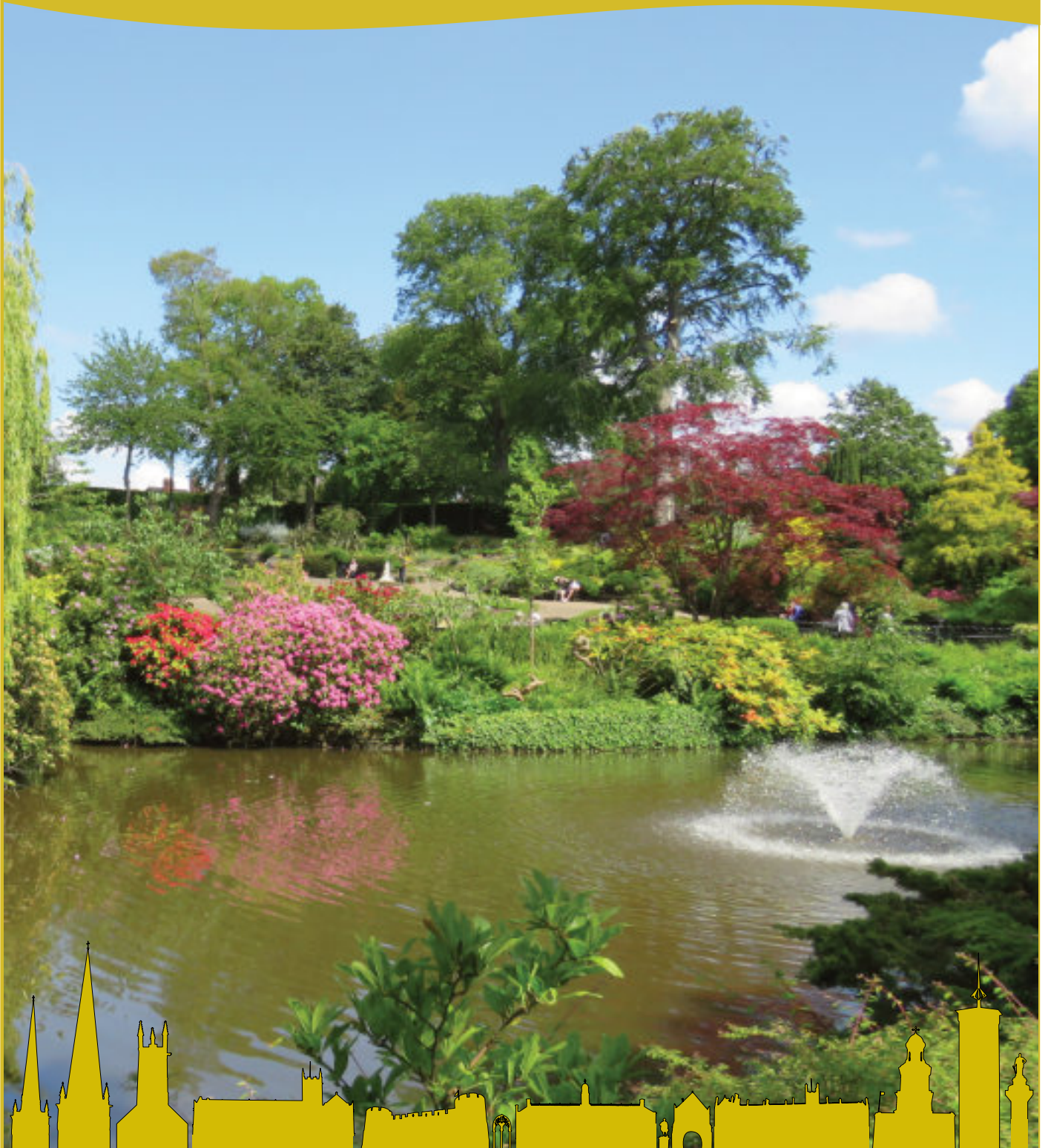




SHREWSBURY

BUSINESS CHAMBER

Issue 2 2019



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Chairman's Foreword

Welcome to the summer issue of the Business Chamber magazine.

