

Weekly Newsletter - Every Friday Morning

Opening Remarks

Funding and Support

This week we focus on funding and support, looking at innovation and various business growth programmes offered by the University of Brighton. We remind you of an invaluable source of information to keep you up to date on all funding opportunities.

On the IT front, hybrid cloud systems are explored and process automation is promoted as a better way to organise your business. We tell you more about the government's Innovation Smart Grants while from the office of Mims Davies MP, a range of useful HMRC updates.

BHBiz - The big night on May 24th

We are honoured to have Mims Davies MP at our event at the Amex later this month. Tickets continue to sell for both the larger and smaller table options and we have quite a number of people coming on their own or with a partner.

We announce a second networking event in June, a breakfast networking event at Burgess Hill's newest brewery. You'll need to scroll much further below to find out more.

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

We welcome two new members this week. Become part of the fastest growing business group in Sussex - Join Here.



EARLY BIRD PRICES
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

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

BOOK HERE

Early Bird - Offer ends today at 6.00pm

BHBiz Gala Dinner - 20th Anniversary Awards Evening

If you want to buy tickets at our reduced rate, you need to take action now Amex Stadium - Friday May 24th - Starts at 6.30pm until 1.00am

Buy Tickets Here



Introducing New Members

- Double Digit
- Burgess Hill Phoenix WFC

Double Digit

Efficient Bookkeeping & Xero Specialists

Welcome to Double Digit your go-to destination for friendly and efficient bookkeeping services based in Hassocks. With a passion for streamlining processes and a commitment to providing a personal touch, we're here to make your financial management journey as smooth as possible.



We understand the importance of covering all bases when it comes to financial management. That's why we offer comprehensive VAT and payroll services, ensuring that your business remains compliant and on track with its financial obligations.

As your outsourced accounts department, we take care of the nitty-gritty details, allowing you to focus on the bigger picture of running your business.

Sophie Baldwin MD

One of our key specialties is Xero, a leading cloud-based accounting software. We're proud to be Xero experts and can provide training to help you and your team get the most out of this powerful tool. Whether you're new to Xero or looking to enhance your existing skills, we're here to support you every step of the way.

So, how can we help you? Whether you're a small startup or an established business, we offer tailored solutions to meet your unique needs. From day-to-day bookkeeping tasks to monthly management accounts and cashflow forecasting, we've got you covered. Our team takes the time to understand your goals and challenges, ensuring that our services are aligned with your objectives.

But we're more than just your average bookkeeping service. We're your trusted partner and advisor, here to provide guidance and support as you navigate the ups and downs of business ownership. With our proactive approach and dedication to client satisfaction, we're committed to helping you achieve your financial goals and unlock your business's full potential.

DºUBLE DIGIT

Contact Sophie for a free initial meeting to discuss how we can support you and your business **01273 987117**

sophie@digitbookkeeping.co.uk www.digitbookkeeping.co.uk

University of Brighton - Business Support

Highlights for our regional businesses and beyond

We've included some of the ways we can support your business this Spring. If you would like to find out more about how the University of Brighton could work with your business, get in touch at KnowledgeExchange@brighton.ac.uk.

Female entrepreneurs over 50% on Help to Grow

Help to Grow has sponsored and judged an award at this year's Dynamic awards. Their partnership with Dynamic has increased the number of women helped by the programme from a third to over half.



Give staff opportunities to develop new skills through HTQs

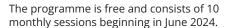
Higher Technical Qualifications - or HTQs - have been approved against occupational standards developed by employers, which ensure that learners gain the skills that employers want, and employers can be confident that learners have the knowledge, skills and behaviours for a particular specialist role



Learn More

Ready to tackle the challenges in your business?

Join our peer-to-peer led <u>Profitnet</u> programme, where you'll meet like-minded businesses, have the opportunity to tackle real challenges faced by your business, find inspiration, and discover new approaches and ideas to drive your business forward - all through expertly facilitated, confidential action learning sets.



Learn More



Business and Intellectual Property Centre Sussex

Business support, events, workshops and one-to-one clinics are available with the team from the Business and Intellectual Property Centre Sussex (BIPC Sussex).

Sussex Libraries and the British Library's National Network of Business & IP Centres are transforming the way ideas grow into successful businesses.

The Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) Sussex - with its Regional Centre BIPC Brighton & Hove at Jubilee Library in Brighton and its BIPC Locals at Crawley Library, Eastbourne Library and Hastings Library - supports entrepreneurs, start-up businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises in Sussex.



From that first spark of inspiration to successfully launching and developing a business.

As well as being a hub for entrepreneurs to network, the BIPC provides free access to over £50K worth of industry, market and company specific research data and analysis, one-to-one expert advice sessions, IP support and a programme of business events to help you imagine, start or grow your business.

