

Autumn/Winter Calendar

DISNEY ON ICE • 19 – 28 OCTOBER 2018

Courage leads the way, cutting the icy stage for Disney's most adventurous dreamers at Disney On Ice presents Dream Big. Tickets from £21.50.
arenabham.co.uk

SYMPHONIC FANTASY • 19 OCTOBER 2018

Symphonic Fantasy - where the world of film and epic fantasy collide! Experience inspirational music and emotionally charged scores from Game of Thrones to Lord of the Rings and beyond. Tickets from £19.50.
thsh.co.uk

THE CANTERVILLE GHOST • 30 OCTOBER 2018

Bring the family for a night of comedy and chills in this original adaptation of the charming Oscar Wilde tale, written especially for children and young families. Tickets from £5.
bmi.org.uk

COLMORE BID CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON • 15 NOVEMBER 2018

Join us for our annual Christmas Lights Switch on in Church Street Square on Thursday 15 November. We will be serving mulled wine, hot chocolate and minced pies so don't miss out!



THE NUTCRACKER • 23 NOVEMBER – 13 DECEMBER 2018

Be swept away to a winter wonderland with The Nutcracker this Christmas. Tickets from £20.
birminghamhippodrome.com

BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW WINTER • 29 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER 2018

Kick-start the festive season as the BBC Good Food Show heads back to Birmingham's NEC. Tickets from £20.50.
theticketfactory.com

ALICE IN WONDERLAND • 4 – 15 DECEMBER 2018

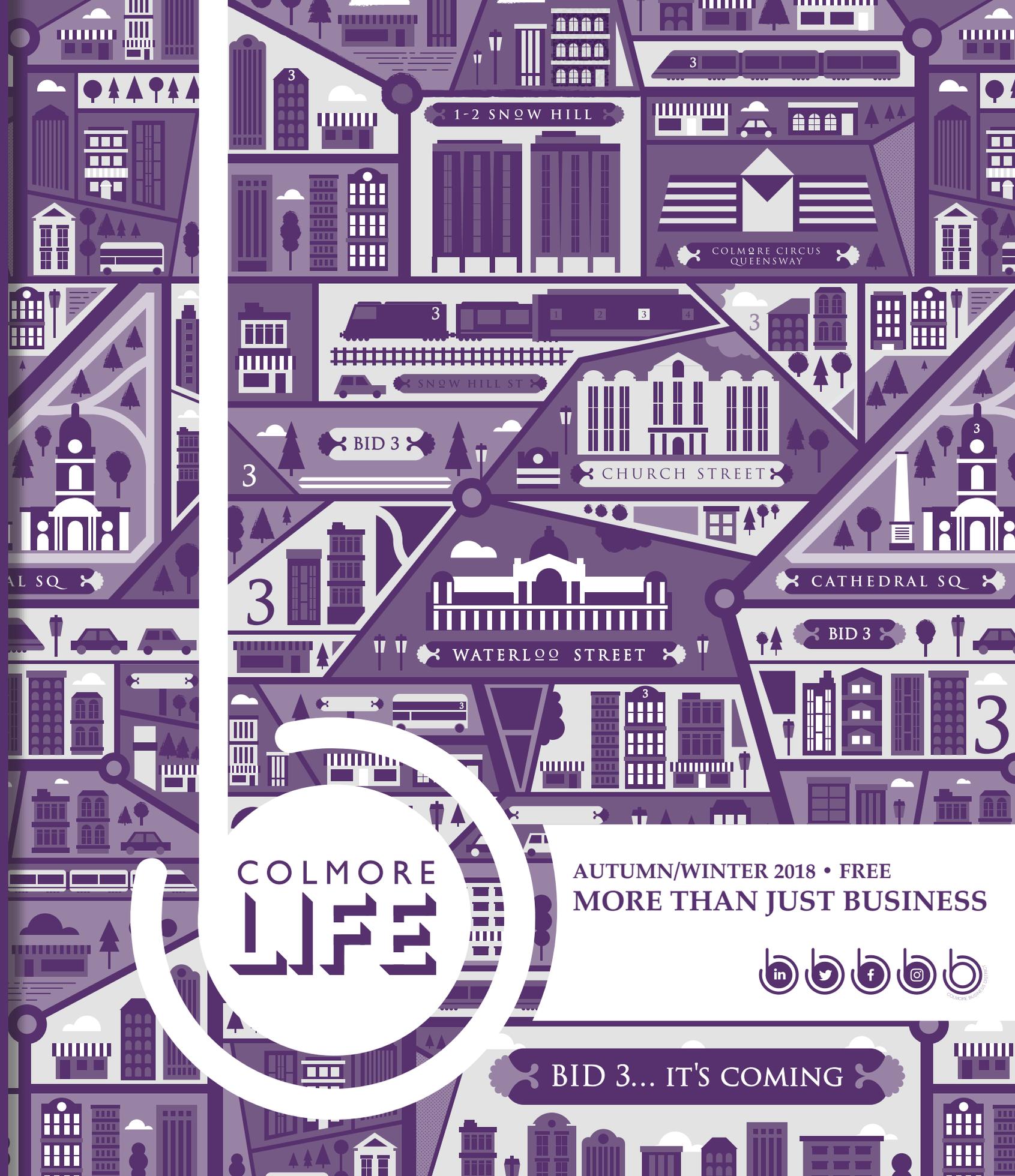
After tumbling down a dark rabbit hole chasing after an anxious rabbit with a pocket watch, young Alice begins an adventure in which she discovers the weird and magical world of Wonderland. Tickets from £15.
crescent-theatre.co.uk

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY • 6 – 24 DECEMBER 2018

This inventive twist on Frank Capra's classic film brings the ever-timely story of disaster, redemption and holiday magic to life on stage before your eyes and ears. Tickets £20.
oldjointstock.co.uk

THE SNOWMAN • 16 – 26 JANUARY 2019

When a young boy's snowman comes to life on Christmas Eve, the two set off on a night-time quest for adventure. Tickets from £10.
birmingham-rep.co.uk



COLMORE
LIFE

AUTUMN/WINTER 2018 • FREE
MORE THAN JUST BUSINESS



BID 3... IT'S COMING



Welcome to our autumn/winter 2018 edition of Colmore Life! We have had a fantastic summer here at the Colmore BID. We celebrated our eighth annual Food Festival, we enhanced the District with more floral enhancements than ever before and we ran a successful series of Heritage Week events.

We have also been very busy working towards our ballot period which will be taking place from 15 October – 20 November 2018. It is important that those of you that can vote, exercise your right to vote! Our third BID term will commence on 1 April 2019. We have put together a Business Plan of what we would like the next five years to hold. If you have not received a copy please contact clairej.smith@colmorebid.co.uk and she will ensure that you get a copy. You can also find more about what the BID does for you on pages 4 – 7 in this magazine.

We hope that you enjoy our final edition of Colmore Life for 2018!

Michele Wilby

Executive Director, Colmore BID

THE TEAM

Michele Wilby
Executive Director
Colmore Life: Managing Editor

Katy Paddock
Acting Projects Maker
Colmore Life: Deputy Editor

Mike Mounfield
Projects Manager
Colmore Life: Journalist

Claire J. Smith
Executive PA to Michele Wilby

Jonathan Bryce
Projects Maker

Philip Singleton
Projects Manager

John-Jo Von Johnson
Street Operations Manager

Aaron Franklyn-Payne
Security Officer

Josh Rabone
Ambassador

Nicole Panayiotou
Ambassador

Stacey Barnfield
Colmore Life: Journalist

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wearespoke.co.uk

Meet the new staff..

AARON

Aaron joined the Colmore BID team in March 2018 as our Security Officer supporting the rest of the Street Operations team. Aaron patrols the District, dealing with anti-social behaviour and sign-posting members of the homeless community to the relevant organisations for help and support. Our Street Operations team work closely with West Midlands Police and other security providers in the city centre. Aaron has worked in security since the 2012 Olympics

where he was a Security Officer at the Women's Football in Coventry.

He has worked in Birmingham city centre since 2015. Aaron's favourite part of his job is that he can actually help some of the most vulnerable members of our society and make a difference to their lives.



NICOLE

Nicole, who is half British and half Cypriot, started with the BID as an Ambassador in June 2018. Nicole grew up in Cyprus and moved to Birmingham seven years ago. She has a great passion for hospitality as she has lived and breathed it for 16 years of her life.

She loves the industry and her new role as an Ambassador at Colmore BID lets her skills shine through. Nicole loves interacting and socialising with people and coming up with fast and efficient solutions for businesses to help them thrive. Her dream is to one day become the proud owner of a small coffee shop in the District.

JOSH

Josh joined Colmore BID in June 2018 as an Ambassador, having previously worked as a sales advisor for Whittard of Chelsea. On a typical day as an Ambassador, Josh performs a variety of different roles.

Josh often talks to local business owners about some of the issues presented by the local area, suggesting solutions to those problems or assistance that can be offered by Colmore BID. He can also be seen assessing the environment along Colmore Row or other areas in the District, checking for any issues or hazards and ensuring

that these get attended to. You may find Josh directing a lost tourist or business visitor to whatever they might be looking for in the district, such as a local office building or restaurant.

Alongside working full time at Colmore BID, Josh will be undertaking a Bachelor's Degree in Business management. He also speaks Spanish fluently and wishes to develop abilities in other foreign languages.



