

Burgess Hill

BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

The National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates increase on 1st April. In addition to the new rates, the age from which workers become eligible for the National Living Wage will be lowered. This means from 1st April all workers aged 23 and over must be paid the National Living Wage or above.

Certainly some people are struggling financially in the wake of the pandemic, and in these cases the Government's new breathing space period, which freezes interest, fees and enforcement for people in problem debt (with further protections for those in mental health crisis treatment) is something important to be aware of.

[More information on NT Wage...](#)

[More information on Breathing Space](#)

We enjoyed a fabulous event on Monday this week as we celebrated International Women's Day on a very well attended Zoom call, with over 50 people – mostly women it has to be said – joining us. Our thanks to Louise Skelhorn manager of the BH Ladies Rugby team for sponsoring the meeting.

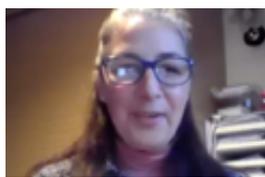


But of course our main thanks go to our 4 excellent speakers who shared a lot of honest, authentic and empathic experiences from their own lives about facing up to challenges.

Although we suffered a bit of a glitch regarding the recording we did capture the Q&A session and will make this available very soon, and there might be 'take 2' version of the individual speeches in time.



Annela Rose,



Tracy Humphreys,



Emma Cleary, Director



Tamara Roberts, CEO

Head of PR, Rose Media Group.

Principal Consultant, THR Consulting

Flexibility Matters

Ridgeview Wine Estate



One of the recurring themes and challenges that came up at the IWD event was how to overcome a lack of personal confidence. While there is lots of help on this rather thorny subject, one option might be to attend a Sussex Chamber of Commerce's virtual training course entitled "Unshakeable Confidence".

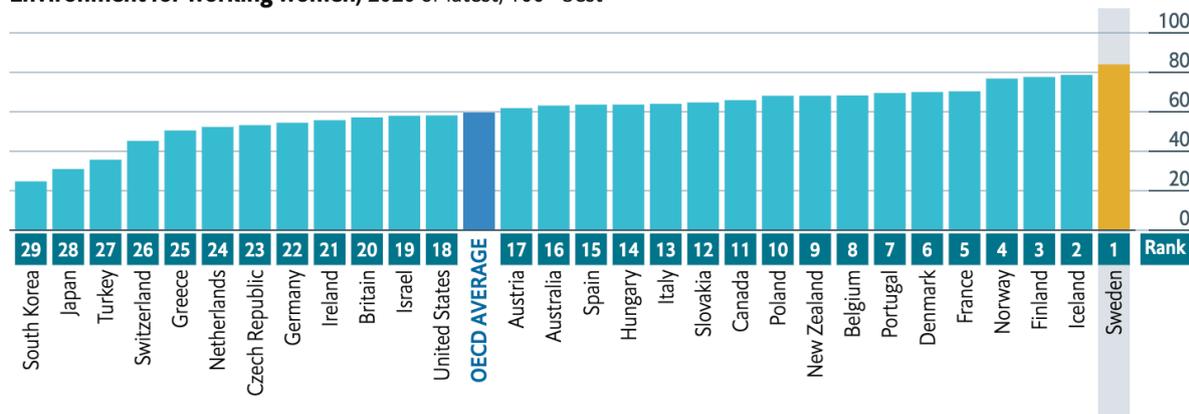
Remember BHBPA members enjoy discounted rates...and take a look at the special training offer later in this newsletter with Steve Willis Training Centres.

Sussex Chamber of Commerce training...

The Glass Ceiling

The glass-ceiling index

Environment for working women, 2020 or latest, 100=best



The Economist's latest glass-ceiling index ranks conditions for working women across 29

countries, and as usual the Nordic countries performed best in the last report with Sweden, Iceland, Finland and Norway taking the top four spots. While there's been progress according to the paper, with Britain coming in 20th, there is clearly still some way to go...

