

ALMANAC

KUKU | CONNECT

22|23

CONNECTING BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS

www.kukuconnect.co.uk

FOREWORD



DAWN WHITEMORE, BA (HONS), MBA
Principal and Chief Executive of SMB College Group

"KuKu Connect excel at connecting businesses and organisations together, which benefits the region's economy and its wider community. KuKu offer something distinctly different as a business networking service which is both innovative, business-effective and fun, which connects a unique and hugely diverse range of people and sectors. At the SMB College Group we offer our students and partners the opportunity to be a part of a diverse community, which empowers individuals to reach their full potential. Young people are tomorrow's leaders and entrepreneurs and by connecting people together we will enrich opportunities for all and for our region. We applaud the success and impact of KuKu Connect and are a very proud Member of this dynamic and exciting community and I congratulate KuKu on their sixth anniversary."



MAJOR BRUCE SPENCER
Regional Employer Engagement Director, East Midlands RFCA, Ministry of Defence

"KuKu Connect are so much more than basic networking, they are a key partner organisation in the business life of the region and their effect is far reaching. The Ministry of Defence through the Armed Forces Covenant are delighted to be engaging as a part of the KuKu community, which has given so much time and support to the Armed Forces family and business engagement here in the East Midlands. 2022 is a special year for KuKu Connect who received a Gold Award from the Ministry of Defence, which is the highest accolade a business can attain in Defence. I am delighted that KuKu are recognised for their important and ongoing contribution to defence."



NINDER JOHAL, DL
Founder, the Signature Awards and Nachural Entrepreneurship Awards

"Truly great innovators, influencers and entrepreneurs all have one common attribute; they all offer something different, often unique and KuKu Connect is a shining example of this rare, skill and talent. During the COVID-19 lockdowns KuKu opened up their services and their hearts to any organisation, their support was free to all and resulted in thousands benefitting, despite the impact on their own business. Since those unprecedented times KuKu has been recognised and awarded by an array of prestigious awards for their vital COVID support and their pioneering innovation in the networking sphere. KuKu has been honoured at local and national level, even with a number of global awards, which is an amazing testament to KuKu, who this year have been named the UK's 'Best Networking Membership Organisation'. KuKu, connects, don't let your business miss out."



STEVE MEGSON
Founder, Love Business Expo

"KuKu is one of the top leaders in business networking in the East Midlands and in fact the country, not only because of the quality of businesses you meet at their Connect Receptions, but their wider support and innovation which helps your business to maximise awareness and build more business opportunities. KuKu are also collaborators and play a significant role in the development of the region, often cascading events and opportunities to all those within their community. You will find KuKu championing causes and campaigns that highlight our region to the rest of UK. KuKu's own story of growth and successes make them a key advocate and ally to all organisations and we are lucky to have them. Welcoming, friendly, relaxed and genuinely enjoyable, you never know who you will meet at KuKu, happy sixth birthday KuKu Connect!"

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO THE 2022 KUKU CONNECT ALMANAC

This Almanac is our annual publication which highlights the KuKu year showcasing our fabulous Connect Reception business networking events, where we bring together business owners, decision makers and entrepreneurs. KuKu Connect is a unique multi-award winning business membership service with our Almanac serving as a window into KuKu, as a thriving community of organisations connecting together for business. As part of our support to our membership community the Almanac features many of the businesses, venues and organisations we work with right across the Midlands and beyond.

Our 2022 Almanac also marks KuKu Connect's 6th birthday and as always the Almanac celebrates businesses across the East Midlands. Our Connect Receptions feature some of the best venues in the region and are our way of supporting inward investment, tourism and culture. Many of our host venues make great places for business events, parties and private functions, so please consider these venues for your next event. We would also like to thank the wonderful team at Shires Event Hire, who are a local independent business based in Leicestershire. Shires offers everything from crockery, glassware to linen, tables/chairs through to catering equipment and nearly every item you might need for an event, whether you're having a party at home, or you are organising a business event, a wedding, dinner/awards or even a full-on festival. More than that, as part of our KuKu community you can gain a special 25% discount on hire, so look no further than Shires Event Hire the next time you are feeling like a celebration.



BORED OF NETWORKING?

Networking doesn't have to be boring. At KuKu we make networking something vibrant, fun to attend and buzzing with new connections. The Connect Receptions are informal, relaxed and welcoming, with drinks and canapés being served throughout - who doesn't like a cocktail when they are networking?

At KuKu Connect we aspire to offer something different to business networking, something that you enjoy, but something that is equally business effective. In marking our 6th year at our Annual Birthday Reception, we are hosted by Brooksby Hall, part of the SMB College Group, one of the diverse members of KuKu Connect. We are delighted to celebrate the KuKu community with them at their historic venue and Melton campus, where we are joined by many types of organisations

from start-ups and micro businesses to larger employers, established business leaders and entrepreneurs spanning a truly wide range of sectors, from luxury products to design, construction, hospitality, professional services through to innovators, apps and new venues. KuKu Connect is relevant to any sized organisation, from any sector, no matter how niche and our annual celebration and Almanac brings together this thriving community, which now spans the Midlands and wider UK.

2022 has brought its own challenges from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it has culminated with KuKu Connect being named the 'Best Networking Membership Organisation in the UK for 2022' and receiving a Gold Award from the Ministry of Defence for KuKu Connect's support of the Armed Forces community, the highest badge of honour an organisation can receive. At KuKu we feel very fortunate to have been recognised for our services to an array of businesses, charities and organisations all over the UK and we are very proud of what KuKu Connect contributes to so many organisations.



Thank you to all our contributors, but particularly to our Almanac Print Partner for 2022, Octagon Lincoln. Octagon are a local independent business who provide an impressive range of print, merchandised products, branded clothing and work-wear. Baseball caps, to sustainable branded bags, to shop-front signage, Expo stands to business cards, flyers and brochures. You'd be surprised how much Octagon Lincoln have to offer your business - a great team, a great service and a local business.

Whether you're looking to grow your business, showcase your venue, build your profile, secure new clients or develop authentic and powerful partnerships and collaborations, KuKu is the place to be for business. You can network at Connect Receptions locally or at regional level, without having to pitch or present. You can also benefit from a range of services that help your business reach thousands. KuKu Connect is being part of a true community and there is so much potential to grow your business and raise your profile, so what are you waiting for!

We hope you enjoy this year's Almanac and if this is your first read, then come and join KuKu Connect in 2023. We look forward to connecting with you soon.

Stephen, Philip and The KuKu Team



Credit: Suzanne Fells Photography
Venue: Whatton House

WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS WAITING FOR?



www.kukuconnect.co.uk

Credit: Suzanne Fells Photography
Venue: Whatton House



NETWORKING REVOLUTIONISED

WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS WAITING FOR?

A fresh approach to business networking; innovative, engaging and business-effective. KuKu Connect is a globally multi award-winning business networking membership service connecting businesses and entrepreneurs across the Midlands. At KuKu we offer so much more than networking...

ARE YOU GETTING ALL YOU DESERVE FROM BUSINESS NETWORKING?

At the heart of our membership service are our award-winning in-person 'Connect Receptions', which are hosted by a wide variety of some of the best venues in the region, where you can network, or connect as we call it, with business owners, leaders, entrepreneurs and decision makers. Our Members indulge in complimentary hospitality over a welcoming, friendly and relaxed environment, where you can connect and engage without pitches, presentations or sales push.

ARE YOU GAINING NEW BUSINESS?

Whatever stage of business you have reached, our Members develop vital and authentic business relationships which lead to meaningful collaborations and partnerships where new business is secured. Month upon month we hear success stories from our Members gaining new business from KuKu Connect.

DO YOU FEEL PART OF A TRUE COMMUNITY?

Our KuKu community is diverse in its sectors as well as its people, from start-ups and SMEs to larger national organisations and employers, which counts into the thousands across the Midlands and wider UK. Our community is uniquely different in the networking sphere and you never know who you will meet with KuKu.

DO YOU FEEL SUPPORTED?

By using the benefits included in your membership you can gain great value every single day. Reach thousands of business connections and consumers, raise your profile and access a range of events and business opportunities through our unique offering.

Connect - Indulge - Engage - Develop - Secure

OUR CO-FOUNDERS

Multi-award winners in their own right, Stephen and Philip founded KuKu Connect in 2016 having met so many businesses who said they found networking boring, ineffective, not the right level and a waste of time. It was this seed that created KuKu with an aim to change the landscape of business networking by offering a creative and fresh approach that made networking fun, but equally effective for any developing organisation.

After just one year, KuKu spread across the region with Connect Receptions now taking place in Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, a national online event and an array of other events and opportunities across the wider Midlands and UK, and the rest, as they say is history.

"We set up KuKu in 2016 as a pilot to offer something wholly different that created a true sense of a community of business peers, supporting one another, but importantly where business happened. We had no grand business plan, but after just one year KuKu spread all over the region like wildfire, due to reputation, recommendations and the quality of business connections. Our growth was organic and by demand from business people. We feel very fortunate to now have KuKu working and supporting businesses and organisations all over the Midlands and beyond!"
Stephen Goddard

Stephen and Philip are very much the face of KuKu and their pioneering achievement in bringing so much more value and innovation to business networking helps our Members reach thousands of businesses at local, regional and national level, like we say, its a real community.

"KuKu is not just a networking event or a party with drinks. We offer award-winning events that really connect businesses together and we spend much of our time making introductions. Our membership offers much more than just the networking receptions, we support our Members, giving them unrivalled access to thousands of other connections."

Our innovative networking services include our member videos which reach thousands of viewers, we feature your business in e-bulletins which reach our entire community, we support with social media engagement, provide access to private groups where you can promote your services and so much more. Our Members also enjoy invitations to a wide variety of other business events and opportunities, so you can gain such value from KuKu and use the services every day."
Philip Brooks-Stephenson



STEPHEN GODDARD

Stephen is a dynamic, creative entrepreneur and brings an abundance of passion and creative design to any enterprise, having set-up two businesses from scratch and becoming a much loved and respected entrepreneur, being a face for local business in the East Midlands.

Stephen's raw creative talent shone out at an early stage particularly in art and design and the stage. At the age of 14 following a supervised test Stephen was invited to join the high IQ society Mensa with an IQ score of 155 which places him in the top 1% of the UK.

Stephen's infectious character and enthusiasm naturally took him to work with people, working first in the Airline Industry as Cabin Crew, then into HR and People Management in the NHS and Health Care Sector. He then turned his natural creative and design skills from a hobby into a successful business in 2013 after teaching himself graphic design and launching KuKu Creative.

Stephen has supported an array of charity and community initiatives from Nottingham Pride, to City Arts and the Chai Project. Stephen also sponsors and supports the Park Garden Trail and has been instrumental in this bi-annual event, which raises thousands for charity. Stephen was also recognised locally for his community support and service during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Chad Business Awards. Stephen is also a Mainframe Champion, an ambassadorial role which supports the Creative and Digital sectors, he is also a Judge for the National Best Business Awards and Mainframe Awards.

One of Stephen's proudest moments was meeting Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, which he was invited to in recognition of his impact on local businesses and support of the wider community. Stephen was named the winner of the National Best Business Awards for 'Outstanding Entrepreneur of the Year' for 2021. Stephen co-founded KuKu Connect in 2016.

THE KUKU TEAM

Kathie and Graham are our friendly faces who look after our Guest-List and welcome you to each of our KuKu Connect Receptions.

A very warm welcome awaits, with Kathie and Graham ensuring all our guests are looked after, especially if you are new or nervous to networking. At KuKu you are never left on your own and we pride ourselves on being friendly and welcoming to all, no snooty cliques at KuKu!



PHILIP BROOKS-STEPHENSON, KL, BSTJA

Philip is a natural connector of people and organisations and brings an extensive and influential network of contacts from those in Public Life right through to budding entrepreneurs and local leaders, built up from over 20 years in leadership roles in the private, public and third sectors.

Philip's career has centred in development in the third and public sectors, working in a number of roles and by his late 20's was an area, director covering a third of England's counties, finally setting-up a Consultancy in 2013.

Philip has always been an active volunteer in the community and was one of the youngest elected Borough Councillors in the country, at the age of just 23. He was a School Governor, a Nottingham Ambassador and has undertaken numerous Non-Executive and Trustee roles, currently serving as Chair of Backlit, an international arts organisation and as an Advisory Board Member of the East Midlands Cyber Resilience Centre.

Philip is also a Mainframe Champion, an ambassadorial role which supports the Creative and Digital sectors and he sits on the board of the Regional Employers Engagement Group in the East Midlands, part of the Ministry of Defence, linking Defence with business and organisational employers. Philip is also a Judge for a number of business awards and at local and global level.

Philip was named the winner of the Global Business Excellence Awards for 'Outstanding Entrepreneur of the Year' and the 'Outstanding Personal Achievement Award' in 2021.

Philip was knighted in October 2021 at Chester Cathedral within the Order of the Fleur De Lys (KL), which is an international Order of Chivalry, headed up by Grand-Patron HRH Princess Elizabeth of Serbia. In 2022 Philip was made a Brother of the Order of St. James of Altapascio (BStJA) for his services to the community and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Philip co-founded KuKu Connect in 2016.





Brooksby Hall is a picturesque 16th Century Manor House set on an 850-acre estate in the heart of the stunning Leicestershire countryside, offering a range of services, from weddings to party nights to corporate events.

As an award-winning wedding venue, Brooksby Hall provides excellent food, personal service and attention to detail that is second to none – allowing guests to fully absorb the breath-taking experience of your wedding day or event. We are available to hire for private events, corporate conferences and dinners and proms, and are open regularly throughout the year for Sunday Lunch.

Whether you need a private meeting room for eight or a large conference, we can provide excellent facilities for your event. We offer preferential rates for advanced bulk bookings for conferencing facilities at Brooksby Hall, and also have facilities at Melton Theatre for your presentations and staff events.

We can work with you to develop a programme of benefits across the range of Brooksby Hall facilities for your staff reward and recognition incentives.

www.brooksbyhall.co.uk | 01664 855262 | Brooksby Hall, Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE14 2LJ





YOUNG BUSINESS OWNER TAKES PRINT INTO THE FUTURE

Jack started to run his first company at age just sixteen, selling spicy chilli sauces at local markets and fairs in Lincolnshire. Then, at age eighteen, whilst studying business at college, an opportunity arose for Jack to become a part of a printing business and he took it. This printing business started to become successful, so Jack decided to put the chilli sauces on the back seat and focus all his efforts into the print industry.

Five years on, Jack is now the owner of the printing business and has rebranded it into 'Octagon Lincoln'. Not only this, but Octagon Lincoln has expanded from just printing; it now also offers clothing embroidery and printing, signage and even websites. Jack describes the company as your one stop branding shop, where they can put your logo onto pretty much anything! Octagon pride themselves on providing great customer service, working with companies every step of the way, from design to printing or fitting.

Jack was introduced to KuKu Connect just before lockdown in 2020. Soon after Jack attended his first KuKu event, he made the decision to join the networking community. Having been introduced to many other local Lincolnshire businesses, Jack soon made some new customers, who are still working with Octagon Lincoln to this day! Just recently, Octagon Lincoln have hosted their very own KuKu connect reception, a Day of the Dead themed Halloween event, which was a great success. The Octagon team enjoyed opening their doors and showing the KuKu community some of what happens behind the scenes, including demonstrations on their embroidery machines.

The Octagon Lincoln premises comprises of a workshop space, where they produce the printing, clothing, and signage for the business. The building also features offices for the team and a showroom for customers. The showroom is one of the few places in Lincolnshire which offers customers the opportunity to try on their workwear before it is ordered and branded. In addition to this, customers can also view signage and printing samples in the showroom before they purchase them too.

Some of the latest investments in the business come in the form of a direct to garment printer (DTG) and CNC (computer numerical control) routing machine. The state-of-the-art DTG printer allows Octagon Lincoln to print high quality logos and graphics directly onto clothing items, both the front and the rear. If you partner the DTG printer with the embroidery machines, there isn't any form of promotional or branded workwear that can't be personalised by Octagon Lincoln. The CNC machine on the other hand, means the company can cut out lettering, build up 3D shapes, hollow out acrylic and much more. Therefore, Octagon are able to offer a wide selection of signage options, from illuminated and tray signs, to more specialist signs such as neon flex signs.

In just a few short years, Jack, along with his great team of employees, has built a strong and reliable brand which offers a large selection of services. Octagon Lincoln is looking forward to building the business even more, with the help of KuKu Connect and their networking community.



"I cannot recommend Octagon Lincoln highly enough after providing the best customer service turning these stickers around for me in just a few hours today and at a great price too! Thank you so so much" Mamma Bear Photography UK

"When one thinks of printing, we often think of simple products like business cards and leaflets, but Octagon Lincoln excel at finding a wide range of services you just don't expect.

From quality labelled clothing, work-wear to innovative merchandised products and even shop front signage. This young business is one to watch as they take print into a new era, providing more cost effective and sustainable solutions for businesses and venues.

With their own workshop and in-house team you'd be surprised what can be achieved for your brand - designer baseballs caps to embroidered clothing and much more.

I cannot recommend Jack and his team enough and it is great to see this 'yellowbelly' business thriving in Lincolnshire and all over the region. Take your brand into the future with Octagon Lincoln." Philip Brooks-Stephenson, KL, BStJA

If you need any other the services mentioned above, please get in touch with either Jack or his sales team on 01522 449 229 or email info@octagonlincoln.co.uk.





PARTNERS:

SMB College Group are proud to work with an impressive range of individuals and businesses to provide apprenticeships and work experience opportunities for students, in addition to contributing as speakers, patrons, and sponsors.

The College Group works with hundreds of businesses both locally and nationally across a wide range of sectors. Our partners share both our values and our commitment to supporting students in achieving their full potential, allowing us to deliver relevant and up-to-date knowledge, experience, and training.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Established in 2020, SMB College Group is formed of two merged and reputable colleges – Stephenson College and Brooksby Melton College. Specialising in land-based, technical, trade and creative arts, we provide an extensive curriculum from Agriculture to Animal Care, Construction to Sport, Hair & Beauty to Care. Depending on the course, students can study full time, part time or online - so you can be sure to find a course that suits your needs.

Whether you're just leaving school or are coming back into education after years of working, studying with SMB College Group could be the next important step in your journey. That's why our purpose is to help students achieve outstanding success through exceptional education, high success rates, student-centric provision, industry co-creation, and outstanding student satisfaction.

OUR VISION

As a student with SMB College Group, you will be part of a diverse community of individuals who are being empowered to reach their full potential. Once a student joins us, they become part of the SMB College Group family.

www.smbcollegigroup.ac.uk





OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT BY BUSINESSES IN THE MIDLANDS

Business and Not-For-Profit enterprises help build economies both at national and international level, but importantly, also at local county level, often at the heart of communities, very much operating as cornerstone organisations. Entrepreneurs, innovators and individuals who create success and who develop enterprise and growth are often quietly making valuable impacts and unique advancements in their fields, but are sometimes not widely known or promoted. Not only large businesses, but also 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 for the giants of the business world. However at regional and local level there are potentially a great number of businesses, smaller organisations and SMEs that might make an excellent nomination for one of the Enterprise awards categories, which look for 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 have reported benefitting 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 by one of His Majesty's personal representatives, usually a Lord-Lieutenant. Lord-Lieutenants are the most senior ranking official in each County after His Majesty The King and members of The Royal Family.

We assume the awards will evolve into the King's Awards for Enterprise, but it seems, somehow still most apt that these prestigious awards, at the time of this Almanac going to print, are still named after Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who created the awards during her reign to champion business excellence.



Here at KuKu Connect we are passionate about supporting and promoting innovation, talent and service in business achievement, in all manner of sectors and size of organisation, so we encourage you to consider applying or encouraging others to apply for the Enterprise Awards.

If you would like further information please contact KuKu Connect and we shall connect you to your local Lieutenancy Office. You can also access a very helpful website where you can gain further information and apply, so please do visit: www.gov.uk/queens-awards-for-enterprise

INSPIRING YOU TO ACHIEVE

The East Midlands is the heart of the country and is a thriving place for commerce, creativity, innovation and talent, with much of our success stories coming from start-ups and smaller organisations. With our counties united we are the heart of the Midlands and we are a place for inward investment, business, heritage, culture and tourism, we have a global offer.

The people and organisations behind the heartbeat of the East Midlands are inspirational leaders and entrepreneurs, many of who have been recognised for their contributions to business and community service. At KuKu Connect we

encourage all those in our wider community to aspire to reach high levels of achievement, but also by serving others. Being honoured and awarded is not just something for the wealthiest or the largest and being acknowledged brings credence, motivation and ambition to do more.

KuKu Connect would like to thank the organisations and people who have nominated and supported our own organisation, particularly during the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic. KuKu and our own service has been celebrated, but our success is your success and we share that with each and every member of our KuKu community.

AWARDS:

2020 National Best Business Awards - 'Outstanding Support during COVID-19' (the first business in the UK to be awarded)
2020 Global Business Excellence Awards - 'Outstanding Innovation during COVID-19'
2020 The Chad Business Awards - 'The BIG Thank You' finalist, Stephen Goddard

2021 UK Business Awards, The Dons - 'Best Business Response to the Pandemic Crisis', winner
2021 Derby Mainframe Awards - 'Best Local Network', winner
2021 East Midlands Chamber Awards - 'Excellence in Customer Service' (Nottinghamshire), finalist
2021 Global Business Excellence Awards - 'Outstanding Events', winner
2021 Great British Entrepreneur Awards - 'Pivot Entrepreneurs of the Year', finalist
2021 SME National Business Awards - 'Best Customer Service', finalist
2021 National Best Business Awards - 'Best Innovation', winner
2021 Global Business Excellence Awards - 'Outstanding Personal Achievement' for Philip Brooks-Stephenson, winner
2021 East Midlands Chamber Awards - 'Excellence in Innovation' (Nottinghamshire), finalist
2021 Ministry of Defence, ERS, Armed Forces Covenant - 'Silver Award', winner
2021 National Best Business Awards - 'Outstanding Entrepreneur 2021' for Stephen Goddard, winner
2021 Global Business Excellence Awards - 'Outstanding Entrepreneur 2021' for Philip Brooks-Stephenson, winner

2022 UK Enterprise Awards - 'UK Best Business Networking Membership Organisation', winner
2022 Ministry of Defence, ERS, Armed Forces Covenant - 'Gold Award', winner
(the highest badge of honour a business can be awarded by the MOD)





Annual Birthday Reception | Oct 19

STOKE ROCHFORD HALL

East Midlands on show at historic hall.

