

Burgess Hill

BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

They say 'a week's a long time in politics' and so now we've had several weeks of increasingly positive news about the Covid-19 vaccine rollout, the focus of the news has shifted somewhat and was dominated this week by the March 3rd Budget.

As Sussex Chamber of Commerce put it: *"There's much to welcome in the Budget for business communities across the UK." They state that "the Chancellor has listened and acted on the British Chamber's calls for immediate support to help struggling businesses reach the finish line of this gruelling marathon and to begin their recovery."*



Our friends at Galloways Accounting have provided a comprehensive guide to the Budget, available on our website. The blog of On the Spot Tax also concludes that the Chancellor's focus is on stimulating growth, thanks to Mr Sunak extending SEISS, the Furlough Scheme, VAT rate cuts and Business Rates support. Further, there are some measures to help cashflow in the short term, plus support in the form of training, digitisation and other grants

plus recovery loans.

Hopefully the summery wild flower photo hints at better times ahead amid verdant growth - surely an image to warm us all!

That said the Budget does have a sting-in-the-tail with Corporation Tax set to rise sharply from 19% to 25% - albeit not until April 2023!

[Galloways' guide to Budget Spring 2021](#)

[HMRC - Budget 2021](#)

[On the Spot Tax's blog...](#)

Summer BHBPA Networking at Ridgeview

Here's a must for your calendar. Assuming the easing of lockdown restrictions proceeds to plan, we can look forward to a summer evening of networking at Ridgeview Wine Estate.

The date for you to ink in is Thursday, 8th July from 4.30pm to 6.30pm. You can now register on the Events page of our website – arrow forward to July.



[More information...](#)

Outside of our BHBPA event, you may want to consider a Corporate Wine Tasting experience at Ridgeview - follow the link for more information.

A banner for Sutton Winson. On the left, text reads "Passionate about getting you the right cover and helping you reduce risk" with a yellow button that says "FIND OUT MORE". On the right, there is a blue paper airplane graphic and the Sutton Winson logo (INSURANCE BROKERS & RISK MANAGERS). Below the logo is a smaller logo for "UK BROKER AWARDS 2020 FINALIST".

Affiliated Chambers "Purely Networking"

All BHBPA members are welcome to join this special event on 24th March, hosted by Sussex Chamber of Commerce. Follow the link to register.

AFFILIATED CHAMBERS PURELY NETWORKING

24-03-2021
15:00 PM - 16:30 PM



Sussex Chamber of Commerce event...

EV charging next step

Our apologies if it appears we have not progressed this matter much. In fact several conversations have been going on in the background and the next step will be to invite those who have indicated some interest on this subject to a meeting hopefully in March.

If you are interested in being invited make sure we know by emailing martyn@bhbpa.co.uk

The Road to Net Zero

Leading procurement management consultancy & new BHBPA member Auditel has announced the launch of the Carbon Strategy Group.



auditel

Auditel has been helping businesses make informed & effective procurement decisions for over 25 years, acquiring knowledge and resources across many sectors:

- Renewable energy sources

- Energy management
- Electric vehicles & vehicle charging infrastructure
- Energy auditing
- Waste and recycling
- Packaging
- Wastewater treatment

This expertise has led to the Auditel Carbon Strategy Group being ideally placed to help businesses of all sizes along the road to Net Zero.

Though the will to demonstrate a sustainable business may be present in many SME's, how to do this is not always obvious due to a lack of resource, knowledge and time. This is where Auditel can help. For more information contact Ian on ian.hopping@auditel.co.uk or call on 01825 791128 or 07976 244456.

More on boosting SME's access to energy efficiency...

C2C needs your input

Is the changed relationship with the EU affecting your business?

Please add your voice into the mix so that the Government hears your views and can act with your issues in mind. It takes just a few minutes to complete a survey being conducted by Coast to Capital and supported by our friends at gdb. Please be assured any input will only be used for this important Coast to Capital LEP activity.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/C2CEU2021>

For more information...

Business news roundup...

HMRC continues to answer commonly asked questions from businesses so as to help keep trade moving and support firms as they get fully up to speed with the new EU trade rules. This week they answer the following four questions:

1. What the UK's zero tariff deal with the EU means for businesses?
2. What proof you need to claim the preferential zero rate of duty for goods you import into the UK?
3. Do traders need to pay VAT for goods they import?
4. Where to find help and support about importing and exporting.

News from C2C - we have received the latest update on the support that Coast to Capital and the Growth Hub Team are providing to businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as post UK transition from the EU.

Freeport bid to rebuild regional economy - you may have heard of the term Freeport being used in the context of Gatwick.

HMRC & new Trade Rules...

