

Q3News

New competition to sharpen the focus on spectacular summer events



Phones at the ready to snap the action at Dino Day.

Hull city centre will present a series of crowd-pulling events during the summer with HullBID urging people to capture the action on camera in a family friendly photography trail.

From Pride in July to Dino Day and Humber Street Sesh in August, the vibrancy and colour of the ever-popular attractions will provide countless opportunities to snap spectacular people, places and performances.

The competition is also inviting people to submit their shots of day-to-day life in the city centre, with 10 fantastic locations listed as potential sources of inspiration.

The photography trail will run from Saturday 19 July until Sunday 31 August to coincide with school holidays and the idea is that people will submit one shot from each location.

Judging of images for inclusion in an exhibition will take place at the beginning of September, all entries will be displayed in an online gallery and the best will go on display in Trinity Market from Monday 15 September until Sunday 5 October.

The trail is inspired by the recognition in the Sunday Times earlier this year that the HU1 postcode is one of the coolest places to live in the UK but you don't need to be a top newspaper photographer to take part. The competition is for everyone, from experienced photographers to novices with smartphones.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "The photography trail will be easy to enter and everyone who completes all 10 locations will receive a commemorative certificate.

"It's open to all, whether people are working, shopping, socialising or just passing through, and it is designed to encourage people to head into the city centre, explore the different areas and look at things differently.

"Hopefully the trail will create memorable experiences for individuals and

families, raise awareness of the retail and leisure opportunities and help to promote Hull city centre as a vibrant, fun and safe destination for people to enjoy.

"The events themselves are always important in terms of increasing footfall in the city centre and the photography trail will build on that by encouraging people to make repeat visits in search of that special, winning image."

Pride will take place on Saturday 26 July with a parade around the city centre starting in Zebedee's Yard at midday. For the latest information visit <https://prideinhull.co.uk/>

Humber Street Sesh will return the following week from midday until 11pm on Saturday 2 August. To find out more visit <https://www.humberstreetsesh.co.uk/>

Dino Day will see the return of some "roarsome" entertainment to Queen Victoria Square on Friday 8 August with a parade of pre-historic favourites, plus interactive activities and stalls, and a series of fun and frightening displays between 11am and 3pm. For details visit <https://hullbidevents.co.uk/dinoday-2025/>

Kathryn added: "There's also Heritage Open Days, which takes place from 12 to 21 September and puts the spotlight on our fantastic architecture. The photography competition will be over by then but the exhibition will be up and running and there's no doubt some of our wonderful buildings will feature prominently."

The 10 locations in the photography trail are the Fruit Market, the Museums Quarter and Hepworth's Arcade, Land of Green Ginger and Whitefriargate, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull Marina, Ferensway (St Stephens, Hull Truck Theatre, Prospect Centre), Princes Quay and Princes Dock Street, Paragon Arcade, Albion Street / Kingston Square and King Edward Street / Queen Victoria Square.

To enter the competition visit <https://hullbidevents.co.uk/picture-hull/>

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HullBID Introducing

Focus is on people in new head office

A wellbeing, therapy and counselling business has enhanced its commitment to patients and employees with a move to new premises in Nelson Street.

The Focus group, which was formed in 1997, has become the largest provider of NHS Talking Therapies in Hull and in 2023 extended its services across East Yorkshire.

The move to The Counting House brought the challenges of retaining the history and character of a building which dates back to the 1800s and the rewards of views across the Humber.

Thomas Donohue, the company's Operations Director, said the aim from the outset was to create an environment where clients feel safe, welcome and supported and where the team of 50 staff are inspired and empowered in their work.



Thomas Donohue outside The Focus Group's new head office.

Thomas added: "The move was many years in the making. Having outgrown our space in John Street,

we were looking for a new head office that we could develop into a bespoke setting, one developed around our people, and our service users.

"As a healthcare business, we wanted to move away from the stereotypical impression of clinical setting. We wanted to show that a welcoming and inspiring space can support the welfare of both service users, and those that work within the space - even in the healthcare sector. I feel that we've achieved this with our development of The Counting House.

"Focus has invested heavily in developing our infrastructure, not just in the physical space we occupy, but looking inward, challenging our normal, and developing new ways we provide care."

Focus offers its services to individuals, businesses and other organisations in person at its new home and also remotely. Further details are available on Linked In and Facebook and at <https://wearthefocusgroup.co.uk/>



Andy the Barber at Get Faded.

