

Weekly Newsletter - Every Friday Morning

### **Opening Remarks**

#### Larking about

On my way to our AGM on Wednesday morning, driving through the Sussex countryside, I was taken aback by the sudden <u>viridescence</u> enveloping the woods and hedgerows. Spring is here, and I'm sure that is welcomed by us all... And in this neck of the woods we have some fantastic amenities to appreciate, including Plumpton Racecourse with its big Easter weekend of racedays coming up soon. Let's lark about in the many great locations across the Sussex and the South East.

#### In other news

We introduce a new schools initiative we are embarking on, getting our members involved in helping students solve sustainability problems, while an event HHBA are hosting with Sherrards Employment Law, which our members can attend, is looking at menopause in the workplace. Following the trialling of discounted training from Chichester College Group, we have a glowing testimonial about one of those courses on offer, we'll be offering many courses on a regular basis from May. An event is being held in aid of a memorial for Dame Vera Lynn.

We have a report on our AGM earlier this week, as part of our constitution this is no laughing matter, the association is proud of maintaining the very highest levels of transparency.

#### Your opinion counts

We ask for your opinions on the MSDC parking fees increases across Mid Sussex.

#### This year's awards

We introduce another of our awards sponsors, this week for a very popular award: **Bright Star**. By entering this category you're giving a staff member the acknowledgement they deserve. Make them feel proud of the energy, the diligence and the commitment they have given to your business.

#### Last week before entries close

You only have until the Easter break to complete your entries. Download a form without delay!

#### **Tickets for the Awards Evening**

BH Biz Star awards 2024 - Ticket sales are now live! Take advantage of the **Early Bird** pricing. Click the banner below that takes you to our ticketing platform.

Keep the stories coming in: richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk

This week we introduce two new members. Become part of the fastest growing business group in Sussex - Join Here .



# TICKETS NOW ON SALE! EARLY BIRD PRICES

Individual tickets only £75 per head. Any block booking of more than 8 tickets only £65 per head

### **BOOK HERE**

### **Parking Fees increase across Mid Sussex**

In Burgess Hill they rise by 10%, Haywards Heath by 20%, East Grinstead by 30%



#### **Dear members of BHBPA**

You may be aware of the upcoming changes to the parking charges in the Mid Sussex area.

- Burgess Hill charges to increase by 10%
- Charges introduced for evenings, Sundays and Bank Holidays

These increases have an impact on our business community and I would like to invite your opinion over this issue.

Please email me <u>richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk</u> with your views and we will take these to the council. Myself and representatives from HHBA & EGBA have scheduled a meeting after Easter to address our concerns to the Chief Executive of MSDC.

Please look here for the full details of the changes:

https://midsussex.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s18247/Motion%20on%20Notic e%20-%20Amendment%20to%20Budget.pdf

Please submit your comments prior to 12th April.

### This week's AGM

Celebrating another year of extraordinary growth and a packed agenda for 2024

**Burgess Hill** 



As per our constitution, the BHBPA Chair, <u>Mark Jackson</u>, brought the AGM meeting together for the Quorum. He explained the structure of our Governance Model and presented the Finance Report for 2023. We're a well-run organisation, under the guidance of a Board of experienced professionals.

I then explained more about the milestone in membership numbers we hit at the end of December 2023 - **200 members**. We talked also of the various initiatives we have been working on, including the new signage that went up around the Victoria & Sheddingdean business parks in 2023, the progress of the Yellow Lines being planned at 11 sites on the Victoria business park and sustainability initiatives.

I touched on last year's hugely successful <u>Mid Sussex Science Week</u>, and how that is about to launch again for 2024. More news on that in upcoming issues. I also introduced a new Schools programme - the Mid Sussex Green Changemakers, an initiative that already has buy-in from, among other schools, Downlands Community School, Burgess Hill Academy, Warden Park & Imberhorne. More on that further below.

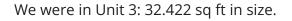
We also mentioned the success of the discounted training courses we trialled in January and February, delivered by Chichester College Group. Additional discounts have now been negotiated for a range of leadership management training courses offered by Rewards Training.

We are looking to hold these training offerings at The Kings Centre and further down in this issue we have some feedback from an excel course attendee.



David McGougan gave us an overview of the **Panattoni Park Burgess Hill**. The 23 acre site is now almost completed. You can find out more on their website.

