# A fresh approach to business networking

KuKu Connect is a vibrant business membership service connecting businesses and entrepreneurs at some of the best venues across the East Midlands.

We offer a fresh alternative to traditional business networking with our monthly 'Connect Receptions' which are hosted by a different venue each month. Indulge in complimentary hospitality and make authentic business connections in a relaxed and friendly environment, with no pitches, no presentations and no push.

Whatever stage of business you've reached, KuKu Connect gives you the chance to build vital relationships so you can secure superior business connections.

#### KuKu Connect is so much more than networking.

You can reach thousands of businesses across the East Midlands through a range of exclusive membership benefits, plus, our Privilege Card opens the door to first-class offers and invitations from across the local business community.

Connect - Indulge - Engage - Develop - Secure

www.kukuconnect.co.uk

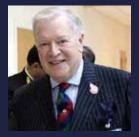
### Almonac Foreword



"Living in the East Midlands and serving the community of Rutland, as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland, means that I am keen to support business – the lifeblood of our communities. I am also aware of KuKu Connect's considerable impact on local businesses of many sizes and sectors and of their support to the wider community and to charitable organisations. I am therefore delighted, as a local person, to commend KuKu Connect, in this foreword, for all their efforts in supporting the business community. I also commend them for producing their third KuKu Connect Almanac. This celebrates their third anniversary and promotes all of the businesses they have worked alongside over the year. I give KuKu and all of the business community my best wishes for continued growth, success and for their continuing contribution to the economy and wider society." **Dr Sarah Furness, PhD** 



"The Midlands, both the East & West is a thriving hotbed of entrepreneurial innovation of both major businesses, as well as vital new enterprises who all contribute to society with employment, training, education and to the community. With the Signature and Nachural Awards we have the privilege of highlighting these 'contributors', many of whom are not well-known and represent a truly diverse business community. The East Midlands is lucky to have KuKu Connect, not only with its vast support to business, but also as a vital opportunity for businesses to connect, share and work together to build ever-growing success. KuKu are award-winning in their style, nature and success and this is so evident with their 2019-20 Almanac." Ninder, Johal, DL, Founder of the Signature & Nachural Business & Entrepreneurship Awards



"KuKu Connect has grown most impressively since their Leicestershire launch in 2016, but their constant commitment to the community both business and charity has been at the pinnacle of their ethos and efforts and should be recognised. This year's new Almanac is a splendid example of their dedication to supporting business people and I wish KuKu Connect another most prosperous year ahead, sending my thanks to them for their support to the ABF the Soldiers Charity and the many other organisations they support." Lieutenant-Colonel David Young, TD, DL (Retd), Chairman of the Leicestershire & Rutland ABF



"As business people and budding entrepreneurs we all know the vital importance of thriving economies and their vital role in communities at local and national level. The East Midlands is a shining example of innovation, success and development and something I know KuKu Connect plays a very important role within, as a champion of businesses from 'start-ups' to larger organisations and even in supporting Government, business support organisations and initiatives. At Talash we are proud to play our part as a business with our award-winning boutique and heritage hotels, and in being a part of the KuKu community. Our thanks and congratulations on your annual celebrations to KuKu and all the businesses who are a part of this excellent enterprise and service." **Ravi Kathurua, Joint CEO of Talash Hotels** 



Many organisations set out to support business, many organisations do a lot of talking about supporting enterprise and their communities, but not all businesses actually do it. KuKu Connect is a true investor in business and enterprise, much of their time is given freely in supporting a whole range of business initiatives, awards and community events and they are excellent ambassadors for promoting business in the East Midlands. As the founder of the Love Business Expo I have valued KuKu and their support to the Expo, as a showcase of the region's business talent and success. I'm in no doubt that KuKu Connect's continued growth will positively impact more and more businesses, as a superb service for business who want to connect, network and work together." **Steve Megson, Founder of the Love Business Expo** 

### Outstanding Achivement for business in the East Midlands

Business helps build economies both at international level, but importantly right through to local county level and is a cornerstone of a positive and cohesive society. Entrepreneurs, innovators and individuals who create success and who develop enterprise and growth are often quietly making a huge impact but not widely known or promoted. Not only large businesses, but equally smaller organisations have success stories that are outstanding and deserve to be recognised.

There are many awards for businesses, but The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are, perhaps thought of by some, as an accolade reserved the giants of the business world. I know at regional and local level there are potentially a great number of businesses that might make



an excellent nomination for one of the Enterprise awards categories, which recognise success in the key areas of innovation, international trade, sustainable development and promoting opportunity through social mobility.

The Awards are valid for 5 years and successful winners of the awards have reported benefiting from worldwide recognition, increased commercial value, greater press coverage and a boost to staff morale. Amongst the benefits of winning your business is invited to a Royal Reception and given a Grant of Appointment which is an official certificate, as well as being presented with your award at your company by one of Her Majesty's personal representatives, usually a Lord-Lieutenant. Lord-Lieutenants' are the most senior ranking official in each County after Her Majesty The Queen and members of The Royal Family.

KuKu Connect is passionate about supporting and promoting excellence in business achievement in all manner of business sector and size across the region, so we welcome and encourage you to consider the Enterprise Awards and there is a very helpful website where you can gain further information and apply, so please do visit:

www.gov.uk/queens-awards-forenterprise



Stephen Goddard & Philip Brooks-Stephenson Founders of KuKu Connect

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Photography: Saul Morgan



## Welcome to the KuKu Connect Almanac

At KuKu Connect we are once again delighted to be able to present our annual Almanac. This luxury publication reviews our last twelve months of connecting businesses and entrepreneurs across the East Midlands at some of the top venues and businesses in the region.

This, our third annual edition of the Almanac marks the anniversary of KuKu Connect and highlights a range of locally based and independent businesses, organisations and charities, so we would encourage all readers to support the many excellent organisations presented in this year's publication.

The purpose of the Almanac is to celebrate and promote all those businesses and organisations that have been a part of KuKu Connect; our fantastic Members and our valued Partners and Connect Reception hosts who all play an important role in the life of the region's business community.

The Almanac also champions the important role of 'networking' and we very much hope shows that business networking can be friendly, effective, vibrant, as well as aspirational and demonstrates that with KuKu, networking, or connecting as we call it, doesn't have to be boring for business people. The old adage of 'mixing business with pleasure' is certainly true for KuKu Connect, but surely hard work and success should be rewarded with a little pleasure? We think so.

We would like to draw your attention to each of our monthly hand-picked Connect Reception hosts whose contribution to culture, lifestyle, heritage and tourism play a vital role in helping to attract inward investment and employment, making up the communities we are all a part of, city, market town or rural village. Readers should also know that we give these special venues our highly recommended seal of approval, so we urge you to visit them soon.

We would like to thank our contributors of this year's Foreword, who follow on from Her Grace the Duchess of Rutland who kindly gave last year's Foreword and hosted KuKu Connect at Belvoir Castle in 2018 for our Annual Birthday Reception.

Their collective remarks and support are most gratefully received, but also show the high regard and calibre of our KuKu business community of Members, whom without their patronage KuKu Connect would not exist.

This year we are kindly hosted by brothers, Ravi and Sanjay Kathuria at Stoke Rochford Hall on the borders of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire where this Almanac is launched in the surrounds of another stunning venue, which acts as a spectacular and historical setting for any event either business or private and we thank Ravi and Sanjay and their staff for hosting the 2019 KuKu Connect Annual Birthday Reception.

So if you are reading this Almanac for the first time and wonder if connecting with businesses in luxurious, exciting and quirky venues is something that might benefit your business then come and connect, indulge, engage, develop and secure new business with KuKu Connect and enjoy the 2019-20 KuKu Connect Almanac.

Our warmest wishes to all, Stephen, Philip & The KuKu Team



Stoke Rochford Hall is a unique hall with golf and leisure club, as well as a conference and banqueting centre of the highest reputation. A striking Victorian countryside mansion with grand, elegant rooms and spacious guest accommodation, so ideal for a celebration event, business trip or conference.

The hall is set within idyllic formal gardens amidst beautiful LincoInshire countryside, so perfect for a weekend getaway. Stoke Rochford Hall is part of the award winning independent Talash Hotels, but whatever your reason for visiting you'll be sure to receive a warm welcome. www.stokerochfordhall.co.uk

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## **Absolutely PrintPrint**

Eddy from Absolutely Fabulous said, "I PR things! People, Places, Concepts." So we wonder if Eddy and her PR agency and list of rich, powerful and famous clients had their own dedicated printer of choice, we think they must have done.

Gorgeous invitations, glossy brochures and magazines, luxurious business cards, eye catching advertisements and stationery to impress all sounds great, but to make it count, to make it work, your printer simply has to be absolutely fabulous. Although we don't mean they drink champagne at breakfast, you can do that whilst PrintPrint of Leicester make your print fizz for your business, or your next new client.

So what makes a good printer? Quality, precision, expertise, advice, solutions, ideas, visual, touch, finish, inspiration, creativity, reliability and trust are all a part of the ingredients that make your print look fab. In business looks really do count, something we feel Eddy and Patsy would wholeheartedly agree on.

At KuKu Connect our Directors Stephen and Philip have a little absolutely fabulousness between them and they like everything to be just so and they understand the power of print, even amongst the social media and digital frenzy of today. There is nothing quite like an invitation or parcel landing on your desk and, which is more likely to be opened, that, or the spammy email?

"Print is not as easy as throwing together a concept and dashing it out at your economy and on-line printers. You will nearly always be disappointed, let alone dealing with robotic service and the, once you press that order button, it's at your own risk."







"We highly recommend PrintPrint for their high standards in every aspect of their service and process from your concept or design being brought to final print. As a business we are fortunate to hold a high-level and respected brand which is only made possible by print and for KuKu, by using PrintPrint time and time again."

Stephen Goddard, MD, KuKu Creative

### Print gurus that smile

PrintPrint are an independent, second-generation family run business, based in the heart of the East Midlands.

Headed by husband and wife team Hanif and Rubina Lokat, their team works with national brands with commercial printing to new start-ups with bespoke and individual projects. The PrintPrint team offer excellence that does not cost the earth, so think designer print quality, a warm and friendly service, just without the London prices, something the Midlands is pretty fab at.

So cheers to the printers darlings and why not see how PrintPrint can build your business, or can catch the eye of your new customer, and for goodness sakes go get it printed. Emails are so last year sweeties ;)



0116 2556916 hello@printprint.co.uk www.printprint.co.uk

Hanif Lokat - PrintPrint

## Charity - at the heart of KuKu

At the launch of KuKu Connect in 2016 we made a commitment to support not only local businesses but also the wider communities we are all a part of.

We have continued to support Her Majesty's High Sheriffs' whose role is completely unpaid and voluntary but one that supports a vast range of community organisations and charities, many of which we have been able to support through KuKu Connect.

This year we are delighted to particularly support ABF the Soldiers' Charity, Cancer Research UK, Help the Homeless, Me & Dee, Twenty Twenty and Warning Zone. These organisations broadly support children, young people and families and heroic Services Personnel and Veterans.

Without charities such as these and the many dedicated volunteers that support them, the UK would simply come to a standstill.

Being truly entrepreneurial is not just about your own personal success, but also the success of your local economy and community and is at the heart of KuKu Connect and our community of businesses.



## AB-f The Soldiers' Charity

ABF The Soldiers' Charity is the national charity of the British Army, providing a lifetime of support to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families when they are in need. They were founded in 1944 to ensure that soldiers returning from World War Two were well cared for. Since then, the welfare of soldiers, past and present, and their families has been at the heart of everything they do. While there is a British Army, there will be The Soldiers' Charity. www.soldierscharity.org



## Concer Research UK

Cancer Research UK's aim is to reduce the number of deaths from cancer. It conducts research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease. Research activities are carried out in institutes, universities and hospitals across the UK, both by the charity's own employees and by its grant-funded researchers. It also provides information about cancer and runs campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the disease and influencing public policy.

Cancer Research UK's work is almost entirely funded by the public. It raises money through donations, legacies, community fundraising, events, retail and corporate partnerships. Over 40,000 people are regular volunteers. **www.cancerresearchuk.org** 



## Help the Homeless

Help the Homeless aims to change and transform multiple lives for the better and help achieve the complete eradication of homelessness and rough sleeping within Leicester. At the heart of all their aims, objectives and overall vision is their "3 E's" strategy, this is at the heart of all they plan and do... Enrich, Encourage and Empower. **www.hthleicester.co.uk** 



## Me & Dee

Me & Dee charity is a registered charity that arranges memory holidays at the seaside in Mablethorpe on the beautiful Lincolnshire coast in two lovely spacious caravans based on the Grange Leisure Park, giving families a chance to make memories together when time is very precious.

