Business FOCUS

Better Together

Working together, achieving more

Official Magazine of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

AYLOR

Summer 2024

SPORING AEADORIES Celebrating the Inaugural Bedfordshire

Celebrating the maugural Bedlordshire Chamber Phil Neary Cup Competition



Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

Discover more at www.chamber-business.com



Your Health, Safety and HR partner.

THSP are a people-first Bedford-based consultancy with 30 years of experience and a hands-on approach to compliance matters.

No matter what you need, THSP's Health & Safety and HR & Employment Law consultants will support you from advice to audits, give assistance with policies and procedures, and provide you with the tools to help you drive business success.

Need help with Health & Safety or HR matters? Start your journey to a safer and more engaged workforce today with £100 off your first year or support with THSP. Contact us and quote the voucher reference below.

thsp.co.uk | 03456 122 144 | enquiries@thsp.co.uk

Chamber2024 Reference

THSP Voucher

£100

THSP

This voucher entitles the receiving company to redeem the amount listed against new orders of THSP's annual retained Health and Safety and/or HR & Employment Law services, site visiting or in-house training services. Voucher cannot be exchanged for cash. Terms & Conditions apply. Valid until 31 December 2024. Voucher can only be used once per company.



Business FOCUS

Official Magazine of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

Our Partners



Editor

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

Design and Print

Treacle Factory 01582 416171 www.treaclefactory.co.uk

Cover Photograph Duncan Jack Photography

© Copyright 2024 Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce Hart House Business Centre, Kimpton Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 0LB 01582 522448

Business Focus is an open forum for members of the Chamber. Your news, views, features and other items for possible inclusion are most welcome.

Views in Business Focus are not necessarily those of the Chamber, the publishers, their staff or associates.

While every care has been taken in compiling this publication, and the statements contained herin are believed to be correct, the publishers and the promoters will not accept responsibility for any inaccuracies. Reproduction of any part of this publication without express permission from the publishers is strictly prohibited.

Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce and the publishers make no recommendation in respect of any of the advertisers and no recommendation may be implied by way of the presence of their advertisement.

Welcome

...to the summer edition of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce Business Focus Magazine.

This summer marks a significant milestone for us: our first year leading on the SME Bedfordshire Business Awards saw us receive the highest number of entries ever recorded. It's a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit and unwavering determination that define our region's small and medium-sized enterprises.

The passion and dedication showcased by the finalists have been nothing short of extraordinary. Stories of perseverance, creativity, and unwavering commitment serve as a powerful reminder of the impact that businesses can have on our communities and beyond. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the finalists and look forward to what will be a fantastic finals evening for everyone.

During quarter one, and in collaboration with Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce, we hosted a series of skills roundtables, fostering meaningful dialogue between local colleges and leaders in logistics, digital, green skills, and healthcare. These interactive sessions provided a platform for addressing key challenges, identifying emerging trends, and collectively addressing how we bridge the skills gaps between education and the needs of local employers. There is still much to be done, but I have never witnessed such a level of determination to close the gap!

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Huw Pill, Chief Economist at the Bank of England, who provided an invaluable perspective for our members in May. It's all part of our work to ensure members are being heard at the very highest levels of decision making in the UK.

Together, we will shape a better, more prosperous future.

#workingtogether #achievingmore

Justin Richardson

Chief Executive Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce



Contents

- 04 Chairman's VIEW Richard Cooper, Chairman of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce
- 05 Chamber NEWS & EVENTS Recent developments and events
- 07 Quarterly Economic SURVEY
- 09 SME Bedfordshire BUSINESS AWARDS Highlighting our Headline & Platinum Sponsors
- 12 Member NEWS Bedfordshire Chamber members share their news and developments
- 20 New MEMBERS New businesses that have joined Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce
- 22 Member PROFILES Learn more about our recently joined members www.chamber-business.com | 03

Chamber NEWS



Richard Cooper Chairman of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

⁶⁶ In times of challenging business conditions, it's important to constantly review the performance of all elements of your business. ??

The Chairman's VIEW

'Hope is not a strategy' – this is a phrase we hear often in business.

But equally, the 'green light thinking' of optimism has its role to play - and as someone who looks for optimistic outlooks in both life and business, I have to say I'm seeing more than just a glimmer of the hope on the horizon at the moment.

The UK's recession stint appears to have been short-lived, and although economic growth is expected to be weak, it will probably be stronger than originally forecast.

But let me be clear, optimism must be tempered with realism. And currently, the reality is that inflation, high interest rates, skills shortages, material price rises, and supply chain disruption are placing huge pressures on businesses large and small (with the smaller ones often getting hit hardest).

So, when you've tried optimism and realism, where do you go next?

The answer is in this saying: 'To measure is to know.' In times of challenging business conditions, it's important to constantly review the performance of all elements of your business. Keep close to your suppliers, too - they're under similar pressures to you. Analyse your sales and what's happening in the market, including customer trends and pricing.

And remember, the Chamber team is here to help, waiting to give advice and point you in the right direction.

Now keep an eye on that horizon...

Richard Cooper



Better Together

Working together, achieving more



2024 Engineering BURSARY AWAR

This year we celebrated 15 years of the Engineering Bursary Award. Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce were pleased to work together again with David Sheridan of Veruth Holdings. The bursary of £15,000 is awarded to a Luton student who is going on to university to study engineering.

Luton Sixth Form College hosted the award ceremony on the morning of Thursday 2nd May. The presentation was attended by judges, students and representatives from Luton Sixth Form and Cardinal Newman Catholic School. This year's winner was Ismail Hakeem Essippu from Luton Sixth Form College.

Ismail, former Challney High School for Boys student said: "Thanks for giving me this opportunity. I haven't decided yet on the university I'm going to, it's between the University of Bristol, the University of Bath and the University of Birmingham, and it's going to be for aerospace engineering."

David Sheridan said: "We are now in our 15th year and the standard of the entries was once again very high and I'm absolutely delighted at the continued success of the students. Congratulations Ismail."







Have You Considered **OFFERING YOUR PRODUCT OR SERVICE WORLDWIDE?**

Are you ready to expand your business horizons and explore lucrative opportunities in international markets? As a local business owner in Central Bedfordshire, you already possess the drive and ambition to take your business to new heights.

