Business FOCUS



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Official Magazine of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

Autumn 2025





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Business

Official Magazine of Bedfordshire **Chamber of Commerce**

Our Partners







Paula Devine

Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce paula.devine@chamber-business.com

Design and Print

Treacle Factory

01582 416171 www.treaclefactory.co.uk

Cover Photograph

Photos by Duncan Jack Photography and Michael Thorn Photography

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Welcome

...to the autumn edition of Business Focus Magazine.

As the leaves begin to turn and we enter a new season, we're reminded that change, when embraced with purpose, can be a powerful catalyst for growth. And right now, Bedfordshire is seizing its moment.

The UK's economic landscape remains complex, with modest growth projections and persistent barriers for businesses of all sizes. Yet, through challenge comes opportunity. The Chamber network's recent 'Blueprint for Growth' sets out a clear vision: cut costs, invest in people, power innovation and make trade easier. These aren't lofty ambitions - they are tangible priorities that resonate deeply with businesses across our region.

In Bedfordshire, we see that ambition reflected in action. Local firms are navigating rising costs, skills shortages and global uncertainty with agility and resilience. But they're also innovating, expanding and leading with purpose. Our Chamber stands firmly with them - championing their voice nationally and creating the local conditions

One shining example of this resilience and innovation was the return of the SME Bedfordshire Business Awards. Now firmly established in the business calendar, the 2025 Finals were a sell-out event, recognising the outstanding talent, determination and entrepreneurial spirit that defines our community. With a record number of entries, the quality and breadth of submissions were nothing short of exceptional.

These awards not only honoured individual achievement but underscored the collective contribution SME's make to our local economy. It was a great moment to see Essential Workwear return having come full circle from overall winner in 2019 to Headline Partner in 2025. Their journey exemplified not only business brilliance but also the power of purpose. Congratulations once again to every finalist and winner.

From policy to people, awards to ambition, our Chamber remains focused on growth that benefits everyone. That means advocating for simpler regulation,

smarter investment and stronger trade links. It means backing local businesses to scale and succeed and ensuring future prosperity is both inclusive and sustainable.

As we look ahead to the final quarter of the year, I encourage you to explore how the Chamber can support your journey. Whether you're an established business or an emerging leader, there's never been a better time to get involved.

Together, let's turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities.

#workingtogether #achievingmore

Justin Richardson

Chief Executive Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

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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 2025:

TELECOM

SWS

CREATIVE BUSINESS VIDEOS

It is both a great privilege and challenging task to write the lead for our Business Focus magazine. The privilege is clear in so far as I am permitted proudly to represent my personal views to Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce's countless followers, in what I hope is a clear, relevant and thought-provoking manner. The challenge is that the remarks must be penned several weeks prior to publication and yet be current and pertinent to our readers.

As to the certainties despite the cut in the Bank of England base rate to 4% - likely to be the last adjustment this year - the economy looks in poor shape. The material increases in costs and therefore prices in the supermarkets and throughout supply chain from the pummelling of British business with the increases NI and national living wage is still working through. Unchecked, less than business-friendly, changes planned by the Government, particularly its dire workers' rights reforms, are likely to cause further smothering effects on confidence and growth.

The Government is already signalling that further that tax increases will be necessary in the autumn budget. Having limited room to manoeuvre, without intense lobbying, we can anticipate more burden on business and perhaps further ill-thought-out and innovative schemes with their doubtless unintended consequences to add to the ever-growing list of failed endeavours, such as the short lived clock tax of 1797, George Osborne's pasty tax, winter fuel allowances and so on.

The Chamber will continue to lobby vigorously to urge the Chancellor to change direction and adopt a course in the autumn budget which reverses the damage already done, frees businesses rather than constrains them and allows enterprise to flourish, and thus generate much needed growth.

But it is not all gloom, especially here in Bedfordshire with all our domestic economic growth opportunities from the massive investments around the County. There are signs too that some sort of conclusion to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza are within grasp and the turmoil from the chaotic USA tariff changes is settling down. These together with some new trade deals open up tremendous export opportunities for our businesses.

"Better together" with the expertise in export, lobbying, Al and connections, the Chamber is set to work with members to win in the race to capitalise on the opportunities. Be sure to access them. Until next time.

Rod J Calvert



Chairman of Bedfordshire

Chamber of Commerce

66 The Chamber will continue to lobby vigorously to urge the Chancellor to change direction and adopt a course in the autumn budget which reverses the damage already done."

Mastering the Art OF THE FOLLOW-UP

7th October – 9.45am – 12 noon

Hart House Business Centre, Luton Members: Free of Charge Non Members: £25 + VAT

Hosted by Sales Geek



Turn Your Story Into Impactful Video Content, Even With Just Your Phone VIDEO MARKETING WEBINAR

8th September – 1.30pm – 2.30pm

THE SUNDOWN Social

Soft Drinks supplied by Sommers Waste Solutions

4th September – 5pm – 7pm Basepoint Innovation Centre, Luton

Kindly Sponsored by Talk UK Telecom

Online

Free of Charge

Free of charge

Connect Futures ** **OVER COFFEE**

16th September - 9.30am - 11.15am

Marsh Farm Futures, Luton Members: Free of Charae Non-Members: £25 + VAT

Kindly sponsored Marsh Farm Futures

AI Solutions FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS

17th September – 9.30am – 12.00pm

Mercure Hotel, Milton Keynes

Free of Charge



Championing Women THROUGH COLLABORATION

18th September – 10.30am – 2.30pm

Aldwickbury Park Golf Club, Harpenden

Members: £35

Non-Members: £45





Connect **OVER COFFEE**



14th October – 9.30am – 11.15am

The Grange 1906, Milton Ernest

Members: Free of Charge / Non-Members: £25 + VAT

Kindly sponsored by Beansprout Consultancy

Could a Cyber Attack Bring YOUR BUSINESS TO A HALT?

24th October – 9.15am – 11.30am

The Rufus Centre, Flitwick Members: Free of Charge Non-Members: £25 + VAT

Kindly sponsored by Jam Crackers



Connect OVER COFFEE



18th November - 9.30am - 11.15am

TSHP Bedford Business Centre, Bedford

Members: Free of Charge Non-Members: £25 + VAT

Kindly sponsored by THSP

Members WINTER RECEPTION

4th December - 4.30pm - 6.45pm

The Rufus Centre, Flitwick Free of Charge

Headline sponsor Jam Crackers



To book or for further information call 01582 522448 or visit my.chamber-business.com/events

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ANOTHER TG SYSTEMS SUCCESS STORY

Boundless Learning is an educational organisation focused on partnering with educators to provide and support online teaching. Their office is located inside St Martin's Court, situated next to St Paul's underground station. We were approached with installing IT equipment for their new office space by one of our long-term clients.

WANT TO GET IN TOUCH?



tg-systems.co.uk

■ info@tg-systems.com 01462 834400

OBJECTIVE

The TG team were tasked with installing 173 monitors, 173 mouses and keyboards, and 70 docks.

RESULTS

TG successfully carried out the installation within a 3-day period. We are pleased with what we have achieved as the office is now ready to be used.









Better Together

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Quarterly ECONOMIC SURVEY REPORT

Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) forms part of the British Chamber of Commerce's national survey and is the principal business survey in the UK. Its results are closely watched by both the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee and the Treasury. The data reveals a timely and accurate snapshot of the economic climate for businesses in Bedfordshire and beyond.

Q2 2025 Findings

Domestic Sales & Orders: Just 26% of businesses reported an increase in domestic sales during the second quarter of 2025, while 37% saw no change and a further 37% experienced a decline -highlighting a particularly challenging period for local businesses.

Overseas Markets: Overseas export performance also saw a challenging period in Q2 2025, with only 6% of businesses reporting an increase in sales and 50% seeing a decline in sales. Global pressures such as exchange rates, inflation and the threat of tariffs, respondents' forward order books indicate half anticipate a decline in international orders in Q3 2025.

