



SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER

ISSUE 2 2024

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



KEVIN LOCKWOOD

Manager of Shrewsbury Shopping Centres

Welcome to the latest edition of the Shrewsbury Business Chamber Magazine.. Any thoughts on how the General Election will go....???

At the point of writing this note, I have heard very little on Business support, whether it be business rates, VAT cuts or anything else to support business, irrespective of size, by any political party.

If there is change, let's hope it helps us all by supporting and growing our economy....

Let's see what happens on the 4th July....

In other news, Summer is on it's way..... hopefully.... Which brings with it some great events including, our ever-popular Netwalking events, Historic Tour and picnic, a Business Chamber quiz and an update from our members at WR Partners on Employment Law.

As always, please check our website for further details on these upcoming events.

I hope you enjoy reading the magazine and if you have any contributions, please get in touch with us by emailing shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com

Best wishes,

Kevin Lockwood Chairperson, Shrewsbury Business Chamber



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SHREWSBURY RIDING HIGH IN NATIONAL "VITALITY" RANKINGS



Shrewsbury has been named as one of the top retail centres in the region, with analysts ranking the town above the likes of Cheltenham, Stratford-upon-Avon and Leamington Spa.

Shrewsbury is ranked second in the West Midlands and 60th nationally in the Newmark Retail Vitality Rankings, which are based on a range of metrics, including vacancy rate and the quality of the retail offering.

As well as its overall ranking of 60, Shrewsbury is ranked fifth in the Large Town category, occupying the top five with Kingston Upon Thames, Harrogate, Bromley and Truro.

Members of the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Partnership, made up of Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury Town Council and Shrewsbury BID, said they were delighted with the news.

Seb Slater, executive director of Shrewsbury BID, said: *"This analysis will be welcomed by town centre businesses because it is a clear indication that Shrewsbury is performing well compared to other destinations across the UK.*

"We know that trading conditions remain challenging but we are confident that our blend of independent shops, hospitality and leisure businesses, along with a welcoming town centre environment will continue to attract visitors both locally and from further afield."

Councillor Alan Mosley, leader of Shrewsbury Town Council and member of the Big Town Plan Partnership, added: *"It is striking to see that Shrewsbury is second only to Birmingham in the West Midlands region, ahead of Leamington Spa, Lichfield and Stratford-upon-Avon.*

"What's also interesting is that the experts who produced this report highlight that town centres need to adapt by providing more than just retail to bring people in. The work of the Big Town Plan Partnership is central to that evolution of Shrewsbury, and we are looking forward to continuing to work together to make our town centre successful now and well into the future."

Councillor Ian Nellins, deputy leader of Shropshire Council and the council's representative on the Big Town Plan Partnership, said: *"This report is really pleasing and gives us all encouragement that Shrewsbury is moving in the right direction, and the town centre redevelopment plans will help raise Shrewsbury's profile both regionally and nationally.*

"To have our county town ranked 60th in the UK is good news not only for those businesses in Shrewsbury, but for Shropshire as a whole."

In the report, **Andy Metherell, head of consultancy and analytics at Retail UK and EMEA, said** regeneration projects - such as the Smithfield Riverside scheme currently underway in Shrewsbury - were an important element of a town's success.

He said: *"The regeneration of retail centres and their effective management is going to be vital.*

"Shopper demand may experience falls, due to the cost of living crisis impacting less affluent consumers and mortgage costs rising for the 'squeezed middle', with online a significant drain on a retail centre's potential spending.

"This makes proactive management even more important for the future of the UK's retail locations, and it will be interesting to see how these impact the Vitality Rankings in 2025."

DRAGONS TAKE OVER SHROPSHIRE SCHOOL



In February Sonya Wilson, Head of Careers at Haberdashers Adams, asked 8 Financial Planning to set her year 8 students the challenge of creating a business. 8 Financial Planning asked them to have sustainability at it's core.

After 4 weeks of work on their business proposals, Rik and Isha shortlisted four business ideas. The students presented their pitches in full Dragons Den style on 19th March 2024, to Rikesh Bhatt and Isha Bhatt of 8 Financial Planning, Alex Stone of Chadstone Accountancy and Tax, Georgia Chadderton of Soul Create Limited and Sarah Millington of Haberdashers Adams.

From 80 business plans, Buzz Tech Hives were the winners - 3D printed bee hives for all, to play their part in reducing the sharp decline in bee populations.

Rikesh Bhatt of 8 Financial Planning said "All the students did a fantastic job and the level of thought that went into the business plans was incredible. We would love to mentor the students should they wish to pursue their ideas".

Isha of 8 Financial Planning said "They did absolutely amazing. To stand up in front of their peers and Dragons, and answer our questions so well is a testament to the school. The research and passion was so heartwarming to see. Well done to the winners team Buzz Tech Hives. 3D printed hives for all, with so much scope to have add on products and services to increase revenue. A brilliant effort - from idea to business plan to presenting".

Rik and Isha continue to champion financial education around Shropshire Schools and look forward to meeting more students.



CHARITY IS THE REAL WINNER



from left, Jacob Shervill, Mark Shervill, Nick Jones and Martin Pitchford

Colleagues from two Shropshire companies have renewed a friendly sporting rivalry to raise cash for charity.

The teams from Henshalls Insurance Brokers and Throgmorton Associates took part in the annual Bryan Cutter Golf Challenge competition at Lilleshall Hall Golf Club.

And the rivals raised £500 for Severn Hospice in memory of Bryan who died in 2020. He was a much-loved colleague and friend at Henshalls and was well-known across the Shropshire business community.

Henshalls director Martin Pitchford said: *"It was a marvellous day once again, and we were particularly pleased to be competing as there has been so much rain we weren't sure if the course would be playable. "But as ever, Lilleshall Hall Golf Club stepped up to the plate and we were able to fight it out for the Bryan Cutter Cup for the fourth annual challenge. "This year was agonisingly close, but Throgmorton Associates pipped us to the post and won by one point. That means we're three-one down, but the Henshalls*

team is now even more determined to take the title next year!

"We were absolutely delighted to raise such a great total given the tough economic climate at the moment, and the challenge is a wonderful way to honour Bryan's life and memory, and at the same time to support the hospice that cared for him."

