

+ More than just business...

COLMORE

Spring 2020

A Day in the District
The Lowdown
Movers & Shakers
People & Places

LIFE



In this issue:

Clean Air Zone: Are you ready for the changes?

Raise a glass to the District's pubs

The rise of co-working offices



colmorebusinessdistrict.com



Henok Moreno, Assistant Manager and Bar Co-ordinator, Pincho's, Edmund Street, creates a 'Henok's Secret' cocktail. Recipe: Page 21

Welcome...

I can't recall a time when the Business District skyline experienced such dramatic changes.

Construction work on 103 Colmore Row continues at a pace with the first glass panels slotting in to position.

Paradise has welcomed its first tenants with PwC relocating to its new offices at One Chamberlain Square. No doubt they will be among the first to try the new Dishoom restaurant when that opens in the same building this spring.

And last, but by no means least, Three Snowhill – an awesome sight on the skyline as you approach the District from Constitution Hill – will be the new home for thousands of BT staff after the telecoms giant announced its plans for a new HQ in the building.

These are exciting times for Business District companies.

We've also announced exciting changes at the BID with Nicola Fleet-Milne taking over from Gary Cardin the role of Chair.

I'd like to pass on my heartfelt thanks to Gary for his incredible work over the last decade. I'm now looking forward to working with Nicola progressing the many long-lasting improvements to the area Gary helped put in place.

We touch on this, along with all the regular Movers & Shakers, Food & Drink, Property News and Wellbeing updates in this issue of Colmore Life, along with a great interview with Deb Leary of Forensic Pathways, who works tirelessly for Birmingham businesses by opening doors to international trade.

I hope you enjoy this edition and I'll see you out and about in Colmore Business District.

Michele Wilby, Chief Executive Officer, Colmore BID



THE BID TEAM

Michele Wilby
Chief Executive Officer

Jonathan Bryce
Operations Manager

Claire J. Smith
Executive Assistant and
Office Manager

Katy Paddock
Events Manager

Paul Street
Strategic Projects Officer

Lisa Richards
Finance Officer

Mike Mounfield
Projects Manager

Lee Stirrup
Database Officer

John-Jo Von Johnson
Street Operations Manager

Aaron Franklyn-Payne
Security Supervisor

Ryan Boothe
Security Officer

James Crooks
Security Officer

Samantha Birch
Security Officer

Nicole Panayiotou
Ambassador

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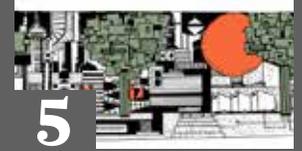
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SPRING 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

New look for Livery Street



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DID YOU KNOW? Business District companies donated 830 kg of food, almost 2,000 meals, to the B30 Foodbank. The Foodbank, a voluntary organisation supported by the Trussell Trust, has seen a 26% increase in use over the last year, making 2019 its busiest year.

Thankyou!

A DAY IN THE DISTRICT

DAY OFF WORK? STICK AROUND, THERE'S PLENTY TO SEE AND DO

1 BREAKFAST

JAVA ROASTERY

Java Roastery prides itself on designing beautiful coffee houses and the one in Colmore Row is no exception.

Relax in the Grade 1-listed Arts & Crafts building with one of its unique coffee blends or a refreshing smoothie.

Breakfast options include omelettes, egg muffins and toast from £4.

124 Colmore Row

2 TO THE SHOPS

CROCKETT & JONES

Follow in the footsteps of James Bond and invest in luxury footwear from one of the world's finest shoemakers. 007 sported Crockett & Jones' timeless styles in both Skyfall and Spectre.

Head to its Colmore Row shop for men's and women's shoes, accessories, house slippers and driving shoes.

25 Colmore Row

3 ME TIME

THE STYLE LOUNGE HAIR & NAIL SALON

Take time out and pamper yourself at The Style Lounge.

As well as cuts, colours, blow-dries and nails this salon specialises in bridal hair and make-up and offers wedding and hen party packages.

They even have a mobile service to help take the pressure off on the big day too.

Kiosk 2, 35 Livery Place, Livery St

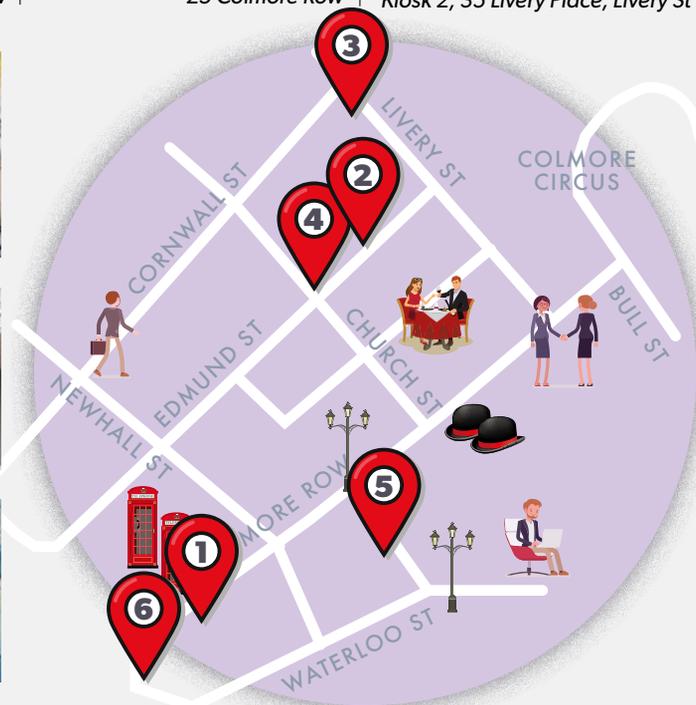
4 LUNCH

GUSTO

Dine under fairy lights at this elegant Italian restaurant which prides itself on its fresh ingredients.

How about trying Gusto dough petals with garlic and parsley (£4.85) for starters, followed by Milanese Saffron risotto (£13.95) or a classic Italian pizza from £9.85?

Unit 10, The Grand Hotel, Colmore Row



5 SEE THE SIGHTS

THE OLD JOINT STOCK PUB & THEATRE

This gem of a pub and theatre has a treat in store for grown-up Harry Potter fans. Voldemort and The Teenage Hogwarts Musical Parody is a comedy inspired by the idea of the dark wizard's teen years.

The musical adventure follows 'Voldemort' as he learns the ways of love, proper snake maintenance and The Unforgiveable Curses.

Until Mar 1, Tickets: £20-£23. 4 Temple Row West

6 ONE FOR THE ROAD

THEATRX

Housed in an iconic Grade II listed building Theatrx is a bar, restaurant and entertainment venue overlooking Victoria Square.

By day it's a relaxed place to enjoy cocktails with friends. At night you can party into the early hours at its club which on Fridays and Saturdays hosts free live shows and music.

130 Colmore Row

COLMORE Lowdown

DID YOU KNOW? Following its rebrand the city office of professional services group Gateley donated boxes of notepads and pens to Holyhead School in Handsworth where pupils set-up a stationery shop to make everyday school items more affordable.

All change at Colmore BID as Chair stands down after 10 years

PROPERTY AGENCY OWNER NICOLA TAKES OVER AFTER 7 YEARS ON COLMORE BID BOARD

Lettings and estate agency owner Nicola Fleet-Milne has been appointed the new Chair of Colmore BID after receiving the overwhelming backing of the BID's Board of Directors.

Ms Fleet-Milne, who owns a residential property agency on Colmore Row, has been a Director on the Board for seven years. She replaces property consultant Gary Cardin, who stood down in December after chairing Colmore BID since its inception in 2008.

Alex Tross, Director – Head of Office Advisory, Birmingham – at property consultancy LSH and Paul Fielding, Chartered Wealth Manager at Brewin Dolphin, have been appointed joint Deputy Chairs of the BID.

Colmore Business District is considered the



Changes: Nicola Fleet-Milne, above, and Gary Cardin

outdoor photography exhibition showing the work of Birmingham photographer Phyllis Nicklin.

The Safe and Sound working group delivers projects to keep those who work in and visit the District safe and secure, day and night, with a Street Operations Team consisting of Security Officers and an Ambassador.

Commenting on her appointment, Ms Fleet-Milne said: "I would like to pay special tribute to Gary Cardin, who has done an extraordinary job steering the BID since its launch back in 2008.

"Gary should look back on the last decade with a sense of achievement after leading a whole host of legacy projects such as Church Street Square and ongoing events like Colmore Food Festival.

"My time as Chair comes during an exciting period for Colmore Business District with 103 Colmore Row continuing to reach for the sky, the announcement that BT will be basing thousands of staff at Three Snowhill and the huge Paradise regeneration scheme taking shape. I look forward to working with these companies and employees in the coming months.

"We will continue to grow our busy events schedule, our Safe and Sound ambassador presence to reflect the changing face of the BID and its new bars and restaurants, along with our work enhancing the District with public realm improvements and seasonal dressing."

Describing his role as 'a privilege', outgoing Chair Mr Cardin said: "It's been an honour to be a part of the BID from its inception into its third term.

"We've achieved well beyond the successes we thought possible. I leave the BID in the best shape possible for its continued and future success and for it to develop along with the city."

commercial heart of Birmingham with over 35,000 employees and five million square feet of office space. The BID works in partnership with Birmingham City Council on public realm projects and enhancement schemes for the District.

The BID hosts Colmore Food Festival, along with numerous arts exhibitions such as the award-winning Nicklin Unseen

'It's been an honour to be a part of the BID from its inception'





Colmore Food & Drink Festival dates confirmed

Birmingham's biggest free-entry food and drink festival returns this summer with a new city-centre home.

Taking place on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4, Colmore Food Festival – which celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2020 – will be held in the recently-refurbished Centenary Square, near the Library of Birmingham, Hall of Memory and vast Paradise regeneration scheme.

The temporary new home is due to maintenance works in Victoria Square – where the Food Festival is usually hosted – taking place throughout 2020.

Colmore Food Festival is the annual celebration of Colmore Business District restaurants, bars, cafés and hotels. It attracts more than 30,000 visitors each year and is hosted by Colmore BID.

Around 35 restaurants, cafes, bars and hospitality venues will take part in the Festival, each offering taster dishes and drinks to showcase the best of Birmingham's dining scene.

Fringe events connected to the Festival will also be announced in the spring.

Alex Tross of Colmore BID's Leisure and Hospitality working group said: "With this being our 10th anniversary, we are looking to put on something particularly special. The location may be different this year but visitors should expect the same fantastic experience the Food Festival has always delivered."

Keep up to date with Food Festival announcements by visiting colmorebusinessdistrict.com/events



CAR CARE READER OFFER

Platinum Car Care at B4 Car Park, Weaman Street, is offering Colmore Life readers 20% off all valeting services. Call Ziggy on 07530 155 583 to find out more about the services and quote Colmore Life to redeem the offer. This promotion lasts until Friday, May 8, 2020.

