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Weekly Newsletter - Every Friday Morning

Opening Remarks

Building our local skills base

It's important that as businesses we play an active role in reaching out to schools when they ask for our help with careers events. Encouraging young people to reshape their ideas of what people do for work and importantly, encouraging more females into the tech sector. We take a look at the Degree Apprenticeships offered at the University of Chichester and we visit a super apprentice, highly commended at this year's **BHBiz** awards.

In other news

Further discussion on the issue of sexual harassment at work. We promote another member's offer, this time for cybersecurity awareness, and showcase a case study that demonstrates its importance.

The achievements of the Burgess Hill Lions are celebrated. Meanwhile, food donations for the Burgess Hill Community Christmas Hamper Project need to in by Wednesday from 9.30-11am next week.

BHBPA Events

Our December events both have over 50 attending and we still have space for more! For next week's event best to book your place <u>now</u>...as I will be sending out the delegate list and instructions for what we want you to bring later today. That way you'll also appear on the delegate list we always send everyone.

We also announce our January event with an international theme! **Book Events**

Gatwick Airport

A joint letter was sent to the Secretary of State yesterday, following Wednesday's confirmation that the Planning Inspectorate have submitted their recommendation to her. In that letter, BHBPA is one of the 55 organisations giving their support to the plans to utilise the existing Northern Runway in scheduled operations. You can read more about the Airport Economic Zone further below.

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

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



Growing your business with Apprenticeships

In an increasingly competitive world, business growth is achievable through investment in your workforce.

Degree and Higher Apprenticeships provide you with a business funded route to unlocking this potential expansion, whilst enabling you to keep in control.

The University of Chichester offers a wide variety of apprenticeships which can offer your business the opportunity to develop both its workforce and business potential.

Apprenticeships offer more than just a qualification, they are catalysts for business innovation as you enter into an authentic knowledge exchange with a forward thinking and innovative University who are committed to regional growth alongside its strong international partnerships.



University of Chichester Engineering Apprentices with a group workplace project

As stakeholders in an apprenticeship programme, businesses are pro-active role in aligning their practices and outcomes to the academic assessments of the course. Your apprentices study for a relevant industry qualification that is strategically aligned to your business, and so enhancing the positive impact that these qualifications can have on you and your customers.

Your apprentice experiences personal and professional growth on the course, as they interact with likeminded business focused peers, gaining confidence as they combine academic study with a demanding industry role.

Within its Business School, the University offers level 6 apprenticeships as a Chartered Manager, Digital Marketer, Accounting Finance Manager, Business Analyst and a level 7 apprenticeship as a Senior Leader. These apprenticeship titles cater for the broadness of business delivery.

Its Engineering School offers level 6 degree apprenticeships at an Electrical/Electronic Technical Support Engineer, Manufacturing Engineer, Software Engineer and a level 7 apprenticeship as a Post Graduate Engineer. They are also developing a level 6 Data Scientist apprenticeship that take a deep dive into the complexities of data intelligence. These titles are at the forefront of innovation and how industry is able to take advantage of new and emerging technologies.

The University of Chichester Apprenticeships Team can provide a bespoke step by step service to assist you with your integration into apprenticeships, from considering the right courses for you, thorough and targeted recruitment and to confirm the correct source of funding for you.

This starts our partnership with you as we advise you on how our apprenticeships can best fit the needs of your business and help to maximise how an apprentice can be the catalyst for real business benefit.



If you are interested in finding our more, please email the University of Chichester Apprenticeships Team at apprenticeships@chi.ac.uk

Star Apprentice - Highly Commended 2024

BHBiz24 Highly Commended Certificate presented to Niamh Daniels at Edwards Vacuum



Niamh earlier this week at the offices and R&D facility that is Edwards Vacuum in Burgess Hill

Niamh is an excellent ambassador for the advantages and value of a degree apprenticeship. She is currently in the 4th year of her Manufacturing Engineer Degree Apprenticeship at the University of Chichester. Niamh has recently returned from a three month secondment to the Czech Republic, working at another of Edwards Vacuum's international sites. The enthusiasm for her role and her studies was very evident.

Purpose, People & Place

Our biennial business awards stand out from many others out there for their focus on the people behind every business.

