



COLMORE
LIFE

SPRING 2019 • FREE
MORE THAN JUST BUSINESS



After our successful BID 3 ballot, we snapped threes all over the District.

See how many you can guess. Answers on page 5.





Welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of Colmore Life! As we approach our third BID term in April we want to thank all businesses that took the time to vote in the ballot throughout October and November 2018. We achieved a 64% turnout with an incredible 96% yes vote by number and a 98% yes vote by rateable value. These are incredible results for us to go into our third term with and it is great to know we have the support of the District.

The work of Colmore BID is divided up into seven working areas, Business Matters, Place Marketing, Community Building, Safe and Sound, Outstanding Places, Accessible and Connected and Leisure and Hospitality. We are excited for what our next five years will hold and hope you are too and if you want to be part of it then do get in touch about joining or for more information on our working groups.

I hope that you enjoy reading #ColmoreLife

Michele Wilby

Executive Director, Colmore BID

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wearespoke.co.uk

Diaries at the ready

We've got your back in 2019



It's looking like being a great year for festivals, food and fun in Birmingham as a host of events take place throughout 2019. We've picked out five highlights for you to start planning ahead...

Flatpack Film Festival..... 30 April-6 May

Described as 'magnificently eclectic' by national media, Flatpack is a festival which will take over venues across Birmingham between 30 April and 6 May, 2019. It draws people from far and wide with a mixture of films, performances, contraptions and surprises.

Themes include animation, music, artists' film, archive discoveries, offbeat shorts for kids and live cinema.

Visit flatpackfestival.org.uk for latest news, schedules and for Flatmate membership information.



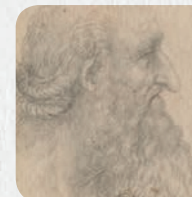
Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing..... Runs until 6 May

To mark the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci, 12 of the Renaissance master's drawings from the Royal Collection will go on display at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, as part of 12 simultaneous exhibitions across the UK.

Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing, a nationwide event, will give the widest-ever UK audience the opportunity to see the work of this extraordinary artist, with 144 of his greatest drawings from the Royal Collection forming the 12 exhibitions.

The exhibition runs until Monday, 6 May and is free to visit.

Go to www.birminghammuseums.org.uk for more information.

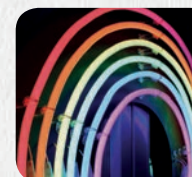


Birmingham Pride..... 25 May-26 May

Thousands of partygoers are expected to descend on Birmingham Gay Pride on Saturday, 25 May and Sunday, 26 May, at Birmingham Gay Village for the UK's biggest two-day LGBTQ festival.

A Carnival Parade will wind its way through the city centre as part of Gay Pride, with previous years featuring open top buses, classic cars and a fire engine!

Visit www.birminghampride.com for the latest news.

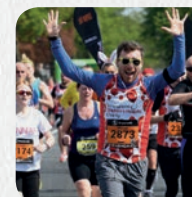


Simplyhealth Great Birmingham 10K..... 26 May

The Simplyhealth Great Birmingham 10K returns on Sunday, 26 May, with a new and improved route that takes in some of the city's best sights. Among them, Colmore Row and Birmingham Cathedral.

It's an inclusive event that is designed to appeal to runners and walkers of all abilities who might be taking on their first organised run or raising money for a cause close to their heart.

Find out more at www.greatrun.org



Colmore Food Festival..... Fri 5 July-Sat 6 July

A firm favourite for food lovers who travel from far and wide to sample the best of the Business District every summer. This year's Colmore Food Festival takes place on Friday, July 5 and Saturday, July 6 and will once again feature more than 30 food and drink stalls, live performances and cooking demonstrations from the most talented chefs in the city centre.

Keep an eye on the **Colmore BID website** for announcements.



Colmore BID Events

We will be adding more great events such as our charity quizzes, Food Festival Fringe events and more sporting events so please get in touch with katy.paddock@colmorebid.co.uk if you would like to be signed up to our mailer to hear first about upcoming events!

Wellbeing Workshop
4 March

Wellbeing Workshop
13 March

Wellbeing Workshop
3 April

Wellbeing Workshop
10 April

Cinema Club
9 May

Wellbeing Workshop
15 May

Wellbeing Workshop
22 May

Community Games
24 May

Colmore Food Festival
5 July

Colmore Food Festival
6 July

Colmore Cinema Club
31 October

Colmore Christmas Lights
Switch On

14 November

Christmas Workshop
27 November

Christmas Workshop
4 December

Colmore Cinema Club
5 December

Christmas Workshop
11 December



Ballot success for Colmore BID as it secures third term

Key Facts

- ➔ New term will generate £6 million investment in city centre
- ➔ Snow Hill area enhancements to be prioritised
- ➔ Colmore Food Festival will continue to improve
- ➔ Improved safety and security provision

The Business District will benefit from an additional £6 million of investment in events, street-cleaning and public realm improvements after the Colmore BID secured a new five-year term, which begins in April.

The BID secured the new term between 2019-2024 after a successful renewal ballot of its members in November.

A total of 96% businesses voted in favour of the Colmore BID continuing, with 98% in favour by rateable value. The turnout was 64%, the highest turnout for a BID renewal ballot in the country for 2018.

A Business Improvement District (BID) is where local businesses in a defined geographic area vote to invest together in additional projects and services to improve their business environment. There are now over 300 BIDs in towns and cities across the UK, with 12 of these in Birmingham. Colmore BID's new term will begin on 1 April, 2019.

Colmore Business District is considered the commercial heart of Birmingham with over 35,000 employees and five million square feet of office space.

Colmore BID Executive Director, Michele Wilby, said: "We are delighted to have been voted in for our third term and we are looking forward to delivering our ambitious plans for BID 3. A third term will see over £6 million being invested over five years into Birmingham city centre."

"A third term allows us to continue to deliver on our transformational public realm programme around Snow Hill station and the surrounding areas and we will bolster our on-street presence to provide more support to businesses and partners in relation to security and street scene issues."

"In addition to the aims set out in our Business Plan, we will continue to explore innovative ways to ensure that Colmore Business District continues to be a key UK business hub."

Gary Cardin, Chair of Colmore Business District, said: "I am delighted that local businesses have voted yes for Colmore BID's third term."

"The next five years will be pivotal for the city and Colmore BID is looking forward to working with partners to ensure that Colmore Business District continues to be the place to do business in Birmingham."

"Over the last ten years, Colmore BID has delivered public realm projects, award-winning events and cultural activities, all whilst working to keep the quality of the experience of those who work and visit the District to a high standard."

"We will improve and expand on the work that we currently do, as well as bringing new, ambitious projects to the area. We would like to thank local businesses for their support, and we look forward to working with them through the next five years."

The Leader of Birmingham City Council, Cllr Ian Ward, congratulated the BID on its successful renewal ballot.

"I look forward to a close partnership between the City Council and Colmore BID for the strategic success of the city centre," he said.

"There are many exciting developments and opportunities in Birmingham and Colmore BID is integral in helping to maximise these for the benefit of the commercial heart of the city centre."

