

Burgess Hill

BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION

Adaptability, Resilience and Readiness

If the past 18 months has taught our members anything, it is that we all have tremendous reserves of adaptability, resilience and readiness.

The UK is currently subject to high volatility in its energy markets, there are major issues with our road transport network, impacting forecourt pumps and many other areas of our economy. Meanwhile, this week sees the end of the furlough scheme and we move piecemeal out of covid restrictions. Many have returned to their previous places of work or developed new ways of working.

Face to face networking events are back in everyone's diaries. Some of our members are now attending major trade shows here in the UK. A long planned Royal visit has now been able to take place at one of our best factories here on the Victoria Estate in Burgess Hill.

Indicators suggest a strong bounce back for the UK economy, with promising signs of growth and recovery. The lessons we have learnt are enabling us all to build back better.



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HRH The Princess Royal makes TIME to celebrate in Burgess Hill

Many companies struggle to hang on to good employees. But in Burgess Hill on Wednesday (September 21), HRH The Princess Royal helped one celebrate the fact that few apparently want to leave!

Fifty-two of the 98 local staff at world-class manufacturer Time 24 have collectively put in more than 900 years service with the firm – an average of 17 years each.

For colleagues Nick Halsey, Colin Grimsley, Sue Smith, Paul Bartram, Karen Taylor, James Greenfield and Nigel O'Sullivan, though, it's been almost a lifetime's work. They individually clocked up 25 years or more with the electronics wiring specialist in 2020.

Such continuity of service was a significant personal and professional milestone, said Time 24 joint MD and Co-founder David Shore. More than that, the team's loyalty had been key to building the company's global reputation. So, he was delighted their achievement had been recognised by Her Royal Highness who visited to present long service awards.

"In the sectors in which we operate, dependability and consistently high standards are key and we must rely on our staff to perform as a team to the best of their ability, each and every day," said David. "We know we are very fortunate in having such a dedicated, skilled and lovely bunch of people – some of whom we've known from the very earliest days of Time 24. Our success is very much their success."

Time 24 has shown spectacular growth recently, expanding 85 per cent since 2017. It supplies components to clients operating in high-safety environments, including civil and military aircraft, public transport and cancer treatment centres. Notably, it has provided wiring and electronics for more than 30000 UK rail carriages, 500 aircraft simulators, 1000 radiotherapy machines and over 1000 microchip manufacturing machines.

Established in 1987, Time 24 now also operates a manufacturing site in the Czech Republic, but it is in West Sussex that David and co-founder and fellow joint MD, Mark Willifer, have really embedded themselves and the company in the life of the community.

That was demonstrated to Her Royal Highness during her tour of the plant when students from Ardingly College joined staff to display the solar car they've been building on the Time 24 shop floor.

Ardingly was the first school in Europe to design, build and race a solar-powered vehicle

3,020km from Darwin to Adelaide. Their second car travelled from John O'Groats to Haywards Heath this year. The students are now working on designing a flatpack solar car for the developing world.

"It's been inspiring watching these young engineers build the future they want to see," said David. "Perhaps one day they too will found or join a company like ours that they never want to leave!"



Mock Interviews – Helping the next generation on the road to work

Warden Park Academy are looking for a morning of your time

As part of our Post-16 preparations for our Year 11 students, each year we work with local businesses and individual professionals on providing a mock interview for each student. These interviews are very much valued by students as they aid them in the development of interviews skills for college, apprenticeship and/or work.

The format is to have local businesses all together in our LRC and students then arrive and have an individual interview. Each interview is approx. 10 mins. Five minutes on a set of questions and five minutes feedback to students on basic but essential skills like making eye contact, firm handshake etc.

We want to have representatives from a wide field of professions and we really value the experience you would bring.

The event is scheduled for Thursday October 21st and from approximately 09:00 – 12:00
More detailed information will be provided nearer the date. However, in the meantime please let the academy know ASAP whether this is an event you can offer your time and skills to this year.

Mrs Sam Targett

LRC/Student Futures Manager

Warden Park Academy

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Invitation to Flexibility Matters' "How To Hybrid" Event Helping businesses make hybrid working work

- When: 15th October, 10am-1pm
- Where: Online or in London EC3A
- For: Anyone working in business, ideal for SMEs and HR specialists

Details & Bookings

Wondering How To Make Hybrid Working Successful? Join Flexibility Matters' free Action Learning Group "How To Hybrid" event on 15th October, 10am-1pm, online or in person.

With hybrid working now on the Government's agenda and being demanded as a right by employees, it's vital we know how to implement it successfully in our businesses.

Flexibility Matters' "How To Hybrid" event will help, with incredible speakers who are leading experts, imparting their knowledge and experience of making hybrid working work, to help us make it happen in our businesses.

What tech, people strategies and techniques should we use? Hear what works, how to implement, the possible pitfalls and the success stories.

