



# SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER

ISSUE 1 2023

**WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION -  
INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY**

**BOOST FOR SHREWSBURY TOWN  
CENTRE INVESTMENT**

**MEET SBC'S NEWEST MEMBERS**

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# CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



## KEVIN LOCKWOOD

Manager of Shrewsbury Shopping Centres

**Where did January 2023 go? Not sure about your January, but for me, it seems to have flown by with lots of Business activity, including Lease renewals and new enquiries which is great for the Town! According to the press reports, we have avoided a recession in 2022... It was and continues to be tough, however, businesses needed to adapt and be fleet of foot - we did it.... until the next time....!**

Speaking of next time.... The Town was affected yet again by flooding! As a Business Chamber, we are constantly lobbying on your behalf to ensure the appropriate organisations (Environment Agency, River Severn Partnership and local MP) are working on plans to reduce / irradiate the flooding issues that are now almost a yearly occurrence! The cost to businesses and residents is becoming a real issue and needs to be addressed by the organisations that can assist.

At the Business Chamber, we started our Members meetings on a Financial theme with our member Throgmorton Associates offering an update on their business and the Market volatility which was very well received. Speed networking was the theme for our February meeting and March is planned to be a tour around the VEOLIA waste recycling centre at Battlefield. You can see from these 3 events; we always try to offer something different to our members! Check out our website for future events in 2023 and if you have any suggestions, or want to sponsor an event, please get in touch. I look forward to welcoming you to our events during 2023.

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# THE COLLECTIVE'S OFFER CONTINUES TO EXPAND AND FOOTFALL'S STILL RISING



**The Darwin's The Collective continues to thrive and attract a diverse mix of tenants. Most recently independent brand LM Hair Extensions opened in the retail destination and has already had an exceptional response from visitors.**

Lisa Stephens, who is from Shrewsbury and has +10 years' experience in the hair industry, had previously worked within two brands in The Collective so knew the space well and had ambitions to open her own hair extensions store. Lisa had been in conversations with the centre's management team for several months and finally decided to take the leap and open her own store in February 2023. LM Hair Extensions specialises in real hair extensions using the safest heat and glue free methods. Lisa also sells a range of hair care products created specifically for hair extensions and will be expanding this range in the coming months.

The opening of LM Hair Extensions continues the diversification of the Darwin's offer. In December 2022 escape room experience LevelUp Escapes opened, which puts guests' skills and critical thinking to the test and has had a phenomenal response from visitors, with tickets selling out almost immediately. Bubble tea brand Bubble On Cup opened in October 2022 and has developed a legion of cult fans and helped broaden the centre's drinks offer.

The Darwin's entertainment portfolio has also grown with the re-opening of HMV, who experienced remarkable sales in the run-up to Christmas. Plus, DVD Megastore and Buttercup Bookshop relocated from The Collective to a stand-alone store in The Darwin at the end of 2022

- enabling the owner Estaban Bridges to grow his loyal fan-base even more. He too is welcoming exceptional sales.

In addition, The Darwin's footfall continues to rise week on week. Last week footfall was 16% higher than in 2021 - considerably higher than the national average. The centre is over 94% let, well above what other shopping centres are experiencing across the UK too. There are also even more developments and new openings expected in the coming months, particularly in the fashion space, which is very encouraging.

*Lisa Stephens, owner of LM Hair Extensions said, "I am hugely passionate and knowledgeable of this industry and really wanted to bring this offer to the people of Shropshire. The Collective is a fabulous space for local independent businesses, and I was very happy with the support I got from the Centre Management team in the run-up to opening. The Collective has a lovely atmosphere, and all the tenants truly support each other. I hope other local businesses follow my example - not only to grow their brand but to make Shrewsbury a fantastic place to shop and visit."*

*Kevin Lockwood, Centre Manager of The Darwin, "We start 2023 in a really positive position. We've had some incredible new brands open at the centre in the last few months as we continue to offer shoppers a great mix of national and independent brands in a modern and attractive environment. Our footfall is still rising, and we continue to welcome new brands like Level Up Escapes, Bubble On Cup and HMV to our portfolio, which the public are really embracing. There's no doubt that 2023 is going to be an exciting year for us!"*



# GROWING SHROPSHIRE LAW FIRM ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS.



## **Hatchers Solicitors are delighted to announce a number of new appointments at their Welsh Bridge Shrewsbury office.**

Shazad Banaras joins the firm as Solicitor within the Commercial Property team. Born in Shropshire, Shazad studied for his Law degree at Staffordshire University, and then spent time in Bristol qualifying at a 'Top 50' commercial firm before moving back to Shropshire. Shazad, who joined us from Martin Kaye in Telford, has considerable experience of all areas of Commercial Property including acquisitions, disposals, leases, licences and development work.

