

COLMORE **Life**

*More than just
business*

Summer 2015

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com



Colmore Food Festival

Showcasing food and drink from across the District on 3rd and 4th July.

pages 14-15

Day to Night Makeover

House of Fraser and Parlour Hair transform Melanie Williams from DWF.

pages 24-25

Discover Forensic Pathways

There's more to forensics than what you see on CSI and Silent Witness.

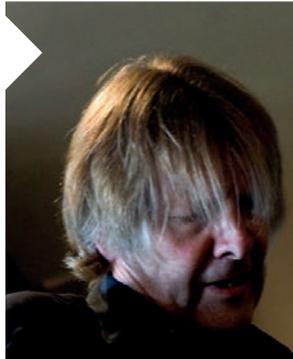
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**EDITOR'S
welcome**

Well, summer's almost upon us and we're gearing up for this year's jazz and blues festival (page 16) and more Moseley 'On the Move' Arts Markets (page 22).

Don't miss our fifth Colmore Food Festival in Victoria Square on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th July - it's always great to see so many visitors and people from the business community there. We're also looking forward to independents Nosh & Quaff, Bar Opus and The Edwardian Tearooms joining us for the first time. For the full lowdown see page 14.

We were delighted so many people joined us for our Charity Quiz Night, helping us raise over £2,800 for Birmingham Citizens Advice Bureau, and look forward to more events later in the year.

We're bursting at the seams with future articles, but are always keen to hear from you. If you'd like to feature in the magazine - simply contact Liz Newton on 0121 236 4686 or email liz-n@colmorebusinessdistrict.com.

Michele Wilby
Managing Editor

Colmore Business District

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

A BID is a defined geographical area within which local businesses collaborate to invest in projects, services and initiatives that improve the environment in which they work. BIDs deliver additional

services to those provided by the local authority and police. A BID is funded by businesses and organisations in the defined area through an annual BID levy.

The CBD area is the commercial heart of Birmingham, with around 500 companies, employing up to 35,000 people and occupying approximately 5.6 million square feet of office space. As well as being a hub of business and professional

service firms, the area has a fantastic leisure and hospitality offering, with a high proportion of independents.

Colmore Life is Colmore Business District's magazine.

Follow us on Twitter @ColmoreBID
www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com.

Activity update

Read on to discover what CBD has been up to recently...

#NicklinUnseen Comes to CBD

CBD is planning an ambitious new art project based around the fantastic photos of Birmingham, unveiled in the Birmingham Post as part of #NicklinUnseen. Look out for announcements in the coming months!

Phyllis Nicklin was a lecturer at Birmingham University in the 1950s and 1960s during which time she took countless photographs of Birmingham, recording the changes to the city as they happened.

The photos have been curated by Brumpic, who share classic pictures of Birmingham and have built a significant following on Twitter. We're now working together to bring these photos to the District in an innovative and exciting art project.

www.brumpic.com | @brumpic

Postponement of CBD Community Games

We were disappointed to announce that we would be postponing our touch rugby Community Games this year as it clashed with the BYPY Awards. However, don't quit your intense training regime just yet as we're planning to hold a tug-of-war event in the autumn. We'll announce further news through CBD Bitesize, so make sure you're subscribed!

CBD's Added Extras

We're known for delivering big projects. Some of them, like our Food Festival, are featured in this edition of Colmore Life, while others, such as the Snow Hill Interchange Plan, which was our study of transport infrastructure in the Snow Hill area of the District, are helping to influence the development of the city centre.

However, we still deliver a number of additional services to keep the District looking good for those who work and visit here. Our annual deep cleaning of CBD's pavements has taken place, our ambassadors are constantly patrolling and we're also working with Birmingham City Council to install this year's floral features to ensure the District looks stunning this summer.

CBD Influences BIDs in Northern Ireland

In February, we hosted a visit from delegates who are being supported by The Mosaic Partnership to develop a number of Business Improvement Districts across Northern Ireland.

Delegates were keen to find out more about how we worked with partners to deliver meaningful and successful projects in the area. They also wanted to find out more about our progressive public realm works including Church Street Square and Colmore Square.

Filmbug Returned

Colmore Business District's partnership with Flatpack Film Festival, Filmbug, returned for a fourth year in March. Thanks to our sponsorship, cinephiles were treated to a variety of films in venues around the District.

The Edwardian Tearooms hosted a series of the first horror films with commentary and live accompaniment. Opus at Cornwall Street hosted a showing of the classic Trouble in Paradise, whilst in The Old Joint Stock things were brought up to date with a day looking at the resurgence of 8-bit gaming and the use of its unique sounds in music today.

CBD Bitesize

CBD Bitesize is the place to find out what's happening in Colmore Business District. Our free monthly e-bulletin brings you everything you need to know about news and events in the District, as well as updates on with significant projects such as Paradise and Midland Metro.

If you'd like to receive a copy, please email us on info@colmorebusinessdistrict.com or speak to one of our ambassadors to get on the mailing list.



QUIZ NIGHT SUCCESS

Colmore Business District's charity quiz night in March raised £2,885 for our nominated charity, Birmingham Citizens Advice Bureau.

In total, 150 people from businesses across the District took part, with accountancy firm Dains finishing first, followed by communications agency Liquid in second place and transport consultancy JMP in third. The interactive quiz, with the 25 teams using a phone or tablet to enter their answers, meant the fastest team's name flashed on a big screen, adding to the competitive atmosphere throughout the night.

Raffle prizes were generously donated by Bar Opus, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chung Ying Central, Flatpack Film Festival, Hotel Du Vin, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, The Drop Forge and Town Hall & Symphony Hall.

Look out for details of a further quiz this autumn!

Birmingham Citizens Advice Bureau do some great work:

- They support over 30,000 local people a year, many of whom are in crisis and at risk of losing their homes, jobs or families
- Their 250 volunteers give more than 150,000 hours a year to help clients

NO BUTTS...



We all know smoking is an expensive, life-limiting habit. Maybe we don't know just how expensive and life-limiting it can be.

According to Birmingham City Council's Regulation and Enforcement team, who are responsible for fining almost 2,000 of us every year for dropping cigarette litter in the city, getting done for dropping a fag butt can cost you up to £2,500 if you ignore the £80 fixed penalty and opt for court. That's pretty expensive.

Worse than that, dropping litter like fag ends is a criminal rather than a civil offence, which means that you might have to disclose a conviction for job applications, credit scoring and some travel visa applications. That's pretty life-limiting.

Apparently we have a bit of a culture problem. Too many of us don't regard dog ends as litter, so a person who would never consider dropping an empty can of pop or crisp packet on the floor will unthinkingly flick a fag end away, oblivious to the fact that it can take 15 years for a single fag butt to break down.

If you flick it, someone else has to pick it up. No butts.



FUNDING AND TRAINING FOR SMES

Birmingham has been ranked the best performing core city in terms of economic growth and is home to the highest number of start-ups outside London. It's no wonder then that Colmore Business District (CBD) has experienced an influx of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as start-up incubator Entrepreneurial Spark.

The Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act received Royal Assent in March and Birmingham Professional Services (BPS), together with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), launched their Access to Finance portal, making it easier for local SMEs to access funding for growth. Here at CBD we have been busy too and launched our CBD SME initiative to build a strong knowledge sharing business community.

We've been running a series of workshops on the topics that matter most to our smaller businesses. According to the latest UK Business Digital Index, over a million (23%) small to medium-sized businesses still lack basic digital skills. For this reason, we kicked off the season with an intensive social media training course from Digital Glue, kindly hosted at Dains' beautiful Cathedral Court offices on Colmore Row.

Lauren Quirk, Business Support Coordinator for Consult Solutions, an independent recruitment firm said, "I found the social media workshop to be very insightful. I came away with a deeper understanding of how to manage social media for our business and can easily pass this information on to the team. The hosts were very friendly and helpful, which helped make a relaxed environment for me to learn in. I am looking forward to future sessions and meeting more local businesses."

Small businesses like Consult Solutions have the advantage of being able to very quickly put the specialist knowledge they receive in to practice and make bold operational changes that have a huge impact on their business development. The workshops on topics such as tax and accountancy, creating a healthy workforce, and resilience and security have all been tailored to get businesses with under 50 employees thinking about actively designing the growth of their business, to ensure it works well for everyone involved.

The support sessions will carry on throughout the summer with various topics delivered and hosted by our business community. Anyone interested in getting involved or hearing more can follow #CBDsme on Twitter or contact joanne-d@colmorebusinessdistrict.com.

COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT - KEEPING YOUR NETWORK SECURE



Colmore Business District (CBD) is very fortunate. Despite being based in the centre of Britain's second city we are in an extremely safe area. Violent crime is rare, thefts do not happen often, and we haven't been impacted significantly by public space disorder, despite the city seeing a number of significant protests and marches. We know, however, that crime still happens, and it is one of our priorities to try to prevent as much as possible, and to mitigate the impact when it does happen. We have a variety of initiatives in place to help with this.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

Business Crime is a key priority for West Midlands Police, and we're keen to ensure our businesses are as secure as possible. Michele Wilby, Executive Director, is Vice Chair of the citywide Business Crime Steering Group and we're members of the Daytime and Nighttime Economy Steering Groups.

DISTRICT BASED PCSO



CBD has a dedicated PCSO assigned to our District. Jonathan Shepherd has recently joined the CBD team and will be getting to know businesses whilst working closely with the city

centre neighbourhood policing team to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the District. He will also work closely with our Ambassador service. If you require PCSO assistance, or would like to meet with PCSO Shepherd, please contact Jonathan Bryce at the CBD office on jonathan-b@colmorebusinessdistrict.com.

