

COLMORE LITE

DIGITAL MAGAZINE



In this issue:

Take the District's restaurants home
with latest Colmore Cook Book





OCTOBER 2020

A message from Colmore Business District

The rules surrounding people’s ability to meet others seems to change as quickly as the weather at the moment, with new restrictions placed on the citizens of Birmingham following the roll out of the Government’s new tier system.

With the city being placed in tier 2, both businesses and the general public are faced with a number of new challenges, in particular not being able to socialise with people in public outside of your household or bubble.

This is once again having a devastating impact on the leisure and hospitality industry. The BID continues to do everything it can to support the sector, which includes joining forces with Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Birmingham City Council to successfully lobby the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, for additional support.

It has been seven months since initial restrictions were put into place and this has started to take its toll on people’s mental health. In these challenging times it’s important that we not only look after our physical wellbeing, but also our mental wellbeing too. Restrictions may be in place, but you can still explore the city and its fantastic cultural offering in a safe and socially distanced manner.

This month we welcome two firsts as Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery launches The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition and Birmingham Hippodrome welcomes Van Gogh Alive – both truly outstanding shows which Colmore BID has supported. So, go out, explore, support local businesses, but most importantly stay safe and we can all get through this together.

MICHELE WILBY
COLMORE BID



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FOR COLMORE LIFE MAGAZINE

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COLMORE Lowdown

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DID YOU KNOW? Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery has reopened with new exhibitions such as Cold War Steve's collage art and Wildlife Photographer of the Year. **Pre-booking essential.**



TAP THE PICTURES
TO READ THE
COOK BOOK



As the dark nights slowly start to creep in and the winter woollies emerge from the wardrobe, we're all after something a little bit more comforting when it comes to meal-time. While many of the District's venues have new autumn menus on offer, it's just not possible to eat out every night, so why not create some of your favourite dishes from home with the latest edition of our Cook Book?

We launched the Cook Book back in the summer to celebrate 10 years of the Colmore Food Festival. We've had so many requests for other recipes and venues that we thought we'd release a new edition, tailored perfectly for those colder nights.

So, why not dive into a bowl of

Get cooking to win £50 voucher

BID'S LATEST DIGITAL COOK BOOK FEATURES BEST OF THE DISTRICT



Halloumi Fries from Hookways or a delectable dish of Butter Chicken from Asha's?

Hanger Steak from Gaucho or Potato, Bacon and

Spinach Salad from Primitivo. What's dinner

without a good cocktail or two though? We have recipes from Home is Where Café Deli and Purnell's Bistro & Gingers Bar.

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR TWO OF THE RECIPES

■ If you're planning at having a go at one of the recipes, why not snap a pic and upload it to Twitter, tagging @ColmoreBID and using the hashtag #ColmoreEats. If you do, you could be in with a chance of winning £50 of vouchers to spend at a venue featured in this edition of the Cook Book.

You have until **Midnight on Sunday, November 15**, to get your pictures in, with the winner being chosen shortly after. Happy cooking!

DID YOU KNOW? Birmingham City Council has launched a ‘Community Champion’ network of volunteers to ensure correct COVID-19 advice is shared. To become a Champion [click here](#).



HYDROGEN BUSES ARE A FIRST FOR CITY

Birmingham City Council has purchased 20 new hydrogen double decker buses as part of its Clean Air Hydrogen Bus Pilot.

The Clean Air Hydrogen Bus Pilot looks to ‘kick-start’ the hydrogen market as a viable zero-emission fuel with the procurement and deployment of 20 hydrogen buses in Birmingham. The buses, which are made by Wrightbus and are the world’s first zero-emission hydrogen fuel-cell double deckers, will be introduced with National Express West Midlands from April 2021.

It’s intended that the pilot will be the catalyst for the next generation of hydrogen buses, hydrogen production and re-fuelling infrastructure development. Hydrogen buses consume four times less fuel in comparison to standard diesel buses, covering 300 miles on a single tank and with the ability to refuel within 7-10 minutes. They emit water vapour, meaning no carbon dioxide or other harmful gases are being pumped in to the air.