Emmie Bradley joins Hatchers as an Apprentice within our Wills and Probate team. She is studying for a Business and Administration apprenticeship through Telford College. Previously, Emmie spent 14 months working and studying for her apprenticeship at Terry Jones Solicitors.

Amelia Calton joins Hatchers as Executive within the Dispute Resolution Team. Amelia studied for her law degree at the University of Chester, and completed her LPC and MSC at the University of Law, also in Chester. Amelia joins us from SLC Solicitors, where she spent 15 months working within their Litigation department, predominantly within the landlord and tenant sector.

Sara Wells joins the firm as Legal Support for the Dispute Resolution and Personal Injury teams. Sara moved to Shropshire from South East England, and has a wealth of experience working as both PA and Secretary within the legal sector.

Emma Jones, Operations Director at Hatchers,

commented. "Our clients expect exceptional levels of care and expertise across a diverse range of matters and we are therefore delighted to welcome Shazad, Emmie, Amelia and Sara to strengthen and expand our team. We wish them a long and happy career at Hatchers".

For more information about the services we offer please contact us on 01743 248545 or 01948 663361, or email [mail@hatchers.co.uk](mailto:mail@hatchers.co.uk).

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# WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



## **For International Women's Day on March 8, Shrewsbury Colleges Group are hosting a careers event for Women in Construction.**

This is the second event the college has facilitated in relation to women in construction, but this one will differ in that it is being run solely by the college, with the aim to promote career options and offer advice for those looking to get into the industry.

The event will take place in the college's Origins restaurant, located at the London Road Campus, from 6-8pm. This is an informal event, aimed at women who may be considering a return to the labour market or would like to change careers. A lot of the trades taught at the college are done so by women, who will be on hand to speak to attendees either individually or in small groups.

Victoria Lawson, Commercial Director at PaveAways, will attend as keynote speaker, and will launch the evening with a short presentation on her personal career journey.

Also in attendance will be women from various construction companies who will provide information on their respective careers, such as Emily Tilling, Regional Manager at the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).

Other guests come from a wide range of sectors, including plumbing, estimating, carpentry, painting and decorating, electrical, surveying, architecture, and environmental specialisms within the built

environment. There will be an opportunity to chat with all guests and enjoy a buffet dinner on the night. The list of industry guests is below:

### **Industry Guests include:**

- Victoria Lawson, Commercial Director with PaveAways Building Contractors
- Emily Tilling, Regional Manager for CITB - Construction Skills
- Sandra Fisher, Co-Director at 2Scale Architects
- Sarah Priday, Pre-Construction Manager for SWG
- Keeley Fox, in-House Design Manager at PaveAways Building Contractors
- Victoria Ward - Quantity Surveyor at Paveaways
- Alice Fraser - Sustainability Lead at Forkers LTD
- Danielle Davies - Plumber
- Jose Jarrett - Interior Decorator
- Teresa Cross - Interior Decorator
- Amanda Crane - Construction Careers expert
- Ffion Hobbs - Carpenter
- Holly Edwards - Electrician
- Corinne Brown - Employer Engagement expert

If you wish to attend or have friends and family who may be interested in hearing about the huge range of opportunities that exist for women in construction, the QR code below will take you to the Eventbrite page for the event, where you can secure your free tickets.

*Please note that this is a women-only event, intended as an inclusive definition of women to welcome trans women and those that are nonbinary or identify as a woman.*



# **SBC PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNER - MEGAN MOUER**



**Megan is 18 years old from Shrewsbury. She is a photography student at Shrewsbury College. To follow her work take a look at her instagram page - @megan\_mouerphotography**

We will be running this competition quarterly to give photography enthusiasts/ students/ young talent showcase their work. If you would like to submit your photos/know of someone who may be interested in taking part please email photos to - [shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com) The winners work will be featured on the front of the magazine.



# NEW OFFICES UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT SHREWSBURY BUSINESS PARK



**Cooper Green Pooks, letting agents for Alaska Property Group, the principal developers of Shrewsbury Business Park report that three new office buildings are nearing completion and handover to their occupiers.**

3, 5, and 7 Anchorage Avenue SY2 6FG are being taken by three expanding local companies in the financial services, employment/recruitment and media facilities sectors, with two of them being new occupiers to Shrewsbury Business Park. Initially about 25 people will be based in the three units.

