



CHRISTCHURCH CHAMBER CHAT

Issue 3 - May 2021

Join the Christchurch business community - come to our Post Lockdown Relaunch

With restrictions slowly coming to an end, we can, at last, dare to think about the future.

Over lockdown, the Christchurch Chamber President, Andy Barfield, and the Executive have been working closely with the BCP Council and as things open up new initiatives will be giving Christchurch businesses a boost. One example is the plan to create a Business Improvement District (BID) in Christchurch. Lockdown put progress on hold for a time, but it is now ready to get going.

See the articles inside, but better still come along to our Post Lockdown Relaunch to be held at the fabulous Captain's Club Hotel on Wednesday 23rd June 2021. Admire the hotel's lockdown refurbishments, and then:

5.30 p.m. Attend our delayed AGM (Existing Members only),

6.00 p.m. Listen to a short talk about the BID to hear what that is about, who will be eligible and when it will be launch (All Welcome)

6.30 p.m. Have a free sponsored drink and meet and network with fellow local businesses. Renew friendships with those you might not have seen for the last year and meet some of our new members. (All Welcome)

One lesson to be learnt from the lockdowns is that working together with other local businesses has many advantages. It can give you the latest news, new opportunities and perspective.

Make one of your post lockdown resolutions to get involved with the Christchurch business community. And start that resolution by coming along on the 23rd June.

Calling all corners of Christchurch

We cover all of the former Borough of Christchurch and are keen to attract new members from all areas and all business types, large and small.

So if you are in any of the centres from Highcliffe through to Hurn – or any of the Business Parks from Somerford to the Aviation Business Park next to the Bournemouth Airport, then do get in touch. As well as welcoming you as a member, we are keen to get representatives from all corners to ensure we are really representing all businesses in the area.

Visit us at www.christchurchchamber.co.uk

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Keeping it all going

Throughout the pandemic, Mad4Dance has remained committed and determined to stay as connected as possible to the students and families of our dance school family.

We offered as much support as we could and continued to run our full timetable of 40 classes per week via Zoom. We continually strove to find ways to keep the children inspired, positive and encouraged such as doing Zoom dressing up parties or creating fun dance games to do virtually.

Remaining physically and mentally well throughout lockdown has been hard for everyone but I especially feel for children and young people because so much of their development, identity and self-worth is wrapped up in who they connect with and how well they connect. Class WhatsApp groups were set up for each class so parents and children could exchange messages and stay more easily and intimately connected. Teachers did all they could to include other members of the family in the Zoom dance classes to keep everyone's spirits up. We not only got mums and dads dancing but the furry family members such as dogs, cats and hamsters too!!!

As a close community, we have got through lockdown together and as a result, the majority of our students and their families have remained with us. We are now back in our studios in Christchurch and can enjoy dancing side by side not virtually but physically again at long last!

Join the Chamber - today!

Whatever your business, be it big or small, be it retail, service provision or manufacturing or anything else, we are here to help you—help you to talk to others, keep in touch with what is going on, find suppliers and promote your own business.

We are a subscription based association of local businesses that support one another and represent our combined interests. We are a non-political body, so we can support or oppose any proposals that affect our business community. We cover the whole of the former borough of Christchurch from Highcliffe to Hurn.

As well as this newsletter, we have friendly, informal networking events (re-starting as soon as conditions permit) and they are a great way to meet other people in Christchurch as well as an opportunity to showcase your business by sponsorship. We are always keen to listen to what our members want for the Christchurch area to help their businesses.

With the council reorganisation, the Chamber is working closely with BCP Council and are well represented on their Economic Development, Tourism, Planning Strategy Committees and other organisations important to Christchurch's future.

To join us go to our website www.christchurchchamber.co.uk and follow the link to join. Membership starts from only £35 per annum!

Sue Harmon-Smith
Secretary, Christchurch Chamber of Trade & Commerce



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Christchurch BID update

We all love the magic of Christchurch. Business owners, residents and visitors alike are proud of this vibrant, prosperous town with excellent amenities, an enviable heritage and an enduring community spirit.

What we now need to do is ensure that Christchurch town centre thrives – by bringing footfall to enjoy all that Christchurch has to offer, and help it recover from some of the biggest challenges our businesses have ever faced. And this is where a BID can help.