Speakers are from NHS England, Pfizer UK, Financial Services Compensation Scheme, Wates Construction, People Matters, Equalital, Openblend, Working Families, Paddle and FlexPo.

Join online or in person, listen in and/or join the debate, this is a safe space for you to learn, and share your experiences if you wish.

Grateful thanks to sponsor David Blackburn, from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

[Book this FREE event online here](#)

Ready for the switch-off?

You must have heard about it by now? We've been talking about it for ages. Whether it's ISDN switch-off, PSTN switch-off, new cloud phone system technology... it's everywhere, and with good reason.

In 2025 BT are cutting all ISDN supply, in a nutshell it's old technology and now there are far

better ways to do business communications. You can read all about it here, their reasons and how it will happen.

2025 might seem like a way off, but it isn't. You don't want to be in a last minute rush to change systems only to find that there's no-one available to fit it for you, the system you want isn't in stock or worse still, you leave it so late that your old line is cut and you have no communications.

What does it mean for you?

ISDN and PSTN lines aren't just for telephones. Think about how your business operates, do you have an alarm system or CCTV? Are you taking payments through an EPOS system? Do you have a door entry system in place? If you've answered YES to any of these, then it's likely that you're going to need to do some upgrading.

Luckily upgrading doesn't necessarily mean it's going to cost you more, we have the technology and know-how on hand to discuss what your requirements are and to make sure you get exactly what you need.

How can I swap a business phone system?

It's really not that difficult. Choosing a phone system is probably the hardest bit, and even then we've got a bank of systems that are ready to deploy, giving your business the best opportunity to future-proof it's communications.

At MCL Telecom we will work with you to determine exactly what your business needs. Essentially most businesses need a phone system they can trust will work, a broadband supply that's consistent and some kind of security to make sure their employees and customers are safe.

How can we make it easier for you?

Our in-house experts can make on-site visits to talk to you about what you've got, and what you need to keep your business operational. Once they've ascertained your requirements we'll come up with a bespoke plan, including the hardware and fitting.

We can do this as quickly as one week – take a look here at our customer testimonial. Seamless transition and up and running in a short time.

What do you need to do?

Just drop us a line! We do all the hard work for you, from scoping out the best broadband supply type to the functionality of the desk phones you need. Phone 0800 00 93332

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Your opinions matter

Gatwick Airport's expansion consultation process has opened and will continue until 1st December 2021

Gatwick Airport is an important driver for Mid Sussex and Sussex as a whole. It's a multiplier for many industries and services, from aircraft training, aircraft parts and many more besides.

We're asking our members if they would like to contribute in supporting Gatwick Airport's proposed expansion and why you feel it's important. It's a great business benefit having a well connected airport on our doorstep. Nevertheless, it's acknowledged that individual members may have private concerns about this.

From the consultation some interesting facts are coming out:

The use of the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway will reduce the number of movements (from 55 to 48 movements per hour) on the main runway, creating less risk of disruption to schedules. It will also reduce:

- Taxiing before take-off by 33%
- Holding times before take-off by 43%
- Holding time over Sussex airspace by 25%

All these reduce fuel burn on the ground and in the air, as well as reducing overflying.



[Click here to find out more and to engage with the Planning Consultation](#)

New member Network Xpress introduces the Sussex Business Show to the County

Network Xpress' biggest show yet is to be launched on May 5th 2022, in Ardingly at the South of England Event Centre, with a refreshed new style and feel, cementing its profile in the B2B event scene. Renowned for more than just B2B trade shows, Sonny Cutting, the event director, has for a number of years, hosted trade shows with a twist. Bringing together game-themed events to break the ice and pioneering conferences offering innovative B2B

services, Network Xpress puts the experience on par with functionality and opportunity.

Get the date in the diary early and register for business stands, sponsorship or exp[ress and interest in joining us with free tickets to this new and exciting county-wide event. If you have an interest in meeting experts and business leaders, then please register your interest on the website sussexbizshow.com or search social media on Twitter, facebook, LinkedIn or instagram.

Contact 01273 833 222 for further information



A well deserved THANK YOU to Michael Rowney

We'd like to thank Michael Rowney, a colleague of Lea Graham Associates, for his sterling efforts in managing our newsletter content over the last four months. He's been collecting your word bites from our newsletter@bhbpa.co.uk and, with his engaging and succinct style, provided a fresh perspective on Burgess Hill business.

Thank you Michael!



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Closing Remarks

We hope to see you next week at the first of our networking events with our new CEO Richard Cox, join us at The Woolpack on Wednesday 6th October from 4.30 to 6.00.

We're not promising it'll be quite as sunny as the photo above, but we're sure it'll be an enjoyable and useful hour and a half of your time.

In the meantime, we are keen to hear your stories, awards won, apprenticeships completed, sustainability improvements, your involvement with local schools and all and everything going on in the various business parks around the town.

Keep your news coming to us by emailing newsletter@bhbpa.co.uk

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