

Q4News

HullBID Awards will celebrate the best of city centre businesses in style



All the shortlisted businesses at the 2025 HullBID Awards.

HullBID has begun the countdown to its annual awards with a full house of sponsors eager to recognise and reward their city centre colleagues for another year of hard work and outstanding achievement.

A dedicated area of the HullBID website is live now for businesses to submit their entries and, although the closing date isn't until Tuesday 20 January 2026, the BID team are expecting a rush of interest.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "From humble beginnings in 2014 with a simple ceremony at Hull Truck Theatre, the HullBID Awards have grown in kudos and reputation.

"Numbers of entries and guests at the glittering celebration night have increased every year. In 2025 we welcomed more than 340 people to a spectacular gala dinner and with strong interest already we're expecting an even bigger turnout for 2026."

The awards night will take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel on Friday 27 February 2026. Awards will be presented in 10 categories – Innovation, Stylish or Welcoming Premises, Outstanding Employee or Team, Longevity, Customer Service Excellence, Contribution to the Community, Commitment to Health and Wellbeing, Best in Food and Drink, Best Place to Work and Outstanding Contribution.

Entries can be submitted online through the HullBID website and BID members will also receive an email with a link to the entry form to all our members. Paper copies are available on request. Businesses can challenge for as many categories as they wish providing a separate form is completed for each entry.

An independent panel of judges will meet on Monday 26 January 2026 to review all the entries and draw up the awards shortlists. The finalists will be notified on Tuesday 27 January.

All the shortlisted businesses will receive some complimentary tickets to the dinner, which is HullBID's biggest networking event of the year and will include a three-course meal and entertainment. Additional tickets will be available for purchase and details will be posted on the HullBID website.

Kathryn added: "We're already blown away by the response to the awards, with sponsors snapping up opportunities in record time. As a not for profit organisation, any financial support we receive is directly ploughed back into making the HullBID Awards one of the biggest and most exciting nights of the year in the regional business community, and we are grateful to all the businesses which have stepped up to shine a light on city centre businesses."

Full details of how to enter can be found on the HullBID website at <https://hullbidevents.co.uk/bidawards/>



HullBID Executive Director Kathryn Shillito speaking at the 2025 awards.

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

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

HullBID Introducing

Visitors enjoy tour of Castle Buildings

Regeneration specialist Wykeland Group gave business leaders and local residents an exclusive viewing of the restoration of the historic Castle Buildings.

The £2m project, which incorporates the rebuilt former Earl de Grey pub, has rescued the Grade II-listed landmarks from dereliction and created almost 6,000 sq ft of prime, flexible commercial space in the heart of the city centre.

Built in 1900 as offices for Hull steamship owners and brokers Messrs G R Sanderson, Castle Buildings was last occupied in 1970. The Earl De Grey dates back to 1831.

Maintaining the history and heritage of the buildings has been at the heart of the project, with many original features carefully restored,



while incorporating new elements to meet modern workspace requirements and building regulations.

Castle Buildings is available for office or leisure use and can be let in full – potentially as a corporate

headquarters – or sub-divided into smaller suites, with parking available to occupiers.

Extensive structural repairs include a new roof and replacement of all the windows with double-glazed reproductions. Inside, original Parquet flooring, wrought iron columns and mosaic entryway flooring have all been retained and refurbished. The building has level access at the rear and lift access to all floors. A single storey extension has enabled the installation of accessible toilets and additional services.

Jonathan Stubbs, Development Director of Hull-based Wykeland, said: "We're proud to reveal the restored Castle Buildings and open the doors to visitors for the first time in many decades.

"We've had strong interest from potential occupiers, looking to make the most of this incredibly rare opportunity to move into one of the city's most historic and prominent buildings in an excellent location in the heart of the city centre."



Melissa Foster in the Hull Emporium.

City centre hub for young entrepreneurs

A new pop-up shop in Hull on Paragon Street, is giving young entrepreneurs a central hub to showcase their products and services and learn the skills to build their own business.

In addition to giving the entrepreneurs a convenient alternative to working from home the Emporium, established and operated by the Making Changes for Careers programme (MC4C), provides access to a network of experts offering advice on a variety of business essentials.

Melissa Foster set up Melissa Foster Design about a year ago after trying some other ideas and has now progressed from market stalls to direct commissions.

She said: "MC4C have given me loads of business advice which is really important for what I am doing. I normally work from home so it's nice to have the

opportunity to work in person. I'll be able to reach a lot more people by working here."

The Lord Mayor of Kingston Upon Hull and Admiral of the Humber, Councillor Cheryl Payne, performed the official opening of Hull Emporium at an informal ceremony attended by young entrepreneurs and key figures from Hull City Council's economic regeneration team and city business community.

