

# CBD

digest

BUSINESS IN THE HEART OF BIRMINGHAM  
Summer 2011 [www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com](http://www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com)



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All That

# jazz

*Jazzing up July!*

# WELCOME

It's hard to believe that summer is already here and as festival fever strikes across the country, we're joining in with the spirit of the season as Colmore Business District (CBD) brings free of charge festivals to the District.

The event calendar starts on Monday 4th July when CBD will welcome some of the world's finest jazz and blues musicians as we support the Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival by bringing performances into the business area. For more information on the performers and to view a complete listing of performances turn to our festival guide on pages 12-15.

On Thursday 7th July the streets of CBD will be filled with vibrant aromas as we host our first ever Food Festival. Located in Victoria Square the Food Festival is open to everyone and completely free to attend. There will be over 20 stalls from the District's restaurants, bars, pubs and coffee shops, all offering visitors menu taster options from as little as £1.50. The festival really has got something to offer everyone including live cookery demonstrations!

Within the business section, CBD Digest provides a brief overview of High Speed Rail and news about the Secretary of State's visit to CBD in June. There is an update on plans for the former Post and Mail building on Weaman Street in the District as well as an interview with Sid Muir of Allied Irish Bank. We also feature the latest news from businesses and organisations in CBD.

Within our culture and lifestyle section we find out about the Home of Metal exhibition at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. We also have the latest Urban Coffee Company book club review and a competition from Thistle Birmingham City hotel.

To find out more about CBD Digest, please contact Tahreen Kutub: [tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com](mailto:tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com).

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of CBD Digest.

Gary Cardin  
CBD Chair



**Gary Cardin**  
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## CROCKETT & JONES

Crockett & Jones, based on Colmore Row, was featured in the spring 2011 edition of CBD Digest. The image used in this article showed generic shoes that were not specific to Crockett & Jones. Here is an image of the Hallam style that is from the shop's current collection. For further styles, visit [www.crockettandjones.co.uk](http://www.crockettandjones.co.uk).



Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate, Colmore Business District cannot accept responsibility in respect of any error or omission which may have occurred.

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Home of Metal exhibition

# HIGH SPEED RAIL IN BRIEF

## What is High Speed Rail?

High Speed Rail is a state of the art railway network that allows trains to travel at up to 250mph. High Speed trains can carry twice the amount of passengers than normal trains and they are designed to be as energy efficient as possible.

The government is proposing to build a 'Y' network in two phases. Phase one will link Birmingham to London (by 2026) and phase two will build a line from Birmingham to Leeds and Manchester.

## Why does the government think High Speed Rail is important?

High Speed Rail will transform the way we travel in Britain, reducing the need for domestic flying, speeding up travel and improving connectivity to key British cities.

With the capacity of Britain's rail network increasing, the new High Speed Rail line will help to alleviate problems associated with a growing demand for travelling by train. The government also says that HS2 would transform the economic geography of Britain, creating jobs, encouraging investment and opening up new business opportunities.

## What would the scheme mean for Birmingham and the West Midlands region?

Studies have indicated that upon the scheme's completion it could bring 22,000 jobs to the city and region. It could also increase average annual salaries by £300 and also lead to £1.5 billion in additional economic output.

## Where can I find out more?

To find out more about HS2 visit [www.dft.gov.uk/pg/rail/pi/highspeedrail](http://www.dft.gov.uk/pg/rail/pi/highspeedrail) and [www.birmingham.gov.uk/hs2](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/hs2).

To take part in the public consultation, which will run until July 29th, visit <http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk>.

The Campaign for High Speed Rail also details some further information on the scheme: [www.campaignforhsr.com](http://www.campaignforhsr.com).

## PHILIP HAMMOND CALLS ON BIRMINGHAM'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT HS2

In June, the Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond MP, visited Birmingham to call on the city's business community to endorse the government's plan for High Speed Rail in the region.

Speaking at the event held by Birmingham Future and Birmingham Forward, Mr Hammond explained that Birmingham and the wider West Midlands region will see significant benefits from the project.

Mr Hammond urged business leaders in Birmingham to be vocal about their support for the High Speed Rail project. He argued the project would help to redress the UK growth divide, where over the past decade the economy has grown substantially in London and the surrounding regions. Investment in infrastructure, he said, has a crucial part to play. The stations on Curzon Street and Birmingham International, for example, would support 8,000 jobs in the West Midlands.

Gary Cardin, chairman of Colmore Business District (CBD), reiterated Mr Hammond's call for business leaders to seize this once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham.

Commenting after the event, Gary emphasised the importance of Mr Hammond's speech:

"The Secretary of State's visit to Birmingham demonstrated how vital the business community in the city is to the success of the consultation period on the project. His speech highlighted some key points, salient to all business leaders: Birmingham would become the transport hub of the UK, attracting new jobs, regeneration and investment to the city. HS2 could reshape our economic geography and it is incredibly significant for the profile, stature and future of the city. This really is an opportunity we must seize and support."



Philip Hammond MP at Birmingham Future and Forward event

CBD is co-ordinating a business led letter signed by the District's leading business figures who support the principle of HS2. This will be delivered to Philip Hammond as part of the consultation period to illustrate the business community's endorsement of the project. For further details contact Kirsten Henly: 0121 236 4688 [kirsten-h@colmorebusinessdistrict.com](mailto:kirsten-h@colmorebusinessdistrict.com).

# AMEY WINS THREE HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARDS

**P**ublic services provider, Amey has won three national awards from one of the UK's most respected health and safety charities.

The Consulting and Built Environment divisions won gold and Local Government won silver in the prestigious Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Occupational Health and Safety Awards 2011. The award ceremony was held at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel, at the National Exhibition Centre, on 19th May 2011.

Judges praised Amey, the Birmingham office of which is in Colmore Business District, for using effective health and safety management systems, promoting strong leadership and involving its workforce in health and safety.

David Rawlins, RoSPA's awards manager, said: "RoSPA firmly believes that organisations that have demonstrated their commitment to continuous improvement in accident and ill health prevention deserve recognition.



*Rob Doyle, representing Amey Consulting, receiving the gold award for the second consecutive year from David Rawlins, RoSPA's awards manager*

Amey has shown that it is committed to striving for such continuous improvement and we are delighted to honour it through the presentation of an award."

Amey is responsible for delivering a number of key public services across the region. This includes the award-winning Birmingham Highways Maintenance and Management Service, with Birmingham City Council, which sees the company improving and maintaining 2,500km of local road network, almost 100,000 street lights and more than 850 highway structures and bridges across the city.

[www.amey.co.uk](http://www.amey.co.uk)

# ST PHILIPS APPOINTS NEW HEAD OF CHAMBERS

**K**evin Hegarty QC has succeeded James Burbidge QC as Head of St Philips Chambers based in Colmore Business District. He leads the chambers alongside two newly elected deputies, Andrew Lockhart QC and Lawrence Messling.

Mr Hegarty was called to the Bar in 1982 and took silk in 2010. He is one of the Midlands' most prominent criminal and regulatory silks and regularly prosecutes and defends in some of the region's most serious and complex trials.

Commenting on his recent appointment, Mr Hegarty said: "I am honoured that my fellow members have elected me as Head of Chambers, it is a privilege but also a great responsibility. James Burbidge QC has been a terrific Head of Chambers with many great qualities, which he has brought to bear over the last three years."