What is a BID? A BID is a Business Improvement District which is a partnership led by businesses in a set area, to deliver extra services to the local businesses. The businesses in that area, on the whole, pay a levy which is then used to develop the projects the businesses themselves identify as important to them, through their business plan.

The Christchurch BID Steering Group are confident that a BID in Christchurch Town Centre can play a vital role in helping Christchurch recover and thrive.

Over the last 2 years, we have consulted with the local business community about the BID, about suggestions for projects and where they feel the money should be spent, and we are currently working on looking at the projects businesses have identified and drawing up our Business Plan built on these suggestions – our chance to turn the ideas in to action.

We will be contacting all the businesses in the Town Centre area again in the coming weeks and look forward to hearing their thoughts and views, before we go for the vote, which is going to take place in September (all things being equal).

Please do look at our website for more information www.christchurchbid.co.uk provides lots more information.

To hear more first hand – come to our talk following the Christchurch Chamber of Trade and Commerce AGM on Wednesday 23rd June 2021 at 6.00 at the Captain's Club.



Mineral Extraction At Roeshot Hill Given Go Ahead

One of the biggest and most worrying planning applications for the Christchurch area has received planning permission from Hampshire County Council on the 15th April 2021.

This is the application made by Meyrick Estate Management Limited for the extraction and processing of minerals including the erection of a concrete blatching plant (to produce concrete) and new access to the A35.

The extraction area and site involved is vast and stretches from Staple Cross to Burton Common and is an area larger as the whole of nearby Burton. But as it sits just on the other side of the railway line running along Roeshot Hill, it is outside of the BCP boundary and falls under Hampshire County Council and seems, as a result, to have attracted very little coverage locally.

The plan is to extract three million tonnes of gravel over a period of 14 to 16 years and whilst that is to be followed by a 'restoration programme' to the area disturbed, it is the additional daily heavy lorry movements that cause great concern. When the proposal was first put forward, an additional 120 lorry movements were estimated each and every day of the week (with a small reduction on Sundays). This is in an area already heavily congested and the direction of travel of those lorries (through Christchurch to reach the A31 or the New Forest) is a major fear, whichever route they take.

The advertisement for South Coast Media features two goldfish in glass bowls. The larger bowl on the right contains a single goldfish, while the smaller bowl on the left contains a larger goldfish. The text 'SOUTH COAST MEDIA' is in the top right corner. Below it, the text reads: 'No matter how BIG or small your LOCAL business we have price options to suit every size. Contact South Coast Media 01202 477214 or email info@southcoastmedia.co.uk'. At the bottom, there are three small images of local business cards: 'CHRISTCHURCH EYE', 'HIGHCLIFFE, BURTON & BRANSGORE EYE', and 'SOUTHBOURNE EYE'. The bottom of the ad has the slogan 'Keeping Trade Local' and the website 'www.southcoastmedia.co.uk' on a yellow background.

Christchurch Food Festival – August Bank Holiday 2021

Last year, local Christchurch resident Philip Lowery and his company Real Foods Festivals, bravely stepped up to take on the town's biggest and most successful annual festival – the Christchurch Food Festival.

Great plans were made to move it to the May Bank Holiday 2020 so it could be used to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of V.E. Day. It was going to run over three days and a whole series of VE themed entertainment was organised. And then lockdown hit.

It is wonderful to see that despite that immense knock-back, they are still determined to continue and are again planning a three-day extravaganza, this time over the 28th to 30th August Bank Holiday.

Social distancing will mean that it will be based on the Quomps and Quay without the High Street stalls, but it is clear they have some exciting plans.

It promises to be a great community event that will give an important and much needed boost to the town and help attract new visitors to Christchurch.

Here's to wishing them every success.

Lockdown no barrier to new businesses galore

No-one is saying lockdown has not been tough, but how delightful to see so many new businesses open.

The latest to open its doors in Christchurch High Street, to much excitement, is award winning [Renoufs Pantry](#). It is an Artisan Cheese and Fine Wine shop 'boasting 100's of incredible artisan cheeses, great charcuterie and the finest of wines'. Why not take up their offer to 'Pop in and say hi' to their team of Cheesemongers and Sommeliers.

