

# Business FOCUS



**Better Together**  
Working together, achieving more

Official Magazine of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

Autumn 2023



Rethink  
the skies!

Tom Grundy, CEO of  
Hybrid Air Vehicles, explains...

*Also inside...*

 **SME BEDFORDSHIRE**  
Business Awards 2023

 Chamber **NEWS**

 Chamber **EVENTS**

 Member **NEWS**

*And more*

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# Business FOCUS

Official Magazine of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

## Our Partners



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# Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn 2023 edition of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce Business Focus Magazine.

As we navigate a world that is rapidly evolving, the need for sustainable practices and responsible business conduct has never been more critical. At the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce, we firmly believe that businesses have a fundamental role to play in driving positive change – not only for their own success but for the well-being of our communities and the preservation of the planet.

In this edition, we feature Hybrid Air Vehicles bold vision for “rethinking the skies”, Wyboston Lakes Resort wide ranging sustainability initiatives, EcoStyle’s innovative model for educating communities about the risks of flooding, how re-Mark-it contribute to the circular economy and just how VEXO International’s recently developed Smart Building Systems can support your carbon-neutral ambitions.

The Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce remains committed to fostering an environment where businesses thrive not only financially, but ethically and environmentally. We recognise that sustainability is not just a mere trend; it is a fundamental shift in mindset and a commitment to future generations.

This journey is not without challenges, but it is one we wholeheartedly embrace. It requires collaboration, innovation, and a firm belief that businesses can be a powerful force for good. Together, we can drive positive change, spark new conversations, and inspire action within our county and beyond.

Finally, I would like to extend my congratulations to all the winners of the SME Bedfordshire Business Awards. I think everyone that attended the evening will agree it was a fantastic occasion shining a spotlight on the exceptional achievements within our counties business community. Here’s to next year!

**#workingtogether #achievingmore**

**Justin Richardson**

Chief Executive  
Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce



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**Richard Cooper**

Chairman of Bedfordshire  
Chamber of Commerce

## *The* Chairman's **VIEW**

Winds of change, wings of change – it's an appropriate doublet for the themes in this issue of Focus: the challenges of climate change and the determination of local businesses to put these at the top of their agenda.

The winds are obvious enough. The very evident impact of global warming is affecting us all. Economic uncertainty, alongside the worsening weather, now burdens many businesses, so measuring and reporting on environmental performance and impacts really must be part of every business decision you make, and added to the agenda at every board and executive meeting.

I'm proud that in this issue, you'll see Bedfordshire businesses leading the field when it comes to environmentally sustainable products, services, and operations – Peli BioThermal and Ecostyle amongst them.

And for the wings, (or, in actual fact, lack of them!), look no further than Hybrid Air Vehicles, whose innovations reduce air travel emissions by up to 90% per passenger-km, and whose CEO, Tom Grundy, we interview in this issue.

Bedfordshire has also achieved the best performance in the country in the Queen's Green Canopy project, with 234,000 trees planted – a fantastic performance from community groups, individuals, schools, and businesses alike.

Moving from green to gold, this quarter also saw some proud winners at our 2023 SME Business Awards and honourable mentions for many others.

All evidence, if any were needed, that business in this county is not only going places, but, with its focus on sustainability and climate change, is leaving a better place in its wake.

*Richard Cooper*

*“Economic uncertainty, alongside the worsening weather, now burdens many businesses, so measuring and reporting on environmental performance and impacts really must be part of every business decision you make.”*



## If you thought the 2023 SME Awards were great... **2024 WILL BE EVEN BETTER!**

The 2023 SME Bedfordshire Business Awards were a rip-roaring success! Hundreds of you descended on The Auction House in Luton at the end of June, for a night of food, fun and most importantly... Celebration! We're so proud of all the feedback we've received from everyone who attended, and we're over the moon that you all enjoyed the evening as much as we did!

So, off the back of an incredible 2023 awards ceremony, we're thrilled to announce that the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce SME Awards **WILL RETURN** in Summer 2024! That's right, preparations ahead of next year's event are already in full swing! We want 2024 to be the biggest and best awards in Bedfordshire ever, so with that it will take a lot of hard work and support from ourselves and businesses like you. Sponsorship opportunities are available NOW, so contact [paula.devine@chamber-business.com](mailto:paula.devine@chamber-business.com), to see how your business can get involved in supporting these awards!



## Happy Anniversary to our **CHAMBER MEMBERS!**

It was great to celebrate some Chamber Anniversaries this Spring. We had the pleasure of celebrating five major milestones with some of our members. We had recent SME Awards Winners THSP, celebrating their 25th anniversary with us, alongside Machins Solicitors, who celebrated a whopping 75 years with us this year!

We also had the privilege of recognising some more anniversaries, at our recent Business Leader Lunch at Shuttleworth in May. We presented certificates to Dunster House Limited and Peli BioThermal, who have been with the Chamber for 10 years, whilst Interfoam Ltd were presented with their 20 year anniversary certificate.

The support we receive from our members is what keeps the Chamber running at full steam, constantly trying to make lives better for businesses in Bedfordshire, your membership helps us support businesses of today and also the next generation too.

## THE QUEEN'S Green Canopy Project

The Queen's Green Canopy Project was completed at the end of the 2023 formal planting season in March.

Rod J Calvert OBE DL, President of the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce, Queen's Green Canopy lead for the Bedfordshire Lieutenancy, is thrilled to share the success of the county's efforts with a ratio of trees planted to the population, arguably being one of the best in the country.

This project will progressively create a fabulous tree covering in the name of the late Queen for the benefit of generations to come. We proudly planted 234,000 trees in Bedfordshire and created 150 hectares of planting. More than 4,000 people, from community groups, schools and organisations were actively engaged and no doubt many more individuals too. As a result of this we are proud to say, we have created a new approx. 70-acre wood, aptly named Queens Wood, just north of Ampthill.

The total project is officially summarised and may be viewed in the National Archives.

I know the Lord Lieutenants Helen Nellis (retd) who started the project and Sue Lousada who saw it to its completion, along with myself coordinating the county's efforts on behalf of the Lieutenancy, thank the many people of Bedfordshire especially our delivery team who contributed so enthusiastically to this amazing legacy project. The road to net zero is through woodland creation, and through the Queen's Green Canopy, we are able to provide a sustainable, green environment for the next generation, as we are the ancestors of their future.

Even though the Queen's Green Canopy Project has drawn to a close, businesses can still contribute towards net zero, by planting trees, and many more environmentally friendly activities.

*....it's 2122 and the small child,  
gazing up in awe at the magnificent  
oak said, "Mummy, Queen Elizabeth II  
must have been very special".*

For more, contact Robina at the Forest of Marston  
[Vale robina.ballard-davis@marstonvale.org](mailto:robina.ballard-davis@marstonvale.org)

# Chamber **EVENTS**

You'll find plenty of opportunities to connect with other Bedfordshire Chamber members and local businesses at our range of upcoming events. Here are just a few of the scheduled events in 2023:

## Connect **OVER COFFEE**



21st September 2023 | 9.30am – 11.15am

Courtyard Luton Airport

Members Free of charge | Non Members: £25 + VAT

**'Just A Minute'** We provide venue & Coffee/Tea, then, showcase your business with a 1 minute pitch. Ideal platform to promote anything exclusive you are offering to, or looking for, from fellow members.

