

Events Diary

Business events and workshops taking place in the region this month

Date: Thursday 8 January 2015
Event: Coffee Means Business
About: Relaxed, informal networking with local businesses.
Cost: £2 on the door. No need to book.
When: 9.30am-11.30am
Where: The Apex, Bury St Edmunds

Date: Thursday 22 January 2015
Event: Skills Health Check
About: Based on the theme 'Why Invest in your People'. This seminar will concentrate on why well planned staff development enables your business to soar and succeed.
Cost: Free. To register, email Laura.Smith@realisefutures.org
When: 9.30am-3.30pm
Where: Ufford Park Hotel, Woodbridge

Date: Monday 26 January 2015
Event: Business Surgery with the New Anglia Growth Hub and Ipswich Borough Council
About: Learn more about the free support that's available to help your business grow
Cost: Free. To register, email alan.cowie@newanglia.co.uk or call 01473 694823
When: 4pm-6pm

Where: IP-City Centre, 1 Bath Street, Ipswich

Date: Tuesday 27 January 2015
Event: Coffee Means Business
About: Relaxed, informal networking with local businesses.
Cost: £2 on the door. No need to book.
When: 9.30am-11.30am
Where: Milsoms, Kesgrave Hall

Date: Wednesday 28 January 2015
Event: Ipswich and South Suffolk Business Association (ISSBA) Meet the Members networking event
About: Networking event, plus a short talk about business mediation from Anthony Wooding from Kerseys Solicitors.
Cost: £5 for members and £10 for non-members. Book online at www.issba.co.uk
When: 9.30am-11.30am
Where: New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich

Date: Thursday 12 February 2015
Event: Coffee Means Business
About: Relaxed, informal networking with local businesses.
Cost: £2 on the door. No need to book.
When: 9.30am-11.30am
Where: The Apex, Bury St Edmunds

A quarter of manufacturers expect to hire in Q1 of 2015

A quarter of manufacturers in East Anglia expect to hire more staff in the first three months of 2015, according to new figures.

The latest Manufacturing Outlook survey published by manufacturers' organisation EEF and accountancy firm BDO LLP, also shows that 19% of companies in the region witnessed an increase in output in Q4 of 2014.

Order books for manufacturers in the region have remained fairly stable throughout the year, with 13% of companies seeing orders increase in Q4. The number of companies expecting growth in orders remains the same figure of 13% for Q1 2015.

UK-wide the sector has performed well during 2014 and is on track to achieve 3.5% growth this year, with a forecast of 2% growth in 2015. The one area of caution, however, is in exports. Geo-political risks, global uncertainty and the weak performance of the Eurozone have contributed to a more cautious look.



MP Dr Therese Coffey visits the Itron factory in Felixstowe. MP Dr Therese Coffey (centre) talks with Kevin Askew (manufacturing and operations manager) whilst observing part of the assembly process of electricity meters.

EEF east of England region director, Jim Davison said: "2014 has proved to be a solid year for East Anglian manufacturers. As we steam

into 2015, it's going to be a case of 'steady as she goes' with firms viewing next year with a mixture of grit, determination and realism."

The perfect setting to conduct business

Experience the spectacular Tudor surroundings of Seckford Hall Hotel

Just minutes from Ipswich and Woodbridge, Seckford Hall is the ideal Suffolk conference venue, boasting incredible architecture and a fascinating history. It's no surprise then that guests choose to hold their event at this wonderful property.

Seckford Hall Hotel and its beautiful grounds is ideal for all types of corporate events and special company celebrations. The Lakeside Suite, overlooking the gardens and lake, is completely being transformed in the New Year and will boast an elegant new look in keeping with the grandness of the hotel. It is spacious enough to accommodate a business seminar or conference, and prestigious enough to house an exhilarating product launch or special anniversary party or dinner. Licensed to hold civil ceremonies, the Lakeside Suite, can seat up to 100-cabaret style, or 130-theatre style and can also accommodate a marquee, the perfect space for up to 140 guests.

The Mulberry Suite in the East



Cosy and welcoming: The Great Hall at Seckford.

Photo: CONTRIBUTED

Wing of the hotel is a new function area suitable for an intimate wedding, a private dinner or a company celebration or conference. Seating up to 36 guests for dinner or 40-theatre style, the suite overlooks

the once private gardens with doors that open onto a beautiful reclaimed York Stone terrace. There is also space for a large marquee on the lawns - a stunning location for any event.

The East Wing is also home to a new executive boardroom, The Garden Room is ideal for up to 12 guests and provides a perfect setting for smaller meetings, private functions and dinners. The East

Wing also has its' own beautiful lounge area, which again overlooks the gardens and terrace area, and the Great Hall, the hotels' main lounge area has just been refurbished into a cosy, welcoming room where you can enjoy a coffee over an informal meeting.

And if you are looking to host a business lunch or dinner in the New Year, the 1530 Restaurant at Seckford Hall provides an idyllic setting - away from the hustle and bustle, offering complete privacy in a tranquil setting. During January and February, the hotel is offering a special prix fixe menu, which will be available Sunday to Friday lunches and evenings - 2-courses priced at £13.50 and 3-courses £17.00pp

For details of all events at Seckford Hall Hotel contact the events manager, Anne Musolino on 01394 385678 or visit www.seckford.co.uk.