The building sizes range from 212 sq m upto 267 sq m, designed by Walker Hay architects and built by Matrix IDC, the latter being based on the Park. Freehold marketing prices were from £400,000.

Charles Howell of Cooper Green Pooks said *"Despite the wider economic and market uncertainties over the past few years our clients, the construction team and their customers have patiently seen this through to completion to deliver this scheme which provides very attractive and comfortable workspace."*

Alaska's Alan Hay added *"The success here has given us and the development team the confidence to build One Anchorage Avenue which will be a stunning building at the Wenlock Road entrance to Shrewsbury Business Park"*.

For further information/enquiries contact Charles Howell of Cooper Green Pooks 01743 719207.



**One Anchorage Avenue,  
Shrewsbury Business Park,  
Shrewsbury,  
SY2 6FG.**

#### **A Development by Alaska Property Group**

- New office building available for occupation Q1 2024.
- Prominent position fronting Wenlock Road.
- Total size: 560 sq m / 6028 sq ft (over two floors).
- Parking for a minimum of 24 cars.
- Available as a whole or two self-contained floors.
- To let on a new lease.



**For further information contact:**  
**Charles Howell**  
01743 719 207  
cth@cgpooks.co.uk

**Cooper Green Pooks**  
01743 276 666  
www.cgpooks.co.uk



# SUCCESSFUL SWISS PROGRAMME COMING TO SHREWSBURY

**From September Shrewsbury Colleges Group will be accepting a group of 16/17 year old French speaking Swiss students to study with them for one academic year.**

The programme has run in other top-class colleges over the last eight years. The students are always intelligent and motivated to get involved, so will bring a fabulous new dimension to Shrewsbury Colleges Group as well as opening local student's eyes to new opportunities.

For the programme to be a success, fourteen caring local host families with access to the town centre campuses and a spare bedroom available from September until late June are required.

What you need to provide:

- A caring and supportive environment for the forthcoming academic year – all types of families are considered, with and without children, single host parents, and young at heart grandparents. We always match students to the most appropriate family.
- A bedroom for the student and a study area away from distractions (if not in the bedroom).
- All meals except lunches on college days.

Why host a Swiss student?

- Enjoy being involved in this project with Shrewsbury Colleges Group.
- Build new friendships with your student and their parents in Switzerland which can last a lifetime, starting when we introduce everybody in June.
- The students are French speaking and will study German A level which may be of interest to those practising languages.
- Students return home for the Christmas and Easter breaks, plus we can cover other short family breaks giving you flexibility during the year.
- You receive, a generous remuneration and support throughout the year to ensure you have a positive experience.

Here is one host family's experience at another college: *"Luna has enriched our family life and is a pleasure to have around. She has become a true friend and we enjoy sharing activities through fresh eyes."* says Susan Holloway.

If interested, for more information please contact Ric Carby on 07748 113782 or email [ric@hostfamilies.co.uk](mailto:ric@hostfamilies.co.uk) who manages the host families and students outside of college or visit [www.hostfamilies.co.uk](http://www.hostfamilies.co.uk).

## Host a Year 12 student FROM SWITZERLAND



- Develop friendships that can last a lifetime
- Carefully selected students following an integrated study programme
- Receive full support from our family business
- Excellent remuneration for the academic year



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# BOOST FOR SHREWSBURY TOWN CENTRE INVESTMENT



(Image courtesy Shropshire Council )

**Shrewsbury Business Chamber works with Shropshire Council's Economic Development team, Shrewsbury Town Council , Shrewsbury & Atcham MP Daniel Kawczynski, and Shrewsbury BID to promote the town centre for its variety of shopping, leisure, social and business facilities.**

*Shrewsbury as a premier shopping, leisure and employment centre serving Shropshire and the Border Counties area and we will continue to work with the Local Authorities and our MP to bring this important development forward "*

For further details /information contact Charles Howell at Shrewsbury Business Chamber  
01743 719207 cthbusiness@outlook.com

Following the interesting discussion with Council Leader Lezley Picton in November, Shropshire Council recently outlined to the Business Chamber Executive the submissions to The Government for funding for various projects across the County .

