

Q3 News

Police and Crime Commissioner helps HullBID clean up the city



Humberside PCC Jonathan Evison (centre) with (from left) Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Senior Support Officer Mark Andrews, HullBID Cleaning & Maintenance Operative Martin Foster & Business Support Officer Raich Orr.

HullBID has been handed a major boost to its comprehensive street cleaning programme with significant funding from the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner.

The PCC has also announced a new Community Safety Fund which will invest more than £1m into community projects over the next three years to kick-start local projects that will cut crime and anti-social behaviour and improve residents' feelings of safety.

Jonathan Evison, who underlined his support for HullBID soon after he took up his role during 2021, has provided a grant to cover the cost of a new van and jet-washing equipment.

Jonathan said: "An important part of living and working in any town or city, and for those who visit it, is for people to feel safe and secure. A clean and tidy environment is vital to achieve that.

"I am pleased to have provided funding for this vehicle for the next three years to assist HullBID in reducing vandalism and anti-social behaviour which will improve the look and feel of the city centre."

Martin Foster, HullBID's cleaning maintenance operative, takes on around 1,500 tasks every year and is usually hard at work from very early in the morning, long before most businesses have opened their doors for the day.

He does the jobs that are not part of Hull City Council's remit, from removal of graffiti, which is now rarely seen in the city centre, to the assorted waste hidden in the alleys, alcoves and doorways around the city centre.

Martin also carries out a variety of painting assignments to help businesses keep their fences and frontages looking smart.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "Martin was particularly busy when it came to helping city centre businesses prepare to reopen after the series of lockdowns.

"He was jet-washing shop fronts and outdoor seating areas ready for returning shoppers and revellers. His normal working day has a very early start and most of the time he has cleared any mess before the business owners and their staff are aware there

was a problem – he leaves a card to tell them he has called!

"The funding from Jonathan will help Martin to deliver an even more efficient service. He's now equipped with a powerful jet-wash machine and a new, larger, van which is also used for transporting materials for our busy events programme.

The Community Safety Fund is open for bids until the end of September and offers grants of between £500 and £35,000 to organisations including not-for-profit bodies, charities, community groups and social enterprises.

Examples of projects could include measures to improve the safety of outdoor public spaces, community buildings or assets, community events and activities with a focus on crime and safety issues.

Kathryn said: "We've found Jonathan to be a great ally in many ways since he was appointed as PCC. We are extremely grateful for his support and we are already working with him on plans for some new projects."

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HullBID Introducing

Blue Bay builds on theatre audience

The team behind a new city centre restaurant is being rewarded for its flexible opening hours with growing awareness of their array of Greek and Italian dishes.

Blue Bay Mediterranean Restaurant launched in April in Albion Street and concentrated on the end of the week as it tested the market. Now owner Michelle Coldham is reaping the benefits of linking the opening hours to the programme at Hull New Theatre.

She said: "There have been a few weeks when we've worked right through because the shows at the theatre have attracted a lot of people. What we're hoping is that those customers return regardless of whether they're going to see a performance, and that they tell their friends".

Michelle worked at venues including the Blue Bell in Cottingham and Leonardo's when it was in Princes Quay before she decided to concentrate on working in street food.

She opened Blue Bay Mediterranean Restaurant because she fancied a change and she found the ideal intimate location in a property which previously housed two Greek restaurants – both falling victim to Covid restrictions.

Michelle said: "I didn't want to just do the same food as the previous restaurants so we changed it to include other Mediterranean cuisine and it's very popular. We have four people working here and more we can call on when we are busy.

"Regular hours are Wednesday to Saturday in the evening and Friday and Saturday lunchtimes, but it's always worth people giving us a ring or checking our Facebook to see if we're open on other days – especially if there's something on at the theatre."



Pictured in Blue Bay Mediterranean Restaurant are Chloe Tattersall and Gareth Davies.



Tom Would (left) and Lee Humphries in Paragon Arcade.

Tattoos and sushi at Paragon Arcade

A Victorian arcade in Hull city centre has welcomed two new businesses with more on the way.

Paragon Tattoo has been opened by Lee Humphries, who took up the profession seriously about nine years ago after impressing family and friends with his work as he developed his interest.

Lee said: "I was renting space in a beauty salon and was quite happy where I was but when the opportunity arose with Allenby Commercial to have a look at Paragon Arcade I couldn't turn it down. It's such a nice area and really central and in the heart of the city. I have the music I want and the vibe I want."