Nick Jones, from Throgmorton Associates, said: *"There is always a friendly and positive atmosphere when we get together to play in our very own mini Ryder Cup, and we're delighted to have helped Henshalls raise money in Bryan's name.*

"It was an extremely close competition this year and we are delighted to have come out on top - but our nerves were definitely on edge! We're already looking forward to next year's event."

As well as colleagues from both companies, the teams each included a golf professional - Mark Shervill from Lilleshall Hall Golf Club (for Henshalls) and his son, Jacob (for Throgmorton Associates), who were both close friends of Bryan.

Henshalls has its head office in Newport, a branch in Shrewsbury - they are part of Brown & Brown, Inc. one of the world's largest insurance broking businesses.

Presence counselling



Grief and loss are a totally unique experience.

There are no 'shoulds'.

The way that grief affects you is completely unique to you. There is no 'normal' way to grieve.

Sometimes I hear people feeling frustrated that they haven't been able to resume life as normal, very early on after their loss. Of course you will want to feel like yourself again.

You may find you have a very high expectation of yourself even just months after your loss.

Try to be gentle with yourself. One theory suggests when you are grieving, the grief doesn't necessarily diminish, rather life takes time to grow around the mourning. If you imagine a garden and how long plants can take to grow, this may help you offer yourself compassion.

Loss can come in many forms: Becoming a carer, infant loss, loss of a relationship, a pet, empty nest, redundancy, retirement, moving home, health issues to name a few.

Multiple losses can be triggered by one event.

In our culture death is seldom spoken of, which is not helpful as it is a certainty for everyone.

Not talking about death can cause those who are grieving to feel even more isolated when they lose a loved one. The people around them may feel worried about what to say and so they might not stay in contact with the person

experiencing a bereavement.

The closer your relationship with the person who has died, usually the more of an impact you are likely to experience. Without their presence with you, you may feel lost, lonely and distraught. Your brain finds the experience very unfamiliar.

Immediately after the death of someone close to you, it may be that you will feel nothing.

You've had a shock. You may feel numb. You may even experience a sense of living your life as if you're watching from a distance. Some people describe the time after the funeral as the 'silence'.

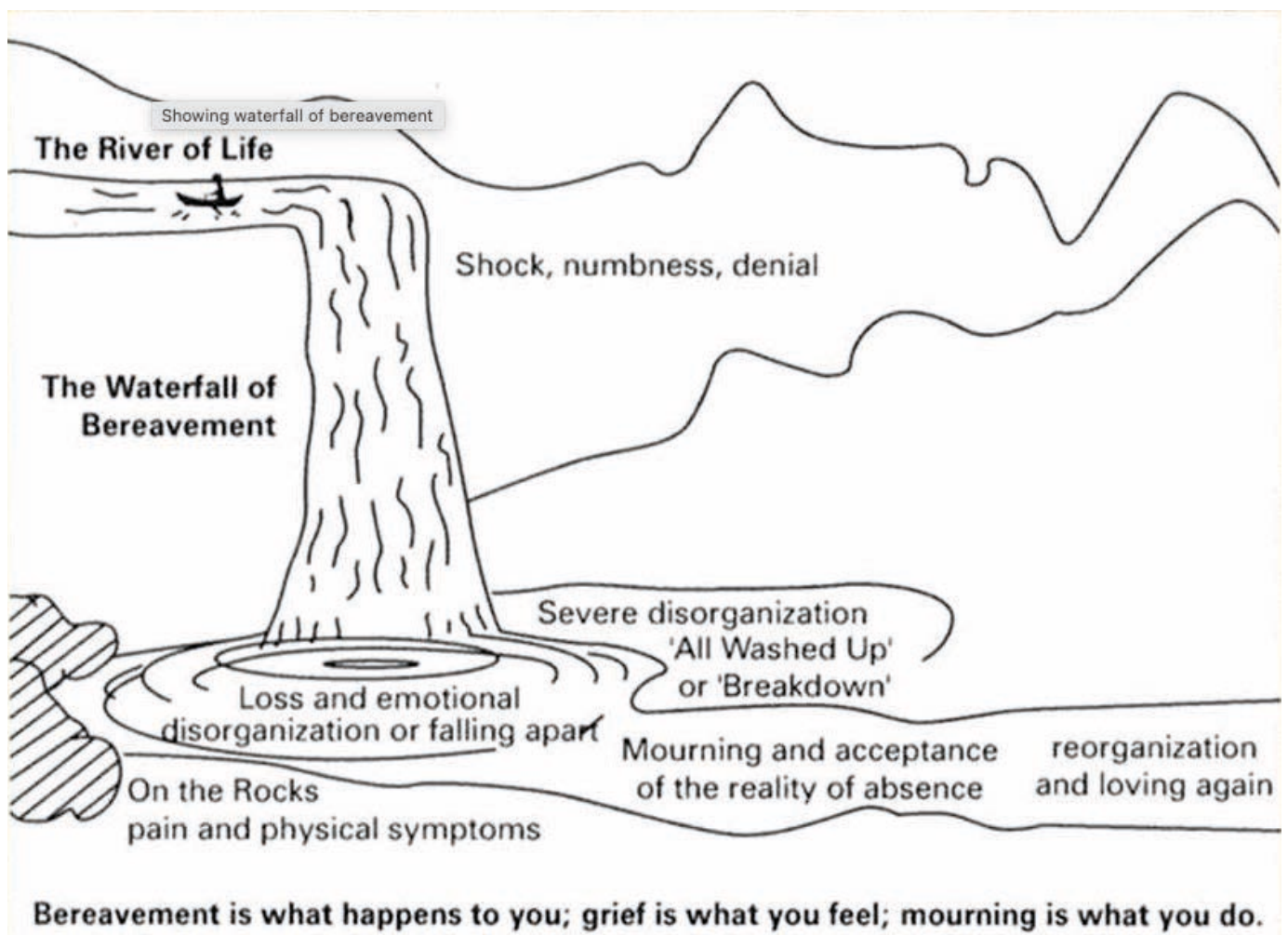
Initially, people may be contacting you and checking in.

As time goes on sometimes people forget to stay in contact. The person who has experienced the loss may lose motivation and this prevents them reaching out for connection.

You may experience loneliness. You may have thoughts like 'I could walk or go in the garden' but there's little motivation to get on and do anything. There may be thoughts like 'what's the point' when it comes to cooking meals.

Inviting someone who has suffered a loss of any kind to spend time with you may be a lovely thing to offer. Talking about everyday things with them and allowing them to talk. Accept that they may seem rather distant as they are mourning their loss. Walking and talking may feel less demanding on someone who is grieving, silences may feel more natural.