PUBWATCH

CBD is a fantastic place to relax; whether it's a drink after work, or catching up with friends at the weekend, there's something for everyone. Our Pubwatch is made up of venues across the District who work together to make sure CBD maintains its reputation as a place to enjoy, as well as the place to do, business.

FACEWATCH

Facewatch is an online resilience tool, available free of charge to businesses within the District. It allows businesses to share information about crime with each other. Crucially, that information is also shared with West Midlands Police.

If you manage a building and you've had someone suspicious trying to get past your security, let people know; they may be trying to get in elsewhere. If you have problems with a person persistently hurling abuse at your staff, report it; you might find out that you're not alone, and that your information can help the police to stop the person involved. If you, or a customer in your establishment, have been a victim of crime, you can report it online and receive a crime number straight away. Facewatch allows you to upload CCTV footage, keep-up-to-date with current threats and issues, and gives you another link into the police. Information is shared securely and only with members of the Colmore Group.

COLMORE SECURITY NETWORK

Colmore Security Network (CSN) is our business resilience group for businesses located in the District. If you manage a building, or if you are responsible for resilience at your place of work, this is the group for you. The group meets roughly four times a year, where they are briefed on issues relating to business security, whether that is finding out more about being safe online, or protecting your office from a physical attack. We also provide briefings on important topics such as the Metro works. Members are additionally kept-up-to-date with up and coming police and terrorism topics that affect the city centre. The group is attended by and delivered in partnership with West Midlands Police. If you would like to join CSN, please contact Jonathan Bryce at the CBD office.

For more information on any of the above, please contact Jonathan Bryce at the CBD office on jonathan-b@colmorebusinessdistrict.com or 0121 236 0269



BNP Paribas innovative office upgrade

BNP Paribas was recently faced with the challenge of making more efficient use of its office space by reducing it to just one floor. Simon Robinson, Head of Office, tackled the problem head on by implementing physical changes in order to prompt a cultural change to agile, paperless working.

Fit out and refurbishment specialist, Overbury has delivered an innovative and engaging open office design that maximises the space available and includes systems such as fresh air air-conditioning.

“The change has been extremely smooth,” said Rosemary Allison, Office Manager, who, after choosing seating in the new breakout areas, has a chair named after her. “The team has been reinvigorated by this approach. It’s now being seen as a pilot and, if successful, could be rolled out across the company. We’ve also been nominated for an internal innovation award.”

New coffee shop opens its doors

Based underneath Two Snowhill, Diplomats Barista offer customers the opportunity to enjoy a fantastic cup of coffee whilst surrounded by exciting and engaging works of art.

This latest addition to the District's independent coffee houses comes as plans to continue the development of Three Snowhill were unveiled. Following the launch of the Snow Hill Masterplan in February 2015, which was developed by Birmingham City Council in partnership with CBD, and the anticipated shortage of Grade A office space, this welcome announcement heralds the next stage of the development of the Snow Hill area of the District.

Funding available to make Smarter Choices

Smart Network, Smarter Choices is making sustainable travel easier for businesses across the region. The team of travel experts offer organisations guidance and the tools to help staff and visitors travel sustainably, via public transport, car sharing, walking and cycling.

They have already worked with over 160 different employers, including Jaguar Land Rover and Npower, to provide detailed travel planning, cycle storage facilities and video conferencing software, with businesses ultimately benefiting from saving money, improving business efficiency and boosting the wellbeing and productivity of their workforce.

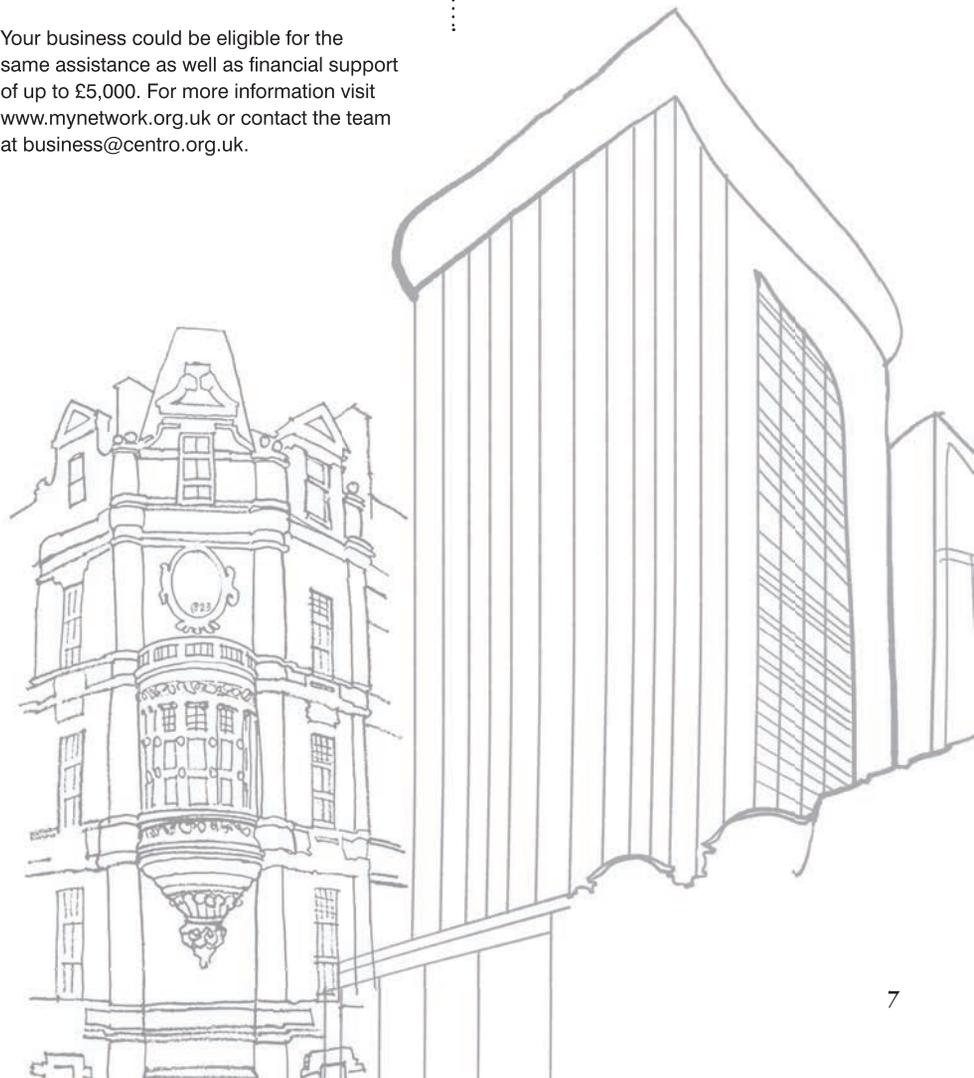
Your business could be eligible for the same assistance as well as financial support of up to £5,000. For more information visit www.mynetwork.org.uk or contact the team at business@centro.org.uk.

Aston Business School College of Fellows

Aston Business School (ABS) College of Fellows is inviting professionals to join their programme for a unique opportunity to be paired with a like-minded academic from ABS to propose a research topic of mutual interest.

As well as working with an academic from the school, which is one of only three in the country to have won the Small Business Charter Gold Award, you will also have access to all of the benefits of the Aston Business School.

To find out more visit
www.aston.ac.uk/collegeoffellows





A FORAY INTO THE CITY

I caught up with Liquid's Elisabeth Lewis-Jones to find out more about the communication company's move to the District last January.



Liz Newton

"It was a major thing for the staff, leaving a countryside office, free parking and a back garden complete with wildlife. Everyone's embraced it and we all catch the train now; it works really well. Here in the city there's more of a buzz and we've noticed that we feel more creative, we also get away from our desks for lunch or to pop to the shops, which has been great both for a break and morale," explained Lis.

"It's really exciting moving into the city, it feels like we've grown up and it is a great way to celebrate 10 years in business. There's a buzz about Birmingham and it's known for entrepreneurship, innovation and enterprise. We're right in the heart of the business community, surrounded by beautiful architecture. We've found clients now want to visit, plus the train links are brilliant and we can take them for a drink after work."

Lis fell into a career in PR after a student placement at Birmingham Airport Plc where she went on to work her way up through the press office. After two years she left and worked for PR consultancies, before setting up Liquid in a room above her mother's garage with her four month old son in a rocker at her side. After a year the company moved to their own premises in Bromsgrove where they stayed for nearly nine years before moving into the city centre in January. They have picked up various industry awards along the way and now have 17 members of staff across the four offices: Birmingham, London, Jersey and Guernsey.

As a company they have expertise in professional and financial services, education, consumer/lifestyle and crisis management and their clients are often national, but I was curious about how operating in the Channel Islands had come about.

Lis explained, "There was a bad recession here and I realised that in order to grow the business we needed to go where there wasn't a recession. During my time as president of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR), I had been hugely impressed with the calibre of PR people in the Channel Islands working at a level you wouldn't get anywhere outside London with clients such as offshore banks, wealth managers and trust companies.

"We merged with an existing company out there and in doing so acquired wider marketing expertise and our own design studio. The UK and Channel Island dynamic gives us a wealth of experience, especially across the professional and financial services sector, but it also gives us challenges. As a company we now operate across three different tax jurisdictions... luckily we have an office manager who's brilliant!

It's really exciting moving into the city, it feels like we've grown up and it is a great way to celebrate 10 years in business.

"The offices in the Channel Islands are only an hour away on the plane and the Guernsey office is right on the seafront; we often hear them say 'We're off to the beach now', whereas we say 'We're off to sit on the M6!'"

