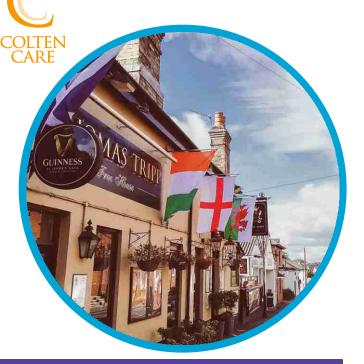


Chamber Chat

Issue 13 - Autumn 2024

This issue of Chamber Chat has been generously sponsored by Colten Care



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Tripp owners secure freehold of building

The two owners of the Thomas Tripp pub on Wick Lane have successfully purchased the historic building's freehold.

The purchase means that the pub, which first opened in 1750, is now fully independent and can choose the beverages it sells, wanting to source from local businesses in the future.

Since taking over the pub in 2022, Dave Burns and Jason Giddings have invested huge amounts of time and money into redecorating the interior of the pub, creating a garden bar and expanding the pub's outdoor kitchen.

Dave said: "Buying the Thomas Tripp and the land it stands on has been a huge step and major milestone for us.

"We are looking forward to it continuing to be the hub of the community for many years to come."

Jason continued: "We know this is just one of the many big steps we are aiming to take to make Christchurch a must-visit location in the county.

"We are looking forward to this next chapter, and we hope to strive as a free house for many decades to come."

The two owners are also known for their involvement in the popular **Xchurch Music Festival**, as the lead organisers of the popular event, which after just two years has become a key date in the town calendar.

Supporting several charities, including Macmillan Caring Local, Helping Homeless Veterans UK and The Dorset Children

Foundation, Dave and Jason have expressed keen interest in helping build a lasting impact in Christchurch.

The pub celebrates itself as 'unpretentious' in its food, beer and wine while offering great value for money.



Dates for your diary

7th September	Cliff Top Music Festival Wharncliffe Road, Highcliffe
8th September	Charity Cricket Match <i>Mudeford Recreation Ground</i>
11th September	Christchurch Repair Cafe Saxon Bar
13th September	Business Breakfast Club Avon Reach Care Home, Mudeford
17th September	Christchurch BID Levy Payers Forum <i>Via Zoom - see BID website for details</i>
19th September	Chamber Social Cat & Fiddle, Hinton
21st November	Chamber Christmas Party Captains Club Hotel & Spa
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23rd November Christmas Light Switch On Saxon Square

...something missing? Tell us about your upcoming event and we'll add it to our listings for the next issue!



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Chamber news

AGM

In June the Chamber held it's Annual General Meeting at the Captain's Club Hotel and Spa in Wick Lane.

Outgoing President Andy Barfield summarised the Chamber's activities for the previous year, before new President Tim Lloyd was formally elected. This is Tim's second term as President.



After business was concluded, Julie Laming gave an inspiring talk about her Mad4Dance dance school and Elevate Foundation charity.

New Website

Take a look at our freshly updated website www.christchurchchamber.co.uk Long standing Chamber member Zelda de Hollander of DH Websites has applied her skills and added new studio portraits of the Executive Committee as well!



Cricket Match

The Mayor of Christchurch, Paul Hilliard, will be hosting a Charity Cricket Match at Mudeford Recreation Ground on 8 September from 10.30-2.30pm. His Cricket Club & Town Council XI will be playing a Chamber XI so why not come along and join in the fun? There'll be food and drink as well as a tombola, and all in aid of the Mayor's chosen charity, Parkinson's UK.



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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF AMAZING CARE

Mudeford's Avon Reach residential and nursing home continued a summer of 30th anniversary celebrations with a cocktail party and auction in aid of Christchurch Food Bank, raising £865.

Colten Care's coastal-themed home welcomed around 80 guests for a sparkling evening of fun in its lounge and 'Captain's Table' restaurant. They included residents, families, staff, neighbours and members of Christchurch Chamber of Commerce, All Saints Church and the local Rotary Club. The guest of honour was the Mayor of Christchurch, Councillor Paul Hilliard.



A range of businesses and organisations donated items for a charity auction such as afternoon tea experiences, paddleboard lessons, a round of golf for four, cinema tickets, a hanging basket, a cheese board and a painting by local artist Paul Dolman. Auctioneers for the evening were Colten Care Senior Operations Manager Peter Doyle and Avon Reach Companionship Team Member Pauline Lawrence. Peter said: **"The party was a great opportunity for people who have been, and continue to be, key to the success of the home to join together and have fun.**

"There are so many ways Avon Reach engages with the community, from hosting business breakfasts, coffee clubs and Tea & Togetherness events to charity fundraising."