Workforce & Recruitment: Only 15% of firms recruited in the second guarter of the year, with 73% of respondents reporting no change in headcount. Looking ahead, businesses anticipate similar workforce stability, with only 8% expecting reductions in staff and 78% predicting no growth in recruitment. Investment: Overall, 13% of local companies reported increased investment in plant and machinery during the last quarter, 64% reported no change, and 23% reported a decrease. Over the same period, investment plans for training improved by four percentage points, with 59% of respondents expecting their training commitments to remain unchanged and over one in five (21%) looking to reduce their training spend.

Cost Pressures: It comes as no surprise that labour costs remain the leading concern for local businesses. Alongside this, rising overheads and energy prices continue to place significant strain on companies and are limiting their ability to invest. Following the recent Budget and increases to employer National Insurance contributions, many respondents who anticipated higher wage costs, reduced recruitment plans, and more modest pay settlements for existing staff have, unfortunately, seen those concerns materialise

Outlook: Despite the announcement of nearly £12 billion in investment heading to the county during the survey period, confidence among our respondents - predominantly SMEs declined sharply. Many are now significantly less optimistic about improvements in turnover and profitability over the next 12 months.

The Bottom Line

Responding to the findings, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, Shevaun Haviland, said:

"The rising cost of doing businesses means confidence levels remain at their lowest levels since 2022.

However, it's encouraging to see a drop in the number of firms planning to raise prices. Any signs of inflationary pressures easing is good news for business and the wider economy. But prices remain volatile.

The Prime Minister acknowledged at the BCC's Global Annual Conference that business has been asked to shoulder a huge tax burden. We now need the Government to rule out any further business taxes in this year's Budget.

Businesses have welcomed the series of longterm strategies from Government in recent weeks, all designed to drive forward economic growth. Our research shows businesses are stuck in a rut and more needs to be done at pace by ministers to turbocharge the economy and boost business confidence.

Our Blueprint for Growth report provides a clear set of proposals to drive business innovation and investment. We urge ministers to work with us to implement these ideas.

Businesses are clear - they want their costs reduced, regulation reformed, and skills barriers removed. Action by policymakers now, will help businesses out of this confidence slump and give firms the tools to boost growth."



Shevaun Haviland Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce

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Member INTERVIEW



We're constantly looking at how we can improve convenience and the customer experience.

DRIVEN TO SUCCEED

Tyler Pickford, GoCars

GoCars CEO Tyler Pickford knows that standing still in business is not an option. "You have to remain proactive, continuously adapting to change," he says – and that ethos has helped make GoCars Luton's largest taxi and private hire service.

With its roots in two well–established family firms that merged 15 years ago, GoCars today boasts over 600 drivers, a versatile fleet (including saloons, people carriers, and wheelchair–accessible vehicles), and a service area that spans local hops, airport runs, and corporate travel.

Digital transformation has been central to the company's success. "People don't necessarily want to talk to a controller anymore," Tyler explains, "so we redeveloped our website and built an app to make bookings as convenient as possible." That focus on customer experience has paid off – with around 70% of fares now paid by card, and 65% of those via the app.

While embracing technology, Tyler is equally committed to his people. A team of 35 fulland part-time staff runs daily operations, ensuring service remains fast and efficient.

And Tyler's already got his eyes on what's next. With major projects like Luton Airport's expansion, the town's stadium regeneration, and the upcoming Universal Studios theme park, he knows these will put even more people on the move. "We're constantly looking at how we can improve convenience and the customer experience," he says, and he is excited by emerging technologies – particularly the role Al could play in revolutionising bookings, route planning, and overall service delivery.

It's not just about growth for GoCars, it's about community too. Having recently joined the Chamber, Tyler wasted no time in getting involved – sponsoring the Summer Reception and providing transport for the SME Bedfordshire Business Awards. "It's like being part of a family – and as a family–run business ourselves, that really resonates."

goluton.com



THE







NEIWORK

We've listened to what emerging talent in our region is asking for: events that feels modern, relaxed and genuinely useful. That's why we've launched The NXTGen Network. A new community built for young professionals in Bedfordshire and beyond to connect, learn and grow together.







WHY NXTGEN AND WHY NOW?

Across our events, we've seen increasing demand for spaces where early-career professionals can make real connections without the pressure of traditional networking. NXTGen answers that need with a programme focused on authentic conversations, practical development and a welcoming, social vibe. Ahead of the incredible investment coming to region over the next decade, we want to make sure local, young talent are ready and hungry to get a piece of the pie!

THE LAUNCH

As you're reading this... We've already kicked things off in style on 21st August at the D'Parys Hotel, Bedford—complete with great food, free drinks and plenty of time to meet like-minded people.

WHO IT'S FOR

NXTGen is designed for young professionals (typically 18–35)—whether you're just getting started in your career or already an experienced networker who wants to build a stronger local circle. This group is a friendly, welcoming space designed to help new networkers combat anxiety and fear, and grow both professionally and personally

POWERED BY PARTNERSHIP

A big thank-you to our Strategic Partner, Aegis Support Services, for helping bring this initiative to life. Their support means we can launch with momentum and deliver a calendar that blends social meetups with skills-building opportunities.

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT

After the launch, NXTGen will host a series of informal, fun networking events, alongside a number of development-focused sessions curated around the needs of our next generation of leaders—from confidence-building and personal branding to practical "how-to" topics suggested by members. (If you've got an idea for a session or speaker, we want to hear it.)

IOIN US

To keep up to date with NXTGen and hear about all our upcoming events

- Contact scott.devine@chamber-business.com or kiahna.mitchell@chamber-business.com
 Join our public LinkedIn Group
- Keep an eye on the Chamber website for all future events
- edfordshire. build something amazing together—right here in Bedfordshire.



2025

Grand Final

THURSDAY 19TH JUNE 2025

RIVERSIDE SUITE, VENUE 360, LUTON

Thursday 19th June marked a milestone celebration for Bedfordshire's business community with the culmination of the SME Bedfordshire Business Awards 2025. The prestigious event honoured excellence across 21 categories, bringing together standout businesses and entrepreneurs for a night of celebration, connection, and recognition.

Held in style, the evening featured a vibrant drinks reception, exquisite fine dining and top-tier entertainment. But beyond the glamour, it was the electric atmosphere, impressive turnout, and powerful networking opportunities that made the night truly unforgettable.















10 | www.chamber-business.com











This year's Overall Winner was...



Congratulations to Biggleswade Dental Centre

Heartfelt Thanks to Our Valued Sponsors

Of course, whilst the awards ceremony celebrated the outstanding achievements of our winners, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the sponsors whose generous support made the entire awards programme and event possible. We extend special thanks to our:

- Headline Sponsor: Essential Workwear
- Platinum Sponsors: Aegis Support Services and Jaltek
- Gold Sponsors: ADA Cosmetics, Austin & Carnley Solicitors, Bartham Group, Foxley Kingham, Liebherr GB, London Luton Airport, Luton Council, Quest Employment, Resourceful People Group, RSP UK, Talk UK Telecom, The Bedford College Group, Wenta, and Wrest Park Business Centre
- Additional thanks go to our Media Sponsor, MK Pulse/Business Times; Print Sponsor, Treacle Factory; and White Wine Sponsor, Warden Abbey Vineyard.

We are truly grateful for the support of each and every one of these organisations. Their contributions not only helped bring the event to life but also play a vital role in recognising and celebrating excellence in our community.

Check out all our Award Winners on the following pages...

