



New Year 2025  
**CHAMBER CHATTER**  
*by local business. for local business*

**ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE TAUNTON BUSINESS COMMUNITY**



**Congratulations to members  
Calvert's of Taunton,  
celebrating 80 years in business**



**2024**



**1944**

Scan here for  
the full story



Mrs Calvert and the staff



Mr Dennis Calvert  
Greatly missed and  
their inspiration!



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

# Upcoming Events Programme

## JOINT BREAKFAST WITH BRIDGWATER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - 23RD JANUARY 8AM - £12

Don't miss out on our bi-annual get together with our neighbouring Chamber!

<https://www.bridgwaterchamber.org.uk/chambers-events/joint-breakfast-event-bridgwater-and-taunton-chambers-of-commerce/>



## CUPPA & CAKE RELAXED NETWORKING

6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 11AM - £8.50

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 news from the local business community and to make some new connections at the same time. Plus, bring unwanted books, DVDs, CDs and vinyl for donation to members Oxfam Books and Music. All the 2025 dates are bookable now!



## WARM UP YOUR WINTER SOCIAL EVENT

12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 6PM - £20

Join us to warm up your winter and set your mind to sunnier days ahead at **Deckhouse** Taunton! Enjoy 3 courses of delicious Tapas, plus dessert and your first drink is free.

Plus - Deckhouse are offering us an exclusive Happy Hour before and after the event, a great way to kick start your 2025 networking!



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 10AM - £5

Join us for a really feel-good morning at **Queen's College** as we celebrate International Women's Day. There will be plenty of opportunity to make new connections with women who work across the local area, plus hear from our inspirational speakers - local women making a real difference!



## FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT AT CICCIC

6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 6PM - £5pp (teams of 4)

Do you have the brain power to take our Fundraiser Pub Quiz? Help us raise money for local not-for-profit chamber member **CICCIC** while having fun and winning prizes! We've got obvious questions, obscure ones, and even ones that make you kick yourself. The quiz uses video and sound too. Bring your colleagues or friends, to the comfortable surroundings with a licensed bar and café on hand.

Book here: <https://www.creativeinnovationcentre.co.uk/events/taunton-chamber-fundraising-quiz-night-thurs-6th-mar/>

Unless otherwise stated, our events are bookable via the following eventbrite link, plus, click to 'follow' our page, so you'll get a notification by email when we add new events!

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

scan here



# WELCOME TO OUR New Members



## 4 Seasons Flooring - the one stop solution for all your wooden flooring needs

We are a bespoke, professional Wood Flooring specialist company with decades of expertise in providing premium hardwood and engineered wood flooring solutions to both our Domestic and Commercial customers.

We are based in Wellington, Somerset and proud to serve many other surrounding areas.

4 Seasons Flooring is founded and managed by James Ryan – and our services consist of supply, install, maintenance and restoration.

### Luxury Made Affordable

Our wood flooring shop provides high-end, durable, sustainably sourced wood flooring options at very competitive prices, as we are great believers in that Luxury can be made affordable without compromising on product integrity or customer service.

With so many different designs, textures, widths and colours, you will be sure to find something which suits your specific tastes, preferences and budgets at our wood floor shop.

Our longevity is reflective of our commitment to providing a valuable service to our clients and we are proud of the work we do and the relationships we have built over the years.

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



## BECOME YOUR OWN HERO



## Empower Your Team with Active Self Protection

In today's world, personal safety is paramount. At Active Self Protection, we offer tailored training programs designed for corporate clients to enhance employee confidence and preparedness. Our expert-led workshops focus on practical self-defence techniques, situational awareness, and crisis management.

Investing in your team's safety not only fosters a secure workplace but also boosts morale and productivity. Equip your employees with the skills they need to protect themselves and others.

Our workshops are fun and light-hearted and completely inclusive.

Join us in creating a safer work environment. Contact Active Self Protection today to learn more about our corporate training solutions!

