

# COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT

*AREA GUIDE*





## MAP REF

### COFFEE SHOPS AND CAFES

- Café Costes **B3** | (P32)
- Caffè Nero **C4** | (P33)
- Costa Coffee **D3** | (P33)
- Home is Where... **C3** | (P30-31)
- Starbucks **D3** | (P33)
- Starbucks **C4** | (P33)
- Urban Coffee Company **C3** | (P26-27)
- Yorks Bakery Cafe **C4** | (P28-29)

### FOOD ON THE GO

- Hindleys Bakery **E2** | (P60)
- Little Waitrose **D2** | (P60)
- Philpotts **C4** | (P60)
- Philpotts **E2** | (P60)
- Rustic Sandwich Shop **C2** | (P60)
- Simply Eat **D3** | (P61)
- Subway **B3** | (P61)
- Thorough Bread **D2** | (P61)
- Tucker's **E3** | (P61)

### HEALTH, HAIR AND BEAUTY

- Courtier Cuts **E2** | (P46)
- Hub Hairdressers **D3**
- Lemuria Retreat **D3** | (P44)
- Lisa Shepherd Hair Salon **C4** | (P45)
- Love It! Studios **B3** | (P46)
- Nails World **E3** | (P46)
- Smiles Dental **E2** | (P47)
- The Dentist in Town **E3** | (P47)
- Will Murphy Dentistry **B3** | (P47)

### HOTELS

- Holiday Inn Express **D1** | (P65)
- Hotel Du Vin Birmingham **C3** | (P64)
- Thistle Birmingham City **D1** | (P65)

### NEWSAGENTS

- Bon Bon Newsagents **B2** | (P63)
- One Stop Newsagents **D3** | (P63)
- One Stop Newsagents **E3** | (P63)
- Snow Hill News **C2** | (P63)

### PUBS AND BARS

- All Bar One **B3** | (P24)
- Bushwackers **C3** | (P24)

- Edmunds Lounge Bar **C3** | (P21)
- Ginger's Bar **C3** | (P24)
- The Jekyll & Hyde **E2** | (P18-19)
- The Old Contemptibles **C2** | (P20)
- The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre **C4** | (P23)
- The Old Royal **C2** | (P24)
- The Square Peg **E3** | (P25)
- The Wellington **C4** | (P22)
- Utopia the Country Bar **C3** | (P25)

### RESTAURANTS

- Asha's Restaurant **C3** | (P16)
- Chi bar restaurant **B3** | (P16)
- Isaacs Contemporary Indian Dining **C4** | (P16)
- JoJolapa Bar & Restaurant **B3** | (P16)
- Mitro Bar & Grill **B3** | (P10-11)
- Opus at Cornwall Street **C3** | (P12-13)
- Primitivo **D3** | (P17)
- Purnell's **C2** | (P6-7)
- Purnell's Bistro **C3** | (P17)
- Saffron **C4** | (P14-15)

### RETAIL

- Clements and Church **C3** | (P38-39)
- Crockett & Jones **D3** | (P40-41)
- Designer Leathers **E3** | (P42)
- Livsstil the Cookshop **E3** | (P43)
- Snow & Rock **E2** | (P42)

### SERVICES

- Genie Printing and Mailing **E3** | (P62)
- Johnsons the Cleaners **E3** | (P62)
- Kall Kwik **C4** | (P62)
- Mail Boxes ETC **D3** | (P62)
- Pinfolds Dry Cleaners **E2** | (P62)
- Post Office **B5/F3**
- Snappy Snaps **D3** | (P62)
- Trailfinders **E3** | (P63)
- Wilf Gilbert Bookmakers **D3** | (P63)

### PLACES TO VISIT

- Birmingham Cathedral **D3** | (P48-49)
- Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery **B4** | (P53)
- Birmingham & Midland Institute **B3** | (P50-51)
- Whitewall Galleries **D3** | (P54-55)



## WELCOME

*Colmore Business District (CBD)* is the commercial heart of Birmingham. The area is home to a high concentration of business and professional service firms as well as a vibrant leisure, hospitality and retail sector.

The District is a stunning part of the city with historic architecture situated alongside modern developments.

CBD is well connected with a comprehensive public transport system including trains, metro and buses. *Snow Hill Station* is in the heart of the District, and *New Street* and *Moor Street* Stations are a short walk away.

This *Area Guide* provides interviews, features and listings on the fantastic leisure, hospitality and retail companies in the area. There are also interviews with employees in CBD, exploring their thoughts on the area, as well as features on key upcoming community events in the District.

This guide has been produced by *Fused* on behalf of the Colmore Business Improvement District (BID). A BID encompasses a defined geographical area within which local businesses collaborate to invest in projects, services and initiatives that improve the environment in which they work. BIDs deliver additional services to those provided by local authority and the police.



**“I have seen many positive changes within Colmore Business District over the past few years”**

## **GLYNN PURNELL**

*Glynn Purnell* opened *Purnell's*, a chic and contemporary fine dining restaurant on Cornwall Street, in July 2007. Located in the heart of Colmore Business District (CBD), the restaurant was awarded its *Michelin* star in January 2009. Helping to evolve the culinary scene across the city of Birmingham with his bold and innovative cooking has brought the chef critical acclaim, numerous awards and TV appearances.

Glynn is passionate about Birmingham and the district he works within, so much so he decided to launch his second venue, *Purnell's Bistro & Ginger's Bar*, on Newhall Street, also in the heart of CBD.

“I have seen many positive changes within Colmore Business District over the past few years,” comments Glynn. “As well as being a thriving business community, the BID works hard to create a safe and clean environment to work and socialise in. The perception of the District has also changed. People are now treating it as a destination, which brings more trade for the many independent leisure and hospitality businesses.”

Purnell's *Bistro & Ginger's Bar* is an exquisite cocktail bar and bistro restaurant offering some of the finest food and cocktails. With an ethos of exciting people through food, Glynn's innovative dishes are inspired from childhood experience, where hearty portions of food, influenced by rustic home cooking, are given an eclectic twist.

Embracing the relaxed vibe of *Manhattan* and inspired by *Ginger Rogers* and *Fred Astaire*, the decor and ambience of *Ginger's Bar* are an acknowledgement to the glamour and style experienced in the 1930s era, offering a taste of *Manhattan* in Birmingham's *Square Mile*. Customers can relax in the heavily 1930s-influenced surroundings, while sipping on remastered timeless classic cocktails or more outlandish drinks.

Glynn has successfully made the transition to television and has taken part in the *Great British Menu*, winning twice and then appearing as a mentor. He has featured on *The Great British Food Revival*, most recently reviving shrimp farming. He has appeared at the *BBC Good Food Show* for a number of years and is a regular guest chef on *Saturday Kitchen*. [purnellsrestaurant.com](http://purnellsrestaurant.com) / [purnellsbistro-gingers.com](http://purnellsbistro-gingers.com)

## CBD FOOD FESTIVAL 2013

The CBD *Food Festival* is back for a third year and promises to be bigger and even better. Taking place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July in *Victoria Square* in Birmingham City Centre, the festival showcases the superb food and drink offering in Colmore Business District (CBD).

Menu tasters will be served by 27 venues, priced from £1.50 to £5. Participating venues range from fine-dining restaurants, hotels, pubs and bars to coffee shops, bakeries and delis. Many of the participants are independent businesses in CBD. Tasters will include a range of mouth-watering British and international options, sweet and savoury delights, and coffees, real ales, fine wines, champagne and cocktails.

For the first time this year, the festival will present voucher booklets with offers that can be redeemed at food and drink venues in CBD from the date of the festival to autumn 2013.

The festival will present a packed entertainment programme, including CBD's highly popular cookery and beverage demonstrations from top chefs, mixologists and baristas in the District. Venues presenting on-stage this year include *Purnell's*, *Opus at Cornwall Street*, *JoJolapa Bar & Restaurant*, *Saffron*, *Asha's Contemporary Indian Bar & Restaurant*, *Ginger's Bar*, *Purnell's Bistro* and *The Jekyll & Hyde*.



Visitors will also be able to enjoy live music as part of the Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival, which CBD will be participating in for the fifth year.



Spontaneous outdoor theatre acts, in the form of giant lobsters and cheeky seagulls, have provided much entertainment during the previous two festivals. There will be more outdoor theatre this year, which will include very different characters and remain a surprise for visitors! There will also be performances from CBD's choir, *Colmore Chorus*, made up of people working in the District and trained by the renowned Birmingham Opera Company.

For further information on the CBD Food Festival, visit [colmorebusinessdistrict.com](http://colmorebusinessdistrict.com)





## METRO BAR & GRILL

As one of CBD's longest-established privately owned restaurants, *Metro* has serviced the business community for 16 years. As one of the pioneer businesses within the District, owners *Chris Kelly* and *Alastair Tyson* have seen some significant changes in the city.