Each bus is expected to save up to 79.3 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per annum.

Brush up on cyber safety with BID guide



‘IN THE UK THERE IS AN ATTEMPTED CYBER-ATTACK ONCE EVERY 50 SECONDS, WITH THIS FIGURE ONLY RISING WITH THE POPULARITY OF WORKING FROM HOME SCHEMES’

Colmore BID’s Safe and Sound working group is raising awareness of online and cloud safety during October’s National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

With more people working from home and accessing company networks remotely, cyber security has never been more important.

The BID is working alongside the West Midlands Cyber Security Resilience Centre to raise awareness of potential threats through its social media and with a special digital publication that features tips for home-working, COVID-19 related threats, VPN access and phishing, among other cyber topics.

Colmore BID CEO, Michele Wilby, said: “October marks

the launch of Cyber Security Awareness Month and we’re delighted to be partnering with the West Midlands Cyber Security Resilience Centre to inform and educate businesses within the BID on how important it is to protect yourself and your organisation from cyber-attacks.

“According to a recent report, in the UK there is an attempted cyber-attack once every 50 seconds, with this figure only rising with the popularity of working from home schemes, brought about by Covid-19.

“Some of the solutions may seem simple and like common sense, but even these quick fixes can help prevent the devastating and long-term effects of loss or even theft of data.”

TAP HERE TO READ THE GUIDE

DID YOU KNOW? A £238m **Job Entry Targeted Support** scheme to support those left jobless due to COVID-19 has been launched. It provides advice including CV and interview coaching.

COVID-19: Joint letter to Chancellor regarding city 'tier'

BUSINESS LEADERS SET OUT SUPPORT STEPS

Earlier this month, Colmore BID joined forces with Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham City Council and a number of other organisations to write to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak with three key asks following Birmingham's placement in the 'High Level' category of Covid restrictions.

The city wants to work with the Government to protect livelihoods, but the current restrictions do not allow for this, particularly within the leisure and hospitality industry and as such will continue to lobby for additional support for businesses.

The letter sets out the steps that the Government needed to take to help limit the impact of coronavirus on the city. These included:

- Taking an evidence-informed approach to the implementation of restrictions, so if a threshold is met (such as the rate of infection per 100,000) work is undertaken to fully understand the sources of infection in a geographic area to enable the tailoring of restrictions accordingly. If this approach had been

adopted last week there would not have been a restriction on household mixing in our hospitality sector, as the evidence suggests that there is a very small rate of infection emanating from bars and restaurants in the City. Such a move could save businesses and jobs. This opportunity was missed when the restrictions were introduced and we hope Government will listen when it next reviews the restrictions in the West Midlands;

- Provide a clear criteria that would trigger an 'exit' from a category of restriction, including timescales. From a Birmingham perspective we need to know what needs to be done to exit the 'high' level category. We need to give our communities something to aim for and state it clearly. Our ambition is to leave the 'High' category as soon as possible and certainly before Christmas;
- Provide a sufficient package of support to businesses to sustain them through the winter. Without such support many businesses will simply not survive to see 2021.

TAP HERE TO READ THE LETTER IN FULL



CLEAN AIR ZONE TO LAUNCH IN JUNE 2021

Birmingham's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) has been given an approved launch date by the Government. The zone will launch on June 1, 2021.

Poor air quality remains the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. Clean Air Zones aim to address all sources of pollution, including nitrogen dioxide and reduce public exposure by using a range of measures tailored to a specific location.

Birmingham's Clean Air Zone will cover an area of the city inside the inner ring road (A4540 Middleway) and once live will mean that the owners of the most polluting vehicles, which account for around 25% of the vehicles on Birmingham's roads, will need to pay a daily charge to drive into or through the CAZ.

The council is providing a range of exemptions and financial incentives, with a total value of £35m, to help residents, city centre workers and businesses prepare for the introduction of the CAZ. For more information, visit www.brumbreathes.co.uk



JOJO LOUNGE CELEBRATES CITY HISTORY

Jojolounge Bar & Restaurant is the Colmore Business District's newest venue, set in the heart of the District at 55-59 Newhall St.