This publication coincides with our business networking breakfast at the Shrewsbury Flower Show. Many of our members have benefitted from our various networking events this year: including successful trips to the Town Council's nursery, and Hencote Vineyard. All of these have given our members an opportunity to talk business with like minded individuals. But this isn't all the Chamber have done this year.

We have pressed the MP on such issues as business rates, Brexit, funding for the north west relief road and the future of health provision. We have also pressed Shropshire Council on many issues including car parking, the continuous stream of road works and in particular the works in the town centre.

We see the need to keep our members updated as really important and we have many plans to do that including investment in a new website, our refreshed newsletter and our Facebook and Twitter sites. We would really like to feature good news stories from our members, so please do get in touch and help us promote good business in Shrewsbury.

Val Edwards

Chairman, Shrewsbury Business Chamber
Partner, Hatchers Solicitors

A Special Welcome to Our Editor

Last month we welcomed Max Ball to the Business Chamber taking over from Karen Burgoyne as our new editor.

Max has lived in Shropshire for 10 years and before that grew up in Yorkshire. He completed a Business Law degree at Sheffield Hallam University in 2012 before returning to Shropshire where he now works as a Digital Media Controller/In House Designer for Salop Leisure. He plays squash regularly at Shrewsbury School; he is a big supporter of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and does a lot of graphic design work in his spare time.

We wish him well in his new role.



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Welcome To Our New Member

Shrewsbury Business Chamber has been representing businesses for over 100 years. As the main platform for businesses, membership of the Chamber is open to all business types. We do our best to keep our fees to a minimum, ensuring good value and good services for members. For full details of the latest membership rate pricing structure, please see our website.

The David Lovatt Design Studio provides award winning graphic design services to companies and agencies across the North-West, Midlands and Wales. With clients ranging from sole-traders to corporates across multiple industries, they are easily flexible in how they can support you.

David has 25 years' experience working with some of the most prestigious global brands such as Wedgwood, Royal Doulton & Waterford. Catering for all sizes of project, from designing a simple leaflet to complete brand management and consultancy.



Services include branding, packaging, advertising, mailshots and graphics for websites with a focus of working with their clients, rather than for their clients. Being creative is one thing, but being able to support you with knowledge and experience is equally as important. They work to make life simple by offering clear prices and outcomes keeping projects on time and on budget.

With many years' experience dealing with printers, photography studios, publishing houses and visual merchandisers, they have the knowledge to ensure that you get the best results for your design project.

Please visit our website dmlovatt.co.uk for a full list of services or call 07584 257050 for a no obligation discussion.



A look back at previous events:

Weeping Cross Greenhouse Tour

On Wednesday 15th May, our network evening was held at Shrewsbury Town Council's Weeping Cross greenhouse, where there were Business Chamber members with an interest in gardening.



There are over 300,000 blooms cultivated and prepared there each year before being made into floral features all around the town. The event included a guided tour of the greenhouse and a demonstration of how the hanging baskets are planted which feature prominently in the Shrewsbury In Bloom competition each year.

Hencote Vineyard Tour & Wine Tasting

On Wednesday 17th June, we had a well attended event at Hencote Vineyard hosted by Mark Stevens. We enjoyed an excellent talk about the history of Hencote in typical British summer drizzle. Mark explained in some



detail about the vines, how the grapes were selected and how the various wines are developed. Following a tour of the winery, we sat down overlooking the wonderful view of Shrewsbury and sampled the Hencote wines along with local cheeses and charcuterie. Mark explained each wine whilst our members sampled. It was a thoroughly enjoyable summer event at a fantastic local venue.

Member's networking event calendar

Our calendar of networking events can be found on the events page of our website, www.shrewsburybusiness.com. Bookings for all events can be made via the links to Eventbrite.

Booking for most events is free to all members, with a small surcharge to cover administration and catering for non-members and guests. We look forward to meeting you!



