

matters

The newsletter of the Wolverhampton City Centre Company

City Centre Manager's Update



Kim Gilmour

It's great to see some development happening in Wolverhampton, from a long awaited regeneration project to individual properties.

The **Interchange** works, that will see the bus station transformed and unlock other key development sites, has now started and its very much business as usual for the traders around **Queen Street** whilst work continues.

We are also starting to see properties like **Rothwells** being refurbished and around the city centre some of our beautiful historic buildings are being spruced up. Hopefully this will help improve the city centre environment and encourage more investment.

See www.wolverhamptonccc.co.uk for further information on WCCC's work.



Launching the CityStyle event

Enterprising Ways of Using Empty Shops



Richard Leighton of We Create

As part of the Department of Communities and Local Government 'Empty Shops' initiative, WCCC worked with social entrepreneur Richard Leighton to set up an inspiring shop.

We Create in Victoria Street offers young designers a taste of commercial experience in retailing and access to a design studio with commercial equipment and facilities.

The DCLG grant helped with the property costs and any surplus capital from the retail operation is invested by Richard in running a free fashion-based support service and workshops around fashion design, production, promotion and retail. Visit the shop at 42 Victoria Street or www.wecreate.org.uk

Another project supported under the grant, with additional funding from the Arts Council, is '**Arts Projects**', run by a collective of Wolverhampton based artists.

This contemporary show space, based in an empty unit in the **Mander Centre**, is exhibiting works of locally connected artists in a series of six exhibitions, each running for three weeks.

The aim is to interact with a new public audience in a more relaxed and familiar setting, to date each show has attracted around 2000 visitors.

Project 5 running until the 3rd of July features a group of regional artists; Project 6 from the 10th to the end of July is an open exhibition. Visit the Gallery at Central Arcade, Mander Centre or www.wtongallery.com.

WOLVERHAMPTON'S FIRST TWO DAY FASHION EVENT

With backing from many of the city's leading fashion and beauty retailers, **CityStyle** is an event style-conscious shopaholics simply won't want to miss.

Taking place on the weekend of 19th and 20th of June at the **Wulfrun Centre** there will be fashion and fun on the catwalk plus beauty and hair demonstrations in the CityStyle arena.

Sponsored by **Network West Midlands**, the **Wulfrun** and **Mander Centres**, the latest ranges by House of Fraser, Wallis, Primark, M&S, Peacocks, New Look, Bhs and Dorothy Perkins will be brought to life on the catwalk.

Boots, House of Fraser and the City of Wolverhampton College will be doing makeovers, skin care advice, nail art and hand massages. Francesco Group Wolverhampton and Zaks Hairdressing salon will be offering free hair styling.

In association with Beacon Radio we are also looking for one lucky lady in need of some pampering and fabulous prizes.

Our '**Football Widow**' will receive £250 of Primark Vouchers, a gorgeous Boots gift hamper; a hair make over by Francesco Group. 1st class return Virgin rail tickets to London, a Superstar evening at Yates wine bar and a beautiful diamond ring from Carats on Queen Street up to the value of £500!

Entry to the CityStyle arena is free and there will be goodie bags for the first 100 people at each show with the chance to win great beauty and leisure prizes including beauty hampers, meals and tickets for shows.

For Lads and Dads over the weekend in the Mander Centre there will be a Stratstone Harley Davison Bike Showcase. Plus the chance to win a Harley Davidson jacket! More information via www.citystylewolves.co.uk

Police call time on garden pests

Wolverhampton Police are reminding people that there is an alcohol ban in **St Peter's Gardens**, following a number of complaints of anti-social behaviour:

Officers are working closely with **Wolverhampton Anti-Social Behaviour Unit**, **WCCC Company** and local businesses to tackle the problem.

Inspector Simon Guilfoyle, said: "Unfortunately it is the same few individuals who spoil the gardens for everyone else. As summer approaches more people want to enjoy the gardens - they certainly do not want it used as a haven for drinkers.

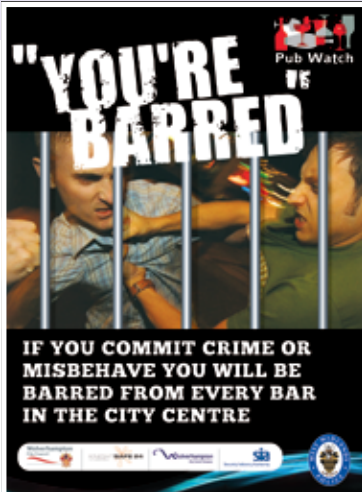
"We have already disposed of alcohol, made arrests and issued fixed penalty tickets and the area is patrolled daily so we can deal accordingly with those acting in an anti-social manner. We will also take any necessary steps regarding any irresponsible sale of alcohol."