Hundreds of businesses and distinguished leaders from across the Midlands joined together to celebrate the third birthday of KuKu Connect and the launch of KuKu in Lincolnshire.

This annual event is a highlight of the business calendar each year, which was hosted by the Kathuria Brothers of the Talash Hotel Group in the historical Victorian hall on the Stoke Rochford estate of the McCorquodale family.

The dazzling all-evening long reception connected business owners together from different parts of the East Midlands, as well as connections from the wider Midlands and UK. The evening was graced by Mrs Henrietta Reeve, DL, who represented Her Majesty The Queen and the Lincolnshire Lieutenancy.

The undisputed luxury of Lexus cars lined the grand drive, whilst Burleigh's Gin flowed, with delicious cocktails by Bawdon Lodge Farm, tasters from RK Vodka, fine wines from the Cathedral Quarter Hotel and reserve Italian sparkling wine from Hilton Hotels which was quaffed by guests who dined on a special grazing supper with canapés from Nonis Family

Kitchen and Bio-Veg, with excellent crutes of fish and game from The Butler's Pantry in Derby, followed by a special KuKu biryani from Leicester's own award-winning Chutney Ivy, with divine chocolate cake from Tree House Cakes in Loughborough, lattes, mochas and espressos from 200 Degrees Coffee in Nottinghamshire and truffles from Cocoa-Amore chocolatiers in Leicestershire...and breathe!

Guests were welcomed by characters from Fancy Entertainment, whose Alice in Wonderland cast entertained guests all night long, with West End star Wayne Smith singing in the library, which saw guests dancing into the late hours, with one lucky guest winning a piece of jewellery from David Fowkes Jewellery, all part of the evening's charity fundraising.

A wonderful celebration of the region's business community at this very special KuKu evening, which, as ever connected organisations together, albeit in great style.

Special thanks to Photographer, Saul Morgan and Trent House Studios in Nottingham for capturing the evening's celebrations.

www.stokerochfordhall.co.uk



MEET THE MEMBERS

Our community is diverse and spreads across the Midlands and wider UK. Meet some of our key Members from the East Midlands, even better come and join them at our monthly Connect Reception business networking events. You can attend with your own colleagues or business connections once as a free guest too, so come and connect with our KuKu community today.

Our networking receptions take place in Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire every month February to December from 6-8pm with each county host venue changing each month. You might find yourself in a castle, a private home, a gallery, restaurant, cocktail bar right through to cutting edge tech centre, innovation hub, rural mill or farm. We also hold a regional Connect Reception event in the afternoon of the Love Business Expo in February each year, as well as the KuKu Connect Annual Birthday Reception, our region-wide celebration, where you can connect with business owners and decision makers from all over the Midlands and wider UK.

Derbyshire - first Wednesday of each month | **Leicestershire** - first Thursday of each month
Lincolnshire - second Tuesday of each month | **Nottinghamshire** - second Wednesday of each month
Love Business Expo regional Connect Reception | Annual Birthday Reception - region-wide celebration
Exclusive Invitations and much more



ABIGAIL BROWN - AFH WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Whether you are looking to plan your retirement, protect your family's future or discuss your business requirements, we take a holistic approach to ensure all your financial needs and aspirations are discussed, understood and met. Your financial adviser will be supported by a team of investment and research specialists to ensure you receive the best solutions on the market for your circumstances. www.afhwm.co.uk



ABIGAIL WHITT - NK MOTORS

NK Motors, a trusted and long-established family business is the approved Business Specialist Dealer for the Derby and Nottingham areas. We are uniquely positioned to offer you all the benefits of using Kia cars in your business. KIA offer a wide range of style, performance, practicality, and size for company vehicles, as well as offering several EV or hybrid options which have a low BIK taxation. www.nkmotors.com



ABIGAIL ETEMAD - HILTON HOTELS

Our 1900's building is next to Victoria Centre, within a five-minute walk of attractions like Theatre Royal, Nottingham Trent University, and Old Market Square. Nottingham Castle and Motorpoint Arena are within a mile. Wollaton Hall is a 15-minute drive, and we're 22 miles from Sherwood Forest. Enjoy our indoor pool, fitness center, and sauna. www.hilton.com



ADRIAN KIRK - CARE AFTER COMBAT

Care after Combat is a UK based charity providing support within the Criminal Justice System for the well-being of former British Armed Forces personnel and their families. The team possesses a wealth of military, clinical and criminal justice experience, which is focussed and developed to provide a comprehensive, relevant service for veterans. www.careaftercombat.org



ADRIAN MARTIN - LEXUS DERBY

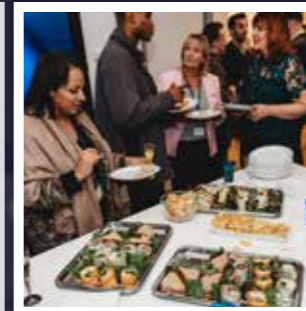
We are a premium Lexus Dealership supplying new and used cars. We also benefit from a service and repair department. We can supply both retail and business vehicles. www.lexus.co.uk/derby



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Nov 19

LEXUS DERBY

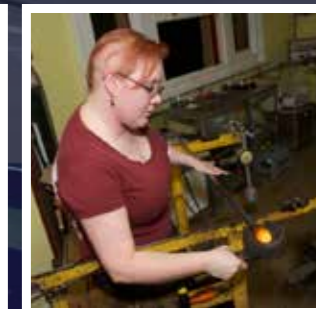
'Experience Amazing': Lexus Derby at Pride Park hosted KuKu, launching two brand new models, showcasing their cutting edge hybrid technology and the future of driving technology. Synonymous with luxury and craftsmanship, Lexus dazzled Derbyshire businesses with a range of models from practical SUVs and Executive cars through to the more sporty. Introducing new audiences to Lexus, who are an award-winning pioneer with greener driving. Our guests were given in-car demonstrations, all amidst gourmet canapés with glasses of fizz and Everards Beer and of course mocktails for drivers, with one lucky guest winning a Lexus for the weekend. Green, cutting edge, high-spec but luxurious driving. Lexus continues to dazzle business leaders and entrepreneurs across Derbyshire. www.lexus.co.uk/centres/derby



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Nov 19

CARIAD PERSONAL CEREMONIES

Harmonious connecting: Alison Fleming, JP hosted KuKu at Shenton old Railway Station, the home of Station Glass, one of the few glass blowing makers in the UK. Mulled Wine, cheese and biscuits, toasted marshmallows and a glory hole—that's the name of the glass blowing furnace. A unique evening with one of the leading Celebrants in the Midlands, Ali also launched Harmony Glass; a unique service for ceremonies, from weddings to funerals, which creates a special glass ornament as a memory from your day. UK Handmade, traditionally made into your own colours, giving you unique memories and gifts; the "Harmony Glass Experience". www.harmonyglass.co.uk





ADAM BERRY - SOCIAL COMMS

We believe business phone systems shouldn't be a "dark art" that is overly complex. That's why our solutions are easy to understand, simple to use and provide powerful benefits to your business. We install and support exceptional phone systems, why not get in touch? www.socialcomms.uk



ADAM PRITCHARD - LINFORD GREY ASSOCIATES

Linford Grey Associates are an advisory led accountancy practice committed to delivering the right result for the right clients. As a practice we are Xero Gold Certified Advisors taking pride in implementing and executing solutions for UK businesses. Bringing business owners closer to their business and closer to their goals. www.linfordgrey.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 - HARMONY GLASS

Ali Fleming has the pleasure of introducing a completely unique product: "The Harmony Glass experience - Ceremony in a box" to the Wedding Market. A 7 -step luxurious journey aimed at couples planning their wedding day and offering the opportunity to encapsulate all their memories into a piece of bespoke handmade conversational piece of glass art. www.harmonyglass.co.uk



ALONA ASHKENAZI - ARBONNE

Healthy living to improve MIND. BODY. SKIN.™ At Arbonne we believe in a holistic approach to beauty, health and wellbeing, focusing on the whole person to help you flourish inside and out. As a pharmacist, I offer health advice and we'll discover which products are best for you. www.alonaashkenazi.arbonne.com



THE HON. AMANDA EASTWOOD - WHATTON HOUSE

Whatton House was originally built in 1802 for Edward Dawson and is now the home of Lord and Lady Crawshaw. Look out for special events throughout the year, enjoy the gardens or book your wedding at this stunning venue. www.whattonhouse.co.uk



ANDREW McLENNAGHAN - WHITE LABEL RESOURCES

Sales Director of The Resort Group PLC, a world class Luxury Resort hospitality company specialising in creating 5 Star holiday Resorts and Spas. www.linkedin.com/in/andrew-mclennaghan



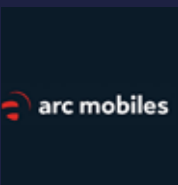
ANN TURNER - AMFREC

Amber Mill Furniture Rural Enterprise Centre (Amfrec) is a recently renovated high spec, state-of-the-art, flexible office and event space, located at Toadhole Furnace, Oakerthorpe, an idyllic location within the heart of the Derbyshire, yet just 10 minutes from J28 on the M1, and inside 30 minutes travel of Nottingham, Derby, Mansfield, Chesterfield and Sheffield. www.amfrec.com



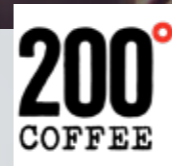
ANTHONY DUCKWORTH - CATAX

Financial advice to SMEs in respect of optimising claims for government incentives including R&D tax credits and capital allowances for commercial property concerning embedded fixtures. www.catax.com



ANTHONY RHODES - ARC MOBILES

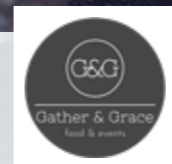
As a leading independent communication specialist we have a range of national networks behind us. We deliver bespoke, flexible packages that not only provide our customers with the best coverage in the UK but also deliver amazing cost savings and customer services nationally. Whatever the size of your organisation Arc Mobiles are in the best possible position to find the right solutions for your business. www.arcmobiles.co.uk



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Nov 19

200 DEGREES COFFEE

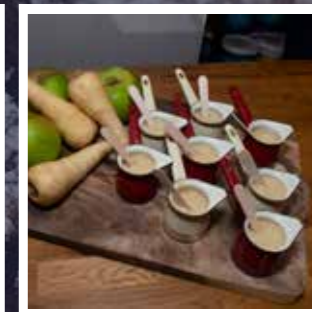
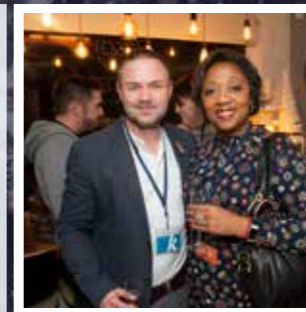
Business is roasting: 200 Degrees Lincoln welcomed business leaders into their brand new Coffee shop, along with the Chairman of Lincolnshire County Council. Coffee beans roasted at 200 degrees is the magic element of 200 Degrees coffee, which has seen this local business boom to launch uniquely styled coffee shops across the land. Different but delicious rolls, wraps, pasties and cakes are all on offer, with delightfully different fillings and even vegan sausage rolls! Barista School, coffee for your business, venue or at home is all part of the offer of this thriving success story. Coffee served all ways, even KuKu Co-Founder Philip's own 'short, long black'. www.200degs.com



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Dec 19

GATHER AND GRACE

Christmas & canapés: A mouth-watering evening with the award-winning team behind the Bustler Markets, Olivia Pritchard hosted in great style in the Tasting Room, serving a traditional Christmas lunch with a gourmet twist and in canapé form, showcasing the culinary talent of this catering and food event, family business. Bouvet, a French sparkling wine bubbled the night away, the wine served in The House Of Lords nonetheless! Catering creatively served with a wide variety of menus from tasting boards, healthy, but exciting salads and nutritional choices are all on offer with this special Derbyshire caterer whether it's a festival style wedding or a corporate lunch. www.bustlermarket.co.uk





AMIE HODSON - SHIRES EVENT HIRE

We offer a 'one stop shop' for all your event requirements from a simple order for pristine linen cloths, to a fully serviced event kitchen and pretty much everything in between. We specialise in Weddings, Conferences, Banquets/Balls, Festivals, All Events either large or small and personal. We do it all! Fantastic range of wedding and event equipment hire to make sure your special day is perfect! www.shireseventhire.co.uk



ANNA FINN - LEICESTERSHIRE HYPNOTHERAPY PRACTICE

Passionate about helping people who are struggling with bad/ traumatic past experiences, heightened stress or unwanted habits find calm to move forward with Confidence. Utilising Hypnosis, Relaxation, Visualisation, Psychotherapy and Style Coaching to bring you pure bliss in a healthy way. Teaching practical tools to develop resilience and cope well. www.leics-hypnotherapy.co.uk



ANDREW EDMONDSON - PURELY DIGITAL

We are passionate about print & delivering a service that consistently exceeds our client's expectations. Using the latest technology and with over 100 years of in-house print experience, you can be assured that no print job, regardless of size or complexity, is beyond our capability. We love print! www.purelydigital.co.uk



ANDREW HUNTER - SAM SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

SAM Software provide software development services for companies throughout the UK, we supply our own off the shelf software solutions, which includes SAM Service Manager, SAM Stock System, SAMlink Processor and Sage Fast Order plugin. Additional our Services include Sage 50 Accounts, Sage HR, and Sage Payroll Training and Website Design. www.samssoftware.com



ANDREW ROBINSON - COLAW

CoLaw offers practical, tailored advice on Employment Law and HR. Our highly experienced consultants give bespoke advice to every client. We pride ourselves on offering unique, retained or ad-hoc expertise, you'll never receive an off the shelf solution. We become part of your team and get to know your business. www.colaw.co.uk



ANNABEL WARD - FANCY ENTERTAINMENT

Fancy Entertainment is an established, East Midlands based entertainment company dedicated to adding a little extra pizzazz 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



ANNETTE THORNLEY - VISIT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Whether you visit Nottinghamshire for a weekend break or a day out with the kids at top attractions, head over to Visit Nottinghamshire's website to find all the latest information. www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk



ARIF VORAJI - 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, Encourage and Empower. www.hthleicester.co.uk



ASHIEDU JOEL - ASHIOMA CONSULTS

I help organisations and leaders own conversations around organisational / leadership culture, cultural capital and EDI so as to enhance engagement and performance. The aim is to enhance equity of access, diversity of representation and capacity for inclusive leadership. www.ashiomaconsults.com



BARBARA KINNON-SHAW - APEX ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING

I am an experienced assertiveness trainer and facilitator of lasting performance improvement. My delivery style is both dynamic and energetic. I like to work in an interactive and creative way, which is both motivational but also warm and embracing. I believe in bringing fun, passion and positive energy into all my interactions. www.apexassertiveness.co.uk



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Dec 19

LEXUS LEICESTER

Smooth & Spicy: Lexus Leicester hosted an excellent evening of business with sensational singing-duo Smooth Duo whilst business owners and entrepreneurs connected amidst the Lexus fleet of luxury motorcars. Luxury combined with an amazing drive and award winning technology is the standard at Lexus. We were joined by celebrity chef, The Spice Guy, SandieVarawhocreatedscrumptiousbites inspired from Japan, the home of Lexus. Guests networked in and out of the luxurious interiors of the Lexus models all whilst supping on cocktails and mocktails from the RumBa, a mobile Tiki bar, mixing up some truly tasty creations. All in all an amazing evening with Lexus. www.lexus.co.uk/centres/leicester

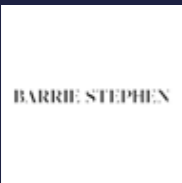


Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Dec 19

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON

Champagne and waffles: This elegant hotel is actually an independently owned and managed hotel, proudly placed on the waterfront of the Wharf in the City of Lincoln. The unique location looks out to old Lincoln up to the cathedral and also the progressive modern and developing end of the city. The hotel reception hall is ideal for receptions and events and has an airy feel of swanky surrounds with its own bar, which serves champagne and waffles, making this showcase both a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the festive season, but to connect and view the hotel at its best; remember Hilton invented hotel hospitality. www.hilton.com/en/hotels/huyIndi-doubletree-lincoln





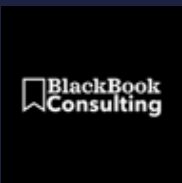
BARRIE STEPHEN

Barrie Stephen is one of the country's most talented and prominent hairdressers. The talented team deliver the highest quality service, creativity and customer care. Whether you enjoy the buzz of city centre salon or a rural retreat, at Barrie Stephen Hair you'll always be treated to a bespoke experience that meets your specific hair needs. www.barriestephenhair.co.uk



BEN RYDER - CAPELLA PROFESSIONAL

As a specialist white-collar recruitment firm, we excel at partnering executive employers with custom-matched talent. More accurate, more sensitive and more select, our recruitment infrastructures are intelligently optimised to bring you a better return on your time and investment. www.capellaprofessionalrecruitment.co.uk



BEN TIMBERLEY - BLACKBOOK CONSULTING

A consultant from BlackBook is a highly skilled and experienced business professional, usually with a minimum of twenty years experience in their field. As Management Consultants, our role is to create and implement superior business models, with the highly effective processes, standards and strategies that are required for them to be successful. www.blackbookconsulting.co.uk



BERTIE CORDINGLEY - BERTIECORD

In 2006 I launched the takeaway ordering website fillmybelly.com. Along the way, numerous people (and takeaway owners) told me that consumers wouldn't want to order takeaways online After 7 years, this idea which started from nothing grew into the UK's third-largest takeaway site before being sold to Just Eat. I've found that what I love most is working with business owners, engaging with their ideas and sharing my experiences to help them get where they want to go. www.bertiecord.co.uk



BEVERLEY BROOKS MBE - BROOKS COMPUTERS

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



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. <https://www.arbonne.com/pws/beverleysankey>



BUCKSO DHILLON-WOLLEY - DQA COACHING SERVICES

Helping people connect with the TRUTH of who they are which in turn gives clarity and confidence to make everyday choices where your actions become MORE consistent, with your needs. The services offered range from talking therapy and Trauma release to energetic bodywork and subconscious reprogramming. www.bucksodw.com



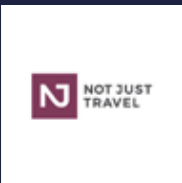
CAROL PULL - PA YOUR WAY

A Virtual Assistant who does the bits you hate, or never get round to doing, so you can concentrate on the bigger picture. www.pa-yourway.co.uk



CAROLINE HOOD - SMB COLLEGE GROUP

Established in 2020, SMB College Group is formed of two merged and reputable colleges – Stephenson College and Brooksby Melton College. SMB offer a range of courses including Further and Higher Education, Apprenticeships, T Levels, distance learning and professional qualifications. We work with fantastic industry partners to manage and support skills needed now and in the future and are keen to work with businesses and stakeholders from all sectors to continue this evolution. www.smbcollegigroup.ac.uk



CAROLINE BARKER - NOT JUST TRAVEL

I'm an independent travel agent that puts customer experience above all else. From UK Staycations to bespoke worldwide travel and everything in-between, I will take the strain and organise all things travel. Travel is not just getting somewhere. Travel is an experience. www.carolinebarker.notjusttravel.com



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Jan 20

THE FORGE

Sizzling with prime flavour: Searing prime beef steak was on the menu for this juicy evening of business in Derby. The unique black rock experience cooks award-winning butcher's steak cuts, cooked perfectly to your own liking on volcanic black stones. Guests connected amidst the sounds of searing slithers of steak, deep fried Halloumi and crudities which showed off this premiere and independent relaxed restaurant, catering for steak connoisseurs to large parties. Hand-picked wines to pair with steak, cocktails and fish dishes add to the fayre of this fab Derbyshire eatery, which made our evening of business full of taste. www.theforgederby.co.uk



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Jan 20

KING RICHARD III PUB

Fit for a King: We had a hearty evening of business connecting with distinguished entrepreneurs to micro-starts-up at this Everards Pub, which is a traditional Victorian boozer, but far more upmarket, verging bistro in style and charm. Excellent food, with chops and pies with locally sourced ingredients make this gem of a pub fit for King Richard himself. It's housed in the heart of Leicester, not far from the famous burial site and close to the final resting place of the late King. A warm welcome awaits all, whether like our guests you sip away at locally distilled gin, or a pint of good and proper beer. With a large beer garden to boot, this is a rare find in a busy city centre. www.everards.co.uk





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



CARRIE BOUGHTWOOD - APT LEGAL

Carrie started APT Legal 4 years ago after working in practice as a Solicitor. At APT we offer home and out of office hour appointments to ensure your Wills and Powers of Attorney are put in place. We also provide advice around Probate and assist with Court of Protection applications. We mainly cover Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire. www.ap-legal.co.uk



CATH HARRISON - BEE-ASSISTED

Supporting Executives and Business Owners with all those things they need to help them get back time in their day, I provide a vast range of Concierge Services and Business Support to highly successful professionals, I help them regain their time for a more balanced and fulfilling personal and family life. www.bee-assisted.com



CHARLENE SHARPE - DERBY QUAD

QUAD is a charity and cultural hub in the heart of Derby. Nothing makes us prouder than creating new experiences, memories and skills with the people that visit and support our cinema, exhibitions, workshops and café-bar. hwww.derbyquad.co.uk



