

# CBD

digest



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

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TAKE TO THE STREETS  
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

THISTLE BIRMINGHAM CITY HOTEL

CROCKETT & JONES

**HS2: HAVE YOUR SAY**



# Food Festival

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Spring edition of CBD Digest

Colmore Business District will be holding its first Food Festival this summer, on Thursday 7th July, to highlight the excellent quality of CBD's food and drink offering. The one day event will take place on Victoria Square and include stalls from restaurants, bars, pubs and coffee shops in the area, all offering tasters of their signature dishes at affordable prices. This edition gives a special preview to the event, profiling each participant and hearing from the creators behind the festival. The Food Festival will be accompanied by live music, as part of our involvement with the Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival.



The business section of CBD Digest includes news on the recently combined legal practice, Squire Sanders Hammonds, the move of recruitment group Blusource into the District, as well as the 25th anniversary of Smith Cooper, a firm of chartered accountants and business advisers.

Effective and sustainable transport links both within CBD and across the region are essential to the future of our business district and this edition looks at CBD's plans to build a sustainable transport infrastructure. We also have an update on the public consultation for High Speed 2.

In partnership with Birmingham City University, Birmingham City Council and local businesses, CBD will bring a photographic exhibition to the area in spring. The 'Take to the Streets' exhibition will be outside Snow Hill Station from 18th May to 3rd July and will showcase images of cities and streets from around the world, captured by photographers at Magnum Photos. This edition features a preview of the exhibition.

In addition to the latest news in the District, CBD Digest includes further tips on delivering presentations and contains the magazine's first review of a performance at The Old Joint Stock Theatre. CBD Showcase will feature Crockett & Jones, the Colmore Row based shoe shop with over 100 years of history. The magazine also contains a list of forthcoming events in the city, competitions, and a recipe from Italian restaurant, Caffè Uno.

If you would like to get in touch about CBD Digest or would like to find out more about the District, please contact Tahreen Kutub, CBD communications co-ordinator: [tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.co.uk](mailto:tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.co.uk).

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Communications Co-ordinator



**Kirsten Henly**  
Projects Co-ordinator



**Clare Perkins**  
CBD Administrator

Colmore Business District is delighted to welcome back Clare Perkins to the team, who has returned from maternity leave. Clare will be the 'first point of contact' for CBD and will work on a number of projects including the floral displays, Christmas lights and managing the deep cleaning of District streets.

## CREDITS

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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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# SQUIRE SANDERS HAMMONDS

CBD based law firm Hammonds LLP recently combined with Squire Sanders & Dempsey, resulting in a legal practice with increased global links. The newly formed Squire Sanders Hammonds provides clients with access to 1,275 lawyers in 37 offices and 17 countries. Nick Green, head of the Birmingham office, talks to Tahreen Kutub about the benefits of the combination and the importance of the Birmingham clients and markets to the firm on Edmund Street.

The combination, officially completed in January 2011, has brought together two firms with strengths in different parts of the world. Hammonds LLP had prominence in the UK, Western Europe and China whereas Squire Sanders & Dempsey was strong in North America, South America and Eastern Europe. Nick comments that aside from the international fit, the two firms made a good cultural match, as both were global players in the mid tier market.

In regards to the extended global reach, Nick said, "Our Birmingham clients and markets are our absolute priority. Clients without international links will continue to get the same dedicated service. The difference with the new firm is that it can now offer extra services for clients with parent companies or suppliers in different parts of the world. We are a large global practice with a core local focus."

The increase in resources and expertise has strengthened the Birmingham office's services in the areas of life sciences, marine work and international disputes. Industry groups in construction, environment and banking have seen the extension of teams, whilst there has been a growth in the provision of services for leisure and hospitality. Nick comments that the office's major strengths remain in corporate finance, real estate and pensions. The latter helped Squire Sanders Hammonds win the "Global Pensions Law Firm of the Year" in March this year.

The office on Edmund Street underwent refurbishment last year, following the firm's decision to stay in the current location. Nick comments, "We are in exactly the right place to do business! Being located within a concentration of professional and business services benefits visiting clients who may wish to make use of the other services. There are fantastic transport links, as we are close to Snow Hill Station, New Street Station and the bus routes. This provides great accessibility for clients and staff."

Melanie Williams, partner at Squire Sanders Hammonds and CBD board director, said, "The firm is now ideally placed at international, national and local level to embrace the opportunities that the combination will bring, particularly as the economy improves."



Nick Green, head of Birmingham Office

This is an exciting time for the City, given the significant planned infrastructure investment. The CBD Board and team are also working on a number of legacy projects, including the Church Street public realm enhancement. These projects will further enhance the District to make the area an exciting place for both work and play. As a large employer in the heart of CBD, we look forward to our international colleague visits so we can show them an area of which we are proud."

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

## BLUSOURCE EXPANDS WITH OFFICES IN COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT

Having launched in the East Midlands in 2009, recruitment group Blusource has expanded this year with new offices on Colmore Row in CBD.

CEO, Andrew Springhall said, "It had been a top priority to have a Birmingham address pretty much from the start. Over 50% of our revenue can be attributed to our relationships with West Midlands based firms and we are now extremely pleased to have a base here too".

Based in the heart of Colmore Business District, Blusource will be perfectly located to continue with its fresh approach to professional services recruitment for the legal, accounting and banking sectors. Andrew Springhall said his vision is to continue to create a "superior professional search and selection business across the region". Since its launch, Blusource has developed strategic partnerships with a

number of legal and accounting practices and is now regarded as one of the key players across the Midlands region.

Further to locating in CBD, Blusource has joined forces with Birmingham Forward as one of its patrons for 2011.

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



# THISTLE BIRMINGHAM CITY HOTEL



**T**histle Birmingham City Hotel, based on St Chad's Queensway in Colmore Business District, is just a five minute walk from Snow Hill Station and half a mile from New Street Station.

The hotel can plan guests' travel and lodging needs, including last-minute weekend city breaks in Birmingham, and caters for corporate events and parties. It offers 12 air conditioned meeting rooms and 133 bedrooms, including suites. The largest of the meeting rooms seats up to 200 delegates theatre style.

The hotel can offer a range of food and drink as part of an event package, and provides discounted parking to guests at the adjoining NCP car park. Look out for the summer edition of CBD Digest for a review of the bar meals and for a great lunchtime offer for Digest readers.

General Manager, Peter Farrow has been with Thistle Birmingham City Hotel for one year and the Thistle Group for five years. Peter said, "Thistle Birmingham City Hotel has undergone a £1 million refurbishment over the past year, which has been invested in the room stock and public areas. We have got 2011 off to a great start with significant growth year on year. Located in the heart of the professional quarter in Birmingham means we are in an ideal location for business meetings and corporate events."

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



*Nigel Mears and Graham Muth*

## FAMILY LAW EXPERT FOR COBBETTS' BIRMINGHAM OFFICE

Law firm Cobbetts LLP has appointed family law expert Nigel Mears as a partner in its Birmingham office at One Colmore Square in Colmore Business District. The move will improve the breadth of services the firm is able to offer its clients.