"When we first opened here there was hardly any competition," comments Chris. "In those days you didn't have the *Mailbox* or places like *Brindleyplace*. The centre has changed beyond belief, it is much more competitive now than it was before. Birmingham as a centre for eating and drinking has grown massively."

Available all day is a mix of formal and light-bite dining from the grill menu of seasonally prepared steaks and seafood in the classically designed space. "The menu changes weekly with available produce but there are major changes every three months. We also do fish specials every day depending on what comes in to the market."

Caricatures by artist *Tim Bulmer* adorn the walls and are based on the clientele throughout the years. Recently the team commissioned four new images to depict current regular customers which are placed above booths.

An impressive lighting installation is the centrepiece of the restaurant. The space continually evolves, with subtle renovations and additions offering what the team describe as "classical elegance".

New for *Metro* will be the start of some live music and entertainment, and on occasional Saturday nights the chance to be involved in a little theatre performance. "People come along to dine normally," explains Chris, "but there is a show going on as they are dining that is interactive. It is a very good night. We sell it as a dinner/entertainment package over three or four courses."

The daily *Metro*O'Clock offer on selected beers, wines and cocktails between 4pm and 7pm means a healthy afterwork crowd is always on hand to soak up the *Metro* atmosphere. [metrobarandgrill.co.uk](http://metrobarandgrill.co.uk)

Independent and market-fresh, *Opus at Cornwall Street* celebrates beautiful *British* produce through the daily changing menu which allows the flavours of the top-class ingredients to shine through.

The à la carte menu features *Cornish* lamb from *Launceston*, fish fresh from *Brixham* market, beef from the single-estate grass-fed herd in *Aberdeenshire*, and *Worcestershire/Warwickshire* cheeses, fruits and vegetables. Every day there is a set-price offer Market Menu at £9.50 for one course, £12.50 for two, and £15.50 for three courses.

Representing an outstanding commitment to the best seasonal ingredients, chef director *David Colcombe* (pictured) says: "In our view, the only way for us to deliver the most delicious dishes at the best value for our customers is to be ingredient-led, buying each day from markets around the British Isles."

Through their acclaimed dinner series, customers meet the passionate farmers and fishermen who supply *Opus*. *The Kitchen Table*, established in 2009, is the equivalent of culinary theatre, allowing diners to get the full sounds, smells and sights of a professional kitchen at work while enjoying a five-course tasting menu.

The décor is chic, but warm and inviting with natural light which streams in from the glass frontage. The service is professional but friendly. There are also two private rooms for intimate dinner parties or larger events.

*Michelin*-recommended and with 2 AA rosettes, "Opus is a restaurant with bags of style and confidence, a place that has played its part in putting Birmingham on the culinary map," as the AA Restaurant Guide 2012 states. [opusrestaurant.co.uk](http://opusrestaurant.co.uk)





## SAFFRON

Aiming high, patron of Saffron Restaurant and multiple award winner *Sudha Saha* (pictured) has his sights firmly set on a much-coveted *Michelin* star. He may have only opened Saffron on Colmore Row a year and a half ago but he is on the way to pioneering and introducing new cooking techniques with a signature ethnic twist to the masses of Birmingham, elevating Indian cuisine to new heights.

Having worked in *Dubai, Spain, Germany, France* and many other countries, the chef chose Birmingham as the place to settle and open his restaurant. But just because the food is Indian, don't mistake it for a run-of-the-mill curry house. "It is in a league of its own," comments Sudha. "The food is different because we use local-seasonal produce, which is very unusual for an Indian restaurant. In choosing the spices we offer a more Western presentation; there is more finesse. What we are trying to do is uplift Indian cuisine. You are coming for a nice evening with a good glass of wine."

The menu is far from bog-standard, and different from anything that you would get in a regular curry house. "All the dishes here, especially the signature dishes, are our own invention," enthuses Sudha. "You won't get them anywhere else. We have venison, sea bass and dry-aged beef, which is very unusual for an Indian restaurant. We change elements of the menu every three to four months and the techniques we use are very modern."

It is this eye for detail and continuous striving to become the best at what he does that has seen the chef star in ITV's *Britain's Best Dish - The Chefs*, *The Food Network's Birmingham to Bombay* and as judge in *CBBC's Disaster Chef*. He will also be judging recruitment specialist *Blue Arrow's Chef of the Year* competition and is in talks with the recruiter to publish a book.

Educating the Birmingham masses from the Balti house to fine Indian dining, Sudha is currently experimenting with the art of molecular gastronomy. "I was a science student and I understand chemistry very well, so I am trying to get those concepts into my ethnic cuisine," explains Sudha. "It is hard, people laugh because they think "come on, Asian cuisine?" but I am working hard on my recipes. I use the technique of sous-vide (slow cooking in low temperatures)



to cook the venison dish. I am doing experimentation but with an ethnic touch. My concept is to keep the flavour intact but to use those techniques to streamline my recipes to get the right flavour every time. One thing that is very important in the restaurant business is consistency."

Housed in an attractive period building close to Victoria Square, Saffron's decor is a rich blend of golden hues with luxurious fabrics, chenille-covered armchairs, deep-pile carpets and linen tablecloths. To complement the ambience of glamour, ornate mirrors, baroque wallpaper and crystal lighting feature in the restaurant.

Saffron offers an accommodating set of menus including a set lunch meal, pre-theatre menu, tasting menu as well as à la carte. [saffronbirmingham.co.uk](http://saffronbirmingham.co.uk)

**Asha's Contemporary  
Indian Bar & Restaurant**

Edmund House, 12-22  
Newhall Street, B3 3LX  
0121 200 2767  
[ashasrestaurants.com/  
birmingham](http://ashasrestaurants.com/birmingham)

Multi award-winning  
restaurant that offers a large  
bar area and a comfortable  
bar lounge with contemporary  
Indian dining.

**Chi bar restaurant**

61 Newhall Street, B3 3RB  
0121 233 3150  
[chibar.co.uk](http://chibar.co.uk)

Simple authentic dishes  
and drinks at a great price,  
served in modern, stylish  
surroundings.

**Isaacs Contemporary  
Indian Dining**

7 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham,  
B2 5ST  
0121 212 1020

Isaacs offers a unique dining  
experience, serving innovative  
Indian cuisine in an elegant  
and stylish restaurant.

**JoJolapa Bar & Restaurant**

55-59 Newhall Street, B3 3RB  
0121 212 2511  
[jojolapa.co.uk](http://jojolapa.co.uk)

A unique Nepalese restaurant  
which uses great ingredients,  
often sourced from small local  
producers, the secret behind  
the relentlessly inventive  
menu that is packed with star  
dishes.



**Metro Bar & Grill**

73 Cornwall Street, B3 2DF  
0121 200 1911  
[metrobarandgrill.co.uk](http://metrobarandgrill.co.uk)

This bar and grill is a hit with the CBD crowd. Become a regular and you might be honoured with a portrait above your own booth.

**Opus at Cornwall Street**

54 Cornwall Street, B3 2DE  
0121 200 2323  
[opusrestaurant.co.uk](http://opusrestaurant.co.uk)

This stylish restaurant, with two rosettes in the AA Restaurant Guide 2013, offers one of the CBD's premier dining experiences (pictured).

**Primitivo**

10 Barwick Street, B3 2NT  
0121 236 6866  
[primitivo-birmingham.co.uk](http://primitivo-birmingham.co.uk)

A long-standing stylish and unpretentious bar and eatery serving fine international wines and beers.

**Purnell's**

55 Cornwall Street, B3 2DH  
0121 212 9799  
[purnellsrestaurant.com](http://purnellsrestaurant.com)

The Michelin-starred restaurant of TV personality chef Glynn Purnell. Book early to get into this popular spot.

**Purnell's Bistro**

11 Newhall Street, B3 3NY  
0121 200 1588  
[purnellsbistro-gingers.com](http://purnellsbistro-gingers.com)

In Glynn Purnell's own words "the menu offers honest portions of food inspired by rustic home-cooking but with an eclectic twist".

**Saffron**

126 Colmore Row, B3 3AP  
0121 212 0599  
[saffronbirmingham.co.uk](http://saffronbirmingham.co.uk)

Indian food served with ingenuity and flair.

A Gin Parlour might not be the first thing that springs to mind when looking around the CBD for a tippie, but then the *Jekyll & Hyde* is no ordinary boozier. While they serve yummy 'sweetie jar' cocktails down in the bar alongside some great food, a trip upstairs will see you transplanted to the decadent Victorian era. Peruse the impressive 80 gins on offer and request a libation to tickle your taste buds from the knowledgeable bar staff and you will not be disappointed.

Bar Manager and Gin Guru *Carl Hawkins* (pictured) give us an insight into the world of cocktail creations.

**Can you tell us the skills needed to become a mixologist?**

Think of yourself as a liquid chef. Use good quality spirits and liqueurs to impart better flavour, and remember the base spirit is the hero of your drink so don't drown it in mixers. Chefs use salt and pepper to aid seasoning; your key ingredients are citrus and sugars to create balance.