CLAIRE

Claire joined the Colmore BID team in September 2017 and is Executive PA to Executive Director, Michele Wilby. She also oversees Colmore Chorus and the Colmore Cinema Club.

Claire has had quite a varied working background including Field Sales, Account Management and various PA and EA roles.

Outside of work Claire is a member of BMOS Musical Theatre Company and has performed in many roles at the Alexandra Theatre Birmingham.

"I really love working in Colmore Business District. It's a great working community with some really lovely people. Most of all I love working with Michele and being part of the BID Team, their goal is to enhance the area and make it a safe and welcoming place to visit and work and I can honestly say, so far, that's what they have achieved and I look forward to being part of the team that continues achieving that goal."

Work experience round up

AVANI

"From attending meetings about the Colmore Life Magazine to researching for future projects and completing an analysis presentation for the Food Festival, there was never a dull moment doing work experience at Colmore BID. I had a great time working with various members of staff, who all share the same goal to create a safe and vibrant atmosphere in the District. One of the highlights of my week was visiting the local businesses with the Ambassadors as I was able to see the direct impact of the BID's work to establish a sense of safety in the area. In addition, I learned about the ways

the BID tackles complex problems such as homelessness and anti-social behaviour with both compassion and respect. As a rapidly growing part of Birmingham, I hadn't realised before the amount of work necessary to keep this District running. By the end of the week, I have a newfound appreciation for the efforts made by Colmore BID in doing their part to contribute to the wellbeing of the District."



BID Renewal Ballot



What's involved?

The ballot for a third BID term in Colmore Business District is a serious business - the ballot will decide whether we can raise £6m in extra funding to spend on continuing improvements to the business environment in our area. There are some key points people need to remember:

- For reasons of transparency, Colmore BID doesn't operate the ballot. It's run by Electoral Reform Services (ERS) and Birmingham City Council.
- ERS will send out a Notice of Ballot on 1 October.
- Only businesses responsible for paying the BID levy can vote, with one vote for each hereditament (rateable property unit) for which they are responsible.
- Not all businesses in Colmore BID have to pay the levy (though some do so voluntarily) and so not all businesses get a vote. The ones that do, occupy a hereditament that has a rateable value of £10,000 or more. In most cases businesses occupying serviced offices do not get a vote, but their serviced office provider does.
- The actual voting is done by a person nominated by the business. In unoccupied hereditaments the voter is the property owner or their nominated agent. Colmore BID has spent quite a lot of time in the



last year trying to identify who the voters are at each business and which businesses occupy the hereditaments in the District. If we still don't know by the time of the ballot, a ballot paper will still be sent by ERS

to 'The Owner/Occupier' and someone in the business will have to decide how to vote.

- The ballot runs from 15 October to the 20 November. If your ballot paper is lost you can ask for a replacement paper(s) until 14 November 2018.
- The ballot is postal and secret.
- The ballot question is controlled by legislation: "Are you in favour of the Business Improvement District proposals for [list of streets in the geographical area of the BID]? The two options are 'Yes' and 'No'.
- A successful outcome of the ballot will depend on two tests being met:
 - More than 50% of the votes are 'Yes'.
 - More than 50% of the votes, by the Rateable Value they represent, are 'Yes'.
- Whatever the outcome is, the ballot result will be announced by ERS on the 21 November, the day after the end of the ballot period.

Words by Mike Mounfield.

The timeline:



Security in the District

A safe and welcoming Business District is a priority for Colmore BID and its Street Operations team.

On hand to provide a high-profile, reassuring presence, help deal with emergency situations and support rough sleepers, the team is led by John-Jo Von Johnson, who has been with the BID since May 2016.

John-Jo is trained in conflict resolution and first aid and has formed an excellent working relationship with West Midlands Police officers and Birmingham City Council's Street Intervention team, among others.

The 30-year-old, who comes from Bristol and has lived in Birmingham since 2000, has spent his working life in security roles, most recently as senior officer at the Pavilions centre on High Street.

He explained how 'anything can happen in any given day', but his duties often begin with a check on any rough sleepers to signpost them to expert care provision. Street homelessness has visibly increased in recent years and the rate of rough sleeping in Birmingham is higher than the national average. John-Jo carries out checks of rough sleepers each morning to ensure they are aware of the support available.

"In the morning we speak to any rough sleepers to check they're ok and to see if they need any help and support for the day ahead," says John-Jo.

"We will put them in touch with relevant organisations such as Midland Heart or Sifa Fireside, the BID's partner charity. After that we patrol the Business District throughout the day and engage with anyone begging and speak to them to point them in the direction of support services.

"I've had to help detain robbery suspects or people breaching orders or help point lost visitors in the right direction. No two days are ever the same!"

For John-Jo the most important part of his role is maintaining a high-profile presence in the Business District to make sure people feel safe and welcome.

"Businesses tell us it's nice to know there is someone nearby keeping an eye out and who can respond to a situation quickly and professionally," says John-Jo.

"We have an excellent relationship with Police Officers and PCSO's across the city centre".

Collaboration and communication between relevant services such as the Police and BIDs is critical, explains John-Jo.

"If there is a problem escalating in a different part of the city centre it's great to have a 'heads-up' that it could be heading our way and to know there is extra support if needed," he says.

"The different organisations have built a great working relationship to deal with situations efficiently and safely."

Words by Stacey Barnfield.

"One thing we're trying to do is work with businesses after they've had a robbery or break-in to see if there's anything they can improve from a security perspective to try to prevent it happening again."



What next for Colmore BID?

In 2009 a group of Birmingham business people decided it was time to use the still-relatively-new legislation around Business Improvement Districts to create a BID in the commercial quarter of the City Centre, centred on Colmore Row. Many would have seen that as a 'brave' move ('brave' in that sense where we mean 'crazy'). Birmingham's commercial property market, for instance, was not bouncing back from recession the way London's had. Firms were closing and recession's icy grip seemed unbreakable. Starting a BID, with the inevitable mis-labelling of the levy as an 'extra tax', could have been seen as poorly-timed, at the very least.

And yet, here we are, nine years later, with almost two five-year BID terms under our belt. What have we to show for it? New-build and re-furbished commercial office space projects into the hundreds of thousands of square feet. An evening economy that has boomed beyond all recognition, with Michelin starred and highly-regarded restaurants and bars all over the District. An area able to attract and retain the best in young professional talent and inward-moving businesses, large and small. A BID trophy cabinet groaning under the weight of national awards, and regular national and international visits from cities wanting to see what it is that makes Colmore's 'secret sauce'.

Words by Mike Mounfield.

How much credit can Colmore BID claim for all this success?

It's hard to say, and perhaps modesty dissuades us, but here are some numbers we can lay claim to:

- 700% return on investment to create a £10m fund for public realm work across the BID.
- An average of 36 events a year, ranging from those aimed at SMEs to wellbeing and personal development.
- 700 opportunities for levy-paying business to be promoted across print and digital.
- 30,000 visitors per year to our flagship Colmore Food Festival.
- 53,000 interactions between our bowler-hatted Ambassadors and visitors and levy-paying businesses.
- 3,500 ASB incidents tackled by our Colmore Security team.
- £30,000 raised to help Sifa Fireside deal with the growing problem of homelessness in the City.

How do we top all that? Where does #ColmoreLife take us next?

The answer is more and better:

- More public realm projects from the Snow Hill Spatial Masterplan.
- Better greening with a Green Masterplan to maximise the lung capacity of the District.
- Temporary parklets and 'Colmore Courtyards' - small-scale, flexible public realm schemes to get creative with underused spaces.
- More businesses with access to super-fast and ultra-fast broadband connectivity.
- Better management of freight solutions in the District.
- An exciting bespoke artwork for Colmore Square.
- A Colmore Festival of Lights.
- Extended hours for the Colmore Security Team.
- More work to tackle homelessness and ASB.
- More wellbeing classes.
- A forum for Colmore speaking - interesting topics from local and visiting speakers.
- A communal gardening club to improve our public realm and our mental health and well-being.

The ballot for a Colmore BID third term starts soon. Here's hoping for another five years of success; more and better.

Up close

With Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands.



As Managing Director of John Lewis, Andy Street became a recognisable face in UK business before securing the role of Mayor for the West Midlands when he was elected in the May 2017 mayoral election. Eighteen months into office, Colmore Life sought his views on business, connectivity and BIDs.

For anybody not familiar with you and the duties of Mayor for the West Midlands, could you briefly sum up your role and responsibilities?

"I suppose the straightforward answer is that the Mayor is responsible for transport, jobs, skills and housing on a strategic basis across the West Midlands. It's not about replacing councils – they're still there working hard to provide the services they provide. This is about the local authorities being greater than the sum of their parts.

But there's more to it than this, which is where soft powers come in. It's where negotiating with Government, being the point of contact and, frankly, banging on doors, comes into play. I always like it when Ministers and even

the PM say in interviews that I don't give them a moment's peace when the region needs something. It shows I'm doing the job I was voted in to do."

"I'm a big supporter of BIDs. They are a really effective way of getting the private and public sector to be organised and work together."

And 18 months into office, are you pleased with your progress and that of the new West Midlands Combined Authority?

"I have to look at what we've achieved so far and be pretty happy, yes. We've agreed a Devolution Deal, giving us more powers and funding as a region. We became the first region to secure deals with Government around skills and housing – a combined total of £450m from Government. The region successfully bid for and won the Commonwealth Games and City of Culture.

