

SHARON SMITH

 CHAMBER OF
 COMMERCE


Chamber Awards now open

I AM pleased to announce that entries for the Annual Chamber Business Awards are now open.

The black tie ceremony with over 680 attendees will take place on Thursday, July 2, at the Worcester Arena.

Entrants have until 4pm on Friday, March 27, to complete and submit their applications.

The awards are free to enter for Members and Non-members of all sizes and sectors, the opportunities that come alongside entering an award are invaluable, including a great boost to staff morale, a powerful tool to raise your profile and a way to stand out against your competitors.

We are also delighted to announce the addition of two new categories for the 2020 awards; Commitment to the Community, sponsored by Sanctuary Group and Excellence in Sustainability, sponsored by Business Energy Efficiency Programme.

All winners of the Chamber Business Awards will be automatically entered into the Business of the Year Award, sponsored by FOLK2FOLK.

All Member entries will then be entered into the regional awards and if successful see their company nominated for an award on the national stage at the British Chambers of Commerce's (BCC) Business Awards.

To enter the awards, visit hwchamber.co.uk/events/business-awards/ or for further information please contact our events team by email on events@hwchamber.co.uk or call 01905 673612.

● For a full list of categories for this year's awards, go to worcesternews.co.uk/business

BEHIND THE BUSINESS: B SMITH PACKAGING

Packaging firm's rise from the ashes

 By Tom
 Banner


B SMITH Packaging, in Warndon, is a long established family business providing quality packaging, with more than 50 years experience.

The company supplied a range of branded products across a diverse client base from fish and chip boxes to luxury magnetic boxes, premium kraft paper bags and bags made from recycled plastic boxes.

They have also provided unique products such as cedar wood cigar humidors, cooler bags, bespoke tins and recycled 'bags for life' that address and reinforce their recycled, reuse, recyclable, responsible ethos.

The company, led by MD Andrew Smith, has risen like a phoenix from the flames since a devastating fire in 2008 and has transformed from a product focused business to a bespoke sustainable packaging solution with strategic partnerships.

He said: "It's all about building the client's brand through effective packaging."

As well as the physical items, they offer a storage and delivery solution to their clients with unique systems that can interact with their EPOS system.

Andrew, whose father and grandfather set up the business in the 1960s, added: "The world of packaging has changed a lot since I joined in 1989. We are constantly innovating and looking at new technologies to offer a wider portfolio of brand packaging to our clients. One such example is our move into bespoke glassware."

External pressures such as the issue of single-use plastics have also been top of the priority list and the Company has kept its



INNOVATING: Andrew Smith, MD of B Smith Packaging in Worcester

clients up to date with an honest and dynamic approach. New substrates such as RPET, potato starch, corn starch are also being used as consumers become more environmentally aware.

Andrew explained that he took

the decision to make each employee a shareholder in the business, to empower them to have a voice and so they could have a bit more when they retire.

He said: "Our employees and their dedicated customer service

and loyalty led me to the decision to share the company ownership with the staff so now they are all shareholders within the business.

"My philosophy is 'you can't keep still' - you have to evolve and keep ahead of the game."



B SMITH
PACKAGING

Bespoke Sustainable Packaging

If you have a brand packaging requirement, we can find a solution to suit your needs.

For a free review, call us on 01905 757124 or e-mail sales@bsmithpackaging.co.uk