Words by Stacey Barnfield.



Successful Bid 3



"We are delighted to have been voted in for our third term and we are looking forward to delivering our ambitious plans for BID 3. A third term will see over £6 million being invested over five years into Birmingham city centre."

Colmore BID Executive Director, Michele Wilby

Famous threes: answers from the front cover (from left to right, top to bottom).

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ① Snow Hill Car Park | ⑤ EFG Independent Financial Advisors | ⑨ Snow Hill Car Park | ⑬ Birmingham and Midland Institute | ⑰ Wellington House | (back cover) |
| ② Rider Levett Bucknall | ⑥ Livery Street | ⑩ No. 23 Bus | ⑭ Victoria Square | ⑱ Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery | ⑳ 50 Newhall Street |
| ③ Bike Rental Colmore Row | ⑦ Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery | ⑪ Speed Limit Margaret Street | ⑮ Sainsbury's | ⑲ Snow Hill Station | ㉑ Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery |
| ④ Birmingham Cathedral | ⑧ Cavendish House | ⑫ Discovery | ⑯ Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery | ㉒ 43 Temple Row | ㉓ 50 Newhall Street |
| | | | | | ㉔ 103 Colmore Row |

Safe and sound



New expertise added to Colmore BID's Work Stream

As Colmore BID prepares for BID 3, Paul Street has been appointed to give a new strategic direction to Colmore BID's Safe and Sound projects. Paul has recently completed a 12-month contract delivering award-winning work for Soho Road BID after a career at West Midlands Police spanning 30 years.

Paul's commitment to policing started at a young age. Halfway through his A-levels he decided to sign up to the WMP Cadet scheme and follow his father into the Police. The scheme exposed him to community policing, which he enjoyed. The next few years would see Paul working at Birmingham Airport with Special Branch; his first major experience of balancing the needs of policing with the commercial needs of businesses.

In 2001, Paul's career took another leap as he was drafted in to lead on the Forensic Exhibit Management of the bomb attack by the Real IRA in Birmingham City Centre, the last attack by the group on the UK mainland. He went on to become one of the lead officers tasked with setting up the West Midlands Counter-Terrorism Unit, the first regional unit in the UK. His wealth of experience led to him being brought in to assist in the wake of the 7/7 bombings in 2005, and his work on this crime led to him receiving the Commissioners Commendation.

In 2008, Paul moved back into community policing, rising to the rank of Temporary Inspector. Initially based in Handsworth, Paul has led on tackling Urban Street Gangs, and Serious Youth Violence.

Paul finished a distinguished career in his final role leading joint strategic partnerships between West Midlands Police and the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership. In this role, Paul picked up a number of work streams focused on business crime, which included developing the city's taxi marshals scheme, and working with BIDs to develop and fund a range of initiatives.

Paul is looking forward to helping to establish new and develop old partnerships within the District. He will also be working with our growing night time economy to help keep Colmore Business District the place to go for a safe and enjoyable night out.

Words by Jonathan Bryce.

The 'Big One'

Ultrafast Fibre Broadband voucher scheme

**"Resolving host.....
establishing secure connection....."**

Any reader familiar with this response from a web browser - and especially with the length of waiting time associated with the dots between them, probably works in an office where the broadband is provided via copper wires. The most you'll get out of that technology is about 17Mb/sec, which is somewhere around the turn of the century in demand terms.

It's ironic that at home we take for granted that Dad is downloading a HD blockbuster film in the living room, Mum is watching a box set on her iPad and the kids are playing multiplayer online games elsewhere in the house and the full fibre broadband just shrugs it off. Other than the fact that this hypothetical family should consider spending more quality time together, in connectivity terms they're all good.

At work it's a different story, unless you work for a company with the resources to have a private fibre connection or leased line. The miracle of sending shedloads of data via pulses of light has yet to reach many smaller firms in Colmore BID and that's a big problem.

Why? Because cloud-based software solutions have rocketed in popularity in the last few years and if your firm needs to use software-as-a-service (SaaS) for mission-critical activities 17Mb/sec (less once you account for 'contention' and anyone in the office streaming music) isn't going to cut it. We are talking about a serious growth constraint for those engines of the economy, SMEs.

Help is at hand. Colmore BID is partnering with a network provider to attempt a massive win for the District: full fibre comms to every premises in the BID area. It's a big undertaking and the difficulties of digging up the City Centre mean that the commercial return alone isn't enough for a network provider to make the expense worthwhile. That leaves a 'gap cost'. Thankfully the Government has made vouchers available to 'qualifying SMEs' that enable them to save £2500 on the cost of getting fibre to their premises. But here's the fun part: this network provider will let us stitch together the value of as many vouchers as we can to get as much off the gap cost as possible. That opens the way for us to achieve **the Big One**: full fibre (up to a Gigabit) available to every business in the District. That prize is too valuable for us not to try it.



Your role in this is that if you work for a 'qualifying SME' you should really consider applying for a voucher. Your only commitment will be that, once the full fibre infrastructure is in place you will buy a business contract within 12 months for gigabit data from one of the re-sellers who use the network provider's infrastructure. That's it; basically if your business is crying out for faster broadband you just have to commit to buying it when it becomes available. Not that much of a commitment then.

If we don't get enough vouchers, the project won't go ahead, and many of us will be stuck with the choice between paying more to go it alone or putting up with poor speed.

You can do something about this now by contacting our new colleague Chris Murphy (chris.murphy@colmorebid.co.uk), who is trying to speak to all qualifying SME's in the District about the voucher scheme.

Words by Mike Mounfield.

Everything changes...

Transformation company Curium helps empower individuals, teams and organisations

Fast-growing business transformation company Curium Solutions is continuing to make a name for itself after scooping high-profile awards and accolades for its work empowering the potential of individuals, teams and organisations.

In November Curium was shortlisted in The Birmingham Post Business Awards, while in April 2018 the company won the Excellence in People Development Award at the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce Awards, before being named Business of the Year. It was also shortlisted in two categories at The Business Desk Business Masters Awards.

Curium also features in Innovation 50 – an index of the 50 most forward-thinking companies in the Midlands – and was shortlisted in the City of Birmingham Business Awards.

Director and Co-founder Andy Dawson said: "Our mission is to empower people and organisations to achieve their personal and business potential, helping them turn strategic priorities into reality through successful transformation. We do this by putting people first, keeping it simple and making it real."

"Two core practices – Performance Learning and Change Delivery – combine to drive fast and sustainable change in individuals and teams. This ensures that any intervention both accelerates people capability and then ensures the impact is embedded and sustained."

Last summer, Curium acquired Anne Clews Consulting Ltd, a people change company led by performance learning expert Anne Clews. Anne will lead Curium's Performance Learning practice, which empowers people to fulfil their potential.

Part of Curium's ambitious growth plans, the acquisition includes Anne – a TetraMap master facilitator, coach and learning practitioner – Anne's client base, which includes O2, the BBC and Lidl, and access to the UK's leading TetraMap facilitators.

Curium Director and Co-founder, James Farrow, said: "We're delighted to welcome Anne to the team. We've worked as strategic partners for nearly 10 years and massively value the positive difference she makes to whomever she works with."