## **MAGISTRATES EMPLOYER** Recognition Scheme Webinar

27th September 2023 | 10am – 11am

Free of charge webinar

Bedfordshire Chamber and Hertfordshire Chamber are delighted to announce the launch of the Magistrates Employer Recognition Scheme (MERS). MERS encourages employers to support the role and work of magistrates and inspire others to do the same.

## Buzzard Networking **BUSINESS FAYRE 2023**



4th October 2023 | 10am – 12 noon

Brooklands Residents Association, Leighton Buzzard

Free of Charge

Join us and Buzzard Networking as we bring together the finest local businesses under one roof, offering you a unique platform to forge valuable connections and unlock new opportunities. Best of all, admission is completely FREE for all visitors, ensuring a diverse and dynamic gathering of industry professionals.

## Discover **YOUR CHAMBER**



5th October 2023 | 9.30am – 11.15am

Wyboston Lakes

Free of charge | NON MEMBER EVENT

We understand the importance of connecting with other business and exposing your brand to a captive audience. Our networking events provide an excellent platform for professionals like yourself to expand your network, forge valuable partnerships, and explore new business opportunities. So come along, have a cuppa and find out how our networking events work.

## Connect **OVER COFFEE**



17th October 2023 | 9.30am – 11.15am

Kids in Action, Dunstable

Members Free of charge | Non Members: £25 + VAT

**'Just A Minute'** We provide venue & Coffee/Tea, then, showcase your business with a 1 minute pitch. Ideal platform to promote anything exclusive you are offering to, or looking for, from fellow members.

## Sizewell C Supply Chain **ROADSHOW**

2nd November 2023 | 10am – 1pm

The Willows Training Centre, Wyboston Lakes

Free of Charge

We are looking forward to meeting with local businesses to discuss the supply chain opportunities that Sizewell C will bring to our region.

## Connect **OVER COFFEE**



16th November 2023 | 9.30am – 11.15am

Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue, Kempston

Members Free of charge | Non Members: £25 + VAT

## Members **WINTER** **RECEPTION**



30th November 2023 | 4.30pm – 6.30pm

The Rufus Centre, Flitwick

Free of Charge Members Only Event

Exhibition spaces are currently available for £65 + VAT.

To book your places and for  
further information call 01582 522448  
or visit [www.chamber-business.com/  
events/chamber-events](http://www.chamber-business.com/events/chamber-events)



# QES Quarterly ECONOMIC SURVEY REPORT

## Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce Survey Reveals Mixed Signals for Local Businesses

Q2 2023 Sees Improved Confidence but Weak Investment Intentions Persist

As the Chief Executive of Bedfordshire Chamber, I am privileged to witness first-hand the resilience and tenacity of our local business community. Each quarter, we eagerly await the findings of our Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) results, which provide a vital snapshot of our region's economic climate. Today, I am delighted to share with you the key findings from our recently published Q2 2023 survey.

Despite the prevailing tough trading conditions, there is a glimmer of optimism among local businesses. The survey reveals an improvement in business confidence during the second quarter of this year.

Here are some of the highlights from the survey:

- Domestic Sales and Forward Orders: Encouragingly, domestic sales and forward orders witnessed an upturn when compared to the previous quarter. Approximately 42% of respondents reported an overall increase in sales, while 36% saw an improvement in forward orders for the subsequent quarter. These figures offer hope in such tough conditions.
- Pricing Pressures Ease: In a welcomed development, the survey indicates a lessening of pressure on local companies to increase prices. Only 45% of respondents anticipate price increases, marking the lowest level since Q1 2022.
- Rebound in Cashflow: On another positive note, the survey reveals a rebound in cashflow for local businesses. Thirty-five percent of respondents noted an improvement during the period. This could provide a much-needed cushion for businesses to weather ongoing economic uncertainties.
- Recruitment Challenges: However, amid these positive developments, our survey sheds light on an ongoing concern faced by local businesses—recruitment challenges. A staggering 77% of firms looking to expand their workforce in Q2 experienced challenges in finding suitable candidates. This highlights the continued need for collaborative efforts between the business community and education to address the skills gap and foster a talent pipeline that meets the evolving needs of our businesses.

## The Bottom Line

While the survey offers a glimmer of hope, the persistently weak investment intentions call for concerted efforts to stimulate business activity and foster an environment conducive to long-term growth. Addressing the recruitment challenges and ensuring a steady pipeline of talent must remain a top priority.

With weakening inflationary pressures but continuing wage concerns, there is a hope that the Bank of England will carefully consider its next steps, given their acknowledgment of the tight labour market as a significant factor in the UK's persistent inflation.

As we move forward, the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce remains committed to supporting our members and the wider business community. We will continue to advocate for their needs, collaborate with policymakers, and facilitate meaningful connections that drive economic growth and prosperity.

Together, we can overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and propel Bedfordshire to new heights of success!



**Justin Richardson**  
Chief Executive  
Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce



# Member NEWS



## What It Is and Why It's IMPORTANT FOR YOUR BUSINESS

If you've heard the term ESG, you might know it stands for **Environmental and Social Governance**. But what does ESG actually look like within a company, and why is it growing in importance in small businesses like yours? In this short article, we explain ESG, why SMEs need a strategy for it, and the benefits it delivers.

### ESG IN YOUR BUSINESS

ESG, in short, is a business model that uses environmental, social, and governance factors to guide decisions. Its goal is to make business more sustainable and ethical, by reducing the negative impacts of trading, and increasing the positive ones.

**Environmental** – This considers the impact of a business on the environment and how this is addressed. Typically, it covers climate change, natural resources, pollution, and waste. But it doesn't stop with your own business – it involves your supply chain too.

**Social** – This refers to how a business manages interactions and relationships with people – employees, suppliers, stakeholders, and customers. It covers human rights, working conditions, inequality, and – once again – supply chain transparency.

**Governance** – This covers the internal practices and systems of your business and how it uses them to govern its behaviour on issues like bribery and corruption, cyber security, tax, compliance, and more.

### WHY ESG FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

There is a groundswell of ESG adoption amongst SMEs, with 95% of UK businesses in this category implementing an ESG strategy, according to Barclays Corporate. What was previously niche has gone mainstream – so you ignore it at your peril! In recent research, it was found that:

**92% of buyers are more likely to trust a company that supports social or environmental issues.**

**58% of employees consider a company's social and environmental commitments when deciding where to work.**

**68% of investors have integrated ESG into their decision-making.**

Quite simply, if you want the competitive edge over your competitors, you must persuade stakeholders you are an organisation with a conscience, and therefore one it is attractive to do business with.