You can **download** the brochure, which details each of the 14 units, in very wide ranging sizes, from 8,000 sq ft, all the way to 146,000 sq ft.





Tim Hardwicke, a partner for one of the agents for the site, <u>Stiles Harold</u> <u>William</u> s, gave a very clear summary of commercial rents across Mid Sussex, with a focus on Burgess Hill.

He also explained the value of 'new kit' when moving into newly completed units, such as those of the Panattoni site, they can easily offset the higher rents asked.





These photos, including the aerial drone imagery, from Gibson Blanc Photography

You get an idea here of the scale of the building. Unit 3 is located in the image bottom right, in that image, on the far right is this standalone unit, one of the smaller units, all pristine and fully completed. Bottom centre...you can see our group in the corner inside Unit 3.

We would like to thank Panattoni for sponsoring the event, allowing us to bring in chairs, tables, a TV screen, a fabulous buffet breakfast including baps, pastries, all manner of fresh fruit and all the very necessary teas and coffees. Many thanks to <u>Hickstead Lodge</u> for bringing that catering in. There were also complimentary bottles of still and sparkling water for all our delegates, courtesy of BHBPA member <u>Aquapax</u>.

This was followed by an introduction to the Mid Sussex Green Changemakers Challenge, presented by Kat Crisp, she introduced one of the tools she has to engage students, using football, this football shirt is made from recycled coffee beans...who'd have thought it! BHBPA is looking to engage our members in this programme. More details below.



What happened next was a veritable earthquake of laughter, echoing across the vast warehouse. We started off with handshakes to pass on a laugh to those sitting next to us, then we were throwing laughter balls at each other. Some dropped the imaginary ball and had to pick the guffaws up. This all continued under the expert guidance of a seasoned and well established wellness practitioner.

The wonderful <u>Sam Rehan</u> animated us and when you start to laugh, it doesn't just lighten your load mentally, it actually induces physical changes in your body, releasing serotonin, endorphins, dopamine, oxytocin. Laughter enhances your intake of oxygen-rich air, stimulates your heart, lungs and muscles. Energise your staff to greater productivity - by developing and supporting a wellness programme.



This sequence of photos above from Alix Rickard Photography



### **Bright Star Award**

#### Introducing the sponsor of this year's Bright Star award





BRIGHT STAR

Epassi UK's discounted gym and health schemes support the wellbeing of millions of employees all over the UK and Ireland, and helps them shine, so it feels natural to sponsor the 'Bright Star' award at this year's Burgess Hill Business Parks Association business awards.

This award recognises an individual who is a team player, who not only brightens up the day, but goes that extra mile to help ensure the job gets done well.

As an active member of this thriving local business community, we proudly join you in celebrating the outstanding individuals who not only make our businesses successful, but great places to work!

Who within your team, or wider organisation, deserves the prestigious title of 'Bright Star' this year? We would like to wish the very best of luck to all the nominees in this category and we look forward to presenting the 'Bright Star' award to the winner in May.

### **This Week's New Members**

- Axiom Process Solutions
- GoLark

### **Axiom Process Solutions**

#### Operate more efficiently, effectively, and effortlessly

I'm thrilled to join the BHBPA family and share a bit about what I do at Axiom. My mission is simple: to help businesses like yours operate more efficiently, effectively, and effortlessly.



#### **Andy Emery**

I'm passionate about simplifying complex processes and empowering organisations to achieve their full potential. Imagine this:

Say goodbye to tedious manual tasks like data entry or paperwork. With our innovative process automation solutions, we can automate repetitive tasks, freeing up your team's time to focus on what truly matters – growing your business.

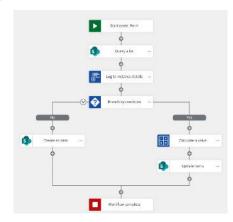
Let's take a common example: invoice processing. Instead of spending hours manually entering data and chasing approvals, our automation tools can streamline the entire process. From receiving invoices to processing payments, everything becomes seamless and error-free. Not only does this save time and reduce the risk of errors, but it also improves cash flow and strengthens supplier relationships.

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But that's not all. Imagine having real-time insights into your business performance at your fingertips. With our custom-built dashboards, you can visualise key metrics and track progress towards your goals with ease. Whether it's monitoring sales trends, tracking employee productivity, or analysing customer feedback, our dashboards provide the clarity and insight you need to make informed decisions.

