

## Celebrating a Taste of Christchurch



An "exceptionally successful" first **Food Fest Local** took place over the last Bank Holiday weekend in May, with traders, residents and visitors unanimous that it had added an exciting new date to the town's calendar.

The event was the brainchild of Christchurch **BID**, a not for profit organisation who receives levies from Town Centre businesses, with a brief to promote and enhance the town. [www.christchurchbid.co.uk](http://www.christchurchbid.co.uk)

Food Fest Local was designed to complement the Quay event and encourage visitors to enjoy the town centre eateries and retail offering. There had been a lot of feedback from Town Centre traders that the main Food Festival wasn't as local as it had been in the past, and that the High Street wasn't seeing enough benefit from the number of visitors that flock in.

With this in mind, organisers were determined that Town Centre traders would take priority, with levy payers being offered stalls first, and at preferential rates.

As you'd expect, your Chamber was very involved in the Festival from the beginning, with both Secretary Sue Harmon Smith and Vice President Tim Lloyd sitting on the organising committee and using their vast experience of Festivals from previous years.

BID Operations Manager, Louise Berkhauer, maintained a focus on ensuring the event site was well managed and remained pleasurable for all to enjoy over the weekend. Volunteers were tasked with litter picking, pedestrian safety and welcoming all visitors attending both events in the town and they all did a wonderful job of making this happen.

*"What an amazing weekend" she says, "the event went very well with many businesses already reporting an uplift in trade. The feedback from visitors and traders at the event has been positive so far. Huge thanks to the team of volunteers who were such a fantastic help across the weekend plus the committee driving it along."*

*"In summary, the event was a success because everyone came together on the day and got stuck into making it happen and that is what strong communities are made of."*

Turn to the back page for more pictures of the event...



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## Gervis

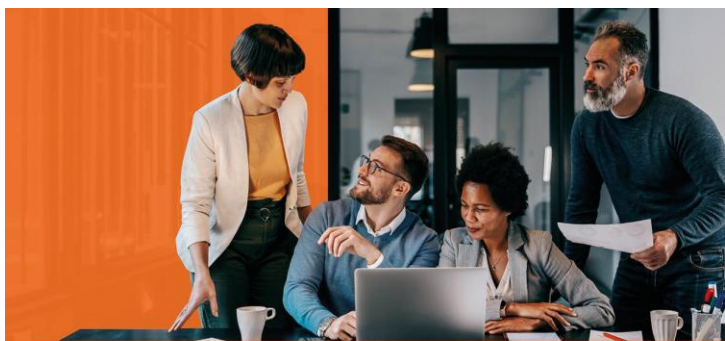
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# Dates for your diary

- 6th June D Day Commemorative Beacon Event  
*Christchurch Bandstand*
- 8/9th June Highcliffe Food & Arts Festival  
*High Street*
- 8-16th June Flower Fest  
*Church Street*
- 15-22nd June Music & Arts Festival  
*Priory*
- 19th June Christchurch Chamber AGM  
*Captain's Club Hotel*
- 20th June Christchurch Business Awards  
*Highcliffe Golf Club*
- 18th July Chamber Social  
*Bear of Burton*
- 19-21st July Christchurch Music Festival  
*The Quomps*
- 3rd August Stompin on the Quomps  
*Christchurch Quay*
- 10-11th August Christchurch Carnival  
*The Quay*



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# President's thoughts



In the Spring edition of Chamber Chat, myself and the other volunteers who distribute the newsletter also gave away window stickers with the motif "**Support Local**". Hopefully you will have seen these in shops and businesses around the area?

The stickers were a BCP initiative, following their "Shop Local" and "Rediscover Safely" campaigns which we supported before and during the pandemic.

**Support Local** is what your Chamber is all about, and we are fully behind this scheme.

Where else can you get the knowledge and expertise you need except locally? I've recently had a new boiler installed and have to give a big shout out to **HPS Plumbing** for all their help and friendly expertise throughout the whole process.

Similarly, when I had issues with my car I relied on the know how of **Halfords** and the **Land Rover Parts Department** to help save the day.

Closer to the High Street, how many of us rely on the **Post Office** and **Robert Dyas** to solve those day to day problems? **Castles** in Bargates is another local gem that have helped generations of Christchurch people.

That genuine feeling of wanting to help is what makes a good business, in my view. I've been using **F A Lamb & Son** butcher's for years, and although the meat is always excellent, it's the friendliness and customer service that make me return time and time again.

