



COLMORE HISTORY

WEEK
2020










SUMMER 2020 | SPECIAL MAGAZINE

Then & NOW

IN SKETCHES AND PHOTOGRAPHS:
**THE CHANGING FACE OF
THE BUSINESS DISTRICT**



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 <p>How St Philip's got its name</p>	 <p>St Philip's mid-19th Century</p>	 <p>Charles Gore</p>
 <p>First Age</p>	 <p>Second Age</p>	 <p>Third Age</p>
 <p>Fourth Age</p>	 <p>The Angel Drinking Fountain</p>	 <p>Nannette Stocker</p>



COLMORE HISTORY WEEK 2020



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SPECIAL MAGAZINE

On the cover



Colmore Row – the heart of the Business District, in the 19th-Century and today. More 'then and now' scenes on Pages 8-11.

As you pass through the grounds of beautiful Birmingham Cathedral pause for a moment and face Colmore Row and the west of the city centre.

You can't miss the splendid Grand Hotel, 55 Colmore Row, bars, restaurants, coffee shops and some of the finest Victorian and Edwardian architecture in the country.

That same vista during late 18th- and early 19th-Century Birmingham would have been somewhat different and unrecognisable by comparison.

From your same spot you would have been looking at a row of cottages in the foreground with rolling hills and pastures beyond. The skyline would be interrupted only by church spires and tumbledown farm buildings.

This visualisation gives an example of the extraordinary pace of change enjoyed around Colmore Row, which has seen the area evolve from open countryside to the city's commercial district, employing thousands working for global brands in finance and professional services.

Much of this evolution is thanks to one wealthy and influential family: the Colmores, whose legacy lives on in street names such as Charles (Great Charles, no less), Barwick, Edmund and Newhall – the family estate.

The Colmores – particularly Ann – were a savvy bunch, who sold pockets of land to the town for development in the 18th-century, applying strict guidelines that are still in place today.

But the power and influence of the Colmores didn't come without envy or competition and in this special magazine as part of **COLMORE BID'S HISTORY WEEK** we look at the often violent rivalry with another prominent Birmingham family, the Smallbrokes, whose Brummie legacy also lives on in street and building names.

It's a gripping real-life drama played out on the streets and alleys of Birmingham town centre that could rival Peaky Blinders for its TV appeal.

The magazine also browses the shelves of the original Birmingham Library, now based at the Birmingham & Midland Institute, 'now and then' street scenes and the area in the 1960s thanks to a wonderful local photography archive. We also return to the genteel surroundings of Birmingham Cathedral to pick out notable figures and features in its burial grounds.

We hope you enjoy this History Week digital magazine. Please visit the Colmore BID website or follow social media to watch the videos that have been produced to go with it.

STACEY BARNFIELD
ON BEHALF OF COLMORE BID



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THE COLMORES VS THE SMALLBROKES

MIKE MOUNFIELD STEELS HIMSELF TO REPORT ON THE VIOLENT FIGHT FOR POWER BETWEEN TWO OF BIRMINGHAM'S WEALTHIEST FAMILIES

Use the words 'Colmore' and 'Smallbrook' in a word association game with most modern Brummies and the words 'Row' and 'Queensway' are most likely to come right back in reply.

The way our society works (if that word isn't stretching things too much) is that a sure sign the walnut veneer of respectability has been applied to some rough old bit of lumber of a reputation is when a street gets named after someone whose ancestors were not the kind of people you turned your back on. Or in the case of the Colmores, quite a few streets (see the associated articles in this magazine).

Even to those who think they know a bit about the local history of the area now known as Colmore Business District, the name Colmore conjures a well-to-do, respectable family who lived in a mansion in what is now the Jewellery Quarter and sold off considerable land holdings to create our modern commercial district.

It wasn't always such a respectable picture. During what we might term

Birmingham's 'wild west' period, the couple of centuries or so when the town was busy metamorphosing from a Warwickshire non-entity to a giant of the early Industrial Revolution, the Colmore family were 'up-and-coming', that class-laden euphemism that hints at 'new money', 'rough diamonds' and general dodgy-ness.

The Colmores were from Solihull (though let's not hold that against them) and at least one of their number, William Colmore Sr., made his money as a mercer, trading in fabrics and spice, solidly high-end commodities in his day.

The Colmores were far from the only 'up-and-coming' family in Birmingham during the 16th- and 17th-Centuries. Another was the Smallbrokes (note the spelling), from Castle Bromwich, and Yardley before that. They too were ambitious for money and power; Richard Smallbroke was appointed High Bailiff of Birmingham in 1522 and was one of the first 20 governors of King Edward's School in 1552.

In the movies, or EastEnders, if this situation arises and two families are threatening each other's turf a sensible option to pour oil on troubled waters

continued over



BLAKESLEY HALL, YARDLEY
Built by Richard Smallbroke in 1590



NEW HALL, BIRMINGHAM

The Colmore family seat of power, shown here on Westley's 1731 map of Birmingham. New Hall Lane is now Colmore Row.

is a marriage alliance. The Colmores and the Smallbrokes tried that. To say it didn't go well is understatement of epic proportions. Not so much oil on troubled waters as petrol on a fire.

Richard Smallbroke's son, Thomas, married Elizabeth Colmore, William Colmore Jr's sister in 1570. The row started immediately, over the marriage settlement. Two rich families getting ugly over how much cash they can make out of the meeting of two hearts (or the meeting of two treasuries, depending on your level of cynicism). Not pretty, but it gets worse.

Starting with persuading his mother-in-law to sue her own son for money deemed to be owed by him, Thomas started a rampage of vexatious litigation against his in-laws. Writs flying back and forth soon turned to more visceral

'A woman had been putting out her washing on the line when she heard a crack and noticed a perfectly round hole appear in her linens... a stray bullet fired by one of the Colmore clan'