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Is your business going through a growth stage? Say goodbye to paperwork and delays. Our streamlined solutions ensure a seamless experience for new hires, freeing up HR to focus on strategic initiatives.

I'm excited to connect with each of you and explore how we can support your business goals. Let's work together to unlock new levels of efficiency and success!



Business LinkedIn Page Personal LinkedIn Page Website: axiomprocesssolutions.co.uk About me Mobile number 07887 690 680



### Mid Sussex Green Changemakers Challenge

#### A new venture, in partnership with BHBPA

We were really excited to announce a new venture for BHBPA at the AGM. We are partnering with Social Innovation for All CIC, a local social enterprise, to develop a new educational programme and opportunity for our members to engage with schools around two really important topics - skills and sustainability.



The Mid Sussex Green Changemakers Challenge will use an innovative model to engage whole year groups of students aged 11-16, combining sustainability education with design, business and citizenship skills. Students will work in teams to identify local climate issues before designing entrepreneurial solutions to address them. The most promising teams in each school will receive seed funding and mentorship to put their ideas into action. In March / April 2025 we aim to host a celebration event for students and partners, awarding further investment to the best ideas to help grow their impact.

We are aiming to engage the state secondary schools across Mid Sussex, with 5 schools already on board to launch next academic year. Over the next 3-4 months we will be co-creating the programme with schools, businesses, local community groups and councils.

We have numerous engagement opportunities for our members including:

- Access to a range of fun, skills based employee volunteering opportunities
- The opportunity to showcase sustainability solutions from local businesses and organisations
- The opportunity to build links with local schools
- Brand and visibility opportunities

#### Get in touch

Engaging with and sponsoring the Mid Sussex Green Changemakers Challenge can help you to deliver against your ESG goals, so please get in touch with Richard or Kat ( <u>kat@si4a.net</u>) to find out more about all of the different ways (big and small) that your business could be involved.

### **Discounted Training for BHBPA Members**

# Following a successful trial earlier in the year we will be relaunching these in May

We have our first testimonial, from Amanda Anstee Proofreading & Editing

#### **Excellent Excel training with CCG and BHBPA**

A big thank you to Chichester College Group for the valuable MS Excel training course hosted at Haywards Heath college last month, and to BHBPA for arranging the fantastic discount on this offer.



Mandy with her course materials & certificate

As a professional editor and proofreader, I am all about words.

But as a small business owner I also need to be a bit about the numbers. I have managed to get by with a basic knowledge of Excel spreadsheets but knew that, if only I understood the program better, I could be more efficient in my accounting and could unlock greater insights into my client and other business data. The classroom-based intermediate course was exactly what I needed. Over the course of one day it covered aspects such as advanced filtering, IF functions, conditional formatting, and pivot tables.

For each topic, our trainer demonstrated how something worked, with examples of why we might want to use it and tips on shortcuts and quirks to watch out for; we then had the opportunity to work through an example ourselves and ask any questions if we got stuck or wondered how to adapt it to our own situations.

Each delegate received a helpful workbook to use during the session and to keep afterwards as an aide-memoire.

I have already begun to put what I learned to use, saving myself some time in completing records and pulling out some interesting analysis of projects undertaken this year. And not only did this course demystify some of the tools available for working with numbers, but it turns out that Excel can also be quite a lot about words!

**NOTE:** The association will be hosting these in future at either at Crawley College or at The Kings Centre on the Victoria Business Park. We'll be launching May dates in the very near future: Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced Excell & Fire wardens courses. Further software courses soon to be announced.

As a BHBPA member you receive a discount of over 30% on all bookings.

### **A Fantastic Evening**

**Please join us for an evening packed with nostalgia...and Gyles Brandreth!** 19 APRIL – GRAND CONNAUGHT ROOMS, LONDON

An evening of good food, live music, fun, and friendship will be staged next month in support of the Dame Vera Lynn Memorial Statue.



Memorabilia owned by Dame Vera will go on auction next month at a glittering gala evening in support of the Dame Vera Lynn Memorial Statue Fund.

A gold disc commemorating the Forces' Sweetheart's album from the 70s will be on offer, along with dresses designed by the BBC for her popular 70s programme, The Vera Lynn Show, as well as other dresses by famous designers that she wore during her concerts and TV appearances.