Get Faded cutting it in new barbers shop

It might be called Get Faded but a new city centre barbers shop is making its mark at the forefront of the sector rather than fading into the background.

Opened by Andy the Barber, the shop under the City Hall in Carr Lane is building a team of specialists and delivering a wide range of styles and services with a few quirks to keep the customers occupied.

Andy previously worked elsewhere in the city centre and by building his own client base developed the confidence to go it alone in a community which made him feel at home after he made the move from the south.

He said: "I'm from the East End of London and I've been barbering for more than 20 years. I came to Hull in 2015 for a change of scenery and I settled here. It's really good here, quite diverse and I like the people. They are kind and welcoming, saying good morning. You don't get that in London!"

At Get Faded, Andy runs the shop which houses a team of four with opportunities always available for newcomers and opening hours of 10am until 6pm Tuesday to Saturday and 10am until 4pm on Sundays. For more details look up GetFaded.CC on Instagram and TikTok.

Andy said: "We do classic cuts, mullets, burst fades, skin fades and we specialise in Afro hair – all types of hair for people of all ages. We also have all genres of music for customers to enjoy as well as a PS5 with a big screen for people to play while they wait."

Flexworks brings new name in prime space

A new prime workspace is enjoying a rush of enquiries after officially unveiling its space and services during Humber Business Week.

Rick Bakshi, founder of Flexworks, and site manager Jack Parsons are busy with viewings and reservations with people looking to set up a presence in a prime city centre location.

Rick, who developed new ideas for office space after 30 years of experience in the tech and real estate sectors, opened Flexworks in April at Broadway House on the corner of Ferensway and Brook Street.

Jack said: "Rick brought his ideas to Hull because he sees the potential here and that was reinforced by what we saw at Humber Business Week, which was effectively the start of our marketing push."

Jack added that the first and second floors of

Flexworks are available now with about 10 offices ready to occupy. The third and fourth floors are being completed and are available on request. In addition to office space, Flexworks has its own coffee house.

Jack said: "Interest is constant with some spaces already taken up, viewings booked for others and new enquiries coming in all the time. It's really building momentum. The space is fitted out to a high standard and is nice and modern and bright, with a lot of natural light.

"We're offering some very attractive rates from the outset and the location is a big attraction with the transport interchange across the road and only seconds away. There's also a car park at the Prospect Centre round the back and at St Stephen's, which is just across the road.

"Current occupiers include therapists and tech professionals and they've already helped us create a nice, homely and friendly feel. The coffee shop offers co-working opportunities and we'll be using it for some networking events."



Jack Parsons at Flexworks.

HullBID Introducing

Vicky launches new accountancy venture

A new accountancy practice has opened its doors in Hull's Old Town with a promise to take a strategic approach which will help businesses focus on planning and growth.

Vicky Peat, founder of SmartView Accountants, aims to adopt the same policy for her own business. She said: "We have plans to build our own team gradually, subject to business activity."

Vicky has built up more than 16 years' experience with reputable firms in the local area. She qualified in 2017, is ACCA accredited, and worked her way up from trainee to manager before deciding to go on her own.

Working with a former colleague, Leah Sanderson, Vicky has opened an office in Castle Street which has already impressed clients and other visitors.



She said: "I know the area and I see this as the perfect location in the heart of the Old Town with a bright new space which everyone said just doesn't look like an accountancy office."

Services include statutory accounts, compliance filing, VAT, bookkeeping, management accounts and self-assessment. At the heart is a desire to be different.

Vicky said: "Over the years I built up a great network of contacts and clients which gave me the confidence to set up on my own, pursue my own values and provide clients with a more strategic service."

"I have systemised and automated services to make the business more efficient and provide value for money across all our services. Communication is massive. I want to be fresh, there for clients, available to communicate and collaborate, not just looking at figures."

"We are working across Yorkshire and focusing on communication, collaboration, business development, setting goals and really making a difference."

New darts retailer is aiming for bullseye

A new business inspired by the surge in popularity of darts is already pulling in customers who are eager to practise and play as well as buy top-of-the-range equipment.

On the Oche Darts sells everything you need to play the game at home, and the business has already expanded into tuition and talent spotting.

Tom Percy, Manager of the shop in Bond Street, said: "Darts has always been popular and it's definitely on the rise. I used to play a lot and to a good standard but what we're getting now, that I haven't seen before, is a lot of young kids getting involved."

"There's a lot of money in it now and we'll be operating academies to give young people a chance to learn the game, compete against each other and find out how good they are."

Research published earlier this year by Butlins Big Weekenders suggested darts is the fastest growing sport in the UK and On the Oche Darts has responded by putting together a team of four to meet rising demand locally.

Tom, who has plenty of experience in sports retail, is joined by sales assistants Jack Brown, Lewis Love and Dave Bettney.

He said: "We sell darts, dartboards, mats, shirts and more. We also have test lanes which customers can use to try the darts before they buy, and we have darts lanes which are available to rent by the hour for up to four people at a time."

"That's a great lunchbreak option for people working in the area and we think it will also appeal to businesses looking for a bit of friendly competition after work."

On the Oche Darts is open seven days a week. Further details are available on Facebook, TikTok and Instagram.



Banks turn to pedal power for Dove House

One of the region's favourite charities has launched a new fundraising challenge which will see staff from seven banks and building societies set out to cycle hundreds of miles without leaving Hull city centre.

Dove House Hospice is tapping into the friendly rivalry between the teams, who are aiming to boost the charity's funds with sponsorship and donations from passers-by when they take to the streets between 10am and 4pm on Thursday 21 August.

Jonny Bottomley, Partnership Development Fundraiser for Dove House, said: "We've held cycling events before but this type of event is a first for us and we hope that it provides a great platform to raise the funds to support people in their darkest of times — offering comfort, dignity, and compassionate care when it's needed most"

"Some of the banks have supported us before, others are getting involved for the first time and from



talking to them it's clear they're all very competitive, which hopefully is good news for us."

Teams will be taking part outside the city centre branches of Lloyds, HSBC, Skipton Building Society, Handelsbanken, Halifax and Barclays, with Metro Bank also setting up a bike in a city centre location. Bikes have been loaned by Coyle Health & Wellbeing, PureGym and Woodford Leisure Centre.

Jonny said: "There's no limit to the number of people in the team or to how many sessions each rider can complete. The winner will be the bank which, in theory, has pedalled the furthest."

"Some of them might be novices, others rather more experienced. From a fundraising angle we obviously hope they are super fit and can set a strong pace and clock up hundreds of miles."

HullBID is delighted to support the event through the loan of its gazebos and helping to raise the profile of the event and the charity on various social media channels.

Q3 Report

New Chief Constable looks forward to strong partnerships in city centre



Chief Constable Chris Todd.

The new Chief Constable has underlined the commitment of Humberside Police to ensure Hull city centre remains safe for workers, residents and visitors – and he has invited businesses to play their part.

In response Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, welcomed Chris Todd into his new role and said she is looking forward to their forthcoming one-to-one meeting as an opportunity to brief him on the importance of the partnership between the two organisations.

Kathryn said: "I'll be explaining fully the work of HullBID and how our collaboration with the police pays off, with big successes including the BID radio scheme and our role as a conduit with businesses – notably with the recent Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and after the disturbances in August 2024, when we were updated with daily intelligence from the police which we could share with businesses.

Kathryn sat on the pre-selection interview panel earlier this year when Chris and two others presented.

She said: "I was impressed with his credentials and his vision of creating a victim focused police service that residents, officers and staff will be proud of, whilst bringing a consistent, ethical and stable leadership to the force.

"BID is fortunate to have always had the support of the city centre Inspector and their team and, further up the chain, the Divisional Commander, and the Chief Constable.

"Those links to the higher ranks give us kudos with our members, especially when we do walkabouts with senior officers and accompany

them on visits to businesses. Linked to this we have a very good relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner, who has a deep understanding of how BID functions."

Kathryn highlighted the PSPO as having made significant progress, with a huge reduction of incidents of street drinking, begging and loitering. The Chief Constable said it is one of a number of tools available, with HullBID recognised as a crucial partner in effectively delivering policing in the city centre.

Chief Constable Todd said: "One key area for policing is being information and intelligence led. This allows us to form a bigger picture around issues and concerns to effectively provide solutions, and businesses in Hull play an incredibly vital role in helping us shape how we police the centre.

"The work HullBID carry out with local businesses provides us with valuable insight and information, as they feed directly into us from businesses and, in turn, we communicate through them as they cascade our content and guidance directly to businesses.

"We utilise various orders, tactics and methods in policing the city centre, and also include employing civil powers such as Community Protection Notices and Warnings and Public Space Protection Orders, of which a new order has recently been agreed which is more prescriptive and should create an additional impact.