Gold Sponsors























Business of the Year (More than 50 Employees)

Early Childhood Partnership

Family Business of the Year

Aden Contracting



Bedford Business of the Year The Kingfisher



Best Enterprising Business Biggleswade Dental Centre



Businessperson of the Year Michelle Crook Reactiv8 The Nation



Central Bedfordshire Business of the Year Osborne Morris and Morgan





Hospitality, Leisure & Tourism Business of the Year Mead Open Farm



High Growth Business of the Year Jenolite



Young Business Person of the Year Harvey Greenwood Greenwood Drones



Stepping Stones



Sustainability Award **Red Event Production**



Join the conversation on social media using #SMEBeds

(7) SME Business Awards

SMEAwardsUK in SME Business Awards

thebedfordshirechamber

Headline

in Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

Platinum







Best New Business Letterbox Cocktails



Community Business of the Year **Bedford Blues**



Employer of the Year **ADA Cosmetics**

Business Innovation

Azalea



Entrepreneur of the Year Tracy Fishburn Tracy's Treasured Keepsakes



Luton Business of the Year The Fruit and Veg Man



Not-for-profit Business of the Year Link to Change



Positive Impact Award **Holistic Thinking Holidays**



Gold Sponsors

















EXCELLENCE IN WORKWEAR & PPE



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SIGNPOSTS

40 Years of Transforming Lives in Luton & Dunstable

In 2025, Signposts proudly marks four decades of supporting individuals experiencing homelessness in Luton and Dunstable. What began as a local initiative has evolved into a vital service, providing safe accommodation and tailored support to empower people toward independent living.

Our mission is clear: to help clients reach their full potential by offering innovative solutions, promoting best practices, and fostering dignity and respect. Through our Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) and Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE) approach, we address the underlying causes of homelessness—not just the immediate need for shelter.

With 10 properties across Luton, Dunstable, and Houghton Regis, we offer structured pathways from crisis to stability, supporting up to 148 residents at any time. This commitment is driven by our core values: Respect, Motivation, Togetherness, Harmony, and Inspire.

Over the years, Signposts has spearheaded numerous successful initiatives. We were honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2019, recognising our commitment to the community. As a founding member of the Luton Homelessness Partnership, we have worked collaboratively to drive systemic change and improve support for those experiencing homelessness. These milestones reflect our dedication to creating lasting impact.



To mark our 40th anniversary, we will celebrate on World Homelessness Day – 10th October 2025, a date that highlights the urgent need for action and awareness. This milestone serves as an opportunity to reflect on our journey, honour those who have shaped Signposts, and reaffirm our commitment to tackling homelessness with compassion and innovation.

As we celebrate, we warmly invite staff, trustees, clients, and supporters—past and present—to join us. Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce members are also welcome to be part of this special occasion-please get in touch if you'd like to attend or find out more information about how you can get involved with our organisation - Renata.Ojuederie@signpostsso.org - 01582 722629 opt 6.

Together, we continue building a future where homelessness is met with compassion, dignity, and support towards lasting



BEDFORD BASED ARK-H HANDLING

wins Warehouse Transformation Award for Sustainability

Ark-H Handling, renowned provider of third-party logistics (3PL) and supply chain solutions, is delighted to announce its recent accolade at the esteemed Warehouse Transformation Awards. The company was honoured for its sustainability efforts, underscoring its ongoing dedication to eco-friendly practices in the logistics industry.

The Warehouse Transformation Awards celebrate individuals and teams who are leading the way in achieving remarkable results in the warehouse and logistics sector during an era of significant transformation.

"Receiving the Warehouse Transformation Award for Sustainability is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our entire team," said Dan Turner, Client Services Director at Ark-H Handling. "In today's dynamic market, sustainable logistics operations are crucial for businesses to meet customer demands efficiently and responsibly. We are thrilled to be recognised for our contributions in this area and look forward to continuing to provide our clients with market leading solutions."

Ark-H Handling specialises in omnichannel order fulfilment, co-packing, kitting and distribution. With a diverse client base, Ark-H is trusted to prioritise customer satisfaction and deliver reliable, cost-effective solutions supported by industry-leading system connectivity. With 35 years of experience, Ark-H has built an outstanding reputation through its adherence to strong values: keen, lean, green and care.

This recognition further highlights the significance of sustainable practices in the logistics sector.

For more, contact: Dan Turner - dant@ark-h.co.uk







BEDFORDSHIRE OPEN DOOR

Celebrates 30 Years and Invites Local Businesses to Help Shape the Future

Bedfordshire Open Door is celebrating 30 years of supporting young people's mental health-and is calling on Bedfordshire businessesy to join them in making the next 30 years even more impactful.

The charity offers free, confidential counselling to young people aged 13-25. Since opening in 1996, it has supported thousands of local young people dealing with anxiety, depression, trauma and other challenges. In the last year alone, the team delivered more than 7,000 counselling sessions to over 1,000 individuals.

Yet demand is rising. Nationally, one in four young people now has a probable mental health condition the highest rate on record. Locally, it's estimated up to 3,800 young people are in need of urgent support.

Faced with this challenge the charity has launched a special anniversary campaign, '30 for 30', which invites people and businesses to help young people in need by raising or donating £30 to mark its 30th anniversary. The funds will go directly toward providing more counselling sessions for young people who would otherwise go unheard.

Ways for businesses to get involved include selecting Bedfordshire Open Door as Charity of the Year. hosting a workplace fundraiser, or attending one of several celebration events-including a special charity ball in February 2026.

Chair of Trustees, Sam Pearce, said: "We're proud of what we've achieved-but we know there's more to do. This is a moment for our whole community to come together. We're hearing some really guirky fundraising ideas. I hope local businesses will join with us in marking our anniversary and helping to make a difference to the lives of young people."

To find out more, visit www.bedfordopendoor.org.uk or donate at https://localgiving.org/charity/bedfordshireopen-door



NT LIVE Comes To The Rufus Centre

The Rufus Centre in Flitwick is going to be part of the incredible National Theatre Live experience from September - bringing the magic of London's iconic theatre straight to audiences in Flitwick.

NT Live captures the energy and emotion of world-class theatre for broadcast in cinemas. Plays at the National Theatre are filmed in front of a live theatre audience, but everything is optimised for the big screen, so it's the next best thing to being

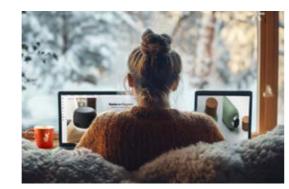
This is a new concept for The Rufus Centre and it believes it will attract a new audience of theatre goers to the venue as there are very few venues in Bedfordshire screening NT Live.

First showing in the critically acclaimed Inter Alia starring the phenomenal Rosamund Pike (Gone Girl, Saltburn) as Jessica, in the gripping new play from the creators of

Future performances include Mrs Warren's Profession and Hamlet.

Tickets are now on sale at therufuscentre.ticketsolve.com





Its the Season of Giving!

As the crisp breeze of autumn begins to roll in and the sparkle of Christmas edges ever closer, it's the perfect time to reflect, reconnect, and... wrap up those all-important staff and client gifts.

In a world where hybrid working and digital fatigue have made personal connection more valuable than ever, a well-chosen branded gift can do more than say thank you — it can remind your people that they matter.

This season, businesses are turning to sustainable, stylish, and useful merchandise to express appreciation and keep their brand top-of-mind. Whether you're looking to reward your team, surprise your clients, or simply spread some festive cheer, we've rounded up some of the most thoughtful and on-trend promotional picks for autumn and Christmas 2025.

Here are some of our Top Autumn/Winter Must-Haves

From frosty morning commutes to gym sessions and cosy office days, our branded water bottles are designed to impress. Durable, stylish, and eco-conscious, these are gifts that will be used all year round — not just during the holidays.



Warm Up with Cosy Custom Socks

Soft, warm, and irresistibly festive — branded socks are making a comeback. Fully customisable with your brand colours, logo, or even a seasonal pattern, they're perfect for winter-themed giveaways, event giveaways, or secret Santa surprises



If you're looking to impress key clients or top-tier staff, look no further than our premium three-piece gift set: - a water bottle, notebook and pen - Elegant, eco-friendly and ready to be branded with your company logo, this gift set is the definition of thoughtful professionalism.

