

CBD

digest



Film Bug 2013

Launch of Two Snowhill

Findings Photography Exhibition

Colmore Business District

Colmore Business District (CBD) is a business improvement district (BID) established to project manage improvements 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 that improve the environment in which they work. BIDs deliver additional services to those provided by the local authority and the police.

The CBD area is Birmingham's premier concentration of professional and business service companies, 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 first class hospitality sector, comprising of excellent restaurants, bars, pubs, shops, coffee houses and hotels that provide for corporate customers and visitors to the area.

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

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

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Film Bug returns for 2013 14



Mini festival of film in Birmingham's business district

Photography Exhibition Findings: 17



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

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CBD 'To-Do List' 27

WELCOME

Michele Wilby
Managing Editor



Welcome to the Spring 2013 edition of CBD Digest. We are delighted to have partnered with Flatpack Festival again this year to bring our mini film festival, Film Bug, to the business district for the second year. There will be fantastic screenings in venues in and around Colmore Business District; the full schedule of screenings can be found in our headline feature on Film Bug in this edition.

There are more updates on our activities as well as local business news and features, including the very exciting launch of Two Snowhill, the largest office development to be delivered outside of London this year. CBD Digest also has a competition to win a prize at one of our great restaurants in the District, as well as a 'To Do' List, giving details on local events.

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News in Brief

Future Commission Reports Back

What are the key conditions that will make Birmingham the number one choice for young professionals? How does the young professional influence the shape of the city?

After months of witness sessions, research, analysis and discussion, The Future Commission, set up by Birmingham Future, published its findings and recommendations in response to these questions in January.

The Future Commission has been supported and partly sponsored by Colmore Business District and offers an in depth analysis and exploration of the key conditions and environment required to enable the city's business and professional services sector to attract and retain the brightest talent in Birmingham.

To read about the Future Commission's findings and recommendations, visit <http://birminghamfuturecommission.co.uk>.

SimkissGuy pledge is to put people first

Two friends who share a passion for putting people first have created Birmingham's latest recruitment agency in the heart of the city's business district.

SimkissGuy's founders, Becky Simkiss and Richard Guy, met when he was a team leader for a major blue-chip recruitment consultancy, and she registered as a candidate.

Now, nine years on, they're back working together, under their own brand, and determined to stand out from the crowd in their fiercely competitive sector.

Their Colmore Plaza-based venture, SimkissGuy, specialises in providing office support personnel across the range of business sectors, from manufacturing to professional services.

Psigma to launch Birmingham office

Psigma Investment Management has opened its first regional office in Colmore Business District, Birmingham.

Toby Carpenter, formerly head of private clients at Charles Stanley, has been appointed to head the investment advisers' expansion drive in the city. Toby has more than 13 years experience of private client investment management. Prior to Charles Stanley, where he spent more than three years, he was head of private banking at Kaupthing, Singer & Freidlander's Birmingham office. He started his career in private banking, at Coutts.

Psigma was established in 2002 and is part of the Punter Southall Group, a diverse financial services business offering independent financial and actuarial advice, institutional and private client investment services. The Group employs 850 people across the UK and opened its Birmingham office in 2001. It now has eight wealth managers in the city, headed by Richard Meek, and an actuarial team of 25, headed by Nigel Wilmin. Toby will join Punter Southall at their One Colmore Row base.

New Youth Business Hub Invests In Midland Start Up Loanees

Two of the co-founders of BizBritain Finance, a national delivery partner of the Start Up Loans Company have launched The Hot500, an inclusive entrepreneur hub network designed to support young people from the Midlands who are interested in starting their own business, alongside those who have received funding from the £112 million StartUp Loans funding scheme.

Midland entrepreneurs Joel Blake AGP and Gary Lennon co-founded The Hot500, to support the top 500 young entrepreneurs in the region, providing a peer to peer learning community that

brings together StartUp Loan recipients, aspiring entrepreneurs from local colleges and universities, young people who have never been to university and young people from disadvantaged communities.

The Hot500 Club is free for 16 - 35 year olds and provides a peer mastermind programme for young people, alongside one-to-one mentoring support, business and personal development training, talent showcasing and motivational seminars from business and community leaders. www.thehot500.co.uk

A38 Tunnel Closures

Birmingham residents, businesses and visitors are advised that the A38 tunnels through the city centre are going to be closed for six weeks this summer while essential refurbishment is carried out.

The St Chad's and Queensway tunnels will be shut completely to all traffic from 19th July to 2nd September. The closure will be preceded by four weeks of overnight closures, from 10pm to 6am, and followed by up to two weeks of similar overnight closures.

Amey, working in partnership with Birmingham City Council, has been liaising with business representatives to ensure that appropriate diversion routes are put in place.

People who work in the city centre or who visit Birmingham are being urged to consider how they travel during the six week closure period, with train, bus and cycling all viable alternatives to driving.

Colmore Business District is liaising with Amey to keep businesses in the District informed about the closures and any updates to information.

Two Snowhill to launch with unique 10-day event

Tahreen Kutub

Two Snowhill, Birmingham's latest Grade A office development, is to open its doors to the public in April with a unique 10-day event.

The sixth floor of the new 14-storey building in Colmore Business District will host a specially commissioned performance installation, which has toured the world over the past 10 years, by local independent theatre company Stan's Cafe. Tahreen Kutub talked to developers, Hines and Ballymore, and the co-founder and artistic director of Stan's Cafe about the new office development and the unique showcase to the public.

Comprising of 313,000 sq ft, Two Snowhill is the largest office development to be launched outside of London this year and is the only new office building to be brought to the Birmingham market until at least 2015. Designed by award-winning Sidell Gibson Architects, the building is located next to Snow Hill Station and to its sister building, One Snowhill - a 260,00 sq ft, 13-storey building that was completed in 2009 and is occupied by KPMG and Barclays. Construction of Two Snowhill started in May 2011 shortly after Hines' European Development Fund II acquired the site and agreed to jointly develop the scheme with Ballymore.

Approximately 60% of the building has been pre-let to UK headquartered international law firm Wragge & Co., expected to relocate from its offices in 55 Colmore Row in early 2014. Around 120,000 sq ft of office space is available to let and a further 8,000 sq ft of ground floor retail space. Two Snowhill has achieved an Excellent sustainability rating from BREEAM, the UK industry standard environmental assessment method and rating system for buildings.