It is only a short distance from our new fabulous artisan Baker Patisserie Mark Bennett who also took the brave step to open up at the top of the High Street. If you have not been yet, a visit is a must. You will be able to find it by following the smell of fresh baked bread.

From there, go under the underpass and you will find [Two Rivers Refill](#), Christchurch's new and innovative zero waste shop providing a place to fill your own package-free options and ensuring your impact on the environment is as minimal as possible. See if you can resist their nut butter machine.

As you wander back across Saxon Square, stopping for some treats at [Granny's Cupboard](#), you could stop for a rest at the newly opened [Eat27](#) and possibly try their Old School Breakfast.

Then wind your way back through the lanes for an exquisite hot chocolate at [The Ducking Stool](#) in, you've guessed it, Ducking Stool Lane.

These are just a few of our new businesses – and if we have missed you out – don't despair, drop us an email with your story for our next edition.



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Christchurch Carnival is coming back!

Christchurch Carnival is back and taking place on Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th August 2021.

The event, which has been bringing joy to the community and visitors alike for over a century, is completely free to attend and packed full of fun for all of the family.

There will be activities on the Quay, stalls, food & drink, live music, funfair and the legendary fireworks display, kindly sponsored by Christchurch Town Council.

So many local carnivals have sadly been permanently cancelled over the past few years, however our small core team of just six dedicated volunteers are committed to continuing our wonderful event because of the delight and benefits it brings to local residents and businesses. The 2021 carnival will be particularly important for the town as it will provide a great opportunity to bring the community together after the pandemic.

The carnival is also a terrific opportunity to promote your business with a range of corporate sponsorship packages available.

For more details, or to donate a raffle prize, please email media@christchurchcarnival.co.uk
christchurchcarnival.co.uk
[@christchurchcarnival](https://www.instagram.com/christchurchcarnival)



1st Response Training

We have been fortunate to be able to remain Training throughout apart from the First Lockdown.

But it has been a difficult year for us as a company losing a lot of our Event work which is a substantial amount of our Income. But we are proud that as a small company we are still solvent and in fact growing as a company and getting busier by the day with our First Aid Courses and Fire Safety.

Event Work is slowly coming back in and we are pleased to say we will be once again covering the Christchurch Food Festival as well as other events. We are also going to be promoting our Mental Health First Aid Courses over the coming Months as we think this is going to be essential after the last year.

It has been a challenging time for everyone but we have adapted our courses to ensure everyone's safety to which we have had very positive feedback. We will also make the appropriate changes for the Event we will cover.

We offer the following mental Health courses:

1/2 Day Course level 1 Awareness of First Aid for Mental Health

1 day Course Level 2 First Aid for Mental Health

2 Day Course Level 3 Supervising First Aid for Mental Health

All in all, the past year has taught us not to give up and to stay as positive as you can and have faith in your company.

1st Response Training

William Cairns - Director/Trainer

Joanna Polden - Director/Trainer

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Survival of the Fitness

Or how a luxury Christchurch Hotel has enabled Urban Health & Fitness to run its classes outdoors, post-lockdown from 12th April to 17th May

The Urban Health & Fitness Gym in the centre of Christchurch had the quandary of how to get their clients back to enjoying Yoga, Pilates and Zumba without an outdoor space. Perfect synergy fell into place for two Christchurch Chamber members, as Tim Lloyd MD of the Captain's Club Hotel and Manny Patel owner of Urban, got together, with Tim offering their spacious terrace for Manny's clients from 12th April until they are allowed back inside for classes at the Gym on 17th May.

Manny Patel said "It is the perfect solution for Urban Health & Fitness Gym, as we have no outdoor space to run our very popular Yoga, Pilates and Zumba classes whilst lockdown rules meant no indoor classes. Tim has very kindly offered their terrace with the great views of the river and a perfect central location. Our clients are delighted too, as they see it as a way of getting back to normality again."

The classes will be held throughout the day and those taking part can always enjoy a coffee a full English breakfast, lunch or a cocktail on the Terrace from the Hotel's award-winning menu. If the weather doesn't warrant an outside class then the instructor will Zoom the participants from the Hotel's function suite.

Tim Lloyd commented: "This Christchurch business collaboration offers the perfect solution. Urban Fitness are currently restricted, whilst we have the ideal outside space, on the Captain's Club Hotel Terrace. We are delighted to work together and offer Urban's brilliant classes to their membership and our guests. For us the opportunity to work with Manny and his team at Urban is new and exciting, indeed, who knows what the future may hold?"

The 4-star boutique Captain's Club Hotel, on the banks of the River Stour in Christchurch, is itself undergoing a major refurbishment and looking forward to welcoming guests to outside dining post-lockdown.

Vandalised NHS Thank You banner replaced for free

Last May, Bridge Health & Wellbeing clinic on Bridge Street in Christchurch put up a banner to thank NHS and key workers for everything they were doing during the pandemic.

The sign had remained proudly in place until it was vandalised and damaged by two young men - whose images were captured on CCTV and shared with local police.

Keen to help, Richard Oswald, Proprietor at PP Printing in Christchurch, stepped in. Richard said: "I was saddened to hear about Bridge Health & Wellbeing's banner being vandalised and replacing the banner for free was the right thing to do, to stop the actions of a few people ruining such a positive message for so many."

Paul O'Connell, co-founder and physiotherapist at Bridge Health & Wellbeing said "We are very grateful for Richard's kind offer to replace the NHS banner at no cost. Just like us, he wanted to play his part in saying thank you to the NHS heroes that have supported our local community over the past 13 months, going above and beyond to care for local people in their time of greatest need."

"So many businesses have been through such difficulties over the past year. But by working together we can all support each other and the local community and look forward to better times."

From their state-of-the-art clinic in Christchurch, Bridge Health & Wellbeing offer physiotherapy, sports massage and rehabilitation services, Pilates, Yoga and other wellbeing classes, to help local residents get better, build strength and feel happy and healthy in mind and body. To find out more or book an appointment visit www.bridgehw.com.

PP Printing is proud to be an independent local printer. They provide a wide range of print, copy and design services, from digital print and copying, large format posters and banners, through to full colour process print work. Call PP for a quote today on 01 202 480700.

Golf anyone?

Christchurch Harbour Hotel is well known as one of our smartest businesses, but were you aware that it is just one of the hotels in the Harbour Hotel Group which has its main state-of-the-art offices in Purewell. It is there that the Christchurch Charity with a nationwide reach, "Rooms for Reward" is run.

They arrange for their partner hotels from across the country to donate their unsold rooms for Hidden Heroes - volunteers who have given their time for good causes. It is a great charity so why not support them by signing up for their Barton-on-Sea Golf Day?

Room to Reward
@roomtoreward
www.roomtoreward.org
Charity No: 1160675

HOTEL BREAKS FOR HIDDEN HEROES

R2R Golf Day – Barton-on-Sea Golf Club - 22/09/2021
Price: **£390** for a team of four

Includes:

- Coffee and bacon roll on arrival.
- **Goodie bag** for each team member.
- 18 holes of golf at **Barton-on-Sea Golf Club**.
- Half Way House with light refreshments.
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- Presentation of prizes and a charity auction with Adger Brown.

To enter, contact Adam Terpening:
adam.terpening@roomtoreward.org

Inspirational couple treated to hotel break

Room to Reward is a unique charity that utilises unsold hotel rooms to enable charities and communities to give 'thank you' breaks to their most outstanding volunteers.

New business park opens in Stony Lane

A new business park has been completed in Stony Lane in Christchurch in a boost for the local economy.

The Penton Business Park is a £2.5m regeneration of the former Boyland Joinery site carried out by the Penton Motor Group to create a trading hub for firms, with up to 30 jobs being created.

Toolstation has become the first occupier to open in one of four units at the park followed by Triumph, a major motorcycle dealership.

The park is a new direction for the long-established Wilson family business, which has substantial locations in Christchurch, Poole, Salisbury and Andover for its Penton motor business. It has developed this ground-up commercial investment property in Christchurch to add to its non-motor trade portfolio.

Penton Group managing director Robert Wilson said: "The completed park looks even better than we expected and it is great to see it open for business. We are very pleased at the result and will be seeking similar investments in the area. For this business park to attract some national and substantial expanding companies to trade from this location is a major success".