Resident Brenda Edwards, who had the honour of cutting the 30th birthday cake, said after the party: **"It was a brilliant evening, really lovely."**



To book a tour of **Avon Reach** and meet some of our lovely residents and staff, **give us a call today**.

Call 01425 272666 AvonReach.co.uk

Avon Reach, Residential and Nursing Care, Farm Lane, Mudeford, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 4AH

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Hello from Christchurch BID!

Can you believe it's now nearly three years since Christchurch businesses voted to launch the Town Centre BID (Business Improvement District)? And what a period it has been! The launch event was held at the tail end of the Covid pandemic, with all the challenges to business that presented, and it's been a turbulent period ever since, with four prime ministers, a national cost of living crisis, and international conflict dominating the headlines.

A BID is a business led, and business funded body that exists to improve a defined commercial area, in our case the Town Centre of Christchurch. We are funded by each business in the area paying a "levy" which is calculated based on their business rates. We are voted in for a five year period, during which time the aim is to promote, enhance and support the businesses in the area.

And what a diverse bunch of businesses we have in Christchurch! I truly believe we have some of the best restaurants, hotels, boutiques, coffee shops, salons and independent shops around. Not to mention the solicitors, accountants, estate agents and other professionals who are also levy payers and fall under our purview.

Of course, we have worked closely with the Chamber of Commerce throughout those three years (see picture, below, of the August 2021 edition of Chamber Chat) and indeed three members of the BIDa Board of Voluntary Directors (made up from business owners across the town) also sit on the Chamber Executive Committee.

We also work in close partnership with both Christchurch Town Council and BCP council, both practically and strategically.

The bottom line is that the BID, the Chamber and the Councils all want to see our town prosper and develop. Sometimes that means organising a Food Fest Local on the High Street, as we did in May, or getting our marigolds on and doing a litter pick on the Quay, as I did earlier in the summer. We know that many visitors, residents and businesses appreciate Christchurch looking beautiful throughout the summer season so the BID funds the beautiful pedestal planters across the town, alongside subsidising hanging basket installation and colourful bunting to bring the town alive.

Don't forget, too, that if you are a levy payer, membership of the Chamber is provided within your levy, so if you haven't "opted in" for membership, put it on your *To Do* list now!

For more information about **Christchurch BID** please head to our website at <u>www.christchurchbid.co.uk</u> Follow us on socials - @christchurchbid

Louise Berkhauer BID Operations Manager

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President's Notes

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

Bridge Health & Wellbeing Celebrate 5th Anniversary

Bridge Health & Wellbeing celebrated their fifth birthday with a special party at their clinic on Bridge Street. Visitors were able to see the clinic's newly extended facilities, which opened earlier this year, including the garden studio and Pilates reformer studio, as the team looked back on an incredible five years.

"It's hard to believe that five years have passed since Steve Hard, then lead physiotherapist at AFC Bournemouth, cut the ribbon to officially open Bridge Health & Wellbeing," cofounder Paul O'Connell said.

Five years have flown by, with the challenges of COVID-19, launching new classes, opening new treatment rooms, winning the Christchurch Business awards and being shortlisted in the Dorset Business awards.

It's been a pleasure hosting events ranging from Winter Wellbeing to Running Repairs workshops. Our team has grown from my wife Louise and me to a seventeen-strong group of physiotherapists, sports massage therapists, Yoga, Pilates and QiGong teachers, a chiropractor, a strength and conditioning coach and receptionists.

From their state-of-the-art clinic on Bridge Steet, Christchurch, Bridge Health & Wellbeing provides physiotherapy, chiropractic, sports massage and rehabilitation services, and Pilates, yoga, and other wellbeing classes. To find out more or book your appointment, visit www.bridgehw.com, call 01202 473800, or email info@bridgehw.com.

www.bridgehw.com

In my first column as the Chamber's President, I wanted to retain the opportunity to discuss tourism as this is a subject close to my heart. As a hotelier I am pleased to report that the occupancy in August has increased on the figures delivered for 2023 which shows that we are still in a good position to attract visitors, living off the legacy of past marketing efforts.