Inspired by the lounge bars of New York with a retro style and old fashioned quality, the new venue is housed in a building that was historically the Solicitors' Law Stationery Society's office where maps could be purchased along with other legal documents relating to property purchases.

It is this fascinating history that has inspired the branding and the historic maps on the walls.


**CLICK HERE TO
 FIND OUT MORE**

Recipes From The Row



HOME IS WHERE CAFE DELI

 26 Church Street, Birmingham, B3 2NP

 [instagram.com/homeiswherecafe](https://www.instagram.com/homeiswherecafe)

ESPRESSO MARTINI

INGREDIENTS

Add to the shaker:
 25ml vodka
 25ml Tia Maria
 25ml vanilla syrup
 Double shot of
 espresso

METHOD

Shake with ice for about 40 seconds (for the nice foam), pour into the pre-iced glass through the cocktail strainer.

Add three coffee beans on the top as garnish.

HOOKWAYS

7 The Minories, Birmingham, B4 6AG
hookways.co.uk

HALLOUMI FRIES

INGREDIENTS

(2 small portions
or 1 large)

1 block of halloumi
Plain flour
Za'atar spice blend
Greek yogurt
Harissa
Pomegranate molasses
Sprig of fresh mint
Pomegranate seeds

METHOD

1. Pre-heat your fryer to 180C.
2. Prepare the Greek yogurt-harissa dressing. We make our own harissa, but you can buy the paste already done. We use 1 heaped tbsp of harissa with 500ml of Greek yogurt. This will be enough for about 10 blocks of halloumi so you will only need a tiny amount. If you don't have harissa it's nice with just Greek yogurt.
3. Split the halloumi block down the middle lengthways through the thinnest side and then cut each half into 4 even pieces. You want 8 chunky chip size pieces that are all the length of the halloumi block and approx. 2cm wide.
4. Mix a little flour and Za'atar together and then dust the halloumi in the mixture.
5. Add to the fryer at 180C and cook until golden. Should only take 3-4 minutes.
6. Drizzle with the yogurt-harissa mixture, followed by a little pomegranate molasses and then sprinkle with pomegranate seeds and finely sliced fresh mint.
7. Eat immediately!



Worth the **WEIGHT**

NEW BOUTIQUE GYM AT THREE SNOWHILL

Celebrity gym, MK Health Hub, is bringing its health and fitness concept to the Business District.

The boutique gym operator has taken 10,032 sq ft on a 10-year lease at the Three Snowhill office complex.

The new high-end gym will open in January 2021, following a £1 million fit out. The basement space boasts its own entrance off Snow Hill Queensway and will include a state-of-the-art gym, three studios, treatment rooms and a coffee and juice lounge.

The Birmingham gym will be MK Health Hub's second, with the Hub's founding base in Solihull offering personal coaching, dynamic pilates, high intensity training (HIT) and yoga to its 600 private members. Nutrition, lifestyle support and physiotherapy also form part of the offer.

The Hub's celebrity clientele includes Premier League footballers, Olympic gold medallists and chart toppers Little Mix and Demi Lovato.



Matt Kendrick, who founded MK Health Hub in 2001, said: "We will be providing a holistic approach to fitness, health and wellbeing, which is something that is currently absent from Birmingham city centre. We will be a significant asset to the

corporate sector. We'll be the first gym outside London to offer dynamic pilates – a highly popular and energetic workout – and we'll be introducing high intensity spin classes in a contemporary and immersive studio.

A high-spec clinic will provide treatments such as IV vitamin procedures, cryotherapy, physiotherapy and acupuncture. We will also be offering meditation sessions to help alleviate stress.

"Our bespoke app will also ensure clients' online needs are met from wherever they are, with both live and on-demand classes, including high intensity training, pilates, yoga and meditation."

Three Snowhill, which is owned by M&G Real Estate and was developed by Ballymore, comprises 420,000 sq ft and is the largest ever speculative office development outside London.