We were successful in winning £100m for the battery testing institute in Coventry. We've been successful with our bid to be the first region in the country to test the use of 5G technology, which will have a huge impact on how we live and work and I imagine most people know we're in the race for Channel 4.

These are exciting times for the region. Some of these bids I and the WMCA have led, others we've been supporters. Whatever, it's the results that matter, putting pride back into our region."

How important to Birmingham's prosperity are Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and their ability to bring together different private and public sector partners?

"I'm a big supporter of BIDs. They are a really effective way of getting the private and public sector to be organised and work together. Having been involved in several of these during my days at John Lewis, I believe you can tend to tell places that have BIDs and those that do not."

Colmore Business District is considered the commercial heart of Birmingham with over 35,000 employees and five million square feet of office space. How does it maintain its position as a sought-after economic destination and attract new businesses and skills?

"I think that the obvious thing is to keep evolving and looking for the future opportunities. The developments at either end of Colmore Row at Paradise and Snow Hill will change the whole dynamic once again, so it's about trying to capitalise on these. It's certainly exciting times for this part of the city."

The BID has unveiled its Business Plan for its new term between 2019–2024, which, if successful at renewal ballot, will continue a programme of events, promotion, safety and security roles and street cleaning for the next five years. What would you consider as a priority for the Business Improvement District?

"I think the role of the Colmore BID in promotion of the area specifically and the city generally is hugely important so

I would single that out. Snow Hill and Paradise at either end of Colmore Row and the restoration of The Grand are major steps which the BID needs to continue building on."

The BID is working with key partners such as the city council and Transport for West Midlands on various public realm and related schemes such as improvements to the Snow Hill area of the city. How important to the Mayor is connectivity and the ability for visitors to walk, cycle and 'dwell' in the city centre?

"It's hugely important. Connectivity – particularly once the Clean Air Zone is implemented – will be vital. We're playing our part – there's some £4bn of capital investment in the transport network underway. There's new tram routes, reopening of railway lines, more cycle routes being developed and improvements to the public realm.

This doesn't happen overnight, but we're making excellent progress.

That said, one of the things on my mind as

a regular user is the state of Snow Hill station. It's probably best described as functional but I know we can do a lot better. Given a lot of the railway focused construction and infrastructure development, it won't be a priority but there are early wins we can achieve. The 'third entrance' we hope to get started on this year.

"I think the role of the Colmore BID in promotion of the area specifically and the city generally is hugely important..."

But, I think we all realise, what we need is a new station, something to do this part of town justice. Something that links Colmore Row to the Jewellery Quarter far more effectively and gives to visitors an increasingly important gateway the welcome they deserve."

Words by Stacey Barnfield.



The most sustainable yet with record recycling levels.

One of the biggest annual events in the Business District calendar has shown it can also be one of the most sustainable after figures revealed record levels of food and waste recycling across its two days.

Colmore Food Festival, which takes place in Victoria Square each year, showcases the best of the Business District's dining and hospitality venues through taster dishes, drinks and cookery demonstrations.

Delivered by Colmore BID, and sponsored by legal firm DWF, this year's Festival strived to achieve zero waste to landfill and applied a blanket ban on plastic drinking straws for its duration between Friday, July 6, and Saturday, July 7.

This year's sun-kissed Festival featured the culinary talents of award-winning TV chef Glynn Purnell and attracted thousands of visitors keen to sample the latest menus from restaurants such as Opus, Asha's, The Bureau and the Edwardian Tea Room at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

The UK uses millions of plastic drinking straws each year and they are among the top ten items found in beach clean-ups, according to research by the Marine Conservation Society.

The record levels of recycling at this year's event means 54 trees and 7 CO₂ tonnes have been saved and 1,947 kWh of energy produced.

Findings from recycling company First Mile have revealed 62kg of used coffee grounds were recycled over the two days and converted into biofuels such as pellets for wood-burning stoves, while 125kg of food was recycled and broken down into biogas.

First Mile were on hand during the Festival to talk to Business District companies and recommend the latest recycling methods.



Mike Best, Colmore BID Board Director, said: "As a Business Improvement District we are aware of the environmental footprint such large events can create and we are really pleased with the work of First Mile to help us to minimise this impact."

"It is encouraging to know our businesses have created energy, saved trees and played their part in creating a sustainable, enjoyable weekend of great food and drink."

More than 1,400kg of mixed recycling was collected and taken to a plant in Oldbury to be separated and recycled, while 1,075kg of general waste was incinerated for energy.

Matthew Verney of First Mile said: "First Mile is delighted to have an ongoing relationship with the Colmore BID to achieve better recycling rates for local businesses as well as working toward improving air quality in the area. The Colmore Food Festival was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our unique services and our passion for the environment."

Words by Stacey Barnfield.



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Mike Best, Colmore BID Board Director



QualitySolicitors Davisons

QualitySolicitors Davisons brings national legal expertise to the heart of the Business District.



Based on Colmore Row, the QualitySolicitors Davisons 10-strong team of solicitors and support staff have helped hundreds of clients since opening their doors three years ago. Compared to QS Davisons' longest-serving office at 33 years, Colmore Row is a relative spring chicken.

That youth and spring in their step is an advantage, explained senior associate solicitor and head of office Dan Stones. "The QS Davisons' reputation precedes us, which is very much a good thing as we've become well known and respected across Birmingham for our high level of expertise and service."

"That's one of the things I like about being based right in the hustle and bustle of the Colmore Business District. We're where our clients are and get to meet and see them face-to-face more often."

"In an industry like ours reputation is important, but that's something that has to be actively worked on every day. Though we're fortunate to start in a good position in the minds of our existing and future clients, we also have to prove our worth and added value by continuing to provide the level of service people have come to expect of us. We can't rest on our laurels. We're eager to prove ourselves which gives the whole team an energy and edge."

Dan originally hails from Yorkshire, having qualified as a solicitor in 2003 as a specialist in residential property. He joined QS Davisons just over four years ago at the firm's head office in Edgbaston and brought with him an approachability the North is well-known for.

Dan explained that choosing to locate their newest office in the centre of the Colmore Business District was intentional – they wanted to join the ranks of and help support an already thriving business community. More than that, though, the team wanted to make it easier for both businesses and individuals to connect with them and use their services, even dropping by the firm's central location in their lunch break if needed.

"That's one of the things I like about being based right in the hustle and bustle of the Colmore Business District," added Dan. "We're where our clients are and get to meet and see them face-to-face more often. Our clients like that convenience too and feel putting a face to a name makes us more approachable. Solicitors often get a bad rap for being stuffy and uncontactable, but that's not how we like to do things. We guarantee our clients direct lawyer contact and make sure we can answer any of those extra burning questions."

The team at QS Davisons are able to help with a whole host of matters for businesses and individuals, including residential conveyancing, commercial property, family law, Wills and probate, tax and inheritance planning, disputes and litigation. Each solicitor is specialised in their field, giving clients an assured confidence.

Words by Stacey Barnfield.

AECOM quantity surveyor Best in class award

Bryony Martin, a quantity surveyor at Business District infrastructure firm AECOM has been recognised at a major European awards ceremony for her work.

Bryony Martin, director of cost management at AECOM's Birmingham office, was named Best Woman Quantity Surveyor in the Women in Construction and Engineering (WICE) European Awards 2018.

The award recognised Bryony as an exemplary woman within construction and engineering across Europe, recognising her support and contribution to the industries.

Bryony described winning the award as an honour and an opportunity to help showcase Birmingham on the European stage.

"To have won the Best Woman Quantity Surveyor award is a great honour and privilege; it was such recognition in a category of strong and talented women and from an organisation, WICE, which works tirelessly to promote the good work of women in construction and engineering," said Bryony.

She described it as rewarding that the judges saw something in her story which impressed them and sees the award as an opportunity to raise her profile within AECOM, the wider construction industry and to raise awareness of the successes of women working in the profession.

"The awards celebrate contributions by women across Europe so to have a Birmingham-based winner is fantastic for the city, especially at a time of significant development and in the advent of the Commonwealth Games 2022," added Bryony.

"As a business, AECOM is well placed to support this development in the city and that of the wider West Midlands region. We are already working with many influential organisations in both the private and public sector. One of my current roles is Regional Lead for the Built Environment Consultancy Services (BECS) Framework with SCAPE, which can provide consultancy services to any public sector body.

"From early on in my career my managers at AECOM have given me increasing responsibility and opportunities, which have allowed me to demonstrate my capability, develop myself and positively impact the business I work for, as well as the wider construction industry.



Bryony, left, is pictured receiving her award from Mary Rose Griffiths – Partner and Board Member at Gardiner at Theobald.

"This award is therefore testament to the development of people and drive in the campaign for diversity at AECOM, and the construction and engineering industry. In my external role as Enterprise Adviser with the Careers and Enterprise Company, I am extending this to work with schools across the region. I want to speak to those who have not yet started out in their careers, show them an example of what can be done and dispel some of the myths and misconceptions about the industry.

"This, I hope, will go some way to addressing the skills gap in the built environment sector, and AECOM is in full support of this."

Words by Stacey Barnfield.



Mills & Reeve refurbishes Birmingham office

National law firm Mills & Reeve is currently undergoing a major refurbishment of its Birmingham office; a period building in the heart of the Business District – demonstrating commitment to the city.