In our commitment to supporting local businesses with expansion into exporting opportunities, we are proud to announce an innovative initiative offering digital marketing expertise to all businesses in Central Bedfordshire looking to export their products and services anywhere in the world.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to propel your business onto the global stage and achieve unparalleled growth.

With our exclusive initiative, in partnership with SF Digital, you have the chance to unlock the full potential of your products or services for export.

Our tailored Marketing Audit and Action Blueprint will provide invaluable insights and strategies to help you get clients from overseas and grow your business.

To find out more visit: export.chamber-business.com/apply





HONOURING PHIL NEARY: A Night of Football

We recently hosted the inaugural Chamber Football Tournament in memory of the one and only Phil Neary. This event brought together local businesses for an evening of friendly(ish!) competition. A special thank you goes to Scott Devine for not only organising the competition but also bravely taking on the role of referee. Your efforts were crucial to the tournament's success. We also extend our thanks to Duncan Jack for capturing the essence of the event through his lens, despite the challenging weather conditions, and to Bedfordshire FA for generously hosting us at the Cranfield Pavilion. The tournament featured remarkable performances from several teams, including Hannah Solicitors, Talk UK Telecom, Kirkby Diamond, Taylor Walton LLP, and Highpoint Construction. Each team showcased their skills and sportsmanship, making the event a true celebration of community spirit. Congratulations to Hannah Solicitors for winning the very first Phil Neary Cup. Here's to next year's tournament.



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 2024:



Members SUMMER RECEPTION

19th June 2024 | 5pm to 7pm Forest Centre, Marton Moretaine Members ONLY event – Free of charge





LB Networking MORNING

10th July 2024 | 10am to 12 noon Brooklands Residents Assoc., Leighton Buzzard Free of Charge Event In partnership with









Connect OVER COFFEE

13th August 2024 | 9.30am to 11am Amazon, Dunstable Members: Free of Charge Non-Members: £25 + VAT

The Sundown

4th September 2024 | 4.30pm – 6.30pm Talk UK Telecom, Luton Members: Free of Charge Non-Members: £25 + VAT

Health & Safety LUNCH & LEARN

24th September 2024 | 12 noon – 2pm THSP, Bedford Free of Charge Event Kindly sponsored by



Kindly sponsored by



Kindly sponsored by



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



Better Together

Working together, achieving more

Seconomic 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 for the economic climate for businesses in Bedfordshire and beyond.

Our latest results have been published and the outcome for Q1 2024 saw mixed results across all indicators with:

Nearly a quarter (23%) of respondents saw a contraction in domestic sales, with 1 in 5 (21%) exporters seeing overseas sales fall in the period

Overall, 13% of local companies reported an increase in plant/machinery investment in the past three months, 70% reported no change and 17% reported a decrease

Labour costs, inflation, and interest rates emerged as the most concerning factors for businesses, weighing heavily on their ability to invest

54% of firms looking to recruit in the final quarter of the year experienced difficulties finding the right people

Two-thirds of respondents expressed optimism, believing that turnover will improve over the next 12 months, compared to only 10% who anticipate a reduction in turnover during this period

Cashflow for local businesses was impacted with only 16% of respondents seeing an improvement in the period and one in three seeing a decrease in cash

The Bottom Line

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

"Our results are a timely reminder of the challenges businesses are facing across the UK.

"We desperately need to see SMEs investing again. Government moves on rate relief, planning reform and full expensing are welcome – but they haven't yet shifted the dial.

"The recent rise in the national living wage is good news for millions of employees. But it comes at a time when labour costs pressures for business are already very high. Firms need room to breathe as they strive to pay staff fairly.

"In this election year it's vital that politicians remain laser focused on helping businesses invest, develop and grow. We encourage all parties to study our findings and understand the reality for SMEs in communities up and down the country."



Shevaun Haviland Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce



Highlighting our **Headline and Platinum Sponsors**



Headline Sponsor Unisnacks

Positive impact in the local community

In 2006, CEO Hyder Haniffa envisioned Unisnacks to – as he puts it – "bring some excitement into the snack business by putting East Asian food in your corner shops, not just speciality stores. Global foods, locally!"

Some 17 years on, the overarching principle behind Unisnacks' success has been Hyder's conviction that "The supplier is king."

"You need to buy right to sell right," he says. "We needed to create distribution cost efficiencies that would enable a competitive offering of brands distributed to local trade by Unisnacks, whilst ensuring above-average margins for wholesalers and retailers, and the best value for consumers."

Those efficiencies came from innovative technology – in its latest guise, operating on an enterprise resource planning (ERP) platform in a fully integrated, bespoke warehouse, driven by a warehouse management system (WMS), and powered by artificial intelligence (AI).

On why Unisnacks has sponsored the Awards, Hyder says that "the greater purpose of our business is to make a positive impact on people connected to our business – and supporting the Awards brings that positive impact right back into the local community."

"For us, it's not just about giving something back, it's also about making it really count."



Platinum Sponsor Aegis Support Services

Supporting businesses like ours in the county

Aegis prides itself on being a one-stop-shop for all manner of services that protect people, buildings, and assets – from security and facilities management to hygiene and training, and much more besides.

In fact, the company delivers exactly what its name means – an overarching shield that provides cover for all beneath it, whether it's in commercial buildings, apartment blocks, education sector properties, or other sites.

One of the company's key differentiators is its training capability. CEO Qadeer Qureshi says: "We started out in security and security training, and we've grown the training arm very strongly to include up-to-the-minute skills and knowledge our customers need to protect themselves, like GDPR."

When we ask Qadeer about the Bedfordshire SME Business Awards and his company's decision to become a Platinum Sponsor, the response is heartfelt.

"When we look at the SMEs that these Awards help to publicise, we say to ourselves 'That was, and still is, us', and we want to make sure they, like us, know we have this in our county, and urge them to enter."

"Being a Platinum Partner gives us the platform and channels to achieve this, and to build some valuable relationships along the way."

aegissupportservices.com

unisnacks.co.uk

The 2024 SME Bedfordshire Business Awards provide local businesses a platform to have their successes recognised and achievements celebrated, and we are delighted to have been inundated with entries for this year's Awards.

As anticipation builds for the Awards Ceremony on 4th July at The Bedford Corn Exchange, we are thrilled to showcase our headline and platinum sponsors, who are instrumental in making this celebration of excellence possible.



Platinum Sponsor Jaltek

Making local businesses feel proud of what they do

Luton-based electronics specialist Jaltek recently experienced its best year yet in both its Design and Manufacturing divisions, with significant growth across Aerospace, Medical, and Cleantech markets, and some important new academic and industry alliances.

