

# Burgess Hill

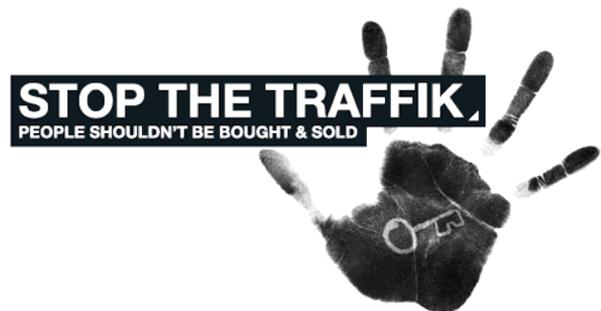
## BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

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The themes this week are Security, Training and Mental Health, although arguably these can all be viewed through the single lens of Sustainability. We need a level of security to sustain our working environment, we need ongoing training to sustain our human capital and competitiveness and we need a good level of mental health to sustain ourselves as individuals and as a community.

Oh, and there's a piece on innovation from our friends at Newman Thomson, another theme we need to concentrate on if we're going to sustain our businesses over the longer term in a rapidly changing world and more sustainability-aware markets.

**Stop the Traffik toolkit for SMEs** - as a child I remember being taken to some dusty old museum where one of the exhibits was a person size trunk which was described underneath the exhibit as method of smuggling kidnapped people. I remember thinking what an horrendous thought and so convinced myself this must be from the distant past and surely couldn't possibly happen 'nowadays'. Tragically, that's not the case and modern day slavery is a huge and heinous problem - one which SMEs can unwittingly find themselves complicit in.



Sussex Police have informed us about a Free of Charge event set for 27th May at 10am. The session has been designed specifically for small and medium sized firms that want to understand more about how to "Stop the Traffik".

[More information on Stop the Traffik...](#)

[Register to learn about the SME toolkit...](#)

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Photo by Rich Smith on Unsplash

## CCTV Appeal

Moving on from helping us to protect the innocent, as well as your own business from prosecution, we heard this week from Bryony Lewin-Playford our local Mid Sussex PCSO.

Apparently two food truck/burger vans on our business parks have been broken into multiple times over the last couple of months, causing damage to the vans as well stealing stock. The most recent incident was last Sunday 9th May. One van is located near Wickes and the other along Albert Drive.

Any business that was operating CCTV on the 9th between 9pm and 11pm may have captured the suspect(s) on a recording, and so could be able to help with identification. Please help Sussex Police to keep us all secure and call 01273 404535 ext. 535214 or 101, or go online via the Sussex Police website - quote the reference number 0300 and 10th May.

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## BHBPA Events to register for

**Evolving Working Practices** - the kick-off meeting for our Special Interest Group that will be focusing on how working practices are evolving is scheduled for May 19th at lunchtime. This is a virtual event and Zoom details will be issued to registered emails ahead of time.

**EV Charging Points** - please also remember to register for our BHBPA webinar on Electric Vehicle Charging Points set for Friday 11th June. The event is being led by Ian Hopping of BHBPA member Auditel, supported by Mark Marchant of PDP Services and Tony Thorpe of Grove Group.

[Register for a BHBPA event...](#)

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## Meet the latest of our Locals

This week we had the pleasure of meeting up with the Paul Blazdell, MD of Consort Frozen Food as part of our Meet the Locals feature. Please enjoy our conversation and hear what Paul reckons is the one thing he'd want fellow business owners to know.



[Episode 3 - Meet Paul Blazdell - our latest Meet the Locals interview...](#)

[Episode 2 - Meet Steve Skinner](#)

[Episode 1 - Meet Steve Willis](#)

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## Innovation for Sustainability at Newman Thomson

Along with many businesses the stresses & strains and the restrictions of Covid-19 have given our friends at Newman Thomson both the time to reflect on their changing circumstances and the impetus to respond to commonly shared business drivers, including a pursuit of greater sustainability through innovation.

At Newman Thomson increased sustainability is coming about through numerous new ways and decisions. For example, their embracing of environmentally responsible measures like using Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Sourced or Recycled materials, as well as carbon balancing the paper used in the production of their clients' printed collateral.



[Learn more about sustainable printing...](#)

Other innovations include how NT is shifting towards so-called 'print on demand', whether using analogue, digital or a mix of the two printing methods. In short 'print on demand' can deliver an optimal unit cost proposition whether for one copy or thousands.

