





taking business to new heights

Dear Members

Welcome to the ASCC newsletter.

This issue is packed with information to help your business
July always means we need to consider taxes and I have included tax tips from
Brierley Holt and some information from HMRC.

We are starting our preparations for the Business Awards and its great to see the help and support we are already receiving from the members. Sam is planning the meet the nominee's event and we are full steam ahead with the plans for the evening.

We are always looking for sponsors for the various categories, so if you would like to Be part of this fabulous night and be a sponsor, please let me know.

Lastly, I couldn't resist including this photo of Mike Fox, Slater Heelis Here he is with Charlie the Cactus and his well deserved awards



Very best wishes

Sue xx



Chamber News



Altrincham and Sale Chamber of Commerce Forthcoming Events

https://altrinchamandsalechamber.co.uk/events/

6th July 2023

Breakfast Matters at Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham – Panel discussion including the Chamber working party and a representative from The Growth Company discussing Sustainability.

13th July 2023

Women in Business – Informal lunchtime networking at Greens, Sale hosted by Helen Calvert

3 August 2023

Breakfast Matters at Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham – Networking with the Chamber All attendees will have the opportunity to give a 60 second intro about their business and maximise the opportunity to promote to other Chamber members

10 Nov 2023

Chamber Business Awards at The Point, Lancashire County Cricket, Old Trafford



You Chamber membership......

Marketing Opportunities

Marketing Materials at Breakfast Meetings

Now we are all back to meeting in person we are delighted to display members banners, marketing literature and promotional items at our Breakfast Meetings (the first Thursday of each month 0830). Any Chamber member is welcome to bring along materials to display in the room at the Cresta Court.

Chamber Membership Benefits

Chamber UK GDPR Health Checks – Free of Charge

As part of Chamber membership, we provided new members with a "UK GDPR Health Check". This check is provided by Sam Alford of PPP Management Ltd and includes confirming your ICO registration is up to date, checks on your website and cookie notices and a review of your privacy notice to see that it complies with the latest guidance. We are pleased to announce that Sam will now provide this health check for current/existing Chamber members and is in the process of working through our membership list. You can expect an email from Helen in the office sometime after you renew your membership with the results of your Company's UK GDPR Health Check.

Showcase your Business.

Any member who would like to host an evening social either at their premises or in a local venue, please contact Helen in the office 0161 941 3250. This entails providing wine/beer and nibbles but gives you the opportunity to welcome both chamber members and guests into your business and tell them your story.

ACE LIPS COMEDY PRESENTS In Aid Of Paint Altrincham Blue



NINA GILLIGAN **UK CLUB COMEDIAN 2023**



TICKETS £15



LJ FRANCIS



DAN TIERNAN **BBC NEW COMEDY** WINNER 2022

PAINT ALTRINCHAM BLUE AT ALTRINCHAM FOOTBALL CLUB ALTRINCHAM FOOTBALL CLUB MOSS LN, HALE, ALTRINCHAM WA15 8AP

Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005541) and in Scotland (SC039332). Registered company number 02653887. Registered office: Fourth floor, The Counting House, 53 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QN, VAT Registration Number: 905 9415 18.





Altrincham BID Business Improvement District

RHS Flower Show Tatton Park Opportunities to Promote your Business Wednesday 19th - Sunday 23rd July



Best Dressed Window Competition

This year's theme is 'Sensory' and there's still time to sign up for the competition. The two confirmed categories are:

- Best Dressed Window displays made up of more than 50% real plant material (judged by the RHS)
- Best Floral Inspiration displays using craft techniques including paper and window murals (judged by the RHS with a special guest)



RHS Judging Criteria:

The entrants will be judged by RHS judges on the following criteria, with points awarded for each. The winning display will have been awarded the most points overall. If there is a tie the judges will vote.

- Display/ Originality
- Plants/ colour scheme
- Overall effect/ wow factor

There will also be two elements to the competition with the judges choosing their winners from each category, and the People's Choice competition which will be hosted for the BID by Altrincham Today. This gives an opportunity for each of the window displays to be seen by thousands. The RHS judging day will be **Wednesday 19th July** and the online competition will go live on Altrincham Today on Thursday 20th July and run until the following Monday.

Full Judging Criteria can be found here

RHS Offers & Specials Flyer

Hundreds of visitors to the show use the shuttle bus from Altrincham Interchange to Tatton Park, and we would like to encourage those visitors to spend time in Altrincham at either end of the day,or come back to visit on another day. We will therefore be putting together a flyer including business offers, specials and events during the week of the show.