Flower Show Breakfast Meeting at Quarry Park

On Friday 9th August at 8am you are invited to attend the breakfast meeting in the Quarry ahead of the 132nd Shrewsbury Flower Show. This is your opportunity to exclusively preview the displays before gates open to the general public. Margaret Thrower will be joining us as a guest speaker to talk about her memories of the Flower Show over the years and what it means to the town. Included in your £30 ticket (non-members £35) is a continental breakfast and a packed programme of activities concluding with the famous fireworks display in the evening. Visit our website to book.

OUR AGM

On Wednesday 25th September, we will have our Annual General Meeting at the Origins restaurant at Shrewsbury College from 6pm.

Our guest speakers for the event are to be confirmed

CLIMATE EMERGENCY WARNING

On Wednesday 16th October from 6pm at Origins restaurant, Shrewsbury College we will be welcoming Mandy Stoler from E4 Emergency and Peter from Shropshire Wildlife Trust who will form a panel of experts that will provide expert business advice on how companies can look after their carbon footprint.

MEETING WITH CLIVE WRIGHT AND PETER NUTTING

On Wednesday 13th November from 6pm at Origins restaurant, Shrewsbury College we will be welcoming the Shropshire Council chief executive Clive Wright and leader Peter Nutting to talk to members about county council issues which are relevant to local businesses.



Promote your business at the Chamber networking events

Join the businesses who have already sponsored one of the Chamber's ever-popular networking events... for a small cost, you can distribute your marketing material, display a pop-up banner and, if you wish, welcome a very relevant audience and talk to them briefly about your business before the main presenter.

Just drop us an e-mail at info@shrewsburybusiness.com to register your interest, and we'll let you know which networking events are coming up that would benefit most from your sponsorship.

We look forward to helping you promote your business!

Summer Fun at Shrewsbury Shopping

On Thursday 1st August Reachout Arts will be donning super hero capes, before the circus fun begins on the 6th and 7th August. On Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th August, 'the game is afoot' as mystery detectives and then on Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd they'll be getting a taste of showbusiness in our movie themed sessions. Finally, we'll be rounding off the holidays with special summer creative workshops on Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th August. More information on these is available on the Shrewsbury Shopping [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

There will also be green-fingered giggles for the little ones with a one day, garden-themed craft workshop, where they can take home their makes, on Monday 19th August completely free.

Grown-ups are not left out in the rain when it comes to garden-time this holiday, because Darwin will also be running florally-inspired workshops for adults in a one-day special event on Monday 5th August.

With a great choice of [fashion](#), [family](#), [health & beauty](#) and [homeware](#) stores, Shrewsbury Shopping is the ideal place to pick up all your summer must haves. Whether you're jetting off to sunnier climes and need to pick up your holiday essentials or spending time at home in the garden and fancy giving it a little spruce up – you'll find everything you need.

More details about all stores and events can be found at shrewsbury-shopping.co.uk.



Floral fun for all!

Saturday 27th July - Saturday 31st August

We're sowing the seeds of floral fun throughout the summer with the chance to enjoy a variety of green-fingered giggles in our craft workshops, plus photo-opportunities galore!

Find out more at shrewsbury-shopping.co.uk

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Mental health champion in the work place

Staff at a Shropshire insurance brokers now have a mental health champion on their team to support them in the workplace.

Jayne Ford, of Henshalls Insurance Brokers, in Newport, has completed a one-day course run by Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) England at Shropshire Chamber of Commerce.

"Mental health is now being recognised as a major contributing factor to millions of working days lost, and thanks to high profile nationwide campaigns, it is more acceptable to talk about issues such as stress, anxiety and depression," said Jayne.

"As a company, we felt we needed to be aware of the kind of issues that staff may be facing either at home or at work that could be affecting their mental health, and we wanted to offer a safe, confidential place where they can talk and we can listen."

Henshalls managing director Mark Freeman said: "We're committed to creating a working

environment where our staff feel comfortable and supported, and Jayne's training means we can now recognise the signs more readily if someone may be having difficulties.

"At Henshalls, our employees are our greatest asset and it's important that they are able to seek out the help they need without any fear of being judged."

MHFA England chief executive Simon Blake said: "Our range of courses are designed to empower people to support their own mental health and that of the people they connect with in life.