Those who are grieving need to feel accepted and not judged or pressured to do more, or be a certain way.



This diagram by Dr Richard Wilson is a useful, thought provoking illustration.

It may be that you've found ways to avoid distressing feelings, however, when you lose a loved one, after numbness and shock subsides, the sense of loss and grief cannot be avoided and it can be a very sad and painful time.

Everybody experiences grief and loss in a unique way.

There's not a right way or a wrong way to grieve loss.

It's important to be realistic about how long it's going to take to begin to feel yourself again.

Life is not going to be quite the same. Facing grief head on may feel exhausting.

It is normal to have trouble concentrating, feel 'fuzzy headed' and to feel numb after a shock.

Memories can cause waves of strong emotions as can birthdays or other special dates. It is a good idea to plan in advance how you will be able to be supported at those times and if there is a way you will choose to mark those occasions.

Dual Process Model of coping with bereavement.
<https://whatsyourgrief.com/dual-process-model-of-grief/>

Above is a link if you'd like to learn more about this theory of grief.

The dual process model of coping means learning to grieve in 'manageable chunks'. You may spend time choosing to focus on your loss, feeling it and then afterwards distracting yourself away from it by carrying on with other tasks or even denying and suppressing your grief for short periods as a way of coping.

Grief and loss is a journey and it can be unpredictable. It is really important to care for yourself well. If you're able to have a basic routine, ensure you eat regularly and exercise. Staying connected with those you trust and feel accepted by will help you to feel supported. Engaging in activities that offer you comfort eg: listening to music, being outside, prayer and meditation.

You may choose to reach out for some professional support after a loss. This can be helpful even immediately afterwards, or at any time in the future. You may value a place where you can talk about your feelings and thoughts where you can feel heard, understood and allowed to be yourself as you explore the strong emotions.

Susie Harris MNCPS (Accredited)
 office@presencecounselling.co.uk
<https://www.presencecounselling.co.uk/>

SHREWSBURY FOOD FESTIVAL BURSARY PLACES ANNOUNCED



Three local businesses have benefitted from bursary places at the upcoming Shrewsbury Food Festival.

The places have been funded by Start Tech, an IT support provider based in Shrewsbury who is the official Bursary Sponsor of Shrewsbury Food Festival 2024.

The bursary places are for up-and-coming businesses that would struggle to cover the cost of a full price exhibitor stand.

The businesses have been announced as ChocTilly who handmade chocolate locally in Jackfield and have a second shop in Much Wenlock, The Little Green Pantry in Wellington which provides sustainable, plastic free shopping, and Tired Mums Coffee from Wrexham who make quality coffee with a mission to create better support for mums.

Ian Groves, managing director at Start Tech, said, "It is our absolute pleasure to provide a helping hand to these three up-and-coming businesses. Each business has a

brilliant ethos and offering. By getting a much sought-after exhibitor place at the Shrewsbury Food Festival they will help get their business in front of thousands of people to boost their brand awareness and sales. We hope they see some great results. Make sure you pay them a visit!"

Keli King, Director of The Little Green Pantry Telford, said, "I am extremely grateful to Start Tech for giving us the opportunity to exhibit at the Shrewsbury Food Festival this year. It's a fantastic platform to promote our 100% Nut Butters and our Refill Shop on Wellington High Street. The event will also allow me to network with local food producers, with the potential to feature their products in our store in future, which I am very excited about."

Shrewsbury Food Festival is taking place on June 29 th and 30 th at the Quarry. There will be 200 food, drink, and home stalls, two live music stages, a field of free kids' activities, chef demonstrations, a chef school, a kids' cook along school, and an educational field to fork area.

Buy tickets at www.shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk.

SHROPSHIRE FOOD & DRINK SUSTAINABILITY MASTERCLASS

Tuesday 4th and Tuesday 18th June

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Calling all food and drink producers in Shropshire: the Shropshire Growth Hub is hosting a two-day masterclass series designed to empower you to understand, start, or enhance your sustainability journey, and then create a marketing plan to reach your consumers and ensure that your sustainability developments achieve commercial growth.

Places are limited, so don't miss this incredible opportunity to learn from leaders in their field and share best practice and network with other food and drink producers in the county.

4th JUNE - WORKSHOP 1
WHAT WILL BE COVERED:

Understanding the landscape of food and agriculture production and what we are doing in Shropshire
Understanding purpose and legacy - understanding your purpose through the lens of an ecosystem
Create a bespoke sustainable business action plan

18TH JUNE - WORKSHOP 2
WHAT WILL BE COVERED:

Understanding the opportunity for food and drink producers in Shropshire for identifying brand story and the benefits of sustainability communication plans in terms of leveraging your USP, recruitment, and business growth
How to identify content that is going to be compelling for your various stakeholders and how you bring those stories to life
Create a bespoke plan of action for your brand marketing and sustainability communications

WHO IS THE FOOD & DRINK SUSTAINABILITY MASTERCLASS FOR?

Food and drink producers in Shropshire (excluding Telford & Wrekin)
Food and drink businesses keen to understand how to become more sustainable and how this can then be communicated with their customers and staff to enable growth

WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT?

There will be two full day masterclasses in the University Centre Shrewsbury on 4th and 18th June 2024, for which attendance is needed at both.

There will be some preparation required ahead of the first masterclass to get you thinking about where you are now, and where you would like to be in 12 months' time.

WHAT WILL YOU TAKE AWAY?

Apart from inspiration and learning, you will have a clear plan of action bespoke to your business to take away after each masterclass.

There will also be signposting to funding and resources to support your sustainability journey.

To book your place head to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/food-drink-sustainability-masterclass-for-shropshire-businesses-tickets-902218478757?aff=oddtcreator>

AI COULD INCREASE CYBER THREATS



Shropshire business owners have been warned that artificial intelligence could bring an increase in cyber attacks as criminals begin to exploit its capabilities.

Dave Williams, from Henshalls Insurance Group, said AI cyber attacks were already unfolding and they were likely to become even more prolific and more expensive.

"Ransomware costs are at an all time high and so it's vital that businesses do all they can to protect themselves as an attack could prove to be extremely damaging, and even lead to the business failing altogether."

Dave said one of the most effective ways to protect a business from the impact of ransomware and tighten up cyber security systems was with cyber insurance.

