



# SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER

ISSUE 4 2024

**FIND OUT ABOUT UPCOMING  
NETWORKING EVENTS**

**SHREWSBURY MOVES STRATEGY  
TAKES STEP FORWARD**

**MEET SBC'S NEWEST MEMBERS**

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# CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



## KEVIN LOCKWOOD

Manager of Shrewsbury Shopping Centres

**Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas everyone. I know I have mentioned in previous newsletters about how quickly time is going by and now it's Christmas. I think everyone has been busy dealing with everyday work challenges throughout the year and then it's topped off by a very difficult Autumn budget targeting business, that one day roles into another and by the time we look up....It's Christmas and the end of another year!**

Shrewsbury Business Chamber during 2024 has delivered some great member events and I'm aware of some shared B2B coming from some of our meetings which is great to hear. We are already planning some exciting events for 2025, so keep an eye out for our Social media posts and website for further details as they are announced.

A huge Christmas cheer must go out to my fellow Executive Board of Directors who give up their time, totally free of charge, to support everything to do with the Shrewsbury Business Chamber. This also extends to Lauren Wright who works her magic on our Social pages and pulls together this wonderful magazine on our behalf - thank you!

So, as we say goodbye to 2024, I wish you all a Happy Christmas & New Year as we look forward to a prosperous 2025!

Best Wishes,  
Kevin Lockwood  
SBC Chair.

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# 8 FINANCIAL PLANNING WIN NATIONAL AWARD



**8 Financial Planning has gained award winning status, during the Verve Groups awards ceremony, held in London on 9th September 2024.**

**The awards are a highlight of The Verve Groups annual conference where industry professionals from around the country come together.**

**The aim of The Verve Awards is to really shine a spotlight on some of the amazing people and initiatives that are happening in financial services.**

8 Financial Planning stood out by winning the coveted award for Best Client Outcomes. The Verve Group explain that this category celebrates firms "who work tirelessly to understand their clients and who have the technical ability to advise on ways to achieve best outcomes" making this a significant endorsement of 8 Financial Planning's expertise and client focused approach.

**Rikesh Bhatt, Founder and Financial Planner** said "we are beyond thrilled to have won this award. The Verve Group are hugely respected in what they do, there was no "pay to play" involved, and the award was judged by an independent panel of peers and industry experts. To see all our hard work recognised in this way is incredible"

**Isha Bhatt, Operations Director** said "We had a brilliant time in London, and feel honoured to have won. Hearing the judges feedback was just incredible and specifically commenting on our client focus means everything"

**best client outcomes**   
**winner**

[weareverve.co.uk/awards](http://weareverve.co.uk/awards)



# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF TRADING



**Art Framing recently celebrated 20 years of trading under the current management.**

Rob McFall took over the running of Art Framing from his employers Tony and Tricia Payne in 2004 after having worked for them for 12 Years. With the help of his parents Roger and Jean Johnson who are also directors, Rob cemented the reputation of Art Framing for great service and high quality picture framing. Art Framing moved to it's current premises in Mardol in 2005, whilst at the same time renovating the property, which was in a poor state, to a beautiful shop front which greatly improved the look of the top of Mardol.

Since taking on the business, Rob and the expert team at Art Framing have expertly framed many thousands of pictures for the general public, and businesses all over Shropshire and beyond. We look forward to providing many more years of great products and services.



# FIRST FLOOR ONE ANCHORAGE AVENUE SHREWSBURY BUSINESS PARK



## Cooper Green Pooks report the letting of newly built offices at One Anchorage Avenue, Shrewsbury Business Park SY2 6FG .

Comprising self-contained first floor space of about 288 sq. m /3,100 sq ft within a distinctive newly constructed building at the Wenlock Road entrance to the Park, the new occupiers are Claverley Group Limited the parent company for a range of media publishing and marketing concerns who have moved their headquarters from Wolverhampton . They have taken a new ten year lease.

Designed by Walker Hay Architects and developed by Alaska Projects Ltd , One Anchorage Avenue provides attractive workspace, to the latest office and environmental standards, to also include onsite car parking with EV charging provision. The internal fit out is bespoke to an occupier's requirement.

Cooper Green Pooks acted for Alaska in respect of the letting , and are currently marketing the ground floor offices , also with an occupier's bespoke fit out option. This space totals about 280 sq m/3008 sq ft , with an asking rent of £47,500 pa exclusive .

For Further information contact:

Charles Howell , Cooper Green Pooks, 3 Barker Street  
Shrewsbury SY1 1QF

01743 276666 cth@cgpooks.co.uk

Also see :

[www.shrewsburybusinesspark.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburybusinesspark.co.uk)

[www.claverleygroup.co.uk](http://www.claverleygroup.co.uk)

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**[www.love-plants.co.uk](http://www.love-plants.co.uk)**

# LANYON BOWDLER MAINTAINS HIGH RANKINGS IN CHAMBERS UK GUIDE

**A Shropshire law firm is once again riding high in a national guide which ranks lawyers and firms based on independent research.**

Lanyon Bowdler has 13 lawyers and eight practice areas recommended in the latest edition of the Chambers UK guide - maintaining its excellent rankings from last year.

The firm has four lawyers ranked in Band 1 of the guide, three in Band 2, five in Band 3 and one in Band 4, whilst two practice areas are named in Band 1, three in Band 2, one in Band 3 and two in Band 4.

The Chambers UK guide ranks law firms based on independent research and interviews with clients, and has been helping people find the best legal professionals in the UK for more than 30 years.

**Brian Evans, managing partner at Lanyon Bowdler,** said: *"It's great to see our clinical negligence and personal injury departments maintain their top ranking, and we are also pleased to see the family team being ranked in Band 2 for the larger West Midlands region, having previously been ranked in a smaller area."*

*"Congratulations to all of our lawyers who are named in the Chambers guide, which is a glowing independent endorsement of their high standards and professionalism."*

The full list of Lanyon Bowdler lawyers and departments in the Chambers UK guide is as follows:

## **Lawyer rankings**

Band 1: Edward Nutting (agriculture and rural affairs, Wales); Emma Broomfield and Lucy Small (clinical negligence, Midlands); Sue Hodgson (family, West Midlands).

Band 2: Beth Heath (clinical negligence, Midlands); Dawn Humphries and Debbie Humphries (personal injury, Midlands).

Band 3: Martin Hood (clinical negligence, Midlands); Grainne Walters (corporate, West Midlands); John Merry (employment, West Midlands); Lisa Grimmett and Philippa Pearson (family, West Midlands).

Band 4: Andrew Pegg (litigation, Midlands)



## **Department rankings**

Band 1: Clinical negligence (Midlands); Personal injury (Midlands).

Band 2: Agriculture and rural affairs (Wales and Midlands); Family (West Midlands)

Band 3: Corporate (West Midlands)

Band 4: Litigation (Midlands); Employment (West Midlands)

# LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL WINS £750 WORTH OF PLANTS



**Love Plants at Salop Leisure partnered with Shrewsbury Food Festival to run a competition for a local community space to win £750 worth of new plants and trees.**

St Thomas and St Anne's CE Primary School in Hanwood has been announced as the winner.

They were one of three finalists who had their garden design displayed at the festival, where visitors voted for their favourite design.

**Ed Glover, Marketing Manager at Salop Leisure,** said: "It is a privilege to help St Thomas and St Anne's transform their grounds, creating a special place which their whole community can enjoy. We can't wait to see the new garden take shape."

The school plans to create an outdoor area that can be enjoyed by the whole community, including the school children, residents of the local care home, and youth groups.

**Hannah McGrath, Headteacher at St Thomas and St Anne's CE Primary School** said: "We are absolutely delighted to have won this fantastic prize from Love Plants. As a small school, it means so much to us and will have a tremendous impact on our outdoor spaces. We

are looking forward to using the plants to enhance the play opportunities for all our children.

"We are hoping to use the plants to create sensory spaces, tunnels, areas for den-making, and small social spaces. Our aim is to design interesting routes for the children to explore, adding richness to how they play and interact with our outdoor environment. This prize will significantly contribute to the enjoyment and diverse opportunities our children will have for outdoor activities.

"Now we have returned to school, we plan to involve pupils in the planting process, adapting and responding to their ideas as we go. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to Love Plants, Shropshire Festivals, and everyone who voted for us, your support will help us create an even more inspiring outdoor learning environment for our pupils."

**Beth Heath, Director of Fun at Shropshire Festivals,** added, "Thank you to Love Plants for their generosity in making this competition possible and creating a legacy in a local school. We can't wait to see the garden at St Thomas and St Anne's Primary School grow and prosper, and we hope to see it in full bloom in years to come!"

Shrewsbury Food Festival will return to the Quarry on June 28th and 29th 2025.

# MY SHREWSBURY MAGAZINE - GOING FULLY DIGITAL FROM 2025

**My Shrewsbury magazine has announced that it will be going fully digital from January 2025 - and is looking for select sponsors to collaborate with on this journey.**

It's an exciting new chapter in the story of this progressive independent local media business.

The much-loved A4 print magazine was founded in 2017 by journalist Katy Rink to showcase Arts & Culture, Food & Drink and interesting people and places in Shrewsbury. The magazine is known for its eye-catching front covers commissioned from local artists (the current Christmas issue pictured is by Mike Ashton).

Since the outset, My Shrewsbury has developed a strong social media presence, promoting events and news from Shrewsbury, attracting over 20K followers on Facebook. It was during the pandemic in 2020 that Katy recognised the potential of expanding the magazine's reach through a dedicated website - <https://www.myshrewsbury.co.uk> - setting the stage for the exciting digital transformation ahead.

Katy continued with the print editions, but began publishing additional content online, covering Shrewsbury's vibrant arts scene, concerts, exhibitions, restaurant reviews, previews and 'soft' news.

My Shrewsbury Magazine was highly commended in the national Association of Online Publishers (AOP) Award for Inspiring Local Journalism in 2023, sponsored by Google News Initiative.

Katy impressed the judges with her one-woman operation covering local news and entertainment in Shrewsbury, with a smart grasp of social media.

She received her award in a glittering ceremony at Old Billingsgate on the riverside - attended by the digital publishing industry's top talent.

Over the years, My Shrewsbury has told some remarkable stories and been at the heart of some incredible achievements, including Doorstep Carols during the pandemic. Katy's unique festive idea ('Clap for Carers - but with carols') was taken up by 35 BBC local radio stations which broadcast the carols from Shrewsbury's town square across the nation for people to sing along at home. Doorstep Carols was covered by BBC's 'The One Show', 'Breakfast News', Channel Five

and ITV News.

My Shrewsbury also organised and curated the Town Crier exhibition at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, commissioning a special portrait from artist Jacob Gourley, to celebrate Martin Wood's 40-year commitment to Shrewsbury; the exhibition and portrait also featured on BBC Breakfast News.

Now, after 40 print issues, Katy has decided it is time to go fully digital and with over 130K users per annum - and strong social media to help promote content online - she is confident it's the right decision.

*"I always believed that local doesn't have to mean sub-standard, and that's what I've strived for with My Shrewsbury. The move to exclusively online means that ethos can continue and be enhanced," she said. "This change will mean more time to create content without the split focus of print and digital. I spend a lot of time trying to secure sponsorship just to cover printing costs, which limits the time I have to write—the part I truly love. We'll still need sponsorship, but with reduced overheads, we can create even more content and dive deeper into each story. "We're now looking to work with select sponsors who align with the My Shrewsbury vision to help them tap into our powerful digital channels and work together with the smartest content to maximise our potential reach."*

My Shrewsbury digital has various digital + social sponsorship packages available and is also offering a bespoke business profile writing service. Contact [sales@myshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:sales@myshrewsbury.co.uk) for more details.