Tom Would has operated his Oishii Ne Asian street food business as a series of pop-ups around the

city including Paragon Arcade and he has now settled there.

Tom said: "The landlords worked quickly to get us in and everybody down there is really nice. They have been really welcoming.

"We're starting with sushi, gyoza and karaage fried chicken – our most popular dishes – and we have space upstairs for up to 24 seats. We'll do 11am until 6pm Tuesday to Sunday and we're also planning an evening service twice a month on a Saturday."

Georgia Allenby of Allenby Commercial said: "With more retail space available post-Covid, we're honoured that these innovative indie businesses are choosing to operate from Paragon Arcade. We're committed to making the Arcade a unique, vibey place in the heart of Hull. This involves a lot of thinking outside the box and quick adapting, and Lee and Tom are a great fit with that approach".

City centre shop for National Holidays

A new National Holidays booking centre has opened in Paragon Street, with a team of four providing a dedicated service to book coach breaks in the UK and Europe.

Hull is one of National Holidays' biggest pick-up points, with strong demand for a huge range of trips available throughout the year that appeal to a wide range of customers of all ages.

Under its previous ownership, the company operated a successful shop at the transport interchange for many years. The JG Travel Group, which acquired the National Holidays brand in 2020, received feedback that customers really missed the face-to-face advice and booking, so opening a new holiday booking centre was an easy decision.

All the staff are highly experienced travel

professionals and two have a long-standing relationship with National Holidays, having worked for the previous owners.

Claire Elm, Manager of the new shop, said: "We've found that 2022 is surpassing all expectations as people return to holidaying again – they want to explore, spend time with loved ones and they want to make memories.

"The new shop boasts a great location where people can simply pop in and discuss their National Holidays coach break plans. It's also handy for people working in the city centre to call in during their lunch break!

"National Holidays offers an extensive portfolio of coach breaks attracting traditional coach customers and families and featuring everything from family trips, sporting events and theatre breaks to seaside holidays and city stays.

"Our job is to offer in-depth knowledge of the travel industry, and how coach breaks operate, ensuring customers know they are getting excellent advice."



Pictured outside the new National Holidays shop are (from left) Claire Elm, Manager, Ricky Roberts-Jarvis, Travel Consultant and Stephanie Jubb, Assistant Manager.

HullBID Introducing

Family venture at S'wich Bakehouse

A couple who have clocked up years of experience working with other food businesses in the city centre have now taken the plunge themselves by opening S'wich Bakehouse in Savile Street.

Katerina and Luke Medhurst started their venture during lockdown by setting up a kitchen in the shed at the bottom of their garden and experimenting to create different sandwiches.

After settling on their best ingredients, they progressed to selling their wares at a series of pop-ups in locations which included Paragon Arcade and Good Things Market in Humber Street.

They decided to set up on their own after Luke, who had worked in food service businesses for

10 years - including Turner Price for the last four years - heard that the premises in Savile Street was available. Katerina, who had worked at Coffee 31 in Waltham Street for four years, went to join him.

Luke said: "I have spent 10 years helping other people set up their businesses and giving them advice and I felt I needed to do it myself. We both have a strong background in the food industry and, when this place became available, I knew a bit about it, having supplied it for years."

S'wich Bakehouse is open from 10am until 3pm Monday to Saturday and is already busy feeding workers from across the city centre, having now added a delivery service with Hull's Kitchen.

Luke said: "The plan is to get established here and make it work really well. I have seen far too many people fail after trying to open too many outlets."



Luke and Katerina Medhurst at S'wich Bakehouse.



Matthew May, Literary Manager of Middle Child, in the company's new theatre library.

Theatre opens its library to the public

A theatre company based in Hull city centre has opened up its collection of more than 2,000 play scripts and theatre reference books to the public.

Middle Child's theatre library, based in the company's rehearsal space on High Street, ensures that world-class texts are available for any resident of Hull to borrow free of charge.

The collection includes contemporary writing by the likes of Alice Birch, Koko Brown and Inua Ellams, 20th century masterpieces by Sarah Kane, Caryl Churchill and Ntozake Shange, and classics by the likes of Shakespeare, Ibsen and Chekhov.

There will also be reading lists for works by LGBTQ+ and global majority writers, plus scripts by Hull writers,

including Tom Wells, Ellen Brammar, Richard Bean and Maureen Lennon.

Matthew May, Middle Child's Literary Manager, said: "We are so excited to welcome people to our cosy little library to discover a whole new world of literature in the heart of Old Town."