Joining from George Green, where he worked for three years, Nigel has specialised in family law for over twenty years, with significant expertise in the area of high value ancillary relief claims pursuant to divorce proceedings and resolving issues between separating cohabitants. A growing area of Nigel's work now involves wealth protection strategies utilising prenuptial agreements.

Graham Muth, head of Cobbetts' Birmingham office, comments, "Nigel is extremely experienced and well respected in the field of family law and will be a huge asset to the team in Birmingham by improving the breadth of service available for our clients."

Nigel Mears said, "I am delighted to be joining Cobbetts and very much looking forward to developing the family law offering across the whole of the Cobbetts business."

A member of Resolution, Nigel is also trained as a collaborative lawyer.

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

# HS2 HAVE YOUR SAY...

## START OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON HS2

In February the government launched a public consultation on High Speed Rail for businesses and the public to give their feedback to the proposed high speed rail line between London and Birmingham. The line would put Birmingham at the heart of the new network and would see a HS2 station built adjacent to Moor Street Station. It has been predicted that HS2 will bring huge benefits to the region's economy and create thousands of local jobs. The journey time between London and Birmingham will shorten by 30 minutes, which will also allow better connectivity and accessibility to other major cities in the UK, as well as addressing the growing capacity issues that Britain's rail industry is increasingly facing.

The Department for Transport and HS2 Ltd are holding public consultation workshops during the consultation period and will be in Birmingham City Centre on 17th and 18th June at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The consultation runs until 29th July and you can make your comments by visiting <https://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/have-your-say>.

To find out more about HS2 visit [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk).



## TRAVEL SMARTER IN CBD KEEP THE CITY MOVING

Improved wayfinding schemes; car clubs with low emission vehicles; discounts on season tickets for public transport. This could all be coming soon to Colmore Business District (CBD) to help make your journey to and from work easier, greener and more efficient.

As part of the city's Vision for Movement, CBD has formed a partnership with Birmingham City Council and Centro to develop and promote sustainable transport measures within the District.

The partnership will work collaboratively with organisations in the District to bring about transport improvements to the area, helping people to move in and around CBD and keep the city moving.

By working together, we can ensure that CBD is a greener and better connected place to do business now and in the coming years.

To find out more about the partnership or to request a copy of the Sustainable Travel Partnership Plan, visit [www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com](http://www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com).

# 'TAKE TO THE STREETS'

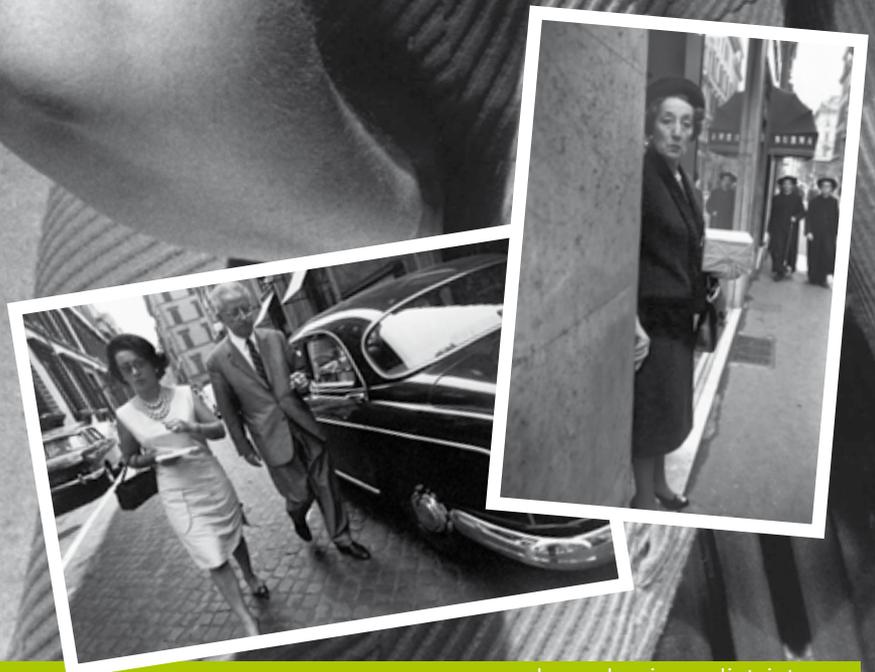
WITH CBD

**C**olmore Business District is pleased to be bringing an exhibition of world class photography to the area this spring. 'Take to the Streets' will showcase an array of revealing and provoking images captured from cities and streets around the world by a selection of some of the most celebrated photographers at Magnum Photos.

CBD has partnered with Birmingham City University, Birmingham City Council and other local businesses to present the exhibition to the District, for businesses, employees and visitors to enjoy. CBD board director and public realm champion Mike Best commented, "We are delighted that we have been able to present such a diverse and intriguing outdoor collection of photography for people to enjoy. We wanted to bring art to CBD's streets to rejuvenate and refresh them, but also deliver art to people in the District in an accessible way. You can visit this exhibition on your way to and from work, in between meetings or at the weekend."

The collection of photographs will candidly chronicle life in the world's streets through its people, events, issues and personalities. Magnum Photos is a distinct and internationally renowned photographic co-operative. The exhibition will feature images from Magnum's leading photographers, including Constantine Manos, Richard Kalvar, Raymond Depardon, Chris Steele Perkins, Bruno Barbey, Trent Park and Alex Webb. Mike Best said, "The distinction and quality of Magnum Photography means that we hope to welcome many new visitors to the District and the event will highlight, regionally and nationally, Birmingham's commitment to cultural and artistic projects."

'Take to the Streets' will be located outside Snow Hill Station and will be open from 18th May to 3rd July. It will be free to visit and accessible throughout the day. For more information please visit [www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com](http://www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com).



## CBD SHOWCASE

## CROCKETT &amp; JONES



Crockett & Jones has been trading for over 100 years and is internationally recognised for its high quality shoes. Mark Hill, manager of the Birmingham store in Colmore Business District, talks to Tahreen Kutub about the history of the business, its offering and the location in Birmingham's business quarter.

***When was Crockett & Jones founded?***

Crockett & Jones was founded in 1879 in Northampton, the original home of English shoemaking. It is a family business, which is now in its fifth generation. Today, the business has stores in London, Paris, Brussels and New York, in addition to the store in Colmore Business District. It is easy to feel a part of the family behind the business, as I keep in regular contact with the owner.

***The Birmingham store opened in 2006, what attracted the company to the city?***

Crockett & Jones was keen to open a store outside London to grow its UK presence. The premises on Colmore Row in CBD was a great location for this prestigious store. The site had been a shoe shop since 1907 and so had the right associations for us. The premises is also located in the heart of the city's business quarter; employees within the area are a key customer base.

***How would you describe Crockett & Jones's offering?***

We try to appeal to most tastes and offer different styles of last (the shape or form of a shoe), including a round toe shoe as well as a more pointed elegant toe. We have 118 different types of shoe in stock and more styles can be ordered from our other stores. There is also a special order service, which gives customers the option to order bespoke shoes that are manufactured to specific requests.