"Cyber insurance policies help alleviate the financial and operational burden in the wake of an attack, and the criteria you need to follow helps businesses to develop an all-round security strategy that's as strict as possible."

"This kind of strategy not only needs to work alongside existing security measures but also needs to provide a safety net in case a breach occurs."

Dave said policies were designed to address the increasingly complex threats that criminals were developing.

"A typical policy would cover key areas such as data recovery, financial compensation, help with reputational damage, and legal support, but it's important to ensure that the policy you choose suits the specific needs of your individual business."

"In today's difficult economic climate, you may consider cyber insurance as just another expense - but given the catastrophic financial losses you could face from a ransomware attack, it's a small price to pay."

"An insurance policy could be the difference between keeping your company running and losing everything."

"Having cover in place will help your business follow cyber security best practices, and by showing that you're taking ongoing steps to limit the risk of ransomware, you could potentially reduce the insurance premiums over time."

SHREWSBURY FOOD FESTIVAL LAUNCHES GARDEN COMPETITION WITH LOVE PLANTS



Love Plants at Salop Leisure has partnered with Shrewsbury Food Festival to launch a competition which will transform a local outdoor community area. Community groups across Shropshire are invited to enter by submitting their design for a new garden.

The winner will receive a selection of plants and trees up to the value of £750 for the community project they wish to undertake. This could be for a community space that needs a revamp, a patch of grass in need of some colour, or it could be some raised beds at the edge of a care home, village hall or school.

Entrants need to submit a photo of the space along with a hand-drawn design of what it could become with the help of Love Plants. The top three designs will be displayed at the Shrewsbury Food Festival on June 29th and 30th where visitors will vote to decide on the winning design.

Beth Heath, Director of Fun at Shropshire Festivals, said, *"This is a fantastic opportunity to create a special garden in your community. We are very grateful for Love Plant's generosity in supporting this garden competition and doing something brilliant for one lucky local*

community. This competition is a legacy project, with a community able to enjoy a new garden area for years to come."

The Shrewsbury Food Festival is taking place on June 29th and 30th in the Quarry where there will be chef talks and demos, a chef school, kids cookalong area, 200 independent stalls, two music stages, a field to fork area, and a field of free kids activities. Love Plants will be exhibiting in the Home and Gardens area.

Ed Glover , marketing manager at Salop Leisure, added, *"We are thrilled to be partnering with Shropshire Festivals to transform a community garden in Shropshire. Love Plants isn't a typical garden centre where you're overrun with power tools and decking - we focus on providing a wide range of quality plants and trees, backed by our extensive knowledge. We can't wait to transform a garden and create a special place for a Shropshire community to enjoy."*

Details on how to enter can be found at www.shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk/love-plantsgarden-competition.

The deadline for entries is June 14th at 4pm. Entries will be accepted for community spaces within Shropshire, and they must not be a commercial, private or business space

INSPIRATIONAL BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE A MAJOR SUCCESS



An event in Shrewsbury to celebrate inspirational people who battled back from life-changing brain injuries has been declared a major success.

The Thriving After Brain Injury conference was hosted by Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors at Theatre Severn and attracted people from all over the country.

A range of speakers described their own experiences of living with a brain injury, while others outlined the latest technology aiding rehabilitation, and therapy techniques.

One of the headline speakers was Jack Rutter, who suffered a traumatic head injury after being attacked outside a nightclub and went on to captain the GB football team at the 2016 Paralympics in Rio.

He explained to the audience how stepping out of his comfort zone enabled him to achieve great things, saying "the only disability in life is a bad attitude".

Meanwhile, Shropshire-based neuropsychological rehabilitation specialist, Andrew Worthington, talked about how positive psychology could help people flourish after a brain injury, and other speakers outlined technology and therapy advances.

Beth Heath, head of clinical negligence at Lanyon Bowdler, hosted the conference and said it was an inspiring day.

"We were delighted with the turn-out, with almost every

seat in the auditorium full, and people were fascinated with every speaker," she said.

"We heard from Jack Rutter and Alex Danson, a former Olympic hockey player forced to retire due to a serious concussion injury, who had very different stories to tell but were equally as uplifting.

"The technical insight from speakers like Hannah Wright, of Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, who talked us through the rehabilitation challenges faced by patients, and Mike Gomm, of Steve Martin Associates, who described the very latest assistive technology which is helping people gain more independence, was superb.

"The feedback we have received from delegates has been fantastic, with people enjoying the blend of specialist knowledge and inspirational personal experiences.

"We would like to thank all of the speakers and event sponsors for their support, as well as everyone who took the time to be with us for the day."

As well as raising awareness, the conference donated funds to the Hereford Adaptive Cycling Group and the Peeps charity, which supports people affected by a lack of oxygen to the brain during birth known as HIE (hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy).

Event sponsors were ARAG, Frenkel Topping Group and No5 Barristers Chambers.

FESTIVAL ORGANISERS CELEBRATE CORPORATE SUPPORT

Organisers of some of Shropshire's most popular events have welcomed the support they have received from a local insurance broker.

Shropshire Festivals is the award-winning creative force behind all kinds of events including Shrewsbury Food Festival, Shropshire Oktoberfest, Shropshire Petal Fields, and Shropshire Business Festival.

And now the team is approaching the tenth anniversary of working with Henshalls Insurance Group who provide insurance cover for all their festivals and corporate events.

Shropshire Festivals Creative Director **Beth Heath** said working with Henshalls was yet another great example of companies from across the county supporting each other.

"We're extremely grateful for the ongoing support from Henshalls as it means we can have total peace of mind that all our events are safely insured, and that we can organise everything safe in the knowledge that they have all eventualities covered."

Jenny Osborne from Henshalls, who is also one of the longest serving Festivals volunteers, said support for Shropshire Festivals was part of the Henshalls Group's commitment to the local community.

"We are proud of the work we have done across



Shropshire to back organisations, charities, and other projects, to give something back to our clients and neighbours.

"Shropshire Festivals are renowned for their inspirational and fun-filled events, and it's great to be a part of such a colourful and exciting experience at all their different creations."

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LANYON BOWDLER APPOINTS NEW DEBT RECOVERY MANAGER

A Shropshire law firm is highlighting the need for businesses to have proper procedures in place to help reduce bad debts and improve their cash flow.