Of course, digital printing not only reduces the consumption of physical materials and resources, it also allows for more targeted marketing communications which research shows enjoys a far higher engagement rate than the equivalent email messaging.

Newman Thomson is a family owned printers that moved from Brighton to Burgess Hill in the early 2000's. It is now the largest printer in Mid Sussex. Based on the Victoria Business Park, the team at Newman Thomson is ready to collaborate with other BHBPA members and help to re-ignite the local economy as we all emerge from the Covid-19 restrictions – only now much greener and more sustainably.

During lockdown the team at NT have embraced social media, distributing regular videos via LinkedIn, all designed to create a greater appreciation of their capabilities and their focus on sustainability.

[Newman Thomson on Linked In](#)

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## Search is on for the new BHBPA CEO

As announced last week, Martyn Carr has decided to step down as BHBPA Chief Executive with effect from 31st May.

The Association would now be pleased to hear from any folks who might like to express their interest in helping us to move our work forward.

If you'd like us to know that you are interested, please send an email to Mark Jackson our chair to introduce yourself.

Mark is on: [mark.jackson@bhbpa.co.uk](mailto:mark.jackson@bhbpa.co.uk)



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## What Her Majesty said about training this week

At the State Opening of Parliament, the Queen set out the Government's legislative plans, which included an important message about adult education and training.

The Queen's speech committed the Government to introducing legislation to support *"a Lifetime Skills Guarantee to enable flexible access to high-quality education and training throughout people's lives"*.



Downing Street said the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill would *"legislate for landmark reforms that will transform post-16 education and training, make skills more readily available and get more people into work"* and will be in line with the Government's 'Skills for Jobs' White Paper.

[Skills for Jobs White Paper...](#)

All in all, adult training is clearly being positioned by Government as extremely important and a vital building block to enable the future economic sustainability of the country.

**Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)** - as all BHBPA members know, our friends at Sussex Chamber of Commerce are proactively bidding for Government funding to develop a region-specific Skills Improvement Plan.

As requested by the Chamber, and on behalf of BHBPA and those few firms who submitted their input, we have suggested that some of the key skills gaps that need highlighting are:

- IT skills – in all its many guises
- Engineering skills especially high level skills
- Delivery drivers
- Green economy skills - including infrastructure building and maintenance skills
- Common organisational deficiencies in the Learning & Development arena
- Leadership and Management skills

Please note, Sussex Chamber is leading on the LSIP Expression of Interest because it needs to be led by a business organisation rather than the local authority or LEP. Only 6 to 8

'trailblazers' will be chosen by Department for Education for LSIP funding. For more information contact Ana Christie on [ana.christie@sussexchamberofcommerce.co.uk](mailto:ana.christie@sussexchamberofcommerce.co.uk)

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## Talking Points, Trade Rules and EU Transition Updates

For the latest updates from central Government follow the links.

Talking Points

Trade Rules

Transition Update...



## Some training options that may appeal

Training isn't just important to a company, it is vital, and several BHBPA members offer great value for money training programmes and one-off courses.

One training option is the Sussex Chamber, where members enjoy discounted rates for training. The Chamber provides a wide range of training courses across Sussex - training that not only helps improve the effectiveness of your current workforce, but also helps attract ambitious talented new staff.

Bespoke company specific training courses are available too and can prove to be very cost effective. Consult: <https://www.sussexchamberofcommerce.co.uk/training>



**Mental Health Awareness Week** - it's Mental Health Awareness Week and at this time, of all times in pretty much living memory, it really is important to have an appreciation of your own and your colleagues' mental health.

To improve your awareness and understanding of mental health there's a range of online qualifications readily available from our friends at Rewards Training – suitable for either personal or professional purposes.

<https://www.rewardstraining.co.uk/health-and-social-care>



**Promotional Offer from Sherrards Law** - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is another hot topic at the moment as awareness of past inadequacies become more apparent and as expectations change.

Our friends at Sherrards offer a comprehensive catalogue of training with courses tailored to many of the issues that organisations face. They have recently announced a re-run of their very popular course on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at a promo price for bookings confirmed by Friday 11th June. For more information contact Sarah Hammant on [sarah@sherrardslaw.com](mailto:sarah@sherrardslaw.com)

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## SE Manufacturers Aim for Growth through Innovation

Manufacturers in the South East are focused on future growth, despite the challenges of the pandemic and Brexit.

Although around a quarter do not expect a return to pre-pandemic trading levels this year, some sectors, such as electronics, have been seeing encouraging growth. This was discussed at the latest online event for the Sussex-based Manufacturing Engineering & Technology Alliance (METALL), organised by Carpenter Box, Coast to Capital and DMH Stallard.