Of course, you can support your own favoured local businesses in lots of ways. A good review on Google is a great way to show your support, as is liking and sharing posts on social media. Don't forget to tell your friends as well, when you find a place that gives particularly good service.

The best way, though, to vote with your feet, and wallet!  
**Support Local!**

## Andy Barfield

President Christchurch Chamber of Trade and Commerce

# Shaping the future

**So, it is official** and hoteliers across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole have voted in an ABID (*Accommodation Business Improvement District*) and the declaration was made by the returning officer, Graham Farrant, BCP chief executive, at the Marsham Court Hotel on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

The visitor economy is one of the cornerstones of our identity, community, and prosperity. Visitor accommodation is at the heart of that economy, not only providing a first-class welcome to our destination but linking almost every other aspect of what we offer from employment to events.

The value of the visitor economy to our conurbation is huge, with **£400m contributed to the local economy** and a massive £25m in business visitor spend and over 12000 jobs! We have over 1million staying visitors across 15,000 serviced bed spaces and over 8.8million day visitors. With 15 miles of seafront, 26 miles of harbour landscapes, and offering more than 1000 events and festivals annually we can also boast 11 blue flag beaches (*More than any other UK destination*).

Councillor Vicki Slade, Leader of BCP council said "We welcome the industry's pro-active approach and are excited at the prospect of working in partnership with the ABID board to deliver a more productive and resilient visitor economy and destination management. As the council moves to a new way of working, as an enabler, we will do everything we can to support the process to a successful conclusion."

The ABID is an **investment for the future**. Accommodation providers will pay a levy based on occupancy. They can recover this levy by collecting a £2 per night "visitor charge" (Similar to that charged in many places in Europe and the USA). It will raise over £2.5m per annum over the next five years. (The period this first ABID covers prior to a renewal vote). The first of this model is already in place in Manchester with many others likely to follow suit soon. Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole are the first coastal location in the UK to do this.

So many may ask, **what will the ABID deliver?** The overarching focus for the work of the ABID will be to; – **attract more visitors** - **elevate visitor experience and service** – **stimulate prosperity**.

Naturally there will be people who are sceptical about this "levy" but I am sure that that before long it will be commonplace across resorts in the UK, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are simply **leading the way**.

Other people are worried that this is an underhand BCP initiative, I can assure you this is not, it however a partnership. BCP council are the legal entity that will collect the levy payments on our behalf as they have the legal powers to enforce any non-payment. The ABID board of directors features hoteliers, nominated BCP councillors with tourism responsibilities, and destination management experts from across the conurbation headed up by Rosie Radwell who is MD at Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth. I sit on the board as a director along with Louise Berkhauser (*As Christchurch town centre BID manager*) and together we will ensure that **Christchurch is well looked after!**



By Tim Lloyd  
MD Captain's Club Hotel and  
Vice President Chamber of Trade

## Jet2.com and TUI expand flights from Bournemouth Airport

Jet2.com and Jet2holidays have announced that they are expanding their UK footprint even further – by launching award-winning flights and holidays from Bournemouth Airport – which will become their 12th UK base airport.

The UK's largest tour operator and third largest airline have today put 16 sunny destinations across Europe, the Canary Islands, and the Mediterranean on sale from Bournemouth Airport for Summer 25.

Meanwhile, customers flying from Bournemouth will have more choice of holiday destination, duration, and flight times with the addition of a second TUI aircraft based at the airport this Summer.

Andrew Bell, CEO of RCA, Regional and City Airports, who own Bournemouth Airport, said: "This is fantastic news for passengers and represents a huge vote of confidence in Bournemouth Airport. It will create new employment locally, add many fabulous new destinations from Bournemouth, up to 27 extra flights a week and will see an estimated additional 300,000 passengers using their local airport."



# Chamber challenges BCP Town Councillor to respond to business concerns

Your Chamber invited BCP Councillor Mike Cox to meet with them in March to respond to concerns about a number of issues facing Christchurch businesses.

Cllr Cox is BCP Portfolio holder for Finance, and also sits on Christchurch Town Council.

After being welcomed by President Andy Barfield, vice President and Chamber Tourism Spokesman Tim Lloyd gave a background to the current situation on **coaches visiting Christchurch**, bringing much needed day visitors contributing to the tourism economy of the town. Coaches had always parked in Mayors Mead adjacent to the Quay, and close to town centre facilities.