Liam Holyhead, Lanyon Bowdler's new debt recovery manager, said it was essential that firms safeguard their interests by performing their due diligence correctly - ensuring they stay on top of their finances and keeping the business on track.

Prior to joining Lanyon Bowdler, Liam worked in housing and leasehold management, specialising in anti-social behaviour, service charge recovery and disrepair, and then debt recovery.

He said: "I am delighted to have joined Lanyon Bowdler and really enjoy my new role. It is always a great feeling when you're able to achieve a good result for the client, especially when posed with a particularly difficult set of circumstances that involve some problem solving.

"With that in mind, I thoroughly enjoy working within a role that challenges me every day, and enables me to learn, grow and develop as a lawyer and a manager. "The world has changed substantially since the Covid-19 Pandemic almost four years ago and it's evident that almost everyone has felt the crunch of the cost of living crisis and rising interest rates.

"In this climate, I would urge businesses to consider their credit control processes and whether they are performing correct due diligence procedures in order to help reduce bad debts and improve their cash flow.

"Having a robust credit control department can aid in mitigating risk to businesses as this greatly assists in getting payments in promptly on a more regular basis.

"My future plans for the department are centred on the development of our staff and ensuring we can continue to provide the best service to our clients. Personally, I am really looking forward to continuing my development with the firm."

Andrew Pegg, head of Lanyon Bowdler's dispute resolution team, said: "We are delighted to welcome Liam to the firm - he has already made a significant contribution in the short time he has been here, and we wish him well in his future career with us."



An advertisement for HR DEPT. It features a white background with a green circular logo in the top right corner containing the letters 'HR' above 'DEPT'. The central text reads 'Call us if...' in a large, bold, black font. Surrounding this central text are several phrases in various colors and fonts, mimicking handwritten notes: 'Someone raises a health issue' (yellow), 'You have a concern' (red), 'Your business is changing' (purple), 'An employee raises a complaint' (red), 'You need help recruiting' (blue), 'You are looking for development & training' (purple), and 'You simply need some reassurance' (yellow). At the bottom left, there is a green box with white text: 'Contact Ms Niamh Kelly', 'Call 01743 290 474', and 'Visit www.hrdept.co.uk'. At the bottom, there is a green wavy graphic. The text 'Preventing People Problems' is on the bottom left, and 'Niamh.Kelly@hrdept.co.uk' is on the bottom right.

CELEBRATING LITTLE STARS SHOP: A NEW CHAPTER IN COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Since its establishment in 2020, Little Stars has been a pillar of support in Shropshire, dedicated to ensuring babies and children across the county have access to the essentials they need to feel safe and secure.

In an exciting expansion of their mission, Little Stars recently opened its first shop in The Collective, in The Darwin centre, Shrewsbury, marking a significant milestone in the charity's journey.

Reflecting on the shop's successful opening, **Leanne Simcoe, Founder and CEO of Little Stars**, shared her enthusiasm: *"Seeing our dream of opening a Little Stars shop come to fruition has been an amazing journey. It represents a place where our community can directly engage with and support our mission, offering a selection of quality, pre-loved baby, children, and maternity wear. Every purchase made is a step forward in our mission to ensure no child in Shropshire goes without the essentials they need."*

Leanne further highlighted the unique role of the shop: *"Offering a welcoming space for those who have been referred to us and giving them the opportunity to browse and choose the clothing themselves, a service we haven't been able to provide until now. Secondly, it allows*

us to find new homes for wonderful items that wouldn't fit into our standard bundles, this gives families and pregnant women seeking good quality, affordable clothing for their children and themselves a fantastic option."

The shop, which welcomes visitors from Tuesday to Saturday between 10 am and 2 pm, is a testament to the charity's commitment to sustainability and community support.

It stands as an anchor of community support, offering affordable options for families while generating vital funds to continue the charity's noble work.

As Little Stars Shop continues to grow and support the community, it invites everyone to visit, explore, and be part of its mission. By stepping into the shop, you are not just finding great deals; you are helping to ensure that every child and family in need receives the support they deserve.

For more information about Little Stars and its new shop, or if you would like to volunteer, please visit, www.littlestarscharity.org or contact the team at enquiries@littlestarscharity.org.

Stay connected and follow their journey on social media for the latest updates and events:

- Facebook: facebook.com/littlestarscharity.org
- LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/little-stars-charity/
- Instagram: instagram.com/littlestarsbabybank/

DON'T MISS THE BEST FESTIVAL IN THE WEST MIDLANDS!



Shrewsbury Food Festival returns to the town's picturesque park on June 29th and 30th 2024.

It has been named the Festival of the Year at the West Midlands Tourism Awards 2024 for the foodie, family fun it provides, where the region's best producers and chefs will serve up fine food and drink.

The chef lineup for the Talks and Demos Stage and Monks Chef School will be led by Festival Head Chef, Chris Burt. He will be joined by Marc Wilkinson from Fraiche, Carla Ernst and Ben Hall from The Walrus, Stuart Collins from Docket Restaurant, and James Sherwin from Wild Shropshire, to name but a few. The Kitchen Depot Kids Cookery School is also back by popular demand.

The organisers at Shropshire Festivals pride themselves on only accepting quality food and drink producers and making sure there's a wide choice of products across the board.

You can pick up award-winning handmade farmhouse cheese from Bexton Cheese, cool down with locally made treats from the Shropshire Ice Cream Company, enjoy healthy brownies and blondies from Skinny Slabs or Portuguese tarts from The Sunrise Patisserie, and for the first time you will be able to pick up a bottle of Shrewsbury Gin - as recently received by Her Majesty The Queen Consort on a trip to the town. In total, there will be around 200 independent stalls offering quality

food and drink, and homeware and garden items in the Cornovii Developments Home and Gardens Area.

The festival is all about supporting local, and that extends to the Live Music Stage with a selection of top bands from the Midlands. Acts include Two Blank Pages, Ego Friendly, Dirty Rockin Scoundrels, and Groove Dynamite. The family entertainment bandstand will showcase some of Get Your Wiggle On's stars, along with the Ludlow Concert Band. Shrewsbury Morris Dancers will be performing on Saturday 29th.

As always there will be an entire field of free kids' activities in the Adcote School Kids Area, with some new inflatable additions from AJS Bouncy Castles this year.

The Reconomy Field to Fork area will continue to educate visitors on the food and farming sectors, focussing on sustainability.