DID YOU KNOW? This year's Great Birmingham 10K (Sunday, May 31), will finish on Colmore Row after organisers revealed a new city-centre route for 2020.



Preferred artists chosen for Livery Street wall commission

A Birmingham-based creative partnership has been chosen as preferred artists to complete a large-format artwork to enhance a large part of Livery Street in Colmore Business District.

E.L. Thrush and Anna Davies, pictured, will complete the artwork on behalf of Colmore BID.

The Livery Street artwork will be in place for at least five years and will cover a concrete wall approximately 8ft high and 60ft wide at the entrance to Livery Street by the junction with Great Charles Street Queensway.

Located by a key entry point to the car park at Snow Hill station, it is also on the route of buses serving the city centre and for employees walking into the Business District from the Jewellery Quarter.

The new artwork will replace a mural by local artist George Benson, which the BID also commissioned in 2013.

Luke is an illustrator with over 11 years' experience in commercial and large format design. Anna is an interior architect with a background within the commercial sector. Luke met Anna at his Great Western Arcade store Hedge in the summer of 2019 and the pair launched a partnership focusing on large-scale designs and window graphics.

They describe themselves as proud Brummies with a shared passion for the city and all the creativity it inspires.

Their joint proposal was one of over 30 ideas put forward to give the wall a new look. Luke and Anna's proposal for the theme of 'Green in the City' features



a series of Birmingham landmarks and historical events influenced by the Brutalist architecture genre, particularly the concrete murals of sculptor William Mitchell.

Large, stylised trees provide a recurring theme throughout the painting, which invites people to pick out well-known city buildings, public artworks and key events.

"We feel so chuffed that our artwork has been chosen for the Livery Street wall," said Luke. "It is such an honour to be involved in bringing art to the heart of Birmingham."

Melanie Williams, Colmore BID Board Director and partner at city law firm DWF, led the assessment panel with representatives from the BID, Birmingham City Council, local arts and public transport representatives.

"I love the design ideas Anna and Luke have come up with and can't wait to see them in real life. I see this work becoming a real talking point," said Melanie.

Lowdown

D&D restaurant to take top floor of 103 Colmore Row

Terms have been agreed with global luxury restaurant and bar group D&D London to launch a rooftop restaurant at 103 Colmore Row, Birmingham's tallest new office tower.

Sterling Property Ventures, the developer behind 103 Colmore Row, has agreed a 25-year lease with D&D on the 23rd and 24th floors, plus part of the ground floor.

D&D was founded in 2006 by Des Gunewardena and David Loewi and has since established itself as a major player on the international restaurant scene with a collection of 43 diverse restaurants, bars and one hotel based principally in London, but also with locations in Manchester, Leeds, Paris and New York.



£25M TO BE SPENT ON PUBLIC REALM IN TIME FOR GAMES



New images of how New Street, Temple Street and Victoria Square could look have been released as part of a £25 million regeneration of the city centre ahead of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The plans have been approved by the Council's Cabinet and the full business case is due to go to Cabinet in April.

The proposed works will include Victoria Square, Colmore Row, Bennetts Hill and Waterloo Street in the Business District.

The works programme will also include permanent hostile vehicle security measures as part of a comprehensive safety and security strategy for the city centre.



HS2: UPDATED CURZON STREET DESIGNS RELEASED

Updated architects' designs for the new Curzon Street high-speed rail station in Birmingham have been unveiled, with HS2 saying it wants to create one of the most environmentally-friendly rail stations in the world.

The Curzon Street station and Interchange in Solihull have been designed to focus on open space and landscaping. Both stations will adopt the latest eco-friendly design and sustainable technologies including capturing rainwater and sustainable power generation.

Curzon Street station in Birmingham city centre will be the first brand new intercity terminus station built in Britain since the 19th century. Eventually, there will be nine trains per hour on the high speed network in each direction from the station.

The Midland Metro runs alongside and underneath the station, while pedestrian routes lead to local bus services, Sprint rapid transit bus services and other train services. The design also provides space for more than 250 bicycles.

**HELP
CREATE
A BETTER
BUSINESS
DISTRICT**



Have you wanted to know more about what the BID does and how you can get involved? Colmore BID is looking for people to join its working groups. For more info, email info@colmorebid.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW? To walk one mile in Birmingham takes approximately 20 minutes, and to cycle one mile can take only six minutes. Daily walks could increase our productivity by 30%. Only 1% of people in Birmingham currently cycle to work.

Act now to prepare for Clean Air Zone

WIDESPREAD CHANGES TO ROAD USAGE GO LIVE IN THE SUMMER

Colmore Business District companies and commuters are being urged to prepare for the Birmingham Clean Air Zone, which is due to go live in July 2020.

With just weeks to go, it is essential that firms across the city are fully aware of the changes that will potentially impact their output and what it means for their staff.

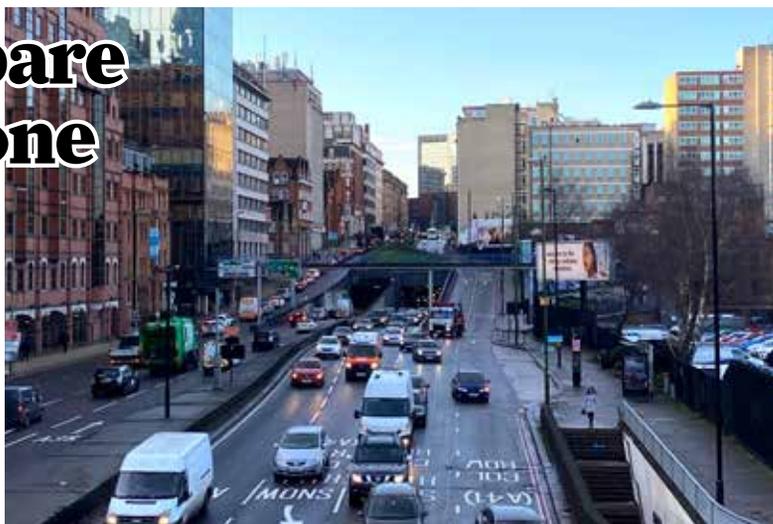
The Clean Air Zone (CAZ) covers all the roads within the A4540 Middleway Ring Road, but not the Middleway itself. The charge will then apply 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with vehicles entering inside the ring road being picked up by automatic number plate recognition cameras.

A non-compliant vehicle driving in the CAZ will pay once for the day, then may drive in the CAZ area without limit on that day.

Colmore Business District is supporting the City Council's plans to implement the Clean Air Zone to help tackle dangerous levels of air pollution, on the condition that viable alternative transport options are introduced.

The Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce has launched its Clean Air Zone Business Toolkit which has been produced in partnership with Birmingham City Council and provides information for businesses on:

■ The steps that firms can take to get



ready for the Clean Air Zone – checking whether their vehicle is compliant, taking advantage of financial support, investing in cleaner vehicles and reviewing staff travel plans

■ How businesses can help spread the word about the Clean Air Zone – information on emails and newsletters that can be shared with colleagues and networks and promoting social media content

The CAZ is being introduced after research revealed harmful emissions in the atmosphere are shortening the lives of an estimated 900 people every year in Birmingham.

In addition, recent findings published by King's College London reveal that living near a busy road in Birmingham can increase the risk of lung cancer by 4.1 per cent and stunt children's lung growth by 7.7 per cent.

The City Council is receiving £38 million from the Government's Clean

Air Fund to support businesses and individuals who might be impacted by the zone, and they will get £14.2 million to install signs, cameras and other infrastructure.

A Colmore BID spokesperson said: "We all have a responsibility and common purpose to act locally and Colmore BID supports the City Council-led initiative to clean up the air in Birmingham.

"We encourage businesses across the District to make sure they know how they, their employees and anyone involved with freight or delivery are aware of the changes that are coming this summer.

"The BID will continue to lobby on behalf of the Business District to ensure concerns are addressed and practical alternatives for public and freight transport are made available."

Visit www.brumbreathes.co.uk or email cleanair@birmingham.gov.uk



Is your vehicle compliant?

Scan the QR code from your phone to go to the Brum Breathes website to find out more

City's Transport Plan 2031 to prioritise people over cars

The Birmingham Transport Plan 2031 has been announced, which describes what the city needs to do differently to meet the demands of the future.

The plan contains a set of principles that will guide investment in transport so that it is able to serve a future Birmingham that is home to more people and that is a better environment in which to live and work for everyone irrespective of age, disability or income.

The measures are designed to:

- Reduce transport's damaging impact on the environment, supporting Birmingham's commitment to becoming a carbon neutral city by 2030
- Eliminate road danger particularly in residential areas
- Connect people with job and training opportunities
- Prioritise people over cars
- Revitalise the city centre and local centres.

A round-up of the latest Business District launches, relocations, appointments and promotions

Collated by Stacey Barnfield

Send your business news to life@colmorebid.co.uk



CURIUM SOLUTIONS

Edmund Street-based Curium Solutions has appointed Debora Edwards as its new operations director.

Debora (pictured) joins the company bringing with her years of experience working across many high-profile businesses and projects. She has worked in a number of leadership and management positions at Lloyds Banking Group, Centrica and the London Stock Exchange Group.

Curium director and co-founder, James Farrow, said: "I am delighted Debora has joined us. Not only is she a very high calibre consultant, she is also superbly organised and understands what we need put in place operationally to succeed."

Movers & Shakers

BRITISH DIETETIC ASSOCIATION

The professional body and trade union for dietitians in the UK (British Dietetic Association) have moved their head office to Interchange Place on Edmund Street.

They represent nutrition experts throughout their careers in the NHS, private practice, research, sport and the food industry. The BDA also guides on cutting-edge clinical practice and tackles fake news on healthy eating in press and policy circles.

The BDA has a national network of specialist workplace health dietitians and has worked with airlines, construction companies, retailers, the finance sector and the NHS to support healthy eating initiatives at work.

BDA event on March 27 aimed at managers, HR roles and occupational health teams: Women's Health – healthy eating strategies to reduce symptoms of the menopause. Register your interest at workready@bda.uk.com

DALRIADA TRUSTEES

Dalriada Trustees, one of the largest providers of independent professional trustee services to pensions schemes in the UK, has announced the appointment of Charles Ward as a Professional Trustee. Charles joins from the pensions advisory team at PwC and will be based in Dalriada's Birmingham office.

Charles, pictured, is a qualified actuary with almost 25 years' experience of advising companies and trustees on long-term pension scheme strategy and innovative funding, investment and benefit design projects.

Prior roles with leading institutions including PwC, KMPG and Mercer have included work on a range of complex restructuring situations for distressed sponsors.



