



ANDOVER BID
WORKING FOR YOU

Press Release

Award winning business to open in Andover

Date: 30th July 2019

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Andover has recently successfully attracted several new businesses to the town. One award winning business independently run and owned by Alex McGarry will open as the Alex McGarry Studio and Art Gallery in September. Alex already has an established business that she runs from her home and has taken the initiative with the support of Andover BID to expand and move into the town centre to offer a something new and different as a concept. In May this year, she won the 'Up and Coming Artist 2019' awarded by the Fine Art Trade Guild.



For the last 4-years Alex has been working as a full-time professional artist successfully and for two years has been published by Creative Fine Art Publishers where she has gained success in having many of her paintings turned into limited edition prints and more planned in the near future. Her paintings and prints have been distributed to galleries across the UK by Creative Fine Arts and Alex is confident that the time is now right to build on her success and branch out into having her own retail unit.

As well as being a successful and award-winning artist, Alex has a background established in retail management, interior design and visual merchandising so she fully understands the demands of

customers, what they are looking for and how to appeal to people's interest. Her sales will continue through other galleries and outlets, but Alex will now add her own retail unit in Andover to generate additional interest. When established she will also be providing a series of preview evenings, new collections and product launches as well as other ideas which are being kept under wraps for now. Alex's father, Pip is also an artist, specialising in oil paintings of African game and also her aunt Gale, so what originally started as a hobby encouraged by the family has turned into a business, clearly running in the family.

Steve Godwin from the BID says that he is delighted to have been able to facilitate the process for Alex and is delighted that we are shortly to have another new Indie business in the town. When BID started, we negotiated with a landlord to market two empty units, the first of which is already successfully operating as Lindy's Boutique and Promwear Boutique. The other unit which has been extensively promoted and advertised by the BID has generated a great deal of interest from a variety of different types of businesses. Steve explains that the criteria was that the business should have a proper business plan and be sustainable and complimentary in what it offers to compliment the offer from other local businesses in the town. The BID has other interested businesses that would also like to move into the town and are therefore speaking with landlords about opportunities that may arise through vacant units. Test Valley Borough Council are he says, incredibly supportive and prepared to do all that they can to encourage and support new businesses coming into the town.

Amongst other new independent businesses shortly to open in Andover are Burgo's Pet World and a Craft Beer & Micro Pub.

Meanwhile, Alex McGarry is busy over the summer period preparing and getting her business ready for an early autumn opening and launch. She says that she is looking forward to opening in the town and has something up her sleeve which she thinks will appeal to the people of Andover. When pressed to disclose what this might be, she simply said 'You must wait and see!'

Notes to editor:

Andover Business Improvement District (BID) is an arrangement whereby businesses come together in a formal way as an ideal mechanism to form and develop a dynamic business environment to promote footfall and dwell time within the town centres. The Andover BID has a 5-year term and is funded by over 200 businesses within Andover Town Centre. The BID came into operation in April of 2019. The BID is an independent, not for profit company with a Board of directors who represent levy payers. They are responsible for the governance of the company and oversee the BID strategy with funds for investment of c£1,000,000 over five years.



For media enquiries please contact Steve Godwin at Andover Town Centre BID Limited.

Contact | 01264 930063 | info@andoverbid.org.uk

www.andoverbid.org.uk