



SHREWSBURY
BUSINESS CHAMBER
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Chairman's foreword

CHAMBER GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

2014 was a busy year for Shrewsbury Business Chamber. We had more meetings, more members and we re-launched the Magazine. As a result we are giving our members real value for money, and I hope that our Chamber will continue to grow. This is important as we are determined that the voice of Shrewsbury Business is heard clearly and loudly in the corridors of power. Our Hustings Event scheduled for March is already nearly fully booked and promises to be a lively evening. We have a full calendar of events planned for the rest of the year. Again it's the issues that matter to us. Most networking groups are aimed at getting you more business. We aim to improve the climate for business so that our local economy flourishes. We know the economy is doing better, but the General Election will inevitably lead to a period of uncertainty. The pundits are all agreed that we are likely to have some sort of coalition or a minority government come May. It is therefore more vital than ever that we have links with government and influence policy.

There is strength in numbers, so do try and recruit some of your local business contacts. Our subscriptions are not expensive and are geared to the size of your business. Most of our events are free and we aim to cover all the issues that matter in Shrewsbury.

I look forward to seeing you, and hearing your opinions on the issues of the day!

*Val Edwards, Partner
Hatchers Solicitors LLP*

Advertise with us!!!

Would you like to advertise in the next issue, which is printed, sent to our mailing list, uploaded on our website *and* tweeted to over 2,600 followers? Or have an advertising banner on our website? For more details, e-mail info@shrewsburybusiness.com.

On the cover

HUGE TURNOUT EXPECTED FOR HUSTINGS NETWORKING EVE...

With the next general election only weeks away, the next Shrewsbury Business Chamber networking meeting will ensure that local businesses, large and small, will get a unique opportunity to question the five main parliamentary candidates for Shrewsbury & Atcham as to how they propose to support the economy in both the constituency and the wider Shropshire area.

The Hustings Networking Event, which will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 18th March at Shrewsbury College's London Road-based Origins Restaurant and Clayton Hall, will be compered by Chamber member Jim Hawkins of BBC Radio Shropshire, who will also be broadcasting the event. The Shrewsbury & Atcham parliamentary candidates taking part are Emma Bullard (Green), Dr Laura Davies (Labour), Suzanne Evans (Deputy Chairman of UKIP), Daniel Kawczynski (current MP, Conservative) and Christine Tinker (Liberal Democrat). Members of the Chamber have a chance to put forward their questions before the event.

Attendees at all networking events must complete registration, via the Chamber's website www.shrewsburybusiness.com, or by emailing info@shrewsburybusiness.com. There will be no admission to events without registration.

"Almost all the tickets have already been snapped up for our latest networking event," said Kevin Lockwood, Deputy Chairman of Shrewsbury Business Chamber. "I recommend that anyone wanting to attend to register soon to avoid disappointment!"



Radio Shropshire's Jim Hawkins, a member of the Chamber, will comper the Hustings Event

Members' news

SHREWSBURY COLLEGE LAUNCHES TRAINEESHIPS TO HELP NEETS

Shrewsbury College is launching traineeships in Hospitality and Construction alongside a range of local employers, to give young people a helping hand toward employment or further education. Government figures released recently showed that 954,000 people aged 16-24 in the UK were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the third quarter of 2014. Out of this number, 47% were unemployed and the rest were not seeking work and/or not available to start work.

In England, the West Midlands is among the regions with the highest proportion of 16-24 year olds who are NEET, alongside the North East and Yorkshire & Humber. To help tackle this, Shrewsbury College has joined forces with a number of local employers to offer 16 week traineeship programmes in Hospitality and Construction, for the first time. The traineeships are available for 16 to 18-year-olds and those aged 19 to 24 who have not achieved a Level 2 qualification.

Laura Jeffrey, team leader for Employability at Shrewsbury College, said: "As well as providing these young people with a pre-organised work placement giving them fantastic experience in a work setting to gain employability skills, those taking part will get help improving their English and Maths, get a helping hand if they need to build their confidence levels and the programmes provide a stepping stone towards employment, an Apprenticeship or further education within the College. Everyone who completes a traineeship with us will get a Level 1 qualification in Employability Skills which includes interview skills, CV writing, an English and Maths qualification (if they haven't already achieved one), practical experience and work-based skills and a planned, organised and structured exit interview as well as training in how to complete a high quality, sector-specific application form."



New member feature

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS...

Shrewsbury Business Chamber has been representing businesses in the Shrewsbury area since 1903. As the main platform for businesses, membership of the Chamber is open to all business types. We recognise that the economy is a difficult one so we have kept our fees to a minimum, ensuring good value and good

services for members. We've introduced a new pricing structure so that home-based businesses can enjoy the benefits of full Chamber membership for a trial period of 12 months at a reduced rate, while student membership is free. For full details of our membership rate pricing structure, please see our website.

Henshalls Insurance Brokers



Henshalls is one of the region's largest independent insurance brokers and has been in business for over 40 years, with offices in Newport and Shrewsbury. We offer both business and personal insurance advice, as well as support from our in-house team of health and safety experts. Totally committed to supporting the local community, many of our 30-strong staff actually live in and around the areas surrounding our two offices, and we're renowned for our efforts in backing local good causes and organisations.

We're proud to be a member of the Willis Commercial Network - a partnership with one of the world's leading global brokers - and we serve both the local community and clients further afield across the UK. In particular in the Shrewsbury area, look out for our award-winning colleague Jenny Osborne, who is a familiar face at a whole host of networking events - make sure you say hello!

Henshalls Insurance Brokers 01743 231091 mail@henshalls.com https://henshalls.com

WhackitSmackit



Whack It Smack It was born 15 years ago when I was working at a local Shropshire youth club. The young people were keen to play 'live' music but had no funds to buy instruments. I suggested that we could make some, to which the response was, "You can't make instruments." I made a Mouth-Bow and demonstrated it to them. After some reluctance one of the more dominant young men decided that he'd like to make one, then a few others.