At the same time, Jaltek is stepping up activities to support the development of an Engineering and Manufacturing Cluster in the region. This central resource will enable companies in this sector to share ideas, expertise, and opportunities, but will also generate valuable data that will make it possible for the Cluster, supported by the councils and Beds Chamber, to, as Steve puts it, "support, and take the pulse of, local business."

And Jaltek's commitment to the evolution and prosperity of Luton is as resolute as ever. Stephen says: "We are involved in supporting both the Luton Rising and Step Forward Luton programmes, and increasing our social responsibility activities apace."

Speaking of Jaltek's platinum sponsorship of the Awards, Stephen enthuses that it will "bang a drum for Luton" - a goal he says the Chamber is "completely culturally aligned with".

"It is great that people feel proud of what they do, and the town and county they do it in," he continues. "And that's why we're super-excited about these awards!"

jaltek.com



Platinum Sponsor Wenta

Celebrating enterprise and sustainability

Currently celebrating its 40th year, social enterprise Wenta is a remarkable resource for anybody considering starting a business, already running a business, or looking to grow their business.

Dispensing free, impartial business advice, CPD-accredited skills training, templates and toolkits, accompanied by free hotdesking facilities, and access to early-stage business growth support and funding, Wenta is the helping hand every new and aspiring small business needs to know about.

But Wenta's Director of Client Services and Engagement Jennifer Condon explains that help is also about just being able to pick up the phone and ask "How do I do this?" and get a willing, knowledgeable, helpful response.

Wenta's sponsorship of the SME Bedfordshire Business Awards reflects two of its passions. Firstly, encouraging aspiring business owners and founders to, as Jennifer puts it, "follow their dream", and. secondly, supporting businesses to reduce or remove harmful impacts their products or services might otherwise have on the environment, but in a way that also benefits the business.

To this end, Wenta is sponsoring both the Best Enterprising Business Award and Action Zero Sustainability Award.

"We're delighted to support such a high-profile awards programme for local business," says Jennifer. "There's nothing better than seeing the kinds of businesses we help every day receiving public recognition for their hardearned success."

wenta.co.uk



We optimise costs and create opportunities, without any financial risk for you



value through insight™

ERA Group partners with business leaders to tackle their challenges and illuminate their greatest opportunities hidden within their cost base.

ERA has been a pioneer in business strategy and cost optimisation since 1992. Today, we help clients validate, improve processes and turn insight into opportunities enabling organizations to grow, build competitive advantage, and drive bottom-line impact. Built on transparency and trust.

As a global team of strategists and implementation experts, ERA brings deep industry and functional expertise and a range of perspectives to spark change. Successfully delivering results for clients in all sectors, including Manufacturing, Logistics, Education, Not-for-profit, Professional Services and Healthcare.

Your local partner, **Kevin Davies**, would be delighted to have a discussion to see where we can bring value to you and your business.



Kevin Davies ERA Group Local Partner

🖂 kdavies@eragroup.com 🐧 +44 7721506127

eragroup.com







GREENWOOD DRONES are Cleared for Take Off!

Hello, my name is Harvey Greenwood and I am the proud founder and proprietor of Greenwood Drones, your local aerial photography and cinematography service. We offer a wide range of drone services to both domestic and commercial clients throughout the three counties and beyond.

I have lived in Bedfordshire for the majority of my life and currently reside in the small hamlet of Tebworth, a great community which I have been proud to call home for 14 years. I left Harlington Sixth Form in 2021 and in the summer of that year took the opportunity to train and obtain my full license of commercial drone operations from the CAA and thus, my business was born.

At Greenwood Drones, every photography and videography project is personal to us whether it be a small social gathering, a huge festival or a promotional video for your business, we can cater to every clients need and find a cost to fit their budget.

All photography and cinematography is fully edited in house by the business through the guidance of the client to ensure that their content tells the narrative they wish to present. We have worked with schools, sports groups and business throughout Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire to capture the content they wish to create.

Coming from a family who all work in construction, I also saw the possibility of drones within the industry. We utilise their capabilities to perform roofing and property inspections without the need for conventional methods like cherry picker or scaffolding which are costly.

We also provide an all new 3D mapping and rending service of both property and agricultural land, creating 3D imagery of sites photographed which can then be used to find precise measurements of volume, area and length. Landscapers, solar panel installers and property developers are finding the service revolutionary due to how cost and time efficient it is.

Greenwood Drones is a business I am so proud to be the face of. My passion and love for what the business does means every project is exciting and something I cannot wait to create. The possibilities of drones are only just getting started and Greenwood Drones is at the forefront of the industry.

To find out more about what we do visit our website www.greenwooddrones.co.uk or email us at enquiries@greenwooddrones.co.uk

Why you should consider A PENSION FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Many of us don't think about our pensions until we're well-established in our careers. The cost of housing has markedly increased in the last few years, as have interest rates. As a result, many people will end up borrowing into retirement.

It's common for people to sacrifice pension contributions in the short term, at important stages in their life, to maximize their income. This could be for buying a house, paying for school fees, or starting a business.

However, any parent or legal guardian can open a Junior Pension for their child as soon as they're born. Even minors with no income and tax liability can receive tax relief on contributions. You can put up to £2,880 a year into a Junior Pension, and the 20% pension tax relief increases this to £3,600. When it comes to saving, you'll already see greater value for money.

These tax benefits mean that even small, regular contributions can grow substantially over time, giving your child a valuable head start on their retirement savings. Additionally, no access until retirement age means the funds are guaranteed to remain invested, ensuring the benefits of longterm growth are fully utilised.

We often think very short-term when it comes to saving, even for our children's future. But taking a long-term view and making use of these small incremental benefits can make all the difference to you and your family.

Take the first step towards securing your child's financial future. Contact us today to explore how Junior Pensions can benefit your family.

Get in touch via nathan.williams@sjpp.co.uk or call 07956 525831 to find out more.







COURTYARD

SAYING GOODBYE!

It's Never Easy!

We understand this can be an emotional time losing a loved one! Choose from our afternoon tea option or finger buffet to gather with your friends and family in a celebration of life.

