

COLMORE LITE

DIGITAL MAGAZINE



In this issue:

**The new normal: Business
leaders debate the future**





June 2020

A message from Colmore Business District

As we prepare to enter into the summer months, many businesses within the District are starting to emerge from lockdown.

With the Prime Minister setting out a timeline for the reopening of our high streets, businesses are now looking at how they too can welcome back employees in a safe and secure manner.

Throughout the lockdown, Colmore BID has been working tirelessly with its partners to ensure the safe return of the city's workforce. For many, the first question asked has been "How do I travel to work?".

This has been high up on our agenda as we input into the city's emergency transport plan, looking at ways in which to enable social distancing on our streets. This itself feeds into our own recovery plan where we layout pathways and processes to support the business community out of the lockdown phase.

While the city's streets have been quiet, construction work has now begun on the Snow Hill Public Realm project. Spearheaded by ourselves and Birmingham City Council, the programme includes a number of projects that will enhance the public realm and prioritise pedestrian movement, reallocate unused on-street parking and encourage on-street activities within Colmore Business District. These are just some of the many projects that have been keeping us busy in our home offices and at kitchen tables.

Like many people I speak to, I cannot wait to get back into the city centre. While there is an air of uncertainty for many, Colmore BID will, as always, be on-hand to support businesses as we create the 'new normal' within the District.

Michele Wilby,
Chief Executive Officer,
Colmore BID



**CLICK HERE FOR THE COLMORE BID
CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS SUPPORT HUB**

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DID YOU KNOW? If planning permission is granted, Octagon at the Paradise development will provide a new first for Birmingham: the world's tallest (510ft) pure octagonal residential building.

BUSINESS LEADERS SHARE THOUGHTS ON WHAT CITY COULD LOOK LIKE AFTER LOCKDOWN

As part of a new series of events, Colmore BID hosted its first Recovery Plan debate in May, bringing together representatives from across the city's business community. A hot topic of discussion was what the 'new normal' will be in the city post lockdown, the overall consensus of which was that the typical working day has been changed for ever.

One positive to come from the lockdown is how people have come together, said Nicola Fleet-Milne, chair of Colmore BID and CEO of FleetMilne property. For many businesses, communication has never been stronger and more effective despite people not sitting in the same room. Because of this, more businesses are considering work-from-home policies when offices re-open.

With potentially more people working from home long-term, retailers may have to look at alternative ways of engaging with consumers, which will require some creative thinking, commented panellist Sam Watson, chair of Retail BID and general manager of Selfridges.

Consumers crave experiences, be it on the high street or in a theatre. Lara Ratnaraja, a freelance creative consultant



Shutterstock

The 'new normal' is hot topic at BID debate

cited a recent survey where 75 per cent of respondents missed the shared experience of being at a live event. However, people are not purchasing tickets due to concerns related to health and safety, which has a significant impact on our cultural sector.

Mark Orton, partner at KPMG stated that the West Midlands is likely to be one of the hardest hit regions economically and while many have benefited from government support over recent weeks, these schemes cannot

mask the underlying problem forever.

As we become a more globalised entity, businesses turn to overseas suppliers to secure cheaper goods, said Steve Branham from Brewin Dolphin. This reliance has impacted supply chains across sectors and highlighted a need for reliability and visibility over them.

As we enter the 'new normal' schemes such as HS2 and the Commonwealth Games will be key to recovery, creating thousands of jobs across the region, Cllr Ian Ward, leader of Birmingham City Council commented. Projects such as these can provide hope for the city as we look towards the future and their completion.

If you missed the live debate, you can watch it by visiting www.youtube.com/user/colmorebid

DID YOU KNOW? Birmingham Museums is asking people to share photos and audio of their lives during lockdown so these can be shared with future generations. [Click here for info.](#)



Here for the District during lockdown

Pictured: The BID security team checking doors are locked during closures

As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to impact the way all of us live our lives, the story is often one of a community divided; friends and families restricted on who they can see and when, businesses closed and leisure facilities unavailable.

Despite all of this, Colmore BID's Street Operations Team have been making stronger community ties, ready to continue to support businesses as lockdown restrictions ease.

During the early days of the pandemic, the government announced its Everyone In campaign; a combination of funding and temporary policy changes to ensure that all rough sleepers were able to access overnight accommodation. The Street Operations team has been working with Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police and Outreach Services to ensure that almost all of those that sleep rough in the city centre have been provided with

accommodation. The small number that have refused this accommodation continue to receive outreach services from our partners.