Lis is still the major shareholder, along with four other shareholders who all work in the business, which helps cement buy-in and ownership when working across different locations. Team morale is important when not all geographically together, so everyone gets a present on their birthday and the day off, along with tea and cake on a Friday afternoon and Lis also takes everyone away each year for a weekend, this year to Prague.

Originally from Birmingham, Lis is the first member of her family in eight generations not to be an engineer.

She is the daughter of Birmingham industrialist, the late Charles Dean, and a descendant of Great Western Railway's chief engineer William Dean who designed locomotives in the late 1800s (he's mentioned on the plaque for the Snow Hill train mosaic). On a side note, today's Great Western Arcade was a shopping arcade built by the company to span a tunnel for the railway line between Snow Hill and Moor Street stations.

And Lis is clear on what the future holds, "Our priority is now to grow the Birmingham office and also look for new offices within the UK - we're on the acquisition trail!"

www.weareliquid.com

MEET THE DISTRICT

We ask three people, "Where do you like to go in the District to take a break when the sun shines?"



"I tend to continue working through lunch, but with the new Church Street Square within wifi range of our studio that doesn't need to mean being inside (not sure if everyone believes me!). This crowd-free pocket square repatriated from cars to people feels relaxed with traffic moving through slowly. It's a sheltered spot to enjoy the sun, and usefully on the doorstep of Home Cafe Deli to grab a panini."

Dan Smyth,
Director of Architecture, BDP



"I've only been working here since October so this is my first summer in the District but I have always made sure I get out of the office at lunch time. I am very fortunate in that my employers value how productive I am and, no matter how busy we are, I get a full hour to myself. I suppose I'm boring because I get grilled chicken for lunch every day and spend my time out by Victoria Square fountain in peace, reading up on geo politics. My dad says I am an old man in a young man's body!"

Muhin Hussain,
IT Apprentice, Citysave credit union



"I like to go for a walk around the District and just take in the remarkable architecture. We really are blessed in this area to have so many fabulous buildings to marvel. From Hotel du Vin to the Town Hall and the Cathedral, I feel very lucky to have this on my doorstep. You can't beat grabbing a spot in Victoria Square or by the Cathedral to sit and read a good book."

Sarah Begley,
Solicitor, DBS Law

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS IN THE DISTRICT

First and foremost a US lawyer, Nilay Shastry moved to England and qualified to practice law in the UK 10 years ago. He went on to set up Miles Pierce Solicitors and now specialises in providing advice on all aspects of immigration to the UK and US.

While the firm has an office in London, all of their immigration work is done here in Birmingham, bringing inward investment and legal work into the city. It's almost unique for lawyers working in this line of work to not be based in the capital.

For the last two years, the company has seen many benefits from being located in the District – it's convenient for clients, near major train stations and gives the right impression.

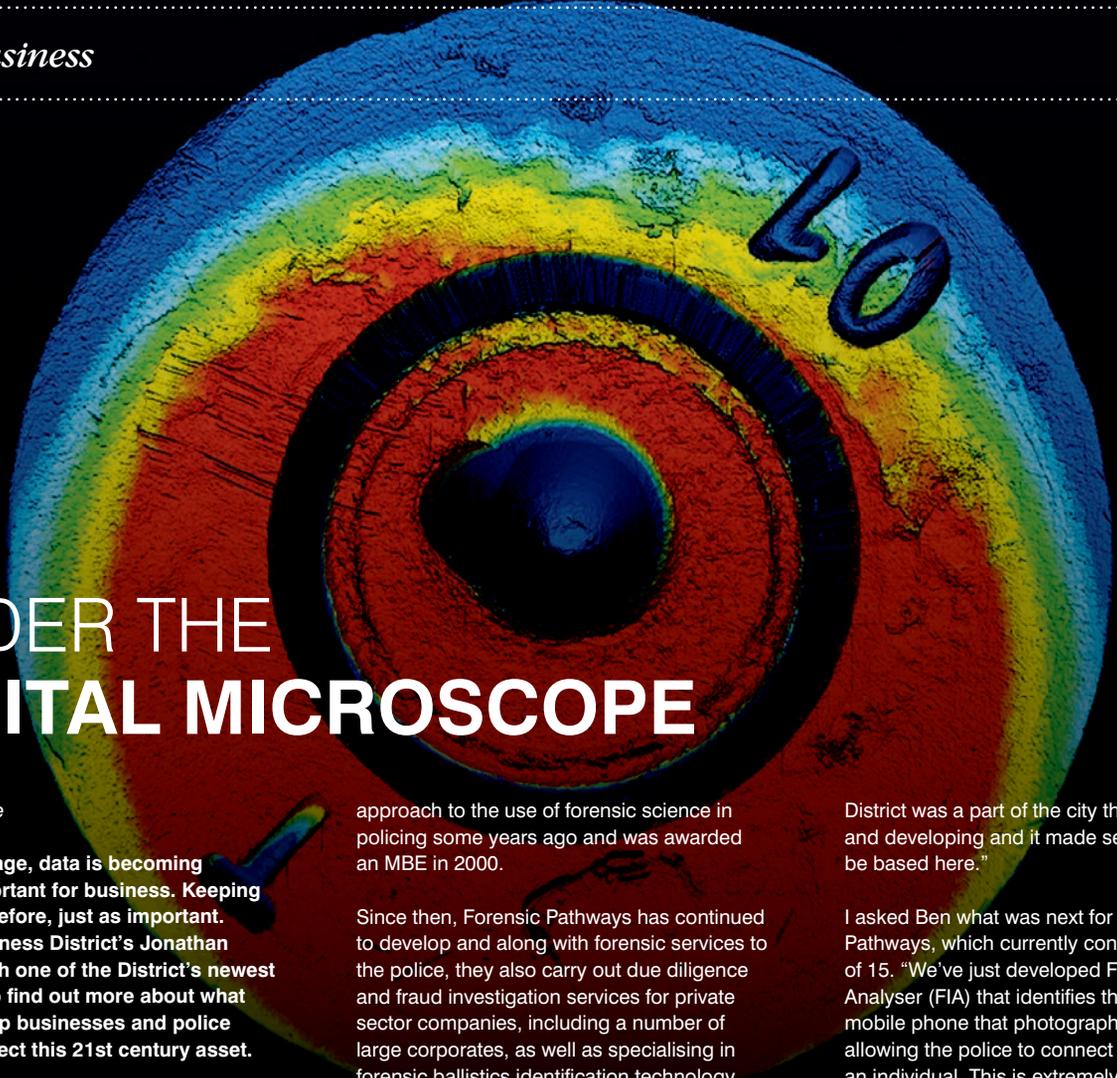
Nilay's experience in both UK and US law is a distinct advantage and much of the Birmingham office's work relates to United States immigration, including working with individuals and organisations who want to invest in companies in the US, set up a company there or can't travel there for whatever reason.

While the firm's immigration into the UK work focuses on helping businesses and people wanting to invest their money in the United Kingdom, and their family law cases often feature one parent wanting to move with their child to another country.

Many clients come from across the UK, however modern technology allows them to hold Skype conversations with clients across the world – from the Bahamas, US, Middle East to India – and to work across time zones, for instance early in the morning from home.

Like many other professional services, clients come through word of mouth, referrals from other professionals, counterparts across the world, their website, speaking events and now by being based in Colmore Business District.

www.miles-pierce.com



UNDER THE DIGITAL MICROSCOPE

Jonathan Bryce

In the digital age, data is becoming crucially important for business. Keeping it safe is, therefore, just as important. Colmore Business District's Jonathan Bryce met with one of the District's newest businesses to find out more about what they do to help businesses and police forces to protect this 21st century asset.

I know you've watched one of those cop shows. Don't pretend you haven't lingered for a few moments whilst CSI was on TV. We all know that in real life forensic science is not all Hollywood glitz or BBC-style Silent Witness work, so I headed to Two Snowhill to meet Business Development Director, Ben Leary from Forensic Pathways.

Parents Deborah and Richard Leary, and son Ben, set up the company. Deborah invented Stepping Plates, an innovative forensics product designed to plug the gap in the market; they're transparent and placed throughout a crime scene, allowing police and technicians to move through the scene without disturbing evidence.

This pioneering invention has led to Deborah winning a slew of awards, including British Female Inventor of 2005, and an OBE in 2008. Dr Richard Leary is an ex-Chief Inspector for West Midlands Police and a published researcher. Richard pioneered a new

approach to the use of forensic science in policing some years ago and was awarded an MBE in 2000.

Since then, Forensic Pathways has continued to develop and along with forensic services to the police, they also carry out due diligence and fraud investigation services for private sector companies, including a number of large corporates, as well as specialising in forensic ballistics identification technology. Well, there has to be a bit of Hollywood in there somewhere...

Ben told me how Forensic Pathways works collaboratively with police forces and businesses to develop innovative new software products, and explained, "Our products tend to be co-developed with clients, rather than off-the-shelf solutions." He talked me through a number of the firm's inventions including a pioneering data management system that improves the ability of a force to analyse forensic data, and a ballistics identification system that produces 3D visualisations of bullets and cartridge cases.

I asked Ben about their new home in Snowhill. "We were originally based in Tamworth, but in July 2014 we moved into the District. We wanted to be closer to our clients; we also wanted to get companies thinking about how they protect their data, and what services are available to them should they be a victim of theft or fraud. We felt that the

District was a part of the city that was vibrant and developing and it made sense for us to be based here."

I asked Ben what was next for Forensic Pathways, which currently consists of a team of 15. "We've just developed Forensic Image Analyser (FIA) that identifies the camera or mobile phone that photographed an image, allowing the police to connect an image to an individual. This is extremely useful when investigating crimes such as child exploitation and terrorism. However, the technology can also be used by banks, solicitors and insurance companies to identify whether an image has been fraudulently edited."

