

- Business Updates
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COLMORE LIFE



Free

MORE THAN JUST BUSINESS

Spring 2016



Editor's WELCOME



Welcome to the first 2016 edition of Colmore Life. We hope you like the new style and layout of the magazine.

It's hard to believe it's March already, the start of this year has been full on for the BID team. We've hosted political audiences, film premieres and a charity quiz, all on top of the usual BID activities; we love to be busy. In February we held an official launch for the expanded Colmore Food Festival, which now includes a dedicated website, exciting fringe events and a media partnership with the wonderful I Choose Birmingham.

Another great achievement was the release of our Nicklin Unseen film. It's an amazing accompaniment piece to our #NicklinUnseen photographic exhibition which was held in Snow Hill Square last year. Directed by Vermillion Films and featuring interviews with Brum Pic's Dave Oram and renowned photographer Verity Milligan, the film looks at the legacy of Phyllis Nicklin, whose photographs have enthralled Birmingham after being lost for decades.

We're always keen for you to run article ideas past us, so if you have an idea get in touch with Jack Tasker, via jack-t@colmorebusinessdistrict.com

We look forward to another fantastic year working with you.

M.K. Wilby

Michele Wilby Managing Editor

THE TEAM

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MEET CBD



Colmore Business District (CBD) is a business improvement district (BID) established to deliver improvement projects and services to the business quarter of Birmingham.

What does CBD do? Well, colleagues from the District have been coming along to our Meet CBD series since November to hear about the projects and services we deliver. It's a great way to understand the value of your levy contribution to our projects.

All of our projects are delivered as part of our business plan, which was agreed by extensive consultation and focus groups around the District before our second BID term started. Projects are delivered through one of our six working groups. They are: Accessible & Connected, Business Matters, Community Building, Outstanding Places, Place Marketing and Safe & Sound. We're passionate about delivering projects and services for businesses and the District, so when we have an opportunity to talk about what we actually do, we jump at the chance.

The next session in the series will be hosted by the Place Marketing Working Group on Thursday 7th April 2016 from 5.30pm - 6.30pm at Reuben Colley Fine Art, Colmore Row, where the group will be talking about the various events they put on including Moseley Arts Market, CBD Film Club, the Colmore Food Festival and how they market the District.

You'll also have the opportunity to meet the CBD team, Board Directors and other colleagues from the District, so come along and have a drink on us and find out if you can get involved. To book a space, please contact Lucy Elvin on 0121 236 4689 or email lucy-e@colmorebusinessdistrict.com

You can see a copy of the business plan and details of our projects on our website colmorebusinessdistrict.com

WORDS LUCY ELVIN

#FabToFollow

Colmore Business District has a great social network running through it. Here's who to follow this season to get your social mojo flowing...

I Choose Birmingham

@ichoose ichoosebirmingham

Unless you've been hiding in a cave then chances are you've come across the incredible work of I Choose Birmingham. Follow them to find out the coolest things happening in the city.

SIFA Fireside

@sifafireside sifafireside

SIFA Fireside is our nominated charity for 2016. If you (or your business) want to get involved in helping this fantastic organisation then what better way to start than by following them online?

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership

@bhamcomsafety

It's worth following BCSP to be completely up to date with safety initiatives and any public engagement, such as the business crime survey that was undertaken at the start of the year.

The Barber House

@The_Barberhouse thebarberhouse102

The Barber House is a force for follicle goodness right in the heart of the District, and you can keep up to date with their manic 7am-7pm days with just the tap of a finger. Expect some very hip snaps on their feeds.

One Life One City

@onelifeoncity OneLifeOneCity

A project started by 2015's BYPY overall winner Katie Kershaw. One Life One City aims to 'celebrate and share all that's great about Birmingham', including lots of lunch time events to get involved with.

CBD UPDATES



Website Launch

As 2016 begins, we've given our website a bit of a make-over. Visit colmorebusinessdistrict.com and you'll see that things look a little different. But it's not just a new colour scheme and a revised layout; we've added new features which, over the next few years, we hope you find helpful.

The website will still provide you with information on events happening in the District, but we will also be including events across the city, making our website the place to plan your leisure time. We'll also continue to keep you up to date with news from the District. CBD has a fantastic range of businesses, providing services both to individuals and to other companies. We've updated our directory and, in the coming

weeks, you'll be able to use our website to find out even more about the great businesses on your doorstep, whether you're looking for somewhere to celebrate a birthday, get legal help to draw up a will, or a local firm to prepare the accounts for your business. Where businesses have an offer, we'll be helping to promote those as well.

You'll also be able to find out what's happening at CBD. As well as information about us and the projects that we do, we've started a blog, which gives you the chance to find out more about how we work to deliver services to the District. We hope you enjoy our new website and find it useful.

CBD Facebook

Over the last few years, CBD has been an active Twitter user (follow us @ColmoreBID) however, this year, we've decided to enter the world of Facebook.

On explaining the decision to introduce a Facebook page, Jack Tasker, Projects Maker said "Twitter is a great way to get information out to people and to be part of the ongoing conversation about Birmingham and its future. Facebook is a much more personal way of talking to people. It allows us to share some great visuals, and to interact with people in a different way."

Search Colmore Business District on Facebook and like our page for more updates on what we're doing.



Deep Cleaning CBD

We hope that you know CBD for some of the show-stopping work it does; The Colmore Food Festival, our public realm projects and our various events and publications.

But sometimes it's the simple things that really count. One of the things we do is to try and keep the district clean. Our team of Ambassadors routinely report litter and mess to Birmingham City Council, and work closely with Birmingham City Council to try and keep our streets clean. We also pay for additional deep cleaning of the streets in CBD to remove chewing gum. Over the last few weeks Ramora has been moving through the District after-hours to give the pavements an additional clean.

Please help us keep the District as clean as possible. Simple steps such as not littering, stubbing out cigarettes in the bins provided, rather than dropping them outside of buildings etc. can really make a difference. And if you want to make more of an environmental impact, don't forget that CBD is working with First Mile to offer a fantastic deal for businesses in the District who want to be more environmentally friendly. For more information on this project, please contact Jonathan at the CBD Office: jonathan-b@colmorebusinessdistrict.com.



TOP EVENTS



Audience with John Clancy

Colmore BID set up an Audience with John Clancy; a joint event with BPS Birmingham and the Birmingham Civic Society. The event allowed key leaders of Birmingham's business community to speak to the new Leader and understand his ambitions for the city.



Nicklin Wrap Up Event

Our premiere for the #NicklinUnseen film at Hotel du Vin was a wonderful evening. Attended by guests, press and competition winners, the premier gave the film's Director, Lee Kemp of Vermillion, a chance to highlight the importance of women within the film and the powerful legacy left by Phyllis Nicklin.