The charity was formed to create special moments and memories to both children and adults who have a life threatening, life shortening or a terminal condition. **www.meanddee.co.uk** 



## Twenty Twenty

No matter what challenges a young person has faced or is still facing, Twenty Twenty know that with the right help, they can develop the confidence, personal resources and skills to move forward in their education and find sustainable employment.

They offer this help through a range of effective integrated projects in their award-winning Lifeskills centres and through their Love4Life projects. Each centre is a true learning community and a supportive 'can do' environment where students come together with teachers, counsellors, mentors and local business volunteers, all ably committed to their progress. www.twentytwenty.org.uk



# Warning Zone

Warning Zone is a Life-Skills Centre and children safeguarding charity. They deliver life-saving messages to children and young people and have historically worked with Year 6 children (aged 10/11), catching them at a key transition in their life as they venture in to secondary school.

Warning Zone aims to reduce the risk of accidental injury and death and also the strain on our emergency services. Eight set-piece scenarios run alongside their E-Safety Zone. They educate young people on understanding risks and consequences, peer pressure, anti-social behaviour, grooming, cyber-bullying and much more. www.warningzone.org.uk



# Marvellous marquees for Mr & Mrs to Marquis

Marquees of Distinction are erecting all over the Midlands, pardon the pun, but this fantastic team really does cut the mustard when it comes to marquees.

Weddings, garden parties, festivals, ceremonies, launches, celebrations, fairs, shows, a party to entertain clients, or just at home with friends and family. Marquees is all a part of what, MD Richard Pointon offers his clients, whether bride or baron, and when we say baron, we mean it! Clients have included a rather well-known Duke who lives in a castle, whose title includes the name of the smallest county in England, hint, hint. Of course when we say marquees we don't just mean tent, peg and mud, we mean chandeliers, a colour swatch of carpets, heating, drapes, proper flooring for ladies who wear heels and fab dance floors. Lounge and chill out areas, or your own themed nightclub, plus all the usual panoply of chairs, tables and electrics.

We also rather like the affable style of Richard and his polite team. Precision, reliability, quality finish and service are vital features for any would-be marquee party planner; it must come from Richard's past as an engineer, so no leaky marquees here.

So, if you're a MoB (Mother of the Bride), planning a garden party, a special birthday, a ball, village fair, festival, or you're an event planner, looking for a brill new entry for your little black book of contacts or you have a site where a fixed-marquee could benefit your farm or acreage, then here is our highly recommended marquee man, which comes with our merit of 'distinction'.





"Marquees of Distinction, well the name says it all. At The Venue Experts we only partner with suppliers who bring in a high level of expertise and trusted reliability matched with an impeccable quality finish and service, which is a rarity when it comes to marquees."

Stacey Ferguson, Founder, The Venue Experts

www.marqueesofdistinction.co.uk marqueesofdistinction@gmail.com 01455 292623 / 07835 002560



KuKu Connect Boutique

We were delighted to be asked to connect with businesses in Melton & Rutland and support remote and rural enterprises by hosting KuKu Connect "Boutique" at Pera Business Park.

Alongside the usual connecting we showcased local suppliers and venues by offering 'pop up' stalls at each event. Gin, cheese toasties, a prosecco bus, luxury tiles and bespoke hats were some of the treats we shared whilst raising the profile of these businesses across the region.

Our special thanks goes to the Leicestershire Lieutenancy and Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland, Dr Sarah Furness who have supported businesses in Leicestershire and Rutland and helped to raise awareness of the Queen's Awards for Enterprise and our gratitude to all the great businesses who took part in this special series of 'boutique' Connect Receptions in rural communities.



























2018 Annual Birthday Reception

Belvoir Castle

The 2018 Annual Birthday Reception was hosted by Their Graces, the Duke and Duchess of Rutland in the stunning surrounds of the Castle's State Rooms.

Over 300 guests from across the region along with representatives of Her Majesty The Queen, Diplomats, Civic Leaders and community organisations joined us at Belvoir Castle to celebrate the success and innovation of the business community in the East Midlands and to mark the 2nd birthday of KuKu Connect.

Guests were chauffeured up to the castle where they were greeted by the Duke and Duchess' own Piper and then received in the Guards' Hall with a roaring fire and cocktails.

The Duchess congratulated KuKu Connect for bringing businesses together during a successful year and how Belvoir was proud to be a Member of the KuKu Connect Community.

H.M. Lord-Lieutenant, Mr Michael Kapur, OBE toasted KuKu Connect and thanked local businesses for their contribution to local economies and the wider community.

The evening continued in the castle's stunning State Rooms where canapes, smoked venison, gourmet cheese toasties, chocolate, birthday cake, cocktails and coffee were served until late into the evening.

www.belvoircastle.com















Sence Accounting Limited 99 Chapel Street Ibstock Leicestershire LE67 6HF 01530 447999 www.senceaccounting.co.uk info@senceaccounting.co.uk Facebook – Sence Accounting Ltd Linked in – Anna Ball



Based in the heart of North West Leicestershire Sence Accounting provide high-quality Accountancy and Business Advisory Support Services to Businesses and Individuals.

Whether you are an established enterprise or thinking of starting out in business, Sence can be the financial support arm you need. Sence specialise in providing services to small and medium sized owner-managed businesses and our services include but are NOT limited to:

- Annual & Management Accounting
- Tax compliance & Planning
- Business Advisory & Mentoring
- Bookkeeping & Vat support
- Payroll & CIS support.

We like to ensure every client has a truly valued personable experience. Our approachable team are here with their jargon-free advice to ensure that you comply with the many hundreds of rules and regulations. We value our working relationships with our clients and in turn this provides us with a greater understanding of where they want to be in the future as we build on this over time.

We recognise every one of our clients is different and we tailor bespoke service packages to suit all needs, providing clarity on costs along the way.

Sence Accounting are at the forefront of Making Tax Digital and have embraced the technological changes the accounting industry has faced over the recent years. We work with many cloud-based accounting packages; offering training and guidance on this to help businesses transition into the world of digital accounting.

Our strong work ethics and values reflect in the work and service we offer, and we respect the complexities of our industry in order to help our clients understand their obligations and responsibilities. We make the transition of on-boarding to Sence as smooth and hassle free for you. Keeping you informed every step of the way.

If you would like a chat to discuss your current position, to see how having us on board can help you then give us a call on 01530 447 999.



November Derbyshire Connect Reception

Moscar Lodge



Moscar Lodge is the Derbyshire retreat for the Duke and Duchess of Rutland and is a true hidden gem set on 6,000 acres of land in the wilds of Derbyshire. Guests were greeted with glasses of fizz, fresh food straight from the Aga and a roaring fire. With 10 bedrooms, Moscar Lodge is ideal for your private party, wellness retreat, corporate away day or just a luxury escape. www.belvoircastle.com



# Building great teams is the key to successful business growth.

People and teams are one of your best and most important assets in business whatever sector you are in, that's why it's vital as your business grows that your team grows with it. Finding the right people can be a daunting task, but here at S&L Personnel, we take away the burden and stress of recruitment and look after everything for you, so you can be assured that you will be working with a team committed to finding you the right people for your organisation.

#### Competitive service in a thriving region.

The East Midlands is one of the fastest growing centres for business locally, nationally and even internationally, which is why we are growing and expanding our own business to support more business owners, companies and their teams. With a new office opened in the Heart of Leicester this year, and more branches planned across the Midlands in the near future, this makes us a viable first choice for your recruitment needs.

As a locally based independent, family business we are at the forefront of recruitment in the region for Temporary, Permanent and Onsite roles. Specialising in the Commercial and Industrial sectors and providing a personal and professional service level as an independent East Midlands based family business, but one with the experience and results you would expect from a national firm.

We are very proud to be a Member of KuKu Connect and thrilled to be a part of the 2019-20 KuKu Connect Almanac. We strongly believe that connecting and networking with other businesses should be at the heart of every business as it brings new opportunities for everyone and it is a privilege to be a part of this networking family.

Contact our friendly team to see how we can help build your business today: craig@slpersonnel.co.uk 01455 847 956 www.slpersonnel.co.uk

#### Build your team with S&L Personnel

#### **Permanent Placements**

Management, Supervisors, Administration, Sales, Call Centre, Back Office Support, Drivers (Class 1 and 2).

#### **Temporary Placements**

Warehouse Operatives, FLT, PPT, LLOP Operators, Machine Operators, Pickers, Packers, Loaders, Drivers 3.5T. Holiday and Maternity Cover.

#### **Onsite Recruitment Management**

We can provide a complete end to end service with a dedicated onsite team managing 50+ temporary personnel on your site.



November Leicestershire Connect Reception

# Leicester Marriott Hotel



The Leicester Marriott Hotel was one of the first of the chain to bring us the exciting concept "The Market Kitchen" and we were delighted to treat our guests to a wide variety of food and drink and even a very special "KuKu Eton Mess" as we connected in the Tanners Bar. Ideally situated just off junction 21 of the M1, the Leicester Marriott Hotel is perfect for an overnight stay, meetings, special events or just a quick bite to eat. www.marriott.com/hotels



# DAVID FOWKES

The iconic work of David Fowkes is characterised by creative contemporary designs combined with high quality craftsmanship. David has built his reputation working with the world's leading mines and specialist cutting houses to source rare and exceptional gemstones which he then turns into remarkable handcrafted gemstone jewellery. A David Fowkes piece is unique, bespoke, infinitely wearable, and an investment in one's self.

The David Fowkes Jewellery Gallery is situated in the rural surroundings of Thoresby Park in North Nottinghamshire. The Gallery houses a wide selection of jewellery, handmade in the adjoining studio, which is available for purchase. However, the majority of David's work focuses on the creation of unique pieces to client commission. This may result in new jewellery being created, or involve the re-purposing of existing jewellery where gemstones can be removed and bullion melted to create new, unique pieces of jewellery whilst retaining sentimental value.

David is a passionate advocate for Goldsmiths and his team deliver a range of informative presentations on a number of topics, including the cutting of gemstones, processes for hand manufacturing jewellery, and science of colour. Talks can be accessed at the Thoresby Hall Hotel and by private appointment at various locations across the UK.



David Fowkes Jewellery, The Courtyard, Thoresby Park, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG22 9EP Tel: 01623 823969 Web: www.davidfowkes.com Email: enquiries@davidfowkes.com Instagram: @davidfowkesjewellery December Derbyshire Connect Reception





With 17 different proseccos available and authentic Cicchetti, Prosecco Bars in Derby is a wonderful spot for a cheeky after work drink or a light bite with friends. We enjoyed hosting our final Derbyshire Connect Reception of 2018 here, in the heart of Derby with glasses of prosecco and a little festive cheer. **www.proseccobars.com** 



Fancy Entertainment is an established, East Midlands based entertainment company dedicated to adding a little extra pizazz to your events and special occasions. Whatever the theme, whatever the client, we are here to provide the finest performers and the highest quality entertainment to suit you!

We pride ourselves on providing bespoke characters and themes to suit all of our clients' needs. From corporate entertainment, night club performers and Halloween horror actors to tribute acts, hospitality packages and educational workshops; Fancy Entertainment always go above and beyond to make lasting memories for our customers and their quests.

We have developed a fantastic reputation for creating magical, family events and children's theatre performances for clients all over the area. Whether it's our popular interactive storytelling walks, hilarious meet and greet characters or educational kids' workshops, we are dedicated to creating memorable moments to last a life time.

Our themed entertainment for grown-ups is second to none with a huge selection of medieval nights, Murder Mysteries, tribute nights and our event enhancements such as spectacular stilt walkers! We also provide a bespoke entertainment service to suit all requirements including venue restrictions and budget.

All of our professional actors are trained to not only perform a show, but to fully interact with all of our audiences and make your events really come to life! Fancy Entertainment believe that our guests should have the opportunity to become part of the magic and be involved in all of our events.

FANCY ENTERTAINMENT Phone: 07814661968 E-mail: info@fancyentertainment.co.uk www.fancyentertainment.co.uk fancyentertainmentandevents December Leicestershire Connect Reception

# Sherwin Hall at Oadby House



The Christmas spirit was in full swing at Sherwin Hall's brand new home, Oadby House. With mulled wine on the hobs and the ovens filled with tasty, festive treats, guests were free to browse the showroom and also take home a souvenir festive photo courtesy of 7 Colours Photobooths. Sherwin Hall provide both contemporary and traditional luxury, bespoke kitchens and their friendly team can help bring your kitchen and interior design ideas to life. www.sherwinhall.com

# Scorpion Event Solutions

EVENT MANAGEMENT . LIGHTING . SOUND . AUDIO VISUAL . STAGING . THEMED EVENTS

Dynamic, Fresh and Effective Event Production, Management and AV Hire Scorpion Event Solutions offers anything from the complete event solution to the smallest part of an event, such as equipment hire.

Any part of your event can be handled in a friendly and simple way with a quick phone call to one of our experienced event team. All our staff have many years experience making peoples dreams a reality in the event industry and will guide you through your event from its earliest point of conception through to its completion.

We pride ourselves on the fact that year after year customers return with a new challenge for our team to sink their teeth into and make a reality. Never forgetting that you as a customer have wonderful ideas we make it our goal to help you realise them. Clients include, Volvo UK, Renault Trucks, Volkswagen, West Bromwich Albion, Repton School, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Stephenson College, Burton & South Derbyshire College and many private individuals.

In addition to AV and event production, we have divisions handling sales and permanent installation of equipment, service of existing installations and AV refurbishment and refit.

We also have a growing site services division which supplies temporary power generation and distribution, temporary



and site lighting, barriers and other infrastructure to event and other sites. Our team is pleasant and easy to work with. We will always be there to help you in any eventuality. Call us to find out how you can make your event exactly what you wish for.

Scorpion Event Solutions Ltd Bretby Business Park Bretby Burton upon Trent DE15 0YZ

Tel: 01283 616 700 24 Hr: 07788 592 059 enquiries@scorpioneventsolutions.co.uk www.scorpioneventsolutions.co.uk

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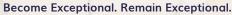
January Derbyshire Connect Reception

Breadsall Priory



Perfectly located on 300 acres of lush, landscaped grounds in the spectacular Derbyshire countryside, this historic hotel has the proud distinction of being the oldest Marriott location in the world. With outstanding amenities such as a luxurious spa, two 18 hole golf courses and magnificent outdoor spaces this is a venue worthy of a visit. Guests arrived via the sweeping driveway and were treated to cocktails and canapes in the Haslam Suite. www.marriott.com/hotels

The Venue Experts





The Venue Experts sit at the top of the Events Management industry, and specialise in exceptional venues, historic properties, and private homes across England.

Whether a family seat or an estate and your business is just starting out, where you might require consultancy, strategy and operational support, or you want your venue to reach the next level and you aspire to match your venue to the highest standards of service and care for high-level private and corporate clients, The Venue Experts provide a tailored and highly experienced service to some of the best private houses, castles, manors and venues in the land, through to boutique hoteliers' and the finest heritage style Bed & Breakfasts.

The Venue Experts advise and work with families/landowners to corporate, wedding and estate managers and

planners and boast an unparalleled book of proven and trusted suppliers from legal to floral offering expertise in all aspects of events and hospitality management. Strategy, Management, Training, Operations and Design are all a part of the creative and holistic portfolio The Venue Experts bring to your door.

For private and confidential enquires please visit: www.thevenueexperts.co.uk or email hello@thevenueexperts.co.uk

"The Venue Experts provide one of the highest levels of consultancy, expertise and knowledge to the events sector, particularly for their work with private homes and estates, with private and business clients with the most discerning standards from entrepreneurs to baronet and duke. This really is a service led by true expertise, supporting some of the finest venues in the country, bringing venues up to standards of excellence and high reputation." P.E.P.A. Brooks-Stephenson, Esq.

# Plant & Bean at The Fish & Chip



We kicked off "Veganuary" at Plant & Bean - the brand new sister restaurant of The Fish & Chip with over 60 business guests. The totally plant based menu offers Asian and Mediterranean cuisine and recipes inspired by street food from around the world which guests were free to sample along with a variety of cocktails, including our favourite - an extra special candy floss based drink. www.thefishandthechip.com

Wayne Smith

Wayne has a number of hit musicals under his belt. He has been part of London's "Jersey Boys" cast at the Prince Edward Theatre, as well as spending three years in London and on tour, with the Number One Hit Show "Dirty Dancing" as Billy Kostecki (he carried the watermelons).

Other musicals such as "Dreamboats and Petticoats", "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "Summer Holiday" also appear on Wayne's CV.

An array of experience combined with a charming nature gives Wayne a unique stage presence that has wowed audiences all over the globe. Whether performing as a warm up artist at the Echo Arena or singing the first dance at a wedding, he charms his audience and has them singing along in no time.

He now enjoys singing at weddings, special occasions and corporate events.

waynesmithofficial.com Info@waynesmithofficial.co.uk 07867786339

"Quality and professional entertainment can make any event exceed your guest's expectations, so we are delighted to recommend Wayne Smith to any venue, wedding, or event he adds a dash of West-End singing stardust to any function." The Venue Experts February Derbyshire Connect Reception





With over 150 different varieties from salted caramel to cucumber & rose, knowledgeable and friendly staff and a great atmosphere, Gincident is the perfect "ginspired" choice for a gin lover's night out. This city centre bar delighted our guests with a variety of hand made pizzas, all washed down with their delicious gin and tonics straight from their "ginventory" which made for a fun, relaxed evening of connecting. www.gincident.co.uk



## Multi-award winning Indian cuisine in the heart of the East Midlands

Chutney Ivy restaurant hails from Leicester, their name based on Indian chutney and the famed Ivy restaurant in London. Restaurateur, Shaf Islam has been creating authentic and innovative Indian cuisine for Leicester locals to stars of the stage and screen for years.

Shaf and his team of chefs boast dishes that are unique, as well as true to the origins of the many cuisines that make up India, which include delicately spiced and cream based dishes, to a delicious French inspired signature prawn dish, fish curries, melt in the mouth lamb and a quirky and uncommonly good wine list. The restaurant boasts a client-base of well-known business people and stars alike and hosts business and private events in their lounge, which is perfect for a party.

Home delivery is hugely popular but Chutney Ivy are proud to launch their new external catering service which means you can enjoy the award-winning food at your office, your home, a large wedding or business function, so not only enjoying the nation's favourite food, but relishing the exceptional flavours and dishes of Chutney Ivy.



February Leicestershire Connect Reception

Chutney Ivy



The red carpet was rolled out and we were delighted to return to our friends at Chutney Ivy for business and Biryani as the award-winning restaurant served our guest list of over 70 businesses their very own KuKu Biryanis alongside a selection of tantalisinig canapes as we connected in the versatile basement lounge which is perfect for your private dining event, celebration and everything in between! www.chutneyivy.com



This year, the Hilton hotel group have been celebrating 100 years of hospitality and KuKu Connect were delighted to be invited to stay as part of these celebrations.

We stayed at The Hilton East Mildands Airport which is conveniently located just minutes from the airport and the M1 and as we found out is much more than a place to stay before catching a flight.

Upon arriving and walking into the spacious reception the aviation theme was instantly apparent with lots of little details throughout and check in was one of the smoothest we have ever experienced.

Attention to detail and a personal touch is something that we noticed during our stay and it was delightful to find a couple of Pina Coladas waiting for us when we entered the room which was a delicious way to start the evening (did you know, the Pina Colada was invented by Ramón Marrero, bartender at the Caribe Hilton San Juan in the 1950s!)

After a quick trip to the on site spa for a jacuzzi we headed to the bar area to enjoy some bubbles of a different kind – champagne of course! This beautifully decorated, versatile, open plan seating area has a cool and relaxed vibe and is perfect for a business meeting or a great space to catch up with friends over a few drinks and something tasty from their bar menu. The atmosphere was fab with groups of people enjoying evening meals and socialising.

There was a wide variety of home comfort food on the menu and after 3 courses it was time for bed!

Overall, this is a great venue and perfect for not only your corporate event, meeting or overnight stay but also as a place to come and socialise with friends in the comfortable surroundings.

#### Hilton East Midlands Airport Junction 24, M1, Derby, DE74 2YZ Tel: 01509 674000







# Hilton East Midlands Airport Hotel



So much more than a place to sleep before catching a flight, Hilton Hotel East Midlands Airport breaks the corporate mould with its personal touches and extra-special service. Whether you're meeting friends for a Pina Colada in the bar, hosting an event or relaxing in the spa you're sure to come away satisifed, as did our business guests who were treated to a vast array of food fresh from the kitchen and drinks from the airline trolley! www.hilton.com/en

### Corporate Gifting

If you are looking for a unique gift for your clients, why not work with Bureighs Gin to create your very own artisan gin branded with you business logo?

### **Event Support**

Burleighs Gin have a dedicated events team of gin experts who can work to curate informative and interactive experiences for your corporate events.

### **Team Building**

At Burleighs Gin we have a number of unique experiences, perfect for a business away day you will never forget. Options include: The Burleighs Gin Distilling Experience, Distillery tours and Burleighs masterclass.

GIN

www.burleighsgin.com

Premium London Dry Gin distilled in the heart of the Midlands.



March Leicestershire Connect Reception

# Queen Victoria Arts Club



Leicestershire's most in demand member's club opened its doors for over 80 business guests as we enjoyed excellent cuisine served from the award-winning restaurant in this super stylish venue located in the heart of Leicester's Cultural Quarter. With its stylish decor and convenient location the Queen Victoria Arts Club is the perfect spot - why not finish your weekend with their afternoon tea which includes bottomless prosecco?! www.queenvicleicester.com



# Saul Morgan / Trent House Studios

Saul has been working as a professional photographer for over ten years. He gave up his job in aviation to return back to University where he set up his first company Trent House Studios. Specialising in weddings both at home and internationally, Saul also recently opened a family based studio in Nottingham where his team capture everything from your first born child to your furry family friends.

In 2008 Saul joined the photography team at Boots as a junior and over 8 years worked his way up to lead the team creating content for E commerce, PR and Social Media, working with major brands such as No7 and Chanel. In 2016 Saul took voluntary redundancy from his post and now continues to work freelance under his own name, still working with well known brands such as Thorntons and Vidal Sassoon. Saul has also worked with some famous names including Rosemary Conley and more recently Sir Ian McKellan.

You may know Saul already as he joined the team here at KuKu over two years ago and can be found clicking away at the monthly events. Saul also shot the pictures of Stephen and Philip you see in this Almanac.

www.trenthousestudios.co.uk www.saulmorgan.com





April Derbyshire Connect Reception

Amalfi White



The fun and relaxed Amalfi White is tucked away in the idyllic town of Melbourne and certainly not to be overlooked. The beautiful terraced gardens provide the perfect spot for a long lunch, the grill and restaurant serve old favourites with a twist and the stunning ballroom is available for private weddings and events. Along with excellent complimentary hospitality, our guests were also given goody bags of limoncello and dining discounts. www.amalfiwhite.com

# 200° COFFEE

# DRINK BETTER Coffee at Work



We are independent speciality coffee roasters and unashamed coffee geeks. Our shops serve over half a million cups of coffee every year but what you might not know is that our coffee is drunk in numerous offices, studios, call centres, conference halls, shops, and showrooms. Our business customers enjoy the benefits of our high standards, coffee expertise and unrivalled customer service:

#### COFFEE

Hand-roasted beans delivered fresh to our customers from our roast house every week. There's always a constant supply of high quality coffee

#### KNOWLEDGE

Free appraisal of your coffee provision and advice on how to provide better coffee for your team

#### PEOPLE

Free training on site and customer support during office hours

#### MACHINES

A huge range of equipment and maintenance with flexible contracts for any size of business

Book a free appraisal with our coffee experts

Contact: Bec, rebecca@200degs.com or 0115 837 4849



April Leicestershire Connect Reception





With a dash of London glamour, this newly renovated, independent and super fun venue lived upto its reputation by offering afternoon tea mixed with cocktail theatre. Guests enjoyed a variety of smoked, flambeed and fizzed drinks throughout the evening as well as a cocktail masterclass in this versatile venue that is perfect for a modern and quirky business event, fabulous night out or a private party. www.fatcatleicester.co.uk

# THE BRITISH TAILORING Co. 🐖

Nottingham has a long and proud history of design and textile manufacturing. It was the centre of the world's lace-making trade for over one hundred years, and more recently famous for the internationally-renowned Paul Smith.

Our tailor showroom is based in Regency House in the city centre, where we welcome clients for consultations.



Conveniently located in the centre of the country, we service a wide area throughout the East Midlands.

You and your clothing needs are at the centre of everything we do. With our years of experience, we take time to invest in you and build up a long-term relationship that enables you to express your style – tailored towards your needs for the long term.

We are passionate about the whole tailoring process from sourcing the best materials to liaising with clients to provide the best possible service. Our expert tailors have an attention to detail that is second to none.

We are confident that we can provide you with the bespoke suiting you require – from professional and casual designs to a full range of men's wedding attire.

From professional suits to casual wear to wedding suits, we can provide a full, bespoke wardrobe service. We understand the importance of that first impression and how the appropriate clothing can help you excel in business.

We have extensive experience in advising, designing and producing the appropriate dress wear for professionals, entrepreneurs and more.

Our principle product is the timeless tailored British suit, specifically cut to classic British lines, guaranteed to give out the right impression not just the first time, but every time.

With over 20 measurements, 30 hours of workshop time, at least two fittings for all of our garments, you can be assured that your suit has been made bespoke for you. We are focused on classic style, layering, stitch and cut detail. Our wide range of over 2,000 materials offers many options for both formal and more casual tailoring.