"Jayne is now part of a community of over 350,000 people in England and 2.6 million people worldwide trained to recognise mental ill health and

help people find the support they need to stay well."

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) England is a community interest company working to increase mental health awareness and skills across society. Visit www.mhfaengland.org



Mayor's Shrewsbury Beatles Weekend will support the Samaritans

The 'Long and Winding Road' will lead to Shrewsbury in September when the town's mayor Councillor Phil Gillam organises a charity Beatles Weekend.

Cllr Gillam has chosen Shrewsbury Samaritans as the mayor's charity during his term of office. Rather than organise a traditional mayor's ball as a fundraiser, he decided to indulge his passion for the Fab Four by holding Shrewsbury Beatles Weekend from September 20-22.

Shrewsbury's caravan, motorhome and campervan dealership Salop Leisure has agreed to support the mayor by being main sponsor of the weekend.

Beatles tribute bands will provide live music and a series of films and documentaries which will be shown at The Walker Theatre at Theatre Severn over the weekend.

The Beatles in Comics will be the theme of a talk by former Marvel comic book creator Tim Quinn at The Hive, Belmont Street at 2.30pm on Sunday, September 21.

A free Beatles Open Mic Evening at The Wheatsheaf, Frankwell will be held from 7pm on Saturday, September 21 and The Backbeat Three, Famous Last Words and Two-faced Tom and The Bootleg Boys will appear in a 'Lunchtime at The Cavern' at The Buttermarket Cellars from noon to 2pm on the Sunday. The weekend ends with a concert by The Mersey Beatles at Theatre Severn at 7.30pm on Sunday,

September 22.

Salop Leisure is also planning Beatles inspired events at the company's Love2Stay resort in Shrewsbury over the weekend.

A Beatles Evening, which will be open to local residents as well as Love2Stay guests, will be held on the Friday with a Beatles themed band, 1960s themed food and drinks and fancy dress.

Saturday will see a Beatles themed film being shown in Love2Stay's cinedrome and there will be a charity raffle held over the weekend.

Tickets for both events will be available from Salop Leisure and Love2Stay with £1 from each ticket sale will be donated to the mayor's charity.

"When I became mayor, I wanted to do something a bit different rather than organising a big ball, which wasn't me," explained Cllr Gillam. "I am a Beatles aficionado and I was talking to Tim King who

is also a huge Beatles fan.

"We came up with lots of ideas and when we got The Mersey Beatles on board, lots of other people began to get interested."

The programme of events begins with a Summer Beatles Cruise on the Sabrina river boat at 7pm on Thursday, September 19.

For more information visit shrewsburybeatles.com



Business Rates Retail Discount Scheme

Alessio Dyfnallt at Cooper Green Pooks is pleased to report the welcome good news for the retail sector countrywide which will alleviate some of the pressure on the retail sector. In the Autumn Budget on 29 October 2018, the Government announced that it will provide for a business rates Retails Discount scheme in each of the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years.



Shropshire Council have published details on the discount available advising Retail properties with a Rateable Value of less than £51,000 that are wholly or mainly being used as; shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments are eligible for a 1/3 discount.

The value of the discount will be one third of the bill after any other reliefs have been applied.

Full details of eligibility and an application form to apply for relief – see Shropshire Council webpages

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/business-rates/rates-relief-and-exemptions/retail-relief-2019/>

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Local lift installer gets hired for an unusual commission

Belvidere Lifts, a local firm which provide, install and maintain lifts to many clients across the West Midlands were surprised to become involved in a very ambitious project. Local business man Vince Jones from AB Birch Ltd Engineering saw the potential in a derelict water tower which he could develop into something new.



The water tower, located near Bridgnorth was bought by Vince who sought to turn this "Grand Design" into his new home.

Belvidere Lifts were appointed in 2018 to design, install and commission a bespoke passenger lift to travel from the ground level to the upper two levels travelling a distance of 13500mm and travelling at a speed of 0.63M/S. As Vince is an engineer, the idea was to be able to see as much of the lift workings as possible and also as the lift is housed in a glass lift shaft, the views are breath taking as you travel to the floors.