Chris Owen, chief executive of St Philips Chambers said: "I know everyone at chambers wishes to extend our thanks and praise to James Burbidge QC for his hard work and efforts in leading chambers over the past three years and the fact that St Philips remain one of the leading sets in the country is testimony to his dedication.

"I am delighted Kevin has been appointed as head of chambers and I am very much looking forward to working alongside him during the next three years, building upon the success of the past and taking us into a confident future.

"This has been a great first half of the year for St Philips, many of our barristers have worked on some landmark cases and we have seen three barristers appointed to the rank of Queens' Counsel."

[www.st-philips.com](http://www.st-philips.com)



*Kevin Hegarty QC*



Hilary Allen, BYPY 2011

## HILARY ALLEN

BIRMINGHAM YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR 2011

*Tahreen Kutub*

**H**ilary Allen was crowned Birmingham Young Professional of the Year (BYPY) in May 2011, after winning the property and construction sector award. She works in Davis Langdon's Land Development sub-sector team in Colmore Business District (CBD). Hilary talks about her current role and what she hopes to achieve in her year as BYPY.

*What does your role at David Langdon involve?*

I specialise in working with clients who own, develop or dispose of contaminated land across the UK. My role is to help them navigate technical complexities to find the best commercial solution.

*What do you hope to achieve in your year as BYPY?*

BYPY gives you a bigger platform to shout about the issues you're passionate about. I plan to use this by collaborating with those who work hard to attract people to the city. I also want to help bridge the gap between those wanting strong leaders for the city and those wanting to be leaders in the city. To do this, I am actively involved in supporting The UpRising Leadership programme. This aims to open pathways to leadership for talented young adults, aged 19-25 from diverse backgrounds who don't have the connections or skills to make it on their own. Launched in 2008 in East London, it arrived in Birmingham this year and we need to keep the programme alive in this city!

*How would you sell Birmingham as the city of choice for professionals?*

Very simply, Birmingham offers a high quality of life without compromising the quality of work. I work on projects of national significance and can still fit in a round of golf after work!

*Which public personality do you admire and why?*

Jamie Oliver. He's worked really hard to get to the top and now that he's there, he is doing everything he can for the issues that he feels passionate about. I hope to do the same.

## MAJOR TRADE AND DIPLOMATIC ARAB DELEGATION WELCOMED TO BIRMINGHAM

**L**eaders of Birmingham City Council, Mike Whitby, and international law firm, Wragge & Co, hosted a high level business and diplomatic delegation from the Middle East, Gulf States and North Africa in May 2011. The lunch event took place in Wragge & Co's Birmingham office in Colmore Business District. The purpose of the visit was to continue and strengthen the commercial and cultural links the city has with the Arab world and establish the appetite for a Birmingham delegation to go out to the Middle East and North Africa region in late 2011.



Mike Whitby with delegation at Wragge &amp; Co

## BIRMINGHAM TOURS

Birmingham Tours, run by Blue Badge Guide Sue Behan, provides professional city guides for walking or driving tours of the city on either a fixed date or private hire basis throughout the year.

The Big Brum Open Top Buz Sightseeing Tour runs every weekend during April to September from Victoria Square. It highlights the delights of Colmore Business District, including the Birmingham Cathedral grounds, as well as exploring the rest of the city. As a not for profit organisation, Birmingham Tours would love to have more Friends of the Big Brum Buz and if you are a Brummie and think you know it all – let Sue know where the medieval manor house is or come on the bus!

Birmingham Tours also runs the hugely popular graveyard and city ghost walks. The city ghost walk focuses on the one square mile around Victoria Square, featuring tales of plague, public execution, haunting and murder most foul - prepare to be scared!

For further details contact Sue on 0121 427 2555 / 078051 15998, email enquiries@birmingham-tours.co.uk or check out the website [www.birmingham-tours.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-tours.co.uk).

# CHATHAM BILLINGHAM INVESTMENTS REVEALS PLANS FOR **NEW 750 SPACE CAR PARK IN COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT**

Tahreen Kutub

**P**roperty entrepreneurs Alan Chatham and Mark Billingham have revealed that plans for a 750 space car park, forming the first phase of the redevelopment of the former Post and Mail building, will be primarily geared towards ease for users.

The former owners of the Mailbox complex purchased the building on Weaman Street in Colmore Business District (CBD) in June 2009, after Trinity Mirror had moved its Midland newspapers' offices to Fort Dunlop. A new company, Chatham Billingham Investments was set up around the same time to deliver the redevelopment project. Alan and Mark have worked in partnership since 1998, with the development of the Mailbox building.

The thinking behind the car park has been influenced by the user experience. Mark said: "We are keen to consider how we can embrace new technologies to make the car park as user friendly as possible. We don't want to put in barriers and are looking into number plate recognition systems. Frequent users will be given the opportunity to join a club and open an account with us, which will mean that their account can be debited as they drive out via the number plate recognition system. Therefore, they do not need to worry about finding the right amount of change. Regular users can choose flexible

payment plans and will not reach a call centre if they want to phone with a query. We want to make the experience as practical and enjoyable as possible."

Alan added that the car park will include a bay monitoring system to pinpoint vacant bays through green and red light. There will be plenty of charging points for electric cars and wireless will work throughout the car park. A large number of spaces will also be allocated for the disabled and people with children. The level of security is also high on the agenda. Alan said: "Security staff will be present for 24 hours as well as CCTV cameras. There will also be a high level of lighting throughout the car park."

Speaking about the redevelopment of the site, Alan felt it was important for it to be considered in the context of the Snow Hill Masterplan, as part of the Big City Plan. This will see the eastern expansion of the central office core area around Snow Hill station, generating opportunities for mixed-use office led floor space. Alan described this part of the District as the "simplest area in Birmingham to see regeneration quickly". A planning application has been submitted for the site, which will be considered in July 2011 and, if approved, work will start onsite in February 2012. Phase 2 of the project proposal will involve the construction of a mixed use building overlooking the car park.



Artist's impression



## CBD SHOWCASE

# SNAPPY SNAPS

Tahreen Kutub

**S**nappy Snaps is a franchise that was founded by Don Kennedy and Tim MacAndrews in 1983. There are now 125 stores in the country, including a store on Colmore Row in Colmore Business District (CBD). This edition's CBD Showcase interview is with Lawrence Smith, who is managing director of the store in the District, as well as a second store in New Street.

*When did you open the store on Colmore Row and why did you choose this location?*

I opened the store in May 2006. I had been working around the world for Hewlett Packard prior to opening the store, with the view that I would settle in the UK once our first grandchild was born. I chose Birmingham to be close to my children who have settled here. It took two years to find the right unit in the right location. When the unit in Colmore Row became available, I was very keen to take it! It is in the heart of the business and financial district where you will find our perfect customer base. Based on the success of this store, I decided to open a second store on New Street in December 2008.

*What specialist services does Snappy Snaps offer?*

We provide a specialist adjustment service, whereby the colour channels, brightness and composition of an image can be adjusted to get the best possible result. We also offer a photo restoration service. If for example, a head has been cut off in a photograph, we can restore this part by using another photo where the head is visible.

