

CBD

digest



BUSINESS IN THE HEART OF BIRMINGHAM
Summer 2010 www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT SHOWCASE

THE COLMORE BAR & GRILL

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FROM THE COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT

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Colmore Business District comes
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SUMMERTIME IN THE CBD



Welcome to Colmore Business District's quarterly magazine CBD Digest.

One of CBD's main objectives is to facilitate a vibrant local business network and community, so in this edition we focus on some of the key events that are happening within the District over the summer months for everyone to enjoy.

One of our main events is the annual International Jazz Festival which takes place from Monday 19th July to Friday 23rd July. During this period CBD will be welcoming some of the world's finest jazz musicians to the area and we will be hosting 15 performances at a variety of locations

throughout the District. All shows are free of charge to attend and I urge everyone to take a break away from their work and join the CBD community to listen to these world class performers. Full details on venues and timings can be found on page 12 and 13.

Look out too, for branded deck chairs so you can relax and take a quick break from the stresses of the day.

We have also partnered with Marketing Birmingham to support the annual Taste of Business festival. Taste of Business takes place on Friday 16th July and forms part of the city's premier outdoor food festival, providing members of the business community with their own dedicated event, which last year established itself as one of Birmingham's largest and best networking occasions.

Colmore Business District is home to over 50 food and drink outlets and we are looking forward to showcasing our hospitality offering at Taste of Business. Tickets are free to the business community but they are limited in number and are provided on a "first come first served" basis. To find out more about CBD and Taste of Birmingham or to download tickets please visit www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com.

In this edition we also look back at some of the events that have taken place in the District over the past few months including the International Dance Festival Birmingham, the International Food Fair and Birmingham Pride to name just a few.

We also have news from businesses and organisations within the District and the latest on projects which are currently being worked on by the CBD team.

If you would like to feature in the next edition of CBD Digest due out in the autumn, please do send any news, features and pictures for consideration to: marketing@colmorebusinessdistrict.com.

Finally it is important for us to engage with you and we really welcome your views so please do contact us with any comments or feedback by emailing enquiries@colmorebusinessdistrict.com

I hope you enjoy this edition of CBD Digest and look forward to welcoming you to one of the events taking place in the District this summer

Gary Cardin
CBD Chair

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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.

**FRESHWATER UK
MAKES IT ONTO NATIONAL
GRID PR FRAMEWORK**

International electricity and gas company National Grid has re-appointed Freshwater UK Plc, which operates its Midlands operation from Paradise Street in the Colmore Business District, to a two-year framework to deliver community relations support for its electricity, gas and property business.

National Grid is set to carry out a 'significant investment programme' over the next few years in order to maintain and upgrade its network. A number of schemes will be implemented as a result, in order to allow it to apply for consent from the new Infrastructure Planning Commission, for which it will require extensive public consultation.

Freshwater has been working with National Grid for over eight years across its Northern region, recently extending its work for key projects in Scotland. With its regional network, it is ideally placed to deliver community relations throughout the UK. A place on the new framework signals an ongoing expertise in the field of stakeholder communications. As managing director of the Midlands office, Anne Parry, explains: "We have a number of years' worth of experience in providing stakeholder consultation services, with members of our team supporting National Grid projects across the North East and most recently working alongside ESG Herefordshire on the development and regeneration of Hereford city centre.

"Stakeholder communications is an important element of our integrated service, and will be increasingly pertinent to organisations affected by the changes to planning law and consultation under the new government."

www.freshwater-uk.com



Anne Parry, Managing Director
FRESHWATER

**QUALITY SHINES
THROUGH AT SNOWHILL**

A major office development in the centre of the Colmore Business District, One Snowhill, has just scooped Kier Build a Built in Quality Award in the Commercial category at the Celebrating Construction Awards 2010.

Completed in 2009, One Snowhill is a 260,000sq ft, 13-storey office block comprising three levels of underground parking and a full height atrium of cathedral-sized proportions. Externally the building consists primarily of structurally-glazed curtain walling but also features Welsh slate cladding as well as glass brise soleil on a dramatic inclined façade. The internal finishes have been completed to an exceptionally high standard, reflected in the building's record rental value for Birmingham. The £69m project also included a new 200m viaduct for the tram network which involved close liaison with Network Rail and the local transport authority, Centro, due to its usage and its proximity to a busy railway station.

The Celebrating Construction Awards judging panel was impressed by the contemporary design of the building and described One Snowhill as, "an excellent example of high quality construction and workmanship."

Commenting on receiving the award, Kier Build director, Martin Whiteley said, "It is always good when the endeavours of the industry are recognised, and we are very proud to have received an award for One Snowhill at the Celebrating Construction Awards."

One Snowhill is the first building delivered at Ballymore Group's Snowhill development; Sidell Gibson was the concept architect for the scheme and Kier's design team included Fairhurst Design Group for architecture and Curtins Consulting as structural engineers. Subcontractors included Barrett Steel Buildings for the steel frame, Focchi for the curtain walling, EE Smith for internal fit-out, Vector Foiltec for the ETFE roof and Trent Concrete for the precast column casings and slate cladding.

One Snowhill also received a special mention at the British Council for Offices Midlands & East Anglia Awards on 12 May, being nominated for the National 2010 Innovation Award. The BCO national finals are held in October.

www.kier.co.uk



COLMORE BAR & GRILL



The unique and charming Colmore Bar & Grill opened in May. Located on Waterloo Street, the venue offers a contemporary menu, cocktails and an ideal setting for networking events and private functions. Adjoined to the Premier Inn, offering rooms of high standard for a modest price, the Colmore Bar & Grill is attracting growing demand and promises to become a natural hub for the business community in the Colmore Business District (CBD).

The modern and spacious venue has already hosted events for several CBD organisations, including local charity Thrive, and has several large networking events lined up. As the summer moves into autumn, Colmore Bar & Grill will be hosting comedy and music nights.

With upcoming special menus and an updated cocktail menu, the business promises to carry on defining the cutting edge in the market, and CBD Digest welcomes them as a valuable addition to the City's primary business quarter.

Go to page 7 to read more about Colmore Bar & Grill, with our interview with General Manager, James Latham.

Tel: 0121 616 4440



CBD CHAIR BREAKFAST SPEECH



Gary Cardin, Chair of the Colmore Business District (CBD), recently spoke at the Holiday Inn, Smallbrook Queensway in the Southside BID area. The breakfast event, attended by representatives from businesses in Southside, showcased the exciting plans for a Southside BID.

In the lead up to the event Gary spoke of his delight to accept the invitation to speak, saying, "Both as Chair of the CBD and as a business levy payer, I've seen first hand the huge difference CBD has brought to

the area – even though we're only one year old! I look forward to sharing our experiences and success so far, as well as our aspirations for the future."

In relation to the upcoming vote on the Southside BID, Gary continued,

"I wholeheartedly encourage businesses in Southside to vote YES in the forthcoming ballot!"

COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW TEAM



Kirsten Henly and Tahreen Kutub

CBD has extended its team with the appointment of Tahreen Kutub and Kirsten Henly.

Tahreen has been appointed CBD administrator. As well as being the "first point of contact" for the organisations and individuals within the District, she will be working on delivering a number of projects such as the Jazz Festival, Christmas lights and Food and Arts Festival. Kirsten joins the team as projects assistant and will be working with Michele Wilby, CBD manager and the Board to deliver some of the key projects that were outlined earlier this year in the Interim Annual Report.

Tahreen has an in-depth experience of Birmingham's business community and is well known to many of the city's professionals from her time working on delivering projects as membership services co-ordinator for Birmingham Forward and as events co-ordinator at Aston Science Park.

Before joining the CBD team, Kirsten previously worked at Solihull Council as

events and administration assistant where she specialised in delivering a variety of projects to schedule whilst building relationships with third party suppliers and organisations.

After graduating from university Kirsten (*BA Hons History and Philosophy and MA Political Theory*) spent time travelling overseas throughout Australia, South America and New Zealand. Similarly, Tahreen (*BA Hons History*) spent a year travelling and working in Australia and the USA post university.