**In term of the cocktail and drinks offer what does the Jekyll provide that is different to other bars?**

Our USP is the quirky nature of our cocktail presentation, providing unusual serves and garnishes with an approachable price point for the quality you receive.

**What do you think is the best cocktail you've ever invented?**

I have many that have meaning to me and have been well received by my patrons. From a personal point of view it would be the *Armistice*. I created this to aid *The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal* to symbolise elements of the *Great War*. The cocktail is bitter-sweet, the feeling upon reflection after 1918, featuring Saffron Gin, using the world's most expensive spice to symbolise the *Great War's* sacrifice, *Coquelicot* (a French Poppy liqueur), *Pamplemousse Rose* (a pink grapefruit liqueur) and *Blood Orange* syrup. We donate 50p from each cocktail sold and raised over £200 for last year's appeal.

**Do you think you can tell much about a person's personality with their choice of cocktail?**

Your palette evolves on a spiritual journey, and your choice of drink will also have attributing factors. A simple observation is younger equals sweeter cocktails as they may not appreciate the subtle overtones of neat spirits. Weather, mood and budget can also affect your choices. Our



philosophy is if you want to discover more then take the time and ask for recommendations based on taste and style of drink. A good bartender should be able to cater to different flavours and exercise your taste buds.

**What's the trickiest cocktail to make?**

A *Pousse-café*, meaning push down the coffee, which is a layered drink from the 1800s, way before *Heston Blumenthal!* Different spirits and liqueurs have different densities, like olive oil on water. The key is creating a sipped drink that helps digest a meal but enlightens the guests' tastebuds as each layer passes their lips.

If that has whetted your appetite then check out the Jekyll's website for the *Eat Me Drink Me* food fusion menu, which is served in the Parlour from Thursday to Saturday and includes such delights as juniper and star anise braised blade of beef with a *Hayman's Sloe Gin* jus and rose-scented panna cotta with *Hendrick's*-soaked strawberries. [thejekyllandhyde.co.uk](http://thejekyllandhyde.co.uk)



## THE OLD CONTEMPTIBLES

This old-world pub is steeped in history. With lush purple drapes, high ceilings and chandeliers it is full to the brim with unique character and spilling over with charm. As one of the city's most traditional and welcoming pubs it is often filled with a mix of afterwork drinkers, real ale lovers and train commuters offering a bustling and good-natured atmosphere.

The original 18th-century pub was redeveloped as the *Albion Hotel* in the 1880s at the height of the gin palace boom. It changed names in the 1950s in honour of the *First World War* heroes, the *British Expeditionary Force*, who used the building as a meeting place when the conflict was over. More recently the pub continued its support of the forces, hosting a beer festival in aid of *Help for Heroes*.

With a fine selection of pub food from lunch to dinner and homemade Sunday roasts, The Old Contemptibles is a great place to meet friends, chat the night away and sup a decent ale. [nicholsonspubs.co.uk](http://nicholsonspubs.co.uk)

MANAGER, HELEN O'NEILL



## EDMUNDS LOUNGE BAR

Part of a three-strong independent bar business, *Edmunds* takes pride in offering customers a locally-sourced, high-quality menu that includes 100% *Herefordshire Beef*, an assortment of sausages from *A.W. Lashford and Son* family butchers and *Edward Moon 'Proper' Pies*.

"We're completely independent and can go off and do our own thing. We do our own menu planning and source our own suppliers," says manager of four years *Mark Wright* (pictured). "All of our meats, sausages and pies come from local suppliers. After all the recent issues with contamination we launched just at the right time to prove that we are using local suppliers and we have the evidence to trace everything back. It is the reassurance that it is a quality product and not just something you can buy from a mass producer that makes the difference."

Good traditional English food is served up alongside local ales from *Purity, Wye Valley, Holdens* and *Enville* breweries, meaning you can enjoy food and beer supplied by regional producers within a 25-mile radius, and all traceable. [edmundsbar.co.uk](http://edmundsbar.co.uk)



**THE WELLINGTON**

Long gone are the days when ale was associated with cloth caps and smoky old man pubs. Thanks to the current real ale renaissance you are just as likely to be stood next to a city lawyer as you are a hipster supping on a pint from a local microbrewery.

CBD has an enviable selection of pubs selling real ale with *The Old Contemptibles*, *The Old Royal*, *The Old Joint Stock*, *Pub du Vin* and *Edmunds Lounge Bar* all serving a range of quality cask ales.

One of the most popular of the pubs in the city centre is *The Wellington*. With almost 20 handpumps and a fine selection of ales to choose from, alongside the seasonal beer festivals, the extensive range is a massive hit with its locals and visiting patrons.

Plaudits include *Pub of The Year* two years running, as voted by members of the local *Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)* group, and if you're a real fan you can keep an eye on their *twitter* stream where you'll find which beers are updated and available on each pump too.

Such is the care and attention taken over by the beer at *The Wellington* there is no time for a food service but you are welcome to take your own in and they'll supply you with a plate and cutlery to eat it. Great service [thewellingtonrealale.co.uk](http://thewellingtonrealale.co.uk)

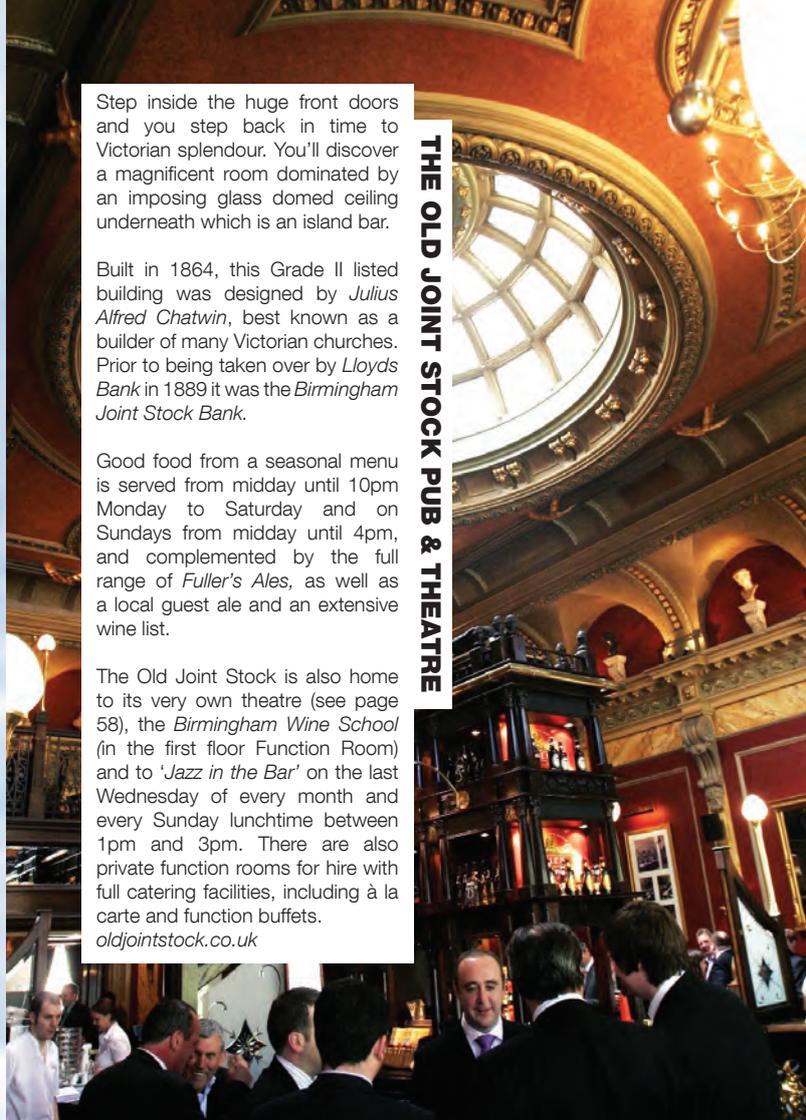
Step inside the huge front doors and you step back in time to Victorian splendour. You'll discover a magnificent room dominated by an imposing glass domed ceiling underneath which is an island bar.

Built in 1864, this Grade II listed building was designed by *Julius Alfred Chatwin*, best known as a builder of many Victorian churches. Prior to being taken over by *Lloyds Bank* in 1889 it was the *Birmingham Joint Stock Bank*.

Good food from a seasonal menu is served from midday until 10pm Monday to Saturday and on Sundays from midday until 4pm, and complemented by the full range of *Fuller's Ales*, as well as a local guest ale and an extensive wine list.

The Old Joint Stock is also home to its very own theatre (see page 58), the *Birmingham Wine School* (in the first floor Function Room) and to 'Jazz in the Bar' on the last Wednesday of every month and every Sunday lunchtime between 1pm and 3pm. There are also private function rooms for hire with full catering facilities, including à la carte and function buffets. [oldjointstock.co.uk](http://oldjointstock.co.uk)

**THE OLD JOINT STOCK PUB & THEATRE**



**All Bar One**

43 Newhall Street, B3 3RB

0121 212 2551

*allbarone.co.uk/all-bar-one-newhall-street-birmingham*

The perfect place to meet friends, unwind from work or de-brief during the day.