### COSTS AS WELL AS CARBON

But ESG can also support better financial performance, particularly when it comes to the sustainability piece. Reducing the production and use of packaging, for example, or electricity and gas, will shrink your carbon footprint, and it will also significantly reduce spending. And by regularly measuring and updating your ESG strategy, your business will steadily identify approaches that are both more energy-efficient and more cost-effective.

*Read on to see how some of Bedfordshire Chamber members are embracing ESG within their businesses...*



## Rethink the skies!

...this is what Bedford-based Hybrid Air Vehicles vows to do with its innovative multi-function aircraft, Airlander. They plan a future with no jets, no pistons, no kerosene, no exhaust pollution. And not a conventional wing in sight!

For as CEO Tom Grundy explains, this is anything but an aeroplane. Looking similar to an airship, it is actually one giant wing in itself, with additional but controlled buoyancy (it doesn't float away) provided by delicate interplay between helium, control surfaces, and motors.

This arrangement is the "Hybrid" in the company's name, and when we caught up with Tom recently, his passion and commitment to those "rethought skies" was palpable in every word.

### Airlander FLIGHT, BUT BETTER

**Tom is clear:** Airlander takes flight into a whole new realm. Not just of sustainability (up to 90% fewer emissions per passenger-km), but, from the operators' viewpoint, flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and infrastructure savings.

Forget those huge gantries restraining a floating zeppelin by its nose. Airlander 10 can land directly on the ground, where it can unload up to 10 tonnes of cargo or discharge up to 100 passengers without jet bridges or stair cars – and as it doesn't require a runway, it takes up much less space than aeroplanes need.

At the same time, it can also take off from, and land on, water – a capability Tom says is a "game-changer" for poorly connected localities globally.

But getting Airlander off the ground in a financial and logistical sense was challenging – and this is where Chamber delivered particular value.



Tom Grundy, CEO of Hybrid Air Vehicles, explains...

# How the Chamber **HELPED OUR BUSINESS FLY**



## From Beds to Yorks: **CRITICAL CHAMBER CONNECTIONS**

Tom explains that although the company is an SME (it currently employs around 70 people), its financial and operational characteristics are very different from a typical company of that size.

Design and manufacturing are cases in point. The Airlander is a vast vehicle packed full of precision engineering, so highly specialist (and costly) design and manufacturing facilities are imperative.

With the help of the Chamber and its connection to other UK Chambers in the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) network, the company was able to access business expertise and build critical funding relationships both within and outside Bedfordshire.

These enabled it to produce successful investment cases supporting both the business's design and corporate office in Bedford, and a specialist manufacturing facility in Doncaster, to be part-funded by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.



**Result:** the company is now on the path to delivering 12 Airlanders, for passenger, logistics, luxury tourism, and communications & surveillance use, per year.

Ten Airlanders are already reserved by one of the largest regional airlines in Europe, and Airlander is being studied for use across Scotland's Highlands and Islands, including Orkney.

**Next step:** net-zero connections for remote regions, island nations and communities across the world!

## A Voice Heard **BY GOVERNMENT**

"I was keen to build links to Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce from the very start," Tom says. "The Chamber has been excellent at recognising the special challenges that non-typical SMEs face."

"But it's a strategic relationship that goes way beyond supply chain; it influences policy and gets our voice heard by Government, too. The pressure the Chamber applied on Government to create the Future Fund during the pandemic, for example, delivered a lifeline for us, as on paper we didn't meet the Government's existing pandemic lending criteria."



Tom also believes Bedfordshire Chamber is "unique in the way it operates both across groups and also upwards into the national agenda," and praises CEO Justin Richardson, who is "absolutely brilliant, energetic, always out there, talking to businesses and helping them with the challenges they face."

Hybrid Air Vehicles might be rethinking the skies, but it's also reaching for them – and we at the Chamber are proud to be contributing at least some of the necessary lift!

[www.hybridairvehicles.com](http://www.hybridairvehicles.com)



# Member NEWS

## 26,500 TREES BEING PLANTED

as guests opt out of having  
their rooms cleaned

So far, 26,500 eco-conscious guests staying more than one night at Wyboston Lakes Resort have chosen to have a tree planted on the resort instead of having their room cleaned since the resort's energy saving Room2Grow sustainability initiative was launched a year ago.

Steve Jones, managing director of Wyboston Lakes Resort says; "The response has been phenomenal, many times greater than we expected. It's marvellous that guests have been so willing to make this choice and take the chance to help us with our commitment to our philosophy of 'More Sustainable, No Apology.'"

Room2Grow has already been widely acclaimed both in the UK and overseas, helping the resort to win three important awards since it was launched; the mialist Sustainability Award, IACC Americas Innovation Award 2023 for Sustainability Initiatives and recently the Conference & Events Awards 2023 Sustainability Award.

## Biodigester

As the whole Wyboston Lakes Resort team are planting the trees on the 380-acre site, they are now using compost that is being produced on the site as a product of the Resort's latest sustainability investment.

As part of a commitment to ensure that no food waste leaves the site, a new biodigester has been acquired and installed, turning food waste into fresh compost for use across the site including for tree planting.

The resort's commitment to sustainability has been independently accredited by earning gold awards from the Green Tourism Awards and the IACC, and EcoSmart Platinum Venue Award from Greengage Solutions.

In September Wyboston Lakes Resort published a 4-year Green Energy Roadmap as the foundation for its plan to become self-sufficient by producing its own green energy using the natural resources available at the Resort, which will help to achieve its Net Zero Carbon Emissions target. All electric energy on-site now comes from renewable resources, reducing the resort's carbon footprint by 65 percent.

The resort has been zero-to-landfill since 2015 and is currently eradicating fossil fuels from the site and ensuring that zero food waste goes off-site.

[www.wybostonlakes.co.uk/business](http://www.wybostonlakes.co.uk/business)







## EcoStyle Ltd Assists **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

Luton-based company EcoStyle Ltd has been helping the Environment Agency in their mission to raise awareness of flood risks and mitigation.

With 1 in 6 properties in England at risk of flooding from rivers, sea and surface water, there is an urgent need to educate the community about the risks of flooding, and what measures householders can take to protect their homes.

EcoStyle specialises in the design and manufacture of interactive educational models. Its Property Flood Resilience (PFR) model is being used by organisations such as the Environment Agency and water companies in their community outreach activities. The model helps demonstrate the range of measures which can be installed on properties to minimise the risk of flood water entering, and reducing the damage caused by any water that does enter.

EcoStyle's Managing Director Simon Hall said: 'Property Flood Resilience can be a complex concept to explain. Having a physical demonstration model makes it easy to explain what the various measures are, and how they can help protect homes.'

Due to the effects of climate change, distressingly flood risk will only increase. EcoStyle anticipates the requirement for the design and manufacture of additional new models that will further help organisations deliver their flood education projects.