A major specialist passport service is also provided. We are able to produce passport photos for any country, as well as visa photos and ID pictures. Although these may seem like simple snaps, they are very specific with exhaustive specifications in order to meet the requirements of the relevant authorities. Hundreds of thousands are rejected every year. We make detailed checks to ensure that ours pass!



*Do you offer any corporate services?*

Last August we added an extensive range of commercial printing services to our photographic offerings. This includes business cards, stationery, leaflets, brochures, as well as more specialist items such as personalised boxes and display stands. The product offering has been developing since the store opened. We continue to look for new ways to display images.

*Are there any services that are new for this year?*

This year, we have introduced a digital embossing service. We can now, for example, print a basketball with all its dimples raised or water droplets raised from the page. The customer can select the areas of their literature that they want raised or one of our graphic designers can advise. We have also started to offer 3D imaging inside crystal blocks with laser technology, as well as 'acrylic sandwiches' that you can hang on walls. The latter consists of a photo in between two pieces of acrylic.

*If you could use three words to sum up Snappy Snaps' offering, what would they be?*

Quality, Speed, and Customer Service. The service encompasses our special attention to detail, such as individually checking each picture and making relevant adjustments to colours, contrast, brightness, as well as composition.

*You have now worked in Colmore Row for over five years, what are your thoughts on the area?*

I've always found it a pleasant area to work in and I have noticed that it has become a lot cleaner, particularly in the last three years!

*Finally, if you could choose one area or building in CBD to photograph, where or what would this be?*

It would definitely be the Council House in Victoria Square. It is a phenomenal building, the architecture is fantastic!

[www.snappysnaps-birmingham.co.uk](http://www.snappysnaps-birmingham.co.uk)



# BIRMINGHAM NEW STREET REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

**T**he redevelopment of Birmingham New Street station will not only benefit passengers, it will also transform the heart of Birmingham, stimulating regeneration and creating new jobs. The economic benefits of the project were strengthened further back in February when Network Rail, John Lewis and Birmingham City Council announced that John Lewis' new Birmingham department store will be located at the station.

Since the announcement, Network Rail has been working hard with its partners to move the plans forward. Consultation events were held in March with the proposals attracting overwhelming support and the planning application for the development was submitted on 19th May.

On site, preparations are underway for the demolition of Stephenson Tower, which sits on the site of the new John Lewis shop. To complete the demolition safely, the tower will be encapsulated in protective scaffolding and then carefully taken down piece by piece. Following the demolition and subject to planning approval, work to construct the new department store will get underway in spring 2012.

Elsewhere, the first steps to create the new public square opposite the Bullring got underway over the Easter weekend. Work has also started to construct the new north-west station entrance with the demolition of the old spiral ramp from the Pallasades centre on the corner of Stephenson Street and Navigation Street.



*Artist's impression of proposed John Lewis department store. Bullring link bridge view*

## LAY ASSESSORS – VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED IN COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT

**T**he Considerate Contractor Streetworks Scheme continues to improve the safety and quality standards of street works in Birmingham. Lay Assessors are volunteer members of the public who give an impartial view of street works from the point of view of the pedestrian. It is a mechanism that Birmingham City Council's highways department has used over the past ten years to monitor the public's perception of how contractors are working here in Birmingham.

Road works have a significant impact on the entire community, affecting safety, travelling times and the adjacent environment. Volunteers improve the communication between users of the city and contractors who are working on highways.

The scheme is currently recruiting volunteers who can spare an hour a month to assess the impact of street works in Colmore Business District. The scheme is extremely flexible and requires no detailed technical knowledge.

If you would like to become a lay assessor or find out more about the scheme, please contact Nicky Esquillant on 0121 303 7872.

# SID MUIR

## ALLIED IRISH BANK



*Michele Wilby*

**S**id Muir, Allied Irish Bank, was part of the original group of business people that spearheaded the campaign to make Colmore Business District (CBD) the first financial Business Improvement District (BID) in the country. It was therefore with a degree of trepidation that I met Sid as I am now managing the legacy of his hard work, which began in 2008. Back then the manifesto for CBD was to make the area cleaner, greener, safer, welcoming and accessible and to create an identity for the commercial heart of the city centre.

So, did we measure up to Sid's expectations? Sid felt that businesses paying an extra levy on their business rates needed to notice change, in these economic times it is all about value for money.

**SID'S LONG TERM ASPIRATION FOR THE AREA IS TO HAVE COLMORE ROW VEHICLE FREE...**

There have been many visible differences since the commencement of the BID in April 2009. There are more floral features and Christmas lights, pavements are cleaner and we have a team of wardens patrolling the area. These had all been noticed by Sid and he also commented on the events that now take place in the District, bringing the business community together. He had particularly noticed the Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival in CBD and the photographic exhibitions. He and his team are also looking forward to the CBD Food Festival in July.

Allied Irish Bank has been a resident in CBD since 2005, when two branches were merged. They are now in a prominent location on Temple Row, in the District. The office has nearly 100 staff members, is customer facing and is proud to still provide 'old-fashioned' banking, with no call centre. In fact customers have a relationship manager who they deal with. The company is currently going through a restructure to redefine the customer proposition.

Sid joined Allied Irish Bank in 2000 and managed the Coventry branch. He was brought to Birmingham six months before the branch opened to set it up. He has a high profile within the business community and has a board position on Birmingham Forward.

Sid completed the London Marathon this year and has undertaken the last two Birmingham half marathons with colleagues and between them, they have raised over £15,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

This is a charity close to the hearts of Allied Irish Bank employees as their colleague lost her daughter to Leukaemia 5 years ago and she has since set up the Maria Watt Birmingham Foundation for Childhood and Teenage Leukaemia in memory of her daughter.

We ended our conversation with what Sid would like to see CBD doing over the next three years, which is improved signage in the District and better lighting in the Cathedral grounds. These are projects on our 'to do' list and are well in hand.

Sid's long term aspiration for the area is to have Colmore Row vehicle free, as he believes it will improve the feel of the area and if perhaps this is a step too far, suggested that only buses should have access to the area.

Sid seemed happy with our progress to date and he has confidence that we will deliver the aspirations as set out three years ago by him and his fellow business colleagues. That is our challenge and we won't let him down!

# TOP JOB INTERVIEW TIPS

TRACEY SHERRING OF BADENOCH & CLARK

## Tahreen Kutub

Badenoch & Clark, based on Livery Street in Colmore Business District, specialises in recruitment within the professional services.

Senior manager, Tracey Sherring has been with Badenoch & Clark for 10 years and has spoken to CBD Digest about her top job interview tips. On average a Badenoch & Clark consultant will interview up to 10 candidates per week so they have a lot of experience to share.

## Pre Interview...

### PREPARATION

Find out about the company and how many people are interviewing you, including names and job titles. It is worth doing an internet search (via LinkedIn or Google) for background information on each interviewer to research what their position in the company involves. Find out the format of the interview, how long it will be and whether there will be any tests or presentations to prepare for. If you are unsure where the location of the interview is, take a visit beforehand or leave earlier, giving yourself plenty of time to find it.

### PRACTISE

It is a good idea to practise an interview or presentation through role play. If possible, try to do this with family or friends who have had experience of interviewing and recruiting themselves. Preparation and practice through role playing will help with any nerves. Being nervous is mostly a fear of not knowing what is going to happen!

## Interview Day...

### ARRIVAL

Don't arrive too early for the interview, as this puts unnecessary pressure on the interviewer(s), who may be busy with other tasks.

Don't announce that you have arrived until about 5-10 minutes before the interview. If you do arrive very early, go for a coffee!

### PRESENTATION

A very simple tip but people can often get this wrong. Dress professionally for the interview by wearing business attire that is simple and smart in its presentation. You do not want the interviewer to think anything other than 'they were smartly dressed' when they reflect on your appearance.

### ANSWERS

Try to answer questions as clearly and concisely as possible. Preparation and practise should help with this. Make sure that you sell your strengths and abilities. The whole process of getting a job involves selling yourself so have prepared answers for aspects of the job that are highlighted in the job description.

### QUESTIONS

Do ask questions at the end of the interview. This shows interaction and interest and how well you have listened and understood. One aspect you should never ask about, however, is sick pay!

### END OF INTERVIEW

Always show interest at the end of the interview (even if you are not interested). Thank the interviewer(s) for taking the time to see you and ask what happens next.

## Post interview...

### FEEDBACK

Always ask for feedback after the interview, whether you are successful in getting the job or not. The feedback will help with future interviews.

[www.badenochandclark.com](http://www.badenochandclark.com)



CBD STREET WARDEN

# CARL TAYLOR



*Tahreen Kutub*

Carl Taylor joined the Colmore Business District (CBD) street warden team in January 2011. He talks to CBD Digest about his role and activities in the District.

### *What made you want to become a street warden?*

My background is in electrical installation work but I also used to volunteer for the police. Working with the police enabled me to help people and communities, which I really enjoyed. This led me to consider the occupation of a street warden when I decided to have a career change. My first job as a street warden was in Wolverhampton, where I was employed for over two years before starting my current role in Birmingham.

### *What have been some of your key activities in CBD over the past six months?*

As a CBD street warden, I play a key welcoming role when on static duty at Snow Hill station. I regularly give directions to visitors in the District, who may be looking for an office building for a meeting or a hotel in which they will be staying. The high visibility warden uniform helps me to stand out so that people often approach me with questions.

## WE WANT THIS TO BE A HIGH QUALITY AND ENJOYABLE PLACE TO DO BUSINESS!

Over the last few months, I have been involved in special patrols on Church Street, where businesses have experienced problems with beggars. The issues were reported to the warden office and we started the patrols straightaway. The situation has improved greatly since.

### *Wardens do regular business visits in CBD, tell us more about these.*

A CBD warden does three to four business visits a day. I visit receptions and liaise with the security teams of organisations in the District. Hospitality and retail businesses are also visited. They give me an opportunity to introduce the warden service and the ways in which we can help, from nuisance behaviour to environmental issues.

Recently, I visited a coffee shop in the District, which had had an incident with troublesome individuals. I reassured the staff, discussed the best course of action for the future and did regular visits to the venue for a week to monitor the situation.

### *Large office blocks with different business occupiers tend to have tenant meetings. Do the wardens have any involvement with these?*

We have started to attend tenant meetings to listen to any issues that have been experienced by occupiers and discuss how we can assist with these.

During one meeting, the issue of skateboarders was raised as a primary concern. The building's facilities manager now has direct contact with the warden office to report any skateboarder related issues, which the wardens help with straightaway.

### *How do you work with organisations such as the Police and Birmingham City Council?*

The wardens have a direct link to police CCTV cameras should we require them. We work with the police to address any anti-social behaviour and to ensure CBD is as safe as possible. During patrols throughout the District, I inspect the highway for any defects, look out for environmental issues and work with organisations such as Birmingham City Council to fix these. A few months ago, I had spotted potholes on Weaman Street that were more than 6cm deep. I contacted the council and the holes were fixed.

We also have a direct radio link to the West Midlands Ambulance Service biker paramedics. In spring, an elderly lady had had an accident on Colmore Row. We got in touch with the biker paramedics, obtained immediate medical care and looked after her until the ambulance arrived.

### *What are the best things about your job?*

I love that I can help people and it's always satisfying to see individuals grateful for assistance. Even simple acts such as helping with directions can make a positive impact on someone's experience in CBD. If required, we will happily escort visitors to the destination they are trying to reach in the District. We want this to be a high quality and enjoyable place to do business!

I also like the problem solving side of the role. We need to think of how to deal with difficult situations such as anti-social behaviour on the spot! Overall, I love the variety of the role and that we work to ensure the area is a friendly and welcoming place for all.

*The wardens are based at Snow Hill station in CBD. The warden office can be contacted on 0121 212 9633 or by emailing [streetwardens@colmorebusinessdistrict.com](mailto:streetwardens@colmorebusinessdistrict.com).*



# All That Jazz

As part of the Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival, Colmore Business District (CBD) is hosting 12 performances from Monday 4th July to Friday 8th July.

This year's festival coincides with the CBD Food Festival on Thursday 7th July in Victoria Square. Visitors will be entertained by live jazz & blues performances throughout the day. CBD has worked with the Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival to arrange a programme of fantastic live music in the District for all to enjoy.

## Colmore Business District Performance Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Performance
Monday 4th July	12.00pm - 2.00pm	Victoria Square	Teens Jazzband Velke Losiny [Czech Republic]
Monday 4th July	5.00pm - 6.30pm	Victoria Square	Kacey Cubero [U.S.A.]
Tuesday 5th July	12.00pm - 2.00pm	Victoria Square	Michael Sutton Quartet
Tuesday 5th July	5.00pm - 6.30pm	Victoria Square	Becky Brine Band
Wednesday 6th July	12.00pm - 2.00pm	Colmore Square	Brass Volcanoes
Wednesday 6th July	5.00pm - 6.30pm	Colmore Square	Brass Volcanoes
Thursday 7th July	12.00pm - 1.00pm	Victoria Square	Greg Abate Quartet [U.S.A.]
Thursday 7th July	2.00pm - 3.00pm	Victoria Square	Greg Abate Quartet [U.S.A.]
Thursday 7th July	3.30pm - 5.15pm	Victoria Square	Lewis Floyd Henry
Thursday 7th July	5.45pm - 7.00pm	Victoria Square	Brass Volcanoes
Friday 8th July	12.00pm - 2.00pm	Colmore Square	The Jazz Ramblers
Friday 8th July	5.00pm - 6.30pm	Colmore Square	Strumpit

Please note that the jazz and blues performances on Thursday 7th July will take place as part of the CBD Food Festival in Victoria Square. For more information on the Food Festival see pages 16-17

# BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

## TEENS JAZZBAND VELKE LOSINY (Czech Republic)

Velke Losiny is the town in the Czech Republic where it all began for the Teens Jazzband in 2002. Now, still full of youthful exuberance, the band has the experience of eight years of brilliant success. A highlight was the band's appearance, in both 2004 and 2005, at the Independence Day celebrations in Prague's American Embassy.

## KACEY CUBERO [USA]

After spending many years writing, performing and honing her distinctive, edgy style of rock/alt-country, Kacey has been twice named Indie Artist of the Year by Singer Magazine. Kacey joins us touring her latest release, *Fill Your Cup*, featuring a blend of styles from raw rocking anthems to soulful ballads – a stunning collection of Kacey's brand of Americana, delivered with a uniquely soulful edge.

## MICHAEL SUTTON QUARTET

Michael Sutton is a jazz singer of rare ability who studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA), became infatuated with the songs of Johnny Mercer and is a regular on the Yorkshire jazz scene. He won a legion of fans through his 2010 performances at the Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival with his regular cohort, Leeds College of Music graduate Mike Conliffe on piano. They have since added double bass and have started gigging UK-Wide.

## BECKY BRINE BAND

The West Country's 'Jazzeoke Queen', Totnes-based Becky Brine will be remembered with affection by Birmingham patrons for her solo street entertainment throughout the last three festivals. Becky returns to the city with her own quartet. With her background in music theatre – including *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Godspell* at Bristol Old Vic – Becky is a consummate performer as well as a fine singer.

## BRASS VOLCANOES

Formed in 2007 by sousaphone player Graham Hughes, London-based Brass Volcanoes are made up of highly versatile jazz musicians. The band consists of a mixture of brass, saxophones and drums. The band's good-time spirit is shown by its commitment to spontaneity, energy, interaction and fun, with a healthy dose of humour thrown in.

## GREG ABATE QUARTET (USA)

Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, in 1947, saxophonist/flautist Greg Abate is now based in Rhode Island. Having graduated from Berklee, Greg spent his early years as a professional playing lead alto with the Ray Charles Orchestra. His first CD under his own name was released on Candid in 1991. Thirteen years and a dozen albums later, his 2004 release, *Evolution*, garnered Grammy nominations in four categories.

## LEWIS FLOYD HENRY

One of the new sensations to hit Birmingham this year is rock'n'roll whirlwind Lewis Floyd Henry, a one-man band with plenty of soul and licks that Clapton would happily claim as his own. When his father came to England from Jamaica in the 1960s, he brought plenty of Trenchtown reggae with him – a sound that, along with the blues, formed the cornerstone of Henry's musical education.

## THE JAZZ RAMBLERS

Banjo/guitar player Brian Mellor gathers a group of like-minded musicians for a programme of good time jazz, loosely based on the music of the 1930s and 1940s. As well as numbers associated with the greats such as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Bix Beiderbecke, the Ramblers feature material from such popular British musicians as Chris Barber, Kenny Ball and Acker Bilk.

## STRUMPIT

Formed in 2008, Strumpit went through a number of changes before arriving at the present settled line-up of Andy Bucknall, Madi Stimpson and Michael Lacoult. Perfecting its own take on the music of Django Reinhardt, Strumpit is made up of committed street musicians who often take their music to the streets of Birmingham, Worcester and Stratford-upon-Avon. Over the past 12 months, the band has put in a lot of road miles and gigs and has matured into a force to be reckoned with.



Brass Volcanoes



Michael Sutton



Becky Brine

# jazz



Greg Abate



Strumpit



The Jazz Ramblers



Lewis Floyd Henry



Kacey Cubero

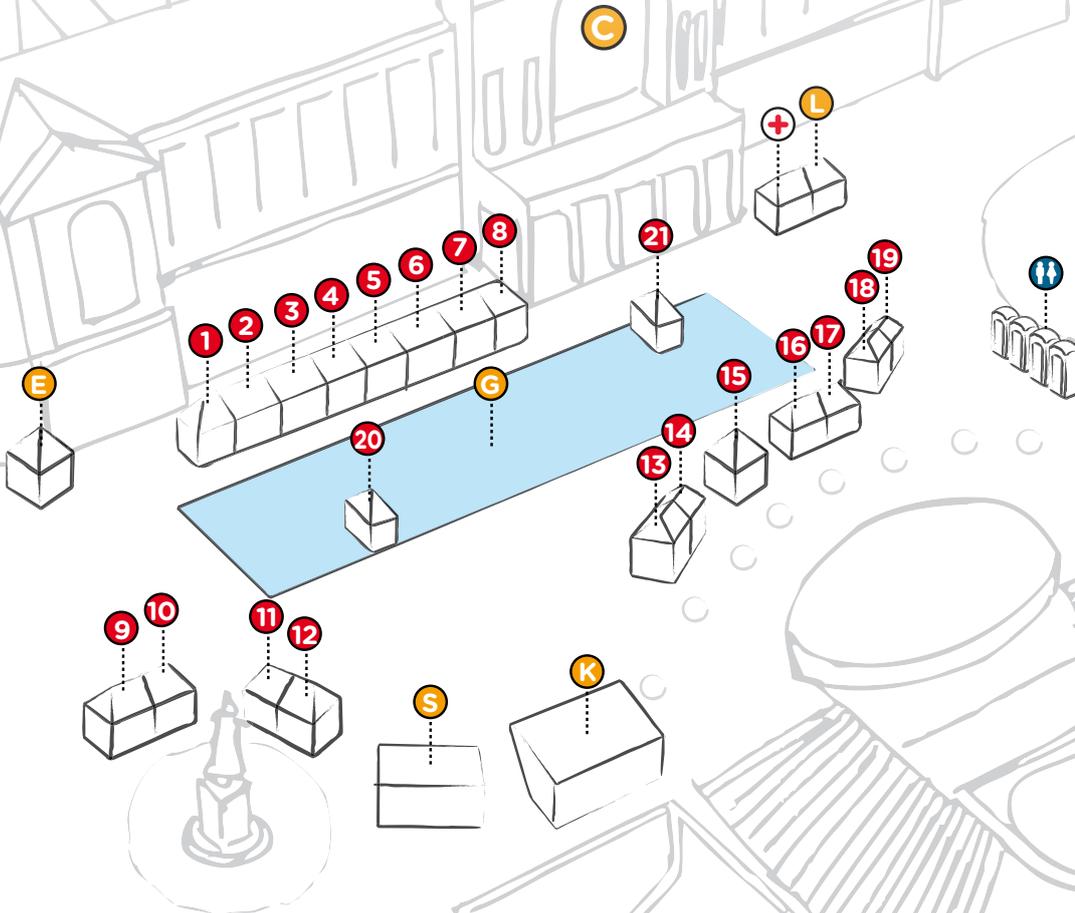


Teens Jazzband Velke Losiny



# Food Festival

ON THURSDAY 7TH JULY,  
COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT  
(CBD) WILL HOLD ITS FIRST EVER  
FOOD FESTIVAL IN BIRMINGHAM'S  
VICTORIA SQUARE.



**S**tarting at midday and finishing at 7pm the CBD Food Festival is open to everyone and is completely free to attend.

With over 20 stalls offering tasters from traditional British cuisine to more exotic dishes, freshly ground coffee to refreshing cocktails and sweet treats, the festival really has got something to offer everyone!

The CBD Food Festival will be accompanied by demo kitchen sessions from some of the District's top chefs, as well as live music as part of the Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival in Colmore Business District.

The Food Festival will officially open at 1pm, followed by the first cookery demonstration of the day from Glynn Purnell of Purnell's and David Colcombe of Opus Restaurant.

Glynn and David will be given a mystery box full of local produce from which they will cook up a culinary feast in their own and unique cooking styles.

Visitors will also be able to see local media gurus, Alun Thorne from the Birmingham Post and Marc Reeves of TheBusinessDesk.com, swap their notebooks for aprons as they take on the role of "sous-chefs", supporting Glynn and David.

Later during the day crowds will also be able to enjoy cookery demonstrations from Asha's Restaurant and Jojolapa.

## CBD FOOD FESTIVAL LAYOUT KEY

- 1 Caffè Uno
- 2 The Chameleon
- 3 Urban Coffee Company
- 4 All Bar One
- 5 Hotel du Vin
- 6 Colmore Bar & Grill
- 7 Jojolapa
- 8 The Old Contemptibles
- 9 Metro Bar & Grill
- 10 Starbucks
- 11 Bushwackers
- 12 Bagel Nation
- 13 Asha's Restaurant
- 14 Edmund's Lounge, Bar & Eatery
- 15 Café Costes
- 16 Opus Restaurant
- 17 Manton's
- 18 Purnell's
- 19 The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre
- 20 The Wellington
- 21 The Jekyll & Hyde

- S Stage
- K Demo kitchen
- G Seating area
- L Lost children meeting point
- E Event control
- + First aid station
- C Council House

## WHAT'S ON AT THE CBD FOOD FESTIVAL

**12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival performance - Greg Abate Quartet

**1.00pm - 1.10pm**  
**Opening of event**

**1.10pm - 2.00pm**

**Demo kitchen session** - Purnell's and Opus Restaurant

**2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival performance - Greg Abate Quartet

**3.00pm - 3.30pm**

**Demo kitchen session** - Asha's Restaurant

**3.30pm - 5.15pm**

Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival performance - Lewis Floyd Henry

**5.15pm - 5.45pm**

**Demo kitchen session** - Jojolapa

**5.45pm - 7.00pm**

Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival performance - Brass Volcanoes



## CBD CHALLENGE 500 RETURNS FOR 2011

The CBD Challenge 500, in support of The Prince's Trust will be returning in autumn 2011, following its success last year. The 2010 challenge saw Colmore Business District (CBD) based companies raise over £10,000 for the youth charity.

The Prince's Trust is a UK charity that provides practical support including training, mentoring and financial assistance to 14-30 year olds to realise their potential and transform their lives. The Trust focuses efforts on those who have struggled at school, been in care, been in trouble with the law or are long-term unemployed.

In addition to fundraising, the CBD Challenge 500 will provide an innovative way to build networks within the District and excellent team building opportunities for employees. Teams of up to six people from CBD based companies will race each other over a four week period to be the first to raise £500 for The Prince's Trust. The prize winners will be the first team to raise £500 and the team to raise the most funds over the challenge period.

Fundraising activities last year included a cake sale, auction, dress down day and a sponsored walk. Raj Beghal, who led the Turner & Townsend team said: "The company enjoys engaging with the local community through project commitments so this challenge was perfect. Sponsoring four of our male professionals to wear a dress for

one hour was definitely a highlight and won't be forgotten! A top tip for success is to have fun throughout and to remember whose lives you're making a difference to."

The CBD Challenge 500 2011 will take place from Monday 3rd October to Monday 31st October. Teams must be submitted by Thursday 1st September. For further information visit [www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com](http://www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com). To receive an application form, contact Tahreen Kutub: [tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com](mailto:tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com).



Members of Turner & Townsend team from last year's Challenge 500

## BRUNTWOOD AND COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT GOLF DAY

The Bruntwood and Colmore Business District (CBD) Golf Day has raised over £8,000 for The Prince's Trust.

The day took place in June at Edgbaston Golf Club, with a number of participating teams from CBD based companies, including BWB Consulting, CB Richard Ellis, Cobbetts, Davis Langdon, DTZ, KPMG, Martineau and Tuffin Ferraby Taylor.

**"I WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE SO MANY TEAMS FROM CBD BUSINESSES TAKING PART IN THE DAY..."**

A formal dinner in the evening saw funds raised through a raffle and auction. At the dinner, guests heard from Jamie Webb, the Prince's Trust head of fundraising for the private sector in the Midlands, and Nathan Chin, a Prince's Trust ambassador. Nathan, 21,

received a grant from The Prince's Trust to set up an outreach project to persuade young people to turn away from knives and gang violence. Nathan had previously got involved in crime and ended up in trouble with the law. He vowed that he wanted to change his life and, supported by The Prince's Trust, committed himself to helping other young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Speaking about the Golf Day, Jamie Webb said: "Bruntwood and CBD are incredible supporters of The Prince's Trust in Birmingham and I was delighted to see so many teams from CBD businesses taking part in the day.

"It was great for Nathan to attend and he did an inspiring talk on how his life has been transformed by The Prince's Trust. All the money raised at the golf day will go to support young people like Nathan in Birmingham."

John Sisk won the overall golf challenge. Raffle prizes and auction items were kindly donated by businesses and organisations including Hotel du Vin, The Old Contemptibles, Jojolapa, Harris and Gibbs Hairdressing, Urban Coffee Company and the BBC.

Head of sales for Bruntwood and CBD board director, Rob Valentine said, "We are delighted with the amount that has been raised though the Golf Day, which will help provide much needed support to disadvantaged young people in Birmingham. I'd like to thank all the teams that took part and the prize donators. I look forward now to the Challenge 500 in autumn, which will continue CBD's fundraising efforts for this very worthwhile charity."

[www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com](http://www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com)

[www.princes-trust.org.uk](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk)



## IN COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT

**W**orking in partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome, Colmore Business District (CBD) will welcome exciting and interactive outdoor performances to the District this summer through a programme of *Feel Good Fridays*. They will be warm up performances for the wider *Six Summer Saturdays* programme. The acts will showcase a range of comedic outdoor theatre, walkabout acts and static shows, aiming to entertain workers and visitors in the District and bringing arts and culture to CBD's streets and open spaces.

Here is a preview of the schedule together with profiles on the artists. Times and performances are subject to change.

Visit [www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com](http://www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com) for the latest schedule.



Grannie Tourismo



Café de la Gare



Cascade



Date: **Friday 15th July**  
 Performer: **The Red Boxes: La Boite Noire**  
 Location and times: **Colmore Square**  
**1.00pm – 1.40pm & 5.00pm – 5.40pm**

Join *Bootworks* for a pulp thriller of minuscule proportions. Experience a murder mystery across four performances in the unique Red Box theatre installations. A story of multiple narratives for small audiences – watch in any order and let the story unfold!

Date: **Friday 22nd July**  
 Performer: **Circus in the City – with NoFit State Circus**  
 Location and times: **Cathedral Grounds**  
**12.30pm – 2.30pm & 4.00pm – 6.30pm**

An official London 2012 Open Weekend event. Flag flying, drum banging, hand balancing, hula hooping and trapeze! At various times an interactive circus game – *Great Balls of Fire!* will feature on the big screen in Victoria Square. Feed the circus heads with fire balls, compete with friends, family and colleagues and enjoy the celebration when the heads become full and satisfied. Funded by Arts Council England, Birmingham Hippodrome and Colmore Business District.

Date: **Friday 12th Aug**  
 Performer: **Grannie Tourismo**  
 Location and times: **starting at Colmore Row and roaming to Colmore Square, 1.00pm – 1.30pm & 5.30pm – 6.00pm**

When Doris, Mary and Marge arrive on their souped-up shopping trolleys, everyone takes notice!

Date: **Friday 12th Aug**  
 Performer: **Café de la Gare**  
 Location and times: **Cathedral Grounds, 1.30pm and 5.30pm (static performance for 30 minutes)**

French artists Laetitia Couason and Sébastien Braux explore the relationship between one another in all its forms through a stylish contemporary dance and violin duet that takes you to another place.

Date: **Friday 12th Aug**  
 Performer: **Motionhouse – Cascade**  
 Location and times: **Chamberlain Square, 6.00pm**

Set on a submerged house amidst rising flood waters, *Cascade* is an enthralling look at one family's scramble to keep their heads above water and their feet on dry land! A company of fabulous dancers balance, fall, slide and tumble their way upwards as they ascend through the levels of their domestic life and arrive adrift on an endlessly disappearing island.

*Don't be surprised to see other pop up characters and outdoor street interventions around Colmore Business District this summer as part of the wider [www.sixsummersaturdays.com](http://www.sixsummersaturdays.com) programme.*

*Images supplied by Birmingham Hippodrome.*

HOME OF

# METAL

*Tahreen Kutub*

The Home of Metal exhibition at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) in Colmore Business District is one of the largest and most ambitious exhibitions that the museum has ever showcased.

I met with Tom Grosvenor, exhibition officer at BMAG and project manager of the Home of Metal exhibition to find out more about this exciting exhibition in the museum's Gas Hall.

The interview took place behind the scenes as Home of Metal was being set up. Tom took me around the Gas Hall where a team of technicians were at work. The hall was largely empty after the de-rip of the Poetry of Drawing exhibition that was on show in spring. Parts of the room had already been cordoned off for the various sections of Home of Metal and it would take a lot of imagination to picture what the room would look like in only a few weeks!

“THE GUITARIST OF BLACK SABBATH, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL HEAVY METAL BANDS, HAD HAD AN ACCIDENT WHEN WORKING IN A SHEET METAL FACTORY BEFORE JOINING THE BAND AND LOST THE TIPS OF TWO FINGERS...”

The Home of Metal exhibition will celebrate Birmingham and the Black Country as the birthplace of Heavy Metal and incorporate the social history of the region. It is the culmination of the Home of Metal project that has been running for five years and is managed by art and music producers, Capsule. The project aims to bring people together to explore themes of Heavy Metal through exhibitions, film screenings and events. Capsule and BMAG began to work in partnership in 2007.

## EXHIBITION

18TH JUNE TO 25TH SEPTEMBER

Tom explained that the Home of Metal exhibition is one of the most ambitious that BMAG has been involved with. He said: “Working with Capsule, we have started this exhibition from scratch. Fans have their own memorabilia but there has not been a project in the past that has brought together a large scale collection of this nature.”

Part of the exhibition will re-create a factory setting in the 1960s, the era in which Heavy Metal was born. Tom explained that the purpose of this is to depict the dominant industry in Birmingham and the Black Country during the birth of the genre. He added: “The guitarist of Black Sabbath, one of the original Heavy Metal bands, had had an accident when working in a sheet metal factory before joining the band and lost the tips of two fingers. This actually contributed to the slower and heavier sound that Black Sabbath became famous for!”

Walking around the hall, Tom took me to a section that will recreate a living room in a terraced house in the 1960s. This room will be modelled on the type of house in Aston that Black Sabbath lead vocalist, Ozzy Osbourne grew up in. Tom explained that a PhD student has been working on the project for four years and has visited the famous house in Aston. This work has been crucial to the recreation of the living room.

The main section of the exhibition will showcase the theatrics of performing, with costumes and musical instruments on display. The area will have black carpet and a black ceiling to create the mood of the genre. This section will also be interactive, as visitors will be able to create their own Heavy Metal music with instruments including the iconic Gibson Flying V guitar. Another part of the exhibition will include an area of memorabilia collected from some super fans of Black Sabbath, Judas Priest and Napalm Death.



A black and white fanzine wall will be dedicated to the 1980s and Napalm Death. Tom said: "This was a time when Heavy Metal bands started to leave the 'big stage' behind and moved towards a more DIY aesthetic, playing upstairs in pubs and bars. We will reflect this period alongside the political situation and high unemployment of the time. The wall will have newspaper cuttings, original artefacts, as well as hand written lyrics from the band."

The final section of the hall will show the global impact that the Birmingham and Black Country bands have achieved, from local roots to international stardom. This will be shown through a family tree with photos and names. The exhibition team has also sought quotes from contemporary Metal bands, giving their thoughts on the original Heavy Metal stars.

Tom has been working on the Home of Metal project since joining BMAG in 2008. Prior to this, he had worked on photographic exhibitions at Birmingham Central Library. Tom revealed that BMAG wanted to be involved with Home of Metal to add to the variety of its exhibitions and attract new audiences. He said: "We do not just showcase traditional works. We are keen to explore a range of themes. This exhibition also depicts an important part of Birmingham's social history, which I think we should exhibit as the largest museum in the city."

The Home of Metal exhibition is at BMAG from 18th June to 25th September 2011.

[www.bmag.org.uk](http://www.bmag.org.uk)

[www.homeofmetal.com](http://www.homeofmetal.com)



# GALLERY AT THE OLD JOINT STOCK PUB & THEATRE

Tahreen Kutub

**A** hidden gem in Colmore Business District, the gallery at The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre is on the second floor of the grade two listed building on Temple Row West and exhibits works from a variety of artists.

The theatre and gallery were established in October 2006 above The Old Joint Stock Pub, which had been trading since 1996. Theatre manager Ian Craddock joined The Old Joint Stock at the same time to manage both the theatre and gallery.

Speaking about the origins of the gallery, Ian told CBD Digest: "The Theatre was set up on the second floor, above the pub. There was a lot of plain wall space available so the brewery thought it would be good to exhibit images for theatre guests to view. The first exhibit was from a regular at the pub, Delroy Grant, who was also an artist." Ian added that as the theatre became more well known, other artists started to approach him to exhibit their works in the gallery.

The gallery is open to a variety of exhibits, including watercolours, photography, sketches and cartoons. When asked about some of the more unusual works that the gallery has displayed, Ian said: "Last Christmas, we exhibited the works of two sisters, Amy Nightingale and Claire Benson. The exhibition was called *Particle Article: Crafted Creatures* and consisted of tiny sculptures of creatures in boxes, made using recycled objects. Claire and Amy had been inspired by insects, myths and fairytales to create their unique works. Visitors to the gallery were simply intrigued by the minute sculptures."

A particularly exciting artist that the Gallery has featured is Steve Lilly. Steve's works include pencil arts and portraits of classic comedies, such as *Fawlty Towers*, *On the Buses* and *Only Fools and Horses*. His works had been exhibited at The Old Joint Stock during the Birmingham Comedy Festival a few years ago. The strength of this exhibition led to Steve exhibiting his works at the Dad's Army Museum in Norfolk.

An exhibition in spring this year showcased a selection of paintings by figurative artist Helen Finney. Helen's figurative works are mainly self portraits and added to the variety of exhibitions that have been displayed at the gallery.