The project was delivered on time, on budget and with spectacular results. The property is a unique structure, which all parties are very proud of and adds to this grand design.





5 Minutes with....

Phil Gillam, the newly appointed Mayor of Shrewsbury



WHAT MAKES YOUR MOST PROUD ABOUT SHREWSBURY?

I hardly know where to begin! The majestic loop of the River Severn that embraces the old town. That splendid "cathedral among signal boxes" that greets you as your train approaches the southern end of the station. The station itself. Hundreds of beautiful buildings from The Library to The Abbey, from Rowley's House to St Chad's, from Ireland's Mansion to Henry Tudor House, from Bear Steps Hall to the Flaxmill. It's a gorgeous town. I never grow tired of it.

WHY IS PROMOTING BUSINESS SO IMPORTANT?

For me, it's actually the smaller and more idiosyncratic businesses that make Shrewsbury – and Shropshire as a whole – so special. These are the businesses that give a place its particular personality – like the stallholders in Shrewsbury Market, the little shops on Wyle Cop and Dogpole, on Mardol and the High Street, and in the Parade or along Castle Street and Castle Foregate. Without support and promotion, many of these could disappear and our town centre would lose so much of its colour and variety. Networking is also important in building bridges and making friends across the business community. Local enterprises – great and small – need to support and promote one another – and use one another's services. As the old saying goes: Use it or lose it!

WHAT CHARITY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO SUPPORT AS MAYOR AND WHY?

The Samaritans of Shrewsbury. I should point out that, while affiliated to the famous national charity, the Shrewsbury Samaritans are entirely self-funding and so contributions will not "disappear" into some enormous pot, but will be used locally and so – as Mayor – I'm supporting a charity that directly serves our immediate community.

I've chosen this charity because it does such tremendous work right across the community, helping the anxious, the lonely, the bereaved, the depressed and despairing, everyone from school children worried about exam results to elderly folk who just want someone to listen to them.

HOW DO YOU BALANCE YOUR MAYORAL COMMITMENTS WITH YOUR JOB AND ALSO FAMILY LIFE?

These days, I have a part-time job establishing social groups right across Shropshire for people living with dementia. I also edit and publish a 48-page community publication for my neck of the woods, The Belle Vue Magazine. Then of course there is family life as well. So it's a case of juggling all these things alongside the mayoral commitments which come along thick and fast.

Am I able to do all this without falling flat on my face? I'll let you know at the end of the year!

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS AS MAYOR?

I want to support my chosen charity and make as much money for them as possible. I also want to learn more about those people in our town having a tough time of

it, including the homeless and the rough sleepers, and see what more can be done to help in that direction. I'd

like to promote the town and its businesses in any way I can. And as I attend these many engagements throughout the year, I want to make friends, connect with people, and hopefully put smiles on people's faces, and all the while banging the drum for Shrewsbury.

IF YOU COULD GO BACK AND GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF SOME ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Try not to eat quite so many sweets, cakes and bars of chocolate!

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS SPECIAL ABOUT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN SHROPSHIRE?

Across Shropshire we have so many fine and unusual restaurants, shops, pubs, museums and art galleries, theatres, garden centres, tourist attractions, businesses and organisations of every kind. It's this incredible diversity that helps to make Shropshire such a fantastic place in which to live.

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT MOST PEOPLE PROBABLY WOULDN'T KNOW?

As a journalist I once interviewed the famous comedian Jimmy Tarbuck backstage after his one-man show on a hot, summer's evening. As I was escorted into his dressing room, I realised he was wearing only his underpants and was sweating profusely having discarded his tuxedo.

BEATLES OR ROLLING STONES?

I like the Rolling Stones – but I LOVE The Beatles.

YOUR FIVE DREAM DINNER PARTY GUESTS, DEAD OR ALIVE?

To choose John, Paul, George and Ringo would be a bit too obvious – so let's assume they are otherwise engaged on this particular evening.

Instead I'm going to go for:

1. Abraham Lincoln, a giant of a leader who navigated the United States through its greatest moral, constitutional and political crisis – and the man who said "Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally."