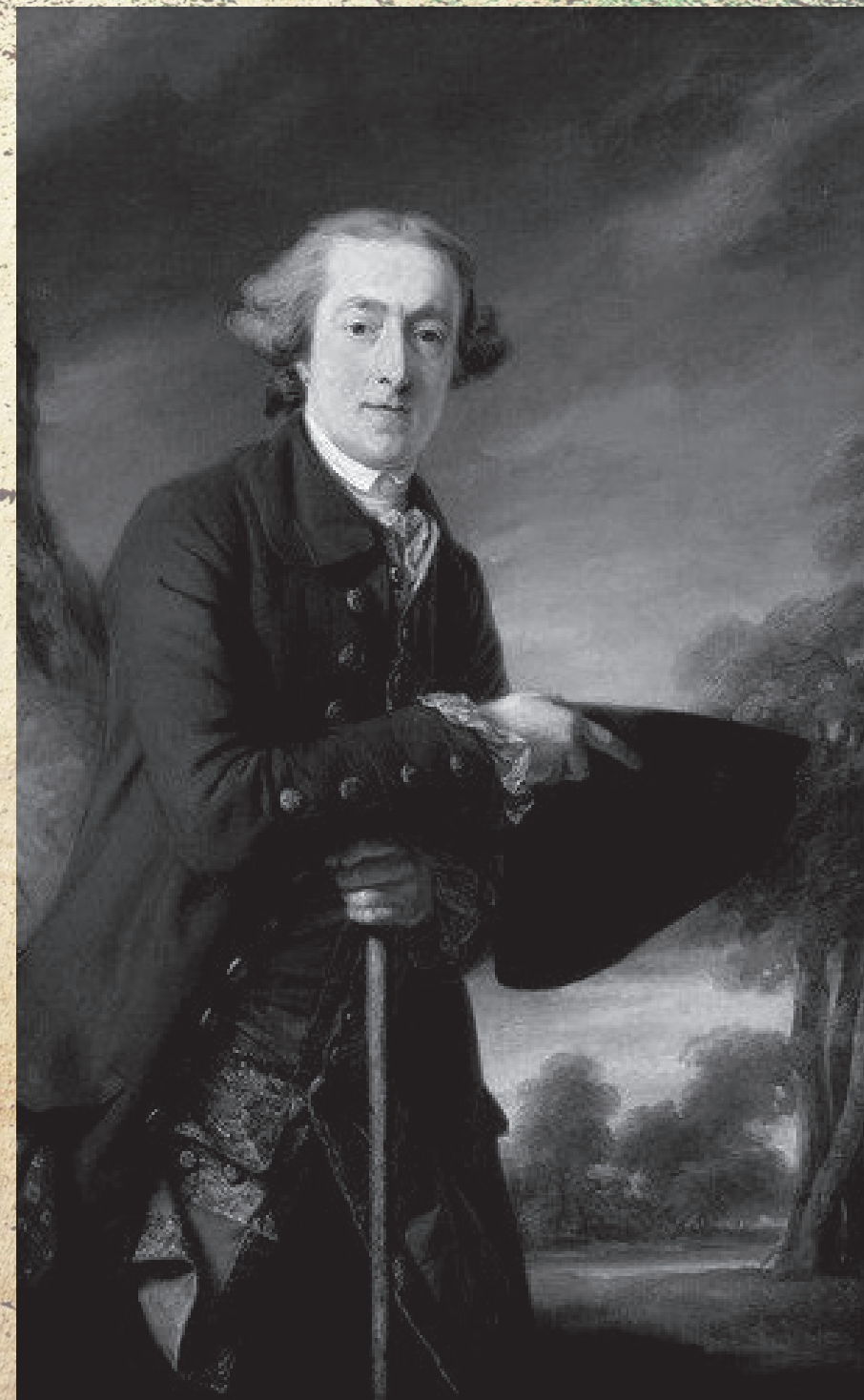
ammunition: actual bullets. During one of the longer trials it was heard that a woman had been putting out her washing on the line when she heard a crack and noticed a perfectly round hole appear in her linens. A stray bullet fired by one of the Colmore clan, who were in hot pursuit of Thomas Smallbroke, his brother Richard and a servant. It wouldn't be the last time the Colmores would try to end a Smallbroke's life with guns.

When the law finally caught up with the Colmore brothers, holed up in their den in The Lamb pub in Bull Street, one of them impetuously drew a sword and

attacked the constable. This caused so much of a stir in the town that some witnesses were persuaded to make statements against the Colmores, not usually considered a life-extending course of action, and the matter went to court. Unfazed, the Colmores added witness bribing to their other crimes and the damning statements were withdrawn.

Smallbroke stiffened his resolve and took the case to a higher Court, the Star Chamber, then the highest court of appeal. He won the case, but was left with debts of a then-eye-watering £700. William Colmore Jr. got a heavy fine, which, in classic Colmore style, he never paid. The only real winners were the lawyers.

*The author would like to thank Marie Fogg for her excellent book, *The Smallbroke Family of Birmingham 1550-1749* for much of the information in this article.*



Portrait of Charles Colmore by Francis Cotes



Then & NOW

• COLMORE ROW •



• COLMORE ROW •

at the junction with Newhall Street





Then & NOW

• ANN STREET •

Now Victoria Square and Colmore Row



• TEMPLE ROW WEST •

and Birmingham Cathedral



Courtesy Google Street View



FOUNTAIN FROM CHRIST CHURCH

Mounted into the perimeter wall of Birmingham Cathedral grounds is the Angel Drinking Fountain. The drinking fountain, which is no longer operational, originally stood outside Christ Church at the junction of Colmore Row and New Street, now Victoria Square. After the church was demolished in 1899 it was relocated to Temple Row.

Who's who of the Cathedral Grounds

PHILIP SINGLETON LOOKS AT SOME OF THE NOTABLE BURIALS AND MEMORIALS

When St Philip's Church was built in the early 18th-Century the area became highly fashionable and a terrace of grand Georgian houses were built on Temple Row where House of Fraser stands today.

Although not originally planned as a square the area around St Philip's was developed with an eye to enhancing and preserving these attractive qualities.

There are thought to be around 60,000 burials in the churchyard. Only a few people could afford the luxury of a headstone, and most of those that were put up have

disappeared with time. In 1858 the burial ground was closed to further burials, conditions were very poor and potentially a threat to public health, described as "offensive to the surrounding neighbourhood, especially in the summer months".

There are about 100 monuments left visible. Very occasionally new ones are added to mark a person or event of significance, most notably there is a memorial all 21 who died in the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings. This was erected in 1995.

There are a number of listed monuments in the churchyard; the Unett Monument to soldiers who fought at Sebastopol, the large Burnaby obelisk commemorates Colonel Frederick Burnaby who was sent to rescue General Gordon of Khartoum in 1884 and who had once stood to be a Birmingham MP.

The graves reveal the variety of professions that would be expected in a rapidly expanding town of the 18th and 19th Centuries, including surgeons, lawyers and craftsmen but also, reflecting the particular trades of this city, gun makers, and artists.



ARTISTIC THINKERS

Edward Burne-Jones was born close to St Philip's in 1833 and was baptised at the church in 1834. He famously designed remarkable stained-glass windows for the church later in the 19th-Century.