The proposed **tourist charge levy** is currently under appeal with the secretary of state at the department for levelling up. 40 hoteliers across BCP have lodged the appeal citing that the ballot had not been delivered properly. Graham Farrant, the returning officer for the ABID is confident that the ballot was carried out in line with BID legislation, but the result of the appeal is not expected until the Autumn. In the meantime, Bournemouth Coastal BID is supporting tourism activities in Bournemouth, such as the Friday night fireworks and Poole BID is doing the same in Poole. Here in Christchurch the Town Centre BID is working closely with the Town Council and Chamber of Trade on all Tourism activities.

Christchurch has enjoyed a mixed summer in terms of weather with August out-shining July by some distance. The good weather helps to put a smile on all our faces which leads us nicely on to the awards season. **Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Tourism Awards 2024** is being delivered by the Destination Management Board (DMB) under the direction of DMB Chair, Andy Lennox of Fired Up Hospitality and Event lead Tim Seward.

On Thursday 12th September the finalists will be announced at the Captain's Club Hotel before the main event, the **DMB Tourism Awards 2024 Gala Event**. This will take place at the Hilton Hotel Bournemouth hosted by Andy Brennan.

Whilst there are 18 categories in total, 16 have been judged by industry professionals whilst 2 have been voted on by the public – The **Tourism Business of the Year** and Rising Star. Christchurch has several entries in the first category, namely The Kings Arms Hotel, Haven House Inn, Christchurch Food Festival, The Fisherman's Haunt, Riverside Park and the Highcliffe Food and Arts Festival. (Voting closed on 1st September 2024).

The **Chamber Executive Committee** is a small body of people with each of us covering a specialist field, I am delighted to welcome **Jo Polden** of 1st Response Training to that committee following the AGM in July. Her company, founded by William Cairns, covers First Aid, Fire Safety and Mental Health courses. I am sure that Jo will bring a lot to the table as we move forward in developing relationships across the conurbation.

We're grateful to our friends at **Colten Care**, who you will notice have generously sponsored this issue of Chamber Chat. Their home at Mudeford, Avon Reach, celebrated their 30th Anniversary earlier in the year and I was honoured to be invited to help them celebrate at a charity auction evening.

The evening offered support to **Christchurch Food Bank**, which is a cause close to our hearts at the Chamber, they are our chosen charity of this year's Christmas Party - to which you are very much invited, by the way! (*Seepage7for details*)

Christchurch Business Awards

This year's Christchurch Business Awards were held in June at Highcliffe Golf Club, with **Atlantic Marine Interiors** celebrating having picked up three awards.

The business picked up the Small, Independent and Overall Business of the Year awards, recognising their decade long journey to build a great reputation and a turnover of more than £12 million.

Other winners at the ceremony included **Bridge Health and Wellbeing**, which received the most nominations from members of the community as their'Favourite Business'.

Community ventures recognised included **Christchurch Foodbank**, **Christchurch Care** and **Christchurch Community Partnership**, with local solicitors **Harold G Walker**, receiving a community award for the work they do in the town.

Upper Deck Bar & Restaurant was voted Best Restaurant, and other hospitality businesses receiving recognition were **MAW Bistro, Tides Café**, and the **Haven House Inn**.

In the beauty and health sectors, winners included **Christchurch Foot Clinic**, **Matisse Beauty**, and **Christchurch Derma Spa**.

The Green/Eco winner was recycling company **Circular11** who in their words are on a mission to transform wastebound plastic into low-carbon fencing, furniture, and landscaping products for the construction and estates sectors.

Their two directors, Connor Winton and Benjamin Gibbons, were also voted the Young Entrepreneurs of the Year.

Other winners included Dorset Coast Wills, 1st Response Training, Studio Arkell, Healthy Hearing, Pro2col, Mathews Shoes and Buddy & Noo.

Organiser Nigel Reeve said: "These awards are all about celebrating and promoting the great independent businesses we have in the area."

"Many are run by entrepreneurs just starting out on their business journey and others are long-established firms that have served their local communities for years. Either way, it's a joy to highlight what amazing business talent there is in the Christchurch area."



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. To opt in, simply email info@christchurchchamber.co.uk

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"

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Join us for a festive celebration!

It's never too early to plan for Christmas especially when it is in a brilliant cause to help others!

The Christchurch Chamber would love to invite you to join us for a delicious dinner and a great night celebrating the Festive Season with your business colleagues, friends and family whilst supporting Christchurch Food Bank.

The Christmas Party, hosted by the Chamber, will be held on Thursday 21st November at 7.00pm for 7.30pm dinner and dancing till midnight. There will be sharing tables of 10, with a Welcome Drink of fizz on arrival, a delicious three-course festive dinner and four bottles of wine per table which are generously sponsored by the Captains Club Hotel. After dinner there will be dancing till midnight with the Hotel's resident DJ.

The cost per ticket is £60 pp of which £10 will go to the Christchurch Food Bank to help families in need over the Christmas period.

Tim Lloyd, MD of the Captain's Club and President of the Chamber says "It would be really lovely to welcome lots of local businesses to celebrate and have their Christmas Party with us. This is the perfect time of year to not only enjoy yourselves but to generously donate to those in need." If you would like to find out more and book places at the Christmas Party please email our Secretary – Sue Harmon-Smith at <u>sueharmonsmith@gmail.com</u> You can book 2 or 20 places (or more!) so it is perfect if you have a smaller business and want to join others to celebrate Christmas.

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.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 and rew.barfield@gervis.co.uk.

Andy Barfield, Editor

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Top professional on board at steel firm

Global structural steel firm John Reid & Sons Ltd (REIDsteel) has strengthened its executive team with the appointment of a new director.

Experienced industry professional Byron Yates has joined the Dorset-based company's board as Contracts Director. He brings a 30-years plus track record in turnkey structural steel and construction projects in the UK and South Africa both for his own firm and main contractors.

Byron joins REIDsteel as the company continues to grow worldwide in the design, manufacture and supply of myriad steel structures from bridges to aircraft hangars and hurricane resistant buildings.

Simon Boyd, REIDsteel Managing Director, said: "Byron is an exceptional professional who brings invaluable expertise and experience to REIDsteel." Congratulations to Byron on joining the board. I am sure he will make a major contribution to the future success of REIDsteel."

Byron leads a team of project managers at REIDsteel and encourages inter-discipline collaboration between different departments.

His responsibilities also include management of contracts across all projects, contractual compliance, risk management, dispute resolution and operation monitoring.

Byron, who is a Prince 2 project management practitioner and holds a NVQ Level 7 Diploma in Construction Senior Management, has run his own structural steel company delivering a similar service to REIDsteel from brief to project handover. He has worked on projects in numerous sectors, including defence, education, residential development, government, commercial and retail.

Byron, who lives in Christchurch, said: "I was attracted to REIDsteel by its company values. It has a culture and ethos that creates an environment which enables employees to fulfil their potential while providing all of the support they need. Collaborative working between disciplines creates a trusting environment which achieves the best possible results for our customers as well as for our business and its people."

REIDsteel has a 'one team' ethos which values every employee equally with a focus on development and wellbeing. The company, with about 130 people, designs, engineers, manufactures and builds all kinds of steel structures including cladding, glazing, doors and roofing.

Founded in 1919, it has exported to more than 140 countries to date. The company won the 2023 Global Business Award at the Dorset Business Awards and was a recipient of a prestigious Structural Steel Design Award in 2022 for a record-breaking dual cantilever hangar. Visit <u>https://www.reidsteel.com/for more details.</u>

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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 19th September at 5.00 -**The Cat & Fiddle,** Lyndhurst Road, Hinton Admiral

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.u or call **Sue Harmon-Smith** on 07801 519380.

Christchurch is served by 19 councillors elected across 5 Wards. Members of the Council are directly accountable to all of Christchurch's citizens, and act as a primary point for residents, businesses and organisations to raise issues and seek support from Members in making positive, civic change.

Christchurch Town Council is searching for a new Town Councillor to join the team.

A vacancy has arisen for a Councillor to serve the Jumpers & St. Catherine's Ward of Christchurch Town Council. Candidates must be 18 or over and live or work within three miles of Christchurch.

The successful candidate shall be appointed to the Council by co-option and applicants will be invited to attend a meeting of the Council on September 16, 2024 at 6pm.

To apply please send your CV alongside application form part one and application form part two (which can be found on the christchurch-tc.gov.uk website) to the Town Clerk: <u>townclerk@christchurch-tc.gov.uk</u> by midnight September 4, 2024.



