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## MALVERN HILLS BUSINESS E-BULLETIN



Visit [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/business](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/business) for more information or if you need help please email us at [ecodev@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:ecodev@malvern hills.gov.uk).

## MALVERN HILLS NEWS



### SkillsBoost grants reopening



SkillsBoost Worcestershire helps organisations with the costs of upskilling and training their employees.

Worcestershire organisations can claim 50% of the training costs back, up to £6,000, for their Worcestershire based employees. This means that the new funding can allow organisations to upskill or redeploy their employees to

maximise their effectiveness.

Businesses of any size and sector are eligible for the programme as long as the employees they are looking to upskill or retrain reside in Worcestershire. The SkillsBoost programme is being delivered in collaboration with Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and Worcestershire Growth Hub.

Funding for the SkillsBoost programme is limited on a first come first served basis. [Click here for the registration form.](#)

[Find out more](#)

### What's New - Tourism Businesses



An exciting group of new businesses have opened across the district, with more on the horizon. Just to name a few there is a refurbished tearoom at Witley Court, children's play café in Great Malvern and a new record shop in Upton upon Severn.

Our town centres are thriving places to be - make sure you encourage your customers to discover all there is to offer in Great Malvern, Barnards Green, Malvern Link, Tenbury Wells and Upton upon Severn.

[Find out more](#)

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## Work Well Live Better Bi-Annual Showcase Event



**Work Well  
Live Better**  
Creating a healthier  
Worcestershire workforce

**Date:** Tuesday 24 June

**Time:** 09.00 - 13.30

**Venue:** University of Worcester Arena, WR2 5JN

Join for a morning of connection, collaboration and learning, with a line of expert speakers, time for networking and sharing best practice. Speaker Sarah Evans on "No More Drama! How to Feel Empowered to Deal Well with Conflict"

[Book your space](#)

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## Could you support young autistic adults in Worcestershire



Based on the outskirts of Malvern, Bankside College is a brand-new specialist provision offering high-quality further education for young adults aged 16-25 who are autistic and have multiple complex co-occurring needs. **The College are looking for employers who could support students and potentially offer work experience** so they can gain experience and develop their skills and confidence.

Work experience is typically a half or one full day and would be arranged for a time in the week to suit the employer. The student will initially be accompanied by their learning mentor during their work experience, and this will be monitored and reviewed regularly, we can also look to support with transport provision.

For more information, there will be an employer open event on Wednesday June 11 at 5:30pm.

Any employers that would like to attend this free event, please [click here](#) to register your attendance.

If you would like any more information about Bankside College, Offering Work Experience or would like to arrange a tour of the college, please contact Work-Based Learning Coordinator John Colclough:

**john.colclough@banksidecollege.co.uk**

**tel. 07711016302**

**Find out more**

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## Business Support Case Studies - Malvern Hills



### Innovation Worcestershire - No More Solo

A few years ago, while looking for ways to meet new people and share experiences, Ryan Breakwell found a gap in the market. Ryan's vision was clear, to create an app that helps people find genuine companionship for holidays, hobbies, and everyday activities. Worcestershire County Council introduced Ryan to Real World Consultancy (RWC) - specialists in business coaching for early-stage entrepreneurs. Through personalised one-on-one coaching, RWC helped Ryan explore critical aspects of business development.

With expert guidance, Ryan successfully applied for an Innovation Grant to use advanced dating app algorithms to power the connection-matching features of No More Solo. The coaching also helped him navigate marketing, PR, branding and design.

**Read more about No More Solo**

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### Enterprising Worcestershire Grant case study - Frank P Matthews

Frank P Matthews, a local tree farm and nursery based in Tenbury Wells, is on its way to expanding its customer base after receiving a grant from Enterprising Worcestershire. This



initiative has enabled this 120-year-old business to not only vastly improve their set-up time but also attend more shows, such as the RHS Malvern Spring Festival, BBC Gardeners World Live Show and Shrewsbury Flower Show.