**Bushwackers**

Exchange Building, 103 Edmund Street, B3 2HZ

0121 236 4994

*bushwackers.co.uk/birmingham*

During the week there are food and drink offers aplenty, but come the weekend it is time to get your party vibe on with DJs playing funky house through to the small hours.

**Edmunds Lounge Bar**

106-110 Edmund Street, B3 2ES

0121 200 2423

*edmundsbar.co.uk*

Locally sourced produce is key, with pies, pizzas and real ales all on the menu.

**Ginger's Bar**

11 Newhall Street, B3 3NY

0121 200 1588

*purnellsbistro-gingers.com*

Some of the best cocktails to be found in the city are available at Ginger's Bar and at excellent prices too.

**Pub du Vin at Hotel du Vin**

25 Church Street, B3 2NR

0844 736 4250

*hotelduvin.com/hotels/birmingham*

Pub du Vin is located within Hotel du Vin. Legendary ales, homemade bar

snacks, unpretentious menu and a warm welcome.

**The Jekyll & Hyde**

28 Steelhouse Lane, B4 6BJ

0121 236 0345

*thejekyllandhyde.co.uk*

A gin parlour in the middle of the business district that serves cocktails in Bowler Hats - it doesn't get much quirkier than that.

**The Old Contemptibles**

176 Edmund Street, B3 2HB

0121 200 3310

*nicholsonspubs.co.uk*

A Victorian pub with plenty of atmosphere and history, plus great food and ales too.

**The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre**

4 Temple Row West, B2 5NY

0121 200 1892

*oldjointstock.co.uk*

Housed in one of the most impressive buildings in the city, once a library and then a bank, The Old Joint Stock was voted by Independent Newspapers as one of the top 25 pubs in the UK and is certainly one of the best in Brum.

**The Old Royal**

53 Church Street, B3 2DP

0121 200 3841

*theoldroyalbirmingham.co.uk*

Behind its elegant façade you'll find the royal memorabilia that gives the friendly local its name, including a plaque commemorating a night Queen Elizabeth's grandmother spent there.

**The Square Peg**

115 Corporation Street, B4 6PH

0121 236 6530

*jdwetherspoon.co.uk/home/pubs/the-square-peg*

It used to have the accolade of longest bar in Europe – we're not sure where that came from but it is very long. It's a pretty decent-sized pub and offers the same good deal and value for money as other Wetherspoon bars.

**The Wellington**

37 Bennetts Hill, B2 5SN

0121 200 3115

*thewellingtonrealale.co.uk*

A specialist real-ale pub that is a regular favourite with the CAMRA crew.

**Utopia the Country Bar**

16 Church Street, B3 2NP

0121 233 3666

*bar-utopia.co.uk*

Utopia the Country Bar is the perfect venue for meetings, private functions or celebrations.





Jenny Smith (pictured) is emporium manager at CBD's longest established independent coffee shop *Urban Coffee Company*. When she's not serving up lattes to the bleary-eyed early-morning workers of CBD she's busy keeping them fuelled with tasty cakes and bagels.

**You're an early riser. Can you tell us what CBD is like that time of the day?**

I get into CBD at about 6:15 every morning and it's surprisingly peaceful and particularly beautiful when the sun's shining.

**What is the shift in clientele like throughout the day, and how does it change from breakfast to evening?**

A lot of our customers come in for take-away coffees first thing just before they go to work, busy people. During the morning people from the area come for meetings, and freelancers and students come in to use the free Wi-Fi; we're like a cool office with coffee (and someone to do the washing up).

During the afternoon we have a more relaxed vibe in here, people grabbing a coffee before leaving for home, and a younger crowd who come here to chill out and relax. We have a lot of evening events here too, poetry jams, entrepreneur meet-ups and a book club.

**When you get a break at work where do you pop to for a lunchtime treat?**

I rarely have time to go out on my break, so I have something from our fridge. The Scotsman bagel, super yummy.

**How about when you are all finished for the day and the emporium is closed? Is there anywhere the team head to around CBD for a drink?**

I love a little tippie and after a particularly long shift I love going to *The Jekyll & Hyde*. The cocktails are amazing and they have a great range of speciality beers, like the *Samuel Adams Boston* lager.

**If someone comes in and asks you for good places to go around CBD where would you recommend they try?**

Do you know what I'd say? Grab a coffee to go and have a walk about! The architecture is stunning if you just look up. Or get a sandwich and go and sit in *Church Street Square* and watch as the world goes past.

**Other than Urban Coffee Co do you have a favourite place or building in the area?**

*Hotel du Vin* is just a stunning building. [urbancoffee.co.uk](http://urbancoffee.co.uk)

Eames chairs, gnarled wooden-topped tables, white tiled walls and industrial-style rusty light fittings make up the latest coffee shop to open in the CBD. With a simple philosophy to serve the best possible coffee and loose-leaf teas in the city, owner *Simon Ford* has invested in the best equipment for the artisan boutique coffee shop.

“Some people ask for their coffee to be made hotter because that is what the big chains do, but with the coffee beans we use we extract what we think is the perfect espresso,” explains Simon. “The machine that we have got is called a *La Marzocco*. A lot of the roasteries won’t supply you if you don’t have one. We steam and texture the milk to a certain temperature and don’t overheat it. We have gone back to basics and benchmarked against the real artisan boutique coffee shops that get the milk right.”

After coming back from living and working in the Far East four years ago, Simon set about his plans to open his own coffee shop, gaining investment and painstakingly choosing his suppliers with careful precision. His dedicated attention to the task has seen him cut out the middle-men and go direct to partners who can supply 18 varieties of tea from Chinese tea gardens, and artisan coffee roasters who will only supply to those with the top equipment, ensuring that their beans are offered the best chance of the greatest taste.

Even their hot chocolate is made using the finest Belgian chocolate which is melted down fresh at the counter for the customer. “For everything we do we want to create a ‘wow’,” enthuses Simon. “We want customers to walk in and see our cakes and go ‘wow,’ taste a sandwich and go ‘wow, that was amazing’.”

The food offer at Yorks takes you through day to evening and is all about freshness, sourcing locally, and where possible offering seasonal, free-range and organic produce. “We have a well-travelled team here so we try to use the international influences and experiences of what they have seen to work together with the kitchen to make a menu. The idea is to change the menu every day. There will always be a few things the same but we have different specials from a variety of influences.”

The team are working on developing their own coffee roasterie this year and adding to their ever-growing calendar of events, as well as an evening food offer of sharing platters and tapas-style plates. [yorksbakerycafe.co.uk](http://yorksbakerycafe.co.uk)



## HOME IS WHERE...

With a shabby chic style of mismatched furniture and freshly prepared food *Home Is Where...* has firmly established itself as a place for meet-ups and the little slice of NYC style is a favourite with the lunchtime crowd.

Tea is served in large pots and a selection of simple and freshly prepared sandwiches, salads and sharing patters are available to diners from breakfast through to dinner. Strings of garlic, bunches of dried chilies and chorizo rings hang in the window which adds to a comfy lived-in feeling that is ideal to sip coffee and take in the surroundings.

While artists' illustrations adorn one wall, the other is covered in images of musicians, models and film stars of a past era. Vintage Vogue covers take over another wall while *The Smiths' This Charming Man* gently plays out of the speakers.

Lunchtime can prove a struggle for seats, due to the popularity of the deli, but mid-mornings and afternoons are relaxed enough for a break-time cake-eating treat or friendly meet-up.



Eat in, take away or order for your office and the team will happily deliver. They also cater for buffets, functions, meetings or special occasions and because they always use the best ingredients they can find - seasonal and local wherever possible, organic - you're guaranteed the best possible quality too. [homecafedeli.com](http://homecafedeli.com)

Deceptively large with colourful tiling and comfy distressed leather sofas (complete with cow-hide trim) the calming sage-green walls of *Cafe Costes* offer a retreat from the bustle of the *Newhall Street* traffic.

Completely changing career for a new life in the world of cafes, non-coffee-drinking couple *Sally* (pictured) and *Steve McIntyre* have built up an increasingly loyal customer base since taking over management in August 2012 thanks to their friendly service.

From remembering the particulars of how a customer likes to take their drink to offering a range of toasted focaccias, soups, jacket potatoes and flat breads, the couple have managed to build up trade from the local offices and college as well as passers-by. And they are helped by the fact that they offer the all-important all-day breakfast. The cafe also has a full alcohol licence with wine and bottled beers available.

Their outside catering service offers freshly produced and prepared corporate lunches with a variety of choices and menus. With a large kitchen area downstairs the team can offer buffet lunches for all sizes. [cafecostes.co.uk](http://cafecostes.co.uk)



#### Cafe Costes

58 Newhall Street, B3 3RJ  
0121 236 6072  
[cafecostes.co.uk](http://cafecostes.co.uk)

A relaxing, family-run hideaway of a coffee shop with a great selection of snacks and an alcohol license.

