

Early Summer 2024 edition
CHAMBER CHATTER
by local business. for local business

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE TAUNTON BUSINESS COMMUNITY



The Knife Angel raises awareness of the negative effects of violence and aggression and was brought to Taunton for the month of April as part of its national tour by a collaboration of Somerset Council, Taunton Town Council, Stand Against Violence, The Barnaby Webber Foundation and Go Create Taunton.



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

Upcoming Events Programme

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



CUPPA & CAKE RELAXED NETWORKING
THURSDAY 9TH MAY & 4TH JULY, 11AM
£8.50 members' price

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

Join us for our ever-popular relaxed networking events at members **The Great Western Hotel** - an easy stroll from the town centre, with parking nearby at Kilkenny Car Park. An 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.

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.



BRAND BOOSTER BREAKFAST
TUESDAY 11TH JUNE, 11AM
£16 members' price

CREATIVITY OVER COCKTAILS
THURSDAY 27TH JUNE, 7PM
£25 per person

Join us for breakfast at **Mr Miles Tearoom** with imagery expert **Aisling Magill Photography** and media legend **Clinton Rogers** for top tips and insight on increasing the visibility of your business. Use the knowledge shared to boost your business' media confidence - whether that's online, in print or in front of the camera.

Join members **Inspired Taunton** and **Dryad Gin** for a relaxed evening of crafting over cocktails at the Inspired crafting workshop. Decorate your very own gin glass to take home while enjoying delicious cocktails (or mocktails) from the Dryad Gin team - all materials and your first drink are included. Book via: www.inspiredtaunton.co.uk/book-online

All our events are bookable via the eventbrite link below, plus, click to 'follow' our eventbrite page, which means you'll get a notification into your inbox whenever we add a new event!
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/taunton-chamber-of-commerce-15354648391

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

scan here



WELCOME TO OUR New Members



A SAFE SPACE TO TALK...

At Somerset Counselling Centre, we believe everyone deserves access to affordable, high-quality counselling services. Located in Taunton, our discreet Centre provides a safe haven for individuals and couples to explore their thoughts, behaviours, and relationships without fear of judgment.

We understand that seeking help can be daunting, which is why we offer subsidised sessions through grants, projects and fundraising efforts. Our dedicated team of professional counsellors are trained in various therapeutic modalities ensuring you receive the support that best suits your needs. Somerset Counselling Centre is accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy meaning you can expect excellent standards from our team.

Counselling isn't just about talking; it's about understanding and breaking free from unhelpful patterns. Whether you're dealing with trauma, relationship issues, or simply seeking personal growth, our experienced counsellors are here to guide you every step of the way.

But our commitment doesn't end there. We also offer Employee Assistance Programmes for local businesses, promoting emotional well-being in the workplace.

We welcome you to Somerset Counselling Centre, where healing begins, and lives are transformed.

www.scctaunton.org.uk

01823 337049



Welcome to Taunton Workwear, the exciting new chapter of Funky Labels! For years, we've been recognised for our exceptional label printing services, but there's always been more brewing behind the scenes. Responding to the frequent requests of our loyal customers, we've often found ourselves printing custom workwear, albeit somewhat quietly. But now, it's time to step into the spotlight.

With our recent move to a larger, more accommodating facility, we're thrilled to announce a significant expansion of our services. Funky Labels is evolving, and from this transformation emerges Taunton Workwear - a dedicated venture focusing solely on workwear. With the introduction of 2 embroidery machines, we can now offer a fully customised service.

As the only company in Taunton boasting a showroom dedicated to workwear, we're set to revolutionise the way you shop for professional attire. Taunton Workwear isn't just a store; it's an experience. Our showroom is designed to give you a tangible sense of the quality and variety we offer, allowing you to explore and select the perfect garments for your needs. With embroidery and printing examples enabling you to see the quality.

We can't wait to see you.



www.tauntonworkwear.co.uk

Annie's

FURNITURE ART

Debbie Prosser founded Annie's Furniture Art in the summer of 2020 after dedicating numerous years to refining her skills in furniture upcycling and design interpretation.