*EcoStyle Ltd [www.ecostyle.co.uk](http://www.ecostyle.co.uk) or  
[www.ecostyle.co.uk/pfr-mode](http://www.ecostyle.co.uk/pfr-mode)*

## re-Mark-it Co2 Reducing **RECYCLING REVOLUTION**

re-Mark-it is owned and run by Mark Collier who has worked within the recycling industry for some 30 years.

Starting within the waste industry and moving into the metal recycling industry over 20 years ago the importance of recycling has become more and more prominent and talk of climate change, the governments drive to implement a net zero target for 2050 the industry takes on a greater importance and responsibility.



Being an environmentally responsible company is vitally important to re-Mark-it Ltd when it comes to metal recycling, based in Houghton Regis we are involved in the collection, sorting and processing of all non-ferrous metals, dealing with industry, trades people and the general public.

When it comes to metal recycling, we offer a real solution in sustainability contributing to a global reduction of over 200 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, reducing the use of natural resources which would otherwise be needed to produce new metals.

Recycling metals emits 80% less Co2 than production from raw materials, metal is 100% recyclable, is permanent and can be recycled forever, repeatedly, contributing to the circular economy, avoiding landfill and saving the destruction of natural habitats caused by mining metal ore. According to the bureau of international recycling 50% of Lead has been used before in other products and using secondary Lead as opposed to Ore reduces Co2 emissions by 99%!

This making the industry a key driver in the Government achieving its net zero targets.

As well as the benefits of helping the climate, recycling metal can also help with the cost of living crisis as scrap copper, brass, lead, aluminium, stainless steel, car batteries and suchlike has a value and can be sold.

*For more information contact re-Mark-it on 01582 665969 or  
email [info@remarkit.org.uk](mailto:info@remarkit.org.uk)*



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## HVAC Protection Specialists VEXO International **LEAD THE WAY IN GLOBAL WARMING MITIGATION**

VEXO International are specialists in HVAC protection. Their principal aim is to aid in global warming mitigation through the provision of sustainable long-term design and product solutions. At the core of the company ethos is environmental protection, assisting their clients to accomplish low carbon or carbon-neutral objectives through the use of VEXO solutions.

Situated in Bedfordshire, VEXO has, since 2010, been conducting research and producing innovative products designed to lessen the impact of substandard water quality on heating and cooling systems. Now, it is recognised as one of the UK's leading entities in side-stream filtration. VEXO's approach to water treatment is all-encompassing, incorporating filtration equipment, additives, testing, remote monitoring, BMS, technical service, and continuous innovation, all while striving to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

VEXO's products aid central and local governments, commercial building owners, and contractors in achieving their environmental and sustainability targets. This is accomplished through products such as the X-POT® and S-BMS®.

The company's trailblazing X-POT side-stream filtration device for commercial heating and cooling systems has revolutionised conventional industry practices.

The recently developed Smart Building Management System (S-BMS®) represents a sophisticated enhancement on traditional standalone BMS solutions, offering intelligent, automated control of diverse building systems.



A recent case study involving Portsmouth City Council in one of their retirement living flats demonstrated that S-BMS can notably decrease energy consumption. The system achieved total energy savings of 25% and heating energy savings of 36% in the latest heating season. This meant that an estimated 24,232kg of CO<sub>2</sub> were saved from polluting the atmosphere as the boilers were powered by natural gas.

In 2022, VEXO was the proud recipient of The Queen's Award for Enterprise in Innovation. This accolade attests to the team's commitment and industriousness in cultivating a successful, growth-oriented environment in recent years. VEXO is immensely proud to share this honour with its employees, esteemed clients, and suppliers who bolster their mission to combat global warming and foster a more sustainable future.

<https://vexoint.com/>

# SME Bedfordshire

## Business Awards 2023

The SME Bedfordshire Business Awards 2023 were a rip-roaring success! Hundreds of you descended on The Auction House in Luton at the end of June, for a night of food, fun and most importantly... Celebration! Congratulations to all our members who were finalists and winners on the night! It was a showcase of what Bedfordshire has to offer the Country, and you did yourselves proud! Take a look at our lucky winners below:

### COMMUNITY BUSINESS *of the Year*

Sponsored by A F Blakemore

**GOLD WINNER:** Hannah Solicitors LLP

**SILVER WINNER:** CHUMS

### EMPLOYER *of the Year*

Sponsored by Jaltek

**GOLD WINNER:** Woods Hardwick

### HOSPITALITY BUSINESS *of the Year*

Sponsored by London Luton Airport

**GOLD WINNER:** Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre and Tea Room

### LEIGHTON BUZZARD BUSINESS *of the Year*

Sponsored by 123 Internet Group

**SILVER WINNER:** Osborne Morris and Morgan

### LUTON BUSINESS *of the Year*

Sponsored by Luton Council

**GOLD WINNER:** Greystone Solicitors

**SILVER WINNER:** Hannah Solicitors LLP

### APPRENTICE *of the Year*

Sponsored by Liebherr

**BRONZE WINNER:** Tom Hall – IMPAKT Housing & Support

### BEDFORD BUSINESS *of the Year*

Sponsored by Oval Law

**GOLD WINNER:** Imagefix

### BUSINESS INNOVATION *Award*

Sponsored by Bonfire Creative

**GOLD WINNER:** THSP

**SILVER WINNER:** Bedford Radio

### BUSINESS *of the Year* (less than 50 Employees)

Sponsored by Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

**SILVER WINNER:** Imagefix

### BUSINESS *of the Year* (more than 50 Employees)

Sponsored by Luton Council

**GOLD WINNER:** IMPAKT Housing & Support

### BUSINESS PERSON *of the Year*

Sponsored by Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

**SILVER WINNER:** Hyder Haniffa – Unisnacks Europe

**BRONZE WINNER:** Bilal Farooq – Greystone Solicitors

### OVERALL WINNER

**IMPAKT Housing & Support**



### COMMUNITY BUSINESS *of the Year*

**SILVER WINNER:** CHUMS

CHUMS CEO Dawn Hewitt said: "We're absolutely honoured to have our achievements recognised in this way. Huge thanks to SME Business Awards and Bedfordshire Chamber for staging such a successful event. And of course, a big shout-out to all the other Nominees and Winners. It was a fantastic night celebrating the brilliant folks and businesses in Beds!"



### BUSINESS INNOVATION *Award*

**SILVER WINNER:** Bedford Radio

Bedford Radio's, Martin Steers said: "The Expo was an outstanding success and we are still receiving positive feedback from exhibitors and visitors. Planning has already started for Bedford Business Expo 2024, which will again be held at King's House on Tuesday 12th March 2024. Next year's event will be bigger, better and bolder."



### LUTON BUSINESS *of the Year*

**GOLD WINNER:** Greystone Solicitors

Director Bilal Farooq said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been awarded Gold Winners for Luton Business of the Year 2023, at the SME Bedfordshire Business Awards 2023 for the second consecutive year! This is a testament to the continuous hard work of the entire team at Greystone Solicitors, and it is a great honour for our achievements to be recognised. As an individual it was an honour to be a Finalist for the second year running in the Business Person of the Year Category and I had the privilege of being awarded Bronze."