CBD Manager Michele Wilby said that the appointments were critical to the continued success of CBD:

"Tahreen and Kirsten both have the energy and drive that is essential to delivering the objectives and pledges of CBD.

"Since April last year we have focussed our efforts in achieving tangible results for businesses, visitors and staff within the District and I am looking forward to working together with the new team on future developments, to continue to ensure that CBD is the place to do business.

Clare Perkins, from the CBD team is currently on maternity leave - congratulations to Clare and Paul on the birth of their son.

To download a copy of the Interim Annual Report please visit

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

£10 MILLION BUSINESS FUND AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL COMPANIES

A £10 million fund offering Birmingham businesses loans of between £50,000 and £1,000,000 is now up and running.

Four businesses in the city have so far received support from the Birmingham City Council Loan Fund which was set up to help successful companies that are unable to access finance from traditional sources during the recession.

Investbx Managed Services, based in Colmore Row within the Colmore Business District, is administering the loans which are available to companies that can demonstrate a two-year trading record and are seeking capital to create jobs and expand. Investbx will work with eligible applicants to guide them through the approval process.

Terms and conditions for each investment entered into with the City Council, including repayment periods, will differ from loan to loan although they are broadly in line with similar products currently available in the wider marketplace.

Sue Summers, Chief Executive of Investbx, said: "Improving liquidity and providing access to cashflow are so important to local businesses and the BCC Business Loan Fund is making a difference. We are delighted to play a role in this important initiative which is helping SMEs to access the capital that they need to grow their businesses.

Since its launch in January 2010, BCC's Loan Fund has already received enquiries for more than £12m, with £2m approved.



Companies that have received funding include a company that publishes educational books and magazines and a Jewellery Quarter-based firm which installs leading-edge home entertainment and utility management systems.

I would urge any company in the CBD area which thinks it might be eligible for the loan fund to get in contact as soon as possible."

To find out more about the Birmingham City Council Loan Fund call Investbx Managed Services on 0121 233 4903 or visit www.investbxmanagementservices.com

KATIE BARD CHAMPIONING TRAINEE GRADUATES

Waterloo Street based recruitment consultancy Katie Bard, are cornering the market in graduate trainees this summer.

Verity Stokes, Team Leader, said "We have taken on three new graduate trainees in the last six weeks and have plans to take on a further three over the next two months".

Katie Bard have long championed retaining the potential business leaders of the future in Birmingham. "Our graduate scheme has been phenomenally successful over the 30 years that we have been running it and it aims to bring budding entrepreneurs in to the business and give them the training they need to be able to develop through the company.

We understand the pressures that the recession has made on the graduate market and consequently made sure that the scheme

continued to run at full capacity through all of 2009. We are now beginning to see some exceptional people with a real range of degrees from Law to Marketing to Human Sciences and with a variety of backgrounds – from local Brummies to Aussies!"

The scheme approaches graduates on two levels and for Katie Bard this is the key to its success. According to John Mortimer, CEO of the Angela Mortimer group "firstly we accept their competence from day one and give them absolute responsibility over their part of the company, which allows them to make an actual contribution immediately.

Secondly we offer a high level mentoring and coaching scheme, which helps them to uncover and develop the attitude towards success necessary in a competitive environment that is fundamentally entrepreneurial in character."



Verity Stokes, team leader (in the white) with Lisa Chapman, trainee consultant, grad scheme 2009.

The process that has been developed by the team is now being offered on a complimentary basis to companies within the Colmore Business District.

For an initial consultation contact Verity Stokes via V.Stokes@katiebard.com.

HOTEL DU VIN NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ROLE

Helena Randall has been appointed business development manager at the prestigious Hotel du Vin located in the heart of the Colmore Business District on Church Street.

Helena's role covers developments at both Hotel du Vin and Malmaison. Helena previously worked for the advisory firm, Deloitte as marketing manager at the Midlands Headquarters in Brindley Place. Giving some background to what attracted her to the role Helena said: "Having worked with both hotels in my previous role at Deloitte, I wanted to join the group and use my experience to help drive the business. The brands have great personality, and it is exciting working in a fast paced environment which is so focused on a quality experience for our clients."

Stephen Woodhouse, regional general manager of the hotel group, added: "Helena brings with her a fresh perspective and understanding of the local business

community in Birmingham which will help push the brand forward both locally and nationally."

We wish Helena the best of luck in her new role and welcome her to the District!

www.hotelduvin.com



Helena Randall in her new Business Development role at Hotel du Vin

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS LAUNCH NEW BUSINESS VENTURE

A new hairdressing salon has been launched in Colmore Business District by four young local entrepreneurs.

Located on Swallow Street, Parlour Hair opened in spring to provide high quality personal hairdressing services for city professionals, dwellers and shoppers alike.

The salon is located in the prestigious Queens College building, adjacent to One Victoria Square, and has undergone an £80k refurbishment to create an unusual interior blending design from the 60s and 70s with a mix of Victorian Vintage.

Phil Gifford, co-owner of Parlour Hair, said: "This has been a life-time ambition for me and the other partners in the business. We met one and other early on in our careers and we always discussed joining forces to open a salon that provides Birmingham's professional community with a personal hairdressing service that suits their needs and works with their busy work and social diary commitments."

The four partners, who have over 50 years experience of hair dressing between them, all agreed that location was key in their business plan.

Lily Ridding explained: "When we found out that there was space available in Queens College Chambers we decided that it was time to put our much discussed dream into action. The location was just what we had been looking for, located right in the heart of Birmingham's professional district, enabling us to look after the needs of Birmingham's young professionals and business leaders."

www.parlourhair.co.uk

Parlour Hair

From left to right: Lily Ridding, Phil Gifford, Katie McGovern, Anthony Pytliński



CBD SHOWCASE



DIGEST INTERVIEWS JAMES LATHAM, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE COLMORE BAR & GRILL, WATERLOO STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

JAMES, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING IN THE INDUSTRY?

About 11 years. Working all over the UK managing bars, restaurants and hotels. In addition, I spent 3 years as National Operations Project Manager developing and launching new concepts for Whitbread.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE WHITBREAD GROUP?

The group is incredibly people focused, the loyalty and team culture is a priority and the business is always evolving ahead of market trends. Whitbread is definitely very much a leader not a follower in the industry. They also offer superb training and career progression opportunities.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE COLMORE BAR & GRILL CONCEPT?

The Colmore has a bespoke design and is very specific to its location, the Colmore Business District and the business audience it is targeting. Having secured such a unique site in the heart of the city; we decided that none of our current restaurant or hotel Food and Beverage brands would work as well as a modern contemporary Bar and Grill would, so we created one. There is nothing like it in our portfolio or in any of our 600 hotels! So it is unique to Birmingham!

The challenge for us was to create an environment able to win market share from our competitors, whilst also offering something very different in the mix to complement the Colmore Business District offer and draw more business to the area. This is why we have created a one off chargrill menu / cocktail menu / private function and dining space, we also have the capacity to drive the venue as a hub for networking events. So we are tremendously flexible as a brand.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO BIRMINGHAM AND IN PARTICULAR THE COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT?

As a business, we have a long term investment plan underway for the City. The Colmore and the City Centre Premier Inn is merely the start of this plan. The Colmore Business District is such a fantastic area with years of growth and an exciting future ahead.

“Colmore Business District is the city’s primary business quarter with a great heritage and an even greater future and we want to be involved in this.”

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE COLMORE?

Quite simply to become an informal destination for the business community, maintaining standards and consistency as a non exclusive and affordable place to eat / drink / relax and do business. We have grown demand already from local businesses to hold events and networking meetings, so we aim to grow this side of the business quickly, hopefully by increasing demand for the hotel side of the business as well.

HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY?

We are open to supporting most initiatives within reason but by definition the Premier Inn Business model is adding 152 bedrooms to a key area of the city at a budget rate. This welcome addition allows both small and large businesses to manage costs by keeping their accommodation and entertaining budgets to a minimum. After all, our bedrooms and Bar & Grill are similar to most of our 3/4* competitor hotels but positioned at a fraction of the price.

