



SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER

ISSUE 2 2022



**SUMMER WINDOW DISPLAY
WINNERS**

**SHROPSHIRE SPECIALISTS
RAISING AWARENESS OF
NHS PENSIONS**

**SHREWSBURY RETAINS
PURPLE FLAG**

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



KEVIN LOCKWOOD

Manager of Shrewsbury Shopping Centres

**We are in June already...
where has the last 6 months gone in 2022???**

Many businesses continue to feel the strain - Recovering from COVID, flooding, product and material shortages, staff recruitment issues, price increases and now the affects of the rise in inflation, driving costs up further, when will it end?

The UK is not on it's own, this an issue around the world, however my general belief (having a glass half full attitude) is that business resilience and continuity plans will see them through this short term upheaval.

Shrewsbury Business Chamber was founded in 1903, with a mission to help & support business in Shrewsbury, to have a voice, to learn and prosper. This commitment is as important now as it has ever been!

Our members meetings offer an opportunity for like minded businesses to discuss and share common goals, issues, and solutions. A great way to demonstrate the support network that we have within our business community and to have these face to face again, is a real boost!

For further details on what the Shrewsbury Business Chamber can offer, and to become a member, please visit our website and social media pages.

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SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER AT FLOOD & COAST CONFERENCE

Charles Howell, Executive Member of Shrewsbury Business Chamber reports:

Following our ongoing discussions with Shrewsbury & Atcham MP Daniel Kawczynski concerning the flooding issues affecting Shrewsbury, and at the invitation of Shropshire Council through the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme I attended the recent Flood & Coast Conference, held in Telford, and took part in a 'workshop discussion' hosted by Binnies, environmental engineers.

The key issues discussed included:

Floods in 2020, 2021, and 2022 caused £450 million economic damage and directly affected over 3,000 houses and 1,000 businesses in the River Severn catchment.

In towns such as Shrewsbury, relatively few buildings may be flooded, but access to the central business area is restricted, which causes disproportionately high economic damage especially around the Christmas/New Year peak shopping and entertainment period.

Individual flood defence schemes, if assessed on traditional direct funding criteria are not viable.

Two-thirds of the catchment is in Wales, which suffers relatively little damage; the reverse applies to English towns downstream.

The effect of climate change - more frequent, more sudden, flooding.

Difficulties in arranging suitable buildings insurance.

More centralised government based at Westminster and Cardiff has eroded traditional cross-border political co-operation.

Further divergence as previous Europe - wide standards and regulations are modified differently by England and Wales.

There is no easy solution!

However, there does appear to be some progress in creating a catchment wide forum. This is firstly at national level through the Severn Valley caucus of Members of Parliament, and also by greater co-operation by the regional public sector (Powys, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and other councils, the Environment Agency, DEFRA, etc) and other stakeholders via the River Severn Partnership.

There is then proposed engagement between larger commercial groups including insurance companies, NFU, key landowners (both rural and urban), water companies and other utilities, etc.

[An extract from the Environment Agency's article about the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme is available to view on the Business Chamber website].

Whilst this forum is worked up so that it could produce town planning, transport liaison, land management and other guidance it is important that more immediate solutions/mitigation/adaptation are found which provide help for residents and businesses in the short term.

By way of 'local co-operation' at parish/county/local business level it may be possible to create better flood protection for individual properties, secure improved buildings insurance terms, more integrated public transport, changes in farming methods, etc. Town Planners, Land Agents, Insurance Brokers and other professional advisors will have roles to play in this.

The Business Chamber is regularly informed by Daniel Kawczynski of progress at a parliamentary level including his meetings with the Floods Minister Rebecca Pow, and we would hope to have a review meeting with him in the autumn.

My colleague within Shrewsbury Business Chamber's executive, Jenny Osborne of Henshalls Insurance Brokers has details of innovative buildings insurance flood risk policies. The product, known as FloodFlash, allows owners of properties to select the flood depth at which they wish the policy to trigger and the level of cover required. The policy will pay out immediately the sensor is triggered.

(see our website for further details)

If any Chamber members have any comments or suggestions please contact me at cjh@cgpooks.co.uk or 01743 719207.

In the meantime we shall be having further discussions with Shropshire Council and other parties, as well as the regular briefings from/with our local MP. Unfortunately King Canute is not available.