A warm welcome to our new Chamber members

Barbara Smith The Cat & Fiddle Lyndhurst Road, Hinton Admiral, Christchurch BH23 7DS 01425 276050

www.vintageinn.co.uk/restaurants/southeast/thecatandfiddlehintonadmiral#/

Matt Vincent Key Financial Planning 01202 806082 07769 656425 <u>matt.vincent@key-fp.co.uk</u> https://key-fp.co.uk

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Fiona Harwood _____ ___ Corporate Partnerships Manager Lewis-Manning Hospice Care <u>www.lewis-manning.org.uk</u> 01202 708470

Charlotte-Jade Ascott Guardian Angel Carers -07301 060679 01202 124082 <u>charlotte.ascott@gacarers.co.uk</u> www.gacarers.co.uk/bournemouth

Rev Sandra Prudom Christchurch Community Partnership www.christchurchcommunitypartnership.org.uk

Manny Patel Urban Health & Fitness 71a High Street Christchurch BH23 1AS <u>www.urbanhealthfitness.com</u> 01202 914848 hello@urbanhealthfitness.com

Joe Li Reign Jewellery 1 Pound Lane Christchurch BH23 1DF <u>reignItd@outlook.com</u>

Oscar Selley-Pillick The Regent Centre 51 High Street Christchurch BH23 1AS <u>oscar@regentcentre.co.uk</u> www.regentcentre.co.uk

Jo Dyton The Hatch Gallery 7a Church Street Christchurch BH23 1BW jodyton@hatchgallery.co.uk www.hatchgallery.co.uk

Adele Pearce Tax Assist Accountants 2 Fountain Way, Saxon Centre Christchurch BH23 1QN 01202 122277 adele.pearce@taxassist.co.uk www.taxassist.co.uk

Get Ready to Groove at the Cliff Top Music Festival 2024!

Prepare to be transported back to the groovy era of funk, soul, and rock 'n' roll as Wharncliffe Road in Highcliffe transforms into a haven of 1970s nostalgia for the second annual Cliff Top Music Festival. On September 7th, immerse yourself in the spirit of peace, love, and music at this unforgettable celebration of the iconic sounds that defined a generation.

"We're thrilled to bring back the 1970s Music Festival for its second year," says Mandy Polkey, Chair of the Highcliffe Action Team. "Last year's event was a resounding success, and we can't wait to build on that momentum and create an even more memorable experience for our community. It's a chance to come together, let loose, and relive the magic of the '70s."

What to Expect:

- A Stellar Lineup: Featuring an array of tribute bands and local talent, the festival promises to transport attendees back to the heyday of disco balls, bellbottoms, and platform shoes. Headlining this year is "The Sound of the O'Jays," bringing the soulful grooves that will get everyone dancing.
- **Fun-Filled Activities:** Beyond the music, enjoy retro dance-offs, vintage fashion contests, and a variety of fun-filled activities for all ages.
- **Delicious Food and Drinks**: Savour a selection of tasty treats from local vendors, ensuring there's something to satisfy every craving.

"The 1970s Music Festival is not just about the music; it's about coming together as a community, celebrating our shared heritage, and creating lasting memories together," says Polkey. This festival is a testament to the vibrant culture and talent of Highcliffe, showcasing the best of what our community has to offer.

Don't Miss Out! Mark your calendars for September 7th, 11am until 7:30pm and join us on Wharncliffe Road in Highcliffe for the ultimate throwback party of the summer! Low-cost tickets are available now at <u>Highcliffe Village</u>. Grab your dancing shoes and get ready to boogie the day away!









The Captain's Club is the ideal place to hold your next conference, product launch or meeting. Our function suites are fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology and benefit from floor to ceiling windows providing natural daylight. Our experienced staff are on hand to ensure that your event is a success and will assist you with all your needs, from the initial planning stage right through to on the day management.

Our club lounge, restaurant and terrace offers a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, making it the perfect place to unwind, entertain clients or enjoy after work cocktails.

T: 01202 475111 E: enquiries@captainsclubhotel.com Captain's Club Hotel, Wick Ferry, Christchurch BH23 1HU www.captainsclubhotel.com



Christchurch welcomes a visit from our German twin town



The Oberburgermeister or Lord Mayor of Aalen, Frederick Brütting, visited Christchurch in August, representing the German twin town. He was accompanied by former Lord Mayor, Martin Gerlach, an Honorary Citizen of Christchurch, along with representatives from Aalen's Twinning Association, Council, and schools.

On Sunday 10th August, the Christchurch Twinning Association hosted a welcoming meal for the delegation at The Kings Hotel which the Mayor and Mayoress of Christchurch, Paul and Helen Hilliard, attended, alongside members of Christchurch District Scouts, who are planning a visit to Germany next year with over 80 scouts.

Mike Andrews from the Christchurch Historical Society provided a splendid talk and tour, covering both the old and newer aspects of Christchurch. The history of Aalen is equally rich and diverse, with its own castles, churches, and classic buildings spanning thousands of years.