The Star Apprentice award, sponsored by $\underline{\text{Time 24}}$, is a very popular award category, and this year had many incredible entries,

The BHBiz24 Star Apprentice category was judged by our independent judge Paul
Rolfe
, Associate Principal, Chichester
College Group and Director of the Sussex & Surrey Institute of Technology.

The Winner and the Highly Commended places both scored equally highly on points. For Paul it was a very tough decision.

Here's what Paul had to say about the **BHBiz24** award entry that was submitted by Niamh's colleagues:



"Niamh deserves to be highly commended as she has demonstrated a commitment to seeking out opportunities to increase her knowledge. she completes numerous online courses and reads case studies recommended to her by fellow Engineers, she has a hunger for information and is always very keen to learn new skills.

Last Year Niamh won the Technology Group's award for Curiosity, beating competition from some very experienced colleagues."





Careers Speed Dating - Downlands

Seeking Volunteers to inspire Year 9 at Downlands Community School

Wednesday 22nd January - find our more: Please contact: careers@downlands.org

Can you Help?

As part of our Year 9 Careers Day on

Wednesday 22nd January

we are seeking volunteers to take part in

Careers Speed Dating

You would be speaking with a small group of students at a time who initially have to try and guess your career, and who then can find out more about how you get into your role.

If you are interested and want to find out more, please contact Liz Hollingdale on careers@downlands.org





Downlands Community School

Dale Avenue Keymer Hassocks BN6 8LP

Speakers for Schools

Technology is rapidly transforming the way we work and live meaning the young people will live very different lives to the ones they can currently imagine.

Speakers for Schools have partnered with The HG Foundation to deliver fully funded experiences to those young people that need it most. With 95,000 experiences for young people set to take place over the next 5 years – and with over 10,000 opportunities in England this academic year we need your help!

Why get involved?

- Take part in a fully evaluated project to shape future learning
- Encourage diversity in your sector
- Grow an early talent pipeline

Interested?

Are you a leading figure in the tech space? If so, perhaps an inspiration talk is a good fit for you.

Contact <u>inspiration@speakersforschools.org</u> to learn more about joining our speaker network which is made up of C-suite executives, leaders and experts.

Alternatively, can you provide an authentic experience for young people into the world of tech? Working with our Experience team you can provide transformational careers experiences for young people. Email employers@speakersforschools.org or contact your SfS Account Manager to discover more.

- Support the future workplace
- Reduce the skills gap
- Encourage skills within your own teams

Currently only 29% of the workforce within the tech industry is made up of women

Inspirational talks challenge stereotypes and positively influence aspirations. This includes leaders giving in-person or virtual talks, inspiration broadcasts or industry spotlight sessions to demonstrate the skills needed to get into the workplace and demystify the tech industry

Insight Days enable young people access to tech themed virtual and/or in-person insight sessions. They are an opportunity to find out more about a career, speak to your team in real time and having an interactive session with Q&As and brainstorming activities.

Work Experience provides an immersive opportunity to learn more about tech in depth. Delivered virtually although there may be some face-to-face options available this is a three-day interactive session creates maximum impact and a chance to really showcase your organisation and the roles within.





www.speakersforschools.org 0300 365 5888 info@speakersforschools.org

Supported Internships

We've collected together a range of resources to guide you on your journey

Join our trailblazing companies on the Inclusion Revolution. You'll find that young people with special characteristics bring highly valued aptitudes. An inclusive workforce engenders strong team dynamics and team purpose.

Employer Ambassador Training

Sign up to DFN Project SEARCH Employers Champion Training

SI Employers Page

https://www.ndti.org.uk/resources/internships-work-all-resources/internships-work-resources-for-employers

Government Guidance on SI

Supported internships - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Internships Work Partners

<u>The National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi)</u>
<u>DFN Project Search</u>
British Association of Supported Employment (BASE)

Introduction to Supported Internships

e-learning course about supported internships for a wide variety of professionals. link.

Support from West Sussex County Council

Mike Smith is a Supported Internship Officer at West Sussex County Council. His post is funded by the Department of Education's Internships Work Programme which aims to double the number of Supported Internship places in England by 2025.