The shop will be open from 10am until 4pm Monday to Friday until March 2026 and has been designed and dressed by current and past MC4C participants with the aim of building on the success of a Christmas pop-up which opened in Hepworth Arcade in December 2024. It will also support the transition of MC4C as it relocates from Bilocca House to 161 High Street, which is currently undergoing renovation to create a Youth Enterprise hub for the city.

To find out more about opportunities at MC4C and Hull Emporium visit www.mc4c.co.uk

Chopstix team cheered by response to launch

A new food outlet which opened in the city centre during the summer set the owners of the business scrambling to check their records and systems after being inundated with customers who were "craving the flave".

Chopstix Noodle Bar opened in King Edward Street at the beginning of August and Richard Topley, a new store operations coach, said it attracted near record numbers to the point where colleagues suspected a glitch in the system.

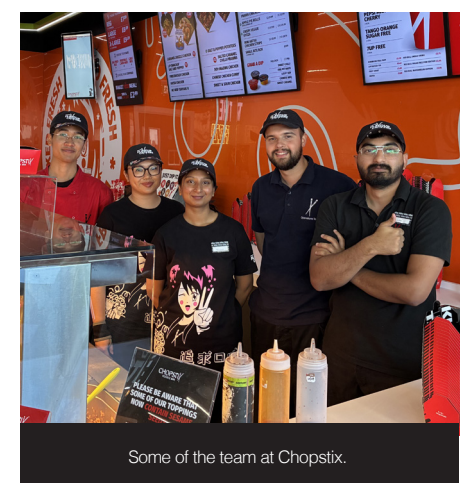
He said: "Business was astronomical. It's gone really well and it's still going strong now – a lot busier than we anticipated. It was one of our busiest openings across the whole country and people within the

company were checking our systems because they couldn't understand what was happening – they were concerned there might be an error."

Chopstix, which has a nationwide network of about 150 stores, chose Hull for its latest opening because of the availability of a prime location in the middle of the city centre. The move has created about 20 jobs and the eatery is open seven days a week from 10.30pm until 10pm for eat-in and takeaway with deliveries available via Deliveroo, Just Eat and Uber.

Richard said: "It's a central street with really high footfall and the food offer is different from everything else nearby. It's a pan-Asian mix of different flavours. We focus on really bold, out-there flavours and the sort of things you might not find elsewhere. I guess Hull just has a love of noodles and flavours!"

To find out more visit <https://chopstixnoodles.co.uk/>



Some of the team at Chopstix.

HullBID Introducing

Monocle and Daze on trend with new ideas

Hull's newest landmark development, Monocle, has officially opened its doors – welcoming businesses and the public into a striking new home for modern work and social connection.

Developed by Allenby Commercial, the transformed building – formerly Europa House – combines high-specification workspaces with stylish hospitality at Daze, a ground floor coffee house open to everyone.

Located beside Paragon Interchange, Monocle offers 60,000 sq ft of office space across six floors, alongside a business lounge, co-working areas, podcast studio, private gym, event space and a city garden.

The curved design inspired the new name, while interiors celebrate the building's 1970s heritage with warm tones and retro details.



The Daze coffee bar at Monocle.

Sustainability has been built in throughout, with solar panels, recycled materials and e-bike charging points.

Six tenants have already moved in – Adecco, Caval, Ever After Holidays, Lyon PR, One SC Media and Allenby Commercial itself.

PrimaryTech will join in October as phase two of the development gets underway. When complete, Monocle will have capacity for 700 jobs.

Daze is at the heart of the scheme, and is run by hospitality expert Lukas Brdlik, formerly of Prague's acclaimed Anonymous Bar.

Open Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm, Daze offers more than just great coffee. The menu includes specialty brews, Japanese teas, matcha, lager, signature cocktails and a selection of healthy food options.

With its relaxed atmosphere and stylish design, it has already become a destination in its own right – a place for workers, commuters and visitors to connect.

Charlie Allenby, Development Director at Allenby Commercial, said: "Monocle is more than an office – it's a place that reflects the way we want to live and work now."

For more information, or to book a tour of available spaces, visit: allenbycommercial.co.uk/our-property/monocle-hull.

New Clarence opens as community pub

Hull's first community-owned pub has opened in the city centre after a successful fundraising campaign by The Hull Community Pub Society Limited.

Jamie Reading, manager of the pub which he left when the pandemic hit in March 2020, said he is looking forward to picking up where he left off and establishing The New Clarence as a destination for great beer and food, with a family feel among staff and customers.

The New Clarence closed its doors in Charles Street in 2023 and was bought by Kingston Apartments. After the owner's plans to convert it for residential use were rejected by Hull City Council, the Hull Community Pub Society Limited stepped up its ambitious campaign.

A government grant from the Community Ownership Fund was secured to buy the building in April 2024 and the pub was sold to the Society in February 2025. Simon Berry, Chair of the Society confirmed that they had received backing from 460 shareholders who each paid a minimum £100, with some paying thousands of pounds.

The layout of the pub has not changed and the offer is still based around a range of quality real ales and ciders, with a good selection of lagers. New chef Sam Ball has created a menu which features traditional pub favourites and vegetarian and vegan options.

Behind the scenes there have been renovations to reinstate the kitchen and cellar and to install an accessible toilet and a lift shaft.

Simon said: "It's been phenomenal, from the vision that we had to the people responding, wanting to be a part of it and buying shares. It's quite humbling.



Jamie Reading and his team at The New Clarence.

"It's a real ale pub that serves food. It's not a restaurant that serves beer, but we want quality with everything."

Hull 4 Heroes opens new shop in city centre

Hull 4 Heroes has expanded its presence in Princes Quay with a community shop.

The charity, which also has its offices and community hub/drop-in facility in the shopping centre, added the retail outlet during the summer and Paul Matson, CEO and Founder of Hull 4 Heroes, said it is proving to be a big success.

Paul said: "Hull 4 Heroes is proud to call Princes Quay its home and invites everyone to come down, shop affordably, and discover how their support makes a difference."

The aim of the new store is to stock affordable products for local people, from clothing and homewares to furniture, electricals, and food. At the rear of the store, the charity operates a food bank and also distributes donations to other food banks across the city.



Paul Matson (centre) with two colleagues at Hull 4 Heroes.

The store is open from 10am until 5pm every day except Thursday and Sunday. Every purchase and donation goes directly towards supporting veterans as they transition into civilian life, with housing, education, employment, and wellbeing support at the heart of the charity's mission.

Paul said: "The store itself has been completely transformed thanks to the generosity of local businesses and volunteers. Greens Signmakers donated and fitted all of the striking new signage and Glass & Framing Solutions stepped in to replace and glaze the broken shopfront completely free of charge. Their support shows what can be achieved when local companies work together to strengthen local communities.

"Our other facilities in Princes Quay provide a safe and welcoming space for anyone from the armed forces community. The team are always there to talk, listen, and help – whether it's offering practical advice, connecting people to services, or simply sharing a cuppa and some company."

Q4Report

BID events programme will support businesses and pull in the crowds



Hannah Levy, the storyteller at HullBID's Halloween event.

Spooky Halloween stories, artistic winter windows, and practical expert advice for businesses will all be part of the mix as HullBID embarks on an events programme geared to support members as we head towards 2026.

The activities will pick up on some of the highlights of a summer schedule which saw huge crowds descend on the city centre once again for Dino Day and a big response to the Picture Hull photo trail.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "Our aim with our events programme is to add value and provide opportunities for our members and we really delivered on that during the summer, encouraging footfall into the city centre.

"Dino Day again had an incredible impact, putting Hull in the spotlight and encouraging people to visit and engage with businesses in the city centre. We saw fantastic numbers of visitors, with footfall on King Edward Street up 59% compared with the previous Friday.

"Our Picture Hull initiative bolstered this, with budding photographers snapping iconic landmarks and locations across the city centre. The subsequent pop-up exhibition in Trinity Market also attracted further visitors. A key benefit of all our summer activity was the fact that it was free to everyone, meaning they were accessible to all in this challenging climate."

The first of the new events will be a Halloween family friendly event in Trinity Market during half term. Part funded by Hull City Council, it will be a fun package of performances and activities including spooky storytelling by Hannah Levy, face painting, crafts, a mini-disco and Hull's first Zombie Walk.

There will also be a pumpkin trail involving other city centre businesses.

Everything will be free of charge and accessible to families and will run throughout the day, to encourage dwell time in the city centre and engagement with businesses. The Zombie Walk will feature performing arts students from East Riding College, who recently opened a new campus in the HullBID zone on Baker Street.

Winter Windows is a collaborative project with Hull College and will give art and design students the opportunity to work on a live brief with HullBID operating as the client and forming a work experience element of their course.

A judging panel will select 12 of the students' designs to be printed onto vinyl and then displayed on the windows of empty units and businesses, creating an art trail across the city centre and another free activity for families to enjoy.