New Guys on THE BLOCK

Introducing QSD; on hand with quality legal advice

When it comes to lawyers, Quality Solicitors Davisons (QSD) are the new "guys" on the Colmore block. I spoke to Michael Vale about their fresh approach to legal services.

Michael Vale is a man you might know; a well established family lawyer, he has been a stalwart of the city centre since 1981. It was around this time that he met Gary Davison, whilst working at Needham and James. In 1983, Gary took the bold step of setting up his own firm whilst Michael remained in the city centre.

The firm consisted of Gary and an assistant (who is still with the firm) and had a focus on property. 32 years later and the firm now operates from six sites across the West Midlands, including the branch on Colmore Row which opened in June, when Michael and Gary's professional paths

joined up once again. Michael tells me how property is still a key area of practice for QSD, from first time buyers through to large commercial deals. They also like to be the firm that can cater for all of their clients' needs and so they have naturally diversified into other practice areas.

The firm saw the move to CBD as a fantastic opportunity. "Our clients are global," explains Michael, "but we're a Birmingham-based business that wants to help grow business in Birmingham. An office on Colmore Row gives that message to clients."

They identified a need in the District for a firm which offers a wide range of services such as theirs. It also helps them further develop the great relationships they have with other local firms, who often refer clients

to QSD when their in-house teams are unable to deal with a practice related issue.

The move has paid off; Colmore Row has quickly built a firm foundation of work and is in the process of recruiting a number of additional solicitors. This expansion is set to continue throughout 2016, and the firm is already considering taking additional space at 75-77 Colmore Row.

QSD is also pleased to announce that the team has been shortlisted for the Birmingham Law Society's Law Firm of the Year (5 - 15 partners). Being part of the QualitySolicitors network implies the high standard of practice at QSD and Gary, Michael and the team will no doubt be firm fixtures in CBD.

WORDS JONATHAN BRYCE

QualitySolicitors
Davisons

QualitySolicitors
Davisons

AROUND THE DISTRICT

2015 was a great year for our business community. What's your goal for 2016?



My goal for 2016 is to continue running and improve my personal best times for 10k and half marathon races. I also want to inspire other people to take up running so I have been helping CBD set up weekly running groups for people who have never run before. Contact Lucy at the CBD Office to find out more about "RunCBD" and join us.

**Katy Baker, Regional Manager
Midlands UpRising**



We moved to our new offices on Cornwall Street in 2015 due to our expanding workload in the region. Our goal for 2016 is to work closely with our clients and delivery partners, ensuring we are the consultant of choice for engineering and environmental services in the West Midlands. My personal goal is to prepare for the arrival of baby number two in June.

**Darren Salmons, Associate Director
Infrastructure Waterman Group**



My first goal for 2016 is to move into the beautiful flat I'm buying in the Jewellery Quarter - I'm really excited to be living in the city. I'm also looking forward to getting more involved with the Birmingham Fems local feminist group. We have a monthly book club meeting in the Edwardian Tearooms at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. New members are always welcome, just get in touch on Facebook.

Charlotte Fleck, Pett, Franklin & Co. LLP, Assistant Solicitor

LAST POUND SPENT?



My morning coffee from Diplomats Barista. I recently moved firms within the District and now that I am based in Two Snow Hill, Diplomats is my new 'local'. Mike and Joanne make a great double act serving me a much-needed flat white most mornings.

**Nicholas Vuckovic, Senior Associate
Gowling WLG**



My most recent and exciting purchase was from Snow and Rock. In preparation for the ski season, I bought a gorgeous woolly hat with a beautiful pom pom, a ski jacket and some amazingly warm gloves. I love being able to pop out at lunchtime to pick up these kind of essential items.

**Nicola Fleet-Milne, Commercial Director
FleetMilne Property**



I've just been for my regular visit to Hub Gents Hair which is directly underneath my office at Livery Place. It's got a relaxed and contemporary environment and you are always made to feel welcome. I would recommend this place to everyone.

**Adam Towner, Recruitment Consultant
Spring Technology**

MANAGING THE RISK

Sometimes, we can be so focused on delivering the day job, it can be easy to put security concerns for our own businesses to the back of our minds.



Dunsby Associates

You've got a concierge at the front door, an office alarm, and you're a step ahead of the new wave of criminals as well; your server is protected by a firewall and the data is backed up off site.

The reality is that those committing crime can be extremely enterprising and inventive. We're going to quickly explore a couple of initiatives which, if you're a small to medium business, could help to bolster your security.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has recognised the impact that businesses crime has on the economy. He has funded a pilot scheme to provide support to business, with a focus on small businesses. The pilot is being delivered by RISC Associates.

Small businesses who have been a victim of a crime can contact RISC Associates for help to identify the immediate actions you will need to take to recover. They can also help you put in place a fuller recovery plan to help you try and prevent crime from happening again.

If you'd rather not wait for crime to come knocking, small businesses can get a review of their security arrangements with advice on how to improve those arrangements.

All of this is available free of charge. To find out more, please contact RISC Associates on 01902 374 525 or visit their website: riscassociates.co.uk/bizcrime

Cybercrime is on the rise. It is a constantly evolving form of crime, taking advantage of new technologies that many of us don't understand and some good old fashioned tricks which we still sometimes fall for. I met with Neil Dunsby and Mike Eaglesfield from Dunsby Associates to get their advice on what businesses can do to protect themselves from this threat.

"If the US Government and Sony can get hacked, regardless of how much you spend on security, most small businesses can be too. It's then about what you have in place to limit the damage," Neil tells me.

As we talk, we discuss just a few examples of the more recent developments in what we traditionally think of as cybercrime. Gone are the old fashioned emails telling me that I've won the lottery of a country I've never visited; all mine for the tiny admin fee of £300. Now, it's a very plausible email from my Managing Director, including key information, authorising a payment including our supplier's 'new' bank details.

We're in a world of forced encryption, where data is locked away and businesses held to ransom for significant, but affordable sums of money.

And as Neil points out, the problem isn't just the cost of getting your data back, it's the reputational damage and potential cost in terms of liability;

new legislation could allow the Information Commissioner to fine companies that lose data up to 4% of their global turnover.

The good news is that the insurance market is catching up by offering a solution. Policies are available that will help you recover the costs but more importantly provide access to specialist help in the event of an attack. Additionally the cost of informing people if you lose their data, as well as any regulatory investigation, also fall within the cover.

Dunsby Associates have been offering this insurance for 21st century crime for the last year or so and have seen interest in it increase significantly over that time.

"Cyber insurance isn't the complete solution, but it adds another layer of protection as well as access to specialists," explains Neil. "It's important to make sure you're systems are protected, but you also need to be prepared for a breach of those systems, especially if you are a small/medium size business."