Charles James, Director of Frank P Matthews recognised the need to improve the logistics and labour involved in exhibiting at RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) shows. Seeking to expand their client base across Worcestershire and exhibit at more events, Charles applied to the Enterprising Worcestershire new start-up grant to invest in an exhibition trailer.

**The Innovation and Enterprising Worcestershire grants are supported by Malvern Hills District Council and funding from the UK Government's UKSPF programme.**

[Read more about Frank P Matthews](#)

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## Free one to one business coaching is back



If you are looking for advice on how to take your business to the next level Enterprising Worcestershire's free business coaching is back.

There are up to 10 hours available with an experienced Business Coach who will help you create a personalised, actionable growth plan for your business.

[Register your interest](#)



## BetaDen Wins Technology Accelerator Programme of the Year 2025 – West Midlands

The [SME Business Elite Awards](#) aim to recognise and showcase the efforts of highly skilled SMEs across the UK.

The research team at SME News conduct comprehensive investigations on behalf of each nominee using set criteria and diverse public domain sources, including corporate websites & directories, industry journals and associations, press releases and other published works to name a few.

Some factors the team take into consideration include (but are not limited to) sector expertise, industry experience, company profile and highlights, any significant accolades and achievements, client testimonials and recommendations, industry recognition and reputation, demonstrated innovation & company performance, history and establishment, extracurricular activities etc.

Applications for Cohort 9.0 of the BetaDen Accelerate programme are open. Whether you're building in AI, cyber, green tech or emerging fields yet to be defined, BetaDen is here to help you grow.

**BetaDen is supported by Malvern Hills District Council through our UKSPF funding programme.**

[Find out more](#)

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## Skills Bootcamps are back after high demand



Worcestershire businesses looking to build a loyal, skilled workforce and stay competitive in a changing labour market are being encouraged to take part in the Skills Bootcamps training programme.

Skills Bootcamps can help local businesses **upskill existing staff or recruit new employees with the right skills from day one**. The training offered within the programme is **flexible and tailored to industry needs**.

The scheme allows existing employees to gain fresh ideas and perspectives, while helping prepare new recruits for the job. Businesses in the area can access Skills Bootcamps through a part-funded process, **with SMEs contributing only 10% towards the training cost and large employers contributing 30%**. In return, employees gain skills that support business growth, and employers commit to offering increased responsibilities post-training.

Whether you're looking to reskill your team or find new talent, Skills Bootcamps offer a smart way to improve productivity and meet future skills demands.

**Learn more about how Skills Bootcamps can support your business by contacting the Worcestershire Growth Hub team on 01905 677 888.**

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Talent and Skills

## Expert HR Support Events

Access HR support across key topics for your business.

**5<sup>th</sup> June to 10<sup>th</sup> July**



## Expert-Led HR Workshops for Worcestershire Organisations

**Worcestershire businesses are being offered valuable support through a new series of events focused on key HR topics.**

To help address challenges of today's fast-changing landscape, a new programme of free HR advice and guidance events have been launched to support Worcestershire businesses.

Each event will feature experienced speakers and subject matter experts, providing practical insights and the chance for attendees to ask questions and share ideas.

The events will cover key topics of interest to local businesses including:

- Business Planning
- Creating High Performance Teams
- Mentoring and Coaching Teams
- Diverse Hiring Practices
- Workforce/Talent Pipeline Development
- Identifying and overcoming Skills Gaps
- Inclusive and effective onboarding

These events are especially beneficial for HR professionals and managers within small businesses who incorporate HR responsibilities into their wider roles.

The events will be delivered across Worcestershire, **from Thursday 5 June, on a weekly basis until Thursday 10 July.**

[Sign up here](#)

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## Grants Now Available for Worcestershire Businesses to Cut Energy Costs



Businesses in Malvern can now access generous support to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs, thanks to grants from the Business Energy Advice Service (BEAS).

