

GROWTH HUB NEWSLETTER

March 2024

OxLEP Business Support Tool

It is our aim to signpost the county's businesses to the most-appropriate business support, schemes and events. Businesses can engage with our fully funded expert support via this link:

[Business Support Tool - OxLEP Business](#)



If you have any questions or requests for support
please email us directly at
business@oxfordshirelep.com

OxLEP Business

CXO Masterclass - Strategic planning

Are you a Chief Executive Officer 'CEO', a Chief Financial Officer 'CFO', a Chief experience officer 'CXO' or all of the above? We are offering CXO Masterclass - Strategic planning and CXO Masterclass Leadership and Communication to Oxfordshire's SME's.

These sessions are for small business leaders, to help them understand strategic planning and appreciate how crucial it is for your businesses long-term success.

The CXO Masterclass: Strategic planning is on 21st March 24 from 10.00am - 12.00pm - Online.

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/cxo-masterclass-strategic-planning/>

This Masterclass will explore the key capabilities that every CEO/CFO/ 'CXO' should have for Strategic Planning:

- **Vision Development:** Beginning with a clear vision that outlines the future direction and purpose of the business.
- **Setting SMART Goals:** Establishing specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals aligned with the vision.
- **Execution and Adaptation:** Execution is where the rubber meets the road.

By understanding these aspects of strategic planning—vision development, setting SMART goals, and effective execution—a small business leader can chart a clear path towards sustainable growth and success.

Our Speaker is Paul Holmes – OxLEP Business Advisor and Managing Director of PCH Business Consultants.

CXO Masterclass: Leadership & Communication is being held on the 26th April 24 from 9.00am - 11.00am - Online.

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/cxo-masterclass-leadership-communication/>

This Masterclass will be your catalyst for:

- **Visionary Leadership:** Explore the pivotal role of vision in driving organizational success and inspiring your team towards a common goal.
- **Essential Leadership Traits:** Identify and cultivate the core qualities that distinguish exceptional leaders, empowering you to navigate challenges with confidence.
- **Maximizing Team Potential:** Discover practical strategies to elevate your team's performance, creating a symbiotic relationship where mutual growth fuels business success.

This Master-Class is being delivered by Paula Nickson (Founder of Greater Than Ltd) and Miki Lentin (Director Miki Lentin Consulting).

OxLEP Business Events

All our planned events and support for February 2024, along with future events can be accessed and booked here: <https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/events-overview/>

Please note **OxBOoSt**, our very successful, monthly networking group will next meet on **Tuesday 5th March in-person from 4.00pm - 5.30pm** at the Ue Coffee Roasters Roastery Cafe, 11a Windrush Ind. Park, Linkwood Road, Witney, OX29 7HA.

OxBOoSt

The 'Oxfordshire Business Opportunities & Support network' for all OxLEP Business clients and anyone who wants to learn more.

The Number 1 regular meet-up for Oxfordshire businesses who want to connect, collaborate and exchange ideas.

To book your place please follow this link:

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/oxboost-network-march/>

Get Supported!

If you haven't completed OXLEP's Business Support Tool in the last 6 months then you could be missing out on profit boosting, market growing, fully funded business support:

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/business-support-tool/>



OxLEP Skills

Apprenticeship Webinar Series for Employers

<https://oxlepskills.co.uk/apprenticeshipwebinarseries>

OxLEP Skills are excited to be providing a fully-funded online webinar series to lend a helping hand to Oxfordshire employers who employ apprentices and are aiming for successful achievements!

Hawk Training will be delivering each webinar with and on behalf of OxLEP Skills and will cover different topics on the journey of an apprentice, starting with apprentice recruitment and ending with End Point Assessment. Sign up for all six webinars via the link above, or register for individual sessions using the links below:

Apprenticeship Employer Engagement

Wednesday 20th March, 12:00-12:45

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/employer-engagement-webinar-tickets-840195797247

Apprentice Engagement

Wednesday 17th April, 12:00-12:45

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/aprentice-engagement-webinar-tickets-840217672677

Apprentice Resilience (Including Mentoring)

Wednesday 8th May, 12:00-12:45

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/resilience-including-mentoring-webinar-tickets-840222296507

Apprenticeship EPA Process (Including Gateway and Planning)

Wednesday 12th June, 12:00-12:45

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/epa-process-including-gateway-and-planning-webinar-tickets-840229287417

Apprenticeship EPA Projects

Wednesday 10th July, 12:00-12:45

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/projects-at-epa-webinar-tickets-840271443507

Our expert Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Adviser Andrea Harrison offers fully-funded support with all aspects of apprenticeships, including completions. If you'd like some help and advice, get in touch with Andrea at andrea.harrison@oxfordshirelep.com

OxLEP Skills

Over £2.2m of Levy Pledges Made Via Our Social Contract Programme

www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/huge-milestone-reached-apprenticeships-county-national-apprenticeship-week-%E2%80%93

We had a lot to celebrate during National Apprenticeship Week, as our Social Contract Programme, which aims to retain investment in the county whilst supporting the creation of apprenticeships, has now far exceeded an overall project target, hitting a massive £2.27 million-worth of pledges, with critical funding continuing to find its way to small businesses all the time.