The changes have been designed to celebrate Birmingham’s rich history, with elements reflecting the industries the city is famous for; jewellery, manufacturing and business services.

Steve Allen, partner and head of the Birmingham office said: “We want to create a space that is special and unique. Although we’re part of a larger national firm, our office has its own identity and we felt it was important to echo that in the design. That’s part of what makes Mills & Reeve a strong firm that achieves so much together; we know what our strengths are and we play to them. The refurb project reflects that.”

The refurbishment will also be providing the staff who work at the Birmingham office with an environment that inspires innovation, collaboration and high levels of engagement across the office. Another point high up on the list was creating an office with the “wow” factor – for clients, visitors and staff. The refurbishment includes new sit-stand desks, break out spaces to encourage collaboration across teams and wellbeing spaces that are relaxing and pleasant to spend time in.

“We want to create a space that encourages the ground breaking work we’re really proud of, both as a firm and a city,” Steve said. “We’re building on the history of innovation Birmingham is known for and our new look offices will encourage new and better ways of working with each other and our clients.”

The teams at Mills & Reeve’s Birmingham office will move to agile and paperless working through the refurbishment project, and will also benefit from great new cycle parking and shower facilities to encourage staff to find alternative ways of travelling to and from work.

The new office has been designed by Area, part of the Fourfront Group, a commercial design, fit-out and furniture specialist, who worked collaboratively with the firm to produce a design that celebrates the city and creates a vibrant office environment.

As well as providing their staff with a new working space, the old office equipment and furniture got a new home. Much of the old furniture has been donated to charities such as the Dogs Trusts and Birmingham People’s Centre, any old clothes were donated to Suited for Success and most of the old IT equipment will be donated to IT Schools Africa at the end of the project.

The refurbishment project will be complete in November 2018, with an official launch party to celebrate the new space planned for early 2019.

Words by Stacey Barnfield.



The Institute of Directors relocates to Colmore Business District

The Institute of Directors West Midlands has relocated to Colmore Business District with a new space at the expanded Colmore Gate iHub Office.

The IoD has a history of supporting directors across the UK and provides access to business information, training, professional expertise, networking opportunities and flexible working space.

iHub Office has a rapidly growing and diverse client base; among these are recruitment companies, law firms, marketing agencies, IT consultancies and organisations working on HS2 projects.

iHub’s expansion with a new floor at Colmore Gate has seen more than 300 new workstations being introduced to the District’s fast-growing commercial office sector.

IoD Regional Director Calum Nisbet, who joined the organisation in 2016, believes the IoD’s move to iHub will help with the visibility and perception of the organisation.

“The IoD was established in 1903 and has supported, educated and developed senior leaders from around the world since then,” he said.

“As with all organisations, we have adapted to the needs of business and now look after entrepreneurs, founders, aspiring directors and students, as well as the thousands of directors who run businesses of every size and dimension.”

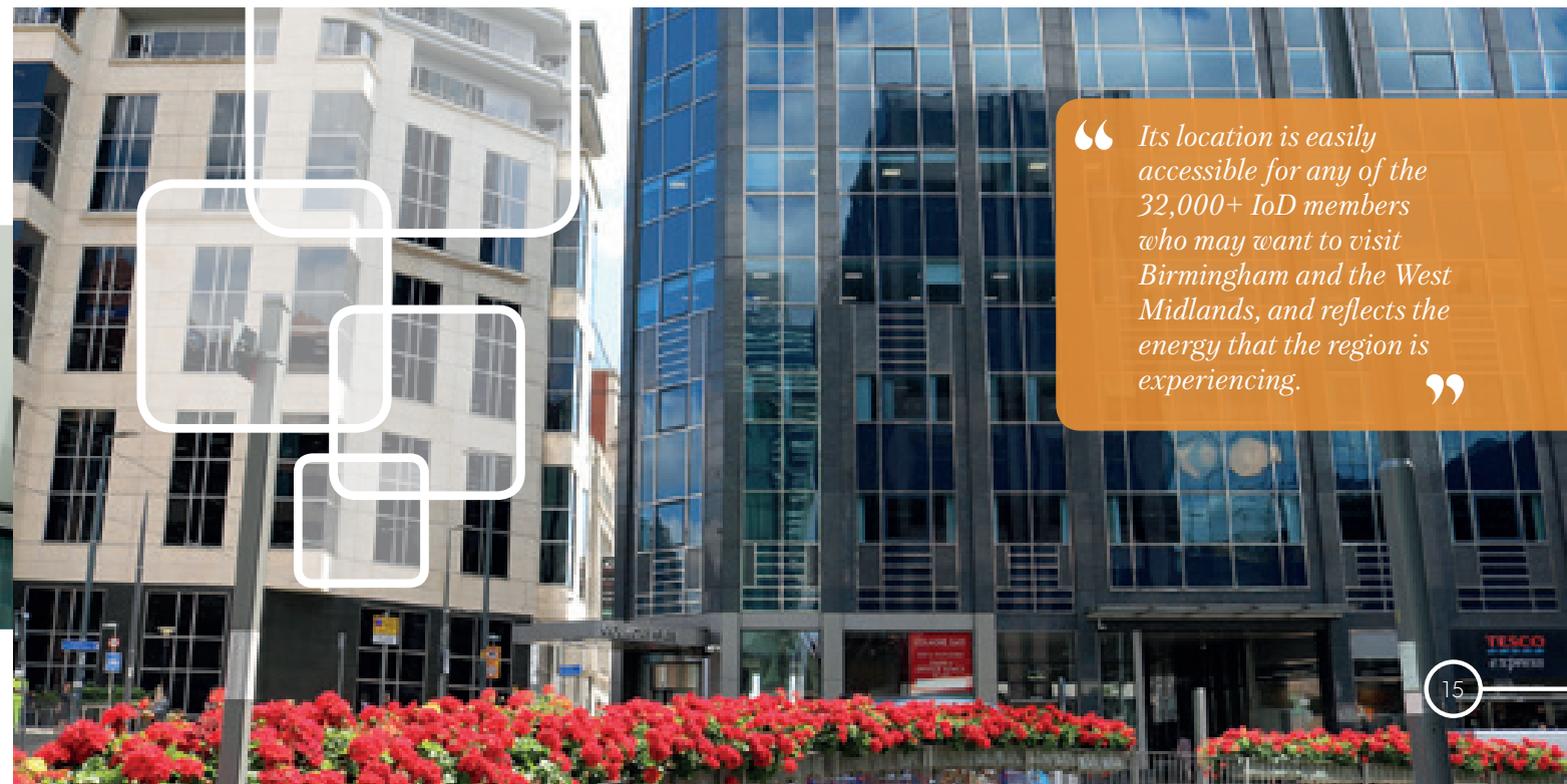
Mr Nisbet believes The IoD’s new home at iHub offers members a dynamic work and events space, reflecting the positivity the Business District and wider region is experiencing.

“Our new home at iHub in the very heart of the Business District offers a variety of workspaces for our members, split over two floors, where we can also carry out our professional development courses, host events and assist with meeting room hire.

Emma Johnston, General Manager at iHub Birmingham, said: “Following the success of our existing floor and with growing demand for serviced office space within the city, we decided to invest more into Birmingham by commissioning the purchase and fit-out of our new floor.

“We’ve created an environment where our clients are truly comfortable within their surroundings, whilst encouraging communication and networking with fellow tenants.”

Words by Stacey Barnfield.



“Its location is easily accessible for any of the 32,000+ IoD members who may want to visit Birmingham and the West Midlands, and reflects the energy that the region is experiencing.”



The head of one of the Business District's architectural treasures is on a mission to connect with local companies as a unique venue for meetings and events.

Taking care of the District's heritage

and planning for the future

The Grade I Listed Birmingham School of Art on Margaret Street was built in 1885 – at a cost of £21,254 – by celebrated architect J.H. Chamberlain and is considered a masterpiece of Victorian red-brick architecture.

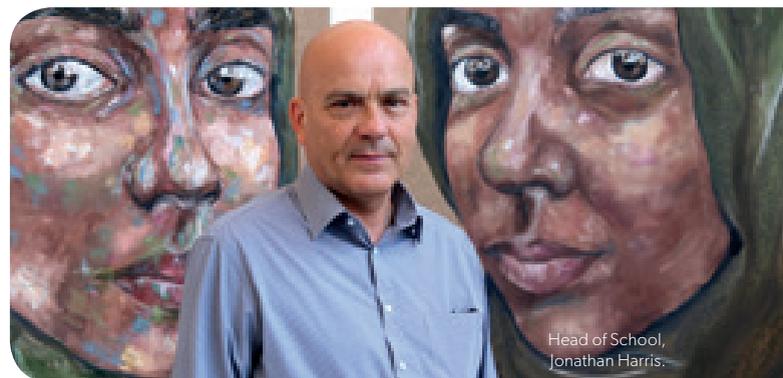
It was the first Municipal School of Art to be built in the UK and a focal point for the Arts and Crafts Movement.

The School, home to the thriving Birmingham City University's Institute of Art and Design has an ambition to connect with Birmingham and to connect Birmingham to the globalised world through arts, creativity and social diversity.

Sensitively refurbished in the 1990s, the building offers full disabled access, conference and presentation rooms, print and digital workshops and proposals for a new café.

