THE BUSINESS MAGAZINE FOR EAST CHESHIRE



Chamber of the second of the s





Business of the Year Award Winners 2024

| Full report on page 12



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Events Calendar

Afternoon Tea Networking Event

15th May 2024

2.00pm - 4.45pm

Pecks Restaurant, Newcastle Road, Moreton, Nr. Congleton, CW12 4SB

Thursday Thirty

6th June 2024

8.30am – 10.00am

Astbury Mere Care Home, Newcastle Road, Astbury, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4HP

UKSPF Workshop -Making an Impact; the Branding Blueprint

12th June 2024

12.30pm – 3.30pm The Space, 35-37 High St, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AX

Annual Golf Day

19th June 2024

10.00am - 9.00pm

Vale Royal Abbey, Vale Royal Drive,

Whitegate, Cheshire, CW8 2BA

UKSPF Workshop -Managing Stress in the Workplace

10th July 2024

12 30nm = 3 30nm The Space, 35-37 High St, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AX

Thursday Thirty

18th July 2024

8.30am - 10.00am

Everybody Health & Leisure, Congleton Leisure Centre, Worrall Street, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1DT

Thursday Thirty

8th August 2024

830am - 1000am

iGym Congleton, Radnor Park Greenfield Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4TW

UKSPF Workshop -How to Network Effectively

13th August 2024

12.30pm - 3.30pm

The Space, 35-37 High St, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AX

Thursday Thirty

29th August 2024

830am - 1000am

Ruby's, Meridian House Roe Street, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1PG

Chamber Business Fair

25th September 2024

10.00am - 3.00pm

Congleton Leisure Centre, Worrall Street, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1DT

Thursday Thirty

10th October 2024

8.30am - 10.00am

Eze Talk, Dane Mill Business Centre Broadhurst Lane, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1LA

Annual Clay Shoot

16th October 2024 10.30am - 4.30pm

Cloudside Shooting Grounds, Red Lane, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 3QG

Thursday Thirty

21st November 2024

8.30am - 10.00am

Congleton Rotary, Location to be Confirmed

Chamber Christmas Lunch

6th December 2024

12.00pm - 5.00pm

Pecks Restaurant, Newcastle Road, Moreton, Nr. Congleton, CW12 4SB



Welcome From The **Chief Executive**

Welcome to the May 2024 edition of the Chamber Magazine!

We've had an excellent start to the year with our Thursday Thirty Networking mornings, successful UKSPF Workshops, and the remarkable Annual Business Awards. Within these pages, you'll find detailed reports and valuable information about the upcoming UKSPF workshops and Thursday Thirty events.

The Annual Business Awards were once again a resounding success, with 231 guests, nominees and sponsors gracing the occasion. It was a pleasure to welcome The High Sheriff of Cheshire, Dennis Dunn, and his Consort, Denise Taylor-Dunn, adding to the evening's prestige. The event attracted businesses from various industry sectors, serving as a testament to the local economy's vitality. Additionally, it was heartening to witness the generosity

of our community, as evidenced by the substantial £7,570 raised for our 2023/24 Charity of the Year, Visyon. A full report can be found on pages 12 to 15.

We're thrilled to announce the date for our 2025 Annual Business Awards: Friday 28th March 2025 – don't forget to save the date!

Next on our calendar is the highly anticipated Annual Golf Day at Vale Royal Abbey, taking place on Wednesday 19th June. You can find event details and booking information on page 7 of this magazine.

As we look ahead, we have an exciting lineup of events for 2024, including the Chamber Business Fair in September and the Annual Clay Shoot in October. We eagerly anticipate continued collaboration with our Chamber members and extend a warm welcome to new members joining us at forthcoming events.

Please remember we are here to help wherever we can. If you would like any information with regards to any events, have articles for the next edition, or are interested in advertising space please contact:

liz.longmore@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk or call the office on 01260 540570.

Jackie Randles Chief Executive



Welcome To Our New Members

The Chamber extends a very warm welcome to the following new members:



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Join the East Cheshire Chamber

If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch with Liz Longmore at

liz.longmore@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk

Member News – WR Partners

Local accounting firm WR Partners enhances client experience, broadens service offerings, and relocates within Nantwich.

WR Partners, a leading firm of Accountants, Auditors, Business and Tax Specialists, is thrilled to announce the relocation of its Nantwich office.