"Our ability to deliver Curium's core purpose, which is to 'empower people and organisations to achieve their potential' will be enhanced enormously. Together, we'll offer a broader range of services and support to individuals, teams and organisations who need our help."

Anne specialises in transforming individual and team performance across global organisations. Since 2007, she has represented TetraMap International in the UK, enabling people to understand themselves and others better, and helping TetraMap become a trusted and recognised name.

"Joining forces is a great opportunity for both of us and I'm looking forward to introducing my customers to other Curium services that will help them change and perform better," said Anne.

Curium's US business has also experienced a strong 2018, securing a first mandate in Canada and hiring performance learning specialist Suzan Hochstetler.

Reflecting on the company's decade of impressive growth, Andy Dawson described how lucky he has been to have been with Curium since its inception in 2008.

"During that time I have been involved in pretty much everything we do," said Andy.

"Today, I spend most of my time talking to our customers, looking at new ways in which we can help them steal a march on their competitors, whilst being very pragmatic about the situations and challenges that they face."

"Having spent most of my career working in the financial services sector, I am excited by the huge amount of change impacting the legal and insurance sector for example, and I'm actively working with customers to exploit the opportunities that these changes are creating, without over complicating things."

Words by Stacey Barnfield.



The young ones

All-new Birmingham Young Professional of the Year committee unveiled for 2019

The team organising the 2019 Birmingham Young Professional of the Year (BYPY) Awards has been unveiled. The 2019 event organised by BPS Birmingham Future, a membership organisation which connects, promotes and represents professional services in the city, will take place in May at the ICC.

Meet the 2019 Committee

Following her role as deputy chair in 2018, the 2019 committee will be chaired by Kirn Dibra, a Risk and Control Manager at Experian. Kirn has brought together a brand-new team from a range of sectors for 2019, to support the delivery of one of the city's most prestigious business events.

You can find out more about the committee at www.bpsbirmingham.co.uk/bypy/committee













"I'm thrilled to be chairing 2019's BYPY committee, after being part of the committee for the second year. This year, we're welcoming a group of enthusiastic new faces to the committee, who are already bringing fresh and innovative ideas to the table which we'll be sharing soon."

BYPY is an opportunity to celebrate everything brilliant about Birmingham; our growth and development as a city, our talent, and above all, our people. I can't wait to put on an incredible event to celebrate the best our city has to offer."



Kirn Dibra (Chair)
Risk And Control Manager, Experian

2019's line-up consists of

-  **Chandni Kotak**
Construction Solicitor, Pinsent Masons LLP
-  **Azeem Qadir**
Assistant Audit Manager, BDO UK LLP
-  **Matt Cockett**
Graphics Manager, PSP Ltd
-  **Greta Geoghegan**
Director of PR and Communications, Digital Glue
-  **Jordan Hollingsworth**
Solicitor, Pinsent Masons LLP
-  **Gishan Abeyratne**
Senior Associate, BCL Legal
-  **Lucy Gray**
Solicitor, Shoosmiths LLP
-  **Jodie Tipper**
Junior Account, Executive at East Village
-  **Nicola Storey-Wood**
Solicitor, Shakespeare Martineau LLP
-  **Katy Paddock**
Acting Projects Maker, Colmore Business District

Celebrating 19 Years of BYPY

Back for the 19th year, BYPY recognises and rewards under-35s across six main categories; Finance, HR, Recruitment & Training, Legal, Marketing & Communications, Property & Construction, and Technology. One category winner is then named overall BYPY; in 2018, the honour was awarded to the winner of the finance category, Laura Thursfield, a Financial Planner at Mazars UK.

The event also recognises exceptional individuals aged between 16 to 24 with the 'Aspiring Talent' award, as well as awarding an 'Inspiring Leader', an individual who inspires a generation whilst making a big impact on the region's business and professional services sector.

With a commitment to supporting the progression and skills development of young people, BNP Paribas Personal Finance return as headline sponsor of BYPY 2019.

Keep an eye on www.bpsbirmingham.co.uk/bypy for the event date, plus nomination forms and ticket availability.



Having a ruff day?

Then Murphy, the Chief Morale Officer, might be able to help



Lorri, my human, works as a Head-hunter with Friisberg & Partners International on Temple Row West. I'm the Chief Morale Officer and office dogsbody but my favourite duty is managing the lawns around St Philip's Cathedral. I'm responsible for making sure all the sticks are fetched, lampposts sniffed (and watered) and pigeons appropriately chased.

Unlike many, I really look forward to a day in the office - not only are there proven benefits to having pets at work, but we help to attract and retain great humans; the shared health benefits of a good tummy tickle should not be underestimated! A study in the International Journal of Workplace Health Management found that access to dogs was a calming influence and reduced stress levels.

My day starts at home with breakfast - my favourite meal of the day; well, it's a five-way tie with elevenses, lunch, dinner, and supper. Our morning car journey allows time for dreams of chasing squirrels and once we arrive I love our walk across the Cathedral Green. My favourite time of year is Winter when my search for hidden sticks under the snow makes lots of passers-by smile - which is good because humans often look so glum. I like to connect and network and check out who is new in town at the lampposts. Then I go into the office with a cheery wag.

My days are varied but meeting a lot of people can be tiring, so it's important to have a comfortable space to relax next to the radiator. Frequent pee-breaks are a must - I am the consummate professional in that regard, but it's been close a couple of times when Lorri's been caught up in interviews. I like it when I get to visit clients - they have the best biscuits and are happy to share. They never share chocolate ones though - humans keep telling me that chocolate is bad for dogs, I reckon they just want to keep it all for themselves.

At lunch I watch the pigeons hiding in the trees as we walk to eat our lunch in one of the increasing numbers of dog friendly cafes - Urban Coffee is my current favourite. Lorri's usually on the phone to a CEO or HRD taking a brief for a FD, CIO or COO. No idea what the letters mean, but there seem to be a lot of them wanting her time and entrusting her to find them the best people to run their businesses.

We are great at what we do. Everyone is always busy, and I hear everyone say that they enjoy head-hunting the best people and working with some great clients. Humans are very strange, but I like them anyway - even if they won't share their chocolate.

I love meeting new people, so please get in touch and book a meeting with me - even if you've not got an executive vacancy to fill right now, I'd welcome a biscuit any time. You can email me at murphy@friisberg.com and one of the team will help me reply to you and arrange to meet with one of the Friisberg team to talk about Executive Search, Succession Planning or Management Audits (yawn...wake me up when you are done).

Words by Lorri Lowe.



HOME OF METAL

Row
veal

presents

BLACK SABBATH 50 YEARS

A major exhibition exploring the legacy of Black Sabbath and their global fan base. June 22 - Sept 29 2019 at Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

Formed in Aston, Birmingham England in 1968 and cited as the pioneers and godfathers of Heavy Metal, Black Sabbath was founded by Tony Iommi, Geezer Butler, Ozzy Osbourne and Bill Ward. The exhibition aims to explore how the music of four working class lads captured the hearts and minds of fans globally. A testament to their loyalty, the exhibition will pay homage

to the fan's devotion and document the fifty-year relationship. This immersive exhibition will feature historical photos, ephemera, and memorabilia sourced directly from the band members as well as portraits and stories from the Home of Metal fan archive that mark this unique moment in history.