## BUSINESS INNOVATION Award

### GOLD WINNER: THSP

Andrew Wilson, Employment Law Director said: "We are over the moon to get this award. HR Plus has gained so much interest since it was launched; with new customers of all industries and sizes seeing the benefit of having their own HR team supporting on hand when they need it, Congratulations to the team who well deserve this award for their incredible work."



## HOSPITALITY BUSINESS of the Year

### GOLD WINNER: Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre & Tea Room

"We're delighted to announce that Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre and Tea Room won Gold for 'Hospitality Business of the Year' at the SME Bedfordshire Business Awards. The category celebrates local businesses that exceed customers' expectations, build long-term customer relationships and provide a service that is consistently outstanding, and we're proud that this award shows we do this."

## EMPLOYER of the Year

### GOLD WINNER: Woods Hardwick

Jason Leonard, director said: "This award reflects who we as a business – it's the people within it and not just about the name above the door – by looking after our staff it allows to provide a first-class experience for each and every one of our clients. This really is a team effort and everyone at Woods Hardwick has contributed to winning employer of the year – roll on the national competition later this year."



## OVERALL WINNER IMPAKT Housing & Support

Paul Hunt, CEO said: "We were delighted Tom Hall was awarded the Bronze in 'Apprentice of the Year' as this was well deserved recognition. We applauded and congratulated organisations receiving their awards and then it came to the 'Business of the Year' with more than 50 Employees. After the awards for the various categories were completed, The Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce announced that the 'Overall Winner' was us, personally, I couldn't quite believe it. What a tremendous achievement for the organisation and recognition of the fantastic staff team we have."



We're delighted to announce that the **Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce SME Business Awards 2024**, will be launching in January! If you're interested in sponsoring and want to get involved, please contact [paula.devine@chamber-business.com](mailto:paula.devine@chamber-business.com)

# Member NEWS



## Jaltek Owner Celebrates 25 YEARS AT THE HELM

Pravin Sood, Chairman and owner of Jaltek Systems Ltd, a UK-based electronics design and manufacturing company, reflects on the last 25 years of his ownership.

Following one of their most successful years, we interviewed Pravin to gain some insights into his remarkable stewardship.

### How and when did you start in this line of work?

Although I have always had a keen interest in technology, I actually started my career as an accountant and after various roles across multiple industries, I became CEO for COM DEV Europe, a leader in the Satellite Communications Industry.

### What is something people may not know about you?

I had always wanted to retire by the age of 45, and actually managed to retire at 46 but it only lasted a year as the opportunity to invest in Jaltek arose and the rest is history.

### What inspired you to invest in Jaltek 25 years ago?

Prior to my ownership, Jaltek was a supplier to COM DEV and assisted in the design and manufacture of some of their products. I established a great relationship with the team at Jaltek during that time and in 1998, when I had retired, Jaltek approached me for assistance as they were experiencing some financial difficulties. I had always been impressed by the technical capabilities of the previous Jaltek team but also knew that with improved commercial, operational and financial focus they could grow from strength to strength. Believing that I could provide that added impetus, I came out of retirement to acquire the business.

### Tell us about one of your favourite “firsts” at Jaltek...

When we first hit a million pounds in revenue. It was about 2 years following my acquisition and we had gone from a zero order book

when I first invested to this momentous feat. It was the only time I remember taking a bottle of whisky in to work to celebrate!

### What are you most proud of in your 25 years at Jaltek?

There have been so many moments, but the first one that comes to mind is seeing so many long-standing employees still be part of our ever growing team. Developing and nurturing talent is an important part of why Jaltek is so successful today to the point where our current MD, Steve Pittom, has been with the business nearly 25 years and was one of my first hires into the business development team.

### What is one major challenge you have faced in these past 25 years?

COVID-19 was certainly a challenging time for all with unprecedented working conditions. The pandemic affected many sectors that we worked with, industry events were cancelled and the requirement for remote working didn't make things easy. The pandemic showed the need to be flexible, make decisions in short time frames, have a clarity of leadership and great teamwork and I was really proud of everyone and how well they adjusted. The team even received the Business Hero Award from the Chamber of Commerce and Countess of Wessex for their work during COVID!

### As you reflect on the past 25 years, what is something you have learned?

I think the key to building a successful business is building and nurturing relationships. I have always prioritised this, not just with our customers but all our stakeholders, whether they are customers, suppliers or employees. I like to think of us as one big family where everyone is just as important as everyone else.

### How does Jaltek stand out from other organisations?

From a strategic perspective, with the ability to provide a full design, manufacturing and through life support and maintenance service, Jaltek stands out from its peers with its commitment to quality and excellency in all these facets. From a cultural perspective Jaltek stands out by allowing all team members to thrive and excel, with a keen focus on personal development and achievement.

### What's next for Jaltek?

Despite a challenging macro economic environment, the last 5 years have seen Jaltek grow significantly from both a financial performance perspective as well as a technical capability perspective. Ongoing capital expenditure plans, coupled with new production facilities and the addition of key members of staff, have led to record revenues and a record order book from both new and longstanding customers. With the added services and capabilities Jaltek is now able to offer, I would expect to maintain this momentum and accelerate our growth rate over the next 5 years. We will also carry on investing in our people and facilities to continually improve upon quality and lead times thereby yielding greater economies of scale for the direct benefit of our customers.

To mark the company's 25th anniversary, Jaltek hosted a surprise celebration for Pravin. Steve Pittom Managing Director said: "We wanted to mark this landmark anniversary and at the same time say thank you to all of our employees who have been integral in our success so far and who will play an important part in our future success as well."

He continued: "We are providing employment and creating a legacy, we will continue to inspire and lead the team into the future. We're all looking forward to Pravin's 30th anniversary!"

[www.jaltek.com](http://www.jaltek.com)





## Walking the **BUSINESS TALK**

When you're launching or growing a business there is lots of advice available to you. But how many people display first-hand experience of growing a successful business?

Dunstable-based chartered accountancy practice Spicer & Co demonstrates its business acumen, growing from a home-based business to a thriving, award-winning accountancy firm.

'From working on my own from my kitchen table, I now head a practice with ten team members and our own dedicated office,' says Suzanne Spicer, founder of Spicer & Co. 'My husband Steve joined as a director ten years ago. Together, we've gone from strength to strength and now look after over 600 clients.'

Growing a business is an achievement however it's how you work that helps you to retain clients. Spicer & Co proactively connects with the local communities via networking and charity events, from social events to pancake races!

'Community, collaboration and equality are very important to me – both personally and professionally,' explains Suzanne who established the accountancy practice 22 years ago. 'I believe it's the care and attention we offer clients that keeps them with us. The people part of our job is as important as the number crunching and we love both aspects!'

