



Hartlepool  
Business Support

# Hartlepool Creative Business Month 2026

A series of advice and support sessions for local creative businesses, freelancers and practitioners to help them grow and thrive.

**1st June - 30th June 2026**



# Hartlepool Creative Business Month








Organised by Hartlepool Borough Council's Economic Growth Team alongside a range of partners, the month - centred on The BIS in Whitby Street, the Council's award-winning creative industries business centre - will raise awareness of advice and support available to creative businesses, freelancers and practitioners in the town to help them grow and thrive.











There are a wide range of sessions available tailored towards artists and creative practitioners at every stage of their journey.

Full details of events taking place during Hartlepool Creative Business Month and registration details are provided in this programme.

Those wishing to enquire about events can email [bis@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:bis@hartlepool.gov.uk)



Date & Time	Event	Description	Venue (& registration)	Delivered by
<p>Monday 1 June – Friday 5 June</p> <p>Drop in between 9am – 4pm</p>	<p>Have a brilliant idea for a creative business?</p>	<p>Have a brilliant idea and want to turn it into a business?</p> <p>Come along and chat with us! We'll help you explore your vision, answer your questions, and discuss the support available to kickstart your journey into self-employment.</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p><b>No need to book just drop in!</b></p>	 <p>Hartlepool Borough Council</p>
<p>Tuesday 2 June</p> <p>10am – 12pm</p>	<p>Create, Relate and Collaborate – an excellent opportunity to meet fellow creatives!</p>	<p>ETCH is a friendly and informal meet up for creatives. Come along and meet others and expand your network. It is a great opportunity to gain some business knowledge and support ...without the business jargon! Guest speaker to be announced!</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p><b>No need to book just turn up!</b></p>	 <p>CREATE. RELATE. COLLABORATE.</p>
<p>Friday 5 June</p> <p>10am -1pm</p>	<p>Unlocking Your Worth: Mastering the Art of Valuing, Costing, and Pricing Your Creativity</p>	<p>Delivered by Create North this professional development workshop is tailored for Artists and Creative Practitioners at every stage of their journey. As creative individuals, it's not uncommon to underestimate the true value of our time and work compared to other professionals.</p> <p>In this immersive and hands-on workshop, we will dive deep into understanding the real costs of being an artist and guide you through the process of calculating your daily or hourly rate to ensure that you not only sustain but thrive in your creative journey.</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link: <a href="https://creativebusinessmonthvaluingyour-work.eventbrite.co.uk">https://creativebusinessmonthvaluingyour-work.eventbrite.co.uk</a></p>	
<p>Monday 8 – Tuesday 9 June</p> <p>9.30am-4.30pm (both days)</p>	<p>Creative Lift Off!</p>	<p>Do you have a creative practice or hobby and want to know if you should turn it into a business? Not sure where to begin?</p> <p>A 2 day, in person course covering the skills and qualities required to start and run a business. The course covers business structure, legal considerations, business operations and start up costs. This course is fully funded and accredited. Attendance is required for both days.</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below <a href="https://creativebusinessmonthliftoff.eventbrite.co.uk/">https://creativebusinessmonthliftoff.eventbrite.co.uk/</a></p>	 <p>CREATE. RELATE. COLLABORATE.</p>
<p>Thursday 11 June</p> <p>10am-12pm</p>	<p>Branding for Screen Businesses and Talent - Networking and talk</p>	<p>Join North East Screen for an informal networking event for screen businesses and talent, featuring a short talk on branding and how to position yourself and your work to reach the right audiences. Open to production companies, digital content businesses, and writers, directors, and producers, this session explores how a clear, confident brand can help you stand out.</p> <p>The session will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 30-minute talk from a local agency on branding for screen businesses and talent</li> <li>• Informal networking with peers from across the North East screen sector</li> </ul>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below <a href="https://brandingforscreenbusinessesandtalent.eventbrite.co.uk/">Branding for Screen Businesses and Talent</a></p>	
<p>Monday 15 June</p> <p>10am-12pm</p>	<p>An introduction to Arts Council England and how to apply for funding</p>	<p>This short discussion session, aimed at practitioners and makers will be an opportunity for you to find out more about what Arts Council England do and how you can apply for funding.</p> <p>The discussion will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An introduction to Arts Council England</li> <li>• Our main funding programme: National Lottery Project Grants</li> <li>• Our fund aimed at individual development: Developing your Creative Practice (DYCP)</li> <li>• How to get started with your application</li> <li>• Questions &amp; Answers session</li> </ul>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below <a href="https://creativebusinessmonthartsCouncil.eventbrite.co.uk/">https://creativebusinessmonthartsCouncil.eventbrite.co.uk/</a></p>	
<p>Thursday 18 June</p> <p>9.30am-4pm</p>	<p>Are you a Hartlepool based creative interested in exploring how to develop ideas into commercially viable TV &amp; digital content?</p>	<p>Book a 30-minute 1:1 session with Emma from North East Screen to explore how your ideas, skills or business could translate into commercially viable opportunities in TV or digital. Whether you are already developing ideas or looking to move into this space, this is a chance to talk things through and get tailored guidance.</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your 1-2-1 via the link: <a href="https://tvanddigitalcontent11advice.sessions.eventbrite.co.uk/">TV &amp; Digital Content: 1:1 Advice Sessions</a></p>	