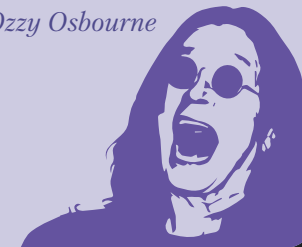
For more information visit www.homeofmetal.com



"Fans are our lifeblood, they've always been there to support us."
Tony Iommi

"It's an honour to be a part of the Home of Metal. I am just a guy from Birmingham who's been blessed to have had such dedicated fans throughout my career. Like I've always said 'I am nothing without them.'"

Ozzy Osbourne



We would like to thank our generous partners and everyone involved.

The exhibition is supported by Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund, Laney Amplification and Colmore Business District



A little more conversation

Put your phones away, the Speakeasy is here

My guess is that for many of us there's a strange paradox to our existence, the more we have the less time we have for. Our phone screens glow with an overwhelming array of apps all bearing testament to the pursuit of a time saving easy life in which everything from laundry to divorce might be sorted with a simple 'click here'; and yet most of us are deeply enriched when we take time to tune out of the distractions and be with others.

Wind back to 1921 and for most of America's metropolitan citizen's life was both very different and very similar. The dogged determination of conservative evangelicals fighting against government corruption had led Congress to prohibit such simple pleasures as the sale and consumption of alcohol. Imagine!!

Under one of Colmore BID's finest independent retailers a team of enthusiastic devotees are dedicated to reliving the virtues of prohibition history. If you're lucky you'll be slipped a playing card. Call the number and make your reservation. You'll be given a password and instructions for entry. Upon arrival you'll enter through a concealed entrance, you'll be greeted by a friendly team of hosts spreading Speakeasy love to all they meet. Take a look through the menu and you'll spot heritage cocktails dating back to the prohibition period. Each cocktail is made to a rare 60ml measure with a simple promise 'if the ingredients aren't on the menu they're not in your drink'.

"We are huge fans of conversation, this is a space to reconnect and enjoy the wonders of life, everything else can wait"

And yet, because the human condition is not easily abated there were creative genius who devoted themselves to taking a scarcity of resources and mixing some of the finest liquor the nation had ever tasted. In their craft these infamous bar tenders provided space for deep human engagement.

Prohibition America was a strange and wonderful place. In the back room of clothes shops, book stores, banks and sports clubs bar tenders facilitated evenings so special their legacy continues to shape mixology today.

Of course access to America's Speakeasy bars relied on you being in the know. No password no entry. Break the rules and face swift eviction. Fail to keep the secret and risk the wrath of the mob.

Not a huge fan of cocktails? Fear not Birmingham's only Speakeasy also hosts a carefully selected choice of American craft beer.

Just like every other Speakeasy bar these guys have rules, above all they'll make it clear to you that they run a strict 'no phones and absolutely no social media' policy. Bar man's word is final. This stripping away of modern life may at first feel a little odd but the staff team behind Speakeasy are keen to remind us that their rules exist for good reasons.

"We are huge fans of conversation, this is a space to reconnect and enjoy the wonders of life, everything else can wait"

Brand Manager Andi outlines the simplicity of their no social media policy: "tell folks you love and care about for everyone else Speakeasy".

Words by Andi Smith.



LIQUOR STORE

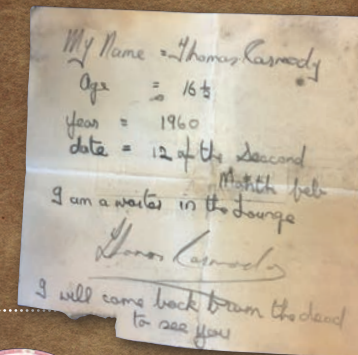


Going underground

Renovations at The Grand have revealed a range of curious artefacts chronicling the hotel's fascinating history.

Words by Stacey Barnfield.

On 12 February 1960 waiter Thomas Carmody, aged 16 1/2, slipped a note under the floorboards at The Grand. His chilling message, scrawled on the back of a restaurant menu, said: "I will come back from the dead to see you." Thomas would now be 72. Is he still alive, or is he stalking The Grand's corridors in spirit form?



This fireplace with its attractive tiled surround was salvaged during the refurbishment of the office suites at The Grand. It's just as well; turns out the brilliantly coloured ceramics are coveted De Morgans, designed by William De Morgan, a key proponent of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the late 19th and early 20th Century.

Row Reveal

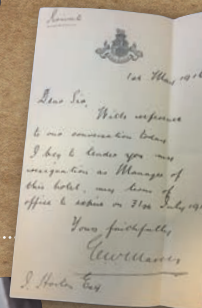


There was no danger of forgetting where you were when dining at The Grand. The hotel's bespoke bone china Wedgwood crockery bore the Grand Hotel crest.

This flyer promoting Christmas and New Year celebrations in 1973/4 includes a Ball on 31 December. Each £6.75 ticket bought a "sumptuous dinner accompanied by half a bottle of champagne," as well as live entertainment for the evening. Now there's a bargain!



On 1 May 1916 The Grand's manager resigned, giving two months' notice. His formal note was found in a safe. Off to war perhaps?



Hundreds of glass water bottles were found in The Grand's basement, where the hotel boasts two freshwater wells. These wells are 238ft deep and still in good working order. They'd make a great source of H2O for an on-site micro-brewery or gin distillery.



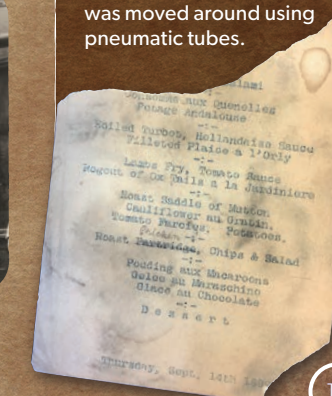
A piano was found in The Grand's Grosvenor Street. A ghostly pianist has been heard to tinkle its ivories from time to time. Spooky.



The Grand was one of the first buildings to use steel girders to support its structure. These shots show a glimpse of an original girder, and shirt and waistcoat attired workers erecting the Grosvenor Suite.

Birmingham's Michelin starred chefs take note: according to this type-written menu, dated 14 September 1889, The Grand was serving up "plaiçe a l'Orly", "ox tails a la jardinière" and "gelee au maraschino". Maybe the city was a foodie haven even then?

Long before emails, a hotel's internal communications included a bell system, while money was moved around using pneumatic tubes.



Listening out for the business community

ChaplaincyPlus helps those facing challenges at home or work

Colmore Row-based ChaplaincyPlus provides a confidential and neutral listening service for city workers who might be experiencing challenges at home or in the office.

Formed in 2003, the charity is based in the heart of the Business District and provides a chaplaincy outreach service to several companies in the area. It also hosts events and talks featuring high-profile business and charity executives.