Mike Smith: SEND Supported Internship Officer

West Sussex County Council Special Educational Needs Assessment Team, Children, Young People and Learning,



3rd Floor, Bridge House, Barrington Road, Worthing, BN12 4SE

Phone: 0330 222 3796

Email: mike.s.smith@westsussex.gov.uk



January Breakfast Networking





Tuesday, January 14th 8.30am - 11.00am



International Markets - Asian Opportunities Dept. for Business & Trade with the UK India Business Council



Mid Sussex Golf Club: Spatham Lane, Ditchling BN6 8XJ Guest speakers to be announced soon









Mumbai Skyline

We will have Rob Lewtas from the department's Exports Directorate explaining more about the massive marketplace that is Asia, and how his team can support you on your journey.

Market insight, intelligence, and expertise on India at this seminar event, exploring this high-growth market. India has become one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, and with the UK Government's announcement of the re-opening of negotiations for the UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the new year, the timing for this meeting of minds couldn't be better.

Other guest speakers will talk specifically about their experiences developing their businesses by thinking internationally.

Join us and find out how to expand your horizons

There'll be plenty of networking opportunities before and after our presentations.

Cybersecurity Awareness

An interesting case study of the effectiveness of cybersecurity training Cambridge House, a London-based charity fighting poverty since 1889, helps thousands of vulnerable people across the capital. While expert in delivering social care, they needed to protect their vital services from cyber threats. The charity turned to Cybility to strengthen their cyber defences, focusing particularly on their most valuable asset - their people.

Click the image below to read more	
2	

Read the full case study - CLICK HERE

Cybersecurity Awareness

Hack Your Way to 25% Savings: Cyber Monday Deals with a Security Twist! Cybersecurity Doesn't Have to Break the Bank This Cyber Monday. Small business owners across Sussex have a unique opportunity to boost their cybersecurity awareness whilst saving money this Cyber Monday. Our local cybersecurity experts at Cybility Consulting are offering a brilliant 25% discount on their range of security awareness merchandise.

wny this matters for your business

Small enterprises are increasingly becoming targets for cyber criminals, yet many believe robust cybersecurity is beyond their means. Cybility Consulting, based right here in Sussex, specialises in demystifying cybersecurity for organisations of all sizes.

A Playful Approach to Serious Protection

What sets this initiative apart is Cybility's refreshing approach to security awareness. Their merchandise range includes practical items like mugs, mouse mats, and security awareness goodies that serve as daily reminders of good cybersecurity practices. This innovative method helps embed security consciousness into your workplace culture without the overwhelming technical jargon.

Expert Support on Your Doorstep

Cybility brings over two decades of information technology, cybersecurity, and adult education experience to local businesses. Their services are specifically tailored to provide:

- Practical Solutions: From cybersecurity leadership (virtual Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)) and strategy services to affordable call-off packages (CISO Advisor), perfect for smaller organisations
- Clear Guidance: Breaking down complex security concepts into manageable actions
- Confidence Building: Helping you demonstrate good security practices to your customers

Special Offer for BHBPA Members

Take advantage of this Cyber Monday offer using discount code CYBER25HACK at **store.cybility.co.uk** which makes professional security awareness more accessible than ever.

Whether you're at the start of your cybersecurity journey or further along, BHBPA members can get £50 off their first CISO Advisor Power Hour session (normally £175 per hour).

Remember, good cybersecurity is about more than protection; it's about building trust with your customers and partners, potentially helping you win new business!

Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your business's cyber resilience at a fraction of the usual cost.



www.cybility.co.uk enquiries@cybility.co.uk Contact us +44 204 5832468

Gatwick Airport

Airport Economic Zone





- Airport Economic Zone (AEZ) launched at London Gatwick's annual Economic Summit.
- The AEZ initiative builds on the 76,500 UK jobs and £5.5 billion GVA London Gatwick already contributes to the UK economy every year.
- Announcement comes as London Gatwick awaits planning approval for the Northern Runway Project, a £2.2 billion investment that will create 14,000 jobs and generate £1 billion economic benefit.

Regional businesses leaders and local authorities met last week at London Gatwick's annual Economic Summit to discuss opportunities to unlock economic growth through a new Airport Economic Zone (AEZ).

The AEZ will bring together a taskforce of senior economic development and business leaders, including representatives from the UK's Department for Business and Trade, from across the six local authority areas within the Gatwick region early next month. London Gatwick is already a major catalyst for growth, contributing 76,500 jobs and £5.5 billion to the UK economy every year. The AEZ aims to build on this regionally, by unlocking new trade, tourism, and benefits for business, and attracting global investment for the region, in line with some of the priorities identified in the Government's Industrial Strategy Green Paper.