Find out more about cyber insurance from Dunsby Associates:

T 0121 631 3051
dunsbyassociates.co.uk

SHOW US YOUR CV TARA TOMES



Someone great – on Pinterest, I think – said, “a job isn’t just a job, it’s who you are.” I’m one of the lucky ones who gets to do what I love every day.

I guess it started from a young age when my Dad would show me the ropes in his office; by which I mean, making tea and sorting out faxes. Yes, faxes. Cassette tapes were a thing then too. Neither of my parents do a typical 9-to-5 – my Mum is a singer and my Dad runs a record company – so I guess I was destined to be one of those people who's life is also their job. By this, I don't mean that I'm constantly working and never 'off the clock'; quite the opposite... work/life balance is really important to me. What I mean is doing a job that consumes your life, a job that does more than just pay the bills.

I'm one of the lucky ones who gets to do what I love every day too. I set up EAST VILLAGE back in 2013, having spent the seven years previous working in agency and in-house roles. I always knew that I wanted to work in the media but my parents pointed out that journalists were rarely the most popular people around, so I opted for PR instead.

Despite spending my degree 'socialising', I somehow came out with a First. I did a placement year during my studies and fit in two different roles; at Stella McCartney in London and Gigbeth Music Festival in Birmingham. These roles were varied and a lot of hard work but lay the foundations for what is turning out to be an amazing career.

Whilst I was at Gigbeth the festival organiser, Clare Edwards, introduced me to Birmingham Future; the networking organisation for the city's young professionals. This was my first taste of real networking and I loved it. Fast forward nine years, and I'm now Deputy Chair of Future, taking over as Chair in August.

As soon as my Dissertation was done, I – very luckily – bumped into Ruth Pipkin (nee Ward) who I'd met whilst working at Gigbeth. Ruth was just setting up her own PR agency, Rewired, which is now one of the city's leading agencies. During my time at Rewired, I also won CIPR's Young Communicator of the Year, which was a true honour. I spent three years at Rewired and worked on some fantastic clients, including Retail Birmingham and Taste of Birmingham. This is where my love of consumer PR projects came from, and then led me to the communications team at the NEC Group; helping to promote shows and exhibitions at the NEC, LG Arena (now Genting Arena), NIA (now Barclaycard Arena), and The Ticket Factory.

All of this experience was invaluable and cemented my love of the PR industry. I got to work on exciting celebrity events, fashion campaigns, and a whole host of crisis comms!

In the summer of 2013 I decided to set up EAST VILLAGE, and I haven't looked back. In the two

years since, I have been lucky enough to work with incredible young talent... girls who remind me of myself, who love what they do as much as I did back then and still do now. As a retail and leisure agency, we do get to work on some fantastic clients; including Great Western Arcade, Lower Precinct Coventry, Malmaison Birmingham, thestudio's three UK venues, Birmingham Cocktail Weekend, Brittain Opticians, Hollywood Monster, and a whole host more. We marked our second birthday with an office move to Church Street, in the heart of Colmore BID, which has been great for us.

Since moving to Colmore BID, I have also been invited onto the Place Marketing Group, which delivers exciting projects in the area, like Colmore Food Festival. In addition to Birmingham Future and Colmore BID, I am also involved in a couple of local charities. I am Trustee of Ladies Fighting Breast Cancer, the UK's only regional charity for Breast Cancer; as well as Ambassador and Service Patron to LoveBrum, a charity that unearths, funds and supports hidden gem projects.

Despite only being 29, I have certainly had an exciting ride, and I can't wait to see what the future holds. My biggest objective is to continue enjoying what I do, getting involved in projects that test my skills, and knowing all of the right people.

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eastvillageagency.com

JOB SWAP

Nicole Gauntlett from EAST VILLAGE. swapped jobs with Gertruda Blazaityte from Java Lounge, Colmore Row

True to form, no day is ever the same at EAST VILLAGE. so I was really excited at the chance to do the 'job swap' at Java Lounge. Barista, Gertruda, was invited to EV HQ for a taste of the wonderful world that is PR, and in-turn she had the tough task of teaching me how to make the perfect latte...

Having had no exposure to PR before, it was great to invite Gertruda into our office and give her an insight into our world and show her how we work. We decided to throw her in at the deep end and get her involved in a creative brainstorm. It was wonderful for us to be able to show Trudy the ropes and she came up with some great ideas. After spending an hour with us, we headed up the road to Java Lounge for stage two of the swap.

After giving the Java team a gentle warning about my tendency to spill/pour/knock things over, I donned my apron and began my barista training. Trying to

show a complete amateur like me how to make a flawless flat white in the time frame we had was almost impossible, but Trudy did a great job of teaching me the fundamentals. I even tried my hand at latte art – somewhat unsuccessfully.

I spent an hour with the Java team and one thing was certainly clear: these guys LOVE their coffee. As someone who loves their job, it was really refreshing to hear these guys talk about their passion for coffee and delivering the best possible customer service.

Although I felt like I served up a storm in the Java Lounge kitchen (probably a storm of the wrong kind) I don't think I'll be offered the job as a barista anytime soon. However, all is not lost as I come away with a new understanding of coffee making and the knowledge that my milk-frothing skills are certainly above average.

WORDS NICOLE GAUNTLETT

BOOMING CITY

Business in Birmingham is booming. We all know this. Now here's some statistics to back it up.



Continued healthy growth in business start-ups has ensured that Birmingham continues to be one of the UK's strongest performing cities, and will be for the coming decade.

Employment within the city is back to pre-recession levels, fuelled by the strongest growth in private sector employment in the country.

Birmingham's economy grew by £2.4bn between 2009 and 2014, more than any other regional city and the forecast for the coming years is very positive, with numerous big name businesses and organisations relocating to the city.

The powerful growth has been underpinned by buoyant investment, with companies like JLR pumping £450 million worth of investment into the region, creating hundreds of new jobs.

The sharp fall in unemployment has been particularly felt by those between the ages of 18-24. This is part of a wider 2.7% fall in the city's unemployment.

DISCOVERING JAVA LOUNGE



I, like many people in the District, love a good cup of coffee and can't function in the morning until I've had my caffeine hit.

We're pretty spoilt in Colmore BID for great places to grab that much needed americano, espresso or flat white, but there's a new joint in town looking to shake things up. Akram, and his amazing Java Lounge team, moved into the District in 2015 and have been going from strength to strength serving up fantastic coffee.

Akram's well-versed in the story of coffee and its roots in Yemeni culture. If you've got the time, chart the history of Java Lounge's coffee on their wonderful wall art installation. Part map, part timeline, the visual gives you the definitive guide to what's sitting in the cup in front of you. Akram is quick to point out that it's not the complete history of coffee itself, but that of the roast Java Lounge serves.