We are pleased to report the announcement that about £18.7 million has been secured to contribute to the new development of offices, housing and leisure facilities on the former Riverside Shopping Centre and adjoining land . Whilst demolition was originally scheduled for May last year, hopefully this funding will now enable the scheme to proceed. Provisionally this includes a new 'Shirehall' with support offices , 250-300 homes, a transport hub , cinema, hotels and associated restaurants , etc and a 'quayside walk ' beside the River Severn. The funding is also allocated for improvements to Shrewsbury Railway Station.

Whilst some parties argue that "The Government took £10 from us in Local Authority cutbacks , and have only given us £2 back now ", and it was especially disappointing that that the project to try to restore bus services throughout the County was not supported, nevertheless Shrewsbury Business Chamber welcomes this announcement.

Charles Howell from the Business Chamber Executive said :

*" This is a boost for the town centre to maintain*

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# SHROPSHIRE FESTIVALS MIXES BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE



**Shropshire Festivals is bringing their sense of fun into the business arena with a new festival for the 2023 calendar, Shropshire Business Festival, on March 28 at Wrekin College, Wellington.**

**This free festival turns conventional networking on its head by offering an informal, fun setting for Shropshire's professionals to come together in a relaxed, festival atmosphere.**

Previous business festivals run by Shropshire Festivals attracted around 600 businesses and due to the central location, it promises to appeal to a wider business community across the county.

Beth Heath, Director of Fun at Shropshire Festivals, comments, "Business doesn't have to be serious, we are all about seriously good fun and we are injecting this into Shropshire Business Festival. Expect informative seminars, hands-on workshops, professional advice and of course, lots of networking opportunities mixed in with the festival vibe that you associate with Shropshire Festivals.

"This will be different to standard networking events with street food, have-a-go lorry driving thanks to Dulson Training, speed networking, professional headshot photographs, or take some time out in the health and wellbeing zone.

"After many years running

*my events business, I truly appreciate the value of networking. The contacts you make locally can have a significant impact on the success of your business. I believe that by bringing together the businesses in our area we can help each other to grow and prosper and keep Shropshire business thriving!"*

As well as an opportunity to rub shoulders with Shropshire's business elite, the event will feature trade stands, one to one meetings with business experts, and hands-on marketing workshops. There will also be the chance to showcase businesses in 'Exhibitor zone' at the venue.

Sponsors are being encouraged to get involved in this free entry event with plenty of opportunities available and we are pleased to announce that Shropshire Business Magazine has come on board as media partner. Visit [shropshirebusinessfestival.co.uk](http://shropshirebusinessfestival.co.uk) to secure your place at one of the biggest networking events in the county.

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# SHREWSBURY NORTH WEST RELIEF ROAD UPDATE

**The planning application for the North West Relief Road is progressing, after a long delay as a result of technical discussions between Shropshire Council, The Environment Agency, Natural England and the Highways Agency.**

The Council has now published a range of new documents on its Planning Application website which gives detailed information in response to the requests from Natural England and the Environment Agency. (Planning reference 21/00924/EIA).

The application details the proposed road which will link the A5 Telford -Weston Rhyn stretch (at its junction with the A458 Welshpool/Mid Wales road at Churncote), with the Battlefield Enterprise Park and A49 Whitchurch Road northwards at the Ellesmere Road junction. It will be about 4.3 miles long and will be a single carriageway road with crawler lane to part. It incorporates access points into the new housing and commercial areas at Oxon, thereby removing congestion from Welshpool Road. It is also designed to benefit Shrewsbury Town Centre by the provision of two flood storage areas and (with through traffic much reduced) allowing a much

