

Q2News

HullBID backs businesses with free, fun events programme



Superheroes in Queen Victoria Square and the Arkut Brothers at Trinity Festival Rebooted in Telstar 2.

Family fun, fantastic food and memorable music are all on the agenda as HullBID embarks on its latest events programme geared to attract crowds into the city centre.

In addition to all the entertainment attracting people to the indoor and outdoor event space, HullBID will also once again present its Inspiring People dinner – one of the highlights of a packed Humber Business Week.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "It's non-stop from now until the end of the year with a rich variety of events which really do add up to something for everyone!

"The schedule is busier than ever and it's already kicked off with the return of Trinity Live, bringing a boost to the evening economy with free live music in Trinity Market every Thursday. There is much more to come too, with the return of some proven family favourites and with some new ideas which are still taking shape that will be announced soon."

The Inspiring People dinner will take place at The Deep on Wednesday June 5th and will bring together about 120 BID members including business owners, directors, managers and networkers. Natasha Barley, CEO of the Sailors' Children's Society – a Hull-based charity which dates back more than 200 years and Humberside Police Chief Constable Paul Anderson have been confirmed as two of the speakers, with one more to be announced.

The family attractions will kick off on Friday May 31st with Superhero Day set to showcase a cast of comic book characters in Queen Victoria Square. Expect to encounter Superman, Spiderman, Captain America, Batman and more – and be prepared for a few costume clashes as children and adults don their own favourite outfits for the occasion.

We will be unleashing some roarsome prehistoric creatures onto the streets as our spectacular Dino Day returns on Friday 9th August.

Hull Street Food Nights are back in the calendar with events in Zebedee's Yard on Thursday June 20th, Thursday July 11th, Thursday August 15th and Thursday September 19th.

All four dates are sure to pull in the crowds as part of a double attraction with Trinity Live, which resumed in March and will present free live music in the market every Thursday until December 19th.

Trinity Live Rebooted attracts big crowds to city centre pubs and café bars and will be back with further bi-monthly events commencing in May until September. The HullBID team is liaising now with potential venues to firm up dates, times and locations for the festival which will again showcase some of the region's finest local musical talent.

The package of events is co-funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. In addition Hull City Council has committed a total of £50,000 in match funding over two years to back Trinity Live and HullBID will contribute £20,000.

Kathryn said: "It's more important than ever to come up with innovative ideas which will attract people into the city centre for an enjoyable experience which won't break the bank.

"We're doing that by working in partnership with Hull City Council, city centre businesses are seeing the benefits of that with a free events programme which leaves more spending power with the customers."

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Charity on the move to city centre home

An organisation which has become established as Hull and East Yorkshire's local breast cancer charity has moved into new premises in the city centre as it prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary next year.

HER Breast Friends began in 2005 with volunteers working from their own homes to support people with breast cancer. The charity moved to Chamberlain Road business centre in 2011 and the Octagon Centre in 2018. Now pressure of space has brought another move to the K2 tower block in Bond Street.

Jayne Beck, Charity Manager, said: "As we have added more services we have needed more space so we came here. It's absolutely fabulous."

Working with the Chair of the charity, Pam Trays, Jayne leads a team of around 85 volunteers



Jayne Beck (left) and Pam Trays of HER Breast Friends.

who deliver services including massage, Reiki, reflexology, person-centred counselling, a bra service, a wig bank and more.

The big day in the events calendar is the Pink Pamper day on Saturday April 27th when HER Breast

Friends will welcome up to 100 people who have had a breast cancer diagnosis for a completely free day of pampering – entertainment, lunch, manicures and pedicures provided by Hull College students.

Jayne said: "It's a very special day which makes a big difference to our clients and we've only missed one year since 2006."

The move to K2 was funded with the help of grants from the Albert Hunt Trust, Hornsea Lions, the National Lottery and Macmillan. Other revenue comes from donations, some support from local businesses and the charity's own fundraising activities.

Jayne said: "We're grateful to everybody who has supported us and we're hoping to build awareness as we work towards our 20th anniversary next year.

To contact HER Breast Friends visit herbreastfriends.org.uk or call 01482 221368.



Julie and Martin Tidder at Little Leo's.

Little Leo's sticks to tried and tested

A slimmed down version of a popular city centre dining destination is attracting old and new customers by bringing back some of their traditional favourites.

Julie and Martin Tidder have completed their move from Leonardo's bistro and opened Little Leo's just along Princes Dock Street in the former Blue Water Café.