I now demonstrate a small 'orchestra' of scrap 'instruments' to community group nationally and abroad.

*WhackitSmackit
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Severnside Housing

Severnside Housing, based on two sites in Shrewsbury, is one of Shropshire's largest social landlords, and currently owns and maintains more than 5,400 homes in Shrewsbury, Broseley, Wellington, Telford and the surrounding areas. We are a not for profit company and a Registered Social Landlord, regulated by the Homes and Communities Agency with a green light for governance and financial viability.



*Severnside Housing
01743 285000
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Prince Rupert Hotel



Situated in the heart of mediaeval Shrewsbury, the historic Grade II listed Prince Rupert Hotel is firmly established as one of the town's finest hotels.

The former home of Prince Rupert, the grandson of King

James I, it combines old-world charm with modern comforts and hosts an array of historic period features. Surrounded by cobblestone streets and Tudor buildings, the Prince Rupert is perfectly located to explore all of the town's main attractions which are just a few minutes walk away.

*Prince Rupert Hotel
01743 450501
reservations@prince-rupert-hotel.co.uk
www.prince-rupert-hotel.co.uk*

Snooty Fox

Snooty Fox was established in 2002 by David Thomas, a specialist in the ancient art of hand engraving with over 12 years' trade experience. Many commissions have been carried out worldwide, the most famous being a Royal Assignment displayed in Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. It offers a jewellery repair service, for both gold & silver, carried out on the premises. Snooty Fox offers a large selection of jewellery & giftware in a range of Celtic & modern designs, and a choice from some of the oldest English pewter manufacturers. It is also a main stockist for Ortak, Kit Heath, Paul Kennedy & St Austin Jewellery.

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SALOP LEISURE'S 'BEST EVER' ACCOUNTS TEAM SCORES HAT-TRICK

Stephen Higgins, financial director of a leading Shropshire company has praised the quality and dedication of young people working in his accounts team, following a hat-trick of successes.

"I have always been pleased with the quality of young people that have joined the accounts team, but I think we now have the best team we have ever had," he said. "There's such a good spirit amongst the team, they are all academically talented and their dedication to the job shines through."

"With the company continuing to grow, it's important that we have team members who know the business well. When I started here 21 years ago, we had 45 people on the payroll, now we have 180."

Andrew Crane, 28, an accounts assistant with the company for eight years, has passed the corporate governance module of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) qualification.

Andrew's workmates, Emily Buxton, 18, from Brockton, near Shrewsbury and William Butler, 20, also from Shrewsbury, are celebrating passing their cost and revenue examination, part of the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) level three qualification.



Stephen Higgins (second from right) with accounts assistants (from left) William Butler, Emily Buxton and Andrew Crane, who have all passed accounting exams.

Both are half way through the qualification and hope to progress to level four within 18 months.

LANYON BOWDLER HOLDS OVERSEAS TRAVEL PERSONAL INJURY EVENT

Some of Europe's finest legal minds came together to share their experiences of claims involving accidents abroad at an event organised by a Shropshire law firm. The rise in people travelling abroad for holidays and business over recent years has seen a sharp increase in the number of legal claims arising out



Bernard Doherty, Lucy Wyles, Jon Sutton, Antoinette Collignon, Neil Lorimer, Paul Rosson and Louise Howard

of accidents happening on foreign soil.

Personal injury solicitors at Lanyon Bowdler have been successfully pursuing claims on behalf of people injured abroad for

more than 20 years, and the law firm used that experience to host a seminar in Birmingham on 6 March. Foreign lawyers and barristers who have worked with Lanyon Bowdler on a variety of complex cases made up the expert panel, which discussed the latest legal updates with delegates from law firms located across the Midlands, including Wolfgang Resch, the CEO of PEOPI (Pan European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers). The event was introduced by Neil Lorimer, an award-winning personal injury solicitor who heads the accidents abroad team at Lanyon Bowdler in Shropshire.

Neil said: "It was an extremely thought-provoking and useful event with some detailed discussions about a variety of issues, such as jurisdiction and the different kinds of personal injury systems that exist throughout Europe."

COLLEGE GETS GREEN LIGHT TO EXPAND HIGHER EDUCATION IN COUNTY

Shrewsbury College has successfully bid for direct finance from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for the first time, which will help to grow its Higher Education provision. Helen Fellows, Higher Education (HE) Lead, led the bid for the annual funding for the College which has grown its HE student numbers by over a third this year. Shrewsbury College has been delivering HE in the town for over 15 years and has benefitted recently from growth in the numbers of part-time mature students seeking job-related qualifications at a reasonable price.

Helen said: "The average price that most universities are charging for a three-year degree is currently £27,000. The equivalent of two years study at

Shrewsbury College will cost around £10,800. On top of that students, save on living expenses by staying at home and frequently combine study and work. Many of our students complete their studies almost debt free and are already employed. This great news will enable us to further expand our HE curriculum that is already popular locally."

As a result of this news the College will announce new courses for September 2015 and also what extra incentives it can provide for students to study at the College. The established portfolio of courses already includes Accounting, Business and Management, Computing, Counselling, Engineering, Fashion, Hair & Beauty, Health & Social Care, Performing Arts, Sport and Teaching.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this issue of the Shrewsbury Business Chamber Magazine. The opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the editor, or those of Shrewsbury Business Chamber. The articles or photographs appearing within this magazine must not be reproduced without the written permission of the author and the Shrewsbury Business Chamber Executive Committee. Shrewsbury Business Chamber accepts no responsibility for any loss suffered by any reader as a result of any notice, article or statement.

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