Samuel Lines, the topographical artist and founder member of the Birmingham Society of Artists is buried in the churchyard. His tomb is one of the listed monuments in the churchyard and faces his studio on Temple Row.

Reverend Arthur Broome the founder of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was buried here in 1834, only a record in the registers survives. He died whilst living as a penniless itinerant preacher in nearby Bull Street.



BIRMINGHAM'S FIRST BISHOP

One of the most influential Anglican theologians of the 19th-Century, Charles Gore was the first Bishop of Birmingham. His eye-catching statue greets Cathedral visitors in front of the entrance to the building.

Known for his social achievements, Gore founded the monastic Community of the Resurrection as well as the Christian Social Union. He was also the chaplain to Queen Victoria and King Edward VII.

In 1905 Gore was installed as the first Bishop of Birmingham, a new see he had helped to create by dividing his previous see of Worcester.

His time in Birmingham was dedicated to forming relationships in the church community and addressing social issues.

Gore died in London in 1932 and left instructions for his body to be cremated; a practice seen by some at the time as unacceptable for a Christian.

As an interesting side fact, Charles Gore's brother Spencer was the first winner of the Wimbledon tennis championships!



TOWN HALL TRIBUTES

Birmingham's spectacular Town Hall became the pride of the town when it opened to the public in 1834.

Its construction, however, came at a cost, which included the bankruptcy of Joseph Hansom of Hansom cab fame, its chief architect.

Two stone masons also died during the building's construction. They were John Heap and William Badger, local family men who suffered fatal injuries when one of the ten trusses that would form part of the main framework of the building collapsed.

It was resolved to erect a monument to the memory of John Heap, who was buried in St Philip's Churchyard. His funeral was attended by the whole body of workmen involved in the construction of the Town Hall as well as by Hansom and the builders.

After his death in the General Hospital, William Badger was interred in the same vault. The monument later placed upon it consisted of a portion of the last column worked on by John Heap. It stood upon a pedestal executed by his fellow workmen as a memorial of their respect for his character.

Both men continue to be remembered and flowers are laid at their memorial as part of the annual Workers' Memorial Day.



NANNETTE STOCKER – A SMALL PART TO PLAY

This is a tiny gravestone and you need to stoop down to read the engraving, but you will be rewarded with this information.

Nannette was Austrian and she was just 39 years old when she died. Perhaps what made her most distinctive was her height at just 33 inches tall (84cm). She apparently spoke six languages and was a singer, so we can deduce that she was a touring entertainer. She died at the famous annual Onion Fair at Aston in 1819.

Colmore through the AGES

FROM GREEN, GREEN GRASS TO ARCHITECTURAL SPLENDOUR, MIKE MOUNFIELD SHARES A WHISTLESTOP HISTORY TOUR OF COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT

I think that one of the reasons that our species devotes so much time and resource to building things is that we seek a sense of permanence.

Next time you're in the Colmore Business District (or any area with heritage buildings) just place your hand on the brickwork of some beauty like the College of Art in Margaret Street. Leave it there for a minute. Feels like it has always been there, and it always will be. Both wrong of course, but we convince ourselves of permanence, because we need to believe in it for our own sanity (some more than others).

Birmingham is exactly the right city to disabuse us of the notion of constructed permanence; the place has specialised in what I call the 'Etch-a-Sketch' approach to regeneration for centuries. Give it all a good shake, clear the screen and start again fresh. In latter times the city has tempered this inclination a little, though not enough to save places like John Madin's Central Library or indeed his NatWest Tower, both of which exuded the air of permanence imbued by tons and tons of steel-reinforced concrete, both of which are now gone.

