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Weekly Newsletter - Every Friday Morning

Opening Remarks

Apples & Pears

Over the last month I have been attending a series of four half-day roundtables, put together by West Sussex County Council, to address four key areas where they sought inputs from various business groups together with selected businesses on the following topics:

- Enhancing Natural Capital and Transitioning to Net Zero
- Productivity Growth, Investment, and Innovation
- Improving Connectivity
- Skills, Recruitment & Retention

One of the discussion points that came out of that first roundtable was the need for a uniform, trusted measure for calculating Net Zero and Carbon Neutrality. We share expert opinion on how that process should be done.

We also have details of the next series of very popular Grow Digital workshops, book early to avoid disappointment, one of them is very local, in Haywards Heath. One of our members shares their new name and branding, with a fabulous and timely offer for all members to help your staff to better wellness in the new year. MSDC launches Community Grants - with a short window to apply.

Community Spirit

There is a report on the fabulous efforts from many of our members helping with the Christmas Hampers.

New event announced

We are offering site tours of Panattoni Business Park in January - details below. The Burgess Hill Business Awards - BH Biz Stars will be officially launched a week later at our CAE 'Apprenticeships, Networking & Simulators' event. Meanwhile, we give details of two more of those awards up for grabs. For all events book your places here: **Events**

We also have a report from our annual Christmas social. Over the last three years we've had more and more join us for this one.

Become part of the fastest growing business group in Sussex. Join Here

Keep the stories coming in richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk or call 07393 728688



Panattoni Park Burgess Hill - Site Tours

Organised by BHBPA

Two time slots available from 11.00am onwards
Please book on either of the two we have on our **E** vents page

Time slots:

* 11.00 - 11.45

* 12.00 - 12.45

We will meet at Unit 3 for a tour of that unit, including the warehouse and offices areas, together with amenities such as toilets and kitchen areas.



Coffee van will be on hand.

From there we'll walk to Unit 2 to inspect that and the other units along the site, so that you can see parking and loading yards. Some units are already completed while a few of the smaller units are at 90% completion.

We expect small groups of approximately 15 for each time slot. Subject to demand additional slots may be added.



BH Biz Stars 2024



We're teasing you with what will be launched in January 2024.

We'll have 11 awards up for grabs.

This week we introduce another two

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion

We are looking for inspiring positive change and a culture of inclusion and diversity where EDI is valued and a critical part of the organisation's mission. A company that has shown demonstrable commitment to place equality and positive relations with its staff and customers at the forefront of what it does.

An organisation where the staff can raise difficult issues on all protective characteristics and promote good practice beyond compliance of the legislation. We are looking for tangible actions by all staff that celebrate the diversity of its own staff and communities around it.

Team of Stars

A company award, or an award for a group or team within a company, who get results, perhaps smash targets, for example, perhaps a HR team who have innovated, made great changes with success, who have worked well together to move the company forward. Alternatively, this could be the entire company if you are just a small group of less than 10 people.



Awards Sponsorship enquiries

richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk 07393 728688

The Christmas Social

A photo report on our celebration of another year of growth

The growth in membership continues. The reasons for joining are varied.

For many it's an attractive proposition to network at a rich variety of interesting venues, with site tours and other unique visitor experiences, making for a vibrant calendar of networking and learning opportunities. There's also our communication channels, this being but one, enabling our members to broadcast their expertise, their community engagement and their successes.

When companies join they list their own priorities and their 'big picture' priorities on their application form. These invariably make for insightful reading and in so many instances mirror the association's statement of purpose.

Here's what one new member, a large company employing 180 staff, had to say on their application form this month regarding their priorities for joining:

"We have strong values and want to be involved with the local community, using local services where possible, share expertise and network."

Another recent joiner highlighted another reason why companies join; our focus on improving the local business infrastructure and how it is used:

"To see that local issues that concern local businesses are listen to and acted upon. Restricted Parking, Vehicles that are inhabited and Traveller's prevention. If parking is an issue then please try and influence public transport, provide Bike Shelters (we have a super bike lane in town, let's get it used). Learner drivers on the park, and this does also include HGV's, can this be avoided at morning and evening rush hour."