However, BCP had moved the coach parking to Highcliffe in 2019 but had not altered the necessary signs. This meant that coaches came down Wick Lane to Mayors Mead and were then trapped as there is no easy way out. In fact, a number had tried to negotiate the Captain's Club car park and had got caught under the entrance's canopy.

Tim told Cllr Cox that since a touring review in 2021, it was agreed that a drop off point outside the Civic Offices was perfect as it had a turning area in the car park as well as public toilets. It was also only a short walk into town. Once the coaches had dropped off, they would then park in the spaces adjacent to the Indoor Bowls Centre at the back of the Civic Offices.

Cllr Cox told the Chamber he had been adamant that the front car park at the Civic Offices was not sold off with the remainder of the site, and it was agreed that for this purpose alone it was important to keep it. In addition, with car parking disappearing elsewhere the Chamber would not want another car park to go.

Tim reported that the very morning of the meeting, he and Chamber secretary Sue Harmon Smith received an email from BCP officers who had visited various locations in Christchurch a month earlier and evaluated what was required for signage. They agreed they would address the incorrect signs as a priority and then cover the larger signs that also need updating. He went on to say that the Traffic Regulation Order required for the coach drop off outside the Civic Offices is underway. Although there no restriction on coaches using this as of now.

Chamber Committee member Bob Atkins then challenged the Councillor about the **20mph Speed Limit across the BCP Area**. said that he had researched this subject especially with regards to Wales, where it had been implemented.



Cllr Cox said that this had been misrepresented, and that there was no intention of a blanket enforcement of a 20mph speed as it would have to go out to public consultation. In addition, there was only £175,000 in the budget and the implementation would cost a great deal even if funded by Central Government.

President Andy Barfield asked if town centres would be covered as well? Cllr Cox said in areas like Wick Lane where there was a school, then it would be, but the High Street would need input from residents and businesses.

Andy then brought the meeting to the Chamber's third main concern - **Car Parking**, starting with the **increase in Parking Fees** - Cllr Cox said that car parking charges have been harmonised across the BCP area. This means that Christchurch is now £1.20 for 2 hours. Andy asked if Cllr Cox could compare the income from Wick Lane car park from March 2023 with March 2024 to see if the increased charge actually came out as less income because residents were deterred from parking.

Vice president Tim Lloyd brought up overnight parking which affects the **night-time economy** and it was confirmed that Wick Lane, for example, would be £2.30 for parking from 6.30pm to 8.00am the following morning.

Cllr Cox also said that BCP Council has agreed to the principle of selling the **By-pass Car Park** to the Town Council who in turn would lease it to **Waitrose**.

President Andy then raised the question of the **selling off the car park** at the rear of the Civic Offices as it is detrimental to the town. Adding to loss of parking spaces at Pit Site, Magistrates, and likely **loss of long-term parking** in Waitrose car park, means that it is very difficult for workers to park near their employment. Even on-street parking could be difficult especially in the summer when there was different rulings.

After a full and frank discussion, the meeting wrapped up with Andy suggesting we meet with Cllr Cox and other BCP members two or three times a year, which would be beneficial to both the Chamber and the Council.

Please let us know if there are particular issues you would like us to raise on your behalf at such meetings. Keep an eye out for upcoming issues of Chamber Chat, we will keep you up to date!

# Hello from Christchurch BID!

Over the late May Bank Holiday weekend, Christchurch Town Centre came alive with Food Fest Local on the High Street and Christchurch Food Festival at the Quay, treating everyone to a delicious culinary adventure. The town was buzzing with traders and music to entertain visitors over the weekend. We hope you got the chance to visit and had a brilliant time literally savouring every mouth watering moment!

It's also wonderful to see the town adorned with fresh hanging baskets and summer bunting which has been made possible thanks to the support of Christchurch Town Council and the local business community that is the Christchurch BID; it finally feels as though the Summer has arrived!

Summer really is the perfect time to enjoy everything that Christchurch has to offer. Free Park Yoga sessions have returned, taking place every Sunday until the end of September from 10-11am on the lawn at the Kings Arms Hotel. What better way for visitors to the town to spend a Sunday morning stretching in the sunshine followed by brunch and coffee at one of our fantastic eateries in the town. Park Yoga sessions are completely free with no need to book so if you are free then to go along and enjoy. More information can be found on the Park Yoga website and please share information about the sessions with your customers too!

From June 8th through to the 16th Christchurch's very own Flower Fest will bloom into life in the town. Led by the local businesses on Church Street, shops across the town will be creating stunning floral window displays. If your business would like to join in Flower Fest then please get in touch with us at [hello@christchurchbid.co.uk](mailto:hello@christchurchbid.co.uk) so we can tell you how to take part.