Call 07975 551306 or email  
[stuart@activeselfprotection.co.uk](mailto:stuart@activeselfprotection.co.uk)

# AE FLOOR RESTORATION



**AE Floor Restoration is a Wellington based business run by Andy Bell. We offer tiling services and specialist hard floor restoration, across the South West.**



We cover all aspects of wall and floor tiling and restoration of stone, slate, limestone, marble, terrazzo, travertine, terracotta and quarry tiles.

Whether it's your home or business, our knowledgeable team will ensure a smooth process and a beautiful finish every time. You can count on us for quality care, excellent service, and a warm friendly experience.

Contact us to discuss your domestic or commercial requirements and take the first step to falling back in love with your floors.



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



**Welcome to new Taunton Chamber of Commerce member Idea 4 You - Bodyshop & Car Wrapping Taunton, a partner business of P&P Auto Services, based at Courtlands Industrial Estate at Cross Keys.**

*"Exciting times at our brand new Bodyshop in Taunton! Call us at 07907 439759 to secure your place, and don't forget to check out our Facebook and Instagram videos of recent work-in-progress to see what we've been up to!"*

#### **Services on offer include:**

- Accident Repairs
- Paintwork & Detailing
- Dent Removal
- Full and Partial Car Wraps
- Vinyl Decals and Graphics
- Paint Protection Film (PPF)
- Ceramic Coating
- Vinyl Wraps
- Tinned Windows
- Dechroming

#### **Opening Hours:**

Monday to Friday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Contact Us: 07907 439759**  
[www.idea4you.co.uk](http://www.idea4you.co.uk)



# nine springs

CHARD NATURAL HEALTH CENTRE



**Nestled in the heart of Chard, our centre offers a variety of holistic therapies designed to nurture your body, mind, and spirit. Whether you're seeking relaxation, rejuvenation, or a path to healing, we have something for everyone.**

Our beautiful, tranquil spaces are thoughtfully designed to provide a serene environment for your wellness journey. Come and experience the care, expertise, and support of our professional practitioners. Your well-being is our priority.

**Therapies include:**

- Hypnotherapy • Massage • Reflexology
- Reiki • Bowen • Free hearing tests
- Shiatsu • Tuina • Counselling • Meditation
- Sound Healing... and more!

**Therapy/Studio Rooms also available, ideal for:**

- Therapists • Fitness instructors
- Aestheticians • Beauticians
- Yoga or Pilates instructors

Located on Chard High Street in a stunning Georgian property, the spaces are full of character and charm. A fantastic opportunity to establish your practice in a prime, prominent location!

[www.chardclinic.org](http://www.chardclinic.org)



**Welcome to new Taunton Chamber of Commerce members Emma and Richard at Islands Taunton based at 14 Bath Place at the corner with The Crescent. Amazing tastes of the Caribbean right here in Taunton.**

The team are ready to serve you their authentic Caribbean cuisine full of flavour and fusion from across the Islands, fantastic drinks and great vibes!!

For those of you not wanting to venture far at this time of year, there is some Islands Love Food coming straight to you.... some wholesome niceness to warm your bellies and your hearts as the days get a little darker and a lot colder, as you can order for delivery via Uber Eats and Just Eat or by calling the restaurant direct on 01823 807072.

There is a new website coming soon too, both for booking and ordering!

*"Islands is home to authentic Caribbean food drinks & vibes in the heart of Taunton - 14 Bath Place, serving niceness everytime!"*

*"Food was authentic, really delicious, decent portions and nutritious. You can't criticise the atmosphere, from the decor to the music, it puts you in a laid-back 'on holiday' vibe."*

Call 01823 807072



# IL BASILICO

ITALIAN BAR & RESTAURANT

**Welcome to new Taunton Chamber of Commerce members Il Basilico Restaurant, nestled in stunning surroundings in the village of West Monkton.**

“One of the best places to eat in Taunton, we have brought our love and talent for authentic Italian cuisine from Tuscany, while putting a unique modern twist on classic dishes.