Funeral Tea - Selection of Finger Sandwiches, Tray Bakes, Tea/Coffee at £16.95 per person

Finger Buffet - Selection of Sandiwches, Savory Items to Include Sausage Rolls, Miniature Pork Pies, Quiche, Vegetable Spring Rolls. Tray Bakes, Tea/Coffee at £24.95 per person

Enquiries

Courtyard Luton Airport

Call 01582 218555 or email reservations@ courtyardlutonairport.com Airport Way Luton, LU2 9LF Marriott.com

Tax is included within the price. Price is based on using our lobby area. Private space may include additional room hire. No soft drinks or alcholic drinks are included in the price, additional drinks can be ordered from the bar. Outside catering is not permitted. Parking is included.



NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL SWITCH OFF:

Ensuring Your Business is Future-Ready

In an era defined by rapid technological advancements, businesses worldwide are facing a pivotal moment: the digital switch off. As traditional communication networks phase out older technologies, organizations must adapt to newer, more efficient solutions to stay competitive in today's digital landscape. Fortunately, Talk UK Telecom is here to help businesses navigate this transition seamlessly.

The Digital Switch Off: What You Need to Know

The digital switch off refers to the gradual decommissioning of legacy communication networks, such as ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) and PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network), in favour of modern, internet-based alternatives like VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) and SIP (Session Initiation Protocol).

For businesses still reliant on legacy systems, the digital switch off presents both challenges and opportunities. While it may require initial investment and adjustment, embracing modern communication technologies can unlock numerous benefits, including cost savings, enhanced flexibility, and improved scalability.

How Talk UK Telecom Can Help

At Talk UK Telecom , we understand the importance of staying ahead of the curve in today's digital age. That's why we're offering a free analysis and report to assess how fit for the future your business is. Our team of experts will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of your current communication infrastructure and provide actionable insights to help you transition to modern, future-proof solutions. Here's how our **free analysis and report** can benefit your business:

1. Assessment of Current Systems: We'll examine your existing communication systems, including hardware, software, and network infrastructure, to identify any outdated or inefficient components.

2. Evaluation of Business Needs: Our experts will work closely with you to understand your unique business requirements and objectives, ensuring that any recommendations align with your goals.

3. Identification of Opportunities: We'll pinpoint opportunities for improvement, such as migrating to cloud-based VoIP solutions, integrating unified communications platforms, or implementing advanced collaboration tools.

4. Cost-Benefit Analysis: We'll provide a detailed cost-benefit analysis to illustrate the potential savings and benefits associated with upgrading to modern communication technologies.

5. Customized Recommendations: Based on our findings, we'll tailor our recommendations to suit your business's specific needs, preferences, and budget constraints.

Don't let the digital switch off catch your business off guard. Take proactive steps to future-proof your communication infrastructure with the help of Talk UK Telecom .

Contact us today to schedule your free analysis and report, and take the first step towards ensuring your business is fit for the future.

www.talkuktelecom.co.uk



Harrisons Accountancy JOURNEY TO NET ZERO

I personally feel very passionate about environmental issues, although not to the extent that I'll superglue myself to the road or anything like that, but it is an important matter for us, our children, and grandchildren.

The Net Zero System that we're trialling gives us categories of usage, such as electricity, travelling to clients and even drinks we use in the office. It's very easy to follow and understand with clear prompts of things for us to consider and enter.

It's a difficult area for many as there is not a starting point. If we all do what we can in our personal and business lives, it all makes a positive impact for our planet and future generations. It could just be turning the heating 1 degree lower, turning it off when you could just wear a jumper or for some people, not just leaving it running all the time. Don't get me wrong, I'm not perfect at this and it's sometimes more comfortable just to do something that's easier than best. Businesses will be taking a bigger part in carbon reporting and especially accountants as it becomes part of the role to calculate and report for companies.

If you're interested in becoming Net Zero, it's best to get onto it and get the buy in from everyone in your team. We're thankful to AAT for getting us involved and giving us the opportunity to become Net Zero which we're all aiming towards. It's a long road but taking the first step is an important move.

Dan Harrison 01767 312696 harrisonsaccountancy.co.uk



Celebrating Four Awards For SHARNBROOK MILL

Members of Sharnbrook Mill Theatre are still taking a bow after winning four awards at the regional NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) Awards Gala.

The Bedfordshire community theatre group took home three District 2 gongs for two of its sold out 2023 productions. The classic Little Women was awarded Best Drama, and the hit show Evita won Best Musical and the Production Shield for Best Production in the area.

The icing on the cake was when former chairman, Douglas Pope, took centre stage to collect The Councillor's Cup for his leadership of The Mill over the past 43 years.

Doug stood down as chairman at the end of 2022 but is still an active Trustee and supporter.

Barry Thompson, the director of Evita, said: "It has been my privilege to be part of Sharnbrook Mill Theatre over the years and see and experience the work and creativity that maintains this gem of a theatre on the banks of the River Great Ouse.

"Much of this emanates from Doug, whose passion for theatre was rightly recognised with this top accolade.

"The common denominator in any Mill show is the amazing back up and teamwork across the whole production.

"The engraving on The Councillor's Cup, says it all: 'Doug Pope – for being the driving force to turn the Sharnbrook Mill into a thriving theatre" Barry added.

Condoleezza Hankins, 20, whose vision of Little Women was recognised in her directorial debut, said: "I could not be prouder of the team around me, and to my Little Women who shone right from the start."

See the award-winning theatre in action when it presents The Girl on the Train – from 24 to 28 September 2024.

sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk





BOWER HR & BUSINESS HEALTH INSTITUTE:

Empowering Mental Well-being in SMEs

Local company Bower HR Consultancy with their collaboration with the Business Health Institute are transforming small businesses approach to mental wellbeing.

As a partnership they are addressing the critical issues of workplace stress and poor mental health through their Stress Assessment programme.

This versatile programme is a strategic intervention supporting managers with individuals facing declining mental health or returning to work from stress related sickness. It covers stress symptoms, burnout risks, coping abilities, and productivity metrics in work environments.

By providing accurate data and personalised support, the initiative equips managers to comprehend and address individual stressors, fostering a positive culture and enhancing organisational wellness.

The collaboration supports and empowers SMEs to strategically invest in their people. Serena Bower, Bower HR says: "Through expert interventions, we assist organisations in cultivating a dynamic, productive workforce while addressing mental health challenges promptly and effectively".