The amazing thing about Akram's set up is that he roasts his own blend, unlike most independents who would work alongside a roaster that they trust. He did note that it's not a case of one being better than another, he's just so passionate about the end product that he wants to be there every step of the way. He explained that Java Lounge uses a mixed blend which he creates by adjusting the levels of certain beans within his roast to ensure the perfect combination at the end.

I asked Akram what his favourite coffee was, and he said "hands down the macchiato, just for its great mix of sweetness and deep roasted flavour. That said, I'll often have an americano in the afternoon and that's when the staff know that I'm checking on the quality of the coffee."

T 0121 347 6610
javalooungecoffee.com



My recommendation?

The americano, strong and black; the perfect way to taste Java Lounge's delicious roast.

WORDS JACK TASKER

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU RECIPE



If we're ever in need of a pick me up at the BID office, all we have to do is look out of our window and see Purecraft Bar and Kitchen, brilliant beer and delicious food right under our noses.

For this issue, Pure's General Manager, Matt Lockren has supplied us with the mouth watering recipe for their Chicken Cordon Bleu, as Matt described it to us, "it's a simple dish, but big on flavour, that's what we're all about."

Ingredients

- 1 chicken breast
- 15g soft cheese
- 15g sliced ham
- Panko breadcrumbs
- Flour
- Eggs
- Milk
- Butter

Method

- Trim the chicken breast and remove the skin, make a small cut in the breast big enough for the ham & cheese.
- Wrap the ham around the cheese and put into the chicken breast.
- Coat the breast by covering in flour, then beaten egg, then panko breadcrumbs.
- Place in the fridge for 1 hour.
- Fry in clarified butter until golden brown then place in a pre-heated oven at 180 °C for 10 - 15 minutes.
- Serve with green salad and fries.

MASTERCLASS

COCKTAIL

It's apt that this article will end with a cocktail including passion fruit because Gary Anderson, the Bar Manager at Ginger's Bar on Newhall Street has passion for what he does by the bucket load.

As I walk into Ginger's, Gary is helping a customer choose which gin to mix with her tonic. Gary picks a few brands for her to choose from including the German brand 'Monkey 47'; it's 47% ABV and has 47 botanicals, 47!! Gary later likens this to a strum of a guitar: many chords making a beautiful sound or in this case many ingredients creating a beautiful aroma. (Note to self, must try this gin.) The guest chooses 'Brokers', a local brand made down the road in Langley.

When Gary comes to sit down with me, I ask him how long he has been in the hospitality industry. He had his first bar job when he was 15 (I won't tell anyone if you won't) and he hasn't looked back since. After working for many restaurants and bars, Gary set up Anderson & Hill, the reputable deli in the Great Western Arcade and this is how he came to work for the Purnell's group. Gary was supplying cheese to Glynn Purnell and in 2012 moved from Anderson & Hill to Ginger's Bar.

We start talking about drinks, cocktails in particular, Gary explains that like the food in Purnell's Restaurant and Purnell's Bistro, cocktail ingredients where possible are seasonal. At Christmas time they'll use traditional flavours like Cranberry, cinnamon and orange, whereas summer months will see cocktails on the menu with ingredients like citrus fruits and elderflower. I'm interested to know if there is a bestselling cocktail and Gary tells me the hands down favourite cocktail of the Ginger's clientele is the 'Scorched Lemon and Vanilla Margarita' and there has been a variation of this cocktail on the menu since Ginger's opened in 2011.

So, down to business. What cocktail can Gary create for me as we come into spring? The cocktail created is a nod to winter with the traditional orange flavour, but with a delicious taste of the warmer months to come. My new favourite cocktail is the NewHall Sunrise.

Here's the recipe that Gary predicts is going to be a hit this spring and summer and I completely agree. Delicious!

- 40ml Langley's Gin
- 10ml Solerno (Italian blood orange liqueur)
- 25ml blood orange juice,
- 10ml homemade sugar syrup,
- 25ml passion fruit liqueur
- 25ml orange juice

Just mix them all together!

If you can't recreate this at home, I would definitely recommend a visit to Ginger's where the staff will create this or something equally delicious for you. Look out for 'Liquid Economics', happy hour daily from 12 - 8 pm where you can order a range of drinks and cocktails for £4.50.

WORDS LUCY ELVIN



NEW Flavours

at Colmore Food Festival



It's official, we love Colmore Food Festival, so much that this year we're making it last a bit longer. More food, more drinks, more fun and more participating venues.

We're working with our venues and I Choose Birmingham to create unique, one-off fringe events so Food Festival fans can literally have a taste of what's to come at the two-day festival in July. Venues from around the District will be hosting exclusive events with limited ticket availability so, keep an eye out on I Choose Birmingham and CBD Bitesize, and make sure you don't miss out.

WORDS LUCY ELVIN



Sensory Experience

University College Birmingham
22 April | 6-8pm

We'll be working with our new Food Festival partner, University College Birmingham (UCB) to test your senses at this delicious event.

From blind food tasting to coffee tasting and wine tasting, guests will have a great experience with a few surprises along the way. There's also a cocktail on arrival.

UCB has produced some of the country's best chefs, including the District's own Glynn Purnell, and has two restaurants on site, The Brasserie and The Atrium.

Booking is essential for this event.

District Dog Off

Purecraft Bar + Kitchen,
Pub du Vin, Nosh + Quaff
and Bureau Bar + Kitchen
9 May | 6-8pm

Have you ever wondered which venue in the District serves the best hot dog? Well, now's your chance to decide. Guests will visit four venues that will offer samples of their signature hot dogs. Once your tour of the District's venues is complete, we'll need you to vote for your favourite dog in order for us to crown the winning venue Top Dog. Tickets are £12 per person. Guest will also have the opportunity to bid on an original painting by Horace Panter.

Chinese Style

Chung Ying Central
29 May | 12-2pm

Experience a traditional Sunday lunch with a Chinese twist. Tickets are just £18.50 per person.

Pie Masters

The Old Joint Stock
8 June | 6-11pm

Tuck into tasters of OJS's fabulous pies in the balcony bar whilst watching popular film, Sweeney Todd. The Barber House will also be in attendance offering cut-throat shaves to those feeling brave enough!

Food Festival

Victoria Square
8 & 9 July | 11am-7pm

After all these exclusive events, the finale is the fantastic two-day Food Festival. Last year we had record numbers of visitors to the festival, with 32,000 people attending over the two days.

This year we will have over 25 venues from the District participating, showcasing what they have on offer back at the venues all year round. Taster dishes are just £4, so you can sample delights from many of our fabulous local hospitality venues.