***'Shrewsbury is famous for football, flowers, and flooding'.
Let's try to remove the flooding !***

Charles Howell
01743 719207
cjh@cgpooks.co.uk

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUD



As you may have noticed in news reports, there has been a large increase in the amount of fraud seen by the banking industry over the last couple of years. Fraudsters have become ever more sophisticated and cunning in the way that they work.

You may have heard the term 'social engineering'. This is a toolkit of psychological techniques which helps a fraudster dupe their victim into providing sensitive information, ultimately for their own financial gain.

'Smishing' can be one approach fraudsters use to target huge numbers of people with fake text messages, pretending to be from courier companies, BT, Royal Mail and other trusted organisations such as banks. They send a link saying that a small fee needs to be paid to deliver a parcel or that there's a query to do with a payment on an account. The fraudster is relying on the fact that we're busy people, we'll open a text message to see who it's from and won't necessarily check before we click on a link. If you receive an unexpected text message, particularly one asking you to click on a link, make sure that you take a good look at the link provided before you click on it. Does it look like it has come from the company? Do not click on links in text messages. Instead search for a customer service number independently and call the company if you're concerned.

Fraudsters are adept at using the latest software to "spoof" phone numbers so that calls and texts appear to come from banks, the police, or other trusted organisations. If you receive an unexpected call from someone appearing to be from the Handelsbanken Customer Support number or the Handelsbanken Fraud Team, for example, and the caller asks you for ANY of your online banking details or asks you to log in to online banking to 'cancel a payment due to fraudulent concerns', please stop and hang up. Once you've hung up, contact either your branch or our Customer Support team, using a number that you've found independently and not the number given to you during the call or the number you may have read in an email. If possible use a different phone line if you received the call on a landline, as fraudsters can keep the line open meaning you may think you're calling the bank, when in fact you are still connected to the criminal.

"Fraudsters are adept at using the latest software to 'spoof' phone numbers"

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- For remote access to your device under the pretence that access is needed to reverse or stop an alleged fraudulent payment
- To verify a caller by directing you to our website to confirm our number is genuine, or call you on your mobile and point you to our number displayed to indicate that the call is genuine. (Remember, even if the number appears to be genuine, fraudsters can falsify this)
- To bypass your own internal controls
- Not to discuss a call with your branch, or object to you confirming that a communication from us is genuine - it's good to be sure
- To transfer, withdraw or hand money over for 'safe-keeping', on the basis that staff within your branch are being investigated.

If you think you've been scammed please let your account manager or our customer support team know immediately. Please don't feel embarrassed as scams often use highly sophisticated techniques, and if you contact us immediately, this will give us more time to try and get your money back for you.

To find out more about security and fraud prevention please visit [handelsbanken.co.uk/security](https://www.handelsbanken.co.uk/security).

Handelsbanken

Minimising the risk of rail strike disruption to your SME business



SMEs looking to phase out hybrid or remote working may be facing a new challenge in bringing employees back to work this month. The biggest rail strike in 30 years is planned to take place.

The rail strikes will see thousands of Network Rail and TFL underground workers walk out on 21st June. Overground strikes will then happen again on 23rd and 25th June.

Although the train strikes are planned for three days, it is expected that the disruption could last as long as six.

Workers who rely on train travel to commute to work are going to experience severe delays during the strikes. Planning ahead can help to minimise the disruption to your business, and you may be able to make alternative arrangements with staff who are going to find it difficult making it to work on time.

What happens when staff can't get to work?

Last week we looked at what your options are when an employee is stuck abroad due to air travel disruptions. This week it's a little closer to home and you have the advantage of notice on your side.

It's important to know how your employees get to work so that you

can plan accordingly. Speak to those who rely solely on rail travel to commute and see what alternative arrangements can be made.

For example, could they temporarily carpool with a co-worker who lives nearby? Or, if only one or two team members will be affected and you need them to attend the workplace, could you justify arranging taxis?

Flexi-hours, allowing the employee to travel outside of rush hour may also help. When asking them to make time back, keep in mind they may have spent a lot of time trying to make it to work.

If you can facilitate home working, this might be the most sensible option. If it's something that you are trying to phase out, simply communicate that this is a short-term arrangement and work will resume as normal once the strikes are over. As the strikes start next week, you have a few days to make sure that these employees have what they need to work from home, for instance a laptop.

