

TAUNTON  
CHAMBER  
*of*  
COMMERCE

*Spring 2023 edition*  
**CHAMBER CHATTER**  
*by local business. for local business*  
All the latest news from the Taunton business community



The recent Dragon launch in the town centre was a roaring success - it was wonderful to have so many of our members taking part in the Dragon window promotion in the lead up to the event, and to see our members Dough Bros and Go Create adding to the excitement on the day!



# 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!

## TECH BREK

Initiis

360 SOUTH  
- WEST -

Google



21<sup>st</sup> March, 7.45am - 9.30am, £15.50

This time it's all about helping you stand out from the crowd by maximising your business visibility online, on social media and on Google search and listings. There will be hints and tips from our Taunton Chamber of Commerce members **Initiis** and **360 South West** on getting the most from your smartphone to give you the edge with impactful business photos and videos.

Alongside the tech talk, there'll be plenty of opportunity to network as well as enjoy the delicious (traditional, vegetarian or vegan) Full English Breakfast that Mr Miles Tearooms is famous for!

**Further 2023 dates for your diary:** 23rd May, 27th June, 3rd October, 28th November.



## ANNUAL CREAM TEA EVENT

Thursday 27th April 5.30 - 7.30pm  
@ The Corner House Hotel - £13 per ticket

Join us at the **Corner House Hotel** where there will be plenty of opportunity to network over delicious cream tea and cakes, plus the chance to learn more about the work of Taunton Chamber and Taunton Town initiatives. This will be a celebration of all things #positivetaunton with the latest updates from Taunton Chamber and Taunton Town representatives.



THE GREAT  
WESTERN HOTEL  
- TAUNTON -

## Join us for Cuppa & Cake

6<sup>th</sup> April, 11am - 1pm, £8 per ticket

Join us for our ever-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 & to make some new connections at the same time.

**Further 2023 dates for your diary:**  
7th September, 2nd November

## CHAMBER BREAKFAST CONNECTIONS

Bridgwater  
Chamber of Commerce

Somerset  
Chamber of  
Commerce

TAUNTON  
CHAMBER  
of  
COMMERCE



The Canalside, Marsh Lane, Bridgwater  
18th May 8am - £12 per ticket

This event will bring together Taunton and Bridgwater Town Chambers with Somerset Chamber to showcase the links between the trio of chambers and how we are able to support local businesses. It'll be a great way to start the day with a breakfast bap, hot drink and a chance to meet other businesses across our area and make new connections.

Book via: <https://www.bridgwaterchamber.org.uk/chambers-events/chamber-breakfast-connections/>

TAUNTON  
CHAMBER  
*of*  
COMMERCE

YOUNG  
BUSINESS  
GROUP

NEW  
NEW  
NEW  
NEW  
NEW

## NEW YOUNG BUSINESS GROUP LAUNCHES!

Over the last couple of months, Taunton Chamber has launched a Young Business Group for Taunton, with successful launch events held at the beginning of February and March. The scope of the group is to encompass under 30s who work at a Taunton business, run their own local business or study in Taunton.

Attendees were able to meet other young people who work locally and make new connections - all over drinks at the Creative Innovation Centre, home to some of Taunton's best loved arts, music and comedy events.

Supported at these initial events by members of the Economic Development and Cultural Forum teams at Somerset West & Taunton Council, attendees have also had the chance to feedback what their generation wants to see in the Taunton of the future, in what will be an ongoing dialogue.

The plan for this new group is that attendees themselves will shape what format the group takes going forward and decide on future events and activities. The next step is the formation of an organising group, with mentoring support available from current members of the Taunton Chamber volunteer Executive Committee.

**If you or your team members would like to get involved in this positive new business group, please email [office@taunton-chamber.co.uk](mailto:office@taunton-chamber.co.uk)**



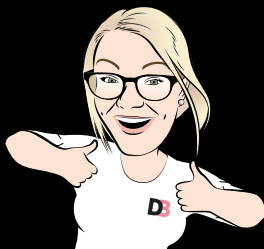
All Taunton Chamber of Commerce events are bookable vis the following eventbrite link: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/taunton-chamber-of-commerce-15354648391](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/taunton-chamber-of-commerce-15354648391)

...plus, you can click to **'follow'** our eventbrite page, which means you'll get a handy notification into your inbox whenever we add a new event!