Richard Probert, commercial sales and letting manager (UK) for Ballymore said, "We wanted to deliver Grade A space that is both efficient and above all built with quality in mind. The strong focus on generous common areas and glass facades was important to create a sense of spaciousness and allow light throughout the offices. It is important as well that the scheme is situated close to key transport modes. Two Snowhill is next to Snow Hill Station, near or on 12 bus routes and will have its own dedicated tram stop with the Birmingham City Centre Extension."

The public 10-day launch event will host a 10th Anniversary version of Stan's Cafe's award winning installation 'Of All The People In All The World.' The performance installation uses grains of rice to communicate a variety of local and global human statistics. The show, which has toured globally over the past 10 years, evolves and responds to real time events and local and world news as they happen. The show at Two Snowhill will include statistics for Birmingham, the business district, current affairs and employment within the city. Representations will include the number of commuters passing through Snow Hill Station at a particular time, the changing population in the city and the number of people involved in building Two Snowhill. Over 20 tonnes of rice will be taken into Two Snowhill for the installation.

Speaking about the launch, Anthony Leonard, director of Hines, said the developers wanted to hold something unique and memorable that allowed access to all members of the public, many of whom may not have had the opportunity or need to visit an office development previously. He added, "It's also about supporting the arts and putting something back into the community. ►



Stan's Cafe installation at the Kampnagel Sommer Festival in Hamburg, 2008



Two Snowhill under construction

► This is a free cultural event that is open to all, including university and college students who may not have been to the business quarter before and yet may be working here in a few years."

James Yarker, co-founder and artistic director of Stan's Cafe, was attracted to showcasing the installation at Two Snowhill as a way of engagement with the public in the theatre company's home city. He said, 'We have taken the show to more than 50 cities worldwide, including Barcelona, Melbourne, Tokyo, Toronto and Zurich so it's great to hold the installation in our home city. The last time we did the show in Birmingham was four years ago in a metal working factory in the Jewellery Quarter. This is the first time that we have been engaged by corporate firms; Two Snowhill is a beautiful venue and has a spectacular view.'" Located in the



Stan's Cafe installation at Angers, France in 2007

Jewellery Quarter, Stan's Cafe creates all of its own productions and provides unusual independent theatre related to the world and current affairs; its last show was *The Just Price of Flowers* in association with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and was focused on the banking crisis.

In addition to showcasing the inside of Two Snowhill, Hines and Ballymore are committed to improving the wider public realm around the building with the installation of a green wall between the scheme and Snow Hill Station. With a length of 220 metres and height of seven metres, the wall will incorporate 604 sq m of planting, as well as decorative aluminium panels, and will be the largest of its kind in Europe. An irrigation system that waters and feeds plants automatically will maintain the wall, and visitors will be able to see it flourish over the summer of 2013.

The launch event will be taking place from **Friday 12th to Sunday 21st April 2013.**

For further information on Two Snowhill and Stan's Cafe, visit **www.twosnowhillbirmingham.com** and **www.stanscafe.co.uk**.

Inside Gateley

with Mike Ward



Mike Ward, senior partner - Gateley

Tahreen Kutub

Gateley is a full service national law firm with its head office on Edmund Street in Colmore Business District (CBD), Birmingham. With eight offices in the UK and one in Dubai, Gateley has achieved a number of successes over the last year. Senior partner Mike Ward talked to Tahreen Kutub about the firm, its achievements and working life.

Corporate and Real Estate law are the two largest areas of service provided by Gateley, each representing approximately 20% of the business. The firm has worked with many high profile brands including Lloyds Pharmacy, BT, The Football League, Lovell, Barratt, HSBC and Birmingham City FC. Gateley has around 730 members of staff, 230 of which are based in the office in CBD. Furthermore, the residential team based in the Birmingham office is a growing practice area, whilst the firm expanded its 15-strong pensions team last year with the appointment of a new associate and solicitor in Birmingham. Mike said, 'Gateley has grown as the number of its clients has grown. We're about providing a personal service and have found that word of mouth and recommendation have been the best form of promotion for the firm.'

The service provided by Gateley has been recognised by a number of awards over the last year. In 2012, Gateley topped the national law firm league table in the Legal Week Client Satisfaction Report to be named Best Legal Advisor, being recognised for service delivery and responsiveness as well as clear commercial advice, use of IT and personal/partner relationships. Gateley was also named 'Corporate Law Firm of the Year'

at the 2012 Midlands Dealmakers Awards, retaining the accolade for the second year running. Furthermore, the corporate and banking teams in Gateley's Midlands offices were named most active legal advisors by volume in the 2012 Experian Corpfin M&A Advisor League Tables. Mike commented that this is the first time Gateley has topped the league table, having achieved second place in 2011.

Gateley has four or five employees in secondment placements with clients at any one time. Mike explained that the firm sees this as key to developing relationships with clients. He said, "Secondments allow employees an insight into the working environments of our clients, any challenges that they face or any frustrations when dealing with legal issues; this insight allows a better understanding of client needs and in turn can help develop a better working relationship."

As well as being a strong player in its field, Gateley contributes actively to the community. The firm is a member of Birmingham Law Society, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Birmingham Forward and has recently become a patron of Birmingham Future, the networking organisation for young professionals. In March, Gateley will be taking part in Birmingham Future's Live & Work in Birmingham event, which will be showcasing the employment and lifestyle opportunities in the city to around 1,000 university and college students and school leavers. Mike, who joined the firm in 1987 and took over the role of senior partner in 2001, is a former president and treasurer of the Birmingham

Law Society and was president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce last year.

Speaking about the working life at Gateley, Mike described the firm's motto as "work hard, play hard." The Birmingham office holds one social club event a month for staff members. Employees are also involved in fun and challenging fundraising activities, raising more than £140,000 for a variety of charities last year including the Foundation for Conductive Education. Fundraising activities have included competing in the Stratford Half Marathon, taking part in a sponsored skydive as well as the main fundraising event of the year, the Gateley 'Five for Fifty' run. This event had 100 teams from across the Midlands' business community take part in a family fun day and 5km run in Cannon Hill Park last autumn. Gateley staff members nominated Make-a-Wish as their national charity for the 2012/13 financial year and are also fundraising for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Cancer Appeal.