2. James Stewart, the wonderful American film actor, and star of many of my all-time favourite movies including Harvey and It's A Wonderful Life. He was such a gentle and thoughtful soul, and very funny too.

3. Donna Reed, the actress who played James Stewart's wife in It's A Wonderful Life and one of the reasons for the film's magical quality and its enduring power.

4. Gerry Anderson, creator of all those brilliant 1960s sci-fi television shows made with puppets, bits of string, fireworks and enormous imagination. He was a huge part of my childhood.

5. Olivia Newton-John, the first woman I fell in love with. I liked her best in the early 1970s when she enjoyed success with simple, country-pop songs and was the loveliest person I'd ever seen.



Shropshire Law Firm Strengthens Team

Lanyon Bowdler has appointed a new solicitor to its residential property team. Emma Jones joins the firm's Telford office after working in Birmingham and Shrewsbury, and will be acting for clients in all areas of residential conveyancing. She qualified as a solicitor four years ago after training in Telford, and has gained considerable experience in residential conveyancing having worked for a law firm in Birmingham city centre.

Emma said: "We are still seeing healthy movement in property sales at the moment, despite what is generally being reported as a slowdown in the market."

"The national picture is undoubtedly challenging, but we are finding the residential market is staying active, particularly in the Telford area."

"There is no doubt that Brexit and other economic factors are having an effect on the market, as many adopt a wait and see attitude, but I also feel there's an element of people just getting on with their lives."

"After all, whatever happens, people will always need somewhere to live and work which means buying and selling property."

She added: "I am relishing the new challenge of

working for Lanyon Bowdler in Shropshire and helping clients achieve the best possible outcome when it comes to buying and selling property.

"I am able to deal with all aspects of residential conveyancing, including sales and purchases, new-build transactions, the re-mortgage of freehold and leasehold properties and transfer of equity."

"It's a particularly interesting area of the law and I really enjoy assisting people with what is often the most important investment of their lives."

"It can also be quite complicated, with many potential

pitfalls people need to avoid. That's why it is essential to seek out the correct advice from the right legal professional to ensure a client's best interests are served at all times."

Loretta Aston, head of the Lanyon

Bowdler residential property team, said: "We are delighted to welcome Emma to the team and I am sure she will prove to be a valuable addition to the firm."

For more information about Lanyon Bowdler's legal services, visit www.lblaw.co.uk or call 0800 652 3371.



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Have you done anything to upgrade your Windows 7 system, which becomes obsolete in January 2020?

If not, you have just under 5 months to keep you and
your business safe from attack.

The problem

Microsoft is ending its Extended Support for Windows 7, Windows Server 2008/R2 and Exchange Server on January 14, 2020, meaning updates and security patches - the cyber safety net, if you like - will no longer be available with the result of Windows 7 workstations and these servers becoming increasingly under threat.

In plain terms, it means you are more susceptible to cybersecurity breaches and the loss of vital data. Your systems **WILL NO LONGER BE SAFE!**

Even the American National Security Agency (NSA) warns Microsoft Windows users to make sure they have updated systems to guard against cyber attack.

The NSA warns of "significant risk" because of the vulnerability of older versions of Windows and it follows a statement from Microsoft saying anyone operating on Windows 7 or earlier systems should "update as soon as possible".

The company also urged its customers to "keep updating internal systems with the latest fixes" in order to stay safe.

The solution

Find out what systems you are working on and if any are running Windows 7, can you upgrade to Windows 10? If action is needed, take the necessary steps without further delay.

Windows 10 brings in a new sustainability era - WaaS, Windows as a Service, which means Microsoft is incorporating continuous updates and support, ensuring systems stay up-to-date well into the future.

Businesses will benefit from automatic updates saving you time, cost and worry that will save in future when there are no "end of life" issues to cause concern.

In years to come, Windows 10 will not resemble the operating system we know today but the regular behind the scenes updates and fixes will ensure it remains of its time without the major upheaval presently associated with replacing and upgrading an obsolete system of the past.

For more information call us on 01743 290588 or 01952 684030 or email katy@pcnetsolutions.co.uk



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Pipekit builds on Partnership with Shrewsbury Town



Pipekit, the Shrewsbury based online pipework and drainage distributor, has reaped dividends in its first year of being the website and social media partner for Shrewsbury Town.