"Centred in the Business District the School is ideally placed to engage with the fantastic diversity of people and organisations – cultural, commercial, philanthropic, spiritual – in the immediate vicinity," explained Head of School, Jonathan Harris.

Jonathan wants the 500-plus students who use the building to reflect Birmingham's great ethnic and cultural mix and to show the way forward in representing what the city, and the Art School, stands for now: a creative, productive, exciting and pleasurable place to live, work and play.



Head of School, Jonathan Harris.

"We invite local businesses to use the School's fantastic building as a venue for showcasing their brands and the creative, relaxed and happy lifestyles they want them to be associated with," he adds.

"We have a great abundance of spaces fit for a wide variety of events: catwalks, meals, presentations or more formal business meetings.

"2018 is the 175th anniversary of the Art School, and the Margaret Street building, designed by J.H. Chamberlain as a celebratory revival of Gothic ecclesiastical architecture and closely associated with the Midlands arts and crafts movement, is a jewel in the crown for the District.

"This is a historical treasure but also a living space for creativity and social diversity in the centre of Birmingham."



Row Reveal



Birmingham Institute of Art & Design

- The building is reported to be haunted by several ghosts, which have been seen in the evenings, crossing its staircases and long corridors, especially in the dark, winter months.
- The building's Venetian style and naturalistic decoration are heavily influenced by John Ruskin's famous book on art and aesthetics *Stones of Venice*.
- A continuous plinth band of Doulton's tilework containing lozenges, lilies and sunflowers on blue backgrounds runs around the building.
- The building contains several 'hidden' staircases leading from one floor to another and in this sense is reminiscent of Hogwarts Hall in the Harry Potter books and films.
- Renovated and modernised in the 1990s the building has a lift for disabled access and is able to welcome everyone to the School of Art.

Words by Stacey Barnfield.

Follow progress on the digital screen plans through the BID's social media accounts.



Public Art

Here we raise the profile of some of the more interesting works of public art in the Business District.

Interesting, engaging and eye-catching public art creates a sense of place, attracts visitors and sparks debate. And with the Business District being home to some of the most curious works in the city centre, the BID is keen to enhance this with aspirations for a new piece of digital art in Colmore Square during BID 3.

The proposed digital screen will show archive images, footage and contemporary local and national exhibitions with the support of curators and galleries in the area.

Its technology could allow remote access and a creative approach to modern art, according to BID Executive Director Michele Wilby.

"Colmore BID has an aspiration to create a public art installation in Birmingham that is based on digital technology, located in Colmore Square," said Michele.

"This would be a fusion of street-based digital screens and the latest thinking in curatorial content at a local, national and international stage, showing still contemporary and archival images.

"The technology would allow remote management of content and the potential to link with output from major exhibition spaces globally. To achieve this the BID intends developing the structure, seeking approvals and managing a long-term series of curatorial relationships."

Words by Stacey Barnfield.

CHARLES GORE, BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL

Charles Gore was an influential 19th century theologian and the first Anglican Bishop of Birmingham between 1905-1911.

His statue, in a prominent location in front of the main entrance to Birmingham Cathedral, sees him making a blessing to the city he served for six years.

The bronze statue was created by English sculptor Thomas Stirling Lee in 1914. On the front of the plinth reads the text: 'CHARLES GORE FIRST BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM'.

Interesting fact; Charles Gore's brother, Spencer, was the first winner of the Wimbledon tennis championships in 1877.



THE COMMUTER, SNOW HILL STATION

The Commuter depicts a bowler-hatted businessman with umbrella waiting patiently at Snow Hill station for the next train to his office. Or perhaps the next train home?

Created by Scottish-born sculptor John McKenna in 1996, the statue stands between platforms 1 and 2 of the busy Business District transport hub.

McKenna, famous for sporting sculptures around the country, also created the colossal 13-metre high 'Jigger' miner sculpture in Brownhills near Walsall.



VICTORIA, VICTORIA SQUARE

Possibly the most famous piece of art in Birmingham, Victoria stands proud in the heart of the city centre looking out across the public square in her name.

The monument in Victoria Square, by Thomas Brock, was unveiled on January 10, 1901, just 12 days before the monarch's death.

The original statue was made of marble but in 1951, to mark the Festival of Britain, a bronze cast was made.

A recent conservation project carried out by Birmingham Civic Society to mark its centenary gave the statue a clean so she can be enjoyed by future generations.



HISTORY OF SNOW HILL

Staying in the Snow Hill area you can find History of Snow Hill, a mural about the rail station.

The original mural was set up in St Chad's Queensway by Kenneth Budd to celebrate the history of the original station, which was closed in 1972. The mural was destroyed in 2007. In 2013, Budd's son Oliver Budd remade the mural in miniature,

in Colmore Circus, alongside the Snowhill office development and facing the tracks for the Midland Metro tram.

The mural contains two plaques that give the history of the Great Western Railway between London Paddington and Snow Hill station, as well as the history of the murals themselves.

UMBRA

The award-winning Church Street Square features a bronze piece of public art called 'Umbra' by Wolfgang Buttress.

Buttress was appointed following a competition that saw artists submit artwork for the new enhanced space in an area of diverse architecture and high footfall.

The new square was completed in 2012 as a joint project between the BID and Birmingham City Council to provide a new space for workers and visitors to stop and dwell. Wolfgang Buttress is an English artist who creates multi-sensory artworks that draw inspiration from the natural world. His works have won numerous awards for their elegance and simplicity.



THE RIVER

Victoria Square's remodelling in 1993 saw the creation of a massive water feature and around its rim runs a quotation from Burnt Norton, one of the Four Quartets by TS Eliot.

Water no longer flows from the fountain after it was turned into a flower bed two years ago, but the square still features four popular works by Indian sculptor Dhruva Mistry.

The River: A monumental female figure representing the life force. The figure has been nicknamed 'The Floozie in the Jacuzzi' and weighs 1.75 tonnes.

Youth: At the bottom of the 'fountain' feature are two smaller figures representing youth.

The Guardians: Two Sphinx-like animals made from the same Darley Dale stone as the Council House. Two pillars, with lamps, complete Mistry's artworks.



ANGEL DRINKING FOUNTAIN

This drinking fountain originally stood outside Christ Church at the junction of Colmore Row and New Street, in the area that is now Victoria Square. After Christ Church was demolished in 1899, the drinking fountain was re-located to Temple Row, outside Birmingham Cathedral. It was restored in 1988 and is Grade II listed.

HANCOCK

Birmingham-born comedian Tony Hancock was one of the most famous personalities of the 1960s, with a TV and radio career that entertained the nation.

A statue in his memory stands in Old Square, appropriately the former home of the Birmingham Blood Transfusion Service – the subject of one his most famous sketches.

The statue was unveiled by Sir Harry Secombe in 1996. It has since been moved a few yards, to the centre of Old Square.



Photo credits: Edwin Ellis, Creative Media



Cathedral offers welcome haven in the heart of the Business District

Few buildings can lay such strong a claim to be the beating heart of Birmingham city centre. Town Hall, perhaps? The Bullring, or New Street and Grand Central?

Or how about Birmingham Cathedral, a beautiful Grade I Listed structure with a back-story as old as the city it symbolises?

Designed by Warwickshire-born Thomas Archer, it is a rare example of English Baroque architecture consecrated as the parish church of St Philip's in October 1715 when Birmingham was a growing market town.

Many will be familiar with the spectacular Burne-Jones stained-glass windows, which attract visitors and Pre-Raphaelite art enthusiasts from across the globe.

And its central position in the heart of the Business District makes the Cathedral and surrounding Square a welcoming retreat for busy professionals keen to take five minutes indoors or out.

Anna Pitt, a popular and well-known figure in the Business District, is Chief Executive of Birmingham Cathedral, working with a team of 25.

With a background in professional fundraising Anna is responsible for the day-to day management of the Cathedral, including Finance, HR, Fabric, and Governance, all of which takes place alongside the work of the clergy.

"The Cathedral is in an absolutely fantastic spot," explains Anna. More than 20,000 people pass through every day, a figure she describes as 'phenomenal'.

"The central and iconic location of the Cathedral creates an opportunity for engagement and a space for creating a 'crossing point', metaphorically as well as physically," says Anna.

"The Cathedral over the past year has worked with Let's Feed Brum, LoveBrum, St Basil's, Edgbaston Foundation, #BrumFeeds and numerous local charities, to share the benefit of their location and profile across the community.

"The Cathedral's central location also provides a haven from busy business lives and the open invitation to 'de-stress' is always there.

"We're in the middle of the Business District, so if you've had a rough day at the office you could spend some time at choral evensong; a service of choral music where there is no participation required and you can just sit in this beautiful space and let it all wash over you before heading down to catch a train at New Street.

"The Cathedral is a space of sanctuary and spirituality and our doors are open to the whole community, of any faith or none."

Words by Stacey Barnfield.