To book your place on one (or all) of these events, or to keep up to date with what is happening at the festival go to colmorefoodfestival.com - it's your one stop shop for all things Colmore Food Festival related.

TRAVEL

Our official travel partner for the Food Festival is Midland Metro. Passengers who use the Tram should look out for our venues in the run up to the festival. They'll be at The West Bromwich Station offering tasters to commuters. Look out for discounted tickets for travel on the days of the festival.

DISCOVERING OUR HISTORY

As Birmingham city centre continues to undergo a major period of transformation, an outdoor photography exhibition by Colmore Business District (Colmore BID), Brum Pic and the Library of Birmingham looked back to a similar time of transformation following World War II.



Colmore BID's #NicklinUnseen exhibition in Snow Hill Square was an outstanding success with the public, attracting visitors to the District and raising awareness of the work of Phyllis Nicklin, a staff tutor in geography at the extra-mural department at the University of Birmingham. #NicklinUnseen featured over 50 images of Birmingham between 1953-69, a time when city engineer Herbert Manzoni's plans saw the construction of The Rotunda, the Bull Ring and the Inner Ring Road, along with wholesale replacement of older housing with modern flats.

In 2014, Brumpic, a community orientated website which promotes awareness of the city's heritage, approached the University of Birmingham about Nicklin's work and was granted permission to use and promote the archive.

#NicklinUnseen was a collaborative project between Brumpic, Colmore BID and the Library of Birmingham. It received a Heritage Lottery Fund Sharing Grant in August last year and has received additional funding from leading transport consultancy JMP and support from Reuben Colley Fine Art on Colmore Row. But there was more to #NicklinUnseen than 'just' the outdoor photography exhibition.

Colmore BID organised a hands-on session featuring two of Birmingham's best known urban

photographers, Tim Cornbill and Verity Milligan. The workshop was over-subscribed, with the Birmingham and Midland Institute hosting a mixed group of people who work in the District as well as others interested in Phyllis Nicklin's photography. Pete James, former Head of Photographs at Library of Birmingham, kicked off the workshop with an overview of urban photography in this city, providing some useful context for Phyllis's work and the practical session that followed. Feedback from people who attended the workshop and went on the practical session was very positive.

Colmore BID, along with the other project partners, also produced a short documentary film about Phyllis's work, as well as the little that is known about her life before her early death in 1969. At this point the film, created by Birmingham and London based filmmaker Vermillion Films, has clocked over a thousand views on YouTube.

Mike Best, Board Director at Colmore Business District, said, "This year is a significant one for Birmingham's ongoing transformation. As New Street Station is reborn and the redevelopment of Paradise gets underway, #NicklinUnseen allows us to look back at how far as a city we have come in 50 years. CBD has a history of exhibiting photography in public places and this provides access to the widest

possible audience for a unique body of work."

David Oram, Director at Brumpic, said, "For many years these visually arresting and historically important images have remained largely unknown outside the confines of the lecture theatres at the University of Birmingham. It wasn't until 2003, when a selection of around 450 images were digitised and put online that Nicklin and her work gained attention, almost 50 years after her death. Nicklin probably had no idea how significant her work would become and how widely it would be seen. We're excited to be able to offer this opportunity and allow people to discover and appreciate her unseen work."

The #NicklinUnseen exhibition dovetailed nicely with #NicklinRevisited, a project by Reuben Colley Fine Art on Colmore Row where some of the artists who show their work there produced paintings inspired by some of Phyllis Nicklin's photographs. #NicklinRevisited ran from 26 January to 27 February and featured work by Reuben Colley, Mark Godwin, Danny Howes, Rick Garland, Horace Panter, Mark Lippett, Stephen Earl Rogers, Annette Pugh and Kevin Line.



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

Birmingham is one of the most diverse cities in Europe. Over 70% of the city's population claim adherence to a religion.



The Sultanganj Buddha

Faiths represented in the city include Bahá'ism, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Rastafarianism and Sikhism. The city is well placed to promote understanding and respect between people of all faiths, and of none.

To that end Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery has created a new gallery called Faith in Birmingham. The gallery development involved nearly a year of consultation with faith groups and communities across Birmingham. People identified objects in Birmingham Museums Trust's collection, and from further afield, to enable them to tell stories about their beliefs to other people. The gallery contains both internationally important objects alongside objects that tell personal stories of faith practice from the people of Birmingham.

Objects and stories include:

- Jewish cookbooks passed from mother to daughter.
- Tools and images from Birmingham Sikh's who travelled to the Golden Temple Amritsa, India, to re-guild the roof.
- Items relating to Langar, the Sikh practice of offering food for all, from a local Gurdwara.
- Prayer beads taken on pilgrimage by local Muslim men and women.
- A silk Kesa worn by members of the local ordained Tiratna Buddhist Community.
- A plaque commemorating the opening of Birmingham Central Mosque in 1976.

Gallery Highlights

• The 'Birmingham Qur'an'

On loan from the University of Birmingham's Cadbury Research Library. This Qur'an hit the headlines in 2015 when it was identified as one of the oldest surviving copies in the world. It is written in Hijazi script, an early form of Arabic which evolved in the Hijaz region, an area of the Arabian Peninsula, not far from the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

• The Sultanganj Buddha

This statue of the Buddha was of the first objects to enter the collection, and remains among the most significant works in Birmingham's collection. The Sultanganj Buddha is the largest known complete Indian bronze sculpture. The Buddha was excavated by E B Harris, a railway engineer, at Sultanganj in northern India during the course of railway construction in 1862.

• Sikh Temple Token

On loan from the British Museum. Dating from 1898 this important token was made in Amritsa, the site of the Golden Temple, and depicts Guru Nanak seated on a carpet (asana) under a tree with two companions: Mardana, a Muslim musician playing a rebab (string instrument), and Bala Sindhu, a Hindu, who holds a chowri (fly whisk).

• Church plate from St Thomas's

The Birmingham church was bombed in World War Two and is now the site of the Peace Garden.

- Prayers in the Desert by William James Muller
Depicts Muslim prayer (1843)
- Stone statue of the Hindu god Ganesh
From North Eastern India, this is a beautifully carved statue of the elephant-headed god Ganesh, the remover of obstacles, which dates from the 11th century.



The gallery development involved nearly a year of consultation with faith groups and communities across Birmingham.