With a background in textile and surface pattern design, fine art, and mosaic, Debbie's enthusiasm for breathing new life into furniture was a natural progression fueled by her growing affection for vintage pieces and contemporary aesthetics. Her commitment to mitigating the disposal of vintage furniture, coupled with her artistic acumen, has been pivotal in shaping Annie's Furniture Art into what it is today.

At Annie's Furniture Art, we understand the importance of attention to detail. Each of our meticulously styled pieces is lovingly prepped, restyled, and finished to the highest standards. Our commitment to quality extends to applying a fully waterproof seal for durability and longevity, ensuring that your furniture remains as beautiful as the day you received it. We take pride in complementing each piece's original design and purpose, providing our clients with personalised customer service from the beginning to the end of their journey with us.



www.anniesfurnitureart.com



Since 2019, Simon and Mel have been at the helm of BBQ Lodges, bringing Scandinavian charm to gardens across the South West and Wales.

Our passion lies in designing and crafting each Lodge to perfectly match our customers' dreams. However, we realised many of our potential clients were seeking something different for their gardens and that's why we launched Country Garden Rooms in 2023 – a sister business offering stunning, fully insulated and bespoke buildings designed for all year-round use. Since then, we've been going from strength to strength installing buildings for homes, glamping sites, schools and many other uses.

At BBQ Lodges, personal touch is everything. We bring that same dedication to Country Garden Rooms, ensuring each space is versatile and tailored – from home offices and gyms to tranquil summer houses. With our 10-year warranty, bespoke 3D designs, and full installation service, these rooms are more than additions to your home; they're enhancements to your lifestyle.

We're looking forward to helping even more customers create their ideal garden spaces in 2024 and beyond. Whether it's a Lodge or a Garden Room, let's make your garden dreams come true together.

www.bbqlodges.co.uk



Taunton Carnival Procession brings spectacle and entertainment to the streets every October. It is one of the key cultural events in the town's calendar, attracting thousands of people from far and wide. Since its revival in 1966 it has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for many local organisations and charities.

A small group of dedicated volunteers spend many hours dealing with the 'behind the scenes' activities that enable the Procession to go ahead. It doesn't just 'happen overnight'! In 1994 we formed a Company Limited by Guarantee giving us a formal basis to obtain insurance and services.

We have always enjoyed good relations with Taunton's business community. In years past many local companies had their own Carnival Clubs and built floats to take part in the Procession. Others have supported our activities either financially or in kind.

We organise other events during the year to bring in the monies needed to underwrite the Procession. Our ethos is that money collected on the streets of the town should be used for the benefit of the town.

We believe by joining the Chamber we can forge stronger links on several fronts to ensure Carnival remains an important part of Taunton's heritage.

www.tauntoncarnival.co.uk
info@tauntoncarnival.co.uk



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

NOW IS THE TIME TO SAVE AT OUR MEMBERS CALVERTS OF TAUNTON

SPRING PROMOTION GIVES YOU A CHOICE OF THREE UNDERLAYS AT HALF PRICE ON ALL CARPET ORDERS

Promotion period 2nd April to 31st May 2024.

We are a family owned furniture store, established in 1944. Over these years of successful trading, we have grown from a small shop into the impressive 25,000sq ft furniture store that we are today. Through all this time we have retained the values of our founder.

We are located in Taunton's Station Road where our extensive frontage allows for constantly changing window displays, with FREE customer parking to the rear, via Canal Road. From Taunton we are able to supply our customers throughout Somerset and adjoining counties - indeed we often find ourselves delivering to areas far beyond the South West.

94-108 Station Road, Taunton | 01823 335823
www.calvertsfurniture.co.uk



Calverts
the home of fine floorings

Spring Promotion

New Underlay at Half Price

on all carpet orders

Underlay products included in promotion: Cloud 9 Contract, Tredaire Treadmore and Axfelt



TAUNTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS WIN AT SOMERSET BUSINESS AWARDS

The winners of the 2024 Somerset Business Awards were announced at a glittering gala dinner and presentation at the Winter Gardens Pavilion, in Weston-super-Mare, on Friday March 22nd, with nearly 400 business people from across Somerset attended the gala evening. Congratulations to Taunton Chamber of Commerce members **Bridgwater and Taunton College** and **Talking Stick Digital** who took home the awards for Large Business of the Year and Small Business of the Year respectively.