Julie worked in Leonardo's for 26 years and Martin first worked there 11 years ago. They built up a regular trade among city centre shoppers, business people and visitors from further afield but decided to downsize when they heard the café was becoming available.

The new venture has about 40 seats inside and the couple plan to make the most of the outdoor area as summer approaches.

As a small team they've condensed their original menu but they're still sourcing local produce and serving some of their classics including fish and chips, lasagne, stroganoff and ciabattas.

Martin said: "We've stuck to the dishes that we know our customers like – the posh fish finger sandwich is still there!

"It's taken longer than we expected to complete the move but we've made a good start and we've had really good feedback from old and new customers. People who used to come in all the time are finding us again and some are travelling from quite a distance. They trust us for the quality of the food and the high standard of service."

Little Leo's is open from Wednesday to Sunday. For details of opening hours and menus look them up on Facebook and Instagram or get in touch via email at little.leos@hotmail.com There's also a website at www.littleleoshull.com.

Smooth expansion for supplements team

Husband and wife team Jake and Kara Lester have marked the first anniversary of Smooth Supplements with a move into a city centre location.

The couple launched the business in April 2023, manufacturing and selling protein powders. They took the view that nowhere in the city centre offered the products and service which they were providing so they looked at some units and found a new home in Princes Quay.

Products include a wide variety of proteins and snacks as well as healthy ready meals from Selby-based GSN. The new store also has a bar selling fresh smoothies, coffee and shakes. The pair plan to add juices in

the summer, and they're giving out free samples so customers can try before they buy.

Jake said: "We knew the unit was perfect as soon as we saw it. It's a good location with high footfall, it's affordable and it gives us the space to make our products and to display them in an attractive way. It's not cluttered and there's plenty of room for people to come in and find what they're looking for.

"We've got a team of three and we can call on other people to come in if we need them. We've got off to a great start and we're growing week on week with some really positive feedback – customers like the product range and they're telling us this is exactly what they want to see in the city centre."

The shop is open from 9am until 5.30pm Monday to Saturday and 10.30am until 4.30pm Sundays.



Kara and Jake Lester of Smooth Supplements.

Familiar face joins the HullBID team

A familiar face in the region's business community has joined the team at HullBID as Operations Manager and Deputy to Executive Director Kathryn Shillito.

Jane Smallwood has spent her entire career working in media and has built up extensive experience working in advertising and marketing covering radio, print, online, social media and live and hybrid events.

During her time at the Hull Daily Mail/HullLive Jane worked as Promotions Manager, Property Manager, Motors Manager and the Regional Events Manager and worked on major events including the HullLive Business Awards and Heart of East Yorkshire Awards.

More recently she worked for HullLive's parent company, Reach plc, leading a team of event

managers covering the UK and delivering events including the Scottish Health Awards, West Midlands Tourism Awards and The Pride of Britain Awards.

Jane has worked closely with the HullBID team for the last 10 years and is well known to the city centre business community for her management of the HullBID Awards night on seven occasions.

Jane said: "I'm really excited about joining HullBID's amazing team and taking on a role which enables me to make a difference in our unique city centre with its fantastic independent businesses."

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "We're delighted to have Jane on board. She brings a wealth of experience and contacts and will be a huge asset in terms of presenting our HullBID events programme and supporting our business members throughout the city centre."



Jane Smallwood, HullBID's new Operations Manager.



Muhammad Usama (right) with some of his team.

City centre opening for Pepe's Peri Peri

A fast food franchise which has grown to amass nearly 200 outlets in 16 years has arrived in Hull city centre with a new store in Paragon Street.

Under the management of Muhammad Usama, Pepe's Peri Peri has assembled a team of more than 20 staff who welcome customers from 11am until 11pm seven days a week to enjoy a menu which is packed with chicken and also offers beef, lamb and veggie options.

Dishes include wraps, burgers, pittas and quesadillas as well as salads, strips and boxes and are available to take out or eat in, with Pepe's boasting seating capacity for 26 people plus a few high chairs.

A contribution of more than £58,000 from the Levelling Up Fund through Hull City Council – taking the overall investment to over £223,000 – has enabled the

transformation of the building from a vacant former building society office.

A full refurbishment has brought the installation of a new floor, ceiling and shop front as well as kitchen essentials including fridges, freezers and cooking and grilling equipment.

Muhammad said the bright new look is already proving a hit with customers.