Jackie Connoughton, Business Health Institutes advises that: "Partnering with us grants SMEs access to top-tier corporate standards and proven methodologies for addressing mental health concerns. Whether it's a one-time requirement or ongoing team support, we're committed to guiding SME organisations towards sustained success".

If you have concerns for mental wellbeing in your organisation, do get in touch – the Stress Assessment initiative is your tool to help maintain great mental wellbeing and productivity in the workplace. By getting in touch you will also receive a free Top Tips Guide for Managers and Leaders: Promoting Mental Wellbeing in the Workplace.

serena@bowerhr.co.uk | bowerhr.co.uk



Better Together

Working together, achieving more

UNLOCKING THE POWER OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING:

Enhancing Product Quality and Reliability

Discover the secrets behind environmental testing and stress analysis techniques, shedding light on how controlled conditions of temperature and humidity can unveil hidden weaknesses in product designs. Delve into the world of climatic chambers, where real-world conditions are replicated to validate and stress-test products, leading to improved quality, reliability, and overall robustness.

Environmental testing is a critical step in ensuring the durability and dependability of manufactured goods across industries like Aerospace, Automotive, Renewable Energy and Storage, Pharmaceuticals, and Electronics. At CVMS Climatic, we stand at the forefront of environmental test equipment design, offering everything from standard Climatic Test Chambers to large-scale Walk-in or Drive-in Environmental Test Facilities.

Our expertise extends beyond mere temperature and humidity control; we simulate various environmental effects such as Low Pressure (Altitude), Solar Radiation, Rainfall, Dust, Pollution, and Corrosive atmospheres. With a focus on combined testing, we tailor solutions to meet diverse environmental testing needs, including vibration and temperature cycling.



Meet the Minds Behind CVMS Climatic:

Joe Hurley, Director: With a wealth of experience in the environmental test industry, Joe's problem-solving skills and passion for innovation drive our commitment to excellence.

Mark Hagger, Director: A seasoned expert in environmental and vibration testing, Mark's leadership ensures the continual evolution of CVMS Climatic's solutions.

Bernice Goldman, Sales and Administration: Integral to our operations, Bernice's expertise ensures seamless coordination and support for our clients.

At CVMS Climatic, our support doesn't end with the sale. We offer expert consultancy and technical support, guiding clients through testing, calibration, and maintenance processes. With chambers available for demonstration and flexible rental options, we empower clients to make informed decisions.

Partner with CVMS Climatic for turnkey projects, on-site management, installation, commissioning, and training. Together, let's elevate your product's reliability and performance through innovative environmental engineering.

#EnvironmentalEngineering #ProductQuality #Reliability #Innovation #CVMSClimatic #ChamberofCommerceUK



TATE RECRUITMENT

Tate Recruitment is a well-known leading office recruitment agency. Please meet award-winning consultants, Hayley Bowgen and Denise Alves, with 15 years' worth of combined experience. They specialise in recruiting office staff for Temporary, Permanent, and FTC Contract positions. Supporting with Junior Administrative roles to Senior posts in the following areas: Sales & Marketing, HR, Finance, IT, Customer Service, EA/PA and Secretarial, Project Management, Procurement & Supply Chain, Compliance, Risk & Governance & Health & Safety, Facilities and more.

Their expertise extends numerous offices across the UK. Renowned for their exceptional service, Tate Recruitment distinguishes itself through its dedication to market knowledge, brand recognition and a seamless candidate attraction process, attracting top talent for your business. Their dedication to excellence and personalized approach, makes them a standout choice in the competitive recruitment landscape.

Choosing Tate Recruitment to support your business with recruitment needs, means selecting a partner dedicated to understanding the intricacies of your industry and the unique requirements of the role. With a proven track record of success and a team of experienced consultants like Hayley Bowgen and Denise Alves, Tate Recruitment offers personalised solutions tailored to your specific goals. We are also able to provide free services for salary surveys and local market knowledge.

If you would like more information about our services, please contact hapley.bowgen@tate.co.uk or denise.alves@tate.co.uk

Working together, achieving more.

LOCAL LAW FIRM

Our experienced Private Client team offer trusted advice on managing your affairs and personal wealth, including Wills, Probate, Trusts, Tax Planning and Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs). We are there to advise and support you through any difficult financial or family issues which may arise.

Your lawyers for life

AUSTIN & CARNLEY

www.austinandcarnley.co.uk
01525 372140
reception@austinandcarnley.co.uk

Other services include:

- Conveyancing
- Family Law
- Employment Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Commercial Property
- Criminal Defence
- Road Traffic

Better Together

Working together, achieving more



CLOUD GEEKS SECURES 5-YEAR CONTRACT

to Revolutionise Bedford Borough Council's Unified Communications

Cloud Geeks, a leading technology solutions provider based in Bedford, is delighted to announce that it has won a prestigious 5-year contract tender to supply and maintain Unified Communications for Bedford Borough Council. This significant achievement marks a pivotal moment for Cloud Geeks, showcasing their expertise in transforming communication systems for local authorities.

The contract involves replacing their existing communication infrastructure of Bedford Borough Council with state-of-the-art Unified Communications technology powered by Avaya. This transition to cloud telephony represents a significant upgrade for the Council, providing enhanced flexibility, scalability, and efficiency in their communication systems.

"This partnership underscores our commitment to providing cutting-edge solutions tailored to the needs of local government institutions like Bedford Borough Council," said Mike laniri, Managing Director of Cloud Geeks. "We are excited to leverage our expertise in cloud-based communication technologies to support the council in achieving its strategic objectives."

The decision by Bedford Borough Council to choose Cloud Geeks as its technology partner underpins the importance of supporting local businesses. By selecting a company deeply rooted in the community, the Council is fostering economic growth and reinforcing the value of partnerships within the region.

The implementation is expected to streamline communication processes, improve productivity, and ultimately enhance the overall efficiency of Bedford Borough Council. Cloud Geeks is fully prepared to meet the unique needs of the council and ensure a seamless transition to the new communications system.

About Cloud Geeks: Cloud Geeks is an award-winning technology solutions provider headquartered in Bedford, specialising in cloud services, unified communications, and innovative IT solutions. With a commitment to excellence, Cloud Geeks delivers cutting-edge technology to empower businesses and organisations throughout the UK.

cloudgeeks.co.uk



THE DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTRE

Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The Disability Resource Centre is marking its 30th anniversary, a significant milestone that reflects on the remarkable progress and positive changes for disabled people over the past three decades. Since its inception in 1994, the charity has been at the forefront of empowering and supporting disabled individuals, advocating for creative solutions to health challenges, and driving meaningful change within communities.