I'm sure to many of us the Victorian and Edwardian commercial

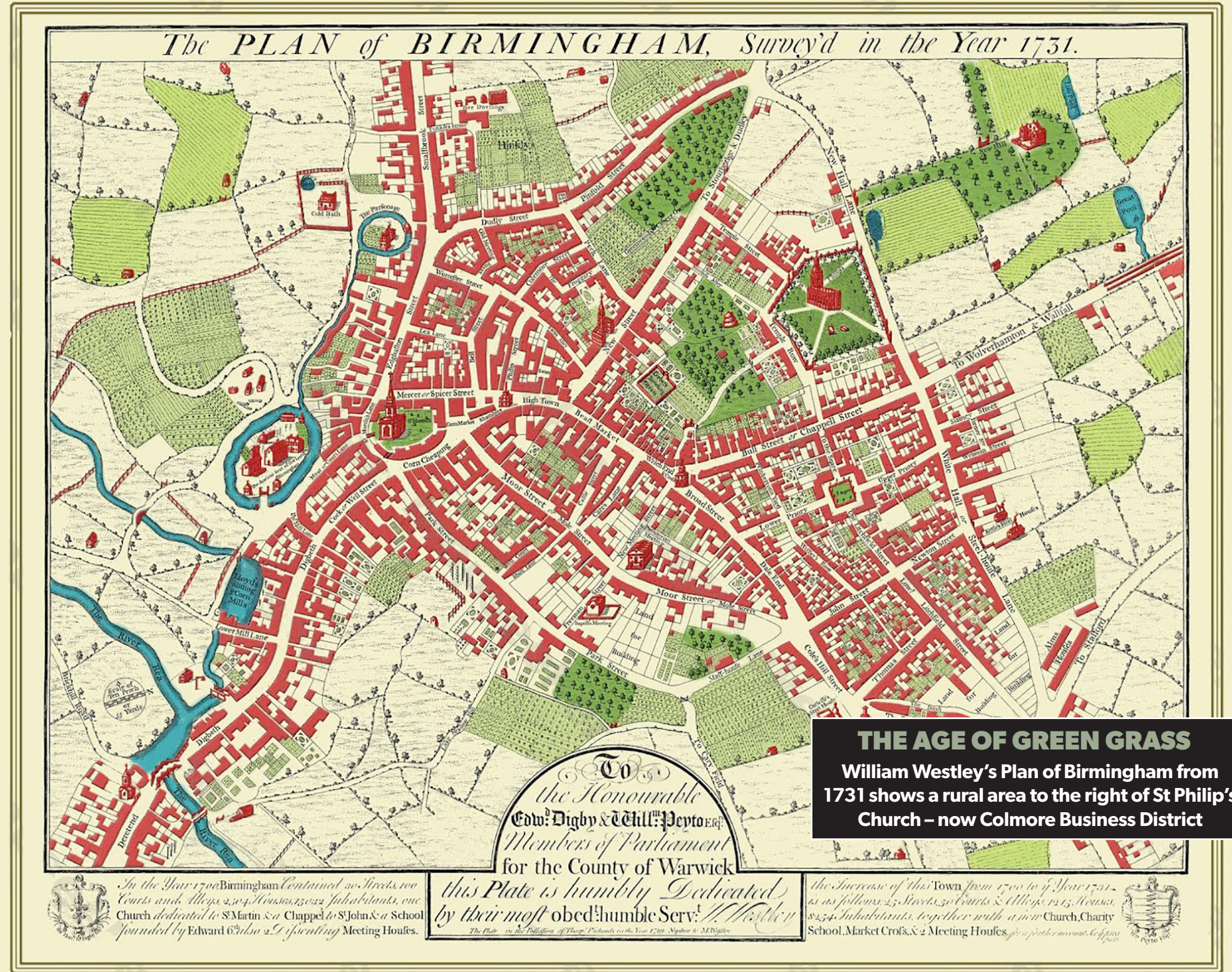


Mike Mounfield of Colmore BID

architecture of the streets around Colmore Row seem immune to all that; that they reflect some other values than the gritty calculus of the feasibility study, cost-benefit analysis and spreadsheet. You couldn't be more wrong if you think that. Let me take you through a quick canter through what I call the Four Ages of Colmore to see what I mean.

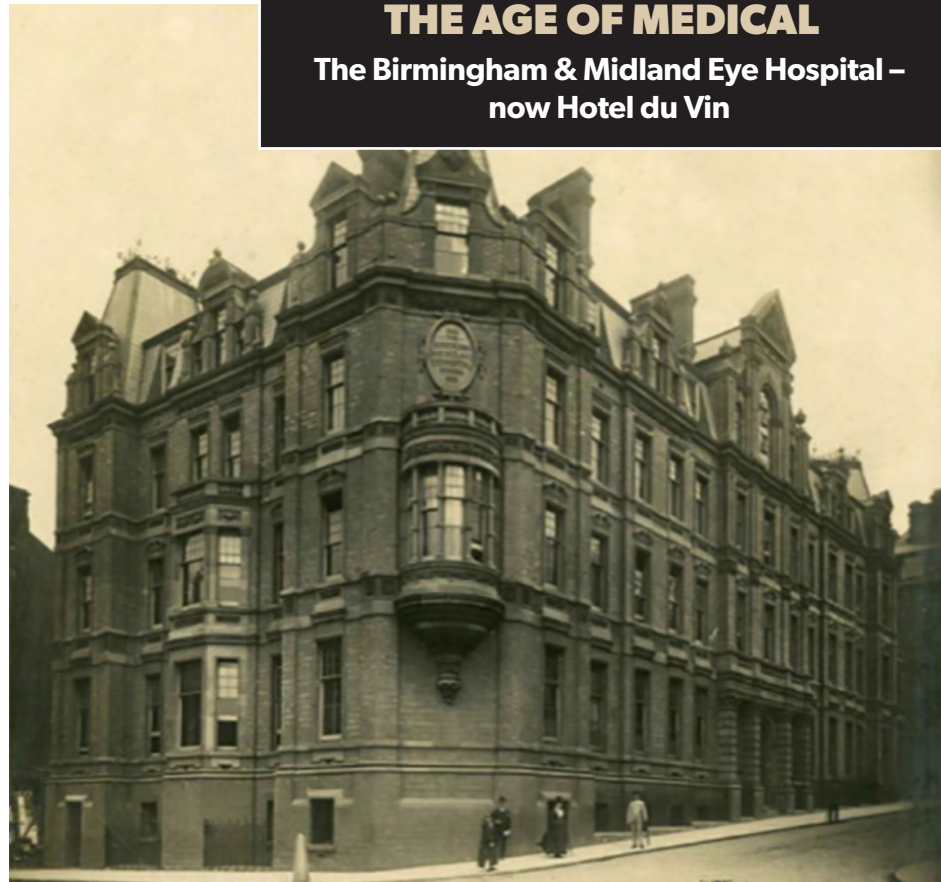
The Westley Map of Birmingham from 1731 shows clearly what most of what we now call Colmore Business District was in the early 18th-Century: fields. This is why I call this 'The Age of Green Grass'. The side of what we call Colmore Row opposite the Cathedral (which had been dedicated as St Philip's Church some 16 years before this map was drawn) had only

continued over



THE AGE OF MEDICAL

The Birmingham & Midland Eye Hospital – now Hotel du Vin



a handful of cottages standing on what is now Snow Hill Station. Most of that land was owned by the Colmore family, 'new money' folk who had made their pile in the rag trade, dealing in fabrics in the 15th- and 16th-centuries and building for themselves the rather unimaginatively-named New Hall down the hill.

They wisely invested a lot of that cash in land that became available thanks to Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries; the Priory that gives it's name to Priory Queensway suffered that fate; its lands north of Birmingham being sold off (eventually) to people like the Colmores. Sobering to think that, had Henry been a one-woman-kind-of-guy, all this land could still have belonged to the Church (though, which church?) and be used for growing food and keeping bees, like similar land in the centre of Chester is even today.

That isn't what happened so the Colmores sold off chunks of their land, creating the next age of Colmore: The Age of the Posh Suburb. Bradford's map of 1750 shows this well underway: there is a new street one block north from



what we call Colmore Row, Church Street is extant (though St Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter is still a quarter of a century away – knocking on the head the idea that Church Street got its name from linking St Philip's to St Paul's). You can see that the land that hasn't been built on yet is parcelled up ready to go, with 'Land for Building' inked across the map. These buildings are not the ones you see now: these are Georgian buildings, mainly houses with gardens and mainly well-to-do, servants and everything. There is an echo of that life in our own New Market Street, named for the New Hall Market that was on the land now occupied by (among others) Purnell's restaurant. Imagine the staff from the big houses getting up early and buying the groceries for the day. It's appropriate that Cornwall Street (Bread Street in 1778) is now a mini-hub of food experiences with Purnell's, Opus, Zen Metro and All Bar One feeding Brummies and visitors today.