To date, OxLEP Skills has supported companies such as Amazon, B&Q, Bidfood UK, Ridge and Thames Water to manage their levy pledges, ensuring funding is retained within the Oxfordshire economy. Since the beginning of the programme, the Social Contract has supported a total of 135 apprentices within the county. The Social Contract is a £1.7 million programme of activity funded by the government's Contain Outbreak Management Fund, via Oxfordshire County Council and led by OxLEP Skills.

To find out how your organisation could pledge or receive apprenticeship levy funds, contact our expert Apprenticeship Advisors Leah Bryan and Nikki Cooper at skills@oxfordshirelep.com



Apprenticeships Webinar for Parents and Carers

<https://careersliveuk.com/partner/oxfordshire-careers-hub>

Are you a parent or carer of a young person who would like to know more about apprenticeships to help you support them with deciding what to do when they leave school or college?

You can now watch the recording of the apprenticeships webinar that we ran in partnership with Learn Live News Channel during National Apprenticeship Week, which will give you the opportunity to:

- Get the lowdown on apprenticeships
- Hear the parent perspective on apprenticeships
- Hear from Oxfordshire employers and apprentices
- Find out what opportunities are available to your young person

OxLEP Skills

Careers Fest 2024

www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/oxfordshire-parents-urged-play-active-role-supporting-county%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98next-great-minds%E2%80%99

Are you a parent or carer of a young person in Year 9 or above? Would you like to know more about post 16 and 18 options to help you talk about careers with them and support them to take their best next step?

Come along to Careers Fest on 20 March from 16:30-19:30 at the Kassam Conference & Events Centre in Oxford to meet over 70 exhibitors offering information, advice and guidance on future pathways and careers from a varied range of sectors.

You and your young person will have the opportunity to talk to a range of Oxfordshire employers, further education colleges, universities and training providers to help you feel informed about their options.

Register for the Careers Fest 2024 twilight session at:

<https://careersfest2024twilightsession.eventbrite.co.uk>



Give Something Back as an OxGROW Mentor

Could you share your knowledge and experience to support local people to get closer to employment through light touch virtual mentoring?

The OxGROW virtual mentoring platform, developed by OxLEP Skills in partnership with Connectr, links volunteer mentors with people (18+) who are looking for support and guidance with how to successfully navigate the challenging world of job seeking, or looking to change career.

- ✓ Develop skills whilst making a real difference to the lives of local people
- ✓ Just 1 hour a week on average
- ✓ Mentors manage their availability
- ✓ Discover a diverse pool of potential talent
- ✓ Meet Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) goals
- ✓ Meaningful volunteering opportunity
- ✓ Free vacancy and event promotion

Email skills@oxfordshirelep.com to find out more about becoming a virtual mentor.

OxGROW
Virtual Mentoring Platform

OxLEP
Skills

Support those closest to employment with light touch virtual mentoring

To find out how you can become a mentor, email skills@oxfordshirelep.com

Other Oxfordshire Business Support



Business & IP Centre Oxfordshire - Oxford Westgate Library

Supporting Oxfordshire residents to start, protect and grow their own business.

Events and workshops, 1:1 business information sessions, market research databases, Intellectual Property guidance, co-working desks, Photography and videography Marketing Suite, business books and more.

Check out the Startup Huddle, Oxfordshire's largest monthly startup networking event.

Next Startup Huddle – Thursday 21st March, 6-8PM

website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/BIPC

Email: BIPC@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Driving Social Impact and supporting Social Value delivery: OSEP's Commitment to Oxfordshire's Social Economy - OSEP

provides support, empowerment, and advocacy for local social enterprises, enterprising charities, and purposeful businesses in Oxfordshire. OSEP, a local Social Enterprise itself, plays a crucial role in fostering a community where businesses prioritise positive societal impact alongside their financial success.

- Direct Support for Social Enterprise and Purposeful Businesses
- Navigating the Social Value Landscape
- Strategic Planning and Policy Advocacy
- Embracing the B Corp Movement

Find out more about OSEP here - osep.org.uk

Book a free 1:1 business support session with Grant Hayward here - calendly.com/granthayward

Sign up to receive the OSEP newsletter - osep.org.uk/contact-us/

Non OxLEP News/Events

Indie Oxford Spring Market Returns to Tap Social Movement's Taproom, Celebrating Local Businesses

Independent Oxford & Tap Social collaborate to celebrate local business & community at the Indie Oxford Spring Market

Date: Saturday, 9 March, 2024, 10:30 - 15:00

Where: Tap Social Taproom, 27 Curtis Industrial Estate, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford OX2 0LX

Support local businesses this spring at the Indie Oxford Spring Market

The Indie Oxford Spring Market pops up just in time for Mother's Day at Tap Social Movement's Botley taproom on Saturday, 9 March, from 10:30am - 3pm for a day celebrating brilliant local indie businesses. This collaborative effort between Independent Oxford and Tap Social Movement spotlights the diversity of local businesses and richness of community spirit.

