

NEWPORTFIRST

“PRIDE IN OUR HIGH STREET” SPECIAL

Opportunities Open to Newport Traders & Businesses..... The 'Pride in Your High Street' fund has created opportunities for new initiatives to support Newport traders / businesses, help develop your staff, mentor business owners, and initiate new town centre focused community events to attract greater footfall.

So far PiYHSt has funded new bunting for the Newport's Carnival, flags & bunting for the Italian Market, individualised training packages for local traders (via Good-2-Great), purchased two new high output speakers for Nova FM, and helped cover up-front costs of the forthcoming Food & Drink Festival.

Some of the things still to come are a Big Green Festival, a Voluntary Sector fair and training for community volunteers. **Have we missed anything? And, what would inspire you to engage more actively with this great opportunity?**

Great British High Streets Competition 2016..... Despite a direct invitation from Government, and a commendation for our 2014 submission, the 'town team' has decided not to submit a bid under this prestigious competition in 2016 - instead prioritising delivery of the 'Pride in Your High Streets' programme which includes a number of exciting new town centre focused projects.

Overall, it is felt that 2017 offers a better opportunity for Newport to coordinate a well-prepared bid that reflects our strong emphasis on collaborative working, and gives us an opportunity to showcase achievements made possible by the PiYHSt fund.

Thriving or Striving..... Newport's town centre provides a useful barometer for the state of the local and regional economies. On the face of it all is well - car parks are generally full on Fridays & Saturdays, footfall is marginally up on counts carried out in the past 3 years, and traders are generally optimistic about their futures.

Yet there is no place for complacency as the September monthly empty premises survey showed 8 shops that are vacant or not currently trading - the highest number since Oct. 2014. These include long-standing empties of the Royal Victoria Hotel and the former Coop Bank / Britannia BS, plus newer ones at the Gourmet Pastie Shop, Moo Lace & Artworx.



Just in case you missed the news!!!!..... Newport will host its first food festival between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm on Saturday 24 September. Whether it's making food, marketing & selling food or simply tasting food, this is sure to be an event that will captivate the interest of all food & drink lovers.

The event includes a wide range of food & drinks stalls, food related competitions, street entertainers, music & singing, an ale trail, and much more. Our primary aims are to create a well-supported new community event that will (i) inspire Newport's food & drinks vendors to work together to create an even better offer, and (ii) help to attract greater footfall.

Over 40 stall-holders have signed up for the day - their produce includes a variety of artisan foods including breads, soft & hard cheeses, preserves, oils, cakes, pies & pizza, fruit & vegetables, as well as an excellent choice of local and regionally brewed beers, ciders & wines. Ready to eat food stalls will offer a choice of Asian, French and African cuisine.

Whilst the main event is taking place on-street in St. Mary Street, Lower Bar, and High Street event organisers are calling on all Newport food & drink businesses to get involved. Many are already signed up to exciting initiatives with Aunt Sal's Cafe in Stafford Street hosting a 'Big Breakfast', the Barley Pub are preparing Caribbean food, speciality afternoon teas will be served at The Orchard Restaurant and at Hart's Vintage Tea Rooms. It is not too late to get involved either on the eve of the event, on the day or during the evening of 24th

A food theatre located on the Adams Grammar School lawns will provide a focus for the event with food demonstrations, hospitality expert presentations, and various categories of cookery competitions. These include Mary Berry style Bake-offs, junior chef competitions, and a food related photographic competition.

Organised by a group of local trader 'volunteers' the event has been part funded by the PiYHSt fund and is supported by local sponsors: Edmond Foods, Henshalls Insurance Services, Five Ways Insurance Group, Jupiter Marketing and Waitrose (Newport).

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