Ready to start your corporate gifting journey?

Contact us today to discuss your ideas, request samples, or receive a tailored gifting proposal.

Email jo@thelittlebrandingcompany.co.uk or call us on 07852 951425 or failing that, why not browse the website below

www.thelittlebrandingcompany.co.uk





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AI AT WORK

From Uncertainty to Opportunity: How Tate is helping businesses embrace the future

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a distant concept -it's here, reshaping how we work, think, and even feel about our roles. But amid the buzzwords and bold predictions, one thing is clear: understanding AI isn't just for tech experts. It's for all of us.

That's the spirit behind a recent session at Tate designed to build confidence, curiosity, and clarity around Al. The goal? To help their consultants have better conversations with customers about how Al is changing the workplace.

The session tackled common myths, like the idea that AI is replacing recruiters. In reality, Al automates tasks, not relationships. Humanled roles like recruitment still rely on trust, judgment, and emotional intelligence - qualities machines can't replicate. Similarly, while Al can support decision-making, it doesn't always get it right. That's why human oversight remains essential.

Tate's goal is to create a culture where learning is continuous, curiosity is encouraged, and everyone feels supported. That's why senior leaders at Tate are actively training their consultant teams on how AI tools can enhance both the client and candidate experience without compromising the human integrity at the heart of consulting. The focus remains on meaningful, in-person relationships and the thoughtful, values-driven approach to selecting and matching talent.

In addition, Tate has created a new guide to AI in the Workplace: From Fear to Buy-In based on internal research, real time experiences and staff training. This guide is designed to support local business owners and managers who are beginning their own AI transition journeys. It offers practical insights into building trust, encouraging adoption,

Al at Work:

From Fear to Buy-In

and using AI in ways that empower people rather than replace them. To receive a complimentary copy, drop Tate a message.

Because in the end, the most important takeaway is this: As a leader you have a role to play. You don't need to be an AI expert. You just need to stay curious, keep learning and educate your people to do the same.

Al is changing work. But with the right mindset, the right support, and the right conversations, we can shape that change together.

Emma Tarbox Emma,tarbox@tate.co.uk



WORKPLACE FIRST AID

A Smart Investment for Every Local Business

Accidents and medical emergencies can happen anywhere-even in the safest looking workplaces. Whether you run a busy café, manage a warehouse, or work in an office, having basic first aid measures can make all the difference when something goes wrong.

UK law requires all employers to assess their first aid needs based on the type of work they do and the size of the team.

In lower-risk settings like offices, retail, or education, it's important to have people responsible for first aid and a properly maintained kit available. In higherrisk workplaces such as manufacturing, construction, laboratories, or lone working these requirements

increase. These environments often require trained first aiders, extra supplies tailored to specific hazards, and access to defibrillators.

Creating a safe working environment means having the right people available and equipped with the skills to respond to an injury or illness. It can help reduce the impact of unexpected incidents and in some cases be lifesaving. Everyone on site should know who the first aiders are and how to get help quickly. A short training course can give staff the confidence to respond in emergencies.

Investing in your team's health, safety and wellbeing builds a workplace culture that cares and is accountable. It's a simple step that can make a big

If you are interested in first aid courses you can find out nore at www.lifelinerescuesolutions.com



Why a School is at a business event?

At Chamber events, I'm often asked: "Why is a school involved and what do you get out of it?" As Careers Lead at Mark Rutherford School, one of my key responsibilities is connecting students with employers and the

One of our most successful initiatives is the Meet an Employer event. Think of it as a slower-paced speed-networking session: employers are seated at tables while small student groups rotate every 10-12 minutes. In an hour, each student speaks with 4-5 different employers. It's a far cry from traditional careers fairs full of freebies, it's structured, purposeful, and relaxed. Students are prepped with questions and reflection sheets, and employers can bring tools or short activities to help break the ice.

Samantha Laycock Harpur Centre Manager said: "The Meet the Employer events which Kath has bespokely designed not only allows local businesses to showcase their requirements, it promotes a safe interaction with students whose engagement and enthusiasm is a credit to their educators."

You don't need to deliver a talk or stand in front of 200 students. Instead, you'll enjoy informal, one-on-one conversations—and our canteen always provides some great snacks! At our last event, discussions ranged from tax deductions to toilet roll budgets, honest, real-world conversations that make an impact.

We're also ramping up work experience opportunities. Alongside our existing Take Your Child to Work and work shadow days, we're looking for businesses willing to host short visits or shadowing sessions, even for a morning or afternoon.

If you can help with any of these events or work experience, or would like to discuss further, please get in touch with me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Remember this is the workforce of the future; it is an opportunity for you to forge links with a local school and create partnerships.

Kath Unwin. Careers Lead. Mark Rutherford School. Tel 01234 290200, email k.unwin@mrus.co.uk







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AMARI

PLASTICS

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WHATEVER YOUR PROJECT, OUR EXPERIENCED TEAM ARE READY TO PROVIDE EXPERT SUPPORT.



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For stunning interiors with limitless design potential.

Strong & sculptural. Perfect for work surfaces. tables, countertops, sinks, wall cladding & more.



Lightweight yet robust, versatile glazing roofing solution.

Easy to handle & install with no specialist tools required. Ideal for home improvement projects.





Hygienic Cladding

Aesthetically pleasing, high-quality & durable hygienic panels.

Easy-to-clean solution with a moisture-resistant & fireproof finish that resists wear & tear.

GET IN TOUCH

Unit 20-22 Kenneth Way, Wilstead Industrial Park, Wixams. Bedfordshire. MK45 3PD



01234 744 840



bd@amariplastics.com

www.amariplastics.com







Harper Luxe Serviced Apartments BEDFORDSHIRE'S PREMIER EXECUTIVE ECO-STAY

Harper Luxe Serviced Apartments offer award-winning, fully accredited executive accommodation in Bedfordshire, ideal for both short and long-term stays. Styled like a boutique hotel, our one-bedroom executive suite and spacious two-bedroom family apartment combine luxury, sustainability, and wellness.

We are the only provider in Bedfordshire accredited by ISAAP-ASAP and Greengage Solutions and proud recipients of a recent sustainability award. Our building holds a Grade C EPC rating, and our eco-conscious design includes rainwater harvesting, 70% preloved furniture, and reclaimed building materials beautifully integrated into our private courtyard.

Each apartment features king or super king beds, air purification systems, biodegradable cleaning essentials, and weekly housekeeping. Guests enjoy free parking, access to gym, and complimentary Pashley bicycle hire to offset carbon emissions. We even plant a mangrove tree for every guest.

Security and service are top-tier, with key fob entry, security gates, a concierge service, and VIP meet-andgreet. With a 4.9-star rating on Google Reviews, our guests consistently praise the quality, comfort, and care

Prices start at £110.00 per night with a minimum stay of 7

Drop us a line to find out how we can assist with your stay. Email: info@harperluxe.co.uk | Phone: +44 7774 110252



Better together.



Better Together

Working together, achieving more

GREENWOOD DRONES

Two Years of Success and **Community Impact**

Clients and Collaborations:

Greenwood Drones has worked with a range of notable clients including Arsenal FC Youth Academy, AG Barr, Thames Water, AE Com and are particularly proud to have supported the development of Luton Town FC's new stadium; our aerial imagery was instrumental in creating 3D renders used in promotional materials and visuals for the stadium.

Local Business Partnerships:

We proudly collaborate with local companies such as Luton-based Shellmar, The Forest of Marston Vale and Milton Keynes-based Frosts Landscapes, providing highquality aerial footage to showcase their projects.

Sponsorship:

We have renewed our sponsorship with MK Lightning for the 2025/26 season, continuing to enhance the fan experience through innovative drone coverage and immersive visuals.