The team have also worked closely with the Birmingham Voluntary Services Council and Trident Reach to ensure that rough sleepers are able to access food during the pandemic.

The pandemic has also forced the team to be innovative in how they work, helping to build new partnerships which we look forward to nurturing in the coming months.

The team have continued to build on their already strong partnerships within the city. They have carried out more regular joint patrols with West Midlands Police and Birmingham City Council, and have teamed up more regularly with BID security teams across

the city centre to increase coverage during the lockdown. We have also increased our sharing of good practice across teams in the city centre, helping to bring the on-street presence in the city even closer together.

And we have continued to build our relationships with businesses in the District as well. Whilst people have been unable to attend their buildings, our team have been conducting daily checks to ensure that buildings remain safe and secure. The team have been involved in spotting damage to businesses and foiling attempted robberies by those that would take advantage of the current climate.

John-Jo Von Johnson, Street Operations Manager, said: "The last few weeks have been challenging for the city centre. It has been good to be able to provide some stability in these uncertain times. We have enjoyed getting to work more closely with our current partners and forging new partnerships that will benefit the District going forwards."

Mike Best, Senior Director at Turley and Chair of the Safe and Sound Working Group added: "The Street Operations team have done a fantastic job keeping the District safe and providing consistency to local businesses. We're all looking forward to getting back to the District as soon as it is practical and safe to do so, but it is reassuring for businesses to know that they are in safe hands whilst they are away."

DID YOU KNOW? Design studio nettl is offering 15% off to companies in the Business District that order any of their social distancing products. Visit www.nettl.com/uk/covid-19-essentials/

Loki Wine: We had to rapidly innovate

FOUNDER PHIL INNES SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT A CHANGING HOSPITALITY SECTOR

The lockdown since the coronavirus crisis has been hard for a number of businesses, however the leisure and hospitality business has been particularly hard hit. The industry runs on high staff numbers and low overall margins, and at the point of lockdown the picture was looking grim.

However, like with all crisis situations it has allowed us and other businesses to rapidly innovate and change their business. We were fortunate that the revamp of our website had already got underway as a precaution when seeing what was happening in Asia, so we managed to relaunch our website to focus on online sales 24 hours after full lockdown. We focused on the quickly attainable which was delivering wine on same day delivery locally, something we are

continuing to do. Then the next stage was to use technology to bring customers a taste of Loki in their homes. Our online tastings have now grown to a sold out 240 tickets for a recent tasting.

Now every Saturday at 5pm we host cheese and wine tastings via Zoom and have become an essential weekend activity for many people not just in Birmingham, but nation-wide, having even shipped wine for the tastings internationally to Italy, Germany, Holland and Portugal.

It looks like we won't be able to socialise in the same way for a while now, the "new normal" is going to continue to put pressure on the hospitality industry, with planned social distancing likely to put even greater pressure on businesses. With more people



working from home, and this trend set to continue there will be pressure on landlords to help tenants more, this is true in the leisure and hospitality industry which generally are located in prime ground-floor units.

I hope at some point soon to safely get back to being able to feel the buzz of a vibrant bar or restaurant, because without this social interaction I feel we are missing one of the fundamental things that makes life interesting, and also the networking that is such an important aspect to doing business.

Look out for Loki Wine tasting sessions at lokiwine.co.uk

Colmore Food Festival postponed for 2020

In light of the current COVID-19 social distancing rules, this year's Colmore Food Festival has been postponed.

The Festival was set to take place Friday, July 3rd, and Saturday July 4th in Centenary Square, however after careful consideration by organisers Colmore BID, it was deemed best to postpone the event for 2020 rather than reschedule for later in the year. Michele Wilby, CEO of Colmore



BID, said "Since the government's ban on mass gatherings back in March, we have been monitoring the situation with regard to the current COVID-19 pandemic and what action to take. While our initial instinct was to postpone until later in the year, we felt the best course of action was in fact to cancel this year's event. The safety and well-being of both visitors and exhibitors is at the heart of our decision."

SIFA hits £50,000 'survival' funding target

BRUMMIE CAMP OUT A HUGE SUCCESS

Colmore BID's charity partner SIFA Fireside has surpassed its fundraising milestone of £50,000 following its flagship event, the Big Brummie Camp Out.

SIFA Fireside, which supports vulnerable adults in the city launched its latest campaign, #SIFASurvives, in a bid to help secure its future after being forced to close its doors due to the Government guidelines that were put in place following COVID-19.