This high level of customer service has helped Spicer & Co to win several awards, including the prestigious SME Luton and Bedfordshire Business Awards. In 2022 they were the gold winner of Dunstable Business of the Year and runner-up Family Business of the Year.

Suzanne explains: 'I'm extremely proud of what we've achieved together, and that our clients' requirements have remained our top priority. Our colleagues feel like extended family and our awards reflects the hard work and dedication of everyone in our team.'

So, what's next for Spicer & Co? 'We want to continue contributing to our clients' success by offering them great advice and minimising their tax liabilities. Most of all, we want to retain our friendly, professional approach as we grow, cutting out the accountancy jargon and enjoying a chat with clients over a cup of coffee!'

[www.spicerandco.co.uk](http://www.spicerandco.co.uk)

Working together, achieving more.

## Schoolreaders **CELEBRATES A MILESTONE**

This year we're celebrating Ten Years of Schoolreaders, a Bedford-born national children's literacy charity.

One in four children are currently leaving primary school unable to read to the expected standard. This leaves them unable to fully access their secondary education, which will have a negative impact on their life-chances.

Schoolreaders provides primary schools with dedicated reading volunteers who listen to children read in weekly one to one sessions. Our Schoolreaders volunteers provide over 18,000 reading sessions each week, designed to build confidence, fluency, and spread the joy of reading to children.

From small beginnings, with help from our volunteers, support from schools, and the generosity of our donors, today 1 in 7 primary schools throughout the country have partnered with us, requesting our volunteers.

Our work is not done yet! Looking to the future, we plan to expand our coverage of England into areas with the highest pupil deprivation, so that we can bring the joy of reading to the most disadvantaged children, and be there for all of those who need our support the most.

Schoolreaders is doing all it can to help prevent children from going on to become one of the seven million functionally illiterate adults in the UK.

We couldn't do this vital work without the dedication of our Schoolreaders volunteers, supporters and funders, and those who believe, as we do, in the power of life-changing literacy. If you would like to support Schoolreaders through your company, make a donation or simply find out more about the charity please contact Helen Collins, Fundraising Executive on 01234 938119 or email [h.collins@schoolreaders.org](mailto:h.collins@schoolreaders.org)

[www.schoolreaders.org/](http://www.schoolreaders.org/)



# Member NEWS

## Step up **THIS AUTUMN!**

Your experience and networks matter and can contribute towards developing the talent pipeline for your industry.

Join us for this new academic year to inspire and prepare the next generation to take their first step into the world of work.

The South East Midlands Careers Hub (launched in February this year) is on a mission to transform careers education by linking schools and colleges with local employers to develop world-class careers experiences. We connect the world of education and the world of work at a critical time for young people as they contemplate their future training and career choices.

Here's how you can get involved:

1. By becoming an Enterprise Adviser – where you'd partner with a school or college and offer strategic support on their careers programme. In this role you'll act as a consultant, critical friend and coach and it is a great opportunity to make a real, sustained impact on the young people in the school and, in your business.
2. By giving an hour – to give a careers talk, help with mock interviews, provide industry insights. Your skills and insights are inspirational.

"I have been an EA for 7 years. The opportunity to inspire young people for their futures; to excite them about different career paths. I enjoy working with careers leaders to open up different destinations after leaving school from apprenticeships, entry level roles, college and university, recognising one size does not fit all." *Marie Jones, Parker Hannifin.*

Register your interest and volunteer today: <https://www.semlep.com/careers-hub-get-involved/>





**Your LOCAL First Aid and Health & Safety Training Provider**

Providing a variety of nationally accredited training courses that help you develop **practical first aid skills** and an **understanding of health & safety** in the workplace.

We offer regular open courses at our **Bedfordshire** centre, or we can come to you for larger groups.

Not sure how many first aiders your organisation requires? Use our **First Aid Requirements Calculator** to find out.

Scan here to find out 

**We'd love to hear from you, please get in touch:**

Train with **METT** and Have a Life Saving Experience

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[www.metttraining.co.uk](http://www.metttraining.co.uk)       /METTtraining

Clipper House, Leighton Industrial Park, Billington Road, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 4AJ

## **METT TRAINING LTD** We have the solution...

With more than 565,000 working people sustaining an injury at work, and over 61,000 injuries to employees reported under RIDDOR (reporting of injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences), is there a good time to neglect your health and safety responsibilities? No, there isn't! As an employer you have a duty of care to your employees, and a legal obligation to ensure that your business is compliant.

Would you know what to do if one of your employees had a first aid emergency? If you don't know, do you know who does? If your answer is no to either of these questions, now is the time to assess your first aid provision.

The HSE's "First aid at work" Guidance on the Regulations ("The Guidelines") can help you determine the level of first aid provision required: [/www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/L74.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/L74.pdf)

Or we can generate a bespoke report for you- it only takes a few minutes to complete and will tell you what cover and training you require. Scan the QR code opposite for your FREE report. If you're still unsure and would like to understand your legal requirements, please get in touch - we have the solution.

We provide accredited training courses that help you develop practical first aid skills and an understanding of health & safety in the workplace.

We have a training centre in Leighton Buzzard but can come to your workplace for groups of people. Chamber members will receive 10% off their booking when mentioning code BC10

[info@metttraining.co.uk](mailto:info@metttraining.co.uk) | 01525 379521 | [metttraining.co.uk](http://metttraining.co.uk)

*Instagram/Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn: METTTraining*





## Caring company helps keep neighbourhood tidy **AND SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITY**

To mark the company's World Caring Day in June big-hearted team members at Peli BioThermal made collective community contributions helping with local foodbank efforts and organising a local litter pick.

The Peli BioThermal teams pledged their support for community causes after staff made significant collections, which were delivered to the Leighton Lincolne Homeless Service and Leighton Lincolne Community Foodbank, which is helping hundreds of people, providing much needed food donations in the local area.

Colleagues collated numerous donations in the workplace, which were delivered to the charity and the team then volunteered their time to help prepare food parcels for those most in need.

The Leighton Lincolne Homeless Service was delighted with the support shown from the team of volunteers at Peli BioThermal, which they described as 'a company with a big heart.'



Multiple members of the Peli BioThermal team took part in the caring community activities which also included a local litter pick, organised in conjunction with the town council. Two teams of staff from the Stanbridge Road site visited parks and green spaces nearby to pick litter, bottles, bus tickets and other discarded detritus.

The dedicated litter picking teams worked tirelessly to tidy up and collect numerous bags of rubbish from the local area.

*To learn more about Peli BioThermal and the company's wide range of products and offerings, visit [www.pelibiothermal.com](http://www.pelibiothermal.com).*



## Celebrating 25 Years

Bedford-based Springfield Business Supplies is celebrating having clocked up a quarter century providing business products to companies throughout the region.

Frances and Jason Stephen bought the company in 1997 and have grown the business to become a leading provider of stationery and office interiors in the Midlands. Innovation has been at the heart of their business plan and Springfield was one of the first to offer an online ordering system, that can integrate into customers' back-office systems.