'WE WILL BE PROVIDING A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO FITNESS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING. WE WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT ASSET TO THE CORPORATE SECTOR'



Plans in for a city **LANDMARK**

A planning application for the world's first pure Octagon residential tower has been submitted to Birmingham City Council.

Octagon continues the latest phase of the Paradise development, the £700 million transformation in the Business District.

The 49-storey, 155 metre (510 feet) tall tower will create a new landmark for the city as well as provide up to 346 new homes of outstanding quality and design with views across the city.

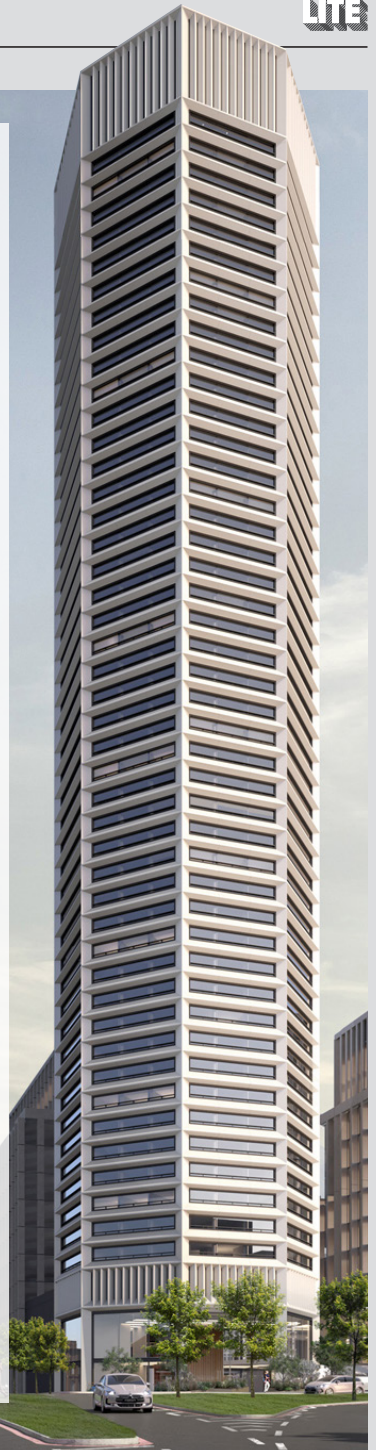
Octagon follows the completion of the first phase of the mixed-use development, which includes the first two buildings, One Chamberlain Square and Two Chamberlain, as well as

new public realm across the estate.

The Paradise redevelopment is being brought forward through Paradise Circus Limited Partnership (PCLP), a private-public joint venture with Birmingham City Council.

Rob Groves, regional director with Argent, said: "Our ambition with Octagon continues to be a simple one – to build one of the finest apartment schemes ever seen, not just in Birmingham or the region, but in the UK.

"This ambition drives the design and execution of the building and is reflected in everything about it – the height, size of the apartments themselves and their design, the views and the location in the city centre."



CBRE



'If cities are to get back to some sort of normality they need people to be the beating heart'

WHY PEOPLE ARE THE
LIFEBLOOD OF OUR CITIES –
**MARTIN GUEST,
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
CBRE BIRMINGHAM**

Cities have been the beating heart of civilisations for centuries. Whether for work, home, socialising or relaxing, cities and their buildings are the cornerstone of human interaction and engagement.

The nationwide lockdown brought on by the pandemic meant we could no longer occupy the spaces we love, and for the first time since World War II our vibrant cities lay dormant. Birmingham's once bustling business, retail and entertainment districts were replaced by eerie, lifeless streets, like a scene from a post-apocalyptic disaster movie.

Life is, however, beginning to return to Birmingham's city centre, albeit slowly. CBRE was one of

the first businesses to welcome our staff back to the office post-lockdown and increasing numbers of staff are choosing to return to the office, recognising the many benefits of being back together in a professional environment.