Somerset Chamber Chief Executive, Emma Rawlings, said the quality of entries had again been incredible and thanked everyone who had supported the awards: *"We have some amazing businesses in Somerset, and it was fantastic to be able to honour just some of their achievements. We know many have faced some extremely challenging trading conditions again this last 12 months, so it was encouraging to hear about the successes of our finalists and winners and to be able to help them celebrate through the awards."*

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 @ [t](#) [f](#) [in](#)

CLASS OF 2023 REUNITE FOR HUISH'S PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

Taunton Chamber members Richard Huish College celebrated the Class of 2023 at their annual Prizegiving Ceremony on Wednesday 10th April. Nominated by teaching staff the awards recognise students who showed extraordinary promise during their time at college, whether it be for outstanding achievement, their work ethic or best embodying the values of the College.

There were 54 awards in total this year, with several individuals and organisations supporting these awards through sponsorship including Taunton Chamber of Commerce, which has sponsored the A Level Business Prize since 2006. Inspiring and supporting the workforce of the future is a key aim of Taunton Chamber, and though sadly this year's award winner Riley Bowler was unable to attend, President Richard Holt and Membership and Events Manager Bethan Turner enjoyed a wonderful evening of celebration with the staff and students at Huish. This year's award was made even more special as Richard's son Toby had previously been a recipient of the A Level Business Prize back in 2015 when he himself was studying at Richard Huish College.



CHAMBER MEMBER GENIUS PR & EVENTS BRINGS SOMERSET COMEDY FESTIVAL ALIVE

A long-standing dream, now turned reality, Taunton Chamber member Genius PR & Events brings a brand new County-wide Comedy Festival to Somerset, and as well as the opportunity to enjoy the experience as an audience member Somerset Comedy Festival CIC is thrilled to extend an invitation for your esteemed brand to join the festivities as a sponsor - a celebration of laughter, joy, and unforgettable moments.

Making the Somerset Comedy Festival truly collaborative, events are taking place across July at fellow Taunton Chamber of Commerce members CICCIC, Castle Hotel, Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre and Taunton School as well as at Taunton Minster. With a host of amazing acts and 15 different events taking place in Taunton (and County-wide a tremendous amount more!) there really will be something for everyone!

For specific dates, please see: www.somersetcomedyfestival.co.uk



Highlighting the exclusive business sponsorship opportunities available, Trish Caller explains "As we gear up for an event that promises to be the highlight of the comedy calendar, we actively seek partners who share our passion for entertainment and community engagement. Sponsorship packages are designed to offer excellent value for money, with a range of options catering to different business sizes and marketing objectives.

My dream is that everyone benefits from the Somerset Comedy Festival - the venues, the acts, the sponsors, the wonderful audiences, and the festival itself - so we can build bigger for 2025. The sponsorship period will cover before, during and after the actual festival and I am liaising with the County's premier media outlets at present.

Businesses getting on board as sponsors in year 1 are guaranteed a place at the festivals taking place in future years, as Somerset Comedy festival becomes a landmark event in the South West calendar each July."

All you need to know, plus a quick and easy contact form at:
www.somersetcomedyfestival.co.uk/sponsorship/

MARQUEE EVENT LINE UP 2024

For the first time ever - we have an exciting line up of events in our marquee in June & July!

LASHINGS WORLD XI CRICKET DAY

SATURDAY 29TH JUNE

MAGIC OF THE MUSICALS

SATURDAY 13TH JULY

PINK TRIBUTE PERFORMED BY VICKY JACKSON

THURSDAY 18TH JULY

THE GREAT BALDINI PRESENTS: A MAGICAL CABARET

FRIDAY 19TH JULY

TAKE THAT EXPERIENCE

SUNDAY 21ST JULY

FOREVER JACKSON

FRIDAY 26TH JULY



SCAN HERE

FOR MORE
INFO & TO
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TAUNTON
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE GERRY

Last month, Taunton Chamber of Commerce members **The Castle Hotel** bid farewell to Gerry Barge, Breakfast Chef of 26 years as he took up well earned retirement. Overall, Gerry worked at The Castle for a total of 51 years and the photos here show the special lunch that was hosted recently to celebrate Gerry's time at The Castle. Several wonderful former staff members even returned to share stories and congratulate Gerry, with the table combined having a total of roughly 300 years of service.