# PHILANTHROPIC RESPONSIBILITIES REMAIN CORE TO PIPEKIT'S CORPORATE SOCIAL PROGRAMME



**Pipekit, the independent distributor of specialist pipework and drainage solutions, based in Shrewsbury, has been busy this autumn fundraising and driving awareness for its charity of the year, Lingen Davies Cancer Fund.**

Since partnering with Lingen Davies, which exists to enhance cancer services in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Mid Wales, Pipekit has participated in numerous events to raise much needed funds and awareness for the charity's LiveLife Cancer Awareness service, as well as support for patients during treatment and the after-care rehabilitation programme. Commenting on the partnership, **M.D of Pipekit Martyn Rowlands** said: "We are delighted to support Lingen Davies and the work they do to help those affected with cancer. Lingen Davies is a charity close to our hearts. With 1 in 2 people affected by cancer in their lifetime, the work that Lingen Davies does to increase the awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer, and how we can all live healthier lives to try preventing it is vital."

The most recent Pipekit events have included a sunrise trek up Snowdon/Yr Wyddfa, which saw six of Pipekit's team, including Sales Director Jamie McQueen, conquer the climb up and back down in less than five hours, raising over £2,000 in the process. Martyn Rowlands spearheaded a Pipekit team of staff, family and friends who took part in Lingen Davies' Titty Trail, a walk for breast cancer that took place in the Shropshire Hills on the 12th October, and the team have also recently trialled

a local community day at its head office, where the Lingen Davies LiveLife team were on hand to talk to staff, visitors and guests about cancer. This was a kickstart event to help raise awareness amongst Pipekit's immediate business community, and something Lingen Davies Cancer Fund is keen to develop with other companies in the region, helping to spread awareness about cancer, and encourage more conversations - ultimately helping more people seek medical support to get an earlier cancer diagnosis, which improves outcomes and survival rates.

Talking about the partnership **Steph Smith, relationship fundraiser for Lingen Davies**, expressed their gratitude to Pipekit for the ongoing support.

*"As a charity, we exist to ensure that people impacted by cancer throughout Shropshire, Telford and Mid Wales, can access the very best cancer services locally. Companies such as Pipekit, that choose to support us with a variety of initiatives, are a vital part of ensuring we can continue to deliver new technology, resources, and therapeutic programmes to benefit patients".*

She continues: "We were also very pleased to be invited by Pipekit to deliver a LiveLife Cancer Awareness roadshow on the Sweetlake Business site this month. We had some great conversations with people to highlight the signs and symptoms of cancer - contributing to greater awareness and ultimately more people seeking medical support with any concerns."

For further information on this local charity visit: [www.lingendavies.co.uk](http://www.lingendavies.co.uk)



**SHREWSBURY  
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# Christmas past

## SHOP WINDOW COMPETITION

**A BIG THANKYOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS**



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# WHAT IS SELF ESTEEM?



Have you ever thought 'I'm not good enough'?

Perhaps you've compared yourself to someone else and felt lacking in some way?

What story are you telling yourself about you?

When I began my counselling and psychotherapy diploma, this was the first academic learning I had done for many years.

I received my first assignment. Took one look and immediately, I thought 'I cannot do this'. I kept thinking 'this is too big for me, I'm not good enough to do this, I don't know where to start. Then I believed this thought.

This was a real challenge, but the thoughts I was having were not true, I had let myself believe it and this was impacting my truth about myself.

The process for me was a long one, but the important thing is I could do it. I have been qualified for 10 years now with a rewarding and fulfilling experience of working with many different clients, supporting them through many different issues and with many positive outcomes for them.

At times, I still think I'm not good enough. The difference now is I have learnt what to do when the thought comes.

I have learnt that this is not the truth - it is just a thought which I do not let take hold.

I stop, I interrupt that thinking. I tell myself 'Susie this is a thought', and I look for the evidence of all the differences I've been able to make. The experiences I have, the knowledge I hold, the challenges I have overcome, the difference I have made in people's lives, including my own and I choose to believe the real truth, that I am good enough.

Of course there are things in life we still need to learn, things that don't come naturally to us, but this is different from not being good enough to do them. We can all learn new skills and learning is fulfilling. When we are learning new things we find the knowledge and skills we need to support the things in life we may initially stop doing because we believe we are not good enough!

Self esteem is your perception of who you are and what you are capable of. It includes what you value and believe about yourself. Your self esteem is usually linked to your lifetime of experiences and may well have been shaped in childhood. It could also be thought of as self confidence. Low self esteem can lead to feelings of anxiety and depression.

The good news is that self esteem can be improved at any age. It does take time and you may benefit from support to improve your self esteem to move out of your comfort zone and believe in yourself and do the things that right now may seem like too much of a challenge....meeting new friends, trying a new hobby, presenting at an event, speaking up instead of always putting everyone else first, applying for that new job.

What affects self esteem?

- Thought patterns
- Relationship break up
- Stress
- Illness or health issues
- Bereavement
- Age
- Physical abilities
- Social relationships
- Discrimination
- The Media
- The people around us

Continued . . .

### 3 things that affect our self esteem negatively

**Parental influence:** Sometimes as a child you may have felt as though you were not able to live up to an expectation that was put upon you. You may not yet even be aware of this as something that started in childhood. People parent in different ways and sometimes unintentionally this can be damaging i.e. perhaps you noticed your parents seemed uncomfortable or even told you off if you cried, so now you find it difficult to cry in front of others. Maybe there was a pressure placed upon you to have a certain career, rather than your own choice. Therapy is where you are enabled to explore where these beliefs about yourself may have begun.

**Bullying:** It is very common for people to experience bullying. This may happen in the workplace, in friendships, family relationships and at school. Perhaps because it is so common, it may be underestimated the negative impact this can have upon your self esteem. Maybe you believe the words spoken over you as being true. Sometimes people don't think before they speak and their words wound you. Other times people may deliberately seek to wound you with words.