And another makes mention of our encouragement of young talent:

"We should place a significant emphasis on supporting local businesses and the community, given the challenges posed by economic uncertainties. Working together to find innovative solutions and keeping an environment that encourages collaboration and mutual support among members is key. By rallying behind our shared interests and advocating for local businesses, we can navigate the challenges ahead, ensuring sustainability and growth within the community and for the younger generation. Through collective efforts, we can continue creating a resilient and thriving business landscape that uplifts the entire BHBPA, the community and fosters success for years to come."

This one brings up an interesting aspect, our impact as a representative voice for members at all levels of local authority government:

"Reform of business rates, as well as commercial lease terms for small high street businesses. Faster digital transformation, improved local broadband for households and business. Support for high streets across the district."

We already have several new members signed up to start at the beginning of the year including:

- Parkers Car & Truck Rental
- NIO Comm
- Conti-Engineering (who you may be familiar with as Continental Tyre)

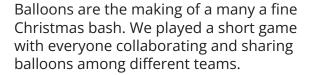
Without further ado, let's share some video and photos from our Christmas social earlier this week:



Here are some fun interviews from some of our guests last Tuesday. We'd like to thank **Warrick Francis** from Newman Thomson for putting this video together.



This served a purpose as we were all busy passing them around, it was also a fun icebreaker.



Among our guests, there were three individuals who had been secretly told NOT to play by the rules. They marked as many of the balloons as they could with ultraviolet markers.

So the actual 'winner' we announced was the 'game hacker' who marked the most balloons.





Many thanks to Michala and Ana from <u>Cybility</u> for a creative way of reminding everyone... Keep vigilant about your cybersecurity...there are people out there that don't play by the rules and find ways to infiltrate your networks.

A New Name, A Renewed Commitment

Embracing Change and Wellness: Epassi UK's Transformative Journey

Dear BHBPA Members,

As we bid farewell to 2023 and welcome the promise of a new year, we're thrilled to share some exciting news with our valued Burgess Hill Business Park Association community. Epassi UK, formerly known as Incorpore Ltd., is embarking on a transformative journey, and we couldn't be more enthusiastic about what lies ahead.

Epassi UK: A New Name, A Renewed Commitment

Following the acquisition by Epassi earlier this year, Incorpore Ltd. proudly adopts the name Epassi UK Ltd. This change signifies a continued commitment to enhancing the everyday wellbeing of the UK and Ireland's working population. In the words of William Shakespeare, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." We assure you that under the Epassi UK banner, our dedication remains unwavering. All products, services, and business operations will continue seamlessly, creating more opportunities for our cherished clients and partners.

Seize the Opportunity: 10% BHBPA Member Discount

As part of our celebration, we're delighted to remind our esteemed BHBPA members of an exclusive opportunity. Take advantage of a 10% discount on Epassi UK's comprehensive well-being schemes. This is not just about a name change; it's about nurturing a stronger partnership with our community.

Now is the perfect time to invest in the health and wellbeing of your workforce. With a 10% BHBPA member discount, you can kickstart the new year with a powerful commitment to your employees' wellness.

YourWellnessHub and YourWellnessHub Club: Elevating Wellbeing Together

In our pursuit of holistic employee well-being, we're excited to shine a spotlight on YourWellnessHub and YourWellnessHub Club.

Specifically designed for the SME market, YourWellnessHub combines our discounted gym memberships, discounted health assessments, online retail discounts, NHS approved mental wellness app and more into your very own company branded web portal. Plus, add your own additional tiles to include other company benefits!

YourWellnessHub Club is designed for smaller businesses with limited budgets who may not have the budget, time, or resources to implement and manage an employee wellbeing strategy. It consolidates employee benefits, offering discounted gym memberships, health assessments, online retail discounts, and a trusted mental wellbeing app.

As we step into the future as Epassi UK, we're grateful for the continued support and partnership of the BHBPA community. Together, let's make 2024 a year of growth, well-being, and shared success.