The New Hall is still there on the 1750 map, though the Colmores don't live there by this time and the edge of Birmingham is racing downhill toward

the ill-fated house. The harbinger of change to the next Age of Colmore can be seen on Hanson's map of 1778: a canal. The Colmores themselves got involved in canal-building. We tend to think of canals with the rosy-tinted goggles of retrospect but in the late 18th Century they were the latest thing in transportation of goods to new markets. They were also dirty and a bit smelly. So imagine the effect that plonking a lorry park in the middle of a posh suburb would have these days and you get some idea of the effect of the canals on the area between St Philip's and St Paul's in the late 1700s. The posh people fled to the countryside,

to places like Handsworth and, when the leases fell in, their former homes were redeveloped into the next age of Colmore: The Age of Medical and Commercial. Many of those buildings, built during the 19th Century, are the ones you can see today. Although there was no Town and Country Planning Act at this point, conditions attached to many head leases in this area stipulated 'no chimneys'; that is, no industrial use. So this led to the many medical-related uses for buildings around Colmore. The more obvious and well-known are Birmingham Eye Hospital (now Hotel du Vin) and the Ear and Throat Hospital at 111 Edmund Street (now home to law firm Gateley).

Less well-known are Colmores' own 'two graces' on Newhall Street, the two buildings either side of the road at the junction with Cornwall Street. You can identify them by the turreted roof design they share. Pevsner's Guide to Birmingham describes them in its inimitable style: "The corners of



Colmore Row in the 1870s

MAKING A SPLASH

Detail from Hudson's map of 1778 shows the Birmingham Canal, a turning point for the area



Cornwall Street, guarded by a pair of balancing but not identical brick and terracotta corner turrets with domed tops, a delightful piece of townscape. Both are by Essex, Nicol & Goodman, in a Flemish-cum-Jacobean Renaissance style".

Number 50-52 was built as a doctor's house and surgery, with the building opposite used as a dentist's surgery (now partly All Bar One). There was no shortage of places for treating your ailments in 19th-Century Colmore, if you could afford the fees. Both now contain commercial office spaces aimed at smaller businesses. A classic Colmore transition to what I describe in the accompanying films as 'The Late Professional and Commercial Age' but might equally be labelled as the 'The

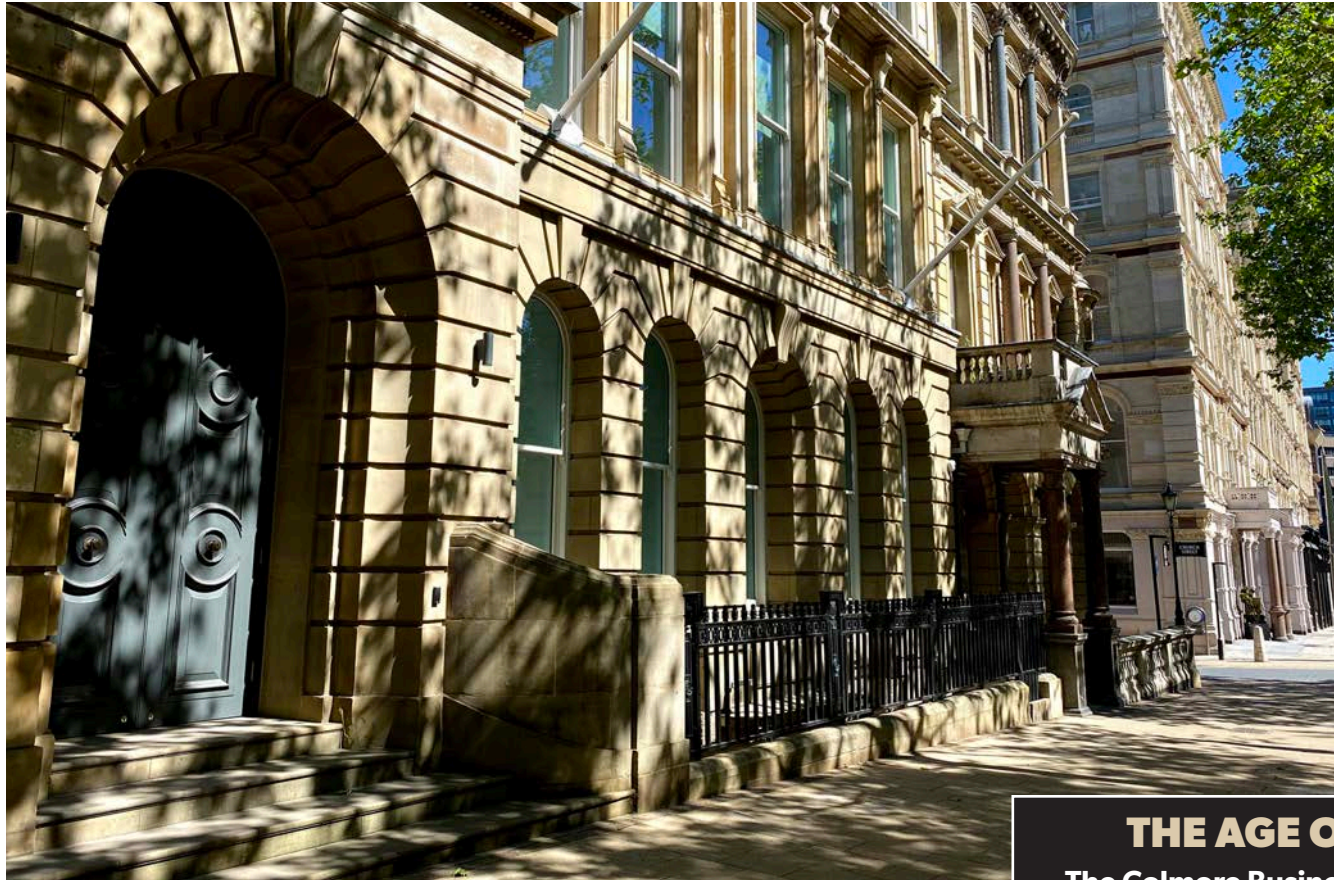
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Age of Survival' (also known as the 20th Century).