Whilst we continue to monitor government guidelines, our

**'WE'RE
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office remains open in line with the strict guidelines that we have implemented to date for employees who feel they need to work from the office in order to carry out their role, or for the benefit of their own mental health and wellbeing.

People are the lifeblood of our cities. Without them we are left with nothing more than bricks and mortar. Buildings have a part to play in making a city what it is but it's the people that truly make the difference, and none more so than in Birmingham, with its rich and diverse communities.

If cities are to get back to some sort of normality they need people to be the beating heart. The serendipitous meeting at the

Meghan Shirley, BAM assistant design manager, Jay Roberts, BAM project manager, Andy Street, mayor of the West Midlands, and Andrew Hawkins, Sterling Property Ventures development director.

printer, chatting to your favourite barista while getting your coffee, the barman knowing your usual at your local pub, having your haircut by the same hairdresser you have been visiting for years, hailing a black cab – it is these interactions which are at the heart and soul of our cities. Without them, I fear for their future.

For that reason, at CBRE we are working with our clients to develop strategies which focus on how businesses can get greater value from their real estate assets and their workplaces.

To celebrate and support our wonderful cities, we have launched our #PeopleMakePlaces campaign, celebrating the people and places that make cities special and why it's great to be back enjoying them together, safely and within government guidelines.

We're encouraging people to photograph what they love and have missed about being in their city. Whether it's a lunchtime walk along the canal, people watching in 'Pigeon Park' or meeting up with colleagues for a drink after work, we want you to share it with us.

All you need to do is SNAP IT. TAG IT. SHARE IT. to support the initiative.

■ **Snap it;** take a photo of what is enticing you back to the city

■ **Tag it;** make sure you use hashtag #PeopleMakePlaces and @CBRE_UK.

■ **Share it;** on Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter and make sure that you write something explaining why you've taken the picture.



103 REACHES 108

MILESTONE FOR TALLEST COMMERCIAL TOWER

Birmingham's tallest commercial building – and the tallest under construction in the UK outside London – has reached its full 108m height.

103 Colmore Row boasts 26 storeys and an apex 246m above sea level.

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, joined scheme developer Sterling Property Ventures and contractor BAM for a tour of the site to mark the milestone.

The £87m tower, funded by Tristan Capital Partners, comprises 223,631 sq ft of office accommodation. The double-height rooftop restaurant and cocktail bar and the cafe on the ground floor are let to D&D London.

Mr Street described 103 Colmore Row as 'one of the coolest addresses in Birmingham'.

He added: "Not only is it a beacon in the physical way, but in a more important way too. This building symbolises our enormous ambition and hope for our region, but also the confidence investors have in our plans to bring economic recovery and jobs to the region following the impact of COVID-19.

"I congratulate Sterling Property Ventures and Tristan Capital Partners on bringing 103 Colmore Row to fruition by creating an amazing statement building for Birmingham. And even more importantly, bringing with it employment opportunities in the city.

"I personally can't wait for it to be finished so I can enjoy the breath-taking views."

CURIUM SOLUTIONS

Edmund Street-based Curium Solutions has appointed Pierrick Senelaer as its new software developer.

Senelaer, pictured, has joined the change

consultancy as the business expands its digital offerings and in-house capabilities.



Having been in the web development industry since 2008, he has extensive experience in public sector, advertising and creative industries. During his career Senelaer has worked for a range of clients, expanding his coding and app building experience.

Curium director and co-founder Andy Dawson, said: "2020 has been an interesting year, but I'm pleased to say that due to the support of our customers, partners and team, this has been our most successful year so far at Curium.

"We want to maintain that positive trajectory as we start our new financial year. As a People First business we are always on the lookout for people who can raise the bar and seamlessly fit into our culture, whilst bringing new insights that help us to develop new market leading propositions. Pierrick fits the bill perfectly."

PwC

PwC, one of the largest recruiters of graduates and school leavers across the country, has welcomed 219 new graduates to its Birmingham practice, including graduate level, higher apprentices and school leavers in its autumn intake.

With a further 31 recruits into PwC's East Midlands office and 25 into Milton Keynes, PwC's total recruitment reaches a record 275 new joiners across the Midlands. Nationally, the firm has recruited over 1,300 graduates.