With nine years of experience championing Oxfordshire's independent scene, Independent Oxford is geared up once again to showcase the best the county has to offer. The exceptional lineup of stallholders includes such indies as Etta Rain Ceramics, LORDS Fragrance House, Jam Puppy Designs, Custom Made Jewellery, Sally-Anne Stewart Linocut Prints, Sitaarah Skincare, Abingdon Distillery, and more.

Attendees can expect diverse offerings that includes everything from jewellery, artwork, and prints to ceramics, natural skincare products, candles, accessories, and unique gifts perfect for Mother's Day (on 10th March).

In addition to the indie stalls, Little Letterbox Learning will provide an engaging craft corner for children aged 3 and up where they can enjoy making masks and bookmarks with proceeds going to Yellow Submarine.

Hosts Tap Social Movement will ensure a fun, friendly, and inclusive experience for all with a range of craft beer, curated wines and non-alcoholic beverages, hand-stretched sourdough Proof Pizza, and assorted fresh bakes from Proof Bakehouse.

For more information please visit:

<https://independentoxford.com/events/indie-oxford-spring-market-2024/>

Non OxLEP News/Events

Justice in Motion

It's 10 years since Justice in Motion first started making ground breaking performances about social justice. As we come to the end of this anniversary year we are celebrating our achievements with an exciting, interactive exhibition at the place where it all started – The Old Fire Station in Oxford.

The Events all take place at the Old Fire Station – here's what we still have coming up, and the respective links to the booking pages on the OFS website:

Rap Workshops - Saturday 2nd March, 11am (age 11-14), 1pm (age 15-18), 2.30pm (age 18+)

<https://oldfirestation.org.uk/whats-on/10-years-in-motion-rap-workshops/>

Pub Quiz – Theme: Poverty - Tuesday 5th March, 6-8.30pm

<https://oldfirestation.org.uk/whats-on/10-years-in-motion-pub-quiz/>

Deca'Thon – 10h of dance workshops (60min each) in different styles...

(African Dance, Tap Dance, Contemporary, Bollywood, Breakdance, Bachata, Lindy Hop, etc.)

Saturday 9th March, 10am-8pm

<https://oldfirestation.org.uk/whats-on/10-years-in-motion-decathlon/>

<https://theoxfordmagazine.com/>

Anti-Slavery Panel Discussion

Tuesday 13th March, 6-8.30pm

<https://oldfirestation.org.uk/whats-on/10-years-in-motion-anti-slavery-panel-discussion/>

Loneliness Event – Film Screening and Talking Space

Thursday 20th March (International Day of Happiness), 3-6pm

<https://oldfirestation.org.uk/whats-on/10-years-in-motion-loneliness-moving-together-video-screening-talking-space/>

Portraits

Tuesday 26th March , 10am-4pm

<https://oldfirestation.org.uk/whats-on/10-years-in-motion-portraits/>

Detective Trail – for families, and all ages

Easter Saturday 30th March, 10am – 4pm

<https://oldfirestation.org.uk/whats-on/10-years-in-motion-detective-trail/>

Please see this video from the Opening Night, which gives a really nice flavour of the exhibition: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSBRRJ05n6Y>

v=QSBRRJ05n6Y

Non OxLEP News/Events

Cheryl Thornton Consultancy & Coaching

Plan & Prioritise your now: 3 steps to take you from ARHHH to ahhh

For women in business feeling overwhelmed, with too many plates spinning, who just need some time to plan and prioritise. This free masterclass will take everything that's swimming around in your head, help you make sense of it, identify your priorities, and get you moving forward again.

We know what it feels like to be consumed by your business or work. You feel like you have a million tasks to do, and you just don't know where to start or what to do next.

If you want:

- Things to be different
- To be clear about what's next and where to focus
- To take action and move from overwhelmed to crystal clear

Well, you're in the right place, this masterclass will take you through 3 simple steps to do just that.

Thu, 21 Mar 2024 12:00pm - 1:00pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/plan-prioritise-your-now-3-steps-to-take-you-from-arhhh-to-ahhh-tickets-850790897477?aff=oddtcreator>

The Oxford Magazine: What's on in February 2024 in Oxfordshire -

<https://theoxfordmagazine.com/>

Oxfordshire County Council News: [News from Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Experience Oxfordshire: [Top 10 Things to Do in Oxford and Oxfordshire – Experience Oxfordshire](#)