

Q4News

Halloween Steampunk Festival set to take over the city centre



The Steampunk Hullween Festival begins on Friday 28 October.

A spectacular programme of dancing, dining, walking and talking will descend on Hull city centre with the arrival of the Halloween Steampunk Festival later this month.

The event, which runs from Friday 28 October until Sunday 30 October, is expected to attract thousands of visitors to the city, in addition to the steampunk community which will be adding Hull to its nationwide network for the first time. It is hoped that Hull residents and businesses will also join in with the entertainment.

HullBID has organised the weekend in partnership with the Ministry of Steampunk and with funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and businesses have been quick to welcome the initiative.

Dave Mays, who has booked in two events at Social in Humber Street, said: "I don't remember seeing steampunk at all in Hull before but I've seen it elsewhere and I'm expecting a fun and exciting weekend.

"We tried to bring one here years ago, having heard about one in Liverpool, but for some reason it never happened, so I'm really pleased that HullBID is bringing it now. It's a great addition to the events calendar."

Social will be the venue for The Library of Eerie Tales at 7pm and 9pm on the Friday with organisers promising 'Madame Sceptre's macabre show of magic and mystery will bring a shiver to your spine and a frisson of the absurd to October as you are immersed in the world of Victorian occultism and witchcraft. Expect magic, mirth and hauntology.'

It will also host a free Halloween gig for ages 14-plus from 7pm until 11pm on the Saturday with performances from Fire (The Unstoppable Force), The New Republic, The Hagley Wood Vampires and Deep Six Blues.

The big event of the weekend will be the Immortal Ball in Hull's Guildhall, also from 7pm until 11pm on the Saturday, with entertainment shifting between a string quartet for regency-style dancing, and more modern Halloween classics, along with a buffet supper. Tickets are priced at £35.

The Holiday Inn Hull Marina will offer a more sedate steampunk experience on the Saturday with an afternoon tea event. At 2pm guests can join horror non-fiction writer Mark Iveson, Steampunk and thriller writer Samantha Lee Howe, and David J Howe, editorial

director of Telos Publishing, who specialise in horror and science fiction books. Enjoy a Halloween-themed afternoon tea in the company of guests from The Ministry of Steampunk.

Other attractions on the Saturday will include a Steampunk Market in Trinity Square and Hull Minster, from 10am until 3pm and, at 11am, a 'Zombie Shamble' – a walk setting off from Primark in Carr Lane, making its way through the city centre streets to Trinity Square where a fancy dress competition will be judged. Sunday sees an 'illicit market' in Zebedee's Yard from 9.30am-10.30am.

The festival culminates in a grand finale parade from the Museum Gardens to Trinity Square at 11.30am on the Sunday. Everyone is welcome to get dressed up and join in.

The programme will also include Hull history walks, ghost walks and a steampunk exhibition and talks in the Streetlife Museum.

For full details visit: www.halloweensteampunk.co.uk or www.facebook.com/halloweensteampunk

Do you have a story you'd like to share?

For more information about how to share your news or ideas, email catherine@hullbid.co.uk or call on 07739 759783. www.hullbid.co.uk

HullBID Introducing

Vintage brand seals global retail deal

The vintage clothing brand behind one of Hull's smartest stores is going global after sealing a partnership with a major retail group.

The Vintage Wholesale Company, which operates Poorboy Boutique in Humber Street, launched the WornWell brand with Primark in one of the retail giant's flagship stores in the heart of Birmingham. It will follow that with new openings during October at Primark stores in Manchester, and in Oxford Street, London.

Riccardo Seaton, founder of the business, said: "From there, we are looking at a number of additional stores in 2023 and we are even looking at Europe, with the prospect also of launching the brand in the United States."