This year's intake is the second group to have taken part in PwC's tech-enabled application process, which includes game-based assessments and video interviews and are now taking part in a fully virtual induction experience.

Over the summer of 2020, 6,000 young people benefited from PwC's virtual work experience initiatives.

Graduates; Ramunas Juskaitis, Martha Fitzpatrick-Greening and Chris Shepherd, PwC Midlands Financial Services leader



BLM

Leading insurance risk and commercial law specialist BLM has announced a number of promotions across nine of its 13 locations, including four at its Birmingham office on Temple Row:

Partner promotions, Claims Solutions:

Emma Taylor, Birmingham
Verinder Bedi, Birmingham

Associate promotions, Speciality & Financial Lines:

Elizabeth Rhead, Birmingham
Yuling Kao, Birmingham

Matthew Harrington, BLM Senior Partner, said: "In what has been a challenging year for many firms, it is rewarding to celebrate the success of our teams. Our new partners and associates embody the future of our firm, and have enabled us to continue to provide clients with exceptional expertise and service, during a time of great change for many businesses."

LEONARD CURTIS BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

A leading professional services business in Birmingham is relocating to new offices in the heart of the Colmore Business District, committing to a 10-year lease at Cavendish House.

The move by Leonard Curtis Business Solutions Group marks the company's 15-year anniversary of serving SMEs across the city and the wider Midlands area.

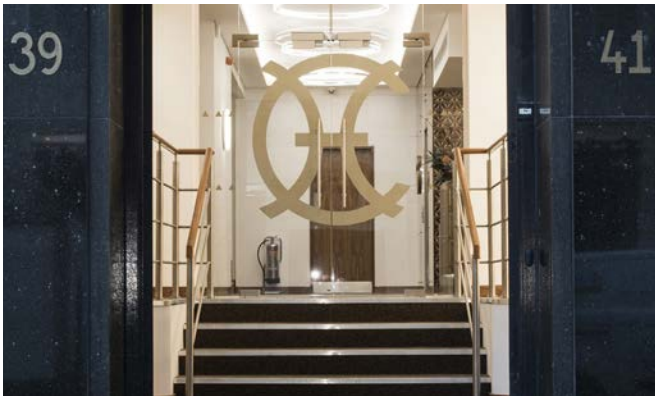
Its established team will move into 2,784 sq ft in Cavendish House – Grade A office accommodation which has been recently refurbished.

Leonard Curtis Birmingham is one of three offices covering the Midlands with a presence in Wolverhampton and Worcester and is one of 19 across the UK, including an offshore division on Guernsey, employing 240 people.

It supports the UK's 5.7million SME owners, their stakeholders and professional advisers on financial and operational issues faced at every stage of a business' lifecycle.

Conrad Beighton, from Leonard Curtis, said the company had been impressed with the refurbishment and would certainly benefit from it. "Cavendish House is the perfect fit for our needs and a great foundation for the next phase of our development, having established a 15-year reputation for business services in the city. We look forward to welcoming our team here and inviting in clients, other professional advisors and colleagues from across the UK."

'CAVENDISH HOUSE IS THE PERFECT FIT FOR OUR NEEDS'



HAYS

Leading recruitment firm, Hays, has launched its 2020 Diversity and Inclusion Report.

This year there has been unprecedented disruption to how we work. The COVID-19 crisis rapidly sped up the adoption of flexible working, which could also create the opportunity for real change to workplace diversity.

In this year's Hays Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Report, the firm explores how flexible working can help facilitate equality in the workplace, and the ways in which employers and employees alike believe it has impacted their diversity and inclusion journeys this year.



The report goes on to discuss:

- How the journey towards genuine equality in the workplace is progressing
- How offering flexible working can attract more diverse talent
- How the Covid-19 pandemic is shaping organisations' flexible working offerings
- How employers and employees can reap the ED&I rewards of flexible working

To request your free copy of the report **click here**.



COLMORE COOK BOOK Autumn



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