**Emotions being dismissed:** Relationships where our feelings are not validated are one example of how our self esteem can be impacted. For example if you tell someone, particularly someone close to you how you feel and they quickly reply telling you what to do, rather than helping you feel heard, this can cause you to feel dismissed and unimportant. E.g. You tell your partner or work colleague that you are worried about something and rather than listening and being curious about how you're feeling, they reply saying something like 'well, worrying won't solve anything'.

### 4 ways to improve self esteem

**Notice your thinking:** The first step to improving your self esteem is to become aware of the type of thoughts you have about yourself.

A thought is just that. A thought isn't always true. You may have negative thoughts about yourself such as 'they don't like me' or 'I'm not good enough'. Try to recognise this when it is happening. Look for actual evidence that contradicts this and write down both the statement and the evidence that contradicts this. Do this with each thought you have and then you can look back at it to remind yourself it is not true.

**Discover who you truly are:** Getting to know who you are, what you value, your likes and vision for your life helps improve your self esteem. You may not have spent much time thinking about these things. Make sure you celebrate even small achievements. You could write these down or record a voice note each time you notice an achievement during the day. E.g. completing a task on your 'to do' list, or accepting a compliment.

**Look for the positive attributes about yourself:** If you can't find one thing you do like about you, then ask someone close to you who you trust to tell you one thing they see as a quality they like about you. You could write this down. Begin to listen out for any compliments you receive about you. You can write each one down as evidence of positive things about you. You can start to think about what interests you have because it is likely that these are things that you may have a skill in. For example if you like baking, or art.

Being able to use positive statements about yourself will lead to you believing good things about yourself, it may take practice but self esteem can be improved in this way. Your brain may be in an entrenched habit of dwelling on negative thoughts about you, and it will take time to teach your brain a new habit. A positive affirmation might be: I am worthy of love.

**Be kind to yourself:** Self esteem varies to do with different situations and days. It is not possible to have positive self belief all the time, this is ok, it is not possible or healthy to feel confident all the time in every aspect.

There may be times you notice areas that need improvement and that is OK. Offer yourself compassion, or think about what you may say to your best friend if they were experiencing this. Focus on your worth rather than on any imperfections. It is not possible to be perfect and perfectionism and self esteem can go hand in hand.

Here is a link to more information about what self esteem is and how it can be improved:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/types-of-mental-health-problems/self-esteem/about-self-esteem/>

To be able to thrive it's important your psychological needs are met, which according to Robert Reasoner's (author of 'Building Self Esteem') Framework, include these five components:

- security: I know I am safe;
- identity: I know who I am;
- belonging: I know others accept me;
- purpose: I know what I want to achieve;
- competence: I know I am capable.

Our experiences in life shape how well we know ourselves. It's easy to see how a big life transition, a bereavement, relationship breakdown, anxiety and stress can impact a person's ability to feel safe, accepted etc. which in turn affects their life in general.

The habits and patterns our brain learns that aren't useful can be tricky to replace and it takes time to learn anything new. This includes developing more helpful thought patterns. If you believe you'd like some support with learning to value yourself and overcoming negative self belief consider talking to a professionally trained counsellor or psychotherapist who can support you. Counselling is the ultimate self care and a valuable investment in you and increasing your confidence will help you with your business as well as all aspects of your life.

Susie Harris MNCPS [www.presencecounselling.co.uk](http://www.presencecounselling.co.uk)

# SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER HOSTS ENGAGING EVENT WITH MP JULIA BUCKLEY



**Shrewsbury Business Chamber recently held a successful event on 2nd October with Shrewsbury MP, Julia Buckley, hosted by Salop Leisure. The event, attended by 22 local business representatives, provided a platform for open dialogue on key business issues affecting the town. Topics ranged from transport infrastructure to business rates and local market improvements.**

Julia Buckley addressed the Northwest Relief Road, noting the ongoing debate around its necessity and the potential for alternative investments to alleviate congestion. While acknowledging previous opposition to the road, Buckley emphasized that without a formal funding commitment from the government, she is open to exploring other ways to improve traffic flow and infrastructure.

Transport was a major theme of the discussion, with Julia highlighting the importance of buses and park-and-ride schemes to improve accessibility in Shrewsbury. Business rates were also a critical focus, with Buckley explaining that the Labour Party is actively reviewing who should pay rates and closing tax loopholes to ensure big businesses contribute fairly.

In a candid discussion about the upcoming budget, Buckley touched on winter fuel allowances, confirming that those in need will still be able to claim support through a means-tested system.

Shrewsbury Business Chamber Chair, Kevin Lockwood, remarked, "Julia Buckley was very approachable and keen to dive into the details of the issues facing Shrewsbury businesses. She's been active in engaging with local businesses and is focused on getting Shrewsbury the recognition it deserves."

Buckley was praised for her commitment to working with local organisations, including the award-winning Market Hall, where she hopes to collaborate on national market improvements. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to engage directly with their MP and voice their concerns.

As part of the ongoing dialogue, the Chamber has invited Julia Buckley to return in six months for a follow-up meeting to assess progress and continue working on local business priorities.

For further information about Shrewsbury Business Chamber, visit:  
<https://shrewsburybusinesschamber.com>

# HOUSE RENOVATION LEADS TO FOOTBALL JUNIORS SPONSORSHIP!



## When Scott Hardy of True Build Shrewsbury was working on Niamh Kelly's bathroom earlier this year, they got talking about how local businesses can get involved in community initiatives.

As well as running a successful home improvements business, Scott is also a weekend football coach for a local youth team... their chance meeting has now led to Niamh's company becoming a proud sponsor of Shrewsbury Juniors Football Club!

Niamh (who owns The HR Dept Shropshire and its' sister companies The HR Dept Wrexham & Chester and Mid Wales) said: "Sport is so important for young people: it helps develop skills such as resilience, perseverance, confidence and teamwork, all crucial qualities for the world of work."