Thank you, Gerry, for being a wonderful part of The Castle. We wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement!



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WALKER FAMILY LAW - THE DIVORCE SUPPORT CLUB LAUNCHES PODCAST

Walker Family Law's Divorce Support Club is thrilled to announce the launch of its new podcast.

The Divorce Support Club, hosted by Claire Macklin - Divorce Support Coach, and Walker Family Law's team of solicitors that take turns in hosting the sessions each month, aims to provide subscribers with valuable advice and support on different aspects of divorce. Each session is filled with tips from Claire and advice (legal and general) from the solicitor hosting that month. The Divorce Support Club also welcomes expert guest speakers throughout the year, to give detailed, expert advice on varying topics such as pensions, well-being and building confidence post separation.

"We're excited to widen our community with the launch of our podcast" said Fiona, head of divorce team and host of the Divorce Support Club. "Divorce can be a challenging journey in so many ways, and our goal is to provide a support network and valuable resources to help people to navigate their life during and after divorce."

The Divorce Support Club visits a wide range of topics in relation to divorce including navigating your future, supporting your children, self-care tips and more. It is a completely free service and subscribers are anonymous to one another.

The aim behind launching the podcast is to make the Divorce Support Club more accessible. If subscribers don't have time to attend the live sessions or they need to be able to listen on the go, the podcast is an ideal alternative from the live webinar or the YouTube upload. Subscribers can simply press play, pop their phone in their pocket, and get advice whilst carrying on with their day.

To listen, visit; <https://open.spotify.com/show/1E0gVV6TrUpIUCjqKW3lue?si=b2bb601fd1db40ed>

Episodes are released each month, a few days after the live session.



TAUNTON CHAMBER MEMBERS PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICESHIPS ARE ON A MISSION!

Currently, the Southwest is in the lowest three regions for uptake for apprenticeships. There are many factors contributing to this, including the rural nature of the region and a lack of promotion. Needless to say, we are not happy about this. We are on a mission to ensure that local businesses are aware of the funding they can access to not only recruit new staff but also train existing staff.

Many businesses are not aware that the government will pay at least 95% of the cost of training existing staff through apprenticeship qualifications. This leads to better skills, knowledge, and retention amongst many other benefits. The only trade-off is allowing your team to study within their working week, but the return on investment is huge.

If anyone would like to discuss upskilling their team, or our free recruitment service for new hire apprentices, then feel free to reach out for a Teams meeting to discuss further:

www.professionalapprenticeships.co.uk

Professional Apprenticeships

'Your friendly apprenticeship experts'

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info@professionalapprenticeships.co.uk

0117 422 4000



MAKING GREEN NORMAL UPDATE



portt
& Co

PORTT & CO LAUNCH CARBON ACCOUNTING SERVICE

What is Carbon Accounting?

While carbon accounting may feel new, the demand for it is rapidly increasing. It is the measurement of an organisation's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Emissions come from activities like using fuel and electricity, buying goods and services, waste, business travel and employee commuting.

What are the benefits of carbon accounting?

The UK Government and larger companies have legal requirements to report on the GHG emissions, increasingly companies are also making voluntary 'net zero' commitments. Up to now larger companies have mainly focussed on emissions under their direct control (scope 1&2) but the focus is beginning to shift to their supply chain (scope 3), those wishing to be a part of the supply chain of larger companies should therefore expect to be able to report on their GHG emissions in the years ahead and show their progress against a 'base year'.

As a business authentically focussed on doing our bit for the planet, I can honestly say that we have benefited from both new customers coming to us directly, increased lead conversion and candidates making direct applications via our careers page as a result of our sustainability credentials. There are lots of companies making green claims through their marketing, but accurate carbon accounting and

Sunday
advisors

will save
the world.

reporting enables you to back up your own claims to demonstrate your efforts are authentic.