Held on the Early May Bank Holiday (May 8), the Big Brummie Camp Out brought groups of friends and families across the city together, who enjoyed a 'camp out' in their homes, whilst helping to raise vital funds for SIFA Fireside. Backed by the likes of Joe Lycett, Jess Philips MP and SIFA patron, Alex Claridge (The Wilderness), the event broke through SIFA's £50,000 target, raising a total of £54,188.

A total of 519 groups of



families and friends signed up to campout, which alone saw an incredible £9,562 raised for SIFA Fireside. 'Campers' that took part were asked to give a minimum £5 donation towards SIFA, which gave them access to an exclusive activity pack that was filled with recipes from Michelin-starred chef Atkar

Islam and Alex Claridge, plus a bread-making recipe from Sarehole Mill. A host of other activities also filled the evening including a quiz, yoga sessions and guide to moon phases from Thinktank Birmingham.

Alongside the donations from 'campers' SIFA Fireside also received £33K from the Heart of England Community Foundation's Coronavirus Resilience Fund, £5K from Severn Trent, £3K from PwC UK, £100 from local schools

and £3,000 from local non-campers. A further £562 was raised on the night of the event through Facebook.

The Digbeth-based charity works to provide long-term solutions to homelessness. This starts with meeting basic needs ranging from health care to hot meals, drinks, clothing, showers and laundry, with the aim of getting people off the streets and back onto their feet, giving them a new chance to work towards a brighter future.

Chief executive of SIFA Fireside, Carly Jones, said: "We are so grateful for the amount of support we have received towards, not only from those who took part in the Big Brummie Camp Out, but businesses that are also adapting to the ever-changing circumstances that we find ourselves in."

To find out how you can support #SIFASurvives and donate to the appeal, visit bit.ly/BigBrummieCampOut.

To help SIFA Fireside when its drop-in centre reopens, you can help by donating...

**PPE masks and visors
Plastic gloves and aprons
Anti-bacterial spray/gel**

Donations can be taken to SIFA Fireside, Monday-Friday 9.30-3pm.



Spread the Love with city sketch postcards

CATHEDRAL AND TOWN HALL FEATURE IN SERIES

A series of watercolours depicting famous Birmingham landmarks, including iconic Business District buildings, is being sold as a set of postcards in aid of LoveBrum's current #OneBrum campaign.

Created by Birmingham artist and businessman Stacey Barnfield (producer of Colmore Lite magazine), sales of the postcards will help LoveBrum fund city-based charities directly supporting those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The watercolours depict five famous Brummie landmarks – Town Hall Birmingham, Sarehole

Mill, the Custard Factory, Birmingham Cathedral and Snobs nightclub.

Paul Mitchell, executive director at LoveBrum, said: "Our OneBrum campaign has already raised over £13,000 to help those in the city most affected by COVID-19. The postcards will not only help boost funds, but a great way of keeping in touch with loved ones in lockdown."

The postcards cost £5 per set (including delivery) and can be bought through the LoveBrum website at: <https://lovebrum.org.uk/shop/>

HISTORIC BMI LAUNCHES £10,000 APPEAL

Like many venues across the country the Birmingham & Midland Institute – home to the Birmingham Library and BMI Cafe – is feeling the pinch from reduced footfall due to coronavirus and has

launched a Go Fund Me campaign to attempt to raise £10,000.

Visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/birmingham-amp-midland-institute-coronavirus-appeal>

RAIL USERS URGED TO USE TRAINS FOR ESSENTIAL TRAVEL ONLY

West Midlands Railway is urging family and friends arranging post-lockdown reunions to avoid the train to keep space free for people making the most essential journeys.

With outdoor gatherings of up to six people permitted in England from Monday, June 1, transport officials are anticipating an increase in short and medium-distance journeys.

However, with trains still operating at significantly reduced capacity due to social distancing restrictions, West Midlands Railway is urging customers to walk, cycle or drive if they are heading to a reunion.

Jonny Wiseman, head of customer experience for West Midlands Railway, said: "We know many of our customers will be looking forward to catching up with family and friends but with social distancing advice still in place, we are urging customers to avoid the train for all but the most essential journeys where no other means of travel is available."

For the latest travel advice, visit www.wmr.uk/coronavirus

Jung Shim offers a different approach to your health



WATERLOO HOUSE WELLBEING CENTRE OFFERS ONLINE SESSIONS

Business District health and wellbeing centre Jung Shim is now offering all their classes online and treatments through phone or video call, as well as lunchtime meditation sessions for people looking for new ways of better managing their energy in response to coronavirus.