CHARLOTTE SANDERS - 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



CHLOE GLAZZORD - GUSTO ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Located on Upper Parliament Street, Gusto Italian offers guests an elegantly Italian experience in the most spectacular of surroundings. Open for brunch, lunch, and dinner... this is your new home for special occasions. www.gustorestaurants.uk.com/restaurants/nottingham/



CHLOE IRELAND - EMPIRE FINANCE

Independent Commercial Finance Brokerage helping business owners, property professionals and developers secure finance. We have extensive experience in sourcing a wide range of funding options including : Investment Property Finance – Commercial/Semi Commercial Mortgages – Development Finance – Bridging Finance – Short-term Lending – Invoice Finance – Asset Finance. Empire Finance Limited is a Credit Broker and not a Lender. www.empirefinance.co.uk



CHRIS OWEN - OPTIMUM SAFETY

We are a Multi Award company based in Lincoln and bring the very best no nonsense, practical health and safety consultancy services, training, qualified advice and support to companies and organisations across Lincolnshire and the UK. We ensure all of our clients get value for money and feel valued, which we feel is the most important factor when working with companies and organisations. www.optimum-safety.co.uk



CHRIS PERFECT - THE PERFECT IMAGE

A family business with a long history of design and photographic experience. We have a passion for creating great images and video, drone work and 360 tours – you name it there's not much we can't do. It's all about thumb stopping content that makes you stand out from your competitors www.thepperfectimage.co.uk



CHRISTOPHER BREEDON - PROSPERO PROFESSIONAL SOLUTIONS

We deliver workplace/personal conflict mediation and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion courses as well as Unconscious Bias Courses. All of these services are available in person or on-line. Our mediators and trainers are accredited, qualified and experienced. www.prosperosolutions.co.uk



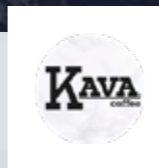
Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Jan 20

BRANSTON HALL

Grand connections: Miss Marple style history and heritage are the hallmarks of this Grade II listed, country house hotel, located just minutes from Lincoln city centre. Whilst this hall and its grounds might suit the characters of Agatha Christie, the hotel showcased its culinary talents to produce modern cuisine and an array of colourful and creative canapés, with wine flowing for what was an excellent evening of business in the architectural setting of grand county living, putting KuKu at the top of the Lincoln business networking offering, which was featured in Lincoln Pride, the luxury lifestyle magazine. New and exciting plans are to come for this local landmark, so watch this space. www.branston-hall.lincolnshirehotel.co.uk



© David Harrison Photography



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Feb 20

KAVA COFFEE BAR

Business on flique: Along with the thriving cafe bar in Oakwood, Harvey Luke Hair salon, which adjoins Kava pulled out the stops for an evening of grazing boards, fizz and connecting in the hair salon. Guests enjoyed a trim and an array of hair treatments, whilst making great connections and building relationships with other business owners. Salon founder, Natalie led the evening, which shone a light on the community of Oakwood, just outside Derby city centre. In fact the Coffee Bar has played host to famous footballers and welcomes locals alike, with evening events of music and cocktails and space for private parties and events, all created by Natalie who boasts over 27 years in the hairdressing sector, so sort your hair out Derby! www.kavacoffeebar.co.uk





CLAIRE DE SEWELL - NEXSIS COMMUNICATIONS

Internet Installations, Local Area Network Installations, Structured Cabling Installations, including Fibre installations – 25 year warranty available, Internet Installations, Wireless Installations, Hosted Telephony, CCTV Installations, Access Control Installations. www.nexsiscomms.com



CLAIRE ZWOZNY-BESTWICK - CRZYBEST

I'm CRZYBest, eco-friendly Silversmith & Sculptor: Creating tiny sculptures with silver, copper and bronze metal clay; turning them into bespoke gifts, jewellery, hair accessories, alternative bouquets and many other items. I kiln fire my sculptures before combining with other metals, semi-precious stones and found materials. Message me with your ideas! www.crzybest.co.uk



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 PEARSON - YOUR IT DEPARTMENT

Our business exists because technology isn't as simple as it could be. It can make life difficult when you're trying to run a business. We make one of the 'necessary evils' in your business do what you want it to and not break down. Simply, we make your life easier. www.your-itdepartment.co.uk



DAN WALKER - LNET DIGITAL

Our mission: The right team to deliver your vision; our range of skills manage all of the important digital marketing and web development optimisation in house. Everyone in our team has the qualities required to help our customers achieve their business goals. Supporting our customers with our experience of SEO to add value to any digital marketing service, web design, development and all online advertising sources. We believe transparency is key to delivering our services. www.lnetdigital.co.uk



DANI BELLO - BELLO MIND AND SOUL

Do you have a life obstacle you're trying to overcome? Support from a certified expert is the best way to put things into perspective. As a committed professional, your well-being and mental strength are my top priority. I'm happy to guide you through life's challenges with the attention and care you deserve. I use creative art making to break the stigma and overwhelm connected with mental health struggles. My work is accessible for all ages, and the best thing? You don't have to be good at art! www.bellomindandsoul.com



DANIEL PICAVE - DANIEL PICAVE

Daniel Picave provides relationship counselling to busy millennials. The purpose of the counselling may be to reinvigorate the relationship or to break it down without too much emotional damage. Divorce and complicated break ups including child arrangements can also be accommodated through McKenzie Picave, our family court support service. www.danielpicave.com



DARREN JONES - INSTINCT HR

Instinct HR are independent HR experts supporting people-centric SMEs with tailored HR solutions to develop a culture for growth, managing all strategic and operational people challenges. www.instincthr.co.uk



DARRYL DORSEY - DDORSEY PEST & MAINTENANCE

I am a self employed Pest controller offering Pest control solutions for both domestic and commercial properties. I deal with all pests, including rodents, insects and birds. My business is growing exponentially and I look forward to the future of employment and furthering the growth of my business. www.facebook.com/DDorseypestcontrol



DAVID HARPER - PAYARO

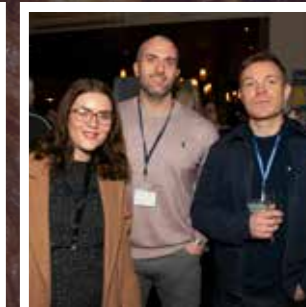
At Payaro, we provide fast and secure card payment and EPOS solutions which use the very latest technology to help your business grow – whatever sector you're in. We are the UK's first payments acceptance company committed to Corporate Social Responsibility. www.payaro.co.uk



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Feb 20

200 DEGREES COFFEE

Roasting for business: Guests enjoyed an indulgent evening of deep rich coffee, synonymous with 200 Degrees Coffee, it was so creamy the mocha looked like Guinness. Baked on-site pastries, savoury croissants, chocolate cake and continental fresh baked rolls were all part of the serving for networking at its best. Guests enjoyed a mini Barista experience and learned how to make the perfect coffees, as well as a fluff of Latte art. Coffee to order at home, or the office is all a part of the service with '200 degs' as it's often referred to by coffee aficionados. The best coffee shop in Leicester and perfect for an informal 1-1 or client meeting, but do treat yourself to a cake, it's Kuku law. www.200degs.com



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Feb 20

TURNBULL KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

The kitchen's where the party's at: Designer bathrooms and dreamy kitchens were on view at the brand new Lincoln showroom, which was an exclusive first look at Turnbull's flagship site in the heart of Lincoln. Two floors of design, cutting edge technology and a dedicated team comes as a standard for this independent family business. Businesses were greeted by Lincoln Gin, who stirred up their signature gin and tonics, whilst Turnbull turned up the heat and cooked canapés fresh from the showroom ovens. www.turnbull.co.uk





DAVID HARRISON - DAVID HARRISON PHOTOGRAPHY

I work with ambitious businesspeople to create 'images that mean business' – specialising in professional headshots, personal branding, business branding and corporate events. My emphasis is on creating the ideal images of you, your brand and your business, for websites, PR, social media and print, in a relaxed and enjoyable way. www.davidharrisonphotography.co.uk



DAVID PEARSON - EAST MIDLANDS CHAMBER

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 RICKARDS - SJPP

I help people with face-to-face financial advice for life's big events to ensure that your money works as hard as you do. www.partnership.sjp.co.uk/partner/davidrickardsfp



LT-COL DAVID YOUNG TD, DL - 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



DAWN SPEAR - JUST GREAT HR

Helping Business owners deal with their employee frustrations. You concentrate on what you do best; running your business, and let me deal with any employment issues you might have, making sure you stick to the rules and regulations. www.linkedin.com/in/dawn-spear



DHRUV PANDYA - AIMS ACCOUNTANTS FOR BUSINESS

Being part of AIMS Accountants for Business I can offer a bespoke personal service but with the support of a national organisation. Services I can assist you with include: Accounting and bookkeeping / Tax & VAT advice with tax planning / Regulation and compliance / Business advice and support. www.aims.co.uk/accountants/dhruv-pandya



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 SOLUTIONS

With over 50 years collective expertise in event production, the Team is truly suited to creating all types of events for our clients and we pride ourselves on our creativity and delivery of your project. We work for a diverse client base from private individuals to large companies. We also specialise in working in the Education Sector running many events for schools and colleges. www.scorpioneventsolutions.co.uk



EDWARD GATHERAL - MORTGAGE ADVICE BUREAU

An equity release plan allows homeowners aged 55 and over to access some of the tax-free cash tied up in the value of their home. Key have helped more than 1 million people decide if equity release is right for them or not, giving us a unique understanding of the questions and concerns you may have about equity release. www.keyadvice.co.uk



ELENA CHAPMAN - FAB CLINICS

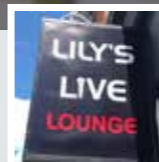
The concept behind this clinic is giving men and women an option of achieving their skin and body goals using latest non invasive technology. Our approach is progressive and not aggressive. There is no needles, toxins or fillers involved. Most of our treatments are completely pain free and there is little to none social downtime involved. www.fabclinics.com



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Mar 20

CUBO

Cubo Preview: Hot off the press, Cubo Derby opened its doors for the first time to budding entrepreneurs and start-ups, with a show-round tour and delicious cuisine from The Butler's Pantry; this was Derby's hot ticket for March. A brand new concept in the centre of Derby in the former Royal Mail Office has been transformed into a multi-purpose home for businesses, whether it's an office home and studio for a whole team, to small units for developing organisations, or hot-desking and meeting spaces for start-ups, with an on-site barista and lager served from 2pm - and it's complimentary! www.cubowork.com



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Mar 20

LILY'S LIVE LOUNGE

Tasting sensation: Chef to the stars, The Spice Guy personally hosted a tasting evening for KuKu, where guests networked around a selection of food stations, serving canapés and tasters from around the world. Delicious ribs and spiced cheeses all flowed with fizz from Italy and shots of Port. Offering unique recipes, The Spice Guy has stirred up a storm all over the region. Sandie Vara who now has a celebrity client list uses fresh seasonal ingredients to make delicious dishes, often creating dishes that are based on what is fresh from the market, a KuKu favourite are his spiced sausage rolls. Get cooking with The Spice Guy. www.thespiceguy.co.uk





ELOISE IDOINE - RIALTO TRAINING

Rialto Training provides business owners and sales and marketing teams with personalised, industry focused LinkedIn and sales training. Teaching businesses to get the most from the platform through social selling and networking, with the ultimate goal of generating leads. Rialto Training can help your business achieve more without having to pay for premium packages or expensive advertising! www.rialto-training.com



EMILY WHITE - BLANCO WEALTH MANAGEMENT

With over 15 years of experience in the financial sector, my vision with Blanco Wealth Management is to have a values led company, which aligns the company with values of honesty and integrity, and being open and transparent. www.blancowealthmanagement.co.uk



EMILY WILSON-BENNER

I am an independent travel consultant. I have travelled all my life and love creating perfect trips and experiences for my customers! With over 400 suppliers at my fingertips, anything is possible. Let me make your travel dreams reality. www.emilywb.notjusttravel.com



EMMA ALLEN - FISHERS SOLICITORS

Fishers Solicitors is an award winning law firm based in Ashby. Fishers has been running for over 200 years specialising in commercial and private client law. We can help with conveyancing, wills and probate, family law, commercial property and dispute resolution. www.fisherslaw.co.uk



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We offer well appointed cottages in the Nottingham countryside. Experience the convenience in our fully equipped properties with the flexibility and privacy of your home away from home. We accommodate all types of travellers, for leisure, business or relocation. contact@thelodgings.org.uk



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GEMMA WILKS - STAND OUT GET NOTICED

I help business owners to tell their story, be more visible and appeal to their dream clients by capturing the real essence of them and their business through on-brand photography. www.sogn.uk



GEORGE KEMISH - SPECIALIST HUMAN RESOURCES

At Specialist Human Resources Ltd we understand business - not just HR. By helping our clients to leverage the 'right' strategies, capabilities, structure and culture to support collaboration, innovation and creativity, they are able to react to change in the external environment with speed and scale. We are also adept at facilitating Business Scenario Planning in times of uncertainty, ambiguity and turbulence. www.specialisthumanresources.co.uk



GEORGIE RICHINS - GKR TRAINING

GKR Training offers fun (never boring) leadership training with a practical twist from years of leading people, and takes away your data protection concerns with simple solutions. www.gkrtraining.co.uk



GLEN McALLEN-FINNEY - CHROMOSPHERE MEDIA

Chromosphere Media is a videography company based in Leicester that produce promotional content for companies, products and establishments. We have a wide ranging portfolio from professional services to the food and beverage industry. www.chromosphere.media



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Mar 20

BRANSBY HORSES

Straight from the horses mouth - Horses were the the hosts with the most at Bransby Horses who gave Lincolnshire businesses a show round of this fantastic charity which homes horses and finds new homes for horses that need some TLC. Guests were able to interact with the horses, which made for a perfect evening of equine connections. Dazzling guests, Bransby were joined by Chef Darren Rogan, who served out mouthwatering canapés, all inspired by Yellowbelly themes, including beef dripping popcorn - sounds odd but just wait till you taste it. Rogan By Design is a prefect way to entertain clients or host a dinner party with foodie friends. www.bransbyhorses.co.uk www.bydarrenrogan.co.uk



Based in the UK, The Awards People write award nomination and entry forms for:

Individuals (both private and business)
Businesses (of any size and from any sector)
Organisations
Charities

We work in a number of ways to support you but the most popular ways are:

- 1: Taking your brief, researching any available opportunities, presenting and agreeing these with you and finally, writing them up and entering them for you.
- 2: You telling us the specific award you want to enter and The Awards People write the entire entry for you.

Get in touch at www.theawardspeople.co.uk

COVID LOCKDOWNS

COVID-19 HIT BUT FOR KUKU IT WAS A 'CARRY ON'

Stephen and Philip, the Co-Founders of KuKu Connect had a crisis on their hands - how could they connect businesses and entrepreneurs together without hosting face-to-face Connect Reception business networking events?

In lockdown they sat down in the kitchen wondering, "how can we help?" So many KuKu members had lost all their clients overnight, it was a dire situation and much of the country was in the same predicament.

Within the space of ten minutes over morning coffee (in the breakfast Spode china of course) Stephen and Philip decided to take to the digital airwaves and set-up a range of support services. Not only that but they paused Member subscriptions and opened up KuKu Connect to any business, charity, venue or organisation, all for free, so here is a just a snapshot of the extraordinary work KuKu Connect undertook during the height of the pandemic crisis.

"The word 'inspiration' just doesn't seem big enough to describe KuKu, to me!" Sheila Smith, proprietor, Northampton and Leicester Business Expos



CARRY ON KUKU

IT'S A CARRY ON!

In late March Stephen and Philip turned their home kitchen into a mini studio and saw the launch of 'Carry On KuKu', a daily video broadcast, rather like a kitsch news bulletin video-show with a dash of good old fashioned British humour thrown in.

Stephen and Philip featured businesses, gave promotional shout-outs, providing an array of offers, discounts and free opportunities to help organisations carry on through the lockdowns. KuKu covered a different venue and charity appeal each day, giving a vital lifeline to many organisations.

Their quirky, or should we say 'KuKu' style brought a smile to the face of many business people who were locked down in isolation and gave a dose of friendly positivity and motivation each day - yes every day their video-bulletin went out to the benefit of thousands of organisations with over 100 Carry On KuKu broadcasts being produced. The amazing impact of Carry On KuKu started to see viewers make new connections, grasp opportunities and actually secure business.



KUKU Cocktail HOUR FREE, ONLINE BUSINESS NETWORKING



COCKTAILS ANYONE?

Another COVID free support service was KuKu Cocktail Hour which took networking online, but as ever with KuKu, offering something different, engaging and still business effective.

Ran live over Facebook, KuKu Cocktail Hour brought people together from all over the country to network using the live chat function, allowing organisations to introduce themselves and promote links to their websites/LinkedIn and social media whilst enjoying a cocktail or two.

The frantic live hour was presented by Stephen and Philip dressed in black tie, sipping away at cocktails on screen introducing different organisations together, giving shout-outs and promotions to different businesses, highlighting important charity appeals and cascading an array of free resources, webinars, training and other networking opportunities.

The cocktail hour networking event attracted businesses from all over the UK, with the events gaining over 6000 views for all the organisations featured during the hour which was run online every month. One business participant even had this to say about the event and its two presenters,

"KuKu Cocktail Hour is better than GoggleBox!"



KUKU | CONNECT

BUSINESS BITES

BIG BEN CHIMES WITH KUKU AT 6PM

KuKu Business Bites was yet another free support service with these videos airing daily at 6pm. These videos featured yet more businesses and charities, enabling organisations to gain promotion to thousands of other businesses and consumers, securing new business and connections for many.

Additionally, these also provided a valuable resource of information that gave support opportunities to many. Over 250 videos were made and broadcast over the lockdown periods with a commercial value of over £100,000.

"KuKu have been superstars, their support being without any comparison, the most prolific within the networking and events sectors, quite possibly one of the top business contributors in the pandemic".
Ninder Johal, DL, West Midlands





HARPREET CHANA - THE MENTAL WEALTH ACADEMY

I'm a qualified pharmacist, certified professional coach, trainer, facilitator, international speaker and the founder of the Mental Wealth Academy. Our tailored group and 1-2-1 training programmes focus on building confidence, resilience, emotional intelligence and better outer/inner communication. www.thementalwealthacademy.com



HEATHER DENTON - GROUBOOK

Groubook for business is a free solution for any company looking to organise social get togethers. We do all the legwork, so you don't have to. We source your requirements and often save you up to 20% compared to direct bookings. Whatever you are looking for we are here to help! www.users.groubook.co.uk/for-business



HELEN LIOLIYOU - HODSOCK PRIORY

Hodssock Priory is a historic country house events venue set in 800 acres of countryside on the border of Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire. www.hodssockpriory.com



HELEN LIOLIYOU - PRESTWOLD HALL

Prestwold Hall is a stunning Grade I stately home proudly sits amidst 2,500 acres of rolling parkland in the heart of the Leicestershire Wolds. www.prestwold-hall.com



HELEN WHEATLEY - TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

Having many years experience in the travel industry and able to supply a quality service in all areas including: luxury bespoke itineraries, cruises, honeymoons, group and sports travel, Accessible Travel, events and incentive travel. I also provide travel management services to businesses in the UK. www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/helen.wheatley



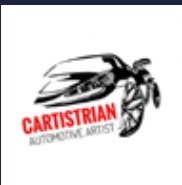
HEMA PATEL - CHERRE RESIDENTIAL CARE

26 years experience in establishing a group of private Residential Care Homes & Community Resource Centre for Adults with Learning Disabilities/Mental Health and Complex Care Needs. www.linkedin.com/in/hema-patel



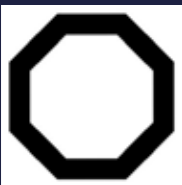
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Friendly, reliable, domestic and commercial cleaning services by Kerr's Kleaning. Weekly, Biweekly, Monthly and end of tenancy cleans available. www.linkedin.com/holly-kerr



IAN BARSBY - CARTISTRAN

Owners of classic cars or motorcycles who cherish their vehicles with a passion reach out to me to translate that passion into a visual fine art hand drawn piece for them to hang on their wall. Full photo shoots of their vehicles are also offered. www.cartistrian.com



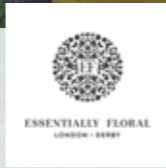
JACK GREEN - OCTAGON LINCOLN

Octagon is a Lincoln based printing company that deals with paper print, customized clothing/workwear, vehicle graphics and much more. We are one of the only printers to have a showroom full of clothing sizes, signage options, work examples and a sweets machine. www.octagonlincoln.co.uk



JAMES HARRIS - ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hypnotherapy enabled me to come off my medication, put to bed historic trauma and visualise a different future. I didn't become a therapist straight away – I launched a successful business, started a charity and also achieved my life-long ambition of reaching Mount Everest's Base Camp. All of these experiences led me to realise that it was possible to turn my life around and follow a different path. www.anythingispossibletherapy.com



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Aug 21

ESSENTIALLY FLORAL

Floral evenings: A first step out after the COVID lockdowns, but into the delightful gardens of Essentially Floral, with florist to Royalty and the stars, Jilly Mattley. It was all change at EF, as the florist opened their Flower Cutting Garden and Cafe, serving Hambleton pastries, botanical drinks and luscious ice creams, all in the fresh Summer air of this lesser known location in rural Derbyshire. Businesses connected in the sunshine and had the opportunity to make their own terrarium. Think floral decoration from Harvest to Halloween, think ball to business awards, think Chelsea to Claridges, think wedding to funeral, think Essentially Floral. www.essentiallyfloral.co.uk



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Aug 21

WHATTON HOUSE

At Home for business: The country home and seat of the Lord and Lady Crawshaw opened its once private doors to the local business community, giving guests an invitation into a very warm family home. Welcomed by The Hon. Mrs Amanda Eastwood, daughter to the Crawshaws' business once again flowed as did the Champagne from the cellars. The creative flair of chef, The Spice Guy, Sandie Vara filled the evening with delectable cuisine as business owners connected from room to room in this hidden gem of a country home, whilst the old grand piano was played by local talent Harvey Gould. Whatton House now offers a warm welcome for your next special event. www.whattonhouse.co.uk / www.thespiceguy.co.uk





