

TAUNTON
CHAMBER
of
COMMERCE

Spring 2024 edition
CHAMBER CHATTER
by local business. for local business

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE TAUNTON BUSINESS COMMUNITY

In this edition...

- Read about the fantastic local businesses taking up Taunton Chamber of Commerce membership
- Book your tickets for our upcoming events: opportunities to network, make new connections and pick up some top business tips
- Catch up with good news from across our membership

Photo credit: Jane Townsend

 **TOWNSEND**
LETTING & MANAGEMENT

DESIGNED BY **designbean** PRINTED BY **carlypress**

Upcoming Events Programme

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



FREE WORKSHOP THE ART OF DIGITAL STORYTELLING THURSDAY 21ST MARCH, 9:45AM

Working in partnership with the Heart of the South West Digital Link team, join us for a free of charge workshop taking place at The Glass Box, Taunton Library, which will help you master the art of digital storytelling to help your SME grow!

Places limited to 1 per company/ organisation, bookable via: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/heart-of-the-south-west-growth-hub-10621289199>



TAUNTON CHAMBER ANNUAL CREAM TEA THURSDAY 25TH APRIL 5.30PM £13 members' price

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 over the last year and what we have planned for future initiatives.



YOUNG CHAMBER ADULT SOFT PLAY EVENT THURSDAY 26TH MARCH, 5:30PM, from £27.80

Do you work at a Taunton business, run your own local business or study in Taunton? Are you under 30? Then this fun networking event is for you!

Come along and meet other young people who work locally and make new connections - all over food, drinks and games at Space Adventurers.

As well as enjoying the soft play space, there will be games including laser-tag, giant jenga and beer pong! This is the second event being independently organised and run by the Taunton Young Chamber Group.



TAUNTON CHAMBER & TAUNTON TOWN COUNCIL JOINT EVENT MONDAY 29TH APRIL 12.30pm Member's only

Join us and Taunton Town Council for this afternoon event, exclusively for members. This will be your opportunity to meet Taunton Town Council, and local post 16 education leaders to discuss ideas and strategies around what is important to businesses in Taunton, as we work together to ensure Taunton is a great place to train, live and work.

All our events are bookable via the eventbrite link or scan the QR code:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/taunton-chamber-of-commerce-15354648391

scan here



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

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



CUPPA & CAKE RELAXED NETWORKING
THURSDAY 9TH MAY, 11AM
£8.50 members' price

Join us for our ever-popular relaxed networking events at members **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.



SMOKIN' HOT SOCIAL EVENT
THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 6PM
£16 members' price

Join us for this relaxed social BBQ event sponsored by our members **Cullen's Catering at Vivary Park Golf Club** where £12 from each ticket purchased will be donated to fellow members **Somerset Armed Forces Day CIC** in advance of the massive free family fun day that they are again hosting at Vivary Park on 6th July.



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.



01823 667063
carlypress.co.uk

WELCOME TO OUR New Members



Here at Channel UK Events CIC, our aim is to run award winning, engaging and accessible lifestyle events that drive lifelong, self-led participation in physical activity in the outdoors. From the moment you enter one of our events you've made a lifestyle choice and what a great choice you've made, we look forward to seeing you on the start line!

Dan Brice heads up Channel Events and is completely passionate about every event we organise and deliver. Dan came to the Channel Group in 2016 bringing the successful Quantock Quake with him, this event is now the finale of The Triple mountain bike series! Through Dan's passion and drive we are delighted to have incorporated Channel Events as a CIC and look forward to the trail ahead!

Our events could not happen without the amazing support of our Volunteer Tribe! We are very grateful to every single one of them for donating their time to help us deliver fantastic events for you. We do of course look after them as best we can with social events, merchandise, breakfast and drinks on event days.

Interested in giving something back to a sport you love, or just have some free time?



#beawarriorjointhetribes

**Be a warrior by entering an event,
become one of the tribe or both!**

We'd love to meet you!

www.channelevents.co.uk



Clark Shaw Associates

MORTGAGE & FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

Here at Clark Shaw Associates we offer a bespoke service covering all aspects of mortgage and protection advice completely tailored to you.

We can search a wide range of lenders so you don't have to, making sure we get you the best deal possible whilst always keeping you up to date throughout the whole process. We pride ourselves in giving you the best possible service.