"The team and I are always keen to support local organisations through our 'HR in the community' initiatives, which include being Enterprise

Careers Advisors for local Schools and as a Trustee at the Shropshire Youth Association."

Niamh initially established The HR Dept Shropshire in 2018 and together with a team of HR specialists, extended her award winning range of operations to Wrexham and Chester and Mid Wales five years ago.

Scott started True Build Shrewsbury shortly after the pandemic in 2020, specialising in home extensions and renovations in the Shropshire area.

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## NEW CHAIR APPOINTED TO SHREWSBURY PUBWATCH GROUP



**The new chair of Shrewsbury Pubwatch says he is looking forward to continuing the group's work to ensure people can enjoy a safe and fun night out in the county town.**

Kev Rippard, joint owner of The Salopian in Smithfield Road, has been elected as chair of Shrewsbury Pubwatch, taking the reins from the previous chair, James Hitchin of The Alb.

He said he was keen to build on the good work undertaken by Shrewsbury Pubwatch over the past few years. His aims as chair will be to build engagement in the Pubwatch network from members, as well as improving attendance at meetings where information can be shared that collectively help venues contribute to a safe night-time economy in the town.

*"I have worked in security myself since 1998, so like to think I can offer an experienced perspective on safety issues for venues,"* Kev said.

*"Shrewsbury quite rightly has a great reputation for its night-time offering and we want to enhance that by making the town centre as safe and inclusive as possible for people enjoying a night out.*

*"The Pubwatch group is a strong community made up of venues of different shapes, sizes and customer bases, who work together to ensure we provide a safe and*

*enjoyable environment.*

*"Along with a background in security, my time running The Salopian also gives me first hand experience of dealing with flooding issues which is a major challenge for many of us in Shrewsbury.*

*"Pubwatch has also long recognised the importance of consistent CCTV monitoring for maintaining a safe environment, and I will represent Pubwatch members' concerns on this matter to partners."*

Shrewsbury has held the Purple Flag accreditation for the past eight years, which highlights the town as having a safe and successful night-time economy.

Initiatives such as the Shrewsbury Rangers, who carry out regular safety patrols in support of the police, and river safety campaigns have been praised for keeping people safe.

Shrewsbury Pubwatch, which is coordinated by Shrewsbury BID, is central to bringing those initiatives together for the benefit of everyone visiting and working in the town.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Pubwatch, please contact Kev on [kgrippard@gmail.com](mailto:kgrippard@gmail.com), or Stephanie at [stephanie@shrewsburybid.co.uk](mailto:stephanie@shrewsburybid.co.uk).



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# SHREWSBURY MOVES STRATEGY TAKES STEP FORWARD



## Plans to encourage people to “think differently” about how they travel in and around Shrewsbury are moving forward with a range of projects in the pipeline.

The Shrewsbury Moves campaign was launched earlier this year by the Big Town Plan Partnership, made up of Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury Town Council and Shrewsbury BID.

The Shrewsbury Moves strategy, containing ideas such as introducing traffic loops, improving cycle routes and creating more public spaces, was published in January and a major public consultation gathered over 4,000 comments from nearly 1,400 respondents.

Analysis of the consultation showed that the top two priorities for respondents were reducing or removing through-traffic in the town centre, and providing an efficient public transport network with improved facilities. Shropshire Council's Cabinet has now agreed to progress implementation of the strategy, including finalising a 10-year delivery plan, subject to funding and more detailed work taking place.

Meanwhile, the Big Town Plan Partnership has recently secured more than £340,000 of UK Government Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) to deliver a package of sustainable transport measures in Shrewsbury town centre over the coming months.

**Councillor Dan Morris, Shropshire Council Cabinet member** for highways, said the public response to the Shrewsbury Moves strategy was very encouraging. *“The Shrewsbury Moves strategy contained a really wide array of options and opportunities for how movement and public space could change,”* he said. *“So the first thing we need to do is thank everyone who took the time to give their feedback - their views are absolutely vital in shaping what happens next.”*

*“There was clear support for the fundamental principles of the strategy, with people agreeing that reducing or removing through-traffic from the town centre should be*

*the top priority.*

*“This consultation gives us the confidence to move forward with the more detailed work required to assess the impact of each proposal on Shrewsbury’s transport network.”*

**Councillor Alan Mosley**, who represents Shrewsbury Town Council on the partnership, said: *“We were very pleased with the level of response to the consultation, which shows that residents throughout the town, businesses and indeed visitors have a great interest in the way we all get around our town.”*

*“After such a successful consultation there is inevitably a lot of work required to analyse the results and decide on the best course of action based on the feedback.”*

*“We look forward to carrying out more modelling and research to ensure any proposals have the best possible impact. Residents and users can be assured plans will be published with full public consultation at each stage before decision-making and implementation, and that all views will be taken into account.”*

**Seb Slater, executive director of Shrewsbury BID**, said the partnership was excited about turning the Shrewsbury Moves vision into reality.

He said: *“The Shrewsbury Moves strategy contains a raft of connected proposals to improve access into and around the town.”*

*“We are committed to bringing the strategy to life and are already making good progress thanks to the successful bid for UKSPF funding.”*

*“We are going to be launching a subsidised electric bike scheme in the new year and a jetty has been installed to enable a river shuttle service between the West Mid Showground and Frankwell.”*

*“The hope is that a steady increase in the transport options available will make people think differently about how they get into the town centre.”*

For more information, visit [www.shrewsburymoves.com](http://www.shrewsburymoves.com)

# MAGICAL CHRISTMAS FAMILY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES COMING TO SHREWSBURY

The magical Christmas Twilight Trail at Love2Stay last year.