Our shoes are made by hand in the same way that they were in 1879 and we continue to use the finest leathers available. Each pair of shoes takes approximately eight to ten weeks to produce and involves over 200 separate operations. The Birmingham store is relatively small with three members of staff, who are all trained to be fully aware of the brand and history of Crockett & Jones, as well as the manufacturing process behind the making of the shoes.

***Crockett & Jones has a growing presence in London as well as the international sphere. Could you tell us more about this?***

In London, we have two stores in the West End and a store in the Royal Exchange in the City. Similar to our location in CBD, the latter is within the business and professional services area of London, which is helpful to us. We were proud to open our first stand alone store on West 56th Street in New York last April. This increased our international presence, adding to the stores in Paris and Brussels.

***The Birmingham store has now been trading in Colmore Row for five years. What are your thoughts on being located in the area?***

We feel lucky to have the wonderful views of Birmingham Cathedral and its grounds from our shop window. It helps being so close to Snow Hill Station, as a lot of commuters come into the store. It's also great to be a short walk from Hotel du Vin. Barristers visiting Birmingham tend to stay at the hotel when carrying out business in the city and very often visit our store.

***Have you always worked in retail?***

I worked in gents' tailoring before Crockett & Jones but was a builder for 15 years beforehand. This is part of the reason I am so interested in the manual work that goes into the making of the Crockett & Jones shoes. It is an art form as well as a manufacturing process!

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



# CBD WELCOMES NEW AGENCY



City marketing agency, BranchMartinSpicer Marketing, has located to new premises in Colmore Plaza, the 14 storey CBD landmark tower building that was formerly home to the Birmingham Post and Mail.

The agency, led by directors Suzie Branch, David Martin and Richard Spicer has taken space on the mezzanine floor owned by office management specialists Orega.

Client services director, David Martin, explained why the team had chosen to locate their new agency at Orega, "Orega's values and culture match our own: the Birmingham based team, led by Caron Salter-Hill, provide an exceptionally high standard of customer service to both our clients and ourselves within a lively and professional environment; they are an extension of our own team."

Commenting on Colmore Plaza, Richard Spicer, creative director at BranchMartinSpicer added, "We believe that you shouldn't have to head to the capital to witness big ideas, fresh creativity and excellent execution. We aim to bring our clients London finesse without the price tag. With this vision in mind it was important to us to choose a home that would rival that of any London agency and Colmore Plaza's award winning design offers office space on a par with any of the prestigious schemes in London."

BranchMartinSpicer Marketing Limited offers an integrated marketing solutions package with specialist services in consultancy, digital solutions, graphic design, branding, PR and social media.

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

**BRANCH | MARTIN | SPICER**  
BRANDING | DESIGN | DIGITAL | MARKETING | PR | SOCIAL MEDIA



## THREE THOUSAND APPRENTICESHIPS IN THREE YEARS

Three thousand apprenticeship jobs will be created in the Midlands in a joint initiative between Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Group (BCCG) and Birmingham Metropolitan College.

In an effort to combat the highest unemployment figures in any of the core cities in the UK, the demand-driven initiative will provide the hi-tech skills needed to support all growing business sectors and organisations across the region.

Jerry Blackett, chief executive of BCCG, said: "Using our connectivity through widespread networks, we will be encouraging our almost 22,000 members and affiliates across Birmingham, Solihull, Burton, Chase, Lichfield and Tamworth, to place 3,000 young people into jobs in the next three years.

"The apprenticeship programmes will help employers take on staff who will gain the skills and qualifications that are essential for businesses to compete in national and international markets."

Birmingham Metropolitan College has already worked successfully with hundreds of companies who will be benefiting from employing apprentices.

Mr. Blackett said: "This innovative partnership between the West Midlands' largest business organisation and the largest further education providers, will transform the regional economy. This will meet the skills shortages currently hindering the workforce, ultimately driving forward business growth."

Businesses who want to take advantage of improving their productivity by taking on new apprentices should call 0845 603 6650.



## SMITH COOPER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN BUSINESS

More than 150 staff from one of the Midlands' most progressive firms of chartered accountants and business advisors came together to celebrate the firm's 25th anniversary.

Smith Cooper, the Birmingham office of which is on Livery Street in Colmore Business District, marked the occasion of its 25th anniversary with a celebratory luncheon and conference.

Managing partner Andrew Delve and senior partner Paul Duffin gave awards to 18 members of staff in recognition of 25 and 15 years service achievements.

The afternoon culminated with presentations from senior partner Paul Duffin and managing partner Andrew Delve, who reviewed the firm's history and achievements to date before Chris Taylor unveiled the firm's new marketing strategy and Dean Nelson and John Farnsworth presented its long term business plan.

Commenting on Smith Cooper's 25th anniversary, Andrew Delve said:

"Our 25th anniversary is a momentous occasion, which I am delighted to be sharing with our dedicated staff, many of whom have been with Smith Cooper for at least two decades.

"Over the past 25 years, the firm has experienced tremendous growth and established a reputation for working exceptionally hard for its clients across a wide range of services at highly competitive fees. As a result, we have established many long term relationships with our clients, which we look forward to continuing in the future."

Smith Cooper was founded in 1985 and is one of the Midlands' leading accounting and business advisory firms, with offices in Birmingham, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Alfreton, Ashbourne, Burton, Ilkeston and Buxton.

For more information about its services, visit [www.smithcooper.co.uk](http://www.smithcooper.co.uk)



L-R: Managing partner Andrew Delve presents long service awards to Steve Connington, Janice Basta, Hilary White-Evans, Peter Hargreaves, Linda Dowell, senior partner Paul Duffin and Caroline Cart

katie bard



## COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS TO OPEN DOORS TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Colmore Business District, in partnership with Katie Bard Recruitment, will be holding a special open day for university students in autumn this year.

The day will see businesses across different sectors open their doors to students to give an insight into the organisations and professions. There will also be a limited number of work experience placements. Companies taking part include marketing agency, Branch Martin Spicer Limited, and legal firm, Benussi & Co, Matrimonial Solicitors. Students will be invited from universities across the Midlands, including Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton and Nottingham.

CBD Board Director, Diane Benussi said,

"Colmore Business District has an impressive concentration of professional and business service companies that cover a range of sectors. There are various opportunities to build your career here and we are keen to showcase this to students who are soon to graduate and may not be aware of the business quarter. We want to retain the best graduates in the area to maintain a strong business community."

CBD based companies wanting to get involved with the day should contact Tahreen Kutub on 0121 236 4686 or email [tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com](mailto:tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com).

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

# THINGS YOU MUST NEVER FORGET ABOUT...

# **PRESENTATIONS** Part 2

## 1 KEEPING IN TOUCH

Audience contact is vital to good presentations. Make eye contact with individual members of your audience for a few seconds, before moving on to someone else, and keep moving around the room like that. The right notes and correct amount of preparation will allow you the freedom to do this. Don't talk to one person for too long or you'll make them feel uncomfortable.

## 2 PAUSE FOR EFFECT

One of the common mistakes people make is to speak too fast and not pause often enough. The three P's (pitch, pace and power) can help you shape your voice, but you need to think about another essential ingredient for public speaking: silence. You need to pause to allow your audience to make sense of what you're saying, but you can also use pauses to get them to concentrate on what you say next. Again, if it doesn't come naturally, mark your notes with places for particular pauses.

