member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW). Having moved to the South West to be nearer to his grownup daughters, he is looking forward to getting to know the Bristol and Somerset business community.

Paul Bray, head of PKF Francis Clark's Bristol office, said: *"Rob is a genuine all-rounder who brings a wealth of experience across many sectors and will be a valuable sounding board for our existing and new clients. His proactive approach to advising businesses reflects our ethos of shared ambition, so we're delighted he has joined our growing team."*

Outside work, Rob's interests include fishing and rock music. Personal highlights include working with bands including the Foo Fighters as part of the artist liaison team at Leeds Festival.

More information can be found at www.pkf-francisclark.co.uk

ALBERT GOODMAN EXPANDS ITS FINANCIAL PLANNING TEAM BY WELCOMING A NEW PARTNER TO ITS HEADQUARTERS IN TAUNTON

Regional chartered accountancy firm Albert Goodman is growing its financial planning team with newly appointed partner, Reme Holland.

Reme began his career in financial services working in the retail sector as a mortgage and financial adviser. His focus has been on private |client and family businesses which arm him with specialist knowledge in retirement, investment advice, inheritance tax planning, and company pension schemes.

Reme has a strong passion and interest in helping clients plan for the future including intergenerational wealth transfer and long-term income solutions. As a fellow of the Personal Finance Society, a Chartered Financial Planner and an Affiliate of the Society of Trustee and Estate Practitioners, his experience will naturally align and enhance Albert Goodman's financial



planning proposition. Reme will be based with the wider financial planning team at the firm's headquarters in Taunton.

Reme Holland, Partner at Albert Goodman, said: *"It's an exciting time to join the financial planning team in Somerset and I'm very much looking forward to adding my skillset to an already experienced team."*

"Planning for the future has never been so important as people navigate their way through the economic crisis. Everyone should be entitled to the retirement they strive for and receive expert advice to achieve this. Through conversations and a greater understanding of our clients' aspirations, I will help them make sound financial decisions to achieve a secure future."



Award Wins



AMANDA-LOUISE KNIGHT WEDDINGS, PROPOSALS & EVENTS

Runner Up, Small Business of the Year
- West Country Women Awards



TALKING STICK DIGITAL

Winner, Best Digital Services
- Sedgemoor Awards



SOMERSET CHOCOLATE CO.

Gold Award, Taste of the West



NEW LEAF

Winner, Best Small Business
- Sedgemoor Awards



SOMERSET COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

Winner, Best Digital Innovation
- ECB Business of Cricket Awards



CASTLE HOTEL

Silver Award, Hotel of the Year
- Bristol, Bath & Somerset Tourism Awards



JON HARRIS, COOPER ASSOCIATES

Winner, Newcomer of the Year
- UK Later Life Lending Awards



MAINLINE SPIRITS

Winner, Global Gin Masters Gold Award 2022
Silver Medal, Gin of the Year Awards
Gold Award, Taste of the West