For three decades, The Disability Resource Centre has championed the empowerment and well-being of disabled people. The charity has provided essential support services, including employment support, assistance with benefit applications, and access to disability equipment. It has also spearheaded innovative projects like the free Care Academy training programme and the Carers Central hub for unpaid carers in Luton. Through these efforts, the charity has steadfastly worked towards enhancing the quality of life for disabled individuals.

As it celebrates this landmark anniversary, The Disability Resource Centre is renewing its commitment to its mission of supporting and advocating for disabled people. Despite the progress made, barriers to full participation and inclusion persist, underscoring the ongoing need for the charity's work. Moving forward, the charity's aim is to continue its collaboration with community partners, advocate for everyone affected by disability, and empower disabled people to live fulfilling lives.

drcbeds.org.uk

You Can Help Young People FIND THEIR CAREER PATHWAY



I'm Claire McMaster, proudly Bedfordshire based, and leading the programmes at Working Options. We're the charity empowering 14-19-year-olds to know their options and find their career paths. Collaborating with businesses and volunteers, we offer opportunities helping to shape the future careers of young people.

How are we empowering young people?

Our volunteer-led talks let students hear personal career stories, directly from professionals, from industries they might not otherwise consider, transforming their future pathways. Take Steve Robinson, at Mercer and Hole. He recently spoke at a school in Milton Keynes and then followed up by hosting students in the office. Allowing them to hear about, and then experience, the accounting industry. *"They've inspired me to just aim up high in the world."*

Investing in the future

This year we aim to reach 70,000+ young people thanks to the invaluable support of businesses who are investing in local career development and building a skilled workforce, benefiting our community and economy. *"These experiences are not every* day for our students!"

Impact that matters

Teachers and students tell us that our programmes give them increased confidence (100%), enhanced skills (100%), and clearer career pathways (97%). "1000% I have a more positive outlook on life after sixth form."



Get involved

As members of the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce your expertise is invaluable. Speak to students, host them at your business, or set live business challenges. Volunteering options are flexible, starting from just 1 hour.

By supporting our work, you help talented individuals to identify and nurture their capabilities, by providing information and inspiration about the possibilities for their education and careers. If you'd like to find out more, please reach out to me at claire@workingoptions.org.uk.

workingoptions.org.uk

MANTRALIS

We're a boutique project management consultancy serving private and public sector organisations, with strong people values at the heart of what we do.

Currently, we are working alongside fibre providers and London boroughs and in the last year have helped to create over 50,000 more fibre connections into residential homes. We play a significant role in overseeing the project and ensuring residents benefit from social equality through free or subsidised fibre broadband.

Closer to home, Jennie, our CEO, is chair of FACES, a Bedfordshire charity that supports local families. She also founded their Baby Bank in 2023, which provides essential food and supplies for inneed families in the borough.

Since it began, we have helped over 1,050 families with children's clothing, equipment, milk and nappies. We have



struggled to find suitable premises so have been working out of two containers and Jennie's home! The Mantralis team managed the day-to-day operations while we searched for premises.

We have now found a new home alongside Bedford Food Bank and the Baby Bank is set to grow from strength to strength. *mantralis.co.uk*





Working together, achieving more

PRIVACYHELPER Data Protection and Privacy with no Fuss

Say 'data protection' or 'privacy' to most businesspeople, and their eyes roll. They know it's important, they know they need to be on it, but it is so complex.

But say those same words to Andy Chesterman, Managing Director of Bedford-based PrivacyHelper, and his eyes light up – for he's got a way of simplifying things that businesses will want to know about.

We managed to get some time in Andy's busy schedule recently to learn more – and quiz him on his experience of being a Chamber member.

A career built on data

Andy's expertise in how businesses store and move data comes from the fact that, for many years, he moved plenty of it for a living, as a marketing list broker.

As data privacy legislation in the pre-Brexit EU strengthened with the introduction of GDPR, Andy put his knowledge to good use, setting up a business that could identify clients' data protection and privacy gaps, and advise them on how to fix them, or fix them for them.

Seven years on, with the UK out of the EU but our own data protection regime entering murky waters (more on this below!), PrivacyHelper has grown "astronomically", and has moved from an associate model to 10 full-time, certified experts with a combined experience of 55 years in data protection handling major national and global contracts.

How does PrivacyHelper work?

PrivacyHelper starts with an audit of how data is obtained, stored, and how it "flows" in and between each of the client's departments.

This highlights the risks and compliance gaps in a short report, with an optional action plan that can be carried out by PrivacyHelper, by the customer itself (and checked by PrivacyHelper – a process Andy describes as "marking their homework"), or by a third party.

From this position, smaller clients can choose an ongoing monthly SME service "in the same way they use a service provider to look after their IT," whilst larger organisations can agree longer-term contracts.



In addition, PrivacyHelper engages with businesses of all sizes for ad hoc projects, urgent remediation of data breaches, outsourced Data Protection Officer (DPO) provision, and training and education.

On this last point, Andy also mentions the firm's recently launched online training and e-learning platform, which uses video and interactive responses to upskill anything from 1 – 1000-plus employees in data protection and privacy laws, issues, and procedures.

"Prevention," Andy reminds us, "is always better than cure."

What are the latest data privacy watchouts?

Andy is quick to point out that lack of data protection and privacy compliance is now rapidly becoming a commercial, as well as reputational and legal, risk for many companies, as suppliers and partners decline to work with them because of these shortfalls.

He also urges companies to be clear on the forthcoming UK Data Protection Bill, and its limitations. "It's meant to make compliance easier," he says, "but the reality is that it only works for companies that have no EU connections whatsoever."