With a strong commitment to corporate responsibility, Springfield operates through a variety of initiatives to reduce the company's environmental impacts and in turn helps its customers to meet their Net Zero Carbon objectives.

Frances Stephen explains: "With lots of products going through our warehouse each day, we generate excess recycled packaging which we divert to re-use. For example, local allotment holders use our cardboard as weed suppressant, and we were one of the first businesses in our industry to introduce electric vehicles to our fleet enabling us to reduce our fuel consumption by 38%. The business has seen many changes over the years and its range of products has changed dramatically.

Frances continues: "We certainly have fewer orders for paper clips and don't receive requests for floppy disks anymore but despite digital transformation, we still sell lots of paper. Springfield has expanded its products and services to become a specialist in Office Interiors, Ergonomics, Workwear, and Education supplies.

The company supplies many of the region's major players including Center Parcs, Unilever and Bedford Borough Council and Jason Stephen says over the years Springfield has had some interesting requests: "We once had a request to source 200 rubber ducks for a charity duck race and our largest order was for 600 desks to one location, but we can handle pretty much any request that an organization needs."

As proud sponsors of Bedford Blues Rugby Club, the couple can regularly be seen at Goldington Road supporting the team. Frances Stephen says: "Working hard and playing hard is important to bring our team together. We are grateful to our customers, employees and partners for their support over the years and look forward to serving the region's business community and making a positive impact where ever we operate."

Springfield has ambitious plans to continue to grow and expand its product offering. The team is developing the interiors side of the business which provides designing lighting schemes and colours for impact and user wellness and design for improved office acoustics, whilst continuing to offer its ergonomic desk assessments.

[shop.springfieldnet.co.uk](http://shop.springfieldnet.co.uk)

# Member NEWS

## BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY Celebrates 70th Anniversary

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity are 70! 2023 is a year of celebration for the leading community development agency in Bedfordshire, as people come together to mark this fantastic achievement. Over the past 70 years, both past and present staff and volunteers at the charity have been an integral part of improving the lives of those living in Bedfordshire.

Beds RCC began in 1953 as part of the Rural Community Councils set up across the UK. During the first three years, they became associated with many social aspects of rural life – such as playgrounds, clubs for the elderly, and Parish Councils – which promoted improvements to local communities.

The charity continues to support communities in Bedfordshire with a wide range of services. The work is carried out in three main areas: Supporting Communities, Community and Wellbeing, and Community Transport. The charity also owns Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre and Tea Room and Warden Abbey Community Vineyard. Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre won Gold for 'Hospitality Business of the Year' at the SME Luton and Bedfordshire Business Awards in June, which has given Beds RCC even more reason to celebrate.



2023 has been a busy year so far, and there's plenty more still planned. In June, there was a summer celebration at Warden Abbey Vineyard which was a great way to say 'thank you' to everyone who works so hard to make Beds RCC a success.

*Find out more about Beds RCC and what they have planned for their 70th Anniversary on their website: [www.bedsrcc.org.uk](http://www.bedsrcc.org.uk)*

## Introducing **CARIAD MARKETING** and **CARIAD WEB DESIGN**

Cariad Marketing was set up around MD Justine Perry's kitchen table back in 2009. It is now a multi-award winning company with a 20-strong team with decades of experience behind them.

At Cariad, our purpose is to help small-medium sized businesses outperform their online competitors. This is achieved through search engine optimisation (SEO), content marketing, social media, and web design, or a tailor-made combination of two or more of these elements.

The move to hybrid working practices since the pandemic has enabled us to offer our services to a much more geographically diverse client base and we now have clients across the UK. However, we still love the occasional face-to-face meeting too! Every client gets the same level of attention and service from their dedicated client services manager – either Colette, Louise or Bianka.

Originally, Cariad was only offering affordable websites for small businesses, but it quickly grew to offer more elements and is now a full service digital marketing agency. While some of our clients are bigger and have more complex marketing needs, small businesses remain at the heart of our offering.

It was therefore with great pride that last year we launched our sister company, Cariad Web Design (CWD) to offer professional websites based on a pre-made design which enables us to offer high quality, pay monthly websites that are affordable for start-ups, entrepreneurs and micro-businesses. Essentially with CWD, we've gone right back to our roots!

Talk to Colette or Helen to find out more about digital marketing and how it can help boost your business's performance. Or visit our websites to find out more and take advantage of our free SEO Audit.

*Cariad Marketing - [cariadmarketing.com](http://cariadmarketing.com) | Cariad Web Design - [cariadwebdesign.com](http://cariadwebdesign.com)*

Colette



Helen





# New MEMBERS



We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all **New MEMBERS** of the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce. You can learn more about becoming a member and all of the associated benefits by calling us now on 01582 522448 or by emailing your enquiry to [info@chamber-business.com](mailto:info@chamber-business.com)

## Austin & Carnley Solicitors

[www.austinandcarnley.co.uk](http://www.austinandcarnley.co.uk)

Solicitors firm.

## Bedford Modern School

[www.bedmod.co.uk](http://www.bedmod.co.uk)

Bedford Modern School is an outstanding co-educational independent day school for students aged 7-18.

## Cariad Marketing Limited

[cariadmarketing.com](http://cariadmarketing.com)

Cariad Marketing is a multi-award-winning digital marketing agency based in Hertfordshire. We offer all the usual services that you'd expect from a leading marketing agency such as SEO, PPC, Social Media Management, Content Marketing and Web Development. But we do this in a totally different way. Our uniqueness is in our approach and our passion. We'll get to know your business inside and out, work as members of your team and guide you on how to meet (and exceed) your business objectives.

## Creative Pursuit

[linkedin.com/in/danielle-harrington-419b3486/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/danielle-harrington-419b3486/)

Creative Pursuit is a design agency with a difference. Our mission is to create designs that inspire change and have a positive impact - on people, communities and the environment. We specialise in working collaboratively with councils, educational institutions and charities whilst remaining true to our values; We inspire. We respect. We are honest. We are mindful.

## DTA Commodities Ltd

[dtacommodities.co.uk](http://dtacommodities.co.uk)

Commodities Imports & Exports.

## Elite Law Solicitors

[www.elitelawsolicitors.co.uk](http://www.elitelawsolicitors.co.uk)

Solicitors.

## EWS Group UK Ltd

[www.ews-group.uk.com](http://www.ews-group.uk.com)

Professional pest control, bird control, fumigation, gas measurement, ventilation and bio treatments of goods in storage. Integrated pest and bird management solutions include maintenance contracts and one off jobs for prevention of pest activity, bird netting, anti-roosting systems, falconry, bioacoustics & bird lasers.

## Lamet

[lamet.co.uk](http://lamet.co.uk)

Interior and exterior design solutions.

## LoomanDrainage Ltd

[loomandrainageltd.co.uk](http://loomandrainageltd.co.uk)

Unblocking and servicing domestic and commercial drains.

## Loxley STAR People Solutions Ltd

[www.loxleystar.co.uk](http://www.loxleystar.co.uk)

Human Resources.