What if remote working isn't an option?

We understand that not all businesses can allow remote working, and in the absence of furlough, what are your options here?

You could ask employees if they would like to use their holiday during this time, or consider offering them

unpaid leave. You can insist that they take unused holiday, but only if you provide them with enough notice. Legally, that's two days' notice for every day that you want them to take.

For staffing your business during planned absences, do you have other staff that would be able to cover? Whether it's a shift swap or overtime?

Reducing the risk of stress caused by delays

A nightmare of a commute can really impact a person's day, and that can be said even without strikes and delays.

Is the employee that walks to work experiencing the same stresses as the one that deals with persistent train delays? Or the parent who leaves earlier to drop off their kids on the way, only to be faced with traffic jams and a double delay?

The key to supporting your team through travel disruption is to be understanding of both the situation and each individual's personal circumstances within it. Planning will help both your business and your team. If you have HR questions when doing so, remember that we are just a phone call away.

Telephone: 01743 290 474

Mobile: 07741 640 504

Email: Shropshire@hrdept.co.uk

PROMOTION FOR HAYLEY AT DYKE YAXLEY



Hayley Price, Associate Director with Managing Director Marie Bramwell and Director Mark Griffiths.

Our Client Manager Hayley, who initially joined us on a university placement has now been promoted to an Associate Director role.

Hayley Price spent a year at Dyke Yaxley Chartered Accountants in Shrewsbury as part of her studies at the University of Wolverhampton, before returning as an Accounts Clerk following the completion of her degree.

She most recently worked as a Client Manager in the firm's agricultural department alongside Director Mark Griffiths and she has been with Dyke Yaxley for over ten years. During this time, Hayley has trained and qualified as a Chartered Accountant and then as a Chartered Tax Adviser.

"I'm absolutely delighted to have been named as an Associate Director and I couldn't be prouder of the recognition I've received," said Hayley.

"Dyke Yaxley is a great company to work for and I thoroughly enjoy my work meeting up with clients - I particularly enjoy the sense of accomplishment I feel knowing I've been able to help them with their accounts and tax compliance.

"I manage a portfolio of sole traders, partnerships and limited companies, and I'm committed to delivering the very highest level of support to every client.

"To have been promoted to my new senior position is a great honour, and I'm pleased that my work has led to such a great opportunity."

Dyke Yaxley Managing Director Marie Bramwell said:

"Our company ethos has always been to encourage our team members to continuously develop their skills and Hayley is an excellent example of someone who has worked hard and shown great dedication.

"Thanks to her experience and wide-ranging knowledge, she plays a key role in our team, and we're looking forward to the contribution she will make to our future plans and strategies moving forward."

We're Celebrating Pride Month at The Shrewsbury Club

Here at The Shrewsbury Club we are celebrating Pride Month with a host of activities next week.

Pride Month is dedicated to celebrating LGBTQ+ communities all around the world throughout June.

Brad Jones, one of our friendly team of gym instructors, is organising our Pride Week, which will run from June 20 to June 26.

"We will be having rainbow-themed classes, so members will be dressing up in different colours to take part," says Brad.

"As instructors we are going to be wearing multi-coloured head bands and different colours to raise awareness and just educate people on why we are doing it.

"We will also be holding a cake sale in The Hub, which will be a fundraiser for charity, so that's another way for people to get involved."

Brad welcomes the introduction of our first Pride Week to the club's calendar.

"I just think it's great that as a club, as a family club, it's good to make every generation aware," he says.

Brad, a member of The Shrewsbury Club team for the last four years, adds: "I'm filming a video as well which I'm hoping to get on social media about why the Pride movement happens.

"It will mention the history from the Stonewall riots in America and why we have Pride movements and Pride marches.

"It's not just about being gay, or lesbian, or trans, or whatever, it's about everyone just being themselves.

"I think people associate Pride with being gay, lesbian or whatever, but actually it's not just about that.

"It's about everyone being themselves and happy in their own skin. That's the message I want to get across to people."

Dave Courteen, our managing director, says: "We have always wanted to be an inclusive club and this is just one way of demonstrating that approach.

"It's part of a wider campaign around Pride Month, so

we felt it was really important to join in and celebrate the diversity of both the members and staff here at The Shrewsbury Club."