Fellow Christchurch firm John Reid & Sons Ltd (REIDsteel) was engaged and designed and manufactured the steel frames, with installation of the metal decking, cladding, roof sheeting, glazing and doors for the retail park.

Simon Boyd, managing director at 130-strong REIDsteel, said: "As a Christchurch firm it is great to be involved in this superb development on our own doorstep. It's been a privilege to take the scheme from the design through to fabrication and installation".



Want to see a great video?

Looking for something that shows our lovely Christchurch in its best light? Then take a peek at the new 'Love Christchurch' video which the Chamber has helped sponsor along with BCP.

Go to www.visit-christchurch.co.uk page and you will see the video and what potential visitors will get to see of our area – it might even tempt you to explore Christchurch a bit more yourself.

Alternatively head for www.facebook.com/LoveXChurch/ both to see the video and a series of great local photos.

And whilst you are on Facebook, do call in to the Christchurch Chamber of Trade & Commerce page and press a few "like" buttons!

Are you ready for your employees to return to work?

As lockdown restrictions ease, you may be getting ready to welcome employees back to the office. But is your workspace ready?

For some staff, transitioning back to the office may be daunting. Sitting at a desk for longer periods of time and the pressure of a more formal working environment. Combined with the anxiety that many may still not have received even one vaccination, let alone both. Your employees might be going from working in a tracksuit at their kitchen table on and off all day to potentially wearing a suit and sitting at a desk for 6-8 hours per day. Open plan workspaces will have to adapt and floor plans rearranged to comply with new COVID guidelines.

With all this change, whether recent or in place from before the last lockdown, it is important to ensure that your employees' workstations are set up correctly. A DSE Assessment from a qualified professional can ensure that you are ready to welcome employees back to a healthy and productive space. These DSE Assessments can be completed on site or remotely, covering an employee's workstation, chair, equipment and environment. You then receive advice and recommendations on any improvements required.

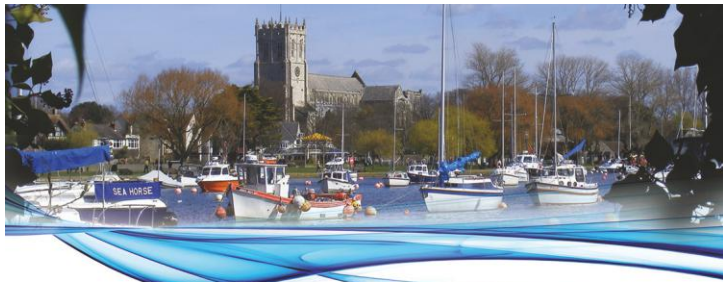
As an employer, you must meet your obligations to your staff. But more than that, investing in their wellbeing at work is also a preventative measure to avoid issues such as neck, back and shoulder pain through incorrect setup. Paul O'Connell, physiotherapist and co-founder of Bridge Health and Wellbeing says: "With staff finally able to come back to work, the last thing any employer wants is to lose them again due to health issues that could have been avoided. Our workplace wellbeing services can keep your staff at work or help them return to work quicker. From treating work-related musculoskeletal conditions and injuries through fast access to physiotherapy, to proactive wellbeing initiatives with DSE assessments combined with regular exercise classes and massage therapy services, we offer both standalone services or complete wellbeing packages."

Tailored solutions for business

Based in Christchurch, Bridge Health & Wellbeing offer a range of workplace wellbeing services including Physiotherapy, Sports Massage Therapy, Back care programmes, Rehabilitation classes, Chiropractic services, Exercise classes, DSE assessments and management of chronic conditions.

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Tell us your news

Chamber Chat is about Christchurch businesses both small and large – from Highcliffe to Hurn and everywhere between.

If you are a Chamber Member and have business news - or you are prepared to tell us how you have been coping with the all the pandemic has thrown at you, then let me know. If you are a new member and want to tell the rest of us about your business, then I look forward to hearing from you.

This Chamber Chat is being delivered free to around 600 businesses across Christchurch and it's printing is being paid for by its adverts—with any surplus funds that might arise helping to fund the Chamber's future activities.

If you would like to advertise in future editions then contact Sue Harmon-Smith on info@christchurchchamber.co.uk

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Peter Watson-Lee, Editor.

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