"This resource means that people from Hull can enjoy and find inspiration in texts from a diverse range of writers, many of whose plays never come to the city."

Middle Child originally opened the library in their previous home, the former Darley's Arms pub on Porter Street. They moved into a new home inside the Bond 31 warehouse on High Street last year.

The Middle Child theatre library is open every Tuesday from 10am until 1pm and every Friday from 2pm until 5pm. Also available is a writing room, hot desks and a large rehearsal space, all of which are free to use.

For more, visit www.middlechildtheatre.co.uk/library

New owner has big plans for Sharkeys

A city centre bar has reopened after tempting one of its former glass collectors back into the licensed trade.

Jason Hague started at Sharkeys in George Street as a glass collector when he was just 16 and then progressed to working behind the bar and at other venues before pursuing a career as a professional light and sound engineer.

While working on School of Rock at Hull New Theatre, he decided to take a stroll to see what had happened to his favourite bar.

He said: "I saw it was available to lease so I spoke to the agents and decided to take it on. I wanted to create the same ethos and feel that I remembered

– great bar staff, cocktails, food during the day, families welcome, a bit of a laugh."

Jason has turned part of the bar over to live TV sport and plans to make the most of the rest of the space by bringing back DJ nights and live music, with rock and metal nights on the last Thursday of the month, starting in August.

Kitchen Manager Dempsey O'Neil, who has worked in various bars and restaurants across Hull including several in the city centre, is part of a team of eight who are working at Sharkeys.

She said: "We serve good quality pub food and I'll be creating my own menus which I know from experience work well in the city centre. There will be stroganoffs, steak, chicken, pasta, full English breakfast, vegetarian, vegan and GF options and lighter lunch options including falafel, paninis and wraps."



Callum Burton, General Manager of Sharkeys, and Chloe Lawrance outside the bar in George Street.

Q3 Report

HullBID returns to leading role in Humber Business Week



Councillor Mike Ross, Leader of Hull City Council, speaking at Chamber Expo. Picture by Kevin Greene Photography.

HullBID made an emphatic return to Humber Business Week with a series of positive messages from speakers at the Inspiring Women dinner and from the new Leader of Hull City Council.

Some of the region's most influential businesswomen spoke at The Deep about the challenges which they have overcome during the last two years and beyond in their work and personal lives.

The audience responded by listening intently and applauding warmly as they heard from Carolyn Johnson, Chief Executive of Language is Everything, Sam Barlow BEM, founder of Fitmums & Friends, and Janthi Mills-Ward, Executive Director and Joint CEO of Hull Truck Theatre.

The event, which was sponsored by HSBC and Language is Everything, was followed the next day by HullBID taking on the role of sponsor and enabling city centre businesses to be present for the first major speech by Councillor Mike Ross since he became Leader of Hull City Council at the elections in May.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "HSBC were a huge part of our HullBID awards earlier this year and they stepped up to the plate once again. Pleasingly, but perhaps not surprisingly, HSBC has 50 per cent more female representation at senior level in this area and they see this as a real opportunity to effect change and support more local businesses and female entrepreneurs.

"The Inspiring Women dinner is an established highlight of Humber Business Week and it was

fantastic to welcome everybody back and get together again in such an iconic location.

"It also gave us the opportunity to celebrate how resilient our businesses have been, with the vast majority reopening, and to remind ourselves that we are not out of the woods by any means.

"People are choosing carefully how and where they spend and that is an added challenge. We need a safe, clean city and HullBID works tirelessly with

other stakeholders to try and achieve this, but the city must be viewed as a place of opportunity, one which attracts more inward investment to shape change, one which celebrates our heritage, culture and uniqueness.

"With our vibrant independent shops, free museums, green spaces, beautiful architecture, multiple places to eat and drink including Hull Street Food Nights and Yum! Festival. An award-winning marina, luxury apartments at a fraction of the prices in Leeds and Manchester and work opportunities at world-leading organisations. All of this makes Hull city centre a place of huge appeal and it is up to us to keep driving that message out."

As co-sponsor of the lunch at Chamber Expo, HullBID was able to give city centre business owners and managers the opportunity to hear first-hand from Councillor Ross and to brief him on what they need from Hull City Council.

Kathryn said: "We supported the lunch in our role as a conduit and we welcomed a strong turnout of city centre businesses to the event. Councillor Ross made it clear he was there to listen to what people had to say and the audience responded by highlighting the need to keep on top of safety and security.