We offer every type of mortgage consultation to best suit your needs, whether that's by email, Zoom calls, over the phone or face to face appointments.

Clark Shaw Associates was founded by Justin Clark in 2023 after a successful career as a record setting, award winning Mortgage & Protection Advisor for a large financial firm. Justin thrives on delivering excellent customer service and is passionate about finding solutions for all his clients. Whether you are an individual purchasing for the first time or re-mortgaging or a company looking for business protection, Justin's role is to try and find the most suitable product for your needs and make sure that you have the right level of protection in place.



www.clarkshawassociates.co.uk
info@clarkshawassociates.co.uk
01823 428180



Daisy Admin Services

Daisy Admin Services is here to assist you in managing the daily challenges of running your business so you can concentrate on achieving your business objectives.

I offer personalised and dependable administrative support tailored to meet your specific requirements.

Services offered by Daisy Admin Services include data entry, document management, event planning, research, and inbox management. From handling routine administrative tasks to managing specialised projects, I prioritise accuracy, timeliness, and confidentiality.

What sets Daisy Admin Services apart is the personalised approach to client service. By gaining a deep understanding of your business, we can develop efficient workflows and enhance overall business performance together. I can provide one-time administrative support or regular monthly hours. Utilising my services only for necessary work makes outsourcing cost-effective.

With reliable assistance and commitment, Daisy Admin Services aims to be more than just a service provider - I strive to be your trusted partner in success.

Let me manage the administrative tasks so you can focus on driving growth and innovation. Together, we will accomplish your strategic goals and elevate your business to new levels.



mandy@daisyadmin.co.uk



Hello Taunton Chamber of Commerce members, I'm Jen the Celebrant!

My friends describe me as a shining light, vivacious, compassionate and sincere. They would also say I have a loud laugh and have a passion for bright colours and all things sparkly or bubbly!

So what is a Celebrant, I hear you ask? A Celebrant is a person who writes and officiates completely personalized ceremonies, such as weddings, vow renewals, naming and adoption ceremonies, as well as funerals, interments and memorials.

As a Celebrant, I pride myself on creating truly tailored, uplifting and heartfelt ceremonies, whilst respecting the feelings and beliefs of you and your family.

Every time I am asked to officiate a ceremony, it is a real honour to do so and I am very passionate about my job and business.

I mainly work closely with engaged couples or grieving families and I am by their side every step of the way, to ensure that their ceremony is perfect and what they envisaged (and the best experience grieving families can have on such a sad day).

I am based in Taunton but my work does see me working across the whole of the South West in lots of stunning locations and venues.

I am looking forward to meeting you all soon at future events with Taunton Chamber of Commerce!

www.jenthecelebrant.co.uk



Lucy Squire
MENOPAUSE
WELLNESS PRACTITIONER

I am an accredited and Certified Menopause Wellness Practitioner offering menopause awareness to businesses and support to private clients. I work on a holistic (whole body) approach to dealing with the menopause.



Through certified training courses and personal development, I am passionate about educating others, whilst also helping those to thrive through their menopause transition.

There are different ways in which you can work with me. For businesses, I am available to attend the workplace and work either on a 1:1 basis or within a group setting. I can either support those individually going through the transition or offer menopause awareness within a group setting. For private clients, I am available via online video call.

If you have other business needs regarding menopause that you would like to discuss with me then please get in touch, I would be happy to discuss with you further.



lucysquiremenopause.co.uk
f [LucySquireMenopauseWellness](#)



K&J Hodge is a leading groundwork and civil engineering contractor based in Taunton, Somerset. K & J specialise predominantly in residential development with projects from £200,000 up to circa £10,000,000 within Somerset, Devon and Dorset.

Our aim is to continually provide the best service and expertise. We endeavour to be as cost effective as possible. Our unique selling point is that we are always aiming to please our clients. We care about our customers and our workforce. As a long-standing family run business we pride ourselves in being able to provide the top-quality service with attention to detail. We are large enough to meet today's requirements and continue exceeding our clients' expectations.