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



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# WELCOME TO OUR New Members



**Ellisons School of Motoring has long established itself as one of the leading driving schools in the South West. We are very proud of the reputation that we have built, offering the very best in driver training to the next generation of motorists and helping thousands of learners successfully through their tests.**

Ellisons Commercial Training Ltd has been established as our specialist commercial training division, taking the same ethos in delivering the very best in driver education and helping our commercial customers to not only pass their tests but to help prepare them for a lifetime of safe driving.

### **Why should you choose us?**

- Fully Qualified and Approved Instructors
- Excellent Pass rate, and 100% of our customers recommend us!
- We can offer you an unbeatable service at a highly competitive price. We know what training works for you, the client, therefore we can eliminate the non-value added activity. So, the more effective training for your staff will result in a lower cost for you.

*"I contacted Ellisons commercial training and from the very first message these guys were 5 star. Brilliant communication when booking and answered every question I had over the whole booking. The office staff were great too. From the minute I met Paul he put me at ease and talked me through everything explaining all the tasks. If you're thinking of booking a commercial course, look no further than Ellisons!"*

01823 283546

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



### **Busloads of New Adventures: When travel costs less, you can do more!**

With nearly 40 bus routes travelling around this breath-taking county, you'll be sure to find something beautiful, wherever you get off the bus. Whether you fancy exploring or taking in the views of the county's many charming villages and towns, you'll find more with easier local travel. Even for commuters, whether it's one of our Taunton, Bridgwater or Yeovil bus routes, we're here to help make your journey hassle-free.

### **Helping you get around Somerset as easily as possible:**

From online tickets to timetables and route maps, we have a vast amount of resources to help you get around as easily as possible. Online at <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/somerset> and using our First Bus App, you can find information regarding our bus services including timetables, prices and you can even use our journey planner to ensure a smooth ride.

Let us get you where you need to be, with great value fares across all of Somerset: As part of the Help for Households initiative, the £2 single fare is available on any bus route which Buses of Somerset operates in this area, currently on offer until 30th June.

Here at The Buses of Somerset, we care about giving you the best possible journey, giving you a better bus service on every journey. Enjoy The Buses of Somerset.



[www.firstbus.co.uk/somerset](http://www.firstbus.co.uk/somerset)



## Bishop Fox's

### Bishop Fox's School: High Standards and High Expectations

At Bishop Fox's School our ethos of high standards and high expectations underpins everything that we do. We work hard to create a caring and challenging learning environment in which each individual can strive, enjoy and achieve. We are dedicated to building opportunities for our students to achieve the highest academic standards, ensuring that they are known as individuals and that their unique personality, talents and interests are nurtured and developed to the full.

*"We feel honoured to have so many local employers and Further Education advocates in school recently to deliver practice interviews for all Year 11 students. There have also been visits to Exeter University and we continue to work in partnership with the Brilliant Club, Barclays Life Skills, Leonardo Helicopters and so many more"* Kerry Tonkin, Head Teacher

### Bishop Fox's School has recently been celebrating its 500th year anniversary 1522- 2022.

To commemorate a time capsule has been put together a filled with items that represent life at Bishop Fox's in 2022. The time capsule contained items such as the current school uniform, a letter from Ms Tonkin, letters from our Head Boy and Head Girl, a whole school photograph, our current prospectus, student badges as well as bestselling books from 2022. The time capsule was buried with a plaque with instructions not to be opened until 2094 as part of our current school celebrations.



## ACTIVATE FITNESS 24/7

### ACTIVATE FITNESS IS TAUNTON'S INDEPENDENT, COMMUNITY FOCUSED GYM!

Every gym boasts that they are the best and different to other gyms, but we feel that at Activate Fitness we are unique. We're not about hitting membership targets or increasing numbers; Activate Fitness is an independent, community focused gym in Taunton town centre and we have all of our members' wellbeing as our top priority.

#### WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- We offer a non intimidating fitness environment in all areas of our gym, including our weights and cardio zones. All members are made to feel welcome, comfortable and included at Activate Fitness regardless of fitness capability or individual differences.
- We offer a variety of competitive membership options on a monthly basis; full use of our facilities: gym, saunas, classes and personalised programmes. We will never make you commit to a contract.

We are located on the top two floors of the Coal Orchard building on Bridge Street with our own entrance along the side, in Goodlands Lane.

*"It's a difficult task finding anything negative to say about activate fitness. Since I've been using this gym, I've felt a strong sense of community and never had an issue working out in the spaces provided. Everyone is incredibly friendly and even at its busiest I'm still able to complete the exercises I have planned out for the day. Great gym"*

**We launched our business in December 2022 and haven't looked back since.**

A Celebrant is an independent person who creates and delivers a personalised ceremony for some of the most important occasions in people's lives. The ceremony is designed based on the wishes of each couple or family that we work with. There are very few limitations as to what can be included in a celebrant led ceremony and it has no legal obligations or any government restrictions.

Originally meeting when we worked together as Ceremony Registration Officers we became good friends and had the absolute pleasure of travelling around the region and marrying couples at beautiful venues.

We soon realised that we wanted to be able to give more to couples and families when they were looking to mark important events. Whether it is baby/child naming, wedding celebrations, funerals, scattering of ashes, memorials, renewal of vows, graduations or anniversaries what matters to us is listening to people and designing a ceremony that puts them at the heart of their occasion.

As professional celebrants we are in a unique and privileged position to spend time with our couples and families and get to know them. This enables us to design, create and deliver a ceremony that is as unique as the family that we serve.

We are absolutely delighted to have joined Taunton Chamber of Commerce and look forward to meeting our fellow members in the future.



**Deb Stodgell and Jackie Aldrich**  
**Professional Celebrants**  
**Dips. N&CC & F.C**

Email: [hello@justceremonies.co.uk](mailto:hello@justceremonies.co.uk)  
Deb: 07971 646717 Jackie: 07831 486075  
[www.justceremonies.co.uk](http://www.justceremonies.co.uk)



**SOMERSET COUNCIL LAUNCHES THE SOMERSET MENTORING PROGRAMME.**

Scheme Ambassador Richard Swift tells us more:

*"Somerset Council just launched the Somerset Mentoring Programme. Our aim is to link business leaders as mentors to businesses, charities and social enterprises in Somerset who want to realise their full potential.*

*We have successfully recruited 22 mentors who will complete their mentor training by the end of March. These mentors have extensive business experience, from an ex-CEO of a Fortune 20 company to a business owner who supplies over 200 trade clients with coffee roasted in Somerset!*

*Whether a mentee owns a business or is in a senior management role, we work with the mentee to identify a match according to their aspirations, needs and personality. A mentor will be selected from our pool of skilled executive and senior business leaders across the county, who are committed to supporting the resilience and growth of Somerset business. The mentor will provide 1:1 confidential support, acting as a trusted ally and sounding board, sharing knowledge and providing the mentor with the confidence to explore new ideas and to address opportunities or challenges.*

*We are now looking for mentees who are looking to grow their businesses. We welcome any size of business that is not a new start-up.*

*The mentoring will be free to those businesses that qualify and we will start our service in April."*

**Please contact Richard Swift for more information and to apply to take part in the scheme:**  
[richard.swift@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:richard.swift@somerset.gov.uk)

# SPRING EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE WEBINAR

INVITATION

29.3.23

WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH

Platform: Teams Live

Time: 10am-11am

## DETAILS:

**Event date:** Wednesday 29 March 2023

**Platform:** Teams Live

**Time:** 10am-11am

The topics will include:

New employment law developments on the horizon for 2023:

- *Holiday pay consultation and case law*
- *Family friendly legislation for pregnant employees, neo-natal care, IVF and carers*
- *Developments on fire and re-hire of staff in changing employment contracts*

Recent employment law developments:

- *Gender identity v gender beliefs – the challenge of balancing differences in the workplace*

Immigration:

- *What are the pros and cons of the UK's immigration schemes for employers in 23/24?*
- *What is the government doing to combat illegal working in 23/24 and how does this impact on your business?*

The Webinar will conclude with a Q&A.

Stephens Scown take the protection of your personal information and data privacy seriously. Where you respond to this invite your information will be processed in accordance with current Data Protection legislation by Stephens Scown (for administration purposes only) as the host of this event. Your data will be stored for a minimum period as a record for the purposes of this event, but not used further for marketing activities. By accepting an invitation from us you understand that we may share an attendance list with other parties.

