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SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

## Salisbury's Big Business Event is back for 2014

Local businesses are invited to the Salisbury Big Business Event from the 7 – 9 May 2014 at The Guildhall, Salisbury. In its third year the event is organised by Salisbury City Council, Wiltshire Council, Trethowans Solicitors, Federation of Small Business, Blue Frontier, Salisbury Business Improvement District and the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce.

The event offers businesses of all shapes and sizes including those budding entrepreneurs who are thinking of starting a business, the opportunity to gain support, advice and guidance from professionals. There are also workshops and seminars and networking events too. Entry to the event is FREE and the majority of the three day event is FREE for businesses to attend, the exceptions to this are the Chamber of Commerce 90 minute lunch and the Ambassadors business breakfast.

Trethowans Solicitor's Managing Partner Simon Rhodes said, "Trethowans are once again delighted to be involved with the Big Business Event, the schedule promises to provide a fantastic three days for local businesses and those in the surrounding areas who would like to come and do business with the City."

The Big Business Event starts in style with a FREE business networking breakfast on Wednesday 7 May at 7.30am and the guest speaker is former soldier Andy Reid. Andy lost both his legs and his right arm after stepping on an Improvised exploding device (IED) plate whilst serving with the 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment in Afghanistan in 2009. He astounded people with his recovery, spending only 2 weeks in hospital before returning home. A testament to his attitude in overcoming such adversity, he doesn't let the severity of his injuries stop him from going forward with a positive mindset. His incredible story of overcoming adversity and coping with change is one that has a lasting effect on all who hear him speak.

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Other highlights of this year's event include a FREE networking evening with fashion icon Wayne Hemingway MBE on Wednesday 7 May at 5pm. Wayne and his wife created the incredibly successful Red or Dead brand from a simple market stall and successfully sold the brand in 1999. Following the sale of Red or Dead, Wayne created HemmingwayDesign and has worked with high profile clients that include Coca Cola, John Lewis Partnership, B&Q, Sainsbury's, Sky TV and Sony. HemingwayDesign recently created the new uniform for all 87,000 UK staff at McDonald's. Currently the fashion team are working on a New Uniform for London Underground. Another significant London project is the specification of the interiors of Get Living London's project turning the Olympic Athletes Village into a new London residential district "East Village".

Fans of Levi Roots are also in for a treat as the musician and entrepreneur joins the event on Thursday 8 May at 5pm for a FREE networking event. Levi Roots is one of the most heart-warming business success stories to date. Having produced his Reggae Reggae Sauce, a delightful mix of barbecue and jerk sauce in his home kitchen for some time, Levi appeared on hit BBC show Dragons' Den and managed to secure £50,000 investment from two dragons. Following this triumph, Levi Roots become an overnight success in the incredibly tough food sector. The rapid popularity of Reggae Reggae Sauce has seen an expansion of the brand, to include a wide range of sauces and products. The Levi Roots Brand continues to blaze a trail while Levi's warm and infectious ethos of Caribbean Sunshine continues to put music into food, and life everywhere across the nation.

Business Manager for Salisbury City Council, Claire Burden said, "We have some truly inspirational speakers at this year's event and we look forward to welcoming lots of businesses to The Guildhall."

This year is also the first year that the Salisbury Business Improvement District are involved in the event and BID Manager Robin McGowan said, "The Big Business event is a great opportunity to network, gain advice and guidance from experts and

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listen to the wealth of knowledge the experts can share with you. We are proud to be supporting this event."

For full details of the speakers, workshops and networking events and to book your place please visit www.salisburybigbusiness.co.uk

**Ends:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

For all media enquiries please contact Claire Burden at Salisbury City Council on 01722 342870 or email cburden@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk