



# ROMFORD BID

## Working Together

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Title: Romford BID launch sponsored Romford Market Stalls

Last weekend Romford BID launched their first sponsored Romford Market Stall. They began their Arts & Culture Stall with YAYmates who are made up of a local network of artists and makers. The stall sold items such as paintings, drawings, handmade jewellery, handmade craft, publications, prints and home décor items, unique handmade bespoke clothing, tote bags and notepads and cards. Over the coming months YAYmates will be hosting the Romford BID Stall the third weekend of each month.

Natalie, MD of the NO Collection & co-founder of YAYmates said “It is so exciting that Havering’s first weekend of shopping after ‘lockdown’ can be filled with art and culture! Our local creative community are so talented, and it is a joy to be able to share their work with Havering customers every month! One of the best things about the Market project is that we can really showcase our amazing local community and buy from each other, whilst also bringing a bit of fun and vibrancy to the market after such a long grey winter. A huge thanks to our funders and Romford BID for supporting us to get here.”

In the following weeks on the Arts & Culture Stall Romford BID are also planning to host activities and trades such as gaming, which will include board games and big games like giant Jenga and small performances. There will also be several different food stalls, tapping into cultural cuisine within the Romford business community and talks are taking place with local colleges and within the Romford business community to provide a variation of performances including music.

This weekend also sees the launch of a new start up stall, sponsored and supported by Romford BID. “Courtneys Cakes” will be in the market every weekend for the next 6 months! Courtney Gwatkin is a professionally trained pastry chef, with industry experience that spans over 12 years. As Covid gripped the nation, her industry hit the floor and so through lockdown Courtney has been developing her own business. Courtney said “I can’t wait to meet all our new customers at Romford market next week and am grateful to Romford BID for supporting me in my business. If you are looking for delicious brownies, cookie pies & mouth-watering treats made with high quality ingredients or even to order bespoke celebration cakes come & visit me at my stall Courtneys Cakes.” To see some of Courtney’s treats, please visit the website or Instagram page for Courtney’s Cakes - [www.courtneycakes.co.uk](http://www.courtneycakes.co.uk) or [www.instagram.com/cakesbycourtneyx](https://www.instagram.com/cakesbycourtneyx)

Julie Frost BID Director said, “We are delighted to be launching these two market stalls over the next couple of weekends. This will provide an opportunity for arts and culture as well as giving support to those on the stalls through our business networks and board directors. We really hope they will draw more visitors to the town, enhance the offers already provided by our market traders and continue to encourage people to #shoplocal as restrictions begin to ease.”

Don’t forget to look out for these stalls as you shop in Romford at the weekend. They will generally be located at the top of the market near Tollgate House.

-ends-

Romford BID, Office 6&7, The Romford Shopping Hall, 43 Market Place, Romford, RM1 3AB