## RSVP:

Please RSVP to Jo Force at [events@stephens-scown.co.uk](mailto:events@stephens-scown.co.uk) or telephone Jo on 01392 210700 by Monday 20 March. Webinar log in details will be provided nearer the time.

Stephens Scown is committed to creating an inclusive environment for people with disabilities. If you need something that will help you to participate fully in this event please do let us know.

Following this event, one of our team will be in touch to see how you found it and seek your feedback on the session and any ideas for future sessions.



**MAIL BOXES ETC.**

7 Bridge St. Taunton

Tel: 01823 322263

Email: [info@mbetaunton.co.uk](mailto:info@mbetaunton.co.uk)



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# TAUNTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ITS MEMBERS

## Supporting the Workforce of the Future

**To ensure a thriving local economy both now and into the future, we work with local education members and partners to help inspire and support the workforce of the future.**

In recent months we have presented to the vocational business students at **Richard Huish College**, giving them insight into the work of Taunton Chamber and the importance of a connected local business community. We continued with the presentation of the annual Huish College Taunton Chamber Business Award and attended their Careers Convention alongside some of our member businesses.

We lobbied our MP on further education funding at our meeting with **Rebecca Pow** at **Bridgwater and Taunton College**. We also chose to hold our Christmas Lunch event at the wonderful catering training facility **The Quantock Restaurant** at Bridgwater & Taunton College.

We were delighted to take part in the two-day **Bishop Fox's School** Year 11 mock interviews alongside our members **OD Talent Solutions** and **Ballantine Wealth Management**, as well as supporting their whole school Careers Fair with many of our member businesses supporting the event.

We attended the **Queen's College** Festival of the Arts showcase, and March sees us back at the college contributing to the Independent Schools Careers Convention, where 400 local students from local schools across the area will be present - again having encouraged several of our member businesses to also be in attendance.

It has also been wonderful to see several of our members taking time out of their business to support links between business and education at local schools and colleges, with talks and assemblies to give students insight into the world of work.

We are proud to offer this vital support to our local young people and are always open to involvement in further projects and events.



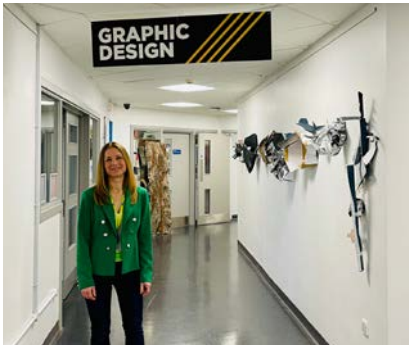
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sustainability and reducing our impact on the environment.



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From top left to right; Adam Townley with Huish College Business Prize Winner Fred Davey. Adam and Bethan at **Huish College** Careers Fair. Bethan Turner at **Queen's College** Festival of the Arts showcase with Joe Mann, Head of Faculty: Art, Design, and Food. Fran James from **OD Talent Solutions** at **Bishop Fox's** Yr11 Mock Interview. Adam Townley at Bishop Fox's Yr11 Mock Interviews. Leighton from **Ballantine Wealth Management** visits his former school, Haygrove to talk to 200 students about his path in business. Taunton Chamber Exec Committee and **Bridgwater & Taunton College** representatives meet **Rebecca Pow MP**. Mel Downing from **Design Hive** talks to students at **Weston College** about business, design and branding. **Castle Hotel** Head Chef Andrew Swann inspires catering students at Bridgwater & Taunton College with a food masterclass.



**Following the huge success of Somerset Armed Forces Day last year, the organising team are delighted to announce that the event is returning to Vivary Park on Saturday 1st July.**

In 2022 Somerset Armed Forces Day welcomed over 21,000 people to Vivary Park. It was wonderful to see so many happy, smiling people across the park, of all ages - enjoying the array of military displays, vehicles, bandstand performances and enactment groups. With the wonderful Viking Village, wide variety of trade and craft stalls, and the refreshment areas offering a great range of food and drink for all the family, there really was something for everyone on offer.