We work with the best cloth mills of Yorkshire, their Australian sourced Marino wool processed with soft Yorkshire water gives that perfect Yorkshire signature finish.

Our collection is built upon the cloth ranges of Bateman and Ogden, Holland and Sherry and Dugdale Bros.

0115-9581 012 sales@british-tailoring.com www.british-tailoring.com



May Derbyshire Connect Reception

Dovecliff Hall Hotel



Set in 7 beautiful acres overlooking the River Dove, this grade II listed, recently restored Georgian Manor House was the perfect setting for a relaxed evening. Guests connected in the bar and Dining Room whilst enjoying elderflower cocktails and seasonal canapes cooked by their very own Chef. With 15 king sized bedrooms, beautiful gardens and cosy hideaways this is a great venue for a quiet escape. www.dovecliffhallhotel.co.uk



We work to help you succeed in sharing your brand's values and individuality in the most engaging way!

7 Colours Photobooths provides interactive entertainment for celebrations, and specializes in brand awareness for product launches and business openings.

Every company and business has a need for promotion and advertising. Today, the world we live in rotates around social media platforms and these platforms pave a way to expanding your client base like never before.

Potential clients can be instantly contacted and marketed through devices such as Mobile phones, tablets and computers. It has never been so easy to reach these potential clients and market your product. It is a huge opportunity to increase your revenue whilst being a very simple and easy concept to put in practice and deliver! This is what we specialise in.



Our business offers an engaging way to use these platforms to your advantage and we're not like any photo booth. We can instantly share branded content and give an incentive for people who attend an event to immediately share that branded content on social media to boost your publicity.

#### What do we mean by branded content?

We work with you to create a bespoke end product that shows your unique branding and we deliver the highest quality of on-site instant prints and digital photos.

The experience is social and lets people relax whilst having fun and could even be used as an icebreaker to foster interaction amongst attendees.

If your business has its own hashtag, then we can encourage the guests to share it in their posts and also to follow your profile online, exponentially raising brand awareness in the public view.

We also kill two birds with one stone: the event attendees experience a memorable time and will remember the brand and associate the brand with fun and entertainment. We capture happy memories and actively entertain the guests so that they fondly remember your bespoke event and brand.

To know more about what we could do for your event, don't hesitate to contact us.

events@7colours.co.uk 07954057386

www.7colours.co.uk 7coloursphotobooths 7coloursphotobooths



May Leicestershire Connect Reception

# Prestwold Hall



Over 100 business guests were invited into Edward and Lisa Packe Drury Lowe's home, Prestwold Hall with special guest and Small Business Crown Representative Martin Traynor OBE. In the family for over 350 years, this grand and yet homely, Grade I listed venue is the ideal setting for many celebrations and corporate events and is guaranteed to captivate all who walks through its doors. www.prestwold-hall.com



Fab Clinics is a Loughborough based luxury aesthetic and skin clinic with state of the art technology that you would expect to see on Harley Street.

The clinic provides treatments for concerns such as

- youth preservation
- anti-ageing
- fat destruction
- cellulite reduction
- adult and teen acne management
- rosacea management
- acne scarring
- pigmentation reduction for white, Asian and Black skins
- stretch mark reduction
- skin tightening on the face and body
- permanent hair reduction

and many more treatments that can be found at www.fabclinics.com/book-online

Fab Clinics' approach is to use technology that provides effective results without pain, down time or needles. NO PAIN, ALL GAIN!

We will explore the less painful and more natural treatments for your concerns at a FREE CONSULTATION. Should you need more hardcore treatments, our aesthetic doctors are consultant surgeons.



Book your FREE CONSULTATION and a FREE SKIN SCAN to ascertain your skin's needs or even simply to review if you are giving your skin what you need.

Call us on 01509 400 444 or book it online at www.fabclinics.com

Check out before and afters of real clients on our Instagram page.

www.instagram.com/FabClinics www.facebook.com/FabClinics

Elena Chapman Fab Clinics Loughborough Making you even more fabulous 01509 400 444 199 Park Road, Loughborough, LE11 2HE



June Derbyshire Connect Reception





Situated opposite Derby Cathedral, the Sanctuary (which was once the Cathedral Bookshop) is now an eatery and gift shop selling everything from marshmallows and cakes to candles and jewellery with nearly all products sourced and made locally. Wines and canapes flowed throughout the evening and guests were free to browse the products on offer whilst making new business connections. www.derbycathedral.org



Tree House Cakes owner Adrian Ganderton is an East Midlands based cake designer creating cakes for discerning customers throughout the UK. Adrian has been designing, making and decorating bespoke cakes for over 10 years, initially as a hobby, but has now turned his passion into a full-time business. "I am motivated by taking commissions which are as challenging as they are exciting and rewarding. Inspiration comes from architecture, magazines, fabrics and of course you as the client. This is where I like to start the process with a creative brief including specifics including a client's personality, hobbies, career, etc.

All celebration cakes are catered for from baby showers to end of life celebration cakes and everything in between.

Gluten Free, vegan, dairy free, egg free cakes are something I have developed over the years such that I have a fabulous selection of recipes for those clients.

My corporate cakes may be of interest as well if your company has a particular anniversary or other milestone it wishes to celebrate. I have the ability to print edible ink onto icing sheets, so could



include company logos or photographs. However, my creativity means your cake could actually be a carved cake to represent your logo or a specific product the company is well known for.

And then there are wedding cakes, where my main passion lies. Wedding cakes are so important and should represent both parties as per my mission stated above. This means I can add value to wedding venues in their offering to their clients as well giving a truly bespoke service. You will receive outstanding personal service beginning to end."





I just wanted to say thanks a million for the amazing creation of Dales Shark Attack Cake. We asked for a centrepiece and that's exactly what we received. You were fabulous from contacting, arranging and collection and I can't recommend you enough! Thanks again, Kelly



Website : www.treehousecakes.co.uk Facebook : www.facebook.com/treehousecakesadrian Instagram : www.instagram.com/tree\_house\_cakes June Leicestershire Connect Reception





Industrial chic, exposed brick work and metal beams were the theme at this city centre venue where over 70 guests came to connect in one of Leicester's newest venues. With live music, urban tapas and even a cigar club, Brick & Beam is a great spot to unwind (or wind up!) and its proximity to The Curve makes it an ideal spot for a pre-show drink or post-show cocktails. www.brickandbeam.co.uk



#### DWS Legal – Dubbed the 'Game Changer of Legal Services'

We are an award winning law firm that is big enough to provide, but small enough to care.

We are proud to be connected with KuKu Connect and offer special rates and reviews on all areas of law for all KuKu members and affiliates. Please Quote KuKu when booking.

Please contact Asma Karim on T: 01162999199 | E: asma.karim@d-w-s.co.uk For more information on our services visit www.d-w-s.co.uk and check out our 4.5 star google reviews. ★★★★1



# 

#### Why choose Bio Veg Sauerkraut?

It's rich in vitamins, low in calories, a probiotic superfood, dairy free, gluten free and also suitable for vegetarians/vegans.

And if that is not enough to tempt you, Bio Veg Sauerkraut is also incredibly versatile; try with fish and chips, as a side sald to your BBQ or as a one pot dish.

Facebook : Bio Veg Email: info@bioveg.org.uk Tel: 07566 709534 July Derbyshire Connect Reception

Annie's Burger Shack











"Queen of the Burger" Annie welcomed us for drinks and an all American burger buffet where guests could choose their very own burger and toppings served by Annie herself. This superb venue brings a real slice of the USA to Derby with over 30 burgers to choose from and all served meaty, veggie or vegan so there really is something for everyone. If you manage to finish your monster burger why not stick around in the Tavern to enjoy some real ales? www.anniesburgershack.com

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Model shown is UX F SPORT (\$33,905) with an optional Tech & Safety Pack at \$1,800, including optional metallic paint at \$570. (\$36,275). Exact fuel consumption figures for model shown in mpg (I/100km) combined: 50.4 (5.6) and CO2: 97 g/km. UX model range in mpg (I/100km) official fuel consumption figures: combined 46.3 (6.1) - 53.2 (5.3). Figures are provided for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO2 figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results. Fuel consumption and CO2 produced varies significantly depending on a number of factors, including the accessories fitted (post-registration), driving style, conditions, speed and vehicle load. All models and grades are certified according to the World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP), which replaces the New European Driving Cycle test procedure (NEDC). All CO2 figures quoted are NEDC equivalent. This means the CO2 figures are based on the new WLTP test procedure but calculated (using a standard European calculation method) to allow comparison with the NEDC test procedure and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration. All mpg figures quoted are full WLTP figures. More information can be found by visiting: www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/fcb/wltp.asp

\*5.9% APR Representative and £1,000 Hybrid Deposit Allowance only available on new retail orders of UX between 1st July 2019 and 30th September 2019 and registered and financed through Lexus Financial Services by 31st December 2019 on a 42 month Lexus Connect (PCP) plan with 0%-35% deposit. Lexus Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC; registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indernnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. 8,000 miles per annum, excess miles over contracted charged at 12p per mile. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Participating Lexus Centres. Affordable finance through Lexus Connect (PCP). Terms and conditions apply. All information contained in this advert was correct at the time of going to print. Please note that while every effort is made to reproduce accurate information, we reserve the right to change specification, equipment and availability without prior notice. Inchcape Retail Ltd trading as insert dealer name is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority as a credit broker. We may introduce you to a selected panel of lenders for your funding needs and they may pay us commission for that introduction.

July Leicestershire Connect Reception

Peter Pizzeria

















Quirky, hip and super tasty, Peter Pizzeria serves some of the finest pizza in town and they're all hand made right in front of your eyes. Whether it's sweet or savoury (yes, they make chocolate pizza!) then this is the venue for you. Guests connected in the music room beneath hanging violins and next to super hero murals whilst enjoying prosecco, melanade (that's a mix of apple, ginger & mint) and endless fresh pizza straight from the wood-fired oven. **www.peterpizzeria.co.uk** 



#### 'The Butler's Pantry Catering & Events Company founded in 2002, is recognised as one of the leading caterers in the Midlands.

This family run business is steered by husband & wife team Ralph & Helen & together with their brigade of chefs & front of house professionals provide all types of catering from traditional buffets for funeral wakes, small business meetings & private dinner parties to weddings, charity balls & corporate hospitality for between 6-400+ guests.

Ralph is also known as 'The Wild Chef' for his expertise in cooking game & fish personally shot & caught around Derbyshire & provides cookery tuition & demonstration events at their premises which is situated just 10 minutes away from Derby City Centre, more recently adding fully inclusive cookery courses to their portfolio of services where you can book for a real 'field to fork' unique experience.

Ralph regularly attends food & country-style fairs with his cookery demonstrations, and appears on local BBC Radio Derby cooking live and promoting local produce. He was recently awarded the highly acclaimed title of Food Ambassador for The British Association of Shooting & Conservation, the largest shooting organisation in the UK for his commitment to promoting game to the public and supporting their Taste of Game campaign.

The Butlers Pantry have an impressive client list of celebrities, MP's and local dignitaries, and are preferred caterers at a number of prestigious venues throughout the County. As such, they can also offer venue sourcing & event planning for both private & corporate



clients together with their bespoke catering services including canape receptions, buffets, dinner parties, BBQ's & formal dining.

Further details can be found at www.butlerspantryderby.co.uk Facebook 'The Butlers Pantry Pantry -Derby Limited, or Twitter @butlersderby Email info@butlerspantryderby.co.uk or call 01332 519007



August Derbyshire Connect Reception

The Butler's Pontry



The "Wild Chef" Ralph Skripek treated us to a taste sensation of Wild Boar, Duck, Venison, Rainbow Trout and Wood Pigeon cooked infront of our eyes in his demo kitchen. This wonderful space, hidden away in Derbyshire is the venue for many dine and demonstration evenings hosted by Ralph himself when he is not catering for a business event, private event or wedding. www.butlerspantryderby.co.uk



Priti Raichura Events is a Leicester based company with a global reach. From small intimate dinners to large and glamorous affairs, weddings and parties are perfectly executed, always magical and forever memorable. An incredible journey that's led me to achieving an award winning, international business.



I ensure the event is organised meticulously, in line with the client's needs. I take time to get to know my client and understand what they want to showcase. Every event is an art, it's about bringing the desired outcomes to life, regardless of it being a wedding, conference or an awards ceremony. With a flair for creativity and communication, I manage the overall event from start to finish, ensuring smooth running and coordination.

An award-winning business woman with a reputation for excellence, I also conduct a role of Master of Ceremonies and as a consultant for venues and hotels.