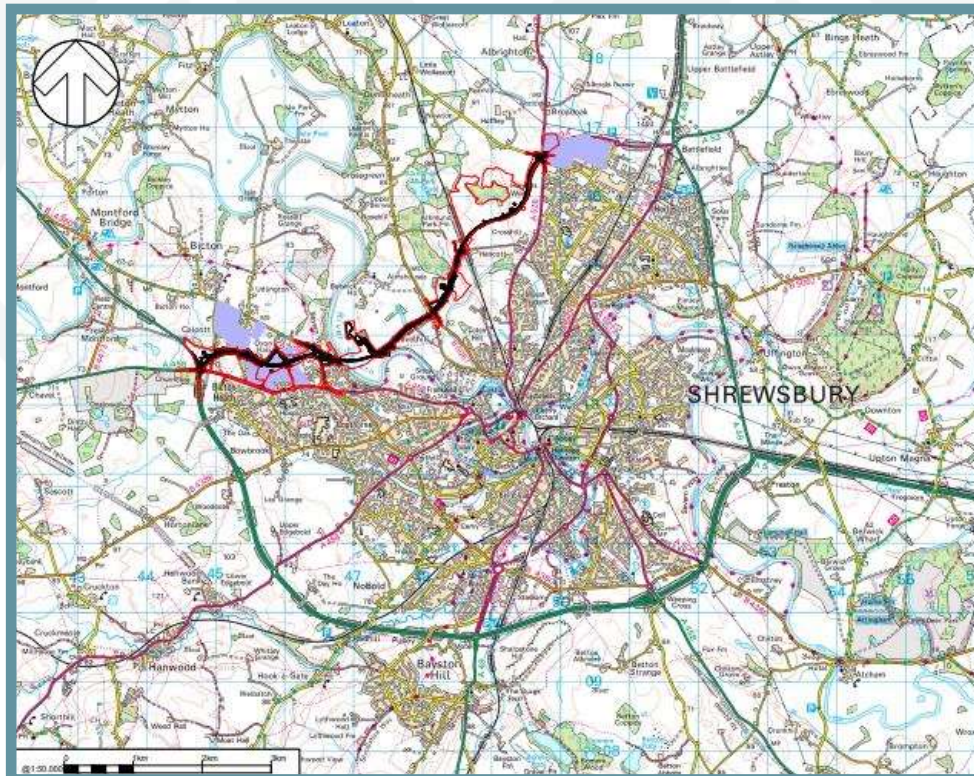
wider scope for the redevelopment of Smithfield Road/ Riverside.

Villages between the A5 and the Ellesmere Road , blighted by 'rat runs' over many years should also see reductions in through traffic .

The budget figure of £81 million, dating from 2019, is now cited as being insufficient. There is lobbying for an increase in the Government grant, but it is understood that decision will only be made if and when the planning consent for the scheme is secured.

With the latest technical submissions now made, the planning application has opened for further public consultation until Mid - March , prior to determination by Shropshire Council Planning Committee.

Shrewsbury Business Chamber has supported the application for a new road for many years, whilst being mindful of the changing trends of environmental concern. Individual members have objected or had reservations about specific details. As a continuing project we work with Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury & Atcham MP Daniel Kawczynski, Midlands Connect, Shrewsbury Town Council and others to try to improve the transport infrastructure which serves the town .

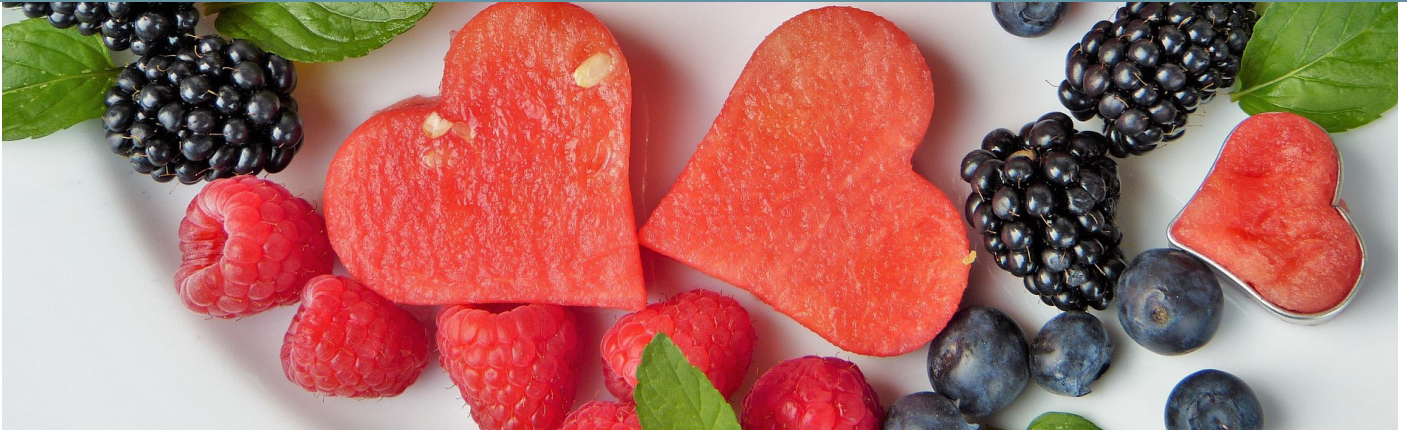


(Plan courtesy Shropshire Council/Ordnance survey consent 100056840)