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INSURANCE BROKERS & RISK MANAGERS



Meet the Locals

We recently had the great pleasure of interviewing Steve Skinner, MD of Turbine Tools.

Check out what Steve has to say about leadership, people management, innovation and his tips for building a successful business.

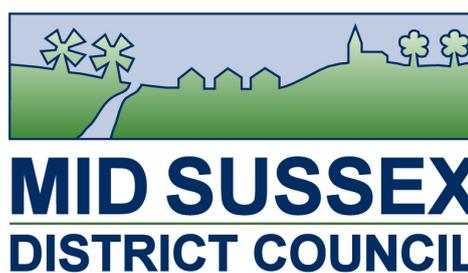


Visit BHBPA's Homepage to Meet the Locals...

MSDC Grants Update

In the budget last week the Chancellor announced further business grants of up to £6,000 per premises for non-essential retail businesses, and up to £18,000 per premises for hospitality and other sectors that are having to open later, in order to support the re-starting of trading.

These grants will be available to businesses (whether open or closed) who are liable for business rates and meet the grants criteria. Further details will be provided by MSDC very soon, with businesses being allowed to apply from the start of April 2021.





Please note most of the current Local Restrictions Support Grants for business will end on the 31st March 2021. MSDC will have to return any unallocated funds to central Government in due course, so please apply urgently, or if in doubt, contact the Council to check your eligibility at:

businesssupport@midsussex.gov.uk

For businesses not liable for business rates, or working from home, there is still the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) available as a discretionary grant from MSDC. Round 4 of the ARG scheme is open for applications until midnight on the 31st March 2021. Apply via:

<https://midsussex.grantapproval.co.uk/>

For any further information requests go

to <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/revsandbens/business-rates/grants-for-businesses/>

A bit more normality returns

With the schools back on Monday, and the easing of Covid-19 restrictions seemingly progressing to plan, another piece of news hinting at a return to more normal times came with the announcement that from Sunday 21st March, all haulier processing operations, including COVID testing for hauliers, will be suspended at Manston Airport.



Speaking at the time of this announcement, Assistant Chief Constable Claire Nix, who is also the chair of the Kent Resilience Forum, said: *"Thanks to the hard work of all partners and those EU-bound motorists who have followed the requirements, there have been no*

significant traffic issues on Kent's roads since the end of the EU transition period.

"The suspension of services at the former Manston Airport site is the first major step in what we all hope will be an eventual return to business as usual, as it means HGV traffic bound for the Port of Dover will now be able to take a more direct route along the M20 with easier access to the full range of services that will be provided at the Sevington Inland Border Facility."

EV charging and more...

EV next step - we have now written to all those we believe are interested in knowing more, or sharing what they know about EV Charging Points. The intention was to have a preliminary meeting probably on either March 30th or 31st, but due to the Easter break we may have to push this back until week commencing 12th April. If you want to be involved please let us know by emailing martyn@bhbp.co.uk

We will confirm the EV Charging Point meeting very soon and will issue the Zoom details.



Car Charging Shop



Grove Group rejoins - we are delighted to welcome Grove Group based at 22 Victoria Way back into our fold. Grove Group are a nationwide supplier to the vehicle repair and refinish industry. Chatting with Tony Thorpe, Grove Group's Business Development Director to understand where the business specialises we talked extensively about EV charging and Tony highlighted some of the company's capabilities available through their 'car charging shop' - see the link.

PDP Services - Of course it's vital all businesses and consumers embrace the move to carbon neutral and our friends at PDP Services are certainly contributing in the right spirit...



Paul Padgham

30 May 2020 · 🌐



Hi all, we are PDP in Burgess Hill and generating far much more power than we can use and store at weekends....