The same week also marks The Great Big Green Week ([www.greatbiggreenweek.co.uk](http://www.greatbiggreenweek.co.uk)), a national initiative that encourages everyone to think about sustainable living and the changes we can all make to become more environmentally friendly. We will be celebrating local businesses that embrace sustainability, new ideas and opportunities that can help everyone do their bit for the planet. If you are a local business that is leading the way with all things planet friendly then we would love to hear all about it so we can shout loud about you to our followers!

Coming up in July and August we have Christchurch Music Festival (Fri 19th - Sun 21st July - [www.christchurchmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.christchurchmusicfestival.co.uk)) organised by the brilliant team at The Thomas Tripp followed by Christchurch Carnival (Sat 10th - Sun 11th Aug) organised and supported by an amazing volunteer community from across the town.

We hope you (and your business!) are able to take advantage of the warmer weather and all that the summer months bring to Christchurch!

For more information about Christchurch BID please head to our website at [www.christchurchbid.co.uk](http://www.christchurchbid.co.uk)  
Follow us on socials - @christchurchbid

Louise Berkhauer  
BID Operations Manager



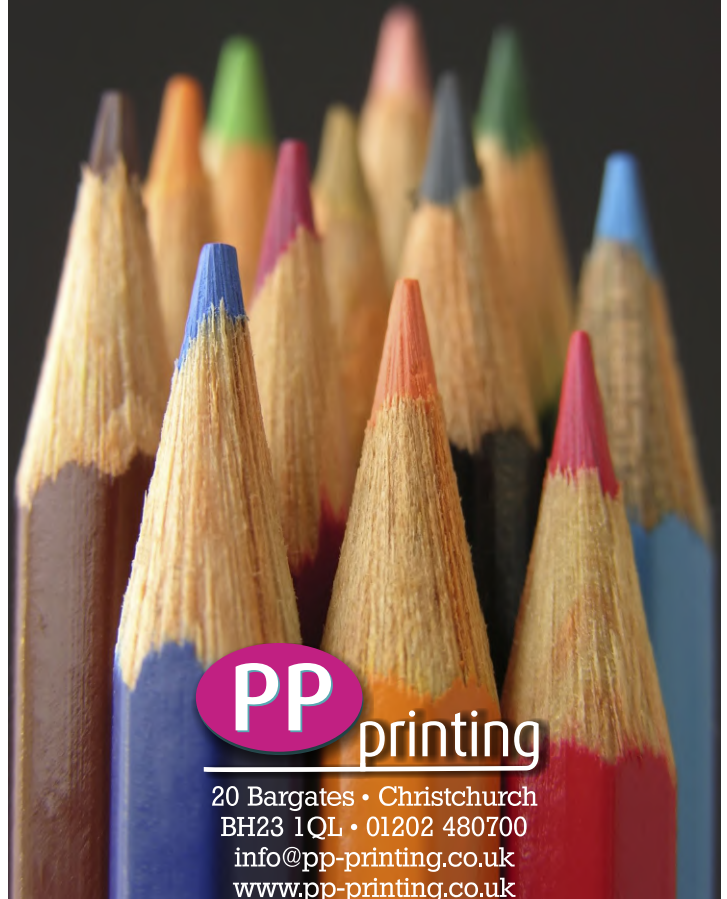
## Theatre overwhelmed with demand for tickets

Over **134,000 people** tried to book tickets to see Ricky Gervais perform new material at **The Regent Centre** in May, with queues starting at 4.30am to see the comedian.

Gervais, whose TV successes include *The Office* and *After Life* chose the 500-seat Regent Centre as the venue for two warm up shows for his upcoming tour. The announcement came just days before the shows themselves, and demand was "unprecedented", with 77,000 trying to book tickets through the website, further 57,000 trying to get through by phone, whilst queues for the Box Office stretched down the High Street to Wick Lane.

*Chamber Chat* approached Ricky Gervais for comment but, sadly, he declined to give us an exclusive.

## quality design & print



# A message from the new Mayor of Christchurch, Councillor Paul Hilliard

*Hello to you all,*

It is an honour and privilege to be granted the role of Mayor of Christchurch.

I have lived in and around Christchurch all my life, having been born in The Grove just down the road in Barton on Sea. I live on the old Hoburne Farm estate with my wife Helen and sons Sean and Luke.