HullBID will also present a series of events offering members access to practical business initiatives in addition to advice, guidance and training. The activity will kick off with a series of sessions around marketing including ways to maximise social media impact and free marketing ideas, with other professional services sessions being added in 2026.

The increasingly popular HullBID Supper Club events will continue, with the next one taking place in November. In the New Year we will also be introducing a series of experience events offering exclusive access to some of the city centre's hidden gems and iconic landmarks.

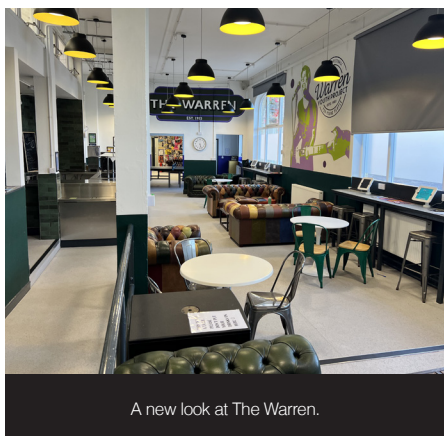
For the latest information on the forthcoming events visit <https://www.hullbidevents.co.uk/>

The Warren looks to bright future after major refurb

A city centre youth project is building for a longer and brighter future after acting to secure its premises and complete an upgrade from top to bottom.

The Warren secured a 99-year lease on Queens Dock Chambers, overlooking the Rosebowl, on a peppercorn rent and embarked on a redesign and refurbishment helped by a £1.9m capital funding grant from the DCMS's Youth Investment Fund.

During 2024 The Warren worked with 1,469 young people who attended 18,894 times in total. The figures show an increase of more than 300 individuals – up 26% on pre-Covid levels – and almost 6,000 attendances, an increase of 50% over the same period.



A new look at The Warren.

However the building, owned by Hull City Council, was badly in need of improvement. Among the new facilities are a newly designed mental health facility, new recording studio, rehearsal room and

theatre space, new kitchen and café, and new loos, heating and lighting. There is enhanced accessibility throughout, including a lift.

JJ Tatten, CEO of The Warren, said: "Young people got everything they asked for. They interviewed and appointed architects, commissioned accessibility audits, appointed a project manager and led on everything that the building's redesign incorporates. It was a colossal undertaking and we all had to pull together.

"The Warren has long been seen by many as a national and international benchmark on how to work with young people - and now we will finally have a first-class built environment to match!

"Without the support, trust, positivity and guidance from our partners, supporters and the wider community of Hull over the years, we would never have been able to secure this grant. So this great news is as much Hull's success as ours - a proper old-school community effort."

Delight at The Deep as new attraction pulls in the crowds

Hull's iconic aquarium and conservation charity, The Deep, is looking forward to building on the success of a new attraction which made a big splash during the summer.

The previous "Amazon" was given an exciting transformation and emerged as "The Wreck", a stunning colourful space which tells the story of how artificial reefs can create beautiful, thriving habitats for a variety of marine life.

Based around the USS Kittiwake shipwreck, which was intentionally sunk off the coast of Grand Cayman, "The Wreck" is currently home to Lookdowns, a species that is attracted to wreck structures as ideal feeding spots for them to find small prey.

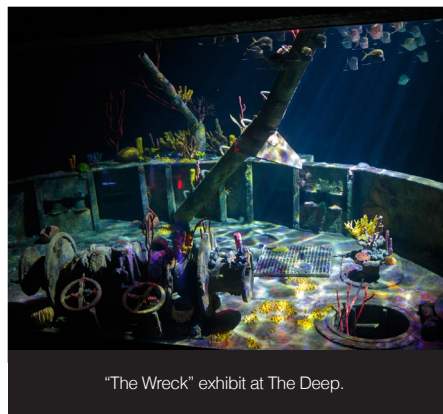
The Deep's summer event, Wrecks & Reefs, invited visitors to be some of the first to see the new habitat, alongside learning more about artificial reefs through a range of different hands-on activities for all ages to enjoy.

Zoe Montgomerie, Head of Communications & Marketing at The Deep, said: "We had a great summer – visitors enjoyed seeing the new habitat and taking part in our Wrecks & Reefs themed activities.

"As we head towards October half-term and December, we are expecting to have two busy school holiday periods. Themes of our upcoming school holidays will be announced soon."

Ben Jones, Director of Husbandry & Exhibition at The Deep, added: "As a conservation and education charity, we are continually looking for unique ways to tell important stories of our ocean through habitat theming."

"Artificial reefs play a vital role in enhancing



"The Wreck" exhibit at The Deep.

marine biodiversity, and this is a new topic The Deep has not explored before, so has been a very exciting project for the team."