#### Caffè Nero

42-47 Waterloo Street, B2 5QB  
0121 233 9800  
[caffenero.com](http://caffenero.com)

Premium Italian coffee and a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

#### Costa Coffee

7 Colmore Row, B3 2BH  
0121 233 3041  
[costa.co.uk](http://costa.co.uk)

A bustling, busy cafe at the heart of the commuter entrance to Snow Hill Station.

#### Home is Where...

26 Church Street, B3 2NP  
0121 236 2339  
[homecafedeli.com](http://homecafedeli.com)

A lovely space to grab lunch, meet with friends and check out the artwork on the walls.

#### Starbucks

31 Colmore Row, B3 2BS  
0121 200 2559  
[starbucks.co.uk](http://starbucks.co.uk)

&  
125 Colmore Row, B3 3SD  
0121 236 2660

The home of the ultimate Frappuccino in an array of flavours and delicious toppings.

#### Urban Coffee Company

30 Church Street, B3 2NP  
0121 236 0207  
[urbancoffee.co.uk](http://urbancoffee.co.uk)

The longest running indie coffee shop in CBD. Head to Urban Coffee for poetry slams, book clubs, art events, live music, or even just a great coffee.

#### Yorks Bakery Cafe

1-3 Newhall Street  
B3 3NH  
0121 236 8090

[Yorksbakerycafe.co.uk](http://Yorksbakerycafe.co.uk)  
Hot chocolate, fine coffee and a tasty line in daily fresh salads and lunches mean you can be naughty and healthy at the same time.



**Q&A David Moss**

Head of Sales for FleetMilne Property, [fleetmilne.co.uk](http://fleetmilne.co.uk)

MY COLMORE

**Best places for afterwork drinks:**

*Ginger's Bar* is a favourite with FleetMilne. With its classy yet laid back feel, fresh food and large cocktail selection; it's a win with us. I recommend you try their *Blackcurrant & Ginseng Rickey* cocktail & *New York Reuben's Sandwich*.

**Top choice for a business/client meeting:**

*Urban Coffee Company* (pictured), usually heaving with people doing business. They are well connected within CBD on social media and host a variety of events. They also support local businesses with their forever growing notice board.

**Where to go to celebrate a client win / great business news:**

*Metro Bar & Grill* offers a brilliant atmosphere, great service and you're pretty much guaranteed to bump into someone you know from the District to share your success with!



MY COLMORE



**Q&A Vicky Osgood**

Works in the Quality Team for Amey, Colmore Plaza  
[amey.co.uk](http://amey.co.uk)

**Best places for afterwork drinks:** When I go out with friends and colleagues, I tend to go to places like *The Jekyll and Hyde*. In the summer, it's got a cute little garden where you can enjoy a delicious cocktail and natter until late in the evening.

**Celebrating great business news:** When celebrating with the business a favourite place is *The Old Joint Stock*. It's always busy and the beautiful surroundings add gravitas to a good news announcement. It's got a great selection of drinks and non-fussy (but very tasty) food – including some of the most delicious pies in Birmingham.

**Favourite part of CBD:** It's very inspiring working in the BID area. All the streets have a different personality and the constant regeneration means you have gorgeous locations like *Church Street Square*. The area has a mix of old architecture with new futurist-looking glass buildings. It's always lovely to get a coffee at *Home Is Where...* or *Urban Coffee Company* and watch the mix of creative and business types walk past at all hours of the day.

**Best thing about working in CBD:** I always keep an eye out and love the film and food fairs such as *Film Bug* as part of *Flatpack Festival*, and the *CBD Food Festival*.



**Q&A Christopher Barlow**

Director of chartered accountants Bloomer Heaven Limited, Edmund Street [bloomerheaven.co.uk](http://bloomerheaven.co.uk)

**Favourite part of CBD:**

*Birmingham Cathedral* (pictured) for its architecture and tranquillity at the heart of the business district.

**The best thing about working in CBD:**

Surrounded by other professionals it is the place to be for business. Whether it's a planned meeting or bumping into someone whilst you are out of the office, having other professionals around makes business happen.

**Top Colmore tip for visitors?**

Take time to appreciate the architecture and history at the centre of the City of Birmingham, and see how this operates as the heart of the business community.

MY COLMORE



**Q&A Lewis Davies**

Commercial Underwriter at Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Livery Street [ecclesiastical.com](http://ecclesiastical.com)

**Best places for afterwork drinks:**

In terms of quality pubs, bars and restaurants we're spoilt for choice in CBD. At Ecclesiastical we tend to move around rather than sticking to a specific 'local'. Our favourite places are The Old Contemptibles, *The Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Old Joint Stock...* and *Bushwackers* for Fishy Fridays.

**Favourite part of CBD:**

I do like the events arranged by the BID team such as the *CBD Food Festival*, film festival and photography exhibitions.

**Top choice for a business/client meeting out of the office:**

To impress our brokers/clients at lunch meetings, *Metro Bar & Grill* is a winner.

MY COLMORE

## CLEMENTS AND CHURCH

Suiting and booting the dapper financiers and creative directors of CBD, *Clements and Church* is a thriving business that began life in Birmingham in 2007. Since its first days the independent tailor has been at the cutting edge of contemporary *British* tailoring, creating ready-to-wear, made-to-measure and bespoke gentlemen's attire.

All of the garments are of the highest quality and draw on the expertise of the finest craftsmen. With over 14,000 fabric swatches, a bespoke suit, made in locally-based workshops, can be turned around in eight weeks.

The staff pick up the latest styles and fashion tips direct from the catwalks of *London, Paris* and *Milan*, with some of the fabrics being designed direct from the Birmingham store.

Dressing clients who are interested in the rules of tradition but who want to present these in a visually exciting, contemporary and individual way drives their every creation. With a passion, care and knowledge for tailoring, it is no wonder the business has an 80% regular-customer base, including some of the smartest footballers, comedians, MPs and sportsmen around.

Colourful ties and hand-crafted shoes alongside sharp shirts and hand-finished enamel cufflinks are guaranteed to make a style statement and complete the Clements and Church look. [clementsandchurch.co.uk](http://clementsandchurch.co.uk)



HEAD TAILOR, MATT RODEN

Step in to *Crockett & Jones'* first UK shop outside *London* and you'll be stepping into the oldest shoe shop in the city. Opened on *Colmore Row* in 2006 it was formerly the home of the *Anatomical Boot & Shoe Co.* which started as a bespoke shoemakers in the 1920s.

As a fifth-generation family-managed *British* heritage business, *Crockett & Jones* make beautifully crafted shoes and boots for men and women out of the finest leather. For men there are three ranges produced by *Crockett & Jones* (*Hand Grade Collection*, *Main Collection* and *Shell Cordovan Collection*), and for women there is a small range of low-heeled shoes and boots.

Committed to maintaining the highest standards of traditional craftsmanship, quality and service which have been appreciated by their customers for more than 130 years, the brand is well-established both at home and overseas, with shoes being exported across the globe.

The *Birmingham* store remains intimate and customer-focused with high-quality products available in a range of colours to suit customer tastes and to match that sharp suit. [crockettandjones.com](http://crockettandjones.com)



**Clements & Church**

22 Church Street, B3 3NP

0121 233 9994

[clementsandchurch.co.uk](http://clementsandchurch.co.uk)

Contemporary tailors fitting out the best-dressed of Birmingham and beyond with off-the-rail to bespoke suits and accessories.

**Crockett & Jones**

25 Colmore Row, B3 3RB

0121 236 7351

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

The finest leather shoes and boots for men (with a small selection of women's) in the oldest shoe shop in the city. Visit just to smell the quality.

**Designer Leathers**

8 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG

0121 233 2489

A great range of leather goods and accessories within the Minories shopping centre.

**Livsstil the Cookshop**

4 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG

0121 236 4293

[livsstil.co.uk](http://livsstil.co.uk)

If the Great British Bake Off has given you the inspiration to get your rolling pin out then Livsstil is the place to get your kitchen kitted out. If they don't sell it, you don't need it (pictured).

**Snow & Rock**

14 Priory Queensway, B4 6BS

0121 236 8280

[snowandrock.com](http://snowandrock.com)

The outfitters for the adventurous.

**LIVSSTIL**

Livsstil the Cookshop, based in the Minories, is jointly owned by Ian Thompson and Barry Short and is one of five stores in the country stocking over 5,000 different lines of quality products.

"As the only specialist cookshop in Birmingham, we stock a larger range of cookware products than any other store, including department stores," comments Ian. "Our products include baking cookware, cutlery and general items for the kitchen. We carry many sizes and product types in a wide price range."

With an aim to buy as much from British and local manufacturers as possible the team visit all the major shows to make sure they are sourcing new products. As a result of this their range is continually updated and means customers will get the product they need.