Our chefs and staff know Italian cuisine and remember well the recipes served as they were in Italy. We aim to bring that taste of Tuscany to our authentic Italian restaurant in Taunton; delicious and uncomplicated flavours with our unique twist.

Lorenzo’s passion goes into everything he makes, and as our head chef, nothing less than perfection gets past him. For his whole life, our chef has studied his craft and perfected his recipes, maintaining the authenticity of his nonna’s cooking while updating the flavours for modern palettes. Lorenzo is more than just our chef - he is your host.”



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



## MATVERTISE

Advertise with every bite

**At Matvertise we specialise in bringing businesses to the forefront of local dining experiences. Based in the heart of Somerset, we’ve been helping businesses of all sizes connect with their target audience in a unique and effective way - through beautifully designed, custom-printed placemats in local restaurants, pubs and cafes.**

Our service is simple but impactful. We partner with local eateries across Somerset to place your advertisements directly in front of potential customers as they dine. Each placemat is custom-designed to feature multiple advertisements in a way that’s eye-catching yet unobtrusive, ensuring your brand gets noticed without disrupting the dining experience.

Whether you’re a local business looking to increase visibility or a larger company seeking to connect with the South West community, our placemats offer a cost-effective advertising solution that delivers results.

Our mission is to connect businesses with their local community through innovative, effective advertising solutions. We are committed to helping our clients grow by providing them with a unique platform that reaches their customers where it matters most.

Ready to place your brand on the table? Contact us today to learn more about how Placemat Advertising can help your business thrive.



Tel: 01823807300

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



computer services

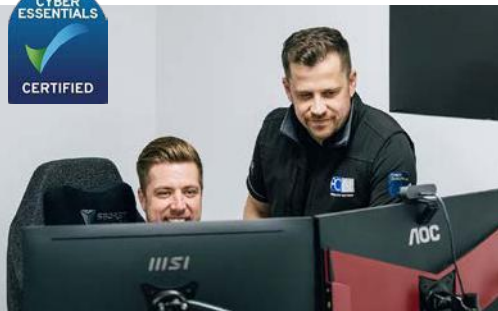
**PCN Computer Services are a team of hard-working IT professionals based in Taunton, Somerset providing IT Support to businesses throughout the South west. We count some of the region's most successful firms among our customers.**

We aim to provide our clients with 1 point of contact for every aspect of their IT system, from IT Support, IT Consultancy and Procurement through to network installation, phone systems and broadband (with everything else in between).

Our ethos has always been around our clients and how IT can benefit and drive their business forward. Client relationships are the key to our success and we proudly support over 50 UK businesses, many of which have been with us for over 10 years.

We take immense pride in seeing our clients thrive and grow. We provide ongoing IT support and advice to ensure their systems continue to meet their evolving needs.

Managed IT | Cloud Solutions  
IT Consultancy | WIFI & Network cabling  
Phones & Broadband | Cyber Security



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



graphic design with a personal touch



[designbean.co.uk](http://designbean.co.uk)

01823 667063  
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## 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.

# Congratulations...



**Albert Goodman Marketing Team win at Accounting Excellence Awards**



**Brazz win at Luxe Life Hospitality Awards**



**Castle Hotel win at Luxe Life Hospitality Awards**



**Cooper Associates win at ESTAS - Best Mortgage Office in the UK, County Award for Best in Somerset, and Mortgage Broker South West 2024**



**Eden May - Best Estate Agent Guide Awards winner for Lettings**



**Brewhouse Vickie Robbins - winner at West Country Women Awards**



# TO ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY BEEN AWARD RECIPIENTS



**EMR Business Management**  
- winner at West Country Women Awards



**Talking Stick Digital** win Business of the Year and Best Employer at The Sedgemoor Business Awards



**Fiona Mahoney - Reminiscence Learning** wins at Best Business Women National Awards



**Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre** win first prize in the Traders Display category at Taunton Carnival



**West Country Women Awards winners**



**Professional Apprenticeships** win Commitment to Diversity category at Tech South West Awards

## CRESCENT FUNERAL SERVICES - SIMON CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

The last week of October 1994 a young floppy haired school boy from Ladymead School entered his first Funeral Home for Work Experience... fast forward 30 years, minus the floppy hair and we celebrate Simon's 30 year career caring for the bereaved.