## **Award-winning caravan and motorhome dealership Salop Leisure has announced a magical Christmas programme of events, activities and offers for customers over the festive season.**

The company, based at Emstrey, Shrewsbury, has plenty of festive fun and surprises in store for families this year, with an exciting line-up at its sister businesses, Love2Stay and Love Plants.

A Twilight Trail - a festive walk in a winter wonderland of twinkling lights and seasonal displays - opens at Love2Stay on Friday, November 22 and runs until December 22, from Wednesday to Sunday evenings starting at 4.30pm.

Children can visit Santa and receive a gift in his grotto at Love2Stay from Friday, November 29 to Monday, December 23 and there will even be a chance for dogs to pay a visit to their very own Santa Paws this year between the same dates.

To add an extra sprinkling of Christmas magic, small children can enjoy Storytime with Mrs Claus from December 2 to 12, with charming tales to bring the festive season to life.

Visits to the Twilight Trail, Santa's Grotto and Story Time with Mrs Claus must be pre-booked at the Love2Stay website: <https://www.love2stay.co.uk/christmas>.

Meanwhile, Love Plants, Salop Leisure's popular specialist plants centre, is hosting a free Christmas Market over the weekend of December 6 to 8. Around 50 stalls, manned by local vendors, will be selling a wide range of handmade crafts, Christmas gifts, decorations and much more.

The market will be open from 10am to 7pm on December 6 and 7 and 10am to 4pm on December 8 and parking is free. Mulled wine and hot drinks will be served by the team from The Crown, Abbey Foregate during the event.

Love Plants is offering a 10% discount on freshly cut and potted Christmas trees over the three days. The company stocks British grown Nordmann Fir trees, which retain their blue-green needles better than other varieties. Potted Nordmann Fir, Norway Spruce and Korean Fir trees will also be available for those looking to continue growing them after Christmas and a local delivery service is offered to make the trees more accessible.

No festive home decorations would be complete without a Christmas wreath. That's why a wreath making workshop has been arranged at Love Plants on Saturday, December 7 from noon. Workshop places must be prebooked at £30.

Salop Leisure's popular restaurant, Love Coffee, will be serving up delicious festive afternoon tea between Monday, November 25 until December 23, from 12 noon until 3pm daily.

It's an ideal chance for people to meet up and relax over the busy festive season. Teas must be prebooked a day in advance.

For more information about the Christmas programme at Love Plants and Love Coffee, visit <https://www.love-plants.co.uk/christmas>.

All customers who make a purchase at Salop Leisure, Love Coffee, Love Plants and Love2Stay from November 22 to December 19 will be given a ticket for Salop Christmas Cracker draw, with fantastic prizes on offer.

A two night stay at Love2Stay glamping and touring resort, a £250 voucher to be spent in the company's accessories shop and six months membership of a local gym are on offer in the draw, the winners of which will be announced on December 20.

# START TECH RECEIVES AWARD AT BEYOND EMEA 2024



**Shropshire IT business, Start Tech, has been awarded the 2024 Pax8 Beyond Partner Award in the 'EMEA Peak Performance - Security' category during Pax8's 2024 inaugural Beyond EMEA conference.**

Held in Berlin, from October 13th - 15th, Beyond EMEA 2024 provided Pax8 partners with three days of immersive learning, community, and innovation.

Attendees gained business insights through keynote presentations from industry leaders and custom-built breakout sessions.

12 awards were presented during the final day of the conference, showcasing the transformation, impact, and success these partners are having on the channel ecosystem through their partnership with Pax8.

The awards programme recognises partners who drove significant revenue growth, cloud adoption, and the success of companies worldwide by leveraging their relationship with Pax8 and its innovative Marketplace. Cyber security experts, Start Tech, picked up an award on the night.

*"It is an honour to receive this award from a company that we have a huge amount of respect for," said **Ian Groves, Start Tech MD**. "Offering top level cyber security is the foundation of our MSP offering. We are thrilled to have picked up an award which reflects our successes in this area."*

Pax8 is the technology marketplace of the future, linking partners, vendors, and small to mid-sized businesses (SMBs) through AI-powered insights and comprehensive product support.

*"Our partner community continues to advance the channel in Europe through their commitment to enabling small and mid-sized businesses with cutting-edge cloud technology solutions," said **Harald Nuij, CEO of Pax8 EMEA**.*

*"These recognitions reflect their ongoing efforts to empower customers with innovative solutions, driving their growth and transforming the European IT landscape."*

Find out more about Start Tech's services at [www.start-tech.co.uk](http://www.start-tech.co.uk).

## WORK IN SHREWSBURY COHORT PROJECT GETS UNDER WAY



### A group of business owners and entrepreneurs are getting expert support to grow and succeed after being selected to be part of the first ever “Evolving Business Cohort”.

The group is made up of 15 members, ranging from established businesses to brand new ventures, who will each receive one-to-one support as well as the opportunity to apply for an exclusive cohort grant, as part of the Work in Shrewsbury programme.

Cohort members were welcomed at a special event held at Draper’s Hall in September, attended by project coordinator Liza Freudmann, the Work in Shrewsbury team and Julia Buckley MP.

They are now looking forward to a marketing workshop led by Shrewsbury-based The Curious in November, along with individual mentoring from business leaders over the coming months.

Work in Shrewsbury is a UKSPF-funded campaign being led by Shrewsbury BID to attract inward investment and boost the local economy.

**Seb Slater, executive director of Shrewsbury BID**, said the Evolving Business Cohort was an important part of the project which aimed to inspire local businesses and entrepreneurs to develop their skills.

He said: “We were delighted to receive a large number of applications, all of which were of a really high calibre, and we had to make some tough decisions to appoint our cohort of 15 people.