We are investing heavily in Birmingham so maintaining the best relations with our guests and fellow stakeholders is important. What is more, I am a Midlander born and bred so it is great to come home and give something back.

DO YOU GET INVOLVED IN ANY CHARITY WORK?

Absolutely. On a national level, Whitbread is a corporate sponsor of Water Aid, a charity committed to providing safe drinking water and sanitation facilities overseas. Our target is to raise £1 million over 2 years for that cause. However, we are also very keen to support local charities and are currently holding events for Thrive and potentially Edwards Trust and the Teenage Cancer Trust.

WHY SHOULD THE BUSINESS DISTRICT USE THE COLMORE?

We are spacious, modern, affordable and have a range of offers and services to cater to all tastes and budgets.

WHAT SORT OF THINGS DO YOU HAVE COMING UP AT THE COLMORE?

Lots of big networking events coming up, a new cocktail menu and specials menus soon to be launched, we are developing our website and monthly newsletter plus we are looking into a roster of live music / comedy nights for the the autumn.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO ON YOUR DAYS OFF?

I travel the country most Sundays doing lots of cross country mountain biking but aside from that I spend time with my family, which includes two young children. That can be hard work! But I do enjoy cooking and eating out.

Colmore Bar & Grill
3-6 Waterloo Street
Birmingham
B2 5PG
Tel: 0121 616 4440

NATIONAL ATTENTION FOR DISTRICT BUSINESS



TheBusinessDesk.com is spearheaded by Marc Reeves

A BUSINESS launched from the heart of the District only four months ago has already gained national attention, with an in-depth feature on the firm being published in the Financial Times in June.

TheBusinessDesk.com, based in the Cornwall Building on Newhall Street, was launched in Yorkshire three years ago, and its expansion

in the West Midlands has been spearheaded by former Birmingham Post editor Marc Reeves.

The service provides up-to-the-minute news about businesses and business issues across the region via a free daily email and website. Since launching in February, it has attracted 4,700 registered users, many from the Colmore Business District.

Its target for the whole year was 5,000, and it's this success that attracted the interest of the Financial Times, which contrasted the site's growth against the decline of traditional media brands.

The FT article came amidst growing interest in TheBusinessDesk.com from a range of national newspapers and online commentators, including the Independent and the Sunday Times.

Mr Reeves said: "We've been delighted with our growth to date, and the support from so many people in the business community. I think a lot of that's to do with our office location. The Colmore Business District is the perfect place for us, as it puts us right in the centre of the economic powerhouse of the region."

TheBusinessDesk, Tel: 0121 222 4201
www.thebusinessdesk.com



BIRMINGHAM FORWARD – 20 YEARS ON

This year Birmingham Forward celebrates 20 years as the leading independent membership organisation for Business and Professional Services (BPS) in the city.

Starting during a recession, the organisation captured the imagination of the BPS community and continued in this vein over the ensuing two decades. Members come from 21 professional sectors across the West Midlands region, ranging from sole traders to some of the city's largest corporates. Members have access to business updates, a wide variety of speakers and many networking opportunities.

The first 10 years (known as Birmingham City 2000) saw considerable success around the redevelopment of the ICC, breaking down the 'concrete collar' and bringing transatlantic air services to Birmingham, thereafter continuing with subsequent developments, including an active involvement in the Business Improvement District.

Jackie Hendley, Senior Tax Partner at KPMG, and Chair of Birmingham Forward is driving



Jackie Hendley, Senior Tax Partner at KPMG, and Chair of Birmingham Forward

the strategic themes of Brand Birmingham, People and Education and Transport, underpinning the organisation's Vision, Mission and Values. We are facing a very exciting time as a region, with the City of Culture Bid, New Street Station, the runway

extension, new library and the Business Improvement District, amongst others, providing us with the opportunity to seize our place as the City of Choice. One of her key messages is around "Collaboration", striving to achieve our full potential (individually, corporately and regionally) seen as key to the success of BPS in the region.

Birmingham Forward continue to support the Colmore Business District, testament to the effectiveness of working together, thus re-invigorating and strengthening Birmingham Forward's strapline "The Professional Connection".

In 2010 our vision retains our core values:

Our Vision: Birmingham – the city of choice for business and professional services

Our Mission: Promoting an environment for business excellence

Our Values: Professional, Passionate, Proactive, Ethical, Engaged, Inclusive

Birmingham Forward, Tel : 0121 632 2200
www.birminghamforward.co.uk

CREATING AN IDEAL HOME

IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN INCREASING ITS VALUE, SAY HOMEOWNERS

74% of homeowners who dream of improving their property want to create the ideal home rather than increase its value, new research reveals today.

Housing charity Shelter and Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) commissioned a survey of homeowners to find out more about their home improvement aspirations. RIBA have offices based in London and on Margaret Street in the Colmore Business District.

The results showed that nearly three quarters of homeowners (73%) have a dream home improvement project and that making the most of space and improving the look of their property is their top motivation (74%).

1. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2210 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 7th and 9th April 2010. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+). Shelter commissioned YouGov to survey 1569 homeowners in April 2010
2. A regional breakdown of the data is available by calling Mina Vadon in the RIBA press office on 020 7307 3761 or mina.vadon@inst.riba.org or Julia Pitman in the Shelter press office on 020 7505 2058 or julia_pitman@shelter.org.uk
3. For more press information on Architect in the House, please contact Julia Pitman or Mina Vadon. Contact details are above
4. Consultations with a local architect are subject to availability in your area
5. More than 650,000 households in Britain are overcrowded, including over 1 million children in England alone. Living in confined conditions has a devastating effect on family life, especially children's safety, health and education. Help Shelter to end bad housing by signing up to Architect in the House at www.architectinthehouse.org.uk

One in ten homeowners (12%) seeking to improve their property want to make it more environmentally friendly or energy efficient, while just 8% were hoping to improve its value.

Kitchen extensions were the most popular home improvement (13%), closely followed by conservatories (12%) and attic conversions (10%).

Shelter and RIBA released the research to coincide with the launch this week of *Architect in the House*, a successful fundraising initiative now in its 14th year, in which architects nationwide offer free hour-long consultations to the public in return for a £40 suggested donation to Shelter.

So far, the scheme has raised over £1 million for homeless and badly housed families and helped 50,000 homeowners realise their home improvement aspirations. It also aims to change people's perceptions of architects and demystify what they do.

Over a quarter of homeowners surveyed said they would consider using an architect (28%), with almost half (49%) agreeing that architects add value by creating a property that stands out. Over half of those who were not planning to use an architect (51%) felt their project was too small to warrant one. Ruth Reed, President of the RIBA, says: "Architects can add a huge amount to any home improvement project, however big or small. Whether it's knocking down a wall or creating a new extension, only architects

can give the bigger picture, offering design inspiration, knowledge of the latest fixtures and fittings, and advice on everything from planning regulations to energy efficiency.

"*Architect in the House* is a fantastic opportunity for homeowners to benefit from this expertise and see what architects can offer. A consultation for a suggested donation of just £40 can help homeowners take the first step towards improving their home, while raising money for a good cause at the same time."

Campbell Robb, chief executive of Shelter, said: "This survey reveals that homeowners are almost ten times more likely to want to create a better home than merely increase its value, showing that home is so much more to people than just a financial asset.

"Unfortunately, the one million children in England living in overcrowded housing can only dream of a home where they have space to play, study and thrive.

"*Architect in the House* is a fantastic opportunity for homeowners to give their home a fresh new look while supporting Shelter's vital work to ensure no child's future is blighted by bad housing."

Homeowners or architects can register for Architect in the House by visiting www.architectinthehouse.org.uk. Participants will be matched with architects in early July and consultations can take place any time up to the end of November.



COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT **BUDGET COMMENT**

Despite being labelled the 'Bloodbath Budget', businesses in Birmingham's CBD will find some comfort in Chancellor George Osborne's words, according to Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

For a start, the proposed New Street station redevelopment has survived Mr Osborne's axe, and this will definitely be welcomed by many in the CBD area.