Fully funded by the government, BEAS offers local businesses a free, expert energy assessment and access to grants ranging from £1,000 to £100,000. These grants can be used to invest in equipment and machinery improvements as well as upgrades such as efficient lighting systems, heating improvements, solar panels and other smart energy-saving technologies.

To be eligible, businesses must consume 25,000 kWh or more of energy annually. An easy-to-use online eligibility calculator is available to guide applicants through the process.

[Find out more](#)



## Malvern Hills Upskilling Grant



Malvern Hills Businesses continue to benefit from the Malvern Hills Upskilling Grant.

The grant scheme provides funding of up to **£1,500** to help with the business cost of training new staff (i.e. apprenticeships, trainee or other). In order to qualify businesses must be based in the Malvern Hills district postcode area, employ fewer than 250 people and pay at least the minimum wage to the trainee for a post of at least 30 hrs a week including training leading to a recognised qualification.

[Find out more](#)

## Spread the word about Apprenticeship Bursaries



**£500** is available to trainees and apprentices to help cover the cost of travel, equipment, tools and clothing necessary to access training.

The support is available to residents of Malvern Hills District who:

- Earn less than £250 per week.
- Attend a qualifying course.
- Are employed for a post of 30 hours a week for a minimum of 12 months.

Please spread the word that this support is available.

[Find out more](#)



## Save the Date: Business Worcestershire Conference- 11 June 2025

The Business Worcestershire Conference is back with the latest information on growth, skills and grant support.



You will be able to hear case studies from businesses who have accessed grant support as well as network with other Worcestershire Businesses.

**Date:** Wednesday 11 June 2025

**Time:** 9:30am to 1pm

**Location:** Sixways Stadium

**Cost:** Free to attend

[Book here](#)

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## Free breakfast event for the farming community in the Malvern Hills District



The free Farming Community Breakfast will take place at **Top Barn, Holt Heath, Worcester, from 9.15am to 12.15pm on Wednesday 18 June**, following the success of the first event near Upton on Severn in January.

As well as a free breakfast, there will be an introduction to the diversification story of Harper Farming, Top Barn Farm Shop and Farm Park, and the Top Barn Trust.

The event will also include a tractor trailer tour of the farm and care farm projects such as Wildgoose Rural Training, Bonterre CIC and Good Soil.

There will also be the opportunity to chat about the development of future social activities within the farming community and how the council might support them going forwards.

Please note, places are limited, and booking is essential. Contact Linda Price on 01684 862165 or email [Linda.Price@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.Price@malvern hills.gov.uk) for more information and to book.

[Find out more](#)

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## Digital Awareness for Manufacturers - 17 June 2025



An event for manufacturing businesses to explore the latest digital tools and technologies.

The course will cover:

- Industry 4.0
- Adopting digitisation
- Explaining 'The internet of things', 'Analytics and Big-data' and 'Additive manufacturing'.
- plus much more

[Book your spot](#)

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## Growth Hub Events Calendar



The Worcestershire Growth Hub collates all the business events from across the county into one, easy to read calendar.

The calendar includes all events from [Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber](#) of Commerce and [BIPC Worcestershire](#).

Follow the link below for an up to date list of events, training courses, networking opportunities and more.

[Events Calendar](#)

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**The Economic Development Team**



**Ian Edwards**  
**Director of Economy**  
**and Environment**



**Simon Smith**  
**Head of Economic**  
**Development**



**Elsbeth McQueen**  
**Economic Development**  
**Programme Manager**



**Victoria Carman**  
**Visitor Economy and**  
**Towns Manager**



**Alex Powell**  
**Town Centre Support**  
**Officer**



**Joel Keller**  
**Economic Development**  
**Officer**



**Alison Neale**  
**Departmental Services**  
**Officer**



**Georgia Brittain**  
**Economic Development**  
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[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

## Contact Us

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