Visit Altrincham Stand at Tatton

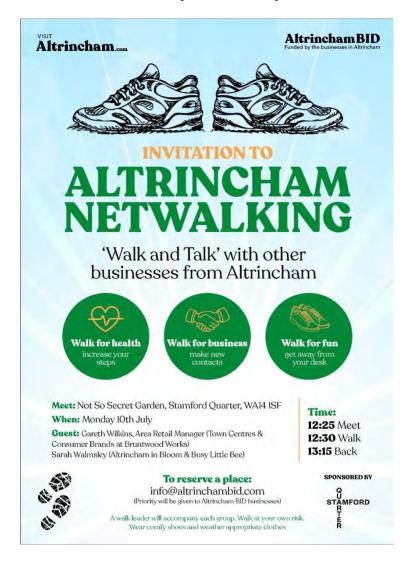
We have secured a stand in the main exhibitor area throughout the show and are inviting Altrincham BID businesses to join us on the stand. This will give you the opportunity to promote Altrincham and your business.

We are also looking for 5 prizes for the competition we will be running on the stand.

If you are interested in any of the opportunities above, please let us know. info@altrinchambid.com



July Netwalking Monday 10th July



Netwalking is a great way to meet other Altrincham business representatives, chat and get to know each other. It provides an opportunity to get away from the office and get exercise, fresh air and relax. It's great for your physical and mental health, and taking a break at lunchtime has proven benefits for afternoon productivity and creativity.

This month's Netwalking, organised by Altrincham BID, is on Monday, 10th July. We will start from the Not So Secret Garden in the Stamford Quarter at 12.25pm. The walk takes approximately 45 minutes and we will be heading to The Devisdale and back!

This month's guests are Gareth Wilkins, Area Retail Manager, Town Centres and Consumer Brands at Bruntwood Works, and Sarah Walmsley from Altrincham in Bloom and Busy Little Bee.

Email to let us know you are coming along!



CargoCycle Altrincham Pilot



Altrincham BID has been awarded £10k to run a Cargo Bike Delivery scoping and pilot project with Altrincham's BID businesses – CargoCycle Altrincham. The award has been granted through the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Foundational Economy Innovation Fund.

The project will start in July 2023, and Altrincham BID will be working with MP Smarter Travel, Manchester Bikes, Stamford Cycle Co and Cllr Michael Welton on the delivery of the project.

If you would like to trial a cargo bike or find out more about how your business can get involved please email the BID. info@altrinchambid.com





Music and Mixology August Bank Holiday Weekend Friday 25th-Monday 28th August



We will be producing a flyer highlighting 'Music and Mixology' over the August Bank Holiday Weekend and promoting everything on the Visit Altrincham website and social media. Please let us know if your business is planning anything special!

info@altrinchambid.com



Sara Fixter – Full Circle Funerals June 2023







How has business been since Covid?

We opened our funeral service in January 2022, which means we didn't directly experience the impact of lockdown on funerals and funeral care. We have heard from our colleagues within the Full Circle network, that it was really challenging because they weren't able to deliver the person centred care they wanted to. It was incredibly hard for people arranging funerals when they weren't able to fulfil funeral wishes or were required to limit attendees. Working as we do with bereaved families, we recognise how incredibly difficult it must have been for people during lockdown to experience these restrictions.

The imposed restrictions did give people the opportunity to think creatively and introduce new rituals and technology. We've seen increased use of online options to include those who cannot attend funerals. For example, live-streaming of a funeral service is now more common. It can be used to include family members and friends who live a distance away, overseas or who aren't able to travel.

People have found ways to represent those who can't physically attend a service, for example asking them to send cards or printed messages to be placed with the coffin, or by lighting a candle to signify those who can't attend in person.

Digital memorial pages are also increasingly used now – online spaces where people can leave messages and thoughts, upload photos and make donations in someone's memory.

What keeps you awake at night?

Our naughty cat Milo! He has learnt how to open the kitchen door, and get out from where he's normally kept at night. He likes to pat me on the head and purr in my ear around 4am, an extra early alarm call to make sure I don't forget his breakfast!

How did you get into your business?



I previously worked as a solicitor but felt it wasn't the right role for me. I was in the middle of training to be a psychotherapist when my husband Jez came across Full Circle Funerals. He was working in HR and recruitment at the time but he'd always wanted to own and work within his own business and do something where he felt he was making a difference and helping people, we both did.

The ethos and message of Full Circle Funerals resonated with us both. We're committed to making a positive change to the funeral industry, bringing comprehensive and empathetic support to families, improving the level and type of support that is available to bereaved individuals. We don't want to be prescriptive in any way, rather we listen and offer support that is tailored to each individual we meet. We provide informed, transparent and compassionate funeral care and we whole heartedly believe that working in this way allows us to make a positive and meaningful contribution to the industry and to people's wellbeing.