Riccardo revealed that discussions with Primark began more than three years ago and continued

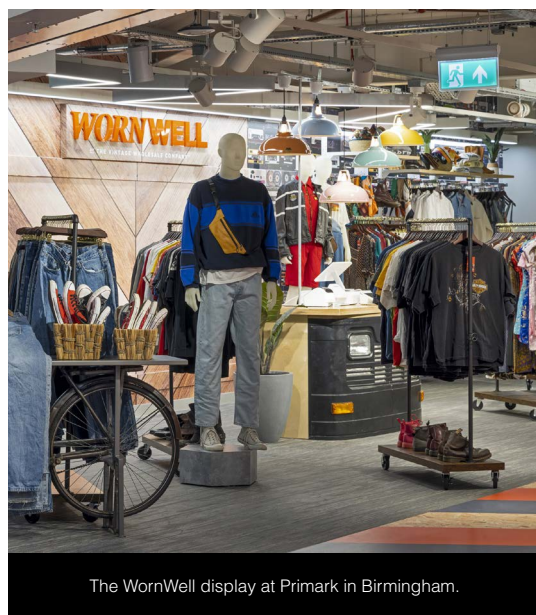
during the pandemic. Everything fell into place after Primark's CEO travelled to Hull to visit The Vintage Wholesale Company warehouses and to see the stock and displays at Poorboy Boutique.

Riccardo said: "He left without giving any indication about whether he was going to partner with The Vintage Wholesale Company, but that night I had a call to say we had delivered a brilliant presentation and to get ready to launch in Birmingham!"

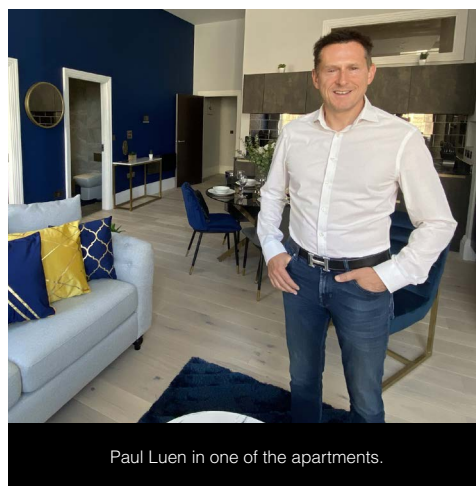
"We got a really good response from that and now we are preparing for Manchester and Oxford Street.

"Primark carried out all the checks such as legal, ethical, employment and HR – going through it all with a fine-tooth comb. We ticked all the boxes for performance and standards.

"We have been going for 17 years, and have had some big deals in the past, but this is the first time Primark has agreed to this sort of model. It's a massive step for us."



The WornWell display at Primark in Birmingham.



Paul Luen in one of the apartments.

Kings Buildings silences doubters

An entrepreneur who was born and bred in Hull is rekindling memories from years ago with his redevelopment of a prime site in the Old Town.

Paul Luen remembers buying a £5 pair of jeans and later "strutting his stuff" on the dance floor at Kings Buildings in South Church Side. Now he owns the property and has converted it into stylish apartments which he says are in demand from the growing number of professionals moving to the city.

He said: "It's a community for aspirational people. City of Culture certainly raised awareness of what Hull has to offer. You look at the inward investment into the city and the cost of living relative to the lifestyle and it's a

place that's absolutely on the up especially with the renewables sector and an ambitious council."

Paul lived in Hull for 18 years before working in Germany as a pipe fitter and welder and then moving into other sectors before setting up his own business in maritime technology. Selling that gave him the resources to move into property.

He said: "This was an unloved building, but I have an attachment to it. A few people said it couldn't be done and that spurred me on. I bought it at the beginning of the pandemic when everybody was running scared. It was a bare shell but Grade II listed and we have converted it into 24 apartments from one-bed to three-bed penthouse duplexes.

"It's purely for long-term lets, minimum six months, but hopefully people will stay a lot longer because they'll love the space."

Snakes alive at Diamond Exotics

A reptile specialist who has been caring for snakes, spiders, lizards and more since he was a child has opened his first shop in Hull city centre, with Diamond Exotics.

Mark Brittain has previously had shops in Beverley Road and Spring Bank and is now up and running in Savile Street with colleague Andrea Darnell, a former care worker who also has a passion for reptiles.

The third member of the team is Harry, a rhino iguana who occasionally ventures out of his tank to get to know the customers.