Also, many of the professional firms in the district will also have clients in the all-important manufacturing sector, who will benefit from some changes, including the retention of capital investment allowances.

On the downside, most businesses in the CBD employ staff, and will not welcome the National Insurance contributions compromise, nor the changes to Capital Gains Tax.

The Chamber said any changes to the latter must avoid harming entrepreneurial activity and business investment in the medium to long term.

Katie Teasdale, head of policy at Birmingham Chamber, said: "We're very relieved that the New Street redevelopment will go ahead.

"What businesses want is stability, clarity and to be able to plan for the future.

"We are pleased that capital investment allowances have been retained, albeit reduced from 2012.

"This will support niche manufacturing in our region, and allow them to plan their investment strategies over the next 18 months."



CHILTERN RAILWAYS **TRAIN SERVICE TO BIRMINGHAM**

One of the objectives for any Business Improvement District (BID) is for the local business community to work together and lobby or support any important issues.

CBD has recognised the key influence of transport both to and within the District. As a result we have a dedicated sub-group to the main CBD Board, led by board director Paul Fielding, Brewin Dolphin, which focuses on making the District "Accessible and Connected".

Therefore following the proposal from Chiltern Railways to reduce the service to Snow Hill station to once per hour in the period between morning and evening peak times, chair of Colmore Business District, Gary Cardin, contacted the chairman of Chiltern Railways, Adrian Shooter to discuss this issue further on behalf of everyone within the District.

The latest communication from Chiltern Railways to the CBD has confirmed the following key points of information:

- **There will be no reductions to services at peak times.**
- **Between 6.45am and 9.15am and between 4pm and 7pm there will be two trains per hour from Birmingham Snow Hill to London Marylebone.**
- **In the return direction there will be two trains per hour from London Marylebone to Birmingham Snow Hill arriving between 5.45pm and 10.45pm.**
- **Journey time will be reduced to 1 hour 50 minutes**
- **During the off-peak times (between 9.15am and 4.00pm) there will be an hourly service between Birmingham Snow Hill and London Marylebone.**

If you would like further information about the proposed changes and the latest information from Chiltern Railways please don't hesitate to contact the office on 0121 632 2208.





Alex Burrows

CBD NEW DIRECTORS

CBD is delighted to welcome Alex Burrows, head of strategy, Centro and Chris McKeogh, chief superintendant, West Midlands Police as new directors on the CBD Board. In this edition of CBD Digest we catch up with Alex Burrows.

What does your role entail?

I am the head of strategy at Centro, the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority. I am responsible for developing the future transport strategy for the Metropolitan Area as well as engaging with all of our stakeholders, our customers and communities, national and local politicians and civil servants.

Why did you get involved in Colmore Business District?

Transport plays a vital role in connecting people to jobs, skills, families, recreation, shopping, in fact all aspects of daily life. Colmore Business District is at the centre of Birmingham’s transport network and I wanted to get involved with CBD to engage the business community with the transport agenda.

I want to see our plans for the future become reality with the support of all of our stakeholders as well as play a key part in the ongoing development of the City Centre.

What do you like about Colmore Business District?

The architecture, the atmosphere, the bars and restaurants, CBD has so much potential to push Birmingham forward as a great European city.

What would be the one thing in Colmore Business District you would change?

I would like to open up links across Snow Hill station to the CBD as well as better linkages to the Jewellery Quarter. I would also encourage more pedestrian traffic (and less motor traffic) around the streets of the CBD to encourage an on-street cafe, bar and entertainment culture.

COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT PROVING ATTRACTIVE DESTINATION FOR VISITORS

People working and visiting the heart of Birmingham’s business district are enjoying a more attractive environment thanks to Colmore Business District (CBD) and Birmingham City Council.

In spring, maintenance and repair work was carried out to the subway that runs from Livery Street under Great Charles Street linking CBD to the Jewellery Quarter.

CBD board director and Livery Place building manager Sarah Skurr said that the work was key to the continued development and growth of the District:

“The subway was one of the main areas for improvement identified by the Board as part of the CBD’s Cleaner, Greener and Attractive objective.

“As a main access point that connects the city’s business district to the Jewellery Quarter, an area that is home to many people who work within CBD, the subway has been in need of improvement for sometime and we hope that the enhancements will benefit everyone who uses the subway.”

Funded and delivered through a working partnership between CBD and Birmingham

City Council the subway has undergone key maintenance work and street cleaning specialists Ramora have cleansed the paving, walls and ceilings. The final part of the regeneration process included a complete repaint throughout to freshen up the subway’s overall appearance.

Sarah continues: “In order to ensure that the improvements are upheld, the CBD Street Wardens visit the subway daily to check and report any defects to the relevant council departments. The CBD Caretaker also visits daily to carry out any on the spot cleaning that is needed. These visits from the CBD team allow us to keep this vital gateway into the business district as clean and attractive as possible.”

Tony Beresford from Birmingham City Council (BCC) commented: “This project is an illustration of a successful working partnership with the private sector to deliver tangible on the ground improvements to Birmingham’s business district and we are looking forward to working on future joint projects with the CBD team.”

The modifications to the subway were completed at the same time as the widening of the pavements for the 101 bus on the



L-R: Tony Beresford (BCC), Mike Best (CBD) and Dave Forsyth (BCC)

junction of Colmore Row and Livery Street making the area safer for pedestrians.

“The achievements are part of the 2010 development plan for the business district that we announced earlier this year in the CBD interim report to help create a Cleaner, Greener and Attractive working environment for everyone within the District.” said Sarah. CBD and Birmingham City Council are also currently working with the Jewellery Quarter on proposals to enhance the pedestrian footbridge from Church Street to Ludgate Hill.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

All That jazz

The Birmingham International Jazz Festival, Colmore Business District: 19th – 23rd July.

The Birmingham International Jazz Festival, now in its 26th year, will take over the city this July and once again Colmore Business District is delighted to welcome some of the world's finest jazz musicians.

We've worked with festival organisers to arrange a packed programme to keep everyone entertained.

1. Becky Brine

MUSIC STYLE: Jazz & Blues Singer

A little lady with a big voice, a groovy sense of humour and lots of energy. Birmingham patrons will remember her solo street entertainment throughout the last two festivals with affection

WHERE: Monday 19th July: 8-10am, **St Philips Square**. Wednesday 21st July: 8-10am, **St Philips Square**. Wednesday 21st July: 5-7pm, **The Old Contemptibles**

2. Chick 'Stoop Down Man' Willis

MUSIC STYLE: Blues

The great bluesman, Chick Willis, is a superb guitarist and singer who also plays drums, keyboards, harmonica and bass, has garnered awards and honours from every possible source.

WHERE: Monday 19th July: 12-2pm, **Victoria Square**

3. Digby Fairweather

MUSIC STYLE: Jazz Cornettist

Digby's achievements in jazz are far too numerous to itemise. A professional jazz musician since January 1977, he can now add the position of Festival Patron to his many roles in Birmingham.

WHERE: Monday 19th July: 5-7pm, **Victoria Square**

4. Emanuele Fizzotti

MUSIC STYLE: Blues/Rock

Emanuele is one of Italy's foremost blues/rock guitarists and also one of the most versatile. In 2005 he formed Psychedelic Sunrise to re-create the music of Jimi Hendrix and Soulful Numbers, a folk/rock/soul band, playing music by the likes of Bob Dylan, the Beatles and Aretha Franklin.

WHERE: Thursday 22nd July: 12-2pm, **Victoria Square**

5. Teens Jazzband Velke Losiny

MUSIC STYLE: Dixieland

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.

WHERE: Tuesday 20th July: 12 – 2pm, **Victoria Square**. Tuesday 20th July: 5-7pm, **The Old Contemptibles**



The Dixie Ticklers

Becky Brine

Chick 'Stoop Down Man' Willis

Digby Fairweather

Teens Jazzband Velke Losiny



8. The Shuffling Hungarians

MUSIC STYLE: New Orleans Brass
Named after New Orleans pianist Professor Longhair's first band, the Shuffling Hungarians, draw on all the musics of the Crescent City, including that of the Indians.