Described as a gentle form of martial arts, Jung Shim is based on South Korean principles which practice the art of harnessing human energy sources.

Jung Shim energy treatments use acupressure to stimulate the energy points all over the body to release blockages and tension and reinforce the natural flow of energy. The initial focus is on the abdomen area, where emotional stress is often stored. Tension here can cause digestive issues and back pain. Next, the practitioner works over major points on the back, shoulders,

ONLINE IN JUNE:

Monday 8th June at 6:30pm - a talk: 'How healing inherited patterns can change your life'
Saturday 20th June 10am-1pm: 'Nature's Vibration Online Retreat with Jung Shim'

Both events will be through Eventbrite. Email at the address below for details.

neck, head, arms and legs. Each treatment is individual and catered to the client's body type and condition. Alongside acupressure, practitioners use a breathing technique, which creates a specific sound vibration to dissolve stubborn knots and carry energy deep into the energy channels.

Benefits include more energy, de-stressing, detoxifying and the release of pain, tension, anxiety and depression.

The energy classes are run daily and consist of movements, meditation and chanting to open the energy system, clear toxins and blockages and recharge the body as well as calm the mind.

The techniques are also aimed at easing mental health concerns and tiredness in addition to physical wellbeing.

Jung Shim in Birmingham is based at Waterloo House, alongside Victoria Square. The registered charity has a meditation room for classes and treatment rooms which will be open for clients after lockdown measures have been eased.

Call: 0121 439 3690

Email:

birmingham@jungshim.org
www.jungshim.org.uk

BUSINESS DISTRICT GP SHARES LOCKDOWN TRAUMA ADVICE

Optimise Health Clinic, based at Cornwall Buildings on Newhall Street, was founded by Dr Ben Sinclair, a GP entrepreneur with a passion for creating tailored personal medical services.

Dr Sinclair blogs about physical and mental health and here he shares his thoughts about coping during coronavirus. Visit www.optimisehealthclinic.co.uk/ to find out more about the clinic's approach to tailored healthcare.

"During lockdown we have adapted to become preppers, teachers and remote workers overnight to survive in the brave new world of no social contact.

Boom! Falling out of lightspeed, like a comet entering the atmosphere creates a massive impact on life as we know it.

For some this change of pace has been a chance to use extra time to get in touch with the inner self, read those books, learn that new yoga pose in the garden (thank goodness it's sunny) and learn some new foraging recipes.

Others have had to face the reality of challenging, perhaps dysfunctional family relationships when at home, which were blocked out by a coping strategy called work (a socially acceptable

form of denial), along with confronting our worst fear – time with only ourselves and our thoughts as company.

Adjustment disorder is defined as 'a group of symptoms, such as stress, feeling sad or hopeless, and intensification of physical symptoms that can occur after you go through a stressful life event. The symptoms occur because you are having a hard time coping. Your reaction is stronger than expected for the type of event that occurred'.

Often your body will use intensified and intrusive physical symptoms to let you know you need to deal with something unresolved in the emotional or mental realm and these symptoms will not ease until you address the root cause.

Adjustment reactions can occur when circumstances out of our control happen which affect our

usual daily patterns and we are forced to choose to adapt to the new status quo or suffer the consequences. If we cannot adapt then we run the risk of adjustment disorder.

Coronavirus has changed life as we know it in the blink of an eye. Are you asking yourself "what if I lose my job"? What you are actually fearing is not only financial hardship but also a loss of your identity through work and relationships you have invested there.

The primary goal of treatment for adjustment disorder is to relieve symptoms and to help an individual achieve a level of functioning comparable to what they demonstrated prior to the stressful event. Recommended treatments include individual psychotherapy, family therapy, behaviour therapy, and self-help groups.



WELLBEING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Re-evaluating working lifestyle and your relationship with work** (*do you work to live, or live to work?*)
- **Integrating health with diet/nutrition** (*often busy lifestyles driven by work result in poor unconscious nutrition choices*)

- **Exercise activity to be built into your day** (*your body is crying out for it and will get chronic disease if you don't get moving*)
- **Spiritual awareness and exercise** (*present when you can and reflect on your core values and beliefs then put these into action*)

SHAKESPEARE MARTINEAU

Top 55 law firm Shakespeare Martineau has announced a major restructure of its senior leadership team.

