



8 December 2008

## **New businesses choose Rugby Town Centre**

Despite the credit crunch Rugby Town Centre has recently seen several exciting new and independent businesses setting up. The Town Centre is proving a popular location with the latest additions, including GNH Photography, Off the Wall and Artgofunky, opening their doors to shoppers and visitors.

Off the Wall, situated on High Street, sells unusual items such as quirky art work, ornaments and gifts from around the world - perfect for those unusual Christmas presents. "Rugby is a great location to live and work and we have already received a very positive response from customers," says John Kearsley, owner of Off the Wall. "We've only been here a short while but I am really excited about the future."

Artgofunky is another new business that has recently opened on Albert Street in the Town Centre. This unusual company allows up to 20 partygoers to get artistic on a blank canvas in a room full of paint and funky music. "We cater for people of all ages, from children's parties to hen nights and we are also licensed so we will be looking to capture the corporate market," says Sue Powell, Artgofunky's resident artist. "In addition, we will be offering my modern designs for sale to the public."

The Town Centre has seen a number of other new businesses opening up and welcoming customers including Roll Away in the Clock Towers Shopping Centre. They offer hungry shoppers organic baguettes, German hot dogs, jacket potatoes and hot and cold beverages. Meanwhile, over on Church Street GNH Photography offers everything from portraits and passport photos to contemporary or traditional wedding photography.

The number of new businesses is evidence that the 'Moving In' initiative announced earlier this year by Rugby First in conjunction with Rugby Borough Council and Rugby BID, to encourage more independent traders has been a great incentive.



“The ‘Moving In’ Grant has done a great job so far in attracting new businesses to our town centre. We know it is working as nearly all of the available grants have been taken up. We have worked hard with the Council to come up with a scheme that will help us drive the economy in Rugby forward and it seems we may just have found one.,” said Robin Richter, Managing Director of Rugby First.

“These new businesses have chosen to trade in our Town Centre and it just goes to show we do have something to offer. We have seen our range of independent retailers strengthened even further with these new companies and it is something that makes Rugby Town’s shopping experience very unique,” concluded Aftab Gaffar, Operations Director at Rugby BID.