## 3 OF ALL THE NERVE

This is the most obvious psychological aspect of public speaking. The funny thing is that the thing we call 'being nervous' starts out in the brain but most of the symptoms are everywhere but the brain. Dry mouth, knotted stomach, the inability to say our own name without stumbling, wobbly legs, sweating and shaking hands are the usual signs of a human standing in front of a bunch of other humans and about to say something. Don't be a helpless victim of nerves; there are ways of attenuating them. See point 5.

## 4 VISUALISE THIS

PowerPoint has done more to change presentations than anything else in the last couple of decades; it's hard to imagine life without it. Try. Before you subject your audience to 'death by PowerPoint' ask yourself if your presentation really calls for it or whether you're using it as a crutch to save you having to do some preparation. If there are very few images and lots and lots of bullets in your .ppt file then you may be guilty of this. Try using narrative illustrations to get your point across. Tell a story; people like stories. Try speaking to your audience instead of reading slides to them!

## 5 GET HELP

If you'd like to learn how to improve your presentation skills using the points above (and more) among a small, friendly group and with a tutor who has been making presentations (and helping others make them) for more than 30 years, point your web thingy at: **www.flannery-communicate.com** and book a session. Read the testimonials and drool over the pictures of the cakes. There's even a **£50 discount** for delegates from Colmore Business District!

*Presentation tips have been kindly provided by Michael Mounfield from Flannery Communicate.*

**www.flannery-communicate.com**



# THE PRINCE'S TRUST

Colmore Business District (CBD) is continuing to support The Prince's Trust as its charity for 2011. This year, in partnership with Bruntwood, CBD will hold a Golf Day on **Wednesday 15th June at Edgbaston Golf Club**. The event will include lunch, an evening meal and refreshments throughout the day. In addition to this and further to the success of the Challenge 500 last year, CBD will also be facilitating a fundraising challenge in autumn this year.

The CBD Challenge 500 in 2010 saw companies and organisations in the District raise almost £10,000 for the charity. Jamie Webb, The Prince's Trust head of fundraising for the private sector in the Midlands, said,

"We were absolutely delighted to receive nearly £10,000 from companies in Colmore Business District in the November Challenge 500. All the teams did incredibly well and we deeply appreciate the efforts of all who volunteered their evenings and weekends to take part in the fundraising challenge. The Prince's Trust helps more than 4,000 14-30 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds in the West Midlands each year. More than three in four of these young people move into work, training or education."

The money raised by the District teams will help support The Prince's Trust Enterprise programme. This enables young people to start up in business but who are unable to get help from the banks or family and friends. Jamie commented that many of the young people who come to the Trust may be single parents, the long term unemployed or those living in economically deprived areas where there are few jobs.

An example of a young person who has been helped by The Prince's Trust is Naomi Spencer from Birmingham. Naomi is a single mum who wanted to work but had the responsibility of bringing up her young son. She decided that self-employment would be the best solution and set up a party balloon business called 'Candy Bubbles'. Jamie said, "One year on, Naomi is really happy and has plenty of business. She is now looking forward with optimism to the future for her and her son."

CBD board director and head of sales for Bruntwood, Rob Valentine said, "We are hoping to encourage businesses within the District to work together and support the wider community through activities such as the Golf Day and forthcoming fundraising challenge. Funds raised through these initiatives will help provide practical and financial support to young people in Birmingham who may have been in care, struggled at school, or are long-term unemployed. The fundraising efforts will help to make a positive long term impact on Birmingham."

For further information on the Golf Day or to submit a team, contact Tahreen Kutub on 0121 236 4686 or email [tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com](mailto:tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com).

Further information on the autumn fundraising challenge will be on the CBD website in due course: [www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com](http://www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com).

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



FOOD  
GLORIOUS...

# Food Festival



**C**olmore Business District will be holding a one day Food Festival on **Thursday 7th July in Victoria Square** to emphasise the variety and quality of food and drink in the District. Starting at midday and finishing at 7pm, the event is open to everyone to attend.

Designed to be a party in the square, the festival will include stalls from some of CBD's best known restaurants, bars, pubs and coffee shops, all offering menu taster options from as little as £1.50 to £5.00.

The creators behind the Food Festival are Ann Tonks, CBD board director and managing director of Opus Restaurant, and Mark Davies, former CBD board director and general manager of Hotel du Vin.

We met up with Ann and Mark to find out more about the Food Festival.

"First and foremost, it is all about a celebration of the depth and variety of food and drink we have on offer in Colmore Business District" Ann told us.

"The District is home to wonderful food and drink businesses, most of whom are independent, and we wanted to create something that showcased CBD as the great destination for quality eating and drinking in Birmingham."

"We are all so excited about the festival", Mark explained, "Everyone has been working flat out on this for over a year and we just can't wait to be able to share some of the best culinary delights of the District with the community."

Food Festival event manager, Tahreen Kutub said, "Colmore Business District has a fantastic food and drink offering and we're really looking forward to showcasing this.

"THE DISTRICT IS HOME TO WONDERFUL FOOD AND DRINK BUSINESSES..."

The staff members in the various food and drink venues are also very friendly and welcoming, which we have found through working with them on this event."

The CBD Food Festival will give you a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues or even meet people from the District that you've never met before whilst enjoying food and drink from CBD's hospitality industry.

Visitors will also be able to view live cookery demonstrations from some of the District's top chefs.

The Food Festival will be accompanied by live music, as part of CBD's weeklong schedule of Jazz and Blues performances. This will be the third year in which CBD will participate in the Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival.

Put Thursday 7th July in your diary and come and join the rest of the District in our celebration of CBD's food and drink!



On the following four pages we find out more about the restaurants, pubs, bars and coffee shops taking part in the CBD Food Festival. To see a listing of all the food and drink outlets in CBD go to, [www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com](http://www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com)



## All Bar One

43 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 3NY [www.allbarone.co.uk](http://www.allbarone.co.uk)

All Bar One on Newhall Street is a vibrant city centre bar where you can eat, drink and escape the stresses of the day with laidback sophistication. The iconic homemade burgers, fresh tapas and lazy brunches make the bar what it is.

All Bar One is proud to use sustainable and organic seasonal produce where possible.



## Asha's Restaurant

Edmund House, 12-22 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 3LX  
[www.ashasuk.co.uk](http://www.ashasuk.co.uk)

Included in the 2009, 2010 and 2011 Michelin Guide, Asha's Restaurant offers the best in authentic Indian cuisine. It has a range of superb signature cocktails, a great ambience and offers excellent service for customers!



## Bagel Nation

Unit A Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2BU

Bagel Nation is independently owned and offers a unique breakfast and lunch time menu as well as corporate and event catering. The food is made fresh to order in front of customers. Bagel Nation has been on Colmore Row for nearly 10 years and is situated within the former Grand Hotel.



## Bushwackers

Lower Ground Floor & Basement, Exchange Building,  
103 Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2HZ [www.bushwackers.co.uk/birmingham](http://www.bushwackers.co.uk/birmingham)

Birmingham Bushwackers is a bar and grill with a newly refurbished terrace. The comprehensive lunch menu boasts a great range of meals to suit all tastes. In the evenings, Bushwackers turns into a trendy bar with drinks promotions and a great value à la carte menu in the restaurant.