The team at Forensic Pathways are true experts and innovators in their field, and make a fascinating addition to our increasingly diverse District.



www.forensic-pathways.com

a day in the life of...

STEPHEN WOODS

HEAD CHEF AT PURE BAR AND KITCHEN



Liz Newton

“Each morning I drive to the train station and get into work for about 9.30am, then usually work straight through to 10.30pm or 11pm. I try to be here when it's busiest, so I tend to have Sundays off as well as a day off in the week.

We've been open for just over a year and there are more places opening nearby, which is great and keeps you on your toes. I'd worked with Andreas Antona [one of Pure's owners who also owns Simpsons and The Cross in Kenilworth] years ago but this type of venue is new for both of us.

We serve beer-friendly English food and try to incorporate beer into the dishes where we can, which is very different to classical training that uses wine, port and brandy.

In the morning we aim to get big jobs out of the way like fish and meat prep, as there can't be any cross-contamination. We make as much as we can here, including our dry roasted peanuts, which we blanch, create a spice mix, make a paste with water and mix it up, before dry roasting them. We make our pork scratchings in-house which involves salting the rind for a day, as well as making our own chips. The great thing is, if you're having trouble perfecting something you can call round other chefs asking 'So what do you do with your chips?' for example.

Service starts at 12pm and finishes at 2.30pm, before it begins again at 5pm. We still serve meat boards and sandwiches throughout the afternoon but it allows us to use the ovens for prep. If we did service all day there would be no downtime and we wouldn't be able to get replenished.

We change the mains and deserts seasonally, but can change the smaller plates more often and trial new dishes on the specials menu. It's great to have input into the menus and I'm always writing down recipe ideas and cooking them. Over the years you learn what flavour combinations work. We get our inspiration from all sorts of places, sometimes someone might say "Think you can do anything with this beer?" or a supplier might say "Have you tried this new ingredient?," or Andreas might have an idea influenced by his time working in Germany and Switzerland where there's a strong beer culture.

Sourcing suppliers is down to myself and we always go for fresh ingredients from local

cheese producers, charcuteries, artisan bread producers and fishmongers where we can. As an independent everything we do is about quality for the customer rather than the number of covers we can do.

A big part of the job is time management, both making sure things are prepared in advance and being able to cook in big numbers, with all the elements needing to come together at the right time.

Ironically, I don't feel like eating when I'm working. Some people joke they never see me eat but I eat at the wrong times - when I get home at night!

It's not just a job though, it's a passion. Maybe I took it too seriously when I was younger but I have a young family now and they're the most important thing. They put everything into perspective. You mellow as you get older - having that piece of chervil in the right place is not as important as 10 years ago!

We have an open kitchen here - talking and cooking at the same time is very difficult, I have a lot of respect for TV chefs! We're a team of six, with three to four chefs working at a time and we're always busy, which is a good thing. As a team it's hard to all be off together, Sunday night's about the only time it can happen.

It's a small community, most chefs around Birmingham know each other, or at least to say hello. We might come across as quiet, but we're quite social when we're with our own crew! ”

www.purebarandkitchen.com



INDUSTRY INSIGHT

Project and Cost Management



Liz Newton

I caught up with Nigel Mason, managing partner at property and construction practice Rider Levett Bucknall, to find out more about the firm's strategic and highly memorable move to Colmore Business District.

“Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) is part of a global alliance. In the UK we are an employee-owned business and have around 450 staff nationwide, 95 of which are based at our headquarters here in Birmingham. In mid 2013 we relocated to Colmore Row and settling into our new home was all plain sailing until the following spring.

I had arrived back from a very hectic but successful MIPIM conference one Saturday in March 2014. Within minutes of my landing, I received an urgent call to say there had been a water leak in the office and that I needed to get to the office. The leak turned

out to be 6,000 gallons of water pouring through the ceiling!

Thankfully we have outstanding crisis management procedures and I immediately kicked our business continuity plan into action. Our management team met and by 1pm on Monday we had secured temporary office accommodation at Two Snowhill, where we stayed for four months while repair work was carried out and insurance sorted.

That was nearly a year ago and we are well settled back at our Colmore Row home. The move to CBD was a strategic one and the positive benefits have been multifold; we have a stunning central venue where we can invite clients to workshops and offer them the use of our meeting space, our location has given us greater access to local networking opportunities and of course it is more sociable for our staff, many of whom have changed their commuting habits as we are so close to transport hubs. In addition we have a great bespoke-designed, flexible workspace that suits our business perfectly.

The sectors we work in are diverse and range from advanced manufacturing, commercial, education, health, energy, sport and leisure to retail and residential. Local projects include providing cost advice for office fit-outs on behalf of Barclays, KPMG and Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co, and we also form part of national and international projects - such as the £40m redevelopment of King's College Campus in London.

Our business growth is coming from both UK and overseas markets including central Asia, Russia and the Middle East. We are often

not allowed to talk publicly about our major projects in these areas but to give you a small taste, we are currently working on three large hotels in a major Middle Eastern city ranging from 3,500 to 10,000 bedrooms each. This is a massive logistical challenge in terms of creating a scheme that copes with the volumes of people leaving at the same time for prayer, for instance installing lots of lifts!

Providing health and safety services is also a big growth area for RLB, especially as legislation is constantly being introduced. This year sees yet more change and we are helping our clients through these latest amends.

As an industry we face several key challenges, including the management of inflation risk in the current rising market. This is all-important in our line of work as it can take several years for a project to move from the drawing board to completion.

Other challenges include a skills shortage, however we have introduced a number of initiatives to address this including an apprenticeship route for young people aged 18+ that involves a day release to college or university whilst working for us the rest of the week. The ethos of RLB means staff are not just a number and we have a culture of long-term relationships where employees move up through the company, rather than choose to leave to chase a quick salary increase.”

www.rlb.com



BIRMINGHAM'S BIG YEAR

2015 is a big year for Birmingham, so we asked Guy Webber from BWD retail property consultants to give us his take on retail developments in the city and beyond.

“The city will be undergoing a retail transformation during the course of the next six months.

The Mailbox will shortly be re-launched, anchored by the largest Harvey Nichols store in the UK outside central London, in a new exciting retail environment with a much anticipated tenant line up promising an exciting array of high end fashion retailers new to Birmingham, as well as a signature restaurant curated by Glynn Purnell.

Grand Central is due to open in September and will be welcomed by the business community, commuters and visitors to Birmingham. With a new John Lewis store of 250,000 sq ft which, like the Harvey Nichols, will be the largest store outside London, as well as other retailers opening including

The White Company, Cath Kidston, MAC, Fat Face, Joules, Klehls and Neals Yard, shoppers will also be looking forward to the launch. All of this will be complemented by a new range of food and beverage outlets including Carluccio's, Tapas Revolution, Giraffe and Pho.

As ever the highly successful Bullring continues to attract leading names with new stores for Michael Kors, Whistles, Ted Baker, Victoria Secrets and Cadenza, with agents reporting continued strong demand for very limited availability.

It will also be a welcome sight to see the hoarding and scaffolding come down on the refurbished Grand Hotel in September, to reveal a new façade and refurbished shops hopefully complementing the strong presence of independent retailers in the Colmore Row environs - most notably in Great Western Arcade where lettings have been achieved to Sushi Passion, Kalamata, Bread Collection, The Whisky Shop and Loki Wine.

Exciting new retail developments are not limited to the booming city centre - in Solihull Lendlease has made an application to extend the successful Touchwood Court and IM Properties has ambitious new proposals for Mell Square. In Longbridge St. Modwen continues to extend the town centre, which already boasts Sainsbury's, Premier Inn, Costa Coffee, Hungry Horse and others and, in October, will see the region's largest M&S store of over 150,000 sq ft open.

The retail and leisure sector is currently buoyant and Birmingham is under the retail spotlight benefitting from considerable inward investment. On a more cautious note however, occupiers are becoming more demanding of quality retail environments, ideally configured stores, complementary and strong tenant mixes and, if those expectations are not met, they simply won't come! ”

www.bwdretail.co.uk

Food Festival

FRIDAY 3rd AND SATURDAY 4th JULY
VICTORIA SQUARE, 11AM - 7PM

Our popular Colmore Food Festival is back this July for a fifth time. Organised by Colmore Business District, the two-day event showcases the District's superb food and drink offering.



An impressive, 25 top venues – including Festival-newcomers Nosh & Quaff, Bar Opus and The Edwardian Tearooms – will be serving taster options in Victoria Square on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th July, with all dishes priced at just £3.

Join us to sample an array of mouth-watering, internationally inspired cuisines as well as traditional British options, not forgetting artisan coffees, craft beers, fine wines, champagne and delicious cocktails.