Find out more about services and events by visiting www.birminghamcathedral.com



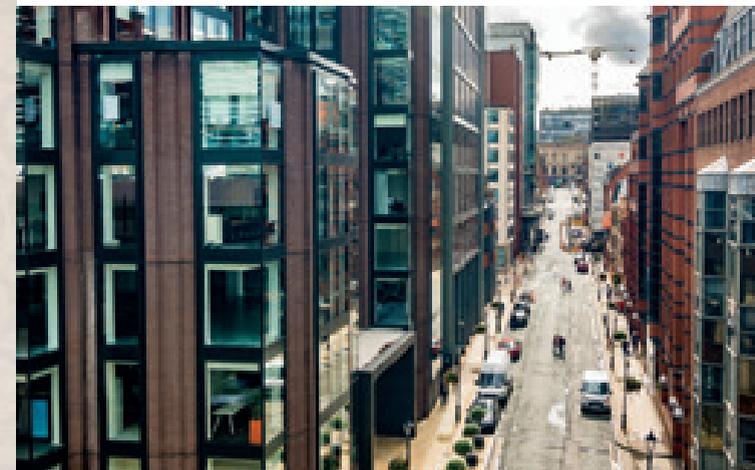
Cornerblock move supports the Slater and Gordon journey

Slater and Gordon's Birmingham office is based at the Cornerblock building on Cornwall Street, after relocating to the showpiece Bruntwood development in November 2017.

David Hodge joined the firm last year as a Principal Solicitor (partner equivalent) and moved to the Birmingham office to head up the employment law team in early 2018.

"Slater and Gordon is one of only a handful of law firms acting exclusively for individuals at all levels and in all sectors," said 42-year-old David, who hails from Bristol.

"Much of the work that I am involved in personally involves senior level contract and exit negotiations (often in regulated sectors), director/shareholder disputes and litigation of whistleblowing and discrimination matters.



"I began my career in Bristol and whilst a large city, I have very fond memories of the sense of community, not only amongst those in professional services, but also with other business owners and employees working within the same locality.

"I have located myself in several cities since my time in Bristol and have never managed to find that same spirit elsewhere, until now."

David explained how Slater and Gordon is committed to becoming the number one firm for consumer legal services in the UK, and Birmingham is a strategic centre to help achieve that aspiration.

As part of the growth ambition, the firm moved into the new offices on the 4th floor of the Cornerblock in November 2017.

The move has transformed the working environment for staff and clients, creating an inviting and modern workplace as well as placing the company in the centre of

the professional services community with room to grow.

"Being in the heart of it all was very important to Slater and Gordon, and certainly attracted me to Birmingham," said David.

"The mix of businesses in Cornerblock is an interesting one and glancing out through the glazed walls across the central atrium, it is fascinating to see the various office spaces and industries at work, from creative industries to engineering.

"Colmore Business District is without question the place to be and we have an office and meeting space to be very proud of and that we hope attracts new talent to join us on our journey."

David Hodge
Employment Lawyer



Hotel du Vin has appointed Tom Gallimore as General Manager.

Tom joins the Church Street hotel from Malmaison Birmingham where he was Hotel Manager and Deputy General Manager for two years. Prior to joining the group, he worked at Penta Hotel Derby and Village Hotels.

He follows Barry Sherwin, who was interim General Manager of the property after the departure of BID Board member Tony Elvin to Touchwood Shopping Centre earlier this year.

Tom started off his hotel career at the age of 16 with Millennium Hotels, and went on to work at Q Hotels and Village Hotels.

Words by Stacey Barnfield.

"I am really excited to be leading the Hotel du Vin team, it's an iconic hotel which I have admired from afar."



New to the District



ThinCats

ThinCats is dedicated to funding UK SMEs across all industry sectors, up to £10m through senior secured loan facilities.



Rhino

Rhino Interiors Group are a leading commercial workplace specialist who've recently opened a fantastic new showroom facility at 126 Colmore Row. Key services include workplace consultancy, office design, office fit-out and office furniture.



Harper James

Having recently expanded their office space on Newhall Street, Harper James Solicitors are a truly unique firm offering a full range of expert business legal services at transparent, affordable rates.



Institute of Directors

The IoD has a history of supporting directors across the UK and provides access to business information, training, professional expertise, networking opportunities and flexible working space.



National Energy Hub

The National Energy Hub offers energy procurement and value-added services that will help your business to monitor, manage and reduce energy costs and carbon emissions.

8

“ This is a hugely exciting time for our business, which has really gone from strength to strength since moving to the second city... ”



Oxygen breathes life into City's 'fintech' offer

Public and private sector organisations are increasingly turning to emerging technologies in a bid to improve working practices and unlock further value. Among the companies helping to spearhead this transformational change is Business District-based fintech business, Oxygen Finance, the UK's leading provider of early payment programmes.

Founded in London in 2004, the business moved to Birmingham in 2016 to take advantage of the city's burgeoning tech talent pool and now boasts a 50-plus workforce at its Waterloo Street headquarters. It's yet another feather in the cap of the city's 'silicon canal' offering given the huge potential for early payment programmes to revolutionise the way the public and private sector handle their payments process.

Oxygen's proven technology and expertise gives organisations the capability to pay suppliers earlier than contracted terms in exchange for a rebate against each invoice. Crucially, this rebate is directly proportional to how much earlier than term the payment is made and the supplier has a choice whether or not to opt in to the programme. It's a particularly timely innovation with the thorny issue of late payment still proving a major headache for the average small business in Birmingham and beyond.

While suppliers view early payment programmes as a particularly cost-effective way of increasing cash flow, the rebate generates an additional revenue stream for the buyer, which can be reinvested into a business, or, for public sector organisations, used to protect essential frontline services.

Since it began trading, Oxygen Finance has developed a significant public-sector client base, with local councils and other large public bodies grasping the myriad benefits to be achieved through its early payment programme.

Quite apart from the obvious financial benefits – some larger councils are seeing upwards of £50,000 of early payment income in rebates each month – the process is delivering vital working capital to suppliers much earlier than their standard 30-day contract terms. In turn, this is helping councils to forge stronger relationships with their supplier base and also work cost-effectively with more SMEs.

“This is a hugely exciting time for our business, which has really gone from strength to strength since moving to the second city,” says Ben Jackson, CEO.

“Birmingham has a growing and increasingly influential fintech community that is disrupting the orthodoxy of many traditional business models. We're proud to be based here and of the work we're doing to tackle head on the perennial late payment challenge.”

Words by Stacey Barnfield.



Business District law firm Hogan Lovells has moved into a new office in one of the most prominent addresses in the District and now occupies the entire eighth floor of The Colmore Building to meet the firm's expansion in the city.

We have moved...

Partner Michael Gallimore, Head of Hogan Lovells' Birmingham office, told Colmore Life why the company made the move and about his role.

Tell readers about your day-to-day duties.

Hogan Lovells is a global law firm with over 45 offices around the world. I am the Head of our Birmingham office, which opened in Colmore Business District at the end of 2014. I divide my time between managing the 55-strong team here and looking after my real estate clients. Running the office involves developing our business and investing in our community through citizenship activities. In particular, we support Birmingham Children's Hospital through our charitable activities.

What are the factors that helped secure your decision to commit to the Colmore Business District?

We're in the heart of Birmingham's Business District, with good transport links to London. Everyone spends a significant part of their lives at work and we want that to be the best experience possible, so being in an area which is clean, safe and generally provides an enjoyable working environment with excellent facilities and good leisure opportunities is extremely important.

What does the new work space offer that makes it stand out?

The Colmore Building has great facilities including a coffee house, gym and concierge services as well as car and cycle parking.



We have created our own space through a modern and bright open plan fit out with communal areas including table tennis and a putting green! Our approach is towards collaborative working.

How does an expanding law firm like Hogan Lovells attract and retain the talented staff it needs to grow?

Key to our recruitment strategy is giving our teams the opportunities to work on interesting and complex projects and transactions in a supportive working environment. We have developed a structure where everyone experiences the benefits of working for a global law firm and is integrated with our office and people in London, but at the same time enjoys the advantages of living and working out of London.

With the work on HS2, investment and regeneration in areas such as Paradise, Eastside and Grand Central at New Street station, what does the future hold for Birmingham?

I have been to several events where the strong consensus has been that "this is Birmingham's time". The level of investment and regeneration is extraordinary, with new infrastructure, HS2, new developments, cultural facilities and of course the Commonwealth Games. Colleagues visiting Birmingham for the first time for years are amazed at the huge progress the city has made and we are in no doubt we made the right choice when deciding on Birmingham for our second UK office.

Words by Stacey Barnfield.



Directory and new businesses

RESTAURANTS

ADAM'S RESTAURANT

Waterloo Street, B2 5UG, 0121 643 3745, adamsrestaurant.co.uk

Michelin-star fine dining in the heart of Birmingham. Acclaimed modern British tasting menus in a chic, contemporary dining room.

ASHA'S RESTAURANT

Edmund House, 12-22 Newhall Street, B3 3LX, 0121 200 2767, ashasrestaurant.co.uk

Award-winning, internationally acclaimed bar and restaurant, serving contemporary Indian cuisine.

BISTRO DU VIN AT HOTEL DU VIN

25 Church Street, B3 2NR, 0844 736 4250, hotelduvin.com

Experience an elegant and informal setting for lunch and dinner – where guests can meet, celebrate or simply pass the time – at the classic, French-styled Bistro du Vin.

CHUNG YING CENTRAL

126 Colmore Row, B3 3AP, 0121 400 0888, chungyingcentral.co.uk

Offers a variety of high quality dim sum, specially selected dishes and a cocktail bar.

GAUCHO

55 Colmore Row, B3 2AA, 0121 439 9236, gauchorestaurants.com/restaurants/birmingham

Serving quality beef from Argentina with great wines to match.

GUSTO

45-49 Colmore Row, B3 2BS, 0121 200 2400, gustorestaurants.uk.com/restaurants/birmingham

Inspired by the traditional grand cafes of Europe, Gusto is all about making the everyday exquisite.

JAILBIRD

130 Colmore Row, B3 3AP, 0121 236 4246, thejailbird.co.uk

Escape into a world of New York style steak and seafood at one of Colmore Row's newest venues.

OPUS AT CORNWALL STREET

54 Cornwall Street, B3 2DE, 0121 200 2323, opusrestaurant.co.uk

Daily changing menu celebrating the beautiful flavours of produce bought each morning from its family of suppliers around the British Isles.

PURNELL'S

55 Cornwall Street, B3 2DH, 0121 212 9799, purnellsrestaurant.com

Purnell's is a chic, contemporary Michelin-star fine-dining restaurant, set up by well known chef Glynn Purnell.

PURNELL'S BISTRO

11 Newhall Street, B3 3NY, 0121 200 1588, purnellsbistro-gingers.com

Exquisite bistro and cocktail bar offering a menu loosely inspired by rustic British fare.

ZEN METRO

73 Cornwall Street, B3 2DF, 0121 200 1911, zenmetro.co.uk

Delicious Thai inspired menu in one of Birmingham's best-known drink and dining destinations.

PUBS AND BARS

THE ALCHEMIST

The Grand, Colmore Row, B3 2DA, 0121 200 2377, thealchemist.uk.com/venues/birmingham

Housed in the District's recently redeveloped Grand Hotel, come in for all-day dining, delicious cocktails and a contemporary drinking experience.

ALL BAR ONE

43 Newhall Street, B3 3NY, 0121 212 2551, allbarone.co.uk

A stylish city bar where you can indulge in an excellent selection of food and drink.

BAR OPUS

One Snowhill, B4 6GH, 0121 289 3939, baropus.co.uk

Delicious all-day menu and bar plates to accompany fabulous cocktails and an extensive wine list.

THE BUREAU BAR AND KITCHEN

110 Colmore Row, B3 3AG, 0121 236 1110, thebureaubar.co.uk

Thoughtfully sourced deli and bar food, alongside a creative and intriguing drinks menu.

BUBBLE LOUNGE AND PUB DU VIN AT HOTEL DU VIN

25 Church Street, B3 2NR, 0844 736 4250, hotelduvin.com

Head underground to the vaulted pub serving great ales and food, or upstairs to the beautiful bubble lounge for champagne and cocktails.

BUSHWACKERS

Exchange Building, 103 Edmund Street, B3 2HZ, 0121 236 4994, bushwackers.co.uk

Cocktails, wine and food in a unique city centre venue with music and a private courtyard.

DIRTY MARTINI

7 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, B2 5ST, 0121 389 0084, dirtymartini.uk.com/bars/birmingham

Bespoke martinis, glamorous interiors, famous Happy Hour and late night party DJs.

GINGER'S BAR

11 Newhall Street, B3 3NY, 0121 200 1588, purnellsbistro-gingers.com

Exquisite bistro and cocktail bar offering a menu loosely inspired by rustic British fare.

THE JEKYLL & HYDE

28 Steelhouse Lane, B4 6BJ, 0121 236 0345, thejekyllandhyde.co.uk

Offering a wide range of drinks, from the classic G&T to a cocktail menu of inventive concoctions.

LOKI WINE

Great Western Arcade, B2 5HU, 0121 212 9440, lokiwine.co.uk

Independent fine wine merchant and wine bar, known for their huge range of high-quality wines from across the world.

PINCHOS COFFEE AND TAPAS HOUSE

121 Edmund Street, B3 2HJ, 0121 233 3469, pinchoscafe.co.uk

A dynamic wine list offering quality, rare and fine wines sourced mainly from around Spain, alongside modern tapas and snacks.

PRIMITIVO

10 Barwick Street, B3 2NT, 0121 236 6866, primitivo-birmingham.co.uk

A long-established and busy bar which has been a feature on Birmingham's business and social scene for over 20 years.

PURECRAFT BAR & KITCHEN

30 Waterloo Street, B2 5TJ, 0121 237 5666, purecraftbars.com

A partnership of stand out craft beer, fantastic food and brilliant hospitality.

THE OLD CONTEMPTIBLES

176 Edmund Street, B3 2HB, 0121 200 3310, nicholsonspubs.co.uk

A traditional pub of unique character, revered for its eclectic range of real ales and quality pub food.

THE OLD JOINT STOCK PUB & THEATRE

4 Temple Row West, B2 5NY, 0121 200 1892, oldjointstock.co.uk

A constantly changing range of craft lager, seasonal ales, ciders, spirits and wines. Complemented by fantastic pub fare.

THE OLD ROYAL

53 Church Street, B3 2DP, 0121 200 3841, theoldroyalbirmingham.co.uk

Heartily portioned pub-food and well kept cask ales.

THE SQUARE PEG

115 Corporation Street, B4 6PH, 0121 236 6530, jdwetherspoon.com

Real ales, ciders, draughts and spirits, accompanied by a large and varied menu.

THE WELLINGTON

37 Bennetts Hill, B2 5SN, 0121 200 3115, thewellingtonrealale.co.uk

Real ale paradise with 27 hand pumps and a constantly changing line up of beer. Interesting world whiskey collection and speciality gins and rums.

UTOPIA THE COUNTRY BAR

16 Church Street, B3 2NP, 0121 233 3666, bar-utopia.co.uk

Whether you want a drink, cocktails, a bite to eat or that much-needed glass of wine, Utopia the Country Bar has it covered.

COMING SOON PINT SHOP

38 Bennetts Hill, B2 5SN, 0121 236 9039, pintshop.co.uk

Bringing a brand of fresh, seasonal British produce and fantastic selection of local and national ales to the Midlands.

COFFEE SHOPS AND CAFES

200 DEGREES COFFEE

21-23 Colmore Row, B3 2BH, 0121 448 2626, 200degs.com/birmingham-colmore-row
Beautifully roasted coffee and amazing sandwiches and cafe food.

CAFFÈ NERO

42-47 Waterloo Street, B2 5QB, 0121 233 9800, caffenero.com
European coffee house brand specialising in the creation of high quality Italian coffee and delicious food.

COFFEE #1

Edmund House, 12-22 Newhall Street, B3 3EW, coffee1.co.uk/locations/birmingham-newhall
The perfect location for an informal meeting or well-deserved lunchtime break. Step inside and you'll find a modern yet welcoming space.

COSTA COFFEE

1 Colmore Row, B3 2BJ, 0121 233 3041, costa.co.uk
Bustling, busy cafe by the commuter entrance to Snow Hill Station.

DAMASCENA

5-7 Temple Row, B2 5NY, 0121 233 1803, damascena.co.uk
Middle Eastern themed coffee house and delicatessen, including vegan, vegetarian, halal and gluten-free options.



Damascena

DIPLOMATS BARISTA

Two Snow Hill, B4 6GA, 0121 227 7041, diplomatsbarista.co.uk
Italian-style coffees, as well as a range of excellent teas and quality local food, fresh throughout the day.

EDWARDIAN TEA ROOMS

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH, 0121 348 8090, birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag
A wide range of delicious food and beverages within a unique and historic setting.

HOME IS WHERE...

26 Church Street, B3 2NP, 0121 236 2339, homecafedel.com
Straightforward hearty ingredients and recipes. Serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon teas and coffees.

JAVA LOUNGE COFFEE HOUSE

124 Colmore Row, B3 3SD, javaloungecoffee.com
Coffee specialists, who follow every stage of the coffee production process. Serves a selection of fresh sandwiches, wraps and cakes as well.

KNIGHTS COFFEE HOUSE

58 Newhall Street, B3 3RJ, 0121 448 4970
A relaxing, family run hideaway coffee shop with a great selection of snacks and homemade cakes.

NETTL

37A Great Charles Street Queensway, B3 3JY, 0121 643 8020, nettl.com
A great stop for coffee, snacks and wi-fi in this web design company's office-come-cafe.

PRET A MANGER

1 Newhall Street, B3 3NH, pret.co.uk
Fresh sandwiches and salads, 100 per cent organic milk – and they offer their unsold food to charity at the end of each day, contributing to the community.

STARBUCKS

125 Colmore Row, B3 3SD, 0121 236 2660, starbucks.co.uk
Sitting on Colmore Row, providing the Business District with their much needed caffeine hit.

WAYLAND'S YARD

42 Bull Street, B4 6AF, waylandsyards.com/birmingham
The newest coffee haunt for casual breakfasts and lunches.

URBAN COFFEE COMPANY

30 Church Street, B3 2NP, 0121 236 0207, urbanemporiums.com
The brand's flagship emporium serving awesome brunches, a great selection of sandwiches, panini and fantastic coffee.

HOTELS

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS – SNOW HILL

1 Snow Hill Plaza, St Chads, Queensway, B4 6HY, 0121 647 3999, hiebingham.co.uk
Offers stylish and contemporary accommodation in the heart of the city.

HOTEL DU VIN

25 Church Street, B3 2NR, 0844 736 4250, hotelduvin.com
The perfect base to make the most of the bustling city, whether you're here for business or pleasure.

ON THE GO

BON BON NEWSAGENTS

3 New Market Street, B3 2NH, 0121 236 2976, bonbondelivery.co.uk
Bon Bon sells newspapers, magazines and tobacco, as well as a good selection of sweets, sandwiches and soft drinks.