"We are committed in making Hull City Centre an enjoyable and safe place for all those who work, live or visit, and I am confident we will continue to make a difference through strong and effective partnership working with HullBID."

News

BID thanks sponsors and speakers at milestone dinner

HullBID celebrated Humber Business Week at its Inspiring People dinner by highlighting a major refurbishment of a city centre hotel and the launch of a new, independent accountancy business.

SmartView Accountants took the headline sponsorship of the dinner to promote its services to the city's business community. Other sponsors included DoubleTree by Hilton, KCOM and delivery partner Holiday Inn Hull Marina, which announced plans for a major refurbishment.

Guests celebrating at the 10th anniversary of BID's first Humber Business Week dinner told of the value of the occasion and the organisation.

Pat Coyle, Chair of Humber Business Week and Marketing & Business Development Consultant at Wilkin Chapman Rollits, said: "The dinner brings



Caroline Neadley, Simon Jones, Kathryn Shillito and Jamie Lewis.

together the people who make the city centre what it is. They make it tick and it gives them the opportunity to celebrate their success."

Katrina Moore, owner of Artisan Flowers in Paragon Arcade, said: "We work very closely with

HullBID and they are recognised as being very helpful to independent retailers."

The speakers – all drawn from the city centre business community – were Caroline Neadley, Partner at Wilkin Chapman Rollits, Jamie Lewis, CEO of the HEY Smile Foundation, and Simon Jones, Founder of Top 30 under 30, owner of HEY Business Awards and Managing Director of Identify.

HullBID Executive Director Kathryn Shillito said: "We always take the opportunity at our events to update on the great work of HullBID – support for businesses, lobbying, making the city centre safer, cleaner and more vibrant – but by definition this dinner is all about the inspiration we draw from others.

"The stars of the show are our speakers, who were brave enough to share their uplifting stories, and the sponsors who enable us bring the city centre business community together."

C4DI refit will help drive growth of local tech sector

Hull's Centre for Digital Innovation (C4DI) has revealed the stunning transformation which is the result of an eight-week refit.

When C4DI opened 10 years ago, it offered one of the city's very first co-working spaces and created a flagship and focal point for the region's tech community. Now owner Wykeland Group has made further investment to begin the next phase of the C4DI story, creating a vibrant business lounge and co-working space.

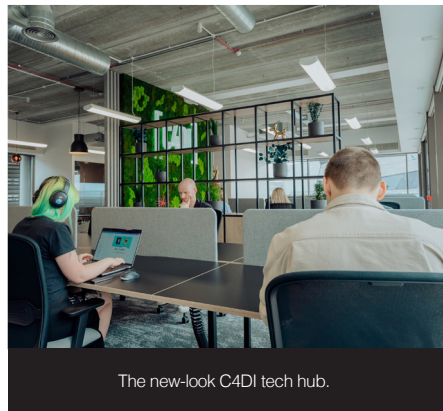
The refit corresponds with a re-focusing of C4DI to back the tech community into the future, supporting start-ups, enabling business growth and retaining digital talent within the region. The C4DI design and fit-out has been delivered

by Hull-based commercial interior designer Chameleon Business Interiors, which led on the original look and feel.

Andrea Morley, Associate Director of property development and investment company Wykeland, said: "We have invested significantly to create a vibrant workspace which supports modern ways of working, offering a great place to work and providing an exceptional platform for businesses to grow.

"In all aspects of the refit, we wanted to reinforce the essence of why C4DI was created. Ten years ago, Hull had a tech community, but it was fragmented. C4DI brought that community together to drive innovation and growth."

C4DI Director Linsey Brown said: "As we move into this next phase, we're focusing on inspiring and educating the next generation of entrepreneurs, supporting them in launching and growing their own businesses, and ensuring Hull remains a place where tech talent can thrive.



The new-look C4DI tech hub.

"Looking ahead, C4DI will continue to offer flexible workspace, industry-led mentoring, and a growing programme of events and opportunities tailored to help startups and businesses succeed."

Find out more at www.c4di.co.uk

City centre shop playing a part to help re-home dogs

A charity which has been working for 16 years to re-home dogs has taken its fundraising to the next level by introducing new ideas at its city centre shop.

Meg Morris, Manager at Oakwood Dog Rescue shop in King Edward Street, said revenue from sales and events is about £1,000 a month ahead of a year ago. But with running costs exceeding £14,000 a month the charity needs more, so Meg and her team are constantly coming up with new ideas.