Chris Beck, editor of Manufacturing Management magazine, highlighted the uncertainty faced by many manufacturers over the last year, with business owners worried about the very survival of their businesses. Make UK recently reported that more than 25% of manufacturers do not expect to see their businesses returning to pre-pandemic levels for more than a year.

Yet many businesses have survived through collaboration, resilience and their problem-solving skills, as highlighted on the webinar by Kathy Caton, founder and MD of Brighton Gin.

Tony Summers, Partner and Head of Manufacturing at Carpenter Box, concluded that *"while the trading environment remained challenging, local manufacturers were showing remarkable resilience, agility and innovation in adapting to the new normal."*

Full Press Release...



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## Open invitation still open

Please remember, our standing invitation to local businesses to tell us what are the main topical subjects that they are interested in discussing with other members, remains open. Email [martyn@bhbp.co.uk](mailto:martyn@bhbp.co.uk) and we will float the idea with our members to see if there's sufficient interest to pursue.

## Some great Sussex Business Networking Events

If you haven't already, please do register for at least one of our two Summer Business Networking events - Ridgeview Wine Estate on 8th July and at the Woolpack on 28th July.



Also Sussex Chamber of Commerce have announced their next affiliated networking event for Wednesday 2nd June at 14.00pm – 15.30pm.

## AFFILIATED CHAMBERS PURELY NETWORKING



02/06/2021  
14:00 PM - 15:30 PM



Register for Sussex Chamber networking...

## Join the Great British Spring Clean

Remember to register if you want to get involved in the Great British Spring Clean in BH.

More information...

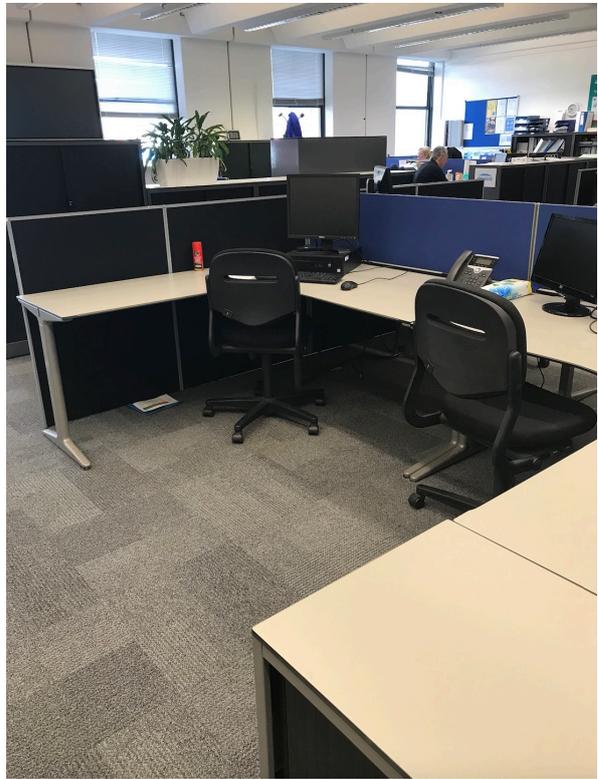
Register yourself for the Spring clean

## Desks and Chairs to go

Our friends at CAE on Innovation Drive still have some spare desks and chairs available for collection, free of charge.

If any local businesses are interested please email Michele, Facilities and Training Co-ordinator on [michele.jarrett@cae.com](mailto:michele.jarrett@cae.com)





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## Cutting Fitness

As a business community we like to help not just our established members but future businesses too.

Cutting Fitness is run by the daughter of owner of BHBPA member Frontline Automation. The new gym looks terrific and you can take a look either via the video link below or by popping along in person to the Open Day from 9am to 2pm on Saturday, 29th May. Cutting Fitness is at Unit 42 Bolney Grange Business Park, Stairbridge Lane, RH17 5PB.

Cutting Fitness video...(depending on where you are you may want to turn your Sound off)...

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## Closing Remarks

There's a lot of compelling research around to support what we probably already knew was true, namely that being in nature can play an important role in protecting and supporting our mental health. Certainly Wednesday this week was a beautiful day for walking passed the Bluebells in glorious Nymans Woods.



I hope you have a relaxing weekend, and get to being in nature too.

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Questions, comments or contributions to share? Please email [martyn@bhbpa.co.uk](mailto:martyn@bhbpa.co.uk)

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