WHERE: Tuesday 20th July: 8-10am, **St Philips Square**. Thursday 22nd July: 8-10am, **Snow Hill Piazza**

9. Tipitina

MUSIC STYLE: Jazz, Blues and Gospel
This is the fifth Birmingham festival for Tipitina, singer Debbie Jones and pianist Justin Randall, who are now preparing to record their second album. Debbie's background is in gospel music, while Justin's devotion to the New Orleans professors in no way inhibits his comprehensive mastery of piano styles.

WHERE: Thursday 22nd July: 5-7pm, **Victoria Square**

10. Valery Kiselyov

MUSIC STYLE: Classic Jazz
A famous clarinet and saxophone player from Moscow, Valery Kiselyov is one of the most interesting and energetic representatives of the jazz tradition in Russian music.

WHERE: Friday 23rd July: 5-7pm, **The Old Contemptibles**

6. Backyard Music Boys

MUSIC STYLE: New Orleans
The band's wide repertoire includes popular songs of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, classic jazz compositions by the likes of King Oliver, Louis Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton and New Orleans blues, stomps and marches. Band member Matt Palmer also leads an acoustic quartet under the name Backyard Music Boys.

WHERE: Friday 23rd July: 8-10am, **Snow Hill Piazza**

7. The Dixie Ticklers

MUSIC STYLE: New Orleans, Dixieland and Trad Jazz
The Dixie Ticklers, led by Dom James, hail from London and are a potent combination of the brightest young talent and the oldest charts in the book. Playing the music of Kid Ory, Sidney Bechet, Louis Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton, they add a youthful gloss to great New Orleans favourites, entertaining with skill and charm.

WHERE: Wednesday 21st July: 12-2pm, **Victoria Square**. Friday 23rd July: 12-2pm, **Snow Hill Piazza**



Emanuele Fizzotti



The Shuffling Hungarians



Tipitina



Backyard Music Boys



Valery Kiselyov

KEEPING OUR EAR TO THE GROUNDS

Introducing Grounds: a hyperlocalblog (www.grounds.posterous.com), centred on the Colmore Business District.

We're a "newsclub", we judge our success not on readers, but on the number of people who get involved and enjoy being part of Grounds – a large part of which includes our contributors.

Grounds have taught followers how to run around Birmingham, how to run a festival in Birmingham, and how to run into someone nice in Birmingham!

They have also shown the impressive presence that Birmingham has on television, (even if it's meant to be London) on Doctors and an apocalyptic wasteland on Survivors. Grounds and its club of contributors have offered up the sneaky inside information and social goings-on of the area.

It aims to support locally and independently run organisations and businesses, as they make our city the vibrant and culturally diverse place it is today.

Some of the recent contributions on the Grounds blog include:



Andrew Brightwell has been on top form, keeping the links between the hyperlocal and the council fresh-faced, and challenging issues around our city centre with both a positive and critical view.

Jon Hickman has been making sure that the people of Birmingham can still join the club by contributing, and conjuring up the community benefits that will soon bless the members who have been helping Grounds put the local news out there.

If you have some pressing news, or want to offer a feature about living or working in CBD, you can submit an article to the email address below.

To contact us e-mail
post@grounds.posterous.com



CBD SPOT THE DIFFERENCE COMPETITION WINNERS

AND THE LUCKY WINNERS WERE...

Both winners received complimentary meals for two from the 'du Vin or not du Vin' menu courtesy of Hotel du Vin.

A big thank you to all those that entered!

CHECK OUT THIS ISSUE'S 'NAME IT' COMPETITION ON PAGE 22! A GREAT PRIZE ON OFFER!



Tammie Richards
Assistant Tax Manager,
BDO LLP



Mathew Fell
Receptionist,
Anthony Collins Solicitors



Dr. Hugh Koch based at a clinic in Newhall Street, and James Koch

TAKE SOME ACTIVE STEPS TO REDUCING STRESS

Working in the Colmore Business District has many advantages. Businesses can now have access to an innovate approach to identify and manage everyday stress levels. These have been developed by Dr. Hugh Koch and James Koch based at a clinic in Newhall Street.

The following ten 'active steps' are short, specific and highly practical and can lead to long lasting , positive changes in your life

Thinking clearly and positively

1. Focus on one thing at a time.

When faced with a long list of jobs and mountain of paperwork, it is easy to feel overloaded.

Try and focus on just one job at a time when dealing with multiple pressures, with many things on the go. Putting 100% of your focus and actions into this one job before moving on to the next, and trying not to multi-task, will help to make you feel calmer and will also improve your efficiency and output.

Active Step (AS): Focus solely on your next job without getting distracted by other demands.

2. Think positively

Difficult jobs, conflictual discussions with colleagues and others and complex business decisions require a clear and positive outlook.

Be confident in your abilities to get things done well. Approach each task confidently expecting success. This optimism will help you feel calmer and more in control and make a positive outcome more likely.

AS: Approach your next task today in a confident and positive way and believe it will go OK.

Take healthy lifestyle options

3. Take the active option today.

Most of us lead a very mentally active but sedentary working life being desk bound much of the day. The thought of some exercise after remains just that...a thought.

Try and build in short bouts of exercise into your daily working routine. You could try walking or cycling to work, getting off the bus one stop earlier, taking the stairs not the lift or going for a walk at lunchtime.

This exercise all adds up.

AS: Take up opportunities today to be more active as they arise.

4. Eat regularly

We often give dietary information to others, directly or indirectly. It's important to follow this advice ourselves.

Don't miss out meals. Start the day with a healthy breakfast. Make time for lunch despite being busy and distracted. Keep your energy level up by having a readily available supply of healthy snacks (fresh fruit, unsalted nuts and dried fruit) on your desk. This latter advice may make you laugh in its simplicity – 'do you or I do it' ? is the test!

AS: Buy some healthy snacks for your desk next time you're out.

5. Take a break

Being motivated to develop a thriving business can mean we 'work all hours'.

Your wellbeing, output and efficiency will be enhanced if you make sure you have regular breaks from work. If possible, get out of the office to go for a short walk to somewhere green and relax for five minutes. Distract yourself by looking at what's going on around you, breathing deeply and exchanging smiles.

AS: Take a break over the next three - four hours and head outside your office.

Additional information on stress can be found at www.reducingstress.co.uk, a non-profit making health education website containing downloadable leaflets, Spotify music playlists and snippets from the published title 'Active Steps to Reducing Stress'.

For daily Active Steps, inspirational quotes and video clips, you can subscribe to the daily blog www.reducingstress.co.uk/blog or Twitter (active steps).

Further information can be obtained from either author via www.reducingstress.co.uk or 01242 263715.



PUT YOUR FOOT DOWN

Brewin Dolphin had Birmingham's business quarter grooving when they held a free public dance lesson in April.

The 'Put Your Foot Down' event was staged outside Brewin Dolphin's office in Snow Hill Piazza with over 30 amateur dancers from Brewin Dolphin, Colmore Business District (CBD) and the general public taking part in the energetic, outdoor dance session.

Kashmir Leese, from award-winning dance act Smash Bro'z, taught his class a lively hip hop/street dance routine developed by French hip-hop artist Salah. To help keep the dance pupils refreshed in the Spring sunshine, Eddie Gardener, manager of Sainsburys in Colmore Row, kindly donated bottled water.

John Driver, Brewin Dolphin Divisional Director, said, "One of the most exciting aspects of the International Dance Festival Birmingham (IDFB) is its willingness to showcase dance in the most unlikely areas of the West Midlands – therefore, it's been great to have helped them achieve this in the previously dance-free zone that is Colmore Business District.

"It was certainly one of the most entertaining lunchtimes we've enjoyed in Colmore Row, and confirmed how proud we are to be providing our unreserved support for IDFB.

It was also nice to show the world that being an investment manager doesn't mean you can't put together a dance step or two!"

www.brewin.co.uk



Put Your Foot Down participants in action in Snow Hill Piazza

URBAN COFFEE COMPANY BOOK CLUB REVIEW – JUNE 2010



It was the fifth meeting for the Urban Coffee Company book club, which discussed Paper Lanterns by local author, Christine Coleman. The book told the story of Ann and her journey from Sutton Coldfield to Hong Kong in order to reunite with her estranged mother. Her journey becomes one of discovery as she untangles family history and revelations about her beloved grandmother, as well as a greater understanding and acceptance of herself.