JAVE SINGH - AXONPOINT

Transparency is at the heart of everything we do and our outsourced digital and data marketing services are designed to keep you in control while allowing us to proactively manage the marketing strategy and implementation for you business. Whether its helping a growing business acquire new customers or working with established businesses to identify and fix issues with falling sales, we love a challenge! www.axonpoint.co.uk



JAYNE SOUTHALL - LINCOLNSHIRE SHOWGROUND

Lincolnshire Showground is an events venue with a difference. Set in over 270 acres of land and with a number of flexible indoor spaces, the Showground is able to host events of all varieties. Surplus funds from these events go in to supporting our charitable objectives as part of the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society whose objectives are to educate the county about food, farming and the sustainable environment. www.lincolnshireshowground.co.uk



JEFF NORTON - AI DIGITAL TRAINING

AI Digital Training are transforming the creation and delivery of online learning. Since our launch, we've been delivering learning solutions, backed up by our no-risk guarantee, to companies worldwide. We help: Reduce staff turnover / Create a more productive working environment / Increase customer satisfaction / Save up to 70% of training costs. www.aidigitaltraining.co.uk



JESS SAWYER - REVOLUTION LEICESTER

Individually styled chain bar with a global menu of comfort-food classics and nightly happy hours. www.revolution-bars.co.uk/bar/leicester



JESSICA FINCH - REVOLUTION CORNERHOUSE

You'll find Revolution situated in Nottingham's popular Cornerhouse development. Whether you're looking for private hire, engaging team building activities or simply a meeting room with all the equipment included, Revolution Cornerhouse will cater for your every need. We'll do the hard work in bar- leaving you to enjoy your event with peace of mind knowing every aspect is covered. www.revolution-bars.co.uk/bar/nottingham-cornerhouse



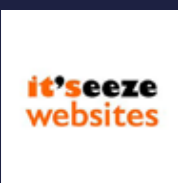
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JOHN COOPER - IT'SEEZE LEICESTER

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 web designers will work closely with you, taking the time to understand what it is you need in order to create a website that exactly reflects your unique company. www.itseeze-leicester.co.uk



JONNY McPHEE - INVICTUS TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Invictus Technology Group is an IT and Telecommunications company that has an ethos of 'Buying Local, Selling Local & Supporting Local'. With over 350 customers across the UK, we have vast experience in seamlessly upgrading customers infrastructure whether it be Phones systems, IT Support/ Hardware, Business Mobiles, Connectivity & Commercial Energy. www.invictuscomms.com



JORDAN TEEDER - 2XL COMMERCIAL FINANCE

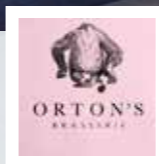
2XL Commercial Finance is the complete professional service for anyone anyone seeking any type of business or property finance. We provide clients with experienced and quality service whether that be for a commercial mortgage, lending against a residential property portfolio, asset finance, or invoice discounting. www.2xlcommercial.com



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Sep 21

CATHEDRAL QUARTER HOTEL

Hospitality opens: The historical old court house, Derby's first boutique hotel, threw its doors open once again welcoming local organisations into the grand reception and famed marble staircase. Guests drank fine wine from the jail cell, now wine store before climbing the staircase up past the colourful stained glass window and into the dining room of wooden panelled walls which would not look out of place for a period drama. Canapés were served from the kitchen and new chef team who also served up a special KuKu-profiterole creation. www.cathedralquarterhotel.com



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Sep 21

ORTON'S BRASSERIE

There's an ape in my drink: Cocktails served with precision and English cuisine served with international twists, like fish and chips, but tikka chips and minted peas and roots. An ape adorned the walls and windows, an aspiration from Gay Playwright Joe Orton, of which the brasserie sits on the Square named after Joe himself. Guests were welcomed by sparkling glasses of goodness and a warm welcome from a team who took hospitality very seriously. An airy but cosy dining area saw guests connecting with a preview of the newly refurbished speak-easy style downstairs bar, where canapés and cocktail tasters continued as guests carried on their KuKu dosage of networking. www.ortonsbrasserie.co.uk





KAMLESH PATEL - KFN INFINITY

We are a content marketing agency like no other. We create content that gets you noticed where it matters most and that's google. We create news articles, blogs, videos, podcasts & more. Our content will rank 1st page, which builds trust, online visibility and market dominance. www.kfninfinity.com



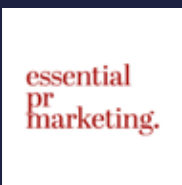
KAREN McNEIL - & KAREN HALL

&Karen Hall is a graphic designer, focused on partnering with small businesses to find their unique brand voice, attract their dream customer and grow their business long-term. www.andkarenhall.co.uk



KARPA SINGH - PERFECTPAYS

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KATHRYN ROBINSON - ESSENTIAL PR MARKETING

With over 25 years' experience in PR, marketing, content and design, I set up Essential PR Marketing 23 years ago to offer the best independent service possible, for a fair price. I work across a variety of sectors as a senior PR. Every client is important, whether you are a start-up, a sole trader, or a larger and more established organisation, you will be treated with equal respect and attention. www.essentialprmarketing.co.uk



KATY NEVITT - KATY NEVITT CONSULTING

Helping UK Businesses work smarter, achieve ultimate success and get ahead with strategies that work. Here at Katy Nevitt Consulting, we are here to help small and medium-sized enterprises achieve their business goals. To find out more, get in touch with us today. www.katynevittconsulting.co.uk



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ksabLAW provides employment law and HR services to businesses. Our fully qualified solicitors and legal executives advise on all employment issues eg. disciplinarys, performance, ill-health and grievances and draft contracts of employment, staff handbooks and settlement agreements. We also regularly represent clients in Employment Tribunal proceedings. www.ksablaw.co.uk



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Hungry and committed, Alphageek is proudly aiming to be the best digital marketing agency in the Midlands, before furthering this to a national and one day global scale. Taking the team and clients with us on this rocket ship journey. www.alphageek.digital



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At Great Central Plastics we offer a wide range of products, therefore to keep things simple we have two websites, one for promotional products and the other for Industrial products. Established in 1998, Great Central Plastics Ltd has since grown rapidly into one of the UK's leading manufacturers of plastic products. www.promotional-plastics.co.uk



LABEEB ASLAM - FACE 2 FACE HR

A tailored, affordable and pragmatic HR service for small to medium sized businesses. www.face2facehr.com/hr-consultant-beeston



LAMAR FRANCOIS - PICTURED BY LAMAR

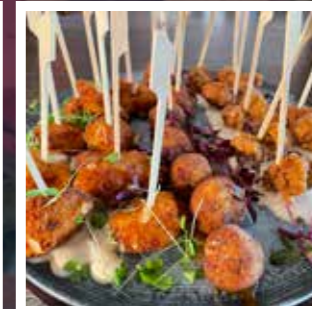
I use candid photography to help businesses, particularly those in the arts, cultural and heritage sector tell the story of their people and productions to their audiences. I also have an interest in documenting and telling the story of architecture, design and the built environment. www.linkedin.com/in/lamarfrancois



Nottinghamshire Connect Reception | Sep 21

WATERSIDE BAR & KITCHEN

New beginnings on the Trent: Completely renovated, the Waterside Bar and Kitchen opens to KuKu at our first in-person Connect Reception in Nottinghamshire. Lockdowns were over and KuKu was in demand. On Trent Bridge itself the former raucous sports bar, under new ownership and a complete renovation now offers riverside views, a beer garden for sunny brunches, private hire areas and booths for dining or sipping a frozen cocktail or three. Connections from all over the county joined the summer's evening over canapés and hard seltzers, for many their first taste of KuKu, "Please sir, may I have some more ...?" www.redcatpubcompany.com



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Sep 21

LINCOLNSHIRE SHOWGROUND

Putting on a show: A brilliant venue with space inside and out for all manner of events, think fashion shows, awards dinners, business expos, wedding fairs, to meetings and conferences. It is not often you come across a venue which offers, space, versatility and a blank canvas, but at the Showground you have all that and acres of space outside too, lesser known as a charity, championing farming and the countryside. The first Lincolnshire face-to-face business event to resume, featuring canapé delights, flowers, fudge, the heavenly sounds of a local harpist and chauffeur driven BMW elegance from White 7. This reception brought business owners back together. www.lincolnshireshowground.co.uk www.white7lincoln.co.uk





LARA TAYLERSON-WHYTE - LEICESTER HOSPITALS CHARITY

Leicester Hospitals Charity supports patients, visitors and staff at all three of Leicester's Hospitals. We fund additional medical equipment, improvements to make our hospital environment more welcoming and empower our staff with additional training opportunities. Our generous supporters also enabled us to support our front-line clinical staff throughout the pandemic. www.leicesterhospitalscharity.org.uk



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Working with SME's across the Midlands, Unity is an innovative and dynamic digital marketing agency. From multi-channel marketing campaigns through to web design and development, Unity delivers measurable ROI using data-led digital marketing strategies. We pride ourselves on working alongside your business objectives to deliver an integrated approach to your marketing. www.weareunity.co.uk



LAURA CAPINDALE - THE HR CROWD

The HR Crowd offers affordable HR solutions and coaching for small businesses. Helping you get the best out of your people, from making sure you've got the basics right, to tailored coaching to help you improve leadership, employee engagement and retention. www.thehrcrowd.com



LAUREN HACKETT - MUSE MARKETING

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Our business exists because technology isn't as simple as it could be. It can make life difficult when you're trying to run a business. We make one of the 'necessary evils' in your business do what you want it to and not break down. Simply, we make your life easier. www.your-itdepartment.co.uk



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You can't do effective marketing until you bridge the gap between creativity and business. Whether you're looking for a new website, developing your brand identity, navigating the world of SEO, or just fancy a natter about how to implement a marketing strategy, think3 are here to help. www.think3.co.uk



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I am a specialist Mortgage and Equity Release Advisor who is passionate about providing ethical advice that not only meets all of my clients needs now, but also carefully considers their plans for the future. www.roof-uk.co.uk



LEE ANN CORDINGLEY

Clinical sexologist and sex coach, Lee-ann is passionate about the power of healthy sexual expression for holistic physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. She is a fierce cheerleader in pursuit of people's sexual pleasure goals. Also an experienced yoga and pregnancy yoga teacher she coaches people in and around Nottingham to feel empowered and vibrant with their sexuality for a pleasure-filled, healthy and happy life. www.leeanncordingley.co.uk



LEISA PICKLES - FIND ME THE LEADS

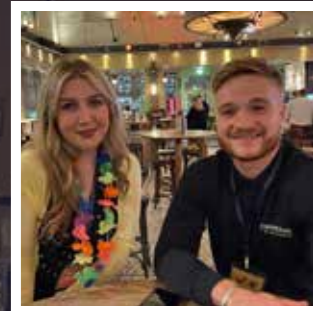
I help Food & Drink Producers get their products into more places and in front of more people. www.findmethetheleads.co.uk



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Oct 21

REVOLUCION DE CUBA

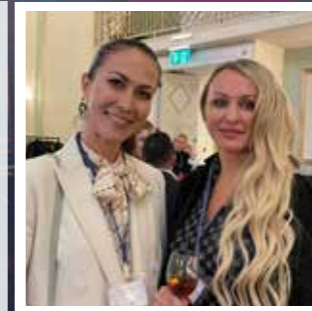
Viva la KuKu 'Revolucion': As businesses in Derby go Cuban. Rum-warming cocktails kept the cold October at bay, with Cuban tapas, canapés and teasers buzzing around Derbyshire business owners in the Havana Bar. Private hire spaces, perfect for parties, team-events or a night on the town, this hotspot should be part of any business party and it certainly was for KuKu. Business should be fun sometimes too and that's why KuKu Connect Receptions bring in decision makers and a much wider sphere of business sectors - you might say we 'revolucionised' business networking, well with the fab team from Revs de Cuba, every night's a party! www.revoluciondecuba.com/bar/derby



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Oct 21

CITY ROOMS

Pride, but no Prejudice: Elegance Jane would approve of. A heavenly piece of history, set-out like a gilded stage-set, the City Rooms is a Georgian Grade I listed independent family-run venue, right in the centre of Leicester, which offers spaces for small and intimate dinners and celebrations, to sumptuous weddings, balls and dinners. Gilt, high ceilings, pastel colours, elegance where you can leave the modern world behind and stay overnight too. Why not take it exclusively yours for your next high-end soiree or family life event? The city Rooms provides hospitality like it should be - creative and never disappointing. That is the experience for the privileged KuKu community. www.thecityrooms.co.uk





LELDE PLESA - PAB LANGUAGES CENTRE

Certified Translation and Transcreation in over 200 languages. Enabling successful communications and relationships around the world. Great things happen when businesses, organisations and people from different countries and cultures communicate successfully. We accurately convey your messages worldwide, provide translation expertise, technology and resources and are award-winning and ISO Quality Management accredited. www.pabtranslation.co.uk



LESLEY BURTON - LESLEY BURTON COACHING

Helping Business Owners crack that rhythmic acquisition of customers. Are you busy working in your business without the money to show for it? Are you feeling alone making those big business decisions and no-one is listening? I can help you live the life you want, from the business you love. www.lesleyburton.com



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



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



LISA EDMUNDSON - AMBER WILLS

Lisa is fully qualified with the Institute of Professional Willwriters. She is able to provide wills, powers of attorney, probate and funeral plans. Clients can be seen in their home, office or via Zoom and Facetime. Lisa offers a free, no-obligation consultation in the first instance to discuss your needs. There is no such thing as a "normal" family and every Will is bespoke and written to the individual's needs. www.amber-wills.co.uk



LUCA HARGREAVES - ALPHAGEEK DIGITAL

Hungry and committed, Alphageek is proudly aiming to be the best digital marketing agency in the Midlands, before furthering this to a national and one day global scale. Taking the team and clients with us on this rocket ship journey. www.alphageek.digital



LUCY WEST - GUT HELATH SPECIALIST WITH ARBONNE

I coach people how to improve their health with a holistic approach, focusing on mind, body, and skin – they are all connected! I show my clients how to use food as fuel to optimise how they look and feel, inside & out. The goal is to help you tune in to the messages that your body is sending so that you can eat and drink more intuitively, giving you the nutrients you need to function optimally. www.arbonne.com/gb/en/arb/lucywest



LUKE GURNEY - BIN END WINES

Varied, ever-changing, restaurant quality and generally non-supermarket wines at supermarket prices. Free local delivery from north Leicester to south Nottingham as well as nationwide delivery beyond that. Wedding and Event service available, just get in touch... Out of the Ordinary Wines at Extraordinary prices! www.binendwines.co.uk



LYNN BAILEY - BAWDON LODGE FARM

Bawdon Lodge Farm is an award winning venue nestled away in the heart rural Leicestershire. A National Forest site, working farm and the home of Burleigh's Gin; our family run venue offers outdoor weddings, charity and corporate event space, meeting room hire along with hosting our own events including Artisan Fairs, Theatre in the Barn and theme nights. www.bawdonlodgefarm.co.uk



LYNN MUNRO - MAGNA CARTA PROPERTIES

Being a landlord and property developer I love helping frustrated savers make more from their 'cache' through property that they don't even own!! Question: Would a FREE Caribbean holiday or New Car get you excited? If the answer is YES and you like the idea of also 'Making a Difference' to the housing crisis.. totally hands off ... Let's have a chat. lynn-munro@outlook.com



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Oct 21

200 DEGREES COFFEE

Let them eat cake: Well who doesn't like cake with a spot of business connecting? We love it, particularly if the coffee is good, and we mean 'Philip level good'. Coffee all ways and how you like it, wraps and rolls with something different inside, not the usual dull and tired out flair, we mean fresh, homemade and great for veggies and vegans, try the vegan sausage rolls, yes, that is not a contradiction. With its own Barista School, why don't you try it for a more sophisticated Hen-Party or birthday treat with friends, don't worry you can still drink fizz. Take your team, maybe even your Board for an away day, better still, ditch the instant and have 200 Degrees in your office or at home. www.200degs.com



Nottinghamshire Connect Reception | Oct 21

THE GOOD FELLOW GEORGE

A hidden find: Quietly located on Canning Circus this newly opened bar, used to be a bank, complete with vault. Now with an air of a private members bar, the Good Fellow George serves an array of proper beers, exceptional wines, which come at pleasing prices and charcuterie and cheese boards are also served to keep you in good spirits all night long. Guests enjoyed an exclusive preview of this fab newcomer, which is now doggy friendly, thanks George, what a good fellow he is. www.thegoodfellowgeorge.co.uk





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



MARION PARRISH - THE ACCIDENTAL MANAGER COACH

A specialist HR consultancy offering bespoke 1:1 coaching for business owners and team managers, which aims to develop confident managers, create great working environments, and transform morale, productivity and performance across your organisation. www.marionparrish.com



MARK EYDMAN - SIX PILLARS CONSULTING

Six Pillars Consulting has 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



MATT HOPPER - RECOGNITION EXPRESS

From promotional items, corporate clothing, to full colour banners – You name it, I brand it. I pride Myself on high quality customer service, high quality products & reputation for long-term customer satisfaction. As a franchisee, I help businesses in Derbyshire and Leicestershire. www.recognition-express.com/derbynorthleics



MATT YOUNDALE - 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



MATTHEW CRAWFORD - EMBARK FEDERATION

We are a family of 15 schools across Derbyshire who believe that by working together as a team we can create schools that 'stand out' at the heart of their communities. We have 4 core beliefs; Family, Integrity, Teamwork and Success that are central to everything that we do. We have high standards across our schools but want to ensure that the Primary school experience for our children is a magical time. www.embarkfederation.com



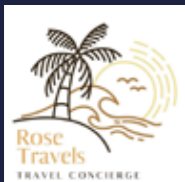
MICHELLE BUTLER - TYELLA GIFTS & KEEPSAKES

We are a family run, online, personalised gifts and keepsakes business with a perfect gift for any occasion! Whether you are looking for an exquisite piece of jewellery, decor for the home, or corporate merchandise, we have something special to suit every style and budget! www.tyella.co.uk



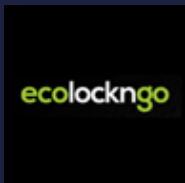
NATALIE WILLIAMS - NOTTINGHAM PARTNERS

Nottingham Partners is the network which has mobilised Nottingham's businesses to champion our City as the best place to get business done and attract new investment. We share information across the local business community, facilitate collaboration, inspire the next generation of businesses and encourage inward investment to the city. www.nottinghampartners.co.uk



NATASHA THOMAS - ROSE TRAVELS

Rose Travels is an Independent One-Stop Travel Consultancy, specialising in corporate & personal travel both UK & Worldwide. We show you how to travel smarter & earn from your travel bookings too. Fully protected by ABTA & ATOL for your total peace of mind. Our unique connections guarantee amazing prices. www.facebook.com/rose.travels.16



NATHAN DREW - ECO-LOCK N GO

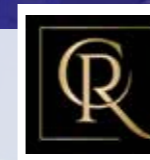
'Eco-Lock N Go' offers modern, smart, app-based security for bikes and scooters. Our vision is to improve bike and scooter security across the UK to inspire more people to pursue greener modes of transport. We can also offer turnkey scooter and bike solutions for hire. www.ecolockngo.com



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Nov 21

MAINFRAME AWARDS LAUNCH

Top creatives: QUAD hosted KuKu for our usual style of business connecting for the launch of the Derbyshire Mainframe Awards. QUAD Derby is a film and arts centre, which shows a range of cinematic genres, houses an art gallery and creative workshops. Perfect for all things digital, creative and arty. The Mainframe Awards recognises the top achievers, the most talented and the most supportive of organisations, leaders and innovators in the creative and digital sectors. The Awards launched during this extended edition of KuKu which made for a truly fun evening. www.derbyquad.co.uk



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Nov 21

CHARNWOOD REGENCY

Mum's the word: Mumpreneur, Nisha went all 'Four-in-a-Bed' for KuKu in Loughborough for our Leicestershire businesses. This fab B&B Guest-House offers more in its aspirations and style than you'd expect. You can see why the Charnwood Regency is more Guest-House; featuring a large dining room, freshly cooked British breakfast and supper available too, but what's more it is a great spot for a meeting or perhaps a training day. In fact, Mum and business owner Nisha hosts everything from weddings to wakes. With room for marquee extensions this is a multi-purpose venue with a lot more to offer. www.chnwoodregency.com





NATHAN EAVES - THE ART OF SELLING

Our purpose is to Make Sales Easy Peasy Lemon Squeezy. Our Passion is to make that a reality for small business owners. www.artofselling.co.uk



NICK MAX - NG1 GROUP

Nottingham NG1 commercial property, office space, studios, salons, cool coworking and especially virtual offices, an address, meeting rooms and other reliable flexible property related services for small to big businesses, particularly the creative and professional services sectors; helping you make your mark in the City with a bit more style! www.linkedin.com/nicholasmax



NICK TEIGE - IVANHOE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Ivanhoe Financial Planning is run by enthusiastic, jargon-free, down to earth people who want to make the world of financial planning effective, efficient and most importantly enjoyable. We will make sure you are using your money to make a life; rather than using your life to make money. hwww.ivanhoejp.co.uk



NICOLA HICKINBOTHAM - CLEMENTINE BUSINESS COACHING

Fully trained Associate Certified Coach for business and personal coaching, helping people be the best they can be for their business and themselves. www.clementinebusinesscoaching.co.uk



NICOLA MOSS - MOSS SOCIAL

If you need help with your marketing on social media, I can support with 121 training, group training, bitesize video training or, if you really can't face doing your own, I can manage your social media for you. I work on Facebook, Instagram, Linkedin and Twitter. www.mosssocial.co.uk