## Caffè Uno

126 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3AP [www.caffeuno.co.uk](http://www.caffeuno.co.uk)

Caffè Uno believes that the Italian tradition of sharing food, drink and conversation is one of life's greatest pleasures. Whether you're after a quick coffee, leisurely lunch or celebrating a special occasion, Caffè Uno is proud to offer a true Italian experience.

"We are lucky to be a part of CBD, where there are a lot of high quality establishments. This food showcase is a great opportunity for everyone to get together and show the city what a fantastic offer CBD has! Our chef, Guneet, has already started working on the special dishes. We are all very excited and looking forward to the big day!" Asha's Restaurant

# Food Festival

# Food Festival



## Colmore Bar & Grill

3-6 Waterloo Street, Birmingham B2 5PG [www.colmorebarandgrill.co.uk](http://www.colmorebarandgrill.co.uk)

With separate bar and restaurant areas, Colmore Bar & Grill has space for large and small private functions. Breakfast is available until 11.30am and the main menu offers an excellent selection of char grill dishes, snacks and light bites. To complement the food, a range of premium beers, wines and spirits as well as cask ales, shooters and cocktails are offered. Special offers include an all day set menu, discounted cocktails, bubbly evenings and live music nights.



## Edmund's Lounge, Bar & Eatery

106-110, Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2ES [www.edmundsbar.co.uk](http://www.edmundsbar.co.uk)

Edmund's is about relaxed drinking and dining in comfortable surroundings. Whether it's a lunchtime snack, or evening meal, you'll be suitably impressed by the food.

There is a great range of continental beers and top quality traditional cask ales along with wines from around the world and cocktail list.

**"We have always been extremely proud of our involvement with Colmore Business District and are looking forward to meeting new customers and seeing our many regulars at the Food Festival this summer. If the British weather behaves itself, it will be a fantastic day for all involved!"** Bagel Nation



## Hotel du Vin

25 Church St, Birmingham B3 2NR [www.hotelduvin.com](http://www.hotelduvin.com)

Hotel du Vin believes in celebrating the region you live in, embracing all that is special about your area. Food heroes such as the local farmer are the key to the hotel's Homegrown Local philosophy. Simple classic dishes are served in its trademark Bistro in Birmingham.



## Jojolapa

55-59 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 3RB [www.jojolapa.co.uk](http://www.jojolapa.co.uk)

Jojolapa is an award winning family run Nepalese restaurant. It is the first restaurant to bring Himalayan style cuisine to the Midlands. With the unique fusion of Asian flavours, soothing ambiance and a contemporary setting, Jojolapa provides authentic Nepalese cuisine. Head chef, Ganesh Shreshtha, was the first Asian man to win the coveted and prestigious Egon Ronay award and the British Airways flavour of India - Top 5 world chefs award.



## Manton's

1 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 3NH <http://doiop.com/Mantons>

Manton's is a contemporary patisserie, specialising in making high quality cakes and pastries. It also offers a selection of sandwiches, salads and soups, as well as a variety of teas and coffees. With a modern and comfortable interior as well as friendly staff, it is a great place to escape to in Colmore Business District.

**"Jojolapa is proud to be taking part in the CBD Food Festival. In keeping with Birmingham's reputation as the premier destination for high quality Asian cuisine, we will be showcasing some of our cuisine and vegetarian options. For anyone who has not sampled Nepalese cuisine before, this is the perfect opportunity to see why we are rated as one of Birmingham's best."** Jojolapa

# Food Festival



## Metro Bar & Grill

73 Cornwall Street, Birmingham B3 2DF [www.metrobarandgrill.co.uk](http://www.metrobarandgrill.co.uk)

Established in 1997, this award winning bar and restaurant has a menu that is a mix of timeless steaks, grills and seafood favourites, coupled with a daily changing imaginative specials board. A well thought out and balanced wine and champagne list is the perfect accompaniment for lunch or dinner.

For more relaxed eating, the bar offers sandwiches and light plates throughout the day and evening. There is also a wide choice of lagers, cask beers and wines by the glass on offer.



## Opus Restaurant

54 Cornwall Street, Birmingham B3 2DE [www.opusrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.opusrestaurant.co.uk)

Independent and market fresh, Opus Restaurant celebrates the best that the British Isles has to offer, allowing the quality of raw ingredients to shine through dishes that are simple, yet bursting with flavour. Representing an outstanding commitment to seasonality and freshness, the daily changing menu is ingredient-led, reflecting what Chef Director David Colcombe buys from the markets every morning.



## Purnell's

55 Cornwall Street, Birmingham B3 2DH [www.purnellsrestaurant.com](http://www.purnellsrestaurant.com)

Purnell's is a chic, contemporary fine-dining restaurant, set up by Michelin starred Birmingham chef, Glynn Purnell in July 2007. The restaurant has its own bar and lounge area, for diners only, where a pre-dinner drink or after dinner coffee or digestif can be enjoyed on comfortable sofas. It also has a Private Dining room ideal for celebrating special occasions.



## Starbucks

31 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2BS  
125 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3SD [www.starbucks.co.uk](http://www.starbucks.co.uk)

Starbucks Lloyds (on Colmore Row by the Council House) and Starbucks Colmore Row (towards Snow Hill Station) provide a service for many people who work in and around CBD, with fresh coffee and a variety of breakfast treats. These stores have a comfortable atmosphere and are great places to hold meetings.



## The Chameleon

1 Victoria Square, Hill Street, Birmingham B1 1BD  
[www.thechameleonbham.com](http://www.thechameleonbham.com)

The Chameleon offers delicious, simple food that is full of flavour. Delicious light bites and tasty treats can be served at lunch time with a 15 minute 'order to table' guarantee. The menu varies from sharer platters to a full array of mouth watering dishes, prepared with emphasis on simple ingredients and served with attention and care. The Chameleon also serves a number of authentic Italian dishes with ingredients sourced from the Verona mountains.

**"Opus is delighted to have helped organise and take part in our very own CBD Food Festival, which will showcase the quality and variety we have in the District. We hope the Festival will demonstrate that CBD deserves to be known as a superb destination for food and drink in Birmingham."** Opus Restaurant

“The Wellington, as an independent business, would like to build on its success by showcasing real ales to a wider audience and giving visitors to the festival a taste of some of the hand crafted ales that are now available on a regular basis throughout the city.” *The Wellington*



### The Jekyll & Hyde

28 Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham B4 6BJ [www.thejekyllandhyde.co.uk](http://www.thejekyllandhyde.co.uk)

The Jekyll & Hyde is a quirky intimate city centre public house that is ideal for lunch, evenings or as a laid back meeting place with friends at the weekend. The Victorian inspired first floor Gin Parlour has the Midlands' largest selection of Global Gins. There is a diverse range of evening entertainment, including a retro quiz night homage as well as regular gin appreciation. Enjoy fantastic home cooked food from gourmet sandwiches, hearty pies or a more formal à la carte private dining experience. The Jekyll is a great city centre hideaway!



### The Old Contemptibles

176 Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2HB [www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk](http://www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk)

Since the first Nicholson's Pub was opened by the Nicholson brothers in 1873, the alehouses have matured into a collection of rare gems, rich with heritage. You'll find all the best traditions of the great British pub residing within The Old Contemptibles' historic walls: a superb range of cask ale from breweries far and wide, quality pub food, a first-class service and a warm and vibrant atmosphere, all set in a beautiful building.



### The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre

4 Temple Row West, Birmingham B2 5NY  
[www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk](http://www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk)

The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre is a delightful grade two listed building that was built in 1864 and designed by local architect, Julius Alfred Chatwin. It was originally a library before becoming The Birmingham Joint Stock Bank. Today it houses a fantastic pub and theatre venue, offering the full range of Fuller's Classic Cask Ales, delicious food, including speciality pies, and superb entertainment in the theatre.



### The Wellington

37 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5SN [www.thewellingtonrealale.co.uk](http://www.thewellingtonrealale.co.uk)

The Wellington is a specialist real ale pub, which opened in 2004 to address a perceived lack of choice of ales in Birmingham. As a freehouse, The Wellington is able to buy beer from any supplier and so obtains brews from all over the country as well as from the many excellent breweries in the West Midlands.



### Urban Coffee Company

30 Church Street, Birmingham B3 2NP [www.urbancoffee.co.uk](http://www.urbancoffee.co.uk)

Urban Coffee Company is an excellent independent coffee shop and is dedicated to offering a unique coffee experience! A rustic, yet contemporary company, it has created a great "wine tasting for coffee" experience for the customer!

# RITA MCLEAN OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY



Rita McLean

Colmore Business District is home to the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG), one of the largest museums outside London. It attracts approximately 700,000 visitors a year, 50% of whom are from outside the city. Tahreen Kutub met with Rita McLean, Birmingham City Council's head of museums and heritage services, to find out about BMAG and Rita's interesting career path.

Rita is responsible for the operations and management of Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, which include Aston Hall, Blakesley Hall, and BMAG on Chamberlain Square. Originally from Birmingham and a History graduate, Rita started her career in museums at Ironbridge Gorge in Telford. An opportunity at Soho House, however, saw her return to Birmingham in 1990. As development officer for Soho House, Rita was involved in the restoration of Matthew Boulton's home and its development into a museum. She recalls this as a particularly exciting period and it saw the start of her career with Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery.

Speaking about the programme at BMAG, Rita said, "We try to be very ambitious and diverse so as to appeal to a wide range of audiences. Our exhibitions are at times tailored to Birmingham itself and at other times they take more of a national or international focus. The Poetry of Drawing exhibition this year, for example, is an international pre-Raphaelite exhibition and will be touring to Sydney in the summer."

Rita spoke about some of the key partnerships of BMAG, which include the British Museum. The two organisations are currently working together on the long term research and conservation of the Staffordshire Hoard, jointly owned by Birmingham City Council and Stoke on Trent City Council. An exhibition telling the story of the Egyptian Pharaohs is also planned for next year, which will use sculptures and royal objects from the British Museum's collections. The University of Birmingham is another key partner, with both organisations working together on the development of new technology to facilitate the interpreting of exhibits.

In relation to some of BMAG's achievements, Rita commented, "Acquiring the Staffordshire Hoard, which had a big fundraising campaign behind it, was a great achievement. This is the largest collection of Anglo-Saxon gold, silver and precious stones ever found in England."

The selection of Staffordshire Hoard items on display at BMAG has led to an increase in visitors. In fact, the last five years have seen visitor numbers increase by 60%, which is an achievement in itself"

Rita's own historical interests lie in the 18th century, the history of architecture as well as the multicultural and global roots of Birmingham. Some of BMAG's work has reflected these interests, such as the partnership project with the Equiano Society in 2007.

The project celebrated the life and times of Olaudah Equiano, a former slave, war veteran and abolitionist, who lived in 18th century England. BMAG's community gallery also included the recent "Routes to Revolution" exhibition. This showcased the creative responses of a group of refugee and newly arrived women to Birmingham's industrial and manufacturing heritage. The participants originated from countries including Yemen, Uganda, Somalia and Afghanistan.

Commenting on future exhibitions, Rita said, "We have an exciting Home of Metal exhibition this summer, which will explore the roots of Heavy Metal music in Birmingham. Autumn will see a contemporary craft exhibition called Lost in Lace. Featuring international artists, this will explore the relationship between lace and architecture through a series of site installations. The two exhibitions show the diversity in BMAG's offering"

Aside from offering a range of exhibitions and showings, the space at BMAG can also be used to host corporate events. On being located in Colmore Business District, Rita said, "It is great to be located within the professional district of Birmingham, as we would like to make stronger connections with the business and professional community. It helps to work in an attractive area and I think the BID has been instrumental in bringing pleasant activity into the District. I really enjoyed the Brian Griffin, Face to Face photographic exhibition outside Snow Hill Station last year".

The Home Of Metal exhibition, exploring 40 years of Heavy Metal as well as its birthplace, will be on show from 18th June to 25th September. Further information on BMAG can be found on:

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



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A...

## CBD STREET WARDEN

The day started at 7.30am for CBD street warden Tony Hazel, with static duty outside Snow Hill Station. Dressed in a high visibility warden uniform, Tony provided a welcoming presence to visitors to the area and helped with any directions that were required. Other CBD street wardens were on duty within busy areas such as the grounds outside Birmingham Cathedral, the bus stops on Colmore Row and Upper Bull Street.

At mid morning, Diane Benussi, CBD board director and managing partner of Benussi & Co, Matrimonial Solicitors, accompanied Tony on a general patrol of the District. This involved doing business visits and looking out for any environmental issues and highways defects, which could then be reported to the relevant stakeholders. Diane joined Tony for duty within the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral during the lunchtime period. Wardens work with the police to help ensure the area is treated with respect and that any anti-social behaviour is dealt with immediately. Mid afternoon saw a return to patrolling the streets of the District and visiting reception staff in CBD businesses. The visits allow Tony to check that all is well and assist with any problems, such as beggars. Diane's day with Tony finished at the end of his shift at 3.30pm. CBD wardens working the later shift would finish at 6.30pm.

Having accompanied Tony on his shift, Diane said, "It was interesting to get an insight into the daily life of a warden. Tony is a friendly and welcoming face to the District and it is great to see visitors notice the high visibility uniform and approach him for directions. The warden contact with key stakeholders is definitely a benefit of the service, as paving defects noticed on the day were reported immediately. The business visits provided a very personal touch to the service and front-of-house staff members took the opportunity to report any issues they had experienced recently. The warden service is a key part of achieving CBD's objective of making the District as safe and welcoming as possible."

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

## COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT LIVE ALBUM RECORDING BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

Colmore Business District (CBD) will be launching its schedule of Jazz and Blues performances this summer with a special live album recording at Hotel Du Vin. This unique event will take place on **Thursday 30th June** and will provide an evening of relaxation and enjoyment for guests, as well as a chance to meet new contacts.

