

This Saturday sees the return of Colne's Food and Drink Festival. Across Parliament Street and Hartley Square car parks, Independent Street will be bringing more than 50 artisan market traders to Colne. We also have hospitality businesses right across town with special offers, from Tubbs and Little Italy at the bottom of town to Pendle Kitchen and Deerstones Bakery in the Arcade.

The festival will see the return of our legendary Man vs Food competition, a cocktail demonstration, a foraging trail with Pendle Plant Craft, kids cookery workshops, face painting and more. There will be live music throughout from Ross Munro and Tim Cowley. Our social media posts about the festival have had more than 40,000 views this week alone so we are looking forward to a busy day in town.

Our funding bid has now been submitted to the Arts Council England for Winterbloom 2027. If the bid is successful, it will bring in almost £100,000 of additional investment into Colne to bring Winterbloom back bigger and better than ever. The anxious wait now begins for news and, provided we are successful, the project is set to begin in September.

Members may have seen that a number of businesses have taken advantage of our Fresh Lick of Paint grants. The publicity achieved via social media generated a number of enquiries which Scott is following up. Any interested businesses are encouraged to contact [manager@colnebid.co.uk](mailto:manager@colnebid.co.uk) for further information.

A meeting will take place at Colne Town Hall at 12:30 on Thursday 23 July between police and local retailers interested in tackling shoplifting. The idea is that this meeting will be more formal than the previous BID-police drop-ins and will take place quarterly. The BID has approached businesses inside and outside of the BID boundary and there will be an opportunity for businesses to sign up to Schemelink.

Our remaining events for the year are:

- Colne Food and Drink Festival – 11 July
- 70s Festival – 12 September
- Thighrocks (fitness event) – 26 September
- Hallowe'en Event – 31 October

If the BID can assist any business, or if anyone would like to discuss any issues or opportunities affecting the town centre, they are welcome to contact BID Manager Scott Smith at [manager@colnebid.co.uk](mailto:manager@colnebid.co.uk).