The firm boasts a team of experts, delivering tailored services to businesses and individuals across Nantwich and the wider Cheshire area through collaboration and insight. This dedicated team works closely with clients to navigate their unique challenges, ensuring they achieve both personal and financial objectives.

Expanding its presence within the area, the team has bolstered its expertise and services to include an extended range of comprehensive audit services, which will build on the teams existing rural and commercial expertise. Beyond traditional accounting and tax services, WR Partners provides bespoke solutions designed to drive profitability and safeguard wealth. With a passion for client success, WR Partners aims to foster long-term

partnerships and serve as an extension of its clients' businesses.

The new office, located at 6 George House, Beam Heath Way, Nantwich, CW5 6GD, reflects WR Partners' dedication to elevating the client experience. Designed to facilitate smoother interactions, the modern facility offers enhanced accessibility and ample parking, ensuring clients' convenience and comfort during their financial consultations.

Helen Spencer, Managing Partner at WR Partners, expressed her enthusiasm about the move, stating:

'At WR Partners, we prioritise our clients' needs and strive to offer them the best possible experience. We've made several changes to the offering across the area; bringing in additional experts to broaden the services offered. We look forward to welcoming clients to a new modern and accessible premises, where they can continue to receive the exceptional service and personalised support that the firm is renowned for.'







Our Services Disciplinary Zero-Hour Contracts Policies and Procedure Absence Management TUPE Regulations Paternity Leave Performance Management Contract of Employment (Maternity Leave Internal Investigations Holiday Entitlement Recruitment Services CQC Preparation Employee Grievance Quality Audits in HR

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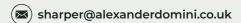
We can become your internal HR team in a cost-effective way that works best for you entirely dependent on your needs.

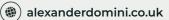
Whether it be a comprehensive HR policy suite, an on-going HR support package, help with implementation of HR processes, or a specific compliance project, we can help.



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Please contact us for more information.

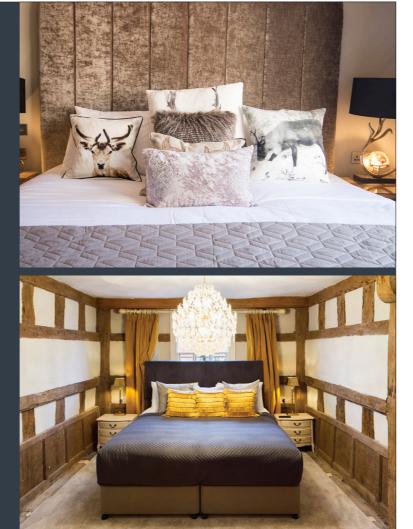


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Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club

The annual Chamber Golf Day will take place on Wednesday 19th June 2024 from 10.00am onwards at Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club, Whitegate, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 2BA.

10.00am - Registration and Breakfast

11.00am - 12.00pm - Putting Competition

12.30pm - 16.30pm - Golf Tournament (Shot gun start)

16.30pm - 17.30pm - Drinks Reception

17.30pm - Two Course Dinner and Prize-giving



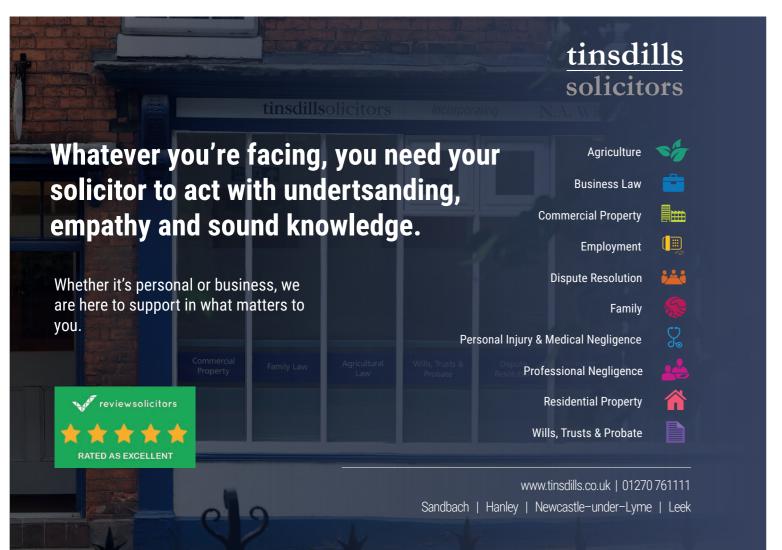
For more information

Please contact Liz Longmore on 01260 540570 or liz.longmore@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk

Early booking is recommended











We had an amazing start to our Thursday Thirty events for 2024, with The Space in Congleton, co-hosting with TMC Strategic Communications and East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce in January!