We are currently working with tier 1 house builders as well as regional developers. Some of our recognised clients are Persimmon homes, Vistry Group, Tilia Homes, Bloor homes, Devonshire homes, Cavanna Homes, St Modwen Homes, Wainhomes and Hembury Homes.

We hold all necessary accreditation and are ISO9001:2015 & National Highway sector scheme 16 approved.

If you have a project where we can submit a tender for any groundwork or civil engineering please contact us.

www.kj-hodge.co.uk
enquiries@kjhodge.co.uk



NEXTSTAGE

We're delighted to announce a new Taunton Chamber membership for Next Stage Somerset - a collaboration of advisors who are passionate about bringing together local businesses, education providers and charities to drive real change in our community.



Taunton Chamber of Commerce is passionate about supporting and inspiring the workforce of the future, and with team members from a number of Taunton Chamber member businesses on the Next Stage Somerset volunteer board – including Lexi Shore, Managing Partner at AC Mole Accountants, Nick Porter, Business Banking Regional Manager at Barclays and Stephen Wray, Partner at Stephens Scown, we look forward to being an enabler of the endeavours of Next Stage Somerset.

“The South West has the worst educational outcomes for disadvantaged young people in the country. Our attainment gaps between disadvantaged and other pupils are the largest of all English regions – at primary and secondary school.

There are real challenges with social mobility across the region - with West Somerset ranking lowest of all English local authority districts for social mobility”, coupled with the highest number of students and 16-24 year olds leaving the area of any region.

We passionately believe that we all have role to play and contribution to make to tackle these challenges in our community collaboratively” Lexi Shore.

www.nextstagesomerset.org



Podshavers - 'Somerset's hidden gem' Restaurant and Events Venue

Situated at the foot of the beautiful Quantock Hills, the ambience at Podshavers restaurant is relaxed casual perfection with the freshest locally sourced ingredients on an ever changing menu. We make every attempt to source our ingredients within a 10 mile radius to support local businesses.

Offering a thoughtfully designed modern British A la Carte menu served Thursday - Saturday and our divine Sunday roast. Our seasonal popular Tapas will be making a return in the spring. When the sun is shining you can be transported to the best of the Mediterranean in our beautifully created courtyard.

Awarded 'Best Restaurant in the South West' by Taste of the West 2023 and recently shortlisted as a finalist for the South West England Tourism Excellence Awards 'Restaurant of the Year'. Results will be published in March.

We are a family orientated team, all sharing the same vision and drive to produce some of the best culinary dishes in the area.

For more information, please visit www.podshaversrestaurant.co.uk



We're not just another Estate Agent; we are a customer-focused, forward-thinking Agency, focused on reshaping the landscape of traditional Agency. At the core of our ethos is a commitment to redefine the buying and selling experience. Breaking free from conventional norms, we are here to challenge the status quo and revolutionise the way people buy, sell, let, or rent.

Our mission is simple: to place the customer at the forefront of everything we do. We prioritize the customer's unique needs, delivering a personalised service that goes beyond expectations. We understand that each client is different, and our approach reflects this understanding, ensuring tailored solutions that resonate with our customer's individual goals.

Embracing innovation, transparency, and a real passion for excellence, we've discarded the outdated norms of Estate Agency. Say goodbye to rigid contracts and upfront fees - our customer-centric model is designed for simplicity and effectiveness. We guide customers seamlessly through the property journey, offering expertise without the unnecessary complexities.

In a market saturated with conformity, we stand out as a beacon of customer empowerment, reshaping Estate Agency, one satisfied client at a time. Experience the difference with us - where tradition is replaced by a commitment to your unique property experience.

www.thepropertycentre.co.uk

THE Pocket Strategist.

If you're a small business owner swamped with work and losing sight of your vision, I'm here to change that. I'm Katherine, the founder of The Pocket Strategist, your straight-talking strategic partner. I empower business owners like you to get back in control and intentionally build the business you want.

With almost two decades of experience in senior leadership and supporting small businesses from startups to multi-million turnovers, The Pocket Strategist is all about providing clear, tailored, practical steps for real business progress.

We do things differently here. It's not just about sitting in an office talking strategy. We offer real, hands-on support through 1:1 strategy days, small group masterminds, and engaging workshops. All delivered, in-person, in beautiful locations to get you away from the day-to-day and think big.

