

CBD
digest



BID2 is here
...and it's a big one!

Colmore Business District

Colmore Business District (CBD) is a business improvement district (BID) established to deliver improvement projects and services to the business quarter of Birmingham. A BID is a defined geographical area within which local businesses collaborate to invest in projects, services and initiatives which improve the environment in which they work. BIDs deliver additional services to those provided by the local authority and the police; these projects and services are the result of business investment in the area, through a BID levy.

The CBD area is Birmingham's commercial hub, with around 500 companies, employing up to 35,000 people and occupying approximately 5.6 million square feet of office space. CBD's diverse business community provides quality services and expertise to regional, national and international clients. The District also has a superb hospitality sector, with restaurants, bars, shops, cafes and hotels, many of which are independent.

CBD Digest is Colmore Business District's quarterly magazine, giving updates on Colmore BID's projects and activities as well as providing news and features on local businesses within the District.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

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Articles with the CBD Activity stamp are related to projects and activities funded, organised and delivered or supported by Colmore Business District.

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WELCOME

Michele Wilby
Managing Editor



Welcome to the Spring 2014 edition of CBD Digest.

The first quarter of 2014 will see the completion of Colmore BID's first five-year term and the start of our second term from April this year to continue to deliver improvement projects and services to the commercial quarter of Birmingham. A second BID term was secured following a resounding 'Yes vote' from our businesses in our re-ballot last year.

The main feature in this edition looks at the exciting projects we are working on for BID2, as well as the remainder of BID1, to make noticeable improvements to Birmingham's business district. This includes our Colmore Square public realm enhancement scheme, improving the lighting in the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral and our Film Bug festival.

In addition to our activities in the area, CBD Digest also contains interviews, news and features on businesses and organisations in the Colmore Business District area.

If you would like to get in touch about our projects or the magazine, please contact Tahreen Kutub:
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News in Brief

M&G Real Estate and Sterling PV Submit Plans for Lumina Development in Birmingham

M&G Real Estate announced in January that the proposals for the development of a 240,000 sq ft Grade A office building in Birmingham's city core have been submitted for planning. The proposals for "Lumina" have been submitted by Sterling Property Ventures on behalf of M&G Real Estate.

The development site is located on Snow Hill Queensway. Historically known as "The Strip", the 0.4 acre site is currently occupied by empty, derelict retail units and a small number of privately let car parking spaces.

The design proposals, by Birmingham-based architects Aedas, comprise a 15 storey building, offering a typical floorplate of c. 11,500 sq ft of column-free office accommodation wrapping around a central core.

The plans comprise a high quality, new pedestrian link around the building to Weaman Street, which will improve accessibility and safety in the area, as well as a small amount of basement car parking for occupiers of the building. The planning process has been led by GW Planning and should it be granted, works could commence in Spring 2014.

BPS Birmingham launches new initiative for the city's young people

BPS Birmingham have launched Birmingham Aspire, a new opportunity for young people aged between 16 and 24 in education to network and engage with the city's professional and financial services community and to learn more about the opportunities the sector can provide in both developing skills and for potential employment.

Launched in January 2014, Birmingham Aspire is a membership body and open to any young person in the city who would like to gain a wider understanding of the professional and financial services sector and to develop their skills. Aspire will be sponsored by Birmingham Metropolitan College.

Birmingham Aspire was initiated by BPS Birmingham Future Chair, Suzie Branch, as a response to the findings contained in the Future Commission published in 2013, which highlighted the need for Birmingham to develop talent from within the city to resource the future development of the sector.

Chris Barlow Appointed Managing Director at Bloomer Heaven

Birmingham based accountancy firm, Bloomer Heaven, have announced that Chris Barlow has been appointed as managing director from January 2014. Chris has been a director at the firm since 2006. The appointment follows Christopher Stephen-Haynes stepping down from the firm's lead role.

As well as managing a range of clients within the firm, Chris has led the company's client and business development strategy in recent years. Chris has a passion for working with Midlands based manufacturing businesses of all sizes and believes this sector is integral to driving the region's continued economic recovery.

Bloomer Heaven is based within Colmore Business District and employs 50 staff.

APC exam success for DTZ Graduates

Fifteen DTZ graduates from across the UK have passed their APC (Assessment of Professional Competence) exams after completing the company's training scheme. The successful completion of the exams means they are now qualified chartered surveyors and members of the RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors).

Among the successful graduates is Bella Darby, based in DTZ's Birmingham office.

The APC is the practical training which, when combined with academic qualification, leads to membership of the RICS. The trainees at DTZ are placed on the two-year graduate scheme when they join the company, which gives them specialised training and regular appraisals with agreed action points in preparation for the APC exams.

Pinsent Masons Appoints Chris Dewes to Real Estate Team

International law firm, Pinsent Masons, has appointed Chris Dewes as a legal director to the firm's real estate team. Chris will join from the Birmingham office of Shoosmiths where he has been a partner since 2004. He has extensive experience of large scale commercial and mixed use development projects, advising developers, investors, financial institutions and insolvency practitioners.

The appointment will see Chris Dewes joining forces again with Joel Kordan, who joined Pinsent Masons as a partner at the beginning of January.

These appointments represent the latest in a programme of targeted investment by Pinsent Masons in its market-leading real estate practice, with around 300 lawyers covering each of the three UK jurisdictions.

Colmore Square: the pieces fall into place at last



Colmore BID has made a point of trying to improve the public realm since the BID's inception in 2009, in an effort to make Colmore Business District (CBD) a more enjoyable place for people to work, visit and dwell. Colmore Square is the latest in a series of projects aimed at continuing this work.

The area, in between Colmore Row and Steelhouse Lane, was converted from a highway over a decade ago and is a fairly bland space giving little reason for people to pause. Our project (pictured) will introduce new soft landscaping and trees, accent lighting and benches, as well as a 'pocket park' in the form of a chess garden including two stone tables with inset chessboards. Chess sets will be available!

Colmore BID also wants to relocate Tom Lomax's sculpture, *Spirit of Enterprise* (pictured), into the amphitheatre of Colmore Square. This water-based sculpture is conceptually appropriate for CBD, a significant part of Birmingham's enterprise powerhouse, and has been looking for a new home since its displacement from Centenary Square to make way for the new Library of Birmingham.

Developing the Colmore Square project has been challenging; it's the first time a project to make 'permanent' changes to the public realm has been undertaken solely by a Business Improvement District in Birmingham. New working relationships with planners, highways engineers and development teams have had to be forged.

The project should have started on site by the time you read this, with construction carried out by The Landscape Group Ltd. Capita Symonds designed the project, and project management services have been ably supplied by Mace, who are also working on another little project in Birmingham, New Street Station!

The main construction phase should take five weeks, ending in early March. During the construction phase we will be actively looking in detail at the relocation of *Spirit of Enterprise* that should then take place early in our second term, from April. If you have any questions about the Colmore Square project, please contact Mike Mounfield, CBD Projects Manager: mike-m@colmorebusinessdistrict.com



The man behind the wall

Sarah Rennie

In September 2012, Colmore BID unveiled an exciting art project along the wall on Livery Street. Previously a dull concrete structure, the wall now displays the vibrant design of Birmingham-based artist and designer George Benson. George was commissioned, following a competition, to provide contemporary and dynamic artwork to transform this gateway into the District.