We were thrilled to witness a fantastic turnout, with over 50 members in attendance. Jackie Randles extended a warm welcome, shedding light on upcoming Chamber events, before handing the floor to Tim McCloud, and Jessica Peake, who shared insights into TMC's work both in the UK and internationally.

Amidst networking, guests relished a delightful spread of pastries and fresh fruits, all while exploring the new space through a guided tour.

Innov8 HR were the hosts for our March Thursday Thirty, another very well attended networking event. The Lion & Swan in Congleton put together a lovely spread of teas, coffees, juices and brioche breakfast rolls.

Rochelle Murinas gave a short presentation about Innov8 HR and what their role means to them when guiding employers and employees. In April, D2NA held an informative Thursday Thirty networking morning. Shaun Conway led a short presentation on the work that D2NA do with Cyber Security and Cyber Essentials. Guests of the event enjoyed freshly prepared bacon brioche rolls.

The ___ Space



















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The prestigious East Cheshire **Chamber of Commerce Annual** Business Awards unfolded at De Vere Cranage Estate in Holmes Chapel on Friday 22nd March 2024. With a notable assembly of over 230 attendees, including The High Sheriff of Cheshire, Dr. Dennis Dunn, and his Consort, Mrs. Denise Taylor-Dunn, alongside our Chamber Members, Sponsors, and Nominees, the event sparkled as vet another spectacular evening of recognition and celebration.

On arrival, Verity Deaville and Waynne Linaker from Deaville & Co extended a gracious welcome, while Adam Schofield of Cheshire Photography Co. captured memorable moments with a Champagne reception, generously sponsored by De Vere Cranage Estate, setting the tone for the evening. Chief Executive of East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, Jackie Randles, personally welcomed The High Sheriff of Cheshire, all the guests and made a special acknowledgement to all the sponsors. Tim McCloud from TMC Strategic Communications and Peter Bowers from Berisfords Ribbons, along with Jackie Randles, served as the evening's hosts.



After a delightful three-course dinner, the eagerly awaited Awards Ceremony began. Each award recipient was presented with a glass trophy, certificate, and a 4-pack of Beartown Beer supplied by Joe Manning from Beartown Brewery. Prism UK once again, kindly invited all award winners to a special winner's dinner scheduled for June this year.

The first award of the evening was a Recognition Award, dedicated to Peter Neal, who is retiring from Prism UK, a company that has been a steadfast member of East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of Peter's unwavering commitment and dedication to Prism UK and the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce

for the past 13 years, The High Sheriff of Cheshire, Dr. Dennis Dunn, had the honour of presenting this award.

The first business award revealed was for the Start-up Business of the Year, which was presented by Wes Wilkes from IronMarket to the deserving winners, Flagstaffe. Following this, the Progress towards Carbon Neutrality Award was presented by Shaun Morton from Prism UK, our key supporters for the evening, to the exceptional team at Precision Card Services, based in Macclesfield, for their dedication to meeting customer demand with an increasingly eco-friendly product.

TMC Strategic Communications won this year's award for Export & International Trade, presented by Chris Bentley from Harts Accountants. In 2023 TMC were the proud recipients of the King's Award for Enterprise, being one of only three organisations in Cheshire, and the sole strategic communications agency across the entire UK to earn this accolade.

A new category for this year's awards was the Young Person of the Year, which received enthusiastic applause as Georgia Whyte from De Vere Cranage Estate took home this honour. Kevin Cook from Business Doctors Cheshire was thrilled to present this award.



Sponsor for the evening, was delighted to present the Small Business of the Year Award, the exceptional team at Jenny's Blinds were delighted to receive this recognition. Another strong category this year was the Employer of the Year Award, which saw Andrew Pear from Pear Hospitality presenting the award to John Stewart and the team at Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows.

Another new category for the 2024 Business Awards was the Training & Development Award, recognising commitment to development by offering a wide variety of courses to their team and external candidates, Everybody Health & Leisure were the well-deserving winners.

The Professional Services Award made a return this year, presented by Paul Beaumont from Berisfords, the worthy Chatterton and the team were delighted to receive this award.

Consistently, a tough contender for the awards is the Excellence in Customer Service Award. Heather Gaunt from Thorneycroft Solicitors had the privilege of presenting this award. The judges noted,

'We were impressed by this team's passion for their business and its products - all of the staff put the customer at the heart of what they do.'