Tipitina, a jazz, blues and gospel band, will be recording an album within the beautiful surroundings of the Hotel du Vin courtyard in view of a CBD audience. Originally from Preston, Tipitina proved to be a huge success at Victoria Square last summer, as part of CBD's 2010 schedule of performances. The recording will lead to a CD and will be distributed through mediums such as iTunes.

BID Manager, Michele Wilby said, "CBD supports and encourages arts and culture within the area. We wanted to develop our participation in the Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival this year by providing this evening of live music and recording.

We are keen to show that life in the District does not stop after business hours and that there is an active cultural offering. This live album recording will be an ideal way to launch an exciting weeklong schedule of performances within CBD from Monday 4th July to Friday 8th July."



For further information about the live album recording or to book a place at the event, contact communications co-ordinator, Tahreen Kutub on 0121 236 4686 or email [tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com](mailto:tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com). Booking priority will be given to businesses and organisations within CBD.

INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTOR

# ANDRIS NELSONS



Andris Nelsons

**A**ndris Nelsons is music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) and a renowned conductor on the international scene. The CBSO is offering CBD Digest readers **10% off full price tickets** for two shows conducted by Andris: the Ravel in Spain concert on 7th June and Ravel's Boléro on 15th June. To book with the discount, call the Town Hall & Symphony Hall (THSH) Box Office on 0121 780 3333, quoting 'CBGT'\*

Tahreen Kutub of Colmore Business District met with Andris to find out more about the Latvian conductor who is behind many of CBSO's performances.

**When did you realise you wanted a career in music?**

I think I was first moved by music at the age of five. I had been taken to watch an opera show and I remember leaving the show crying and not knowing why. My parents were both musicians, which influenced my career choice. Also, my early childhood was in the Soviet Union, where music was compulsory until the end of school. I started to study conducting at the age of 15 and realised quickly that this was what I wanted to do. I find myself developing in the role all the time.

**How would you describe your approach to conducting?**

Music always comes first for me and I try to spread this passion across the orchestra and let it show in the performance. It is important to me to create a "family" feel during the performance – there should be no barriers between the orchestra, music and audience.

**What brought you to Birmingham?**

I had heard of the CBSO through their work with the excellent Sir Simon Rattle, who was a conductor for the orchestra. I had first come to Birmingham in 2007 to conduct a CBSO performance at the opening of the Town Hall and shortly after, was asked to take up the role of Music Director for the CBSO. This role involves music making as well as overall strategy. I've found Birmingham to be a very energetic city that is continuously developing. It is a city with a strong vision for its future.

**Tell us more about the future programme at CBSO?**

We try to ensure that the musical programme is as colourful and diverse as possible. The repertoire ranges from classical to modern. Future performances will include the Ravel in Spain concert in June as well as a Friday Night Classics show in July. The CBSO aims to be as approachable as possible. It is open to all age ranges and there is no strict dress code, you can come in your jeans if you wish!

Further information on the CBSO and shows can be found on: [www.cbso.co.uk](http://www.cbso.co.uk).

\* Terms and conditions for the CBSO discount offer: Up to four tickets per person per concert, subject to availability. Please note a £2 fee per transaction will be charged by THSH Box Office on all bookings, except purchases made in person. Usual ticket prices: £9.50-£39.50. This offer cannot be combined with any other discount or concession.

## CBD AND BIRMINGHAM OPERA COMPANY IN SEARCH FOR SINGING HOPEFULS...

Colmore Business District is looking for singing hopefuls to form a CBD chorus in time to perform at ArtsFest!

In partnership with Birmingham Opera Company, CBD will hold three introductory 45 minute sessions in late May and early June. There are no auditions and you don't need to be able to read music. Anybody can take part - just come and have a go! Leading these sessions will be chorus master, Jonathan Laird and Genevieve Sylva, prominent in the West Midlands R&B scene and a fantastic choral trainer.

From these initial introductory sessions, we will carry forward a group keen to form the CBD chorus to work up a 25 minute programme for ArtsFest in September.

For those who want to continue with singing, Birmingham Opera Company would be delighted to include members of the CBD chorus in its next big project. This will be a dazzling new commission from composer, Jonathan Dove, to be performed in March 2012 as part of the cultural events leading up to the Olympics.

To find out more about the initial taster sessions, please contact Tahreen Kutub on 0121 236 4686 or email [tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com](mailto:tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com).



Birmingham Opera Company performance. Photo credit: Roy Peters

# CAFFÈ UNO

Caffè Uno is an Italian restaurant located on Colmore Row in CBD. Manager, Craig Turner has provided an easy to follow recipe from the restaurant menu.

Craig joined Caffè Uno in March 2010, having previously worked for Il Bertorelli's in Stratford-upon-Avon. Craig said "By being located in Colmore Business District, Caffè Uno is able to provide a little piece of Italy within the hustle and bustle of a vibrant city centre"

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

## FUSILLI PRIMAVERA

SERVES 1

### INGREDIENTS

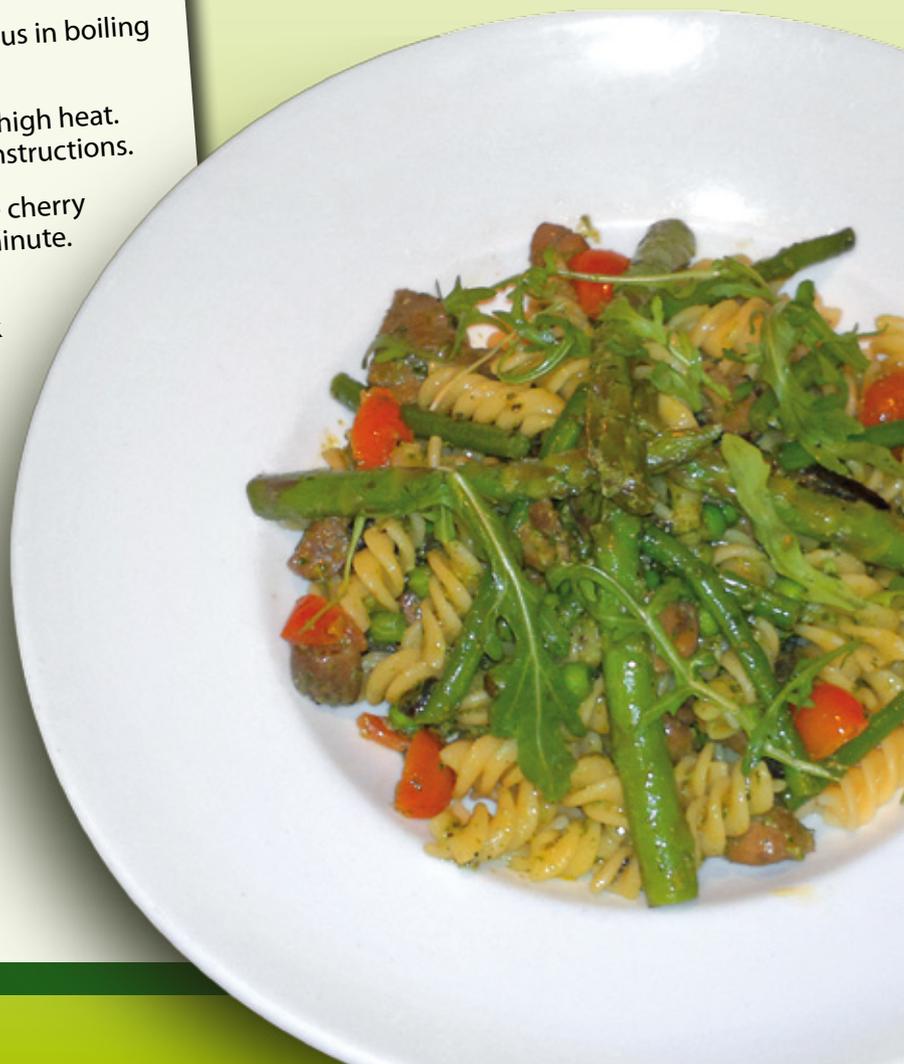
100g of dry fusilli pasta	3 asparagus
50g petit pois	15g rocket
5g chopped garlic	50g cherry tomatoes (halved)
1cl olive oil	20g pesto
30g fine green beans	40g chopped mushrooms
5g vegetable stock	10g unsalted butter