Our method? A distinctive blend of coaching, consulting, training, and mentoring, specifically crafted to meet the unique needs of your business. No one-size-fits-all solutions here. Just straight-talking, effective strategies to help you turn the business you have, into the business you want.

Visit our website to find out more and take our free Small Business Success Scorecard to discover the gaps within your business.



www.thepocketstrategist.com



Introducing Fusion Dance Circus & Fusion Dance Circus Academy

Fusion Dance Circus is Taunton's local Arts & Entertainment service ready to work at your events or collaborate on any projects. So far, we have reached more than 55 locations around the UK, Scotland and Wales with our tailor-made acts and packages. We cater to any festival, event or special occasion from small to large scale with our dance, circus and fusion offerings.

Fusion Dance Circus Academy is our brand-new venture, adding our own training events and workshops to our offerings. We are hosting weekend and holiday workshops for children and teenagers in Somerset, currently focused in Taunton and Chard with XPLORE Dance and Circus with Lucy. You can book places for these workshops or request that it visits your area.

Our QR code will show you what we have on offer or do introduce yourself via email with any questions or requests fusiondancecircus@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay in touch @fusiondancecircus for Arts & Entertainment / @fdcsomerset for Training & Workshops

We are delighted to be a new member of Taunton Chamber of Commerce and look forward to expanding our work and offerings over the years.



fusiondancecircus@gmail.com

f @fusiondancecircus



SPAEDA TAKES PART IN THE BIG GIVE ARTS FOR IMPACT CAMPAIGN



SPAEDA arts education charity and Taunton Chamber of Commerce member, based at Hestercombe House, is delighted to be taking part in the Big Give Arts for Impact match funding campaign 2024.

Big Give will match every pound that SPAEDA raises, up to £5000, during the week beginning midday on 19th March to 26th March. That means we could raise £10,000 for our campaign, HeARTspace – unlocking resilience through art.

HeARTspace provides a safe and non-judgmental space for vulnerable children in a time of crisis and trauma to talk whilst taking part in therapeutic art sessions.

With your help SPAEDA can provide and develop this programme to deliver more sessions to vulnerable children in Somerset. £20 will pay for session materials and £100 will pay for four children to attend one session of HeARTspace.

SAVE THE DATE:

Midday 19th - midday 26th March 2024

Visit our campaign page for more information and to donate. <https://donate.biggive.org/campaign/a056900002SEV3kAAH>

For one week only, one donation will have twice the impact!

For further information please contact us at;
www.spaeda.org.uk
01823 410160





CHAMBERS JOIN FORCES TO STRENGTHEN BUSINESS TIES AT NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Thanks to Jeff Searle photography for the great pictures!



In a collaborative effort to foster business engagement, Taunton and Bridgwater Chambers of Commerce joined forces to organise a networking breakfast event. The gathering, held at The Canalside in Bridgwater, provided a unique opportunity for members of both chambers to connect, share insights, and strengthen professional relationships.

Bethan Turner, Membership & Events Manager at Taunton Chamber of Commerce said, *"Taunton Chamber and Bridgwater Chamber have been collaborating on a number of initiatives and events to increase the support and opportunity offered to companies across the area, and today was a real example of these wider chances to make new connections and gain insight from fellow businesses on topics that really make a difference in gaining an advantage. We look forward to working together on more exciting projects in the coming months."*

The highlight of the event featured a presentation by The Outsourced Recruitment Company, offering valuable tips and sector insights to assist businesses in navigating the challenges of recruitment and retention during this demanding time of year. Attendees engaged in lively discussions, gaining valuable knowledge to enhance their businesses' attractiveness and resilience.

Diogo Rodrigues, Manager of Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce said *"Collaboration between Taunton and Bridgwater Chambers opens doors to a wealth of opportunities for our members. It's inspiring to see the impact of bringing together businesses from various sectors."*

He added, *"We extend our gratitude to The Outsourced Recruitment Company for their insightful talk around recruitment. It's noteworthy that they're a member of both chambers, highlighting the synergies that exist when businesses from Taunton and Bridgwater come together."*

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 @ [f](https://www.facebook.com/tauntonchamber) [i](https://www.instagram.com/tauntonchamber)



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Member Good News

BALLANTINE WEALTH MANAGEMENT - ST JAMES PLACE SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Leighton Ballantine from our members Ballantine Wealth Management tells us more:

"This was such a lovely start to 2024. Last year had its challenges, but I'm very proud to receive the award for St. James's Place Exeter location Small Business of the Year 2023."