Beth Heath, Director of Fun at Shropshire Festivals, said, *"It's way more than a food festival, and now, knowing it's the best festival in the West Midlands makes it unmissable! There's something for the whole family - whether you want to shop the best food and drink in the region, relax with a locally made tippie and the tastiest street food in front of the live music stage, cook along with a top chef, treat yourself in the Reclaim Tax VIP area, or wear out the kids in our field of free kids' activities and family entertainment stage. Come along and support an event which is all about championing local, with a day of non-stop fun."*

Tickets are cheaper in advance from www.shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk.

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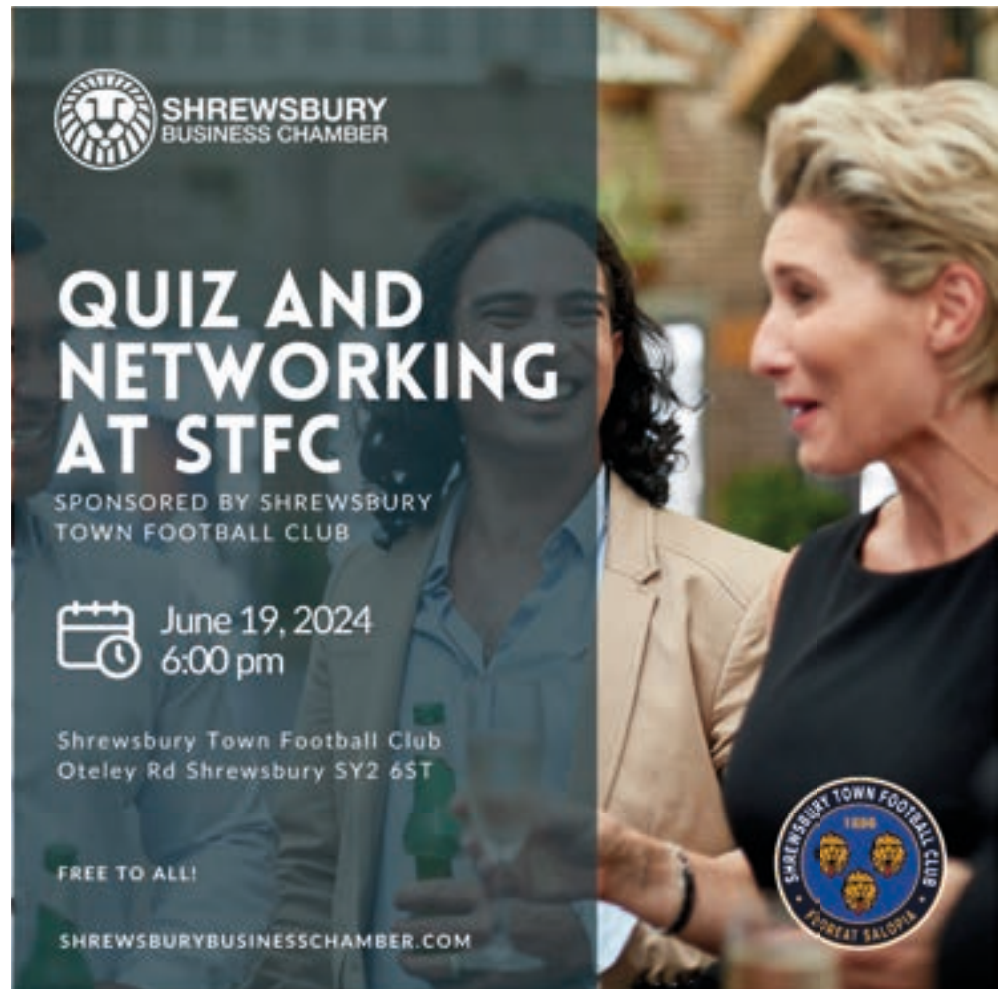
SHREWSBURY BUSINESSES INVITED TO JOIN THE SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER FOR THEIR QUIZ AND NETWORKING EVENT AT SHREWSBURY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

The Shrewsbury Business Chamber is excited to announce the upcoming Shrewsbury Business Chamber Quiz and Networking event, to be held at the Shrewsbury Town Football Club (STFC).

This much-anticipated event is free and will take place on 19th June at 6pm and promises to be an evening of networking, fun, and community engagement.

Event Highlights:

- **Big Chamber Quiz:** Hosted by Graham Mills, Executive Committee Member of the Shrewsbury Business Chamber, the quiz will be a great way to challenge your knowledge while having fun. Teams will be organized on the night, so no need to worry if you don't have a team ready—just come along and join in!
- **Networking Opportunities:** Meet and connect with local business professionals, entrepreneurs, and community members. This is an excellent opportunity to expand your network, share ideas, and build valuable relationships.
- **Bar and Refreshments:** A bar will be open throughout the evening for those wishing to purchase drinks. Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere with great company.
- **Facility Tour:** Take a tour of the Shrewsbury Town Football Club facilities and learn more about the venue that plays a significant role in our community. The event is open to all—current members of the Shrewsbury Business Chamber are encouraged to bring partners, friends, and colleagues along. This is a wonderful chance to introduce new people to the Chamber, explore the community work of Shrewsbury Town, and learn about the initiatives of the business chamber.



Why Attend?

- **Free Entry:** There's no cost to attend, making it accessible for everyone.
- **Community Engagement:** Discover the important work being done by Shrewsbury Town in the community.
- **Business Growth:** Learn about the Chamber's activities and how you can get involved to benefit your business.

Mark your calendars for an evening that promises to be both enjoyable and productive. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to network, have fun, and support the Shrewsbury business community.

For more information and to reserve your place, visit the SBC website:
https://shrewsburybusinesschamber.com/yarr_event/the-shrewsbury-businesschamber-quiz-and-networking-at-stfc-2/

SOME SNAPS FROM RECENT EVENTS



Netwalking



'Weeping Cross' Behind the scenes



Netwalking

We love welcoming your lovely faces to our monthly events, and this year we've got some great ones lined up.

Our events give you the chance to network with other local business owners, while trying/learning something new. We have met so many new lovely people & businesses in the last 12 months and we have welcomed a huge amount of new members.

If you would be interested in sponsoring an event please contact Donna - shrewsburybc.events@gmail.com

We hope to see you soon!

To make sure you don't miss out on our events make sure you check out our website

<https://shrewsburybusinesschamber.com/events/>

and follow us on all socials..