*“It’s great that we have a range of ages - some are in their 20s while others are in their 50s - and the businesses vary from holistic health to a carbon savings consultant. We are really looking forward to seeing them grow over the coming months, with expert support designed to supercharge their businesses and inspire them to even greater achievements.*

*“It was interesting to hear from Julia Buckley MP at the launch event who reflected that Shrewsbury is fortunate to have everything in place for businesses to thrive - and the Work in Shrewsbury programme is designed to add to that environment for success.”*

Cohort members include local father and entrepreneur, **Kevin Williams**, who is launching a children’s bike brand with his wife, **Michelle**. He said: “Our mission with Shyre Bikes is to reduce screen time, increase physical activity and promote family wellbeing, contributing to mental health benefits.

*“We’re excited to receive support from Shrewsbury BID, the Evolving Business Cohort, and Work in Shrewsbury to support active kids in Shropshire.”*

Also joining the cohort is **Sophie Martin, of The Good Egg Bakery**, who said: “I have always had a passion for baking - from learning how to make cakes from a young age with my Mum, to working in bakeries and kitchens. “The Good Egg was a project born from a childhood dream that I managed to turn into a little shop with the hope of much more!”

For more information about the Evolving Business Cohort and the Work in Shrewsbury programme, visit [www.workinshrewsbury.co.uk](http://www.workinshrewsbury.co.uk)

THE  
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## RETAIL LETTING OPPORTUNITY IN THE HEART OF SHREWSBURY

Are you running a small business and considering a retail unit in Shrewsbury? If so - we'd love to hear from you!



TOWN CENTRE RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
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Flexible 2 year lease at an affordable rent - inclusive of utilities, service charge, wi-fi and marketing support (does not include business rates but some smaller units may be eligible for relief).

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[info@shrewsbury-shopping.co.uk](mailto:info@shrewsbury-shopping.co.uk)



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For further information contact:

James Satoor

01743 276 666

[james.satoor@cgpooks.co.uk](mailto:james.satoor@cgpooks.co.uk)

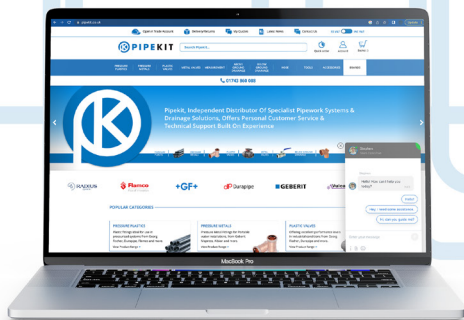
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# SOME SNAPS FROM RECENT EVENTS



Netwalking

We love welcoming your lovely faces to our monthly events, and this year we've got some great ones lined up.

Our events give you the chance to network with other local business owners, while trying/learning something new. We have met so many new lovely people & businesses in the last 12 months and we have welcomed a huge amount of new members.

If you would be interested in sponsoring an event please contact Donna - [shrewsburybc.events@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburybc.events@gmail.com)

We hope to see you soon!



Cheese & Wine Evening

## YOU'LL FIND US AT THE HEART OF YOUR COMMUNITY!

To make sure you don't miss out on our events make sure you check out our website

<https://shrewsburybusinesschamber.com/events/>

and follow us on all socials...

-  SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER
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Henshalls  
INSURANCE BROKERS



PART OF THE  
BROWN & BROWN TEAM



# SY COMMS JOINS SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER



## Established in Shropshire, we're dedicated to SY & TF located businesses.

Other telecom companies operate nationwide, meaning their response times can be slow and their priorities stretched thin - not us. We're committed to empowering local businesses with rounded telecom solutions. We remove the stress and simplify your telecoms through 12-month rollover contracts, personalised service and rapid response times within an hour.

We partner with you to understand your business needs. The personalisation of our service is what truly sets us apart. Local, specialist engineers are on hand to get under the skin of your business and truly understand what telecom solutions you need to take your business to the next level.

### Assisting Local Businesses and Startups with Telecommunications Requirements

- Customised Solutions: Tailor telecommunications packages to meet the specific needs of local businesses and startups, ensuring they have the right tools to support their operations.
- Scalable Services: Offer scalable solutions that grow with the business, from basic communication tools to advanced systems, enabling businesses to expand their telecom infrastructure as they grow.

- Cost-Effective Plans: Provide budget-friendly telecom plans that minimize upfront costs, ideal for startups and small businesses managing tight budgets.
- Reliable Connectivity: Ensure reliable internet and phone services with minimal downtime, critical for maintaining daily business operations and customer communication.
- Dedicated Support: Offer 24/7 technical support and consultation to address any telecom-related issues quickly, ensuring smooth operation and peace of mind for business owners.
- Advanced Technology Access: Provide access to the latest telecom technologies, including VoIP, cloud-based solutions, and unified communication systems, to enhance collaboration and productivity.
- Security Measures: Implement robust security protocols to protect sensitive data and communications from potential threats.
- Training and Onboarding: Assist with training and onboarding to ensure teams understand and effectively use new telecom tools and systems.

By providing comprehensive, adaptable, and affordable telecom solutions, we empower local businesses and startups to stay connected and thrive.

# SPONSORSHIP PLEA AS SHROPSHIRE COUNTY SHOW ORGANISERS BECOME SHREWSBURY BUSINESS CHAMBER MEMBERS



**The West Midlands Agricultural Society, which hosts the largest one-day show in the area, has signed up as a member of Shrewsbury Business Chamber.**

Shropshire County Show will mark 150 years in 2025 when it takes place at the DMOS People West Mid Showground in Shrewsbury on May 24th, and preparations are now well underway.

Part of the organisation of the classic event involves attracting support to ensure its ongoing success, and one of the ways businesses can get involved is through corporate sponsorship - with opportunities available now for next year's show.