This year the event builds on all this success and promises to be bigger and even better! Currently in the planning phase, bands, choirs, and standard bearers are all confirmed, as well as some truly amazing performances planned for the main parade ring! This will include a free fall parachute team, as well as The Soldiers of Swing, who appeared on Britain's Got Talent, who we are delighted to announce will be performing throughout the day. The Food and Drink Village makes a return, so families can relax and enjoy a varied selection of tasty treats and refreshments.

Present on the day will be representatives from all the Armed Forces Veterans communities including their Standard Bearers, as well as members of the current serving and reserve cohort. The uniformed Cadet Services will also be very much involved. We are also thrilled to welcome the emergency "blue

light" services. These features were very popular last year – and talking of popular, The Storm Troopers will be back again on patrol across the park: what an amazing photo opportunity!

One of the exciting headline performers in the arena will be the talented Paul Hannam – Quad Bike Stunt Show which will include - precision riding, multiple roll stunt quad, and jumps as big as possible! Paul loves to jump over anything he can get his hands on from cars, vans and tractors with the occasional monster truck jump – all of which are done with no landing ramp. Paul will also be trick riding in all four corners of the arena, getting up close and personal with the crowds so no one misses out on the action!

We are still open for applications for stall holders, and we are extremely interested to talk to businesses who would like to sponsor the show, and benefit from their brand being seen by the many thousands of people who will be coming along. Involvement in the event also highlights your business as a supporter of our wonderful Armed Forces and Emergency Services personnel. We are happy to discuss specific packages, tailored to your needs and budget, and can guarantee that with our marketing plans your business will definitely be featured boldly and be visible everywhere.

**For all the information you need, and to make contact about how your business can be involved in this highlight of the Taunton calendar, please visit [www.somersetafd.co.uk](http://www.somersetafd.co.uk)**



## Young Speedway Superstar Oliver Bovingdon - proudly sponsored by Taunton Chamber members Cleaning Solutions UK

**Cleaning Solutions UK owner, Richard Williams:** *"As a long time fan of both Speedway and Grass Track racing (my Dad used to take me and my brother), I wanted to try to get involved with a local young rider with the view to following, and supporting them through their progress in the sport.*

*2023 will mark the third full season that we have sponsored Oliver and it looks to be a very exciting one. As well as his super skills, Oliver is a wonderful young person, always well turned out, race ready and ever so polite and dedicated. His progress has been exceptional and we are very proud to continue our support of such an inspirational local lad"*

**Oliver's Dad Chris tells us more:** *"Oliver has been enjoying his time on the track from the age of 6, and now at the age of 10 has established himself as one of the most promising riders of his Generation.*

*He had a fantastic season last year with race meetings all over the country and countless podium finishes but the highlights in no particular order were:*

- Taking a team spot for the Redcar Cubs in the Northern Junior speedway league, and going on to win the league title.
- Finishing 2nd place in the British grass track championships at Helsby near Liverpool where he only dropped a single point through all the heats to the winner.
- Finishing 3rd place overall in the British youth speedway championship which was held over 7 rounds all over the country at tracks from Kent to Glasgow, again only missing out on claiming 2nd place by 2pts over the entire series

*We have just been on a training week during the February half term holidays, with Team GB to Macon in France where Oliver had two days on track testing set ups and pre season training ready for 2023.*

*For our 2023 season we are entered back into both the British youth speedway championships and the grass track, but the most exciting prospect for Oliver is that he has been awarded one of two UK places to ride for Team GB in both the European youth speedway final and Youth World track racing final both taking place in Gdańsk- Poland in July"*



**Everyone at Taunton Chamber of Commerce wishes Oliver all the best for another successful season - you can follow his progress at: [facebook.com/OBRacing15](https://www.facebook.com/OBRacing15)**

**For sponsorship information, please contact Chris at: [chris.bovingdon@sky.com](mailto:chris.bovingdon@sky.com)**



Artsmark  
SPARK! 

Artsmark  
SPARK! 