This award recognises several aspects of our business performance including - new clients acquired, the service we provide, quality of advice and compliance.

The award is a real team effort, and my personal thanks go to our amazing team - Darryl, David, Kate, Rachael, Svetlana, Joe, Lyn & Alex. Also, to our wonderful clients and partners that trust us - thank you for your loyalty and recommendations. We couldn't do it without you!"

www.ballantinewm.co.uk



WALKER FAMILY LAW - RESOLUTION TOGETHER

Resolution Together offers a unique approach for separating couples enabling them to hire a single lawyer, together. This method allows both parties to receive advice at the same time without resorting to a court-based battle with one another. Taunton Chamber members Walker Family Law are proud to be one of the first firms in the country to offer the Resolution Together approach.

Resolution Together is designed for couples to seek advice from a single lawyer, allowing them to work together harmoniously to resolve issues that arise during a separation, eliminating the sense of competition that can occur when individuals receive separate legal advice. Unlike Collaborative Law, Resolution Together requires only one lawyer and, unlike mediation, legal advice is accessible throughout.

How does it work?

01 Joint meeting

Initially, the couple can have a joint meeting, which must be followed by individual assessment meetings to determine the suitability of Resolution Together for their case.

03 From conflict to collaboration

Then subsequent meetings will be tailored to the couple's specific needs and concerns, with the flexibility to bring in additional expertise as needed, such as accountants, financial advisers, or pension experts.

02 Financial review

In financial cases, once the assessment meetings are complete, the couple will share all relevant financial information with their lawyer and each other.

04 One lawyer

At the heart of Resolution Together is a qualified and experienced lawyer who will facilitate discussions and negotiations between the couple. The meetings are entirely guided by the couple's needs and designed to answer their specific questions.

"Divorce, separation, and other family disputes are always stressful, and our aim is to minimise the negativity, worry and hostility that can quite often occur in standard approaches, by using the Resolution Together approach. We tailor our advice to each individual family and help them to make the correct decisions based on their circumstances"

For further information, please visit <https://walkerfamilylaw.co.uk/services/resolution-together/>



ELEVATE YOUR EVENTS AT OUR TAUNTON CONFERENCE CENTRE

Seeking a professional space that effortlessly adapts to your needs? Whether you're planning a focused training session or a grand conference, our state-of-the-art Conference Centre is the perfect location.

The Taunton Conference Centre is conveniently located at Bridgwater & Taunton College's Taunton Campus, which is within easy access of the M5 and Taunton Train Station.

- **Versatile Venues:** From intimate brainstorm sessions for two, to larger gatherings of up to 120 attendees, we can accommodate your needs.
- **Stay Connected:** With robust WiFi and modern tech solutions, seamlessly switch between in-person and remote event formats.
- **Stress-Free Parking:** Our dedicated parking area adjacent to the Conference Centre ensures ease for all attendees. The day charge for all visitors is £1.
- **On-site Hospitality:** Beyond serving our college community, the renowned Taunton campus Restaurant caters for our conference guests. Celebrated for its 5-star Environmental Health rating, our culinary team prioritises fresh, local, and seasonal ingredients, perfect for any budget. Our team are happy to discuss any dietary requirements and can offer a variety of menus to suit.

We are delighted to offer Taunton Chamber of Commerce members a 10% discount on bookings. Please quote "Chamber 10" upon booking.

For all enquiries, please email: tauntonconferencecentre@btc.ac.uk or call us on 01823 366 427



PARDOES SOLICITORS WELCOMES VICTORIA HARRISON AS HEAD OF PEOPLE, WELFARE & CULTURE

Taunton Chamber members Pardoes Solicitors are delighted to welcome Victoria Harrison as their Head of People, Welfare & Culture

Victoria has worked in Human Resources for 13 years, in a variety of sectors and an Associate member of the CIPD with the Level 7 Certificate in Human Resource Management.