As an expert in my field, I have worked with a diverse array of international brands from Leicester Curry Awards to FNX India, to Toronto Curry Awards.

www.pritiraichura.com @pritiraichura



August Leicestershire Connect Reception

The Way of the Horse



We headed down to the farm to learn how this excellent not for profit social enterprise has developed self-help programs for children and adults who have suffered emotional trauma by using equine therapy. Guests enjoyed local cider and Indian street food whilst connecting in the fresh air and also got to meet the onsite VIPs - the rescue horses and ponies. www.thewayofthehorse.uk





ESSENTIALLY FLORAL LONDON - DERBY

#### essentially christmas decorating

www.essentiallychristmasdecorating.co.uk www.essentiallyfloral.co.uk facebook: essentiallyfloral instagram: essentiallyfloral pinterest: jillymattley Tel 07973250982

#### Beautiful Flowers & Christmas Décor

For more than a decade, Jilly has provided clients of distinction with Christmas decorating services and floral-inspired décor through her company, Essentially Christmas Decorating. Drawing upon this extensive experience, and proud to have launched Essentially Floral, a sister company, extending the offering under a new brand name. Essentially Floral provide luxurious blooms in stunning locations, delivering flowers for beautifully elegant weddings, events, anniversaries and birthday celebrations. Creating instant impact with captivating floral designs and custom-crafted home staging.

Building upon an established network of local and international growers, Essentially Floral brings exclusivity and prestige to your occasion. From Classic designs to the bespoke and breathtaking, Essentially Floral cater for the discerning and are obsessive when it comes to quality and attention to detail.

Based both in Derby and London, Essentially Floral are ideally located, delivering their exquisite services the length and breadth of the country.

Unique and design led to follow your theming, framing your day with the finest of flowers.







September Derbyshire Connect Reception

Essentially Floral



Floral extraordinaire, Jilly Mattley invited us to make our own terrariums, bouquets and pressed flower cards whilst enjoying a delicious, al-fresco buffet at her business, 'Essentially Floral'. Having decorated the houses of film stars and the likes of Clardiges, Essentially Floral and Essentially Christmas Decorating are the go to business for all your floral and decor requirements. www.essentiallyfloral.co.uk



Bowdon Lodge Form

Bawdon Lodge Farm is a National Forest site and working farm nestled away in the heart of the Charnwood Forest; a stunning area of outstanding beauty within Leicestershire.

Ideally located between junction 22 & 23 of the M1 Leicestershire, we offer the following services:-

#### **Meeting Room Hire**

The 'Bull Pen' Meeting Room for 10-14 delegates. Ideal for workshops, training sessions, social gatherings, intimate product launches, meeting with clients or simply to escape the home office! All AV equipment, stationery, beverages and biscuits included in the hire options. Fully accessible with free parking onsite.

#### **Retail Sales**

As the home of Burleigh's Gin we stock the full range of gins along with glassware and accompanying tonics. We have a selection of 28 flavours of Mr Fitzpatrick's Vintage Cordials (nonalcoholic, gluten free and suitable for vegans) along with giftware.

## Gin Tasting. At home and Corporate Events

Our award winning events team offer Gin tasting Events and Masterclasses. We'll take you and your guests through everything Burleigh's, give you lots of Gin-formation and ensure you have a Gin-Tastic time at home or at chosen venue.

#### Events

At the farm we host a number of public events throughout the year. From Gin-Ema nights (Gin Tasting & Cinema) and Open Farm Sunday, to Barn Dances and Artisan Fairs. We also host Corporate events both in our barn and outdoors.

#### Mobile Bar and Events Team Hire & Event Co-ordination

Whether you are arranging a get together with friends or a large event; our facilities and team are available to hire at your chosen location. Experts in our field (excuse the pun); we are specialists in outdoor events and offer advice and support throughout your event planning journey.



Bawdon Lodge Farm - Not just a field on a farm!

Richard & Lynn Bailey Directors Bawdon Lodge Events Ltd at Bawdon Lodge Farm Nanpantan Road, Nanpantan Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 9YE 01509268080 hello@bawdonlodgefarm.co.uk www.bawdonlodgefarm.co.uk Instagram: bawdonlodgefarm Facebook: bawdonlodgefarm Twitter: bawdonlodgefarm





September Leicestershire Connect Reception

Bowdon Lodge Form







We were back on the farm for September at this versatile events space and rural business hub complete with its own meeting room facilities and the home of Burleighs Gin (which infused the many cocktails on offer!) Guests were treated to an anti pasti buffet and a variety of tasty drinks whilst connecting in this beautiful setting, just minutes from the M1. www.bawdonlodgefarm.co.uk





# We've gone KuKu for business

KuKu Connect, it's in the name! Welcoming, effective and enjoyable business networking, packed with character and a great business buzz.

We all know what networking is about, yet so many businesses don't do it, why? Well from what business people tell us, they are bored of networking. Many people find it ineffective, same old faces, same old places, "same old, same old" - their words, not ours. At KuKu Connect we simply want to bring some zing back into making new business connections, so you can develop authentic and effective business relationships, whether a partnership, a new client, a referrer or whatever works to build and promote your business.

At the heart of KuKu Connect are the monthly Connect Receptions that take place across the East Midlands at different venues and businesses each month and at some of the best you can find. Business owners and decision makers connect in relaxed and informal settings, with a dollop of complimentary hospitality, which creates an entrepreneurial vibrancy and a brilliant atmosphere.

This past year has been another great success for supporting and promoting businesses to thousands of other businesses and consumers. We are both passionate and proud to work with such talented and hard working business people whose contribution to their own communities should be recognised and we hope that KuKu Connect has been able to make a positive impact and difference to local businesses in the East Midlands.

The past twelve months have also been as busy as ever and there have been many memorable business events, awards and charity functions, which we have had the great privilege to lend our support towards. The Love Business Expo is always a highlight as this Expo showcases the excellence of the region's thriving economy and attracts thousands of businesses to be a part of.

The Signature and Nachural Entrepreneurship Awards are another excellent initiative, which particularly recognises start-ups and businesses that are not well-known.

It was a great pleasure to support for the second year the Rutland Polo Club's annual charity tournament along with Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland and His Grace the Duke of Rutland.

We enjoyed an excellent evening supporting the ABF the Soldiers Charity at Chatsworth House kindly hosted by Their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire with Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire, High Sheriff, Lord Burlington and a treat to be dining with Alan Titchmarsh and Mary Berry, we have enjoyed many happy times this year, with too many to mention, but do visit our website to see more of our exciting year of connecting.

October is the culmination of our year where we celebrate the wider business community at our Annual Birthday Reception, hosted this year at the wonderful Stoke Rochford Hall as guests of Ravi and Sanjay Kathuria, which we send our warmest wishes and thanks to for their generosity.

We also launch KuKu Connect Lincolnshire and we very much hope that we are able to serve businesses in this county and we warmly welcome them into the KuKu family and look forward to supporting in the next twelve months. With KuKu there is so much more than just networking, so we look forward to another exciting new year of connecting businesses and entrepreneurs.



We are passionate about producing chocolate sustainably and delivering a unique experience. This flows through everything we do - from our exceptionally high level of service to the wonderful quality of our award-winning handmade products.



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Engine Yard

01476 247060 engineyard@cocoa-amore.co.uk Belvoir Castle, Grantham, NG32 IPA

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#### Abigail Brown: AFH Wealth Management

Independent Financial Advice. My objective has always been to give the very best experience to all my clients. I specialise in the following areas; wealth management (wealth creation, savings and investments), pensions and retirement, business and company planning including employee benefits, tax, protection (insurances/ assurances) and IHT/Succession Planning. www.afhwm.co.uk/abigail-brown

# PAUL GEDDES WEATH RANAGEMENT LTD

#### Abigail Ford: Paul Geddes Wealth Management

We are a firm of experienced and highly qualified professionals who continually strive to provide our clients the best in service experience together with market-leading wealth creation and preservation advice and management. *www.paulgeddeswm.co.uk* 



#### Adrian Ganderton: Tree House Cakes

Tree House Cakes create bespoke cakes for all occasions. No request is too big, small, or beyond our capability. Just ask! If you're looking for the ultimate wedding, anniversary, birthday, baby shower, christening or corporate cakes and any other event cakes, Tree House Cakes can create bespoke designs to match all themes and events. *www.treehousecakes.co.uk* 



#### Alexandra Ashida: Green Tree Hypnotherapy

Helping people thrive in every area of life; Employing effective, evidence based techniques that use up to date research to understand how our brains work in difficult times, and when we are at our best. Solution Focused Hypnotherapy can make positive, lasting change without trawling through problems of the past. *www.greentreehypnotherapy.co.uk* 



#### Ali Fleming: Cariad Personal Ceremonies

As your Independent Celebrant, I help you to create the perfect ceremony. A wedding day , a vow renewal or a baby naming – no matter the special day, I can combine elements such as a sand or Unity in Glass ceremony, handfasting, ribbon ceremony, ring warming , your choices of music and carefully written words at your perfect location – designing a service that is uniquely yours. *www.cariad-personalceremonies.co.uk* 



#### Andrew Deighton: AWD Development Solutions

AWD Development Solutions helps ambitious businesses and organisations to grow by building exceptional teams and by training and developing highly effective team members and team leaders. We design and facilitate workshops, meetings, away days and conferences and help you implement the changes your business needs to make. *www.awddevelopmentsolutions.com* 

#### Andrew French: Creed Design



We at Creed are a motivated and passionate team of Interior Architects and Designers. We provide unique solutions to the retail and leisure industries, using our extensive experience to create environments that differentiate your brand and help realise the true potential of your business. *www.creeddesign.co.uk* 



#### Andrew Middleton: Ginger Root

We offer a full in-house creative and production service covering design, web, marketing, print and clothing. www.ginger-root.co.uk

northwood

### Andy McGarrick: Northwood

Voted best letting agent in Leicester year after year, our two decades of local knowledge is backed up by my own thirty years as a landlord. So we understand the issues you face and have market-leading solutions, including our unique Guaranteed Rent scheme. Northwood: over and above. www.northwooduk.com



#### Anna Ball: Sence Accounting

Sence Accounting are pro-active Accountants & Business Advisors covering the Midlands, who pride themselves on adding value to your business. Specialising in financial accounting, tax & business support, we are here to help businesses achieve their goals with our friendly, efficient manner & jargon-free advice. www.senceaccounting.co.uk



#### Anna Barker: Lush Garden Design

Is your garden getting tired, scruffy and difficult to maintain? Or is it just bland and boring? Do you wish you could enjoy your outside space? Would you love to entertain friends and family without feeling you have to apologise for the state of your garden? Or do you dream of a garden where you can just sit out and relax? www.lushgardendesign.co.uk



#### Annabel Ward: Fancy Entertainment

Fancy Entertainment is an established, East Midlands based entertainment company dedicated to adding a little extra pizazz to your events and special occasions. Whatever the theme, whatever the client, we are here to provide the finest performers and the highest quality entertainment to suit you! www.fancyentertainment.co.uk



#### Antony Bola: Antony Magic

Award winning professional close-up magician and Leicestershire's Magician of the Year, voted one of top 3 best close up performers in the Midlands & East Midlands. He is a Member of world famous "The Magic Circle" and is one of the most sought after magicians in the UK. www.antonymagic.co.uk



#### Arif Voroji: Help the Homeless Leicester

We as a charity and our supporters truly believe our services can change and transform multiple lives for the better and help achieve the complete eradication of homelessness and rough sleeping within our city. At the heart of all our aims, objectives and overall vision is our "3 E's" strategy, this is at the heart of all we plan and do... Enrich. Encourgae and Empower. www.hthleicester.co.uk



#### Asma Karim: DWS Legal

With offices in Leicester and Central London, DWS Legal is able to provide a local and national service. Our clients choose us because of our depth of experience and the personal service our solicitors provide. Our team are able to advise and act upon all areas of law providing one of the best legal services in Leicester and the UK. *www.d-w-s.co.uk* 



## Bev Sankey: Arbonne International

I was introduced to Arbonne in September 2011 and it has changed my life beyond recognition. I had a 25 year career as a Designer and Business Owner in the Accessories Industry working with Stores such as Boots, Harrods, Next and Monsoon. It was an amazing and exciting journey that took me to the USA Europe & the Far East. *www.beverleysankey.arbonne.com* 



## Beverley Brooks MBE: Brooks Computer Shop

When your computer fails we succeed in providing friendly, super affordable practical support for the smaller business. Next time you need a helping hand with your PC txt us on 07595245722 quoting KuKu and enjoy 20% off. (Mac & PC friendly). Serving since 2003. *www.brookscomputers.uk* 



## Buckso Dhillon-Woolley: Savvy Social

At Savvy Social we promote and support local events and businesses. We write blogs and share vlogs on social media and we publish a wide range of digital and print magazines. We are not government funded! It works because local businesses invest in a social enterprise with mutual benefits by contributing and supporting the programme. *www.savvysocial.org* 



# Caroline Micallef Wragg: Starflower Company

Business Marketing Solutions that work. Strategic and holistic marketing and sales services, consultancy, mentoring and client alignment processes. Bespoke and unique services for clients and group based marketing systems and implementation programmes called "Rev up" and "High Excellence". Results driven marketing, with a difference. www.starflowercompany.co.uk



# Chris Gueffier: NBV

Looking for help to move your business forward? Then this is the programme for you! Business Assist from NBV gives you all the tools you need to sustain and grow your business. **www.nbv.co.uk** 



## Chrissie Gregory: Face by Chrissie & VIB Women

Make a statement to the world, be bold and embrace life. You can make the world take notice of you with how you present yourself. Use colour to make that statement! FacebyChrissie can advise, consult and apply colour to your life with a flick of a brush. *www.facebychrissie.co.uk* 

# SAVVY

Savvy Social have been operating for roughly 4 years now and recently underwent some rebranding which brought in another arm to the business, dedicated solely to Women in Business, in the way of the Savvy Women publication. We run as a Not for Profit Social Enterprise Organisation, that gives students and the unemployed an opportunity for some much needed work experience.

We found so many individuals have the skills but dont have the opportunity to showcase them once theyre out of college or made redundant. So we work alongside the local job centres and colleges where they send over valid, qualified people that WANT to work and know its essential for them to do so, to continue getting their benefits whilst looking for work.

This means we rely on local businesses to support us through annual memberships / sponsorships where we promote all their latest news and promotions that they have to share, through social media aswel as publications, without it costing over the odds.

The team creates the print/digital publications for local events as well, such as the Gin and rum Festival, The Derbyshire County show, The Lifestyle Wellness Show and the Eyes Have It music festival, to name a few. Online content consists of blogs and more recently, vlogs that go out on social feeds showcasing business owners, sharing their stories, news and much more. We always need new businesses to shout about, so if youd like to become a savvy supporter, get in touch! We are very proud to have KuKu as one of our preferred partners, knowing they support our dedication to corporate social responsibility. here is a list of benefits included in the membership:

- FREE ARTWORK AND DESIGN (AMOUNT IS BASED ON EACH PACKAGE)
- FREE 1 PAGE WEBSITE INCLUDING .CO.UK DOMAIN NAME AND I YEAR FREE HOSTING
- SOCIAL MEDIA ADVICE AND
  SUPPORT
- EDITORIAL (AMOUNT IS BASED ON EACH PACKAGE)
- MEETING ROOM AT OUR IRON GATE OFFICE (1 HOUR SLOTS)
- WEB DESIGN & SEO SUPPORT ADVICE AND CREATION
- REGULAR VLOGS AND BLOGS

www.savvysocial.org



#### Christian Zamore: Twenty Twenty

We're called TwentyTwenty for a reason. Our aim is to help young people see beyond their disadvantage and disengagement, recognise their worth and potential, focus on building the skills for success, and develop a clear vision and plan to achieve sustained employment and a bright future. **www.twentytwenty.org.uk** 



# Claire Zwozny-Bestwick: CRZyBest

I make alternative, bespoke bouquets, buttonholes, jewellery & accessories using a variety of non-tarnishing wires (so they stay shiny and sparkling), Swarovski crystals, semi-precious stones and tiny handcrafted, kiln fired precious metal sculptures; this means you can have pretty much anything you want included into your CRZyBest creations! **www.crzybest.co.uk** 

# koobr

## Craig Barker: Koobr

Koobr are a creative marketing agency offering services, which include: branding, graphic design, animation, web design and development, content marketing, PR and digital marketing. For many of our customers, we are their dedicated marketing department, truly becoming an integrated part of their team. **www.koobr.com** 



#### Craig Sparrow: S&L Personnel

S & L Personnel is your trusted recruitment agency supporting businesses throughout the Midlands area. We offer a competitively priced, high-quality, professional and dependable service to all of our clients and candidates, whether you're looking for temporary or permanent recruitment services. **www.slpersonnel.co.uk** 



#### You Walker: Lnet Digital

An in-house team of digital marketing professionals with a range of skills. Our experience in SEO allows us to make digital marketing work for you. We realise that combining enthusiasm, high levels of support and technical expertise is important, which makes us the right team to deliver your vision **www.lnetdigital.co.uk** 



#### Daniella Smith: Sherwin Hall Interiors

We provide a professional fitted kitchen design, supply and installation to property developers. Our experienced project management team will ensure that every aspect of the project will be delivered on time and on budget. We will always pre-agree objectives and, to make your money go further, we will also offer our expertise to maximise your budgets in ways that you might not otherwise have considered. **www.www.sherwinhall.co.uk** 



Darrielle Garrity: Smallman & Son

Smallman & Son Ltd is a family run construction and manufacturing firm with a history dating back to the 1980s. As an award-winning refurbishment, building and shop-fitting contractor, we pride ourselves on our excellent customer service and our promise to complete every project within budget and to strict timescales. *www.smallmanandson.co.uk* 

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#### Wid Pearson: East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire & Leicestershire)

The Chamber is the leading business organisation in the region and is the go-to place for answers. We are renowned for enhancing East Midlands businesses. Our activities are so diverse that thousands of businesses put trust in the Chamber to help their businesses flourish and grow – irrespective of size or sector. www.emc-dnl.co.uk



## David Young: The Soldiers' Charity

We give a lifetime of support to soldiers and veterans from the British Army, and their immediate families, when they are in need. We make grants to individuals through their Regiments and Corps and support a wide range of specialist charities that sustain the British Army 'family', both at home and around the world. *www.soldierscharity.org* 

# Debbie Goodlip: Monat

MONAT

MONAT starts with changing your hair and eventually changes your life. We offer a generous compensation plan, an exceptionally nurturing support system, and caring, committed leaders who treat you like family. **www.welovehair.mymonat.com** 



#### Dee Beckett: Mosaic Business Growth

A client said "Mosaic is a Business Garage. You identify, advise, and improve, hands on: Build foundations – overcome challenges, you identify causes and get it working. Identify improvements – planning, focus and direction to continuously improve results. Deliver growth – identify growth options and HOW to make them reality."*www.mosaicbusinessgrowth.co.uk* 



# Deepak Rajpurt: Nexus Property Developments

Nexus Property Developments feel very passionate about property and have a reputation for building high quality and desirable homes. Utilising our highly skilled professional team with a combined experience of over 40 years in the property business enables us to maximise returns to our investors. **www.nexuspropertydevelopments.co.uk** 



#### Devin Popat: Action Coach

We are Business Growth Specialists helping businesses grow and become profitable, so you can enjoy the lifestyle you deserve. We help you deliver the results you desire using proven tools, methodologies and systems, tested and perfected for over two decades. We'll hold you accountable for your results and push you to perform at optimal levels and help you celebrate your successes. **www.actioncoach.co.uk/coaches/team-brilliant** 



#### Dominic Gomersall: Lumbers Jewellers

Lumbers is incredibly proud to be part of Leicester's heritage. Established in 1881, we have been at the heart of Leicester's success for over 135 years. Our team offer unparalleled service and knowledge, to create a luxury experience that will make you feel welcome and relaxed. *www.lumbers.co.uk* 



#### Edd Stanton: Scorpion Events

Dynamic, Fresh and Effective Event Production, Management and AV Hire Scorpion Event Solutions offers anything from the complete event solution to the smallest part of an event, such as equipment hire. Any part of your event can be handled in a friendly and simple way with a quick phone call to one of our experienced event team. *www.scorpioneventsolutions.co.uk* 



## Elena Chapman: FAB Clinics

Fab Clinics is a Loughborough based luxury aesthetic and skin clinic with state of the art technology that you would expect to see on Harley Street. Our approach is to use technology that provides effective results without pain, down time or needles. NO PAIN, ALL GAIN! *www.fabclinics.com* 



### Eddie Young: Misterey Entertainment

With the right ingredients of memories and magic, along with a healthy dash of personality, charm and entertainment. Your event is in safe hands with Derbyshire and Staffordshire close up magician of the year, voted best up and upcoming magician and many more accolades. *www.mistereyentertainment.co.uk* 



#### Finola Brady: FB Architectural

I can provide a variety of architectural services, individually tailored to each project's and each client's requirements, and at a highly competitive cost. My clients include private individuals, architects, property developers, contractors, property investors and landlords. I work both locally to the East Midlands and nationally. **www.fbarchitectural.co.uk** 



#### Gemma Orton: Mocha Marketing

Mocha Marketing's passionate and energetic team are designed to act as an extension of your team, either as your marketing and communications department or in it. From digital marketing to PR and event promotion, we believe in a collaborative approach and work to understand exactly what you need your marketing to achieve. **www.mocha-marketing.co.uk** 



#### Graham Smith: Cunningtons

We know that running a business is challenging. We understand the need for the right advice, at the right time, and what a difference this can make to any business. We work tirelessly to identify what drives our clients so that we can provide proactive, meaningful support, working in partnership with them to help them achieve their aspirations. www.cunningtonsaccountants.co.uk

### Helen Cutillo: Triangle Networks



No matter where your organisation is on the spectrum of technological sophistication, we all share a need for connectivity. Innovation might be the heart of your business, but reliable lines of communication are what keep it alive. If you would like to know more about the products and services provided by Triangle Networks, please do get in contact. *www.trianglenetworks.co.uk* 

#### Inzar Haq: Fit4business



Fit4business is a new concept of networking that promotes a healthy mental attitude with the benefits of making business connections with like-minded people. The networking will involve light snacks, a short presentation from our guest speaker, a tour of David Lloyds and of course an opportunity to meet new people and create new contacts. *www.fit4businessnetworking.co.uk* 

#### Jackie Parkes: A& J Promotions

A & J Allan and Jackie formed A & J Promotions Ltd in July 2010, together we offer over 30 years experience in the Promotional Products Industry. Finding the most suitable Products for your marketing campaigns is our main objective. We pride ourselves on providing an unsurpassed service from conception to delivery. www.aandjpromotionsltd.com



#### Jade Brindley: Koa Consulting

Koa Consulting is designed to support businesses navigate the endless ocean of business growth options. We help our clients to establish a clear and simple business development strategy tailored to your needs. If you want to maximise your profits by raising your profile, gaining more customers and building on existing business relationships then Koa Consulting can help. *www.koaconsulting.co.uk* 



#### James Blick: The Finesse Collection

The Finesse Collection is a group of privately owned Boutique Hotels in the East Midlands. Whether you are looking for a relaxing break, romantic escape, hotel wedding venues or hotels with conference rooms - our East Midlands hotels each have their own distinct character and style. *www.thefinessecollection.co.uk* 

#### James Lee: JL Wealth Consultancy

IL UNEALTH CONSULTANCY

At JL Wealth Consultancy we work with you to create and implement a plan designed to increase your wealth, help maintain your lifestyle and give you the best possible chance of achieving your goals. Whether you have created your own wealth, are still creating it, or are just starting out, we take the complexity out of financial planning. *www.jlwealthconsultancy.co.uk* 



#### Jilly Mattley: Essentially Floral

We offer the most beautiful bespoke floral designs for all occasions and celebrations. Our aim is to deliver a service devoted to you and to provide attention to detail which sets us apart. We would love to hear from you whether your'e looking for luxurious wedding or event flowers, thinking of making a decorative statement for your business or to explore any other floral requirements you may have. www.instagram.com/essentiallyfloral



#### Juni Ball: The Alternative Board

You've heard of a "think-tank". We're a "do-tank". Imagine what a difference it could make to you and your business if there was somewhere you could go to talk openly about the challenges and opportunities that you face in running your business. Well there is just that place! *www.thealternativeboard.co.uk* 

## Inspiring Support for Good Causes

240

**Charity Fundraising Auctions** are passionate about helping organisations across the country with their fundraising. We host silent and main auctions at events to help you boost your fundraising targets, this can be a small function or a large gala dinner. There is absolutely no risk or cost involved on your part and we take care of all the administration from start to finish for you! Items that are listed include **bespoke** memorabilia items, unique art pieces and once-in-a-lifetime experiences and holidays. We would love to help YOU with your upcoming events, please contact us on the details provided below.