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SHREWSBURY

RETAIL LETTING OPPORTUNITY IN THE HEART OF SHREWSBURY

Are you running a small business and considering a retail unit in Shrewsbury? If so - we'd love to hear from you!

TOWN CENTRE RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES AT THE COLLECTIVE IN THE DARWIN CENTRE, SHREWSBURY

Flexible 2 year lease at an affordable rent - inclusive of utilities, service charge, wi-fi and marketing support (does not include business rates but some smaller units may be eligible for relief). Includes store room.

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AND BE FIRST TO HEAR ABOUT THE LATEST OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE EMAIL:
info@shrewsbury-shopping.co.uk

THE DARWIN

NESPRESSO PROFESSIONAL JOINS SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER

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Nespresso Professional - a certified B Corp - delivers barista-level coffee experiences of the highest quality to both at-home and professional customers across the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

The company works with more than 140,000 farmers in 18 countries through its AAA Sustainable Quality™ Program to embed sustainability practices on farms and the surrounding landscapes.

Nespresso Professional is the pioneer and reference for highest-quality portioned coffee. With a range of 19 coffees and a variety of professional machines, we offer bespoke and tailored solutions for businesses and venues of any size.

Launched in 2003, in collaboration with the NGO Rainforest Alliance, the program helps to improve the yield and quality of harvests, ensuring a sustainable supply of high-quality coffee and improving livelihoods of farmers and their communities.



RECLAIM TAX UK LTD JOINS SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER



At Reclaim Tax UK, we focus on helping your business save money through various tax savings and incentives for things like research and Development, Capital Allowances, Remediation of Contaminated Land or Patent Box.

Our team understands all the complex details and is here to find every chance for you to save.

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SAVE OUR SHROPSHIRE JOINS SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER

Save Our Shropshire is a small charity which is focussed on getting people to change their ways to tackle climate change, focussed on “Carbon Literacy education” supported by the Carbon Literacy Project (<https://carbonliteracy.com/>). We have just discovered you and joined !! We look forward to being members.

We have been going for around 3 years, and have delivered courses to the Shropshire Council (the cabinet and directors) with support from Adrian Cooper, Shrewsbury Town council (we have trained about 18 people there, and they are doing some great stuff), and Parish and Town councils across Shropshire, and the UK.

We were also visited at our stall by Queen Camilla at the recent visit to Flaxmill Maltings, which was a great moment!

The Shropshire Chamber of Commerce is running a UKSPF Upskilling Programme fully funded by the UK's Shared Prosperity Fund. This programme provides a number of courses that Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), based in the Shropshire Council Local Authority area, can access to upskill their workforce to increase productivity and grow. Please note, that charities are not eligible.

Save Our Shropshire (SOS) is excited to announce that we have been selected to support this programme for SMEs on how to achieve UK targets for tackling climate change. This will enable a thorough understanding of “Carbon Literacy” from the Carbon Literacy Project. Understanding in simple terms the complex language of responding to the change in the climate will help companies secure their future. The certificate will increase your delegates' credibility and your company's credentials.

Climate change is clearly with us, and businesses across Shropshire can leverage major business opportunities by addressing the challenges that action on climate change requires.

They can look at their energy usage, their travel activities, and the development of their products and services to ensure they minimise the impact on our planet. They can positively engage in new businesses like providing air-source heat pumps, insulation, and solar panels. They

can support eating locally and sustainably. They can make and sell products which are reusable and easy to recycle with limited/no impact on the environment. They can support electric vehicles and their infrastructure and support better public transport. They can help and promote nature conservation.

More than that, many major businesses and local government organisations are now insisting that suppliers demonstrate that they have proper credentials in reducing their emissions of harmful gases and are taking steps to make sure their supply chain is “net zero”. Investments will also be based on companies that show genuine responsibility for the environment. So, if businesses do not learn how to plan and manage these issues as part of their strategy, they could lose customers and investors.

Medium-size companies may need to report in their annual returns Scope 1,2,3 emissions, for instance, and they will benefit from knowing how to do this. Many companies could also save money by switching to renewable energy.

Save Our Shropshire, in association with Anne-Marie Soulsby from The Sustainable Life Coach, has extensive experience in delivering climate-related courses across the UK. SOS is a Platinum-certified organisation working with the Carbon Literacy Project.

They will explain in an easy-to-understand and engaging style how to tackle all the mysteries of “going green” and help companies make the most of the opportunities - both revenue increasing and cost reduction. You can leave the course confident in knowing what to do, and pledge actions that will make a real difference to your company.

The first dates for the course will be in Shrewsbury on Wednesday 19th June and then in Oswestry on Thursday 11th July. There is a limit to numbers, so do book as soon as you can.

If you want further details, then please register your interest with Save Our Shropshire via their website at <https://saveourshropshire.org/low-carbon-business-for-sme>. Look at the Dragons' Den video! It makes the case brilliantly!



TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERS JOIN SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER

Telecom Infrastructure Partners is a leading global telecommunications and digital investment infrastructure investment firm. We offer landlords who are currently receiving an annual rent for mobile or similar infrastructure sites an up front cash payout whereby we then manage the existing lease thereafter.

The telecommunications industry in the UK has been turned on its head following the introduction of the Electronic Communications Code 'Code' in 2017.

Landlords who were receiving a fair rent for a mobile base station were faced with rent levels dropping to levels equal to alternative use values as opposed to that of a mobile base station.