Victoria is also a Board Director for fellow Taunton Chamber members, the Richard Huish Multi Academy Trust. When she is not working, attending board meetings, or running around after her two toddlers, Victoria enjoys playing netball, going to the gym, and cooking nutritious meals for her family.

Victoria has previously worked for Pardoes as a HR Consultant in 2018, the firm are very excited to welcome her back this year during Pardoes Solicitors exciting time of innovation and growth!

"I am thrilled for this opportunity to come on board with Pardoes Solicitors at such an exciting time!"

www.pardoes.co.uk





CHAMBER MEMBERS JOIN FORCES TO DELIVER NEW MARKETING & BRANDING WORKSHOP

Two of our members have joined forces to deliver a brand new, one day practical workshop “Master Plan, Master Brand”. Steph Baker of **Steph Baker Marketing** and Kirsten Rae of **Rae & Co Creative** have announced their marketing and creative workshop to be held at Hurd’s Hill, Langport on Tuesday 26th March 2024.

The practical one-day workshop promises to equip business owners, marketers and entrepreneurs with the tools and insights needed to refine their marketing strategies and define their brand presence.

The “Master Plan, Master Brand” workshop is designed to address the common challenges faced by businesses in today’s competitive landscape. Participants will engage in hands-on activities to really hone down on their marketing messages, critique and evolve their brand assets, and align their marketing channels with overarching business goals. With a focus on practical application, this workshop offers a unique opportunity to gain expert guidance and personalised feedback.

“Whether you’re preparing to launch a new product or looking to strengthen your existing brand, our workshop offers the dedicated time and expert advice needed to make a significant impact,” said Steph Baker. “We’re here to support and inspire businesses to evolve their strategies and creative for 2024 and arm them with the tools and knowledge to make creative execution a breeze” added Kirsten Rae.

Businesses are encouraged to act quickly to secure their spots at this not-to-be-missed event. An early bird discount of £40 off the regular price is available for bookings made before 8th March.

For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-plan-master-brand-a-direction-driven-workshop-tickets-815793037937>



CHAMBER MEMBERS SOMERSET DESIGN STUDIO HAS EXCITINGLY EVOLVED TO ‘RAE & CO CREATIVE’

In a bold move that reflects their journey of growth and collaboration over the past 5 years, Taunton Chamber member Somerset Design Studio has excitingly evolved to Rae & Co Creative going into 2024.

Owner Kirsten Rae: *“Rae & Co Creative signifies not just a change in name but a shift in mindset.*

Our core mission at Rae & Co Creative is clear: crafting strong and meaningful brands and creative solutions for businesses that deeply resonate with your audience. We are passionate about sharing your story and effectively showcasing your products and services across various marketing channels and creative. Whether you require a stand out and distinctive Brand Strategy and Identity for a new business or want to evolve and navigate your current Brand with confidence, we have a solution.

At the heart of our approach is an unwavering commitment to creative excellence. We relentlessly pursue perfection in all our endeavors, consistently critiquing and advancing our work to ensure it remains fresh and compelling.

Explore our refreshed range of services, including Brand Critique, Brand Strategy and Consultancy, Brand Creative, Graphic Design, Print, Photography, Content Creation, Social Media Templates and Creative Training.

We eagerly anticipate another year of close collaboration with existing and new clients”

raeand.co



Several Taunton Chamber members have been on the move recently!

We are always delighted to see our member businesses grow and develop - all of the firms below have recently been on the move to new premises, allowing them to strengthen their brand, as well as grow their offering and their teams. Congratulations from all at Taunton Chamber of Commerce!

Ellisons Commercial Training - move to new premises on Chelston Business Park

"It has been our plan to move to expanded premises for quite some time, aware that our requirement for HGV space limited the search. We are delighted with the premises we have just taken over, which has all the office space we require as well as the facility to store all our training vehicles. It is fantastic to bring all aspects of the company together"



Walker Family Law - move to new offices on The Crescent

"We have moved locations to a larger office at No 1 The Crescent, and are enjoying being part of the Taunton community and getting to know our neighbours.

Our various office locations are not just a testament to our growth but a dedication to providing personalised legal services to a wider community"

Solace Business Management - move to new offices at Heron Gate, Hankridge

"At Solace, our expanded team have settled well into our new premises. We love helping small businesses work harder in a smart way. We're all about clearing financial clutter, simplifying your accounts, and giving you a clear picture of your financial health. Our goal is to give you every piece of information you need to be able to make the right decisions for your business in real time."