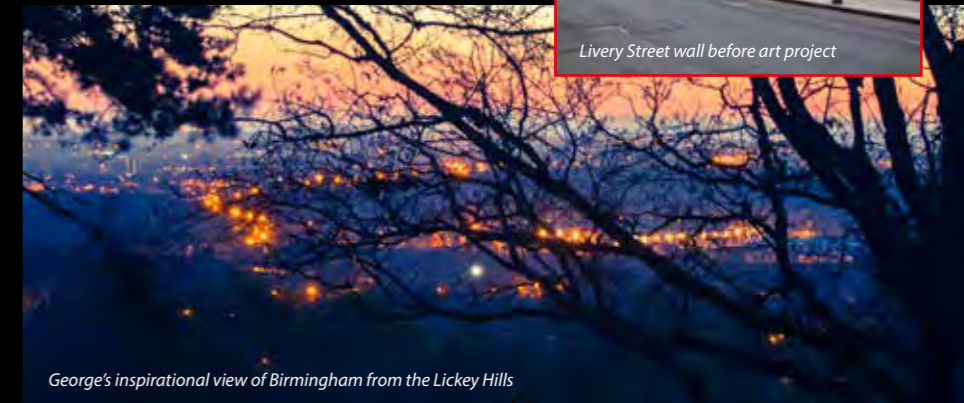
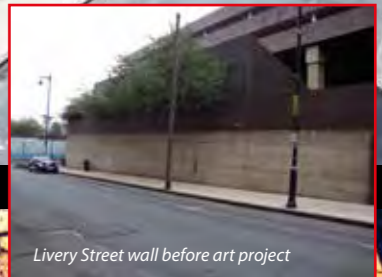
"One interesting aspect that attracted me to apply for this commission was that the brief was looking for a photographer/designer rather than solely an artist," said George. Over the years, George's design clients have included MasterCard, the BBC, Warner Music, Birmingham Opera Company and New Scientist. However, this type of project was a first for him.

The first thing George did was spend time looking at the space (then a bare 120m² concrete structure) and walking around the District. "My vision for the wall then came to me quite quickly. I wanted to create a window for people walking to work or driving past to look into, and for that window to give an abstracted view of the city itself."

Travelling to and from London over the years, George has been disappointed by Birmingham's visible lack of public art. He said, "Art in the public realm is truly for the people who interact with it as they go by. Unlike projects for galleries and exhibitions, I feel this is a fundamental requisite for public realm art. I've always wanted to give something like that to Birmingham and I'm pleased to have achieved that on Livery Street."

www.gwbenson.co.uk

"I wanted to create a window for people walking to work or driving past to look into, and for that window to give an abstracted view of the city itself."



George's inspirational view of Birmingham from the Lickey Hills



Meet the District's PCSO



Clare Perkins

PCSO Matt Jones has been working with Colmore BID for just over six months. We decided to catch up with him and find out how he has been getting on.

What have been the biggest challenges working in Colmore Business District (CBD) so far?

Initially it was getting to know the front of house and security contacts in office space buildings. I had to explain to them that I was working in partnership with CBD from their offices as well as being a city centre PCSO. Now people know me I'm getting more information from businesses and in some cases they contact me before the CBD office or police for advice.

What have you enjoyed most about working in the CBD area?

I get a lot of satisfaction from the flexibility of the working hours to suit the policing needs of the District such as working late to tackle the issue of begging.

At first I really wasn't sure about the placement but I soon realised the potential, especially being able to make my ideas a reality for making the area safer. I like coming up with a plan or a project and being able to see this through.

On a personal level I really enjoyed winning the CBD Community Games with the police team last summer. The role has also seen me putting myself out of my comfort zone such as taking part in presentations and public speaking, something I hadn't done before and I am really proud of.

What are your plans for the next six months in CBD?

I want to look at anti-social behaviour issues that pubs, bars and restaurants experience to see what work needs to be done around that.

I am also hoping to do a 'Think!' motorbike campaign in the summer; Think! is a national campaign to encourage safer behaviour of road users. I am also looking forward to the Birmingham Security Network (BSN) getting up and running as it's really interesting,

unique and very relevant to CBD. [See page 16 for information on the BSN].

Give us an idea of what your day to day duties consist of?

In the morning I check in with the police and the CBD team to get any information on issues that need addressing and updates. I then patrol the District, making business visits and finding out if there have been any problems in the area. I make sure I visit the 'hot spots' at least once a day such as Livery Street subway, the footbridge over Great Charles Street Queensway and the public squares.

If there are any police incidents in the city centre, I will respond to these as a priority, which can see me suddenly ducking out of the CBD office half way through talking to the CBD team!

If you work within Colmore Business District and would like to get in touch with Matt, please contact 07591 815 274 , or email PCSO@colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Life at the core



Kay Cadman and Juliet Collings, Core Marketing

Tahreen Kutub

It was exciting news when full-service marketing and PR agency Core Marketing moved to Colmore Business District (CBD) back in 2012, having been based in Brindleyplace since its inception. Set up by managing director Juliet Collings in 1998, the company moved to The Exchange building on Newhall Street in August 2012. Now very much an established part of CBD, I was keen to meet with Juliet and director, Kay Cadman to talk about Core and the team's experience in the District.

Core Marketing had been set up initially to promote Brindleyplace and The Mailbox, two ground-breaking developments for the city. With this history, the property sector has always been the 'backbone' of the company. "Within the property sector, you see a vision for the city which is exciting," said Juliet. "In the early 90s, trying to sell the vision for Brindleyplace was challenging, but exciting."

Juliet and Kay met through Birmingham Future, the membership organisation for the city's young professionals, for which Kay later became chair. Having worked together

to deliver the launch of the successful Birmingham Young Professional of the Year Awards, Kay joined Juliet at Core Marketing in 2002. The company now has a team of 14 and offers services in marketing, PR, project management, design and events. Some client relationships have lasted over 10 years, including Argent, Crest Nicholson and Nikal.

The move to CBD has enabled a closer proximity to a large number of Core's clients. As the company does a lot of property related work, being in a building with character was important. Kay said, "The Exchange has lots of character but we have also been able to make the space our own, adding a quirky and fun side, which has included our window displays for occasions such as Halloween." Kay also spoke of how the team members have adapted quickly to Core's new home and have held charity events such as cake bakes to get involved with the local community.

Juliet and Kay are both looking forward to Colmore BID's proposed improvements to Cornwall Street, understanding the

importance of high quality public realm within a city. In fact, Colmore BID's public realm improvement plans have been used by Core on behalf of property clients in order to help sell the area. Juliet elaborated, "Colmore BID aids in selling the city and positively impacts both the people working in the business district and our clients." Kay added, "From projects such as the community choir through to services addressing safety and getting key people around the table to discuss issues affecting the area, the BID has no doubt made the district a better place to work in."

Throughout the interview, it was clear to see both Juliet and Kay's passion for the work that they do. They look forward to a good 2014, which will include working on behalf of clients for MIPIM 2014, an event that brings together influential players from all international property sectors. And I certainly look forward to having Core involved with more BID activities!

www.core-marketing.co.uk



Bruton Knowles – A move within the District

In November 2013, property consultants Bruton Knowles made the leap to a new office in Colmore Business District (CBD). Ian Pitt, partner and head of the firm's Birmingham office, told CBD Digest what life in the heart of the District is like.

Two months on since the move and we are settling in to life in our new office and, indeed, Colmore Business District nicely. It's amazing what a new environment and a change of scenery can do.

Our new office on the ninth floor (or the penthouse suite as we like to call it) of Embassy House, on Church Street, is a far cry from our previous office on Bull Street, albeit only a short walk away. But what a difference that short distance makes.

Colmore BID, to its credit, has worked hard to improve the image and environment of what remains Birmingham's main business centre. The streets are clean and tidy, it feels safe and welcoming to walk around and there is a sense of community among the businesses that have chosen to base themselves here. It's a place you feel proud to work in.

And let's not forget all of the fantastic shops, bars and restaurants that are on the doorstep – perfect for the occasional business lunch or after work drink with colleagues.

There's no question that the move has had a positive impact on both staff and the business as a whole. The only question is; why didn't we do it sooner?

www.brutonknowles.co.uk

Orega Awarded “Centre of the Year”

Sarah Rennie

Orega, a national serviced offices provider, has just named Colmore Plaza their “Centre of the Year 2013”. Achieving 100% occupancy and 100% contract renewal this year, it's not hard to see why Orega are particularly proud of their Birmingham team.