It is non-denominational and is mainly funded by donations from individuals within the business community. It also receives financial support from charitable trusts and churches.

Steve Bavington, a well-known member of Colmore Business District, has been Director of ChaplaincyPlus for over four years.

"This is a charity that was set up to have time for people," he said.

"We have time to listen through one-to-one meetings. We have time to run special interest groups and host events that help connect people.

"In a nutshell, we're about well-being. A lot of what we do is focused on helping people thrive. We know that when an individual thrives, the company thrives, and when the company thrives, the city thrives," added Steve.

ChaplaincyPlus is looking forward to spring 2019 with exciting initiatives and events for the city's business community.

The Annual Birmingham Prayer Breakfast takes place on 2 April at the ICC, and will be on the theme of 'Hope for Birmingham in a Changing World'. International speaker Malcolm Duncan will be helping city leaders think about how we stay hopeful in the midst of challenge – particularly as we follow the Brexit journey. Malcolm leads a large church in Northern Ireland and is a broadcaster and writer. He serves on the boards and advisory groups of a number of churches, charities and businesses and is involved in a number of advocacy campaigns.



Steve Bavington, Director ChaplaincyPlus

In the days before Easter (16, 17 and 18 April), ChaplaincyPlus will be supporting Saltmine, a professional theatre company, in the performance of public processional Passion Play in the Business District. This big budget production will be running at lunchtimes and will be free to watch.

ChaplaincyPlus has also recently recruited two new members of staff – Ruth Jeavons and Emily Jones – to lead the work of supporting a network of 20s and 30s in the city. This social network meet up regularly to support and encourage one another, helping to combat isolation and build positive, life-affirming friendships.

Words by Stacey Barnfield.

For more information about these, or other work and events ChaplaincyPlus is involved in go to their website www.chaplaincyplus.org.uk



Ruth Jeavons and Emily Jones, ChaplaincyPlus



Personal touch helping surveyors to build on their success

Propitas staying small and focused

Propitas is an independent firm of chartered building surveyors and project managers predominantly operating in the commercial property sector.

With offices in London, Gatwick and at 75-77 Colmore Row, in the heart of the Business District, the company offers all aspects of building surveying, project management and cost consultancy services to investors, developers, occupiers and owners.

Chris Hodgson is director and head of the Birmingham office which, on the third floor of 75-77 Colmore Row, enjoys impressive views out to Cathedral Square and the bustle of the Row.

Originally from Nottingham, Chris has worked in Birmingham since 2007, with a brief hiatus in the south east. He knows the regional commercial property market as well as anybody and this feeds through to the Propitas growth strategy.

"We've got competitors who have grown exponentially and that was clearly their intention," he explains.

"We want to stay that small, focused business where we all know everyone. We're not going to get to 100-plus staff; that's just not our plan.

"Our intention is to maintain the close-knit nucleus of the business so we can enjoy staff outings and our clients know everyone in the company."

However, despite this careful approach to management of the Propitas brand Chris, his fellow directors and the wider team aren't planning to take things easy.

"We'd like to open a couple more offices – Manchester and Nottingham are on the radar," he points out.

"The intention would be to grow those offices to five or six people.

"Our growth will be organic, to enable us to provide the high level of customer service we offer at present. We won't compromise on that."

This year represents Propitas' 11th anniversary and the company was recently appointed by global TV service Netflix to provide advice on properties they are taking on in the UK.

Propitas were able to advise Netflix and manage their risk profile of acquiring the assets.

"Our work with Netflix has predominately been in the south east.

However, it has been great as they're one of those high-profile brands

everyone is familiar with and it has helped put us on the map," says Chris.

"We're relatively new to this region but our work with the likes of Costa, Prezzo, Waterstones and now Netflix – all brands everyone relates to – has been great, and really compliments our more traditional commercial property focused clients.

"Sadly I didn't get to rub shoulders with any of the stars you might have seen on TV! Our work with Netflix was much less glamorous but still a great experience."

Propitas has been in Birmingham since 2015, 'picking up a nice client base of loyal, repeat clients', explains Chris.

"What sets us apart is the fact clients deal with me, a director in the business, and they know the team on a personal level. We try to instill that personal relationship. You're getting a true director-led service with us."

With a portfolio of national and international clients, the Propitas team is enjoying being on Colmore Row and the 'room to grow' the office space allows.

"Propitas in Birmingham works with companies across the country. I can be working anywhere from the south coast to Scotland.

"That's why we work well; there are no geographic barriers for each of the three Propitas offices – we all work in the way that best suits our clients, wherever they are. It's quite relaxed in that regard and that's why people enjoy working here; we're quite a relaxed business.

"Being on Colmore Row really helps this. The office is perfect for us to grow into and it's great to be part of the city's business community."

Words by Stacey Barnfield.



Office coffee heading in right direction

200 Degrees now offering perfect brew at your desk

Since 200 Degrees Coffee opened on Colmore Row in 2016 the shop has developed a loyal following. In fact, the only problem is that it may be difficult to pop out for coffee during a hectic day, and that means making do with whatever lives in the office kitchen or lurks in the nearest machine.

So during their long hours waxing beards or reclining on the tattooist's couch, the roasters have been thinking hard and have decided the answer is to bring their coffee to you. Not in the form of a sweaty cyclist traipsing a tray of lattes up the stairs, but as a complete coffee solution that will dispense 200 Degrees Coffee as and when you desire it. You'll obviously need to close your eyes to imagine 'you're there' but the coffee will be the same fresh, hand roasted beans served in the shop and they even send their original Head Roaster to set up the equipment.

Tim Moss has been with 200 Degrees since 2012 and is now coffee solutions specialist, a role that concentrates on providing high quality coffee to the business community

"Nobody should have to drink bad coffee but there hasn't really been that much choice for workplaces in the past. I've spent most of the last year encouraging businesses to use fresh beans and the latest equipment with the simple aim of helping people drinking better coffee at work.

We've done several tasting sessions and also staged pop-up coffee stalls in foyers such as Cornerblock near Snow Hill; those have been extremely popular. We'd like to see companies bin the tin of instant and scrap the dreaded vending machine because they can now provide coffee that's much closer to coffee shop standards. The technology really is as simple as pushing a button, and there are affordable options suitable for any size of office. It all starts with a 'Coffee Assessment' and Tim makes it sound easy

"Most people think we're going to turn up, glance in the kitchen for 10 seconds and then start selling stuff but it's not like that. We make some coffee, hand out the brownies and chat about what sort of solution people might want. It really is just everyone sitting there talking about coffee for a while, I know that sounds like a hard job, but rest assured that I've had special training for it. If people are interested from there we arrange for them to try the beans or machines, come and see us at Colmore Row for a demo or even make a trip to our roast house and watch the beans being roasted too.

So drinking good coffee at work is no longer an idea only harboured by a few impulsive dreamers. If you can't get to 200 Degrees, you can bring a little corner of their coffee shop straight to your desk.