Christchurch has been twinned with Aalen since 1981, resulting in many exchange visits over the years. The delegation later visited Highcliffe Castle to explore the castle grounds and locate the Aalen tree, planted in 1981, which has since grown into a large and healthy oak. Similarly, in Aalen there is a tree planted by the Christchurch Mayor in 1993.

The day concluded with a gathering at the Old Town Hall of Christchurch Town Councillors, representatives from the Chamber including Tim Lloyd, *President*; Richard Oswald, *Vice President* and Andy Barfield, *Treasurer* together with the Christchurch and District Band, who had awarded Honorary Membership to the Lord Mayor of Aalen and each member of his delegation. This was done in recognition of the long-standing friendship between the Christchurch District Band and Aalen.

Aalen is currently building a new swimming pool and sports centre, which is set to open next summer. They plan to host a swimming gala with their six twin towns, as well as a running event. Christchurch also shares two of Aalen's twin towns, having created a relationship with St. Lô in France in 1985 and Tatabánya in Hungary in 1995

The Christchurch Twinning Association is seeking new members to help continue fostering friendships and promoting cultural and educational exchanges with all of Christchurch's twin towns. If you are interested then please contact Howard Piper at 01425 270913 or Tina Wright at 01202 531093 for more information.

Christchurch Magdalen Trust – Agemyou may not have heard of.

In the early middle ages someone built a leper hospital outside the town walls on what is now the Barrack Road recreation ground. A millennium passed and leprosy died but the hospital survived and evolved into a charity which continues to thrive. It's the Christchurch Magdalen Trust which helps Christchurch residents who are infirm or in severe need where help would not otherwise be available.

Following are brief examples of how Christchurch residents now benefit:

- **For those in dire financial need:** The Charity funds a Christchurch-wide final safety-net cash fund administered by the Christchurch Foodbank+ and the Christchurch Community Partnership plus other schemes at Foodbank+. It supports the Ashley Birthday Bank helping families with children with food as well as other essential supplies and children's toys at Christmas.
- To ensure residents receive advice helping to relieve need: The Charity funds the Christchurch specialist benefits advice service run by the CAB at Foodbank+ and Christchurch Library and the debt advice service run by Faithworks Wessex at the Foodbank+.
- **To reach communities**: The Charity funds the Children's Craft Club at the Somerford Arc and helped Age Concern in acquiring it's new shop in Bargates. It also funds small community groups such as the Christchurch Recovery Breakfast Club supporting those recovering from addiction and supports Christchurch charities such as MAST supporting men, and Water Lily supporting women, in difficult circumstances such as abuse or mental health issues.
- **To reach those who are less able or infirm**: The Charity supports the Dorset Blind Christchurch community groups and funded the first "library" established by that charity. It provides aids for visually impaired Christchurch residents who would struggle to afford them. The Charity has agreed to provide help on request by Macmillan for residents needing particular support at end-of-life.

And the cash help continues. For example, two further charities are being considered supporting those with profound mental and physical disability in the Town and the Charity is talking to the Arc about further community level support in Somerford.

The money comes from investments. But it never seems to be enough! If you found this article interesting and it tweaked an interest visit <u>www.cmtrust.org.uk</u>. Any contribution is, of course, always welcome. Just speak to me. Or for anything generally, email the Charity's clerk, Alastair Hoare at clerk@cmtrust.org.uk.

Andy Barfield Chair of the trustees



Are you a member?

The Christchurch Chamber of Trade and Commerce, to give us our full title, has been around since 1930. It is an association of local businesses whose purpose is to support one another and represent our combined interests in the community.

We have members from across the spectrum of business. Sole traders, partnerships, small to large companies covering retail, service, hospitality and manufacturing industries, and everything in between.

Although some of us may be in competition, the shared problems we face give us much in common and there are many ways we can help each other.

Far from being stuck in the past, we are a growing and forward thinking body. Indeed, our membership has grown over 10% in 2024! Membership rates are based on the size of your business, and starts from just £35.00 - that's less than 10p a day! And if you are a Town Centre BID levy payer, membership is covered within the cost of your levy. To opt in, simply email info@christchurchchamber.co.uk - we'd be delighted if you'd join us.



Scan to view our updated website!



Communicate Our guarterly newsletter,

Chamber Chat, is distributed to over 500 local businesses, with a special Highcliffe edition.

Members can contribute their own stories to celebrate success or offer advice.



Socialise

We hold regular social evenings at a variety of locations. Members are invited to come along and meet like minded peers in a relaxed and informal environment.



Influence

Your Chamber regularly meets with local councillors, and other organisations to lobby for the interests of it's members.

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