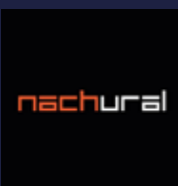
NICK JOHNSTON-DAVIS - UNSTOPPABL

Watch your business and employees thrive with Unstoppabl Fitness & Wellbeing. Drive health, fitness, and productivity in your business and attract and retain great employees. We offer a personalised solution for your senior management team, managers, and employees. Our industry-leading, highly engaging online personal training and wellbeing programmes are designed to increase physical activity, reduce stress, burnout, improve sleep, and positively impact the life habits of your entire workforce. www.unstoppabl.com



NIGEL JOBSON - ST MARTIN'S HOUSE

Located in the heart of the historic Cathedral area in the City of Leicester, St Martins House is the perfect venue for meetings, conferences, weddings and events. St Martins Lodge offers boutique luxury accommodation for those looking to stay in the city for business or leisure. www.stmartinshouse.com



NINDER JOHAL - NACHURAL AWARDS

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



OLIVER WRIGHT - BERKELEY INSURANCE GROUP

As one of the UK's largest independent Chartered Insurance Brokers, we work with clients from across the UK on their insurance needs, from individual homeowners to major corporations – but what makes us different is that we are owned by the people who run the business. www.berkeleyinsurancegroup.co.uk



PAM EDWARDS - PHOENIX RISING

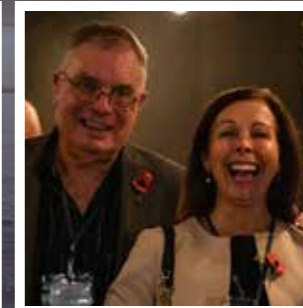
Dedicated to helping you find your way out of the maze of confusion and make massive changes by giving you the tools you need to find the answers. To re-build or create the confidence you need so that you can explore the possibilities, embrace change and be supported while YOU create. www.phoenixrisingservices.uk



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Nov 21

THE WINE ROOM CITY

I'll have a large one: Well when it comes to wine. Nottingham's newest and we think best wine bar have over 50 bottles - more than anyone around, and what's better than that is it's all great value and prices that most pockets can tinkle upon. The bar offers a truly international selection of favourites through to lesser knowns and there's always something different and adventurous to sip. It's a chic and stylish abode for any wine drinker, but never fear, beer and gin flows too (we love the Champagne). Plus, what is wine without food? So enjoy Sunday lunch or perhaps a pizza or tasting experience. Tuesday night, Friday night, whenever, just go! www.thewineroomcity.com



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Nov 21

GOLTHO BARN

Barn beautiful: This picture perfect barn is far more boutique than barnyard. Located on the edge of the famed Goltho Gardens this venue is ideal for a more personal wedding, whether traditional bride or a tad more festival, this rather special venue offers two glorious spaces with original beams and rafters, exposed brickwork and a mezzanine level. We enjoyed an evening with an array of local entrepreneurs where we enjoyed foodie heaven from Makan Bites who offered an array of exotic foods from South-East Asia, including KuKu Co-Founder Stephen's favourite Coconut Nectar. www.golthobarnweddings.com
www.makanbites.co.uk





PAM MARR - POSITIVE PRESS BUSINESS CONSULTING

I provide copy, content and inspiration! Whether your need is for marketing, technical, commercial or personal pieces, I can create something grammatically correct, concise and interesting. Websites, blogs, brochures, white papers, opinion pieces, manuals, advertorials... regardless of the nature of the brief, I will help you make a positive impact. www.positive-press.co.uk



PATRICK GARRATT - PURPLE FROG PROPERTY

Student Accommodation Built Around You. We started Purple Frog to work around students' needs. That meant the right properties, the right opening times, arranging viewings around you and giving a proper level of service. Everything is built around giving students what they want. And that's how the business thrives. www.purplefrogproperty.com



PAUL GAYTON - WREN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Since 2002, we have used our combined skills to help people improve and retain their personal and business wealth. We continue to build on our enviable reputation across the East Midlands with personal and business clients, small and large and across many sectors. www.wrenaccountancy.co.uk



PETER STORER - GREEN GIANT CONSULTING

IT Director/CIO/CTO services on a fractional (on demand or retained) basis to small and medium sized businesses who either don't need or could not justify adding a full time equivalent to their existing team. www.greengiantconsulting.co.uk



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



PHIL REVILL - IT'SEEZE NOTTINGHAM

We design and build bespoke websites for Nottinghamshire businesses. As part of our upfront priced packages, we include ongoing and unlimited training and support on our incredibly flexible website editor – keeping you totally in control. www.itseeze-nottingham.co.uk



RACHEL HARGRAVE - THE AWARDS PEOPLE

We bring the 'wow factor' that the judges are looking for to your award nominations. We powerfully articulate your story with our finely honed award-winning award writing skills presenting a nomination that truly reflects your passion, abilities and company.. then we teach you how to maximise this powerful strategy! www.theawardspeople.co.uk



RACHEL MARKHAM - CHARITY LINK

Charity Link has been helping people in need in Leicester for over 140 years. We provide essential items, including food, clothing, beds and cookers, to help alleviate immediate hardship and ensure that everyone can fulfil their potential in life, no matter what crisis, illness, disability or difficulty they are facing. www.charity-link.org



RANJIT SAGOO - BRAIN ART

Brain Art was established to support children and young people in being able to use Art to support their academic learning in Maths, English and Science to help engage them in school and beyond. Brain Art has helped people improve their confidence towards learning Maths and encouraging them to explore their subjects through art projects. We offer face to face workshops and one to one sessions on Zoom. www.brainartuk.co.uk



RICHARD ESAU - ACTION COACH LINCOLN

Grow your business with the world's most successful business coaching system. Free up your time, energise your team, and fulfil your life goals. www.lincoln.actioncoach.co.uk



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Dec 21

THE SHED

Shed chic: Is there such a thing as a boutique shed? The answer is yes and it's in Derbyshire out at Darley Abbey. The Shed is part of the Darley Abbey Mills site and is sister to the West Mill wedding venue. So, think; a unique events venue, open space, high ceilings, a bar that serves Derbyshire beer along with a commercial kitchen facility catering for canapés and menus to suit all types of events. Baby-showers to birthdays, hen parties to anniversaries but equally a great space for a business reception or launch event. Versatile and set in unpretentious surrounds by the river what's not to like. Christmas came early for KuKu as guests dined out on festive flavours and cuisine one might expect from an upper-crust restaurateur - but all in a shed. www.thesheddarleyabbey.co.uk



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Dec 21

BAWDON LODGE FARM

Down on the farm: This award-winning farm takes entrepreneurial diversification to a whole new level, in fact the family who has owned the farm for over 100 years are pioneers; creating an indoor barn events space, a cafe, woodland walks and events, creating a business hub of tenant businesses to launching an artisan boutique filled with independent makers and producers, homewares and candles to clothing, even launching their own range of gin; rural innovation at its best at Bawdon. It was Christmas, which meant mulled cocktails for our evening, a little shopping and some excellent eats, this is not just networking, this is KuKu networking. www.bawdonlodgefarm.co.uk





RICHARD POINTON - GET FRESH SHOWER SPECIALISTS

We repair and replace all makes and model of shower, including electric, mixer valves, digital showers and power showers. Main agent to leading shower manufacturers. www.getfreshshowers.com



RIMPLE KALYAN - DOVECARE SERVICES

Health and social care servcies in Derbyshire. www.linkedin.com/rimple-kalyan



ROMEY LEE - MARTIN & CO

We are property specialists in both lettings & sales – we work with our partners across the UK's most popular property platforms to help sell or let your property quickly, whilst ensuring you have the most wonderful property experience with our lovely agents along the way – we pride ourselves in property, its what we do best! www.martinco.com



RONNIE HARRIS - VJH MARKETING

My strapline is 'Passionate about all things marketing' and passion is the true focus for me because without passion, what's the point? With expertise in the construction, property & professional services sectors, I work with small businesses to develop their marketing strategy by, becoming part of their team so that I truly 'get' them, their business and their clients. www.vjhmarketing.com



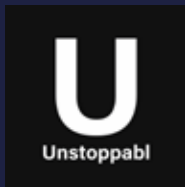
RUTH BRISCOE - REVOLUTION DERBY

The life of the party in the heart of the city! Whether it's dining, after-work cocktails, Cocktail Masterclasses, Bottomless brunches, corporate parties or team-building experiences – our aim is to create fun and memorable experiences for all people, every visit. The addition of our expertly crafted cocktails and delicious food menu makes the experience extra special. www.revolution-bars.co.uk/bar/derby



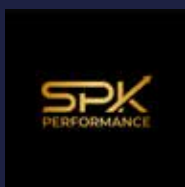
RUTH OLUGBENGA - INTER HEALTH LINK LTD.

Our experience in the UK healthcare industry means we have the right tools to enable our patients access the best medical treatment from top healthcare providers. We provide a one-stop service to assist in the procurement of travel visas, airport transportation and accommodation of your choice. www.linkedin.com/ruth-olugbenga



RYAN SNELL - UNSTOPPABL

Watch your business and employees thrive with Unstoppabl Fitness & Wellbeing. Drive health, fitness, and productivity in your business and attract and retain great employees. We offer a personalised solution for your senior management team, managers, and employees. Our industry-leading, highly engaging online personal training and wellbeing programmes are designed to increase physical activity, reduce stress, burnout, improve sleep, and positively impact the life habits of your entire workforce. www.unstoppabl.com



SAM KING - SPK PERFORMANCE

Retail Sales Crusher- I help companies and individuals sell more and provide better service. www.spkperformance.co.uk



SAMANTHA POVER - VISIT LINCOLN

Lincoln is an ideal destination for a city break: offering an experience rich in history combined with independent boutique shopping, great arts and culture and a wealth of places to eat and drink. Head to the website for all the latest events and things to do. www.visitlincoln.com



SARAH NAYLOR -

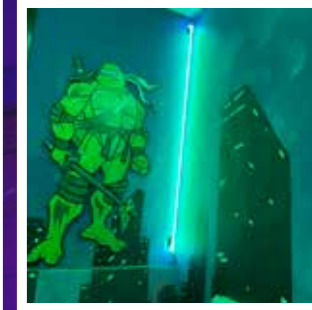
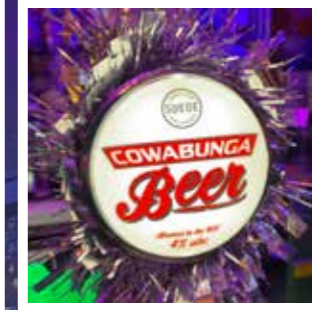
Create the life you desire – everything is possible you just need to believe in yourself, connect with your passions and take steps to make it all happen! If you are ready to kick start your life and live life on your terms, then please do get in touch – I'd love to help you to love your life as much as I love mine! www.sarahjnaylor.com



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Dec 21

SUEDE

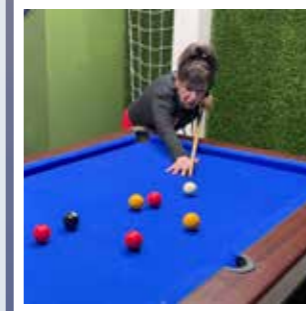
Italians do it better: Who doesn't love pizza? Everybody is catered for at this second generation business with authentic ingredients and artisan, handmade dough from an Italian family bakery. The homemade tomato sauce is to die for, or perhaps you prefer a bbq smokey spice base for your pizza? Duck toppings, vegan cheese options and creamy mozzarella are all served fresh from the oven in an almost post 80's style bar adorned with Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles which offers a fun atmosphere, whether you're in your joggers, your bling or your Sunday best. Despite our lofty standards we think this is some of the best pizza around. www.suedebar.uk



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Dec 21

ACTIVE ARENA

Fun for all the family: We went all active for December in Lincolnshire at this brand new community sports hub. Football, snooker, fitness, classes and active sessions for children, football parties, to 5-a-side tournaments for grown-ups alike. With bar and private hire space you can be sporty, you can party or even host your event. Active Arena has created this venue for sports, fitness and football, so at KuKu we took to the indoor pitches for a dash of dribbling, before cheering the festive season with fizz from the Sports Bar and some rather good burgers too, with a toast to a great new venue and business, as well to another great KuKu year - see you in 2022. www.activearena.co.uk





SIMON TALBOT - INTERPREDATA

I'm a Business Analyst, helping small business owners make sense of their data and enabling them to make decisions off the back of it. The services I provide include bookkeeping, budget and forecast preparation, cash flow forecasting, management accounting, bespoke data modelling and spreadsheet work. www.interpredata.co.uk



SARAH WITHERS - WITHERS GIN

Withers Gin is a small batch gin business founded in 2020 by Gin Enthusiast Sarah Withers. Award-winning gin, with Gold Outstanding at The IWSC 2020 and Best Gin in England at The Gin Guide Awards 2021. Withers Gin is a Local Family Business. 10% of profits donated to Cancer Charities. www.withersgin.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.linkedin.com/scott-benzie



SHEILA STAMP - TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

I am passionate and focused on providing high-quality service and customer satisfaction in realising your travel dreams. I will do everything to meet your expectations. I believe that travel is all about the experience understanding the requirements of each traveler Whether you're looking for a family holiday or Business travel www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/sheila.stamp



SIMON LAW - PASS THE KEYS

Pass the Keys Lincoln provides an end-to-end management service for property owners who wish to let their properties on platforms such as Airbnb, VRBO and Booking.com plus many others. We look after all aspects of the service including bookings, pricing, 24/7 guest comms, cleaning, laundry and maintenance. www.passthekeys.co.uk/midlands/lincoln



STACEY FERGUSON-CZERSOVSKI - THE VENUE EXPERTS

We are turbocharged wedding venue consultants and events sales specialists. Whether you've got a hotel, barn or stately home, our mission is to help you turn it into a profit-making machine. As your specialist venue consultancy, we'll show you where to find revenue opportunities year round without sacrificing your time. www.thevenueexperts.co.uk



STEPHEN JONES - WHITE 7 LINCOLN

White 7 Lincoln offers a personalised, high quality chauffeur service for luxury travel. Reliable, relaxed and trusted to get you to your destination on time in a luxurious long wheelbase BMW 7 Series with a Wi-Fi enabled tablet, drinks cooler and nappa leather seating. Buying you time, saving stress and hassle, throughout Lincolnshire and UK. www.white7lincoln.co.uk



STEVEN HAVERS - HAVERS BUSINESS PHOTOGRAPHY

Helping businesses grow through acquiring more higher quality and like minded clients and customers, whatever sector or industry you are working in. www.haversbusinessphotography.com



STEVE HOLLER - LEXUS LEICESTER

We are a premium Lexus Dealership supplying new and used cars. We also benefit from a service and repair department. We can supply both retail and business vehicles. www.lexus.co.uk/centres/leicester



SUZANNE SUTHERS - SUZANNE SUTHERS PERSONAL STYLING

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



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Feb 22

LEXUS DERBY

Undisputed style: Craftsmanship from Japan matched with elegance and hybrid technology started off the 2022 KuKu year with the launch of the first Lexus full electric motorcars, giving drivers not only distinction on the highways, but greener driving. Fast becoming a choice option for many business leaders, Lexus showcased their collection in their sparkling showroom with no pushy sales here, just friendly advice from this award-winning brand. Handmade canapés, fizz, a little beer and test drives (for the non drinkers!) of the brand new models created a KuKu experience in the fast lane, driving into the new year ahead.

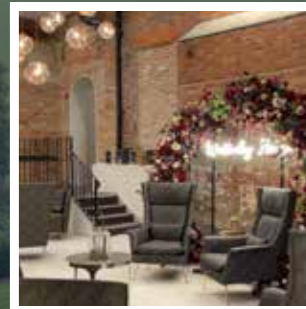
www.lexus.co.uk/centres/derby



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Feb 22

WINSTANLEY HOUSE

Shining in the park: Amidst the parkland of Braunstone Park, shining out is Winstanley House, former private family home and seat of the Winstanley family. Now restored by the Parmar family the country house stands proud again as a high-end boutique and premiere wedding and events venue. With luxurious bedrooms, a grand ballroom, a suite of spaces for smaller events and meetings and the Black Iron restaurant this superb venue has much to offer. Winstanley House offers a fresh and in some ways modern feel, all housed in architectural heritage, which should impress any guest. We enjoyed wines from the cellars and canapés created especially by the chef, all over an evening of businesses connecting. www.winstanleyhouse.co.uk





TALITA BUCKERS - 2B PHYSIO FIT & WELL

Passionate about bridging the gap between healthcare, fitness and wellbeing, by providing high standard Physiotherapy, Sports Massage, Sports Therapy, Yoga and Rehab/Clinical Pilates. www.2bphysiofitandwell.co.uk



TERRY ELLIS - H2O DIGITAL

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Victoria Taylor is an experienced consultant who works with hospitality and luxury brands to deliver exceptional and unique customer experiences. She helps her clients to understand the link between the experiences they create and how that influences buyer behaviour and ultimately business performance. She is a proven experience leader renowned for helping her clients to deliver different with impact. www.victoriatayl.co.uk



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Amalfi White is an award winning restaurant and wedding venue in the idyllic market town of Melbourne, Derbyshire. Winner of the 2021 Derby Food and Drink Awards 'Best Out of Town' and the Midlands Business Awards 'Most Elegant Wedding venue 2018 & 2019'. www.amalfiwhite.com



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ZOE DARKINS - INSIDE OUT LASER CLINICS

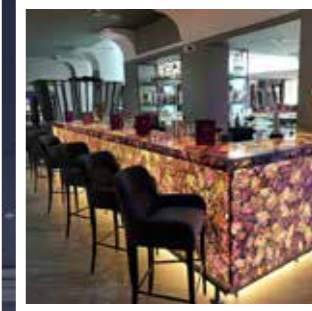
Inside-Out Laser Clinics is a clinical laser aesthetic and advanced skin care clinic based in Mountsorrel, our aim is to help our clients regain their confidence and to feel good on the 'inside-out'. Zoe Darkins and her experienced team are on hand to help you throughout your journey. www.inside-outlaserclinics.com



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Feb 22

COGNITO

Sushi you sir: Japan has arrived in Lincolnshire in the form of 'Cognito', a stylish venue bringing delicious tastes of the Far East. Cognito is a Japanese restaurant, opened by two young sisters, who know hospitality and how to bring a little international glitz to dining in this historic cathedral city. Cognito brings a real taste of Japan with dishes including corn ribs, mushroom ketchup to King scallops, duck, crab and miso butter chicken, whether this is a new cuisine for you or not, you need to try it. The drinks are good too, all served from a beautifully crafted amethyst bar and that is exactly what our evening had in store for Lincoln KuKu-ers who were delighted to visit this gourmet hotspot. www.cognitouk.com



Nottinghamshire Connect Reception | Feb 22

MALT CROSS

Bored of networking? What was once a Victorian music hall, complete with a glass domed ceiling opened its doors for KuKu for an exclusive preview under the new ownership of the YMCA in Nottingham. The once pub, now runs as a community space for special events, games nights, a place for creatives, artists, spoken-word evenings and all things food too. What's not to like? The YMCA in Notts are a charity well-known, but being community focused and bringing opportunities to young people, whilst creating a great space for an exciting new events programme. KuKu guests revelled in their networking, whilst enjoying an excellent spread of nibbles and tasters, all cooked in-house, using local producers and suppliers, all in surrounds of Victorian splendour, albeit a once raucous music hall. www.maltcross.com



KUKU

Cocktail

LOUNGE

ONLINE BUSINESS NETWORKING

The vibrant Kuku Cocktail Lounge is hosted by Stephen and Philip from Kuku HQ and is open to any organisation, no matter where in the world you are. This regular event gives you the opportunity to connect in dedicated rooms, hear from distinguished leaders and find out about the latest offers, events and opportunities from the Kuku Community to help your business grow.

Never boring, we encourage you to enjoy your own choice of tipples to help the networking flow. So whether you're taking a late lunch, a long lunch or even a liquid lunch, come and join us and make some new connections whilst having fun.