Read the Faith in Birmingham blog at birminghammuseums.org.uk/blog/tagged/faith-in-birmingham



Dust off your P.E. Kits, because this spring, **CBD Community Games** will have a 'School Sports Day' theme. Think egg & spoon, sack race, three legged race and you'll pretty much have an accurate picture. The event will take place on Friday 15 April from 2pm in Victoria Square and teams will take part in the various events on a rotation basis. For details of how to apply contact Lucy Elvin 0121 236 4689 or lucy-e@colmorebusinessdistrict.com. The deadline for applications is Friday 25 March. Entry will cost £60 for each team of six people, but you can have more than one team. Concessions are available for charitable/not for profit organisations. We're big on fundraising, and what better way to do it than whilst having a great time with friends and colleagues? All of the monies raised will go to our nominated charity SIFA Fireside. To find out more about SIFA Fireside go to sifafireside.co.uk or see page 27. Bring along your competitive spirit, it'll be loads of fun. We'll even try and organise some sunshine. The winning team will be presented with a trophy that they can show off to all of their friends and colleagues. Oh, and fancy dress is encouraged.

CBD Community Games • Friday 15 April • 2pm

COOL IN 2016



Snow and Rock has to be the go to destination for winter sports in the city and we're very lucky it's sat right in our District. I popped in to chat to Pete, the store's Supervisor, about what the up and coming trends are to look out for in 2016.

Pete said a big change that's been noticed is a shift from traditional on-piste skiing towards off-piste and ski touring, which requires some serious gear. For those who don't know, ski touring is about heading into the back country, outside of the ski resort boundaries, and working your way through the landscape, carving out your own routes and runs. Skiers need to be kitted out with shovels, air-bag equipped rucksacks and emergency broadcasters, in case an avalanche occurs – as Pete says "it's the most expensive kit you'll buy, hoping never to use."

Pete showed me some ski boots that looked more Transformers than trans-terrain. He explained that this new line is specifically designed for ski touring as they can be used in a number of configurations and heights, allowing the wearer to

actually walk normally whilst wearing their skis, perfect for trekking through the droves.

Something a little closer to home, which might interest people in the District, is the fact that Snow and Rock can actually get you completely fitted out for all that running you committed yourself to on New Year's Day. Using a treadmill and camera the team can monitor your running style and gait to find the perfect pair of shoes for you, so you won't end up with ruined knees and painful blisters. Pete explains, "the shoes are the key element, other bits of kit can make a difference, but the right shoes are your priority."

It was a great afternoon popping into Snow and Rock, as fun as the ski touring sounds I don't know if I'm ready for it just yet, but getting a new pair of running shoes is definitely on my list.



They can get you completely fitted out for all that running you committed yourself to on New Year's Day!

WORDS JACK TASKER

Barber House ONE YEAR ON

The Barber House is doing the city proud. It's providing a stylish, fun service that's keeping the District's beards and manes in check.

I stopped by for a trim and a chat, to talk about how 2015 was for Dale and his team of brilliant barbers.

Growth, that's the core of the story for The Barber House, even with three chairs and a seven day working week they're still bursting at the seams with customers. At the time of the interview Dale had 14 staff working alongside him, but I wouldn't be surprised that by the time you're reading this he'll have had to hire more to manage the demand.

There's a clear path for progression at The Barber House, apprentices work their work up the business, learning from Dale and their colleagues. This ensures they all receive the same moulding and training, meaning customers will always get the proper treatment from each member of the team. It's not easy to learn the skills, 12 to 15 months if an apprentice crams it, but even then Dale says

that's just the beginning, there's so much more when it comes to unlocking the lost art of shaving. It's great to know the technique is coming back to life in the District.

Recognition for a year of hard work by the team came in the form of a nomination for Retailer of the Year. Unfortunately Dale and the guys lost out to Selfridges, but the size of their opponent speaks volumes about the level of The Barber House's quality.

I asked what can we expect from 2016? More growth, expanding the premises, taking on more staff, however the first step to that is the search for another barbers chair. Dale said it's not as easy as you'd think to get hold of one, these chairs are fast becoming a collector's item, and with that the price inflates and they become harder to acquire.

We wish The Barber House and Dale's fantastic staff all the best in 2016, we'll be popping back in for a trim, that's for certain.

WORDS JACK TASKER



MAKE

Making a great first impression is vital for anyone attending a job interview but for many of Birmingham's unemployed men and women, the expense of buying a new suit is unattainable.

Suited for Success is calling on Colmore Business District to take part in a record-breaking suit donation drive, to help Birmingham's unemployed men and women gain employment. In their biggest suit drive ever done in the city, the 'Don't Wear It, Share It' dress-down day in April is aiming to collect 1,000 donated suits that will be given away to disadvantaged unemployed men and women to wear to job interviews. Businesses across the District are being encouraged to get involved in the big dress-down day campaign and get their staff to swap their office suits for casual wear and give a suit away. Patricia White, Managing Director for Suited for Success explains, "The city has a big network of support offering work and learning outreach programmes to equip unemployed people with the skills and confidence they need to get a job and fully support themselves. However, many agencies find the people they support often face the barrier of having nothing suitable to wear to their job interview, which affects their confidence and can ruin that crucial first impression resulting in an unsuccessful interview.



Suited for Success helps individuals to feel more confident when going to interviews, and therefore increase their chances of getting a job that could change the lives of themselves and their families." The project began in May 2015 as a partnership between a Birmingham Trussell Trust foodbank and a group of young professionals from city corporate businesses including Anthony Collins Solicitors, Gowling WLG, Deutsche Bank, Lloyds TSB, Shakespeares and Price Waterhouse Cooper who were united by a desire to make a positive impact in the city. The charity has already received generous donations from businesses across the city including the Wesleyan, Mills & Reeve, Grant Thornton, Barclays, the Solicitors Regulation Authority, Irwin Mitchell and more.

For more information on how your business or office can sign up to the 'Don't Wear It, Share it' campaign in April, or to discuss ideas on how you could partner with them further, visit the Suited for Success website suitedforsuccess.co.uk or contact Suited for Success's manager, Patricia White via patricia.white@suitedforsuccess.co.uk

WORDS MIKE MOUNFIELD

AN IMPRESSION



DONATE YOUR SUIT

WILL MURPHY DENTISTRY

I'm very relaxed sat in the waiting room to catch up with Will. For many years I've popped in for check ups, dental hygiene and to get some help achieving my 'Hollywood smile'. The environment is friendly and calm, just like the fantastic team.



Half of adults visit their dentist every six months and the UK is one of the most likely nations in Europe to visit their dentist for a check-up.

The days of fearing the dentist's chair are clearly in the past. Will agrees that perceptions have changed, "I think the public are more conscious of oral hygiene and prevention, but also our profession is acutely aware that we must always provide choice, excellent customer service and pain-free experiences or the customer will simply go elsewhere."

As a graduate, Will cut his teeth in Ladywood. Then in 1998 he seized the opportunity to take over an existing practice in the Cornwall Buildings on Newhall Street.

In 2008, the practice invested heavily in modern premises on the ground floor where they offer a complete range of services from implants and orthodontics to preventative care and hygiene treatments.