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www.charity-fundraising-auctions.co.uk



#### Joanna Burrows: Twenty Twenty

We're called TwentyTwenty for a reason. Our aim is to help young people see beyond their disadvantage and disengagement, recognise their worth and potential, focus on building the skills for success, and develop a clear vision and plan to achieve sustained employment and a bright future. **www.twentytwenty.org.uk** 



#### Jodie Bidder: Sami Tipi

Creating unforgettable outdoor events with our Nordic Tipis, Glamping Tents & Sailcloth Marquee. **www.samitipi.co.uk** 

#### it'seeze websites

#### John Cooper: It'seeze

Producing exceptional websites for local businesses throughout Leicestershire and the surrounding areas, here at it'seeze Leicester Website Design we offer a range of expert services to help you get the most out of your online presence. Our talented designers will work closely with you, taking the time to understand what's needed in order to create a website that exactly reflects your unique company. *www.itseeze-leicester.co.uk* 



#### John Spencer: 7 Colours Photobooths

7 Colours Photobooths provides entertainment for private parties, and specializes in brand awareness for product launches and business openings. We deliver the highest quality of on-site instant print outs and offer live social sharing. We work to help sharing a brand's values and individuality in the most engaging way! **www.7colours.co.uk** 



#### John Whitbread: Spotted

The Spotted App is a straight business directory that houses everything from solicitors, to pest control, to cake decorators to the trades. We don't bias adverts or use algorithms to decide what the customer sees, and every business is on a level playing field. You can also be notified of local available jobs that need pricing. **www.spottedapp.com** 



#### Jude Read: Jude Read HR

Jude Read-HR Consultancy provides strategic outsourced HR solutions and HR case management to small and medium businesses within a 50 mile radius of Leicestershire. As a commercially-focused HR consultancy, we offer practical, no nonsense HR advice to suit the needs of your business. *www.juderead-hrconsultancy.co.uk* 



#### Julia Moore: Tiles by TexTiles

We produce unusual high quality handmade decorative wall tiles inspired by our love of traditional textiles and carpets from around the world, expertly designed and crafted by hand in England. Our clients can order specially designed tiles to match a wallpaper or fabric. In addition we produce hand decorated bone china and offer a bespoke service for weddings and other special occasions. *www.tilesbytextiles.com* 

Rebecca is a creatively talented milliner based in the market town of Oakham, Rutland. Specializing in creating couture headpieces for any occasion, using the finest quality materials to produce her unique bespoke headpieces.

Rebecca found a love for hats when friends and family started asking her to design and make headpieces for weddings and special events. Enjoying using different materials and experimenting with designs, she found that people began to show interest and from there decided to start showing her work through various social media channels, all with phenomenal success.



Rebecca Couture launched her first collection in August 2015 and she has continued to be overwhelmed with the response, growing from strength to strength. As well as creating yearly Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter collections, Rebecca also designs and makes bespoke pieces. As well as being available at

www.rebeccacouturemillinery.co.uk and in her Oakham studio, you can also find a selection of Rebecca's hats stocked in various boutiques across the UK and overseas.

Whether it be a wedding, a day at the races or anything in between, you can be sure to find something to suit the occasion at Rebecca Couture Millinery.

www.rebeccacouturemillinery.co.uk info@rebeccacouturemillinery.co.uk 01572 490 432 / 07977703367







#### Julie Anne Howt: Julie Anne Hart

Julie Anne Hart

I help high-level entrepreneurs receive high-dimensional insights to move them forward in their challenges, questioning and aspirations. If you are a high achiever, visionary, passionate leader or change maker who sees the value of reaching into the quantum field to create your next level of evolution, I am here to serve you. **www.julieannehart.com** 

# QUEEN VICTORIA

#### Julie Proctor: Queen Victoria Arts Club

Set in the heart of Leicester's Cultural Quarter, opposite Curve Theatre, our award-winning restaurant & bar is open to the public from 11am for casual dining and drinking 7 days a week. Our extensive menus include Lunch, Pre-Theatre, A la Carte, Cocktails, Wine & Champagne and our downstairs bar is available for private functions. *www.queenvicleicester.com* 



#### Kounlesh Sounji: KRS Estate Planning

I am a professional Will writer with over 18 years' experience in Wills and Powers of Attorney. I offer a friendly, sensitive service with free home visits and weekend & evening appointments to make the process as easy as possible for you or your loved ones. **www.krsep.co.uk** 



#### Karen Leishman: Charnwood Accountants

We are one of the region's leading independent firms of Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors. Our unique approach to Accountancy and Taxation means that our clients benefit from truly exceptional advice. *www.charnwoodaccountants.co.uk* 

#### Kate Fletcher: Belvoir Castle

🖉 BELVOIR

Belvoir Castle, standing proudly in the Vale of Belvoir and home to the Duke of Rutland's family since 1067, is one of the finest examples of Regency architecture in the world, with beautiful formal gardens with water features, woodland trails, the chance to enjoy country pursuits, a stunning rural retail village and of course the opportunity to celebrate a wedding or christening in fairy-tale style. *www.belvoircastle.com* 



#### Kate Neeves: Cool2BTrans / Martin Neeves Photography & Film

I am a trans ambassador providing trans awareness training & public speaking on trans issues for organisations who are serious about diversity & inclusion - **www.cool2btrans.co.uk**. I am also a top UK photographer & corporate filmmaker with 32 years of experience, helping your business to stand out from the crowd - **www.martinneeves.com** 



#### Kelly Allen: Admin Assassin

I am a VA with a difference! I love what I do! And I will make your admin fun, funny and positive! I support businesses throughout the midlands with their admin requirements, Quotes, Invoices, Social Media and even office clear outs. I specialise in CRM systems and love to help SMEs. www.facebook.com/KellyAllenAdminAssassin

### Kevin Fraser-Urguhart: Dluxe Magazine



One Magazine. Two Versions: dluxe LEICESTERSHIRE and dluxe BIRMINGHAM & SOLIHULL. Unashamedly top end, this glossy, lifestyle magazine is aimed at the highest earning, super-influential residents of our tw top end, this glossy, lifestyle magazine is aimed at the highest earning, super-influential residents of our two regions. www.dluxe-magazine.co.uk



#### Kevin Allen-Khimani: Voluntary Action Leicester

Voluntary Action LeicesterShire (VAL) is a charity whose goal is to change lives for the better in Leicester and Leicestershire. VAL has been part of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in Leicester and Leicestershire for more than half a century. Our work has always evolved with the times but kept local people at its heart. www.valonline.org.uk



#### Kully Nijjar: Catax Group

Catax are experts in specialist areas of tax relief like Research and Development, Capital Allowances and the Patent Box. We have helped clients secure tax savings for ten years by identifying over £231m in tax benefit to date. Headquartered in Manchester, with offices in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Channel Islands, we work with businesses throughout the UK. www.catax.com



#### Leanne Parker: NFU Mutual Melton Mowbray

**NFU Mutual** 

NFU Mutual is an award winning insurer and well respected for providing a local personal service. We provide quality cover, competitive premiums and a no quibble approach to claims. Based in Melton Mowbray our very experienced team are happy to see you in our office or in your own home. www.nfumutual.co.uk/agent-offices/melton-mowbray



### Leslie Singleton: LWS Training Services

As a Manager or Business Owner, you'll be well aware of the risks involved with running your company, whether you have 5 employees or 100. LWS Training Services is a provider of First Aid CPR certification classes and Health & Safety courses across the Midlands. We cover Coventry, Nuneaton, Hinckley and Leicester. However, training will be considered if you're based further afield. www.lwstrainingservices.co.uk



#### Liam Bray: Mattioli Woods

Mattioli Woods is here to help and support our clients in protecting and growing their finances to meet their aims and ambitions. Whatever the situation, we provide our clients with a consistent all-embracing approach, designed to develop a clear strategy supported by sound investment initiatives and a long-term perspective. www.mattioliwoods.com

#### PASSION ARKETING

#### Lindsey Newman-Wood: Passion Marketing

Passion Marketing is a marketing agency that specializes in helping businesses get increased focus and clarity with their marketing strategy and plan. They deliver high impact marketing campaigns that helps clients cut through the clutter and stand out from the crowd. They have recently launched Mustard Sprints which solves big challenges and launches new ideas in just 5 days! www.passionmarketingsolutions.co.uk



#### Liz Strama: Dansey Homes

Dansey Homes is a property development and investment company based in Burton on Trent. We specialise in buying residential property and helping clients who need to sell quickly or have a complex sale, particularly with properties that require refurbishment or renovation. *www.danseyhomes.com* 



#### Louisa Sando-Patel: Bright Owl

Bright Owl helps you turn words into sales by writing powerful and engaging marketing content. We provide Google-friendly website content, blog packages, social media posts, profiles and articles, as well as eBooks, brochures, magazine editorial, press releases and video scripts. Copywriting, content writing and content workshops. Compliance-friendly, Financial Services Copywriter. **www.brightowlcopywriting.com** 



#### Magdalena Govska: Hilton Hotel East Midlands Airport

The conveniently located Hilton East Midlands Airport hotel is just four miles from East Midlands Airport and three miles from the East Midlands Parkway Train Station. In town for business? Stay productive with an on-site business center and 13 meeting and conference rooms equipped with WiFi. Relax and rejuvenate with our amenities including our 16-meter pool and hotel restaurant and bar. *www.hilton.com/en* 

#### Mahesh Patel: Eazi Apps

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#### Mandy Ward: Mandy Ward Coaching

Mandy Ward Coaching

I help Managers become better People Managers. I use my many years HR experience to offer a '1 stop shop approach' to supporting, coaching and training Managers. Experience and expertise backed up by qualifications, a 'can-do, work-hard' attitude and an easy going, fun, professional approach to work. www.mandy-ward-coaching.business.site



#### Maria Hanson MBE: Me & Dee Charity

Me&Dee has a simple mission, to ensure families going through difficult and uncertain times are gifted with memories they can treasure, never losing sight of what truly matters. Because it's those special moments shared with the ones we love, no matter how complicated circumstances may be, that are most precious of all. *www.meanddee.co.uk* 



#### Mark Eydman: Six Pillars Consulting

We have been established to help organisations deliver outstanding Customer Experiences on a consistent basis such that Loyalty is enhanced and used to drive business growth. Our operating philosophy is that "sustainable, profitable growth is best supported by strategic and tactical decision making which seeks to balance Customer Loyalty, Operational Effectiveness and Employee Engagement"*www.sixpillarsconsulting.com* 



After a successful career in the music industry where Ninder's record company – Nachural Records – registered no.5 in the UK charts, no.7 in the US charts and a further 9 no. 1s globally, Ninder then diversified into event production, establishing 3 brands; the Nachural Entrepreneurship Awards, the Signature Awards and the Nachural Summer Business Awards.

The networking/awards nights have grown rapidly with three key unique elements – firstly a learning element where the audience of entrepreneurs and SMEs hear from a high profile business person, secondly there is an opportunity to mingle with upto 600 high profile entrepreneurs and finally a celebration of the best businesses in the region.

These unique, black tie events attract influencers from all over the country and are treated to four course meals and unrivalled entertainment where the audience is diverse and often hard to reach.

Ninder spends a lot of time putting back into the community – he is a Board Member of the Black Country LEP, the West Midland's Growth Company and Wolverhampton University. He is also Chair of Charity of Steps to Work, Vice Chair of Sandwell College, NED at Accord Housing, Trustee at Victoria Academy and Trustee at West Bromwich Albion.

#### www.nachural.co.uk







The East Midlands Women's Awards (EMWA) recognizes and celebrates women from all sectors, backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities and age, making it the region's most inclusive event. Furthermore, it acknowledges the impact of women in society – from grass-roots levels to the top of the academic or corporate world, across Leicestershire, Rutland, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire.

EMWA is now in its third year with 2018 seeing a 30% increase in nominations and a 63% increase in attendance. Sandra Pollock, Founder of the EMWA, said: "I established the awards to showcase the outstanding work these amazing women do in our communities and throughout our local businesses. As we continue to shine a light on the contribution of women, we are amazed at how much outstanding talent we discover."

Nottingham is the city of choice for this year's event and the prestigious gala presentation will take place on Friday 11 October 2019 at Colwick Hall, Colwick Park, Racecourse Road, Nottingham NG2 4BH. The 2019 awards' headline sponsor is Glynis Wright & Co Family Solicitors – Glynis was the winner of the 'East Midlands Inspirational Female Leader in 2017. For more details, visit our website: www.womeninmanagement.info/east-midlands-womensawards

#### Mark Robinson: Creative62



Creative62 are an award-winning creative agency working with and inspiring businesses to expect more from their marketing. Partnering with ambitious clients with big ideas, their design, brand and messaging help businesses to communicate effectively and drive results. Creative62 has a proven track record of delivering outstanding marketing across multiple sectors. www.Creative62.com



#### Matt Youdale: Arch Communications

Arch Communications is an award-winning PR and marketing agency based in Nottinghamshire, but operating across the East Midlands and nationally. We work to get you noticed and sell what you have to offer. In a nutshell, we help you work out what your story is, and then tell it – through reputation management, marketing strategy, publicity, wordcraft, and social media. www.arch-comms.co.uk



#### Molly Smith: Leicester Tigers

Leicester Tigers is an English professional rugby union club based in Leicester, England. They play in Premiership Rugby, England's top division of rugby. www.leicestertigers.com



#### Monica-Jane McMullen: Prestwold Hall

Prestwold Hall is the private home of Edward Packe-Drury-Lowe, having been in his family for over 350 years and regarded as architect William Burn's finest example of the neoclassical style. Located in the heart of Leicestershire countryside, but nearby to the M1. Prestwold warmly welcomes corporate, business and private events, weddings and celebrations in their truly stunning interiors and grounds. www.prestwold-hall.com

#### Nick Biden: R&D Tax Expert

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#### Ninder Johal: Nachural Awards

nachural

#### Nachural is the leading proponent of Business to Business Events, Media Production and a successful Chart Topping Record Company. We specialise in presenting spectacular Red Carpet Black Tie Events, stunning Business Award Nights and memorable Corporate Presentations. Nachural has rapidly developed into an all encompassing production house curating cutting edge sold out business productions. www.nachural.co.uk



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#### BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AWARDS

#### Chamber of the Year

East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire) is the current British Chambers of Commerce national Chamber of the Year and the leading business organisation in the region; the voice for business in the East Midlands. With a growing membership of more than 4,300 businesses - small to large, local to international – the Chamber is renowned across the region for supporting East Midlands businesses and does so through its mission to "enhance East Midlands businesses and communities". The Chamber's activity is diverse and multifaceted, helping thousands of businesses through its five core pillars of Supporting Growth; Connecting You; Developing Skills; Helping You Influence and Enabling International Trade.