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ROSE SECURES A COVETED TRAINING PLACE

A Shropshire insurance expert has been selected to join a prestigious nationwide leadership initiative that offers invaluable training and development opportunities.

Rose Stephen is the operations manager at Henshalls Insurance Group in Newport, and she has been accepted on this year's RSA Broker Leadership Programme.

Run by insurance giant RSA UK & International, the scheme has been operating for the last seven years, and only 12 people annually are offered a place.

Henshalls managing director Mark Freeman said: "Rose is a shining star in our team and she plays a key role in the way our firm operates.

"It's no surprise to us that her excellent knowledge and skills have been recognised with a coveted place on the leadership programme, and it will give her the opportunity to build on the foundation skills she has already acquired.

"Joining the initiative is a fantastic opportunity for Rose and we couldn't be prouder of her as she begins the next step of her journey. The skills she learns during the training will be invaluable in her Henshalls career, and we can't wait to see what the course has in store for her."

Last year the training ran as a fully-virtual programme, and this year some sessions will take place online, but in combination with interactive face-to-face learning too.

Rose said: "The training will run from May through to November this year, and I'll be partnered with an industry expert who will act as my mentor throughout.

"RSA have launched an online Broker Leadership content hub which details all the sessions I'll be following, and I'm also looking forward to the Scene Setting Day in May when we will be introduced to fellow delegates and our trainers.

"My day-to-day work at Henshalls has given me the chance to work closely with RSA when advising clients on the types of policy that best suits their needs.

"To be one of the small number of client managers chosen for this wonderful training project is just an amazing way to take the next step in my insurance career."

RSA Insurance Group is a British multi-national general insurance company with its headquarters in London. It has major operations across the UK, Ireland, Scandinavia and Canada. It provides insurance products and services in more than 100 countries through a network of local partners.



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LOVE2STAY



Staycation boom prompts resort's new £1.5m luxury glamping development

The boom in UK staycations has prompted the award-winning Love2Stay resort on the outskirts of Shrewsbury to invest a further £1.5 million in a new development of luxury glamping lodges ready for Easter.

Resort owner, Salop Leisure, has invested in 12 bespoke single lodges and two twin lodges to create a new Black Barn Lodges development in the hugely popular glamping village. The resort now has 36 luxury lodges, including the original 11 safari lodges and 11 Woodland lodges, which were introduced last year as part of a £1 million investment.

The new, black lodges have been made for Salop Leisure by Lowfield Leisure at Marton, near Shrewsbury. They sleep from four to six people with a king sized main bedroom, twin mezzie room and sofa bed in the living area, a log burner and high-quality appliances. Each lodge has its own private hot tub and outdoor fire pit. Guests also have full access to an outdoor natural bio swimming pool, splash pool and beach, cinema, wellbeing services and a wide range of outdoor activities for all the family.

Love2Stay resort, which celebrates its fifth birthday in May, comprises a glamping village, touring caravan

park with 118 pitches and an adventure centre. Set in 22 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds, the resort has panoramic views across to Wales from one side and over to the Shropshire Hills from the other. Last year was record breaker for Love2Stay which reported an occupancy rate of 81 per cent. With the new development, the resort expects to double bookings this year as the staycation boom continues.

"Following a bumper year for Love2Stay in 2021, we have decided to invest in the new Black Barns development to cater for demand from customers who are seeking a short break or longer holiday at our luxury resort," said Love2Stay's marketing assistant Laura Wilde.

"More people are taking longer breaks with us and it's pleasing that we have a lot of repeat business. Our peak holiday season last year was from June to October, with September as busy as August, but with more couples staying rather than families. We have become a Christmas destination for families. Our occupancy for December achieved 75% because of the Salop Christmas Adventure events and activity programme that we organised.

"We are also finding that families are enjoying multi-generational holidays with us, with some grandparents staying in

their motorhome or caravan on our touring park, while their children and grandchildren stay in a lodge. "We are seeking to become a destination where guests can relax, enhance their wellness and enjoy a wide range of activities."

The brainchild of Salop Leisure's managing director Mark Bebb, Love2Stay resort is designed to instill a feeling of wellbeing and tranquility in guests.

As technology dominates daily lives, and children are easily glued to i-pads and the Internet, Love2stay has created an environment which is in harmony with nature where guests can, to use Mr Bebb's words, "experience the grass between their toes".