CPMG ARCHITECTS

CPMG Architects has launched a Birmingham office in Bull Street's The Lewis Building.

With offices in Nottingham and London, the business is now expanding its design services and expertise into the West Midlands area.

The office will be headed up by director Anil Parmar, pictured. He said: "We have developed a wealth of Birmingham contacts through a consistent pipeline of work over the last ten years or so, and the time is now right to build on those relationships



and expand and develop our offering in the West Midlands." CPMG's 50-strong team specialises in education, commercial, health, leisure and interior design.

CENTRICK

Following a period of significant growth leading property specialist, Centrick, has announced the launch of a new customer experience centre in the heart of the Business District.

Based at its new headquarters the innovative new hub sees the centralisation of Centrick's core services in a unified location.

Having recently moved into a new 8,000 sq ft office in The Exchange, located on Newhall Street, Centrick has now announced that it will be bringing both of its city centre teams together. The new management centre, which is home to its 72-strong head office team and represents a £200k+ investment by the company, will now be joined by the award-winning team from the company's Colmore Row Sales and Lettings branch. This move is designed to enhance all aspects of the customer experience, bringing each discipline under one roof.

From the new integrated centre, Centrick customers will continue to be able to meet face-to-face with experts from the business's sales and lettings departments with areas for customers to enjoy coffees, play table football and experience Virtual Reality tours of Centrick's expanding New Homes department.

"We're really trying to reimagine property services," says Chairman James Ackrill.



"We've focussed on creating a relaxed environment, both for our clients and our team, with great meeting rooms and break out spaces. We want to ensure that our properties are the most viewed on the high street, and this is the first of many initiatives that Centrick has in the pipeline to pioneer a new way of looking at residential property management."

BEEVER AND STRUTHERS

Accountants and business advisers Beever and Struthers has opened a new Birmingham office at The Colmore Building.

A major hire has also been announced with Alison White joining the specialist not-for-profit team at the firm as a senior manager from Mazars.

This is the first hub opened by Beever and Struthers, which also has offices in Manchester, London and Blackburn.

Maria Hallows, executive partner and head of social housing, said: "We seized the chance to open in Birmingham, allowing us to provide our Midlands' based team with the flexibility of a hub from which to work and serve clients."



ELONEX

Digital out-of-home media owner, Elonex, has opened new offices at 55 Colmore Row in the heart of the Business District.

Elonex will retain its offices at Edgbaston Stadium and also continue to operate an engineering plant close to the StarCity entertainment complex in the city, meaning the new Colmore Row site is the firm's third business premises in Birmingham.

The new Colmore Row offices open at a time when Elonex continues to expand its network of digital advertising billboards across the UK, and embarks on a major recruitment drive to further increase numbers in its Birmingham-based advertising sales team.

As well as its outdoor media operation, the new offices on Colmore Row will also become home to two other divisions of the Elonex Group, branding agency, Orb and Buyers and Sellers Media PLC.

Nick Smith, CEO at Elonex, pictured, said: "The new offices on Colmore Row are a great location for our business and positions us at the heart of the city's thriving corporate sector. As the company has grown over the years and taken premises across the UK, Birmingham has always been our home and where we've built our success, and I'm proud to now have three business sites in the city."

Elonex operates an outdoor advertising network that includes multi-format digital billboards located in city centres, alongside roads and motorways.



Movers & Shakers

SMITH & WILLIAMSON

Financial and professional services group Smith & Williamson, which has its offices at 9 Colmore Row, is in the midst of a rapid growth phase.

Last year Stephen Drew was appointed professional services regional managing partner in Birmingham and was joined by Matt Watts, who heads up business tax services. Drew brings an audit and international focus to the office and Watts specialises in technology, manufacturing and construction sectors.

The Birmingham office has welcomed a record number of new joiners over recent months to its corporate tax, transaction services, assurance and business services, private client and investment management teams, including new director Krista Woodman to strengthen the private client tax team. Committed to developing its people, the office has also recently announced six senior strategic promotions.

All of this comes against the wider backdrop of the announcement of Smith & Williamson's merger with financial planning and investment firm Tilney. The merged business, which on completion will be named Tilney Smith & Williamson, will be the UK's leading integrated wealth management and professional services group.

"It's a really exciting time for the firm as we embark on our growth phase and our investment in our team demonstrates our commitment to growth in the West Midlands," says Stephen Drew.



From left, Ian Gould, Regional Managing Partner for Baldwins in the West Midlands, Laura Hinsley and John Edwards, one of Baldwins' Regional Heads of Audit

BALDWIN'S

The Midlands arm of business advisory firm Baldwins has made another senior appointment to lead the expansion of its audit department.

Laura Hinsley, previously from Grant Thornton, has been appointed to head up the audit function in the region as a Partner.

Since November the rapidly growing audit team has tripled in size and plans for continued growth are showing no signs of slowing down throughout 2020.

Hinsley, who was recognised by Accountancy Age as one of the top 35 accountants under 35 in 2016, will be based at Baldwins' expanding office at Bank House in Birmingham, and has taken on responsibility for Baldwins' audit offering across the Midlands region.

She said: "Baldwins is on a long-term journey of growth nationally and I am really excited to have joined a firm that matches my own personal ambitions, and one that is committed to providing a respected, trusted and quality led audit proposition to our selected market place.

The Baldwins Group – a CogitalGroup company – has over 95 offices across England, Scotland and Wales.

HARPER JAMES SOLICITORS

Growing law firm Harper James Solicitors has moved to a new Business District office as part of its expansion plans for 2020.

Harper James has acquired premises at Cavendish House, Waterloo Street and leaves its previous office at Newhall Street.

Harper James' founder and chief executive Toby Harper said: "This move to a bigger location underlines our commitment to the region. It means we can continue to operate in close proximity to other leading

professional advisers and internationally recognised landmarks, but which provides clients and staff with easy access due to the great local transport links. The move will provide a fantastic start to 2020 for our team in Birmingham."

The move will accommodate the firm's rapidly expanding multi-disciplinary team of lawyers, creating hot-desk space for employees based locally and those visiting from across the UK.



Tara Wright and Chrissie Wolfe

BIRMINGHAM SOLICITORS' GROUP

A networking group aimed at the city's legal profession is aiming to showcase the best of Birmingham and bring together its future business leaders.

The Birmingham Solicitors' Group (BSG) is a networking group for qualified solicitors in the Birmingham/West Midlands area. It is traditionally aimed at qualified solicitors with up to five years' experience, however it is essentially open to all legal professionals.

Its aims are to connect solicitors across the city, improve the experience for those legal professionals and connect with local businesses/charities to really highlight the city.

The BSG committee is Chaired by Chrissie Wolfe of Irwin Mitchell, with fellow Irwin Mitchell solicitor Tara Wright as Vice Chair. BSG's chosen charity is homelessness support centre SIFA Fireside, which works with partner agencies to address the needs of homeless and vulnerably housed people in Birmingham.

People can get involved by following social media platforms (Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter) and sign up for free to the group's mailing list to find out about future events at: <https://birminghamsolicitorsgroup.org/join/>

Irwin Mitchell's offices in The Colmore Building



IRWIN MITCHELL

Irwin Mitchell has relocated to The Colmore Building in the heart of the Business District.

The law firm has leased the seventh and ninth floors of the building, comprising 46,750 sq ft of office space.

It will become the new home to Irwin Mitchell's Birmingham office which has a head count of 320 members of staff.

The move from Imperial House reflects over 30 years of success in providing legal services to both individuals and businesses in the West Midlands and beyond.

Improving the working environment for Irwin Mitchell's people and clients alike, the move is also expected to lay the groundwork for its continued regional expansion.

The law firm reported increased turnover to £263m last year and has a national headcount of 3000. Irwin Mitchell is ranked among the most active deal-making law firms by Experian and is the third most active litigation law firm in the UK courts.

Lisa Jordan, Partner, said: "This is a hugely exciting move for every member of the Birmingham team. Such a big change is a clear statement of our ambition and intent and underlines our commitment to clients in the city and the wider Midlands region.

"The office space has been designed to make the most of flexible working and to help improve wellbeing for our colleagues as well as being welcoming for our clients and business partners across the region."

CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD

Property consultancy Cushman & Wakefield has made a series of promotions in its Birmingham office.

Arthur Morgan (residential), Angela Singh (global occupier services) and Donna Ward (information technology) have all been promoted to associate director level.

Brady Harrison and Harry Young (valuation and advisory) are now senior surveyors while Gemma Ford (global occupier services) is now surveyor level.

They are part of 71 promotions across the agency's EMEA business.

David Tonks, head of Cushman & Wakefield in Birmingham, said: "Encouraging and nurturing colleagues to develop and progress at Cushman & Wakefield ensures we continue to lead the industry and offer the best service to our clients."

The Interview

Interview and photographs: Stacey Barnfield for Colmore Life

With her down-to-earth demeanour and can-do attitude, Deb Leary is making waves in Birmingham's business community.

The founder of multi-award-winning Forensic Pathways – world leaders in forensic software and technology – was recently appointed Vice President of the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce.

Birmingham-born Deb also sits on Colmore BID's Safe and Sound working group, which delivers projects to keep those who work and visit the Business District safe and secure, day and night.

The two new positions place Deb at the centre of collaboration between the BID, Chamber and any other bodies working hard to make Birmingham a great place to live, work and visit.

It's Deb's work at Forensic Pathways that raised her profile in Midlands business, winning awards and recognition for new technology, innovative thinking and international trade.

Forensic Pathways is a development software house that specialises in business and criminal intelligence. Due diligence/investigation work for companies of all sizes is carried out from its Birmingham city centre offices.

This is supported by the company's own in-house technology. Deb's team recently launched 'DarkSearch' a Dark Web search engine to monitor activity on behalf of clients for any illegal sale or breach of company data.

The Dark Web is a part of the internet that has been intentionally hidden and cannot be accessed through standard web browsers. It is untraceable by law enforcement which allows the distribution of harmful information and criminal activity.

It is in this shadowy area that Forensic Pathways is leading the fight against cyber criminals and helping companies protect themselves



I get so much inspiration and energy from talking to other businesses

DEB LEARY, FORENSIC PATHWAYS

against potential digital damage. "From a Forensic Pathways perspective we've always been involved in innovation and when we create something new that will potentially solve a problem, that's a huge buzz," says Deb.

"Our new Dark Web search engine is a fantastic solution and when our technology gets used on important cases bringing people to justice it's really satisfying. It's making a positive impact."

But this was never meant to be a chosen career path for Deb, who studied at Birmingham City University, then called UCE.

"This wasn't meant to happen!" she says. "Almost 19 years ago the plan was to be a university lecturer in English language and literature, with a focus on gender and identity on the internet," she explains.