There will also be live music and a programme of cookery and cocktail demonstrations.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Participating venues

- All Bar One
- Asha's
- Bar Opus
- The Bureau
- Chung Ying Central
- Costa Coffee
- The Edwardian Tearooms
- Edmunds Lounge Bar
- Ginger's Bar
- Hindleys Bakery
- Hotel du Vin
- The Jekyll & Hyde
- JoJolapa
- Metro Bar & Grill
- Nosh & Quaff
- The Old Contemptibles
- The Old Joint Stock
- Opus at Cornwall Street
- Pure Bar & Kitchen
- Purnell's & Purnell's Bistro
- Refreshments by Centenary Lounge
- Starbucks
- The Square Peg
- Urban Coffee Company
- The Wellington
- Yorks Bakery Café

Friday 3rd July	
Time	Session
11am	BAND - The Boombusters
12pm	JoJolapa kitchen demonstration
12.55pm	Official opening of event
1pm	Nosh & Quaff v. Opus kitchen demonstration
1.40pm	Colmore Chorus
2pm	Metro kitchen demo
2.20pm	Asha's kitchen demo
2.40pm	Opus cocktail demonstration
3pm	BAND - C-Jam
4pm	Hotel du Vin kitchen demonstration
5.20pm	Nosh & Quaff kitchen demonstration
6pm	BAND - Ricky Cool and the In Crowd

Saturday 4th July	
Time	Session
11am	BAND - Stockholm Stompers
12pm	Opus cocktail demonstration
1pm	Nosh & Quaff v. Opus kitchen demonstration
2pm	The Jekyll & Hyde gin demonstration
2.40pm	The Bureau kitchen demonstration
3pm	BAND - The Brothers Groove
4pm	Metro kitchen demonstration
4.30pm	Chung Ying Central kitchen demonstration
5.20pm	Nosh & Quaff kitchen demonstration
6pm	BAND - Rebecca Downes Band

Listed information is correct at time of going to print.





BIRMINGHAM JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

This summer live music will once again float down the streets as we've partnered with the citywide 31st Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival, which is taking place from 3rd to 12th July, to bring performances into the District, too.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com | www.birminghamjazzfestival.com

COLMORE FOOD FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES IN VICTORIA SQUARE

(see page 14)

The Broombusters Friday 3rd July, 11am

The Broombusters deliver a unique fusion of blues and reggae, rhythmic reggae basslines matched with gritty blues chords to create an original sound. The band takes influences from Bob Dylan, Elmore James, Jimi Hendrix and Muddy Waters, combined with reggae and good old-fashioned rock'n'roll.

C-Jam Friday 3rd July, 3pm

C-JAM's repertoire is large and varied, ranging from cool jazz sounds to stomping blues/R&B and soul favourites. The experienced line-up includes three ex-members of the Steve Gibbons Band while bassist Frank Walker's colourful music career includes working with Glenn Tipton in the Flying Hat Band and appearing with Alvin Stardust.

Ricky Cool & The In Crowd Friday 3rd July, 6pm

Ricky first hit the headlines with The Icebergs, only to re-form as The Realtos where he came to the attention of ex-Led Zeppelin star Robert Plant who recruited him into his Honeydrippers, before working with The Big Town Playboys and Hoola Boola Boys. Now, with his new line up, Ricky Cool & The In Crowd, Ricky presents a musical mix of original numbers, ska, bluebeat, rock 'n' roll and rhythm 'n' blues, plus entertainment in the inimitable Ricky Cool style.

Stockholm Stompers (Sweden) Saturday 4th July, 11am

The Stockholm Stompers produce music that is vivid and fresh, yet deeply rooted in the hot jazz of the 20s. The energy and stompy swing are the most recognisable features and the multi-instrumentalism of the musicians make variation possible. All instruments are used in a number of roles and every tune gets special treatment.

The Brothers Groove Saturday 4th July, 3pm

Brothers Groove have established themselves as one of the hottest and freshest new British Blues acts. Performing live on stage

is where Brothers Groove really excel, and there's something for everyone in one of their energetic shows – incredible tones, seriously catchy songs, Funky Blues, soulful vocals; they make each song an intimate and individual journey, taking audiences on an emotional roller coaster ride.

Rebecca Downes Band Saturday 4th July, 6pm

Rebecca Downes is fast establishing herself as one of the star attractions amongst the new vanguard of blues performers in the UK, with her unique and powerful voice, drawing influences ranging from Blues and Soul to Jazz and Rock.



OUTDOOR LUNCHTIME PERFORMANCES

Becky Brine

Tuesday 7th July, 12pm,
Church Street Square

The West Country's 'Jazzeoke Queen', Totnes-based Becky Brine will be remembered with affection by Birmingham patrons for her solo street entertainment. Always a little unconventional in her approach to marketing, Becky kick-started her jazz singing career by busking and still goes out to windy boulevards and sings to passers-by, finding it a great rehearsal space and a good excuse to dress-up in top hats and cocktail dresses!

Backyard Music Boys

Monday 6th July, 12pm,
Snow Hill Station Square

This four piece acoustic band captures the excitement and verve of 1920s/1930s hot jazz. Lining up with clarinet, trumpet, sousaphone and banjo, led by Matt Palmer, they are equally comfortable strolling or static onstage.

Sauce City Jazz

Wednesday 8th July, 12pm,
Snow Hill Station Square

Sauce City Jazz is a traditional 'Dixieland' jazz band that was formed in 1992 by a group of friends who got together to welcome a local soldier home from the Gulf War. A fun evening soon evolved into a six piece jazz band, now in its 24th year.

Chase Jazzmen

Thursday 9th July, 12pm,
Birmingham Cathedral grounds

This highly popular and talented band comprises leading musicians in their field each of whom has a long standing history of playing traditional and popular jazz, plus numbers from the swing era. With a high standard of musicianship and a touch of humour the band provides first class entertainment.

Jazz Salon Rouge Four

Friday 10th July, 12pm Church Street Square

Jazz Salon Rouge is a band of long-established jazzers who have been entertaining in the Midlands and beyond since 1974, playing musical treats from the New Orleans, classical and traditional repertoire and a selection of Dixieland and Ellington favourites.

OTHER PERFORMANCES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Date	Time	Performance	Location
Friday July 3rd	5pm	Art Themen Quartet	Chung Ying Central
Saturday 4th July	8pm	Saxitude [Luxembourg]	The Wellington
Tuesday 7th July	6pm	Alan Barnes Quartet	Hotel Du Vin
Friday 10th July	5pm	Sheila Waterfield	Chung Ying Central
Friday 10th July	9pm	Simon Spillett Quartet	The Bureau
Saturday 11th July	1pm	Dave Gelly Quartet	Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
Saturday 11th July	8pm	Les Zauto Stompers [France]	The Wellington
Sunday 12th July	2pm	Pepper & The Jellies [Italy]	Hotel Du Vin
Sunday 12th July	5.30pm	The Whiskey Brothers	Pure Bar & Kitchen

Listed information is correct at time of going to print.

Please visit www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com for the latest information and for details of back-up indoor venues for performances in case of bad weather. The decision to move to a back-up location will be made by Colmore Business District.





ROCK LOBSTER!

Joanne Davies

I met with celebrity chef and owner of the prestigious Lasan group, Aktar Islam, to talk about the opening of one of Birmingham's most anticipated restaurants this summer.

I have to ask: Nosh & Quaff! What?

It's fun though right? That's the point. Eat and drink enthusiastically with no pretence. The holding name was Lobster & Co. until the brand took shape. We've been working on this idea for a year and a half now. We wanted to make a statement.

You've got one of the most prominent buildings in the District to make that statement! What drew you here?

It's a naturally beautiful building. I'm a Birmingham lad; I'm passionate about world class dining in my hometown. I live just up the road from the District. I like a good night out and a dirty burger but I'm a snob about the ingredients. We're offering that dirty glam atmosphere and comfort food but it's ethical and everything is made in-house. People know they can trust us, relax and have fun but still get the same fine ingredients they would in a Michelin starred restaurant.

I heard you were going to be selling lobster for £20?

The quality is going to be second to none. There is something about the waters around Nova Scotia that produces the most amazing tasting lobster. My brother lives in Canada and we have friends there who put us in touch with the right people. After some serious taste-testing and being satisfied with their responsible and sustainable sourcing, we invested heavily in the supply end, confident that there'd be demand. This enabled us to achieve our mission to bring this luxurious food to the table at an accessible price, without compromising our ethics.

But they will be alive in tanks in the restaurant?

Yep. We have state of the art tanks with tech you won't find anywhere other than the biggest distributors in Canada. A considerable amount of time and money has gone in to R&D so the tank system looks stunning and has the highest welfare standards.

So we can expect a good looking venue?

Without a doubt. There will be no gimmicks. It's going to be informal but we've spent over a million pounds fitting it out to the standard you would expect from our brand. This extends from our live music area on the first floor right the way through to the basement.

Not just beer and lobster then?

No. That's an important part of what we do and we'll have a good selection of craft beers and short run local brews but a few classic cocktails too. You can also expect a fresh wine list that complements our food. We've found some really interesting New World wines that won't disappoint. We also have space for live music and some friends of ours will be performing throughout the week.

Does that mean you're going to be more of a late night venue?

We'll be open late and serving food until 11pm... but we'll still be open at 11am, offering an exquisite lunch menu (also available to take away), such as the £10 lobster roll.

www.noshandquaff.co.uk

**Nosh & Quaff
130 Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 3AP**

make your own

BUTTER CHICKEN CURRY

We persuaded chef Sunil Kumar at Asha's to share a recipe for you to recreate at home. This dish uses Kashmiri chilli which adds a rich red colour without the heat. Did you know the restaurant's owned by 81-year-old Bollywood star, Asha Bhosle, who incidentally holds the world record for the most studio recordings - 11,000 songs and counting!

Preparation method for chicken tikka

1. Marinate the chicken breast with salt, lemon juice, ginger and garlic paste and keep it aside for an hour.
2. In another bowl add yoghurt, Kashmiri chilli, garam masala, cumin, corn oil, salt and mix well.
3. Pour this yoghurt and spice blend over the marinated chicken breast. Mix well.
4. Refrigerate for 4 – 5 hours.
5. Skewer the marinated chicken breasts and cook in an oven at 160°C for 10 – 12 minutes.

