

New stores galore! Empty units filled





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It's been an exciting time for retail locally with lots of new shops opening in Christchurch and Highcliffe since the last edition of Chamber Chat!

First mention goes to Cook at 36 High Street, who opened their doors a few weeks before Christmas. They stock a delicious range of 'ready meals' and occupy the old M&Co site, which stood empty for far too long. They will welcoming new neighbours at numbers 38 and 40 as The Venue Beauty Salon and Made In Italy fashions set to open soon. A few doors down Christchurch Nails and Spa will be opening in March.

Meanwhile, in Saxon Square, a smart new Blue Cross shop, held it's grand opening in February. An even grander opening happened in January on the Bailey Bridge Retail Park. There was much excitement in town as Christchurch welcomed The Range Superstore to town.

Bargates too has plenty of new faces, with Karla Kreate, The Colourist Co, Graphics Bite and Bournemouth Airport Transfers all recently opening their doors. We welcome them all.

Further up the road in Highcliffe, Butcher Joe's held a successful launch earlier in February. By all accounts, customers were literally queuing down the street!

Crucially, though, all of these businesses need your support if they are to prosper. We are fortunate to have such a diverse and interesting selection of shops on our doorstep so do try to remember the maxim – use them or lose them!

Dates for your diary

28th February	Abba Tribute Night <i>Cliffhanger Restaurant, Highcliffe</i>
4th March	Great Annual Pancake Race <i>Christchurch Quay</i>
14th March	Business Breakfast Club <i>Avon Reach, Mudeford</i>
14th March	Beatles Tribute Night <i>Cliffhanger Restaurant, Highcliffe</i>
27th March	Chamber Business Breakfast - Top Tax Tips <i>Cliffhanger Restaurant, Highcliffe</i>
28th March	Michael Buble/ Robbie Williams Tribute Night <i>Cliffhanger Restaurant, Highcliffe</i>
4th April	Fleetwood Mac Tribute Night <i>Cliffhanger Restaurant, Highcliffe</i>
11th April	Elvis Tribute Night <i>Cliffhanger Restaurant, Highcliffe</i>
12th April	Remember Sarah <i>Captain's Club Hotel & Spa, Wick Lane</i>
17th April	Robbie Williams Tribute Night <i>Captain's Club Hotel & Spa, Wick Lane</i>
21st April	Classic Cars on the Quay <i>Christchurch Quay</i>
5th May	Classic Cars on the Quay <i>Christchurch Quay</i>
8th May	VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations <i>Christchurch Quay & Cliffhanger Restaurant, Highcliffe</i>
9th May	Business Breakfast Club <i>Avon Reach, Mudeford</i>
9th May	Abba Tribute Night <i>Cliffhanger Restaurant, Highcliffe</i>
16th May	Neil Diamond Tribute Night <i>Cliffhanger Restaurant, Highcliffe</i>
24 & 25 May	Food Fest Local <i>Christchurch Town Centre</i>
24th-26th May	Christchurch Food Festival <i>Christchurch Quay</i>

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

Chamber news

Training Support

We are currently in the process of finalising some exciting training opportunities for members, including some interactive on-line content for the first time. Check out our Facebook page for full details as they appear.

Parking Issues

There have been several parking issues to affect members over the last few weeks and the Chamber has been active in supporting local business and raising their concerns with the authorities.

Having been in correspondence with the relevant BCP councillors, President Tim Lloyd is arranging to meet them in March, together with the rest of the Executive Committee. We will have the full report of this in the next issue of Chamber Chat.

Project Bargates

As mentioned previously, we are working with local businesses and stakeholders to improve the appearance of this gateway street into Christchurch. We have formed a steering group of 11, which held it's first meeting in February. Lots of ideas and suggestions were discussed, including the idea of a dedicated Clean Up day later in the spring. If you have any ideas or would like to contribute to the project, please email richard@pp-printing.co.uk - he would love to hear from you.