"All those years ago with the internet in its infancy I was fascinated by the future of identity and what it meant to be human as we became more involved with technology, long before it became the way of life we know now.

"I was studying my degree at UCE and interested in 'cyberpunk' authors like American sci-fi writer William Gibson and Mary Shelley of Frankenstein fame.

"They wrote about how identity has been manipulated throughout history and how it could be in the future. This fascinated me then as much as it does now.

"These are really topical discussions taking place in today's society. I should have written a book!"

Deb makes the point that the more we engage with technology, the more tech becomes a physical part of us. Where





does the human start and finish? “The body politic – it’s a fascinating topic,” she says.

Such discussion points aren’t the only issues keeping Deb occupied at the moment. She was recently appointed Vice President of the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, working alongside new President Steve Allen, Partner at Colmore Row-based law firm Mills & Reeve.

“I’m so excited about this. My role is very much supporting the work of Steve with his targets as President,” she says.

“The exciting thing is that when I’m appointed President in 2022 it will be the city’s Commonwealth Games year. I can’t wait for this. I need to start planning that now!

“I’m therefore delighted to be in a position to support Steve over the

next two years and to help lead on the Chamber’s own vision for 2022 and its legacy long after the Games have finished.

“This is our opportunity to make a global impact as well as ensure a legacy for the West Midlands. The vibrancy of the Games combined with the vibrancy and creativity of Birmingham City and the overall West Midlands must create a legacy that lives on through other schemes in education, the arts, transport and business.”

How the Commonwealth Games can open global trade options for local businesses are at the top of Deb’s agenda. She has a passion for international commerce and is keen to support businesses venturing into new territories for the first time.

“Ultimately, opportunities for

international trade and collaboration is what the Games will bring; more focus on the city and what it can offer from a business perspective.

“Through the Greater Birmingham Chamber and Trade Advisors within the Department for International Trade Teams there are the support mechanisms for businesses wishing to reach out to Commonwealth trade countries.”

Trade support is vital. Deb jokes that she ‘has the grey hair to prove it’. “Business needs to share with business the good, the bad and the ugly of their journey and combining that experience with solid research and business support is vital. This is why I’m passionate about my new role as Vice President.”

“Like every business, we’ve battled through some tough times and I believe peer learning is powerful so if I can share our experiences then this has more of a value. It’s the reality.”

Returning to much more local matters, Deb describes Birmingham’s homelessness issue as a complex crisis without a simple ‘one size fits all’ solution.

“The more engagement we can get between the business community and the groups trying to support homelessness, the better,” she stresses.

“It’s all about communication and understanding. If the talking stops, the problem will get far worse.

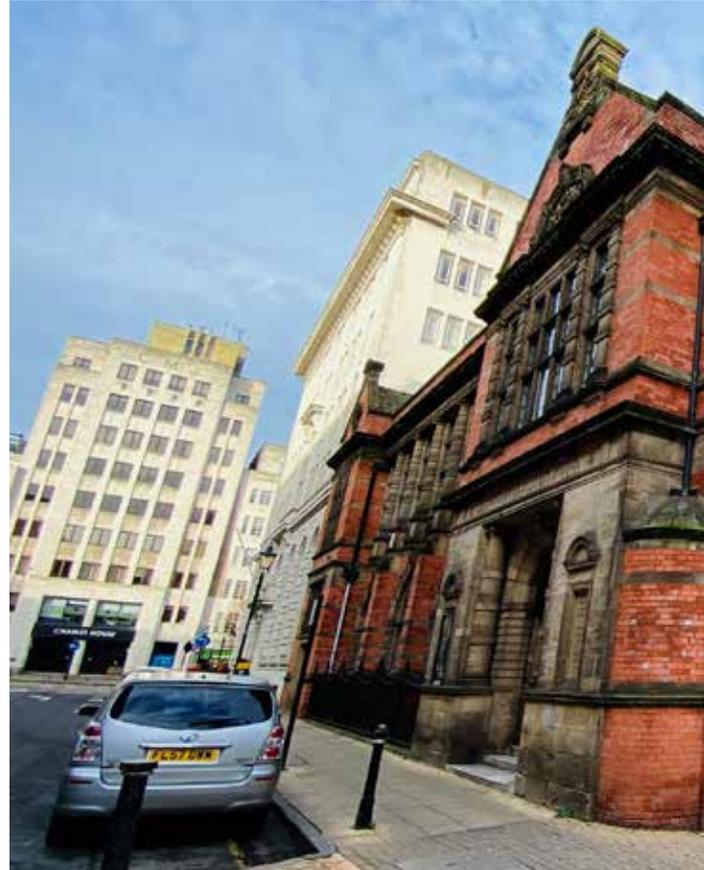
“The touch points are individual people with unique challenges that only they face. There’s no easy solution. We’ve got to accept the fact this may never go away, it’s how we deal with it properly and professionally.”

I ask who inspires Deb as she wears her various leadership hats at Forensic Pathways, the Chamber and Colmore BID?

“I love talking to other businesses. I find that when I’m talking to others, I’m learning at the same time. I get so much inspiration and energy from this.

“It’s all about positive impact, positive change and growth.”

Colmore Profile



A unique resource in the heart of the Business District

A LOOK AT THE SPECIAL HISTORY OF THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE

Interview and photographs: Stacey Barnfield for Colmore Life

In the heart of the Business District lies one of Birmingham's architectural and cultural hidden gems which has connections to Dickens, Chamberlain and the city's pioneering Victorian leaders.

A key part of the city's cultural life for over 150 years, The Birmingham & Midland Institute was founded by Act of Parliament in 1854 for the 'Diffusion and Advancement of Science, Literature and Art amongst all Classes of Persons resident in Birmingham and Midland Counties'.

Charles Dickens announced plans for the establishment of the BMI in 1853. An avid supporter of working class education in Birmingham, Dickens offered a public reading of three of his Christmas stories over three consecutive evenings. The ticket price was descending, so people of all classes could attend. This helped raise £227 to fund the building of the Institute. Dickens continued to support the BMI and held



the prestigious post of President in 1869. The 2020 President is Carl Chinn MBE.

Located in a late 1800s Grade II*-listed building on Margaret Street, the BMI has a thriving programme of cultural and educational activities, which includes a wide spectrum of arts and science lectures, exhibitions and concerts.

Operations Manager Daniel Parsons took on his current role at the BMI in October 2019 after what he describes as 'a difficult time' for the Institute financially. "With a handful of staff and

some wonderful volunteers, we have worked to stabilise the Institute and are now in a much better position to look at future long-term plans," he explains.

"We are aiming to be the creative and cultural hub for Birmingham and the West Midlands, hosting numerous events, activities and workshops.

"Birmingham is one of the most diverse and multi-cultural societies in the country and we want to embrace this; communicating and learning from each other is key for our society to continue to



BMI MILESTONES

- 1853: Charles Dickens performs his first public readings at the Town Hall to raise funds for the Institute to be built.
- 1854: Birmingham & Midland Institute founded and set-up by an Act of Parliament.
- 1860: Charles Dickens is named President of the Institute.
- 1875: School of Metallurgy was created. This later becomes Birmingham Municipal Technical School; now Aston University.
- 1779: Original Birmingham Library founded in front room of button-maker John Lee of Snow Hill. The Library is then moved to this site in 1899, having outgrown its original site on Union Street.

grow and become stronger.” To support the BMI’s strategy for a new era, Daniel is calling on Business District companies to find out more about membership, events spaces or offer any other support.

The BMI is a completely self-funded charity with no help from the council or government. “Donations and financial support would really help out with some building repairs and redecoration which is needed to try and restore this amazing

Grade II*-listed building back to its former glory,” adds Daniel.

“But other support would also be great, perhaps using us for meetings and events. We are in the centre of Birmingham, in a fantastic location and our prices are incredibly competitive.

“Also, to offer any help with business and administration matters, such as help with social media and website marketing would be invaluable to us.”



Strategy: Operations manager Daniel Parsons

A NEW ERA FOR THE INSTITUTE

“The BMI is at the core of the community”

“The BMI is a place where you may join as an individual, but instantly you become part of a much wider community,” explains Daniel.

“Housed in a wonderful building and home to the original Birmingham Library; based in a central location the BMI truly is at the core of the community and at the forefront for all things cultural and creative.

“We want to be a ‘Safe Space’ for anybody to come and spend time. This includes vulnerable elderly people, people on their own and people with illnesses including Dementia and other conditions (www.safeplaces.org.uk).

“As well as being a Safe Space, we plan to offer a wide range of workshops, activities and events. All of which will be open to all, however BMI members will obviously get these at reduced rates. These activities will be a broad spectrum across a whole number of different genres and categories, from photography classes to history classes as well as more creative activities such as floristry classes, fitness, dance classes and artistic & craft classes.”

EVENTS

- MONDAY LECTURES.** Monday lunchtimes 1pm-2pm. A variety of topics and lecturers; These have been held since the inception of the BMI in 1854. £5 for non-members, free to all members.
- TOURS OF THE BMI & ORIGINAL LIBRARY.** Please call reception for more details on 0121 236 3591.
- LITERATURE STUDY DAYS.** Held one Friday per month. Covering a variety of topics.
- PLAY READING AT THE BMI.** Tuesdays 6.30pm-9pm, £5, £3 for members of the BMI. The group reads and discusses plays. The main requirement is enthusiasm for theatre and literature, especially the work of Shakespeare. Everyone is welcome to join.
- THE BMI READING GROUP.** Third Thursday of the month, 2pm-3.30pm, £2 (includes coffee and biscuits) in the BMI Coffee Lounge. Please call 0121 236 3591.
- LIFE DRAWING CLASSES.** Tuesday evenings, 6pm-8.45pm. The BMI runs a life-drawing and painting class on Tuesday evenings under the tutorship of Terry Mullett.

Food & Drink

What a supper idea for charity!

Birmingham's second Secret Supper promises to be bigger than before after moving to the Business District.

Secret Supper is a 'multi-dining' experience that will see guests enjoy three courses, at three different restaurants. After the first secret was revealed at a press launch, potential guests now know there will be nine Business District restaurants involved this year.

Among the restaurants serving up their culinary delights on the night will be The Alchemist, Gaucho, Chung Ying Central, The Pint Shop, Purnell's Bistro and Ginger's Bar. However, guests won't find out which three restaurants until they attend the drinks reception on the night.

The money raised from the Secret Supper will support Parkinson's UK.

Tickets are now on sale and cost £35 per person, which includes welcome drinks at the Lost & Found and a three-course meal at some of the city's best restaurants.

Glynn Purnell of Purnell's Bistro, said: "It's fantastic for Purnell's Bistro & Ginger's Bar to be involved in the Parkinson's Secret Supper event.

"What a great idea to be able to have a brilliant night out while also supporting such a tremendous charity. We can't wait to welcome the guests to Purnell's Bistro on the night."