To book a chat with Tim call 0115 837 4849 or email tim@200degs.com



Work it Out

Helping homeless people back into work, and off the streets

Launch of new employment programme for homeless people in Birmingham

SIFA Fireside and Urban Emporiums have launched an employment programme to support people in Birmingham who are homeless or vulnerably housed into stable work. 'Work It Out' was launched last November at Urban Emporiums with West Midlands Combined Authority Mayor, Andy Street in attendance.

Work it Out is an innovative employment programme designed to successfully support those who are homeless or vulnerably housed back into work. The programme provides small and medium sized independent businesses the opportunity to invest in a paid work placement for some of the city's most marginalised adults. The programme is a great opportunity to link the charity and commercial sectors; building strong and sustainable community links in Birmingham.



"We are asking local business to take a leap and invest in homeless people in Birmingham. We know that this model can really work"

The employment model has been co-designed and tested by SIFA Fireside homeless charity & Urban Emporiums, with input from SIFA Fireside clients. The model has been tested on a small scale and is now ready to be launched out to independent Birmingham businesses. SIFA Fireside will be supporting both clients and businesses through the programme to ensure the smoothest transition for both employer and employee.

The programme has success stories already, with two SIFA Fireside clients transitioning into employment with the help of Urban Emporiums and the Work It Out model. Both clients who were previously homeless and unemployed have been working with Urban for more than twelve months.

Carly Jones, SIFA Fireside CEO says:

'To go from homelessness & unemployment into permanent work can be a big step; if we do not invest with intensive support, then there is a high chance that the employment will fail.'

'Our programme has been proven to successfully support homeless individuals back into stable work and accommodation.'

Hannah Wolsey, Urban Emporiums says:

'We are asking local business to take a leap and invest in homeless people in Birmingham. We know that this model can really work'

The programme was launched last November at a private event. The event is for business owners & decision makers and will entail discussions around homelessness in the City and what small and medium independent businesses can do to help combat these issues. Birmingham Mayor, Andy Street, will also be talking on the impact homelessness is having on the city.

sifa fireside
◆ BIRMINGHAM ◆

Back to the future

With plans progressing for the conversion of one of the Business District's most impressive sites into a new aparthotel, Stacey Barnfield finds out more about the Victorian heiress whose name the building carries.

Victorian Birmingham has a rich history of philanthropy as wealthy industrialists and land-owners saw it as their civic duty to give back to the town that helped make their fortunes.

The Cadburys, the Chamberlains, the Feeneys; they all played a great part in developing a sense of pride and leaving a rich legacy of art galleries, hospitals and education facilities still in use today.

Among these was Louisa Anne Ryland, heiress to the Ryland family business and a multi-million-pound fortune created through the wire drawing industry.

Business District visitors and workers will be familiar with the Grade II-listed Louisa Ryland House occupying a prominent location on the corner of Newhall Street and Edmund Street.

The building will soon be brought back to life as a Native 'aparthotel' after lying empty following its most recent use as city council offices.

The aparthotel will, according to the developers, offer 'a uniquely special place for Birmingham's business and leisure travellers, at the heart of the arts and cultural centres of the city and equidistant between Snow Hill and Brindley Place'.

The location occupies several grand civic 19th century buildings with decorative facades, generous floor to ceiling heights and magnificent windows; an important part of the building's listing.

At ground-floor level, the aparthotel will benefit from over 14,000 sq ft. of space that will be transformed into a restaurant, coffee shop, fitness studio and co-working space, while a striking glass-roofed conservatory will expand from the reception area through to an open-air courtyard area.

The building's restoration and new lease of life is welcome news indeed and offers hope of maintaining the legacy of Louisa Ryland.

But who was Louisa, and why did the city choose to honour her with such a grand architectural gesture?

Louisa Anne was born on 17 January, 1814, at the Laurels, Edgbaston. She was the only child of Samuel Ryland and Ann Pemberton.

When their daughter was still young, the Rylands moved from Birmingham to Warwick but tragedy struck the family as Ann died when Louisa was still a baby.

Her father never remarried and when he died in 1843, with Louisa being the only child, she inherited estates worth millions of pounds in

Ladywood, Sparkhill, Small Heath, Northfield and Moseley.

For 28-year-old Louisa, such an inheritance wasn't to be used for further personal gain. She quickly set about using her new fortune and vast areas of land to support those who needed it most.

Birmingham at this time was a booming town growing into a city. While its thousand trades had helped put it on the industrial map, many residents were still living in wretched poverty. Mayor Joseph Chamberlain's slum clearances were still gathering momentum and his programme of buying utilities, such as clean running water, for city dwellers were yet to be enjoyed.

For Louisa's firm belief in goodwill to others this provided a fertile opportunity to 'do her bit'.

Her most generous gesture came in 1873 – the same year as Chamberlain becoming mayor – when she handed to the Council the freehold of 66 acres of land in Moseley to be used as a free park. This became Cannon Hill Park; to this day one of the most popular open spaces in the city.

She also contributed to the construction of the Birmingham School of Art on Margaret Street – just yards away from Louisa Ryland House – one of Birmingham's finest examples of Victorian red-brick Gothic architecture and now part of Birmingham City University's Faculty of Arts, Design and Media.

Louisa continued to provide generously to hospitals, churches and schools until her death in January 1889.

When she died, her estate was valued at more than £2 million and her will is described as an extraordinary lengthy and complex document, mentioning more than 100 people. Executors were given strict instructions that any bequest was spent in the way Louisa instructed and, interestingly, individual heirs were told to add Ryland to their surname or forfeit their inheritance.

Louisa was just one among many other Victorian philanthropists who used their wealth to establish important institutions in our city, explains Rita McLean, Chair, Birmingham Civic Society Heritage Committee.

"Cadbury, Nettlefold, Feeny, Jaffray, Chamberlain, are just some of the names of individuals or families who gave vast sums of money to set up hospitals, educational institutions and improve housing conditions," says Rita.

"Birmingham Civic Society marked just one aspect of Louisa Ryland's enormous generosity to Birmingham through commemorating her with a Blue Plaque bearing the inscription: This park, one of many gifts to Birmingham by Louisa Ann Ryland, 1811-89 on The Lodge at the main entrance to Cannon Hill Park.



"Many of our cultural institutions such as the Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham Botanical Gardens and, beyond the Victorian period – the Barber Institute, also owe their origins to a range of significant benefactors who should remain worthy of recognition."

Guy Nixon, Founder and CEO of Native, understands the importance of preserving the legacy and traditions of the buildings the group inherits.

"We are delighted to be breathing new life into one of Birmingham's most historic and beautiful buildings," he explains.

"Louisa Ryland was a hugely generous philanthropist and we are working to see how we can keep her name alive."

"We have a tradition as a business of working with historic buildings and reverting to the original names of the assets. In Manchester, we are refurbishing the old Place Aparthotel into a 166-unit aparthotel and reverting to the original name of that building, the London Warehouse, so called because it used to be where the cotton was stored before being freighted to London on the railway that literally came into the building."

"Louisa Ryland was a hugely generous philanthropist and we are working to see how we can keep her name alive."



Right on track

West Midlands Trains continuing £1 billion investment programme

Business District commuters will benefit from £1 billion of investment over the next seven years as West Midlands Trains continues its programme of new trains, better connections and improved timetables on the network.