## Somerset's Artsmark SPARK Scheme brought £60k to 44 schools in the county!

***Over the past two years, Taunton Chamber of Commerce member Spaeda has been supporting Somerset schools to further develop arts and cultural learning in their settings via the Artsmark SPARK scheme, funded by Real Ideas and Sound Foundation Somerset. The scheme has been a real success, with the 44 schools taking part receiving almost £60k of funding combined!***

With the Artsmark journey at the heart of it, these schools are focusing on a range of priorities, such as increasing the range and quality of their arts, music and cultural provision, running Arts Award, CPD, development of the curriculum and inclusivity, and working with artists and cultural partners. In addition, with the challenges of the last couple of years, most schools also have a core focus on the wellbeing of their pupils and staff.

*'As a new school, we have been developing our whole school curriculum and feel that with the match funding we will be able to develop our art curriculum to engage the pupils, develop skills and inspire teachers' planning. Given lockdown and the associated mental health impact this has had on our children, we believe that this is the ideal time for art to be at the forefront of our curriculum.'*

~ Northgate Primary School

The match funding\* scheme sought to help schools to unlock 'new funds' within their setting - meaning money that wasn't already allocated for arts or cultural activity such as pupil premium or PTA contributions - and by doing so create more varied and sustainable sources of funding and fundraising approaches going forward. It also covered the Artsmark registration fee that schools had already paid, allowing many to pursue this valuable national programme and creative standard award for the first time.

*'The match funding will allow us to begin our Artmark journey. This will allow us to implement an artistic framework across the school and further deepen the value of Art, Photography, Music and Drama. We will be able to further embed and develop creativity within our students and foster a sense of why the arts really matter/inherent value of these subjects.'*

~ Court Fields School

Spaeda, and SFS and other music partners, are providing dedicated resources and support to the schools along the way, including a suite of artist-led creative skills videos, CPD event and consultation, music support & provision, and Arts Award training bursaries. An Ambassador School Programme was also established by Spaeda, with three dedicated Artsmark schools leading on creative learning offering their ideas and inspiration to others. So far via the scheme, 128 school staff have taken part in creative CPD. Plus, we have seen 26 new schools sign up to Artsmark, and two more renewing, taking the number of Somerset schools with Artsmark to 20%, which is ahead of the national average of 19%!

Although the Artsmark SPARK scheme has now closed, we will be continuing to support and celebrate the schools that are taking part, and look forward to sharing more of their learning and impact as the academic year goes on. If you are interested in pursuing Artsmark for your setting, you can read more / register for Artsmark directly at: <https://www.artsmark.org.uk/>

*'As Art Lead for the Redstart Learning Partnership (10 Primary schools) I've identified a need for the strategic leadership of this subject area including CPD for staff, targeted resources and greater engagement with local artists and the wider community. My aim is for our school to become a beacon for other schools within the Trust.'*

~ Castle Primary School

\*Match funding of up to £1,500 per school was provided by the regional Bridge Organisation, Real Ideas, via their Challenge Fund programme, and included a top up 25% contribution from the county's Music Education Hub, Sound Foundation Somerset.



## Citizens Advice - Taunton: Charity Corporate Golf Day

**Local charity and Taunton Chamber of Commerce members Citizens Advice-Taunton, will be holding its second annual charity golf day at Oake Manor Golf Club on Thursday 13th April from 1pm. The event is aimed principally at local businesses with opportunities to enter a four-ball team in the golf competition, donate raffle prizes, sponsor golf holes and/or advertise at the club.**

Seven teams of four players entered the inaugural 2022 competition which was won by a team representing local accountancy firm Albert Goodman. Professional, medical & construction firms from the Taunton area competed in the event with several other local businesses providing advertising, hole sponsorship & raffle prizes.

Charity Golf day, dinner and prizes  
Oake Manor Golf Course, TA4 1BA  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023



### Opportunities for local businesses for the 2023 event include:

- Enter a team of up to x4 players in the golf competition with a chance to win some fantastic golf related and other prizes in the raffle. The event includes 18 holes of golf followed by a 2-course sit down meal. The cost is £60 for per player (or £20 for Oake Manor Golf Club members) and teams can be registered via the following link:

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

- Displaying an advertising banner next to the driving range on the main entrance road to the club – donation of £150 to Citizens Advice
- Sponsoring specific golf holes on the course allowing advertising around the tee boxes. Hole 1 opposite the main clubhouse and hole 10 at the Halfway refreshment house - donation of £100 to Citizens Advice. Sponsoring any other hole - £75
- Donating prizes for the raffle – last year local businesses donated restaurant & golf vouchers as well as local products and produce relevant to their business activities.