The team at Beartown Brewery were deeply moved upon receiving this award.

Charity of the Year was the next award to be presented, another exceptionally tough category for the judges to decide. Ultimately, there could only be one winner, and it was

Bridging the Gap – Mind Matters that were awarded the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce Charity of the Year for 2024/25. Vicky and Heather were overwhelmed when receiving their trophy, which was presented by John Stewart from Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows.

The final category to be awarded was the Business of the Year Award, the most anticipated category which receives an extremely large number in entries, making it the most difficult category to judge. The 2023 Business of the Year winner Andrew Chatterton, Managing Director of Franklyn was delighted to present this year's Business of the Year Award to the well deserving team at IronMarket.

A Special Achievement Award was also awarded to Mr Tim McCloud and Dr Jan McCloud for their achievements over the past 18 months, making a remarkable contribution to the local economy and to East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce.

The evening concluded with an auction and raffle, raising money for 2023/24 Charity of the Year, Visyon. The generosity around the room was phenomenal, raising a staggering £6330 which makes a total of £7570 raised in 2023 to 2024.

Celebrations and dancing went on into the small hours.





I just wanted to send you a note of thanks from the whole Flagstaffe team for the fun we had at the awards dinner last month.

Dan Brownsword, Flagstaffe



Chamber Magazine www.eastcheshirechamber.co.uk Thank you very much for a fantastic evening! We are incredibly grateful for the Chamber's support.

Amy Johnson, IronMarket



A very big thank you for the marvellous awards evening on Friday, we know/appreciate how much hard work goes into creating the awards evening - you guys smashed it!

Verity Deaville, Deaville & Co





Always a pleasure to be involved with your event.

Warren Tolley, WTP







Tim & Jan McCloudSpecial Achievement Award

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Chamber Magazine

Everybody Health & Leisure
Training & Development Award

WHO WE ARE

Our mission is to Bridge The Gap faced by people trying to access support for their mental health, removing barriers to keeping people well and preventing a mental health crisis.

We champion a blended approach of physical and talking therapy as first line treatment for early-stage mental ill-health and we strive for this to be accessible to all, at the point of need.

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Child Benefit Changes in the Budget

Do you have children? Do you or your significant other have taxable income over £50,000? Or if not, would you like your income to be in excess of £50,000?

If the answer to the first and either the second or the third questions is "yes", then you need to be aware of changes to child benefit entitlement from this April. For many years, a tax charge has been imposed on child benefit received where either half of a couple has an income in excess of £50,000. In the March Budget, the government recognised some of the unfairness in this charge and that it was increasingly driving what might otherwise be considered perverse behaviours such as the higher earner in a household reducing their hours to keep earnings below £50,000. Three changes were made, all effective from April 2024:

- The threshold at which child benefit starts to be taxed is increased
- The threshold at the tax charge is equal to the benefit received is increased from £60,000 to £80,000
- The rate at which the benefit is taxed is halved

For business owners, and indeed employees, with children, these changes need to be considered:

■ If you have restricted drawings and taxable income to £50,000 historically, there is now an opportunity to take out a further £10,000 a year, potentially each, while keeping a full child benefit allowance.

- If you are not currently claiming child benefit, it would be advisable to review whether a claim should be made or restarted in the light of the new thresholds. If child benefit is not currently being received it is important to review swiftly as claims can only be backdated three
- It should be noted that claiming child benefit, even if it is repaid through the tax system, also provides national insurance credits (ie state pension entitlement) for those with children under 12. And that making a claim (at any point) is also the mechanism through which your son or daughter will receive a national insurance number when
- We would recommend those with children review whether they should be claiming child benefit, and indeed whether the increased thresholds provide scope for a welcome increase in drawings from the business. For those to whom it is relevant these changes will have a far bigger impact than the National Insurance cut which was the focus of media attention.

Chris Bentley is a Director at at Harts Accountants, heading up the specialist Tax and Forensic departments. For any further information or advice, please contact Chris below.

| Member News – Franklyn and Ruby's

Franklyn have supported Ruby's over a number of years, helping to raise money and spread awareness of the charity. Franklyn are delighted to announce a grant from the St.

James's Place Charitable Foundation has been approved and Charlotte Chatterton was able to present a cheque to Allison and the team of £9,818.00 in recognition of this.