In addition to fundraising, the Birmingham team works with schools and colleges to deliver mentoring schemes. Recently the Birmingham office was involved in a Confederation of British Industry project to shadow local secondary schools and offer pupils an insight into the workings of a law firm. Gateley worked with King Edward VI Camp Hill Boys School on a competitive project to look at ways to help improve the firm's energy use and drive down energy costs. The firm will continue working with Birmingham schools and colleges throughout 2013.

www.gateleyuk.com

Primitivo

Bar and eatery in Colmore Business District

Tahreen Kutub

A small independent bar and eatery on Barwick Street in Colmore Business District (CBD), Primitivo is full of charm and character and a hugely popular drinking and eating venue amongst the business community. With a 17 year history, Primitivo has always been in the same location within the former Grand Hotel building and has seen and been part of the area's development into a premier culinary destination. I talked to owner Prit Sagoo about Primitivo's longevity and the fact that it is still going strong.



Prit bought into Primitivo 17 years ago and has solely owned it for the past 15 years. She plays a key role at front of house and takes a very hands-on approach. One thing that is clear almost immediately upon commencing the interview is Prit's passion for and commitment towards the business. She said, "During the early years there were hardly any other food and drink establishments in the business quarter, the area wasn't seen as a

place for eating out. We worked really hard to establish relationships with our customers, many of whom have stayed with us to this day. My customers are guests to me; I offer the same hospitality and care that I would give to a guest visiting my home."

As well as developing customer relationships, Prit believes it is vital to build relationships and loyalty with suppliers. She explained, "A good relationship with a supplier is important as you will find that you'll help each other out when times get hard. You tend to go the extra mile for each other." Much like the customers who have continued to visit Primitivo for the past 17 years, suppliers have also retained long term relationships with the bar and eatery for the duration. For example, Prit has been using the same wine supplier since she bought into Primitivo.

Prit described the Primitivo menus as modern British with continental flavours. The menus are seasonal and change on a regular basis although they have kept to the general modern British theme throughout. The food is freshly cooked on the premises in view of customers via an open kitchen. There is also a strong emphasis on local produce. Prit regularly invests in the interior of the bar and eatery; not huge changes but very subtle improvements that continually enhance the venue. Primitivo is open to the public Monday to Friday and is open only for private

parties on Saturday. The venue often hosts corporate and private events for the local business community.

Like many hospitality businesses, Primitivo was affected by the recession that hit in 2008, which had an impact on corporate businesses (the key customer base for the bar and eatery) leading to the end of many expense accounts. Prit said, "We felt the effects for about three years. I chose to work more hours during this time so that I didn't lose any of my staff. Everything about Primitivo is personal to me and I believe passion and commitment are key to the success of a business." Prit also believes it is important to put back into the community and supports a number of charities that are close to her heart.

The bar and eatery has a small team, including two chefs, a kitchen porter and manager. Prit described her team as the core of the business and believes the positivity of working well together as a team improves the customer's overall experience. She believes this, together with relationship building, passion and commitment, is the factor behind Primitivo's longevity.

For further information about Primitivo and its menus, visit www.primitivo-birmingham.co.uk.





A Morning in the Life of a CBD Street Warden

CBD board director, Ben Gulliford with street warden, Brian Ward

Tahreen Kutub

A key objective for Colmore Business District (CBD) is to ensure the District is a safe and welcoming place. As part of this objective CBD provides a highly visible street warden service for the area. Our board director, Ben Gulliford from Barclays, spent a morning out in the District with CBD street warden, Brian Ward, to see first-hand what the working life of a warden entailed.....

Ben accompanied Brian on his duties in the District on what was a bitterly cold morning. The thought had crossed his mind, though only for a moment, that he perhaps should have done this in the summer! Nevertheless, keen to really experience a morning in the life of a street warden, Ben was going to make the most of this opportunity (come rain or shine) to shadow Brian as he continued with his daily activities.

On duty, Ben observed Brian had an ear piece that linked him to the West Midlands Police Control Room (connected to CCTV camera operators), through the Birmingham Retail Crime Operation*, should he come across any safety issues such as anti-social behaviour or street nuisances. As they approached the Livery Street Subway, they encountered a passive beggar who was known to Brian. He politely reminder the beggar that he would need to move on from the subway and also offered advice as to organisations he could contact to get support.

As they patrolled the District, Brian and Ben were asked for directions to organisations within the city; Optical Express and the old Birmingham Science Museum on this occasion. Ben noticed that Brian's high visibility attire clearly distinguished him as someone people could approach for help. He also observed that Brian would often use his own judgement and approach people directly to assist them if they were studying a map or looked like they were trying to find their way. On several occasions, they were both able to give directions to business clients and visitors in the area, which showed the key welcoming role that wardens play.

Further into the walk, they noticed some graffiti in the area; Brian made a note of this to report to Birmingham City Council to address the matter. On another occasion, they saw a metal bin had opened with its door flapping in the wind. They closed this and moved on with their patrol. They later came across a paving slab that was unstable, which Brian noted to report to the City Council. As they walked on, constant checks were made to ensure the area was clean, safe and inviting and any issues were reported back to the relevant stakeholders.

During the morning, they encountered a number of people that Brian knew well, including Big Issue sellers PJ and Bubble, a street cleaning operative, members of the police and several business owners. They had a friendly exchange with each and it quickly became apparent to Ben that Brian was an integral part of the CBD community and was passionate about using his time in the area to make a positive difference.

Speaking about his experience, Ben said, "My time with Brian showed me that the street wardens do many tasks that are visible and recognised but also many things that perhaps could go unnoticed. They brave the elements and are a constant set of eyes and ears to ensure that both those working in the CBD area and those who are visiting have a high quality experience in the business district of our great city."

To contact the Street Warden office, call 0121 616 1629 or email streetwardens@colmorebusinessdistrict.com.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

** The Birmingham Retail Crime Operation (RCO) is a not for profit organisation which works towards crime prevention and detection. The RCO runs a radio link-up for the city centre, which connects member retailers and businesses, street wardens, Police Camera, police crime fighting teams and National Car Parks on the same radio network for the purpose of crime prevention; the radio link allows the different parties to communicate with each other at the press of a button.*

Lloyds in the community



Tahreen Kutub

Andrew Connors is responsible for running Lloyds Bank Commercial's Mid Market business in the West Midlands.

I first met Andrew in 2010. Since that initial meeting, I've frequently heard about a number of local community projects that Lloyds has been involved with in the city....

Founded in Birmingham in 1765, Lloyds has deep roots in the city and takes its responsibility to support the local community very seriously. As the bank approaches 250 years in 2015, with Birmingham to be the hub for celebrations, I was keen to talk to Andrew to find out more about Lloyds's Birmingham heritage and the local projects it has supported.

Andrew explained that for the first 100 years of Lloyds's history, the bank did not move beyond Birmingham. As a result, Lloyds has built many long standing relationships with clients in the West Midlands including Salts Healthcare (based in Aston) where the banking relationship is believed to be over 200 years old, the University of Birmingham which has been a client since 1900, and the FTSE 100 engineering company, IMI plc. Andrew said, "The Lloyds head office is in London now but the bank has a very strong connection to Birmingham due to its history. We're in the process of putting together plans for the 250 year celebrations in the city; it will be a very exciting time for the bank in Birmingham."

Lloyds has over 100,000 employees globally, just under 10,000 of which are in the Midlands. The offices in Birmingham undertake a lot of national and international

business. All of the bank's international trade processing is managed from the offices in Brindleyplace whilst Lloyds's National Commercial Credit Centre and Business Banking operations are based in the office at 125 Colmore Row. Just under 1,000 employees are based within offices in the Colmore Business District (CBD) area.

Local community participation is very important to the bank as Andrew explained. He said the bank is very excited about involvement in the Business Connector Programme, a scheme run by Business in the Community that places senior managers or 'business connectors' in disadvantaged communities. The connectors work to engage local organisations to understand the issues facing their community and then create links between business and local community organisations to address these needs. Lloyds is committed to supporting this, including putting in 20 full time business connectors.

Lloyds is also committed to Business in the Community's Business Class programme, where corporates work with local schools to support them in raising levels of aspiration and achievement amongst the pupils. Over the past two years, the bank has been working with Park View School in Alum Rock and supported them in achieving their 'Outstanding School' OFSTED rating in 2012. Lloyds also supported the school's leadership team on the route to Academy status and assisted them in dealing with the day to day challenges faced by a large school. Currently, around 10 Lloyds employees volunteer at the school every Friday to help students with a reading programme. Andrew mentioned that the bank was the first corporate company in

Birmingham to commit to the Business Class programme, which now has 14 corporates involved.

Furthermore, last year Lloyds established a partnership with social enterprise, Enabling Enterprise, which works with schools to embed practical learning and business skills into the curriculum. Working with Enabling Enterprise and Park View, Lloyds has hosted business visits for students and provided mentoring support.

In addition to working with a school, Lloyds has helped support youth homelessness charity St Basils. A 20 person team from the bank took part in the St Basils Sleep Out last December, raising over £15,000. Andrew himself has taken part in the Sleep Out for the past two years. Lloyds also raised approximately £40,000 for the Birmingham Children's Hospital in 2012 through activities including a Coast to Coast walk, achieved via a relay method, with 28 participants from the Mid Markets team over 16 days. Their final fund raising effort of 2012 for the hospital was a carol concert held in Birmingham Cathedral in CBD in December. Andrew said the bank will continue to fundraise for the Children's Hospital, in particular the £20 million appeal for a new cancer unit.

Andrew has worked for Lloyds for the past 20 years, the last five of which have been in Birmingham. Talking about the city, he emphasised that it is a "great place to build strong community relationships." This has been shown through the activities and projects undertaken and supported by Lloyds – a bank that is clearly proud and passionate about its heritage and local community.

www.lloydsbankwholesale.com

CBD welcomes

Mott MacDonald

Tahreen Kutub

Mott MacDonald is a global management, engineering and development consultancy with offices in 50 countries and projects in 140. The company's Birmingham office moved along Newhall Street to Colmore Business District (CBD) in October 2012. Tahreen Kutub visited the office in CBD to talk about the company's projects and services, as well as the move into the District.

The company was established in the city almost 50 years ago as AHS Waters & Partners. In 1984 the practice was acquired by Mott Hay & Anderson, which in turn merged with Sir M MacDonald & Partners in 1989. The original offering of the company was focussed on drainage and sewerage works, but in the mid 1980s, the firm grew into a transport and infrastructure company and later widened its business to all forms of civil engineering, integrated transport, commercial and project management. This was in response to changes in the market and client requirements.

According to Mott MacDonald consultant, Richard Green, the infrastructure needs of the region dictated the diversification of the company's services. Citing an example, he said, "We now do a lot of advisory work for hospitals and schools. We work on the initial stages of the development plan in addition to the design and management of the building work. This is because the procurement of hospitals and schools has shifted in recent years from local to more centralised funding, often with an element of private finance, requiring multi-disciplinary consultancy services in the development stage."

Mott MacDonald has been involved with a number of regional projects including working for Centro on the Birmingham City Centre Extension to Midland Metro and the procurement of new trams, as well as future development of the network and strategic transport planning for Birmingham and the Black Country. Projects have also included the refurbishment of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, the infrastructure design and planning for Edgbaston Cricket Ground and several new railway stations in the West Midlands and further afield.

Mott MacDonald moved to CBD to be a part of the thriving business quarter of the city and to be closer to key clients, including Centro and Network Rail. The new office on Newhall Street has approximately 180 employees over two floors. Although a relatively large local office involved in big local projects, the Birmingham

team works very closely with other Mott MacDonald offices across the world. Richard believes this to be one of the main reasons for the company's success, as it is committed to knowledge and skills sharing and encourages collaboration on projects across the UK and beyond.

Another feature in the success of the office is the company's commitment to investment in education and supporting the professionals of the future by offering graduate training schemes and work experience placements for both school and university students. Mott MacDonald director, Ashley Taylor, added "We aim to have one or two students on either a one year or six month placement. In addition, we take several university vacation and post GCSE work experience students over the summer period and play an active part in local professional institutions such as the Institution of Civil Engineers. We really care about the training and development of our future professionals – education is everything if we are to continue to deliver high level, high tech projects in the region."

Sustainability is a key part of Mott MacDonald's culture and features strongly in its projects. Richard explained that the office is equipped with state of the art technology to allow teleconferencing and minimise the need for travel. He added that this has been embraced by clients who are able to participate in meetings remotely and share a more time efficient way of doing business.

Talking about working life in CBD, Richard spoke about the cleanliness of the area, the growing range of cafes and the beautiful architecture in the vicinity. He believes Church Street is now a pleasant place to relax, following CBD's partnership with Birmingham City Council on the public realm enhancement project, which has brought about the new public square. He mentioned he would welcome further public realm enhancement projects and improved lighting in public spaces, which CBD is aiming to work on. Richard also spoke about the sense of community in the area, which has been facilitated by activities such as CBD's Colmore Chorus choir of local business people; seven employees from Mott MacDonald took part in the choir's Christmas programme of performances in 2012 and really enjoyed the experience. Mott MacDonald looks forward to participating in future community activities in the area.

De Vere Venues

Colmore Gate

Tahreen Kutub

National training, meeting and conference provider De Vere Venues opened its Birmingham venue in Colmore Gate in Colmore Business District (CBD) in April 2012. Tahreen Kutub interviewed Claire Meir, director of sales at De Vere Venues Colmore Gate to find out about the Birmingham venue....

Why did De Vere Venues decide to open in Birmingham?

De Vere has fantastic coverage in the south of the UK, London and the North including Manchester and Bolton. Our gap was in the Midlands and we had focussed for a number of years on finding the right venue in the city. Colmore Gate is a great location in the heart of the business community. Our clients are from sectors including education and the third sector but our main client focus is very much within the business, professional and financial services so the location in Colmore Business District was ideal.

Aside from location, were there any other aspects that attracted you to the Colmore Gate building?

Yes, the space was completely open plan when we moved in, which gave us the flexibility to determine the size of our training rooms and meeting spaces to achieve the best range. We have designed 18 meeting and training rooms that accommodate between 10 and 150 delegates. The rooms allow wall-to-wall natural daylight and come with LCD projector, screen and AV equipment, which are all included within the hire rate. The training rooms come with grab rails and all the furniture can be moved to allow flexible space to suit the needs of different clients. There is also free WiFi internet.

How do the meeting and training rooms differ from the breakout areas?

The décor of the meeting, conference and training rooms is very neutral to fit in with corporate offices. The breakout spaces, on the other hand, are relaxed and informal with vibrant colours and a variety of furniture including big comfy sofas to allow clients to 'switch off' during their breaks. These spaces have unlimited bean to cup coffee and a range of teas, mineral water, biscuits and fresh fruit

What other services do you provide for clients to help them get the best out of the space?

We have energy stations where we provide complimentary porridge pots and De Vere energy bars, particularly for clients who may have arrived after a long journey. Throughout the day, our chef will put out different things for the breakout sessions. For example, he may provide miniature homemade scones for morning tea and then put out homemade lemonade for afternoon tea.

Tell us about the food that you offer.

We've launched the Verve Deli at Colmore Gate, which is focussed on healthy eating and stimulating the mind and body using high energy and super foods, so that delegates are always attentive and can concentrate during their day. The food includes fresh soup, sushi, wraps and sandwiches. The deli uses disposable packaging in which to serve the food in; this makes it a quick service at lunchtime in a comfy and casual environment. Our head chef is Chris Owen, who has worked for De Vere for almost 10 years.

De Vere Venues Colmore Gate has been involved in a series of activities since opening to raise awareness of its presence in Birmingham. What events have you held?

We had a six month launch campaign and activities included an event outside Snow Hill Station where we took a meeting space outside to the public. We recreated a full meeting space with carpet, tables, chairs and electronic equipment in the square and offered a number of giveaways to raise awareness of our new presence in Birmingham. We also had an official launch event in October 2012, which was tied in with fundraising for our nominated charity last year, the British Heart Foundation.

We are keen to develop joint ventures with the business community and help support local community events. We supported and hosted the nomination launch event for the Birmingham Young Professional of the Year awards in January and will also host the Judging Day for the awards later this year. We also encourage our staff to get involved with local community activities. Last year we took part in the Colmore Business District Community Games, which was great and we look forward to getting involved in further activities this year.

www.deverevenues.co.uk/locations/colmore-gate.html



Insight into KPMG in the District



Tahreen Kutub
Events & Communications Manager

Tahreen Kutub met with Mike Steventon, senior partner at KPMG Birmingham, to talk about the global professional services firm in Colmore Business District...

The first thing I noticed as I walked into the KPMG reception at One Snowhill was the lovely service I received. I was politely asked if I would like to have my coat taken and was taken to the spacious business lounge where I was offered a drink by staff with service that resembled front of house at a fine dining restaurant.

KPMG Birmingham, the fourth largest office in KPMG Europe with just under 1,000 employees, moved from its offices in Cornwall Street to the then newly developed One Snowhill in 2009. The decision to move had come about as the firm wanted to have a more open plan environment to facilitate different departments and teams working together. Mike said the company also wanted to be in a modern purpose built building to reflect "its modern and forward-thinking approach as a business."

At One Snowhill, KPMG has brought in a full in-house catering service that provides for staff and clients; Mike explained that this helps to promote a team environment by encouraging employees to eat together and also enhances the service to clients. Having tried the catering myself at an event, I could say with confidence that it is of very high quality. KPMG has used its space and catering to host events for organisations including Marketing Birmingham, the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership and the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. Mike revealed many of the events have had inward investors as delegates and KPMG has tried to enable the best use of its space and catering to really showcase Birmingham.

The One Snowhill space has also been used by KPMG for more unusual activities, including an indoor abseil last autumn to fundraise for The Prince's Trust. Mike commented that the event took a lot

of work to organise but, having taken part in the abseil himself, it was a very fun and enjoyable event. He spoke in favour of more fun competitive events to get the business community together and supports Colmore Business District holding more of these events, following the CBD Community Games, charity quiz night and Tug of War events last year.

In regards to KPMG's employees, the company has traditionally recruited mostly graduates as opposed to college and school leavers. This pattern has shifted recently with KPMG's Audit School and College Leaver Programme. Designed by KPMG, this is a six year programme that gives school and college leavers the opportunity to join the company's Audit team, gain an accounting degree from the University of Birmingham, Durham University or the University of Exeter, and become a fully qualified chartered accountant. The successful candidates also have tuition and university accommodation paid by KPMG as well as a competitive salary. Now in its third year, the programme will see KPMG Birmingham take on 20 school and college leavers this year as a way of reaching out to students who may not take the traditional route to employment in a professional services role.

As we finished the interview, Mike told me that he had taken the traditional route and joined KPMG as a graduate in 1986, becoming partner in 1998. He has travelled to many countries in his role at KPMG but maintained that the Midlands would always be home and he is very much a national and international ambassador for the region.

www.kpmg.com



Paving the way to happiness

in Colmore Business District...

Teri Tromans

In autumn 2012, Colmore Business District (CBD) carried out a survey with organisations in the District and held focus groups to discuss key issues important to employees in the area. A strong view that was reflected in the survey and focus groups was that the area is to be clean, attractive and safe to ensure the District is a pleasant area in which to do business and visit.

CBD strives to maintain a high quality streetscape in the District and works with Birmingham City Council and Amey to improve the look and feel of the area. As part of this, CBD has been working closely with Amey to look at the quality of the paving and roads within the District. Amey runs the Birmingham Highways Maintenance and Management Service in partnership with the Council. As part of this service, Amey, together with Birmingham City Council, is responsible for improving and maintaining the Birmingham Highways infrastructure, which includes 2,500km of road network and over 850 highway structures and bridges across the city.

Members of the CBD team, Lee Bilson and Teri Tromans, recently went out with Jason Bickley, a highway steward from Amey, to look at the paving and road surfaces in every street within the District to identify areas that would benefit from improvement works. This was in addition to the monthly checks undertaken by highways inspectors at Amey as well as the daily checks that are logged and reported by CBD's street warden service. The checks ensure that any faults,

including trip hazards and pot-holes are quickly fixed to minimise any safety risks. As a result of the checks and reporting, work is being undertaken on Colmore Row to improve the paving, and additional work has already been completed on the new Colmore Row bus shelters and bus stops by Centro and Birmingham City Council to help keep the area looking presentable.

As Lee and Teri walked around the District, they could see that the combination of checks by Amey and street wardens have ensured there are few paving safety issues to note down and most of the issues that were spotted had already been reported and were in the process of being fixed.

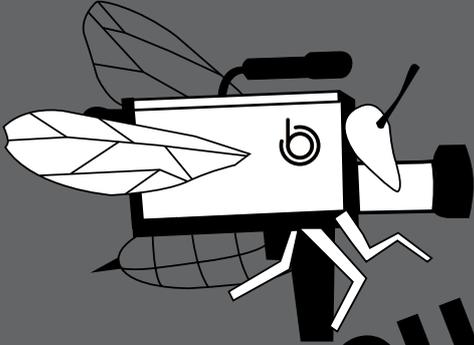
CBD will be continuing to work in partnership with Amey and Birmingham City Council to improve the paving within the area and ensure that the District looks its best.

If you come across any paving issues within the District, please contact Lee Bilson at the CBD office on 0121 236 4689 / lee-b@colmorebusinessdistrict.com and he will ensure your concerns are reported to Birmingham City Council and Amey.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

www.birmingham.gov.uk/highways

CBD



FILM BUG

Flatpack Festival COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT



THURSDAY 21ST MARCH

Safety Last!

Screening of the 1923 romantic comedy silent film starring Harold Lloyd with live accompaniment from John Sweeney. Giving you the chance to see one of the most famous images from the silent film era on the big screen - Lloyd dangling perilously from a clock on a skyscraper over a street of moving traffic below.

With cocktails and canapés.

Great Western Arcade, Colmore Row, Birmingham, B2 5HU

20.00 - £8 (£6) To book tickets, visit www.flatpackfestival.org.uk

www.greatwesternarcade.co.uk

An introduction to Flatpack with some of the best short films from festivals past and present.

Home Deli, 26 Church Street, Birmingham, B3 2NP

17:30 – 18:45

www.homecafedeli.com

Pedal-Powered Cinema

Running throughout the day on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Pedal-powered cinema will be located in CBD - linked in with the Sustrans campaign to encourage cycling to work.

11:00 – 18:00

Colmore Business District (CBD) has partnered with Flatpack Festival for the second year to bring Film Bug, a mini festival of film, to Birmingham's business district. From Thursday 21st March to Saturday 23rd March, Film Bug will take over venues in and around Colmore Business District for a diverse programme of features, short films and activities to coincide with the start of the seventh Flatpack Festival (21st -31st March).

The second Film Bug will feature Sol Cinema, the world's smallest solar powered cinema, Pop Up Opera from Birmingham Opera Company and a screening of romantic comedy Safety Last! in the Great Western Arcade, featuring one of the most iconic scenes in silent movie history.

Other treats include a Pedal Powered Cinema and Kopf Kino, a touring interactive projector housed simply in a shopping trolley and a 'bring your own 8mm film' event with the 8mm Cineclub.

On Saturday 23rd March, Birmingham's mysterious underground tunnel system will open up to the public with Subterraneans, a chance to take a tour of the hidden underworld of Birmingham. To coincide with the launch of Metropolis - an exhibition of visions of the modern city at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Film Bug will also feature a collection of short films on urban design at the museum.

There will be a Film Bug hub located in the former BSM Unit on Colmore Row (21 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BH) during the festival, where you will be able to pick up information about Film Bug.



FRIDAY 22nd MARCH

Sol Cinema

Presenting the world's smallest solar-powered movie theatre which houses eight people per screening – screenings last approximately 10-15 minutes.

Outside Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2QB

11:00 – 16:00

www.thesolcinema.org

Musictube

A curated programme of contemporary music videos screening at Yorks Bakery Café.

Yorks Bakery Café, 1-3 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 3NH

16:00 – 17:00

<http://yorksbakerycafe.co.uk>

A series of secret film screenings taking place in a secret location.

Anyone who wishes to go to one of these screenings will need to get the password to enter from the Film Bug hub (21 Colmore Row). Screenings will run from:

16:00 – 20:00

Invisible Architecture

Walking tour exploring hidden elements of Birmingham's built environment.

17:00 - £7 (£5) To book tickets, visit

www.flatpackfestival.org.uk.

Just Film presents Chasing Ice

The story of one man's mission to change the tide of history by gathering undeniable evidence of climate change.

John Lee Theatre, The Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS

18:00

<http://bmi.org.uk/>

Birmingham International Film Society will be presenting the recent feature from Canadian filmmaker Guy Maddin, Keyhole.

John Lee Theatre, The Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS

20:30

<http://bmi.org.uk/>

Pedal-Powered Cinema

Running throughout the day on Thursday and Friday, the Pedal-powered cinema will be located in CBD - linked in with the Sustrans campaign to encourage cycling to work.

11:00-18:00

SATURDAY 23rd MARCH

Sol Cinema

Situated on High Street, Birmingham City Centre

11:00 – 16:00

www.thesolcinema.org

8mm Cineclub

8mm Cineclub will be holding a 'bring your own 8mm film' event at The Old Royal. The club will screen some of their back 8mm catalogue and people with reels in the attic can bring them along and get them screened.

The Old Royal, 53 Church Street, Birmingham, B3 2DP

12:30 – 16:00

<http://8mmcineclub.tumblr.com/>

www.theoldroyalbirmingham.co.uk/

Metropolis

Two programmes of short films on the theme of 'bugs' for children aged 4+ and 7+ at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (11:00 – 13:00) followed by a programme of short films on the theme of 'Metropolis', tying in with the launch day of their new exhibition. The 1965 episode of Six Men featuring Birmingham architect John Madin and the feature film Urbanized will be screened after the shorts.

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH

11:00 – 16:00

www.bmag.org.uk

Subterraneans

Walking tour looking at Birmingham's hidden tunnels by historian Ben Waddington.

12.00 – 13.00 - £7 (£5) To book tickets, visit

www.flatpackfestival.org.uk.

Empire of the Ants

Theatre company Little Earthquake will be presenting a very special (and at times) interactive screening of the 1977 B-movie classic featuring Joan Collins.

John Lee Theatre, The Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS

20:30 - £5. To book tickets, visit

www.flatpackfestival.org.uk.

<http://bmi.org.uk/>

The Passion of Joan of Arc

Carl Theodor Dreyer's startling 1928 silent, has been recently restored. This will be shown in the beautiful setting of Birmingham Cathedral with a new live score by pianist Paul Shallcross.

Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2QB

18.30 - £8 (£6). To book tickets, visit

www.flatpackfestival.org.uk.

THROUGHOUT FILM BUG

Kopf Kino

Kopf Kino is a device housed within a shopping trolley which projects participants' faces onto buildings. The amazing contraption will be wheeled around Colmore Business District on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. <http://onoffnetwork.wordpress.com/001-kopfokino/>

Across Colmore Business District

18:00 – 22:00

Running on Thursday, Friday and Saturday the former BSM Unit on Colmore Row will house a single screen installation featuring short works of experimental film.

Former BSM Unit, 21 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BH

12:00 – 18:30

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

www.flatpackfestival.org

Listing information is correct at time of going to print.
Timings and venues are subject to change. Please visit:

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com
www.flatpackfestival.org

For ticketed screenings, the concessionary price in brackets is applicable to students, senior citizens (aged over 60) and the unemployed.

Live & work in Birmingham event

LIVE & WORK IN BIRMINGHAM

Tahreen Kutub

Birmingham Future, a membership and networking organisation for the city's young professionals, has created and developed a number of fantastic annual events. These include the hugely successful Birmingham Young Professional of the Year Awards and the Welcome to Birmingham events. This year, Birmingham Future will be holding a new and exciting event in the city called Live & Work in Birmingham.

Taking place on Tuesday 12th March in the Town Hall, the Live & Work in Birmingham event will showcase the city's career and lifestyle opportunities to around 1,000 students from universities in the Midlands and local colleges, as well as to school leavers. It is believed to be the first time an event of its kind has been held in the city in that it is a careers event that will have a strong focus on the benefits of *living* in the city.

The event will take the form of an exhibition representing a range of business and professional service firms as well as hospitality and entertainment venues. Participating companies include Ernst & Young, Lloyds, Savills, Mills & Reeve and Chiltern.

James Richards, a solicitor at Gateley and chair of Birmingham Future's Special Projects committee which is organising the event, said the idea behind Live & Work in Birmingham is to showcase the work-life balance in the city and provide a holistic view. Originally from Cardiff, James is a University of Birmingham graduate who chose to stay in the city due to the high quality of life it offered. He said, "I knew the city could offer me a great work-life balance. Yet I've found that many of the professionals

in Birmingham have found themselves in the city due to circumstances and not as an active choice. Birmingham has a unique proposition with global, national and small independent companies as well as a thriving culinary, hospitality and entertainment scene. We need to be shouting about this to the future professionals of the city to recruit and retain the best talent."

In fact the findings and recommendations of the Future Commission published in January 2013 highlighted the importance of promoting the quality of life as well as career opportunities to attract and retain graduates and college or school leavers. Set up by Birmingham Future, the Future Commission was tasked to produce a detailed analysis of the key conditions required to enable the city's professional services sector to attract and retain exceptional talent.

Chair of Birmingham Future, Nicola FleetMilne said, "Birmingham Future is a membership organisation that provides a platform for the city's young professionals to build their personal and professional profile whilst developing their own network. Supported by the key findings and recommendations of The Future Commission we are committed to attracting and retaining the best talent within Birmingham. The city is young, vibrant and full of opportunities. If we truly want Birmingham to be seen as an internationally renowned city then it all starts by ensuring the best candidates want to work here."

Global real estate services provider Savills, which has an office of around 65 employees in Colmore Business District, will be showcasing its services and career opportunities at the event. Peter Gough, a newly qualified surveyor within Savills's

development team said the firm is a large national employer and is keen to attract the best professionals locally. He added, "Savills Birmingham offers a range of services in areas including commercial and residential development consultancy, property management, valuation, building consultancy and planning. Universities run courses in different areas of property services and we're keen to speak directly to students who may have questions on the different areas that we cover. Savills is committed to recruiting new and exceptional talent in the city; the majority of our recent graduate employees in Birmingham are from the Midlands."

The Live & Work in Birmingham event will give some lucky students the chance to win one to one meetings with senior leaders to talk about their experience in the city and provide career advice. The leaders include Paul Thandi, chief executive of the NEC Group, and David Richardson, regional marketing director of Lloyds Banking Group. James revealed that the leaders will be announced to registered students prior to the event, where they will be given the opportunity to make a submission as to why they would like to meet with a senior leader and why they are interested in a career in Birmingham. The students with winning entries will be given the chance to meet one-to-one with the senior leaders.

James commented, "Birmingham Future has a history of creating great annual events that develop every year and have become staples in its events calendar. I hope the Live & Work in Birmingham event will become another staple event to showcase the superb career and lifestyle opportunities in the city."

www.birminghamfuture.co.uk

FINDINGS:

by Tom Hunter:

Thursday 25th April to Friday 19th July

Photographs of the Colmore Business District and Jewellery Quarter

Colmore Business District (CBD) is committed to supporting projects that encourage people to make use of the District's open spaces and has held three successful outdoor photography exhibitions in the area since 2010. This year, CBD is working with the Jewellery Quarter Business Improvement District (BID) and Library of Birmingham to bring a new and exciting exhibition, Findings, to the area in spring.

Internationally acclaimed photographer and artist Tom Hunter has been commissioned as part of a new Arts Council England funded project to make a new body of work in Birmingham. Hunter's work will seek out, explore and reveal some of the spaces and places that are both everyday and architecturally significant to be found in Colmore Business District and the Jewellery Quarter.

The Library of Birmingham, supported by Arts Council England and working in collaboration with local, national and international



Photo: © Tom Hunter



Photo: © Tom Hunter



Photo: © Tom Hunter

partners is creating a hub and network for photography and photographers. This new project, called GRAIN, will include research and development projects and a range of ambitious high quality opportunities all aimed to strengthen and sustain photography in the region. The Findings commission is the first to be announced through the new GRAIN project.