To find out more, head over to www.kukuconnect.co.uk/kuku-cocktail-lounge



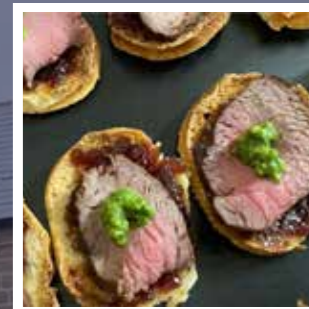
Credit: Suzanne Fells Photography
Venue: Whatton House

Amfrec

Derbyshire Connect Reception | Mar 22

AMFREC

Back in business: Amber Mill Furniture Rural Enterprise Centre, Amfrec for short, if you please, opened its doors for the first time after a devastating fire and subsequent restoration project which reinvented it as a brand new venue for events and office space. The mill which has been in the family of Ann Turner for 100 years now proudly sits on the green landscape of Oakerthorpe, near Alfreton, just 10 minutes from J28 of the M1, so an excellent location for training and workshops, board away days, exhibitions and smaller dinners. The Butler's Pantry joined the event, with their exquisite cuisine famed for locally caught fish and game dishes with Amber Valley Wines offering a taste of true English wine. A special venue with a lot of heart and a hostess who is as delightful as her family's mill and venue space - visit soon! www.amfrec.com



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Mar 22

FAB CLINICS

Absolutely Fabulous! Hostess and business owner Elena Chapman and her team showcased the clinic which specialises in a number of cutting edge non-invasive beauty treatments for the face and body. Treatments to freshen the skin of the face, to cultivate natural collagen, a diamond brush technique for facials, the list goes on and includes fat-loss to nails and foot massages, using clinical level products to help you look naturally fabulous. Our guests delved into demos, with some of our entrepreneurs enjoying mini-treatments on the house, whilst fizz sparkled and canapés were served, what a fab way to do business. www.fabclinics.com



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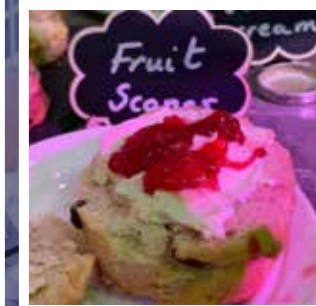
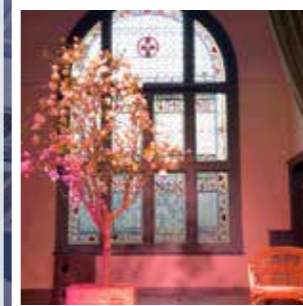


Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Mar 22

STOKES COFFEE

Stoke up the coffee pots: The Victorians knew how to make a brew and in Lincoln the same family still do at Stokes Coffee, which is still run by the same family who founded the famous coffee in the times of Queen Victoria. MD Nick Peel, welcomed guests into the magnificent Blue Room, a former ball room and part of the Lawn, a former Asylum, now the HQ of Stokes where their coffee is roasted. Stokes Coffee is served in coffee and farm shops up and down the country and is very much a part of Lincoln's history and heritage, which includes the famous High Bridge Cafe, the building has been there since 1540 which gives patrons a charming service, from more genteel times, not only that but an impressive selection of coffees, visit today.

www.stokescoffee.com



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Eddie Young Magic

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www.eddieyoungmagic.co.uk



Nottinghamshire Connect Reception | Mar 22

HMS SHERWOOD

Ahoy businesses! Commander Grayson and The Ministry of Defence welcomed businesses from all over Nottinghamshire to HMS Sherwood, part of the Royal Navy for a very special evening of business connecting. Guests viewed historical scenes in paintings around the Mess, as well as Silver, all part of the heritage of HMS Sherwood. Fizz filled to the brim and canapés were served with military precision for a fascinating insight into the modern workings of the Royal Navy Reserves, as well as the opportunity for business to become part of the Armed Forces Covenant, where Defence partners with business, so an evening of both connecting and opportunity. www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk / www.eastmidlandsrca.co.uk





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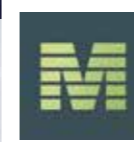
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KUKU
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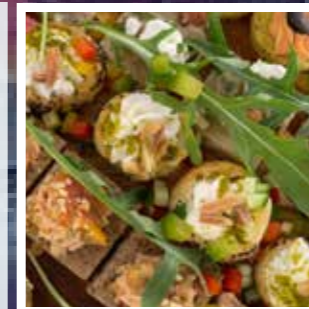
www.shireseventhire.co.uk | sales@shireseventhire.co.uk | 01530 810352



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Apr 22

QUAD & MAINFRAME AWARDS

10s across the board! It was Awards night at this special evening for KuKu in Derbyshire. Hosted by QUAD Derby, the Mainframe Awards hosted a special VIP reception for KuKu Connect, followed by complimentary invitations for our guests to the Awards ceremony and yet more hospitality. The Mainframe Awards rolled out the red carpet to recognise the best in the Creative and Digital sectors in Derbyshire, shining a light on unsung heroes, innovators and artists. KuKu Connect, previous winner of the 'Best Local Network' 2021 category was part of the Judging panel. www.mainframederby.co.uk



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Apr 22

CHUTNEY IVY

A spicy evening: KuKu favourite, the multi award-winning Chutney Ivy hosted an evening of connecting alongside Indian canapés and a special KuKu biriyani created by proprietor Shaf Islam and his chef team. Think fine dining but with Indian cuisine, but not your basic fayre, the menu includes subtly spiced fish dishes and French influences, try the Feast Menu, it's the only way to dine at this chic stalwart of Leicester's culinary scene. Business guests mingled over fizz in the Ivy Lounge, a private hire space downstairs, which has hosted wedding receptions to parties and comedy nights, located next to the theatre, it is also perfect for lunch and pre-theatre. Go and feast. www.chutneyivy.com





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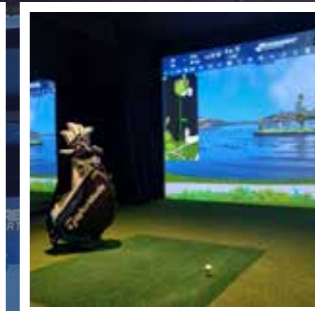


Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Apr 22

VIRTUALLY GOLF

Business on the tee: Well, not quite, but virtually speaking. Lincoln businesses enjoyed an exclusive first-look at the cutting edge Virtually Golf, an innovative venue for experts, newbies, children, stag nights right through to professionals where you can try your hand at golf without getting wet! All are welcome here where you can play, practise or just have a fun evening using the virtual simulators, which bring in world-class technology unlike anywhere in the UK. Businesses enjoyed a swing around the greens, cleverly made golf themed cocktails and some tasty treats - we particularly liked the 'chocolate pebbles'.

www.virtuallygolf.co.uk

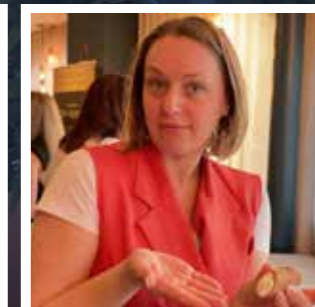


GUSTO

Nottinghamshire Connect Reception | Apr 22

GUSTO

Connecting with cannoli: Gusto Italian restaurant played host to KuKu in the city centre for an evening with Belvedere Vodka cocktails and rich and moreish bites all created in taster form for the launch of the new seasonal menu. Bianca pizza, meatballs, vegan treats and the opportunity to fill your very own creamy cannoli all made for a tasty evening. This restaurant offers much more on its menu and serves a great selection of dishes, a highlight being the Pizza Experience, where guests enjoy antipasti, then learn about pizza, knead their dough, and create their own pizzas, which go straight into the pizza oven at the table - a delicious treat for friends and family, a party night or something rather different for your work team. Visit and be greedy, you'll be glad you did, we were. www.gustorestaurants.uk.com



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AMALFI
WHITE

Derbyshire Connect Reception | May 22

AMALFI WHITE

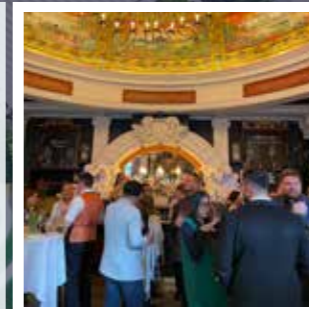
Super chic: When you think Amalfi White, think super style. In the village of Melbourne, Derbyshire, this wonderful restaurant and bar exudes glam, but in a warm, welcoming and unpretentious way. The main restaurant serves a delightful menu of modern gastro-cuisine and there is a private dining room available for tasting menus and intimate dinners. Upstairs is the beautiful ballroom, a space which is always in demand for wedding receptions, dinners and private events. Chandeliers, a vaulted ceiling, but a neutral setting, which gives an air of modernity and creative menus to choose from to wow your guests - our KuKu businesses were. www.amalfiwhite.com



Leicestershire Connect Reception | May 22

BRUXELLES

Dome to behold: This former bank building hides a surprising interior which brings patrons from far and wide, just to gaze at the ornate dome ceiling. Bruxelles serves a wide selection of continental beers, naturally, as well as wines and cocktails and is rather a hotspot on a weekend evening, with a downstairs private hire space (once the bank's vault) which can be used for parties. Fizz and pizza were the order of the evening for KuKu where guests from an array of organisations descended on Bruxelles including a delegation of City Councillors, who came to connect all under the Bruxelles dome. www.facebook.com/bruxellesleic



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Lincolnshire Connect Reception | May 22

IBCC

Flying high at KuKu: The Ministry of Defence hosted KuKu, this time in Lincolnshire at the International Bomber Command Centre. This reception was hosted by Commander Kerstie Wright, who represented the RAF, apt for the venue, which is a centre of learning and memorial for those who have served in the great Wars and in times of conflict. The reception brought in businesses from around the county including larger employers, as well as solo-preneurs. The opportunity to learn how to partner with Defence was made available for all guests, who enjoyed networking with Military leaders, all over delicious canapés and drinks from the IBCC, a great venue and a splendid evening of connecting with a difference. www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/ www.internationalbcc.co.uk



Nottinghamshire Connect Reception | May 22

CLEAN CUT KITCHEN

Nutritious but delicious: KuKu went clean eating in Notts at this Victoria Centre based eatery. Clean Cut offers a wide range of dishes, all served fresh from the kitchen from salads, to protein meals, to vegan goodies, shakes and smoothies filled with health. The restaurant also offers a range of prepped meals for the calorie counting and those who need their protein fix on the go. What was delightful was the fact it was so tasty - we are converts! Guests enjoyed a buffet of tasting bowls, salads and canapés with healthy dips and sauces, although we broke the rules slightly by serving alcohol, but all the nutrition counter-balanced it. Something tasty and vastly different, pop in and dine. www.cleancutkitchen.co.uk





Fancy Entertainment is an established, East Midlands based entertainment company dedicated to adding an extra pizzazz 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 entertainment and themes to suit all our clients' needs with a personalised entertainment consultation service at no extra charge. From corporate entertainment, hospitality packages, spectacle performers, visitor attraction performance staff and more; Fancy Entertainment always go above and beyond to make lasting memories for our customers and their guests. We turn your events into experiences.

We have developed an unshakable 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 lifetime.

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We're celebrating our 9th successful year of business by spreading the Fancy feeling across the country! With a team of 175 in-house performers nationwide and an endless collection of speciality, jaw-dropping acts, no event is out of our reach! We're also celebrating joining together with MishMash Management London to deliver next-level, show-stopping acts like never before.



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Jun 22

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON

Double Tree Jubilee: This hotel is in fact independently managed, under the Double Tree Hilton brand, which gives you the best of Hilton hospitality, as well as the sense of being a valued guest, whether you are a local or travelling to stay. We celebrated the Platinum Jubilee where we were visited by a Bridgerton style Queen Charlotte, from our friends at Fancy Entertainment to mark the occasion. We were also joined by Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd) Foster who attended as a special guest to propose a toast to Her Majesty The Queen. Guests connected in the Hotel's viewing gallery for our reception, which was complimented by cocktail tasters galore and Marco Pierre White canapés. www.hilton.com



Derbys & Notts Joint Connect Reception | Jun 22

HILTON EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT

Hilton celebrations: The Platinum Jubilee month continued at KuKu in June, with a special Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire joint reception, located on the borders of the two counties at the East Midlands Airport Hilton Hotel. Union Jack bunting adorned the hotel with 'Best of British' themed dishes from pies, fish and chips, through to more exotic dishes from around the Commonwealth, adding a true celebration to the evening with Pimms to quaff whilst businesses connected. We even enjoyed a visit from Fancy Entertainment's Queen Victoria to add to the Royal celebrations, all whilst enjoying the famed hospitality of this Hilton Hotel. www.hilton.com





Cheese has always been a food that both the sophisticated and simple, love.
Bread they say is the staff of life.

At BIGMelt we take this humble pairing and 'pop up' at selected special events, whereby we create mouth watering grilled cheese sandwiches. Tastefully twisting a classic dish, we begin with two slices of artisan Sourdough bread and fill deep with our unique blend of authentic Raclette, Red Leicester & Vintage Cheddar cheeses'.

Sizzling grills then muster the tantalising magic of bubbling cheese, along with the unmistakable aroma of fresh toasting bread. Then once the cheese melts to perfection, our gourmet toasties are ready to savour and enjoy.

Delicious as BigMelt toasties are, we also offer a fine selection of inspiring ingredients for those wishing to dress them up a little further. Including a must try, award winning caramelised red onion chutney & daring red chilli jam. The list is not quite endless but does change depending on seasonality and of course by request. For special diets and lifestyles we offer gluten free bread and vegan cheese alternatives; no one need ever miss out on a BigMelt treat!

Whilst you are most likely to find us at foodie markets, festivals, often alongside other fantastic gourmet produce. The new trend for casual dining and social mingles is establishing BigMelt as an exciting menu alternative for other events such as special celebrations & corporate businesses functions alike. We even pop up at some sporting events.

Such events & invitations spread our toastie love far and wide, but our hearts melt most here at home in the East Midlands. So should you find yourself in need of toastie love, please do get in touch and we'll melt yours...

www.bigmelt.co.uk



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Jun 22

ST MARTIN'S HOUSE

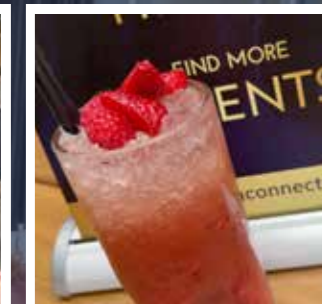
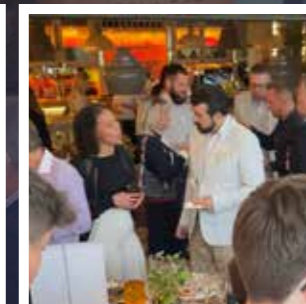
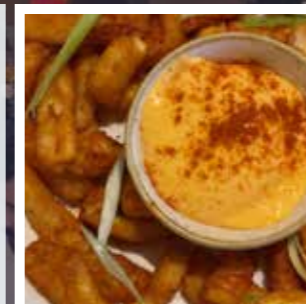
Angelic intentions: St. Martin's House in the centre of historic Leicester is a rather unique centre for business, conferences, receptions and dinners. This former grammar school is an architectural delight and under the ownership of the Church of England, ran as a not-for-profit enterprise, for the benefit of pastoral and community work with in the Diocese of Leicestershire. The Grand Hall was the scene for our reception, which marked the Platinum Jubilee, where, with glasses of Kir Royale we toasted Her Majesty, who had visited and dined in the very same hall. We even had a visit from the historical Bloody Queen Mary from Fancy Entertainment who joined the networking; conference heaven at St. Martin's.
www.stmartinshouse.com



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Jul 22

SEVEN

Seven serves: Seven launched their new private hire terrace space, complete with open-top roof which our guests enjoyed over drinks and canapés. This restaurant at Pride Park is a polished affair, with an excellent cuisine, served in a contemporary style, whilst this is a hot-bed of business lunches, the restaurant also plays host to private dining, tasting menus and ideal for birthdays and special events. The new terrace space is ideal for less formal events, such as baby showers, cocktail parties and birthday celebrations. We were joined by Invictus Communications who offers a range of tele-comms and IT managed services for business/offices and venues, they're very well connected, so connect with them too - they love supporting local.
www.sevenrestaurant.co.uk
www.invictuscomms.com





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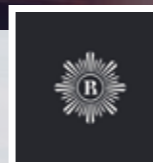
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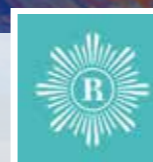
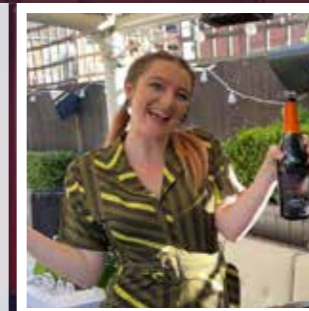
Quote 'KuKu15' when ordering online
www.cocoa-amore.co.uk



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Jul 22

VODKA REVOLUTION

Vodka in the garden: We headed over to Loughborough for KuKu in July to Vodka Revolution who hosted a summer party in their garden, which is an amazing space for any event or BBQ. Guests enjoyed an evening of music and cocktails, with fizz and canapés, whilst tasting freshly stirred cocktails from Sunset Cocktails. The Vodka Rev team know how to plan a party whether for business or fun. You'd be surprised what can be offered for any event and with private spaces and VIP booths, there is a lot this Loughborough centrally based bar and restaurant can create. Go on, treat yourself to something fruity! (vodka optional). www.revolution-bars.co.uk/bar/loughborough



Nottinghamshire Connect Reception | Jul 22

VODKA REVOLUTION

A Vodka affair: We clearly had a thirst for Vodka cocktails in July, as we visited Vodka Revolution in the Corner House in Nottingham. Guests were greeted to fizz as they connected in the private cocktail bar of this city centre venue. Freshly cooked treats came from the kitchens, which exclusively previewed the new restaurant menu - we loved the burgers, with vegans catered for too. Business owners connected over cocktail making masterclasses and it is easy to see why Vodka Revs can put on an event with zing. Perfect for business events, socials and party times, by all means book a VIP booth for a night of cocktails with friends (and take us as well!) www.revolution-bars.co.uk/bar/nottingham-cornerhouse



JEWELLERY

WORTH AN EXHIBITION



Lumbers

62 - 66 HIGH STREET, LEICESTER LE1 5YP
0116 255 1233 ● WWW.LUMBERS.CO.UK

Amfrec

Derbyshire Connect Reception | Aug 22

AMFREC GRADEN PARTY

Summer party anyone? One of our favourite venue hostesses, Ann Turner hosted a summer garden party soiree at Amfrec, this time in the grounds of her family home for a delightfully sunny evening with gin from the Derbyshire Distillery and a canapés BBQ from the gourmet-licious Butler's Pantry. Should you host your own event at Amfrec you have the choice of the inside of the Mill itself or the gardens behind the Mill which look out over into green fields and Ann's home. Candy Floss and even an Olive gin, were all a great hit on the evening, which was attended by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire.
www.amfrec.com

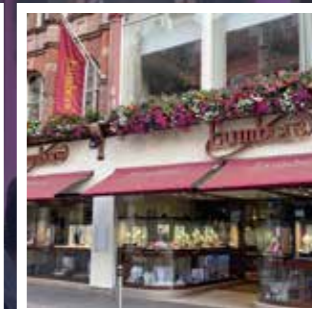


Lumbers

Leicestershire Connect Reception | Aug 22

LUMBERS JEWELLERS

Glittering connections: When we say glittering, with Lumbers we mean it; rocks sparkle here. Family owned and independent since Victorian times, this top luxury jewellers has a collection to die for, from unique pieces, fine watches, diamonds, gemstones and luxury goods, they even have a grand piano and bar on the top floor, not to mention being multi award-winning. An in-house bespoke designer for commissions is part of the warm service that awaits. KuKu guests mingled across the showroom whilst fine-dining canapés were served, with ever-flowing glasses of champagne which sparkled almost as much as the diamonds; Love Lumbers. www.lumbers.co.uk





It has been a busy year at Hilton and we have been delighted to have the pleasure in hosting not one, but two Kuku Connect Receptions in 2022!

The first at the Hilton East Midlands Airport, celebrating the late Queens Platinum Jubilee with a very special guest in the form of Queen Victoria. The event was a huge success with a fantastic turn out, and the glorious sunshine meant we could spend some of the evening drinking Pimms on the Hotel's new terrace area soaking up the last of the sun.

Conveniently located just off the M1 and four miles from East Midlands Airport, this is the perfect 'meet-in-the-middle' location offering park and fly services, Livingwell health club offering a gym and swimming pool, comfortable guest rooms and 17 meeting rooms, including our Dales suite with a capacity of up to 300 guests.

Guests are welcome to enjoy a coffee, lunch, dinner, and afternoon tea in Whisk & Ladle, along with the famous Hilton breakfast served in the Pavilion restaurant.

Travelling just 12 miles down the road and over to Nottingham, we hosted the August Kuku Connect Reception at the newly refurbished Hilton Nottingham, located right in the city centre. We have placed the finishing touches on a £6.5 million hotel transformation project, which includes the redesign and comprehensive refurbishment of 176 guest rooms, including bathrooms, corridors, noise insulation, installation of air-conditioning throughout and reviewed layouts in the bedrooms. This compliments the lobby which was completed during the pandemic.



Hilton East Midlands Airport
Junction 24, M1, Derby, DE74 2YZ
Tel: 01509 674 000

During the renovation process, the team at Hilton Nottingham have enjoyed finding out more about the history of the hotel with the help of local historian, Janine Tanner. The Hotel was originally built on the site next to the old Nottingham Victoria Station which opened in 1900.

The Hotel opened in 1903, three years after the Victoria Station was completed, and as the station now had an official name, naturally the hotel would follow suit, and proudly bore the name 'Victoria Station Hotel'. Sometime during the latter part of the Victoria Station's life (after 1950) the word 'station' was dropped from the hotel's name, and it became the 'Victoria Hotel'. In honour of the site's rich history, Hilton Nottingham has embraced this theme throughout the hotel, featuring bespoke Nottingham City artwork throughout the newly renovated guest rooms.

The hotel is in a family-friendly location with many attractions within walking distance, including Theatre Royal, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham Castle, Old Market Square, and Motorpoint Arena. Wollaton Hall is a 15-minute drive away, and the hotel is just 40 minutes from Sherwood Forest.

Hilton Nottingham provides a complement of services and brand amenities, including 176 refurbished Guest rooms, indoor pool, gym and sauna, 7 flexible meeting & events rooms up to 200 guests, Bric Bar & Restaurant with outdoor terrace, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, 24-hour room service, free Wi-Fi in all public areas and in bedrooms for Hilton Honors members.