For further details contact Charles Howell, Executive Committee Member, Shrewsbury Business Chamber  
[cth@cgppooks.co.uk](mailto:cth@cgppooks.co.uk)



# THE BENEFITS OF HEALTHY EATING AND EXERCISING FOR BUSINESS OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES



**We know that sedentary behaviours and poor diets are associated with increased risk of diseases and poor health.**

**But what does the research say and why should businesses strongly consider supporting the health & wellness of their employees?**

Here are a few statistics to consider:

- A questionnaire in 2022 showed that 70% of people who suffer from mental health issues said that their depression or anxiety can affect their work sometimes.
- The institute for employment studies estimate that the annual cost per year per absent employee is between £465-£2261 depending on the industry.
- HSE report that in 2019/20 stress, depression or anxiety and musculoskeletal disorders accounted for the majority of days lost due to work-related ill health in 2019/20. On average 9.1 days for injuries, 20 days for ill health, 21.6 days for stress, depression or anxiety, and 18.4 days for musculoskeletal disorders.

There is a mountain of evidence that improving nutrition, fitness, strength, and other lifestyle factors can have a large impact on many areas that benefit both employees individually and the employer as a whole.

Effective health & wellness programmes can directly improve overall health, productivity, mood, self-esteem and team work. While reducing absence, stress, anxiety, depression and fatigue.

How can this support your business needs?

- More employee benefits makes it easier to recruit new employees
- More employee benefits makes it easier to retain employees

- Reduced absence/illness related costs
- Employees feel more valued & supported
- Be an industry leader for staff benefits
- 

There are many cost effective ways to introduce health & wellness programmes within your business to get the above benefits without breaking the bank. For example making contributions to gym memberships, arranging group sessions for staff, providing nutrition guides & app based programmes, or educational workshops.

Here is a review of the benefits of incorporating a health & wellness programme from a local business in Shropshire

*"Ashley has changed our companies approach to well-being and fitness. Since working with him over the last 6 months my team and I have enjoyed great benefits from our fitness to our mental well-being due to his brilliant knowledge and experience working with elite athletes. Our overall well-being in the office is up over 100% mainly thanks to Ashley's brilliant ability to get the best out of everyone in our group training sessions and chats we have to improve ourselves. A brilliant coach and fitness expert we wouldn't use anyone else."*

**Stuart Danks (Founder & Director at DMOS People)**

If you would like any support with corporate health & wellness programmes, Please email Ashley will arrange a time to have a chat - [ash@salopia.club](mailto:ash@salopia.club)

Ashley Downing BSc MSc ASCC

Health & Performance Coach

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# LANYON BOWDLER BACKS NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK



Emily Jones, Dylan McDonagh and Erin Payne

**Lanyon Bowdler is backing National Apprenticeship Week's 'Skills for Life' campaign.**

**The law firm provides regular opportunities for apprentices and trainee lawyers at its offices across Shropshire, Herefordshire and North Wales.**

Debbie Brookes, HR manager at Lanyon Bowdler, said an apprenticeship was a great way to start a career – with a number of apprentices going on to secure full-time positions with the firm.

"The National Apprenticeship Week's theme of 'Skills for Life' is very apt, because that's exactly what a good apprenticeship can provide.

"We are proud of our track record as a firm of providing the opportunity for people to begin their career in law, whether that is through an apprenticeship, work experience or a training contract.

"We currently have three members of the team who started out as apprentices and are now progressing towards a legal career.

"For example, Dylan McDonagh and Erin Payne joined us on business administration apprenticeships and have both now progressed to legal apprenticeships – Dylan gaining valuable experience with the private client team and Erin working with the clinical negligence team.

"Meanwhile, Emily Jones also started with a business administration apprenticeship and is now a full-time legal secretary with the residential property team.

"So I would wholeheartedly recommend anyone looking for a way into law to consider applying for

an apprenticeship – it really is a great opportunity to develop your skills for life."

Lanyon Bowdler is currently looking for an accounts and credit control apprentice. For more information visit [lblaw.co.uk](http://lblaw.co.uk).

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# SHROPSHIRE ACCOUNTANCY FIRM WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR



Marie Bramwell and Audrey Williams

## Staff at a Shropshire accountancy firm have welcomed a new director to the team at their head office in Shrewsbury.

Audrey Williams has joined Dyke Yaxley Chartered Accountants and brings with her many years of industry experience.

She relocated to Shropshire from Glasgow after finishing university and began her accountancy career in Telford, where she gained her Association of Chartered Certified Accountants qualifications.