For more information on the Chamber, visit www.emc-dnl.co.uk.





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#### Paul Chapman: Paul Chapman Marketing Strategy

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#### Peter Copeland: Dorsland Properties Ltd

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#### Phil Izzard: Midland Business Insurance Services

#### MIDLAND

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#### Phil Megson: Love Business Expo



A business to business networking exhibition with a difference. It brings business and personal development opportunities together. If you are a business owner, manager or thinking of starting a business – and you need answers, inspiration or just to see what's happening in your area – Love Business EXPO 2020 is for you. www.lovebusinessexpo.co.uk

#### Rachael Wilks: Smart PA

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SmartPA provides expert PA, Secretarial and Admin support to businesses of all sizes. By adhering to best practice and standards, our service guarantees to maximise productivity and efficiency, whilst remaining cost effective and flexible. www.smart-pa.com/uk



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#### Robert Fryers: RFHR



We are a dynamic HR Consultancy that specialises in providing HR services for the SME market and the Dental Market. We work nationwide across the UK. We work closely with our associate employment law solicitor and can offer retained packages to suit your business needs and future growth www.rfhrsolutions.co.uk



#### Romey Lee: Staton Young

We're an incredibly driven, skilled team of property management professionals with more than 15 years experience working and investing in the Midlands property market. Our company ethos is to provide a first class professional service as an investor and landlord for residential, commercial and development properties throughout the Midlands region. www.statonyoung.co.uk



#### Rosanna Monachello: Refresh Training and Coaching

Freedom & Abundance Coaching with Mindfulness, Meditation, Reiki, Law of Attraction Education, Health, Well Being and Retreats. Teaching you the latest research based brain training for positive habit forming and release from addictions. Providing health and wellbeing tools, teaching and life hacks to help you stay calm, centred and achieve enrichment, empowerment and ultimate prosperity. www.refreshcoachingandtraining.com



#### Rosy Barwait: 4 Heavens Cakes

Hello cake lovers!! If you are as passionate about cakes as I am you will love my home baked cakes and treats. Homemade with love. www.facebook.com/4heavenscakesrosy



#### Rubina Lokat: PrintPrint

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#### Ruth Malloy: Ruth Malloy Interiors

Ruth Malloy works with a highly skilled team of trades people to realise your interior dream. Ruth works on domestic & small commercial projects where attention to detail & close working relationships with clients are key to her success. Give her a call today to see how she can help transform your interior. www.ruthmalloyinteriors.co.uk

#### Sandra Pollock: Open Mind Training and Development

Open Mind Coaching for leadership, management, and people development training and coaching. Services specifically designed to take your business and your people to the next level of achievement, success and profit. Nearly three decades of experience in operational and strategic business development. Happy, motivated staff equals more time for you. *www.sandrapollock.com* 

## Sanjaya Pandit: In-U

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## Sarah Naylor: Naylor George Recruitment

With over 32 years' recruitment experience within the Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire area, we can offer you a professional and confidential service that is truly tailored to your needs; whether you are a client with an all-important vacancy to fill or a candidate seeking an exciting new position. *www.naylorgeorge.co.uk* 



#### Scott Benzie: Chocolate Cake Media

Chocolate Cake Media is a video production agency that produces high quality and effective videos. We work with businesses throughout the entire production process, from concept to delivery. Chocolate Cake's success is the ability to deliver our clients' objectives in an inspiring manner with innovative, creative approaches for your audience. www.chocolatecakemedia.co.uk

## Sebastien de La Hamayde: Designeering

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Designeering give clients a competitive edge through innovative design to increase their sales. Not your typical creative agency, we offer a unique blend of French flair and British design expertise that generates results for you. Let us talk to you about branding, product design or strategy that will make a difference to your business. **www.designeering.com** 



#### Simon Wright: Warning Zone

Warning Zone is a Life-Skills Centre and children safeguarding charity. We deliver life-saving messages to children and young people across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Historically, we have worked with Year 6 children (aged 10/11), catching them at a key transition in their life as they venture in to secondary school. www.warningzone.org.uk



#### Stacey ferguson: The Venue Experts

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#### Stephen Goddard: KuKu Creative

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Whether you need marketing, design, PR or an event, your brand is our business. We know how to craft, launch and successfully communicate your brand ideas in line with your industry. What's more, our hand-picked, fully interactive, fast working team will always work to your project brief. We'll never dictate ideas; you will always be involved from start to finish. www.kukucreative.co.uk



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#### Suzanne Fells: Suzanne Fells Photography

A key aspect that is often overlooked is that you are your brand and visual identity. So many judgements, opinions and decisions are made about you in split seconds by just looking at a photograph. The image that you use to present yourself is the primary interface for the very first instance when your potential client first discovers you. www.suzannefellsphotography.co.uk

#### Suzanne Suthers: Personal Stylist and Colour Consultant

SUZANNE SI THERS

As a Personal Stylist I love helping people to look good and feel more confident. Amongst my services I offer Colour Analysis, Personal Styling for ladies and men, Personal Shopping, Wardrobe Declutter and Make-up Lessons. I want my clients to be a fabulous version of themselves! www.suzannesuthers.com



### Tej Gowera: Tax Assist

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#### Tim Povall: Vistage Chair



Vistage help Chief Executives and Managing Directors accelerate their growth rates and transform their business. I am a recently appointed Vistage Chair and I now run a highly successful CEO Peer to Peer Advisory Group for East Midland based businesses. www.vistage.co.uk

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Cancer Research UK is a cancer research and awareness charity in the United Kingdom and Isle of Man, formed on 4 February 2002 by the merger of The Cancer Research Campaign and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Its aim is to reduce the number of deaths from cancer. **www.cancerresearchuk.org** 



#### Tracey Mather: Tracey Mather Wealth Management

Based in Leicester, I provide wealth management advice to individuals and businesses in and around Leicester and the East Midlands. My advice is tailored to meet your personal and/or business objectives and bespoke to your personal needs and preferences. **www.traceymatherwm.co.uk** 

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#### Wendy Green: Days by Design

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#### Jvonne Higgins: Empire Corporate Finance

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### Your Privileges as a KuKu Connect Member

Upon joining KuKu Connect you will receive an exclusive Privilege Card which will gain you access to a host of first class, member-only savings, incentives and private invitations from the best of the East Midlands including marketing, PR, advertising, design, print and events services.

The Privilege Card also boasts an array of special offers, discounts and incentives from some of the best handpicked lifestyle, health and culture businesses across the East Midlands; from bars, restaurants, hotels, health, beauty, entertainment and much more.

Plus you can benefit from promotion of your business to a potential audience of over 50,000 local people and businesses.

Find out more about the KuKu Connect Privilege Card at www.kukuconnect.co.uk/privilege-card

# BE OUR GUEST

If you are yet to visit a KuKu Connect Reception then we would love to offer you a complimentary place. We currently hold our monthly Connect Receptions in different venues across the East Midlands and as a first time visitor you are welcome as our free guest.

To find out more, visit www.kukuconnect.co.uk and to reserve your free guest place please email: hello@kukuconnect.co.uk

"Stephen and Philip of KuKu Connect should be very proud of the amazing service and opportunities they offer to business people and organisations across the region and not just in the cities, but also out in the rural communities and market towns. KuKu is a great asset to the East Midlands right through to grass roots level. I applaud their dedication and sterling efforts." Edwin de Lisle, Rutland Polo Club

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With 19 years of experience in the Midlands, Fraser Urquhart Media are a team of experienced media professionals that are both Publisher and Publicist and are responsible for some of the midlands' biggest and best loved media titles. The brainchild of Jonathan Fraser and Kevin Urquhart, Fraser Urquhart Media is, quite simply, The Midlands' most connected publicity specialist with the hottest Black Book in the Midlands and beyond.

Co-founder, Jonathan Fraser is the creative powerhouse who directs the delivery and strategy. His background as a journalist and magazine editor makes sure he's first to find the angle on any story and sell it in effectively to his large contact base. Jonathan has a large and varied range of television and radio broadcast experience working on documentaries, news reports, live televised events, drone filming and 360° film production streaming.

He's joined by Kevin Urquhart who has worked first-hand with some of the biggest and most influential brands and agencies in the world. An awardnominated networker, he is an experienced creator of exciting, visual and commercially successful events. It is down to Kevin's tireless networking (aka socialising) that has created an enormous goodwill and the best Black Book of Contacts in the industry, opening doors for your business.

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# Thank you

On behalf of KuKu Connect we would like to thank all our fantastic business Members and Partners for their belief in networking, as a powerful, effective and positive tool for developing connections and relationships with other organisations and for promoting business in this great region. We would also like to thank the many Connect Reception hosts who are all reviewed within this Almanac and carry our thanks as well as our highly recommended and hand-picked commendation, and who all make an important contribution to culture. heritage and tourism within their communities and the wider East Midlands.

To celebrate the launch of this year's Almanac, KuKu Connect holds its Annual Birthday Reception which is a superb evening of celebrating the business community and in raising funds for vital locally based charities that support children, young people and families dealing with end of life and terminal illness and cancer, supporting the Services personnel who have served their country with great bravery and in supporting young people, unemployed and homeless people.

We are very grateful to Ravi and Sanjay Kathuria for hosting the birthday reception at Stoke Rochford Hall and it is with great pleasure that we are able to use such a superb and historical setting for this very special annual celebration. Our annual event could not be made possible without the generous support of many businesses, but we should like to particularly thank KuKu Creative for all their support with brand, digital and design and to the 'ab-fab' PrintPrint who have printed the KuKu Connect Almanacs and to Saul Morgan and Trent House Studios for shooting our annual photographic portraits, as well as covering all our monthly Connect Receptions and our event Patrons; Talash Hotels, Sence Accounting, S&L Personnel, DWS Solicitors, Marquees of Distinction, Scorpion Events, The Venue Experts, Essentially Floral, Priti Raichura Events, Casa Da Silva videography, 7colours Photobooths, Phil & Steve Megson, Swithland Events, the charismatic actress & personality Buckso Dhillon-Woolley and the marvellous Julie Proctor Business Representation Specialist.

We would also like to say a very special thank you to Chutney Ivy, The Butler's Pantry, Tree House Cakes, Bio-Veg, Nonis Family Kitchen, Bawdon Lodge Farm. Burleighs Gin, the Cathedral Quarter Hotel & Finesse Collection, RK Vodka, the best coffee around: 200 Degrees Coffee. Cocoa-Amore and the Hilton East Midlands Airport Hotel for supporting with their excellent hospitality at the Annual Birthday Reception, as well as the sparkling David Fowkes Jewellery, Fancy Entertainment and their 'Oueen of Hearts', Fab Clinics, dluxe & FU Media, Rebecca Couture Millinery, The British Tailoring Co., Lumbers, Tiles By Textiles, Linda Booth & Just For Tummies, Out Of The Box Experiences & Charity Fundraising Auctions,

Lexus Leicester, Savvy Social and singing sensation and West End Star Wayne Smith for helping providing a glittering showcase of talent and entertainment.

We would also like to thank the contributors to this year's Almanac Foreword and for the support they have given to KuKu Connect over the past year and to acknowledge the generosity of Their Graces the Dukes and Duchess of Rutland from our 2018 annual celebration at their home at Belvoir Castle and to Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenants' and High Sheriffs' in the East Midlands for their support of businesses in their respective Counties.

Our final thanks go to the wider KuKu Team and all those who have supported KuKu Connect over the past year, but particularly to Kathie and Graham for being the head of our KuKu Team, providing a warm and friendly welcome, with a smile to all our guests at our Connect Receptions every month, of which their support is invaluable, so a very special thank you to them both.

We look forward to another fab year ahead. Enjoy the new KuKu Connect Almanac and start connecting in business today.

Our best wishes and thanks to all! Stephen and Philip Co-Founders of KuKu Connect