"Love2Stay is designed to offer the very best luxury break experience with our holiday lodge accommodation matching a five-star hotel," he said. "Whether it's a romantic holiday or a family getaway, relaxing in a hot tub is the perfect way to end a busy day of exploring."



SHREWSBURY RETAINS PURPLE FLAG ACCREDITATION

Shrewsbury has retained its Purple Flag status - an accreditation which recognises the town's vibrant night-time economy while adding layers of safety and promoting the wellbeing of visitors.

Similar to Blue Flag for beaches, Purple Flag status aims to raise the standard and broaden the appeal of town and city centres between the hours of 5pm and 5am through a vibrant and diverse mix of dining, entertainment and culture within a secure environment. Highlights from Shrewsbury's submission included the continued work to raise awareness and lower the risk of drink spiking, the focus given to rough sleeper support, and the diversity of food and drink venues in the town.

James Hitchin, chair of Shrewsbury Pubwatch, said: "Retaining our Purple Flag status is excellent news for the town, our residents and visitors to our night-time economy. We are proud of the accreditation which reflects how safe Shrewsbury remains to enjoy a night out here. We are committed to keeping people safe and have launched an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of safety, remind people of the support that's available in the town and encourage the need to watch out for each other. The retention of Purple Flag status can only help to enhance our reputation as a thriving night-time community."

A range of initiatives are in place to support people during the night in Shrewsbury, including the Street Pastors who patrol the town centre between 10.30pm and 4am for anyone in need of help.

Stephanie Mansell-Jones, of Shrewsbury BID, said: "We are delighted to retain our Purple Flag accreditation - it's recognition of all the hard work that so many people put in to ensure a successful night-time economy. "We are of course aware of the ongoing concerns surrounding river safety and everyone is working

together within the town centre to ensure it remains as safe as possible, and as many layers of protection as possible are enhanced or put in place. "Purple Flag status is a valuable asset for the town, residents and our thriving night-time economy."

Purple Flag is an international accreditation programme which strives to help create safe and thriving locations at night for everyone.



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SHROPSHIRE BUSINESS LIVE 4



After the success of the much anticipated (and missed during 2020..) Shropshire Business Live 3 last September, we felt that it was time to put face to face networking well and truly back on the Shropshire map - we're delighted therefore to let you know that our next event is planned for Tuesday 28th June 2022 at wonderful setting of Weston Park.

The event organised by Throgmorton Associates, supported by the teams at Shropshire Business magazine, and event production company Yarrington, will serve up a fascinating mix of comment, expert advice and guidance, and will offer valuable networking opportunities with leading local Professionals and Entrepreneurs.

Once again, we will have a fantastic eclectic mix of panel experts - watch this space for updates.

Panel debates and Q & A sessions will, as usual, be Chaired by the well-known BBC Shropshire and Shropshire Business Live TV personality Carl Jones, and Chris Pritchard of Shropshire Live.

A full English breakfast with dietary options, plus teas, coffees, fruit juices, water will be available/served to your table.

Don't forget, the Shropshire Business Live TV cameras will be there again to capture the event and for 121 interviews - what a great way to get some PR and exposure for your business!

If you are able to attend, I would really encourage you to book early as the event is sure to be extremely popular.

To book your tickets, please follow this link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shropshire-businesslive-4-tickets-337970086627>

For any query please contact the event organiser- graham.mills@sjpp.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you there!

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THE DARWIN

BUSINESS OVERVIEW

Overview

This publication summarises intelligence gathered by the Bank's Agents between mid-April and late May. The Agents' scores published alongside this document generally represent developments over the past three months compared with a year ago.

Agency contacts in some sectors, such as business services as well as some manufacturers, continued to report strong demand, with output growth constrained by shortages of goods and labour. However, there were also signs of squeezed household real incomes starting to weigh on demand, for example for consumer goods and for house purchases.

Contacts expected supply-chain issues to persist into next year, possibly longer and were taking actions to minimise disruption, such as switching suppliers and using alternative inputs.

Companies' hiring intentions remained positive and recruitment difficulties continued to be acute. Consequently, pay settlements had increased further and a significant minority of contacts thought they might have to offer interim pay settlements this year to retain staff.