Audrey worked for a number of small accountancy firms in Shropshire before becoming a partner in a firm based in Bridgnorth where she worked with agriculture clients and commercial businesses.

At Dyke Yaxley, she will be advising a wide range of clients, incorporating limited companies, partnerships and individuals, to deliver business and taxation advice. "I am so excited to join a company like Dyke Yaxley that is renowned for its high levels of customer service and which has such a well-deserved reputation for its effective and knowledgeable advice," said Audrey.

"I'm looking forward to helping our clients to achieve

their goals and to working with colleagues who have already made me feel part of their close-knit team." Part of Audrey's new role will also include mentoring members of her team and helping them to develop their skills.

Dyke Yaxley managing director Marie Bramwell said Audrey's experience and industry knowledge made her a genuine asset to the company's growing workforce. "We're delighted to have Audrey on board, and we're sure her skills will prove invaluable when it comes to working closely with our varied portfolio of clients, and with small and medium enterprises in particular.

"At Dyke Yaxley, we're always keen to welcome colleagues who know the local area well and who understand the way the Shropshire business community operates.

"Audrey's time with other firms in the county means she is well-versed in what makes Shropshire tick, and we're very pleased to see her make such a positive and impressive start to her new role."



# A CHANCE TO 'NETWALK'

BUSINESS CONNECTIONS  
& NETWORKING EVENT

**TUE  
28  
MAR**



**SHREWSBURY  
BUSINESS CHAMBER**

## **Join us for an evening of Netwalking & Mindfulness**

Our Netwalking event is a monthly activity starting in March through to October. An opportunity to walk a few miles with fellow business colleagues for some informal networking whilst walking. Steady pace and no challenging routes and we will always involve a pub stop.

The first for this year is on Tuesday 28 March will start from the college car park at Welsh Bridge campus on Priory Road at 5.30pm.

A 4.2 mile walk, we will pass through Frankwell and onto the River path following the Shropshire Way through Doctors fields and then Copthorne Park stopping

after 2.2 miles at the beacon pub for a drink then back through Kingsland to the river and Porthill bridge back to our start.

Dogs are welcome however be aware this route crosses fields that may have cattle in them.

Feel free to bring friends & family, expected duration is 2-2.5 hrs, we'll arrive back as the sun is setting.

For details of future netwalks this year please take a look at our events page for further information...

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



# FIRMS IGNORE CUSTOMERS' GREEN CHOICES AT THEIR PERIL



**Businesses which fail to understand their customers' views on the environment are putting their future at risk, according to a county carbon literacy expert.**

A recent survey by leading polling firm, YouGov, showed that a massive 72 per cent of shoppers think seriously about sustainability when they make buying choices.

Sue Burnell, of Shropshire-based Business Net Zero, which helps small to medium firms get started on their carbon reduction journey, has warned that businesses who don't take this societal shift seriously will see a drop in revenue.

*"Whether it's a product in their hands or the general ethos of a business in its approach to protecting the environment, customers are prioritising spending their money with organisations which demonstrably share their beliefs about green practises.*

*"I think this should be a huge wake-up call to companies in every sector that it's time to get on the carbon reduction journey as soon as possible if they haven't already."*

Most large companies, especially blue chip and multinational organisations, are already heavily invested in understanding, mitigating and explaining their carbon footprints and are on a journey to net zero carbon, even if it might take them a long time to get there, Sue explained.

In many cases they are bound to do so by ever-tightening national regulations or pressures from others in their supply chains.

But she added: *"It can feel like a really big deal for smaller businesses to begin the process of understanding*

*where they create emissions and other environmental impacts and often they just don't know where to start. "Small business owners have a million-and-one things to do every day, often just to keep the wheels turning, never mind to delve into an issue that doesn't feel like an immediate priority.*

*"But we're in a place as a society now where each lost day is taking them deeper into the risk that their customers, suppliers, regulators, even their staff, are going to be questioning what they are doing to protect the environment.*

*"What we hope to do is help micro, small and medium firms start learning straight away that there are things they can do immediately which produce results.*

*"This means they start to make a positive impact which they can be proud to share with their customers and partners. Our aim is to give them a clear start on this journey, helping them understand what works and where to look for support and ongoing learning. That start makes this unavoidable process manageable, enjoyable and, ultimately, protective for their business and for the people on this planet!"*



**Sue Burnell**



# FEBRUARYS 'SPEED NETWORKING' EVENT



Thankyou to all who attended our 'Speed Networking' event last month. Kindly sponsored by Niamh from The HR Dept and Kaye from lavender hampers.