Hilton Nottingham
Milton Street, Nottingham, NG1 3PZ
Tel: 0115 934 700

THE DRILL

Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Aug 22

LINCOLN DRILL HALL

You know the drill at KuKu: The Drill Hall is at the heart of the arts, performance and creativity in Lincoln and they played host to KuKu in August, where we connected over delicious savoury wraps, fruity vodka punch and mocktails from the bar. The Drill, once an actual military drill hall, now houses an auditorium with moveable tiered seating, which makes the space flexible for concerts, live events or even training seminars and conferences, all complete with stage, lights and dressing rooms for visiting stars and celebs who perform at this great venue. Local artists through to international works, you can live the Arts at the Drill, you can even be part of it. www.lincolndrill.co.uk



Nottinghamshire Connect Reception | Aug 22

HILTON RE-LAUNCH

6.5 million reasons to connect: The Hilton Hotel in Nottingham's city centre hosted a special re-launch party just for KuKu after an extensive £6.5m renovation and refurbishment of the Victorian hotel, once the centre piece for the old Victoria Train station. A sweeping staircase, modern airy rooms greet you at this hotel which is now transformed for the new chapter of its life. KuKu guests toured the new bedrooms, sipped sparkling cocktails and enjoyed a great feast of dishes from around the globe, from this world-famous brand. Right in the heart of the city centre the hotel offers dining and leisure facilities for locals and visitors, and plays hosts to meeting, training days and dinners. www.hilton.com



THE nachural ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS 2023

EAST MEETS WEST | BLACK TIE EVENT

VENUE:
Leicester City Football Club
King Power Stadium
Filbert Way, Leicester, LE2 7FL

DATE:
Friday 10th March 2023

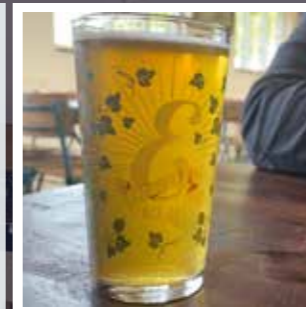
For more information: www.nachural.co.uk
An event to network, influence and celebrate
the best of British Business



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Sep 22

THE GATE HANGS WELL

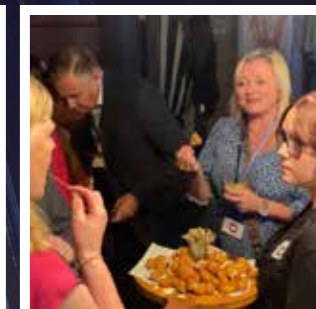
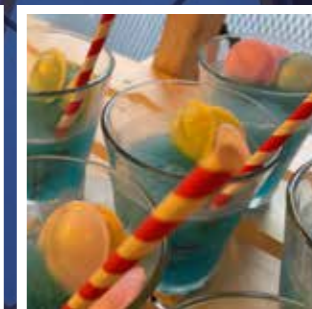
We're hung! A country pub as it should be; cosy, relaxed and welcoming, The Gate Hangs Well at Syston is a pub gem, with a multi award-winning entrepreneurial landlady, Cassie Davison. Everards Beer, Burleigh's Gin cocktails and mocktails for non-drinkers were served to Kuku guests in the Boat House, a private-hire space for charity events, quizzes, parties and receptions like ours. Pizzas kept on coming whilst businesses connected by the banks of the river at this delightful pub. TGHW offers a host of community events for Mums and toddlers, to food fairs and even pub hot-desking - drop in for a pint and some 'pub-grub' at its best too. www.thegatesyston.co.uk



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Sep 22

VODKA REVOLUTION

Can you tell we like Vodka? Vodka seems to have flowed throughout the Summer for Kuku, this time with Vodka Revolution Derby hosting our thirsty entrepreneurs. The evening saw the re-launch of the upstairs cocktail lounge, which has been closed for some years. A pulpit for the DJ, disco lighting and an all round brilliant party space for business events as well as celebrations with friends. Guests blind tasted vodka, sampled candy floss cocktails, shooters and daiquiris with party canapés to keep our networkers in good spirits. A lovely team, an even better night out. www.revolution-bars.co.uk/bar/derby



nachural

*"Today a reader
tomorrow a leader"*

- Margaret Fuller

To order past and future copies of the
Business Influencer Magazine, please email
keerat@nachural.co.uk

www.thebusinessinfluencer.co.uk



axonpoint

DIGITAL MARKETING

Axon Point is an independent marketing consultancy that specialises in using data and content marketing to help small and independent businesses increase revenue through digital marketing activity.

We typically do this in 3 ways;

1: Helping businesses get new customers:

Through activities across SEO and Local Business marketing, we help businesses improve their online visibility and increase traffic to their website and associated online profiles (e.g. Google My Business page, Social Media Profiles, Marketplace stores/profiles, etc). By taking a 'content first' approach, our strategies are always based on achieving medium to long term results whilst also helping businesses develop a consistent brand and style that is relevant to target audience

2: Helping business keep customers:

Through activities across email marketing and CRM, we help businesses develop meaningful and long-lasting relationships with customers so they can more easily encourage repeat business and develop the Lifetime Value of a customer. Our 'content first' approach applies here too as we look to further develop brand authority with regular and relevant updates to website content (e.g. blog posts) and external channels (e.g. youtube, media publishing platforms). We also use primary and secondary data to create personalised and engaging customer marketing comms. This approach increases the level of targeting and minimises wasted marketing spend, the result being an ever improving ROI

3: Problem Solving:

By drawing on over 15 years of marketing experience across digital, data and brand marketing Axon Point has access to a range of tried and tested tools and specialist service providers that would ordinarily be beyond the reach of most small and independent businesses. If and where a business has a specific challenge or objective, we'll find a cost effective and efficient way to address it.

But don't take our word for it! Since joining the KuKu business community, we've had the pleasure of working with some fantastic businesses, including; Michelle and Liam at Tyella.com

We conducted an interview with Michelle and Liam to chart the journey of their business which we then turned into an article for their website. This content helped to add a personal touch to their personalised gifts business *"A massive thank you to Javinder Singh & Callum Dodsley of Axon Point for their interview and article about our Personalised Gift Shop tyella.co.uk The article really provides an amazing insight into our business and who we are not only as individuals but as a team."*

Garth Colan at Get A Desk: We've just started a multi-channel campaign to help Garth increase the awareness of his temporary office space business. *"Great people, good to deal with and high quality output"*

Contact Details / Info

Team: Jave, Callum, Kiran, Simone and JJ

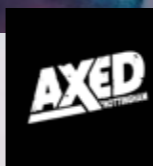
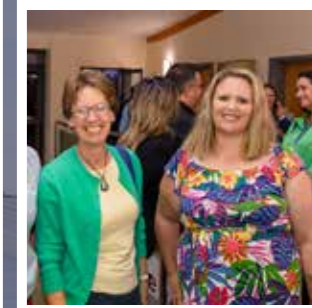
Tel: 07725 636862 (Jave) Email: info@axonpoint.co.uk Web: www.axonpoint.co.uk
4B Old Knows Factory, St. Ann's Hill Road, Nottingham, NG3 4GN



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Sep 22

BISHOP GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY

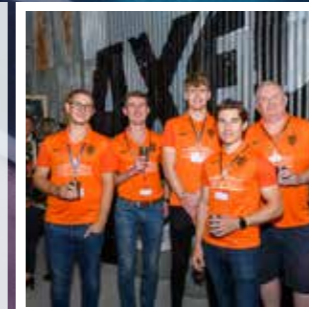
Studious connecting: The BG University, hosted KuKu on the rooftop terrace in their garden like campus in Lincoln. LORIC (Lincolnshire Open Research and Innovation Centre) led the event which introduced businesses to their brilliant free service for SME businesses and organisations, where LORIC offer 12 hours to support your business with resources such as research, marketing insight or competitor analysis, not only that, but the LORIC centre offers free meeting room space, a brilliant service that can take your business to the next level. We did this with alcohol and canapés of course, this is KuKu after all! www.loric.bgu.ac.uk / www.bgu.ac.uk



Nottinghamshire Connect Reception | Sep 22

AXED

Networking gets the axe: Whilst you might be bored networking, you won't be at KuKu as we visited the brand new Axed in the Corner House in Nottingham for business connecting with a dash of axe throwing. This new sport and venue is taking the country by storm and they already have a Corporate tournament league. A range of games and levels of abilities, you can take your children or even your Granny. This is a great venue which served up cocktails and creamy-tastic milkshake smoothies, but please, save the alcohol until after the axe throwing. Take your team, take your friends, see you there! www.axedglobal.com



WOMEN'S AWARDS

We know that you want to be
the best you can become and
we want to work with you to
help you do just that.

We're answering a growing
need to see more women
recognised, celebrated,
and rewarded for their
contribution to all sectors
and industries.

A small step forward in
bringing greater balance
to the gender pay and
recognition gaps we
still have.



If you know any woman that deserves recognition anywhere in the UK, you can now nominate her within the East Midlands, West Midlands or national (Open) award section.

If you are interested in sponsoring the events or any category, don't hesitate to get in touch, the Women's Awards is a fantastic vehicle for business recognition.

The Women's Awards is a prestigious multidisciplinary award celebrating the outstanding achievements of women. The purpose of these Awards is to raise awareness, recognise and honour the hard work and valuable contribution women of all cultures, communities, races, and beliefs, in all sectors make.

2023 is our 7th year as we continue to grow. There are many ways to get involved, least of all through making a nomination or sponsoring an award category. Become part of the movement to help women see their worth.

The Women's Awards is all about celebrating women, but we do more than that in our membership community. We provide a place for continual growth for women whatever their age, ethnicity, culture, or wherever you are on the career and business ladder.

www.thewomensawards.com



Due to overwhelming demand from other regions across the UK, 2022 saw the Women's Awards opening up a National (Open) Awards classification to complement the East and West Midlands.

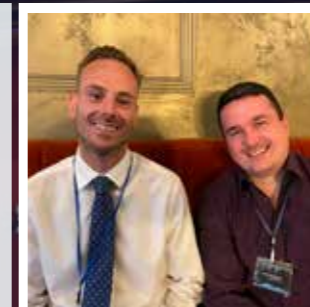
The National (Open) Women's Awards will enable women from across the UK to be nominated for one of the current fourteen categories, ranging from Outstanding Woman with Community Impact to Outstanding Woman in STEM. The prestigious awards celebrate the amazing achievement of women from grassroots to executive levels and have been instrumental in bringing recognition, and immense improvements to the lives of winners for their work and contribution in their chosen fields.



Derbyshire Connect Reception | Oct 22

THE DISTILLERY

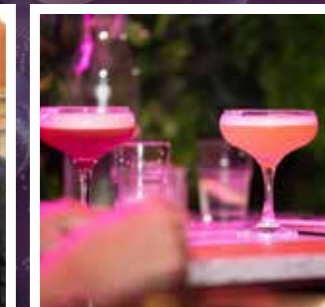
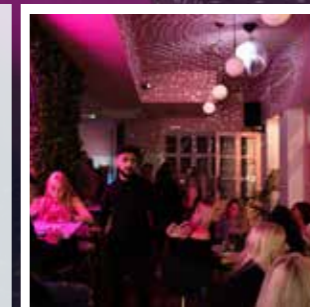
The finest networking: What a fab find in Derby the Distillery is. The largest collection of fine and premium spirits with over 200 whiskies alone and we mean the very, very good stuff, the sort HRH the late Princess Margaret would wholly approve of we think. Bar and restaurant with cocktail bar upstairs (yes accessible) this venue is a real find, quality cocktails, and creative menus are to be enjoyed. Our guests sampled exceptional whiskies, drank mini-cocktails and generous cuisine created especially for us, all part of the friendly service of this family run venue. Great for lunches and private events, even better for a night of cocktails and delicious food.
www.thedistilleryderby.co.uk



Leicestershire Connect Reception | Oct 22

AUDREY

In the Pink: It was all about award-winning cocktails at this new bar eatery - think a little slice of Miami, a little chic and a dash of London sophistication, then you have Audrey. One of Leicester's newest cocktail bars serving small plates of Michelin designed dishes, including our favourite Korean Chicken - more, more, more please, and with a French Martini on top. Intimate, friendly and all made fresh, this delightful bar decorated in pink and pastels is something rather swish, but different for Leicester. We just love Audrey and our KuKu guests did too, sampling Michelin cuisine and a cocktail or two, or three, or... A must visit. www.audreybar.co.uk



Where there's a Will there's a Way!

- **Do you have a Will?**

If not you are not alone. Prince died without a Will so his sister had to apply to Court for an Administrator to be appointed. If there is a Will the process is more straight forward and less costly.

- **What would happen to your Estate should something happen to you?**

A Will ensures the people you want to benefit don't miss out.

- **Who would look after your children?**

If you have minor children you can appoint Guardians to look after your children.

- **Would your loved ones miss out under the Intestacy Rules?**

These rules were just not made for modern day living so unmarried couples and step children are not included.

- **Is your Estate likely to pay Inheritance Tax?**

The current threshold is £325,000 per person.

- **Do you want to look at ways to mitigate Inheritance Tax?**

There are several options available to you.

By making a Will you will be able to answer all these questions positively and ensure that your wishes are followed.

Carrie Boughtwood

Director of APT Legal Limited.

M: 07771 868235 | E: carrie@apt-legal.co.uk | E: www.apt-legal.co.uk



Lincolnshire Connect Reception | Oct 22

OCTAGON LINCOLN

Day of the Dead: Halloween arrived early at the showroom and workshops of Octagon Lincoln, who offer print, signage for shop fronts and displays, right through to branded clothing and workwear, as well as the more traditional business cards, flyers and brochures. This behind-the-scenes evening at Octagon's workshops gave our KuKu guests inspiration for how to promote their brand in print, clothing and design. The showroom, decked up for halloween welcomed guests with Mexican beers and an assortment of tacos from Roco BBQ. Sorry to say that tacos and beer is not part of the regular service, that was especially for KuKu, FOMO much?
www.octagonlincoln.co.uk



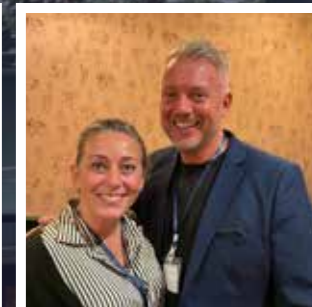
© David Harrison Photography



Nottinghamshire Connect Reception | Oct 22

THE WILLIAM GUNN

Exclusive for KuKu: We often feel treated, as our KuKu community are invited to all manner of launches and exclusive events and our evening at this 6 week old bar and kitchen was yet another excellent one of business, hospitality and connecting. The William Gunn, at Trent Bridge, named after the famous Victorian Cricketer hosted KuKu in their new venue, decked out in green and wood panels. Upmarket, pub-like in style and a place we love, with no nonsense British pub classics, but done well, such as the pies - we are salivating!
www.thewilliamgunn.co.uk





IN TODAY'S DIGITAL WORLD, BRAND IMAGERY IS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION

Whether you're selling a product or a service, your photography sets the tone for the degree of quality a client can expect.

Rolex wouldn't sell half as many watches if their images were not professionally curated to evoke a sense of prestige. Holidaymakers buy luxury packages because images loaded with elegant props have helped them imagine themselves on the beach. Expensive restaurants have diners drooling over plate-perfect pictures of their dishes before they've even had a taste.

Creative and well-planned imagery is key to promoting your business effectively; allowing you to increase your online engagement and ensure your first impression is a good one. Fortunately, on-brand imagery is only a call away.

David works with ambitious businesses to create images that capture their brand essence and allow them to stand out from the crowd.

"We have seen David's work first hand at KuKu from our Connect Receptions. He ensures he understands your needs, adds his creativity, and covers the photography efficiently. Whether you need brand-related images of you, your team or your business, David is a sure bet."

Philip Brooks-Stephenson - KuKu Connect



YOUR FIRST VISIT IS FREE

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY KUKU CONNECT?

Come along to one of our Connect Receptions and network with business owners and decision makers as a free guest to experience first hand what KuKu Connect is all about. If you're a nervous networker, don't worry - let us know beforehand and we will make sure you're looked after.

Remember, at KuKu Connect, there are no pitches, no presentations and no push, just a room full of friendly businesses!

Email us at hello@kukuconnect.co.uk to find out when our next Connect Reception is.

AN EXPO WITH A DIFFERENCE

SECURE YOUR EXHIBITION STAND



Great reasons to attend Love Business EXPO 2023

- > **Wide range of businesses** from across the East Midlands
- > Find out more about **business funding, grants and support**
- > **Generate new** business opportunities
- > Source new **products and services**
- > Presentation Theatre with **inspirational business speakers**
- > Café Networking Hub – **reconnect with old contacts**

Book your Love Business Exhibition Stand today!

SHELL SCHEME* 3m x 2m	SHELL SCHEME* 2m x 2m	SPACE ONLY 2m x 2m
£495+VAT	£395+VAT	£295+VAT

Book your FREE Delegate Ticket or Exhibition Stand at www.lovebusinessexpo.co.uk

love business EXPO 2023

Love Business Expo is gearing up for its biggest and best event yet in 2023, and businesses across Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire are being urged to book fast to avoid disappointment.

Stand bookings for the event go on general sale on Monday 3 October and demand is exceptionally high, with organisers Quiet Storm Solutions recommending that exhibitors secure their place early to ensure they don't miss out.

Taking place on Thursday, 16 February at Holywell Park Conference Centre, Loughborough, Love Business 2023 is set to attract hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of delegates.

The agenda for the day is being finalised, with some big announcements planned in the coming weeks. Visitors can expect the usual action-packed mix of business success stories, insight from local and national business and political leaders, and advice from industry experts across a wide range of business sectors.

Next year's event will be the tenth Love Business, which has run every year since the inaugural event in 2012, except for 2021 when COVID lockdown restrictions were in place.

Over the past decade, the expo has had a huge positive impact on the economy and the community in the East Midlands, providing an excellent platform for local businesses to showcase their products and services, share their good news and make vital new connections.

Several high-profile organisations from across the region have already pledged their support in 2023, including our longstanding

headline sponsor East Midlands Chamber and our partners KuKu Connect, SMB College Group, the Federation of Small Businesses, Fancy Entertainment, Hardy Signs, the British Business Bank, the East Midlands Cyber Resilience Centre, Accent Commercial Resources, the Loughborough Chamber of Trade & Commerce, Lexus, Inchcape, Dpi and Cross Productions. Help the Homeless Leicester and Me & Dee are the event's official charity partners.

Exhibition stands can be booked at www.lovebusinessexpo.co.uk/book-your-exhibition-stand.

We've already had an overwhelming demand for stands for Love Business 2023 and once they go on general sale on Monday, we expect them to sell out fast. Next year's event is shaping up to be another huge success, picking up where we left off in 2022.

"Businesses still have many challenges to contend with, from rising energy prices, global uncertainties and the increasing cost of living. Love Business is all about highlighting solutions, connecting business and helping them to seek out new opportunities to move forward and grow."

"The expo has grown in size, scale and profile and has become a real celebration of business success across Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. We look forward to welcoming friends old and new next year, for what's set to be another great event."



Steve Megson, Managing Director of Quiet Storm Solutions and Founder of Love Business

LOVE BUSINESS EXPO 2023 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



Book your FREE Delegate Ticket or Exhibition Stand at www.lovebusinessexpo.co.uk



www.binendwines.co.uk

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Email us: sales@binendwines.com



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facebook.com/binendwines

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- We source hundreds of different wines throughout the year!
- Pre-arranged case deals or select your own!
- **10% OFF** first order or for KuKu Connect members.
- Terms apply, please email sales@binendwines.com to claim.
- Any enquiries BIG or small

(Free delivery subject to min 12 bottle order or phone us and we can deliver less for a small fee, 10% off 1st order only)

KUKU CONNECT TIMELINE

OCTOBER 2016

KuKu Connect launches in Leicestershire
at Lumbers Jewellers

MAY 2018

KuKu Connect launches in Derbyshire
at the Cathedral Quarter Hotel

MAY 2018

KuKu Connect invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party
for their support to local businesses and the wider community

OCTOBER 2019

KuKu Connect launches in Lincolnshire
at Stoke Rochford Hall

MARCH 2020

KuKu Connect opens up all its available services for free for any business
during the next 16 months of COVID lockdowns

DURING 2021

KuKu Connect wins a total of 12 awards at local, national and global level

AUGUST 2021

KuKu Connect launches in Nottinghamshire at the Waterside Bar & Kitchen

MAY 2022

KuKu Connect named the UK's 'Best Networking Membership Organisation'
by the UK Enterprise Awards

JULY 2022

KuKu Connect receives the Gold Award from the Ministry of Defence



Make your event one to remember with Roxy!

ROXY THE PINK TUK BOX IS A MOBILE COFFEE BAR MAKING A DIFFERENCE, TANTALISING TASTEBUDS WITH ALL THINGS PINK! SERVING PINK CHAI LATTES, PINK FAIRY PRINCESS TEA, PINK CHOCOLATE BROWNIES, PINK COCKTAILS, PINK FIZZ AND MUCH MORE.

Available to hire for local fetes, weddings, birthdays, special occasions and corporate events, with bespoke packages tailored to individual needs.



Rosie May
foundation



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01949 358745 or email em@rosiemay.com

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1113049

[ROSIEMAY.COM](http://rosiemay.com)



KUKU CONNECT IN NUMBERS

Since the launch of KuKu Connect in 2016 we have reached quite a few milestones...



6

YEARS

SINCE THE LAUNCH OF KUKU CONNECT



12

BUSINESS AWARDS

FOR OUR SERVICES TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY



116

VENUES VISITED

ACROSS THE EAST MIDLANDS



8,640

BUSINESSES CONNECTED

AT OUR CONNECT RECEPTIONS



25,920

DRINKS SERVED

TO OUR GUESTS AND MEMBERS



100,000+

BUSINESSES REACHED

EACH MONTH THROUGH OUR BULLETINS

"KUKU CONNECT IS JUST A PISS UP"

We're just kidding of course. Afterall, we've won 12 business awards and have been reognised globally for our achievements but you would be forgiven for thinking it is just a piss up, if you're looking in from the outside. That's because at KuKu we believe you CAN mix business with pleasure. Yes, we visit some great venues and enjoy plenty of food and drink. Yes, there is a lot of laughter at our Connect Receptions but most importantly YES, business is done.

We believe in collaboration, not competition and always encourage our guests to try all the networking options out there and choose the ones that are right for them, because when you're happy and feel at your best, you will showcase your business at its best and make more connections.

We could carry on trying to convince you ourselves but we think it's better to let other people blow our trumpet for us...