Community and Charity Work:

Greenwood Drones offers free drone services to charities including Sue Ryder, as well as supporting local sports teams and community groups within Bedfordshire.

Education and Outreach:

Through partnerships with Working Options and with schools across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, we have engaged with over 4,000 students to share insights into the drone industry, entrepreneurship, education journeys and innovation. This outreach is inspired by founder Harvey Greenwood's own experiences - he struggled with traditional education (struggling with reading and writing as well as being diagnosed with OCD and Anxiety in the middle of his GCSEs). He still managed to leave education with 9 GCSEs and 3 A-Levels but knew uni wasn't for him. He founded Greenwood Drones through a love for media, creativity and aviation, proving there are many ways to succeed without the need for university. We hope to offer guidance and encouragement to young people who feel the same way or struggle with conventional education.

Awards:

Founder Harvey Greenwood was recently awarded Young Business Person of the Year at the Bedfordshire SME Awards 2025, recognizing his leadership and contribution to the business community. It was also an incredible night to celebrate all the amazing businesses in Bedfordshire.

greenwooddrones.co.uk



Working together, achieving more.



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THE WORDS AND IMAGES

That Sell Your Business's Brand

Ask Simon Fletcher why content is key to every business's marketing success, and the response comes with over 28 years' marketing communications experience behind it: "Content is what shows you to be the trustworthy go-to provider in your field; it gives compelling reasons for people and businesses to come to you for their purchases, rather than go somewhere else."

As a seasoned marketing writer, whose career has included senior communications roles in organisations like Autonomy Corporation and Royal Bank of Scotland WorldPay, as well as in the marketing agency space, Simon knows the value of a good story – and through his business ContentConsult he's determined to help Bedfordshire Chamber's member businesses tell theirs!

A trusted Chamber supplier

But Simon is also a long-standing contributor, through an agency relationship, to the Chamber's own content, having written many pieces for us over a number of years – a role he continues to perform to this day.

"Bedfordshire Chamber is hugely proactive in its content output," he says, "with a real commitment to educate, inform, and inspire, and I am so proud to be part of how such a respected and high-profile brand articulates value to its audience."

Simon's content-writing experience is also multi-sector; he has extensive experience in business-to-business (B2B) environments including technology, cyber security, data backup, construction and building materials, lighting and interiors, fire safety, outsourced financial services, engineering and manufacturing, and many others.

"Every sector has something to fascinate me," he explains, "and every business in those sectors can make effective use of content to push the unique benefits of its products, services, and brand."

"Regularly published and updated content, skilfully written, also gets you found online – it's absolutely crucial to giving the search engines what they're looking for."

What's content anyway?

Simon's main focus is written content – website copy, blogs, thought leadership papers, case studies – nut he's very clear that content has to be visually appealing, too.

He works with graphic designers to create high-quality sales collateral and brochureware, and with videographers to produce professional video, motion graphics, and animation content, which he scripts, acting as a single point of contact on these projects for his clients.

"YouTube has overtaken the Google search box as the most commonly used means of finding content," he explains, "so whilst written content is still immensely valuable, particularly to set out your brand and proposition in greater detail, that sub-one-minute explainer video is often the initial hook that gets you noticed."

"But your messaging must be spot-on. It's very easy to blow a lot of money on video that doesn't hit on your customers' pain points effectively. A properly scripted video is vital."

Drop Simon a line for a chat - info@contentconsult.uk



"Regularly published and updated content, skilfully written, also gets you found online – it's absolutely crucial to giving the search engines what they're looking for."





LUXURY OFFICE SPACE

In The Heart Of Luton Town Centre

Located in the heart of Luton, LUx Offices offers beautifully designed private offices, coworking spaces, and a multimedia meeting room tailored for businesses of all sizes. Whether you're a solo entrepreneur, a growing startup, or an established enterprise, LUx Offices provides the perfect environment to focus, collaborate, and thrive.

Lux Offices is proud to announce the launch of their brand new website – a fresh, modern platform that reflects their commitment to quality, innovation, and the local business community. The new site offers an enhanced user experience, improved navigation, and quick access to:

- Office space availability & pricing
- Booking for multimedia meeting room and coworking spaces
- Virtual office services

Visit www.luxoffices.co.uk to explore the new features and get a glimpse of their beautiful spaces in Luton.

Supporting Local Business

As proud members of the Chamber of Commerce, LUx Offices continues to support and collaborate with local businesses. Their spaces are more than just offices – they're vibrant hubs for networking, productivity, and growth.

Location

Lux Offices, Victory House, Chobham Street, Luton LU1 3BS

To book a tour or inquire about membership, contact the LUx team at info@luxoffices.co.uk or call 01582 487564.





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Bedfordshire Chamber of

Employment Rights

Bill Roadmap: What

 Start reviewing policies now Talk to your people

Employers Need to

✓ Don't panic

@ 0330 332 4024

www.hrdelivered.co.uk

Know

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The Five Point Plan To

TRANSFORM YOUR BUSINESS

Howe To Consultancy is a unique consultancy business which delivers high quality, bespoke and impactful training and support for individuals, teams and organisations. During our initial discussions I will spend the time with you to understand your context, challenges, time frame and required impact.

The Pentagon of Development is Howe To consultancy's framework for working with you. It is built around five key areas of focus: Selfawareness, Strategic Development, Culture, Leadership and Training.

Each of these areas provides a different lens for analysis, identification, planning and action. My work is based around the transformational leadership concept. We will focus on inspiring and developing individuals beyond immediate and short-term goals through the facilitation of discussions on deeper and more long-term challenges and strategic priorities.

Built into my work is a structured approach to evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of your team or organisation. I utilise the Howe To culture and efficiency dashboard to identify the strengths and areas for improvement. This culture dashboard will provide valuable insight into team profile, relationship intelligence (RQ), roles, processes and impact. Through discussion and analysis I will then work with you to understand how your team currently functions, which factors contribute to the team's and organisation's success and where the opportunity and needs for development are.



The Pentagon of Development will provide you with a framework to review, discuss and identify the actions required to improve your organisation's internal structure and effectiveness so that individuals and teams are in a stronger position to meet and exceed your organisation's

If you'd like to discover more please contact me, Bex, at bex.howe@howetoconsultancy.co.uk. Or visit https://www. howetoconsultancy.co.uk/



What Employers Need to Know Now

anticipated Employment Rights Bill is finally here - and while it's still in draft form, it's setting the tone for what's ahead. For employers, now is the time to pay attention.

At its heart, the roadmap outlines proposals aimed at improving

But let's be honest – businesses are already juggling a lot. More regulation might feel like just another hurdle. The key here is to

We recommend three things:

- Start reviewing your policies now especially around flexibility, family-friendly working, and how you use algorithms or automated processes in hiring and performance.
- Talk to your people most changes reflect what good employers are already doing. Don't assume they're fine; ask.
- Don't panic nothing's changing overnight. But this is the direction of travel, and a proactive approach now saves firefighting later.

At a time when attracting and keeping the right people is

If you'd like to chat through what the roadmap means for your organisation, get in touch. We're offering a free 45-minute session to help you stay informed, compliant, and confident as changes unfold - hello@hrdelivered.co.uk

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS BILL ROADMAP

HRDELIVERED

Free 45 minute session to help you stay compliant

The government's newly published roadmap for the long-

clarity, fairness and enforcement around employment rights. It signals change across areas like flexible working, family leave and protections for people in less traditional or more precarious forms of work. The government's intention is clear: bring employment law up to date with the reality of how people work in 2025.

get ahead of the curve, not caught off guard.

tougher than ever, clarity, fairness and flexibility aren't just legal boxes to tick – they're business essentials.



FAYTH HEALTH offers local businesses, families and individuals specialist health insurance advice.