Secret Supper 2020 takes place on Tuesday, April 28. Visit www.parkinsons.org.uk/events/secret-supper-2020 to find out more.



Meet the new neighbours

NEW BARS LAUNCH IN GRAND COLMORE ROW BUILDINGS

Almost next door to each other, two new bar openings are breathing life into two beautiful Colmore Row buildings by restoring period features with contemporary finishes.

Henman & Cooper and The Colmore have recently opened at the Victoria Square side of the Row, joining popular venues Chung Ying Central, Java Roastery and Theatrix, which opened in the autumn of last year.

The team behind Henman & Cooper have

described how proud they are to honour the building created by William Henman & Thomas Cooper, built in 1902. The redesign has aimed to bring this former Scottish Union & National Insurance Company back to life, mixing vibrant modern decor with old-fashioned luxuries.

Since November last year the Henman & Cooper team has gradually begun to unveil the different floors that will take form within this beautiful piece of architecture, with the



THE COLMORE



HENMAN & COOPER

main bar and second floor now open.

“As we look ahead and work continues, we get closer to revealing each aspect which sets us apart from the rest,” explains a spokesperson.

“Many may remember this building for its unique rooftop terrace, granite interior, imposing bay windows and huge spiral staircase – where the sky really is the limit.”

“With plans for the rooftop to open around Easter, we’re all hoping for a sun-soaked summer this year. And what better way to enjoy it than with a drink in your hand surrounded by friends.”

A new basement area will bring a hidden gem to Colmore Row. Offering a place to kick back, relax and enjoy key sporting events, whilst also bringing an exclusive feel suitable for private hire.

Meanwhile, a few yards away craft beer providers Pivivar have joined forces with Thornbridge Co to open craft beer pub The Colmore.

The Colmore is home to everything from

IPAs and pale ales through to barrel-aged sours and session-style drinks.

The new bar has taken the space which used to house a Lloyds Bank, with favourites like Jaipur and Halcyon available by the bottle and on tap. From post-work pints to chilled out weekenders, this is a destination for true craft beer lovers.

Talking about its growing range of award-winning craft beers, The Thornbridge website states: “Thornbridge have always brewed the finest quality beer with a passion.

“We recognise that not only quality but consistency and innovation are key to creating amazing and beautifully balanced beer. Consistently pushing boundaries whilst respecting the important traditions of ‘crafting’ beer helps us to create an award winning range of beers loved by our customers all over the world.

“With over 350 industry recognised awards we are proud to be part of such an exciting craft beer scene.”

Bringing the tastes of Bombay to Brum

Dishoom Indian restaurant will open as part of the Paradise development in spring 2020.

The restaurant, which takes its inspiration from Irani cafés and the food of Bombay, will occupy part of the ground floor of One Chamberlain Square, the office space of which is fully let to international professional services firm PwC.

The new restaurant will overlook both Chamberlain Square and Centenary Way and will help complete the first phase of the development.



The team’s eighth Bombay café, the Birmingham restaurant, will have a unique story and design narrative inspired by the connections between Bombay and Birmingham.

Rob Groves, regional director at Argent, said: “Bringing the critically acclaimed Dishoom to Birmingham demonstrates the appeal of Paradise with its perfect mix of location, top quality buildings and revamped public realm.

“Joining Mediterranean Wine Bar and restaurant Vinoteca, we are quickly becoming the natural choice for innovative leisure retailers keen on reaching an audience of up to 17 million people a year.”

The restaurant will open in a 7,606 sq ft space at the front of One Chamberlain Square, overlooking the new public spaces and Congreve Street.

Paradise latest: Page 31

Food&Drink

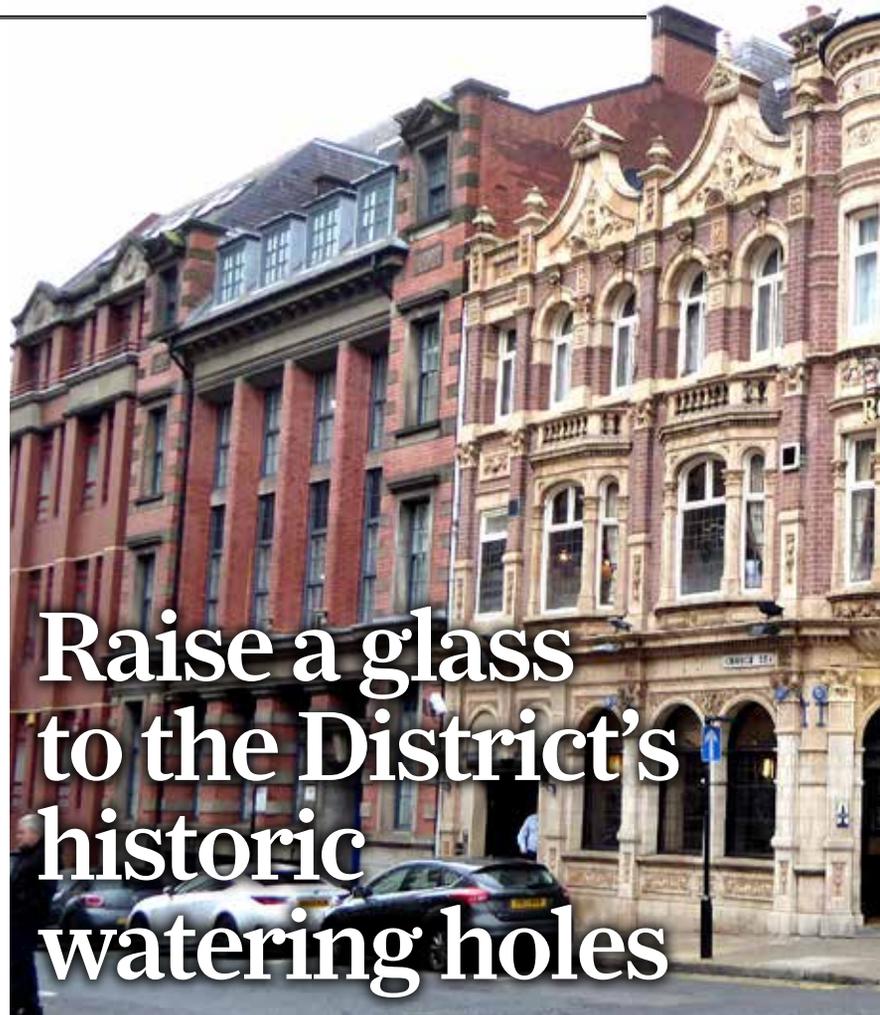
Steve James offers a whistle-stop tour of Colmore Business District's beautiful pubs and bars and tells more about their history. Cheers!

The Colmore Business Improvement District is a haven for professionals and relaxed drinkers alike, and harbours some of the best after-work bars that the city centre can offer. Many of these popular bars and restaurants are historic buildings in their own right, with plenty of history. But before you go inside, just take a look at the outside features, and many also have interesting interiors, reflecting the history of these old buildings.

Our first port-of-call is the **Old Joint Stock Bank** in Temple Row. Originally built as a library by J. A. Chatwin in 1864, it was soon acquired by the Birmingham Joint Stock Bank. It remained in banking use until the 1990s, when it was converted into a magnificent bar/restaurant by Fullers of London. The impressive exterior of this Grade II* listed building is designed in the Renaissance palazzo style, while the flamboyant interior retains many features of this Victorian bank, with an island bar below a glass-domed roof. It offers the full range of Fuller's and guest beers, with great pies, and upstairs there's a 95-seat theatre.

Immediately behind the Old Joint Stock Bank an alleyway leads to Bennetts Hill. Here, two Grade II listed buildings are worth mentioning. Firstly, the **Wellington** pub, a simple 3-storey terraced building dating from 1868-70. Formerly the Birmingham Civic Society offices, it was converted into a pub by Black Country Ales in 2004, and offers a veritable beer festival every day. Next door is the **Pint Shop**, another 3-storey terraced building, built at the same time by Yeoville Thomason. It was converted into a bar in 2018 and offers an extensive range of cask and keg beers, along with tasty meals.

Pausing briefly to look at the unique surviving former banking premises (National Provincial and Midland) on the corner with Waterloo Street, our next stop is the **Purecraft Bar & Kitchen**. This occupies part of Christchurch



Raise a glass to the District's historic watering holes

'Queen Elizabeth's grandmother spent a night here, but I bet she didn't try a pint of Timothy Taylor's Landlord beer then!'

House, a 3-storey stucco Grade II listed building dating from 1830. It offers Purity and guest beers, along with tasty food. On the corner with Colmore Row is **Theatrix**, a recently opened cocktail bar, restaurant and nightclub. This fine building was originally designed in Edwardian Baroque style by Goddard & Co in 1904 for the Alliance Assurance Company. Further along Colmore Row is **The Colmore**, a newly-opened craft beer bar provided in a joint venture

by Pivovar & Thornbridge Brewery, with many of their beers on draught. It occupies part of Standard House, the former Lloyds Bank building, designed in Edwardian Baroque style by Paul Waterhouse in 1912 for the Atlas Assurance Company. But what do the Latin inscriptions on the walls inside mean? Almost next door are the former offices of the Scottish Union & National Insurance Company designed by architects, **Henman & Cooper** in 1903, who give their names to this newly opened cocktail bar.

The northern side of Colmore Row has some grand Victorian and Edwardian buildings, but none is grander than the Grand Hotel. Originally built in the French Renaissance style by Thomson Plevina in 1876 for the Great Western Railway, with later additions, it was modernised in the 1970s and is now

Food&Drink



Above from left: Purecraft Bar & Kitchen, the Pint Shop and The Old Contemptibles

Left: the Old Royal

the entrance to Snow Hill station is the Great Western Arcade, built in 1875 by W H Ward for the Great Western Railway, above the railway tunnel linking to Moor Street station. About half-way along this iconic Victorian arcade you'll find **The Good Intent**, a newly-opened "not-for-profit bar", set up in late 2019 with crowd-funding by Dave Craddock (who has a brewery in Bridgnorth and Stourbridge). It offers a variety of cask and keg beers, fine wines and spirits, and each time you have a drink, a percentage of the cost goes to local charities.

Finally, we walk to Steelhouse Lane, where on the right we find the **Jekyll & Hyde**. A modern building from the outside, but inside reveals a surprisingly old interior reflecting features of the former Queens Head pub. There are echoes of a Victorian gin palace, with Mr Hyde's Bar and Dr Jekyll's gin parlour, along with the Wonderland courtyard outside with its colourful graffiti.

There are several other historic buildings within the BID area which have been converted into bars and restaurants, so this is just a taster of some of the best that you will find. Happy beer-hunting!