The expansion continues with the opening of a third surgery on the premises and welcoming a new dentist to the team, Dr Sinem Dayanik. From Easter, she will be working three days a week and will support the practice in its mission to provide a complete range of in-house services and remain accessible to those who work in the city.

The 'business focus' is high on the practice's agenda. "We strive to ensure there are early and late appointments for those who can only nip out



The days of fearing the dentist's chair are clearly in the past.

of the office for 30 minutes," Will explained, "and the team always do their best to squeeze in customers who are in pain or need emergency attention."

The membership and corporate discounts packages seek to keep the financing of oral health simple and these reasons probably account for Will's estimate that 80% of their customer base is from the business community.

What's next for Will and the team?

The expansion will keep them busy for the next few months and they are looking forward to welcoming Sinem and new customers. And forget the gourmet burgers and artisan coffees, Will's even pondering on a 'pop-up' hygienist service closer to Snow Hill station.

Plenty of reasons to keep smiling.

Win TICKETS TO DISNEY ON ICE



We have four tickets to give away to one lucky winner within the District.

Maybe you'll take your family for a well deserved night out or maybe your friends for a nostalgia fuelled night of singing... don't worry we won't ask.

Disney on Ice is being held at the Birmingham Genting Arena from 6 - 10 April, our tickets are for the opening night, Wednesday 6 April 2016 at 6pm.

All you have to do to win is answer this simple question.

In Walt Disney's Peter Pan, which one of the Darling children wears a top hat and carries an umbrella?

Answer: **A.** Wendy

B. Michael

C. John

Send your answers to jack-t@colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Good luck!

WORDS SARAH RENNIE

LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION

FEATURING

ALICE IN WONDERLAND
GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL
SWEENEY TODD

COLMORE FILM CLUB

WORDS JACK TASKER

Last year we took a big plunge and bought a screen and projector to officially form the Colmore Business District Film Society.

Our first screening was The Man Who Haunted Himself, a pre-Bond Roger Moore hidden-gem, accompanied by proper British snacks courtesy of Purecraft Bar and Kitchen. In December we took over the Priory Rooms and did a showing of Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas, with a flash

mob singalong from the Colmore Chorus. Our 2016 calendar started in February with the magnificent Casablanca at Opus, with an accompanying two course meal.

The core principal of our film club is to offer something fresh to the cinema loving members of the District, to give them an experience that goes beyond the norm. Whether it's through the food, drinks or the event itself, we want to give something special to the people who have joined the Film Club. Make sure you sign up for the next set of events.

If you're interested in attending any of these events or represent a venue who would like to host one, then please contact Jack Tasker via jack-t@colmorebusinessdistrict.com

14 March
Grand Budapest Hotel
Hotel du Vin

13 April
Alice in Wonderland
Jekyll and Hyde

9 June
Sweeney Todd
Old Joint Stock
(as part of the Colmore Food Festival Fringe programme)

RUNNING IN THE DISTRICT

In November Colmore Business District was offered the opportunity to work with Run Birmingham to encourage more people to get out and start running.

Colleagues from the District had the opportunity to attend workshops to hear how the Run Birmingham programmes worked and how running clubs could be incorporated into the District. Since then we're delighted to have two running clubs, both for new runners to go from 'couch to 5km.' These sessions are for complete beginners and they are well in to their nine week training plan. At the end of the plan, participants can run 5km. You don't need us to tell you that's a great achievement.

We'll start new nine week couch to 5km (C25K) groups in April, so get in touch if you'd like to give it a go – remember it's for complete beginners, so you'll be walking and jogging at your own pace to begin with, building up to a consistent 5km run at the end of the programme.

Runners who have completed the C25K training plan, will be able to continue with an intermediate group; great for participants looking to increase distance or speed, or just continue with the healthy habit of running. We even hope to have an elite group, so keep an eye out on the website and

the Colmore BID Bitesize mailer.

For those experienced runners in the District, we're excited to announce that we have teamed up with Great Run Birmingham to hold the Colmore Cup.

Teams from businesses in the District can sign up for the Business Challenge in the Great Birmingham 10k on Sunday 1 May. An engraved trophy is up for grabs for the fastest firm.

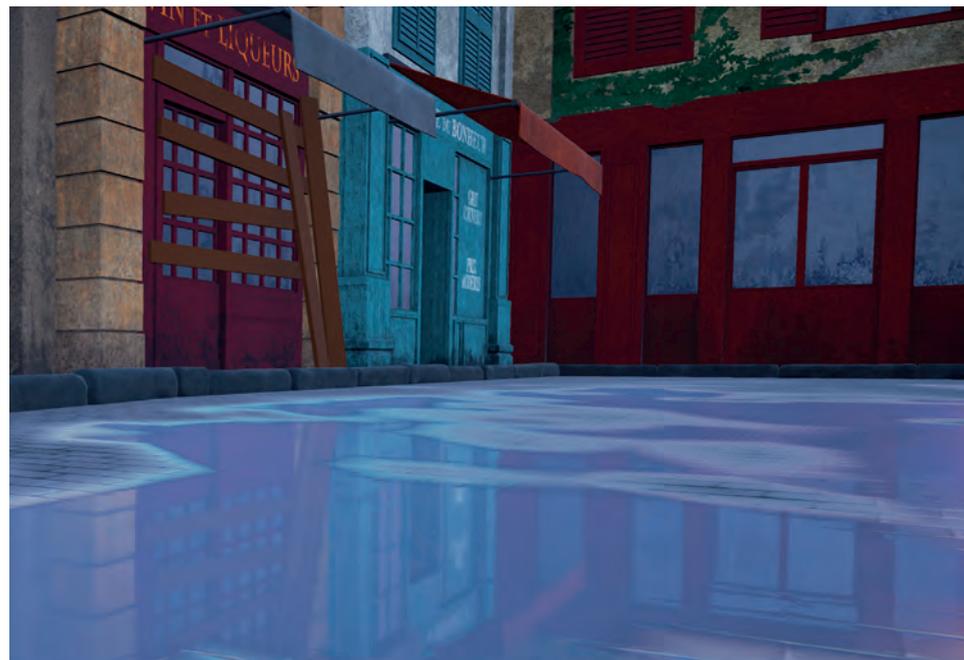
The challenge is open to small, medium and large businesses and the four fastest collective times by participants will be added for each team to pick the overall Colmore Cup winner.

Business Challenge teams must be a minimum of four and a maximum of eight members, but businesses can enter as many teams as they want in male, female or mixed sex categories. Mixed teams must have a minimum of two men and women.

WORDS LUCY ELVIN



AFTER HOURS



If you've been drinking in Colmore Business District's fantastic bars over the last 12 months, Joe Horton may well be a familiar face. In October 2015, he joined the team at Bar Opus, bringing his experience of making quality cocktails to the glass towers of Snow Hill.