For more information, fill in an <u>Ask a Librarian</u> form and the Enquiries Team will be happy to help.

Crawley BIPC Service - Find out More

Hybrid Cloud

Realising the Best of Both Worlds with Azure Stack

The cloud is an important technology for businesses, with unparalleled benefits. However, using a single cloud-based solution is not always the best option for some businesses.

A hybrid cloud solution, however, utilises on-premises and cloud-based environments (public and private), allowing you to take advantage of both. Azure Stack is Microsoft's hybrid cloud solution that will help ensure you're getting the most out of cloud systems.

In this article, Extech Cloud explains why your organisation needs the hybrid cloud, and the benefits of Azure Stack.



The need for hybrid cloud

A hybrid cloud solution offers an integrated private and public system to help your organisation stay agile, keep costs down, and reap the security benefits of the private cloud. These include:

- Reduced costs: The private cloud is more expensive than the public cloud, and
 the former is not always necessary. A hybrid solution allows you to use the onprem or private cloud while also taking advantage of the cheaper public cloud.
- Flexibility and agility: On-premises servers are far less flexible than the public cloud especially when it comes to remote working. With the hybrid cloud, you can access the public cloud but keep important data secure in the private cloud.
- **Business continuity:** If your business experiences downtime in your on-prem implementation, you can utilise the public cloud to ensure business continuity.

Introducing Azure Stack

Azure Stack is Microsoft's solution to allow you to run Azure services flexibly in the environment of your choice. It lets you build and mobilise cloud environments and fully implement the hybrid solution with both the private and public cloud, making your organisation more flexible overall.

Azure Stack use cases

Azure Stack can be used in a lot of different scenarios to help you take advantage of both on-premises and cloud-based benefits:

- Latency within edge and remote locations: Azure Stack can be deployed in locations where low-latency processing is necessary. Using Azure Stack allows you to deploy essential and high-priority applications without having to worry about latency or connectivity issues.
- Disconnected environments: It allows you to store data locally without being dependent on cloud connectivity where internet access and connectivity is unpredictable. This is useful for industries like defence, mining, or maritime operations where network connectivity won't always be a given.
- Data sovereignty and compliance: This solution can help organisations keep up with compliance and regulatory requirements using on-premises hardware to keep sensitive data protected and safe, and cloud services for other, less sensitive workloads.
- Hybrid development and testing: You can use Azure Stack to facilitate hybrid development and testing and create and deploy hybrid applications for greater flexibility and agility in your organisation.

The hybrid cloud is integral to ensure you're taking advantage of the cloud's full potential. If you're looking to get started with Azure Stacks but don't know where to start, reach out to us today.

Contact us

Talk to us: 01444 443200 email us: info@extech.co.uk extechcloud.com

Burgess Hill Phoenix WFC

A brand-new football club for the area

Burgess Hill Phoenix WFC are a brand-new football club for the area, dedicated to empowering women through the beautiful game.





Sophia Mainwaring Club Secretary

Our mission is to provide a supportive and inclusive environment where women of all abilities can come together to play, learn, and grow. With structured training sessions led by qualified coaches, we nurture diversity, champion community involvement, and promote empowerment, especially among the underserved over-30s cohort.

Our goal is to inspire every member to feel confident, connected, and capable, both on and off the field.



Contact Sophia to find out about how you can support the team. A number of sponsorship packages are available. Email: sophiamainwaring@gmail.com



Green Business Matters - Business Advice

Sign up for useful insight and advice

Do you run a business? Are you interested in how your business could become more sustainable? If you're looking for information, support, and guidance to help implement greener business practices, why not subscribe to our Green Business Matters eNewsletter?

Sign up for the newsletter here



Process Automation & Sustainability

Embracing Sustainability Through Process Automation

In today's fast-paced business landscape, sustainability isn't just a buzzword – it's a necessity. As businesses, we have a responsibility to reduce our environmental footprint while maximising efficiency. And one powerful tool in our arsenal? Process automation.



Take a moment to consider the humble sheet of paper. While it may seem innocuous, the environmental impact of paper usage is significant. From deforestation to energy-intensive production processes, every sheet takes its toll on the planet.

But with process automation, we can drastically reduce, or even eliminate, our reliance on paper.

In a previous role, I witnessed a wasteful cycle of printing, scanning, and emailing the same paperwork multiple times. Not only did this result in poor-quality documents, but it also squandered resources like paper, toner and electricity. By automating these processes, we can streamline workflows and ensure that vital documents, like sales orders, are pristine and legible – without harming the environment.