The group found the book pleasant enough, but felt it was aimed at mature women, as the men in the group felt sidelined by weaker male characters and strong emphasis on the women in the story and their emotions. The vivid description of Sutton Coldfield was enjoyed, as was the scenery of Hong Kong and tourist spots, which made readers who'd visited recall past trips. Members who'd been at the launch of the book revealed the letters in the novel were real ones found by Christine, which added further interest and discussion over the authenticity of the voice in the letters.

The group picked The Angel's Game by Carlos Ruiz Zafon as their June read at Urban Coffee Company, Church Street.

For more information on the next book club meeting visit www.urbancoffee.co.uk

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL ART PROJECT PARK(ING) DAY

On Monday 14th June there was artistic and creative talent at work on the city's streets. More specifically: in its parking spaces.

Artists from across Birmingham offered their inspired contributions to the ROADWORKS art project throughout the Colmore Business District's (CBD) metered parking spots on Colmore Row, Victoria Square and Waterloo Street.



Installations included 'Camera Obscura' by Arlene Burnett, featuring a walk in camera constructed from a garden shed. Trevor Pitt and Carolyn Morton gave a guided tour of their garden space, aptly titled 'An Incidental Estate', which featured borrowed plants from back-gardens, council estates and parks around the city.

Putting smiles on faces in the CBD, the 'public cultural spaces' were Birmingham's contribution to PARK(ing) Day, an annual, one-day international art project in the same week as the city's final pitch to be the UK's first ever City of Culture.

More information about PARK(ing) Day, which involves 140 cities globally, can be found by visiting www.parkingday.org.

COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT CELEBRATES 1ST ANNIVERSARY



From Left: Diane Benussi, Thornton Allen, Gary Cardin

Colmore Business District (CBD) celebrated its first anniversary in April from KMPG's striking new city centre headquarters located at One Snowhill. Marking the first anniversary Gary Cardin, Chairman of the CBD Board said: "We have

spent the first 12 months concentrating on delivering key and tangible improvements to the city's business district.

"All of the projects that we have been working on, from the recruitment of Street

Wardens, the launch of the street cleaning service through to the involvement in community based events such as the annual Jazz Festival, are focused on the vision to sustain CBD as the commercial centre of Birmingham for the benefit of everyone who works, visits and lives in the District."

Looking forward to the next 12 months Gary commented, "Despite the achievements delivered in the first year, we still have more work to do and the Board, CBD office team and I are looking forward to another busy and successful year, concentrating on the next stage of developments including implementing an improved lighting scheme in the District and improving some of our key access points."

Remarking on One Snowhill, Board Member, Thornton Allen added, "This is a truly impressive building that stands proudly in the heart of Birmingham's business district and as a key property development for the District in 2009 it seemed appropriate that we celebrated the first anniversary in one of CBD's latest landmark buildings."

As it celebrates its first anniversary Colmore Business District remains the only business focused Business Improvement District in the UK.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

CBD FACTS

FACT 1

The Council House has its own postcode, B1 1BB.

FACT 2

The last public hanging in Birmingham: Philip Matsell was hanged in front of a crowd of 40,000 in August 1806 for shooting and wounding a "peace officer" – an early form of police officer. The execution took place on the corner of Great Charles Street and Snow Hill.

FACT 3

The Bell Edison Telephone Building [17 – 19 Newhall Street] was the Midland headquarters of the air raid warning system, during World War I.

FACT 4

Mr William Sands Cox, F.R.S., opened a medical school on an old site on Temple Row in 1825, the forerunner of the medical school and the Queen's College, Birmingham.



IF YOU HAVE ANY INTERESTING FACTS OR INFORMATION ON COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT PLEASE EMAIL marketing@colmorebusinessdistrict.com

HOTEL DU VIN BISTRO

SIMPLE CLASSICS



Chef, Mark Nind

Open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, the Bistro offers a menu rooted in classic European cuisine with a contemporary edge.

Here you will find 'simple classics' that change seasonally supporting our philosophy of using the finest and freshest local produce, cooked simply, priced sensibly.



Fillet of sea bass

Samphire, broad beans, tomato & vanilla water with samphire tempura

Preparation time: 40 mins

Cooking time: 6 mins

Serves 2

Ingredients

- 2x Fillets of sea bass – skin on, scaled & pin boned (your local fishmonger can prepare for you)
- 60g samphire (available from some fishmongers and specialist suppliers)
- 2x Plum vine tomatoes ripe and fragrant
- 60g Fresh whole broad beans
- 1 Vanilla pod (remove seeds from vanilla pod)
- 1x stick Lemon grass
- ½ Lemon zest
- ½ Lemon juiced
- Pinch of sugar
- Dash of white wine vinegar
- 5g diced ice cold butter

For the tempura:

- 200 grams of flour
- 5 grams dried or fresh yeast
- 150ml of milk
- 150ml of beer

Preparation

Night before....

Blanch tomatoes, remove skin and de seed. Blitz in a blender together with the vanilla seeds, lemon grass, lemon zest, garlic, thyme, a pinch of sugar and a splash of white wine vinegar.

Pour into a piece of muslin cloth, tie with string hang above a bowl in fridge overnight so the sauce passes slowly through the muslin cloth. Reserve the juices in bowl for the sauce and throw away pulp in muslin.

Method

1. To make your tempura, warm milk until tepid then whisk in the yeast and slowly add flour and beer until smooth in consistency. Season then leave to double.
2. Blanch 3 plum vine tomatoes for 6 seconds until skins start to split. Refresh in ice water, peel and de seed then cut into concass (diced). Reserve for later.
3. Blanch fresh broad beans refresh and split out of the skins and reserve.
4. Score the skin of the sea bass fillet
5. Heat some olive oil in a flat non stick pan until it is almost smoking. Season fish and place fish straight into pan, skin side down. Cook 3 minutes one side, 1 minute on the other (allow more time for a large fillet). Finish with lemon juice and butter.

6. Dip 3 strands of samphire into flour and then into your batter then put into deep fryer for approximately one minute until light and crispy minute. Reserve for garnish.
7. Blanch the remaining samphire and broad beans in boiling water for approximately 30 seconds – no need to season with salt as it has a slight saltiness from the samphire. Drain and add to pan with a little butter and season with pepper and a touch of lemon juice add concass last second.
8. In the meantime take your pre prepared tomato and vanilla water and heat until it has reduced by half. Gradually and gently stir in butter (take your time to make sure it doesn't split) – this will thicken the sauce slightly. Season to taste.

Assembling...!

Place your samphire concass and broad beans in the centre of the bowl, add your fillet of sea bass on top then pour your sauce round the side of the garnish, place concass around plate in sauce. Finish with samphire tempura on top and you are ready to serve!

Now for those of you who lack the culinary inclination to create such a dish – come to Hotel du Vin Bistro and let Mark prepare it for you whilst you relax and enjoy a glass of wine!

www.hotelduvin.com

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF BIRMINGHAM'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY IN COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT

Food and drink are inextricably linked to the life of a vibrant, busy business community and we have over 50 food and drink outlets in the Colmore Business District area of the City alone - as highlighted by our well received "Food and Drink Guide".

"Whether you are looking for a Michelin starred quality dinner or a quick bite we have everything to suit every palate and every pocket – so we should embrace and celebrate it."

These were the opening words of Gary Cardin (Chair of CBD) as he greeted the business community at this year's launch of the Taste of Birmingham in early June.

The breakfast event, which was attended by members of the Colmore Business District Community, was held at Hotel du Vin on Church Street.

The audience was entertained by speeches from Gary Cardin, Emma Gray, director of marketing for Marketing Birmingham and Marc Reeves, editor of TheBusinessDesk.com, official media partner to Taste of Business.