### METHOD

1. Blanch the fine green beans and the asparagus in boiling hot water
2. Bring a large pan of water to the boil over a high heat. Add the fusilli and cook according to pack instructions.
3. Heat the oil and garlic in a pan and add the cherry tomatoes and mushrooms. Cook for one minute.
4. Add the peas, blanched sliced beans, asparagus and 40ml vegetable stock. Cook for two minutes and then add the butter, pesto and half of the rocket.
5. Season with a pinch of salt and pepper and add the cooked fusilli. Mix well.
6. Plate the dish and garnish with the remaining rocket (at this point you could also add some ricotta).

# BUON APPETITO!



## THE OLD JOINT STOCK THEATRE REVIEW



Tahreen Kutub reviews

### AN AUDIENCE WITH MRS BARBARA NICE

**A**n Audience with Mrs Barbara Nice was the first show I had seen at The Old Joint Stock Theatre on Temple Row West in Colmore Business District. By the end of the show I found myself questioning why I had not previously visited this gem of a theatre right in the heart of Birmingham.

The comedy show was an uplifting one woman performance, featuring Janice Connolly as Barbara Nice - a straight talking housewife and mother from Stockport. The effervescent Barbara is worried about a world that is losing its friendliness, where people are becoming more reclusive. Barbara wants everyone to stand proud and say 'Hello' to the world.

**'AT ONE POINT, AUDIENCE MEMBERS WERE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE OFF THEIR SHOES AND WAVE THEM ALONG TO THE SOUNDTRACK...'**

The show commenced with a grand entrance from the star and soon the audience found itself included in the performance by dancing with Barbara. At one point, audience members were encouraged to take off their shoes and wave them along to the soundtrack of Moulin Rouge. As eccentric as this was, it enabled audience engagement and interaction with the entertaining Mrs Nice!

The show also included a mock raffle draw with prizes bought by Barbara herself at her last shopping trip, including a bottle of Lambrini, ironing board cover and a rather strange looking cuddly puppy. Unluckily I didn't win anything! With loud applause at the end of the show, it was clear that Barbara's hilarious antics had been enjoyed by all.

Stand up comedian Janice Connolly recently appeared as Sheila Wheeler in Coronation Street and has also appeared as Holy Mary in Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights.

The Old Joint Stock Theatre is situated above the well known pub, 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).

**See the back cover for a chance to win four theatre tickets and four main course meals at The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre.**



Photo credit: Graeme Braidwood

## THE CHALLENGE NETWORK

A local charity, The Challenge Network, is delivering an exciting youth and community programme in Birmingham this July and August. The two month programme will bring together sixteen year olds from a variety of backgrounds, and help them to assist their communities.

The Challenge Network is part of the National Citizen Service programme supported by the Cabinet Office and The Department for Education and is a key element of the Government's efforts to build a bigger, stronger society.

The first week of the programme takes young people away from home and involves tough physical activities that will boost their confidence and build their teamwork skills. They then return home and spend a further five weeks working in teams to develop and deliver a project that will support and serve their local communities.

To make their community projects a reality, teams of 12 young people will pitch for funding to a panel of "Dragons" made up of local business leaders. In preparation, each team will make a short visit to a local business to receive support in developing a slick pitch and also to get a taste of the working world.

The Challenge is keen to work with businesses and organisations in Colmore Business District. For further information, to host a visit or become a Dragon, contact Programme Manager, Laura Bassinder: [laura.bassinder@the-challenge.org](mailto:laura.bassinder@the-challenge.org) or visit the website: [www.the-challenge.org](http://www.the-challenge.org).



## WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS TO THE AEGON CLASSIC FINAL

The AEGON Classic is now in its 30th year and will be held in the intimate surroundings of the Edgbaston Priory Club from 6-12 June 2011. The weeklong Women's Tennis Association grass court tournament regularly attracts some of the top names in women's tennis. The tournament is a favourite with Maria Sharapova who won it in 2004 before going on to win Wimbledon. Other former winners include Li Na, who was a finalist at the Australian Open this year, Martina Navratilova and Billy Jean King who won the first ever tournament in 1982.

Maria Sharapova, current world number 17 and crowd favourite has already confirmed her attendance at this year's AEGON Classic.

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is offering CBD Digest readers the chance to enter a competition to win a pair of tickets for the final of the AEGON Classic on Sunday 12 June 2011.

To enter, all you have to do is answer this simple question:

### Where is the AEGON Classic held in Birmingham?

Send your answers on an email to the LTA at [Imogen.gaunt@LTA.org.uk](mailto:Imogen.gaunt@LTA.org.uk), entitled AEGON Classic / Colmore Business District Ticket Competition by 20 May 2011. The answers will be selected randomly and only the winner will be contacted.

**Terms and Conditions apply:**

The prize is one pair of tickets to the AEGON Classic Final on Sunday 12 June 2011 at the Edgbaston Priory Club. Only one entry per person. The prize is non-refundable and non-transferable. The tickets must not be passed onto a third party. This competition is not valid in conjunction with any other offer.

## LAST EDITION'S COMPETITION WINNER



Congratulations to Matt Lanzilotto, cost manager at Turner & Townsend PLC, who won afternoon tea for two at Manton's on Newhall Street. **Turn to the back cover for this edition's competition.**

CBD DIGEST SPRING 2011

# COMPETITION

For a chance to win four theatre tickets and four main course meals at **The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre**, spot the differences between the two images of cast members of Patrick and Bernadine, who performed at The Old Joint Stock Theatre. Simply circle the **five** differences on the bottom image, fill in your contact details, cut out the competition and send your answers to:

Tahreen Kutub, Communications Co-ordinator, Colmore Business District, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Whitehall Chambers, 23 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2BU.

Name .....

Job Title .....

Company .....

Telephone .....

Terms and conditions

Competition closing date is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Entries must be received by this date. The four theatre tickets will be for a showing of the winner's choice from July to October 2011, subject to availability at the time of booking. The main course meals are for the same evening as the theatre show booking. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries. The winner will be announced in the next issue of CBD Digest.



Photo credit: Sheldon Bayley

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

## CBD iPhone app

### CBD iPhone app

Your real-time CBD guide

### Now available

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