"KuKu is classy, safe, inclusive, and a great place to do business" Ben Timberley, Blackbook Consulting.
www.blackbookconsulting.co.uk

"KuKu Connect does just that, connects people. With a relaxed atmosphere it's only natural more business will be discussed and more contacts will be made. A winning combination" Caroline Hood, SMB College Group. www.smbcollegegroup.ac.uk

"Since I joined in February, your wonderful network has helped me win 3 clients as well as new friends and connections" Jave Singh, Axon Point. www.axonpoint.co.uk

"I put someone forward for a job at Martin & Co after meeting him for the first time at KuKu, and he was hired. It was his first day yesterday" Romey Lee, Martin & Co.
www.martinco.com

"I met Darren at KuKu Connect. He has a new role as Head of People and he needed someone to help with the copious amounts of admin that comes along with a very busy and deadline focused period of recruitment. Darren had a few candidates in mind, but I'm delighted to say that he chose me to work with him on the project" Carol Pull, PA Your Way. www.pa-yourway.co.uk

"I've recently been able to help an ex-service person with their career transition after meeting at KuKu Connect and have recouped the cost of my Kuku membership, with another 9 months left of my annual subscription, so it's been a very worthwhile investment" Tracey Warren, Primaris Consulting.
www.primaris.co.uk

"I came along as a guest and made two clients. I've been a member for over a year now and not only are the events really fun, but there are a lot of other resources you can take advantage of when you're a Member. They really take the time and effort to get to know you, your business and make those connections for you" Eloise Idoine, Rialto Training.
www.rialto-training.com

"I came along to KuKu Connect as a guest and met someone. I was nervous but we had a good chat and from that I got my first client" Dani Bello. Bello Mind and Soul. www.bellomindandsoul.com

"I've been a big fan of KuKu from the very beginning. I love the friendly, informal nature of the networking and it really works. One example is Hemsalls Consultancy in Leicester who, after meeting at KuKu, quickly became a client" Matt Youdale, Arch Communications.
www.arch-comms.co.uk

"I love KuKu Connect, purely because of the effective business networking that they provide. The guys that run it, the venues and the quality of people that attend are excellent. These events, I guarantee, you get the right people" Phil Megon, Quiet Storm. www.quietstorm.co.uk



KUKU CONNECT - YOUR JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

Step 1

BE OUR GUEST

Come along to a Connect Reception as a free, first time visitor in one of the 4 counties we operate in

Step 2

JOIN KUKU

Invest in your business by becoming a member and joining the friendly KuKu Community.
Join at www.kukuconnect.co.uk

Step 3

LET'S GET TO KNOW YOU

Let's have an online meeting so we can really get to know your business, the clients you're looking for and connections you'd like to make

Step 4

GET PHYSICAL

Build relationships and experience fabulous venues and hopsitality at the monthly Connect Receptions. (Don't forget to block out the dates in your diary!)

Step 5

HELLO WORLD

We will announce you as a new member to our community so make sure you say hello on social media

Step 6

BUILD YOUR PROFILE

Increase your online presence with your very own SEO rich member page on our website with links to your website and social media profiles

Step 7

BECOME A VIDEO STAR

You will be the star of your very own 'Meet the Member' video interview showcasing your business which will be shared with thousands of businesses

Step 8

JOIN US ONLINE

Meet business owners from around the UK and connect with fascinating people at KuKu Cocktail Lounge - KuKu's exciting, online networking event

Step 9

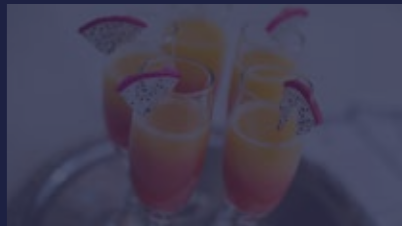
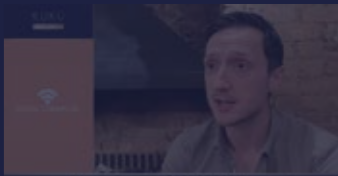
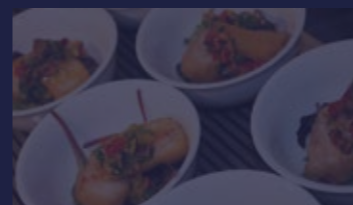
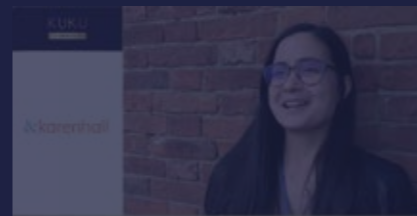
GRAB YOUR BADGE

Download an exclusive, member only badge to display on your website and email footer to show you're part of the KuKu Community

Step 10

CELEBRATE

Save the date for our Annual Birthday Reception which brings the entire KuKu Community together for one fabulous evening





📷 tree_house_cakes

📘 Tree House Cakes

WWW.TREEHOUSECAKES.CO.UK

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.

Gluten Free, vegan and egg free cakes are also catered for.

Wedding cakes are where my 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 as giving a truly bespoke service. You will receive outstanding personal service beginning to end.

CONTACT me on 07717 767596 or adrian@treehousecakes.co.uk to discuss your requirements



KUKU | CONNECT

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Are you getting everything you need from your current networking events? If the answer is 'no' then it's time to go KuKu. Membership is for 12 months and there are a whole range of benefits included to help raise the profile of your business such as...

ACCESS TO OUR COMMUNITY

Access the vibrant KuKu business community and connect with decision makers and business owners whilst developing quality relationships that create business. Not only that, you will also experience fabulous venues and indulge in complimentary food and drink.

INTRODUCTORY MEETING

Help us get to know your business and learn how to maximise your membership with a free, online meeting.

ONLINE NETWORKING

Connect with the KuKu community at our regular KuKu Cocktail Lounge online events with great speakers and the opportunity to network online in a way that suits you.

NEW MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

Exposure to our national audience via a new member video announcement across social media and to our subscribers officially welcoming you to the KuKu Community.

FREE GUEST PLACE EACH MONTH

Impress that prospective client or business associate and bring them along as a free 'first time visitor' guest to a Connect Reception. If your guest joins the KuKu Community within 30 days you will receive one free month's membership!

VIDEO INTERVIEW

Reach thousands of decision makers with your very own video interview promoting your business.

WEBSITE LISTING

Increase your online presence with an SEO rich exclusive listing on our Members page and build credence by encouraging positive reviews from your clients.

MEMBER BADGE

Show you're part of our exclusive business community by downloading the Member's only badge for exclusive use on your website and email footers.

ANNUAL EVENT

Exclusive invitation to our prestigious, annual, regional event which brings the whole KuKu community together for one fantastic evening of luxury. Connect with business owners from across the region whilst indulging in the complimentary hospitality.

FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.KUKUCONNECT.CO.UK

Don't get left behind – it's time to take your business online



The world is more online than ever before.
A professional website is essential if your business is going to succeed.

Future-proof your business and reach more customers with a website designed to help you grow.

We offer hassle-free web design services that will take care of all your website needs.

0116 4105 996
john.cooper@itseeze.com
itseeze-leicester.co.uk

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WEBSITES: FIVE TOP TIPS

A local web designer shares what your website wishes you knew about it

"I can't see this internet thing taking off," said John Cooper in 1991 when his uncle, who built NASA satellite components, showed him the World Wide Web for the first time on this newfangled thing called a 'laptop'. It, of course, wasn't too long before John ate his words. Today, John runs the Leicester franchise of web design company It'seeze.

John launched It'seeze Leicester in 2015, and he celebrated its seventh birthday in July. He previously spent nearly 20 years working for National Grid, looking after their websites and intranets, which took him across the pond coaching his American colleagues to do the same. John's also been a radio presenter in Spain, parish councillor, owned a marketing business and is a qualified printer, but has primarily built websites for over 25 years. These varied experiences make him his unique selling point.

"My website opens up with a picture of me; then it goes to a picture of Old John at Bradgate Park; from one Old John to another! We work on the premise that every client receives a personal, local service," says John.

John designs websites for hotels, equestrian centres, health and beauty businesses, trades, and many more, including celebrity chef Kwoklyn Wan and former Eastenders actress Tanya Franks.

Sharing five top tips, here's what John says you need to know about your website.

1: IT'S LIKE A CAR

Buying a website is akin to buying a car. You learn how to drive a car; you learn how to use a website's content management system. A car has a destination, a website has objectives. You power a car with fuel, you power a website with search engine optimisation (SEO). A car needs a service and MOT, a website needs a refresh and security checks.

2: IT NEEDS UPDATING

If your content is out-of-date, potential customers may click away before getting to know you. John explained: *"I'm always updating my current website, which was rebranded just a year ago. Things have moved on since then. Technology and trends change daily."* If your content is out-of-date, potential customers may click away before getting to know you.

3: IT NEEDS A PURPOSE

Should your website simply raise your company's digital presence? Or do you have a product to sell? Or are you an electrician who needs quick contact touchpoints? If your website doesn't know what it's supposed to do, neither will your customers. Websites should convert visitors into prospects.

4: IT SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

A website should be part of your business plan, which could include digital and print marketing for a joined-up user experience. Think of your website as an employee. What are the goals of your website, and how will you measure its performance? How can it improve?

5: IT WANTS TO STAY COOL AND CURRENT

Do you update your content regularly, and do your site photos reflect you and your business? Do you have testimonials? Does your website meet accessibility guidelines?

Visit John's website to see what good looks like at itseeze-leicester.co.uk.

ASPIRE TO DO MORE, ASPIRE TO GOLD



KuKu Connect are the proud holders of a Gold Award from The Ministry Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. This Gold Award was announced by The Cabinet Office in July, 2022 and is the highest badge of honour an organisation can attain. Businesses and organisations of any size and any sector can pledge their support to the Armed Forces Community, with an Armed Forces Covenant, which is free and something we encourage all organisations including micro-businesses and freelancers to become part of.

Minister for Defence People Leo Docherty, MP said:
"Regardless of size, location or sector, employing members of the Armed Forces community is good for businesses."

There are a current 643 Gold Award Holders in the UK, which makes us all at KuKu Connect very proud to receive such a prestigious award. Whilst a key focus of the Armed Forces Covenant is to support the employment and opportunities for members of the Armed Forces community, there is still a vital role for any business to play, including businesses who do not have many, or any employees. Your role in support, awareness and advocacy is a hugely valuable part of becoming an Armed Forces Covenant holder. You become part of a network of businesses and organisations from across the East Midlands and it is completely free to become a holder of a Covenant.

There are many easy, but impactful ways you can demonstrate your Covenant support, as examples, by supporting the annual Poppy Appeal, linking your business to your local Cadet Unit to help support young people. You could share information and news from Defence over your website and social media and attend your local Remembrance Day and Armed Forces Day activities; simplistically it is about showing your support and commitment to those who serve, have served and to veterans and their families. It is something

that at KuKu we believe every organisation can play a valuable part within, yet it costs nothing to become a Covenant holder.

By signing your own Armed Forces Covenant this means that you are showing your support in the community, contributing to Corporate Social Responsibility and bringing opportunity and credence to your own organisation or business. Whether you are a larger employer, developing SME or start-up entrepreneur, you are committing your support to the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve this country.

Philip Brooks-Stephenson, KL, BStJA - KuKu Connect Armed-Forces Champion:

"The Armed Forces Covenant is an exciting opportunity for any business, not only does your business support serving military personnel, young people, veterans and their families, but it connects you to a powerful community of like-minded businesses and organisations at local, regional and national level and we all have our part to play. Come and join KuKu Connect and many others as a Covenant holder today."



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GOLD AWARD 2022

For more information on becoming an Armed Forces Covenant holder please visit:
www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk

If you would like to informally talk to KuKu Connect about our work in supporting the Armed Forces community and how your organisation, whatever your size, can practically support and about the signing a covenant please contact Philip Brooks-Stephenson at: hello@kukuconnect.co.uk

You can also speak to the Ministry of Defence direct at local level through the East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association (RFCA) please visit: www.eastmidlandsrfa.co.uk
Bruce Spencer - Regional Employer Engagement Director 0115 838 3218



SOME VETERANS ARE STILL FIGHTING...FOR THEIR LIVES!

Most service personnel who leave the British Armed Forces do so successfully and often thrive in whatever second career they choose. However, there are some for whom the transition from the military family to life as a 'civvy' proves problematic, and for a minority of service leavers, those problems can result in contact with the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and, sometimes, a custodial sentence.

In 2014, a government report (the Phillips Report) highlighted that ex-British Armed Forces veterans were the single largest occupational group with UK prisons (around 4% of total prison population or 3300 veterans).

As a direct result, the charity Care after Combat was formed in 2014 to support our veterans in prison, through the prison gates and back in the community, to give them the best possible chance of making a success of their life beyond custody, and to not reoffend. We also support families of those veterans, as well as serving Armed Forces personnel who might be on remand awaiting court proceedings.



The core mechanism of Care after Combat support to veterans in the CJS is a scheme of one-to-one mentorship under Project Phoenix. This mentorship is delivered by staff and volunteer mentors who truly understand the difficulties that ex-Armed Forces personnel can experience when leaving the military and faced with civilian life. Most of our staff and mentors are veterans themselves or have a close association with the military; this helps significantly in building the crucial trust between mentor and mentee.

Delivering one-to-one mentorship, and collaborative clinical interventions with NHS partners, to veterans in prison up to 12 months prior to release ensures that the veteran is as well prepared as possible for release and for successful reintegration to the community. Our mentors continue to provide their support through the prison gates and for up to 12 months after release (although we have worked with some veterans for well over 12 months post release). The mentor is there as a source of practical and emotional support, a 'handrail' for the veteran to call upon at any time. That support is backed up with a 24/7 helpline should any veteran find themselves in crisis.

Project Phoenix works. It helps veterans make good choices for their future, improving their general wellbeing, and reducing the reoffending rate dramatically. Of those who have received one-to-one mentorship (500+) less than 10% reoffend within the first 12 months post-release, compared to the national adult average of 48%. The average overall cost

to society of someone reoffending and receiving a custodial sentence is around £185,000. It costs as little as £1,500 per year for Care after Combat support to each veteran.

Care after Combat has links with several employers. We work with veterans to prepare for employment prior to release through helping to construct CVs, arrange training, accessing MoD funding (if the individual qualifies), and making links with the employers we have relationships with. One recent example; an ex-infantry soldier, 15 years served, who suffered complex combat related PTSD that became worse after discharge from the Army, leading to alcohol addiction and to an offence which saw him serve two-years of a four year sentence. Picked up early in his sentence by Care after Combat, the assistance given saw him deal effectively with both addiction and mental health issues whilst still in prison, prepare well for release, whilst, in parallel, a Care after Combat mentor helped access training funding for a fibre-optics course lined up immediately upon release. Links to a fibre-optics company were made, job interview conducted before completing the course, and he was successfully employed immediately upon completing training. The interview was for an operative position, he was offered a supervisor position straight away; such is the calibre of the man. His view:

"When I came to prison I was effectively morally, emotionally, and physically broken. Throughout my sentence, Care After Combat have supported me in ways I never thought possible. The support and guidance they provide is second to none, every step of the way they have enabled me to come to terms with and deal with my issues. Even after I'm released, I know that no matter where I am, they will continue to be there for me. Not only for myself, but Care After Combat have also been there for my fiancée, always there to advise and guide her whenever required. Every member of Care After Combat are a credit to the charity. They should all be proud of the work they continue to do for veterans"



If your company would be willing to employ ex-offender Armed Forces veterans, please get in touch with Care after Combat at enquires@careaftercombat.org.

Equally, if you are interested in supporting our charity, or becoming a volunteer mentor, please see our website at www.careaftercombat.org for more details.

We look forward to hearing from you.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

A donation will help meet the cost of supporting veterans in the Criminal Justice System.

FUNDRAISE FOR US

To take part in an event or do your own thing go to: www.careaftercombat.org/fundraising

DONATE ONLINE

You can make a donation online go to: www.careaftercombat.org/donate

DONATE BY POST

Please make your cheque payable to 'Care after Combat' and send to the address below.

Head Office

Care After Combat, Office 12, Newark Beacon
Cafferata Way, Newark NG24 2TN

01636 557 543

enquiries@careaftercombat.org

www.careaftercombat.org



Care after Combat is a registered charity 1159342 (England/Wales)



0300 343 0255 | careaftercombat.org

VOLUNTEER WITH US

The role of Volunteer Mentor is challenging, but hugely rewarding. The results achieved due to the dedication and perseverance of both mentor and service user are often dramatic and life changing. The significant reduction in re-offending rates amongst veterans who have been mentored by Care after Combat is a clear indicator of the success of this scheme.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Mentor and would like to know more about the role, please contact us at:

enquiries@careaftercombat.org

Or call the Newark office on 01636 557 543

Our headquarters in Newark covers operations in Central England whilst providing support to Regional Coordinators operating in wider regions of England and Wales.

A strong Volunteer Mentor network provides essential support to ensure success.



HELPLINE
0300 343 0255



TRUSTED MENTORS
HELPING VETERANS
IN THE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM



CASE STUDY VOLUNTEER MENTOR

Gary, a mentor for three years with Care after Combat said:

"A couple of proverbs motivate and underpin my mentoring;

There but by the grace of God go I - it occurs to me that the fundamental difference between my mentee and I is often, simply; opportunity, right place right time and a significant helping of old fashioned good luck, and...

Walk a mile in another man's shoes - I have at least as much to learn from my mentee as I can give, he has experienced things I can barely imagine."

CASE STUDY VETERAN IN CUSTODY

A former soldier with PTSD who had served in Afghanistan:

"When I came to prison I was effectively morally, emotionally and physically broken. Throughout the sentence, Care after Combat have supported me in ways I never thought possible.

The support and guidance they provide is second to none, every step of the way they have enabled me to come to terms with and deal with my issues. Even after I'm released I know that no matter where I am, they will continue to be there for me.

Not only for myself, Care after Combat have been there for my fiancée, always there to advise and guide her whenever required.

Every member of Care after Combat are a credit to the charity. They should all be proud of the work they continue to do for veterans."

0300 343 0255 | careaftercombat.org

0300 343 0255 | careaftercombat.org



HAVE YOU SIGNED THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT?



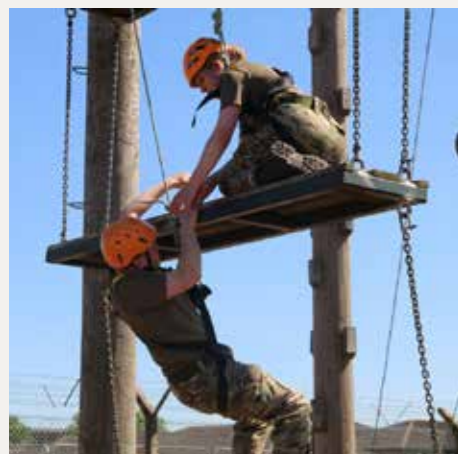
The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve, or have served, in the Armed Forces and their families, are treated with fairness and support.

By signing the Covenant, which is free, your business will:

- demonstrate support for the Armed Forces and Cadets
- develop a mutually beneficial relationship with Defence
- enhance your reputation and corporate social responsibility
- gain access to highly trained military personnel
- sign up to the Employer Recognition Scheme

Reservists, veterans and cadets have valuable skills, such as leadership, teamwork, planning and problem solving, all of which bring real benefit.

Find out how your organisation can pledge their support by contacting Stuart Ellis at em-empasst@rfca.mod.uk | www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk



Thank You

The KuKu year is always a whirlwind of exciting events and of course business connecting. It keeps our unique community a thriving place for new business, partnerships, and support for one another as business owners, leaders and decision makers.

However the success of KuKu is reliant on the ambition of our region and the individual organisations who contribute to the excellence of the East Midlands, so we wish to acknowledge and thank all of those organisations and individuals who have been a part of our KuKu community over the past year, especially our KuKu Members and our wonderful Connect Reception host venues.

We would particularly like to thank our photographers who have supported KuKu Connect over the past year, capturing Connect Receptions and special events. Special thanks to Suzanne Fells Photography, David Harrison Photography, Trent House Studios, Shot By Taz and Hayley Bordacs Photography and a special mention to our friends from Whatton House in Leicestershire, where our annual photographs were shot.

This year our annual reception was kindly hosted by the Principal and Chief Executive of SMB College Group at Brooksby Hall, supported by a number of talented Students. The annual reception was also supported by The Ministry of Defence, Octagon Lincoln and Shires Event Hire and was attended by Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford, GCB, CBE, ADC, DL. We would also like to thank Lumbers Jewellers of Leicester and the many other businesses and organisations who have taken part in our annual reception which celebrates business and the wider community.

Special thanks goes to Graham and Kathie Goddard, part of our KuKu Team, who warmly welcome our members and guests at our Connect Receptions, they are an active and hugely important part of KuKu Connect and we give our heartfelt thanks for their support and time.

We hope you have enjoyed reading the 2022 KuKu Connect Almanac and we hope you will connect with us for the new year ahead - see you in 2023!

Stephen and Philip
KuKu Connect Co-Founders





2022 has been a year of recovery and celebration, both in dealing with the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, then marking the Platinum Jubilee of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It has however been a year of highs and lows for business owners, organisational leaders and entrepreneurs but an often subtle constant for many was The Queen, as both a Head of State, a leader and the sense of being the head of one great family of people at home in the UK and overseas, this sense reaching far beyond the Commonwealth.

The late Queen was a champion of business and enterprise, which was particularly recognised through the Queen's Awards for Enterprise which is one of the top honours and awards that a business can attain. In times of challenge for businesses the sense of being part of a community that cares, which supports and helps its stakeholders to develop and grow is crucial and The Queen was inspirational in leading communities and bringing people together.

KuKu Connect is very much about connecting people together into a community of businesses which support one another, learn from one another and share in ideas and successes, so it was with great sadness that 2022 also saw the passing of the late Queen.

Businesses now look to the future challenges of the year ahead, but also one of excitement, potential and optimism as we enter a new era under Their Majesty's King Charles III and The Queen Consort who will no doubt continue the extraordinary support of businesses, of community organisations and all those who contribute to the success of the country, particularly here in the East Midlands.

It is in thanks and recognition of The late Queen's service and community support that the 2022 KuKu Connect Almanac is dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II in tribute.

WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU

Join KuKu Connect today and grow your business

www.kukuconnect.co.uk



KUKU | CONNECT

AWARD WINNING BUSINESS NETWORKING



www.kukuconnect.co.uk



hello@kukuconnect.co.uk



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