The airport is also awaiting a government decision on a £2.2 billion investment plan to bring its existing standby Northern Runway into routine use, which if approved will create a further 14,000 jobs and generate £1 billion in economic benefits every year. These plans include an Employment, Skills, and Business Strategy, supported by a £20 million fund, which would provide a further funding boost the AEZ.

Stewart Wingate, CEO, London Gatwick said: "London Gatwick has a strong track record as a catalyst for regional growth. We are excited to be working with the community and business leaders to leverage what has already been achieved, promote the many benefits of the region and attract future inward investment."

Dawn Redpath, Surrey County Council's Director for Economy and Growth said: "We recognise the contribution Gatwick makes to our regional economy, creating employment opportunities, driving investment and supporting business growth. "We know there is potential for the airport to deliver further benefits in the future and look forward to playing an active role in the Taskforce on behalf of our businesses and communities."



www.gatwickairport.com





Financial advice, built around you.

Planning for your future doesn't begin with income, products and portfolios. It starts with you. And together, we'll help you to plan a happy and financially secure life. So you can focus on living it.

We can help with all aspects of financial planning, including:

- Retirement planning
- Business owner financial and tax planning
- Investment planning and Inheritance Tax planning

Piers Bonnett FPFS Chartered Financial Planner piers.bonnett@sjpp.co.uk wellesleywa.co.uk

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SJP approved: 02/08/2024

W10425

The Christmas Hamper Project

Led by Burgess Hill Town Council this festive project sees local organizations rallying together to lend a helping hand to local families and individuals in need.

A partnership of local groups co-ordinated by Burgess Hill Town Council include; Burgess Hill Community Food Bank, Burgess Hill Youth, Burgess Hill District Lions Club and The King's Church Mid-Sussex, is calling on local businesses, schools, churches, and community members to collect essential food items to create Christmas Food Hampers. These hampers will be delivered to approximately 260 families and individuals in the Burgess Hill area just in time for Christmas.

A representative from Burgess Hill Community Food Bank stated, "We are pleased to once again be part of the Christmas Hamper Project. We are very aware that there are many local families who are finding it tough and these hampers will bring Christmas cheer, while relieving financial pressures, to the recipients."

The organizing group are especially grateful for the support of local business Steve Willis Training who have kindly agreed to sponsor the hamper boxes for the next three years. This had placed a significant financial burden on the project and this generosity will secure the projects future until 2026.

Steve Willis said: "The Christmas Hamper project is such an important initiative and gives Steve Willis Training Centres a great opportunity to support our local community. With the cost-of-living crisis and many families living on low incomes, this is a great way to

bring joy to those who need it most. We are committed to continuing our contribution to this very worthy cause over the next three years and are pleased to help make Christmas celebrations a little more enjoyable for these families."

Community members who wish to contribute items are welcome to drop them into the Help Point from 12 November. The Christmas event will be held on 23 November and residents are encouraged to contribute an item from the list below in exchange for face painting activity held in the Help Point form 12 noon to 4pm.





For further information, please contact Community team via email on

communityteam@burgesshill.gov.uk or telephone
01444 247726

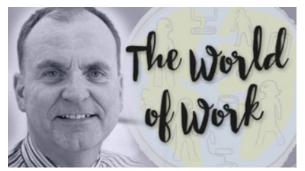
Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Speaking Up

As the fallout from the Harrods sexual harassment cases continues, and with Al Fayed being compared to Jimmy Savile, it makes us question once again why on earth people were so reluctant to speak up.

How could this very serious misconduct have taken place, over a substantial period of time, with no reports of the harassment being given to responsible managers, and therefore no action having been taken against the perpetrators?

There are questions about employee fear and imbalance of power, but the cases clearly indicate that employers must do more to encourage a culture of speaking up.



Harry Sherrard

It is not just the high-profile cases that hit the media in which we have experienced this reluctance of employees to come forward. As an employment lawyer, I have encountered it a number of times, with large and small private sector businesses. Every organisation will have a grievance policy but perhaps there is something daunting about setting off on a formal grievance when the perpetrator is a powerful and well-known man.

We have been working on a new **Speaking Up Policy and Procedure** which we will be rolling out shortly to our empLawyer® clients. We hope and expect that "speaking up" is easier for employees than raising a grievance. The policy gives protections to employees, and provides that any retaliation by a perpetrator against an employee for speaking up will be severely dealt with. It includes mechanisms for speaking up confidentially. However, it does not facilitate anonymous complaints as I have seen these causing damage and consternation a number of times, so that is not a route that I would recommend.