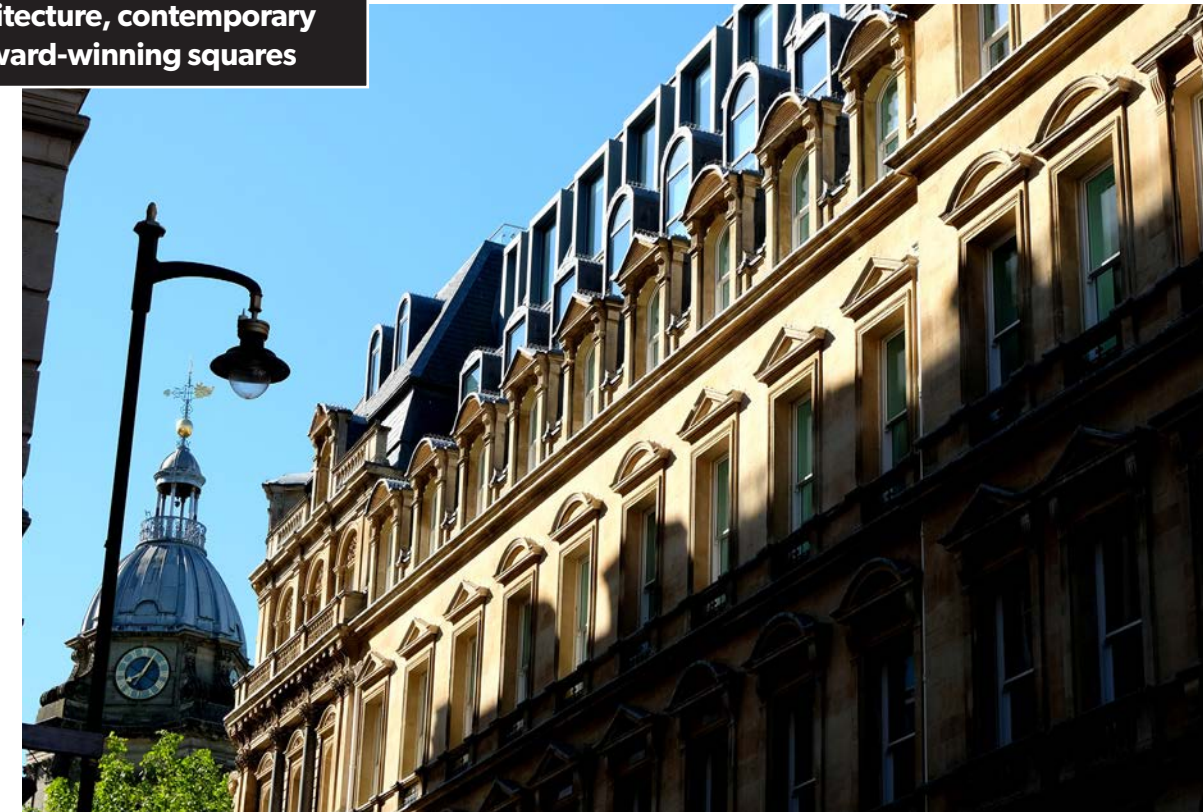
Colmore's Victorian building stock largely obliterated its Georgian predecessors, but in the 20th Century was facing its own obliteration via the twin threats of Modernism and modern commercial building requirements. Victorian architects didn't have to consider air conditioning and data conduits (or even electricity, mostly), so shoe-horning all that stuff into an old building can be a bit of a nightmare. Far better, the logic goes, to knock it down and build anew. Pass me the Etch-a-Sketch. The logic goes even better when the aesthetic principles of Modernism are sweeping all before it, with the social changes following two world wars reinforcing the drive to 'start again'. It amazes me we still have any heritage buildings left in Colmore, and other parts of the city have fared far worse.

The successful regeneration of 55 Colmore Row epitomises Colmore's Age of Survival. Yes, it's a facade scheme (in fact an update on a previous facade scheme) and yes, it's a concatenation of several previously separate buildings into one massive chunk of Grade A+ office space. But it's successful for all that: it reminds us of Victorian vigour that energised this part of the city and contributes to a beautiful piece of townscape that Colmore BID is determined to beautify still further with the pedestrianisation of Colmore Row that the BID has pushed onto the agenda for over a decade. It's time we considered Colmore's next Age: perhaps The Age of Urban Beauty, an age when people and places work together to help all to lead happier, healthier and more rewarding lives.

Colmore's ever-changing nature doesn't have to involve a wrecking ball, but it does require vision, determination and a willingness to think the unthinkable.



THE AGE OF SURVIVAL
The Colmore Business District of today... an area of stunning architecture, contemporary office spaces and award-winning squares





A look inside BIRMINGHAM LIBRARY.



A REMARKABLE SLICE OF BIRMINGHAM HISTORY SITS IN THE HEART OF COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT. HONORARY LIBRARIAN SAMINA ANSARI EXPLAINS MORE

The Birmingham Library was, and still is, an independent, subscription Library.

It was established in the front room of Mr John Lee, a local button maker who lived on Snow Hill and remained there for two years before removing to Swan Yard, High Street.

By 1779, there were enough subscribers for it to be recognised as a library. It had a controlling board of 19 trustees, only one of whom was a member of the established church. It was one of several libraries in Birmingham, impressive for an industrial town, but differentiated itself from the others by being open to anyone who could afford the subscription. The other libraries were vocational based; for example, the library at St. Phillip's was for curates.

Recent investigation into the founding of the Library would suggest that the subscription charges and the opening hours determined that it was aimed at the upper classes rather than the workers of the town. As it was the first library in the town to have its own building, it is referred to as The Birmingham Library.

In 1780, Dr

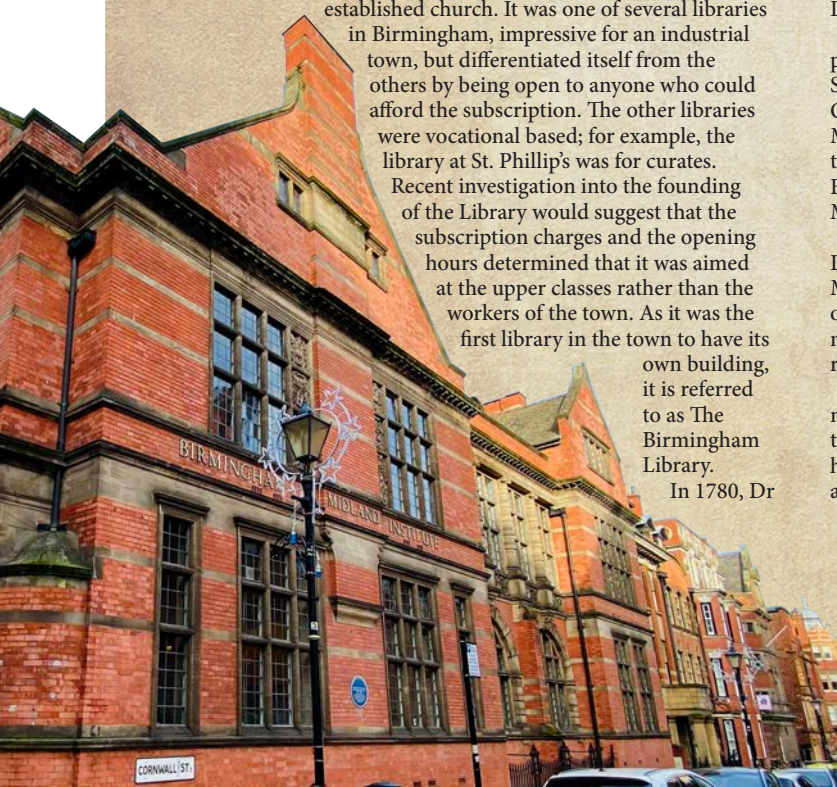
Joseph Priestley came to Birmingham from Leeds, where he had helped to set up the Leeds Library. His classification system was adopted by the Birmingham Library. The Leeds Library adopted the Dewey Decimal system when it was introduced, so it is believed that the Birmingham Library is the only library in the world to use the Priestley categorisation system. By 1799, the Library had outgrown Swan Yard and was established in its own premises on Union Street. It was a founder member of the Independent Libraries Association, which continues to this day.