What can Chamber members do for you?

Having your own business is a wonderful adventure but it can sometimes be hard – I love how the Chamber creates a really special community where people share experience, knowledge and friendships form.

Whats your USP?

We operate on the basis of person centred care. Because we're a small independent team we can work flexibly providing a highly personalised level of care. Our backgrounds in professional services mean we know what it is to deliver excellent, responsive support and we always do this with warmth and kindness.

We want each family we come into contact with to feel compassionately supported, guided through the funeral arrangement process every step of the way. Every family we support is unique and our priority is ensuring that their personal needs are met. This means we don't have packages and nothing is standardised.

We work to tailor our support, making it easy for people to create a meaningful and personalised funeral that reflects both the life of the person who has died and is helpful to their family and friends. We also offer continuity of care. On bringing the person who has died into our care, they will be looked after by myself and Jez personally, in our Altrincham service. It will also be myself or Jez who will arrange the funeral and any supporting services with the family. We offer bereavement signposting and support, both through links we have to local counselling centres and bereavement groups and also through an on-line bereavement support group. I'm currently training to become a Cruse Bereavement Volunteer and I hope the knowledge and experience I gain will help to strengthen our bereavement signposting and support service.

And finally ...

You're off to the Desert Island who is with you and what 3 things - and why?

I love this question! Who is with me...I have to say Jez and our two girls, they're aged 7 and 11 and I couldn't leave them behind!

The 3 things...definitely a fully kitted out tent (is that cheating?!), a box of family books (I love reading, so do the girls and I hope this would help to keep us occupied) and a boat to take us home when we'd all had enough of living on a remote desert island!





SARA's BLOG

How to be creative when arranging a funeral

There are many ways to be creative when arranging a funeral. If you are arranging a funeral or would like to know more to support others, then read on.

What does creativity mean?

We believe that choice and creativity are two sides of the same coin. While discussing this as a team, there are two metaphors which we have found helpful. In our experience, creativity is often "sparked" or "inspired" by knowing the choices that are available – and then making a little tweak here and there.

Choice is being given a menu of delicious dishes to choose from, whereas creativity is being given a bag of ingredients and empowered to make a new dish which is completely unique to your taste.

To use another FCF team metaphor, choice is being given a list of options on a piece of paper and a pencil, to tick the choices that are best for you.

In the funeral arrangement process this difference might look like browsing a selection of existing options and choosing from these or using this knowledge and your experience to curate something a little different.

When does creativity happen?

We know that many people consider funeral choices in the weeks and monthly before someone dies and the arrangements and decisions continue until the funeral service or committal take place. There are also choices and space for creativity after the funeral with the creation of post-funeral rituals.

Before someone dies, they may share with their family and friends what they would like for their funeral and these wishes are likely to create a framework for additional choices and opportunities to be creative.

From the first moment after someone has died, there are choices and whenever there is a choice, there is an opportunity to be creative within these choices. If you are using the services of a funeral director, then you have choices about when someone is brought into their care and what the person who has died is wearing or has with them. Throughout your meetings with the funeral director, they will share choices and give the opportunity for you to together expand these choices with as much, or as little, creativity as you like.

Making funeral decisions takes some time and deliberation and as the right choices become clearer to you, you may also find opportunity to adapt and "tweak" them a little – so they feel even more appropriate a fitting. You may also find yourself taking inspiration from other events or experience you have had – a wedding or other celebration.

What can help?

Being creative within your funeral arrangements is not for everyone. For some, it is an important way to participate and consolation – for others it would be an added and unwelcome pressure. If you know what is possible – they you can do what is right for you.

The time leading up to a funeral is busy and can be quite daunting. If there is a way to utilize the anyone who has offered their help then you might consider asking for them to support with daily tasks like bringing



some food, sweeping the leaves or running some errands for you – people often want to help but don't know where to start and delegating might mean you have a little more time to mull over your options.

You may be very much in touch with your creative side or sometimes find it a little elusive. If so, you would reach out to some family or friends who you trust and who's creative sparks you have appreciated in the past. They could come to the florist with you or help you think about something that would accompany the flowers on the top of the coffin.

Some choices which may spark your creativity:

Clothing

What would you like people to wear to the funeral? Is there something specific that the person that had died would appreciate? What about a token item to wear, in addition to clothing? Some people like to wear a specific colour, a pin of something special, or incorporate a theme into the clothing to be worn by attendees.