Caron Salter-Hill, the centre manager, is delighted with her team's track record: “Clients who have moved on have either taken a traditional lease or left Birmingham - I've never lost a client to a competitor. I love that!”

Caron believes that customer service and location is the key to their success. Positioned on what was previously the Birmingham Post and Mail tower site, the fully glazed property boasts contemporary (yet refreshingly colourful!) décor. Moments from Snow Hill station and right in the heart of Colmore Business District (CBD), the location is certainly strong.

That left her with customer service to focus on. After being headhunted for the role in 2010, Caron recruited and trained her own team. Attention to detail is crucial to her. Minutes into our chat, Caron's beady eyes had spotted a small scuff mark on the wall and was visibly making a note to get it removed. In her words: “Our clients know that if they've got any problems, we're on it! We give them peace of mind.”

With 100% occupancy in the bag, I wondered what will now motivate the salesperson in Caron. Her focus is on maintaining their strong position into 2014. “However, if the location was right,” she confessed with a glint in her eye, “I'd love the challenge of taking on a second Orega centre in Birmingham!”

www.orega.com



Caron Salter-Hill, Orega



Real Estate Investors: Commercial Property Market ‘Buzz’ is back...

Mike Mounfield

Property is one of the professional industries that pops into one's mind when you think about Colmore Business District (CBD), and Real Estate Investors (REI) is one of its familiar names in Birmingham. Mike Mounfield spoke to Ian Clark, senior asset manager at REI.

Tell us a bit about REI?

REI is an AIM-listed (Alternative Investment Market) PLC that historically started out down south but is now Midlands based, with its headquarters here in Birmingham City Centre. We're predominantly an investment company – we don't develop buildings – we seek opportunities to manage assets, bring tenants and buildings together and add value. We tend to operate within about 50 miles of Birmingham.

What's the most interesting item in your in-tray at the moment?

The beauty of my job is that it's very varied; there can be some legal stuff in there, some opportunities, buying and selling assets. We've just completed a big deal in Derby that's in the press. I'm hoping we'll be able to announce a major lot of a property on Colmore Row this year; that's taken up a fair amount of my time. I also get involved in some of the detail; things going wrong in buildings etc. It's the variety that I like. I've also had opportunities to get involved in the Colmore BID, which I have found interesting.

How do you think the property industry in Birmingham differs from other cities?

Other than Birmingham I've really only experienced London. It's much more provincial here, but in a positive way. I grew up in a farming community where everyone knew everyone else and I find it similar here. London is a different world; when I worked at Argent, one of the schemes at King's Cross was the same size as the whole of the business heart of Birmingham. It was vast, completely different, not as personal as here. You don't bump into people in London like you do here, with the social and business network opportunities that affords.

What are your thoughts on the way the commercial property market is developing here?

I think we've turned a corner. It's clear to me from seminars, trade press, the 'chatter' of our industry, that the 'buzz' is back. Crucially the 'buzz' seems to be coming back with investors as well as agents; they're more upbeat than they were even at the start of 2013. 2014 promises to be a good year for steady recovery. Before we know where we are we'll be running out of grade 'A' stock. I feel very confident about 2014.

If you hadn't been a chartered surveyor, what else do you think you might have been?

My father wanted me to be a farmer. If I hadn't been injured I might have made a career out of Rugby Union. I could have done a few things but I'm glad I chose property.

www.reiplc.com



Ian Clark, REI

Inside Berrymans Lace Mawer

Tahreen Kutub

I'd first met James Harvey, partner at legal firm Berrymans Lace Mawer (BLM), in summer 2012 to talk about a series of fundraisers led by Investec and supported by BLM, to raise money for The Lord's and Lady Taverners, Marie Curie and MacMillan.



James Harvey, BLM

At the time James was gearing up for an ambitious 330-mile bike ride to take place that July as part of the fundraising, along with Mike Dobson, fellow partner at BLM. The meeting provided a great opportunity to hear about the firm, its efforts to support the fundraisers and to talk about Colmore BID. Between then and now, the fundraising challenges have been completed to raise £25,000 between the group in Birmingham, and we have succeeded in our own challenge of securing a second five-year term for Colmore BID from April 2014. I now wanted to go back to BLM to learn more about the firm – a firm which has always been based in the District since it formed. I was delighted to meet with James again and fellow partner, Stephen Hazelton.



Stephen Hazelton, BLM

BLM formed in 1997 as the result of a merger between the London based Berrymans and the Manchester based Lace Mawer. Senior partner Chris Wiggin was tasked with setting up the Birmingham office of the merged firm, which opened on Bennetts Hill in that year with a team of 16. There are now nine offices in the UK and one in Dublin. Over the last 10 years, BLM has seen a significant period of growth, involving a move to its current offices in Temple Row in 2005, and resulting in a much larger Birmingham office today with 165 employees.

I was interested in this growth seeing as it had taken place in a period involving a recession. "We've grown even stronger during the recession and I believe it's largely to do with what we specialise in and how our services have been needed during this time," James told me. "The firm has always been steeped in insurance law and represents insurers, insureds, corporates and brokers." Stephen added that the core areas of focus in the Birmingham office are corporate risk, personal injury, insurance, fraud, professional indemnity, the public sector and transport. The firm acts for nine of the top ten insurers and handles 100,000 claims annually. BLM also works on behalf of clients to influence government focus on insurance and litigation.

In addition to supporting Investec's fundraising events, BLM leads its own charity activities. Macmillan Cancer Support has been selected to be the firm's national charity partner for the next two years. Almost 1,000 BLM staff voted for one of four shortlisted charities with Macmillan winning by almost 100 votes. This has seen the completion of a three year partnership with Barnardo's, which raised around £100,000 for the cause.

Looking ahead, James mentioned that Airmic, the UK association for risk and insurance management professionals, has appointed BLM as its preferred service provider. BLM will work with Airmic to provide training to members through the Airmic Academy, become a panel member on Airmic Live conference calls, present to its Special Interest Group members from a diverse range of sectors on technical legal topics, and will continue to be a regular contributor to Airmic's online Marketplace.

As the interview came to a close, James and Stephen talked about exciting times ahead for the firm with big upcoming changes in the insurance sector. It looks like 2014 will be an exciting year for both BLM & Colmore BID!

www.blm-law.com



Participants of the 330-mile bike ride fundraiser led by Investec



Children's Liver Disease Foundation

fighting childhood liver disease



Meet Alison Taylor

CEO of Children's Liver Disease Foundation

Mike Mounfield

Colmore BID has supported a number of charitable causes during the last four years and one of the charities we're currently working with is Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF). Their recently appointed CEO, Alison Taylor, spoke to Mike Mounfield.

According to your website, CLDF is an information hub, a support service, a supporter of research and a voice for sufferers of childhood liver diseases. Which of those roles seems to you the most important?

They're equally important. Families who have been given the shattering diagnosis of liver disease in their child have a huge need for information and emotional support. Those children continue to need our support as they grow up. Research into causes and treatments for liver disease is obviously vital and we need to act as a collective voice for all those affected in order to reflect their concerns and needs to healthcare providers and policy makers.

I understand you're relatively new in the job. What's the most interesting item in your in-tray at the moment?

A newly edited DVD that came out of residential workshops we did last year. It involved 15 to 18 year-olds telling their stories. It charts their journey of self-discovery and contains some powerful material. You can see some of the stories on our website.

What do you want to achieve as the new CEO?

One area I will be looking to improve is around raising our profile. This is not just for the obvious reason of supporting fundraising but also to make sure that the families of newly-diagnosed young patients can find out that we're here for them and what services we offer. I'm also keen that we support community healthcare professionals to spot the early signs of children's liver disease because early diagnosis leads to early treatment, which leads to better outcomes for the children. I would also like us to develop and fund more services for families and young people affected.

If you were omnipotent and could change one thing to help the CLDF cause – besides an instant cure for all childhood liver disease – what would it be?