Entering into its second year with the football club, Pipekit attributes the significant growth of its brand profile, not just locally but nationally, to the partnership and is delighted at the positive impact it's had on the business.

Martyn Rowlands, managing director of Pipekit said: "As a Shrewsbury based business and Town supporters we were really proud to secure the sponsorship partnership with Shrewsbury Town last season. But we have been even more delighted at the benefits it has brought to our business, at the same time as seeing the role our commitment plays in helping to support our community".

He continues: "The two year deal has helped us build our online and social media presence in line with our business model and simultaneously provided us with a channel to become more involved in the local community. It's a win win".

Andy Tretton, commercial manager at Shrewsbury Town said: "We have enjoyed working with Martyn and the Pipekit team over the last 12 months and we're looking forward to cementing the relationship going forward".

Local motor dealer to create ambitious "Super Site"

A Shropshire motor dealer has unveiled ambitious plans to create the region's largest used vehicles complex.

Furrows Group is transforming the former petrol station site opposite its Haybridge Road FordStore dealership in Telford as part of an ongoing programme of investment worth over £1.5 million in the last three years alone.

Managing director Dave Farthing said work had already begun to create the used vehicles "super site" which is due to open towards the end of June.

"As a company, we are committed to investing in the local area and the used vehicles complex is the latest in a long line of major developments and refurbishments we've carried out in the last few years.

"We already have a used vehicles team operating on part of the site, but this expansion will give us the opportunity to increase our stock from the current 120 used cars and commercial vehicles, to around 200.

"Thanks to the sales success of our Furrows FordStore over the road, we are taking in more and more quality used vehicles in part exchange, and so it's a great opportunity to be able to grow this side of the business even further.

"Customers will also benefit from having a Ford main

dealer on the doorstep to offer after-sales support and service facilities, and thanks to our 100-year heritage, they can rest assured that our commitment and dedication to the local area is second-to-none."

The super site will stock all makes and models of used cars and commercial vehicles, but will specialise in Ford vehicles in particular, and new state-of-the-art offices are also being built.

"We're hoping that as the operation grows, it will create additional jobs, adding to our total number of employees of over 300 across our dealerships in Telford, Shrewsbury and Oswestry," said Dave. "This is a really exciting time for Furrows, and we're delighted to have been able to redevelop the site to create the greatest stock of quality used cars in the area in such a convenient and easily accessible location."



Furrows Group celebrated its centenary in 2018, and in the last three years the company has invested heavily in its facilities right across the county. The investment has included: new showrooms for Skoda and Ford at Oswestry; extensions to the Kia showrooms at Telford and Shrewsbury; extension and refurbishment of the Mazda showroom at Shrewsbury; new hi-tech entrance created at Shrewsbury; and construction of Ford Parts plus offices and warehouse in Telford to service Shropshire and Wolverhampton.



Sabrina Boat launches new pottery painting classes

Sabrina Boat has launch their latest themed evening cruise. On Wednesday 4th September we shall be hosting our first ever pottery painting cruise with expert teaching from Splat'N'Splodge based in the Parade Shopping Centre.

All guests will be given a 20cm diameter dinner plate which will be taken away and glazed at the end of the evening. Led by local artist Tom Hayes you will learn a range of underglaze painting techniques with a selection of 28 colours and a variety of tools and brushes. The cruise will begin at 7pm and we will be out on the river until 10.30pm with table service throughout the evening. Check out www.sabrinaboat.co.uk for more information and to book.

Your Brain on a Boat Boating can trigger a restful state. It provides the means to get outside of daily routines, allowing our brains to reset, think beyond current circumstances and connect to something bigger than ourselves. Being on a boat promotes physiological and psychological changes spanning health, wellness, awe, wonder, creativity, play, happiness and relaxation.



We are also giving you the chance to win a FREE 1 hour cruise on board the Sabrina picnic boat for you, your friends and your family.

All you have to do in order to have a chance to win is post your best photos of the Sabrina Boat to our Facebook page with the best being chosen at the end of August.