Preparation method for makhni gravy

1. Add tomatoes, garlic, onion, cinnamon, cardamom, bayleaf, ginger and water to a pan and boil for 45 minutes on a medium heat.
2. Once the tomatoes turn soft and mushy, use a hand blender to blend them well.
3. To this gravy add Kashmiri chilli, sugar, butter and start cooking until fat rises to the top (approximately 30 minutes).
4. Add the chicken tikka to the above gravy and simmer on a medium heat for 5 – 8 minutes.
5. Add the fenugreek and stir well.
6. Serve with rice and naan, garnished with a swirl of cream and coriander sprig.



Asha's Contemporary Indian Bar & Restaurant is open seven days a week, including weekday lunchtimes.
www.ashasrestaurants.com/birmingham | @ashasbirmingham

INGREDIENTS

MAKHNI GRAVY

- Tomatoes 1kg
- Garlic peeled 20g
- Onions quarters 80g
- Cinnamon stick 15g
- Cardamom green 5g
- Bay leaf 5g
- Ginger peeled 20g
- Kashmiri chilli powder 25g
- Salt 10g
- Water 200ml
- Sugar 100g
- Unsalted butter 200g
- Dry fenugreek leaf powder 5g

CHICKEN TIKKA

- Chicken breast 1kg
- Lemon juice 20ml
- Salt 20g
- Ginger and garlic paste 50g
- Kashmiri chilli powder 40g
- Yoghurt 400g
- Garam masala 15g
- Cumin powder 10g
- Corn oil 25ml

GARNISH

- Fresh cream 10ml
- Coriander sprig 5g



DID YOU KNOW?

Mike Mounfield

Let's play a game. I'll name a sequence of uses a building has had in its relatively long life and you tell me which building it is. To make it easy it will be a building in Colmore Business District ("well, dub!" I hear you say).

HERE GOES: BANK, TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE, CARERS CENTRE, RESTAURANT.

OK, so strictly speaking it's not a restaurant just yet. For those of you who are still struggling, here's an intriguing clue: this building used to be on the corner of a T-junction but is now on the inside of a bend! I'm guessing that some people who thought they'd nailed this game are now having doubts, especially if they are under 50 or not born-and-bred Brummie.

To the left of the images (photo 1 and 2) is 130 Colmore Row, designed by the Leicester-based Goddard & Co. in 1903.

Elsewhere in this issue of Colmore Life (page 18) you'll see an interview with its new tenant, multi award-winning chef Aktar Islam, talking about his latest culinary venture. This Edwardian Baroque beauty started out life as a bank – something you probably won't find surprising when you get the chance to look around on your first visit to sample the beer-and-lobster at Aktar's new eatery. It was later bought by Birmingham City Council and is now owned by Chinese investors.



Photo 1



Photo 2 (Photo credit: John Ball)

So far so standard, especially for that length of Colmore Row, which boasts some of the best heritage architecture in the District, if not the city. But what about this business of starting out on a T-junction and now being on the inside of a bend? Was the building moved, brick by brick at some point in the 20th century? No, the building is exactly where Alliance Bank had it built back in Edward VII's day. The building didn't change; the building's environment changed.

Look again at the photograph (photo 1). And now looking at a photograph taken from the same physical location in 1963 (photo 2). 'Wow', I hear you mutter. Wow, indeed.

Colmore Row used to be much busier than it is now, as did Victoria Square which had a busy junction in the middle of it. Colmore Row had a T-junction with Waterloo Street, as you can see in the 1963 photograph. The block of buildings known as Galloway's Corner that you can see on the right-hand side of the 1963 photo were demolished to make way for a very large junction that was planned as part of the Manzoni-era changes to our city centre roads.

Worse than that, the new junction would have been designed to serve the dual carriageway that was planned to replace Colmore Row! The new Colmore Row was to have been 34m (112ft) wide and included a 4.3m (14ft) central reservations. It had already been done to Great Charles Street and Mr Manzoni, Birmingham City Council's Chief Engineer, was planning to do likewise to Colmore Row. Pretty much the whole south side of Colmore Row would have been demolished, along with pinching a big slice of the Cathedral Grounds.

In the end Galloway's Corner was lost, Victoria Square was pedestrianised and Colmore Row and Waterloo Street junction became a bend, rather than a T-junction.

Thankfully that plan fell by the wayside, buildings like 130 Colmore Row were reprieved (and listed), and much of what would have been destroyed was declared a conservation area.

We can now look forward to tucking into lobster and fine ales in the splendid settings of what was once the Alliance Bank. Good result.



REUBEN COLLEY FINE ART GALLERY

Mike Mounfield

I spent a fair chunk of the last decade studying art in one form or another so I was looking forward to visiting Reuben Colley Fine Art, the new gallery that opened recently in 85-89 Colmore Row.

Reuben Colley grew up in Hodge Hill and attended Handsworth Grammar School, where his talent was spotted by his art teacher, James Byrne. This led him to study at Bournville College and then Wolverhampton University. A decade under contract to major galleries - and the artistic and subject constraints that entailed - led Reuben to conclude that he needed to run his own gallery, a gallery where artists' needs would figure more prominently. Thus Reuben Colley Fine Art (RCFA) was born, initially in Moseley in 2010, before recently joining us here in CBD. I spoke to Timothy Ison and Michael Brew, who run the gallery day-to-day with artistic input from Reuben.

I mentioned that they use the terms 'sincere' and 'genuine' in quite specific ways on the RCFA website. They responded by stressing that these were values that underpinned the foundation of the original gallery in Moseley; the whole point was to provide a different, more artist-oriented experience for artists, as well as an open, honest forum for people who buy art, whether they are dipping their toes for the first time or seasoned collectors. RCFA is about bringing together artists who

want to produce their art and people who want to buy work that reflects deeply-held artistic beliefs and values.

The move to Colmore Row signals a widening of their curatorial ambit that will expose their roster of artists and their regular customers to work that has not been seen on their walls before. I eyed the signed Picasso lithograph on the wall behind Tim and nodded.

I asked how they choose which art to display. The answer focused around 'quality' and 'belief'. The concept of quality in art became deeply contested during the 20th century, but the idea of an artist's belief in their work is the same now as it ever was. RCFA wants to work with artists who produce work they believe in and back that belief up with consistent production values. So to some extent the art chooses itself; RCFA works with a small number of artists who produce consistent work of high 'quality'.

I asked them how they navigate the path between art-as-commodity and art-as-practice. To me this goes to the heart of their original intention, to improve the lot of an artist working with them by enabling an artist's output to develop, without compromising too much the necessary commercial aspects of running a gallery.

The response was simple, maintaining a dialogue with their artists so that each is aware of the other's needs and each is

able to acknowledge how they intend to develop; the artist in their creative output and the gallery in its curatorial and commercial character. This method has grown organically from the initial proposition that RCFA was Reuben Colley's gallery; an artist has attracted other artists for the very reasons he set up the gallery in the first place.

So what about the future for RCFA? Some of that is around offering a sourcing service; you can ask RCFA to find you an old master - or a Warhol screen print in the right colours - without paying London-sized commission fees.

The gallery wants to become part of the business community here in Colmore Business District, whether through displaying and selling good art or opening for private functions and evening meetings - free of charge - for up to 100 people. Now that's a good way to learn about art!

For more information call 0121 236 0920 or email enquiries@reubencolleyfineart.co.uk.

**Reuben Colley Fine Art
85-89 Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2BB**

www.reubencolleyfineart.co.uk



Photo credit: Mark Gemmell

MOSELEY ARTS MARKET

Liz Newton

Colmore Business District brings Moseley 'On the Move' Arts Market to Birmingham Cathedral grounds four times a year.

You'll find around 25 stalls with a range of original artworks, traditional and contemporary crafts, and handmade jewellery from professional and semi professional designer/makers who will be pleased to talk to you about their work or discuss bespoke commissions.

Everything sold is lovingly produced by the stallholder, you won't find any bought in or imported crafts here! Whether you want to treat yourself or buy a gift for someone else you'll find all sorts from garden pieces, pottery, notebooks, humorous paintings, handmade bags to leather glasses cases and railcard holders.

Along with buying a few goodies during my last visit to the market in March, I had a wonderful time chatting to John Cammish about the time and discipline needed to produce pottery pieces, while Adrian Higgins of Artistic Interiors explained how he uses modern software to combine old photographs and images to create quirky works of art.

Many traders tell of almost being reclusive, spending the week producing their art, then facing the big city to come and sell their wares, which is a big culture shock for those who live the good life in rural parts of the country.

I also met Ben Esthop who has developed a unique style of woodworking that produces stunning pieces that are infilled with resin. While illustrator Jan Bowman is fascinated with people and places, which comes across in all her work, and Mark Gemmell is as much a character as the animals he photographs, especially when you find out he donned a wetsuit and lay in a wet field to slowly gain the confidence of a herd of cows in order to get 'the shot'!

At the September market, you'll also be able to catch Craftspace's annual In:Site event, which is taking place in the Cathedral grounds, from 11am to 6pm on 7th to 11th September 2015. It's a free chance to see and participate in making contemporary crafts. For more details see www.craftspace.co.uk.

Moseley 'On the Move' Arts Market will next be in Birmingham Cathedral grounds:
Friday 11th September 9am - 5.30pm
Friday 11th December 9am - 5.30pm
Twitter @MoseleyArtsMkt



LOVEBRUM

We're increasingly hearing about LoveBrum, so we asked one of the founders, PJ Ellis, to explain what it's all about.

"LoveBrum is a charity. But not any normal charity. It is also a movement for a better Birmingham.

All across our city, there are great people and great organisations doing their bit to make Birmingham even better. Many of these people and their projects need money to help make things happen, but are often not part of a large, established organisations with ready access to willing supporters and donors.

LoveBrum exists to bridge that gap.