C2C News...



Freeports are secure customs zones located at ports where business can be carried out inside a country's land border, but where different customs rules apply. They can reduce administrative burdens and tariff controls, provide relief from duties and import taxes, and ease tax and planning regulations.

Typically, goods brought into a Freeport do not attract a requirement to pay duties until they leave the Freeport and enter the domestic market – and no duty at all is payable if they are re-exported. If raw materials are brought into a Freeport from overseas and processed into a final good before entering the domestic market, then duties will be paid on the final good. Freeports may also offer simplifications to the normal customs administrative processes on imported goods.

Coast to Capital led a recent bid for Freeport status at Manor Royal, aiming to directly drive recovery in Crawley and support the Government's plans to boost the post-Brexit economy.

The proposals would create a new Freeport at Gatwick Airport and the Manor Royal Business District, known as the 'Gatwick Freeport'. If approved, Gatwick Freeport would benefit from generous tax reliefs, simplified customs procedures and wider government support. Winning bids are set to be announced by Spring 2021.

gdb Diamond magazine - March/April 2021 edition - in this latest edition there are examples of members, many of whom are BHBPA stalwarts too, coming together to support each other through difficult times and to collaborate to take advantage of new opportunities.

Diamond magazine



To job or not to job? - that is the question

As the vaccine roll out reaches the working population, employers may face difficult decisions. For example:

- Can and should employers impose a requirement on employees to receive a Covid 19 vaccine?
- How should employers handle employees who refuse to be vaccinated, without any obvious medical or religious reason for doing so?

Some advisers on the matter seem to be taking a very defensive position, but here at Sherrards we address the subject with our usual pragmatism.



Please join us for a 45 minute discussion between Harry Sherrard and Jane Smith, a consultant solicitor with the firm on Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 11:00am for this topical talk along with ample opportunity to ask questions.

You may also wish to enjoy the regular "World of Work" blog produced by Harry and the team at Sherrards and published on their website – www.sherrardslaw.com

To register for the webinar...

Reminders...

International Women's Day - please remember to join us as we celebrate IWD next Monday, 8th March when we host an event designed for people who want to reflect on how to face career and life challenges. You'll need to register by Monday morning at the latest.

<https://www.bhbpa.co.uk/international-womens-day/>

Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) 2021 Quarter 1 - as an affiliated member of the Sussex Chamber, BHBPA members are encouraged to participate and use your chance to drive change.

<https://www.bhbpa.co.uk/quarterly-economic-survey-2020-q1-is-now-live/>



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Story of Sussex Wine Families by the Glass

Due to be launched on International Women's Day by award-winning wine journalist Liz Sagues, *Sussex by the Glass* is the story of wines, vines and two pioneering families at Ridgeview and Bolney.



[More information...](#)

With interviews from the people behind both wineries and a focus on their leading female CEO's, the book captures the wonderful stories and images, celebrating the trials, tribulations and triumphs.

Says author Liz Sagues: *"I wanted to add to the information available on English wine, but in a different and very human way. The stories of Ridgeview and Bolney are timely and special, and weaving an overall picture of wine in Sussex around them was exciting and rewarding for me. I hope readers will enjoy the words as much as fine English wine."*

Done Pedalling

Steve Powell from Fresh Display (and our very own BHBPA Marketing Officer) cycled 177km around Sussex in February, the distance of the Mauritius Coastline, so as to raise much needed funds for the St Peter & St James Hospice 'Pedal Around Paradise' challenge.

Cycling in the UK in February is far from paradise when temperatures are just above freezing, unlike in Mauritius where it's around 30 degrees most days!



Together the 26 cyclists that took part in the challenge have so far raised over £8,600 for the hospice.

St Peter & St James Hospice provide expert and compassionate hospice care to families in the local area. All their services are free of charge to patients and their loved ones. They rely on local donations for over 80% of their funds and have to raise more than £2.6 million every year through fundraising.

That's £8,000 every single day!

If you want to make Steve's fantastic efforts go that bit further, please make a donation by following the link to his giving page.

[Steve's page...](#)

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is back on Friday 19th March and this year it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives.

Let us know what you're doing to turn laughs into lasting change. Email martyn on martyn@bhbpa.co.uk



Closing Remarks

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to James Morris Photography who joined us this week. Welcome James.

There's a bit of good news in that Wes and the team at Preview have resolved the glitch on the website that was affecting Newsletter Signups.

Next week will see our latest instalment of Meet the Locals when Martyn meets Steve Skinner, Managing Director of Turbine Tools.

Remember to follow BHBPA on LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bhbpa/>

Well that's all for this week. Best wishes to you all for a lovely weekend.

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

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