I think I would want the public to have a better understanding of childhood liver disease. People seem not to associate liver disease with children, but with middle-aged people. Two children a day are diagnosed with liver disease in the UK – that's more than leukaemia.

What message would you like to give to the Birmingham business community?

We offer a great opportunity to businesses in Birmingham to get involved in some excellent CSR. This isn't just about financial support; we'd be pleased to look at mutual staff development through mentoring, skills and expertise with corporate partners. There is the chance to get involved with our Big Yellow Friday (7th March), or a year-long corporate partnership like the one we've had with CBD. We're a local charity with national reach and there are plenty of businesses within CBD with whom that could resonate.

www.childliverdisease.org

2013 CBD Activities



Going forward to **BID 2**

After a five-week ballot period in October and November last year, Colmore BID was delighted to announce that businesses within Colmore Business District (CBD) had voted to formally secure the BID for a second five-year term from April 2014. This means that Colmore BID will continue until at least March 2019 to make improvements to Birmingham's commercial quarter.



As you may have heard, Colmore BID's second five-year term from April 2014 was secured by a 94% majority 'Yes vote' (which also represented 96% of the total rateable value of the businesses who voted). The turnout itself was 61% - one of the highest turnouts for a BID renewal ballot in the country.

The transition between Colmore BID's first and second term will be seamless. The success and achievements within the first term have paved the way for the confident delivery of more large-scale and varied projects in the second term.

Early 2014

There are still several projects being delivered within this first quarter of the year as part of Colmore BID's first term.

The **Colmore Square** development work is expected to start imminently (see page 4 for further details). The **Great Charles Street bridge** remains at the forefront of Colmore BID's efforts to continue to enhance the lighting, appearance and safety levels. In the meantime, Amey will be re-painting the bridge as part of their maintenance contract.

In Birmingham Cathedral grounds, the **lighting** is being upgraded and replaced, and CCTV around this area is also being enhanced.

Due to popular demand, **Film Bug** (as part of the Flatpack Festival) will return in March, along with the **CBD Charity Quiz Night** which will support Children's Liver Disease Foundation and the Rape and Sexual Violence Project. Further personal safety training sessions will be offered to the District's staff to advance the 'Safe and Sound' objective.

Communications is a key service provided by Colmore BID to its businesses. During the re-ballot, the team secured up-to-date contact details for hundreds of businesses and staff. The information on Colmore BID's database is undergoing a radical update; however all businesses are reminded to let the team know of key changes in staff and contact details.

Colmore BID's second term

The team is already working hard on projects and events scheduled for delivery as part of BID2 - Colmore BID's second term.

Snow Hill Gateway is a high level public realm project which spans Colmore BID's first and second term. It is both technically challenging and involves the management and co-operation of multiple stakeholders and interested parties. Ideas for the proposed scheme have recently been presented to the BID.

Colmore BID is actively exploring initiatives to procure services that capitalise on the District's brand and collective power. The BID is currently speaking to a range of companies who could provide the area with good quality **recycling services** at the best price. Potentially, these services would support landlords and businesses who wish to enhance their 'green credentials', help keep the area clean and offer a 'value for money' service for companies that might otherwise find the costs prohibitive.

'Place Marketing' is the new name for the previous 'Branded and Promoted' objective. Within this objective, the team is working on the fourth **CBD Food Festival** (18th and 19th July) which showcases the District as a hospitality destination. This has become one of the city's hottest annual food and drink events. The District will be filled with music again this year thanks to the BID's participation in the **Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival** in July. **Moseley Arts Market in CBD** is becoming a regular event, with markets scheduled for March, June, September and December.

The 'Community Building' objective aims to enhance the concept of 'Colmore Life' through networking opportunities and social responsibility initiatives. The **CBD Community Games** will return this summer, along with more fun, fundraising activities (possibly including an abseiling stunt!).

Colmore BID is passionate and committed to improving the CBD area and making it cleaner, safer and more vibrant. The team looks forward to working with businesses in the area and delivering the BID's varied and ambitious projects and services.

Birmingham Security Network (BSN)

In spring 2014, Colmore BID in conjunction with the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit (WMCTU) and Birmingham Resilience Team will launch a new security initiative for businesses called the 'Birmingham Security Network' (BSN).

The creation of the BSN is based on a similar and successful model established in Southwark in London. The model involved businesses within a specific area working together to not only consider their own organisation's emergency plans in the event of a terrorist threat but those of their immediate neighbours as well - thereby making their collective response to such an emergency as robust as possible.

The WMCTU had approached Colmore BID with the idea of creating such a network, as the Colmore Business District (CBD) area is very similar to Southwark, primarily

comprising of commercial businesses. By making businesses as resilient as possible to potential terrorist attacks, it is hoped other types of crime will also be reduced.

The BSN will look to use swift and effective communication methods with a 'buddy' system so that in the event of an emergency such as a power failure, CBD businesses will not only have the ability to implement their own emergency procedures but also support each other and potentially avert the escalation of the situation. This partnership working is another example of how Colmore BID is contributing to making the CBD area a safer place in which to work and do business, with the priority being to protect people as well as address business concerns.

To find out more about the BSN, contact Clare Perkins:
clare-p@colmorebusinessdistrict.com



Glynn Purnell welcomes a new chapter in 2014

Glynn Purnell and his team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy 2014.

It's fair to say 2013 was a fantastic year for Glynn. He enjoyed successful TV appearances on Saturday Kitchen with James Martin, Pies and Puds with Paul Hollywood and even Christmas Dinner with Mary Berry and Michel Roux Jnr on the BBC's Food and Drink.

Glynn continued as a Patron for Cure Leukaemia, even hosting their 10th anniversary celebrations. Oh and he has just completed his first book, "Cracking Yolks and Pig Tales," out in May 2014.

Purnell's restaurant continues to explore and excite Glynn's passion for fine dining, as he welcomes the launch of two new menus showcasing the very best of seasonal and local produce. The "Reminisce" - indulge in

the enjoyable recollection of past events and "Now" - a tasting menu defined as: at the present time or moment. Purnell's has undergone an expansion of the bar area, with the introduction of a dedicated sommelier table to enhance the dining experience.

Love is in the air at Purnell's Bistro with the launch of a five course 'Valentine's Weekend Menu' served with a Bellini cocktail for £50.00. Purnell's Bistro has also launched a sumptuous three course Sunday Lunch menu for only £18.95 per head.

"Cracking Yolks and Pig Tales" by Glynn Purnell is now available to pre-order from Amazon. Copies will be available from May 22nd, 2014 in all good bookstores and at the restaurants.

www.purnellsrestaurant.com
www.purnellsbistro-gingers.com



Urban Coffee Company

A tale of music, coffee and pirates...

Jonathan Bryce

Urban Coffee Company first opened its doors in 2009 on Church Street in Colmore Business District (CBD). Since then, whilst the company has expanded outwards, including opening branches in the nearby Jewellery Quarter, the Church Street branch has become a hub of local activity in the District. CBD's Jonathan Bryce met with manager Jenny Smith to find out more about what events Urban Coffee has in store for this year...

What kind of events can we expect from Urban this year?

Urban has a range of regular events that we run. Our owners have a passion for entrepreneurship, so we have a regular Entrepreneurs Evening. We also have, as you might expect, a regular book club! But we also have a variety of other events. We have Sunday afternoon Board Games once a month, and Poetry Jam; a monthly event that we run with Beatfreaks which provides an open mike platform for poets and spoken word artists. We also have a feminist meet up and our regular German evening "Kaffee und Kuchen".

Once a month, we also host Live Music Friday, which is an opportunity for up and coming artists to perform live. In October, we did our first showcase with Progress Music Academy. This went so well we are planning to do another one this year. Last year we held an Urban Festival with Leicester based band Raptusound, who played a gig with us and a gig over in the Jewellery Quarter.

Coffee shops aren't usually seen as music venues. How has Urban been able to establish itself in this way?