To find out more about this 10% discount offer for BHBPA members, contact Abi on **0345 300 6474** or email at **hello@yourwellnesshub.co.uk**

The Christmas Hamper Project

Many families on low incomes are feeling the squeeze of the rising cost-of-living, and Christmas can be a difficult time, with the expectation of extra expense, but often no extra money. A partnership of local organisations including: Burgess Hill Community Foodbank, Burgess Hill Town Council, Burgess Hill Youth and The King's Church Mid-Sussex, have been working together to bring some Christmas cheer to those in need, this year. Financial support for the project was received from Burgess Hill Community Food Bank, Burgess Hill District Lions and Clarions Futures.

Volunteers for the Christmas Hamper Project have worked hard to pack 272 Christmas Hampers for those in critical financial need, in Burgess Hill; sorting through thousands of food items, to ensure that families won't go hungry this Christmas.

The hampers were packaged by a band of volunteers, including staff from Cambridge Audio, Oliver Wyman and Canon, at The King's Church, across two days, with help from pupils from local schools: Burgess Hill Academy and Downlands Community School. More volunteers then delivered the hampers to those in need, over the second weekend of December.

The Rapid Relief Team donated 49 additional boxes to the project, helping to ensure that any last-minute requests were fulfilled.



Staff from Burgess Hill Town Council went to Tesco, to pick up a large collection of items for the Christmas Hamper Project, and extend their thanks to the team there, for all their help.

Many local businesses contributed to the project, with donations from Steve Willis Training, Acora, Paper Plus, Travail Employment Group, Edwards Vacuum/ Atlas Corp and Bennett Christmas. A number of local schools also donated to the project, with food donations from Burgess Hill Girls, Burgess Hill Academy, Downlands Community School, and St Paul's Catholic College. Thanks to the congregation at Gateway Baptist Church who provided donations for the project, and to Parkers Car and Truck Rental for their kind contribution of a van to transport food donations to the packing centre.

The Christmas Hamper Project has been a huge success this year, and the project will return in 2024.

A spokesperson from a local school said: "Thank you so much for organising this, the parents are really appreciative of the hampers. They have been extremely thankful that the children will not miss out and will be able to enjoy a few meals."



Jackie Cooper, Chair of Burgess Hill Youth said: "Burgess Hill Youth was delighted to support the Hamper Project again this year. We are grateful for the donations made to the project by the young people, making our involvement truly inclusive and supporting our local community."

Sharon Benefer, of Burgess Hill Community Foodbank, said: "Burgess Hill Community Foodbank is pleased to have been able to support the Christmas Hamper Project. We are very aware that there are many local families who are finding it tough in the cost-of-living crisis, and these hampers will bring some Christmas cheer to the recipients."

Grow Digital

Early Bird Tickets Released for Grow Digital West Sussex 2024 - Get Yours Now

As 2023 comes to a close, it's time to plan for the year ahead, and there's something that should definitely go in your diary.

Following the huge success of the first two series of Grow Digital workshops, we're thrilled to share plans for the new year. Much like the previous events, local businesses can benefit from the expertise of sought-after speakers. This together with great food, networking, and mentoring opportunities has proven to be a winning formula. Here's what people had to say.

The Workshops

With clear themes and engaging content, each workshop delivers a unique approach to digital business methodology. This time, we have a new speaker line up and they'll be sharing their expertise on these topics.

Workshop One: Make Money

Lead Generation Uncovered: Strategies for Digital Sales Success

Workshop Two: Reduce Costs

Lego and Logins: A Playful Approach to Building Online Security

Workshop Three: Save Time

Connect Faster, Grow Stronger using Customer Management Systems

Workshop Four: Be Visible

Navigating SEO in 2024: A Small Business Guide

Dates and Locations

When the long days of the post-Christmas period kick in, you'll be pleased to have something to look forward to. Time spent learning everything you need to know about digital in 2024, is guaranteed to be a great day out.

Book your place at a location near you to avoid disappointment:

23rd January, Mid Sussex: Haywards Heath Social Club

24th January, Crawley: Sandman Hotel, Crawley

25th January, Horsham: Blackridge Community Centre, Horsham

30th January, Adur & Worthing: Rope Tackle, Shoreham

31st January, Chichester: The Grange, Midhurst

1st February, Arun: Ham Manor Golf Club, Littlehampton



... opened my eyes to some incredible digital tools that are available to the small business owner

... presented by experts who could explain complex processes in a way that I could understand Series two of these events sold out, so accepting this early bird invitation will ensure you don't miss out. Remember, Grow Digital is probably the best no-cost investment of your time in 2024!