The firm has made significant changes to its organisational structure to support its ambitious plans for growth and increased collaboration across the business.

Key updates to the structure include the introduction of business



unit managing directors and super team leaders as well as introducing regional heads across West

Midlands, East Midlands and South.

Sitting on the main board alongside CEO Sarah Walker-Smith (pictured) and business unit managing directors, will be the newly appointed chief transformational officer (CTO) Karen Walker and recently promoted Ben Buckton as chief marketing and people officer (CMPO).

Heading up the West Midlands region for the firm will be Joanna Deffley, supported by Richard Wrigley, Neil Gosling and Andrew Smith.

RG+P

Award-winning, multi-disciplinary design practice, rg+p has launched its third studio in the heart of Colmore Business District.

rg+p has taken space at 1 Newhall Street, the contemporary glazed fronted building located at the junction with Colmore Row. Initially, the practice will offer architectural and QS/PM services from the new studio, with other disciplines set to be added in 2020. Architect, Lauren Raybould and senior QS/PM, Arron Iliffe will lead the Birmingham team.

SPOTTYDOG COMMUNICATIONS

spottedog communications has celebrated its ten-year anniversary by announcing a host of initiatives to reinforce its commitment to creating 'best of breed' communications.

Founder & CEO of spottedog, Rachel Roberts announced plans to further grow the business and build on the success that has already made spottedog Birmingham's largest city-centre consultancy in just ten years.

The rapid growth of spottedog has led to the team growing into its seventh office location at New Oxford House on Waterloo Street.

DLA PIPER

In a vote of confidence in the region, DLA Piper is continuing to focus on growth in Birmingham as it prepares for its move to new offices in the prestigious new Two Chamberlain Square later this year.

"Our corporate team has long been a powerhouse of our Birmingham office and we see significant growth in the team over the coming years. Therefore, I am delighted to announce that Robert Newman has this been promoted to partner." Birmingham Managing Partner, Trevor Ivory, announced.

Newman joined DLA Piper in 2014 and his practice focuses on equity capital markets, regularly advising clients on IPOs, secondary fundraisings, compliance and ESG issues. He advises on domestic and cross-border M&A, private equity and venture capital/VC investments, corporate reorganisations and joint ventures.

DLA Piper's Head of Corporate in Birmingham, Noel Haywood, said: "I would like to congratulate Rob on this well-deserved promotion."



Robert Newman of DLA Piper



LIQUID

Communications consultancy Liquid has been named fourth nationally for its public sector work in PR Week's national 'Top 150' list of public relations consultancies. This year the agency ranked overall as 22nd outside of London and 126th nationally; up 19 places from 2019.

With offices on Waterloo Street in Birmingham, Jersey, Guernsey and a base in London, Liquid now holds the top consultancy spot for the public sector outside London. Liquid is also the top PR agency to be located within Birmingham city centre and the Channel Islands respectively.

Liquid's chief executive officer, Lis Lewis-Jones, pictured above, said: "We are proud to be recognised as one of the top consultancies within the UK. It is a true testament to the hard work and dedication from our team and continued support from our clients."

GOWLING WLG

Gowling WLG (UK) LLP has appointed six new partners.

The international law firm's latest round of promotions will see Neil Hendron, Matt Hervey, Alasdair McKenzie, Chris Nyland, Navin Prabhakar and Tom Stockley join the partnership.

Alasdair McKenzie, Navin



Prabhakar and Tom Stockley are all senior lawyers in Gowling WLG's banking and finance team. Hendron is a director in the firm's M&A/private equity team, Nyland a key member of Gowling WLG's tax practice and Hervey is an IP lawyer and Head of Artificial Intelligence (UK) at the firm.



SMITH & WILLIAMSON

Financial and professional services firm Smith & Williamson has continued to grow its Birmingham office with the appointment of new partner David Yewdall.

Yewdall joins Smith & Williamson as a partner in the Employment Tax and Incentives team. He is the latest in a series of new appointments at Smith & Williamson in Birmingham.

AVISON YOUNG

Avison Young has been appointed to provide estate management services at the Paradise regeneration scheme.

The 1.8 million sq ft mixed use development, brought forward by private-public joint venture Paradise Circus Limited Partnership (PCLP) and managed by developers Argent, incorporates office space, retail, car parking and public realm.

Avison Young has been appointed to work in an advisory capacity on the scheme followed outline planning permission, which was granted in 2013. It will now build on success in this role with provision of comprehensive estate management services.