Mark said: "Harry is quite an attraction and, every now and then, we let him have a wander round

the shop so people can say hello and stroke him."

Customers can choose from a variety of exotic creatures and can also buy everything they need to look after them including the right food for reptile diets, plus the lighting, heating and greenery to create a suitable environment.

Mark and Andrea offer expert advice for experienced reptile owners and for newcomers, and will also provide support for people who are terrified by the animals.

Mark said: "If someone is new to it we can help them and make sure they know what they are doing. We also get people coming in for help conquering their fears, especially with spiders. Some of them end up buying one and even building a collection."

To find out more, visit [Diamond Exotics Hull](#) on Facebook or call 01482 226607.



Mark Brittain and Andrea Darnell of Diamond Exotics.

HullBID Introducing

Hearth restaurant hitting the heights

A restaurant and bakery has brought Michelin Star experience to Hull city centre with the opening of **Hearth in Trinity Square**.

Chef Ryan Telford and baker and pastry chef Caitlin Ogden have both worked in Michelin Star environments. Ian Pexton, who runs front-of-house, has worked locally at destinations including Shoot the Bull and the Fox and Coney.

Hearth is the realisation of a long-term dream for Ryan and Ian, who promised themselves years ago that they would run their own restaurant and decided to take the plunge as a new, exciting, post-lockdown project.

The bakery, which is open from 8.30am until 4.30pm from Tuesday to Saturday and 9am until 2.30pm on Sundays, opened in early July. Brunch is served

between 10am and 2pm Tuesday to Saturday and between 10am and 11.45am on Sunday.

The restaurant, with views of Trinity Square at the front and Prince Street at the back, followed later in the month with service from 6pm until 9.30pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and midday until 3.30pm on Sunday.

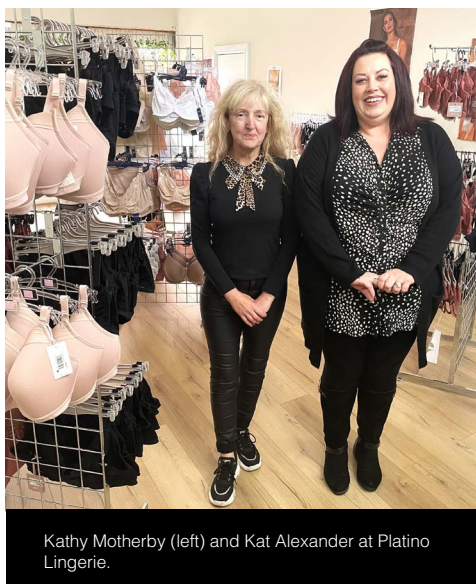
Ian said: "We were all tired of working for other people. Having a bakery in the building makes it unique. It's been full on and its going really well. There are about 15 of us here working a mix of full-time and part-time and we just want to make sure we are hitting the highest level we can."

The menu is designed for sharing and the twist is that all the roasts are cooked on the fire at the hearth upstairs. Sample dishes on the website include bavette steak, whole mackerel, smoked ratatouille, and beef tartare with smoked eel.

To find out more visit <https://www.hearthfamily.co.uk/> or look them up on Facebook.



From left, Ian Pexton, Caitlin Ogden and Ryan Telford at Hearth.



Kathy Motherby (left) and Kat Alexander at Platino Lingerie.

Platino Lingerie offers perfect fit

A new lingerie shop in Story Street is focusing on providing a first-class fitting service with the owners bringing years of experience from department stores and boutiques.

Platino Lingerie was opened at the end of August by Kat Alexander and Kathy Motherby, who reckon they're the only shop in the Hull area that specialises in bras for larger sizes.

Kat Alexander started in the trade at House of Fraser as a 16 year-old on YTS and then moved to Debenhams. When that closed, she worked in a local independent lingerie shop where she met Kathy, and they later decided to open their own business.

Kathy also started at House of Fraser and has 20 years' experience, including at La Senza, Bux Avenue and Intimo.

Kat said: "People don't want to shop online for things like this. The service is really important and we have private fitting rooms where customers can find out what they need. We can meet most requirements from stock and can order anything else."