Also, in the auction will be several of Dame Vera's paintings as well as a maquette of the Memorial Statue. Sculpted by renowned artist Paul Day, it depicts Dame Vera Lynn alongside other wartime entertainers in a bronze relief.

Paintings by artist Michael Italiaander, who was one of the youngest war artists in WW2. He went on to have a prolific career as a fine artist, illustrator (with an international reputation), cartoonist, and satirical artist. A VIP experience at the All England Show Jumping Course at Hickstead, West Sussex rounds off major items going under the hammer.

All the lots will form part of the auction being held at the Grand Connaught Rooms in London on Friday 19 April with Lord Archer in charge of the gavel. Other friends of Dame Vera in attendance include Wayne Sleep and Vicki Michelle.

Broadcaster and writer Gyles Brandreth will MC the evening with performances by the D-Day Darlings and Colin Thackery. Kiwi musician, Vicki Lee - a friend of Dame Vera - will perform some of the iconic songs... a singalong is guaranteed.

The evening's entertainment will be in tribute to Dame Vera – full of nostalgia and fun. Tickets for the 3-course dinner in the company of Dame Vera's family and friends are available from Our Legend and priced at £125 or £1250.00 for a table of ten.

#### Please feel free to share these details with friends.

For tickets: amy@ourlegend.com or **020 3488 6713** 

### **Enter the BHBPA Business Awards**

Entries must be in no later than Friday March 29th



Our **<u>BH Biz Star awards</u>** focus on the most important part of any business – your people.

#### Multiple entries in a single category

You can enter up to three different categories, but in each category you have the opportunity to make multiple entries. So if you have several 'Bright Stars' or 'Star Apprentices', tell us why they're exceptional.

Read about what we are looking for in each of the award descriptions on our website. Our judges are looking for evidenced submissions so make it apparent what has been achieved.

#### We look forward to hearing from you.

Once you're done, send the completed forms, together with any supporting evidence, testimonials and the like to: <u>richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk</u>



Download an entry form today

Early Bird tickets - Buy here



### **Easter Festival**

#### Plumpton Racecourse is a hidden gem in the world of horseracing

The thrill of Jump racing, the joy of a win, delicious food and drink, and stunning rural backdrop provide a memorable sporting experience for everyone from novice to racing expert.



www.plumptonracecourse.co.uk | 01273 890383

Our Eggcellent Easter Festival is coming up on Sunday 31st March and Monday 1st April, and we would love to welcome fellow BHPBA members and their families to our beautiful track. Our centre course will feature a whole feast of activities from a Harris Fun Fair to a mini petting zoo and dinosaur meet and greets with plenty in between, ensuring all the family can enjoy the day. Tickets start from only £15 and under 18s race free with an accompanying adult!

To find out more, or to contact us, please do visit our <u>website</u> or call the office on **01273 890383** .

### GoLark

#### Female Entrepreneur Flies High with the Launch of GoLark as English Tourism Week Takes Flight

Burgess Hill-based entrepreneur Aneela Rose, launches GoLark, the premier online experience finder for discovering amazing tourist sites and attractions across Sussex and Surrey.

As we celebrate English Tourism Week, GoLark is proud to champion the diverse array of experiences that make our region a must-visit destination for tourists and a beloved playground for locals, which contribute hugely to the UK economy.



Driven by her own frustration of using out of date websites with misleading information, Aneela set about to create a dynamic platform where authenticity, quality, and reliability are at the forefront of every recommendation; you can trust GoLark implicitly.

Aneela shared: "GoLark was born from my passion to transform the way people discover places to visit. For me, GoLark is more than just a platform though, it's a community of Larkers! That's the essence of our brand – it's Larker-led and we're all loving it!"

Aneela Rose

#### Catering for everyone and building a vibrant community

GoLark is all about bringing a wide variety of inspiring places under one umbrella, with a user-friendly website that caters for everyone. And what sets GoLark apart from its competitors is our robust business model that ensures we check each venue before being showcased on our site.

Aneela continues: *"We're building a colossal database of experiences and venues across the south, with the vision to launch in other counties and London soon. We really want to drive more visitors to the south and promote what our counties have to offer."* 



#### Partnership opportunities

If you're a venue, experience, activity or have an event listing in Sussex or Surrey that you wish to promote to the public, we'd love to speak to you!

#### Become a Larker

If you are interested in becoming a larker or know of a fantastic venue not yet on our site, please contact us. We enjoy engaging with local people who love going out and exploring, and want to share their experiences with us.