The scheme's first building, One Chamberlain Square, completed and was handed over to PwC in November 2019.

Recipes From The Row



TRY THESE DISHOOM DELIGHTS AT HOME

Dishoom, which was due to open in Birmingham in March this year, pays loving homage to the old Irani cafés that were once part of the fabric of life in Bombay. Dishoom is well-known for Executive Chef Naved Nasir's much-loved menu of Bombay comfort food. From Bombay breakfasts to street food staples; hearty dishes of biryani to the curries of Mohammed Ali Road, and the famous grills of Colaba, the Dishoom menu brings together the food of all Bombay.

Whilst the launch has been slightly delayed due to coronavirus, Chef Naved has kindly shared the secrets to some of the café's most-loved dishes. Get a flavour of what's to come with these at-home recipes.

Chicken Tikka

Chicken tikka masala is supposedly Britain's favourite dish. If it's yours, then you may be disappointed: this dish is not it.

Tikka simply means piece, or chunk – so this is chicken pieces, marinated then grilled. The marinade is based on sweet vinegar, not yoghurt – and there's not a drop of food colouring in sight.

It makes a nice starter, or delicious lunch in a chapati roll.

SERVES 4 AS A STARTER

500g boneless chicken thighs, with skin

FOR THE MARINADE

30g fresh root ginger
10g garlic (2–3 cloves)
10g green chillies (2–3)
30ml rice vinegar
1 tsp deggi mirch chilli powder
1 tsp ground turmeric
1½ tsp fine sea salt
2 tsp granulated sugar
1 tbs vegetable oil

TO GRILL AND SERVE

25g unsalted butter, melted
Lime wedges

1. Cut each chicken thigh into 3 pieces and pat dry with kitchen paper. Place in a large bowl.
2. For the marinade, blitz the ingredients together in a blender or mini food processor to a smooth paste.
3. Spoon the marinade over the chicken pieces and turn them to coat. Cover and leave to marinate in the fridge for 6–24 hours.
4. Take the marinated chicken out of the fridge 20 minutes before cooking. (If you are using wooden skewers, soak them now.)
5. Heat the grill to high. Thread the marinated chicken onto skewers, leaving enough space between the pieces for the heat to penetrate. Grill for 12–15 minutes, turning and basting regularly with the melted butter, until deep golden brown with some charring. Check that the chicken pieces are cooked through.
6. Let the cooked chicken rest for 5 minutes before serving, with lime wedges for squeezing.



Pineapple & Black Pepper Crumble

This is our take on a British classic. You can serve it warm or cold, on its own, or with custard or a scoop of vanilla or cinnamon ice cream. The tang of pineapple and spice of pepper work wonderfully together.

You can prepare the crumble topping in advance, but don't apply it until you're ready to bake.

SERVES 4-6

FOR THE FILLING

1 large, fresh ripe pineapple (you need around 750g flesh)



1 vanilla pod or 2 tsp vanilla extract
100g granulated sugar
A few twists of black pepper

FOR THE CRUMBLE

100g plain flour
100g rolled oats
100g granulated sugar
100g salted butter, cubed, at room temperature

TO SERVE

Vanilla ice cream or custard

1. Trim the pineapple of its skin, prising out the "eyes", and cut into 2cm chunks, discarding the hard core.
2. Place the pineapple chunks in a

saucepan and add 200ml water. If using a vanilla pod, split in half, run a knife down the length to remove the seeds and add the seeds and pod to the pan. (If using extract, it goes in later.) Simmer over a medium-low heat for 20–25 minutes, or until the pineapple is soft, stirring occasionally. If the pan starts to become dry, add a little more water.

3. Meanwhile, make the crumble. Mix the dry ingredients together in a large bowl. Add the butter and rub in with your hands until fully incorporated; there should be no loose flour left.

4. Heat the oven to 200°C/Fan 180°C/Gas 6.

5. Once the pineapple is soft, add

the sugar and simmer for a further 5 minutes. Add the black pepper and vanilla extract, if using. Turn off the heat and set aside.

6. Spread the pineapple mixture in a medium baking dish and top with the crumble mix. Bake for 30–40 minutes, until the topping has formed a lovely golden crust.

7. Allow to stand for 5 minutes then serve, with vanilla ice cream or custard.

Extract taken from Dishoom by Shamil Thakrar, Kavi Thakrar & Naved Nasir (£26, Bloomsbury)

[Click here to buy the book.](#)

Photography © Haarala Hamilton

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