Energy and other commodity prices remained elevated. In response to increased cost pressures, many contacts said they expected to raise prices to rebuild or protect margins, which remain below normal, on average. But some consumer-facing contacts planned to limit the extent of price increases in order to retain market share.

Consumer spending

Annual growth in the value of consumer spending continued to be supported by higher prices; while retail sales volumes fell, demand for consumer services remained more robust.

There were growing signs of pressure on real incomes starting to weigh on demand for goods. Contacts reported a modest contraction in sales volumes of durable goods, such as furniture, electrical equipment and home-improvement products.

Discount fashion retailers reported stronger sales than those in the higher-priced segment of the market, which might also reflect consumer caution. Supermarket contacts reported customers trading down to lower-priced alternatives, while discount stores reported gaining market share.

By contrast, contacts in the hospitality and leisure sectors reported robust demand. For example, leisure companies said revenues were close to pre-pandemic levels and those in domestic tourism expected staycation demand to remain solid, and reported early signs of overseas tourists returning. Air passenger volumes also continued

to recover, and contacts said summer bookings were positive.

Hospitality contacts also reported solid demand, though stronger sales growth among fast food outlets relative to other parts of the sector suggested that consumers were starting to economise.

Costs and prices

Input price inflation remained high as a result of the war in Ukraine. Companies mostly continued to pass on increased costs into prices to protect margins, which remained below normal, on average.

Material and commodity price pressures remained elevated, with the biggest impacts felt in metals, energy and some agricultural commodity prices. Price pressures for imported finished goods also remained high, in particular for food, medical supplies, and many durable consumer goods.

In manufacturing, output prices continued to rise sharply, as companies passed on their increased costs to customers. This was particularly the case for companies in energy-intensive sectors, such as food and chemicals, whose energy costs increased as fixed-price contracts expired. Some contacts reported that their energy costs had trebled on renewal of contracts.

Business services companies, such as those in transport, wholesale and professional services, reported being able to increase prices by more than normal, reflecting strong demand and continuing cost pressures.

Retailers also reported rising input cost inflation, some of which would be passed on to consumer prices. For example, clothing prices for the autumn and winter collections were expected to be between 7% and 10% higher than a year ago.

Supermarkets said they expected food price inflation to rise to between 5% and 8% over the coming months. However, several said they did not plan to fully pass on increased costs into prices, in order to retain market share. Retailers of household goods expected to make small price increases, with some reporting weaker-than-expected demand, which could lead to discounting in the coming months.

In the services sector, the majority of contacts in the hospitality and leisure sectors said they planned to raise prices over the coming months to cover cost increases, with some larger firms expecting to raise prices by around 8%.

SUMMER WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION



Platinum Jubilee shop window winners revealed

A number of Shrewsbury businesses are celebrating after being named winners of a special shop window competition to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

Traders stepped up to turn the town centre into a sea of red, white and blue as part of the celebrations, making the job of picking the winners extremely difficult for judges.

The Shrewsbury Summer Shop Window Competition, sponsored by Henshalls insurance brokers, was run by Shrewsbury Business Chamber and Shrewsbury BID, with a theme of 'A Great British Occasion' and open to all town centre retailers.

The Large Shop category, sponsored by King's Security, was won by Majors in Claremont Street and the runner-up was Shrewsbury Duck Store in The Darwin Shopping Centre.

The Charity Shop winner was Shropshire Cat Rescue in Mardol and the Runner-Up was the British Heart Foundation in Mardol, in a category sponsored by The HR Dept Shropshire.

Florence & Company in Mardol won

the Small Shop category, with Deja Brew in Castle Street runner-up. This was the largest category in terms of qualifying criteria and saw sponsors The Darwin Shopping Centre present a highly-commended award to Cooking Kneads in Wyle Cop.

The final category was the People's Choice sponsored by Shrewsbury BID and awarded following a public vote. The winner was Christmas Perks in Wyle Cop.

Kevin Lockwood, chairman of Shrewsbury Business Chamber, said: "Our aim was to put on a display to mark the Platinum Jubilee with something memorable and our town centre traders certainly managed to do that - it was an amazing spectacle.

"Congratulations to the winners but it's important to recognise everyone who took part, making judging an extremely difficult process. Thanks to all the businesses for their efforts, the sponsors for getting behind the competition and the public for taking the time to vote for their favourite.