"Councillor Ross said he wants to create a city centre which is more vibrant – more a play station than a police station. We want to support him with that and we are very pleased to have had the chance to make direct contact with him."



Guests at the HullBID Inspiring Women dinner at The Deep, a highlight of Humber Business Week.

New faces and new joint vice-chairs on HullBID board

HullBID has announced the appointment of two new prominent city centre business figures to its board and two existing members to the roles of joint vice-chair.

Samantha Dunion brings experience of the hospitality sector as General Manager of the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Hull, a post she took up in November 2021.

Also appointed is Sarah Smith, who has held various roles at Princes Quay Shopping Centre since 2014 and is now Centre Manager.

The joint vice-chairs are Tim Powell and Mike Rice. Tim is a partner at Scotts Property LLP, having joined the firm in 1998. He has been on the HullBID Board since 2013. Mike is Chairman of the family firm of Hugh Rice

Jewellers, which he joined in 1975. He took his seat on the BID board in 2015.

Jim Harris, Chair of HullBID, said: "Hull BID has always prided itself on attracting great talent to the board, and on the diversity of board members. It is fantastic therefore to be able to welcome Samantha and Sarah.

"Similarly, to help with governance and continuity, Mike and Tim have been elected vice-chairs. As well as providing strategic vision and stable governance the principal job of the board is to support Executive Director Kathryn Shillito and the professional team."

The HullBID board is drawn from the city centre business community and the roles are unremunerated. Other members are Julie Buffey (Roisin Dubh), David Donkin (Wykeland), Victoria Jackson MBE (Kingston Recruitment), Maria Kamper (Prospect Centre), Ian Kelly (Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce), Councillor Mike Ross (Hull City Council), Kathryn Shillito (HullBID) and Garry Taylor (Hull City Council).



Clockwise from top, Tim Powell, Mike Rice, Samantha Dunion and Sarah Smith.

Food, drink and plenty of laughs at summer events

HullBID has launched its summer of sensational food events with the return of the Hull Street Food Nights, spiced up with some lively entertainment, and is promising more of the same during the coming months.

In addition to live music in Zebedee's Yard, the events feature a comedy stage in Princes Dock Street presented by The Comedy Lounge as well as a street artist adding a splash of colour to the proceedings.

Hull Street Food Nights will return to Zebedee's Yard on Thursday 7 July and Thursday 8 September, with the event on Thursday 4 August taking place at Hull Marina as a curtain-raiser for the Yum! Festival of Food and Drink on the 5 and 6 August.



Jon Collins at Cocoa Chocolatier.

The Yum! Festival is sponsored by the Business and Intellectual Property Centre at Hull's Central Library, with the expanded kids' zone, featuring free children's rides, face painting and other entertainment, sponsored by St Stephen's Shopping Centre.

In addition to the finest food and drink from businesses across the city centre and further afield, Yum! will introduce some non-food businesses including Bad Wolf Gaming, Holiday Inn Hull Marina, Roisin Dubh, Samsara and Watt 2 Wear.

There will also be a special edition of the Good Things Market organised by businesses in Humber Street, and The Comedy Lounge will again present an entertainment highlight with a stage in Humber Street Gallery on the Friday evening.

Jon Collins, who has been a Yum! Festival regular since he launched Cocoa Chocolatier in 2015, said: "It's one of the best events and even if I wasn't working there I would be going to it!"

Full details can be found at www.yumfestival.co.uk

Puffins Galore! set to pull the crowds to the city centre

A city centre office renovation was paused and a hair stylist took a week off from the Old Town salon where she works as preparations were ramped up to ensure the city centre played a part in one of the region's major tourist attractions.

Puffins Galore!, which has brought 42 puffin sculptures to coastal sites from Flamborough to Kilnsea as well as a number of inland locations, is building on the success of Larkin with Toads and A Moth for Amy.

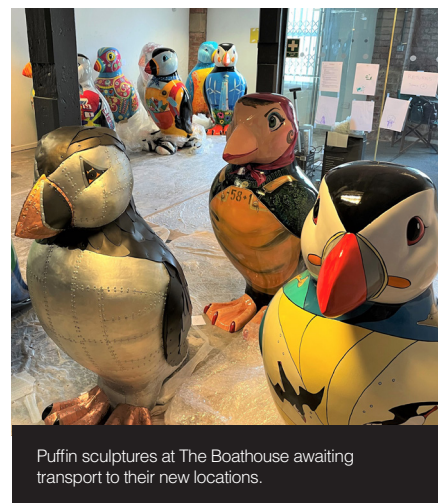
City centre organisations including The Deep, Hammonds of Hull, the Hull Maritime Project, J R Rix, Segal's Jewellers and Wykeland are among the sponsors

for the project, with the result that painted puffins have been installed at various points from Ferensway to Humber Quays.