Food and drink

Are you thinking of including food or drink at the funeral or wake? Is there something special that you would like to serve? Did the person that has died have a favourite snack or tipple? Is there a special dish that is important to you as a family or group of friends?

Sharing memories

Some people find that they would like for memories of the person to be shared during the funeral service or at the wake. This could look like particular people speaking during the service, memories being written on cards or in a book by attendees, or asking individuals to contribute their memories to a memory tree or other structure.

Funeral favours

Would you like to give attendees a little something to remember the service? These small gifts could be anything from the person's favourite sweet or favourite flower bulbs.

Coffin choice

There are many different types of coffins to choose from, but did you know that many can be personalised? Cardboard coffins can be used as a canvas for drawings, paintings, and collage. Flowers can be attached to coffins and so they can form the base of a floral arrangement.

Everyone is different

There is no right or wrong way to approach arranging a funeral, and the important thing is that you make decisions that are right for you and the people that you care about. This might look like making entirely original choices, or it might look like curating options and choices to create an event that is right for you.



Sara Fixter Independent Funeral Director

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www.brierlyholt.co.uk Accounting for small business

Brierley Holt Tax Tips July 2023

Corporation tax on capital gains

The main rate of corporation tax rose from 19% to 25% on 1 April 2023 for companies with profits over £250,000. The small profits rate of 19% applies where company profits don't exceed £50,000 for the year. Between those profit thresholds an effective mar Read More...

Voluntary NIC payment deadline extended again

In April 2023, we gave you the good news that the government had extended the deadline for paying voluntary national insurance contributions (NIC) to fill gaps in an NIC record which

HMRC nudges those named in Pandora Papers

The Pandora Papers consists of 11.9 million leaked documents from 14 offshore financial service companies. This information was gradually released by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists from October 2021 onwards. Read More...

arose in the years 2006/2007 to 2016/17, from 5 April 2023 to 31 July 20 Read More...

How to claim the Marriage Allowance

The marriage allowance is £1,260 of the personal allowance which is available for transfer between spouses or civil partners. But this amount can only be transferred where the recipient is taxed at the basic rate (20%) or less (starter, basic or intermedi Read More...

July Questions and Answers

Q. I quit my job in July 2022 and became self-employed from September 2022. I started to pay class 2 NIC for my self-employed trade with effect from 1 September. Will the 2022/23 count as a qualifying year towards my state pension? Read More...

July key tax dates

5 - Employers need to agree any PAYE Settlement Agreement (PSA) for 2022/23 with HMRC. This can now be achieved with an online application. Read More...

About Us

Brierley Holt Accountants are based in Altrincham, offering local business owners and individuals a wide range of services. All clients are entitled to fixed fees, work delivered on time and unlimited phone support. Visit our website brierleyholt.co.uk for more information.



HM Revenue & Customs

There's a wide range of expenses and benefits received by employees – including directors.

If you'd like more information on how to deal with such payments and how it affects tax and National Insurance, join our live webinars – during which you can ask questions using the on-screen text box.

Expenses and benefits for your employees – if your employees have more than one workplace

This employer webinar looks at:

- employee travel to different types of workplace
- geographical locations
- the 24-month rule
- the 40% test

Register here

Expenses and benefits for your employees – company cars, vans and fuel

If your employees have private use of a company vehicle, we'll cover:

- how to use the online calculator to work out the amount to report for payrolling or on the P11D
- fuel made available for private use
- essential record keeping

The first part of the webinar will cover company cars, followed by company vans. Register here





TRAFFORD

Government launches Business Rates Consultation

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has launched a consultation to seek views on draft regulations to implement the government's Business Rates Improvement Relief Scheme.

The scheme will support businesses wishing to invest in their property. It will also ensure that no ratepayer will face higher business rates bills for 12 months as a result of qualifying improvements to a property they occupy. The Non-Domestic Rating Bill currently before Parliament contains powers to allow for the Improvement Relief Scheme.

For further information, click here.

This consultation closes at 11.59pm on 28th August 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact: ndr@levellingup.gov.uk

Latest News & Information



TfGM

For anyone using public transport in Greater Manchester, the beginning of the Bee Network is nearly here.

Eventually the Bee Network will be the one-stop shop for all journeys using public transport and active travel (walking, cycling, or wheeling) making them simpler, more accessible, more reliable, more sustainable, and better value with capped fares and flexible tickets.

Pivotal to making the Bee Network a reality is Greater Manchester's buses coming back under local control, which starts from September this year. You might start to see a splash of yellow on buses, stops, and shelters soon.