"Shop window competitions in Shrewsbury are always popular and this was another success, much appreciated by visitors and residents."



Jubilee Summer Window Competition Entries...



SHROPSHIRE SPECIALISTS RAISING AWARENESS OF NHS PENSIONS



“Most people assume their home is their biggest asset, but if you have worked in the NHS for a long time your pension can, in essence, actually be worth more than your property.”

David added: “We thought it made sense to join forces for this campaign, because an understanding of your pension is vital when planning for retirement and getting your affairs in order.

“Whenever I advise someone on their will, and they have an NHS pension, it’s often the case that they do not understand the amount of benefits they are entitled to.

“Each NHS pension Member’s Guide is long and convoluted, so it’s not entirely surprising, but we are really keen to get the message out that if you are working in the NHS, or recently retired, it’s a good idea to do some research to ensure you don’t miss out.”

For more information about the campaign, contact David Pugh at david.pugh@lblaw.co.uk

Shropshire finance and legal specialists raising awareness of NHS pension benefits

A financial adviser and legal expert are joining forces to raise awareness amongst health workers about the value and benefits of the NHS pension.

Jack Fallows, a financial adviser from Herald Wealth Management, and David Pugh of Lanyon Bowdler, an expert in wills, trusts and the administration of estates, have started an awareness campaign for health workers in Shropshire.

After an inaugural presentation at Lanyon Bowdler’s Shrewsbury offices, to an audience of current and retired NHS employees, the pair are planning to take the campaign into hospitals and other care settings.

Jack said: “Understandably, knowledge of the NHS pension can be really low because it is such a complex area, and with thousands of people working, or having worked, in the NHS, it affects a significant number of people.

“Misunderstanding about the pension is a common reason that people leave the NHS, so we want to raise awareness and increase understanding about its value.

“The NHS pension is actually an extremely good pension, with hugely valuable benefits, but it is complicated - so we are doing our best to simplify it.

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Pleased to support
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UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

A CHANCE TO 'NETWALK' - from The Wier along the River to the Corbet Arms (5½ miles in total).

Wednesday 13th July 6pm - meet at The Wier

Est arrival at The Corbet Arms - 7.00pm for non walkers

FREE to all

AUGUST

"FLOOD FLASH" - TBC

Wednesday 17th August Time TBC Location - TBC

SEPTEMBER

"5 FOR 5"

Wednesday 21st Sept 6pm - TBC

Members FREE Non Members - £10

OCTOBER

GHOSTWALK WITH MAGGIE LOVE

Wednesday 19th October 6pm - TBC

Members FREE Non Members - £10



The Victorian Arcade, Shrewsbury, SY1
£2.1M

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THANKYOU!

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

I'd like to start by introducing myself - I'm Lauren Jones (LJ Design Co) and I will be designing the Shrewsbury Business Chamber Magazine and Marketing content from now on. I look forward to working with you all and using this platform to promote all of your wonderful local businesses & events.

I am 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 me so I can promote for you across our social media.

I am also planning to do a post on every member/business over the coming months, so If you could email me your latest business logo/branding, team photos and if you can write a little blurb about your business that would be wonderful.

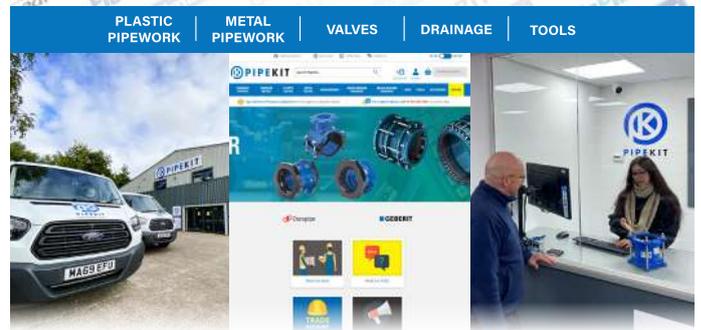
If you would like to be featured or have a story or an event you'd like included, if you could please send an email to shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com with all copy and any images.

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

Any emails addressed to myself for magazine or social media content could you please put my name (lauren) in the email title so I can easily keep note of what is & isn't meant for me.

I look forward to working with you all.

Best wishes,
Lauren



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

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