Like many of us of a certain age, part of growing up for Joe included the occasional group gaming session. I personally spent a lot of time being shot in the back, masquerading as James Bond villain Jaws whilst playing GoldenEye 007 (I'm not bitter, but I do tend to prefer single player games these days...). For Joe, it was console classic Halo on the Xbox 360 which first really caught his eye.

"When I first got an Xbox 360, there was a big jump in graphics," Joe tells me. "I remember playing Halo and thinking: how do you create something like this?"

"Clearly he was good enough to not have to worry quite so much about being shot in the back.

Unlike most of us who probably asked the question and then hit the start button again, Joe set about finding out more about what went into making the games he enjoyed.

"To start, I took a Game Development course at South Birmingham College's Digbeth Campus. It covered every aspect of game design and it helped me to appreciate what I really enjoy about making games, which is the aesthetics of games" said Joe as he described his journey towards his goal of being an Environment Artist.

"After that I went on to study Computer Game Design at the University of Wolverhampton, graduating a couple of years ago."

There are many roles involved in making a game, and I asked Joe to explain to me exactly what part an Environment Artist plays.

"If you take a look around the bar," Joe explained, "I would design the walls, the chairs, the tables; I create the world that the game operates in. There are other people who would design and add in the people sat at the bar etc."

I wanted to understand more about how someone breaks into that industry. Joe told me that, like many creative industries, getting your foot in the door is crucial.

Clients always want to see the work that you've done before, so landing that first paying project is a big step. "As you would expect with creative roles, your portfolio is really important" said Joe.

"It can contain your own personal designs, designs for projects you have worked on, or both. I'm currently building my portfolio up at the moment, when I'm not working here at the bar."

I ask Joe about the opportunities available. He tells me about a diverse industry; I am personally thinking about large and complex games like Halo and Destiny, but there are all sorts of other games too; mobile gaming is growing in popularity and all of those games need worlds. "I really enjoy working from another person's concept," Joe tells me. "I like to hear people's ideas and then create that for them. That's what my focus is for now."



“**I would design the walls, the chairs, the tables; I create the world that the game operates in.**”

Introducing SIFA FIRESIDE

At Colmore BID, we annually choose a charity to work with. This year we decided to choose a charity which works with the homeless, which is an issue that is affecting the District.



In November, we heard from three charities who were invited to come and tell us about their work and in particular how they support the homeless in our community. After much deliberation, as they all do fantastic work, the Board voted to support SIFA Fireside.

Based in Allcock Street, Digbeth, SIFA Fireside was formed in 2007, when SIFA (Supporting Independence From Alcohol) and the Fireside Charity merged. SIFA Fireside was chosen because we really believe in the services they offer to those who are homeless or are in danger of becoming homeless. Homelessness is something we, and our colleagues within the District, see every day and collectively we want to help make a difference. They are a unique charity in that not only do they offer hot meals, but they also provide help and services that their clients can't access anywhere else, giving them the chance to regain some stability within their lives.

When we visited the centre in December, we saw first hand how vulnerable adults are being supported by SIFA Fireside. The drop-in service gives out on average 1,031 breakfasts and 2,009 lunches every month, in a safe and welcoming environment. In addition, clients can also access shower facilities, a nursing clinic, vision eye care, dental services and much more.

The team have a flexible approach providing support and advice in education, training, employment and volunteering and they provide a range of workshops around employability, including CV writing



Rough sleeping in England has increased by 30% in the last year.

Department for Communities and Local Government

and interview techniques. There's also a range of great services from the 'Changing Lives' team who offer a practical approach to prevent re-offending by increasing skills and confidence.

This year the Community Building Working Group will work hard to create plenty of opportunities for colleagues and businesses in the District to join us in raising funds and taking part in campaigns for this great charity. In addition to our usual fundraising activities like our quiz, the Community Games, the Colmore BID Bake Off and Colmore Social, we'll be offering places with Trek Fest to complete 25km or 50km hikes in the Peak District or Brecon Beacons later in the year. We'll also be helping SIFA Fireside with their campaigns for collecting winter clothing.

Businesses can also help by offering professional skills and knowledge. Please get in touch with Lucy via lucy-e@colmorebusinessdistrict.com if you'd like to find out more about how you can offer your services on a voluntary basis.

SPRING IN THE CITY

Rick Astley

Symphony Hall
6 April
thsh.co.uk

If you can't give him up, fear not! Rick Astley won't let you down as his tour comes to Birmingham.

Expect his re-interpretation of well known classics, and probably a performance of that song.

Birmingham Music Bus Tour

Colmore Row
29 May
birminghamtours.co.uk

Explore Birmingham's rich contribution to the UK music scene aboard Birmingham's Big Brum Buz.

Jeez Collins, founder of Birmingham Music Archive will guide you from Anaal Nathrakh to Wizzard

The Birmingham Whiskey Club Presents: An evening with the Macallan

The Wellington
22 April
thebirminghamwhiskeyclub.co.uk

The Macallan's curiously small spirit stills are the smallest on Speyside. These stills are so famous that they have appeared on the back of a Bank of Scotland £10 banknote! Taste your way through the exclusive 1824 series.

Mary Poppins

Birmingham Hippodrome
9 March - 23 April
birminghamhippodrome.com

The multiple award winning musical, Mary Poppins comes to Birmingham Hippodrome. Check in to Cherry Tree Lane and re-live the magic as the world's favourite nanny comes to town.

Suitable for children 3+



**Here's our
city checklist of
key events this
season...**

Wayne Hussey

The Oobleck
22 April
theoobleck.co.uk

Time to break open the hairspray and smokey eyeliner as Wayne Hussey plays a solo set at The Oobleck. Armed with an acoustic guitar and piano, join the lead singer of goth-legends, The Mission as he leads you through, entertaining classics and new material.

French Bistro Cookery @ Bar Opus

Bar Opus
12 April
kitchenschool.co.uk

Fancy learning something new? Kitchen School kicks off a series of 3 cookery classes at Bar Opus in the heart of CBD. Join the team to learn to cook some classic French dishes.

Make sure you keep lunch light!

Ikon Presents: Janet Mendelsohn - Varna Road

IKON Gallery
27 January - 3 April
ikon-gallery.org/event/janet-mendelsohn

If you enjoyed our #NicklinUnseen exhibition, be sure to visit this exhibition of Janet Mendelsohn's work. Janet was also capturing the city at a similar time, however her focus was on the people of the city.

A Passion for Birmingham

The Old Joint Stock
15 March - 25 March
oldjointstock.co.uk/whats-on

Back for its third year, this home-grown telling of the Passion of Christ will take viewers on an interactive journey around the city centre as they experience the seasonal classic like never before.