Steve James is a member of the British Guild of Beer Writers who regularly writes articles about his beer travels in local CAMRA magazines. Birmingham-born, he is a town planner who has a passion for old buildings (particularly pubs) and contributes to several pub preservation and history groups. He regularly visits many of the pubs in this article and recommends them all!

being thoroughly refurbished again to provide a 185-bedroom hotel. Unlike Snow Hill station, it survived redevelopment and is undoubtedly one of the finest large buildings in Birmingham city centre, thoroughly deserving its Grade II* listing. On the ground floor are several bars and restaurants, but **The Alchemist** is worth mentioning, particularly for 'celebrating molecular mixology and alchemy of cocktails' and its "boundless Balearic brunches".

Walking down Church Street, pausing to look at the former Birmingham Eye Hospital (dating from 1883 and now the Hotel du Vin), we soon come to the **Old Royal** on the corner of Cornwall Street. Listed Grade II and built in the late 19th century by A.H. Gamblin, the red brick and terracotta façade is a joy to behold, with the national emblems

of England, Scotland, Ireland & Wales incorporated into the leaded windows. Apparently, Queen Elizabeth's grandmother spent a night here, but I bet she didn't try a pint of Timothy Taylor's Landlord beer then!

Returning to Edmund Street, we soon reach **The Old Contemptibles** on the corner of Livery Street, a grand 'Victorian gin palace' with a high ceiling and oak panelling. Formerly the Albion Hotel, it was renamed in 1953 to commemorate the heroic First World War British Expeditionary Force led by General Sir John French, who were referred to as a "contemptible little army" by Kaiser Wilhelm at the Battle of Mons. The pub is now run by Nicholsons, who offer a good range of real ales and draught ciders, with an extensive food menu.

Returning to Colmore Row, opposite



LIQUID PR OPENS DEMO KITCHEN AT NEW HQ

PR agency Liquid has relocated to a new office in the Business District after securing a ten-year deal for the third floor of New Oxford House on Waterloo Street.

The agency has created a premium kitchen at the new office to meet the growing demand for its creative content in the food sector and to develop, photograph and produce a new cookbook for Maple from Canada.

Liquid Chief Executive Elisabeth Lewis-Jones, said: "Our move sees us invest heavily in our work space from a demonstration kitchen for our food division to a team theatre for presentations and informal meetings."

Maple ham hock pakoras Serves: 4

*Created by David Colcombe,
Chef Director at Liquid*

These maple ham hock pakoras are a delicious blend of sweet and spicy and make leftover meat a bit more exciting. They're really quick and easy and make a great side dish, snack or to share with friends.

INGREDIENTS

250g ham hock
250g chickpea flour
300ml semi-skimmed milk
10g baking powder
1 lime, juice and zest
1 carrot, grated
1 shallot, finely diced
200g flat-leaf parsley, chopped
1tsp garam masala
1tsp onion seeds
1tsp curry powder
50ml pure Canadian maple syrup
300ml vegetable oil
1 large potato, peeled and diced
1 garlic clove, peeled
Chicken or vegetable stock
2 egg yolks

METHOD

1. Prepare the pakora mix by combining the ham hock, chickpea flour, milk, baking



powder, lime juice and zest, carrot, shallot, parsley, garam masala, curry powder and onion seeds. Refrigerate until required.
2. Heat a deep fat fryer or pan with vegetable oil to 180C and add a dollop of pakora to the oil. After 2-3 minutes when the pakoras are golden and crispy remove from the oil.
3. Drain well before serving with garlic rouille.

GARLIC ROUILLE

1. To make the garlic rouille, add the peeled and diced potato and garlic to a small saucepan and pour in enough chicken or vegetable stock to just cover them. Bring to a gentle boil and cook until the potatoes are tender.
2. Remove from the heat and

once cooled add the mixture to a blender. Add the egg yolks and blitz on a low-medium speed.
3. Slowly, add the oil in a thin, steady stream to thicken and emulsify the mixture – it should resemble mayonnaise. Add in the maple syrup and season to taste. If the mixture becomes too thick, add a dash of hot water.

Recipes From The Row

Cherry Bakewell Tart 10 Portions

Suggested by Gregory Pryce,
Head Chef, Hotel du Vin

This is one of my favourite childhood desserts and it's also currently on our new locally sourced prix fixe menu. This recipe that the team and I have created for our Bakewell tart is an homage to a great dish with lots of flavour and good textures, and is great comfort food for the cold evenings.

[www.hotelduvin.com/
locations/birmingham/](http://www.hotelduvin.com/locations/birmingham/)



INGREDIENTS

For the pastry

62g Caster sugar
125g Butter
1.5 Eggs
290g Plain flour

For the frangipane

250g Butter
250g Sugar
250g Ground almonds
50g Plain flour
4 Whole eggs beaten together

Cherry jam

500g Pitted cherries
500g Jam sugar
2tbsp Lemon juice

Poached cherries

472ml water
156g Caster sugar
1 Lemon
1 Orange
¼ Vanilla pod
450g Cherries

METHOD

Pastry

1. Cream the butter and sugar together until light. Add flour and mix to form breadcrumbs.

2. Add the eggs and mix to form a dough.
3. Wrap in cling film and rest in fridge for at least two hours.
4. Roll and line a pastry case dock the bottom.
5. Rest for 30min in the fridge.
6. Line and blind bake at 180C for 13 minutes.

Cherry jam

1. Pit the cherries, put in the pan with the lemon juice and cook on a medium heat till they start to soften.
2. Add the sugar and cook out until the jam reaches a temperature of 105C.
3. Store in a clean and sterilized Kilner jar.

Frangipane

1. Cream together butter and sugar until light and aerated.
2. Mix together the almonds and the flour.
3. Gradually add 1/3 of the eggs into the butter mix and combine slowly. Then add in 1/3 of the dry mix.
4. Repeat until all ingredients are combined to form a smooth paste.

Poached cherries

1. Mix all ingredients except the cherries in a pan and bring to the boil.
2. Reduce heat and add in the cherries.
3. Poach gently for 10-15 minutes until soft but holding their shape.
4. Cool down and store in the syrup in a container.

1. Brush the bottom of a blind baked pastry case with the cherry jam and a few poached cherries.
2. Spread the frangipane across the tart case and level off, sprinkle with some flaked almonds
3. Bake at 160C for 20-25 minutes.

TO SERVE

1. Make a water icing using 50g of Icing sugar and enough water to make a paste and drizzle over the tart.
2. Serve with a few of the poached cherries and either Chantilly cream, crème fraiche or vanilla ice cream.



Henok's Secret

Suggested by Henok Moreno,
Assistant Manager and Bar
Co-ordinator of Pincho's

This a fresh and smooth cocktail and sip by sip will remind you of the traditional Valencian drink 'Horchata'. This combination of strawberry and Horchata within the cocktail makes it even more irresistible!

www.pinchoscafe.co.uk/

INGREDIENTS

35ml Larios 12 (Spanish Gin)
15ml Licor 43 orchata
15ml Strawberry puree
25ml Lime juice
25ml Egg white

METHOD

1. Chill the coupe glass with ice.
2. Put all the ingredients inside the shaker without ice and do a dry shake.
3. Put ice in the shaker and shake together.
4. Take out the ice from the coupe glass and serve from shaker.
5. Garnish it with a cherry, close eyes and enjoy the Valencia taste!

Art&Exhibitions

The Parade II, Oil on canvas, 76 x 61 cm



South Grove, Oil on canvas, 76 x 61 cm



Newquay Harbour II, Oil on canvas, 122 x 102 cm



Reuben Colley Fine Art is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Located within a beautiful Victorian building on Colmore Row, the gallery is known for representing some of Birmingham's best painters, alongside master graphics by the likes of Andy Warhol, Grayson Perry and Damien Hirst.

The story starts with Reuben Colley. He's an artist synonymous with Birmingham. Born in 1976 in Hodge Hill, the city and its surrounding regions have inspired Reuben throughout his life. From canal tunnels and graffiti-covered subways to suburban shopping centres, he finds beauty in unexpected places, painting the changing city with evocative realism.

Reuben's talent was spotted early on, at school. After studying Fine Art at the University of Wolverhampton, he rapidly established himself as a successful artist. He held exhibitions both locally and in London, won prestigious awards, and in 2003 he became the youngest artist to have artwork acquired by the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Reuben also had a brilliant idea: to launch an independent gallery for

Happy birthday, Reuben!

AWARD-WINNING ARTS BLOGGER RUTH MILLINGTON LOOKS AT THE WORK OF ONE OF BIRMINGHAM'S MOST SOUGHT-AFTER AND TALENTED ARTISTS

Birmingham. He wanted to bridge the gap between artists and collectors, show outstanding work by local artists, and nurture new talent. In 2010 Reuben Colley Fine Art was born, opening its doors in Moseley.

During its first year, the gallery for

represented a handful of artists. James Byrne, the art teacher who originally inspired Reuben, was first on the books. He was soon joined by Rick Garland, who has shot to international acclaim for his hyper-realist cityscapes. Danny Howes was next to follow. An exceptional portrait painter, Danny was recently a finalist in the highly-regarded Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year competition.

The gallery has since taken on other leading artists from Birmingham, including Annette Pugh, as well as nationally recognised painters Kate Sherman, Roxana Halls and Horace Panter, whose Pop Art paintings have been inspired by American road trips as bassist for 'The Specials'.

The success of the gallery's artists demonstrates Reuben's eye for talent. It also reflects the sympathetic approach of the gallery: Reuben doesn't rush his artists into exhibitions. Instead, they are allowed freedom and time to evolve their practice. James Byrne once took five years to create a show.

By 2015, Reuben Colley Fine Art had outgrown its space in Moseley. The gallery relocated to its new, and more

Art & Exhibitions



spacious home, on Colmore Row. Here, it runs an ambitious programme of exhibitions by contemporary artists, and also sells master graphics by artists including Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst, David Hockney, Grayson Perry and Banksy. With limited edition prints starting at £295, there's something for every collector.

Over the years the gallery has also developed exciting partnerships with Birmingham Museums Trust, holding two exhibitions in Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, as well as forming collaborations with Brumpic and John Lewis.

To mark its 10th anniversary, the gallery will feature all twelve of its contemporary artists in an exhibition, opening on Tuesday 4th February. You can join the gallery and its artists for a celebratory glass of champagne, courtesy of Purnell's, on Saturday 29th February, from 1pm – 5pm. To RSVP, please call the gallery on 0121 236 0920 or email info@reubencolleyfineart.co.uk

Ruth Millington is an art critic, writer and blogger at www.ruthmillington.com



THREE TO SEE at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery in 2020

DRESSED TO THE NINES AND BIRMINGHAM REVOLUTIONS

UNTIL FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 4, FREE

These exhibitions, which launched late in 2019, explore two fascinating areas of Birmingham history. Birmingham Revolutions looks at Birmingham's vibrant and varied history of protest and activism, and the role the city has played in some of the most important campaigns and movements in British history.