Like you, I have seen some enormous change in our area over this time. However we all trade in or call Christchurch our home because the underlying character, iconic heritage buildings, natural open spaces and beautiful beaches remain the same.

My essential aim for the coming year is to carry on the excellent work started by my predecessor Viv Charrett, to build community and business respect for looking after Christchurch now and for future generations. Everyone can play their part. Whether it is a big project costing several pounds involving a large group of people, schools or businesses; alternatively a smaller idea for your road or home. Please share what you are doing so that we can recognise your great efforts.

I will see many of you throughout the year as I will be attending business and community events, including the Christchurch Food Fest, RNLI Blue light day, Christchurch Carnival, RNLI Funday. We have a visit from 50 Children from our twin town of Tatabanya, Hungary, in July and the Mayor of Aalen, our German twin town will be visiting in August.

Christchurch Town Council will be holding a D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event on 6 June from 6pm at Christchurch Quay. This will be hosted by the Deputy Mayor Viv Charett as I have been invited to attend a similar proceeding in Saint Lo, our Normandy twin town (which played a significant role around D-Day) to represent Christchurch. In case you ask, this trip will be self funded by me and I will be joined by members of the Twinning Association!

It is custom for the Mayor to nominate worthy good causes for the year, the Mayor's Charities. After careful consideration my first charity will be Mudeford Wood Community Trust. I along with seven other volunteer Trustees have been running this extremely busy community centre and outdoor courts for 12 years. Although the building is owned by BCP Council, the volunteer and trustees manage the day to day operating, which has seen rising costs. Mudeford Wood is the reason I became a councillor and many thousand residents and visitors have benefited from the excellent facilities and friendly welcome.

My second charity is the Christchurch and District branch of Parkinsons UK. Around 153,000 people live with Parkinson's in the UK. And it's the fastest growing neurological condition in the world. It is not yet known exactly why people get Parkinson's. Researchers think it's a combination of age, genetic, and environmental factors that cause the dopamine-producing nerve cells to die. My wife's mother suffers with Parkinsons. Research, carelines and social interactions that Parkinson UK offer, greatly help with living with the disease.

Regards

Paul Hilliard  
Mayor



## Have you renewed your Chamber Membership?

The Christchurch Chamber of Trade and Commerce is a non-profit organisation and relies on the subscription of it's members, as well as sponsorships.

Joining the Christchurch Chamber of Trade and Commerce is a great way to become part of the Christchurch business community. It will enable you to raise the profile of your business and network with like-minded business owners. You will be able to post you business details on this site, attend our events, contribute to our newsletter and become involved with the issues that affect us all in Christchurch.

Your subscription is likely to be tax-deductible – so what have you to lose?

*\*If you are BID levy payer, Chamber membership is covered as part of your annual levy.*

### Membership rates

£35 for companies with up to 5 employees;  
£65 for 6 to 25; £100 for 26 to 99 employees  
and £250 for over 100 employees"

### Payments

Bank Transfer: 52-21-34 25914006  
Cheques payable to Christchurch Chamber

# Highcliffe Food and Arts Festival

Highcliffe Food and Arts Festival has become a firm favourite on the annual calendar, and it's back on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June. It takes place throughout Highcliffe high street (Lymington Road) and on the recreation ground known as the Green. You can enjoy over 90 hand-picked food and drink stalls, cookery demonstrations by top chefs, two stages of live music, free kids' entertainment and 60 stalls of local arts and crafts curated by the Little Craft Shack. It really is a feast for all the senses. You can choose from gifts, home décor, jewellery, artwork and artisan foods, that are bound to be unique.

Our 'Local Legends Food theatre' sponsored by Portman Stone, will have some new faces along with many old friends. Award-winning authors and experts covering a wide range of foodie subjects will entertain you, and four local cookery schools will showcase their skills. Our local chefs will be giving you the secrets of their kitchens and latest menus, and so whether you want to learn how to refresh your menu options using good local food, make scrumptious strawberry jam or improve your gut health, there will be something for you.

The Festival prides itself on being a free-to-enter family event, and offers a wide range of activities for children including a Children's activity tent and 'Grow your Own' sponsored by CGO Ecology, along with biscuit-icing and crafting sessions in The Old School as part of the Kids Kitchen. Our Kids Zone will have book reading by Julie Ratcliffe the local author of a popular Smuggling series, sessions on dancing by Mad4Dance, crafting sessions and more.

## James Golding

chef/owner of Nomadic Sporadic Supper Clubs and Tuscany events, will be appearing at the Local Legends spot.