Christmas Wreath Competition

First prize in the Christmas Wreath Competition went to the TC Group, with a stunning entry by Debbie Turner, pictured below receiving her prize from President Tim Lloyd and secretary Sue Harmon Smith. There were some very imaginative entries this year, including many from Highcliffe as the competition expanded.



President's Notes

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



It hardly seems possible that in the last edition of Chamber Chat I was wishing you all a merry Christmas and here we are, close to spring.

It has been a busy time for so many and I am pleased to say that there is now meat on the bones for **Project Bargates** and I am very hopeful we can secure ward improvement money from our BCP councillors to kick start the action plan. It is great news that so many volunteers have come forward including a team from Christchurch Baptist Church.

We kicked off the new series of **Chamber Member Breakfast Meetings** at the Captain's Club Hotel in January when **Tracy Blick** from Christchurch Foodbank Plus gave an emotional talk about their work and the families they support across Christchurch. There is a lot more to this organisation than just food! A vote of thanks was given by Christchurch Rotary President, **Peter Boardman**. The next breakfast meeting will involve Chamber committee members Lucy Filer and Andy Barfield who will pass on their expertise in the field of business tax... all with a lovely, cooked breakfast prepared by the team at the **Cliffhanger in Highcliffe**. 27th March 2025, tickets are great value at just £14.00.

It was very positive news for **Bournemouth International Airport** when Jet 2 holidays enjoyed their inaugural flight to Tenerife on February 4th. With a packed summer schedule this is a great opportunity for our region, and a perfect excuse to get-away!

From my personal point of view, I was saddened when the secretary of state endorsed the **Accommodation BID** appeal after giving it careful consideration. In the end it was an administration blunder that failed the board as several establishments did not receive their voting papers when they were entitled to be in the ballot. As a board member myself we have agreed to take this time to reflect, speak to all eligible voters – whether for or against - and see whether a re-ballot may be feasible or indeed, desired towards the end of the year.

It is disappointing that in the meantime we will see fewer and fewer events put on for the good of our residents and visitors alike and there will be no marketing of our “coast with the most” except through the support of Visit England.

Fortunately, here in Christchurch there is an active community who all work together for the good of your town and have once again put together a series of events including **Christchurch Food Festival** (Celebrating its 25th year), **Christchurch Food Fest Local**, **VE Day on the Quomps**, **Christchurch Music Festival**, **Christchurch Carnival**, **Highcliffe Food and Arts Festival**, to name but a few and to make our surroundings even more welcoming there is a real desire to resurrect **Christchurch in Bloom**, an activity the Chamber is fully behind.

So, as we head into difficult times, for all businesses, we are here to support you. Here to share the burden of a difficult budget, weather the storms and continue to make Christchurch a happy place to work and live. Let us **work together** to make Christchurch the best place it can possibly be and together we will achieve.



Dorset Tourism Awards 2025

Christchurch businesses flew the flag at the 12th Dorset Tourism Awards when the winners were announced at a glittering event held at the Marsham Court Hotel.

The event was the conclusion of five months of independent judging as hospitality businesses of all kinds were recognised for their excellence in customer service, sustainability, digital communications and accessibility.

The awards that came home to Christchurch were:-

GOLD

Large Hotel of the Year
Christchurch Harbour Hotel

GOLD

Restaurant of the Year
The Jetty, Mudeford.

SILVER

Restaurant of the Year
Upper Deck,
Christchurch Harbour Hotel

BRONZE

Wedding Venue of the Year
Highcliffe Castle (*pictured above*)

BRONZE

Small Visitor Attraction of the Year
Highcliffe Castle

Hello from Christchurch BID!

Continuing to share the love in Christchurch!

As we move into 2025, we are energised and committed to further enhancing our community. Here's a glimpse of what's in store:

Over £60,000 of grant funding has been secured by the BID Management Team which will be used to invest in town public realm upgrades and to increase beautiful planters, plants and flowers which will make this spring blooming gorgeous! There are **several other projects on the horizon** that are not ready for sharing yet but as soon as we can we will, so watch this space!

The new year brings renewal and rejuvenation, coming out of hibernation and with glimpses of spring on the horizon it is a great time to get out walking, join a gym or partake in a cold water dip! Keep your body in tip top condition by visiting one of the alternative therapies in Christchurch, from physiotherapy to chiropractic and foot care, ready for the gardening and event season!

It's a time to put yourself first, keep healthy and enjoy everything Christchurch has to offer right on our doorstep, aren't we lucky!

It's back again for 2025! Come along and cheer on competitive Christchurch businesses at the '**Great Annual Pancake Race**' taking place on the Quay at 09:30 on 4th March and see lots of flipping and tossing in action with the proceeds going to The Christchurch Food Festival Education Trust.

Want to know more about Christchurch BID and its business members?

Follow @ChristchurchBID on Facebook and Instagram, and search Christchurch BID on LinkedIn

Visit www.christchurchbid.co.uk for more information about Christchurch BID

From your Christchurch BID Operation Managers



Louise



Eloise

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Picture - Paul Rickford

“Inspiring” Tracy offers food for thought at Members’ Breakfast



Tracy Blink, manager of **Christchurch Food Bank Plus**, gave Chamber Members food for thought at the first Chamber social event of 2025.

Held at the Captains Club Hotel & Spa in January, a sold out contingent of members and guests tucked into a full English breakfast before being reminded that not all of us are quite so fortunate.

The Chamber had asked Tracy to be the first guest speaker in a series of events to be held over the coming year. We had worked with her before Christmas, helping out with the Food Bank Plus’ “Reverse Advent Calendar” initiative. Chamber members contributed over 30 hampers for the scheme.

New Chamber members Christchurch Rotary Club had decided to hold a collection day for the Food Bank in Waitrose on 11 January, so we invited Peter Broadman (*pictured above left, with Tracy*) along with Tracy to help us understand why the Food Bank is needed, what it does and how it works.

Tracy began her talk by telling us her personal background, and how she had arrived at her position in the Food Bank. She then went on to explain how the “Plus” in Food Bank represents the additional help she and her team provide, such as assisting re-housing abused families, helping furnish homes, and offering budget advice and support.

Rotary President Peter offered a vote of thanks afterwards, and spoke for the whole room when he expressed his admiration for Tracy’s passion and commitment. We are pleased to report the Rotary’s collection on the following day was a resounding success, with over 915kg of food and £190 cash raised. £5 from each ticket sold of the Members’ Breakfast was also donated directly to the charity.

Our next event is on 27 March at the Cliffhanger Restaurant in Highcliffe, where Chamber Executive Committee members Lucy Filer and Andy Barfield will be sharing their expertise on all things taxing! See the ad on the left for details of how to attend, it will be great to see you there!



Chamber
Members Breakfast
27 March 8am

Cliffhanger Restaurant, Highcliffe

ENJOY A DELICIOUS CLIFFHANGER FULL ENGLISH OR VEGETARIAN BREAKFAST,
THEN MEET AND MINGLE WITH COLLEAGUES

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SPECIAL**



For our second Chamber Members Breakfast we are delighted to welcome two guest speakers.



Lucy Filer, a Partner of TC Group, along with Andy Barfield, from Gervis Accountants, will be giving us the benefit of their combined many years of expertise in the area of Corporate and Personal Tax.

Book your space today!



Email sueharmonsmith@gmail.com

Tickets
£14.00

Sally Percival Foy, together with Julie Blowers and Ed Dewar, rowed over 3000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean in just 59 days, raising over £91,000 for charities in the process. She told Chamber President Tim Lloyd (*who also happens to be her boss*) **her remarkable story.**



After a year and a half of planning fundraising, boat preparation and seaworthy courses on the 11th of December 2024 myself, Sally Percival Foy, Julie Eddicott and Ed Dewar, finally jumped upon our fine Ocean Rowing vessel to take part in the **The World's Toughest Row**, 3000 miles to Antigua! The race began in La Gomera in the Canaries with trepidation and excitement, the adrenaline was flowing. We had the most amazing send off with friends and family lined up on the pontoon looking down on the 38 Rowing boats below, waiting for their start.

We waved our family and friends goodbye, and we were off out into the deep blue sea.

The adventure has a start a middle and an end. The first few weeks were the craziest, the waves were the size of a house and more. We put our trust into our 28 foot rowing boat as we surfed the monstrous waves. The first 2 weeks were like being in a washing machine, being hurled around on the ocean in our wet gear, constantly damp and never dry. and that's when the bottom sores began! Being thrashed by waves, sideways on. It was incredible. It was tough that's for sure, eating was tricky but as the trip went on I couldn't stop eating!

Food became a source of comfort. We had our dry dehydrated meals which we would prep for each other, we also had our snack packs, which were our fun foods, mars bars, crackers, nuts dried fruits, chocolate and sweets. These kept us fairly sane.

The middle was settling down into a rhythm out of our washing machine days! We finally saw wildlife. We had 3 birds that followed us individually each day, whales, dolphins, porpoises and this made it all seem worth it. But mother nature was relentless, the times we had a sense of relaxing and the row was going well, Mother Nature would come back at us with another blow, either a torrent of rain or a side on wave that would thunder through the boat sending you sideways.

Then the home straight, once the trade winds finally kicked in we were down wind all the way, surfing the waves in our Rowing capsule and enjoying the troubles of our night watch hallucinations! Such as falling asleep on the oars, dreaming of going to the shops, talking absolute jibberish! and getting up from our Rowing positions in a dream like state. All of which kept us highly amused.!

Then the arrival into English Harbour.

Wow what can I say, it was an absolute blast, greeted by the World's Toughest Row support boat full of screams of joy and support. The first human interaction we had seen for 59 days! as we rounded the headland into Nelsons cleverly hidden Harbour, absolutely stunning.

The last week was tough as constant dreaming of see family and friends was hard to imagine. So to finally see my family sitting in a dinghy just at the finish line was amazing. It was truly the best day, etched in my memory forever.

The Super yachts blasted their horns as we lit our flares for our finish line photo shoot. We rowed to the Harbour wall and finally stepped on dry land. Which we kept asking, "is this still moving?" The answer was no it's us!

Well after a week or so my land legs have caught up, my hands are still like sandpaper, swollen sausage fingers! and I can't believe as I'm still writing this that it all happened, it feels like a dream like state as I relax and enjoy a beer or cocktail or two with my family. It's been an absolute blast and the thought of doing it again isn't off the cards!

Advertising Rates

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£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.

Book your ad for our next issue (May 2025)

Copy deadline

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email

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Specifications

1/4 page - 95mm x 138mm

1/8 page - 65mm x 95mm

Please supply your artwork as a high resolution PDF to

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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 us on richard@pp-printing.co.uk

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Bargates “institution” to close after 80 years

Angling shop **Davis Tackle** is set to close its doors once and for all on 14 March, after owner Nigel Gray has decided to retire.

The shop has been a proud feature of Bargates for over 80 years, with Nigel and his wife Helen at the helm since the early 2000s.

“I was 65 in a few weeks, and another year of 360 days opening at 7:30 with only Christmas and New Year off has somewhat lost its appeal after over 20 years.” explains Nigel. “My first visit to Davis Tackle before fishing the Royalty was when I was just a kid and it left a deep impression on me, it’s such a magical memory over 50 years later. In the 70’s and 80’s I spent every available day that I could afford fishing the Royalty despite the 200 mile round trip. Holidays were always spent in Christchurch and over the years I got to know so many anglers who shared a love of the Royalty, many of those friendships remain to this day.”

“Back in 2000 I took early retirement and quickly realised it wasn’t for me and, a year or two later saw that Davis Tackle was up for sale. Much to my amazement Helen agreed to the change in lifestyle and we became the proud owners of Davis Tackle, taking over from Graham and Carol who’d run the shop for 34 years.”

His loyal band of customers paid tribute to Nigel on their Facebook page. (It will) *“Be a sad day when the doors close Nigel..not just for anglers but for Christchurch itself.”* was one typical comment.

Hello! from new members the Christchurch Community Partnership

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the Chamber Newsletter this month, as one of the newbies! For those who don't know us, **Christchurch Community Partnership** is committed to working with others towards the eradication of social isolation and loneliness for our residents. We do this in a variety of ways; both by directly delivering a range of services, particularly to our isolated, older residents, and also by networking other organisations together, through events like the **Christchurch Conversations**, as well as bringing the community together to support smaller groups and projects, at **Christchurch Soups**. Last year's Soup event focused on children and young people's projects, and we were able to award £3450 of funding across the 8 excellent groups presenting their projects. We are looking to repeat this very successful event again on 20th October this year.

In terms of our services, we operate 2 transport services, and both our minibuses and our Neighbour Cars services are kept busy getting residents to Lunch Clubs, Seated Exercise Class and our monthly Coffee Connections, as well as our monthly Sunday Roasts for those living alone, who find weekends difficult.

We were immensely honoured in 2022, to receive one of the last **Queen's Awards for Voluntary Services** in recognition of our many committed volunteers without whom we could not run our services. With the support of our small paid staff team, they deliver all our services, driving minibuses or cars, bus buddying, helping at the Lunch Clubs or Coffee Connections, and also joining in the annual events like the Christmas Day Community Lunch and the IDOP Cream Teas.

We are also privileged to be the Charity Partner this year for both **Avon Reach Care Home**, in Mudeford, and for **Christchurch Carnival**, and are looking forward to being involved with both!

One of our values as a charity is collaboration, as by working together we can achieve so much more for our residents. We therefore actively seek to partner with other groups serving the community of Christchurch, and already work closely with many, including businesses, other charities and statutory organisations.

We are currently seeking to expand our Board of Trustees, so if you have a few hours a month to spare and would like to be part of a small (but perfectly formed!) and very dynamic charity, we'd love to hear from you!

Rev Sandra Prudom

Chief Executive, Christchurch Community Partnership

Email: contact@ccpartnership.org.uk

Tel: 01202 989632

Website: christchurchcommunitypartnership.org.uk



Christchurch
Community
Partnership

Working together to end social isolation

Charities chosen as beneficiaries of fundraising efforts by Christchurch Carnival cic

Christchurch Carnival, which will be running between 15th & 17th August on Christchurch Quay, aims not only to entertain but also to raise awareness and funds for two great causes this year; **Christchurch Community Partnership** and **Julia's House**.

Christchurch Community Partnership (CCP) is a small charity with a big vision; to end loneliness and social isolation for adults in Christchurch.

CCP delivers a range of social activities and events that allow people to enjoy good company, meals together or a hot drink. These include the hugely popular Sunday roasts, weekday lunch clubs, day trips and seated exercise classes. Initiatives like the 'helpful neighbours' lend a hand with practical tasks at home, including providing support with completing formal documents like attendance allowance which can be stressful and daunting.

The second charity partner, Julia's House, cares for some of Dorset's most seriously ill children. The charity's team of dedicated nurses and carers provide essential clinical and respite care, support parents practically and emotionally and offer a listening ear to worried and anxious siblings.

Julia's House is one of the lowest funded hospices in the country – receiving just 8% Government funding. They are now seeing a larger number of children with complex needs, with more than 80% requiring two care staff members to be with them at any time.

If you would like to support Christchurch Carnival or assist with the fundraising efforts for these two brilliant charities please get in touch via CARNIVAL@CHRISTCHURCHCARNIVAL.CO.UK

Have you renewed your Chamber Membership?

The Christchurch Chamber of Trade and Commerce is a non-profit organisation and relies on the subscription of its 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 your 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*

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£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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30 years of quality design and print

Bargates printers **PP Printing** celebrates not one but two anniversaries this Spring.

Back in March 1995, when John Major was Prime Minister and Blackburn Rovers were winning the Premier League, Derrick Oswald opened a branch of **Presto Print**, with a two-colour AB Dick Press and a new fangled computer running Windows 95, complete with scanner, a plates camera and a Gestetner digital mono press. The first full colour digital press was a Canon CLC800, which was one of the first colour digital printers widely available in the UK and is fondly remembered.

One of his first decisions was to join the Christchurch & District Chamber of Trade & Commerce, as he recognised the value of learning from and working with local business partners.

Over the years his son Richard joined the business, they changed their name to PP Printing and occupied various premises in Bargates, Groveley Road, and the Basepoint Business Park on the Airport. More recently they have moved their base to number 20 Bargates.

Sadly Derrick passed away before Christmas so was unable to celebrate the 30th Birthday he did so much to inspire.

On a happier note another anniversary falls for the firm this Spring as Customer Service Advisor **Rebecca Crisp** celebrates her **tenth anniversary** as sage of all things print. Becky has been a vital member of the PP team since 2015 and is always on hand to help and advise - thanks Becky!

Urban Health & Fitness Celebrates 10 years of empowering health and wellness

Urban Health & Fitness is proud to celebrate its **10-year anniversary**. Over the past decade, the gym has grown into a vibrant hub of activity that has helped thousands of individuals achieve their fitness and wellbeing goals and transform their lives.

Founded in 2014, Urban Health & Fitness has built a strong reputation for providing a holistic approach to fitness, offering a range of services from personal training and group classes to physiotherapy rehabilitation services, nutrition counselling and wellness workshops. With a focus on 1to1 consultations, the Urban Team enable everyone to start at their individual level through supported training and introduction to suitable classes. Urban has cultivated a loyal following of members, some of whom have stayed at the club since it opened.

"We are beyond grateful for the incredible journey we've had over the past 10 years," said Manoj Patel, Founder and Director of Urban Health & Fitness. "What started as a small dream has evolved into a community of passionate individuals who prioritize their health and well-being. We are excited to continue this journey with the same commitment to excellence and growth that has brought us here today."

The milestone marks a decade of transforming lives by offering not only fitness solutions but also fostering a sense of belonging. The club's culture is built on the belief that fitness is about more than just physical strength—it's about mental clarity, emotional well-being, and creating a supportive environment for everyone.

Highlights of Urban Health & Fitness' Impact

- **Diverse Programming:** The gym has pioneered its own unique fitness classes for this local community, the Fusion group of classes – strength, cardio, gentle fit and circuits, as well as yoga, pilates, tai chi and dance, catering to all fitness levels and interests.
- **Rehab Focussed:** Urban's holistic approach merges its fitness services with the physiotherapy clinic. The team of physios offers services such as Musculoskeletal treatment, womens' health, paediatric and Cerebral Palsy physio, acupuncture and deep tissue massage. Patients can also be referred from their GP or Clinic through the national Exercise Referral Program.
- **Award-Winning:** Urban has won many industry awards over the years and was most recently Runner-up in two categories of the 2024 National Fitness Awards.

Anniversary Celebrations:

To commemorate this significant milestone, Urban Health & Fitness recently held a celebration party at local bar Dirty Gerties and plans more celebration events during the coming year.

"We're thrilled to celebrate this milestone with our members and community," said Manoj Patel. "Our anniversary is not only a celebration of the past, but also a look forward to the future. We're committed to continuing to innovate and offer the best in fitness, health, and wellness to all who walk through our door."