Ian's own background has featured art strongly. Prior to joining The Old Joint Stock, Ian was the general manager at the Crescent Theatre. Here, he designed all the sets for the shows that he directed as well as for other shows at the theatre. Ian has continued to do this for some of the shows at The Old Joint Stock. Commenting on the gallery, Ian said: "It is a way to introduce art to theatre guests who may not usually visit art galleries. Guests do comment on the works, good and bad. What it does is encourage interest and engagement with art."

*An exhibition at The Old Joint Stock lasts for ten weeks. It is free of charge to exhibit works, although a 20% +VAT commission is received by The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre if an item is sold. Artists usually organise a preview evening just before the exhibition opens. The gallery is open from 11am to 5pm every day. On theatre show nights, the opening hours are extended to 8pm.*

[www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk](http://www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk)

Top L-R: *A Note to Self, Blush and Dear John*. By Helen Finney

## THE OLD JOINT STOCK THEATRE REVIEW **TAKING THE WHEEL**

Tahreen Kutub

The Old Joint Stock Theatre in Colmore Business District welcomed a taste of Broadway to Birmingham in June. Followspot Theatre presented *Taking the Wheel*, a concert of contemporary musical theatre songs about life and living.

Audience members were treated to a variety of solos, duets and ensemble numbers by composers such as Jason Robert Brown, John Bucchino and Jonathan Larson. The majority of performers consisted of local talent, including Emily Holmes who has just completed a degree in Music at the University of Wolverhampton and James Otto who is currently studying composition at the Birmingham Conservatoire.



Jessie Robinson



James Otto



Emily Holmes

Photos supplied by Followspot Theatre

The songs were delivered beautifully in the intimate and dimly lit settings of the theatre. Songs ranged from the sombre *Sepia Life* about a southern belle arranging her first affair, to the more tongue in cheek *Taylor the Latte Boy* delivered with brilliant charm by Emily Holmes.

The star of the show was Jessie Robinson who sang four of the 20 songs during the evening and was clearly an audience favourite with the loud cheers following each song. The performances showed the various depths that Jessie's stunning voice could reach and were each delivered with passion and conviction. Particularly impressive was the delivery of *He's no good* by Cy Coleman.

*The Old Joint Stock Theatre* is located on Temple Row West, seats 80 people and hosts shows such as music nights, comedy nights and a range of plays.

For further information on the theatre and a list of forthcoming shows, visit [www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk](http://www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk)

## CBD DIGEST SUMMER 2011 **COMPETITION**

Enter our competition to win a meal for two, including a bottle of wine, at the Thistle Birmingham City hotel. Simply answer this question:

**Where is Thistle Birmingham City based in Colmore Business District?**

Is it:

**A: Snow Hill Queensway**

**B: Colmore Circus Queensway**

**C: St Chad's Queensway**

Send your answer to Tahreen Kutub:  
[tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com](mailto:tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com).

### Terms and conditions

Competition closing date is **Wednesday 31st August 2011**. Entries must be received by this date. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries. The winner will be announced in the next issue of CBD Digest.

## THISTLE DO NICELY...



Anna Kavanagh

I recently passed a very pleasant hour having lunch at a place that I can only describe as 'somewhat overlooked' in the register of eateries in Colmore Business District, the restaurant at the Thistle Birmingham City hotel on St Chad's Queensway at the junction with Whittall Street. I say 'overlooked' because dining establishments embedded in hotels often have a difficult time getting noticed by people who aren't staying there, and tucked away down by the Queensway, this one is easier to overlook than most.

I bought a pint of fizzy beer and ordered that staple of modern Brit-cuisine, cottage pie, informing the pleasant staff that I would be braving their ample, planter-strewn terrace.

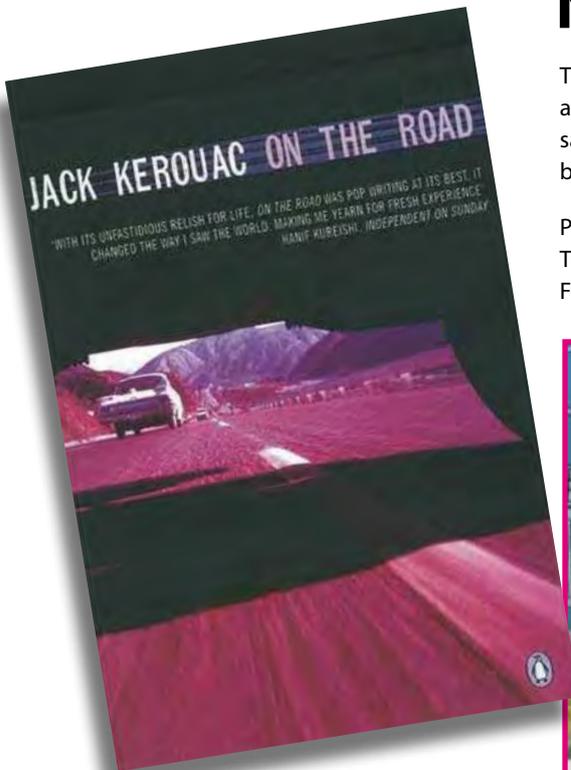
My food arrived as a kit in two bowls plus a small jug holding a delightfully rich gravy. The seasonal veg in one bowl (broccoli, courgettes and carrots) were perfectly cooked. The mash on the cottage pie was piped in a rather bold sweeping way, with no hint of lump or inconsistency. The underlying meat was very finely minced with a sauce that defied categorisation by a non-expert like me, but was very tasty.

So for £10.50 and the price of a pint I was treated to a good example of a traditional British dish, well cooked and presented, along with a very pleasant spot in which to enjoy it.

[www.thistle.com/birmingham](http://www.thistle.com/birmingham)

BOOK REVIEW

URBAN COFFEE  
COMPANY'S BOOK  
CLUB REVIEWS



**M**ay's book club choice was the 1950s Beat Generation classic, *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac. The book tells the story of Sal Paradise's travels around America with his group of friends over a period of three years.

The book has received widespread critical acclaim and has featured on many 'must-read' lists! Overall everyone enjoyed the opportunity to read such a well-known book and get into what life was like on the road. There was some disappointment about the lack of description of the places that Sal visited, with the exception of the time spent in Mexico, and similarly of the treatment of female characters in the story. There was also a view that this book and its youthful freedom might have had more resonance with teenagers but the majority of the mixed-age group did really enjoy it.

For information on the next book club, visit [www.urbancoffee.co.uk](http://www.urbancoffee.co.uk).

AFTERNOON TEA  
**AT MANTON'S**

**M**anton's, on Newhall Street in Colmore Business District, now serves afternoon tea from 2.30pm to 5pm every day.

The Traditional Afternoon Tea consists of bottomless tea or Americano coffee, together with a scone served with clotted cream and jam. The Gourmet Afternoon Tea includes finger sandwiches, a scone with clotted cream and jam, a fruit tart and mini brownie, accompanied by bottomless tea or Americano coffee.

Perfect for a different twist on a business lunch and also an excellent treat for the family. The Traditional Afternoon Tea is £5 per head and the Gourmet Afternoon Tea is £12 per head. For further details, call 0121 212 2825.



SPRING EDITION'S  
**COMPETITION  
WINNER**

Lisa Clews-Lapworth, receptionist at Shoosmiths, won four theatre tickets and four main course meals at The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