We always want to try new things, whether it's with our menu or with what we are able to put on in terms of events. We're quite fearless which means we are open to trying things that might not conventionally seem to work! But we're passionate about what we do and making the right events a success.

Can you tell me about any of your more risky events?

Oddly enough, it was probably one involving coffee! Last year we did our first Filter Coffee Fortnight which gave customers the chance to discover filter coffee and the range of flavours it has. We had no idea how much interest there would be, and it was quite an undertaking for us. But it turned out really well and we are hoping to have another Filter Coffee Fortnight this year.

Are there any other big events you have planned this year?

We are having a Story Telling Parlour on the third Wednesday of every month. Each one will be themed; we will ask customers to dress up and we will have themed food and drink. We will have a professional story teller to captivate our imaginations. Our January event was Pirate themed, so rum and pirate stories!

We are also running a 10 week programme called The Moody Food Club which helps members look at the food choices we make with a view to helping them to eat more healthily.

www.urbancoffee.co.uk/emporiums/birmingham-church-street





The Delectable Bureau

Tahreen Kutub

The Bureau is an exciting new addition to the excellent culinary offering in Colmore Business District (CBD). Owners Zack Foley and Paul Rutter opened the independent bar and deli in October 2013 in 110 Colmore Row, a Grade II listed building. Tahreen Kutub interviewed Zack Foley to find out more about The Bureau.

What made you choose 110 Colmore Row as the venue for The Bureau?

I'd been interested in the former Bar 110 building for a while. It's one of the best locations in the city in the heart of the business quarter with high footfall. Paul and I have been in the bar industry for a number of years and left our jobs in October 2012 to take on this business venture. We agreed the lease in June 2013, from which point we started the refurbishment work to the building.

What type of food can visitors to The Bureau expect?

We have a very humble ethos with simple and homely deli and bar food, in addition

to a great beverage and cocktail range. The food is wholesome and full flavoured. We try to make as much of the food in-house as possible; for example we make our own ketchup, mustard and sausages in the venue. If we can make it ourselves, we will. The majority of what we offer is locally sourced from within the Midlands. The food offering ranges from steaks and hot dogs to salads and a deli selection. Our chef Stuart Devereaux has experience in a range of food and drink venues including Michelin star restaurants.

Do you provide any catering for events outside of the venue?

We do provide outside catering, offering a canapé selection that includes meat, fish and vegetarian options as well as desserts.

Does The Bureau Bar take up all of 110 Colmore Row?

Yes, but not all of the floors have opened to the public as yet. The ground floor is where the main bar area is and we have a basement area which can be used for overflow and

private hire. We will be launching the mezzanine floor, second floor and roof top area in summer 2014 so there are lots of exciting plans ahead. I'd say watch this space...

What ideas were behind the refurbishment?

The building was designed in 1903 to accommodate Scottish Union and National Insurance Co. so I wanted to have an early 1900s elegant look and feel to the venue with a modern touch. The dark wood and textiles in the venue reflect this. The bar area has high booths to give a sense of personal space to provide comfort and security but they are also open ended so that visitors can still see the bar.

What are you looking forward to about being part of CBD?

We're particularly looking forward to having the opportunity to take part in the CBD Food Festival, which we have heard lots about. I think it will be a great way to showcase the best of our menu to a wide audience.

Spicing up CBD!

Jonathan Bryce

Last year a new Indian restaurant, Isaacs, opened on Bennetts Hill. CBD's Jonathan Bryce met owner, Ifran Hussain to see how their first six months in CBD had gone, and to find out more about what sets this restaurant apart.

"We're just tidying up after a 21st Birthday; it was a great party but they completely re-arranged the place!" Ifran tells me. To me the restaurant seemed immaculate, which told me that either it was a pretty tame party, or Ifran is very particular about the look and feel of Isaacs. I'm pleased to discover as the interview progresses that it is the latter!

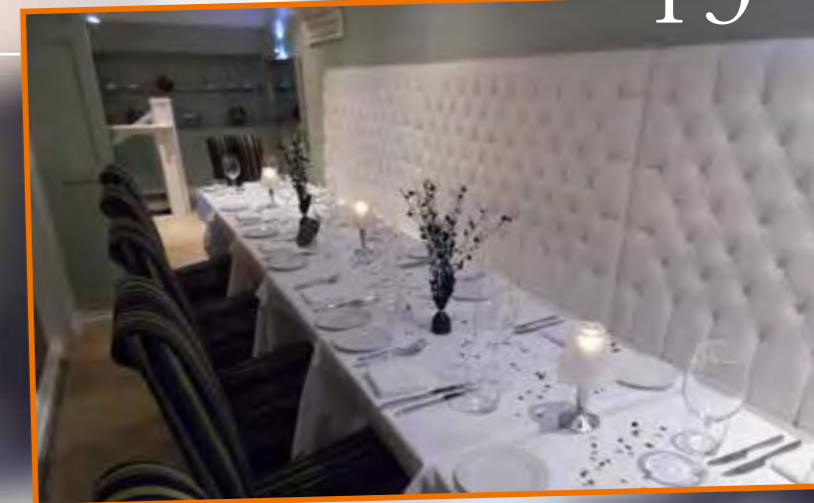
In fact, Ifran took on the task of managing the interior design of Isaacs himself. He was inspired by the style of classic luxury hotels such as the Savoy, so his new location at 7 Bennetts Hill provided a perfect canvass of period features and high ceilings. "I fell in love with the building the first time I saw the interior", Ifran tells me.

Ifran was keen to work in the Colmore area, which he describes as "the Mayfair of Birmingham". The challenge of delivering something which lived up to this was something that inspired Ifran in the development of the restaurant.

He explained how he wanted to visually set his restaurant apart. This is not your traditional Indian Restaurant. If you're expecting to dine surrounded by reference to the Indian sub-continent, think again. Isaacs' opulence is drawn from more European influences. As Ifran explains, the aim is to provide high quality Indian food, in the trappings of an English fine dining restaurant.

In addition to a bustling weekend trade, Isaacs, which he named after his son, is well placed to provide corporate events, which they have already delivered with a number of businesses based in the District. This can range from full restaurant hire to exclusive use of the Mezzanine.

Of course, we have a number of Indian restaurants in the city. I challenged Ifran to tell me what made Isaacs different from the rest. Tailored to the busy customers in the District, Isaacs has developed an express lunch menu. This consists of a variety of dishes inspired by Isaacs' Indian theme; ranging from healthy light bites such as fish and salads to steak and Gourmet burgers. In the evening, the menu is also a diversification from the traditional. Isaacs' specials provide an "East meets West" fusion of techniques, produce, and inspiration, whilst also providing traditional options for diners.



Now that Isaacs has settled in, Ifran is looking towards the restaurant's next challenge. He explains that he is planning to develop a bespoke wedding service for customers, both at the venue and through outside catering. Despite being a newcomer, Isaacs is already becoming an established venue in CBD's night-time economy, with the restaurant regularly booked up at weekends. If you're looking for a chance to try the Isaacs experience, you'll need to book your table soon!

www.isaacsrestaurant.co.uk

Turn to page 26 for our competition with a chance to win a prize at Isaacs.

Arts with Hearts

Jonathan Bryce

Arts with Hearts is run by the Rape and Sexual Violence Project (RSVP), which is one of CBD's nominated charities along with Children's Liver Disease Foundation. Jonathan Bryce met with RSVP CEO, Lisa Thompson to talk about the project.

When did RSVP start?

RSVP started in 1979. Our vision is to support and inspire men, women and children who have been affected by sexual violence and abuse.

How long has Arts with Hearts been running, and how did it begin?

The concept of Arts with Hearts developed in 2010. One of our service users, together with their family, wanted to do something to raise money for RSVP. They held a Christmas fete where the service user sold cards they had made.

We started thinking about the positive impact an activity like this could have for our service users and the charity, and Arts with Hearts grew from this idea.