For more information about Urban Health & Fitness, visit www.urbanhealthfitness.com or follow the gym on Instagram/Facebook.

About Urban Health & Fitness:

Urban Health & Fitness is a comprehensive fitness club offering a wide range of services designed to help individuals achieve their health and wellness goals. With a strong focus on community, Urban Health & Fitness is dedicated to empowering people to live healthier, more active lives.

www.urbanhealthfitness.com



Remember Sarah

In September 2022 my best friend told me the news that her cancer had returned after previously having recovered from breast cancer, which, as you can imagine was devastating. We had been friends for nearly 40 years and had grown up together, partied together and I had the privilege to be there for the birth of her youngest daughter. She was my go-to friend and my biggest supporter.

Without Macmillan Caring locally I don't think we would have all got through some of the hardest days of our lives. The charity was there when we needed them the most, and the support they gave us all is something for which we will always be grateful.

All of this led me to want to give back to the Charity which gave us so much. So, with the support of the fabulous Captain's Club Hotel, I have organised a Charity Event – 'Remember Sarah' - with a New York Theme as it was a dream of Sarah's to visit the Big Apple, which sadly she never achieved.

Help us raise essential funds for the amazing Macmillan Caring Locally, which is a Christchurch charity relying on the generosity of locals.

'Remember Sarah' will be held
from 7pm on Saturday 12th April at the Captain's Club Hotel,
Wick Ferry, Christchurch BH23 1HU
Amazing Michael Bublé Tribute
Dancing to HOT Radio's DJ Jay Ratchett
Fabulous New York-style Buffet
All for just £59 per person

To book please contact me – Jo Polden - at enquiries1stresponse@hotmail.com

We are also asking for raffle prizes to help raise funds and would really appreciate your generosity if you were able to donate.

Please email me, scan the QR code or contact www.macmillanlocal.org

Macmillan Caring Locally Charity No: 1189412



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*Rating correct at
time of publication



All aboard for a summer River Pageant



The Christchurch and Boscombe & Southbourne Rotary Clubs are bringing back the traditional river pageant alongside this year's Christchurch Carnival 15th-17th August.

With support from Christchurch Carnival, the Christchurch Chamber, BID team and Town Council, Christchurch Rotary Club is launching an exciting new fundraising event on River Stour from Tuckton Tea Rooms to Christchurch Quay on Saturday 16th August. The pageant parade will take place from 12 noon and people will be encouraged to view from either side of the river.

The plan is to create an attractive River Pageant with a variety of river craft portraying the history and nature of our local area. The parade will feature decorative floats, boats and other watercraft, including novelty rafts, stand up paddleboards and canoes. The pageant will finish with two dragon boat teams racing down the river followed by a prize giving ceremony for the most attractive entries.

The aim is to raise money for Hengistbury Head Outdoors, the Bourne Water Dragons and the Pink Champagne Breast Cancer Charities.

Local community groups, clubs, schools are invited to participate.

The Sea Cadets, Sea Scouts, Harbour Watch, Marine Voluntary Service, RNLI, National Coastwatch Institution, Christchurch Rowing Club, Sailing Club, Southbourne Surf life savers, various local SUP and canoe clubs have all agreed to join the parade but there is space for other clubs, businesses and private boat owners who would like to take part in the parade.

The event will provide an opportunity for everyone to have fun and enjoy the river, raising money for local good causes and encourage people of all ages to engage with the Hengistbury Head Outdoor Activity Centre which is being developed with help from the government backed Community Ownership Fund.

Rotary organiser, Gerry Clarke, pictured above left, said: "We are appealing to local businesses to get behind this innovative new project and help us raise money for the two local Dragon Boat Cancer Charities and the Hengistbury Head Outdoor Education Centre which will be providing a range of waterborne and shorebased activities for the benefit of all the local community"

For more details contact Gerry Clarke on 07710 611 123 or by email at 3gclarke@gmail.com

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