By 1899, The Birmingham Library had again outgrown its premises, and moved to its present location at 9, Margaret Street. There was a book hall, reading rooms and staff. One of the most well-known Head librarians was J. D. Mullins, who went from The Birmingham Library to be the first Head librarian at the Municipal Library built by Birmingham City Council, next door to the Birmingham & Midland Institute on Paradise Street.

By the 1950s, subscriptions had fallen at the Birmingham Library and it was subsumed into the Birmingham & Midland Institute, which moved into the Library building on Margaret Street when it was compulsorily purchased to make room for a road system that was never built, where it remains to this day.

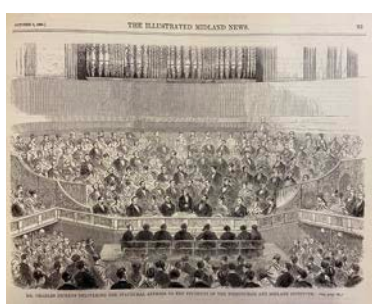
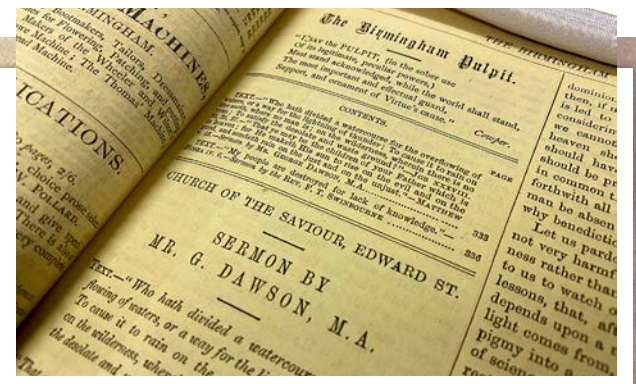
If you are a member of the BMI, you are automatically a member of the Original Birmingham Library. We are open to members and researchers from all over the world, we have links with all the universities and archives in the city, and are a proud part of Birmingham history.

**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BMI.
CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE.**



BIRMINGHAM PULPIT

According to a pamphlet about Birmingham by Charles Pye in 1818, 'In this town every[one] worships his maker in whatever inclination leads him...no one will interrupt or interfere with him'. This led to many places of worship being established here which would not have been allowed by other cities' guilds. It also led to the establishment of the Civic Gospel, one of the founders being George Dawson. The Birmingham Pulpit was a magazine which published the sermons from the non-conformist churches, and this is one of Dawson's sermons.

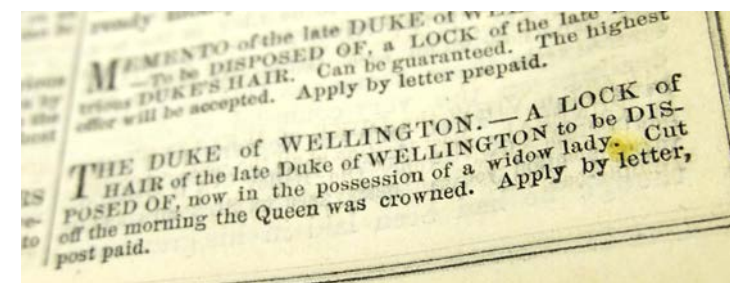
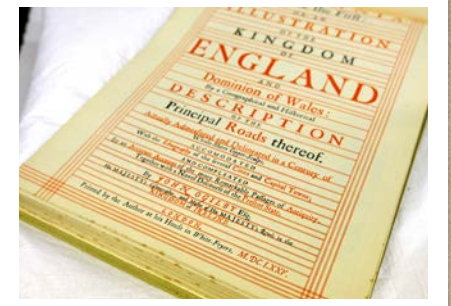


DICKENS' TALK

In October 1869, Charles Dickens gave his inaugural address to the students of the BMI. This is how it was reported in the Illustrated Midland News on the 9th October. Dickens was a stalwart supporter of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, reading three of his Christmas Stories over three nights in 1853 in the Town Hall to raise money for the building of the Institute.

PILGRIM ROUTES

From a reprint of a book of The Principle Roads of England, 1675 this shows the route from Bristol to Worcester. It describes, pictorially, how to walk from one city to another, much in the same way as we do now; pass the river on your left and the church on your right. Much easier to understand than satnavs!

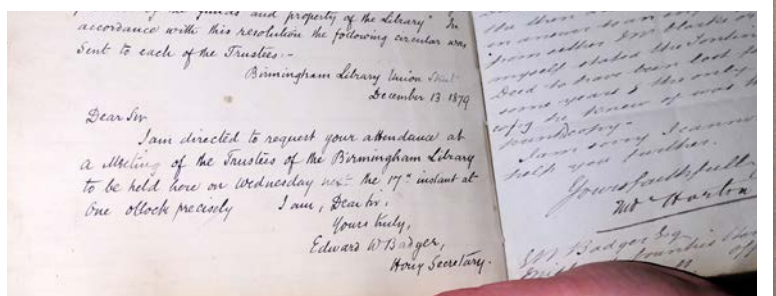


DICKENS' MAGAZINES

Dickens published a weekly magazine, Household Words. It was used as self-promotion for his books and stories, but also included articles by other writers. This article is by Dickens and talks of the insatiable desire of people to collect 'priceless' items. He talks of how people like to possess articles touched by heroes, the last few adverts he has found are for locks of the recently-deceased Duke of Wellington's hair.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES' MINUTES

We are the archive of both the Birmingham Library and the Birmingham and Midland Institute, and we take this responsibility very seriously. We have all the records of both institutions, which did not merge until the 1950s, handwritten and later typed. These are a valuable resource for researchers investigating individuals who founded the city and have left their mark on Institutions in various ways.