Owned and operated by Steve and Jo Fay, the business has been inspired by their own personal experience in the way they were able to look after their family when they needed it most and now Steve and Jo are dedicated to empowering individuals, families and businesses access private healthcare with confidence, compassion and control. They pride themselves in the support and guidance they offer every step of the way - whether it's full private medical insurance or simple cash plans that help with the cost of routine healthcare such as optical and dental appointments.... and because they pride themselves on long-lasting relationships, customers can be confident their cover remains fit-for-purpose as their needs evolve.

The benefits of specialist advice

Private Medical Insurance is often more complex than insuring your car, house or business - that's why specialist advice can help you make a fully informed decision and get best value for money. By helping to identify and understand complex healthcare needs, a specialist adviser can provide clarity on policy exclusions and claim processes, helping you avoid costly mistakes in the event you need to make a claim.

Why wait?

Whether vou're new to health insurance and would like to find out more, would like to explore ways to get cash back in your pocket toward routine optical and dental expenses or review the cover you may already have in place for you, your family or business, we can help. Contact us for a noobligation chat on any of the channels below:

Telephone: 07983 124873 Email: faythhealth@wpa-hcp.org.uk Web: www.faythhealth.co.uk

RESOURCEFUL PEOPLE GROUP launches the Growth Mirror Guide®



Resourceful People Group (RPG) has unveiled the Growth Mirror Guide® (GMG)—a new, always-available reflection system that helps individuals, teams and organisations pause, make sense of challenges and move forward with clarity. Launched in July 2025, GMG is rooted in psychological safety and designed to be warm, practical and accessible 24/7 (subject to system availability). Early international pre-launch feedback has been highly positive.

At the heart of GMG is "Pip," a conversational guide who meets you where you are. Choose from seven modes—such as coach, critical friend, application helper, sense-making assistant, sparring partner or personal teacher—to get the kind of challenge and support you need in the moment. Each session encourages thoughtful reflection and produces a Reflective Growth Summary to capture insights and next steps, while maintaining confidentiality.

Under the hood, GMG blends proven frameworks and agile thinking: AQai Adaptability, Insights Discovery (alongside MBTI), Reinvention Academy models, SCRUM principles, decision-making and learning cycles, and elements of personal coaching. The result is an iterative, conversational and data-informed companion that delivers tailored prompts, visual metaphors and dynamic models to support genuine behaviour change. It's ideal for organisations building a culture of reflection, professionals seeking selfleadership, and coaches or leaders unlocking team potential.

https://resourcefulpeoplegroup.com/rpg-growth-mirror-guide/ Be part of the first intake and see how the Growth Mirror Guide® can accelerate your growth. Email Steve at stevebotterill@resourcefulpeoplegroup.com to learn more or to set up access.

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BEDFORD AND AMPTHILL NOTARIES

Celebrate Their 120th Anniversary

Bedford and Ampthill Notaries and the two partners in the firm, Anthony Northey and Ian Codrington are proud to be celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the establishment of their Notarial practice and continuing to provide an excellent timely service to all their clients, both commercial business clients and individuals.

Being a specialist purely Notarial business (both partners having practised as Solicitors for many years at Sharmans), they can normally cater for all types of Notarial matters for both Abroad and in the UK and normally at short notice.

They are dealing with an increasing number of requests to deal with HM Land Registry ID1 and ID 2 forms.

On the 12th day of July 1905, Alfred Tresawna Trethewy was granted his Faculty to practice as a Notary, otherwise known as a Notary Public, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, so the 12th of July 2025 marked the 120th Anniversary of the establishment of the Notarial practice, which he established, and which Bedford and Ampthill Notaries carry on today.

This Notarial practice must be one of the oldest outside London and certainly the oldest in Bedfordshire

Bedford and Ampthill Notaries is proud of the consistent high and helpful standard of service provided throughout those 120 years for clients in Bedford, throughout Bedfordshire and beyond. They are more than happy to come to clients' homes or places of business, if necessary.

More details about Bedford and Ampthill Notaries and Notaries generally can be found at bedfordandampthillnotaries.co.uk

So, whenever your business, company or you, as an individual require documentation to be Notarised, please do not hesitate to make contact by telephone to office numbers 01234 794 007 / 01525 40 22 44, or to mobile phones 07860 88 70 54 for Anthony Northey and 07359 25 38 27 for Ian Codrington; or by email to notaries@Palmers.co.uk





As a result of recent research, we have ascertained that our Notarial Practice has been providing Notarial Services in Bedfordshire for 120 years. Our Notarial practice can, in fact, be traced all the way back to 1905, when the late Alfred Tresawna Trethewy was granted a Notarial Faculty. The history of our Notarial practice is best illustrated as follows:

Alfred Tresawna Trethewy Faculty issued 12th July 1905 Date of Death 28th February 1929

William Llewellyn Jones Faculty issued 9th August 1929 Date of Death 3rd March 1955

Leonard John Aylett
Faculty issued 5th May 1955
Date of Death 2nd October 1988

William
Sydney Northey
Faculty issued
18th January 1966
President of the
Notaries Society of
England and Wales
1990 - 1992
Date of Death

8th January 2011

Thomas Arthur Barden Faculty issued 25th January 1980 Date of Death 30th October 2018 Stephen Hugh Cook Faculty issued 25th July 1985 Fiona Estelle Gregory Faculty issued 30th October 1995

Our current Notaries Public/Notaries



lan Charles Codrington Faculty issued 11th July 1974

Anthony William
Northey
Faculty issued
22nd January 1978
President of
The Notaries Society
of England and Wales
2009 – 2011





"140m workplace volunteer hours went unused last year."

THE CHARITY TIMES 2024

That's nearly 16,000 years of volunteering, if you volunteered for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year!

Small Acts of Kindness is a registered charity, reducing loneliness and isolation for older and vulnerable people, with a particular interest in helping those who are cold in their homes. We do this by sourcing, packing and distributing 12,000 Warm in Winter gift bags, every winter, containing essential keep warm items and useful information

Thousands of older people sit freezing, struggling to afford to heat their home, feeling isolated and forgotten. Our gift bags provide comfort, warmth and a connection to the community.

Each bag is hand-packed, including a hand-written message to the recipient, by our amazing volunteers.

If you've been given volunteering hours with your company, please don't let them go to waste. Volunteer to help to pack our Warm in Winter gift bags.

Our sessions are a great team building activity, lots of fun and very rewarding.

"Thank you for such a fantastic time yesterday. By far one of the best organised events I have been to all year. The team were lovely and always on hand checking in with us." - Corporate volunteer

For information or to book your place, via Eventbrite, visit www.smallactsofkindness. co.uk/volunteer-packing. If you can't volunteer, then please donate £35, the cost of a Warm in Winter gift bag, to help keep an older person warm this winter - www. smallactsofkindness.co.uk/warm-this-winter-landing or scan the QR code.



TAYLOR WALTON SOLICITORS

celebrates 35 years serving clients in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire

On 1st July, Taylor Walton Solicitors proudly celebrated its 35th anniversary, marking the merger of two long-established firms, Waltons Solicitors in Luton and Taylor Walker Solicitors in St Albans and Harpenden. While the Taylor Walton name has stood for 35 years, its heritage stretches back much further, rooted in a rich history of legal expertise and service to the community.

Back in 1990 when the merger took place, the business community in the region looked very different and the economy struggled as the UK navigated a recession, high interest rates and the surge in oil prices caused by the first Gulf War. Taylor Walton has grown significantly, now employing over 160 people and serving clients across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Three members of the team who all started with the original firms look back on their time and career since the merger took place:

Dermot Carey, Managing Partner comments: "As we celebrate 35 years as Taylor Walton Solicitors, I feel incredibly proud of how far we have come and excited for where we are going. Having started my career as a trainee at Waltons, I have had the privilege of witnessing our journey first-hand: from the merger of two long-established local firms to becoming the trusted law firm of choice for clients across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire."