Having worked in the profession for 30 years, you can imagine the changes and people he has met, from making tea and engraving coffin plates to working in London, Bath and back home to Taunton, Simon has had the privilege of working alongside some amazing people all working to make a funeral as good an experience for those left behind as possible.

He has been there for countless families over the years, from all walks of life, from neighbours, family and friends to celebrity clients and well-known public figures, but never feels that he knows it all, Simon said, *"everyday you learn something new!"*

Now with his Crescent family, Simon brings that wealth of knowledge and experience together to provide a service that is truly person centred, back in the community he grew up with.

Working alongside SAIF, the leading professional association for the Funeral Profession, he continues in his supportive role, helping other funeral directors all over the country to be the best they can be as Chair of the Quality Assurance Team and holds a seat on the National Executive Committee as well.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH SOMERSET COUNSELLING CENTRE



The Somerset Counselling Centre has been a cornerstone of support in our community for over 30 years. As a charity, we provide professional, affordable counselling to individuals in need, helping to improve lives and promote mental well-being across Somerset.

Our work is only possible thanks to the generosity of local businesses, individuals, and organisations. Whether through fundraising events, partnerships, or direct support, every contribution makes a meaningful impact.

As we step into 2025, we know many businesses are selecting their Charity of the Year or planning their annual fundraising initiatives. If you're looking for a cause to champion, we'd love for you to consider us. For example, we were recently the proud beneficiaries of The Stand Club's dinner dance in Taunton – a partnership that truly made a difference.

Collaboration with us is more than just support; it's a partnership. We value our relationships with supporters, creating opportunities to connect and give back in meaningful ways.

This year, we're excited to meet more of our community and Chamber members at local events. We're also expanding our offerings, including additional art and therapy courses that have been transformative for many.

Stay connected and learn more about our work by visiting [www.scctaunton.co.uk](http://www.scctaunton.co.uk). If you're on LinkedIn, search 'Somerset Counselling Centre' to follow our updates.

**If you'd like to explore how you or your business can support SCC Taunton, reach out to Tanya Hall-Palmer at [info@scctaunton.org.uk](mailto:info@scctaunton.org.uk). Together, we can continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most.**



*Some of the SCC Taunton team at The Stand Club's recent dinner dance, raising funds for the charity*

# MAKING GREEN NORMAL UPDATE



## PORTER DODSON SUPPORTS LONGRUN MEADOW CONSERVATION PROJECT THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

Staff from Porter Dodson recently stepped away from their desks to volunteer with the Longrun Meadow Conservation Project. Situated in the heart of Taunton, Longrun Meadow is a cherished green space that thrives thanks to the dedication of local volunteers working to enhance its biodiversity and community appeal.

The Friends of Longrun Meadow, a passionate community group, manage the meadow with the goal of improving its biodiversity and creating a vibrant place for everyone to enjoy. Throughout the year, the group welcomes volunteers to join them, during which small teams from Porter Dodson's Taunton and Wellington offices enthusiastically contribute to maintaining and enriching the meadow's natural habitats.

Under the guidance of experienced volunteers, staff from Porter Dodson learned traditional skills such as hedge laying and constructing dead hedges to manage green waste. In the summer months, they also assisted with scything and raking, identifying and removing non-native species such as Himalayan Balsam, clearing pathways, building a willow barrier to protect a crumbling riverbank, and even participating in a bee survey.

*"We are delighted to take part in the Longrun Meadow Conservation Project for the second year," said Sara Townsend, Paralegal at Porter Dodson. "It was inspiring to witness firsthand the dedication of the volunteers and to contribute to the ongoing efforts to sustain this vital green space."*

Porter Dodson actively promotes corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, encouraging staff to engage with local community projects and charities. In addition to supporting Longrun Meadow, employees from all offices have also participated in volunteering days with Secret World Wildlife Rescue. These initiatives reflect the firm's commitment to environmental sustainability while fostering employee wellbeing through meaningful engagement with nature and the wider community.