**Ian Bebbington, the West Midlands Agricultural Society's chief executive,** said: *"The Shropshire County Show takes a lot of planning and funding to end up with a successful event - which is why sponsorship is so important to us.*

*"As a corporate sponsor, a company can enjoy exclusive benefits that include employee engagement, brand visibility and networking opportunities, all important considerations in a successful business.*

*"More specifically, corporate sponsorship provides a special day out for employees at one of the region's most anticipated events, fostering team spirit and appreciation and showcasing your brand in the main ring on show day, reaching a broad and diverse audience while reinforcing your commitment to community engagement.*

*"By becoming a corporate sponsor, your company will contribute to the success of a cherished community event and align with your CSR objectives while reaping*

*the rewards of increased brand exposure and employee satisfaction."*

The Shropshire and West Midlands Agricultural Society was created in the late 1800s when its main objective was to organise the Annual Agricultural Show. Today, it continues to oversee the maintenance and use of the showground for the Shropshire County Show and many other entertainment, cultural and fundraising events.

All profit from these events is used to keep the roads, grounds, fences and buildings on the showground in a good state of repair. The society also supports Shropshire Young Farmers' Club, Shropshire Community Resource and runs The Rural Charity, which makes regular donations to other local good causes in the form of grants.

*"Among others, we have contributed to the Ellesmere Food and Warm Clothes Project, Ellesmere Bowls, Glyn's Garden in Church Stretton, Wem Store Cupboard, Wem Playmates Nursery, Little Rascals Foundation in Shrewsbury, Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery in Wem, the 1st Bayston Hill Scout group and Wem Amateur Dramatic Society and Operatic Society,"* said **Mr Bebbington**.

*"We run charity shops in Oswestry, Ellesmere, Wem, Shrewsbury, Whitchurch and Church Stretton, and local people are able to request donations via a form available in the shop."*

For more information about corporate sponsorship for next year's Shropshire County Show, email [sponsorship@shropshirecountyshow.com](mailto:sponsorship@shropshirecountyshow.com)

You Are Invited To The SBC

# Christmas PARTY

DEC	10	2024
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6 - 9PM

Origins restaurant



SHREWSBURY  
BUSINESS CHAMBER

**We are hosting our Christmas party at Origins again this year. Join other local business leads to celebrate the winners of the Shrewsbury Christmas Window competition, hear about the Chamber's year and plans for 2025. Enjoy some lovely buffet food and drink included in your ticket price. Plenty of time to network with colleagues before the Christmas break.**

This event is going to be one of our best.

A Great chance to meet Chamber members and other business owners in shrewsbury to network.

£10 per ticket for chamber members. Guests are £20.

Origins Restaurant London Road Shrewsbury SY2 6PR - 6pm - 9pm.

To book your place go to -

**<https://shrewsburybusinesschamber.com/events/>**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER

#### CHRISTMAS DO!

CELEBRATE THE WINNERS OF THE SHREWSBURY CHRISTMAS WINDOW COMPETITION & NETWORK.

TUE 10 DEC  
6PM

MEMBERS: £10  
NON MEMBERS £20

### JANUARY 2025

#### SPEED NETWORKING

THIS WILL BE OUR THIRD SPEED NETWORKING EVENT AND IS SPONSORED BY MEMBERS HR DEPT.

WED 15 JAN  
6PM

FREE TO ALL

### FEBRUARY

#### BUSINESS BREAKFAST

OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH PRESENTATIONS FROM BID AND SHREWSBURY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES

WED 26 FEB  
8AM

MEMBERS: £7.50  
NON MEMBERS £12.50

### MARCH

#### HISTORY TOUR

SPONSORED BY MEMBER ANDREW SHENTON OF ANDREW'S BUILDING CONSERVATION AND RUN BY MAGGIE LOVE

WED 19 MAR  
5.30PM

MEMBERS: £5  
NON MEMBERS £15

### APRIL

#### NETWALK

2 HOUR WALK COVERING 4 MILES AND INCLUDES A PUB STOP.

WED 9 APR  
6PM

FREE TO ALL

#### VISIT TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES & NETWORKING

WITH Q&A WITH HELEN BALL TOWN CLERK.

WED 30 APR  
6PM

FREE TO ALL

### MAY

#### ANNUAL CHAMBER QUIZ

A FUN NIGHT TO MIX WITH OTHER LOCAL BUSINESS.

WED 14 MAY  
6PM

FREE TO ALL

#### NETWALK

2 HOUR WALK COVERING 4 MILES AND INCLUDES A PUB STOP.

WED 21 MAY  
6PM

FREE TO ALL

### JUNE

#### NETWALK

2 HOUR WALK COVERING 4 MILES AND INCLUDES A PUB STOP.

WED 18 JUN  
6PM

FREE TO ALL

#### AN EVENING WITH JULIA BUCKLEY

OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WHAT'S HAPPENED LOCALLY AND WHAT IS ON THE HORIZON.

THU 26 JUN  
6PM

MEMBERS: FREE  
NON MEMBERS: £5

**For more information about our events, please take a look at the events section of our website and follow all our socials for updates.**

# THANKYOU!

## Thankyou to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the Shrewsbury Business Chamber magazine.

We are always looking for new content to promote over social media, so if your business has some exciting news, any events or good news to share, then please send these to us so we can promote for you across our social media.

If you would like to be featured or have a story or an event you'd like included, if you could please send an email to [shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com) with all copy and any images.

To advertise in future issues if you could please contact [shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com)

## Thinking about becoming a member?

Shrewsbury Business Chamber is the business group of choice for the Shrewsbury area. The Chamber organises regular events allowing businesses to network, voice their opinions and gain useful business expertise. The Chamber provides a collective voice and ensures business issues reach the right officials. A not-for-profit membership organisation which is headed up by a volunteer business focused Executive Committee. The Business Chamber works closely with other local private and public sector organisations for the betterment of businesses from across the Shrewsbury area.

MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL FEE
Retired	£30
Charity	£50
Sole Trader	£70
Up to 10 employees	£100
More than 10 employees	£140

For more information on how to join please head to our website [www.shrewsburybusinesschamber.com](http://www.shrewsburybusinesschamber.com)

The opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of the editor, or those of Shrewsbury Business Chamber.

To advertise in future issues if you could please contact our editor via email at

[shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburybc.editor@gmail.com)