What kind of items can people buy from Arts with Hearts, and where do you sell them?

We produce a range of items. Our service users choose what they would like to make, which includes cards, resin jewellery, corsages, beaded jewellery and knitted pictures.

We have sold at a range of craft markets in Birmingham and will also soon start selling through RSVP's website.

One of your striking products is your knitted dolls...

The dolls are called NanaGina dolls and form part of a new Social Enterprise for RSVP. They are something that my family make and we will be training others to make them too. I recently discovered that my Nana had been a victim of sexual violence and had never confided in anyone during her adult lifetime. I thought it would be a tribute to her to name the dolls after her.

Lloyds Bank have provided £4,000 of funding and 12 months mentoring, through their Social Entrepreneurs Programme, to help set up a social enterprise based on selling the dolls and related inspirational products, which will launch this year and will help to provide sustainable funding for RSVP.

www.rsvporg.co.uk

Church of England

Mike Mounfield

Many of us who live and work in Colmore Business District (CBD) will pass Birmingham Cathedral regularly and may know it well. But what you might not know is that recently the Church of England's regional staff team joined the cathedral staff and together moved into offices at 1 Colmore Row, next to Snow Hill station. Mike Mounfield spoke to one of the people who work there, the Revd Rhiannon Jones.

Please tell us what you do at the Church of England, Birmingham?

I'm the Transforming Church Co-ordinator. 'Transforming Church' is the name we've given to our vision and strategy for the region we cover - a region covering 290 square miles, a population of 1.5 million people and 188 churches. We've been implementing it since 2009 and it's about helping churches to grow in faith, in numbers and in their links with their local community. We want churches to be communities of people which are attractive to everyone.

How has moving to CBD affected your work?

The kind of modern, open-plan office space that's available here in CBD is excellent for promoting the cross-fertilisation of ideas. In our previous space outside the City Centre we were in old segregated offices that weren't so good at fostering co-operation and innovation. Physical dynamics are important and I love working here. I'm also travelling a lot less because so many of the people I see are happy to come into the city centre to meet up.

An added bonus is that we have moved into the same offices as the staff of Birmingham Cathedral. Cathedrals nationally have seen a significant revival in the last decade or so, and Birmingham is part of that. There's something about a beautiful sacred space that can allow anonymous spiritual contemplation that people seem to be tapping into. It's the Cathedral's Tercentenary (300th birthday!) next year; we're very excited about that and it will be a great opportunity for the city, wider network of churches and Cathedral to get to know each other better. Watch this space!

www.birmingham.anglican.org
www.churchofengland.org



Love It! Studios kindly offered a complimentary makeover and photo shoot to one of our readers. Katie Vaughan, an associate solicitor at Pinsent Masons LLP, took up the offer and gave us her feedback...

For someone who lives in wellies and for whom a flick of a mascara wand counts as 'making an effort', the thought of undergoing a professional makeover and photo shoot felt somewhat daunting, yet somehow I found myself heading to Love It! Studios on a cold and rainy Sunday in January for just that.

Love It! Studios is based on Newhall Street next door to JoJolapa Bar & Restaurant. They offer a range of services alongside the photo shoot package including a stand-alone hair salon and a 'Glam and Go' package comprising hair and makeup prior to a night out.

I will admit to being quite apprehensive about the photo shoot. However, I was

pleasantly surprised by the experience. Marium, who did my makeup and hair, asked plenty of questions and listened carefully to me. As a result, my makeup and hair looked much more natural than I was expecting. She was also happy to chat through everything step-by-step in the mirror which meant you had a mini make-up lesson at the same time.

Once the makeover was complete, I was taken upstairs to the photographic studio with Chaz, the photographer. This was the part I was most nervous about but Chaz was excellent at making me feel at ease (it's impossible not to laugh when the photographer demonstrates the poses for you!). Although the photos are posed, the images didn't look too staged and Chaz was happy to listen to my opinions as we went along. The studio has a number of backgrounds and props which, in addition to the clever use of lighting and colour, offers a wide range of backdrops to your photos.

I had been asked to bring four outfits with me and so we worked through these in turn, taking about 60 photos in total.

Time for a tea break! Refreshed, I joined Sam (Love It! Studio's managing director) in the suite upstairs to view my photos. We narrowed it down to my favourites and I was given the opportunity to purchase some, all or none of them. Prices vary depending on whether you buy images in print, on CD or wish to own the copyright. The price per image also reduces if you go for multiple-image packages. I chatted to Sam about the pressure to purchase, which is something she is very firmly against - so much so that if you are uncertain, she is happy to let you come back for a second viewing a few days later. This makes a refreshing change and certainly makes the experience less pressured and more enjoyable.

The overall experience lasted approximately four hours and I left having had a very pleasant and fun afternoon.

www.loveitstudios.com



Award Winning Chinese Food arrives on Colmore Row

Jonathan Bryce

For residents of Birmingham, the name Chung Ying needs no introduction. Having established the first Chinese Super Restaurant in Birmingham in 1981, Chung Ying opened a second restaurant, Chung Ying Gardens in 1987. The business has continued to succeed, winning the 2012 Tsingtao award for Best Chinese Restaurant in the Midlands and ending up in the final three of the national final of the Tsingtao Legacy of Taste, Best Chinese Restaurant in Britain.

Chung Ying has now opened a new restaurant, Chung Ying Central, at 126 Colmore Row (close to Victoria Square). CBD's Jonathan Bryce met with owner James Wong to find out more...

As I walked into Chung Ying Central, the feeling that I got was Business. The Bar and Restaurant have a professional, chic look with oriental influences, but in addition to that, there seemed to be a wealth of activity going on in a venue that seems to have sprung from nowhere; a perception which isn't far off as James tells me about the task of putting together a new venture in just four weeks, culminating in a launch party at the end of November 2013.

James told me how his father had a passion for bringing a Hong Kong taste to England.

Drawing inspiration from London's China Town, he helped to develop the Chinese quarter of Birmingham. After graduating and trying his hand at a few things, James joined his father in 1997 and hasn't looked back.

On opening a new restaurant, James explained that he felt the time was right for Chung Ying to expand again. The Colmore name was an instant attraction; the area's reputation and the prestige of being located on Colmore Row was too good to miss.

James is hoping to challenge CBD's perceptions of Chinese food. The new express lunch menu offers a quick, tasty alternative to the sandwich. Chung Ying Central is also bringing Dim Sum, a traditional style of Cantonese cooking where customers are served bite-sized portions of food, to CBD.

Dim Sum is a great way to have a meal with a range of tastes and textures. They are also a great accompaniment to one of Chung Ying's happy hour cocktails. Chung Ying has an extensive menu of 108 Dim Sum; James delivers a selection of these at Chung Ying Central and is planning to showcase new Dim Sum that his chef will create.

When I met with James, Chinese New Year was already on the horizon, and he was thinking about how Chung Ying could bring some of the luck and prosperity associated with this festival to the District. As we finished our interview, we talked about James' plans to keep his menus fresh and his aim to establish Chung Ying Central as a prime location in the District. This year will



be the year of the horse; a sign associated with energy, entertainment and a focus on constant self-improvement. Chung Ying appears to have already adopted this ethos, and they show no sign of settling for anything but success.

www.chungying.co.uk/chung-ying-central

Film Bug 2014

Colmore BID has teamed up with Flatpack Film Festival for a third year running to present Film Bug, a mini festival of film. Film Bug will take place across Birmingham's business district from 20th to 23rd March 2014. The festival will include a range of films, from animated shorts to epic features, and a number of live events including musical accompaniment to silent classics. Film Bug will mark the start of the eighth Flatpack Festival (20th to 30th March).

Food and drink will be a prominent theme this year with food and film nights at fine dining restaurant, Opus at Cornwall Street, and Nepalese restaurant JoJolapa. *It Happened One Night* (1934) will be screened at Opus - a screwball romantic comedy starring Clark Gable as a roguish reporter who woos a spoiled heiress. Beer-themed short films will be shown at the Wellington, the area's specialist real ale pub.