He told Chamber Chat; "I can't wait to be at the Highcliffe Food Festival again this year representing Nomadic Sporadic and Table talk foundation it's always a brilliant festival and local to us.

We love seeing all the local producers attending as well as all the fun events for the whole family!

Join us at our demo - it'll be a lot of fun!"



Several local groups will be performing on two music stages which are organised by the amazing saxophonist Sarah Bolter, who will be there with her superb band 'Not Just Sax'. Always popular is Swing Unlimited Big Band with Pat Peiro as the host. Highcliffe school will be there with various student ensembles and many other local musical societies and singer song writers.

Look out for our posters on railways stations throughout the south and leave the car at home as Morebus are laying on more buses on their X1 route on the Sunday.

For more information look out for our Facebook posts and our revamped website [www.highcliffefoodandartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.highcliffefoodandartsfestival.co.uk)



## Advertising Rates

Front or Back Cover – ¼ page portrait - £120 as sole advert  
Inside on left or right – ½ page - £150  
Inside on left or right – ¼ page – £80  
Inside on left or right – 1/8 page - £45  
*We also offer the option on each edition for one company to sponsor the printing of the newsletter for £250 for which they will receive a full page which we would ask it to be ½ page advert and ½ editorial.*

Deadlines will be advised once your advert is booked but is usually a few days before publication.

## Specifications

1/4 page - - 95mm x 138mm  
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Book your ad for our next issue (Aug 2024)

Copy deadline  
21 August  
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[richard@pp-printing.co.uk](mailto:richard@pp-printing.co.uk)

The 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings will be marked with an extra special **Commemorative Beacon Event** on Christchurch Quay on Thursday, 6th June, 2024.

With live music, local food, fun fair rides, face painting and a 'history hub' curated by local historians, organisations and charities there's lots to keep you and your whole family entertained whilst learning about our little town's mighty role in the Second World War.

This fantastic community event is free for all to attend, so bring your family and friends or pop down by yourself and enjoy everything on offer whilst honouring our fallen veterans.

Schools from across Christchurch have been involved in decorating Union Jack bunting which will be displayed in class groups across the Quay.

Festivities begin with the Town Crier's proclamation from the King being read out at 6pm, followed by a foray of live music and entertainment.

All of the church bells in Christchurch will ring out at 6.30pm as part of a national 'Ringing out for Peace' to mark the occasion.

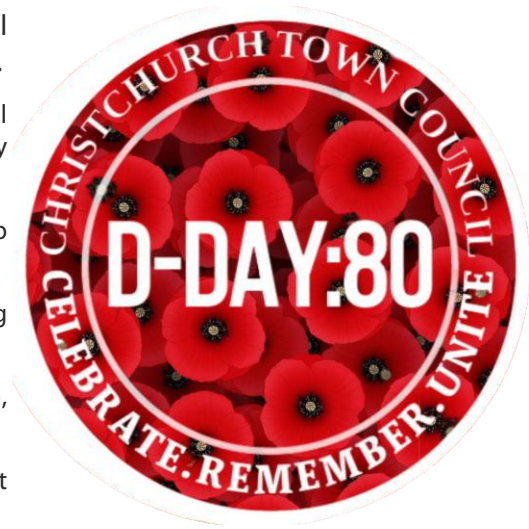
At 9.15pm the Scouts will light our Jubilee Beacon, generously donated by ReidSteel, and we invite all members of the public to take part in a torchlight vigil during the ceremony by shining a flashlight or your phone torches into the sky.

The iconic Christchurch and District Town Band will finish the evening with stirring wartime classics.

So, mark your calendars, bring your picnic blanket and join us down on the Quay for a night to remember.

The Regent Cinema is putting on a special screening of Dunkirk for just £5 a ticket at 10am on 6th June.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, ReidSteel, Elcock Associates, Drill Hall and PP Printing. This event has been brought to you by Christchurch Town Council and delivered by Stir Events.



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# Bridge Health & Wellbeing expands clinical team with three new arrivals

Family-run clinic Bridge Health & Wellbeing in Christchurch, Dorset, is delighted to welcome three highly experienced professionals to their growing clinical team.

Sharon Sawyer is an experienced remedial massage therapist trained in Holistic Body Massage, Indian Head Massage, and Pregnancy Massage. She offers a holistic approach to wellbeing, incorporating the many benefits of remedial massage, including relaxation, stress release, improved circulation, reduced pain, and decreased muscle tension.