Ian said: "We have great product knowledge that we offer to customers. If a customer asks to buy a set of pans, we would ask about the type of cooker that it is for and what they like to cook so we can determine the best type of pans to offer. There are six members of staff in the Birmingham store, all trained on product knowledge."

With expert industry knowledge, both Barry and Ian supplied cookshops for over 20 years before becoming retailers. They even get celebrity visitors with Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant buying a set of pans from the store and Jamie Oliver and CBD's very own Glynn Purnell popping in to visit the store. [livsstil.co.uk](http://livsstil.co.uk)





## LEMURIA RETREAT

Family business Lemuria Retreat is run by brother-and-sister team *Raman* (pictured) and *Rita* who opened at the start of 2013. "It's different to other salons; it's not an in-and-out style salon. People spend at least an hour in here," comments Raman while Rita busily styles a client's hair. "The idea is for people just to come and have a treatment and hang out. I call it a social club."

The space is about to undergo a refit of the downstairs area. While upstairs is a light, calming, spacious salon, downstairs will be fitted and arranged with separate, relaxed rooms that will offer a range of treatments like *Reiki*, *Reflexology* and *Swedish Massage* alongside "a complete mixed bag of healing and complementary therapies" as Raman describes it. "We train people at the *Athena School of Natural Therapies* in Walsall and therefore have the expertise to deliver a range of different treatments."

If you are looking for a "release from the daily treadmill" then you are actively encouraged to take your time to enjoy the experience at Lemuria. Comfy black leather sofas and continuous offers of drinks and refreshments from the hospitable owners make the hanging around easy to do. The staff even stay open for those clients whose busy schedules won't allow them to attend appointments during regular opening hours. [lemuriaretreat.co.uk](http://lemuriaretreat.co.uk)

## LISA SHEPHERD HAIR SALON

Hairdressing entrepreneur and local girl *Lisa Shepherd* is the award-winning colourist on *Channel 4's 10 Years Younger*. Much sought after by celebrities and soap stars, her flagship Birmingham salon overlooking *Birmingham Cathedral* is a contemporary, bustling haven of style and urbanite chic.

As a busy professional Lisa knows just how difficult it can be to get out of the office and into the salon to tend to the tresses, which is why her innovative approach is such a hit with the women of CBD.

Offering a professional head-start to businesswomen on the go, the salon launched the ingenious '*Desk Dry*' service which affords busy women the opportunity to have their hair blow dried at work by qualified stylists – from as early as 7am. "With ever increasing commitments many women just don't get time to go to their hairdressers," comments Lisa. "So we have turned it around and we are now coming to them, at work, to make sure they look their best and have that extra air of confidence for important meetings or special occasions."

The exciting concepts don't stop there; Lisa has just signed a lucrative partnership with *Redken* and has installed a brand new express colour bar in the salon that enables women to have their hair coloured by professionals and then just style it themselves. This means those who are time-poor and office-bound can drop in during lunch and come out with a new look within the hour. [lisashepherd.co.uk](http://lisashepherd.co.uk)



**Courtier Cuts**

Fountain Court, Steelhouse Lane, B4 6DR  
0121 233 1506  
A gentlemen's barber shop with great service.

**Hub Hairdressers**

39 Colmore Row, B3 2BS  
0121 236 7222  
A delightful independent gents' hairdressing salon located in the heart of CBD.

**Lemuria Retreat**

33 Colmore Row, B3 2BS  
0121 233 0556  
[lemuriaretreat.co.uk](http://lemuriaretreat.co.uk)  
The place to head for alternative therapies, beauty treatments and a new hair style.

**Lisa Shepherd Hair Salon**

Portman House Ground Floor & Basement, 5-7 Temple Row West, B2 5NY  
0121 236 6981  
[lisashepherd.co.uk](http://lisashepherd.co.uk)  
Celebrity hairdresser Lisa Shepherd's salon is a must for colour fanatics and the uber stylish. No time to go to the salon? Don't worry, the stylists will come to you at your desk.

**Love It! Studios**

55 Newhall Street, B3 3RB  
0845 647 1000  
[loveitstudios.com](http://loveitstudios.com)  
Hair, Make-up & Photography on your doorstep! Love It! Studios offers three services all under one roof. Open 8am-8pm, seven days a week, it's perfect for Birmingham's busy professionals.

**Nails World**

5 The Minories, Temple Court, B4 6AG  
0121 236 4334  
Keep your nails looking in top shape at Nails World.

**THE DENTIST IN TOWN**

10 The Minories, Temple Court,  
B4 6AG  
0121 236 8681  
[birmingham-cosmetic-dentist.co.uk](http://birmingham-cosmetic-dentist.co.uk)

At the Dentist in Town, Tom Nolan and his dedicated team provide a full range of dental treatments, from state-of-the-art cosmetic work (veneers, crowns, bridges, teeth-whitening, clear braces, white fillings) to traditional treatments such as dentures, extractions, surgical procedures and root canal therapy.

Their general work is given the same level of care and enthusiasm as the cosmetic work. It is seen as just as important, with hygienists ensuring patients' gums are in the best possible shape – because the best teeth in the world will fail if they're sitting on weak foundations.

The team also treat people for snoring and supply a range of sports mouthguards. These are individually designed to protect against concussion as well as safeguarding teeth and soft tissues.

**SMILES DENTAL**

10 Priory Queensway, B4 6BS  
0121 236 2277  
[smiles.co.uk](http://smiles.co.uk)

Smiles Dental are part of a chain of more than 70 general, NHS and specialist clinics throughout the UK and Ireland. From a standard cleaning, through to fillings, whitening and veneers, oral surgery and orthodontics they've got you covered. Flexible timing, transparent pricing, full explanation of treatments, excellent customer care and after-care service, constantly reviewing their processes, ensure that they are at the cutting edge of dentistry.

**WILL MURPHY DENTISTRY**

51 Newhall Street, B3 3QR  
0121 236 7630  
[willmurphydentistry.co.uk](http://willmurphydentistry.co.uk)

Aiming to provide you with the highest quality dentistry in the purpose-built dental suite, Will Murphy has been practising since 1991 with a special interest in implant and cosmetic dentistry and currently holds the position of clinical assistant in Oral Surgery at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. The brand new premiere suite, with street access from the ground floor, has been designed to provide patients with a comfortable dental experience where you can relax with a coffee in the patient lounge and enjoy a DVD, music or a Sky channel from the overhead in-chair monitors.

W HALL

## BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL

It would only be fitting that one of the best collections of works by Birmingham-born artist *Edward Burne-Jones*, and indeed of the Pre-Raphaelites, is housed at the city's *Museum and Art Gallery*, but one of the most impressive displays of his work is inside the beautiful *Cathedral Church of St Philip*.

The four stained-glass windows depicting the *Ascension*, the *Nativity*, *Crucifixion* and *Last Judgement* were designed by Burne-Jones between 1885 and 1891 to express his vision of the humanity of Christ, and were created by the firm of *William Morris and Co.*

The stunning bright colours of the windows can't be seen from the outside but spring into glorious vividness from inside the Grade I listed Cathedral which will celebrate its 300th anniversary in 2015.



### The Ascension

Above the clouds, *Christ* ascends into Heaven surrounded by angels. Below, a crowd of onlookers gaze upwards. Barefoot and clothed in red and blue, *Christ* stands on the clouds and looks tenderly down towards the people. The lower portion of the window contains twelve figures, including *Mary* and two disciples whose awestruck expressions and different ages contrast with the uniform faces of the angels.

### The Nativity

The triptych of stained-glass windows includes the baby *Jesus*, *Mary*, *Joseph* and angels. The upper section includes a scene of angels, shepherds and their sheep, and trees. Below them the infant *Christ* sleeps on the rocky floor of a cave. His hands are tucked under his chin and his body is wrapped in white bedclothes.

### The Crucifixion

The window is dominated by an image of *Christ* hanging lifeless from the cross. He is framed by a deep blue sky and a mass of red Roman banners. The colours link the image of *Christ* with the onlookers and soldiers who are also clad in blue and red. The onlookers include three standing women. *Mary*, the grieving mother of *Jesus*, gazes towards her son.

### The Last Judgement

Based on images from the *Book of Revelation*, the Judgement window portrays the Last Judgement at the end of the world. The Archangel *Michael*, robed in red with powerful red wings sweeping from his right shoulder, is depicted moving across the window blowing a long golden horn. Above him, clothed in white, *Christ* wears a green crown of thorns and a deep red halo. Seated on a rainbow throne, he looks downward. [birminghamcathedral.com](http://birminghamcathedral.com)

One of Birmingham's hidden gems must be the *Birmingham and Midland Institute*. Steeped in history, and housed in a Grade II\* listed building opposite the city's *School of Art and Design*, the premises is home to the *Birmingham Subscription Library* which was established in 1779 and holds 110,000 volumes. Despite the Institute's impressive home and contents, it is the people who have passed through who make it special.