The Picnic Boat holds up to 12 guests and you are more than welcome to bring along all of your own food and drink with any cutlery, glassware & crockery being provided by Sabrina.

Workmates pedal and run 1333km to make Darren's dream come true

Shropshire workmates and supporters cycled and ran 1,333 kilometres on a 24-hour duathlon at the weekend to raise money for a popular colleague who is bravely fighting terminal cancer.

Salop Leisure's marketing manager Ed Glover, Love2Stay joint general manager Chris Skitt and guest Lucy Wilde took on the marathon challenge hoping to raise £5,000 to help site maintenance engineer Darren Lloyd, 38, achieve his bucket list of wishes. Around 20 work colleagues, members of Love2Live gym and friends of Darren joined in to support the trio during the marathon, held at Salop Leisure's Emstrey headquarters. They pedalled and ran a combined the equivalent distance from Shrewsbury to Mont Blanc in France. Customers, work colleagues and friends popped in during the day to bring food and drinks for the trio and to donate money in collection buckets, which amounted to more than £700.



Shrewsbury's Mayor Councillor Phil Gillam was there to start the duathlon and even contributed a kilometer or two on one of the exercise bikes. "This duathlon is awe-inspiring," he said. "These guys are doing a fantastic thing for such a good cause."

Having spoken to Salop Leisure's chairman Tony Bywater, I get the sense that it's a really good company that looks after its people." Darren, members of his family and Mr Bywater were there to congratulate the trio when they completed the exhausting duathlon to applause at noon on Sunday.

Ed Glover said: "It was an amazing achievement and probably the hardest thing I have ever done, but it's for a great cause. Lloyd was overwhelmed at the end and couldn't believe we had done it for him. We would like to thank everyone who supported us over the 24 hours and continue to donate money through the Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lloyd."



Hatchers family team back to full strength

The Family team at Hatchers are back to full strength as Morgan Fitzpatrick returns from maternity leave having also completed training in Collaborative Law.



The 5 strong team (from left Lisa Davies – Legal Secretary, Sarah Jane Smith – Associate Solicitor and Head of the Family Department, Morgan Fitzpatrick – Assistant Solicitor and Collaborative Practitioner, Rachel Roberts – Family Executive and Hannah Barnes – Legal Secretary) are based at the Welsh Bridge office in Shrewsbury, but can also see clients at the Whitchurch and Harlescott offices.

They each bring their unique experience to offer tailored advice on a diverse range of family issues, from pre and post-nuptial agreements to arrangements for children upon separation. Sarah, as head of the department, offers over 25 years of family law experience in all areas, and although a large part of the work she does focusses on divorce and financial issues, she has been a member of the Law Society's specialist Children Panel for over 20 years. Morgan is a member of Resolution and a trained family mediator (non-practising) as well as having recently completed training in Collaborative practice. This is evident in her calm and holistic approach to disputes. Rachel also covers all areas of family law although she is particularly experienced and passionate about assisting people in disputes relating to children.

To book a free initial consultation to discuss your options please call 01743 248545 or visit www.hatchers.co.uk.

Free Course from Marches Growth Hub


HR Essentials for your Business
28 September 2019, 13:00 - 16:00
AICO, Oswestry

A free ½ day workshop which provides a broad and practical overview of HR and Employment Law issues which any business owner, manager or person responsible for HR needs to be aware of, including.


- 'Self-employed, worker and employee' do you understand the differences, how and when you should use, the contracts that need to be issued and the risks of getting this wrong?
- Holidays - how to calculate them and ensure compliance for part time and zero hours staff.
- Discrimination risk and where they can arise from recruitment to dismissal.
- Managing absence - including sickness; and what rights employees have to statutory time off for other absences (maternity, paternity etc)
- Disciplinary and Grievance - how to discipline staff and deal with grievances.
- The End of Employment - why it happens and how to deal with it.
- What the costs could be of 'getting it wrong' if you receive an Employment Tribunal claim.

For details of these and other courses offered by the Marches Growth Hub, visit www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/calendar.


Please note: eligibility criteria may apply for training or networking events.

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