To mark the three month milestone until the transformational Bee Network starts, a number of new announcements on fares and ticketing have been revealed by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham. The announcements include;

- New combined tram and bus tickets to cut the cost of travel when bus services come under local control for the first time in nearly 40 years in September 2023.
- The current low-cost, capped single, daily, and weekly bus fares extended until September 2024.
- Operators confirmed to run second phase of locally controlled franchised bus services from March 2024
- Greater Manchester to become first area outside London to pilot contactless touch-in/touch-out travel on some local train services in 2025.

The move to a simplified, integrated and lower-cost fare structure is a key part of the Bee Network, supporting a high volume, low fare transport system, which will transform the way people travel across the city region.

For further information, click <u>here</u>.

Growth Company - Employer Voice Survey June 2023

The Growth Company wants to understand employers' growth challenges and opportunities including skills gaps and workforce development needs in order to inform the development of solutions and continuous improvement in the services offered to employers and individuals.

The Growth Company is currently exploring a number of business support, skills and recruitment opportunities and is inviting employers to provide feedback to ensure that solutions reflect the needs of employers.



As a consequence, Trafford based companies are invited to participate in a short online survey, the results of which will be used to inform future activity.

For further information and to participate in the survey, click <u>here</u>. Participants are asked to complete the survey by the 10th of July 2023.

Bids invited for £1m defibrillator fund

The Department of Health and Social Care is inviting interested organisations to register expressions of interest for its £1 million Community Automated External Defibrillators Fund, aimed at increasing the number of AEDs in public places where they are most needed and help save lives.

An estimated 1,000 new defibrillators are to be provided by the fund, with the potential for this to double as successful applicants will be asked to match the funding they receive partially or fully.

As part of the grant award, applicants will be asked to demonstrate that defibrillators will be placed in areas where they are most needed, such as places with high footfall, vulnerable people, rural areas or due to the nature of activity at the site.

Examples could include town halls, community centres, local shops, post offices and local parks, to ensure that defibrillators are evenly spread throughout communities and easily accessible if someone is experiencing an unexpected cardiac arrest.

To accelerate the administration of the grant in advance of the partner being chosen, prospective organisations who wish to obtain funding for a defibrillator are now invited to register an expression of interest with the Department of Health and Social Care. Organisations who submit an expression of interest will be notified once grant applications open to the Department of Health and Social Care's £1 million Community AED Fund.

For further information click here.

Reminder - Net Zero Innovation Network

The Net Zero Innovation Network brings together SME manufacturers based in the UK to discuss how sustainability can be brought into manufacturing. Participants will benefit from:

- A greater understanding of the upcoming challenges for waste materials and how to address them
- Interactive online events and workshops on sustainability, with insights from industrial guest speakers
- Manufacturers' networking cohorts for collaboration and knowledge sharing



- Net Zero readiness online assessment tool
- Energy assessment of the production facility
- Potential grant funding towards energy efficiency improvements
- Help with introducing technical innovations to positively impact the environment and your profits
- Ten-year road map action plan for the business
- Best practice visits to other UK manufacturers focussed on sustainability

Find out more here

Reminder - Digital Skills For Growth - Greater Manchester

Greater Manchester Combined Authority has commissioned UK Skills Academy as lead to deliver The Digital Skills for Growth and Productivity, under the European Social Fund's 'Skills for Growth Fund'. Together with The Coders Guild, Back to Work Group, The Manchester Digital, Apprentify and GC Education & Skills we will upskill 2000 participants across Greater Manchester offering a range of digital transformation courses and qualifications. Further information can be found https://exa

Reminder - Consultation on Reforms to Construction Industry Scheme

The Government has launched a consultation on possible changes to strengthen and simplify the Construction Industry Scheme. The consultation closes on 20 July 2023. Read more here

Reminder - Low Carbon Skills - Journey to Net Zero

Delivered by the Growth Company, Low Carbon Skills: Journey to Net Zero is made up of 7 interactive workshops designed to support organisations in building a strategic plan to cut their carbon footprint, reduce costs, minimise risk and capitalise on the many opportunities awaiting you in the net zero world. The next training cohorts start in July with places available throughout the month. By the end of the course, attendees will:

- Understand key net zero terms, the risks and opportunities in the workplace
- Feel empowered and motivated to begin or progress the net zero journey
- Create a clear and strategic plan to deliver Net Zero ambitions.

For further information, click here.



10% off

party nights when booked before 31st August 2023





USE the QR code to see the new 2023 Christmas Brochure and party night dates

www.cresta-court.co.uk

For more information please get in touch:

0161 927 7272 bookings@cresta-court.co.uk