**All enquiries about sponsorship, advertising & donations should be directed to:  
[charles.stgeorge@cabtaunton.org.uk](mailto:charles.stgeorge@cabtaunton.org.uk) Tel: 07836 611504**

# MAKING GREEN NORMAL



## Sally's Go GREEN in partnership with Creating Tomorrow's Forests

**Taunton Chamber members Sally's School of Motoring partners with Creating Tomorrow's Forests:**

*"Our family run business offers competitively priced driving lessons with our professionally trained driving instructors throughout Somerset. Together we can build the forests of the future - we will be planting trees to help offset our carbon footprint, help fight climate change and protect the world we live in"*

*"Creating Tomorrow's Forests specialises in planting trees, creating habitats, and restoring biodiversity throughout the UK. This enables businesses and individuals to actively invest in our natural environment, by channelling their funding into high quality biodiversity restoration and afforestation projects. The UK based projects allow businesses and individuals to experience restoration in action and invest directly in natural capital"*



[www.sallysschoolofmotoring.co.uk](http://www.sallysschoolofmotoring.co.uk)  
[www.creatingtomorrowforests.co.uk](http://www.creatingtomorrowforests.co.uk)

Students are also given the opportunity to offset the carbon footprint of their driving test by making a donation through the Creating Tomorrow's Forests West Country Tree Planting Scheme. Featured here are Isabelle, Tom, Sophie, Callum, Imogen and Chloe who have all recently passed their driving tests and contributed to the scheme.





## Stephens Scown become a Certified B Corporation™

**Following a rigorous independent assessment process, we're pleased to announce that we have become a Certified B Corporation™ (B Corp™), joining a growing group of businesses across the world who are committed to balancing people, planet and profit.**

We have received B Corp™ Certification by the non-profit B Lab, becoming the first law firm in the South West to do so and one of only a handful of B Corp law firms in the UK. B Corp Certification requires a holistic review of a business' social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency, and is based on a vision of creating a community of for-profit companies committed to redefining success in business.

*"At Stephens Scown, we have always cared about doing things the right way for our people, our clients, our planet and our community. As the first large law firm in the UK to become employee-owned, we have built a dynamic and innovative business dedicated to delivering for its clients and providing a rewarding and supportive workplace. Gaining our B Corp™ certification underlines our long-term commitment to also being a force for good in wider society,"* says managing partner, Richard Baker. He continues, *"With the backdrop of global challenges to tackle and the ongoing threat to our environment, it is vital that we showcase just how we are making a difference and that we are part of a much bigger movement, proving there is a better way to do business."*

Empowering employees to do good through four key pillars of fundraising, volunteering, pro bono work and reducing the business' environmental impact, the Firm's Giving Back programme was first set up in 2018. Verity Slater, Giving Back partner and a driving force in the Firm's B Corp verification process, says: "I am really pleased to report a strong engagement with our Giving Back Programme this year. The whole Firm's enthusiasm and awareness of our drive to be a force for good has been noticeable. Undertaking the B Corp verification process has embedded this yet further and I am looking forward to the additional positive changes and initiatives that will come this year."

Joint head of Stephens Scown's Corporate team, Laurie Trounce has observed that sustainability (economic, social and environmental) is also becoming a key driver among business leaders, shaping their decision making. She says, *"We work with a number of businesses who are evolving their decision-making frameworks and adopting new ways of working, including through employee ownership and B-Corp certification."*

*"In light of the issues businesses are facing in a post-Covid marketplace, such as recruitment challenges and adapting to a hybrid working structure, businesses which are able to build their purpose into the DNA of their organisation will be able to use it as the glue that unites remote teams, creates brand value, and enables them to meet the inevitable consumer demand for more purposeful businesses in the future."*

Certified B Corporation doesn't just prove where a company excels now – it commits a business to consider impact for the long-term by building it into the very fabric of the firm. B Corps are reassessed every three years. At each assessment, the criteria becomes more ambitious as B Corps are encouraged to continuously develop their business and increase their positive impact.

[www.stephens-scown.co.uk](http://www.stephens-scown.co.uk)

# TAUNTON CHAMBER MEMBER DIRECTORY

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