Dressed to the Nines explores how fashion and dressing up for special occasions has changed since the 1850s, showcasing dazzling outfits and accessories from the city's dress collection, and offering the chance for visitors to be part of the exhibitions themselves.

WEBSTER AND HORSFALL: 300 YEARS OF INNOVATION

UNTIL SUNDAY
OCTOBER, 4, FREE

This new Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) exhibition celebrates 300 years of Birmingham firm Webster and Horsfall who were responsible for manufacturing the wire for the first successful transatlantic cable in 1866.

The history of the company is told through Webster and Horsfall archival material and a selection of Birmingham's collection of watercolours by Arthur Lockwood.

Lockwood was renowned for his industrial watercolours of Birmingham and the Black Country. He documented the changing city through his work and depicted vivid scenes from local factories.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

SATURDAY, MAY 23 –
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Ticket details to be announced

Stunning images will be unveiled as Wildlife Photographer of the Year arrives at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

The world-renowned exhibition, on loan from the Natural History Museum in London, will feature exceptional images which capture fascinating animal behaviour, spectacular species and the breathtaking diversity of the natural world.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year is the most prestigious photography event of its kind, providing a global platform that showcases the natural world's most astonishing and challenging sights for over 50 years.

Pictured: Ralf Schneider, Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2019

Property



maber hosts tech talks

Colmore Row-based architecture practice maber hosted an Innovation Showcase at its Imperial & Whitehall offices to showcase its approach to digital design and how teams are using it to deliver architectural, interior and landscape design.

The maber team gave demonstrations in building information modelling (BIM), virtual reality, augmented reality and 3D printing.

At the event, visitors were given the opportunity to speak with Josh Chrystal, BIM manager, while Catherine Lambert and Chris Radcliffe of the interiors team explained the value interior design can bring to any project.

maber's combination of virtual reality and BimX walkthroughs were explored on iPads during the Innovation Showcase. Robert Fowkes and Jonathan Martin guided visitors around these digital platforms.

For over 20 years maber have been using 3D parametric modelling, from small scale school extensions to brand new £300 million hospitals. To find out more please contact David Brooks, Associate, at david.brooks@maber.co.uk



'A truly one-of-a-kind destination that celebrates the splendour of this landmark building'



Artists' impressions of how the Grand Hotel interior and exterior spaces could look

Grand Hotel gears up for summer reopening

HISTORIC BUILDING'S DRAMATIC RESTORATION ALMOST COMPLETE

Starwood Capital private investment group has announced that The Grand Hotel will open in the summer of 2020.

The landmark Colmore Row building has been undergoing a £30 million restoration that will return it to its former glory.

The luxury hotel, a Grade II* listed building, will be home to 185 spacious rooms and suites, retaining the building's mix of French Renaissance, Victorian and Art Deco features and paying homage to its illustrious history. Original character features throughout the property have been painstakingly restored, including the stone façade, historic ceilings, mosaic tiled floors and grand staircase.

The centrepiece Grosvenor ballroom, one of the most remarkable historic ballrooms in the country, will be the jewel in the hotel's crown and is sure to become Birmingham's premier event space for all occasions. The restoration also includes new penthouse

suites with spectacular views across St Phillip's Cathedral and the city beyond; a sunken rooftop garden terrace, two new bars and a destination restaurant, a gymnasium, state-of-the-art meeting rooms, collaboration areas, and event spaces.

Surrounded by restaurants, bars and other cultural attractions, the much-anticipated hotel will set a new bar for luxury accommodation in Birmingham.

The hotel has enjoyed an illustrious past, having played host

LIFE IS GRAND

The Grand Hotel played its part in the Suffragette movement of the early 1900s. Political meetings held at the hotel were interrupted as part of the Women's Social and Political Union's campaign against the Liberal government.

The hotel's heyday saw it host concerts, parties and dinner-dances, attracting world-famous stars to Birmingham. King George VI, Winston Churchill, Charlie Chaplin and James Cagney are just a few notable celebrities to have enjoyed the hotel, as did Malcolm X, during his last UK visit.



to a long list of royalty and famous names including King George VI, Malcolm X, Charlie Chaplin, Winston Churchill and James Cagney.

Cody Bradshaw, Managing Director, Head of International Hotels at Starwood Capital Group, said: "We're proud to be working with Hortons' Estate, whose founder, Isaac Horton, originally built the hotel in the 1870s, on a shared vision to create one of the most prestigious hotels in the UK.

"The restoration of this stunning grande dame building is another milestone in what is an exciting period of transformation for this vibrant city. We look forward to providing visitors to Birmingham – and locals alike with a truly one-of-a-kind destination that celebrates the splendour of this landmark building but with a 21st-century luxury experience."

Stephen Benson, chief executive of Hortons' Estate, owner of The Grand, said: "The re-opening of The Grand Hotel is much anticipated and we can confidently predict that this will be Birmingham's best hotel, with a first-class amenity offer for locals as well as visitors to the city. We're thrilled to have Starwood on board as partner and operator."



Property



Join the District's fast-growing co-work community

Ideal for start-ups, small businesses and freelancers, co-work spaces are a fast-growing option for people who want the flexibility and buzz of a business community.

The new spaces offer entrepreneurs the opportunity to take their business ideas from the kitchen table or spare bedroom to a city-centre location, among potential clients, fellow creative thinkers and public transport networks.

Co-working offices provide latest technology, flexible payment terms and the space for businesses to grow. Meeting rooms can be hired by the hour or larger spaces are available if a business is growing.

Demand for flexible working is growing rapidly, with over half of the world's professionals now working remotely for at least half of their working week.

Research from Spaces' parent company IWG last year revealed that employees increasingly value the option to work flexibly over things like holiday allowance and having to work overtime.

"As the UK's second city, Birmingham is home to a thriving business

community," explains Spaces Sales Director, Chris Kay.

"Spaces Lewis Building and Spaces Crossway, both located in the heart of the city, provide a space for Birmingham's businesses and entrepreneurs to call home and act as the ideal base for working, networking and everything in between.

"Spaces provides creative working environments with a unique entrepreneurial spirit in hundreds of locations worldwide. Its workspaces are created to inspire the forward thinkers, innovators and game changers to go above and beyond their goals."

Ed Hobbs, Community Manager, WeWork, 55 Colmore Row, said: "At WeWork, we create beautifully designed workspaces with unique member benefits; a collaborative culture with the flexibility and opportunity to access workspace and connect with members across the UK, as well as globally."

When new co-working offices open on-site cafés, gym facilities, secure storage and a diary of events it's not difficult to see why this work option is now so popular.

CO-WORKING OPTIONS IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT

IHUB

Where: Colmore Gate, 2-6 Colmore Row

Amenities:

- Wi-fi & high-speed broadband
- Break-out spaces
- Large meeting rooms (up to 25 people)
- Two deluxe Kitchens
- Advanced security system & 24/7 monitoring
- Weekly fresh fruit delivery
- Co-working areas
- Contact: info@ihuboffice.com

OREGA

Where: The Colmore Building, Colmore Circus

Amenities:

- Air-conditioned offices
- IT and telecoms
- Professionally managed reception
- Modern break-out space
- Kitchenettes with free refreshments
- On-site café
- Showers
- Secure lockers
- Free visitor wi-fi
- 24-hour CCTV
- Secure on-site parking
- Bicycle storage
- Contact: hello@orega.com

Pictured left: Spaces Crossway

WEWORK

Where: 55 Colmore Row and Louisa Ryland House, Newhall Street (to open later in 2020)

Amenities:

On-site staff
Phone booths
High-speed wi-fi
Common areas
Complimentary refreshments
Business-class printers
Professional and social events
Meeting rooms

Contact: www.wework.com/en-GB/contact-us

SPACES

Where: Lewis Building, 35 Bull Street, and the Crossway Building, 156 Great Charles Street Queensway

Amenities:

Worldwide access during office hours to all Spaces business clubs
Tailored rental terms
Super-fast wi-fi
Services including reception and optional mail handling
Barista coffee to keep you fuelled up and ready to work

Contact: Visit spacesworks.com/birmingham

REGUS

Where: One Victoria Square and Edmund House, Edmund Street

Amenities:

Air-conditioned offices
Videoconferencing studio
Lounge areas
Disabled facilities
Reception staff and support teams
Kitchen areas
Shower facilities

WiFi and state-of-the-art technology

Contact: www.regus.co.uk/offices/united-kingdom/west-midlands/birmingham
Call 0800 756 2911

BRUNTWOOD

Where: Cornerblock, Cornwall Street, and The Cornwall Buildings

Amenities:

Flexible contracts
Superfast internet
24-hour access
Communal lounge & kitchen
Access to multiple buildings
On-site meeting rooms
Meeting room discount
On-site customer service team
Showers & changing rooms
Bicycle store

Contact: Visit bruntwood.co.uk/our-products/coworking/

Please check amenities per price package at each co-working provider. Some options may be considered add-on extras or vary depending on location.

'An exciting development and a clear sign of BT's commitment to Birmingham and the Midlands'

Good call: BT chooses Three Snowhill for new office

The landmark Three Snowhill development will be BT Group's primary new home in Birmingham and provide a future-fit workplace for thousands of colleagues, it has been announced.

The building, in the heart of the Business District, will become a key hub with between 3,000 – 4,000 colleagues set to be based there eventually – more than five times the number of people currently based in Birmingham. BT

will occupy the majority of floors in the 17-storey development, marking a major investment by the company in Birmingham. BT has acquired the lease and plans to move colleagues in from the end of the year.

Graeme Paton, BT's managing director of Property and Facilities Services, said it was an exciting development and a clear sign of BT's commitment to Birmingham and the Midlands. BT

Health & Wellbeing



Blaze a trail to new fitness studio with 'nightclub vibe'

'ROCK-STAR INSTRUCTORS' AND THE LATEST TECH AT NEW VENUE

A new fitness studio with a 'high-end nightclub vibe' has opened in the Business District, offering a new workout experience featuring the latest health-tracking technology.

The contemporary boutique studio, BLAZE by David Lloyd Clubs, opened its doors in January, becoming the brand's first stand-alone boutique studio in the UK. The concept follows the success of BLAZE Studios within David Lloyd Clubs which have been rolled-out in 64 Clubs across the UK and Europe over the past two years and now enjoy a cult following amongst members.

The new, flexible, pay-as-you-go studio offers dynamic and fast-paced HIIT (high intensity interval training) full-body workouts combining combat and mixed martial arts with intense cardio and strength training – all led by 'rock star' instructors and synced to high-energy music, specially curated for the classes by BLAZE's exclusive music curator, 'Dax'



plus cutting-edge light effects. HIIT is known to be the most effective way to exercise and keep the heart fit and conditioned.