Kathy added: "We get people coming in who said they have had to travel to Leeds and York for fittings and who are delighted they can now come here. We're in an ideal location for people to drop in if they're in the city centre for work or anything else."

Platino Lingerie is open five days a week from 9.30am until 4.30pm Tuesday to Friday and 9.30am to 5pm on Saturday.

For further information or to book a fitting contact Kat or Kathy on 07340 510136, email platinolingerie@gmail.com or look them up on Facebook at Platino Lingerie or Instagram [@platino_lingerie_hull](https://www.instagram.com/platino_lingerie_hull)

Top brands on sale at new charity shop

A charity shop is appealing for more products and people after opening its doors in Hull city centre during the summer.

The Sense shop in King Edward Street has increased its floor space substantially since relocating from Newland Avenue, where it had operated for 10 years.

Assistant Manager Becky Flood who, with Manager Carol Smith, runs a team of volunteers, said: "The volunteers do a great job working on the tills and on back-office tasks such as cleaning and tagging. We could definitely do with some more people – it's suitable for anybody and it doesn't matter if they can only spare a couple of hours a week.

"There is always demand for more stock as well. Stock levels which were very high during the pandemic dropped back to normal and are now falling. People can see from the shelves and rails what sort of things we sell and we need more of everything. There's a back door for deliveries by car."

Becky added that the shop is busy because of its location, the cost of living crisis and the chance to pick up some great bargains.

She said: "It's been really busy since we opened. We wanted a more central location and this is nearly treble the size of the previous shop. With the cost of living crisis, charity shops have grown in popularity and people are also finding some high quality products. We have Hilfiger and Lauren, and you can get them for £5."

The new shop is open seven days a week including Bank Holidays and will be holding regular special events including fundraising days.



Becky Flood (left) and Carol Smith at Sense.

Q4Report

HullBID adds business voice to transport discussions



Mike Ross (centre) with HullBID Chair Jim Harris and Kathryn Shillito.

HullBID ensured the voice of city centre businesses was heard as key organisations came together to discuss the burning issues around local transport services.

The discussions and the feedback from an extensive survey of transport users will be analysed by experts from the University of Hull, and Kathryn said the HullBID delegates will study the findings from a business perspective.

She said: "The summit was an excellent event which attracted key decision makers who each had a really good grasp on transport matters in the city.

"The right people were in the room and we were there as a voice for city centre businesses, having listened to their queries and concerns and encouraged them to take part in the survey which preceded the summit.

"We spoke for businesses and shared their ideas and looked at the positive things we can all do when it comes to supporting them, right down to finding safe facilities for cycle storage.

"The next step will be to receive the report from the University of Hull and we will again make sure city centre businesses are part of that process."

Cllr Ross reported to the latest meeting of the HullBID board that the Hull City Council Traffic and Travel Resident Survey had generated "an incredible response". He said the involvement of HullBID in the process was consistent with the City Council's new administration's pledge to bring businesses and other key stakeholders into the discussions around such an important matter.

The summit took place just days after the board meeting and discussed subjects including making the city easy to move around, decarbonising transport, sustainable economic growth and transport's role in safety and wellbeing – all issues which emerged as priorities in the survey, which attracted more than 21,000 responses.

Kathryn said: "Our attendance at the summit is evidence of how closely we work with the City Council and other organisations as a conduit, ensuring that business is part of the conversation.

"We are also liaising on a chewing gum removal project as part of our cleaning and maintenance role and we work together on safety and security, city centre events and more. The Leader of the Council's attendance at our board, along with senior officers, ensures effective communication and is very valuable."

Cllr Ross, who joined the HullBID board after becoming Leader of the City Council in May, said: "I recognise the importance of having strong business organisations in the city and being able to provide a voice for those businesses and organisations that can help to deliver on the ground.

"I am a big believer that you will get a lot more done by working together rather than individuals or groups on their own trying to do things in isolation."

News

Don't miss your big chance to shine at the 2023 HullBID Awards

The annual HullBID Awards are back with some new categories, a simple application procedure and the usual guarantee of a tough competition rewarded with peer recognition and a fantastic night out.