Dough Bros. - take on commercial production unit at Bishops Lydeard

Over the festive period, the brand new hi-tech bakery machinery invested in at the new unit enabled Dough Bros. to produce nearly a thousand doughnuts in one shift. With many markets and festivals already in the diary, plus the return of the dough-livery truck in the warmer months, the challenge is to see double that capacity being achievable at the new production facility!



LOCAL BUSINESSES LAUNCH NET-ZERO TAUNTON INITIATIVE

Over 40 local businesses came together recently to launch a collaborative and supportive initiative to assist companies in their journey towards becoming net zero. The brainchild of local business owners David Harris-Heffer from Initiis Ltd, who run the Vodafone stores across Somerset, and Simon Darch of local IT Solutions firm SRD Technology UK Ltd, the pair worked alongside Taunton Chamber of Commerce and green solutions consultancy Balanced Energy Ltd to offer local companies the opportunity to share their eco-goals, talk through steps they have already taken and inspire and encourage future actions.

The launch event was also supported in person by both Taunton Town Council and Somerset Council, with Cllr Caroline Ellis saying *"It is wonderful to see a room full of business people, keen to grow with a more eco-friendly emphasis, taking pride in their local area and setting out to establish a greener and more sustainable future. We are keen to continue supporting the group and look forward to being part of its future"*

David Harris-Heffer added *"We have EDF at Hinkley Point, JLR at Gravity and Leonardo at Yeovil and to be part of those supply chains you need to have a sustainability plan – as well as from April, with the NHS. In the latest research, however, only 16 per cent of businesses in Somerset have a green plan in place"*

The group will be meeting regularly to offer encouragement, share learnings and collectively make a lasting difference. **To get involved, please email office@taunton-chamber.co.uk**



MILSTED LANGDON EARNS THE PRESTIGIOUS ESG MARK FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

This distinguished accolade recognises the firm's deep-seated commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards and stands as a testament to the firm's dedication to fostering a positive impact on the environment, its clients, employees, and local communities.

Milsted Langdon had always held these things as part of its core values having previously adopted renewable energy generation and electric car charging at its office in Taunton and being a long-term supporter of local and national charities.

The ESG Mark was therefore an obvious next step to draw these things together. In accordance with its desire to have staff at all levels involved in moving the firm forward, a project team, with representatives from across the firm, was formed to engage in the process of reviewing the firm's current position and recommending improvements, as well as engaging with ESG Mark in relation to the accreditation.

Simon Rowe, Partner and Chairman at Milsted Langdon, said: *"We are honoured to receive the ESG Mark, an accolade that resonates with our core values and aspirations for a more sustainable and equitable future."*

"The project team have done an amazing job in helping us to attain this status but more importantly in highlighting areas where we can continue to improve. Obtaining the ESG Mark is not the end of the journey, but just a bright point along the way. The important thing now is to continue to improve and strive to do better."

"For us, it's not just about doing business; it's about doing business right. We are dedicated to elevating the communities we serve, championing diversity, and ensuring that our impact on the planet is a positive one. Importantly this is not just a goal for me as Chairman or the partners, but all of us that make up Milsted Langdon."