LoveBrum will find these hidden-gem-projects, and then ask its members to choose which of these should be awarded access to dedicated funds. The projects will deliver clear, real, tangible outcomes that make this city that little bit better."

There are a number of ways to get involved and PJ believes it will be together that we will really make a difference.

www.lovebrum.org.uk



CONVENIENCE IN THE DISTRICT

Liz Newton

I'm sure we'd all like more time, unfortunately I don't have a magic wand so instead I've rounded up a few things that may make life that little bit easier.

Lisa Shepherd's Express Colour Bar offers a quick fix in between colour appointments with a blast dry area for you to dry your own hair. It's a 'we dye, you dry' concept that comes with a promise that if the appointment isn't done within the hour, you will have your money back!
www.lisasherpherd.co.uk

With summer fast approaching you may need your travel jabs but loathe battling with the doctor's receptionist or the thought of rushing home in time for your appointment. CityDoc's private clinic on Edmund Street has a nurse prescriber who offers immunisations, blood tests and sexual health testing.
www.citydoc.org.uk

Don't forget, if your GP's signed up to the Electronic Prescription Service, you can also choose to collect your medication from a pharmacy here in the city centre.

Short on time for lunch? Asha's famous 'curry in a hurry' will arrive at your table within 10 minutes of ordering, and chances are you'll want to upgrade it to their Executive Lunch that includes starter, choice of mains, accompaniments and drink all for £15.95. www.asharestaurants.com

Run out of milk? No problem, just call Bon Bon on 0121 236 2976 and, as they're just based in New Market Street, they can drop it off in no time. They can supply businesses with everything from newspapers, milk delivery, bread, tea & coffee, orange juice, office fruit deliveries or any type of groceries, office buffets, wine, champagne, beer, photocopier paper and even dishwasher tablets.
www.bonbondelivery.co.uk

You may go to Philipotts to grab a sandwich, but did you realise the firm's now owned by

Patisserie Valerie and in-store you can order all sorts of handmade cakes – perfect for a work celebration? Drop by to browse through their folder of options, and then pop back in to collect the finished piece or arrange to have it delivered free if you spend over £25.
www.philpotts.co.uk

Thanks to Deliveroo you can now get amazing food from many city centre restaurants – including Asha's, JoJolapa and Chung Ying Central - delivered to your office in an average of just 32 minutes. And if you live somewhere like the Jewellery Quarter, Mailbox or Digbeth it's positively dangerous as tasty food's just a few clicks away, especially when you can save your card and address details to shave off those vital few seconds! Delivery's £2.50 for orders over £15. www.deliveroo.co.uk

Talking of deliveries, Duddle at One Snowhill allows you to pop in to quickly collect, send and return parcels. Being located near Snow Hill train station and open seven days a week until late, missed parcels or 'while you were out' cards will be a thing of the past. www.duddle.it

We all know what a hassle it can be taking your car in for an MOT, service or new tyre, so Bull Ring Autocentre (based between the Bullring and coach station) is offering a drop-off and collect service. Leave your car at their state of the art garage before 8.30am and they'll drop you to Colmore Row before 9am. After your hard day in the office, they'll collect you at 5.15pm, meaning you don't have to worry about parking, taxis, trains, or taking time off. For further details call manager Andy on 0121 227 4333. www.bullringautocentre.co.uk

And finally, Uber, the ride-booking app, is now live in Birmingham, allowing you to order a private hire vehicle via smartphone and get exact details of how long you'll have to wait and expected journey costs. The service matches up users with nearby drivers and is cashless, with fares charged directly to your bank card.
www.uber.com/cities/birmingham



DAY

Dress: James Lakeland
Jacket: Linea
Bag: Radley
Shoes: Model's own

FROM DAY TO NIGHT

Melanie Williams is a partner at law firm DWF based at One Snowhill and also sits on the board of Colmore Business District.

With summer upon us, we asked Parlour Hair and House of Fraser to create a look for Mel that would transform from a day in the office to a night out in the District.



Hair

Mel usually leaves her hair to dry naturally so Lily, from Parlour Hair on Paradise Street, showed her how to work with her natural curls to give them more definition. The key with curly hair is to disturb it as little as possible, so Lily combed it through while still wet and applied heat protection serum, before drying it with a diffuser and finally using a serum to gently tease out the curls.



Outfit

We set Kaz, a personal shopper at House of Fraser, the challenge of finding something that could be dressed up or down with accessories. Mel opted for the wildcard option, a versatile white James Lakeland dress with laser cut detail, perfect for the warmer months. For a daytime look Kaz teamed the dress with a black jacket and soft yellow bag, while a matching white trench jacket, orange shoes and clutch bag takes the outfit through to night.



Make-up

Taj from Bobbi Brown at House of Fraser then created a fresh makeup look, perfect for Mel's fair colouring that would work for day and night. She talked Mel through each step including skin care, creating an even foundation base and applying gel eyeliner with a brush.

www.houseoffraser.co.uk
www.parlourhair.co.uk



NIGHT

Dress: James Lakeland
Jacket: James Lakeland
Bag: Linea
Shoes: Office

Today's been really good fun and I can't believe how different I look, especially my eyes. The dress is really not something I would have chosen for myself but I love it!



AFTER HOURS

Jonathan Bryce

In our monthly email, Bitesize, we include the latest update on the Midland Metro Project from Lisa Zdravkovic, Public Liaison Manager for Balfour Beatty. The Midland Metro is the largest transport infrastructure project in Birmingham's recent history and Lisa is responsible for keeping the city up to date with the latest developments. But when she's not at work, it's developments of a different kind that keep Lisa busy.

I was recently sat in Yorks Bakery Café on Newhall Street, writing articles for Colmore Life and suffering writer's block. I took a moment to look at the iconographic display of photos on the wall next to me. The photographer was a name I knew well! I asked Lisa to meet me and tell me how a set of her photographs had appeared on the walls of one of the District's independent coffee shops.

"I've always been creative, but as I got into full time work, I ended up neglecting my artistic interests. However a few years ago I really started to miss being creative."

It was the rise of the DSLR camera that pointed Lisa back towards the arts, through photography. Her initial view of digital photography wasn't very complimentary, "I thought, this isn't real photography; there's no element of surprise, no technique to developing your photos." Nonetheless, Lisa acquired a camera and started looking for a place to learn. She started on a 10-week course for beginners, run by Fotofilia. She then discovered Some Cities, a Community Interest Company that uses photography to give a voice to people and communities. They offer a range of courses on photography to suit all levels.

"Some Cities have been great tutors for me," Lisa explained. "They have taught me how to use a 35mm camera, and they are really passionate about photography. They infuse their students with that passion. I've also been fortunate enough to experience a range of guests lecturers, who all have something different to share."

Lisa has had her work exhibited in the new Library of Birmingham and in Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG). Lisa told me how, as a regular visitor to BMAG, she was proud to have her work exhibited in a space where she normally enjoys art and was thrilled that a piece of art she had done purely for her own pleasure had connected to someone who went on to buy the photo.

Lisa's discovery of photographic methods is now travelling backwards, which brings us to the photos displayed on the wall in Yorks.

"These photos are developed using a technique called Cyanotype. It's a process that you can do at home. I love the results you can get with it; I also love the fact that it was introduced to photography by Anna Atkins, who many view as the first female photographer." After winning a competition, Lisa now has Cyanotype work displayed in The Coffin Works in the Jewellery Quarter too.

I asked Lisa if her opinion on DSLR photography had changed? She told me that it had. "Sometimes you have to eat your words! There's more to DSLR than point and click; it's the modern kind of photography." So what's next for her photography?

"I've recently done a course learning about the Wet Plate Collodion process, a technique that uses a glass plate, and I'd like to develop my knowledge of this further. I'd also like to start using the Cyanotype process on architectural photos, following a successful experiment with this. After watching Finding Vivian Mair, who used a Rolleiflex camera, I've bought a Rolleiflex and plan to learn more about this camera with my tutors. I'd also like to start pencil drawing again, something I really enjoyed when I was studying."

To keep up to date with the Metro Project and CBD news, email info@colmorebusinessdistrict.com to subscribe to our monthly Bitesize email. To find out more about Some Cities visit www.some-cities.org.uk.



BIRMINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

Mike Mounfield

In 1918, the Great War dragged to an exhausted close and Western Europe was beset by the food shortages and disease that form war's inevitable companions. You would think, in that context, that minds would be focused on survival, the basics, the essentials.

In Birmingham at that time a group of people believed that those essentials included: "bring[ing] public interest to bear upon all proposals put forward by public bodies and private owners for building, upon the laying out of open spaces and parks, and generally upon all matters concerned with the outward amenities of the city." Those concerned citizens set up Birmingham Civic Society to serve those ends, and more besides. Birmingham Civic Society is perhaps best known for being the arbiter and provider of blue plaques, but their work goes far beyond that. They used initial donations back in the early 20th century to create parks in Northfield, Selly Oak, Kings Norton and other parts of industrial Birmingham that begged greenery.

The Society got involved in designing street furniture and telephone boxes, keeping the Repertory Theatre open (the Society is still a trustee) and keeping the Burne-Jones windows in Birmingham Cathedral safe from enemy bombers in World War II. The decades that followed saw less intense activity, though the Society continued to campaign for better planning and facilities for residents, as well as securing the reinstatement of the pools around Chamberlain Fountain in Victoria Square.

The Society was rejuvenated in the 1990s, publishing the Heritage Buildings Guide and developing a new perspective on the Society's role, recognising that the social as well as physical environment is important. In 2004 the Society established programmes in planning, heritage and citizenship, engaging all Birmingham's communities with an active events calendar and a tree-planting programme.

If you think you'd like to get involved in the very fabric of civic life in Birmingham, go to www.birminghamcivicsociety.org.uk.