Businesses are being urged to get their applications in as soon as possible, and by Friday 9 December at the latest, for their chance to line up at the awards ceremony at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel on Friday 27 January.

Entries are invited for the Eco-Friendly Award, the Welcoming Premises Award, the Outstanding Employee or Team Award, the Innovative Marketing Award, the Customer Service Excellence Award, the Contribution to the Community Award, the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award, the Best Health and Wellbeing Award, the Best in Food and Drink Award



Winners at the 2022 HullBID Awards.

and the Outstanding Contribution Award. In addition, the judges will announce the recipient of a Special Recognition Award.

To enter, all businesses have to do is complete the application form with details of their chosen category, the business name and contact details and the reasons

why they should win a HullBID Award. You can enter as many categories as you like but must complete a separate form for each application.

All the entries will be scrutinised by a panel of independent judges and the finalists will be revealed in mid-December.

HullBID Executive Director Kathryn Shillito said: "The 2022 HullBID Awards are still fresh in the memory after such an exhilarating presentation night which really highlighted the appetite among city centre businesses to show what they can do.

"Our awards are unique. It's the only competition which focuses on the hard work and amazing achievements of businesses in the city centre, and we want to make this edition bigger and better than ever.

"We want to see as many of our members as possible taking part to show the strength of the city centre business community and get 2023 off to a terrific start."

For more info, visit www.hullbidevents.co.uk/bidawards from 7 November.

Magic of Christmas takes Old Town back to Victorian age

HullBID will join forces with Hull Culture & Leisure to present a Victorian Christmas spectacular as one of the highlights of the festive season in the city centre.

'The Magic of Christmas' will bring back memories of previous history-themed celebrations when it takes place in and around the Streetlife Museum in High Street from 10am until 4pm on Saturday 26 November.

The event will follow the format of Victorian and Edwardian festivals which have boosted business at Christmas and Easter by attracting families into the Old Town.

Attractions will include traditional fairground rides and face painting which will all be free of charge. There will also be street entertainment, a Christmas choir and storytelling for young children.

Local traders will take part with stalls selling festive gifts and food, and businesses throughout the Old Town are being urged to join in the fun.

Catherine Goble, HullBID Marketing and Events Co-ordinator, said: "Victorian Christmas and Edwardian Easter were both hugely popular when we held them in the past and we're delighted to partner with Hull Culture & Leisure for another heritage event which will really bring the Old Town to life at a magical time of year.

"There promises to be something for everybody with lots of free fun for families and, as with our other events, we're confident it will pull in the crowds and help city centre businesses make the most of the festive season."



Flashback to Victorian Christmas at the Streetlife Museum in 2014.

Safety Zone Hub will bring support services together

Safety and security in Hull city centre will be improved with the opening of a new facility which will provide a permanent base for partners working to address issues on the street.

The Safety Zone Hub will build on the success of the portable pod which, in recent years, was located at sites at the Rose Bowl, King Edward Square and Jameson Street.

It is designed to operate as a central hub that is very visible to people in the city centre and gives partners an opportunity to get together and share intelligence about what is happening.



HullBID Cleaning and Maintenance Operative Martin Foster (centre) with Support Officer Raich Orr (left) and Senior Support Officer Mark Andrews.

The unit in King Edward Street will assist the HullBID Support Officers and the Cleaning and Maintenance

Operative in liaising with Humberside Police patrol teams in the city centre and various staff, including the Anti Social Behaviour Officer from Hull City Council.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: The sharing of intelligence brings many benefits including helping identify the presence and the activities of repeat offenders. But, importantly, the new hub will also provide access to specialist support personnel to those living rough on the streets and those with addiction issues.

"It supports HullBID's wider partnership activities with Humberside Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner's office and Hull City Council. That kind of effective co-operation can prevent minor incidents from escalating into something more serious. It's reassuring for our businesses and another spoke in HullBID's security support."

News

HullBID huddles a new feature at Tech Week Humber

HullBID is joining the drive to improve digital skills in the city as a sponsor of Tech Week Humber.