To keep participants motivated and energised, the studio changes its workouts on a daily basis, and integral to the experience is the use of the innovative Myzone wearable heart

rate system enabling exercisers to track their progress in real-time, enjoy an element of 'gamification' and achieve their personal best.

Located on Cornwall Street, BLAZE by David Lloyd Clubs offers a fresh and contemporary space for workout fans, with sleek, modern interiors, contemporary changing facilities,

Health & Wellbeing



'HIIT is known to be the most effective way to exercise and keep the heart fit and conditioned'

showers and lockers, a smoothie bar and capsule fitness retail space – all under one roof.

Zoe Mead, Studio Manager for BLAZE Birmingham, said: "This is our first stand-alone boutique BLAZE studio in the UK, and we are incredibly excited to be bringing our unique offering, which we believe is as good as any boutique HIIT product in the world, to such a vibrant and diverse city.

"We have quite a few surprises in store for the Studio, which has a completely different look and feel from any other BLAZE in the country."

For more information, visit www.davidlloyd.co.uk/clubs/birmingham-blaze-studio/



You've joined the gym, now here's how to use it!

It's always great to see people signing up for the gym in the new year with the intention of losing weight. I wish everyone the best of luck!

However, with gym memberships at an all-time high and active gym members decreasing, it's disheartening to see so many people pay for a membership they aren't using.

The main reason for this is people tend to not make a habit of coming to the gym, they tend to try and cram it somewhere they can in the week, last a few weeks of inconsistent training and then drop off, there is a really simple, proven way to make sure this doesn't happen to you.

HABIT!

There are 2 main types of habits:

Kryptonite habits (bad)

Keystone habits (good)

You need to make the gym a Keystone habit, so it's part of who you are, it's just part of your life, like work, commuting and sleeping, the best way to do this is by;

■ Scheduling weekly gym time and writing when, where and what you will do.

■ Setting goals and giving yourself rewards that are relevant to the goal/habit, so rewarding yourself with new trainers, a gym outfit, a day pass to a spa and gym so you can have a massage

and sauna and steam room to treat yourself

■ Make sure the habit takes as little willpower as possible. You know how easy it is to just walk into a shop and buy a chocolate bar, make the gym that easy to get in.

You shouldn't have to

think about it, this is one of the reasons PTs are a valuable tool, we do all the thinking and planning so you don't have to, all the help and support you need to get your goal, we can take the guess work out of it.

Go and enjoy the gym, it shouldn't feel like a chore, take action today so you don't have to play catch up with your health later.

Dan Grimes, Applied Fitness, based in PureGym, Birmingham Snow Hill Plaza
Visit www.applied-fitness.co.uk/

After Hours

YOUR PASSIONS AND PROJECTS OUTSIDE THE 9-5

ROSS FITTALL Development Manager, Argent LLP

Interview: Stacey Barnfield

TELL US ABOUT THE DAY JOB...

Paradise is seven hectares of mixed use development of commercial, civic, retail, leisure and hotel space on the former site of the Central Library complex.

It will be one of the biggest development schemes Birmingham has seen for a generation, dramatically transforming this area of the city, connecting Town Hall and Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery to the new-look Centenary Square.

I get involved in all areas of development at the scheme, right from the initial period of appointing architects, studying design concepts, to working with contractors on construction and supporting legal processes for new tenants.

Paradise marketing strategies also fall under my remit. This includes branding, hoarding and marketing assets such as brochures and websites.

This is my second stint with Argent. My first role with the company was connected to the refurbishment of Paradise Forum, the shopping precinct underneath the old Central Library. That was nearly 15 years ago. I've seen the site from then through to what it is now. It has changed quite a lot!

WHAT'S YOUR POST-WORK PASSION?

I've always been quite sporty and represented Great Britain at junior level in a couple of sports. I picked up a few injuries but

tried to keep fit, so I've done the odd 10k and half marathon, plus London to Paris cycling.

For all these things, however, I've never raised any money or taken part for a charity.

As part of my 40th birthday celebrations in 2019 I set myself a unique set of challenges – what I've called my '40 at 40'.

A few years ago I started to make a list in my head and on my phone of the challenges I could aim for. It soon became quite an extensive list and I decided I could set myself not just one, but 40 targets, many of which I'd always wanted to achieve but never got round to. Others have been about me trying something new and creating experiences I can share with my family.

From watching 100 cinema classics to running the London Marathon and completing an Ironman Triathlon, everything



on my list is placing me on either a physical or psychological journey, and quite often both at the same time!

Among the more unusual challenges I've taken on are giving up alcohol for 40 days, starring as an extra in a TV drama, going wild swimming and learning a new language.

Far from being a mid-life crisis, this challenge has been about pushing myself to new limits, while all the time raising money for a very worthy local charity, St Basil's.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE?

From walking around Birmingham and through my connections to the Paradise development I've become aware of the issue of rough sleeping. Like many people in the city it was really bothering

'I've also been able to spend time with my young family on challenges I could get them involved in'

me but I didn't know the best way to help.

My wife, who knows the head of fundraising at St Basil's, suggested the charity, so I did a bit of research to learn about the fantastic work they do and that's when I decided to support them with an ambitious £4,000 fundraising target.

St Basil's is a great organisation that works to address youth homelessness in and around Birmingham. Knowing I am doing something to support their services has really helped motivate me to put in the training I need to reach some of



my more difficult challenges.

The amount of time put into my first marathon and Ironman challenges has been phenomenal. But with the support of my wife, children and wider family, it has been an experience I have learnt to relish for the increased fitness and focus it has given me.

In addition to the physically enduring targets on the list, I've also been able to spend time with my young family on challenges I could get them involved in. This has been really rewarding.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE WILL BE THE LEGACY OF THE CHALLENGES?

The 40 at 40 challenges haven't all been about physical fitness. Some of the most significant things I have done are about making positive choices to help

others. Becoming an organ donor. Donating blood. Helping out at a soup kitchen. These are things I can keep on doing beyond this year and which have the capacity to have a long-lasting effect on other people.

I hope my challenge will have a positive impact on St. Basils and the work they do, and may even inspire others to do something similar!

HOW CAN COLMORE LIFE READERS SUPPORT YOU OR GET INVOLVED?

I've exceeded my original fundraising target of £4,000. With support from Avision Young and my employer, Argent, I am actually past £7,000, which is incredible.

I still have a few challenges to complete the list of 40. If you'd like to support me please donate via www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ross-fittall

UPDATES FROM BIRMINGHAM'S BIGGEST REGENERATION SCHEME

Paradise project latest

PWC GETS THE KEYS TO ONE CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE

PwC, the leading professional services firm, has taken handover of One Chamberlain Square as it moves its 2,000-strong team from its current home in Cornwall Street.

PwC will occupy all of the commercial space in One Chamberlain Square, which is a seven-storey, 172,000 sq ft office building with retail and leisure facilities on the ground floor.

The PwC Birmingham team has grown from 1,400 over the last two years as it continues to increase its regional presence, surpassing a landmark of 2,000 colleagues based in Birmingham this autumn, as the firm grows towards its planned target of 2,300 by the end of next year.

WORK STARTS ON NEXT BUILDING

Construction work has started on One Centenary Way, the latest building at Paradise, Birmingham, and the first part of Phase Two of the development.

The announcement follows extensive site clearance and enabling works which have taken place to allow construction of the new 280,000 sq ft, 13-storey building to begin.

Designed by Birmingham-based Glenn Howells Architects, One Centenary Way will overlook the transformed Centenary Square.

DLA PIPER SIGNS UP FOR RELOCATION

Leading global business law firm DLA Piper has become the first office tenant to sign up to Two Chamberlain Square at the £700 million Paradise development.

DLA Piper has committed to a 15-year lease for 40,000 sq ft of space across the top two floors of the eight storey building as part of its ambitious growth plans in the region, moving from its current home in Victoria Square House later this year.

The new space, which includes a stunning panoramic terrace overlooking the transformed Chamberlain Square,

will allow DLA Piper to continue to grow its Birmingham office which currently has more than 150 lawyers and staff.



A CGI of the completed Two Chamberlain Square



SPRING 2020

People & Places

Events, awards and **LIFE** on the network



George Jennings, Avison Young; Richard Williams; Colliers International; Peter Fowles, Peter Fowles Surveyors; Charlotte Fullard, Lambert Smith Hampton

OFFICE AGENTS GET FIRST LOOK AT THE BARWICK

Birmingham's office agents were given an exclusive look at Hortons' Estate's new office development, The Barwick, at a launch event hosted at Primitivo.

More than 30 agents were given a tour of the stylish, boutique offices at 16 Barwick Street in Birmingham city centre, followed by food and refreshments at the neighbouring bar and restaurant.

Hortons has invested more than £750,000 to create the Grade A office space at The Barwick, converting meeting rooms and bedrooms at the former Grand Hotel, and the bar which used to serve the hotel's Grosvenor ballroom. Suites are available from 1,165 sq ft.



Joanne Penn-Crossland, Manager Smart Works Birmingham; Isabel Spearman OBE, guest speaker; Laura Dalby, Smart Works National Business Development Manager; Caroline Wilkie, Trustee; Philippa Pickavance, Chairwoman, Smart Works Birmingham

OPUS LUNCH RAISES FUNDS FOR SMART WORKS

Just over £5,000 has been raised for Smart Works Birmingham, a charity that provides high-quality work clothes and interview training to help women in need back into work.

A fundraising lunch at Opus Restaurant on Cornwall Street saw 130 people from across the West Midlands business community come together to hear guest speaker Isabel Spearman OBE, the brand and image consultant and former special adviser to Samantha Cameron, who is also an ambassador for the charity.



Amanda Evans, Paralympic Performance Programme Manager; Ellie Simpson – silver medal – RR3 100m; Andrew Small – silver medal – T33 100m; Sophie Hann – double world record holder – T38 100m and 200m; Sabrina Fortune – gold medal and Championship Record holder – F20 shot put; Paula Dunn – Head Coach Paralympic Programme; Martina Barber – T20 Long Jump; Rafi Solaiman – RR3 100m; Thomas Young – gold medal – T38 100m; Vanessa Wallace – bronze medal – F34 shot put; Katie Jones – Paralympic Podium Potential Manager

CELEBRATING DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

PwC Birmingham celebrated International Day of People with Disabilities on December 3 by welcoming British Athletics para-athletes to share their stories.

Eight para-athletes joined staff from the professional services firm to listen to personal stories of athletes, and blind author, DJ and motivational speaker Pervez Hussain.

Official Data Intelligence Partner to British Athletics, PwC, was delighted to celebrate with the inspirational team as they look forward to Tokyo 2020.

Pictures: Jas Sansi



Vanessa Wallace – F34 shot put athlete



Pervez Hussain