CENTENARY LOUNGE

Snow Hill Station, Colmore Row, B3 2BJ, 0121 633 4274, centenarylounge.com
Refreshments by Centenary Lounge sells hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, cakes and snacks.

HABENEROS

Temple Row, B2 5LS, habvan.com
Delicious Mexican street food and daily specials at the Habaneros Van.

HINDLEYS BAKERY

Fountain Court, 128 Steelhouse Lane, B4 6DR, 0121 236 2886, hindleys-bakers.co.uk
Family run traditional bakery, making delicious breads, cakes and pastries.

HOOKWAY'S SALAD AND SANDWICH BAR

7 The Minories, B4 6AG, 0121 233 1557, hookways.co.uk
Healthy and nutritious options including a deluxe salad bar, sandwiches, noodle pots, soups and baked potatoes.

LITTLE WAITROSE

1 Colmore Row, B3 2BJ, 0121 200 3244, waitrose.com
Handy supermarket located outside Snow Hill Station with wide a range of food and drink.

MR BEN'S BAKED POTATOES

Eden Place
Grab a hot jacket potato on the go.

PHILPOTTS

34 Bennetts Hill, B2 5SN, 0121 233 3262, 36 Colmore Circus Queensway, B4 6BN, 0121 212 2757, philpotts.co.uk
The well-established sandwich chain uses the freshest ingredients and is a hit with the office crowd. There is also a pre-order service.

RUSTIC SANDWICH SHOP

35 Livery Street, B3 2PB, 0121 233 4444
All sandwiches are made fresh and in front of you. Choose from a wide selection of fillings.

SNOW HILL NEWS

Snow Hill Station
Providing the commuters of Snow Hill with their daily essentials.

SUBWAY

York House, 64 Newhall Street, B3 3JY, 0121 212 9684, subway.com
Check out the daily deals from Subway and make up your sub just the way you like it.

SAINSBURY'S

30 Priory Queensway, B4 6BS, 0121 212 9535, stores.sainsburys.co.uk
Local and trusted supermarket to pick up essentials.

PLACES TO VISIT

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL

Colmore Row, B3 2QB, 0121 262 1840, birminghamcathedral.com
Built in 1715 as the new parish church 'on the hill', St Philip's is a rare and fine example of elegant English Baroque architecture. It is Grade 1 listed and one of the oldest buildings in the city still used for its original purpose. For service and prayer times please visit the Cathedral's website.



Birmingham Cathedral

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH, 0121 348 8000, birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) first opened in 1885. It is housed in a Grade II listed city centre landmark building. There are over 40 galleries to explore displaying art, applied art, social history, archaeology and ethnography.

THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE

9 Margaret Street, B3 3BS, 0121 236 3591, bmi.org.uk
Housed in an attractive Grade II listed building, conveniently located in the centre of Birmingham.

THE OLD JOINT STOCK THEATRE

4 Temple Row West, B2 5NY, 0121 200 1892, oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk
A beautiful 100-seat theatre which stages great productions all year round.

MEMBERS CLUBS

THE COLMORE CLUB

85-89 Colmore Row, B3 2BB, 0121 236 0039, colmoreclub.co.uk
Exclusive luxury members-only venue, hosted in within a grand, grade II listed building on the corner of Newhall Street and Colmore Row.



The Colmore Club

RETAIL

CLEMENTS & CHURCH

22 Church Street, B3 2NP, 0121 233 9994, clementsandchurch.co.uk
Contemporary tailors providing sartorial excellence to the city and beyond.

COOKSHOP CLEARANCE COMPANY

4 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG, 0121 236 4293, cookshopclearance.co.uk
Get your kitchen kitted out.

CROCKET & JONES

25 Colmore Row, B3 2BS, 0121 233 3942, crockettandjones.com/shop/birmingham
The shop carries an extensive range of Crockett & Jones shoes for men and women as well as accessories, house slippers and driving shoes.

CYCLE REPUBLIC

35-37 Colmore Row, B3 2BS, 0121 236 9385, cyclerepublic.com
Major bike brands, accessories and clothing. Also pop in to see the staff to chat about their servicing and repair options.

HOBGOBLIN MUSIC

8 Priory Queensway, B4 6BS, 0121 212 9010, hobgoblin.com
Hobgoblin have been making music across the country since 1975. Their Birmingham shop has a wide array of musical instruments, with a keen focus on folk and acoustic instruments.



Hobgoblin Music

LIQUOR STORE

27 Colmore Row, B3 2BS, 0121 236 5830, liquorstoreclothing.com
An eclectic mix of men's clothing including denim, footwear and shirts.

LOAKE SHOEMAKERS

31 Colmore Row, B3 2BS, 0121 233 9656, loake.co.uk
Classic English shoemakers since 1880. Popular styles include brogues, Oxfords, moccasins, and boots. Accessories are also available.

REUBEN COLLEY FINE ART

85-89 Colmore Row, B3 2BB, 0121 236 0920, reubencolleyfineart.co.uk
Founded by Birmingham based artist Reuben Colley, enjoy numerous exhibitions of stunning contemporary art and artists.

SNOW & ROCK

14 The Priory Queensway, B4 6BS, 0121 236 8280, snowandrock.com
For the adventurous in the District, if you're going up a mountain, skiing down one or planning to put in some serious running miles then head here first.

TRAILFINDERS

22-24 The Priory Queensway, B4 6BS, 0121 236 1234, trailfinders.com
Trailfinders' award-winning consultants are on hand to help offer ideas, inspiration and exceptional value for money on your next holiday.

UP AND RUNNING

29 Colmore Row, B3 2BS, 0121 634 3600, upandrunning.co.uk
Running Shoes, clothing, accessories and advice.

WHITEWALL GALLERIES

9 Colmore Row, B3 2BJ, 0121 200 3328, whitewallgalleries.com
Part of the UK's leading contemporary arts group Whitewall, housing fantastic pieces of art and design, it's well worth popping in.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

AT ONE DAY SPA

At One Day Space, 10 Great Western Arcade, B2 5HU, 0121 233 0600, beautyhub-birmingham.co.uk
An independent, boutique spa offering a range of treatments; find a moment of tranquility in the heart of the city.

BENJAMIN RYAN HAIR & BEAUTY

Maddox House, 117 Edmund Street, B3 2HJ, 0121 236 6600, benjaminryanhair.co.uk
A unique salon for you to escape to and be pampered.

BHSF MEDICAL PRACTICE

2 Cornwall Street, B3 2DL, 0121 728 8366, bhsfmedicalpractice.com
BHSF specialise in high quality medical services including GP consultations, executive health screenings and vaccinations.

COURTIER CUTS

Fountain Court, Steelhouse Lane, B4 6DR, 0121 233 1506
A gentleman's barber shop with great service.

EDGBASTON PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE

First Floor, 23 Colmore Row, B3 2BS, 0121 454 9535, epmpractice.co.uk
Access to GP services who provide a more personal and flexible service to all patients.

LEMURIA RETREAT

11 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG, 0121 233 0556, lemuriaretreat.co.uk
The place to head to for alternative therapies, beauty treatments and a new hair style.

NAILS WORLD

5 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG, 0121 236 4334
Keep your nails looking in tip-top shape at Nails World.

STUART CROWN HAIR

12 The Minories, B4 6AG, 0121 633 0440, stuartcrownhairdressingbirmingham.co.uk
Stylish and spacious surroundings with a light and fresh atmosphere.

THE BARBER HOUSE

102 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 3AG, (Front door on Bennetts Hill), 0121 236 7507, thebarberhousebirmingham.co.uk
Super stylish gentlemen's barber, salon and shaving parlour.

THE DENTIST IN TOWN

10 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG, 0121 236 8681, www.dentist-in-town.com
Full range of dental treatments, from state-of-the-art cosmetic work to traditional treatments such as dentures, extractions, surgical procedures and root canal therapy.

THE STYLE LOUNGE

Kiosk 2, 35 Livery Street, B3 2PB, 0121 523 9993, mobilehairdresserbirmingham.co.uk
A quirky, vintage style hair and Nail salon specialising in mobile wedding hair and make-up.

WILL MURPHY DENTISTRY

51 Newhall Street, B3 3QP, 0121 236 7630, willmurphydentistry.co.uk
Aiming to provide you with the highest quality dentistry in the purpose-built dental suite.

UMBERTO GIANNINI

50 Newhall Street, B3 3RJ, 0121 400 0317, umbertogianninisalons.com
Luxury hairdressing salon focusing on luxury and tailored services, set in a fully restored Victorian building.

VIRGIN CARE

133 Edmund Street, B3 2HJ, 0300 247 0121, private.virginicare.co.uk
This private health and wellbeing clinic in Birmingham is Virgin's first pay-as-you-go service.

SERVICES

PINFOLDS DRY CLEANERS

Fountain Court, Steelhouse Lane, B4 6DR, 0121 236 5733
A family owned business ideal for dropping off/collecting your items on your daily commute, with over 40 years' experience in the dry cleaning industry.

TOFFS DRY CLEANERS

Snow Hill Train Station, B3 2BJ, 07941 062 101, toffsdrycleaners.co.uk
Toffs Dry Cleaners, are dedicated to providing the District with professional dry cleaning, ironing, laundry and garment alterations, shoe repair and key cutting.