But the benefits of process automation extend far beyond paper reduction. By digitising documents and data, businesses can eliminate the need for physical post, reducing their carbon footprint and cutting costs in the process. And we mustn't overlook the influence on transportation. By utilising digital channels to send documents and information between HQ and field teams, businesses can minimise the number of trips made by their vehicles. This not only cuts down on emissions but also preserves vehicles from unnecessary wear and tear, further reducing our environmental impact.

The bottom line? Embracing process automation isn't just about efficiency – it's about sustainability. By harnessing the power of digital tools, businesses can minimise their environmental impact while maximising productivity. So let's take the leap towards a more sustainable future, one automated process at a time.



Andy Emery - Managing Director Axiom Process Solutions Ltd. Mobile 07887 690 680 Andy.Emery@Axiomps.co.uk axiomprocesssolutions.co.uk

2024 UK Innovation Grants for SME's

The Innovate UK Smart Grants

The Innovate UK Smart grant supports SMEs and their partners develop the best game changing and world-leading innovative R&D projects. It offers funding where other opportunities are not available or appropriate, and where timing is key to ensure swift and successful commercialisation post-project completion.

To be in scope your proposal must demonstrate:

- a ground-breaking and innovative idea for brand new products, processes or services
- an idea that is significantly different from already available products, processes or services globally
- an idea that is set for rapid commercialisation following project completion
- clear potential to positively impact the UK's position, productivity and competitiveness within the global economy
- a clear, evidence-based business plan to deliver significant economic impact, return on investment (ROI) and growth through commercialisation, as soon as possible after project completion
- why Smart funding is the right potential funding for your project, and the journey you have already been on to reach the point of application
- a team with the necessary skills and expertise to deliver the project successfully and on time, and to achieve rapid commercialisation
- awareness of all the main risks the project will face with realistic management, mitigation and impact minimisation plans for each risk
- sound, practical financial plans and timelines that represent good value for money, including the funding of post-project activities

Specific themes

Your project must focus on:

- taking customer and user needs into account to deliver more desirable and useful solutions
- identifying who is ready to buy your innovation
- being developed, planned and resourced beyond the end of the Innovate UK funded project, taking into account the focus of any project partners and their existing commitments
- fitting in with and complementing your ongoing business planning and development, product offerings and organisational structure to maximise chances of success

Research categories

We will fund feasibility projects, industrial research projects and experimental development projects, as defined in the guidance on categories of research.

Projects we will not fund

We are not funding projects:

- that do not meet the competition scope or eligibility criteria
- where the technology is already available
- that do not address the size, potential and access to market for their innovation
- that do not evidence the potential for their idea to lead to significant return on investment (ROI), positive economic impact, growth and scale-up of the business
- that do not provide clear and realistic plans to commercialise their innovation as soon as possible post-project completion
- where other Innovate UK funding support is available and more appropriate
- We will not fund commercialisation activities such as marketing and sales.

We cannot fund projects that are:

• dependent on export performance



Click here to apply to the Innovation Funding Service

BH Biz - The Finalists

Our finalists were so good, we couldn't help but list them all again! Here's the shortlist for all 11 categories

We congratulate all those who have made it through to the final round. Early bird tickets - offer ends at 6.00pm this evening!

Our very worthy FINALISTS

Check out the companies that have stood out this year

BH Biz Sponsors Click a logo

Bright Star

- Jade Avery Bluelite Graphics
- Jason Payne **EBISS**
- Mike Abbott Mid Sussex Golf Club
- Karen Bradshaw Ridgeview Wine Estate

Green Champion

- Bio-Productions
- Consort Frozen Foods
- Sussex Floor Restoration

EDWARDS

Charity Champion

- Bennett Christmas
- Consort Frozen Foods
- Rubix VT

Team of Stars

- Flexibility Matters
- <u>Epassi</u>
- Ridgeview Retail & Hospitality Team
- Travail





Star Apprentice

- Niamh Daniels **Edwards**
- Jaden Corner PVL
- Nazia Arshed Rewards Training
- Alexander Simmons The Woolpack

Future Talent & Skills Champion

- Bluelite Graphics
- BSE 3D
- Edwards
- Rose Media Group

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Champion

- Edwards
- EBISS
- ILG

Community Champion

- Community Transport Sussex
- Consort Frozen Foods
- Steve Willis Training

Winning Workplace

- Bennett Oakley
- Bluelite Graphics
- Epassi
- <u>Travail</u>

Business Person of the Year

- Darren Robathan <u>Comply Sense</u>
- James Shillaker **Epassi**
- Emma Cleary Flexibility Matters
- Tim Rylatt Growth Coach













Best Business

- EBISS
- PVL
- UK Growth Coach



The Brickworks - June Breakfast Networking

Come and join us for a light breakfast and a tour of BHBPA's newest member

Wednesday 5th June from 8.30-10.30am Come along to one of our newest members, The Brickworks Taproom who be hosting our breakfast event in June.

There will be a short tour of the brewery and in the large, bright and airy taproom we expect to have a couple of interesting presentations looking at pathways to business growth. We'll have more details on our speakers next week.

Book Here



Ridgeview - June Evening Networking

An exclusive BHBPA Members-Only event with limited numbers.

Tuesday 18th June from 5pm-7.30pm BHBPA can only welcome 30 to this event. It will be hosted in one of the pavilions at the **Rows & Vine** restaurant.

There will also be a tour of the winery and a short presentation on <u>Ridgeview's B-Corp status</u> and what that means, followed by some wine tasting.



Book Here

BH Biz - Raffle Prizes Required

An opportunity for us to raise funds for St Peter & St James Hospice
During the evening the hospice team will be offering raffle tickets and we hope to
offer a fantastic selection of raffle prizes.

Can you help?

It could be a day out at the races, or a wine tasting tour, a weekend break somewhere in a nice hotel, an exciting race day at Silverstone or Goodwood...or simply a lovely bottle of wine, a fancy box of the finest chocolate, or perhaps a wonderful hamper of the finest Sussex comestibles.

If you'd like to offer something, drop me a line with all the details. Contact me: Richard Cox **07393 728788** richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk

BH Biz - another Raffle Prize announced

Family Raceday Tickets Plumpton Racecourse

We are very happy to donate $4\times$ Grandstand & Paddock Tickets for Family Raceday on Sunday 22nd September.

(£100 value based on the on the gate price)



Get all dressed up for our season finale

We have seven races to conclude the season and we can't wait to see the glitz and glamour of Plumpton racegoers.

Sunday 12th May, 2024

Gates Open – 12:00pm First Race – TBC Last Race – TBC Gates Close – TBC



It is a real chance to let your hair down. There are Best Dressed competitions for Ladies, Gents and Children with some fantastic prizes.

On the track you will see our true equine stars take centre stage for the last time this season and you are sure to see close finishes. It is a day for the whole family, with lots of entertainment around the site to suit all ages. After the racing, there will be live music so make sure you stick around for some après-racing fun!

Please call the Racecourse Office on **01273 890383** for hospitality bookings.

Quiz Night

A quiz night to raise funds for our newest member - Burgess Hill Phoenix WFC



Mid Sussex Science Week

Become a STEM Ambassador - Inspire the next generation

We need your assistance during one week in early summer.

You would need to visit the school a couple of times during the week for anywhere between 90-120 minutes to help them with their ideas. You'd introduce yourself and what your job entails, perhaps how you use science, technology, engineering or maths in your everyday work activities. The teacher is mainly responsible and leads the project with them.

You would also need to be available to attend the event on Friday where the children will show their projects to the judges.

We need to hear from you soon, as we begin the onboarding process at the end of this month. <u>Mid Sussex Science Week</u> runs from July 8th to July 12th.

Contact me for more information:

richard.cox@bhbpa.co.uk or call 07393 728688

Government Updates



HM Revenue & Customs

Download the HMRC app

You can now use the HRMC app to make a Simple Assessment payment, check for gaps in National Insurance contributions and also check if you can make online payments for gaps in your National Insurance contributions.

Pay your Economic Crime Levy

Added information about how to contact HMRC for help with Economic Crime Levy.

A Brief Guide from the Law Society on the Economic Crime Levy (Anti-Money Laundering)

HMRC Tools and Calculators

A link to the 'Work out your transition profit' tool has been added in the 'Self Assessment' section.

Making a Full Export Declaration

Find out what you need to do when making a full declaration to send goods from the UK.

Sending parcels to and from Northern Ireland

How to move goods, in parcels or large letters, between Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and Northern Ireland.

You can apply for UK Carrier (UKC) Scheme authorisation to move consumer parcels from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.

All Upcoming BHBPA Events

24th May The BHBiz Awards Evening

7.00pm - 1.00am The Amex Stadium - We expect between 300-400 guests

Dress to Impress. Early Bird tickets - BUY THEM HERE

5th June The Brickworks Tap Room

8.30-10.30am Tour and Networking

Presentation on business growth

18th June Ridgeview Wine Estate
5.00 - 7.30pm Tasting, Tour & Networking.

Hosted in one of pavilions at the Rows & Vine restaurant.

Book early - Only 18 places now available

17th July Hog Roast at The Woolpack

5.00 - 7.30pm Free for members

Our very popular summer networking event

17th September Breakfast Networking at Plumpton Racecourse

8.30 - 11.00am Free for members

Speakers to be announced

Please book our normal monthly 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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