Oakwood Dog Rescue was launched by Gill Williams in 2009 and still pursues its "one home policy."



Meg Morris at Outwood Dog Rescue.

Meg said: "We just want the dogs to be loved and our main goal is one home only – we want the dogs to go to the right home and stay there forever. We have about 20 dogs at any one time and we put posters of them in the shop window."

A former freelance face painter and photographer, Meg has taken a creative approach to leading the staff and volunteers since arriving at the shop in May 2024.

She said: "The shop opened four years ago and we've completely transformed it. We've used social media to give it more of a presence and we've also been coming up with exciting offers.

"Fill a bag for a fiver is really popular. You can have anything in the shop as long as it fits in the bag. We do it on one weekend a month and you can find out the dates by contacting us.

The shop is open from 10.30am until 4.30pm Monday to Saturday and 10am until 3pm on Sundays. To find out more visit <https://www.oakwooddogrescue.co.uk/> and the main social media channels.

News

F R Scott brings up 80 years as a fixture in the city centre

A city centre business which is the region's largest independent supplier of fixings, fasteners and ironmongery is going from strength to strength as it heads towards its 80th anniversary in October.

F R Scott, based in Canning Street, marked the achievement by winning the longevity category in this year's HullBID Awards. The firm recently welcomed clients from across the UK to its trade open day and displayed an 80th anniversary van which is decorated with an image of one of the company's earlier vehicles.

The business is also commemorating the anniversary by stepping up a community programme which

includes supporting sports clubs in the area and supplying fixings to Men in Sheds Hull. Staff recently completed a triathlon for the Zenith Foundation, the charitable arm of the Zenith Developments Group which is raising funds for Motor Neurone Disease research in support of east Hull man Craig Eskrett, who was diagnosed with the condition last year.

Jonathan Scott, the current Managing Director and great-grandson of the founder Fred Scott, said customers over the years have included Buckingham Palace, the MKM Stadium, Hull Royal Infirmary, the Humber Bridge, the Haas F1 team and the new Everton stadium.

He added that the 40 staff have a combined service of more than 500 years, with the most experienced having been with the business since 1981.

Jonathan said: "At the other end of the scale we have apprentices coming through the business and



Members of the team at F R Scott with the commemorative van.

we work with schools and colleges to provide work experience opportunities. We are also committed to Hull city centre having resisted the urge to sell up and move to an out of town industrial estate."

Property experts hit heights with repeat of awards success

A team of property professionals based in the city centre is setting its sights on regional and national awards after a double success in the British Property Awards for Hull.

MRC Estate & Letting Agents has won the gold award for the best letting agency in Hull for the second year running.

Managing Director Rick Bowers said the achievement is already generating new business and is driving the team on to deliver further improvements.

MRC Estate & Letting Agents was established in 1992 and moved to its current premises in Baker Street in 2018. A team of 10 works on sales and lettings of



The winning team at MRC Estate & Letting Agents.

houses and apartments in Hull and the surrounding area, including north east Lincolnshire.

Rick said: "The market is very buoyant at the moment including in the city centre, where there are a number of high-quality developments generating desirable

living spaces, with everything the city has to offer right on the doorstep. The increase in footfall generated by the rise in city centre living is good for the business community too."

The British Property Awards are regarded as one of the most inclusive estate agency benchmarks as the lack of an entry fee attracts high levels of competition, with more than 90% of agents meeting the minimum criteria.

Rick said: "Every estate agent is assessed by mystery shoppers against a set of 25 criteria which is comprehensive and detailed, exploring different mediums, scenarios and time periods to ensure that they are all rigorously and fairly judged

"We are extremely proud to have won this award two years running. It's testament to how good we are at what we do and how much our customers value what we do."



Chair's statement Jim Harris, HullBID Chairman

I may be a bit a bit biased but doesn't our city centre look great in the sunshine of summer? We have a great mix of public squares and great cafés and restaurants that provide a buzz and a home for happy places for both workers and families alike.

A big part of supporting that is HullBID's relationship with Humberside Police and, in welcoming the new Chief Partnership, it's important to note the massive progress we have made in creating a partnership that offers security to our visitors while still letting them enjoy the many delights of our city.

Got a question?

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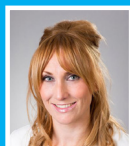
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