Aside from the business benefits, carbon accounting is the best way to understand the impact your business has on the planet and enables you to focus your efforts on the areas that have the most meaningful impact, to ensure we leave a lush and prosperous planet for our future generations.

How does it work?

Although we're using the term carbon accounting, you can think of us as carbon bookkeepers, because we undertake clients' bookkeeping, we have access to most of the information we need and our new partnership with 'Sunday' directly pulls in this data from Xero. Our carbon accounting services are currently in a closed trial for existing clients, whilst we fully develop the full scope of our service offering and pricing, as such it is heavily discounted for early adopters.

If you have any questions about this service or would like some more information, please complete our carbon accounting enquiry form [here; \(https://form.jotform.com/240603397212046\)](https://form.jotform.com/240603397212046)



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7 Bridge St. Taunton

Tel: 01823 322263

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Taunton Chamber of Commerce

Action for Somerset's Future

An interactive day developing connection across Somerset communities to encourage climate action and community wellbeing.



Saturday 18th
May 2024



10am - 3.30pm



Albemarle Centre
Taunton TA1 1BA



All are welcome

including individuals,
community groups
and local councils



Free event but booking essential
<https://bit.ly/ActionForSomerset>

A joint event by:

Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy



**Naturally
Somerset**
Somerset Local Nature Partnership



**Somerset
Council**



SOMERSET
Climate Action Network



Community
Action
Groups

Somerset

TAUNTON CHAMBER MEMBER DIRECTORY

360 South West
45Red Remote Solutions
A C Mole & Sons
Accounts Projects
Activate Fitness
Aisling Magill Photography
Albert Goodman
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Amanda-Louise Knight Weddings,
Proposals & Events
Amanda-Louise Funeral Services
Amos Ellis Consulting Ltd
Annie's Furniture Art
Apple FM
Aspire Fitness & Wellbeing
Autumn Films
Averys Garden Centre
Axe Slingers
Ballantine Wealth Management
Barclays Business, Taunton
Bath Place Traders Association
BBQ Lodges Ltd
Be. Laser & Skin Clinic
Below Ground Solutions Ltd
Bishop Fox's School
Blackdown Financial
BLOCK Workspace
Blue Penguin Chartered Accountants
Bredons Sewing Machine Centre
Brent Accounting
Brewhouse Theatre & Arts Centre
Bridgwater & Taunton College
Calverts (Taunton) Ltd
Carly Press
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Chadwick Business Centres
Channel UK Events CIC
Cherwyn Developments Ltd
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Clark Shaw Associates
Clarke Willmott
Cleaning Solutions UK
Collar Factory
Confident Orthodontics
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
Daisy Admin Services
Design Bean
Design Hive
Dough Bros.
Dryad Gin
eat the bird
Eden May
Edventure
Elevate Business Performance

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Everys Solicitors
E White & Son (Taunton) Ltd
Exmoor Search & Rescue
Fifields Construction
Frameworkx
Fusion Dance Circus
GD Media
Genius PR & Events
Green Door People Development
Go Create
Great Western Hotel
Greenslade Taylor Hunt
Gurds Menswear
Hatfield White Ltd
Heritage IFC Ltd
Hickleys Ltd
Honey Legal - Lee Harrison
Imperial Finishes Antiques & Restoration
Ian Walker Family Law
Imprints
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Initiis Ltd t/a Vodafone
Inspired
Introtweet Ltd
Jen the Celebrant
J P Gainsford Associates Ltd
Jo Pavey Insurance
Just Ceremonies
Katie Thomson Marketing
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Style by Louise
Summerfield Developments SW Ltd
Sunflower Social Media
Survey Solutions
Swan Business Centre
Tacchi Morris Arts Centre
Talking Stick Digital
Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club
Taunton Carnival Committee
Taunton Workwear
Time for You Cleaning Services
Taunton Home Tech
Taunton School Enterprises
Taunton Team Chaplaincy Trust
Taunton Town Football Club
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