The train operator took over from London Midland in December 2017, and has recently moved its head office to the Business District. Around 250 staff are now based in Edmund Street, with a further 2,500 staff based at stations and depots across the rail network.

West Midlands Trains operates over 1,300 services a day, manages 151 stations and provides over 70 million passenger journeys each year. The rail franchise operates the West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway brands.

Jan Chaudhry-van der Velde, managing director of West Midlands Trains, said: "Our first year as a rail franchise has seen some major improvements for our passengers, but this is just the start. Demand for rail travel has doubled over the past 10 years, and we have plans in place to accommodate this ongoing growth.

"This includes not only new trains, but also improved timetables, which are due to be introduced in May. Our new timetables will create better connections across the rail network and make more efficient use of carriages – enabling longer trains and enhanced services to operate on many routes.

"We will be increasing the number of stations with direct services to London Euston and Birmingham Airport. There will also be better connections at Birmingham New Street, with quicker journeys between the West Midlands and the capital. Our new timetables will see later evening services across our network and more services on Sundays."

West Midlands Railway services call at destinations across the West Midlands, travelling via Birmingham Snow Hill and Birmingham New Street stations. To deliver these services, West Midlands Trains works under the direction and guidance of West Midlands Rail Executive.

For more information on West Midlands Trains and to purchase tickets visit westmidlandsrailway.co.uk

London Northwestern Railway services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast mainline to and from London Euston.

At the earliest opportunity, on 10 December 2017, an order was placed for £700 million of new trains. By 2021, there will be 413 new carriages on the train operator's network, increasing capacity by around 25%.

At Birmingham Snow Hill, there are now staffed gate lines from first to last trains each day. This includes having staff also at the second exit on Livery Street, which opened last summer.

West Midlands Trains passengers delayed by just 15 minutes or more can also now claim compensation through the company's delay repay scheme.

As well as getting people where they need to be, West Midlands Trains has also partnered with like-minded organisations to support the prosperity of communities across its network. The train operator is supporting the educational arm of the Albion Foundation, and is working with the Royal Shakespeare Company, to help make train travel to the theatre accessible to all.

West Midlands Trains is also keen to engage with other businesses in Colmore BID to support sustainable travel to work planning.

Words by Stacey Barnfield.

Walk this way

Plans for new entrance to Snow Hill station

Passengers using Snow Hill station are to get a new entrance to make it easier to switch between local rail and tram services.

An image of how the new eastern entrance will look has been released by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), part of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

TfWM also announced the appointment of leading independent infrastructure specialist Barhale to build the £1.5 million project.

The scheme involves opening up another of the arches under the Victorian viaduct that carries trains and the West Midlands Metro trams into the city centre.

At the moment passengers wanting to get from the West Midlands Metro stop at St Chads to trains in Snow Hill Station have to walk down a flight of external steps and then along A4440 Queensway before turning into Livery Street and accessing the station through its second entrance.

Alternatively they have to walk past the Snowhill Three, Two and One office developments and into the main Snow Hill entrance.

The new third entrance will remove both of these external walks and instead give passengers a direct way into the station from the tram stop.

Rail passengers wanting to catch a Metro service will also get direct access without having to leave the station.

Brenda Lawrence, West Midlands Railway's head of stations, said "The future of public transport is all about making it easier and simpler for passengers to move seamlessly between different modes of travel.

"The third Snow Hill entrance, connecting the railway station with the Metro, is another important step towards that goal."

The project will see Barhale construct the entrance beneath the existing brick arch viaduct which is enclosed by a reinforced concrete wall at the station's Livery Street end, where the second entrance was built more than a decade ago.

Work on the new entrance is set to start in summer 2019, and it will link into the existing Livery Street entrance to the station.

Cllr Ian Ward, leader of Birmingham City Council and WMCA portfolio holder for economic growth, said: "Improving the links between local rail and tram services will lead to a much better passenger experience, further cementing Snow Hill's importance to our ambitious growth plans for Birmingham and the wider West Midlands."

New ticketing, security and travel information facilities will also be provided in the new entrance as well as wayfinding signage between the entrance and the St Chads Metro stop.

The new entrance is expected to be in operation in late 2019 with Metro and rail services unaffected during the construction period.

Words by Stacey Barnfield.

“Improving the links between local rail and tram services will lead to a much better passenger experience...”



New to the District

The Economist Group

Publishing company The Economist Group is taking new office space in the Business District to house a technology centre.

The firm publishes magazine The Economist and its website among other titles and the newly acquired space will support the publication's online and digital presence.

The company has agreed a five-year lease at 60 Church Street, which has recently had a £2 million renovation by Catalyst Capital.

Sarah Cooper, portfolio manager at Catalyst Capital, said: "Having an occupier of the calibre of The Economist at 60 Church Street reflects just how important our investment into the refurbishment of this building has been.

"The occupational market in Birmingham remains competitive and we are offering a rare combination of a high-quality working environment available at a competitive price."



Key Land Capital PLC

Investment and development firm Key Land Capital PLC, which is delivering residential projects worth more than £40 million across the West Midlands, has relocated its headquarters into the heart of the business district.

The company has launched its new HQ at Bruntwood's Cornerblock development in Cornwall Street, where it has taken 1,500 sq ft of office space in the recently refurbished building.

Founders Kevin Patrick Sharkey and Alex Sutherland said Key Land Capital's relocation into the Colmore Business District is both a statement of intent and makes perfect business sense.

Kevin said: "It's been an amazing year here at Key Land Capital. From a small start-up in Aston we've progressed rapidly to the point where we are now delivering five exciting residential developments with a total value of more than £40 million.

"Moving into the heart of the business community here in Birmingham was the logical next step as Key Land Capital continues to grow. The city is undergoing a remarkable renaissance and the eyes of the property investment world are watching its transformation with interest."



Building Birmingham's future

Colmore Row partnership to deliver thousands of new properties



A joint venture partnership with ambitious plans to deliver more than 2,000 new homes across Birmingham has opened its office on Colmore Row.

Galliard Homes and Apsley House Capital have taken space in Imperial and Whitehall at The Grand to house their planning, land acquisition, property management and sales and marketing teams.

Birmingham City Council has approved the joint venture between Apsley and Galliard Homes, which was formed in 2016 with the aim of building quality mixed-use schemes on brownfield sites in the West Midlands.

The partnership has acquired five sites across the city, with a gross development value of around £500 million.

Gerard Nock, chairman at Apsley House Capital, described Birmingham as a city with huge potential that is now being realised.

"Key infrastructure projects such as HS2 and the Metro extension, coupled with investment in housing and regeneration, have made the city ripe for investment and an attractive proposition for investors and developers alike," said Gerard.

"Working in partnership with Galliard Homes, we're proud to be playing our part in the future development of Birmingham."

The five sites acquired by the joint-venture partners include Pershore Street, in Birmingham's Southside district, two sites in the Jewellery Quarter and B1 Summer Hill Way, which is to be developed into a residential scheme of around 550 homes, called Camden Yard.