Commenting on CBD's involvement with Taste of Birmingham, Gary said:

"Our partnership with Marketing Birmingham to support Taste of Business builds on one of our key BID objectives to work with local businesses to help promote the wide range of facilities and services and hospitality offerings within the business district and we hope to spread this message regionally and nationally."

Admission to Taste of Business is free to all members of the business community and available on a first come first served basis. Tickets are limited to 2,000 people and can be obtained by registering online at www.visitbirmingham.com/taste.

Taste of Business takes place at the city's premier outdoor food festival, providing members of the business community with their own dedicated event, which last year established itself as one of Birmingham's largest and best networking occasions.

Taste of Business takes place on Friday 16 July from 12 noon and is set to become one of this summer's must-attend events. It gives visitors the opportunity to catch up with colleagues, entertain clients and network while enjoying the best of the region's culinary offer from 16 restaurants and over 50 local food producers. New restaurants to the festival this year include Pushkar's, Deep Caribbean Experience and Café Ikon, reflecting the international theme.

The nationally recognised Taste of Birmingham returns to Cannon Hill Park from 16 - 18 July and showcases the best of the region's restaurants and local produce along with award-winning chefs and local rising stars. This year Colmore Business District is working in partnership with Marketing Birmingham to host Taste of Birmingham's sister event, the prestigious **Taste of Business**. Taste of Business provides the business community with its own dedicated event and allows organisations to work together to showcase the very best of the region's culinary offer.

Alongside the diverse range of restaurants, there will be a series of demonstrations and guest appearances by chefs from around the region including Luke Tipping, Richard Turner and stars of the BBC's Great British Menu Glynn Purnell and Will Holland. Guests can also browse stalls from over 50 local producers at the Small Producers Market including Purity Brewing Co and Taste of the Moorlands; and enjoy music from The Jam House.



JEKYLL AND HYDE

CLASSIC CINEMA REVIEW

On Steelhouse Lane lies one of the Colmore Business District's hidden gems, The Jekyll and Hyde. Set apart from its peers, The Jekyll and Hyde offerings include award winning cocktails and a blend of comfort and curiosity. With a mix of contemporary design, vintage features and with a new outside garden, The Jekyll and Hyde is shaping up as 'the' place to hang out this summer – a must for anyone in the District.

The Jekyll and Hyde has played host to the Juniper Film Club for several months now. Showing classic films (strictly black and white) every Wednesday night, the setting is perfect. Sitting down at a candlelit table – with a bowl of complimentary popcorn and a deceptively strong cocktail – there is an excited air of occasion, yet also the homeliness of the cosiest of country pubs, all rolled into one.

This June was 'Bad Guys' season and the second week saw the showing of the 1938 gangster classic, Angels with Dirty Faces.

A welcome introduction to the film was provided by Simon Bradazon who curated the month long event.

The gangster classic features an all star cast including the legendary James Cagney as 'Rocky' Sullivan supported by Humphrey Bogart, Pat O'Brien and the notorious Dead End Kids (who apparently stole Bogart's trousers on set).

Sullivan and his childhood partner in crime, Jerry Connolly (O'Brien), part ways when Sullivan is caught on the run from the law and Connolly gets away. Connolly grows up to become a priest, whilst Sullivan, grows up to be a notorious gangster. When the two are united many years later events unfold, which test their friendship.

This on screen friendship between the two main characters is emotionally involving and convincing, providing an effective vehicle for the story to be told. This is most likely due to the fact that Cagney and O'Brien were close friends off screen.



Pat O'Brien and James Cagney starred in a total of nine films together

Produced in an era when studios and the Catholic Church were butting heads over violence on screen, the film carries a strong moral message at its core. The old story of "crime doesn't pay" may be clichéd but the depth of character in the film means the film feels as relevant today as ever. Indeed the hallmark of a true classic is often its longevity.

Here's to the classics and to the Jekyll and Hyde; a classic in the making.

www.thejekyllandhyde.co.uk

COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT LIMITED

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

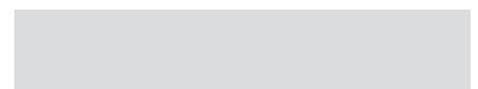
This July, in association with TheBusinessDesk.com, Colmore Business District (CBD) launches the 'CBD Snapshot' photography competition. 'CBD Snapshot' is open to anyone living in, working in or simply visiting the District to submit their most interesting, inspiring or simply best looking pictures of the District.

The top three pictures each month will be published on www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com and will be featured in the next issue of CBD Digest and the CBD Bitesize. Throughout the competition, running up until Christmas, there are fabulous prizes for the winner of each month.

The competition's judging-panel includes Marc Reeves of business portal TheBusinessDesk.com and previously editor for the Birmingham Post, popular local photographer Jas Sansi and Birmingham

Museum and Art Gallery's Business Development and Fundraising Manager, Hollie Smith-Charles.

CBD urges everyone to take up the opportunity to show how great the District is and submit your pictures! For further information about 'CBD Snapshot', or to enter the competition, please visit: www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com



Photos by JAS SANSI

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOOD FAIR

If you were anywhere near Victoria Square from 10th to 20th June it would have been hard to avoid the delicious smells and aromas dancing through the air. This was the Birmingham International Food Fair, with over 120 stalls showcasing culinary delights from around the world.

Located in Victoria Square in Colmore Business District and leading down to New Street and Chamberlain Square, the food fair is the sister event to the Frankfurt Christmas Market. This year saw the fair double in size since last year's 250,000 visitors descended upon the culinary celebration.

Visitors were able to travel around the globe and taste national dishes from Australia, the Far East, the Caribbean, Europe and, of course, traditional British produce.

For information about forthcoming events in the District, please visit www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

In the late 18th Century, the meetings of a few fertile minds changed an age. The original Lunarmen gathered for lively debate and discussion over dinner in Birmingham, the journey back from their meeting places lit by the full moon. They included the eccentric Erasmus Darwin, a man of extraordinary intellectual insight with his own pioneering ideas on evolution, the flamboyant entrepreneur Matthew Boulton, who applied modern techniques to the minting of coins, the brilliant engineer James Watt who harnessed the power of steam, the radical polymath Joseph Priestley, who among wide ranging achievements isolated oxygen and the innovative potter and social reformer Josiah Wedgwood. Together as well as individually they built canals and factories, managed world-class businesses and changed the face of Birmingham.

What remains constant from the period of the original Lunar Society to the modern



Last year's Lunar Society floral feature in St Phillips Square

day Society is the need to adapt to change continuously. The need to connect across different agendas and perspectives, and the need to engage local energy and effort in making change succeed. With several hundred members that include leading practitioners from all walks of life in Birmingham and the wider region, the present day Lunar Society provides a dynamic forum for its membership to influence change through focusing and informing debate, linking social, economic and scientific and cultural thinking, and catalysing action on issues critical to the common good.

For information about the Society and how to join go to www.lunarsociety.org.uk.

MEET THE DISTRICT

We speak to three people who live or work in the District to get their thoughts on life in the CBD.



Leon Cameron
Call Advisor – Cable and Wireless

"There's a really good atmosphere around and about our offices and throughout the CBD. It's enjoyable being around professionals working in the same area as us; there's a sense of community that comes with that."

My favourite CBD leisure spot:
Metro Bar & Grill.



Matt Roden
Tailor – Clements & Church

"Working in the Colmore Business District is never dull. It's a great place to network and to do business but is also home to some of the city's best social hotspots. To me, the fact that it's the main financial district in the city, means that CBD is the beating heart of Birmingham – generating wealth for this country's second city."

My favourite CBD spot would have to be Pub Du Vin, as it has a relaxed atmosphere and still oozes class and the service is quite exceptional.



Emily Britton
CBD Resident

"There's a real buzz around the Colmore Business District, and there's a lot in the way of places to eat and drink. Being able to walk into town is useful but most of what I need is in the CBD anyway! Snow Hill train station and regular buses are near if I need to get anywhere as well. The thing I love most about the CBD is the feeling of being at the centre of a hub of activity."

Favourite leisure spot: The Old Contemptibles, the food is good and the atmosphere welcoming.