designbean

graphic design with a personal touch

Call me on 07984 404528 or
email sally@designbean.co.uk

TAUNTON CHAMBER MEMBER DIRECTORY

360 South West
45Red Remote Solutions
A C Mole & Sons
Aisling Magill Photography
Albert Goodman
Alder King Consultant Surveyors
Alfies Landscapes Ltd
Amanda-Louise Knight Weddings,
Proposals & Events
Amos Ellis Consulting Ltd
Andrew English Wealth Management
Andy Cooling Ltd
Apple FM
Arditti Carpets
Averys Garden Centre
Axe Shack
Ballantine Wealth Management
Barclays Business, Taunton
Bath Place Traders Association
Be.aesthetics
Below Ground Solutions Ltd
Benjamin Henry Ltd
Berensens Solicitors
Blackdown Financial
Blagdon Village Management Ltd
BLOCK Workspace
Blue Penguin Chartered Accountants
Bredons Sewing Machine Centre
Brent Accounting
Brewhouse Theatre & Arts Centre
Bridgwater & Taunton College
Broomhead & Saul Solicitors
Business Labels
CABiz Networking & Academy
Calverts (Taunton) Ltd
Carly Press
Carrier Pigeon
Castle Hotel (Taunton) Ltd
Chadwick Business Centres
Cherwyn Developments Ltd
CICCIC
Citizens Advice Taunton
Clarke Willmott
Cleaning Solutions UK
CMT Services Ltd
Collar Factory
Connectable
Cooper Associates
Corner House Hotel
Costgard Ltd
County Walk Shopping Centre
Crescent Funeral Services
Croft Animation &
Accommodation Atalier
Cullen's Catering
Daffodil PR & Communications
Design Bean
Design Hive
Dough Bros.
Dryad Gin
Dyslexia 4 Adults
Eden May
Edventure
Elevate Business Performance
Ellisons Commercial Training Ltd
Ethical Sales Pro
Every's, Solicitors
E White & Son (Taunton) Ltd
Exmoor Search & Rescue
Fifields Construction
Genius PR & Events
Green Door People Development
Go Create
Great Western Hotel
Greenslade Taylor Hunt
Gurds Menswear
Hatfield White Ltd
Hickleys Ltd
Honey Legal - Lee Harrison
HR Fresh Solutions
Ian Bugler Property
Management Ltd (t/a YOPA)
Imperial Finishes Antiques
& Restoration
Ian Walker Family Law
Imprints
In House Training & Consultancy Ltd
Initiis Ltd t/a Vodafone
Introtweet Ltd
IT Nation
jaeger Recruitment Ltd
Jane Phillips Coaching Ltd
J P Gainsford Associates Ltd
Jo Pavey Insurance
Lentells Chartered Certified Accountants
Lateralflowtests.com
Let's Talk Social
Load 'O' Waffle
Love Lifestyle
Making Life Easier Ltd
Mailboxes (Taunton) Etc
Mainline Spirits
Maven Marketing
Mayfayre Financial
Michael Spiers Jewellers
Mihaz
Milsted Langdon
Moore Scarrott Limited
Mr Miles Tearoom
My Carbon Coach
New Leaf Workplace Wellbeing
OD Talent Solutions
Olivia Morton Translations
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Pardeos Solicitors LLP
PayDough.me
Pearce Practice, Architects
PKF Francis Clark
Poppy Dazzlers UK
Porter Dodson
Portt & Co
Professional Apprenticeships
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PROMISEworks
Quantock Ecology Ltd
Queen's College
Reminiscence Learning
Richard Huish College
Rising Sun, West Bagborough
Sally's School of Motoring Ltd
SkyMark Financial
Sangha House
Solace
Somerset AFD CIC
Somerset Chocolate Co
Somerset County Cricket Club
Somerset Design Studio
Somerset Hearing
Somerset Jobs
Somerset Ladies in Business
& For All Business
Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
Somerset Web Services
Somerset West & Taunton Council
South West Property Reports
SPAEDA Arts Education
SRD Technology UK
Stantec
Stella Creations
Stephens Scown LLP
Stone + Partners
Stone Artisan Pizza
Stowsafe Fulfilment
Studio.Lemonade
Style by Louise
Summerfield Developments SW Ltd
Swan Retreat Wellness Centre
Tacchi Morris Arts Centre
Talking Stick Global & Digital
Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club
Time for You Cleaning Services
Taunton Home Tech
Taunton Mortgage Centre
Taunton Team Chaplaincy Trust
Taunton PAT Testing
Tone FM (TCMG CIC)
Townley Insurance Brokers Ltd
Townsend Letting & Management
Teresa Wort Mindfulness &
Compassion Teacher
Timeforge
Tregenna Properties Ltd
White Knight Marketing
Whittlesea Mortgages
Wig & Hair Clinic Taunton
Wilkins Safety Group Ltd
Word Gets Around Magazines
Worshipful Mayor of Taunton
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Zest Payroll Ltd