We're based just behind big Tesco's with a short path between
We're happy for any EV owners to use this FREE wasted power at the weekend, just roll up in the ultra quite EV way and plug in
Maybe post and share so we can use this green energy, we have type 1 and 2 chargers up to 7.5kW and looking to add more soon
We're also happy to give free advice on all renewable heating and energy, storage and making the most of your usage just ask myself or [Peter Dunsby](#)



HMRC's latest talking points and Q&A re the 'new EU trade rules' are now on our website.

Talking Points...

Trade Rules Q&A

Reminders

Do remember to sign up for our summer evening of networking event at Ridgeview Wine Estate on Thursday 8th July from 4.30pm to 6.30pm. You can register on the Events page of the website – just arrow forward to July.

There is also the Sussex Chamber of Commerce's Affiliated Chambers Purely Networking later in March.



BHBPA Events...

Affiliated Chambers Purely Networking...

Late Availability Offer from Steve Willis Training

If you are the person, or employ someone who is, responsible for staff training at your business, you might be interested in a late availability offer from our friends at Steve Willis Training.

You can gain a City & Guilds Award in Education and Training through training set for 29th March to 1st April 2021. A last minute place has become available on this Level 3 course, commonly known as Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS).

The course provides an insight into the roles and responsibilities in education and training, including guidance on how to plan and deliver inclusive teaching sessions and how to assess and give constructive feedback.



Delivered in person at the company's Burgess Hill Training Centre, the course runs over 4 days from 08.30 – 17.30, all at a special rate of £464+VAT (including registration fees).

Pre-course materials will be issued once you're booked. For more details and to book contact Steve Willis Training on 01444 870860 or email darren.paine@stevewillis.com

CoBRA - On the subject of training, did you know that the West Sussex library service runs webinars to support entrepreneurs, start-up, micro and Small to Medium-sized Enterprises through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond?

The next event is **An introduction to CoBRA (Complete Business Reference Advisor) and Kompass EasyBusiness databases** scheduled for Tuesday, 16th March 2021 at 11am.

Register for CoBRA event...



Specialist IT Services & IT Support
for growing businesses
What we do is a given -
HOW we do it is the difference!

Return of the 'BIG CHAIR' & something for the children

Our friends at Alexander Rose are famous for, among other things, the 'big chair' that adorns the front of their premises in Victoria Road. Unfortunately the great British weather can be harsh on natural materials like wood, however, good quality and a bit of TLC go a long way to reversing the ageing effects of mother nature.

And recently that's exactly what happened at Alexander Rose. The 'big chair' was carefully disassembled, given a good clean, rub down and re-treated and behold – it has been fully restored and has reclaimed pride of place once again!



While a bit on the big side for the average garden, there is an opportunity to win an Alexander Rose children's bench by entering either the Company's photography or colouring competition.

Check out the Instagram page @national_bench_week being run in conjunction with National Bench Week which runs from Monday 12th to 19th April.



Katy at Alexander Rose has plenty of colouring sheets available, so business neighbours with young budding artists in the family, please do contact her if you'd like one

on katy.heasman@alexander-rose.co.uk

Red Nose Day

Friday 19th March is Red Nose Day...

Please remember to take some photos if you have anything planned at work to mark the day and email them to martyn@bhbpa.co.uk



Closing Remarks

I know the weather was a bit horrible this week with all the rain and wind, but it is interesting to note that perhaps as the pandemic recedes as the dominant thing on our lives so more ordinary, and dare I say, normal things like the weather, take over. I sense that's generally a good thing.

As society increasingly embraces more normality so many of us may have to re-adjust to the ordinary demands of working, getting out to meet others in due course and basically getting on with our lives.

Unfortunately, normality can also include the return of irritating behaviours like petty pilfering, and this week some members reported to me a dodgy yellow van on the prowl and looking for scrap metal in and around the Victoria Business Park.

So welcome to normal, which regrettably means staying vigilant and protecting your property.



Best wishes for a lovely weekend.

Any questions, comments or contributions to share? Please email martyn@bhbpa.co.uk

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