## Manifest Brand Development

[www.essancy.com](http://www.essancy.com)

Manufacture and export fragrance and flavour compound.

## Metro Supply Chain

[www.metroscg.com](http://www.metroscg.com)

Global Supply Chain business.

## NFU Mutual Bedfordshire Agency

[www.nfumutual.co.uk/bedford](http://www.nfumutual.co.uk/bedford)

At NFU Mutual Bedfordshire agency our aim is to build strong long-lasting business relationships with our commercial clients based on quality advice and first-class service. We can tailor insurance solutions to help protect you and your business as it grows and develops.

## Noble Healthcare Ltd

[noblehc.co.uk](http://noblehc.co.uk)

Wholesale of pharmaceutical products.

## Pulse Group Media

[www.pulsegroupmedia.co.uk](http://www.pulsegroupmedia.co.uk)

Publisher of business and lifestyle newspapers and magazines in Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes.

## RBB Consulting Services Ltd

[rbbscs.net](http://rbbscs.net)

Providing Business Consulting, Mentoring and Advisory services to local SMEs and Enterprise businesses to enable them to grow.

## Renaissance AC CIC

[renaissancecic.net](http://renaissancecic.net)

Empowering disadvantaged BAME, providing young people with tools and resources they need to succeed, parenting. Building positive relationships with peers, local services, learning and developing skills applicable to future careers, advice and guidance. Promoting positive self identity, confidence and self esteem.

## Simply Electrical Services

[www.simplyelectricalservices.com](http://www.simplyelectricalservices.com)

Commercial Electrical Contracting - Installation, Maintenance & Testing.

## Sonic Shipping

[www.sonicshippingint.com](http://www.sonicshippingint.com)

Export/Import/Shipping.

## South East Midlands Careers Hub

[www.semlep.com/skills-careers-hub](http://www.semlep.com/skills-careers-hub)

Linking the world of education with the world of work. The South East Midlands Careers Hub will help to transform careers education by linking schools and colleges with local employers to develop world-class careers experiences that inspire and inform young people in taking their next steps.

## Stylise Autos

[linkedin.com/in/sharon-leon-b1b08721](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sharon-leon-b1b08721)

Sewing and redesigning of interior trim for classic cars.

## Talk UK Telecom Ltd

[www.talkuktelecom.co.uk](http://www.talkuktelecom.co.uk)

Telecom Business Solutions.

## The How 2 Hub

The How2Hub is a community interest project intended to bring businesses and services into schools and provide children from the age of 11 with hands on, interactive events in the classroom and at outside locations in line with the Gatsby Benchmark.

## The Sweet People Limited

[www.thesweetpeople.com](http://www.thesweetpeople.com)

Supplier of promotional confectionery and chocolate production.

## Transform8tion Limited

[transform8tion.co.uk](http://transform8tion.co.uk)

Information technology consultant.

## Trusted Deliveries UK LTD

[www.instagram.com/tdcouriersuk](https://www.instagram.com/tdcouriersuk)

We are a Same day and Next day courier, specialising in Urgent dedicated and time critical deliveries. We service the United Kingdom 7 days a week 24 hours a day. We pride ourselves on reliability and going that extra mile to help our clients stay focused on their businesses while we ensure their deliveries run smoothly.

## Vexo International (UK) Ltd

[vexoint.com](http://vexoint.com)

HVAC Protection Specialists - Side Stream Filtration, Water Treatment and Energy Saving Solutions.

## WF Telematics

[www.wftelematics.com](http://www.wftelematics.com)

We are Way Fleet Limited, a provider of Vehicle Tracking & Telematics. We also supply AdBlue for Diesel vehicles.

## Woodlands Secondary School

[www.woodlands.luton.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands.luton.sch.uk)

Woodlands Secondary School is a special needs school for students aged between 11 - 18 years old. The school caters for students with severe learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties.

# Member PROFILES



**Member PROFILES** are provided as part of membership to the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce. You can learn more about becoming a member, so you too can enjoy this and a host of other benefits, simply by calling us now on 01582 522448 or by emailing [info@chamber-business.com](mailto:info@chamber-business.com)

## Bedford MS Therapy Centre

👤 Carl Field

☎ 01234 325781

✉ [admin@mscentrebedsandnorthants.com](mailto:admin@mscentrebedsandnorthants.com)

👉 [mscentrebedsandnorthants.com](http://mscentrebedsandnorthants.com)



Bedford MS Therapy Centre is a charity providing professional specialist therapies and support for people living with MS, their carers, friends and families, in a friendly, self-help environment. Therapies are free at the point of use, thanks to donations from our service users and supporters, including local businesses.

## Fliweel Tech

👤 Andy Paul

✉ [andy@fliweel.tech](mailto:andy@fliweel.tech)

👉 [fliweel.tech](http://fliweel.tech)



Fliweel maximises business efficiency through automation and AI, streamlining document processing, CRM, quotes, and invoices. By reducing costs, minimising errors, and optimising workflows, Fliweel empowers businesses to focus on high-value opportunities, fostering customer satisfaction and driving revenue growth.

## DTA Commodities Ltd

👤 Alan Perin

✉ [dta@dtacommodities.co.uk](mailto:dta@dtacommodities.co.uk)

👉 [dtacommodities.co.uk](http://dtacommodities.co.uk)



We specialise in all kinds of Fertilizers for Agriculture, Automotive Industry and Industrial grade. Also, we specialise in Petroleum products of D" EN590, Jet Oil A1, AGO (Automotive Gas Oil), D6, importing and exporting. Our Customers are world wide & specially in Africa, Asia, Middle East and Europe. We are also, interested in adding Fertilisers for organic farming in the near future to our portfolio.

## Home Instead Luton & Central Bedfordshire

👤 Maria Collins

☎ 01582 742275

👉 [homeinstead.co.uk/luton-bedfordshire/](http://homeinstead.co.uk/luton-bedfordshire/)



At Home Instead Luton, our motto is "we will find a way" whatever your needs, our highly trained caregivers provide personalised assistance with daily activities, medication management, and companionship. Trust us to provide quality care, ensuring comfort and independence for your loved ones. Book a FREE consultation today.

## Elite Law Solicitors

👤 Meg Wilton

☎ 01525 301700

✉ [mwilton@elitelawsolicitors.co.uk](mailto:mwilton@elitelawsolicitors.co.uk)

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👤 Jason Thurland

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👤 Ashley Loxley

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👤 Pauline Phiri  
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✉ paula@renaissancecic.net  
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Renaissance aims to address challenges faced by young people, through empowering disadvantaged Black ethnic minorities (BME). We facilitate interactive workshops, annual summer fun day events, drop in sessions for parents/families and provide tools and resources they need to succeed. We aim to help improve self-esteem, confidence and positive self-identity.

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👤 Ed Fisher  
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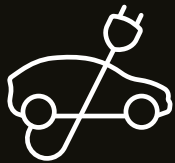
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