GoLark<sup>™</sup> is a proud member of **Tourism South East** .

#### Go on. Go out, Go lark about!



Contact us at hello@golark.co.uk or call our PR & Marketing Larker Lucie on **07443 568 466** 

Visit our website for your next larking about in Sussex and Surrey: <u>www.golark.co.uk</u>

### Menopause Awareness

#### Menopause Awareness for businesses 8th May

Haywards Heath Business Association in partnership with Mid Sussex District Council are delighted to be co-hosting this Menopause Awareness event for businesses. Menopause specialists from Myla Health will be speaking about how menopause might affect you, your colleagues or employees in the workplace. They will discuss simple strategies for supporting employees, raising awareness and creating a workplace culture which is open and supportive.

Also on hand will be representatives from Mid Sussex Wellbeing team and Sherrards Law for you to speak to regarding specific workplace support and advice. We invite you to join us on 8th May at Ansty Sports Club where complimentary refreshments will be served on arrival.

#### **Book Your Ticket Here**



We know that 7 million women in Britain are aged 45 to 60 and are likely to be approaching or experiencing symptoms the menopause. Women over 50 are the fastest growing group in the workplace. We know that 60% of women say that their symptoms affect their work, and 1/10 women have left a job due to menopausal symptoms.

This is a key workplace issue that everyone needs to be aware of, but many employers do not feel well equipped to support women going through the menopause at work. Understanding the symptoms and impact of menopause is important for employers, managers and employees.

Dr Zoe Schaedel and Dr Olivia Hum are British Menopause Society accredited Menopause Specialists and the co-Founders of Myla Health, an organisation that treats and supports women with menopausal symptoms, as well as providing corporate education and training. They will take you through definitions and symptoms, and how to manage symptoms with or without HRT. They will look at how menopause might affect you, your colleagues or employees in the workplace.

Workplace Health by Mid Sussex Wellbeing is a funded service, providing a resource for local businesses to support employee's wellbeing. Research has found that businesses who support employee wellbeing see improved engagement, retention, and productivity. They deliver support at your workplace, from advisors trained in lifestyle and behaviour change. They offer Wellbeing group talks on topics to encourage a healthier lifestyle and Wellbeing MOTs, 30min personal appointments with a Wellbeing Advisor, exploring ways they can make small, realistic lifestyle changes to improve their overall health and wellbeing.

We do hope you can attend and look forward to seeing you then.

- Venue: Ansty Sports Club, Deak's Lane, Ansty, Haywards Heath RH17 5AS (plenty of parking available)
- Admission: Free for members and first time guests

\*This is a ticket only event, please book as a member or non-member if you are a first time guest, membership is required to attend further events. If you are unable to attend please cancel your ticket as spaces are limited.

Book tickets for this event here

### **The Power of Networking**

# The joint event of BHBPA, EGBA, gdb and HHBA is this year hosted by Burgess Hill Business Parks Association

We would like to thank Porsche Centre Mid Sussex for hosting an event we expect will generate a huge turnout. We have put a limit on this of 150 guests.

We would also like to thank CAE for allowing us to use their adjacent car park for the evening.

This is strictly a **MEMBERS ONLY** event You will have to **book via eventbrite.** It is on our website...but use the eventbrite booking form please!







Brought to you by bhbpa.co.uk

# Joint Networking Event

FREE Members only BHBPA, EGBA, gdb and HHBA The power of networking -sparking business creativity, innovation and efficiency!



Join the ultimate 2024 Joint Networking Event where BHBPA, EGBA, gdb, and HHBA come together for an epic in-person gathering!



Wednesday, April 24th 6pm - 8pm

Porsche Centre Mid Sussex

Innovation Drive, Burgess Hill RH15 9TW



PORSCHE

Book this event here

### **All Upcoming BHBPA Events**

24 April 2024 5.00 - 8.00pm	Joint event with HHBA, EGBA & GDB To be held at Porsche Centre Mid Sussex Huge joint event with 150+ expected - <u>book on eventbrite</u> FREE for all members
24 Mars 2024	The DU Die Assessed Evening

24 May 2024The BH Biz Awards Evening7.00pm - 1.00amThe AmEx Stadium - We expect between 300-400 guests<br/>Dress to Impress. Early Bird tickets - BUY THEM HERE

#### 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 - <u>richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk</u>



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