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<p>Thursday 18 June</p> <p>11am – 2.30pm</p>	<p>Where next? How Tees Valley New Creatives can help launch your creative career</p>	<p>Looking to kickstart your creative journey? Join us <b>in person</b> for a session from Tees Valley New Creatives, with some 1-1 speed-signposting designed especially for early career creatives available on a drop-in basis. It's the perfect chance to explore your options, get quick tips, and find your next step in the creative world. Whether you're unsure where to head next or just want some fresh ideas, this event's got your back!</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below <a href="https://creativebusinessmonthteesvalley.eventbrite.co.uk">Tees Valley New Creatives</a></p>	 
<p>Friday 19 June</p> <p>9.30am-12pm</p>	<p>Content is King. But what does that actually mean for your business?</p>	<p>Content is everything you create to showcase your business and attract clients — from website copy and blog posts to social media, emails, and video for platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. Without content, it's hard for people to find you, whether through Google searches or social feeds. In this workshop, you'll learn how to plan and create the right content for your business to attract the right customers.</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below: <a href="https://creativebusinessmonthcontentisking.eventbrite.co.uk">https://creativebusinessmonthcontentisking.eventbrite.co.uk</a></p>	
<p>Tuesday 23 June</p> <p>5.30pm-8.30pm</p>	<p>Side Hustle -turn your creative skills, passions and ideas into extra income.</p>	<p>Do you have a creative side hustle? Or a creative hobby that you are looking to top up your income or try something new?</p> <p>From handmade crafts to online shops, social media ventures, freelance skills, and digital services – the possibilities are bigger than ever, and you can do many of them from the comfort of your own home. In this session find out how you can develop and grow your side hustle!</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below <a href="https://creativebusinessmonthsidehustle.eventbrite.co.uk">https://creativebusinessmonthsidehustle.eventbrite.co.uk</a></p>	
<p>Wednesday 24 June</p> <p>9.30am – 4pm</p>	<p>Future Ready: Digital Support Day</p>	<p>Are you a creative or cultural freelancer ready to explore how digital tools can support and grow your practice?</p> <p>Join us for a free event where you will hear from experts and find out what support is available to help you make the most of digital—whether in your creative work or your freelance business.</p>	<p>The Northern School of Art, Hartlepool Campus</p> <p>For more information and to book your place go to: <a href="https://events.thefreelancernetwork.co.uk">Events — The Freelancer Network</a></p>	  
<p>Thursday 25 June</p> <p>1.30pm-3.30pm</p>	<p>Introduction to Canva for Creative businesses and freelancers</p>	<p>Canva is an easy-to-use design platform that helps anyone create professional content without advanced design skills. With ready-made templates, stock assets, video, and AI tools, you can design everything from social media posts to presentations and marketing materials. In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn core Canva features, design tips, and time-saving tools to create content for platforms like Instagram and Facebook. <b>Please bring a laptop or tablet. Wi-Fi will be provided.</b></p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below <a href="https://creativebusinessmonthcanva.eventbrite.co.uk">https://creativebusinessmonthcanva.eventbrite.co.uk</a></p>	
<p>Monday 29 June</p> <p>9.30am-12.30pm</p>	<p>Turn business problems into clear plans with LEGO® Serious Play®</p>	<p>Something in your creative business not working? This practical workshop helps you break down what's holding you back and turn it into a clear, actionable plan. In a small group, you'll unpack the real problem, understand what's causing it, and map out your next steps. <b>Optional 30-minute 1-2-1 sessions are available in the afternoon for workshop attendees.</b></p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below <a href="https://creativebusinessmonthlego.eventbrite.co.uk">https://creativebusinessmonthlego.eventbrite.co.uk</a></p> <p>For 1-2-1 sessions please email <a href="mailto:bis@hartlepool.gov.uk">bis@hartlepool.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p>Tuesday 30 June</p> <p>10am -1pm</p>	<p>How to use AI in your Creative business to help increase productivity!</p>	<p>A practical, hands-on workshop designed to show creatives how AI tools can save time, streamline workflows and support everyday business tasks without compromising creativity. The session will focus on using accessible tools efficiently and ethically, helping attendees build confidence, identify quick wins for their own business, and leave with practical actions they can implement straight away.</p> <p>The last hour of this session will be used for individual questions and support.</p>	<p>The BIS, 13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD</p> <p>Book your space via the link below <a href="https://creativebusinessmonthAI.eventbrite.co.uk">https://creativebusinessmonthAI.eventbrite.co.uk</a></p>	



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