WIN!



Since its opening in February, Everyman Cinema has become one of the Mailbox's most-loved venues. In addition to its signature sofa seating, Everyman Mailbox boasts a luxurious bar and lounge area, and the option to have your food delivered directly to your cinema seat.

They are giving one of our readers the chance to win a pair of tickets. To enter, simply answer the following question:

How many years has Colmore Food Festival been running?

Please email your answer to jonathan-b@colmorebusinessdistrict.com by 14th August 2015 to be in with a chance of winning.

Terms and conditions

The winner of the competition will be entitled to two tickets for a film at Everyman Mailbox. The prize is non-transferable and no cash alternative is offered. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries. The winner will be announced in the next issue of Colmore Life.

SPRING EDITION'S COMPETITION WINNER



In our last edition we asked how many years had Opus at Cornwall Street been running. The answer was 10 years this summer. The lucky winner of two Independent Birmingham cards was Suzanne Wright-Smith from Associate II.



More than just business

COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT

MORE...

RESTAURANTS

BARS

CAFÉS

CULTURE

Restaurants

Asha's Restaurant

12-22 Newhall Street, B3 3LX
0121 200 2767
ashasrestaurants.com

Chung Ying Central

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

JoJolapa Bar & Restaurant

55-59 Newhall Street, B3 3RB
0121 212 2511
jojolapa.co.uk

Nosh & Quaff

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

Metro Bar & Grill

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

Opus at Cornwall Street

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

Primitivo

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

Purnell's

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

Purnell's Bistro

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

The Bistro at Hotel du Vin

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

Pubs and bars

All Bar One

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

Aura Bar

61 Newhall Street, B3 3RB
0121 233 3150
aurabar.co.uk

Bar Opus

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

The Bubble Lounge at Hotel du Vin

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

The Bureau

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

Bushwackers

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

Costes Wine & Cocktail Bar

58 Newhall Street, B3 3RJ
0121 236 6072
cafecostes.co.uk

Edmunds Lounge Bar

106-110 Edmund Street, B3 3ES
0121 200 2423
edmundsbar.co.uk

Ginger's Bar

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

The Jekyll & Hyde

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

The Old Contemptibles

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

The Old Joint Stock

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

The Old Royal

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

Pub du Vin at Hotel du Vin

25 Church Street, B3 2NR
0121 236 0899
hotelduvin.com

Pure Bar & Kitchen

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

The Square Peg

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

The Wellington

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

Utopia the Country Bar

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

Cafés

Caffè Nero

42-47 Waterloo Street, B2 5QB
0121 233 9800
caffenero.com

Costa Coffee

9 Colmore Row, B3 2BJ
0121 233 3041
costa.co.uk

Diplomats Baristas

Two Snowhill, B4 6GA
0121 227 7041

Home Is Where...

24-26 Church Street, B3 2NP
0121 236 2339
homecafedeli.com

Starbucks

125 Colmore Row, B3 2BS
0121 236 2660
starbucks.co.uk

The Edwardian Tearooms

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery,
Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH
0121 348 8082 | bmag.org.uk

Urban Coffee Company

30 Church Street, B3 2NP
0121 236 0207
urbancoffee.co.uk

Yorks Bakery Café

1-3 Newhall Street, B3 3NH
0121 236 8090
yorksbakerycafe.co.uk

Services

Doddle

Unit 2, One Snowhill, B4 6GA
doddle.it

Kall Kwik

38 Waterloo Street, B2 5PP
0121 212 0500
kallkwik.co.uk

Pinfolds Dry Cleaners

Fountain Court, Steelhouse Lane, B4 6DR
0121 236 5733
pinfolddrycleaners.co.uk

Traifinders

22-24 The Priory Queensway, B4 6BS
0121 236 1234
traifinders.com



Health and Beauty

Benjamin Ryan Hair & Beauty

117 Edmund Street, B3 2HJ
0121 236 6600
benjaminryanhair.co.uk

Courtier Cuts

Fountain Court, Steelhouse Lane, B4 6DR
0121 233 1506

The Dentist in Town

10 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG
0121 236 8681
birmingham-cosmetic-dentist.co.uk

Health du Vin at Hotel du Vin

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

Hub Hair

35 Livery Street, B3 2PB
0121 236 7222

Lemuria Retreat

11 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG
0121 233 0556
lumuriaretreat.co.uk

Lisa Shepherd Hair Salon

5-7 Temple Row West, B2 5NY
0121 236 6981
lisashepherd.co.uk

Nails World

5 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG
0121 236 4334

Parlour Hair

38a Paradise Street, B1 2AJ
0121 643 9049
parlourhair.co.uk

Salts Health Care

2 Colmore Square, The Priory Queensway,
B4 6BS
0800 626 388
salts.co.uk

Will Murphy Dentistry

51 Newhall Street, B3 3QR
0121 236 7630
willmurphydentistry.co.uk

Retail

Clements and Church

22 Church Street, B3 2NP
0121 233 9994
clementsandchurch.co.uk

Designer Leathers

8 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG
0121 233 2489

Hobgoblin Music Shop

8 The Priory Queensway, B4 6BS
0121 212 9010
hobgoblin.com

Livsstil the Cookshop

4 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG
0121 236 4293
livsstil.co.uk

Snow and Rock

14 The Priory Queensway, B4 6BS
0121 236 8280
snowandrock.com

Food on the go

Bon Bon Newsagents

3 New Market Street, B3 2NH
0121 236 2976
bonbondelivery.co.uk

Habeneros

Temple Row, B2 5LS
07501 045 842
habvan.com

Hindleys Bakery

Fountain Court, 128 Steelhouse Lane, B4 6DR
0121 236 2886
hindleys-bakers.co.uk

Little Waitrose

1 Colmore Row, B3 2BJ
0800 188 884
waitrose.com

Mr Ben's Potatoes

Newhall Street, B3 3NY

Philpotts

34 Bennetts Hill, B2 5SN
0121 233 3262
philpotts.co.uk

Philpotts

36 Colmore Circus Queenway, B4 6BN
0121 212 2757
philpotts.co.uk

Refreshments at Centenary Lounge

Snow Hill Station, Colmore Row, B3 2BJ
0121 633 4274
centenarylounge.com

Rustic Sandwich Shop

35 Livery Street, B3 2PB
0121 233 4444

Subway

York House, 64 Newhall Street, B3 3RJ
0121 212 9684
subway.co.uk

Thoroughbread

Snow Hill Station, 7 Colmore Row, B3 2QD
0121 233 0184

Tucker's Sandwich Bar

9 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG
0121 236 8268



Places to visit

Birmingham Cathedral (St Philip's)

Colmore Row, B3 2QB
0121 262 1840
birminghamcathedral.com

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH
0121 348 8007
bmag.org.uk

The Birmingham & Midland Institute

9 Margaret Street, B3 3BS
0121 236 3591
bmi.org.uk

The Old Joint Stock Theatre

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

Reuben Colley Fine Art

85-89 Colmore Row, B3 2BB
0121 236 0920
reubencolleyfineart.co.uk

Whitewall Galleries

9 Colmore Row, B3 2QD
0121 200 3328
whitewallgalleries.com

Hotels

Holiday Inn Express - Snow Hill

1 Snowhill Plaza, St Chads Queensway,
B4 6HY
0121 647 3999
hiebinghamham.co.uk

Hotel du Vin

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

Thistle - Birmingham City

St Chads Queensway, B4 6HY
0121 606 4500
thistle.co.uk



Hidden Gems

Fancy a game of chess?

Various dates
Colmore Square

CBD's pocket chess park is available for people to use during the summer months. Bring your own pieces, or ask at reception at One Colmore Square to borrow a set, and enjoy an open-air game.



fizzPOP

Wednesday evenings
Digbeth
www.fizzpop.org.uk

Want to learn to solder, program, operate a laser cutter, use tools, design or make things?

Birmingham's maker space has been described as the garden shed workshop of your dreams, packed full of the kind of tools you don't have room for at home (or only need for that one project!).

Drop in on Wednesday evenings, or join for 24/7 access.

Riedel Wine Dinner

3rd July | Hotel du Vin | www.hotelduvin.com/birmingham

Experience a gourmet meal accompanied by a fantastic wine tasting, using specialist glassware from Riedel Glass. Your glass will then become a wonderful keepsake for you to enjoy at home.

Finley Quaye

Saturday 18th July
The Oobleck, The Custard Factory
www.theoobleck.co.uk

You remember Finley Quaye? Provider of some classic chill out summer tracks in the late 90s? You can catch those classics, and some of his more recent work at the Oobleck.

Big Brum Buz tours

Various dates
Colmore Row / Waterloo Street
www.birmingham-tours.co.uk

Take advantage of summer and discover your city like never before. Big Brum Buz tours cover a range of routes around the city and are available throughout the summer

Burt Bacharach

1st July
Symphony Hall
www.thsh.co.uk

See the musical legend Burt Bacharach live in concert, backed by a full orchestra. Expect to hear his classic compositions such as "I Say a Little Prayer" and "The Look of Love" and many more at this special event.

The Bodyguard - The musical



5th - 29th August
Birmingham Hippodrome
www.birminghamhippodrome.com

See this classic film reworked into an award winning musical starring the X Factor's Alexandra Burke.

Featuring the smash hit "I Will Always Love You", this is one not to be missed!

Birmingham Food Tours

Various dates
Harborne Food School
www.harbornefoodschoo.co.uk/
birmingham-food-tours

Want to know more about the inspiring food on offer in Birmingham? Harborne Food School's food-filled walking tours are ideal for exploring the city's diverse cuisine.

Your team



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