

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



1ST-14TH APRIL

Spirit FM's 'Apprentice Style' Gift Card Competition

5TH APRIL & 19TH APRIL



Farmers Market

3RD, 10TH, 17TH & 24TH APRIL

City Market

15TH APRIL

Spirit FM Competition winner announced

30TH APRIL

BID Deadline for Summer Shop Local Promo Entries*

1ST MAY (WEEK OF)

Roman Flags Installation

**26TH JUNE
5.30PM TO 8.00PM**

AGM & BID SOCIAL

Rume2, Crane Street

**REPORT
CRIME
ONLINE**



We're pleased to say that we have received some more positive feedback on the BID Rangers and support for city centre businesses. Our Useful Numbers article last month featured contact details for the Rangers and reiterated the importance of calling 999 in an emergency, but it's also worth noting that you can report a crime online. Visit sussex.police.uk/contact-us/report-online if you don't require an urgent response.

FEATURED ARTICLE



BUSINESS RATE RETAIL RELIEF

The new Business Rate Retail Relief comes in to effect as of this month. All eligible retailers will receive a one third discount on their business rate bills for two years, as part of the Government's plans to support the high street.

This discount is available to occupied retail properties with a rateable value of less than £51,000 in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

You will have received a letter with last month's Chichester BID newsletter that featured a report on Business Rate Retail Relief and how Chichester District Council plans to implement this new discount.

Your Rates Bill in March should have included the Retail discount, however the Chichester BID Team discovered that Chichester District Council sent out un-amended bills in March 2019 (i.e. without

Should you have any concerns or queries on any of above, please contact the BID Team in the first instance on 01243 773263. You can find more information on Business Rate Retail Relief and rateable values on our website, chichesterbid.co.uk.

reflecting the discount), but planned to send a revised bill that should show the discount in April.

If you do not receive a revised bill in April, you can apply for the discount by visiting the Chichester District Council website, where you will find an online application form and the guidance notes from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for all supporting information.

It's important that you fill in the form and apply for the discount, if you are eligible, as it will save you money.

The BID Team will be liaising with Chichester District Council to ensure that we can continue to support you and keep you informed with the latest information and advice.

HELP US TO CELEBRATE SHOPPING LOCAL THIS SUMMER

As we enter a new season, we know that many of you will be preparing for summer already and so we wanted to share details of the BID Team's plans to celebrate and promote the city centre this summer. The BID Team intends to expand on the annual promotion of **Independents** in July by celebrating Chichester as a complete experience to visitors or shoppers alike.

Shopping, supporting and experiencing 'local' is the main thrust of the promotion and we plan to extend our support for 'Shop Local' over a three month period from June - August.

The BID Team is busy planning a much larger campaign including a new Independent Shopping Guide/ Trail along with a set of brand new flags and bunting to decorate the streets, to give the city centre a real sense of celebration.

In the meantime, we'd like to hear from you  how you would like to be involved. Have you got a new product or service that you could launch over this period, or could you organise a special event? Now is the time to plan how you can maximise this opportunity to showcase your business. You can then receive free promotion via Visit Chichester, Love Where you Live and the Chichester BID website, providing that you inform us of what you are planning. Get

involved, contact us by 30th April to be included in this summer campaign.*

We are looking forward to building upon the success of last year as we celebrate the wealth of what's on offer in Chichester city centre and highlight the importance of local businesses and their place within the community

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?
Contact us via office@chichesterbid.co.uk and tell us if you would like to take part this year.

 is there a pic of a gift card?

GIFT CARD – TRANSACTION UPDATE

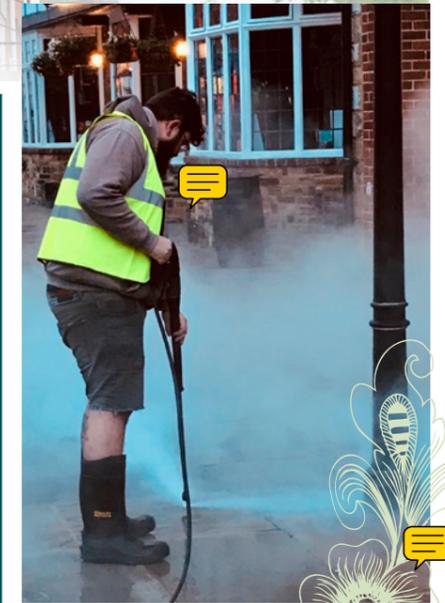
With more seasonal gifting around the corner, we thought we'd give you an update on Chichester Gift Card transactions to date. So far, £7,442.25 has been loaded onto the Gift Cards since launch and just over £4,000 has been redeemed within participating shops so far. Card purchases have been made in a total of 62 separate scheme members' shops, (28 multiples and 34 independents).

The BID's sponsorship of Spirit FM's new Digital Christmas Station proved really successful during the festive season, and so we are excited to say that from 1st April-14th April the BID will be working with Spirit FM again to promote the Gift Card during the run up to Easter with an exciting competition.

FLYING THE FLAG IN CHICHESTER

May marks the start of the BID's Flag Programme. Chichester's streets will be decorated with the iconic flags of the Second Augustan Roman Legion in homage to the city's rich Roman heritage. A heritage that can be seen in the architecture across the city, from the Roman walls to the bath house located in The Novium Museum. The flags also support The Novium's annual Roman Week, which is due to take place from Saturday 25th to Friday 31st May.

The Flag programme is designed to welcome shoppers, tourists and visitors to the historic city, and benefits businesses by helping Chichester look its smartest and best.



STREET SPRING CLEAN

You may have noticed that since January, the Chichester BID street cleaning team has been busy giving the high streets an early spring clean. While the council is responsible for keeping highways and public areas across the district clean and tidy from a litter picking perspective, the Chichester BID street cleaning team has been washing the paving to remove any dirt, chewing gum and spruce up the high street.

INTRODUCING LOUISE FROM VISIT CHICHESTER

Louise Adlam looks after the marketing for Visit Chichester and joined the team at the end of 2018. Louise brings a wealth of marketing and tourism experience to the team and is eager to connect and promote all BID Levy Payers, so please introduce yourself!

There are multiple opportunities for businesses to get involved with Visit Chichester from getting your business online, listing your events, offering competition prizes and exclusive offers. All BID levy payers are entitled to a free listing on the Visit Chichester website, this includes 300 characters on your business, an image and a web link.

Act now and take advantage of the FREE business listing available on the Visit Chichester website, contact Louise on dme@visitchichester.org.



MONEY FOR YOUR BUSINESS!



Did you know that Chichester District Council runs an Enabling Grants programme? This initiative has a limited amount of money available to help start-up businesses and existing independent businesses to implement projects that create jobs, help businesses to grow, and benefit the local economy.

What can I apply for?

- Small capital projects (match-funding of up to £2500)
- Or new or improved websites (match-funding of up to £2500)

Due to the limited amount of funding available, all submitted applications will be processed on a first come first served basis.

Visit chichester.gov.uk/enablinggrantscheme for more information.

NEW OPENINGS



TOTALLY WICKED E-Cigarette and E-Liquid Shop

Providing electronic cigarette and vaping equipment this retail outlet is new to Crane Street. With a focus on honesty and transparency, Totally Wicked aim to provide the best products of their kind. **Location: Crane Street, Chichester** [Facebook.com/totallywickeduk](https://www.facebook.com/totallywickeduk)



OXFAM BOOKSTORE

From contemporary fiction to timeless classics, Chichester's new Oxfam Bookstore sells second-hand books in excellent condition at a fraction of the retail price. **Location: East Street, Chichester** [Facebook.com/oxfamchichester](https://www.facebook.com/oxfamchichester)



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT CHICHESTER'S LOCAL REFILL SCHEME?

Earlier this year, Refill Chichester launched a new scheme to tackle plastic bottle pollution in the city. The initiative aims to encourage participating cafes, bars, restaurants, banks, galleries, museums and other businesses to sign up to the free Refill app and put a sticker in their window alerting passers-by to the fact they're welcome to fill up their water bottle for free.



CHICHESTER IN NUMBERS