Ruby's is an award-winning charity, committed to supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). They offer a range of services, from high-quality facilities to outreach sessions and their mobile sensory bus. The facilities and support they offer is an illustration of their dedication to improving the lives of those with complex needs in Cheshire East.

Ruby's is a very special place and this is an amazing outcome for the charity.



We look forward to seeing the huge differences it will make to the children, young people and their families in the future.

To find out more about this brilliant charity visit www.rubysfund.co.uk

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The Rossendale Trust are seeking Trustees to join our Board and share our passion to deliver a quality, life-enriching service to adults with complex needs and learning disabilities.

NO previous experience of being a Trustee is necessary, nor is knowledge of our sector. We are seeking a broader business-based knowledge to fill the skills gap on our board.

Our award-winning charity (now in its 51st year) provides a high standard of supported living service to 65 adults, mainly within the Macclesfield area. We also operate a day service known as Oakwood which benefits over 70 users from the wider community.

Our innovative supported employment programme, WorkTaste, works with local employers and community project partners to provide a real employment experience. WorkTaste delivers high levels of support through our Job Coach and mentoring programme which has a positive effect on the general health and wellbeing of our participants.



If you would like to express an interest, or would simply like to have an informal discussion with the Chair of Trustees (with regards to joining as a Trustee or just offering your support), then please get in touch with Adam directly at adam.schofield@rossendaletrust.org

"As a board of Trustees, we're looking for business professionals to join the board, or to help support us and fill our skills gap.

We meet 5-6 times a year, so it's not a big commitment on your time and we also offer remote meetings for those that can't always join us in person.

You could help make a real difference to the lives of others in our community"

Adam Schofield, Chair of Trustees.







In the age of hybrid and remote working, finding the perfect balance between productivity, professionalism, and wellbeing, can often be a challenge.

Enter The Space. Extending across 12,000 sq ft. the spectacular co-working hub offers premium facilities in the heart of Congleton Town Centre. Equipped with contemporary desks, bookable meeting rooms, breakout areas, and private pods, this dynamic workspace caters to the diverse needs of entrepreneurs, small businesses, and remote workers.

As part of the inspiring regeneration project, The Space continues to evolve - learning from its member community and elevating each component to ensure the co-working environment offers the comforts of working from home – but better. From installing new market-leading sound-proofing in the auditorium for show-stopping presentations, to upgrading the 12-seater boardroom, The Space continues to define this new era of flexible working.



Events at The Space

In addition to it's new position as a coworking hub, The Space also serves as a premier venue for meetings, workshops, and learning opportunities.

Organisations, including the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, have taken full advantage of the facilities, hosting workshops and presentations on a range of topics. From digital marketing masterclasses, AI seminars and B-Corp panel discussions, to

team-building, corporate board meetings and tutoring, a vibrant and connected community continues to develop.

Outside of the professional events, The Space has also hosted a wealth of socials including breakfast clubs, a valentines extravaganza and Easter themed activities to encourage those more relaxed networking opportunities for members.

As part of their commitment to community engagement, The Space is also championing and collaborating with local businesses to offer exclusive member perks. Congleton favourites have been keen to offer discounts and bespoke packages, encouraging new faces to explore the High Street.

Becoming a Member

Whether you require a singular day pass or around-the-clock access through a flexible membership, The Space can accommodate your requirements with ease.

Visit the space congleton.com to create a free account, book a tour and take the first steps to a new era in flexible working.



The Space











Business of the year.

Discover the NET-WORTH NTWRK, where shared knowledge becomes an investment that makes us all richer.

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OR SCAN THE QR
CODE.









The Tower of London Walk Ways. Credit: Social Pantry.

What services can Deaville & Co offer to Chamber Members? We offer a personalised and complimentary venue sourcing service for meetings, conferences, training and events, meticulously searching the finest venues across the UK and negotiating optimal pricing for our clients. We operate under two distinct brands VerityVenue for residential meetings and Largevenues.com for conferences.

What inspired the founding of Deaville & Co, and how has your vision evolved over time? Our journey began in 2009 with the aspiration of owning our own business and offering an exceptional service. We initially offered full event management, however, as time progressed, we recognised the opportunity to specialise and excel in venue sourcing. Our vision has since evolved to book venues for large-scale conferences, leading to the launch of largevenues.com.