"With roots stretching back over half a century, our firm's history is deeply tied to the communities we serve and we continue to uphold the values of personal service, legal excellence and long-term relationships. This anniversary is not only a moment to reflect on our legacy, but a chance to look ahead. We are committed to building on our success and evolving to meet the needs of our clients for many more years to come."

Sue McAvock, Head of Finance comments: "My working life started in October 1988 when I joined as the firm's office junior, in a short space of time I was offered a job in the accounts department, and I never looked back. Taylor Walton was supportive of me wanting to progress. Over the years I have progressed to running the day-to-day operations of the accounts department, and picked up the nickname of Super Sue, and was known for having a very good memory. I have always felt Taylor Walton is a good firm to work for and always felt supported in my progression."

Brendan Cahill, Conveyancer comments: "Over the years, the greatest transformation I have witnessed at Taylor Walton has been our ability to evolve, particularly in response to changing technologies and client needs. When I received my first desktop computer, there were jokes that it might become the firm's most expensive paperweight! Yet, with the support of a patient IT team and a helpful secretary, I quickly adapted and so did the firm. Our willingness to embrace change, coupled with the privilege of working alongside genuinely good people, has been a defining part of Taylor Walton's journey and a key reason for my long and fulfilling career here."

tavlorwalton.co.uk

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Member PROFILES



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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

BDC

MERCHANDISE

A&A Legacy Travel

- Elena Mihailov
- ≥ elena@aalegacytravel.co.uk
- aalegacytravel.com

At A&A Legacy Travel, we don't just plan holidays—we curate once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Specialising in the Indian Ocean and French Polynesia, we craft tailor-made escapes across the globe. With concierge support, ABTA/ ATOL protection, and a belief that no dream is too bold, your journey begins with us.

Engreco Group Ltd (t/a Engreco Healthcare)

- Anna Veli
- 07568 338611
- engreco.co.uk

Engreco Healthcare is a family-run prosthetic clinic and dental laboratory delivering bespoke dental, facial, and body prostheses. Combining digital innovation with artisan craftsmanship, we restore confidence and function through personalised care, and clinical excellence, for those suffering facial and body loss due to cancer, trauma, and congenital conditions.



GUARDFORCE

Biggleswade Dental Centre

- Dr Hema Dhingra
- 01767 660555
- info⊚biggleswadedentalcentre.co.uk
- biggleswadedentalcentre.co.uk

Biggleswade Dental Centre is one of Bedfordshire's highest-rated practices, offering expert general, specialist, and referral dental services. Serving the entire county, we combine state-of-the-art technology with compassionate, patient-focused care. From routine check-ups to advanced treatments, our experienced team is dedicated to delivering excellence at every stage of your dental journey.

Event Production

- ≥ hello@fabtronic.co.uk

Fabtronic Group

- Kerry Dunkley
- 01604 638100
- ▶ fabtronic.co.uk

Fabtronic delivers premium sound, lighting, and AV solutions for conferences, awards, brand activations, and streamed events. As a trusted partner for event production and AV installations, we ensure exceptional service and resounding success for your business in Bedford. Visit www.fabtronic.co.uk.

Border Engineering

- Stirling Beer
- 01582 415933
- ✓ office@borderengineering.co.uk
- borderengineering.co.uk

Border Engineering, established in Luton in 1987, specialises in prototype and production sheet metal engineering-including CNC laser cutting, forming, fabrication, tube manipulation, and machining. Certified to ISO 9001, 14001, and 45001, we value partnership, go the extra mile, and are committed to quality, precision, and lasting client relationships.

Guardforce Security Services

guardforce-security.com

reliable security solutions across commercial, construction, and corporate sectors. With a focus on safety, integrity, and client satisfaction, we specialise in manned guarding, mobile patrols, and keyholding services tailored to the individual needs of our partners. Our experienced team ensures elite protection and peace of mind around the clock.

Creative Merchandise Ltd

- Emma Smith
- emma@creativemerchandise.co.uk
- creativemerchandise.co.uk

We provide corporate and promotional merchandise to promote your organisation. As a local business, we offer exceptional customer service, competitive pricing and a single point of contact from start to finish. We work with companies of all sizes to deliver quality products to help your brand stand out.

0330 999 0039

- ✓ enquiries@guardforce-security.com

Guardforce Security Services provides professional and

Lubron UK Ltd

- Mark Hadaway
- 07917170266

Lubron are a Water Treatment Equipment Manufacturer and Service Provider. We specialise in water softening, Reverse Osmosis and water filtration. We cover the entire UK, with offices in Colchester, Warrington and Livingston, Scotland. We manufacture our equipment in Holland. We work extensively in Healthcare, Food and Beverage, Data Centres and Industry.

Prime Atlantic Group (Factotum / Bedford electrical)

- Roger Koukkoullis

We are a small group of ISO accredited companies offering complimenting commercial construction services. Fit outs, CAT A & B, dilapidations, mechanical, electrical (installation, upgrades, testing, commissioning), data & audio-visual installations, EV charging & civils, PA, security, CCTV, alarms and intruder services and numerous outdoor workspace services (not exhaustive).

- 01234 766665 | 07838 955558
- primeatlantic.co.uk

Reactiv8 The Nation Limited

- Michelle Crook
- 01234 982068 07966 685530
- michelle@reactiv8.org.uk | iamgr8@reactiv8.org.uk
- reactiv8.org.uk iamgr8.co.uk

Reactiv8 empowers businesses and individuals through tailored solutions that drive growth, resilience, and transformation. Our "I Am GR8" platform inspires purpose, mindset, and action—re-igniting potential from the inside out. We help teams and people reset, refocus, and Reactiv8 their GR8ness to achieve lasting success and wellbeing.

making marketing simple and accessible.

The OLLIE Foundation

Chris Sibley

PRIME ATLANTIC

LITTLE

MARKETING

- 07740 512397
- chris@theolliefoundation.org
- theolliefoundation.org

The OLLIE Foundation was launched in 2016 by three parents who, having each lost a teenage son to suicide, pledged to prevent such losses for other families. OLLIE is devoted to empowering individuals and organisations to reduce suicide in their communities through education, intervention and prevention. By providing the right support and knowledge, we're confident in our ability and yours to create positive change and save lives because... One Life Lost Is Enough

Wigram Drones

- Marcus Hil
- info@wigramdrones.com
- wigramdrones.com



We are a Bedfordshire based drone operator, offering a range of high-quality services to both businesses and individuals. Our services include capturing stunning aerial photography and aerial videography, conducting efficient site or roof inspections and creating 360-degree panoramic photos. Elevate your business with Wigram Drones.

The Little Marketing Company

- Lauren Troiano
- ☑ lauren@thelittlemarketingcompany.org
- thelittlemarketingcompany.org

The Little Marketing Company supports small businesses with their marketing - because no one can be an expert at everything! Lauren is the marketing best friend you've never had offering strategic support to help small businesses thrive through tailored support in branding and marketing strategy,



 mark.hadaway⊚lubron.co.uk lubron.co.uk

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New MEMBERS



Member INTERVIEW

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

Active 9 Ltd

active9.co.uk

Professional web design and development

AGMS Independent Energy

Solar panel and battery storage installers

Barton Petroleum Limited

Family owned fuel distribution company, supplying renewable diesel, agricultural fuel, domestic and industrial heating oil, we also supply lubricants and Ad-blue.

Bedford Town Football Club

pitchero.com/clubs

bedfordtownfootballclub

National League North Football Club based in Bedford

Bedfordshire Care Group Ltd

Care group supporting providers in Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes

Biggleswade Dental Centre

biggleswadedentalcentre.co.uk

From routine to specialist care. Award winning practice

Border Engineering Limited

borderengineering.co.uk

Specialising in prototype and production sheet metal engineering including CNC laser cutting, CNC forming, welded fabrications, CNC tube manipulation and machining working to ISO9001:2015 quality standards.