The District of the 1960s

John Ball was born in Birmingham in 1940 and developed a passion for photography as a school boy, inheriting his father's interest in the city and its history.

He bought his own first camera in 1962 – a Kodak Retinette 1B compact 35mm and after his father died, John vowed that he would use his new camera to record all the streets in the city centre. All the photos on this pages were part of this project, which took four years to complete.

"I viewed the 35mm colour slides occasionally

but then put them away in boxes until the new millennium when I discovered they were beginning to deteriorate," explained John.

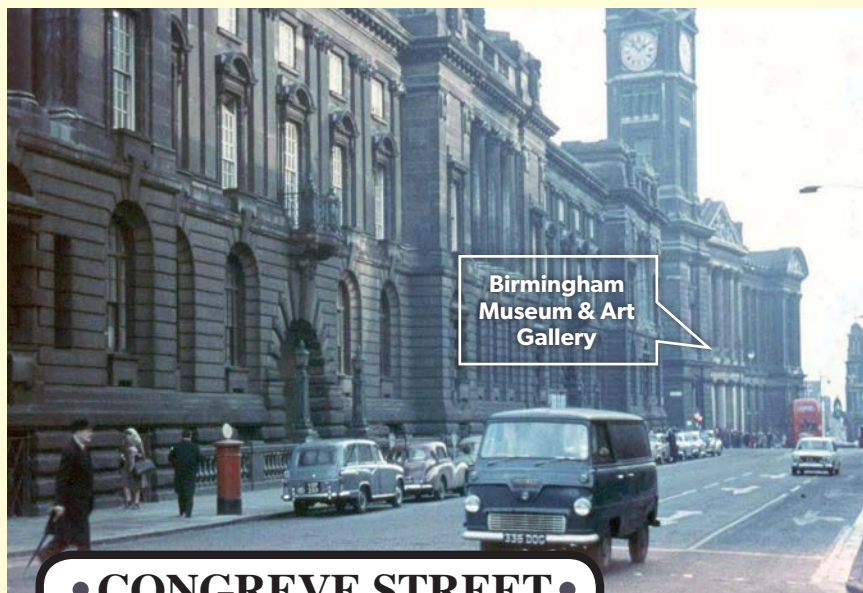
"I scanned all the slides and decided to make them available online as part of my website, which I had first created in 1997. I was astonished by the interest that people showed when my collection went online as Images of Birmingham.

"I think my dad, who died in 1961 aged only 64, would have been very pleased."

Visit www.jlb2011.co.uk/iob/



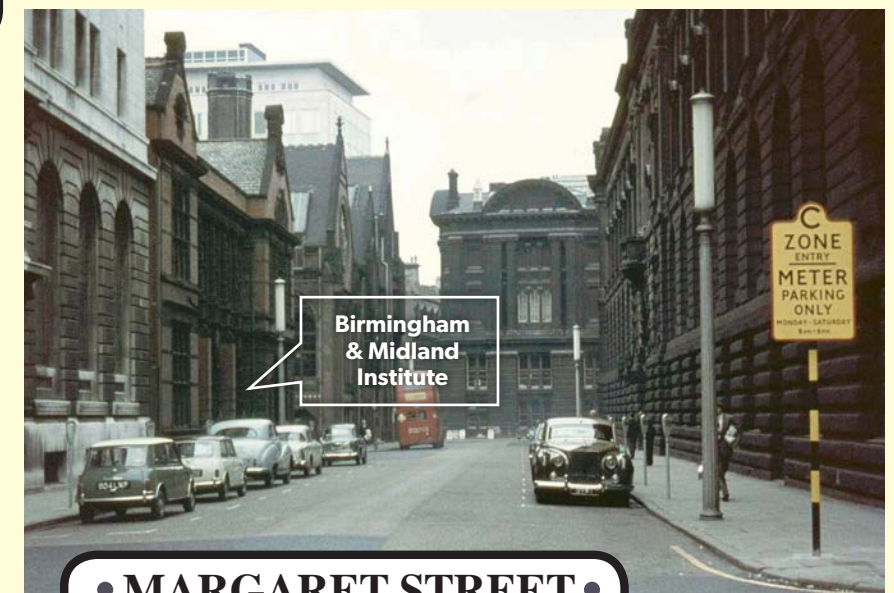
• BARWICK STREET •



• CONGREVE STREET •



• CORNWALL STREET •



• MARGARET STREET •

• EDMUND STREET •



• NEW MARKET STREET •

The District of the
1960s



• BARWICK STREET •



What's in a name?

PHILIP SINGLETON RESEARCHES THE NAMES OF FAMILIAR STREETS IN THE DISTRICT

PICK A CHERRY AS YOU STROLL

Imagine walking a well trodden pathway from St Philip's through the springtime blossom via a parade of cherry trees all the way across to High Street. Well you could in the Eighteenth century. Back then the orchard of cherry trees were said to belong to the local Priory of St Thomas (that once stood in the city centre and gave its name to Priory Queensway). Today the pedestrianised Cherry Street passes down the side of House of Fraser in Corporation Street, this originally crossed one of the three cherry orchards.

It was later widened and is shown as Cherry Street on Samuel Bradford's Plan of Birmingham for 1750. Cherry Street was cut in half when Corporation Street was built in the late 1870s.

WHO'S ROW?

The eponymous Row was coined by the Colmore

family, who made their fortune in the textile trade and lived near the modern site of Moor Street Station. In the early 17th-Century, they built a mansion called New Hall – with Newhall Street, the former tree-lined driveway, leading up to it.

Colmore Row was once a country lane. In the 18th-Century, the end nearest Snow Hill was called Bull Lane while the end nearest New Street was called New Hall Lane.

When part of the Colmores' New Hall Estate was opened up for development in 1747, the stretch between Newhall Street and Livery Street was named Colmore Row; the part between Newhall Street and New Street was named Ann Street, after

head of the family Ann Colmore; and the section north of Livery Street, originally called Bull Lane, became Monmouth Street. It's only in the last 100 years or so that the whole street has become known as Colmore Row.

COLMORE SIBLINGS

Members of the Colmore family also gave names to other roads in the city centre including Charles Street, Charlotte Street, Barwick Street and Edmund Street.


Barwick Street is named after William Barwick Cregoe Colmore, last of the Colmore family.



Pictured: Cherry Street as it looks today

Courtesy Google Street View




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