What has been your most unique event/ venue and what did you like about it? We have booked the Tower of London Walkways, Brighton's i360, Warwick Castle plus many of the iconic London hotels, but will choose the VIP award dinner we booked at The Royal Yacht Britannia, as this was part of a much larger booking at the EICC for 2000 guests. The core of our business though lies in arranging venues for residential meetings, conferences, dinners and training. Every event, regardless of scale, is an opportunity for us to add value and exceed our clients' expectations.

What is a typical day like at Deaville & Co? Based at No.1 Mereside, Alderley Park, mornings tend to start with dispatching our

client briefs to our trusted venue network. In the afternoons, we diligently compile the responses, present clients with a selection of three top-tier venues, arrange their site visits and contracts. We still site visit ourselves, for example this week, we're exploring the conference spaces at Telford International Centre and visiting INNSiDE Manchester to understand the meeting provision across the Meliá collection.

If you could give any advice from your

industry to our readers, what would it be? It's paramount to engage a reputable, complimentary venue-booking agent! However, if you opt to handle the process independently, thoroughness is key. During your site visit, inspect all categories of bedrooms, as venues often only showcase the refurbished ones. Similarly, scrutinise the event space, what AV is included; verify the capacities accommodate extras like a stage and dance floor. A Day Delegate Rate (DDR) typically offers better value but always check the minimum numbers, cancellation charges plus negotiate a favourable group price to optimise your budget.





The Tower of London Walk Ways. Credit: Social Pantry

A Gateway to Corporate Wellness

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We are excited announce the upcoming launch of our new corporate offer* specifically designed for companies looking to promote a healthy lifestyle amongst their employees.

At igym, we understand the importance of promoting wellness in the workplace. Thats why we have created a special offer exclusively for companies looking to prioritise the health and wellness of their employees.

What's Included?

Our corporate offer includes discounted membership rates for all employees of your company. This means that your employees can enjoy full access to our gym facilities at a reduced price, making it easier for them to incorporate fitness into their daily routine.

Customised Fitness Plans

We will offer customised fitness plans tailored to the needs and schedules of each individual, through our experienced trainers who will work with them to create a personalised plan that fits their specific goals and lifestyle. This not only helps your employees achieve their fitness goals, but promotes team bonding as they can exercise together during lunch breaks or after work.

Group Classes

In addition to personalised fitness plans, we also offer a variety of group classes that your employees can attend together. These classes include yoga, Pilates, spin, and more. Group classes not only provide a fun and engaging way for employees to stay active, but they also foster a sense of community within the workplace.

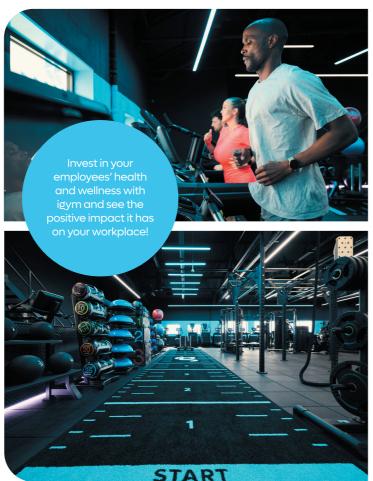
TRAKK

As part of our corporate offer, your employees will also have access to our TRAKK Ecosystem. This innovative technology allows individuals to track their fitness progress through wearable devices and a mobile app. It also provides them with real-time feedback on their workouts and helps them set achievable goals.

Conclusion

In today's fast-paced world, it can be challenging for employees to find time to prioritise their health and well-being. By offering corporate gym memberships, your company can make it easier for employees to incorporate exercise into their daily lives, leading to numerous benefits for both the individual and the company as a whole.









Get in touch today to find out more about our corporate offer info.congleton@igym.co.uk

Visit igym.co.uk

Where to find us: igym Congleton, Radnor Park, Greenfield Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4TW

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*T&Cs apply - only available to organisations that can enroll a minimum of 8 individuals. Each member must be a current employee of the organisation at the time of enrollment



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The Cheshire East Business Support Initiative

Start, Sustain and Succeed.

Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and businesses through the Cheshire East Chambers Network – all three Cheshire East Chambers of Commerce working together.

The listed workshops below are to be delivered by East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce:

Wednesday 12th June 2024

The Space 35-37 High Street, Congleton
- Making an Impact; the Branding Blueprint

Wednesday 10th July 2024

The Space 35-37 High Street, Congleton

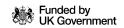
– Managing Stress in the Workplace

Tuesday 13th August 2024

The Space 35-37 High Street, Congleton – How to Network Effectively



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













For more information and bookings for the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce Workshops, please email liz.longmore@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk