

TIVVY TALK

The business newsletter of Tiverton



Welcome to the 2nd edition of a regular newsletter aimed at businesses in Tiverton to inform them as to what is happening and going on in the town.

The year has started with a few changes in the town with some businesses closing down, relocating and new ones moving in. There is an air of optimism around some new businesses coming in and some expanding. It is not all doom and gloom with closures such as Budgens, as that was well out of our control due to the owners going into administration, but there are enquiries which hopefully will come to fruition. Every effort is being made to bring new businesses to the town centre to ensure we can attract the customers. Businesses have their part to play in this as the town needs to look clean and tidy with quality attractive businesses which have a good façade and a good display of what is on offer.

Events

There are a few events in the next few months which it is hoped the businesses of the town and of course the customers will support.

Please support the various events in every way you can. It could be dressing up, window display etc. so we make them town events supported by the town.

The first big one is on **Sunday 30th April**. The crew of **HMS Enterprise** will be marching through the town as it has a right under its grant of the **Freedom of the Town**. They will be accompanied by the **Band of the Royal Marines**. This will be something special and can any shop on the route dress up for the occasion with flags or bunting. I appreciate it is a Sunday but let us make the forces welcome.

The parade will start in the Market at 2pm and will go along Newport Street, St Peters Street, Angel Hill, Fore Street, Bampton Street and back along Newport Street back into the Market where the band will 'Beat the Retreat'.

It has been a number of years since the town has had such a parade and I would ask you support it if you can. You can come and meet the crew in the Market Place after the parade.

It is worth noting that there will be no parking along any of these streets prior to and during the parade so look out for the notices. The Market car park by the Half Moon and back of shops in Fore Street will also be closed for the event so please if you use these areas to park then find somewhere else from early morning until after the parade. (This is a security issue so please help the event become a great success).

Please contact me if you have any queries over the event and hopefully see you there.

There are a number of events over the spring and summer in the Market so once they are all confirmed I will get a note out to the businesses in town.

An annual event that involves the whole town is **Feast of St James. This takes place on Saturday July 15th** so plenty of time to plan and join in the medieval fun. It is 760 years since the charter for this was given which also gave the town a charter market. The town centre and Market will be full of entertainment and fun so ensure your business joins in and benefits from the day after all it was the second busiest day in town last year.



The next item is all about improving our appearance –

Shop Front Facelift Grant Scheme



This scheme is helping us to help you to enhance the town centre and is available to all commercial businesses (small and micro, charities, social enterprise etc.) in the town centre. This includes a café, restaurant, pub, financial and professional services, tourism and leisure. The focus is on painting and decorating, fascia repairs and signage improvements.

The grant is 50% of a total eligible bill to the maximum of £2,500

So if you are thinking about how your premises look, then get in touch with me and I can go through the scheme with you. Let's get smarter it will certainly help your business if we can get more people to the town centre.

Things change, customers change so we must change.

We need to make sure the town is attractive and presentable for the customer.

Please get in touch with me if you are considering this and I will come and see you and go through the simple process which will enable you to apply for the grant.

Let us make the town presentable and then it will be profitable.

Finally if you have any comments, suggestions or just wish to discuss any matters surrounding the town centre then please do not hesitate in contacting me so I can pop along and see you or, if you happen to be passing the Market you can always pop in and have a chat about the town centre, I am always willing to listen to everyone.

I am sure the key to success is if we all work together so we can ensure the future of the town centre and create a sustainable future for all.

Well, that is enough to be going on with so may I wish you all success in your various businesses and to the town.

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