



A-Fest funding boost !

The plans for A-Fest have recently been given a massive boost, with the announcement of National Lottery funding of £6,300 for the event.

The local music festival is being organised by Andover Youth Council, Andover College, the Town Centre Partnership and other key local supporters.

The event is due to take place in the High Street on Friday 17th April from 4pm-9pm and we are currently seeking expressions of interest for town centre food & drink businesses to have a food or drink concession on the day.

Business Cost Reductions

The Town Centre Partnership have teamed up with national organisation, Business Cost Reductions to save our member businesses money from their operating overheads.

This initiative enables Town Centre Partnership members to be able to request a free assessment, which will almost certainly result in savings on their energy, insurance, telecoms or business supplies bills.

For further details on this scheme, please contact Chris Gregory as shown below.

Join the Partnership

We urge all businesses not already involved to join the Town Centre Partnership – membership starts from only £75 per year and all income is used for projects to drive footfall into the town. Additional benefits to you include:

- *Being part of a strong local lobbying group.*
- *Monthly updates on key issues.*
- *Discounts on products & services.*
- *Affiliate membership of Hampshire Chamber.*

Contact Chris Gregory, as shown below, to get involved !

What the Partnership do

The Town Centre Partnership exist ***“To bring more people into Andover town centre, encourage them to stay longer, use town centre businesses more and want to return”***



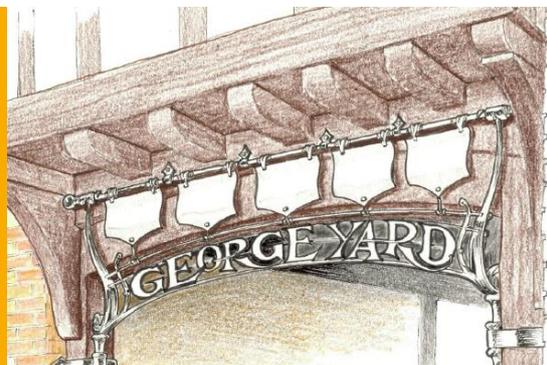
Steering Group

The Partnership is overseen by a group of representatives from:

- Andover & Villages
- Andover Framing
- Andover Council
- Costa
- David Mellor
- Hampshire Council
- Lonefairy
- Lulu's
- Mail Boxes Etc
- Newbury BS
- Oaktree
- Test Valley Council
- The Chantry Centre
- The Lights
- Tip Top Balloons

Archways project

The Town Centre Partnership welcomed the recent news that Test Valley Borough Council have selected the artist who will develop seven new archways in the town centre. The announcement follows the creation of a local panel, including members of the Partnership, who selected Peter Clutterbuck to carry out this important piece of work.



Highway works

The improvement works in the upper High Street area are well underway, with a projected completion date of August 2015. The project is being carried out on behalf of the County Council to improve pedestrian access and slow vehicle speeds and includes a number of street enhancements. For further details, please contact Mildren Construction on 0845 603 5633.

Rates Relief for Andover businesses

Town Centre businesses could be eligible for Business Rates relief of up to between now and April 2016. The relief is administered by Test Valley Borough Council on behalf of the Government and eligible businesses are:

- Those which are wholly or mainly used as a shop, restaurant, café or drinking establishment.
- Those with a Rateable Value of less than £50,000.

Please note that Financial & Professional services – such as Banks, Building Societies, Accountants Offices or Solicitors Offices are not eligible for this scheme. For further details and to apply, please visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/business/land/business-rates/reliefs/retailrelief/

Newsletter Sponsorship

We are very grateful to Mark and the team at Cartridge & Personalised Print World on Bridge Street for their sponsorship of this newsletter.

Town Centre Big Networking event

We have joined with local networking groups and the Chamber to organise a networking event on 23rd April. This takes place from 5.30pm at the Guildhall and the cost is £10.50 for our members and £12.50 for non-members, including a light buffet from Andover Buffets. Bookings are encouraged via: www.hampshirechamber.co.uk/events-and-news/events/view/2015/04/23/collaborative-networking-in-the-test-valley/



Your Town Centre Manager

Chris Gregory is a freelance Town Centre Manager, who is contracted for 22 hours per week for Andover.

Chris is usually in town on Wednesdays and Thursdays and wants to talk to all businesses, so please contact Chris using the details below to arrange a visit.