Get your ticket now, to avoid disappointment.

Get your EventBrite tickets here

Grow Digital West Sussex aims to help local businesses strengthen their digital toolset. Attendees walk away with actionable insights, new business connections and key takeaways to use immediately.

Participants are encouraged to book and attend the full day of workshops to maximise the benefits on offer.

The Grow Digital programme is supported by the West Sussex Councils and it has been developed in partnership with Freedom Works, Shake it Up Creative, and Creative Bloom. Each of these local companies bring years of experience to the table, and it's their expertise together with research into what local businesses need that has informed the content on offer in the workshops.



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The Pathway to Carbon Neutrality

Auditel help Sussex manufacturer to become Verified Carbon Neutral

BHBPA member Auditel is proud to announce that they have helped Sussex-based packaging manufacturer Challenge Packaging become one of the first businesses in their sector to become Verified Carbon Neutral to PAS2060.

To show their commitment to protecting the environment, companies often claim to be carbon neutral, or that their emissions do not contribute to a net increase in global emission levels. PAS 2060 is an internationally recognised standard designed to verify the accuracy of these claims, help companies achieve true carbon neutrality and counter claims of greenwashing.

Challenge Packaging has always been a manufacturer of sustainable products of which 90% are recycled. As a family company who have their eyes set firmly on the future generations to come they recognised the urgent need to address climate change and wanted to reduce their carbon footprint.



THE COST, PROCUREMENT & CARBON SOLUTIONS COMPANY

Challenge Packaging Summary Carbon Footprint Report

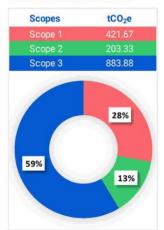


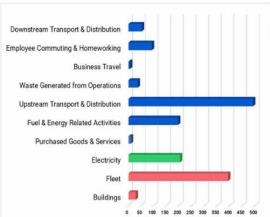
This is a summary of the Carbon Inventory and subsequent Footprint Report produced on behalf of Challenge Packaging by Auditel for the reporting period of 01/01/22 – 31/12/22. The inventory work and reporting as carried out in line with the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard and represents a faithful, true, and fair account of Challenge Packaging GHG emissions from the data available. The full report should be considered when reading the summary and can be obtained at: sales@challengepackaging.co.uk

TOTAL EMISSIONS AND INTENSITY METRICS

1508.88	81.12	20.12	0.17
Total tCO₂e	tCO₂e Per 1M Turnover	tCO₂e Per Employee	tCO₂e Per Sq Metre

TOTAL EMISSIONS BY SCOPE







AUDITEL.CO.UK

Capital Goods

imployee Commuting & Homeworking

rocessing of Sold Products

SNOISS

Auditel's Mission to fielp organisations become Verified Carbon Neutral in a measurable, meaningful

bsi. | Associate | Consultant

28.59 393.08 203.33 N/A 9.65

195.40 491.24 36.59 6.11 92.27

52.62

None to be found associated with the business in the reporting period None to be found associated with the business in the reporting period None to be found associated with the business in the reporting period 1508.88





Ian Hopping of Auditel meticulously assessed and measured all the carbon emissions associated with the business in line with UN Greenhouse Gas Protocols and ISO14064-1. Once all the carbon hotspots had been identified, Auditel also produced a carbon reduction plan that will reduce Challenge Packaging's carbon footprint by 30% over the next three years.

The final step was for Auditel's calculations and reduction plan to be verified by NQA, the global certification body, and carbon credits bought to offset Challenge Packaging's emissions while they take further steps along the road to achieving Net Zero.

Challenge Packaging have committed fully to environmental sustainability and will be investing in innovative and sustainable solutions to continue reducing their carbon emissions. Auditel have already identified several measures which will not only cut their carbon footprint but also lower their costs, proving that with expert advice Net Zero doesn't have to cost the earth!



lan Hopping Carbon Solutions & Procurement Specialist T **01825 791128** | M **07976 244456** | auditel.co. uk

MSDC Community Grants launch

Financial boost for community groups helping to address the impact of the cost of living crisis in Mid Sussex

Mid Sussex District Council has opened the next round of applications for its community grants programme. Local groups can apply for grants of up to £5,000 for projects that will benefit residents across the district.