Eight individuals currently have ASBOs banning them from **St Peter's Gardens** and other parts of the city centre; evidence is being collected to issue more orders.

Kim Gilmour, City Centre Manager said: "We certainly support increased activity to improve the gardens for everyone's benefit. We have recently issued some advice to city centre businesses about reporting anti-social behaviour. If anyone would like a copy of 'Don't Live with It, Report It' leaflet, contact Lucy Bickley on 01902 551077."



Kim Gilmour, City Centre Manager, with Wardens Anne and Clive



CITY CENTRE ALCOHOL CRACKDOWN

Police and Licensees are sending out a strong message to troublemakers in Wolverhampton that they will not be tolerated, in a new crackdown on alcohol-fuelled crime.

Posters have been put up at all city centre licensed premises warning would-be offenders about the consequences of any criminal or anti-social behaviour.

Under the new "One Strike and You're Out" policy, a person will be banned from every pub and club in Wolverhampton city centre if they cause problems in a particular venue.

Officers can also ask anybody who they think is likely to become violent or disruptive to leave the area for a period of time. Those who return within that time can be arrested.

WLV - New University Shop

As well as being a large employer and educating tens of thousands of students each year the **University of Wolverhampton** has invested millions of pounds in facilities in the city centre.

With two campuses, state of the art administration and teaching blocks, student support facilities and several Halls of Residence the University is very much a part of the city's cultural and physical landscape.

As part of its efforts to reach out to the community, the newly formed School of Law, Social Sciences and Communications approached WCCC to take advantage of an empty shop in the Mander Centre. Supported by the DCLG 'Empty Shops' grant the University is offering free taster classes and drop in sessions around media, language and law.

New Legal Help 'Drop In' Clinics are now available free every Wednesday and Saturday from 10 - 1pm. Under the supervision of Senior Partners from Talbot Solicitors and other local firms offering support, law graduates who are training to become solicitors can offer advice on a range of every day legal matters. The practical experience will help the students develop essential client care skills for a career practicing law.

Visit the Shop at unit 4-5 Victoria Arcade, Mander Centre or the University website: www.wlv.ac.uk/wlvshop



Drop-in clinic offering free legal advice

INDEPENDENT TRADERS BENEFIT FROM GRAPHICS

Hoardings have now gone up along a large part of **Victoria Street** on a row of derelict shops in the **Summer Row** development area.

Funded by the DCLG 'Empty Shops' grant, the hoardings feature local traders with messages about shopping in Wolverhampton.

Kim Gilmour, City Centre Manager said: "Locally we have received huge amounts of praise for this project. Traders in the area are delighted that efforts have been made to improve the area."

Billy Chander-Kumar of Equinox said: "Having the graphics around the area is a significant improvement and a way to show people visiting and locals what's around and available. This has got to be a positive move and we have already had customers who have recognised the pictures and come into the shop."



Susan Bullas of Home from Home and Becky Davies of Sally Hair Salon



Sport Direct's Loxley Longmore reminds people to keep the city clean

Clean City Days

Businesses are being asked to support two 'Clean City Days' on 17th June and 20th August 2010. The events have been organised by Wolverhampton City Centre Company with the support of Wolverhampton City Council, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service and Wolverhampton PCT.

A mobile unit, manned by police officers and Regulatory Services officers in Queen Square will offer free cigarette pouches and information to the public. There will be fines of up to £60 issued for those that do offend.

Businesses can help by encouraging members of staff to dispose of cigarettes responsibly, particularly around hot spot areas like the entrances to both the Wulfrun and Mander Centres - sound advice if they want to avoid a fine!

BUSINESS CRIME PARTNERSHIP TARGETS PROLIFIC OFFENDERS

Following a re-launch last year, there has been increased usage of the **CitySafe** radio link resulting in more sharing of information on prolific offenders operating within the city centre.

Managed by WCCC, in partnership with M-R-S Communications, the scheme has the full support of **West Midlands Police** and the **City Centre Wardens** and the 100 plus businesses, all of whom make a valuable contribution.

Target books are now produced regularly and distributed at **CitySafe** meetings and the Exclusion Scheme has successfully been reintroduced. Two prolific offenders were identified and apprehended following information from retailers. Both are currently serving time at Her Majesty's Pleasure!

Lucy Bickley, WCCC Project Officer said: "**CitySafe** clients need to keep up the good work reporting prolific offenders and completing incidents forms to reduce the effects of crime within the city centre.

"M-R-S is on site each month providing training for any new or existing members of staff and retailers wanting to take advantage of the target book need to attend our monthly meetings."

CitySafe also welcomes 15 new independent retailers after a push to recruit smaller shops to the scheme.

Further details from Lucy Bickley on 01902 551077

BUSINESS AS USUAL DURING INTERCHANGE WORKS

With the Interchange works now underway, temporary bus stops have been in operation since Easter and it's proved a bit of a learning curve for all.