We look forward to seeing you all again at our next event this month.

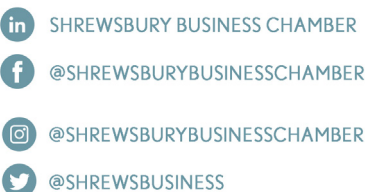
<https://shrewsburybusinesschamber.com/events/>



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...





# SHROPSHIRE LIVE JOINS SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER



**Chris Pritchard and Martin Childs**  
business partners at Shropshire Live

## Local media company Shropshire Live is one of the latest businesses to join Shrewsbury Business Chamber.

After successfully running the local news and entertainment website for the past 13 years, business partners Chris Pritchard and Martin Childs have recently launched Shropshire Live as a radio station complementing the popular website.

Shropshire Live on air brings to life the best of the website with local presenters and the latest news.

Chris Pritchard, editor and breakfast presenter, said:  
*"We are looking forward to becoming an active member of Shrewsbury Business Chamber."*

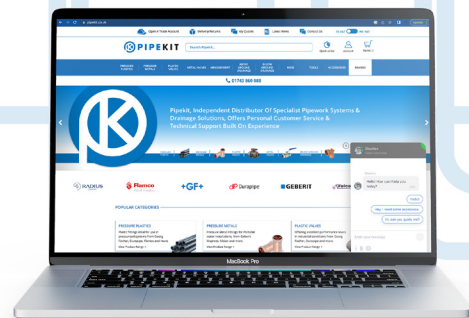
*"We have been considering joining for a while and with the launch of our new on-air service now is the perfect time as we help businesses connect with our local community."*

*"We have over 100,000 readers online per month and in the past four months gained over 7,000 listeners."*

You can read and listen to Shropshire Live at [shropshirelive.com](http://shropshirelive.com) or by downloading the free mobile app. Listen on a smart speaker - just say 'Alexa enable Shropshire Live' then thereafter 'Play Shropshire Live' or ask your Google device to 'talk to Shropshire Live'.



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# LEVELUP ESCAPES JOINS SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER



## We at LevelUp Escapes are delighted to join the Shrewsbury Business Chamber.

We are a small family run business operating out of the Darwin Shopping Centre. We offer specially in-house designed teamwork games that require players to solve puzzles and escape from a locked room.

We are pleased to operate our passion in Shrewsbury, which is reflected in the 50+ plus 5 star ratings our experiences have earned in such a short time.

We are thrilled to offer a State of the Art Experience, and since launching in December 2022, we have welcomed over 275 groups.

Our second experience, which we hope to open this summer, is about to start construction.

Please do drop us a line if you're looking for a team-building activity that will be enjoyable for all and even some fun for family and friends!

To find out more head to - <https://levelupescares.com/>

THE COLLECTIVE  
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, wifi 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](mailto:info@shrewsbury-shopping.co.uk)

THE  
DARWIN  
WIN



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH

#### BRAND CONSISTENCY

SPONSORED BY REECH

WED 22 MAR

6PM

FREE TO ALL

#### NETWALK

2 HOUR WALK COVERING 4 MILES STARTING  
IN TOWN CENTRE AND INCLUDES A PUB STOP.

TUES 28 MAR

5.30PM

FREE TO ALL

### APRIL

#### ESCAPE ROOM EXPERIENCE

WED 19 APR

MEMBERS FREE  
NON MEMBERS £15

#### NETWALK

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

WED 26 APR

5.30PM

FREE TO ALL

### MAY

#### NETWALK

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

WED 17 MAY

5.30PM

FREE TO ALL

#### SHREWSBURY HISTORY TOUR

INCLUDING DARWIN HOUSE AND GARDENS

WED 24 MAY

MEMBERS FREE  
NON MEMBERS £5

### JUNE

#### RETURN TO VEOLIA RECYCLING

WED 7 JUN

9.45AM

FREE - MEMBERS ONLY

#### SABRINA BOAT TRIP

WED 21 JUN

6-8.30PM

FREE TO ALL

#### NETWALK

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

WED 28 JUN

5.30PM

FREE TO ALL

### JULY

#### SUMMER BBQ BESIDE THE RIVER

WED 12 JUL

MEMBERS FREE  
NON MEMBERS £10

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



WWW.SHREWSBURYBUSINESSCHAMBER.COM



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# 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](mailto:shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com) with all copy and any images.

To advertise in future issues if you could please contact [shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com)