The puffins were delivered at the beginning of May to The Boathouse, a former radio studio at the side of Railway Dock that is currently undergoing conversion to create new office space. Some were painted by artists who turned the building into a makeshift studio and others – including Sarah Dalton from Solo Hair Salon in Posterngate – worked at home.

Sarah said: "I worked closely on the design with the sponsor of my puffin and took a week off work to get it finished. I also worked on A Moth for Amy in 2016. My puffin is on display at the northern end of the trail at the RSPB centre in Bempton and I'm delighted to see that we also have some in Hull."

To find out more visit <http://puffinsgalore.co.uk/>



Puffin sculptures at The Boathouse awaiting transport to their new locations.

News

Marion takes the wheel as agency wins travel award

A long-established city centre travel business has scooped a major award after literally driving improvements to customer service.

Marion Owen Travel, based in Portland Street, was named top travel agency in Yorkshire at the TTG Top 50 Travel Agencies 2022 Awards. With judges looking for businesses which went the extra mile during the pandemic, Marion did precisely that – driving the coach herself.

She said: "We have been shortlisted for many years when the focus was on use of technology, growth percentage, marketing plans. We're a very small business and can't compete with that but, in the pandemic, our service levels really shone through and we have been very

innovative to keep our heads above water.

"I have had a coach licence for 10 years so I was already a back-up in case the driver became ill. Last year it all proved worthwhile because I was able to drive some trips myself and keep costs down."

Marion, who will celebrate the 30th anniversary of her business next year, drove the coach for holidays ranging from day excursions to a seven-night trip to Pembrokeshire. In total, she was at the wheel for about 28 days and she's been back on the road again this year, most recently sharing the driving for a nine-day trip to the Shetlands. With Marion Owen Travel providing a full onboard service of wi-fi, loos and catering with seatback tables, husband Kelly or colleague Emma Williams look after clients when Marion takes on the full driving duties.

Marion said: "Normally I would be tour manager and make sure everything is OK, but with higher costs and lower profits we need to watch the pennies. It's about protecting the business and being innovative."



Marion Owen (right) and colleague Emma Williams with the award.

Big brands bring confidence boost at Queens House

The operators of a landmark property in Hull city centre are now exploring residential and hospitality use for the upper floors as confidence grows in attracting commercial investment.

Richard Henderson, Building Manager for Savills at Queens House, said German Doner Kebab, which opened in a unit in Jameson Street late in 2021, has now been joined two doors away by Golden Touch amusements and round the corner in King Edward Street by the New Amsterdam retro clothing store. Richard added that the new activity and the long-term presence of some big brands has helped to generate



Richard Henderson outside Queens House in Hull city centre.

strong interest in three other vacant units. He said: "In the past we have had commercial units and offices – a variety of retail units from pubs to food outlets including restaurants and takeaways, card shops and banks. It's

something of a retail destination with some well-known brands.

"Jameson Street and King Edward Street both have good footfall. Most of the businesses here have emerged intact from Covid and we are now trying to raise the profile of the building and its location and embark on a reincarnation of Queens House.

"We had 75 office units on the upper floors and we are exploring options for conversion to residential, which has already proved successful in one part of the building, with all the ground floor units occupied. We are also looking at the possibility of a boutique hotel.

"The building has great potential for that sort of project with magnificent rooms and an excellent location close to the transport interchange and a full range of retail, leisure and cultural amenities. It's also on the doorstep of the transformation which will be delivered by Hull Maritime and Albion Square."



Chair's statement Jim Harris, HullBID Chairman

It has been a wonderful start to summer this year in the city and nothing showcases this more than seeing us all able to get back into face-to-face meetings and events! We had the fantastic Inspiring Women dinner as part of Humber Business Week which also included the Chamber Expo and a speech by the new leader of Hull City Council. Also, our ever-popular Street Food Nights are now in full-swing with the Yum! Festival to follow in August. So, it really is time to get back out into our city centre and enjoy a real return to normal.

Got a question?

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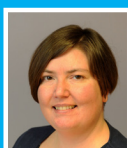
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