Chartered physiotherapist Mareen Frost (HCPC / MSCP) qualified in 2003, working in private clinics and the health service in Germany, before moving to the UK in 2021. She spent nine years building up and managing a private physiotherapy clinic in Munich, focusing on conservative orthopaedic medicine and treating a wide variety of patients.

A trained yoga teacher and Pilates mat instructor, Mareen has a particular interest in pelvic floor health for both women and men. She specialises in Manual Therapy, Lymphatic Drainage, Sports Physiotherapy, Neurological Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, TMJ Dysfunction (Jaw Therapy), and KinesiologyTaping.

Alice Loveridge (SM, MA, CPT) is a Level 3 Sport Massage Therapist, trained in Deep Tissue, Pregnancy and Post Natal Massage and a Medical Acupuncturist. She qualified in 2017 and completed her acupuncture training in 2018. She is also a Certified Personal Trainer.

Alice has worked with numerous sporting teams, including the Netherlands cricket team, helping to manage injuries and providing deep tissue relaxation treatments. She relocated to the New Forest from the Channel Islands in 2023 after working in a busy Sports Clinic in St Peter Port and setting up her own Sports Massage and Medical Acupuncture clinic.

Paul O'Connell, co-founder and lead physiotherapist at Bridge Health & Wellbeing, said, "We are delighted to welcome Sharon, Mareen and Alice to our team. With three physiotherapists, three massage therapists, and a chiropractor, we can now offer an even wider variety of clinical treatments and increased availability for our growing customer base."

Bridge Health & Wellbeing is a friendly, family-run clinic in the heart of Christchurch in Dorset, with high quality physiotherapy, chiropractic treatment, sports massage and rehabilitation services, expert Pilates, yoga and other wellbeing classes, and state-of-the-art gym facilities all under one roof.

Whether you need help with pain or an injury or just want to stay fit and healthy, come and join them for the journey. Book your appointment now at [www.bridgehwh.com](http://www.bridgehwh.com) or call 01202 473800 to speak to their friendly team of wellbeing experts.



## Come and join us

We'd love you to join us at our upcoming social events for a glass of wine or a cup of coffee! Our social events are open to members and their guests and are a great way to meet and catch up with like minded folk.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 5.00 -

**The Bear at Burton**, Salisbury Road, Burton

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 5.00 -

**Avon Reach Care Home**, Farm Lane, Mudeford

Would your venue like to host a Chamber Social Event? We're looking for venues for upcoming events and would love to hear from you!

Let us know at [info@christchurchchamber.co.uk](mailto:info@christchurchchamber.co.uk) or call **Sue Harmon-Smith** on 07801 519380.

## Follow us on Facebook

Speaking of social, please do join our Facebook page.

It's the quickest way to keep in touch with what's happening at the Chamber and to share your news!

We've already got over 1100 followers, so avoid FOMO and look for

**Christchurch Chamber of Trade & Commerce** next time you're online.



# Christchurch Business Awards

This year's Christchurch Business Awards, now in their third year, have seen a 10% increase in the range of businesses entering or nominating, while over 20% of the entries are from businesses that have launched since the end of the COVID lockdown.

The aim of the awards, working on conjunction with local business organisations such as the Christchurch Chamber and BID, is to promote the range and quality of the local businesses, using the tag line 'It's the winners that are the stars of the awards, not the awards event.'

Said Nigel Reeve of the organisers MW Events: "We believe local businesses are the backbone of the local economy, they innovate, they adapt, they give great service, and they create employment. The role of the awards is to showcase these businesses. Also the health of the local business market is being boosted by the growing number of new businesses opening.

In 2023 we had over fifty local business owners attend the awards ceremony, and this year we expect the figure to be over sixty attending."

The awards are funded by both local and regional sponsors from across the area. Current sponsors already on board include, Action Coach, TC Filer Napper, Pro2Col, NFU Bournemouth, Bridge Health and Wellbeing, Total Guide to, the Dorset Concierge and Purple Accountants.

The awards ceremony will be held at lunchtime on Thursday, 20th June at Highcliffe Golf Club. More details about the awards can be found on the awards website, while photos of the awards ceremony will be on the awards website within 24 hours of the event. [www.christchurchbusinessawards.co.uk](http://www.christchurchbusinessawards.co.uk).

## Christchurch BUSINESS EXCHANGE & AWARDS 2024



## Tell us your news

Chamber Chat is all about Christchurch businesses small and large. If you are a Member of the Christchurch Chamber of Trade & Commerce and have business news you are happy to share, please do tell us.