The Council recently extended the criteria of the programme to focus on grants that address the impact of the cost of living crisis, poverty and climate change. The new criteria includes consideration of how a project contributes to the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Councillor Alison Bennett, Chairman of the Cabinet Grants Panel and Deputy Leader of Mid Sussex District Council, said: "Our district is full of local organisations and charities that are all making a difference in our communities and the programme is designed to celebrate and support these groups.

"I am delighted that we have extended the criteria to ensure that projects contribute to the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We want to encourage groups to be creative in supporting sustainability goals and ensure that funding is actively benefiting our communities. I urge all local organisations to take a look at the new criteria and get in touch if they are thinking about applying."

The Council has already included the UN Sustainable Development Goals in its District Plan and Sustainable Economy Strategy. There are 17 goals which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go together with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve oceans and forests.

Applications are currently open and close on 2 January 2024. Community groups can apply on the Council's website and email **communities@midsussex.gov.uk** with any questions.

In October, grants totalling more than £22,000 were awarded to groups including the Haywards Heath Town District Girl Guides, Adastra Tennis Club, Fairer World Lindfield, and Mid Sussex Voluntary Action.

The Girl Guides will be using the funds to subsidise the costs of additional activities so all can attend without additional financial burden, and Mid Sussex Voluntary Action will use the grant for events and activities for local families during holidays.

For more information about previous grants that have been awarded and details of how to apply, please visit the Mid Sussex District Council website and search 'Community Grants'.





Author Praises Local Print Firm

A word of praise to Lemonade Print from a delighted author.

The book The Goal Kings of Brighton and Hove Albion is set to run into a second print by Lemonade Print Group of Marchants Way after almost selling out within five days of its release.

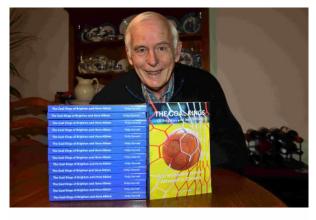
It is the third book on an Albion theme by author Phil Dennett, 73, of Burgess Hill, to be printed by Lemonade; the others were about top scorer Tommy Cook and legendary manager Charlie Webb.

And Phil, of Junction Road, said: "I was delighted for the printers when a buyer at Waterstones said how impressed he was by the quality of the book. I am more of a writer than a technical person and Lemonade have always been very helpful in advising me on that score. It was a learning curve writing to the constraints of production and I appreciated their assistance.

"I decided from the start to self-publish all my books to retain artistic control of them, and I made up my mind to give the business to a local firm that concentrated on quality. It has paid off for every one of my books. I must also say that although I had a firm design concept for the front cover of a ball hitting the net, I needed the expertise of photographer Ian Pack, of Hassocks, to pull it off after Hassocks FC kindly loaned us a goalmouth! Calling in local professionals was a good move for me."

The book records the top strikers from Albion's birth in the early 1900s to its current Premier League status. It runs to nearly 300 pages and costs £20 plus any postage/packaging. The book can be ordered directly on **01444 245466** or **philipjdennett@hotmail.com** (free local delivery) or from Waterstones, Kemp Town Bookshop, and Kim's Bookshop at Arundel. Phil also hopes the Albion store at Falmer will be stocking it.

Phil Dennett with his book (Photo by Chris Dennett)





All Upcoming BHBPA Events

17 Jan 2024
11.00 or 12.00
45 minute tours

Site Tour of Panattoni Park Burgess Hill
Please select one of the two time slots listed
FREE for all members

24 Jan 2024 CAE Burgess Hill

8.30 - 11.00 Apprenticeships and simulator demonstrations

FREE for all members

Please ALWAYS book our events on our website

Whether it's an online event, or a site tour at one of our members, or a networking event at a venue. We need to know how many are attending. Spaces can sometimes be limited and we are finding increased demand. So book early!

Book all Events - CLICK HERE

Closing Remarks

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 various business parks in and around the town.

Let's celebrate your successes and achievements!

Deadline for copy each week is Thursday noon.

Contact me directly - richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk







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