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MALVERN HILLS BUSINESS E-BULLETIN



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MALVERN HILLS NEWS



Malvern Hills Rural Fund now open for applications



Rural businesses and communities can now apply for up to £25,000 worth of funding with the return of the Malvern Hills Rural Fund.

Round one of the fund is now available to support good value, new capital projects that will assist start-up, growth, development, and job creation.

The money can only be used to fund physical projects such as new buildings or a new piece of equipment or machinery and not for staff or day-to-day running costs.

The fund will also fund farm diversification outside of agriculture.

Individual grants of between £2,500 and £25,000 are on offer, and businesses will be expected to match 50 per cent of the total cost of a project.

Projects must be delivered in a rural area within the Malvern Hills District and should only begin once they have received funding approval.

Expressions of interest must be submitted through the Malvern Hills District Council website using the online form by midday on **5 May 2025**.

This scheme is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

[Find out more](#)

Watch - The Virtual Festival of Innovation



The Festival of Innovation has launched its 24/7 virtual space as a platform for businesses to share, innovate, connect and be inspired.

In this talk local entrepreneurs Dr Emma Philpott MBE and Dr Adrian Burden talk about Cyber Security and a neurodiverse workforce.

[Watch the video](#)

Worcestershire Growth Hub case study - OLPRO



Malvern Hills District Council supports the work of Worcestershire Growth Hub (WGH) with funds through our UKSPF Programme.

Read the report linked below to find out the impact of support from WGH on local business OLPRO.

[WGH Case Study: OLPRO](#)

New Funding from DEFRA to help agriculture businesses innovate



The new funding, named [ADOPT](#), is designed to support projects that enhance profitability, productivity, and sustainability for farmers, growers, and foresters across England. Innovate UK is delivering a webinar to help businesses learn more about the new ADOPT (Accelerating Development of Practices and Technologies) funding opportunity, including eligibility and how this funding can benefit agricultural businesses.

The free webinar will take place on Wednesday 30 April, 10am -12pm.

[Find out more](#)

Malvern Cube launches new initiative



Malvern Cube is inviting local businesses to support its new fundraising venture, a Business Supporters Club. The Cube is run by Malvern Youth & Community Trust, a registered charity, hosting events, arts and entertainment, offering meeting rooms and performance space for hire as well as being home to a thriving programme for young people and over 30 community groups who offer a huge range of activities.

Joining the Business Supporters Club is a great opportunity to gain recognition by supporting a venue that is firmly embedded in the Malvern community, with a reputation for high levels of community involvement, healthy lifestyles, social inclusion and encouragement of the arts.

For further information, [read the leaflet](#) or visit the link below:

[Find out more](#)

Free pitching event for Deep Tech start-ups



Leave a Nest is running its free pitching competition again this year.

As always, it's for deep tech start-ups to enter for equity-free cash awards, the opportunity to connect with the Leave a Nest support ecosystem and meet investors from our early-stage VC funds.

This is an excellent opportunity for start-ups looking to connect with Japan or the wider ASEAN region, or just to validate in front of an expert UK audience.

Find out more about Tech Planter and videos of past participants and what they got from entering: <https://global.lne.st/news/uk/2025/01/26/tpukapplicationopen/>

Leave a Nest is running an online info session on Tech Planter, if anyone would like to join it, please email: jack@e.leaveanest.com

[Enter here](#)

MALVERN HILLS SUPPORT



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](#)

MALVERN HILLS EVENTS



Malvern
Hills
District
Council

Taste Worcestershire Producer and Buyer Event



Worcestershire's food and drink producers and buyers will be able to make connections, sample products and celebrate the county's homegrown offer at the new Taste Worcestershire Producer & Buyer Event.

Taking place **Tuesday 20 May 2025** at Sixways Stadium the event also marks the lead-up to Taste Worcestershire – a county-wide, three-week celebration of food and drink taking place from 6 to 26 October 2025.

[Find out more](#)

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](#)

BD:2025 - 30 April 2025



BetaDen's first keynote event, taking you through what is coming up across BetaDen including programmes, partnerships and spaces in 2025.

This event is free to attend and takes place at the newly renovated Old Magistrates' Court in Kidderminster.

Learn more about upcoming Incubate and Accelerate programmes as well as workshops, expansion plans, and partnerships.

The event will take place on Wednesday, 30 April 2025, 12pm - 2pm.

[Get tickets here](#)

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](#)

The Economic Development Team



Ian Edwards
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Victoria Carman
Visitor Economy and
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[**Register Here**](#)

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