To find out more about "The Wreck" and other attractions visit <https://www.thedeep.co.uk/>

Academy offers musical solutions to stress at work

Members of a music academy in Hull are banging the gong to raise awareness of a new service aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing in the region's businesses.

Danny Thompson, creative director, producer and founder of Eclectic Music, said: "We also offer reiki and frequency therapy as well as breathwork. I kept hearing from business people how stressed their teams are and I wanted to look for a new angle – music makes everybody feel good one way or another."

Operating from the Grade I listed Maister House in High Street, Hull, Eclectic Music specialises



Some of the members of the Eclectic Music team.

in tuition for adults. The business also teaches across primary and secondary schools and other activities include working with two large scale adult community ensembles and several chamber ensembles as well as collaborations with other groups in the city.

The corporate package came from looking at the rich variety of skills of the team and identifying what was missing.

Danny said: "We do a lot of one to one music lessons from six years to 96 years and I thought about the things that are going on at the moment that we can help the community with, the areas of the city we are not in with music. The answer was business to business.

"We have some corporate sessions planned out and we can offer modular choice so employers can look at what might work for them.

"We help them discover what their staff want and reconnect the management with the wants and needs of their workforce. If you have happier staff you have lower staff turnover, which is good in all sorts of ways including recruitment, retention, productivity and building that sense of team."

Safety and security continue to improve across city centre

HullBID Executive Director Kathryn Shillito reported significant progress with tackling crime and antisocial behaviour after her latest meeting with senior Humberside Police officers covering the city centre.

Kathryn was contacted by Chief Inspector Alvarez to discuss HullBID's role in the city centre and specifically its long established collaboration with Humberside Police, working in partnership to promote safety and security.

High on the agenda was the impact of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which took effect at the end of March this year and soon resulted in a big reduction in incidents of street drinking, begging and loitering.

Kathryn said: "The PSPO made an immediate impact when it was introduced in March and the ongoing progress demonstrates that the order continues to make a big difference.

"In addition to working with us on the PSPO the police have acted against the use of enhanced e-scooters and bikes that were causing issues in pedestrian areas. As a result there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of these vehicles in the city centre."

Kathryn added that the partnership with Humberside Police extends across the board with officers aware and appreciative of HullBID's role in providing direct links with the business community through the long established radio scheme, the patrols on the ground by Senior Support Officer Mark Andrews and Business Support Officer Raich Orr, the regular newsletter and various networking events.

Kathryn said: "Meetings like this are essential



Kathryn Shillito with Chief Inspector Alvarez.

in helping us maintain the highest levels of co-operation and collaboration. HullBID has a key role in forwarding intelligence and insight from member businesses and in feeding back operational updates and guidance from the police."

Pride in Hull hosts peers at national conference

Pride in Hull showcased the city centre's social and cultural attractions when it hosted the UK Pride Organisers Network (UKPON).

Around 150 delegates from across the UK arrived in Hull over the weekend of Friday 17 October for a conference that shared skills and knowledge and celebrated the achievements of the Pride network.

Andy Train, Chair of Hull Pride, said: "It's recognition that next year will be our 25th Pride in Hull and that we are now seen as one of the established Prides."

The Hull Pride team are awaiting publication of an impact report which is expected to show that this



Andy Train in Hull's Freedom Quarter.

year's summer celebration was worth more than £1m to the local economy.

Andy said: "There was even more from UKPON

because we supported local bars, restaurants, hotels and cultural destinations."

The activities kicked off on the Friday with a welcome event at the Ferens Art Gallery followed by a trip to Hull Fair. The conference took place on the Saturday at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, followed by a dinner and a tour of city centre bars including the Freedom Quarter and The Star in Carr Lane.

Andy said: "The big thing for us was the faith that our peers had in us being able to run an event that they were going to enjoy, plus the level of interest and curiosity about the city. It still beggars belief how many people have never been to Hull and don't even know where it is.

"I hope their takeaways will be chip spice and an admiration for a new found destination that they will hopefully consider for future visits and holidays."



Chair's statement Jim Harris, HullBID Chairman

As we all know these are difficult economic times for every business but, walking around our city centre, I am pleasantly optimistic to see plenty of NEW developments that are happening. Monocle, Castle Buildings, the New Clarence Community Pub and the 'new' Warren! Similarly, both Hull 4 Heroes and Youth Enterprise have opened impressive new retail units. So while these good news stories may not, individually, make it into the mainstream media they provide solid and welcome evidence that our city centre is alive and kicking with exciting new opportunities!

Got a question?

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

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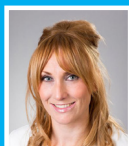
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