If you are a new member and want to tell the rest of us about your business, then we look forward to hearing from you. Remember, Christchurch Chamber covers the whole of the old Borough and we welcome members from Hurn to Highcliffe and all places in between.

As well as being widely distributed electronically and on social media, this issue of Chamber Chat is being physically delivered free to businesses across Christchurch, Highcliffe, Somerford, Mudeford, Burton, Barrack Road, Fairmile and up to the airport. Its printing is paid for by its adverts—with any surplus funds going towards the Chambers future's activities.

If you would like to advertise in future editions, contact Sue Harmon-Smith on [sueharmonsmith@gmail.com](mailto:sueharmonsmith@gmail.com). Not only will you be supporting the Chamber, your advert will reach a targeted local business audience.

If you have a contribution you would like to make to the next edition, then contact me on [andrew.barfield@gervis.co.uk](mailto:andrew.barfield@gervis.co.uk).

**Andy Barfield**, Editor

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# Say hello to Jen Maidment, CSAS Officer



## CSAS Officer Jen Maidment

has become a familiar face around Christchurch, and celebrates a year's work in the town on June 4. She was initially seconded for 3 months, but after that initial period has been retained due to the success she has had in keeping Christchurch a safer place to live and work.

*"When I started there were historic, prolific issues around a handful of individuals, who were responsible for a lot of the anti-social behaviour around the town centre,"* Jen explains. Jen and her colleagues embarked on gathering sufficient evidence to result in three anti-social behaviour injunctions

She is keen to stress the importance of reporting issues as and when they happen, rather than leaving it until the next time she pays a visit to town centre retailers and other businesses.

Her "patch" covers all 5 wards under Christchurch Town Council, but as and when circumstances dictate, she will attend wherever duty calls in the area.

When she's not on duty, Jen indulges in her passions of photography and being by the water. She also enjoys long walks with Lola, her Belgian Malinois.

# Christchurch REPAIR CAFE

Rather like the proverbial London bus, two Repair Cafés came along at once! BUT, like one of those 'bendy-buses', this has been a case of join forces and head off together. (I think that's enough of the bus-metaphor!)

Repair Cafés are free meeting places, all about repairing things together. The aim is both to help people get things repaired and also to share how to mend things where appropriate. We expect our Repair Café to develop from humble beginnings – it's unpredictable really! Volunteers will be on hand to help folk with repairs they need on the likes of clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, appliances, toys, etc. It depends on what skills our volunteers have and which volunteers are available on any given date.

The ideal is for visitors to bring broken items from home and have them assessed. Where appropriate, repairs are started and carried out in the Repair Café - it's part of an ongoing learning process. A cup of tea or coffee can be enjoyed while visiting.

There are over 3,150 Repair Cafés worldwide. Christchurch Repair Cafe is registered with the international movement, established 15 years ago.

Take a look at <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/visit/> In our immediate area there are Repair Cafés in Bournemouth and Wimborne.

The inaugural session of the Christchurch Repair Cafe will take place from 10am to noon on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June at The Saxon Bar, just along from the Waitrose store on Fountain Way. Regular sessions will follow.

We are very pleased that this first session is to be launched with the support of the Mayor of Christchurch, Cllr Paul Hilliard.

It is important to note that repairs available at any session depend on the volunteers available on that date. It is not the intention to replace services offered by local businesses, indeed we'd be pleased to direct folk to local businesses in cases that need expertise beyond our means. We'd be pleased to hear from any local businesses that would welcome referrals. Drop by for a chat at one of our sessions or email [christchurchrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchrepaircafe@gmail.com).

This inevitably will start small and we have a lot to learn. The good news is that there is a growing pool of volunteers whose valuable skills will be shared. Regular sessions will be held and we aim to seek additional local venues.

Chris Guest  
for Christchurch Repair Café

**REPAIR CAFE** Christchurch

**WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A**  
CD player that no longer opens or a toaster that no longer toasts or a sweater with moth holes?

**BIN IT? – NO WAY!**  
You bring it to Christchurch's inaugural repair cafe, where we will try and fix it together, or give you thoughtful advice and inspiration

**WHERE?**  
The Saxon Bar (Next to Waitrose)

**WHEN?**  
Thursday 13th June 10am to 12:00pm

**Costs?**  
A voluntary contribution

CLOTHES • FURNITURE • ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES  
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[repaircafe.org/en](http://repaircafe.org/en)

# Some memories from Food Fest Local 2024



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