He said: "The store is in a good, busy location with plenty of parking in the area and good footfall. That's why we wanted to come to Hull and we have made a good start."

Cllr Paul Drake-Davis, Hull City Council's portfolio holder for regeneration, said: "Levelling Up Funding has already helped to regenerate many areas and bring back into use vacant properties.

"The council is pleased to have been able to support another business and therefore further investment into the city centre as Hull continues to buck the national trend as it welcomes another economic boost."

Grubb's up with a new food outlet

A deli which has built a reputation over four years for its mouthwatering delights has opened its doors in Paragon Arcade selling an array of sweet and savoury treats.

Grubb, which was founded by food enthusiast Rhys Duerden in Brough in January 2020, has created five jobs with the move. General Manager Jake Hopkins had only been in the area for two weeks when he visited the arcade, saw that Grubb was opening and applied to join.

Rhys scours the county in search of great food and exceptional food producers, allowing customers to taste the finest flavours Yorkshire has to offer. A favourite with regulars already is the "Grubb and Go" meal deal, featuring the same high-quality homemade,

locally sourced ingredients found in their "build your own" artisan sandwiches and paninis.

Also on the menus are Grubb's Yorkshire sausage rolls, brownies, biscoff fudge bars, vegan flapjacks and freshly filtered coffee.

Jake's previous experience working in pubs and bistros and as head chef in a café and independent coffee shop is underpinned by a passion for independent businesses.

He said: "The arcade is the heart and soul of independent businesses. It's already known as a food hub in the city centre and you can get so much more. When I first saw Grubb I was on my way to the record shop. You can't get any more independent than this place!"

Grubb at Paragon Arcade is open seven days a week from 9am until 2.30pm and customers can also view the menus and pre-order online at www.goodeats.io/Grubb-Paragon



General Manager Jake Hopkins at Grubb in Paragon Arcade.

Q2 Report

ASB conference shows city centre partners on the right track



Humberside Chief Constable Paul Anderson. Photograph courtesy Tom Arran/The Hull Story.

HullBID reassured city centre businesses that police are prioritising issues around antisocial behaviour (ASB) after taking part in a top level summit on the subject.

Executive Director Kathryn Shillito said the event, which featured a keynote speech by Minister for Policing Chris Philp, demonstrated that HullBID is on the right track with its partnership approach involving police, Hull City Council, other agencies and the businesses themselves.

Kathryn said: "It is significant that we were invited to the event because it underlines the collaborative role we have in the city centre around a variety of policing matters and particularly with ASB."

The summit was hosted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside and took place at Humberside Police headquarters at Melton. Delegates from across the north included experts in ASB from police forces and academia as well as from local government and community organisations.

The Minister highlighted the multifaceted nature of ASB which encompasses neighbourhood crime, alcohol and licensing regulations, county lines drug issues, and the intricacies of organised crime. He gave a clear vote of confidence in the collaborative strategies being pursued by the various stakeholders.

Kathryn drew particular encouragement from the comments of Paul Anderson, the Chief Constable for Humberside, who led the discussion on policing and gave the audience of 150 people an update on the local ASB climate.

Kathryn said: "In our own city centre we have seen a firmer approach by the police and council. ASB problems, including nuisance beggars and people under the influence of alcohol and drugs, are being tackled and this was

reinforced at the conference by the Chief Constable. His message was very strong, he understood the effects on business, and he was adamant that these problems will be dealt with."

The Summit then moved on to the practical options around community engagement and regeneration, with Dawn Hill and Fran Rhodes from ONGO Housing telling how their experiences in housing, community cooperation, and sustainable development have underlined the importance of collaboration with local communities in addressing ASB.

Kathryn said: "The speech from ONGO Housing was very relevant to the HullBID area because we are seeing more residential developments and because there are parallels between how they support a residential community and how we work with our business community.

"It was also significant to hear the Chief Constable assert that they are 100 per cent committed to tackling ASB and they recognise that although 80 per cent of it is not related to criminal activity, it still blights neighbourhoods.

"That is consistent with what we are hearing from businesses in Hull city centre and it is why we are taking a collaborative approach with the police and other agencies including the Changing Futures Community Safety Hub.

"We have the BID radio system connected in with Civic 1 CCTV and the police, whilst we hold regular meetings with stakeholders and retailers to share intelligence, reflect on successful outcomes via the courts and build confidence.