As a result of comments from passengers and businesses a number of stops in the city centre were moved on May 16th. Services, including some from Tettenhall, Compton, Perton and Castlecroft, which were terminating at Darlington Street will now penetrate further into the city centre allowing passengers to get closer to the markets, shops and rail station.

Kim Gilmour, City Centre Manager said: "It's been a mammoth task to relocate all the routes and full credit has to go to Centro, National Express and the City Council for trying to keep disruption to a minimum during this massive project.

"However I am pleased that after a trial period these changes have been made which should bring together the people from the west of the city with retailers which may have missed out in terms of passing trade."

So why not visit **Queen Street**, one of the liveliest streets in **Wolverhampton** with a wealth of independent traders including jewellers, a pet shop, butchers, dry cleaners, clothes and sports shops.

What's New!

Wax Wicks & More - this family run business specialising in 'Yankee Candles' and much more has opened a store in the Wulfrun Centre

Lady Wulfrun - formerly The Goose, this popular Lichfield Street bar has been tastefully refurbished and given a delicious new menu.

Rothwells - after being closed for far too long, refurbishment will begin shortly - check out the Art Gallery graphics on the window boarding before its too late.

All change in the **Wulfrun Centre** - **Badgers Sett** pet shop has now moved to a larger unit, allowing **Bags of Luggage** to relocate and **Wax Wicks & More** (see above) are nicely settled in their vacant spot.

Marston's Brewery Visitor Centre - take a 3-hour tour around the Chapel Ash brewery to get an insight into the past and present operations and sample the products.

Universal Computer Services - trading for nearly 15 years in Worcester Street, Wolverhampton's longest established computer specialist has moved to newly refurbished premises in Lichfield Street.

Nisa - a new convenience store for Lichfield Street opening below the recently refurbished student accommodation - late night supplies for late night study!

What's on Where: July / August / September

The new issue covering council supported live music, film, theatre, art, workshops, family/outdoor events and sports from will be available shortly from Emma Cleary on 01902 551069, emma.cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk or www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/whatson

Just a few of the Highlights...



Hairspray - Grand Theatre, 1st to 19th June

Norwegian Wood by Nick Jordan - Wolverhampton Art Gallery, 5th June to 17th July

Whistle Down The Wind - Grand Theatre, 22nd to 26th June

The Red Shoes (classic film HD digitally restored) - Light House, 24th June

Blondie - Civic Hall, 28th June

Ladies Day - Wolverhampton Race Course, 29th June

Chipmunk presents The Shine Shine Tour - Civic Hall, 3rd July

I too am Artist - Wolverhampton Art Gallery, 3rd to 31st July

Battle of Britain 70th Anniversary Tour with Hayley Westenra - Civic Hall, 20th July

Murdered by Death - Grand Theatre 27th to 31st July

Pop Protest: Art for an Anxious Age - Wolverhampton Art Gallery, 1st May to 30th October

What's Going On...



Floral City 2010

If you feel you have the Best Garden, Best Outdoor Area, Best Hanging Basket or are the Best Business in Bloom why not let everyone know about it. Or send in a photograph of your favourite floral display whether it's a park, your neighbour's garden or the business-next-doors hanging basket

for a display for the Heart of England judges on July 27th. For competition entries or photo submission please email floralcity@wolverhampton.gov.uk.

Wolverhampton Show - 10th & 11th July at West Park

Come along to West Park for a family fun-filled weekend. Entry is free. Main attractions include The Royal Artillery Parachute and Motorcycle Display Teams, James Dylan's Stunt World, and daring Gerard Naprous & the Devil's Horsemen. A giant funfair, trade stalls, craft fayre, West Midlands Fuchsia Show, and the One City information marquee will also be there.

Wolvestock 16 Country Music Festival 24th & 25th July at East Park

The UK's largest free-entry country music festival is now in its 16th year, with fantastic acts lined up for the two stages with entertainment from 12 - 8pm daily. Come along and enjoy not the music and the family funfair, bouncy castle, stalls, fine food and bars.



For full details see www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/whatson



Kim



Lucy



Marianne

For further information contact:

Kim Gilmour, Lucy Bickley or Marianne Carter

Wolverhampton City Centre Company Tel: 01902 551077

Email: wccc@wolverhamptonccc.co.uk or visit: www.wolverhamptonccc.co.uk

Wolverhampton City Centre Company is an independent, proactive organisation working strategically and operationally with partners to identify and address key issues to improve the marketing, environment, safety and economy of the City Centre. Through a Board, an Executive Group, Stakeholder Groups and our Associate Membership Scheme, WCCC works with a large number of private businesses representing the 'Voice of the City Centre'. WCCC is funded by the public and private sector including Wolverhampton City Council and key organisations like the Mander and Wulfrun Centres, Sainsbury's, Boots and the University of Wolverhampton.