*Charles Dickens* was an early president (1869) and gave recitals in the *Town Hall* to raise funds, while actors, Members of Parliament, Archbishops and *Nobel Peace Prize* winners have also held the prestigious post.

As a pioneer of adult scientific and technical education the Monday Lecture series established in 1856 is one of the longest running of such programmes in the country.

"The institute was established in 1854 by an act of Parliament for the purpose of the advancement of the knowledge of art, science and literature to all classes and persons resident in Birmingham and the Midlands' counties and that is still the Institute's mission," explains the Institute's director of 25 years, *Philip Fisher*. "The Birmingham Subscription Library was taken over by the Institute in 1955. We now own the library and are resident in what was the library building."

As a registered charity the Institute raises money by running a programme of lectures on a variety of subjects, letting rooms, lecture and concert halls and other parts of the building to suitable organisations.

Anyone can be a member for a nominal fee. Membership entitles users access to the members' room, the extensive library of Victorian literature and much more. Academics and serious researchers are allowed to use the library free of charge. [bmi.org.uk](http://bmi.org.uk)



## CBD MUSIC FESTIVAL

Thursday 12th and Friday 13th September 2013



Colmore Business District is holding an exciting new music festival in September 2013 to add to its programme of vibrant activities in the area. Taking place across the District on 12th and 13th September, this two day festival will showcase the region's melting pot of emerging talent alongside performances from established artists across a range of music genres. Performances will take place in the District's outdoor public spaces as well as indoor venues, including coffee shops and pubs. Keep an eye out for further details and the final line up on [colmorebusinessdistrict.com](http://colmorebusinessdistrict.com). (Image: Tipitina)

## BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY



With the most highly valued hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold found just four years ago, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery hit the headlines when the pieces first went on display within its space. Setting the public's imagination alight the *Staffordshire Hoard* brought thousands of visitors to the city with daily queues snaking around the museum for those desperate to be one of the first to view the amazing find.

There is now a permanent display of the hoard at the Museum, which is free to see, and visitors who venture in to the space will also get to view the largest known complete Indian bronze sculpture, a whole collection of Egyptian mummies and coffins alongside seven centuries of European history; all held within the heart of the city. Major works by the Old Masters and Impressionists rub shoulders with *Rossetti* and *Burne-Jones* in the world's largest public collection of *Pre-Raphaelite* art. Packed with interactive activities and designed to appeal to all senses, the museum is a beautiful space for all to connect with our world's past. [bmag.org.uk](http://bmag.org.uk)

When *Whitewall Galleries* left its home of seven years on Colmore Row opposite *Birmingham Cathedral* for its new space next to the entrance of *Snow Hill Station*, it was a big move. It may have just been a few doors along Colmore Row but the Birmingham branch of Whitewall took on a new role, as the biggest in the UK.

Due to renovations at the *Grand Hotel* (Whitewall's old space will be the new Grand's bar) the Whitewall team found an impressive new home over two floors to house their ever-changing collection of artwork.

It would seem that where there is art there is money, as Birmingham manager *Kate Gilbert* (pictured) explains: "As a business we are expanding rapidly and this is our biggest gallery in the UK now. It is triple the size of the gallery in *Mayfair*."

The Birmingham Whitewall turns over an impressive one to two hundred paintings per week with a delivery every Friday of new stock and collections. "We sell a lot more high-end originals here," comments Kate. "Recently that included three *LS Lowry* originals. We sell anything from prints at £200 to originals at half a million."

With a portfolio of around 300 artists, including key bestsellers and fresh talent, new collections come out every quarter. "As a business we have done better and better and expanded throughout the whole of the recession, so I think it goes to show that people are making alternative investments," says Kate. Pieces are re-evaluated year-on-year and as clients see prices increase they purchase more.

There are a number of public occasions each month, from artist appearances and demos to gallery events. Alongside this the gallery is available to hire for private functions and viewings.

For the not-so-confident art buyer Whitewall offers an art consultation service. You can get advice on the creation and expansion of your contemporary art collection, or a visit to your home, office or institution to advise on all aspects of acquisition, alongside advice on mounting, framing, lighting and hanging. "It is a luxury product and it is important that people love the experience. They are getting looked after and buying something that they can talk about with all of their friends. They are investing in something they love and will talk about, will enjoy for many years and probably pass on to their children." [whitewallgalleries.com](http://whitewallgalleries.com)



After a successful programme of events in 2012, Colmore Business District has invited back the popular *Moseley Arts Market* to the beautiful *Cathedral Grounds*.

The market showcases talented local designers and makers as well as visiting artists offering a variety of high quality handmade products including photography, illustration and textiles.

Usually held in *Moseley* on the fourth Saturday of every month between March and December, the *Moseley Arts Market* ventured outside of the neighbourhood for the first time last year when hosted at the *Cathedral Grounds* for the *Queen's Jubilee*, *Purple Flag Week* and as part of CBD's Christmas activities.

*Diane Benussi*, CBD board director, said: "We were delighted to help *Moseley Arts Market* appeal to a wider audience last year and were keen to bring back the market for this year.

CBD aims to bring creative and engaging activity to the District and so the chance to celebrate the creative talents of *Moseley* and welcome them to the city centre is very exciting for us."

*This year's first market took place on 31st May. Further dates in the District are: 26th September and 13th December 2013.*





## THE OLD JOINT STOCK THEATRE

Nestled on the top floor of the beautiful 19th-century building that is home to *The Old Joint Stock Pub*, the theatre is a gem of a space that gives audiences the opportunity to get up-close and personal to its regular performances.

Comfortably seating 100, the studio theatre is fully equipped and is the perfect setting for very intimate performances. With a variety of productions all year round, including local and visiting touring companies, you can expect to see everything from new writing to full-length musicals, and from stand-up to belly-dancing. The theatre includes all the facilities you would expect, from a full dressing and green room to a box office, cloakroom and lounge area for interval drinks.

The theatre's diverse programme keeps theatre-goers on their toes and is the perfect place to catch one-off gigs and music events, stand-up and comedy nights, new writing, musicals, dance and much more.

The theatre is ideal for corporate evenings, and for those looking to host a private event with a difference you can even book an entire performance. The team also offer exclusive casino and comedy-oriented fun evenings with buffet and personal bar staff service. For further details on the pub go to page 23. (Image supplied by The Old Joint Stock Theatre.) [oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk](http://oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk)

## PLACES TO VISIT

### Birmingham Cathedral

Colmore Row, B3 2QB  
0121 262 1840

[birminghamcathedral.com](http://birminghamcathedral.com)

Almost 300 years old and the third smallest Cathedral in the country; pop in for a visit to see the beautiful stained-glass windows or to catch a lunchtime concert. Drop a few pounds into the collection box to help future generations enjoy the experience too.

### Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH  
0121 303 1966

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

The finest collection of Pre-Raphaelite art and an ever-changing programme of contemporary exhibitions across numerous gallery spaces means you can easily spend a whole day brushing up on culture in beautiful surroundings.

### The Birmingham & Midland Institute

Margaret Street, B3 3BS  
0121 236 3591

[BMI.org.uk](http://BMI.org.uk)

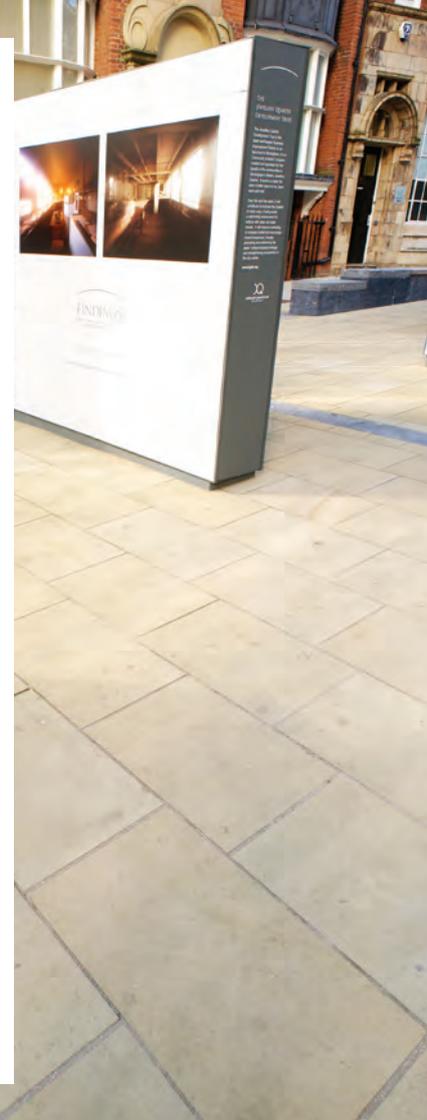
A treasure-trove of information, lectures and talks aplenty.

### Whitewall Galleries

9 Colmore Row, B3 2QD  
0121 200 3328

[whitewallgalleries.com](http://whitewallgalleries.com)

The place to head for contemporary and classic art pieces. Get on the mailing list for event launches and artist appearances.