"The discussion at the conference showed that we are on the right track and we have excellent knowledge and understanding of what is affecting people in the city centre."

Awards audience cheers success and optimism

The head of HullBID delivered an upbeat message about progress based on partnerships as members celebrated the annual awards.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, highlighted improvements to the city centre from the regeneration of key sites including Whitefriargate and King William House.

Kathryn also noted the £27.4m Hull Maritime project on course for completion next year, work under way with the development of Albion Square and the transformation of the iconic Europa House into the Monocle office complex.

She said: "Local independent developers are backing Hull city centre and its future and Hull



The winners at this year's HullBID Awards.

City Council should be recognised for their vision and ambition too.

"We have a buzzing dining and drinking scene with entrepreneurial businesses gaining mentions in the Good Food Guide and we have the ambitious plans for Hull to become a Unesco City of Music."

Kathryn also highlighted HullBID's events programme: "Thousands of people attended our Hull Street Food Nights. Dino Day and

Superhero Day packed in the families. Steampunks returned in force and our Trinity Festival Rebooted brought live music into city centre pubs.

"We supported the Princes Quay Santa's Parade, we invested in Victorian Christmas and a digital Christmas campaign promoted that Hull was open for business despite the disruption with closures of the A63.

"We'll continue to ensure city centre businesses have a voice with HullBID at its core."

Awards were presented to ten businesses and other organisations in front of an audience of more than 320 at a gala celebration dinner at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. In addition there was a judges' special recognition award for Mikey Martins, who will step down later this year after nine years as CEO and artistic director of Hull Freedom Festival Trust. The full list of winners can be seen at www.hullbidevents.co.uk

Rewards for young entrepreneurs at launch of new fund

The return of a region-wide networking organisation and awards scheme for young entrepreneurs also brought the launch of a £30,000 fund named after a true champion of disadvantaged young people.

Three young entrepreneurs were recognised for their achievements in a celebration event at THUD – The Hook-up Dinner – held at Humber Street Gallery. Many more were given hope for the future with the establishment of the fund, named after the late Mark Jones MBE, Hull City Council's Director of Regeneration.

In addition guest speaker Ian Cass, Chair of the nationwide Micro Business Alliance, announced plans to bring the Managing Director of Small

Business Lending at the British Business Bank to Hull to study "the fantastic work going on to help young entrepreneurs".

Alfie Murrell, owner of SYM Clothing at just 17, won the top prize of £500 for his move to offer a sustainable service around vigorous restorations and skillful repairs. Ashleigh Ward, aged 26, was awarded £300 for Ward Cosmetics, providing high quality services for lashes, brows, waxing, tinting and tanning. Dylan Whiting, also 26 was awarded £200 to help him develop LLM Services, which offers PAT Testing services.

The work with young entrepreneurs is being led by Hull City Council's Making Changes for Careers programme and the John Cracknell Youth Enterprise Bank, which focus on the wider disengaged due to disadvantage.

The new funding pot will help aspiring young entrepreneurs who are care experienced and was



From left, THUD awards presenter Adam Corbally, Alfie Murrell, Ashleigh Ward, Dylan Whiting and Ian Cass.

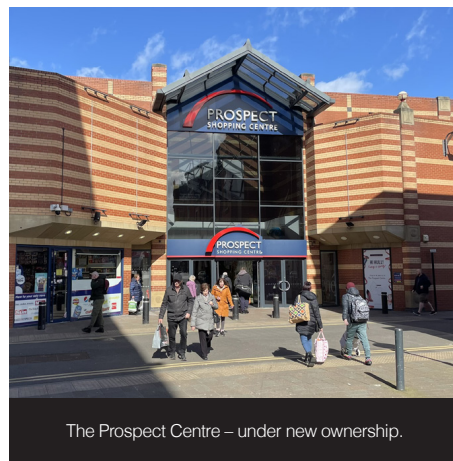
named after Mark to recognise his commitment to supporting aspiring young entrepreneurs and care leavers.

New owners share plans for the future of Prospect Centre

The new owners of the Prospect Centre have confirmed plans to build a community under one roof, with a family feel bringing together businesses and customers.

Craig Higgins, Marketing Director of Z & F Properties said the company sees similarities between the Prospect Centre and two of its other acquisitions in Huddersfield and Wakefield.

He said: "They are all community shopping centres which have been affected to some degree by newer developments attracting some of the big brands away. They are all strong on independents, and the Prospect Centre still has a few high street chains so it's a good mix."