URBAN COFFEE COMPANY

ICE CREAM COFFEE TO GO!



For all you ice cream lovers, Urban Coffee Company on Church Street has teamed up with family run Churchfields Farm to produce award winning ice cream.

That's not all; they are also in the process of creating an ice cream using Urban Coffee Company's very own coffee beans. So when the weather gets too hot for coffee, just head down to its store and grab yourself a coffee ice cream instead.

For more information and details on upcoming flavours, visit www.urbancoffee.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM CBD TAKES PRIDE IN PRIDE 2010

Attracting over 70,000 visitors a year, Birmingham Pride is always a weekend to remember and this year was no different.

The fun-filled weekend kicked off on Spring Bank Holiday weekend, with a parade which started in Victoria Square (located in the CBD) and ran down through the city to The Village.

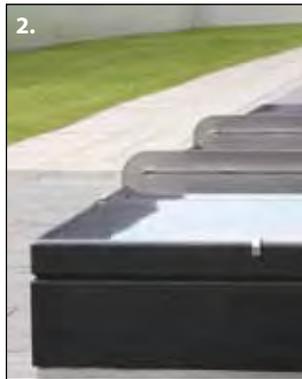
Despite the unfortunate weather, the spirit of the event shone through the smattering of umbrellas, cagoules and of course, rainbow flags!

For information on Birmingham Pride 2010 visit www.birminghampride.com

CBD 'NAME IT' PHOTO COMPETITION

WIN AN OVERNIGHT STAY, 3 COURSE MEAL & BOTTLE OF WINE FOR 2!

COURTESY OF PREMIER INN AND COLMORE BAR & GRILL



For the chance to win, just name the buildings in all three of the pictures above and where they are located within the District (street/road name). Just cut out this competition, filling in your contact details along with your answers and send to: **Colmore Business District, One Victoria Square, Colmore Business District, Birmingham B1 1BD.**

NAME 1.

COMPANY 2.

EMAIL 3.

TELEPHONE.....

Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries. Closing date 31/7/10. Winners will be announced in our next issue. For terms and conditions, please go to www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com



PHOTOS 'MIDLANDS ZONE MAGAZINE'

OPUS MASTERCHEF COOKERY COURSES

Situated in the heart of Birmingham's Colmore Business District, Opus restaurant is well known amongst the professional community for providing a market fresh, seasonal menu.

However, if it's an out of office hours experience that you prefer, Opus and University College Birmingham (UCB) jointly offer a unique Masterchef Cookery Course for budding foodies and general fans of all things cheffy.

The full one day course offers participants from across the region the chance to get a 'hands on' experience of cooking some of the carefully selected dishes that feature on the Opus menu, whilst in the setting of the UCB industry kitchens.

From 10am to 4pm, Chef Adam Pickett leads a masterclass in preparing the seasonal three course menu. Then there is time to enjoy the evening by casting aside the aprons and relaxing with the day's fellow chefs over a four course dinner and wine at Opus, prepared by Chef Director David Colcombe and his team.



An Honorary Fellow of UCB in recognition of his work with the next generation of young chefs and visiting professor of Culinary Arts, David is well placed to demonstrate to the group the delicious results of cooking market fresh produce the Opus way.

The next Masterchef Cookery Course and Dinners are taking place on 18th September, 30th October and 27 November. The Course costs £150 per person all inclusive. Invite a friend to the dinner at an additional cost of only £50. Places are limited and it is advisable to book in advance. For more information or to book a place, contact Opus restaurant on 0121 200 2323.



CBD CHALLENGE 500

Looking for a fun, quick and easy, team-building challenge? If the answer is yes then the CBD Challenge 500 might be right up your street.

The Colmore Business District (CBD) Challenge 500 is an innovative way to build networks within the District whilst providing excellent team building opportunities for employees. In teams of up to six people, you'll race other CBD companies, during four weeks, to be the first to raise £500 for The Prince's Trust. Alternatively you could join up with other organisations in the District to form a collaborative team.

Previous participants have organised speed-dating events, quiz nights, cycle challenges, doughnut sales and on-line auctions.

What happens next?

- Choose your team members
- Applications will open on 19th August 2010. Let us know if you want to enter a team by submitting your application on the CBD website by 30th September 2010
- All teams will be asked to attend a CBD Challenge 500 planning event in October.

Final information on this event, including date and time will be sent to all teams upon receipt of their application.

- Start your challenge! You may need to commit a little work time, but most of the activity can take place out of working hours if you wish.
- Watch out for the weekly league tables on the CBD website
- Join us at the celebration evening at the end of the challenge, to showcase your achievement and be in the running for the prizes!

The Prince's Trust in Birmingham

By taking part in the Challenge 500 you'll not only reap the benefits for your company and colleagues, but also make a lasting impact on the local community.

To book your teams place visit www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com or for more information please call the CBD office on 0121 632 2208



CBD SANDWICH COMPETITION SCRUMMY SARNIE!

The Colmore Business District (CBD), in association with several bars and outlets in the District, will be running the CBD Sandwich Competition throughout the summer. Open to amateurs, the competition calls upon anyone who thinks they have that especially tasty combination, that particularly scrummy sarnie, to enter.

To enter your culinary creation into the competition, e-mail the name of your sandwich and the recipe to marketing@colmorebusinessdistrict.com. Sandwiches will be judged on originality, creativity and of course being delicious. The best sandwiches will be trialled on the menus of bars, outlets and other social hot spots in CBD to see how they fair against the paying public.

The winners will be announced in September and will receive prizes for their entries. The overall winner will also receive the award for Colmore Business District Sandwich of the Year! For more information, or to enter, go to www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com.



T.REX: THE KILLER QUESTION – EXHIBITION 29 MAY TO 5 SEP 10

Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square

STEVE MCCURRY – RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION 26 JUN TO 17 OCT 10

Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square

LATIN AMERICAN FESTIVAL 04 JUL 10

Victoria Square

TASTE OF BUSINESS – FREE ENTRY (REGISTER ON WEBSITE www.visitbirmingham.com/taste) 16 JUL 10

Cannon Hill Park

JAZZ FESTIVAL 19-23 JUL 10

Colmore Business District

DANCING RINGS, TRACKING RHYTHMS 17 JUL 10

Victoria Square

SIR IAN BOTHAM CHARITY WINE DINNER 09 AUG 10

Hotel du Vin, Church Street

LAZY SUNDAY 29 AUG 10

Snobs, Paradise Street

PUNJABI BY NATURE – BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL 30 AUG 10

Chi Bar, Newhall Street, Colmore Business District

RAF CITY SHOW 02-04 SEP 10

Victoria Square

ASHAJI'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS 08 SEP 10

Asha's Restaurant, Newhall Street

ARTSFEST 06-15 SEP 10

Victoria Square and a variety of city centre locations

W H AUDEN AND BENJAMIN BRITTEN – LITERATURE STUDY DAY 17 SEP 10

The Birmingham and Midlands Institute, Margaret Street

CHODERLOS DE LACLOS, LES LIAISONS 1 OCT 10

DANGEREUSES (1782) – LITERATURE STUDY DAY

The Birmingham and Midlands Institute, Margaret Street

WILLIAM WYCHERLEY, THE COUNTRY WIFE (1675) AND NOEL COWARD, PRIVATE LIVES (1930) – LITERATURE STUDY DAY 15 OCT 10

The Birmingham and Midlands Institute, Margaret Street

DUSSEHRA/DASARA – SPECIAL GIVE-AWAYS AND LIMITED MENU ADDITIONS 17 OCT 10

Asha's Restaurant, Newhall Street

BOLLYWOOD NIGHT – FREE ENTRY 24 OCT 10

Asha's Restaurant, Newhall Street

WILKIE COLLINS, THE WOMAN IN WHITE (1859) AND THE MOONSTONE (1868) 29 OCT 10

The Birmingham and Midlands Institute, Margaret Street

Some events are free paying on entry. Please see respective locations for further details.

RECENT EVENTS

TASTE OF BUSINESS: LAUNCH EVENT

The Taste of Business launch event was held at Hotel du Vin, Church Street, Colmore Business District