"The minute you have any EU component in your supply chain, customers, or employees, you must, in addition, be fully GDPRcompliant. It makes more sense to simply comply with EU GDPR in the first place, as it is a globally accepted standard."

dammsolutions.co.uk

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

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Archaeological Research Services Ltd is an experienced commercial practice providing a full range of archaeological and heritage services

Beansprout Consultancy Ltd

bean-sprout.co.uk

Expert and bespoke accounting and business coaching solutions for every stage of your journey

Bedford Heights

bedfordheights.co.uk

Fully equipped business centre offering office accommodation, executive conference centre, cafe-restaurant, wellness studio, car parking

Chasm Limited

www.chasm.org.uk Management consultancy

Citilink Passenger Solutions

www.citilinkservices.co.uk VIP transport solution. Executive cars, VIP minibuses, corporate hospitality

ctm Information Technology www.ctm-it.com

We deploy, support and secure IT systems for businesses throughout the UK using Microsoft technologies

De Soutter Medical Ltd

www.de-soutter.com

Manufacturer of powered orthopaedic instruments

ERA Group

uk.expensereduction.com/find-aconsultant/kevin-davies

Leaders in Cost Management & Optimisation. ERA Group partners with business leaders to tackle their challenges and illuminate their greatest opportunities hidden within their cost base

Foster-Diversity.com

www.foster-diversity.com

A Diversity and Inclusion consultancy that offers tailored solutions to organisations' Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) needs

Fun 4 Young People

www.f4yp.org

Bedford based youth charity providing a vibrant and empowering support service to young people

Greenwood Drones

greenwooddrones.co.uk

Drone photography and video, 3D drone mapping & surveys and drone roof & property inspections

Harrisons Accountancy Limited harrisonsaccountancy.co.uk

Harrisons Accountancy is an award-winning Chartered Accountants in Biggleswade. We offer a personalised accounting service of the highest standards at great value. Our team of Xero specialists have achieved platinum champion status, offering comprehensive support.

HighPoint Construction

www.highpointconstruction.co.uk

A family run building company based in Bedford and Dunstable with many years of experience capable of taking on a project of any size.

Kings Fire Ltd

www.kingsfire.co.uk

Family owned fire protection business providing the following services – Fire extinguisher servicing & installation, Fire alarm servicing, installation & design, Fire hydrant testing, Fire risk assessments, Fire warden training, Fire extinguisher hire, Fire door inspections, Fire stopping surveys, Dry Riser testing, Fire safety signage installation Gas suppression systems, Room integrity testing.

London School of Science & Technology

www.lsst.ac

A private higher education provider, specialising in business management, IT and health and social care courses.

LUx Offices

www.luxoffices.co.uk

Flexi Office Space

Mantralis

mantralis.co.uk

Project and programme management consultancy on a mission to help commercial and public sector organisations streamline their operations and efficiently achieve their strategic goals.

Neville Joinery Limited

www.nevillejoinery.co.uk

Service, craftmanship and quality since 1875. We have been manufacturing quality joinery for almost 150 years, and we have an unparalleled reputation for skilled craftsmanship, whether it be installing manufactured items and interior finishing, or creating specialist joinery for a wide range of clients

Neville Special Projects Ltd

www.nevillespecialprojects.co.uk Maintenance, refurbishment and new build services since 1875. The natural first choice for any commercial, industrial or public authority client for construction, refurbishment, maintenance and specialist services in the areas in which we operate. Undertaking contracts up to £8,000,000

Neville Trust Limited

www.nevilletrust.co.uk

Neville Trust is a fifth generation family run business with subsidiary companies consisting of Neville Joinery, Neville Special Projects and Neville Funerals. Neville Trust is the parent company, as well as a property landlord and developer. We have embedded ourselves deeply within our regional communities for over 140 years, offering support well beyond our remit as a local enterprise. With a range of construction sites across our region and wide, a state of the art joinery workshop, and nine funeral branches across Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire we are committed to serving and supporting our local communities.

Node IT Solutions

node-it.com

IT Support and Consultancy

Omorfia Interior Design Ltd

www.omorfiadesign.co.uk Interior design studio serving residential and commercial clients across Beds, Bucks, Herts, Cambs & Northants – with occasional ones further afield depending on project size or suitability for virtual services

Pink Spaghetti Luton & Hemel Hempstead

www.pink-spaghetti.co.uk

Virtual Assistant services and business support

Project E.Y.E

projecteye.co.uk

We offer training courses, work experience and enterprising advice to people in the Bedford area and beyond. We do this through various enterprising projects that support young people, those seeking employment and the elderly. Our projects encourage innovation, create career opportunities, highlight healthy living habits and develop their social and personal skills.



Better Together

Working together, achieving more

Purple Global Events Ltd purpleglobalevents.com

Events and Exhibition Group. In-house event stand design and conception, build and production, lighting and audio visual, graphics with full project management from factory to site.

Renewable EDtricity Systems Ltd www.edtricity.co.uk

Our mission is to make domestic, commercial, and industrial renewable energy obtainable for everyone. We supply and install solar panel renewable electricity systems that can include battery storage and Electric Vehicle charging.

Rise Recruitment Solutions riserecruitmentsolutions.com

Rise Recruitment Solutions are an operation that is born out of the desire to build a positive hiring experience for all parties involved. From the anxious candidate to the overworked hiring manager, our driving factor is to build solutions that solve challenges and elevate careers.

Sandalwood Accountants

www.sandalwoodaccountants.co.uk Chartered Accountants providing accounting services for small business & owner managed entrepreneurs.

SF Digital

www.sfdigital.co.uk

Digital marketing services from concept to campaign. Giving your brand the exposure and success, it deserves

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

www.sharnbrookmilltheatre.co.uk

The Mill is a friendly, inclusive, open and award-winning community theatre, entirely run by volunteers and located in Bedfordshire. We produce four in-house shows each year in our historic theatre which was converted from an old mill.

Tate Recruitment - Milton Keynes tate.co.uk/contact-us/our-branches/

milton-keynes/ Tate is an award-winning supplier of temporary and permanent staff for headoffice support and specialist roles.

Tate Recruitment - St Albans

tate.co.uk/contact-us/our-branches/stalbans/

Tate is an award-winning supplier of temporary and permanent staff for headoffice support and specialist roles

The Kingfisher

thekingfisherbedford.co.uk

The Kingfisher is a riverside pub with rooms, located on the River Great Ouse, offering delicious dining and relaxed service in a historical setting

The Lewis Foundation

www.thelewisfoundation.co.uk

We provide free gift packs and support to adult cancer patients in hospital, it helps pass the time and provide comfort.

The Numbers Quarter

thenumbersquarter.co.uk Accountancy practice

Tonal Drivers Space Ltd

www.tonaldrivers.space

Tonal Drivers Space forward the direction of discovery in the fabric of space. Get to know the characters in the journey of the Tonal Drivers!