The Friends of Longrun Meadow volunteering group continues to flourish thanks to the collective efforts of volunteers and the support of local businesses like Porter Dodson. By fostering partnerships and investing in conservation, the project aims to preserve Longrun Meadow as a vibrant, biodiverse green space for generations to come.



**MAIL BOXES ETC.**

7 Bridge St. Taunton

Tel: 01823 322263

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



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Alder King Consultant Surveyors  
Alfies Landscapes Ltd  
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Andrea Duncan Photography  
Annie's Furniture Art  
Apple FM  
Autumn Films  
Averys Garden Centre  
Azthetics/ DentaQuest  
Ballantine Wealth Management  
Barclays Business, Taunton  
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Cooper Associates  
Corner House Hotel  
Costgard Ltd  
County Walk Shopping Centre  
Crescent Funeral Services  
Cullen's Catering  
Daffodil PR & Communications  
Daisy Admin Services  
Dan Kennedy Electrical  
Dawn Booth Life Coach  
Deckhouse  
Design Bean  
Design Hive  
Diversity Voice  
Dough Bros.  
Dryad Gin  
Easy IT Solutions  
eat the bird  
Eden May  
Edventure  
Ellisons Commercial Training Ltd  
EMR Business Management  
ERGO OTS Ltd  
Ethical Sales Pro  
Everys Solicitors  
E White & Son (Taunton) Ltd  
Exmoor Search & Rescue  
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Fusion Dance Circus & Academy  
GD Media  
Genius PR & Events  
Go Create  
Great Western Hotel  
Green Catalyst Business Solutions  
Greenslade Taylor Hunt  
Gurds Menswear  
Hatfield White Ltd  
Heat 24 Ltd  
Heritage IFC Ltd  
Hickleys Ltd  
Honey Legal - Lee Harrison  
Idea 4 You Body Shop & Car Detailing  
Il Basilio Restaurant  
Imperial Finishes Antiques & Restoration  
Imprints  
In House Training & Consultancy Ltd  
Initiis Ltd t/a Vodafone  
Inspiration Acupuncture  
Introtweet Ltd  
Islands Restaurant  
Jen the Celebrant  
Jewells of Taunton  
J P Gainsford Associates Ltd  
JP Rata Ltd  
Just Ceremonies  
Katie Thomson Marketing  
K & J Hodge Contractors Ltd  
Lentells Chartered Certified Accountants  
Lucy Squire Menopause Wellness  
Lloyd & Whyte Community Broking  
Lloyd & Whyte Health & Wellbeing  
Lula Wellness  
Mailboxes (Taunton) Etc  
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Moore Scarrott Limited  
The Mount Somerset  
Mr Miles Tearoom  
My Carbon Coach  
Newton Design.co  
New You CBT  
Next Stage Somerset  
Nexus Commercial Ltd  
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PCN Computer Services  
Pearce Practice, Architects  
The Pocket Strategist  
Podshavers Restaurant  
Porter Dodson LLP  
Portt & Co  
Professional Apprenticeships  
Professional Cloud Solutions  
The Property Centre  
Prosper Events  
Quantock Ecology Ltd  
Queen's College  
Rae & Co  
Reminiscence Learning  
Richard Huish College  
Sally's School of Motoring Ltd  
Sangha House  
Serenity Women's Clinic  
Smith and Evans  
Solace Bookkeeping & Management  
Somerset AFD CIC  
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Somerset Counselling Centre  
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SPAEDA Arts Education  
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Steph Baker Marketing  
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Study Sharpe  
Style by Louise  
Summerfield Developments SW Ltd  
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Survey Solutions  
Swan Retreat  
Swytch Talent  
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  
Tone FM (TCMG CIC)  
Townley Insurance Brokers Ltd  
Townsend Letting & Management  
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