The Prospect Centre – under new ownership.

Craig confirmed that the food court area will be converted into three indoor play areas with some of the attractions you would find in an outdoor park.

He said: "There are plenty of excellent eating options nearby so we are aiming to give families something different to enjoy in the city centre. We'll also be having more events."

Businesses – including traders at the continuing monthly markets – will benefit from lower costs. There will also be changes to the car park to make it more user-friendly and to the shop fronts to make them more attractive.

Craig said: "We've reduced the rents and service charges and as a result of that we've got some of the existing businesses relocating into bigger stores. We've also got some new retailers coming in. We will carry on with the monthly markets and we have reduced the cost of those.

"The Ridings centre in Wakefield took just under a year to get to capacity and we see this being similar. It was probably at 60 per cent when we took it on."

News

Humber Street hits full occupancy with new arrivals

Hull's Fruit Market has welcomed a wave of new businesses including a vintage clothing shop, gym and new dining destinations.

Asian-inspired eatery The Social Distortion, vintage clothes shop Chinese Laundry and boutique fitness centre TC60 have all opened. The Smoke Room is coming soon and will mean Humber Street is fully occupied for the first time.

The Social Distortion initially took up a pop-up space in the Fruit Market before securing a permanent spot in Humber Street.

Mark Hill, who owns The Social Distortion with his wife Wendy, said: "After spending a lot of time looking for a suitable location, we're really pleased to finally be here on Humber Street amongst a great set of independents."

"We want to give a big shout-out to the new Social Distortion team and everyone who has come to support us since opening."

Chinese Laundry closed its long-established store in Savile Street and is now back in business with its high-quality vintage and original clothing.

Founder Alfie Appleton said: "The support we received when we closed motivated us to keep going in our local community. We're excited to open our doors again."

Former professional boxer Tommy Coyle has extended his TC60 Training Club with the opening of TC60 Humber Street, which offers a full schedule of classes, small group personal training sessions and member access to the TC60 Training Club

Tommy said: "The Fruit Market means a lot to me, I spent the early years of my life down Humber Street, learning from my Dad when this was the heart of the city's fruit and veg trade."

The Smoke Room, is due to open in April and will introduce an authentic slice of American cuisine to the city.



From left, Tommy Coyle of TC60 fitness centre, Alfie Appleton from Chinese Laundry, and The Smoke Room owner Andy Chase.

Owner Andy Chase said: "We plan to slow cook meats like brisket and short ribs for 13 to 15 hours, using just the heat from the smoke, and whole chickens and baby back ribs for three to four hours. We're aiming to welcome our first guests by the end of April."

For more details on these businesses visit:
www.TC60hull.co.uk
www.chineselaundryclothing.co.uk
www.thesocialdistortion.com
www.thesmokeroom.co.uk

Warren windfall will improve offer for young people

The Warren Youth Project in Hull has been awarded a transformational £1.9m Youth Investment Fund grant to renovate its entire 1,500sq m building and improve its youth service offer to young people across Hull and the Humber.

JJ Tatten, CEO of The Warren welcomed the funding which he said would enable the organisation to support hundreds more young people when the project is complete.

The Warren is a youth-led charity that is seen as a benchmark in working with young people – they played a key role in developing the plans and their needs



Some of the young people at The Warren.

were central to The Warren's application to The Youth Investment Fund.

The improvements to the service will include a new mental health and wellbeing facility, sensory room, rooftop sensory garden; a lift for disability access; new recording studio, rehearsal room, midi-studio, a dance studio, a theatre space, a new stage, new kitchen, digital-hub, new heating and lighting, new windows and many more exciting features.

Work is due to start on site in May and the service should open its doors to young people by the end of 2024. Meanwhile The Warren will temporarily operate from the nearby Norwich House.

One young person at The Warren said: "This grant is so important because The Warren Youth Project has been more than just a centre to me; it's been a second home, a place filled with cherished memories and wonderful experiences."



Chair's statement Jim Harris, HullBID Chairman

It is so positive as we pick up pace after the Easter break to be able to look at so many amazing new, independent business openings across the city centre – especially on Humber Street which is really starting to thrive! A big Hull welcome to you all. It is also important to recognise that the success of HullBID is driven by Kathryn and her small but dedicated team. So it is a real pleasure to announce the appointment of our new Operations Manager, Jane Smallwood, who comes to us with a wealth of experience and massive enthusiasm for the city.

Got a question?

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