**Hindleys Bakery**

Fountain Court, 128 Steelhouse Lane,  
B4 6DR  
0121 236 2886  
[hindleys-bakers.co.uk](http://hindleys-bakers.co.uk)

The family-run traditional bakery make their own bread daily and use it to make fresh sandwiches. They also offer a range of delicious cakes and sweet pastries.

**Little Waitrose**

1 Colmore Row, B3 2BJ  
0121 200 3244  
[waitrose.com](http://waitrose.com)

Like a big Waitrose but smaller, and ideal for grabbing a quick snack or something for dinner on the way home.

**Philpotts**

34 Bennetts Hill, B2 5SN  
0121 233 3262  
36 Colmore Circus Queensway, B4 6BN  
0121 212 2757  
[philpotts.co.uk](http://philpotts.co.uk)

The well-established sandwich chain uses the freshest ingredients and is a hit with the office crowd. They also offer a pre-order service for the whole office.

**Rustic Sandwich Shop**

35 Livery Street, B3 2PB  
0121 233 4444

At the Rustic Sandwich Shop all sandwiches are made fresh and in front of you. Choose from a wide selection of fillings and build the perfect sandwich. There is also a variety of home-cooked hot food on offer, prepared daily. A great lunchtime option.

**Simply Eat**

35 Colmore Row, B3 2BS  
0121 236 8141  
[simply-eat.co.uk](http://simply-eat.co.uk)

Simply Eat offers classic hot and cold food in a welcoming environment at great value.

**Subway**

York House, 64 Newhall Street,  
B3 3RJ  
0121 212 9684  
[subway.co.uk](http://subway.co.uk)

Check out the daily deals from Subway and make up your sub just the way you like it. And no, you don't have to have gherkins!

**Thorough Bread**

Snow Hill Station, Colmore Row,  
B3 2QD  
0121 233 0184  
Situated in Snow Hill Station, this bakery offers a range of hot drinks, sandwiches and cakes.

**Tucker's**

9 The Minories, Temple Court,  
B4 6AG  
0121 236 8268

A sandwich bar within the Minories shopping centre that offers freshly made to order sandwiches and baguettes. The perfect place for a cooked breakfast, with more hot food options available.

**Genie Printing and Mailing**

42 Bull Street, B4 6AF  
0121 244 4949

*genieprinting.co.uk*

A rapid response printing company whose services include high volume photocopying, wide format reprographics and litho printing.

**Johnsons the Cleaners**

41 Bull Street, B4 6AF  
0121 236 6064

*johnsoncleaners.com*

A large range of laundry cleaning services on offer including alterations and repairs.

**Kall Kwik**

38 Waterloo Street, B2 5PP  
0121 212 0500

*kallkwikbirmingham.co.uk*

A comprehensive range of high quality design and print services with a proven track record of designing, printing and delivering products for over 30 years.

**Mail Boxes ETC**

27 Colmore Row, B3 2EW  
0121 685 8300

*mbebirmingham.com*

Whatever you need to help you take care of business from outsourcing print, parcel despatch and mailroom needs.

**Pinfolds Dry Cleaners**

Fountain Court, Steelhouse Lane, B4 6DR  
0121 236 5733

*pinfoldsdrycleaners.co.uk*

A family owned business ideal for dropping off/collecting your items on your daily commute with over 40 years experience in the dry cleaning industry

**Snappy Snaps**

29 Colmore Row, B3 2BS  
0121 236 2022

*snappysnaps-birmingham.co.uk*

Photo printing, passport photos, posters & canvases, scanning, retouching and lots more.

**Traifinders**

22-24 The Priory Queensway, B4 6BS

0121 236 1234

*traifinders.com*

Traifinders' award winning consultants are on hand to offer ideas, inspiration and exceptional value for money on your next holiday.

**Wilf Gilbert Bookmakers**

37 Colmore Row, B3 2BS  
0121 733 3121

An independent off-course betting shop company that has been in operation since 1880 and is now managed and operated by the family's fourth generation of bookmakers.

**Bon Bon Newsagents**

3 New Market Street, B3 2NH  
0121 236 2976

Bon Bon sells newspapers, magazines and tobacco, as well as a good selection of sweets, snacks and soft drinks. They offer freshly made sandwiches, baguettes and hot breakfast sandwiches all prepared daily on the premises.

**One Stop Newsagents**

21 Colmore Row, B3 2BH  
0121 233 3827

26 Priory Queensway, B4 6BS

0121 236 5192

*onestop.co.uk*

Convenient newsagents that offer Paypoint and E Top-Up services.

**Snow Hill News**

Kiosk 2, 35 Livery Street, B3 2PB  
0121 236 2260

Mon-Fri: 8am-4pm

Local newsagents and convenience Store.



## HOTEL DU VIN BIRMINGHAM

25 Church Street, B3 2NR

0121 200 0600

[hotelduvin.com/hotels/birmingham](http://hotelduvin.com/hotels/birmingham)

A hotel spa dedicated to your relaxation, rejuvenation and beautification. The previously disused *Birmingham Eye Hospital* is the distinctive location for Hotel du Vin's largest hotel, one of the most iconic in Birmingham. This ornate, early Victorian red-brick building was sympathetically converted to provide 66 bedrooms and suites around a courtyard.

Hotel du Vin & Bistro Birmingham has incorporated all the original features, including a magnificent sweeping staircase and granite pillars. It is a relaxing haven in the city, offering a spa, gym and a Pub du Vin serving local ales and traditional pub food.

The stylish, charismatic hotel's timelessly styled bedrooms and stunning suites all feature luxurious handsprung mattresses, fine Egyptian linen and powerful drench showers, plasma TVs and air conditioning. No two guest rooms are the same; they come in various shapes and sizes, some even with the signature du Vin roll-top bath.

*Bistro du Vin* serves up dishes that not only taste great, but are also made using locally sourced produce and, wherever possible, organic too. It's about enjoying moderately priced à la carte dining in a down-to-earth, warm and relaxing setting.

*Pub du Vin* can be found in the cellar and has been officially voted into *The Good Beer Guide* for the quality of the ale served.

## THISTLE BIRMINGHAM CITY

St Chad's Queensway, B4 6HY

0121 606 4500

[thistle.co.uk](http://thistle.co.uk)

The hotel has 133 bedrooms, including suites, and eight meeting rooms, the largest seating 200 people theatre-style. Combined with the city-centre location, it makes for an ideal meeting, party or wedding venue.

The restaurant and bar are perfectly placed for a light meal during the day, drinks after work or a relaxing dinner after a long day's shopping or meeting.

*Monty's Brasserie* serves classic British and European cuisine in informal surroundings, while *Wimsey's Bar* leads into the conservatory and the open roof terrace, where you can enjoy panoramic views over the city.

Whether you're in Birmingham for business, a short break, a shopping trip or a family occasion, the newly refurbished hotel rooms have everything you need for a relaxing, comfortable stay.

All standard and deluxe rooms and suites at Thistle Birmingham City are air-conditioned, en-suite and have BT Openzone wireless broadband access.

## HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

Whittall Street, B4 6HY

0121 647 3999

[hiebingham.co.uk](http://hiebingham.co.uk)

Birmingham's new Holiday Inn Express at Snow Hill opened in June offering 224 spacious contemporary bedrooms. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel, including all bedrooms. A free continental breakfast is available to all guests, and residents can relax in the *Great Room* where they can enjoy a drink at the bar or a bite to eat. The hotel also has four meeting and event suites as well as a state-of-the-art fitness centre for all guests staying at the hotel.



Colmore Business District provides a Street Warden service to ensure the District is as safe and welcoming as possible.

The Street Wardens work closely with *West Midlands Police* to ensure that any anti-social behaviour, street nuisances and environmental disturbances are dealt with immediately, helping to keep the District a safe place in which to work and do business. The wardens have a link to the West Midlands Police Control Room (connected to CCTV camera operators) should they come across any safety issues.

The Street Wardens patrol the District daily, checking that the area is clean and inviting and ensuring any environmental or road and pavement defects are reported back to Birmingham City Council.

The wardens do regular visits to businesses in the District to liaise with reception and security teams and deal with any safety concerns.

A high visible presence, the wardens play a welcoming role and regularly give directions to visitors who may be looking for an office building for a meeting or a hotel in which they will be staying.

To contact the Street Warden office, call 0121 616 1629 or email [streetwardens@colmorebusinessdistrict.com](mailto:streetwardens@colmorebusinessdistrict.com).

## COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT INFORMATION

### CBD Address

Colmore Business District  
2nd Floor  
Whitehall Chambers  
23 Colmore Row  
Birmingham, B3 2BU

### CBD Phone

0121 236 4689

### CBD Website

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

### CBD Twitter

@colmoreBID

### CBD Team

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*Michele Wilby*

Events & Comms Manager  
*Tahreen Kutub*

Projects Manager  
*Mike Mounfield*

Projects Assistant  
*Teri Tromans*

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