TAUNTON CHAMBER MEMBER DIRECTORY

360 South West	Elevate Business Performance	Podshavers Restaurant
45Red Remote Solutions	Ellisons Commercial Training Ltd	Porter Dodson
A C Mole & Sons	EMR Business Management	Portt & Co
Accounts Projects	Ethical Sales Pro	Professional Apprenticeships
Activate Fitness	Everys Solicitors	Professional Cloud Solutions
Aisling Magill Photography	E White & Son (Taunton) Ltd	The Property Centre
Albert Goodman	Exmoor Search & Rescue	Prosper Events
Alder King Consultant Surveyors	Fifields Construction	Quantock Ecology Ltd
Alfies Landscapes Ltd	Frameworkx	Queen's College
Amanda-Louise Knight Weddings, Proposals & Events	Fusion Dance Circus	Rae & Co
Amanda-Louise Funeral Services	GD Media	Reminiscence Learning
Amos Ellis Consulting Ltd	Genius PR & Events	Richard Huish College
Apple FM	Green Door People Development	Sally's School of Motoring Ltd
Aspire Fitness & Wellbeing	Go Create	Sangha House
Autumn Films	Great Western Hotel	Serenity Women's Clinic
Averys Garden Centre	Greenslade Taylor Hunt	Sharpe Commercial Finance
Axe Slingers	Gurds Menswear	Solace
Ballantine Wealth Management	Hatfield White Ltd	Somerset AFD CIC
Barclays Business, Taunton	Heritage IFC Ltd	Somerset Counselling Centre
Bath Place Traders Association	Hickleys Ltd	Somerset Hearing
Be. Laser & Skin Clinic	Honey Legal - Lee Harrison	Somerset Jobs
Below Ground Solutions Ltd	Imperial Finishes Antiques & Restoration	Somerset Ladies in Business
Bishop Fox's School	Ian Walker Family Law	Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
Blackdown Financial	Imprints	Somerset Web Services
BLOCK Workspace	In House Training & Consultancy Ltd	South West Property Reports
Blue Penguin Chartered Accountants	Initiis Ltd t/a Vodafone	SPAEDA Arts Education
Bredons Sewing Machine Centre	Inspired	SRD Technology UK
Brent Accounting	Introtweet Ltd	Stantec
Brewhouse Theatre & Arts Centre	Jaeger Recruitment Ltd	Stella Creations
Bridgwater & Taunton College	Jen the Celebrant	Steph Baker Marketing
Buses of Somerset	J P Gainsford Associates Ltd	Stephens Scown LLP
CABiz Networking & Academy	Jo Pavey Insurance	Stone + Partners
Calverts (Taunton) Ltd	Just Ceremonies	Stone Artisan Pizza
Carly Press	Katie Thomson Marketing	Studio.Lemonade
Castle Hotel (Taunton) Ltd	K & J Hodge Contractors Ltd	Study Sharpe
Chadwick Business Centres	Lentells Chartered Certified Accountants	Style by Louise
Channel UK Events CIC	Lucy Squire Menopause Wellness	Summerfield Developments SW Ltd
Cherwyn Developments Ltd	Love Lifestyle	Sunflower Social Media
CICCIC	Lloyd & Whyte	Survey Solutions
Clark Shaw Associates	Lula Wellness	Swan Business Centre
Clarke Willmott	Mailboxes (Taunton) Etc	Tacchi Morris Arts Centre
Cleaning Solutions UK	Mainline Spirits	Talking Stick Digital
Collar Factory	Michael Spiers Jewellers	Taunton & Pickering Golf Club
Confident Orthodontics	Mihaz	Time for You Cleaning Services
Connectable	Milsted Langdon	Taunton Home Tech
Cooper Associates	Moore Scarrott Limited	Taunton School Enterprises
Corner House Hotel	Mr Miles Tearoom	Taunton Team Chaplaincy Trust
Costgard Ltd	My Carbon Coach	Taunton Town Football Club
County Walk Shopping Centre	New Leaf Workplace Wellbeing	Taylor Made Solutions
Crescent Funeral Services	Newton Design.co	Tone FM (TCMG CIC)
Croft Animation & Accommodation Atalier	New You CBT	Townley Insurance Brokers Ltd
Cullen's Catering	Next Stage Somerset	Townsend Letting & Management
Daffodil PR & Communications	Nexus Commercial Ltd	Teresa Wort Mindfulness & Compassion Teacher
Daisy Admin Services	Not Monkeys Recruitment	Timeforge
Design Bean	Olive Rose Contemporary Jewellery	Tregenna Group
Design Hive	Olivia Morton Translations	Visit Somerset
Dough Bros.	Orchard Shopping Centre	White Knight Marketing
Dryad Gin	The Outsourced Recruitment Company	Whittlesea Mortgages
eat the bird	Pardoes Solicitors	Wig & Hair Clinic Taunton
Eden May	Parker Tree Care Ltd	Wilkins Safety Group Ltd
Edventure	PayDough.me	Worshipful Mayor of Taunton
	Pearce Practice, Architects	Zest Payroll Ltd
	The Pocket Strategist	