The new policy sits alongside our enhanced **Sexual Harassment Policy**, following legal changes to sexual harassment law in October. For empLawyer® clients these policies form part of our suite of 23 policies, but the two new policies can also be purchased separately for £99 plus VAT each. **Click here** to find out more.

As noted above, our recently released Sexual Harassment Policy is available to purchase as a stand-alone policy and the Speaking Up Policy and Procedure will be available shortly.



If you would like further information on any of the topics detailed in this blog or policies we have available please email advice@sherrardslaw.com or call the office on **01273 834120** to talk to a member of our team.

Burgess Hill Lions Mark 70th Anniversary

Burgess Hill District Lions Club celebrating their 70th Anniversary going into 2025 To mark this long period of service to the town and our residents the Burgess Hill Town Council presented the Lions with a Town Shield at last night's Council Meeting.

Christine Muschamp, Lions President 2024/25 accepted the shield from Town Mayor Janice Henwood at the Full Council meeting, to resounding applause. The Town Mayor thanked the Lions for all that they did for the Town and wished them many more years of service.

Lion Christine in reply said how much the Lions valued the Town Council and all that can be achieved when working together.

Town Mayor Janice Henwood presenting the Shield to Lions President Christine Muschamp

The Lions established their club in 1955 with just 15 members, they are part of the largest community service club in the world with clubs in 208 countries and over 1.4 million members



For more information see www.bhdlions.co.uk

December Breakfast Networking





Tuesday, December 3rd 8.30am - 11.00am



Will AI replace PR and Marketing? Pangdean Barn with presentation from Rose Media Group



Pangdean Barn, Pyecombe, Brighton BN45 7FN

Presentation from Aneela Rose and associates of Rose Media Group.







Can AI take over PR and Marketing?

Not exactly - but it can enhance the way PR and Marketing professionals work.

Rose Media will demystify AI by showing you how AI tools can simplify tasks, offer new insights, and boost your efficiency, allowing you to focus on the highimpact, strategic work that AI can't replace.

We'll arm you with practical ways you can use AI to strengthen PR and Marketing efforts, keeping the human touch central to your brand. Join Aneela and Mary in a fun and interactive talk discovering how AI can support, not replace, the work that connects you to your audience.





Pangdean Barn



Join us at the magnificent Pangdean Barn (10 mins from Burgess Hill). Nicky Currie will explain more about their exceptional hospitality offering. There'll be plenty of networking opportunities before and after our presentations.

December Christmas Networking





Tuesday, December 10th 5.00pm - 8.00pm



Join us for our always popular Christmas get together Sausage rolls, mince pies and mulled wine



The Woolpack Howard Avenue, Burgess Hill, RH15 8TS





We'd like to thank Dee & Lance and the fabulous team at The Woolpack for once again hosting our annual Christmas get together, offering free sausage rolls and mince pies from their kitchen together with mulled wine for our guests.

The decorations inside will no doubt be impressive! Join us in some festive cheer and catch up with your business contacts before the new year.





This event always brings a crowd and a few faces we don't often see networking.

The Woolpack - Networking - 10th December - BOOK HERE

Member's Offers

Have you got an offer for our members?

We already have a few offers on the BHBPA website: <u>Member's Offers</u> page. (You'll find this page as a drop down under Membership.)

If you've got an offer, such as a free audit, seminar or some sort of discretionary discount for BHBPA Members, send me about 90 words of text explaining your offer, include your contact details for the offer and a suitable image.

Check out our other Members Offers HERE

All Upcoming BHBPA Events

3rd December

Pangdean Barn

8.30 - 11.00am Will Al Replace PR and Marketing?

Presentation from Rose Media Group & others

10th December 5.30 - 7.30pm

The Woolpack - Annual Christmas Drinks

Mulled wine & mince pies - always popular business social event

14th January 8.30 - 11.00am

Mid Sussex Golf Club - International Trade

Dept. of Business & Trade & UK India Business Council Special Guest speaker to be announced soon

Please 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>







About Us Contact Privacy Policy Unsubscribe BHBPA Ltd. c/o Lea Graham Associates Hillcrest House 84 Valebridge Road Burgess Hill RH15 ORP

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