Birmingham-based theatre company Stan's Cafe will be resident in the area to present *Twilight of the Breaking Gods*. The anarchic production is inspired by *Götterdämmerung*, the final part of Wagner's Ring Cycle; a stirring battle between humans and Gods inspired by Norse mythology.

Flatpack will also be exploring what cinema does to the brain as part of Café Neuro, a series of talks, screenings, workshops and activities - some of which will take place in Colmore Business District.

There will be plenty of events to dip into during the day including short films at Yorks Bakery Cafe and Home is Where... as well as films for children at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

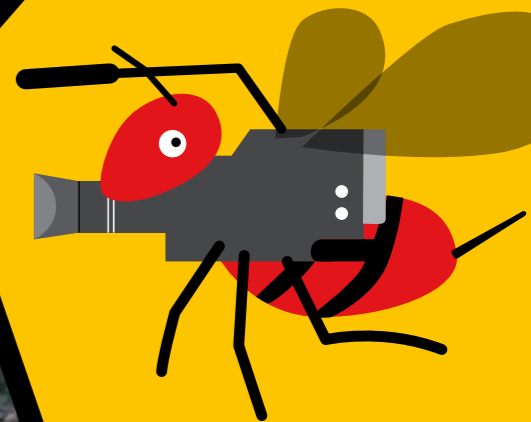
The full Film Bug and Flatpack Film Festival programmes will be announced in late-February. The majority of the programme is free of charge, though ticket charges apply to some elements including the food events. Check the Flatpack and Colmore Business District websites for updates.

www.flatpackfestival.org.uk
www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Images supplied by Flatpack.



FLATPACK
FILM
FESTIVAL





Food Festival

It's back for 2014

Friday 18th July and Saturday 19th July
11am to 7pm in Victoria Square

Enjoy a superb range of delicious menu tasters from a host of food and drink venues in Birmingham's commercial quarter, Colmore Business District.

Taste the flavours
Listen to live jazz and blues
Enjoy outdoor entertainment
www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

 Follow us on Twitter: @ColmoreBID

CBD Presents  **Moseley Arts Market**

Moseley Arts Market has become a popular feature of Colmore BID's events programme. The market has been hosted by the BID in the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral in Colmore Business District (CBD) on six occasions since the first time it toured to the business district in 2012.

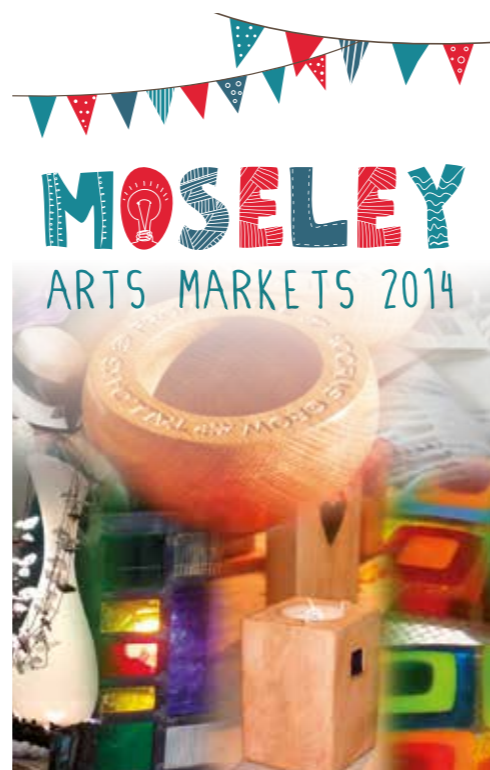
Moseley Arts Market presents talented local designers and makers as well as visiting artists. The high quality handmade products on offer include photography, illustration, glass and wood products and textiles.

The dates for the forthcoming markets in the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral are:

- Friday 28th March: 9am – 5.30pm**
- Friday 30th May: 9am – 5.30pm**
- Friday 26th September: 10am – 7pm**
- Friday 12th December: 9am – 5.30pm**

Times are subject to change. Please check the Colmore Business District website for the latest information on events and activities:

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com



Relaxation Techniques for Busy Workers

Hansa Pankhania, AUM Consultancy

Working within a busy business district can be rewarding and enjoyable but also present challenges. I'm sure you've all been there – hard day at work! You just want to unleash a flurry of expletives and bang your head against the steering wheel. It's a perfectly natural reaction to a difficult situation. Sadly, whilst swearing and slamming might make you feel better, they do little to help you relax. Of course, the last thing you want to do is to take your frustrations out on loved ones or friends. So how can you help ensure that you switch off from your frustrations and don't let a difficult day play on your mind?

The answer could lie in some simple relaxation techniques. Relaxation is one of the most enduring and successful stress management strategies, with enormous benefits. Try the following while sitting with your back well supported and your eyes closed.

Focus on your body

- Slowly scan your body in your mind and relax all your muscles, starting with your feet and moving slowly up to your face muscles.
- Tell yourself to let go of the tension as you focus on each area of your body. Focussing on your body sequentially will help to relax it.
- When you have finished, think of yourself as relaxed and comfortable.

Focus on images

- Picture a calm, peaceful scene.
- Imagine yourself sitting or lying on a beach feeling the warmth of the sun.
- Think of yourself as completely relaxed and enjoy the sensation.

Contemplation

- Sit comfortably in a quiet place, with your arms and legs uncrossed and breathe gently for a few minutes. Then choose a word that feels comfortable for you (e.g. 'relax', 'calm', 'peace', 'love' etc.)
- Silently repeat this word to anchor your mind. Continue with this for 10-30 minutes. Open your eyes and stay seated for a few more minutes before engaging in activity.

Object meditation

- Choose a beautiful object like a flower arrangement, tranquil picture or scene, lighted candle etc. Focus your attention on it steadily. Study the detail of the object, the colours, shapes, shades etc. Do this for 5 to 10 minutes, then close your eyes and visualise the object, its shape and features. This is especially good for improving your concentration.

Hansa Pankhania is a Fellow of the International Stress Management Association, a validated Stress Consultant/Trainer. She set up her company, AUM Consultancy, to raise awareness of ways of addressing stress using simple and natural techniques. Her unique philosophy integrates the best of western psychological theories and eastern healing traditions. To date she has worked with over 100 companies nationally.

www.aumconsultancy.co.uk





Birmingham's Petite Cathedral

Set in the heart of Colmore Business District (CBD) is England's third smallest Cathedral.

Most of us pass by Birmingham Cathedral on our way to work, and some may not even know what the baroque building is.

Formerly a Parish Church, it became a Cathedral just over a hundred years ago, when the first Bishop of Birmingham decided not to build a lavish new church but to look after the poor people of the city instead.

The Cathedral is home to many events each year, including concerts, film screenings and craft markets as well as the daily services. Choral Evensong at 5.45pm is particularly enjoyable; after a tough day in the office why not relax to the sounds of the classically trained choir?

Next year will be a big one; 2015 marks the three hundredth anniversary of the building. This Tercentenary will be a year long celebration and a packed programme of events is being planned. The celebrations will be an opportunity for the Cathedral to engage with all of its neighbours; if you would like to find out how you can get involved, contact 300@birminghamcathedral.com.

This summer you may notice scaffolding in place and stonemasons working hard on a programme of works to the exterior of the building. These works are crucial maintenance and repairs, vital to maintaining a Grade I listed 300 year old building. Thanks to grant funding, the work in 2014 will make sure the Cathedral Square is looking its best for the celebrations and the District.

The Cathedral is open every day of the year and entry is free. The Edward Burne-Jones designed stained glass windows are a breathtaking sight, especially on a sunny day. All are invited in to spend a quiet moment in contemplation, see the historic stained glass windows, and perhaps later relax in the square.

www.birminghamcathedral.com

CBD DIGEST

Spring 2014 Competition

On page 19, we featured an interview with Ifran Hussain, owner of Indian restaurant, Isaacs, on Bennetts Hill. They have offered one lucky reader a fabulous meal for two with drinks in the elegant surroundings of Isaacs. To win, simply answer the following question:

In our article, Ifran told us the interior of his restaurant was inspired by the style of classic luxury hotels. Which luxury London hotel was named in the article?

Email your answer to jonathan-b@colmorebusinessdistrict.com by 25th April 2014 to be in with a chance of winning.

Terms and Conditions:

The winner of the competition will be entitled to a two-course meal for two with a small glass of house red or white wine or half a pint of beer each. All starters available. £3.95 surcharge for King Prawns main (Jhinga Masala main), Lamb Shank main (Hyderabadi Raan main) and Sea Bass (main). One side each (steamed rice or butter naan). £1.95 surcharge for keema naan and parathas.

The meal can be redeemed Monday – Friday only.

Prize must be claimed by 30th July 2014

Colmore BID may wish to contact you with information about CBD and events in the District. By entering this competition, you agree that you are happy to join our mailing list. If you do not wish to be on the mailing list, please tell us in your email. Colmore BID will not share your details without your permission and your data will be processed in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Competition closing date is Friday 25th April 2014. Entries must be received by this date.

The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries.

The winner will be announced in the next issue of CBD Digest.

Last edition's COMPETITION

Congratulations to Terry Dyson from RSA who is the winner of our last magazine competition. Terry won an overnight stay for up to two adults and two children at Holiday Inn Express - Birmingham Snow Hill with a family ticket to Cadbury World.



Winner!



Review of Rent at The Old Joint Stock Theatre

Tahreen Kutub

The whole run of Rent tickets had sold out before the opening night at the Old Joint Stock Theatre in December 2013, making it the best-selling show in the theatre's history. With this fact in mind, I naturally had high expectations on my visit and I'm glad to say I wasn't disappointed.

Rent is one of those shows I have heard so much about but had not got round to seeing so I was excited when it featured in the programme for The Old Joint Stock Theatre, an approximate two minute walk from where I work so rather easy to get to!

A rock musical loosely based on Giacomo Puccini's opera La Bohème, with music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson, Rent is a powerful and emotionally driven show. It tells the story of a year in the lives of a group of young bohemians trying to survive and make it big in modern day east village New York. Rent is centred around eight main characters with a large focus on two roommates – film maker, Mark and musician, Roger, who are struggling to pay rent and face eviction. The story involves themes such as love and finding your voice and also covers issues including HIV / AIDs, discrimination, poverty and drug use.

The cast was from The Old Joint Stock Musical Theatre Company, a brilliant amateur musical theatre group who I have seen before in the production of Honk! (2012). I was particularly impressed by Richard Haines and Hannah Kilroy in the roles of Roger and the woman he falls in love with, Mimi. Both had fantastic voices and a sizzling chemistry on stage. I was also taken by the witty performance of Mike Bentley in the role of trans character, Angel.

The show packed a powerful punch with a superb and energetic medley of songs. The acting brought out the complexities in the characters and evoked emotions including joy and sadness.

The Old Joint Stock Theatre is situated above the Old Joint Stock Pub on Temple Row West, opposite the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral. The 105 seat black box theatre has been running for seven years and hosts a variety of productions such as musicals and comedies. These include in-house productions, co-productions and visiting companies.

www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Photorealism Exhibition

Until Sunday 30th March 2014
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery,
Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH

In late 1960s America, a new movement of artists began painting realistic depictions of everyday objects and scenes, which at first glance appeared to be photographs. BMAG is proud to be the only UK venue to display this first and largest European retrospective.

See website for prices. www.bmag.org.uk

Rachmaninov's Second Symphony

Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th March
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, B1 2EA

Rachmaninov's Second is as grand and expansive as Russia itself, full-to-overflowing with some of the most gorgeous love music ever written. This latest rediscovery from 1913 demands both spectacular artistry and a cheeky sense of humour.

See website for times and ticket prices.
www.cbso.co.uk

Breakin' Convention

Tuesday 20th to Wednesday 21st May
Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst Street,
Birmingham, B5 4TB

The international festival of hip hop dance theatre returns with another line-up of jaw-dropping performances from around the world. Curated by UK hip hop theatre pioneer Jonzi D - DJs, dancers, demonstrations and workshops take over the Hippodrome in the ultimate celebration of hip hop culture.

See website for times and ticket prices.
www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Swan Lake

Wednesday 5th to Saturday 15th February
Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst Street,
Birmingham, B5 4TB

Firmly crowned as a modern day classic, Matthew Bourne's powerful interpretation of Swan Lake took the dance world by storm. Since its London premiere, it has been acclaimed as a landmark achievement on the international stage, collecting over 30 international theatre awards.

See website for times and ticket prices.
www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Film Bug Festival

Thursday 20th to Sunday 23rd March
Various venues in Colmore Business District

Film Bug will take over venues in Colmore Business District for a diverse programme of features, short films and activities to coincide with the start of the eighth Flatpack Festival (20th - 30th March). The final programme (including venues) will be on the Flatpack and CBD websites by the end of February.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com
www.flatpackfestival.org.uk

Cirque du Soleil Dralion

Thursday 22nd to Sunday 25th May
LG Arena, National Exhibition Centre,
Birmingham, B40 1NT

Fusing the 3000 year-old tradition of Chinese acrobatic arts with the multidisciplinary approach of Cirque du Soleil, Dralion draws its inspiration from Eastern philosophy and its never-ending quest for harmony between humans and nature.

See website for times and ticket prices.
www.lgarena.co.uk

Blink

Monday 3rd to Wednesday 5th March
The DOOR at The Rep, Centenary Square, Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EP

Against the lonely backdrop of London, the worlds of two shy individuals collide, and a charming, delicate and darkly funny story unfolds before your eyes. Directed by Soho Theatre Artistic Associate and Nabokov Artistic Director Joe Murphy, Blink was a sell-out hit at Soho Theatre and in Edinburgh in 2012.

See website for times and ticket prices.
www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

CBD Presents Moseley Arts Market

Friday 28th March, Friday 30th May, Friday 26th September, Friday 12th December
Birmingham Cathedral Grounds, Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2QB

Visit Moseley Arts Market 'on the move' in the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral. Talented local and visiting designers & makers present high quality handmade products, including photography, illustration, glass and wood products and textiles.

See website for timings.
www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Avenue Q

Monday 16th to Sunday 22nd June
The Old Joint Stock Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Birmingham, B2 5NY

A laugh-out-loud musical, Avenue Q tells the story of recent graduate, Princeton, who moves into a run-down New York apartment on Avenue Q. The other residents, including an aspiring comedian, help Princeton discover his purpose in life.

See website for times and ticket prices.
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Emma

Thursday 6th to Saturday 8th March
The Old Joint Stock Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Birmingham, B2 5NY

This 100 minute adaptation moves at a tremendous pace. Four protagonists tumble on to the stage and comment on the action, becoming various young and older characters. An unconventional adaptation that remains true to the spirit of "Emma" and Jane Austen's sharp wit and elegant language.

See website for times and ticket prices.
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Belshazzar's Feast

Saturday 26th April, 7.00pm
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, B1 2EA

1931: William Walton blew English music sky-high. Big, brassy and shamelessly savage, Belshazzar's Feast caused outrage back then, and it still knocks you backwards today! It's a stunning showcase for the CBSO's famous choruses. John Storgårds also gets things buzzing with two joyous choral classics.

For more information and tickets see website:
www.cbso.co.uk

Food Festival

Friday 18th & Saturday 19th July, 11am-7pm
Victoria Square, Birmingham

The fourth annual CBD Food Festival is back in July and will showcase the superb food and drink offering in Birmingham's business quarter, Colmore Business District. The festival will include live cookery demonstrations from top chefs in the District, live music and outdoor theatre.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com