Colne BID Manager
Vena Reid

August 2025

Colne Business Improvement District

NEWSLETTER

Promote ~ Pride ~ Protect ~ Partnership

Colne's Food & Drink Festival Served up a Tasty Triumph!

Colne was buzzing with flavour and festivity on Saturday 26 July as hundreds of visitors flocked to the town centre for the highly anticipated Colne Food & Drink Festival 2025. From sizzling street food to gourmet treats and refreshing summer sips, the day was a true celebration of culinary talent, artisan produce, and community spirit and hospitality – and we can't wait to welcome you all back in 2026!

The festival featured a mouth-watering selection of traders, with everything from fantastic fudge, craft cider, and biscuits & brews to sugary sweetness, international cuisine, and vegan delights. Shoppers were spoilt for choice and could also browse unique market stalls offering crafts, gifts, and treats.

Throughout the day, live entertainment kept the crowds smiling with vibrant performances from Stilt Batteristas, Sky High Fairies, singer Aine O'Grady, and family-friendly acts – all adding to the lively festival atmosphere. Children enjoyed interactive activities such as planting and sand art, while visitors of all ages soaked up the sunshine, flavours, and friendly vibes Colne is known for.

This year's event saw fantastic collaboration between Colne BID, Independent Street and local businesses, ensuring the festival was not only a feast for the senses but also a boost for the local economy.

Thank you to everyone who supported, visited, and contributed to making this year's Food & Drink Festival such a resounding success. We're proud to continue showcasing Colne as a vibrant destination full of heart and heritage.

JOIN OUR LOYALTY SCHEME

We're inviting all Colne businesses to join our Colne Loyalty Scheme. A **FREE** initiative designed to drive footfall, increase spend, and reward customer loyalty in our town.

Contact us for details.

Get ready to step back in time as Colne goes groovy for the 70's Festival – a spectacular celebration of all things retro! From flared trousers and funky beats to vintage cars and platformed feet, the town will be transformed into a vibrant tribute to the most iconic decade of music, fashion, and culture.

- Live Music
- Vintage Car/Bike Display
- Pub Discos
- Roller Disco
- Vintage Village
- Vinyl Record Fair
- Street-Lined Buskers
- Artisan Market
- Lava Lounge
- Flower Crown Workshop
- Retro Family Games
- Boogie Bingo
- Name That Tune – 70s Edition
- Singers
- Dancers
- Hula Hoop Competition
- Retro Makeover Stall
- Best Fancy Dress Competitions

Whether you're a die-hard disco diva or just love the nostalgic vibes, there's something for everyone – family fun, fancy dress, food, and fantastic tunes!

So, dust off your platforms, throw on some glitter, and join us for a weekend to remember. It's time to boogie!

Allen·Braithwaite

SUMMER SALE
UP TO 50% OFF WALLPAPER

Website: www.allenbraithwaite.co.uk - **Telephone:** 01282 861241 – **Address:** 8 Church St, Colne

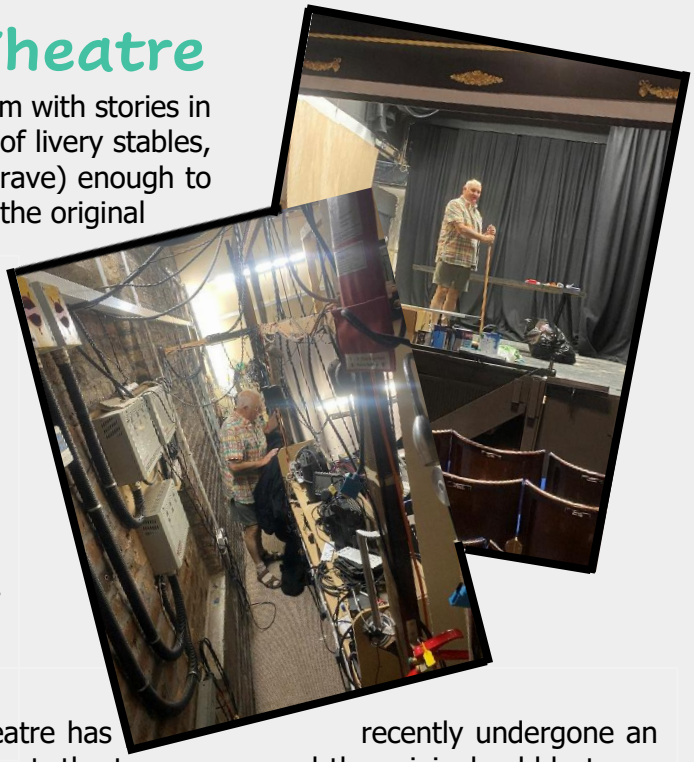
Say Hello to The Flower Bee
Colne's New Blooming Gem!

Colne has a fresh burst of colour and creativity thanks to The Flower Bee, a charming new florist that opened its doors this March. Nestled in the heart of town, The Flower Bee is already turning heads with its beautiful hand-tied bouquets, seasonal arrangements, and a passion for all things floral.

Let's support this beautiful new addition to our high street – and don't forget to follow them on social media for their latest floral creations and offers!