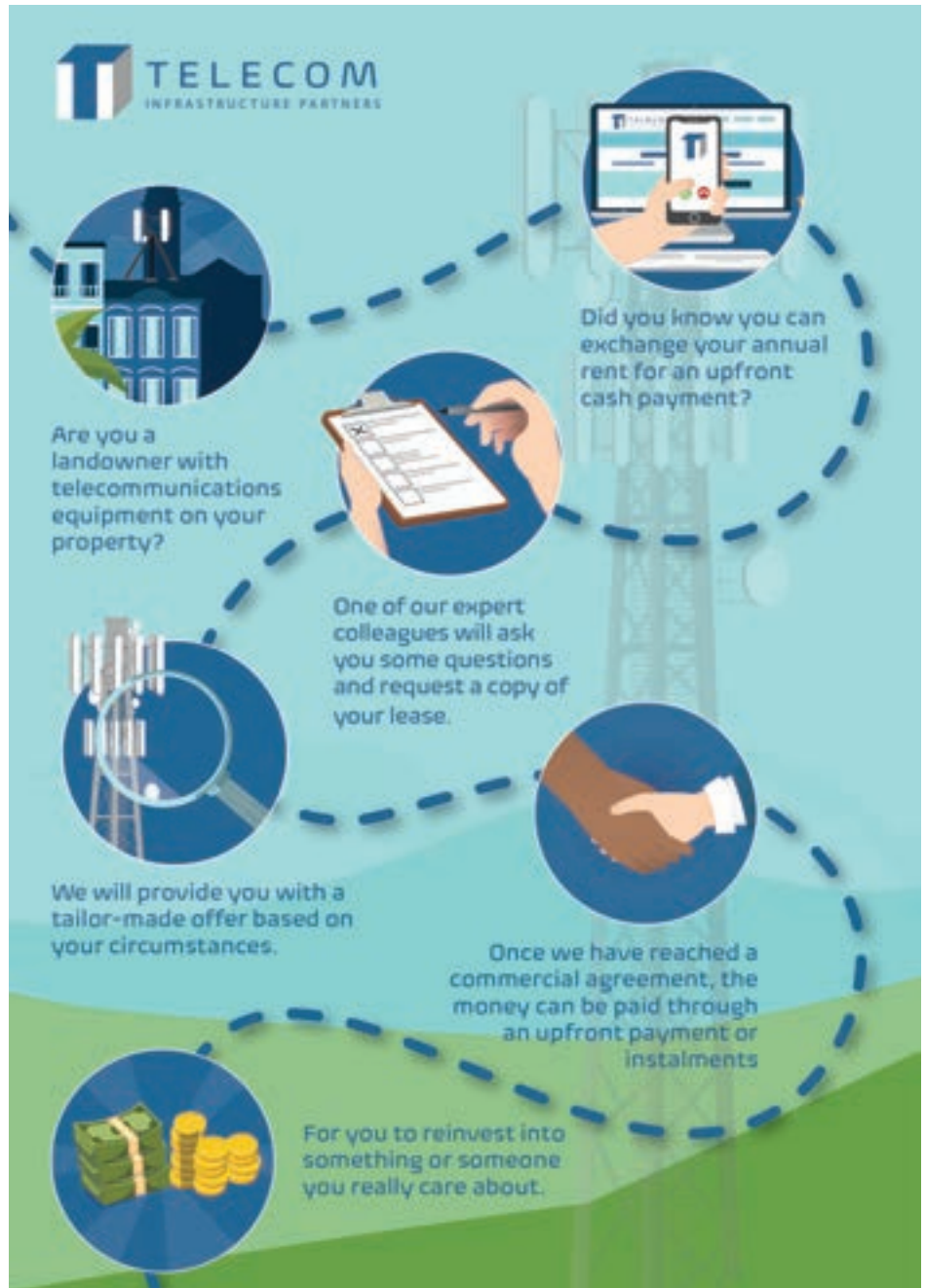
Not only are we able to offer that one last large payout to landlords, we remove the stress, anxiety and burden of dealing with their tenants. We effectively offer money and time.

Telecom Infrastructure Partners are located in the historic Shrewsbury Flaxmill which is the hub for all UK activity.

IF you have a Telecoms site on your property and would like to explore this opportunity please contact us;

Keith Rollason
Investment & Development Manager United Kingdom|
Telecom Infrastructure Partners

Suite 4 1st Floor Main Mill, Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings,
Spring Gardens, Shrewsbury, SY1 2SZ



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UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

NETWALK

2 HOUR WALK COVERING 4 MILES AND INCLUDES A PUB STOP.

WED 12 JUNE
6PM

FREE TO ALL

THE SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER QUIZ AND NETWORKING AT STFC

SPONSORED BY SHREWSBURY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

WED 19 JUNE
6PM

MEMBERS FREE
NON MEMBERS £10

JULY

SHREWSBURY HISTORY TOUR

WITH MAGGIE LOVE FOLLOWED BY A PRIVATE PICNIC IN THE BEAUTIFUL DINGLE. SPONSORED BY ANDREW'S CONSERVATION LTD

WED 3 JULY
6PM

MEMBER ONLY EVENT
(FREE)

NETWALK

2 HOUR WALK COVERING 4 MILES AND INCLUDES A PUB STOP.

WED 10 JULY
6PM

FREE TO ALL

AUGUST

NETWALK

2 HOUR WALK COVERING 4 MILES AND INCLUDES A PUB STOP.

WED 7 AUG
6PM

FREE TO ALL

EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE - IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR SMALL BUSINESS BY WR PARTNERS

WED 14 AUG
6PM

FREE TO ALL

SEPTEMBER

NETWALK

2 HOUR WALK COVERING 4 MILES AND INCLUDES A PUB STOP.

WED 11 SEP
6PM

FREE TO ALL

OCTOBER

NETWALK

2 HOUR WALK COVERING 4 MILES AND INCLUDES A PUB STOP.

WED 9 OCT
6PM

FREE TO ALL



For more information about our events, please take a look at the events section of our website and follow all our socials for updates.

THANKYOU!

Thankyou to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the Shrewsbury Business Chamber magazine.

We are always looking for new content to promote over social media, so if your business has some exciting news, any events or good news to share, then please send these to us so we can promote for you across our social media.

If you would like to be featured or have a story or an event you'd like included, if you could please send an email to shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com with all copy and any images.

To advertise in future issues if you could please contact shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com

Thinking about becoming a member?

Shrewsbury Business Chamber is the business group of choice for the Shrewsbury area. The Chamber organises regular events allowing businesses to network, voice their opinions and gain useful business expertise. The Chamber provides a collective voice and ensures business issues reach the right officials. A not-for-profit membership organisation which is headed up by a volunteer business focused Executive Committee. The Business Chamber works closely with other local private and public sector organisations for the betterment of businesses from across the Shrewsbury area.

BUSINESS SUBSCRIPTIONS	ANNUAL FEE
Sole trader	£60
Up to 10 employees	£90
More than 10 employees	£120

OTHER SUBSCRIPTIONS	ANNUAL FEE
Student (0-24)	FREE
Charity (less than ten employees)	£30
Retired Business Owner	£30

For more information on how to join please head to our website www.shrewsburybusinesschamber.com

The opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of the editor, or those of Shrewsbury Business Chamber.

To advertise in future issues if you could please contact our editor via email at

shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com