Capital Sky Ltd

Construction of commercial and domestic

buildings, demolition, remedial works and environmentally responsible waste management

Centre for Domestic Abuse

centrefordomesticabuse.co.ul

We are a Community Interest Company dedicated to assisting individuals affected by domestic abuse or made. Our mission is to provide swift, compassionate, and effective assistance in securing protective injunctions giving victims a powerful voice, a sense of security, and the foundation to rebuild their lives with dignity and confidence. vulnerable by the breakdown of a relationship.

Concept Event Solutions

One of the UK's leading corporate event management companies. Whether you are celebrating a company milestone, have your annual AGM or are launching a new product our expert team will offer expert solutions that engage, captivate, and wow audiences.

ContentConsult

At ContentConsult, your content is our business! Whether it's blogs, articles, thought leadership, case studies, video scripts, brochures and sales collateral, or marketing words in any other form, we deliver it for you so you can get on with your core business! Get that content work off your desk and onto ours today! info@contentconsult.uk / 01234 604313 / 07983 563032

Creative Merchandise Ltd

creativemerchandise.co.ul

With over 20 years of experience and expertise, Creative Merchandise is well equipped to source all your promotional products and corporate gifts. Offering a selection of great value advertising specialties, without compromising on price and service.

Engreco Group Ltd

Private Prosthetic Clinic - Specialists in Oral, Facial and Body Prosthetic

F P M Facility Services Ltd

Building Refurbishment / Maintenance -Electrical Services - Mechanical Services

Fabtronic

fabtronic.co.uk

Specialise in delivering exceptional event production services and cutting-edge audio visual installations to bring spaces and events to life.

Fire Nest

fire-nest.com

Fire Nest Creative Studio offers arts and crafts workshops in Bedford, including pottery painting, pottery making classes, candle making workshops, glass fusing experiences, and lots more.

FS1 Recruitment Ltd

fs1recruitment.com

FS1 Recruitment have developed an unparalleled reputation in the supply of permanent, temporary and contract staff to a variety of sectors including, but not limited to, marketing, creative, PR, digital, HR, accounting and finance, business support, commercial and sales.

Graffit Ltd

A family owned business that employs a diverse team of design production and installation experts.

Guardforce Security Services Ltd

guardforce-security.com

Guardforce Security Services Limited take pride in the vast range of services we can

IC Works Ltd

easy-read-documents.com

Easy Read co-production service gives you the confidence that your Easy Read documents are fully accessible to people with a learning disability and autistic people. We also specialise in co-producing interactive PDFs, accessible videos and webpages. Working with our partners, we can also provide British Sign Language videos, Braille, and spoken word audio

Icaresofttech Solutions UK Ltd

icaresoftware.co.uk

Building Your Complex Software Vision, Endto-End

Lubron UK

We provide bespoke end-to-end pure water solutions for any requirement.

Luffships Buoyant Aircraft Ltd

Development of buoyant aircraft (aerostats and airships) that use lighter-than-air (LTA)

Magpas Air Ambulance

Air Ambulance - pre-hospital emergency

Opus Restructuring & Insolvency opusllp.com/milton-keynes-insolvency-

Assisting businesses and individuals to take command and gain control of financial and operational challenges that are being faced as well as supporting change and growth opportunities.

Parkhill Associates

practitioner

Providing Consultancy and training in sales, sales management, customer service and

Platinum People Solutions

platinum-people.co.uk

Practical, people-first and operational solutions that drive real change. Helping businesses take a step back, see the bigger picture, and find better ways to work - through thoughtful, practical people

solutions that create lasting impact.

Wigram Drones

wigramdrones.com

We are your Bedfordshire based reliable drone operator, offering a range of high quality services to both businesses and individuals. Our services include capturing stunning aerial photography and aerial videography, conducting efficient site or roof inspections and creating 360 degree panoramic photos.

Prime Atlantic Group

primeatlantic.co.uk

We are a medium-sized group of ISO accredited, complimenting businesses, offering commercial construction services and we recognise climate change as the greatest challenge of our time, embracing our part as a responsible business. Commercial services include, but are not limited to, site set up & CDM management, comprehensive fit out services, CAT A & CAT B refurbishments, dilapidations, mechanical services, racking, mezz floors, electrical services, data installations, audio-visual (AV), electric vehicle charging (EV), warehouse public announcement (PA) systems, CCTV, alarms & intruder services.

reactiv8

reactiv8.org.uk

Reactiv8 believe in the power of personal and professional growth. Our innovative programmes challenge norms, reshape mindsets, and empower individuals and organisations to reach new heights. From dynamic corporate training to alternative education, life-changing initiatives in custody, and a diverse team with expertise spanning sports, martial arts, military, and education - Reactiv8 is your dedicated partner on the journey to excellence. Explore our transformative offerings tailored just for you and embark on a path of empowerment, achievement, and lasting success.

Reality HR

realityhr.co.uk

HR Consultants who support business success

Red Event Production

redeventproduction.co.uk

Audio visual event production, here to amplify your vision with state-of-the-art expertise, equipment, and technical support.

Strand PR

strand-pr.co.uk

Whether it's PR or social media, we have in-house experts to develop a personalised strategy for you. One size does NOT fit all and we have the flexibility to provide a single service or an ongoing marketing solution.

The Little Marketing Company

Supporting small, independent businesses with their marketing.

Vision Recruitment Group

vr-group.co.uk/

Specialists in every aspect of construction recruitment. Working collaboratively with you to ensure that you achieve your vision.

Smiles All Around BIGGLESWADE DENTAL CENTRE

Dr. Hema Dhingra knows that successful businesses are built on more than just ambition - they're rooted in community, compassion, and a clear vision. As Principal Dentist and owner of Biggleswade Dental Centre, she has led a transformation that's turned a local practice into one of the region's most respected clinical hubs.

That journey recently earned them top honours at the 2025 SME Bedfordshire Business Awards, where they were named overall winners. "We were just blown away," says Hema. "To be recognised among such impressive local businesses was an incredible moment."

Since taking sole ownership in 2021, Hema has grown the team from three to 16 dentists, invested in cutting-edge technology, and rebranded the practice into a true destination for dentistry. Today, Biggleswade Dental Centre is a fully modern, multispecialist clinic offering everything from routine check-ups to advanced procedures like implants, Invisalign, and sedation services.

Accessibility is central to their approach, too. The practice is purpose-built, wheelchair-friendly, and just five minutes from the train station, with on-site parking. "We've worked hard to make the whole patient journey seamless and stress-free,"

Their efforts are paying off. In addition to their recent SME Bedfordshire Business Awards triumph, the practice has also earned finalist spots in the prestigious Private Dentistry Awards. These include a highly commended award for Most Improved Practice in the South East, and recognition for Best Patient Care and Team of the Year, reinforcing the centre's commitment to clinical excellence and compassionate service.

But it's not just clinical excellence that defines them. Community is at the heart of everything they do. From dental recycling schemes and local art trails, to fundraising for charities like KidsOut, Samaritans, and food banks, the team is always giving back. This September, six members are tackling the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge to raise further funds for KidsOut.

Recently joined as Chamber members, Hema says the connection has been both energising and supportive. "Being a business owner can be isolating. The Chamber offers a space where we celebrate each other's wins, share knowledge, and grow

Biggleswade Dental Centre isn't just creating smiles—they're redefining what a dental practice can be.

> To learn more about Biggleswade Dental Centre, visit www.biggleswadedentalcentre.co.uk



Christmas 2025

Worderland

Join us this Christmas at The Conservatory for a magical night of dining, dancing and celebrations.

EVENT DATES

Thursday 11th December 2025 Friday 12th December 2025 Saturday 13th December 2025 EXCLUSIVE HIRE ALSO AVAILABLE

Tickets £85 +VAT

PLEASE NOTE WE ARE NOT RUN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LUTON HOO HOTEL