9 Albert Road, Colne - 01282 942186 - **LINK: The Flower Bee, Facebook Page**

Big Future for the Little Theatre



Nestled in the heart of Colne, The Little Theatre is a hidden gem with stories in its walls – and even beneath its cobblestones. Originally a set of livery stables, the theatre officially opened in 1939, but if you're lucky (or brave) enough to be there late at night, you might still hear the faint tapping of the original horse hooks, still fixed to the walls as a nod to its past.
Next year, the Colne Dramatic Society is proudly celebrating its centenary. Formed almost 100 years ago, their plans were briefly derailed by the war, but with passion and resilience, members scavenged materials to begin transforming the old stable block into the town's treasured theatre. What they built wasn't just a stage—it was a legacy.

Among the many stories woven into the theatre's fabric is that of John Mills, who first volunteered when he was just 14. Now aged 73, John continues to lend his time and expertise—proof that the spirit of The Little Theatre runs deep through generations.

Thanks to funding from the Levelling Up Fund (LUF), the theatre has recently undergone an impressive renovation and extension. Careful to honour the past, the team preserved the original cobblestones and reused historic bricks to construct a striking new external wall. While the theatre now boasts modern touches, its character remains as charming as ever. A new outdoor seating area is set to delight visitors, and donations of plants and flowers would be greatly appreciated.

Each year, The Little Theatre hosts four seasonal shows, lighting up the stage in March, May, October, and December. The next production, 'The Dresser', opens on 1 October and promises a gripping performance steeped in backstage drama. True to tradition, every ticket includes free tea and biscuits at the interval—though a licensed bar is also available if you're after something stronger.

Beyond the spotlight, the theatre is a vibrant community hub. A small meeting room is available for hire, and the venue welcomes artists and performers looking to stage their own work. The Wednesday Group meets weekly, offering a warm and welcoming space for creative collaboration and camaraderie.

Looking ahead, there's much more in store. From exciting events to an open day that will unveil the remarkable renovation work, The Little Theatre is a hive of energy, creativity, and opportunity.

Whether you're a budding actor, a backstage enthusiast, or just love the magic of the theatre, there's a place for you here. They're always on the lookout for fresh talent and helping hands to join their ever-growing family.
Keep your eyes peeled, and your diary open—Colne's Little Theatre is writing its next act, and you won't want to miss it.

FRESH LICK OF PAINT

Our grant scheme offers businesses funds up to £500 to enhance the visual appeal of their premises frontage.
To date 35 businesses have successfully applied for and revitalised their external appearance. Contact us to apply.

WAGS & WHISKERS

Looking for trusted, local pet care with heart? Wags & Whiskers on Albert Road is Colne's go-to for everything your furry, feathered or scaly friends need.

From premium pet supplies and toys to small animal boarding, nail clipping, and home visits, Alison and Diane deliver expert care with a personal touch.

They've served local pet owners since 2012 and brought their beloved shop to Colne in 2023 – rebranded, refreshed, and ready to help your pets thrive.

Whether you're popping in for treats, booking a holiday stay for your rabbit, or need advice on harnesses or food, Wags & Whiskers is here to help.

23 Albert Road, Colne - 01282 696606 - wagsandwhiskerscolne.co.uk

WHATS HAPPENING IN COLNE

Tucked away at 16 Church Street, Colne BB8 0LG, **Saint'z Dragons** is a colourful, alternative gaming and pop-culture hub with a generational twist. While they offer everything from gothic fashion to collectibles, it's their social game nights that truly bring the community to life.

What's On & Why It Matters:

- Weekly Ping: From board games on Thursday evenings, Magic: The Gathering on Fridays (7 pm), to Pokémon and Yu-Gi-Oh every Saturday, there's something for every gamer locally
- Pokémon League: Officially recognised by The Pokémon Company, this club welcomes players to trade, battle, and earn prizes in a welcoming team environment—typically held on Wednesday and Saturday evenings.
- Community & Creativity: Games nights aren't just about competition—they're about making new friends, honing strategic skills, and enjoying a warm, inclusive atmosphere. As one parent shared, the staff's patience and care make it a hidden gem in town for families and individuals alike .

Why You Should Check It Out:

Whether you're a seasoned player, curious newcomer, or visiting with kids, Saint'z Dragons offers more than just stock shelves—it's an interactive, community-driven experience. Learn a new game, swap tips, or simply enjoy the buzz of like-minded fans gathering after work or school.

Plug-in & Play

- When?
  - Board games: Thursday evenings (~6:30 pm)
  - MTG Fridays: From 7 pm
  - Pokémon & Yu-Gi-Oh: Saturdays (from midday)
  - Pokémon League sessions midweek and weekends with prize support.
- Where?
  - Saint'z Dragons, 16 Church Street, Colne BB8 0LG

Pull up a chair, discover a new game, and join the fun! With such broad appeal, it's the perfect way to connect with local gamers, make new friends—and maybe even discover your next favourite hobby.

Website: www.colnebid.co.uk

Contact: 07355628256

Email address: manager@colnebid.co.uk