The programme will comprise a series of activities in and around the city during the first week of November and HullBID will play a key part in connecting businesses directly with expert presenters, by sponsoring the breakout drinks area and a series of high-tech huddles at Tech Expo, the flagship event of the week.

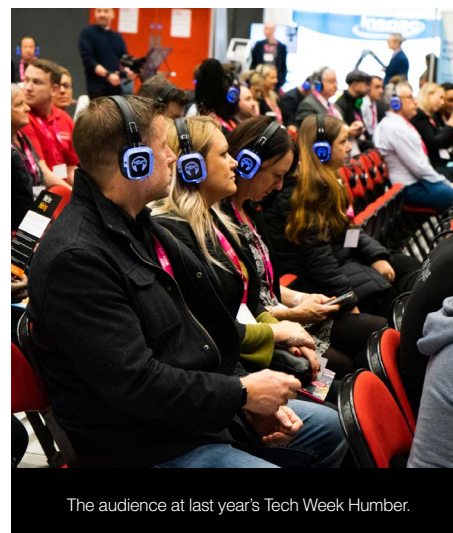
Speakers will give their keynote addresses on the main stage and then head to the huddle to talk tech informally and answer questions from visitors to the event, which will take place at the MKM Stadium from 10am on Tuesday 8 November.

Delegates will hear from global tech giants including Apple and IBM and from two major city centre organisations which are among the major partners.

KCOM will be there in its capacity as Leading Connectivity Partner, having recently announced plans to invest £100m to give Hull, East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire the fastest, future-proofed and most accessible full fibre broadband network in the UK. Hull College, a headline partner for Tech Week Humber, will seize the opportunity for its students to participate in the event on a much larger scale than ever before.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "Tech Week Humber is an excellent opportunity for people to understand and explore the potential of technology, regardless of their level of digital know-how. The HullBID huddles will give businesses the opportunity of direct access to some key people in the sector."

To find out more visit <https://techweekhumber.com/>



The audience at last year's Tech Week Humber.

Buzz for businesses as families flock to enjoy Dino Day

A dinosaur extravaganza attracted thousands of people to Hull city centre for a great day out at a family festival of fun and frights.

Dino Day, which was organised by HullBID and presented by street entertainment specialists Bigfoot Events, brought caveman capers and prehistoric peril to a packed Queen Victoria Square.

Huge crowds circled the fountain and turned it into an impromptu stage for attractions which included a T Rex, a velociraptor, comedy cavemen, a giant dinosaur egg and two cute petting baby dinosaurs with puppeteers.



Dino Day pulling the crowds into Hull city centre.

Steve Plater, co-owner of Hull's own Dinostar museum in Humber Street, said: "It's been incredible really. People have been telling me they haven't seen so many people here for years. It's terrific that HullBID brought this to the

city. It's their doing and they are a great organisation which helps businesses in so many ways."

Other businesses also welcomed crowds of people who jumped on Dino Day as an opportunity for a family day out. Food and beverage outlets were particularly busy with queues at restaurants, cafes and take-aways, and non-food businesses across the city centre also saw an increase in trade.

Sally Waters, retail manager at the Emmaus store in Whitefriargate, said: "It's fantastic. There's families out, all enjoying the really lovely atmosphere, and all the kids are telling us about the dinosaurs."

"People who wouldn't normally hit the city centre come in for certain events and it's fantastic for businesses. HullBID always has events on and they let us know regularly when things are happening. A lot of the businesses work together and support the HullBID events so that we can improve business."



Chair's statement Jim Harris, HullBID Chairman

As always, when I walk around our city centre and talk to our great traders and businesses, I am struck by how, with doom and gloom across the news, we seem to be able to buck the trends. Hearth is a great new restaurant, Diamond Exotics have some amazing reptiles in store and Platino Lingerie has just opened in Story Street. The HullBID team brought thousands of people into the city for the Dino Day and the Hulloween Steampunk Festival is coming at the end of the month. So we're making our own news, with plenty of success stories.

Got a question?

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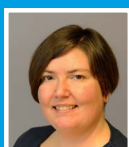
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To find out about our board directors, visit www.hullbid.co.uk



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