The other two sites are Soho Loop, a 12-acre plot on Birmingham's Main Line Canal, where they have plans to deliver 110 houses and 650 apartments, and a proposed scheme of 700 residential units and 160,000 sq ft of retail space on Belgrave Middleway.

Apsley Capital is a specialist developer of residential and mixed-use schemes, while Galliard Homes is one of London's largest privately owned developers, employing more than 700 staff.

Stephen Conway, executive chairman of Galliard Homes, said: "We share Birmingham City Council's ambitions to provide high quality and affordable housing for the city's growing population.

"Working in partnership with Galliard Homes, we're proud to be playing our part in the future development of Birmingham."

"Working in partnership with the council and other stakeholders, we are committed to helping the city achieve its goals through the delivery of both new homes and commercial and leisure space."

Waheed Nazir, Birmingham City Council's director of economy, responsible for planning, regeneration, economic development, housing and education, said: "Galliard Homes has a proven track record of delivering high quality residential developments in London and the South East and its decision to partner with Apsley House Capital to expand its portfolio into Birmingham is a major boon for the city.

"We welcome the opportunity to work with private housing developers who support our ambitions and we look forward to fostering a long and successful relationship with Galliard Homes and Apsley House Capital."

Words by Stacey Barnfield.



Fazenda

We are bringing our roots and traditions and offering our guests the best rodizio experience. Our dedication for providing quality ingredients with outstanding service will ensure you enjoy the true essence of the Brazilian gaúcho experience.



Pint Shop

Pint Shop is all about creating a place that embraces eating and drinking in equal measures. A place where you feel equally at home having a few beers, a light lunch or a full-blown feast. Craft beer, Gin and Great British food cooked over coals.



New studio offering support

Putting budding artists in the frame

Bruntwood and Grand Union partnership opens studio to support city-based artists. Two Birmingham artists, chosen as the first recipients of free studio space for a year in the city centre, have moved into their new home in the Colmore Business District.

Joyce Treasure and Suzi Osborn were among 25 applicants for Bruntwood-Grand Union's artists-in-residence scheme designed to help kick start careers of young or emerging artists in Birmingham.

Joyce and Suzi's new studio is in the basement of Bruntwood's Grade II-listed Cornwall Buildings on Newhall Street. During the next year, Suzi will be working on a project capturing the surfaces of buildings as they are demolished and rebuilt. Joyce will be using the opportunity to develop a new body of work "Hymns" to develop visionary narratives about being a mother, artist, woman and student in Birmingham.

Suzi studied Fine Art at the University of Leeds and an MA in Sculpture at the acclaimed Slade School of Art in London. Her interest is in architecture and how developers and architects think about a city.

She said: "There is a massive lack of studio space in Birmingham and it's difficult to find the capital to set up a studio. Bruntwood see art as something that's important for a city because it can work as an attractor of people and artists as well as being a driver for the city - it's about having a great strong cultural scene."

Joyce is a mixed media artist who is also an undergraduate in Black Studies in Europe at Birmingham City University. Her focus is on diversity and the lack of black, female representation in the arts community.

She said: "Bruntwood's enthusiasm for the arts is very evident. This initiative is about community speaking with business, speaking with gallery spaces, speaking with artists and it's a great combination."

Bruntwood operate in Birmingham and across the North of England and have a long term commitment to creating thriving cities and are a long standing supporter of arts and culture.

In 2017, they chose Birmingham-based artist Joanne Masding, for her first permanent commission, Flimsy Signals, for the reception area of their redeveloped Cornerblock building.

Rob Valentine, director of Bruntwood in Birmingham, said: "As well as finding and nurturing talent and creating networking opportunities for artists at different stages of their career, the Bruntwood-Grand Union partnership aims to increase artist collaborations and develop new sites of studio practice within the city centre. It will also offer opportunities for knowledge sharing and cultural interactions between business and arts communities."

Grand Union provides access to spaces to support artists in the city and the Cornwall Buildings residency and studio space initiative complements its existing provision of 12 artists' studios, the Modern Clay ceramics facility, as well as their Birmingham City University graduate scheme.

Grand Union's Collaborative Programme Curator, Jo Capper, said: "It's important that the commercial sector and arts can work together for mutual benefit, it really helps to grow the city's appeal. As public funding for the arts has decreased in the last 5-10 years, support from the private sector has been invaluable for the continued growth and investment in culture in Birmingham."

Words by Katie Richards.



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.

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.

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 JEKYL & 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.

TATTU RESTAURANT AND BAR

18 Barwick Street, B3 2NT, 0121 236 5556, tattoo.co.uk

Tattu fuses traditional Chinese flavours, modern methods and exquisite presentation, a unique dining experience.

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.

Spring calendar

A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS • SYMPHONY HALL, 22 FEBRUARY 2019

It's Oscar night! So roll out the red carpet, and put the champagne on ice as maestro Anthony Weeden and the full CBSO sweep you down Hollywood Boulevard in this glamorous tribute to some of the silver screen's most unforgettable themes, from The Sound of Music to Taxi Driver and many, many more – in sensational Symphony Hall sound!

thsh.co.uk

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD • BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE, 25 FEBRUARY – 2 MARCH 2019

One of the greatest novels of the 20th century set in the Deep South, Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel sees racial injustice divide a small-town community. With integrity and compassion, lawyer Atticus Finch seeks the truth. His courageous daughter, Scout, brings hope to a neighbourhood in turmoil.

birmingham-rep.co.uk

SHERIDAN SMITH • SYMPHONY HALL, 21 MARCH 2019

Sheridan's latest sophomore album delved into her own personal experiences to co-write a heartfelt and deeply personal collection of contemporary songs. She collaborated with some of the world's leading songwriters including the album's Grammy-winning producer Jimmy Hogarth.

thsh.co.uk

PRONOUN • THE CRESCENT, 20 – 23 MARCH 2019

As childhood sweethearts, Isabella and Josh had planned to spend their lives together. But, in their final year at school, Isabella has now become a boy, Dean. The play powerfully explores the impact on friends, family and others of Dean's decision to undergo gender transition – and his quest to be not merely 'tolerated' but to be admired and cherished.

crescent-theatre.co.uk

LES MISÉRABLES • THE HIPPODROME, 2 APRIL – 11 MAY 2019

With scenery inspired by the paintings of Victor Hugo, the magnificent score of Les Misérables includes the songs "I Dreamed a Dream", "On My Own", "Bring Him Home", "One Day More", "Master Of The House" and many more. Les Misérables is undisputedly one of the world's most popular musicals.

birminghamhippodrome.com

TAKE THAT • ARENA BIRMINGHAM, 12 – 19 MAY 2019

2019 marks Take That's 30th Anniversary! To celebrate their milestone, the band have announced a massive UK arena and stadium tour performing all their much-loved greatest hits live.

HALF A SIXPENCE • THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE, 10 – 15 JUNE 2019

Award winning BMOS Musical Theatre Company presents "Half a Sixpence". "Kipps" an apprentice draper falls in love with a chambermaid "Ann". He then inherits a small fortune which changes his life overnight, but he soon realises that money can't buy you love and happiness.