Twelve Wealth Management

www.twelvewm.co.uk **Financial Services**

Wellbeing of Women

www.wellbeingofwomen.org.uk

We are a charity that saves and changes the lives of women, girls and babies. From period problems and starting a family, to menopause and gynaecological cancers, we are here for women's gynaecological and reproductive health.

World Cargo Logistics Ltd

worldcargologistics.co.uk **Freight Forwarders**

WSI City Web Solutions

www.wsiworld.com/kan-parekh

A full service digital marketing agency that helps businesses increase their sales, compete in the marketplace and grow their businesses using comprehensive digital marketing strategies



e hotel offers **250** spacious, contemporary guest rooms featuring light-ncelling blinds, **55**° SMART TV's, multiple USB points and air-nditioning.

Additional guest amenities include:

- The Kitchen & Bar at Courtyard, offers all-day dining
- 24-hour fitness suite
- 24/7 Market Place
- **Business** center
- Car-parking 3 Meeting & event spaces
- Courtyard's signature media pods

The hotel has excellent air, road and rail connections:

- London-Luton Airport is a short, 15-minute walk
 - M1 Motorway junction 10 is a 5-minute drive
 - Luton Airport Parkway station, with direct links into St. Pancras International, is a 13-minute walk

Chamber Members - Small Meeting Package

- * Unlimited Tea/Coffee, Jugs of Water
- * Pasteries, Biscuits, Sweet Treat
- * Hot/Cold Buffet Lunch
- * LCD TV & Flip Chart
- * Complimentary High Speed Wifi
- * Room Hire

From £40 per person Quote Meet24

Contact - simon.standing@courtyardlutonairport.com

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



pink-spaghetti.co.uk

Problem: many business owners spend as much as 50% of

compromising work/life balance in the process. Solution:

focus on growing your business. Hint: That's me...

outsource to an efficient, affordable, approachable expert

their time running, instead of growing, their business, usually

admin/business support partner who can enable you time to

▶ greenwooddrones.co.uk

Greenwood Drones is a Bedfordshire based business providing a wide range of aerial services including photography and cinematography, roofing and property inspections and construction and land mapping and surveying. Whatever the request, no matter how big or small, Greenwood Drones will be able to provide a superior service at affordable prices.

22 | www.chamber-business.com



Working together, achieving more

The Numbers Quarter

hello@thenumbersquarter.co.uk

🔒 Nicola Hageman

Dtricity www.thenumbersquarter.co.uk eddie@respower.co.uk respower.co.uk As a Chartered Management Accountant and Profit Strategist, My team and I specialise in more than just traditional accounting; Renewable EDtricity Systems Ltd is known for being an advanced we are dedicated to guiding business owners towards creating a renewable energy systems installer. We specialize in supplying, business that not only meets their financial needs but also gives installing and maintaining - solar panels, battery storage and the personal lifestyle they aspire to. EV charging solutions for homes and businesses across various regions, including Herts, Beds, Bucks, Cambs, and London and beyond. (Finance Available) **Twelve Wealth Management Tate Recruitment** Hayley Bowgen | Denise Alves Nathan Gonsalves-Williams TWELVE 01908 200990 | 07733 266231 | 01727844799 🔀 nathan.williams@sjpp.co.uk twelvewm.co.uk 🔀 hayley.bowgen@tate.co.uk | denise.alves@tate.co.uk tate.co.uk At Twelve Wealth Management, our primary focus is our clients. We look to establish strong, long lasting relationships with Tate specialises in recruiting office staff for Temporary, individuals and businesses based on trust and honesty. Twelve Permanent, and FTC Contract positions. Prepare to expect specialises in providing high quality advice on many aspects of unrivalled expertise and customised solutions for every holistic financial planning, working with you to help you achieve recruitment requirement. your goals. THE Wellbeing Of Women The Kingfisher KINGFISHER WELLBEING Fiona Churchill Zoe Irons OF WOMEN 020 3697 7000 07741 592832 zirons@wellbeingofwomen.org.uk ☑ fionachurchill@vineyardgroup.co.uk wellbeingofwomen.org.uk thekingfisherbedford.co.uk Free Menopause Training for SMEs. We can help employers The Kingfisher is a riverside pub with rooms, located on the in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) understand River Great Ouse. Recently refurbished, it is the perfect venue to host your event. A short drive from Bedford town centre, the menopause and offer their colleagues the right kind of support. Our free interactive workshops cover: - what is the menopause? main house is a Grade II listed building with 49 bedrooms and - the range of possible symptoms - how it might affect your 2 meeting rooms and within the grounds is a 13th century tithe employees - what you and your organisation can do to help barn. World Cargo Logistics Ltd **The Lewis Foundation** UIICL Lorraine Lewis 🔒 John Dunn 🔀 hello@thelewisfoundation.co.uk 01582 283008 🔀 luton@wcluk.com thelewisfoundation.co.uk worldcargologistics.co.uk The Lewis Foundation is a charity dedicated to enhancing the lives of adults diagnosed with cancer in the hospital setting. They A global supply chain specialist you can rely on. Built on a solid provide comfort and moments of joy through providing cancer foundation of trust, transparency, integrity, and respect, we've patients with a choice of gift for free and personal visits with the been providing cost-effective and consistent global shipping

Working together, achieving more.

aim of making sure patients are supported and do not feel alone.

Renewable EDtricity Systems LTD

0345 163 0070 | 07725 984455

Edward Doherty

solutions for over twenty years. With nine offices spanning the length and breadth of the UK and a strong network of partners worldwide, we work with all types of businesses, delivering diverse supply chains to keep companies like yours on the move.

TRAIN & UPSKILL YOUR TEAM WITH BUSINESS-FOCUSED APPRENTICESHIPS

Are you struggling to recruit and retain the right staff or develop your existing team?

Invest in your company's future with the University of Bedfordshire's career-powered higher and degree apprenticeships that offer tailored training and hands-on experience. Our Good Ofsted rating and expertise, make us your ultimate partner in building a skilled and motivated workforce. RECRUIT BRIGHT MINDS RETAIN DEDICATED TALENT EMPOWER YOUR WORKFORCE

Benefits to your business:



Future-proof your workforce



Address skills gaps



Learners can be new or existing employees aged 16+ years old

PLUS...Government funds at least 95% of your training costs!

APPRENTICESHIPS







Build a talent pipeline



Cost-effective talent development



Open to organisations of any size



Scan the QR code or visit:



Beds.ac.uk/apprenticeships