The commission, a partnership between the Library of Birmingham, Colmore Business District and the Jewellery Quarter BID, will result in a curated exhibition of approximately 50 new pinhole images, which will be shown on the Library's outdoor exhibition system over two sites - Church Street Square in Colmore Business District and St. Paul's Square in the Jewellery Quarter from 25th April to 19th July 2013.

Tom took his MA at the Royal College of Art, where in 1996, he was awarded the photography prize from Fuji Film. In 1998 he won the John Kobal Photographic Award at the National Portrait Gallery. He has shown his work at the Saatchi Gallery, White Cube Gallery and Manchester City Art Gallery. Tom has recently been commissioned by the Serpentine Gallery, The Victoria and Albert Museum and Royal Shakespeare Company. His work was also shown in the exhibition, *Seduced by Art*, at the National Gallery in London.

CBD deputy chair, Mike Best, said, "CBD has been a champion of bringing arts and business together in public spaces around the District, and is delighted to be working with the Jewellery Quarter BID on our latest project, 'Findings'.

This will be an engaging piece of work, portraying images of CBD and the Jewellery Quarter both historic and current. We are particularly pleased to have commissioned a talented photographer like Tom Hunter to work with us, through our friends at the Library of Birmingham.

We will once again be showcasing the exhibition in Church Street Square, one of our legacy projects and a great place to spend time out of the workplace."

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com
www.findingsbirmingham.co.uk

Images: Tom Hunter - behind the scenes of the Findings commission.

Imogen, Sebastian and Charlotte pictured at a fundraising ball they organised for CLDF.



CBD raises thousands to help children and families affected by childhood liver disease...

Colmore Business District (CBD) nominated Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) as its charity in 2012. In six months, CBD facilitated activities have raised just under £3,000 to help fight childhood liver disease. A Jurassic Coast trek in October 2012 raised £1,533 while in November, 14 companies took part in a charity quiz at Metro Bar and Grill, raising £1,381. Further funds were raised at charity collections during CBD's Christmas programme of activities. Following the huge success of the first quiz, a second quiz night will be held in March 2013 in support of Big Yellow Friday, CLDF's National fundraising day. Further activities include a CBD Community Games and an abseil, which will aim to get the CBD business community together to fundraise as well as make new contacts.

CBD's events and communications manager, Tahreen Kutub said, "We've been delighted by the enthusiasm with which businesses in the District have supported our fundraising efforts for CLDF. We are aiming to create more opportunities that bring the business community in CBD together to fundraise for this great cause."

Rachel Murphy, fundraising manager at CLDF added, "As a national charity based in Birmingham it is wonderful to receive the support of businesses in the city. The money raised to date will go towards our First Response service, providing families who have just received the shattering diagnosis of liver disease in their child to have access to accurate information and emotional support. CBD's fundraising efforts will help to ensure that families have immediate access to

an introduction pack at the hospital, an easy to navigate website with on-line medical information, and support services including a Families Officer at the end of a phone or email."

CLDF case study – Imogen, Sebastian and Charlotte:

In December 2011, Sebastian and Charlotte's daughter Imogen was diagnosed with biliary atresia. The rare condition meant that Imogen was born without any bile ducts, making it impossible for her to break down fats in her diet, causing a severe strain on her liver. Imogen had been on the transplant list for five months but it soon became clear that urgent action was needed to save her life. In early September 2012, Imogen's mother Charlotte donated a part of her liver and Imogen underwent a life-saving liver transplant at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Sebastian said, "CLDF's information helped us find a road through the confusion, emotion and chaos that results when your child is diagnosed with a life-threatening liver disease. We are keen supporters of CLDF; CBD's fantastic fundraising efforts mean that CLDF can continue to provide much needed help, support and information for families like ours. We cannot thank everyone enough for their help."

To join in and help CBD to make a huge difference to families like Imogen's, contact Rachel Murphy: fmgr@childliverdisease.org 0121 212 3839. www.childliverdisease.org



Tahreen Kutub

The Rape & Sexual Violence Project (RSVP) is a registered charity that offers support to survivors of sexual violence and abuse and to their families to deal with and overcome the effects. Tahreen Kutub met with RSVP's chief executive Lisa Thompson to talk about the charity's services.

Set up in 1978, the organisation became a registered charity in 1979. At the time, the charity was called Rape Crisis, was part of the national umbrella of the same name and offered services for women only. In the mid 1980s, the organisation moved to providing services to men as well as women and changed its name to the Rape & Sexual Violence Project.

RSVP's core services include counselling and an Independent Sexual Violence Advisory (ISVA) service. A counselling programme consists of 24 sessions for survivors and 10 sessions for their families. RSVP has recently experienced a huge increase in the demand for its counselling service. Lisa explained, "Since the Jimmy Savile case came to light, we have had an approximate 150% increase in the demand for counselling, which we are trying to meet." The ISVA service provides advocates who support survivors from the age of 13 onwards, right from the stage of reporting the crime through to the court stage. Support includes arranging appointments with the police, accompanying survivors to sexual health screenings as well as sitting with them in court. Lisa revealed RSVP has applied for Children in Need funding; if the funding is received, they will be able to provide the advocacy service to children from the age of 5 onwards.

Social groups for survivors form another core service. RSVP has five social groups that run every month, which provide the opportunity for survivors to meet each other and take part in free fun activities that improve wellbeing. Lisa said, 'In January, the groups took part in Zumba. Other activities have included bowling, theatre groups and meals out.' Each group has two RSVP staff members. The fourth core service is a telephone helpline, which provides a listening service, support and practical information on RSVP's services.

In addition to the core services, RSVP provides a number of other services which include taking photographic evidence of injuries from sexual violence and storing these for six years, in case survivors choose to report to the police at a later stage. This is an initiative by West Midlands Police Victim Support and Community Safety Partnership. RSVP also holds monthly coffee mornings where survivors are taught self-help techniques on issues such as anger management. In addition to this, RSVP also puts together and provides written information on self-help and coping strategies.

Furthermore, RSVP is about to re-establish a specific counselling service for asylum seekers and refugees, which will be funded by Comic Relief and involve a partnership with the Hope Projects that work to help destitute asylum-seekers and others not entitled to public funds in the West Midlands. The Hope Projects will work with RSVP to provide legal and practical advice.

The last year has seen the formation of Arts With Hearts, which is an arts and crafts group set up by service users who wanted to make and sell products to fundraise for RSVP. The group has taken part in various arts fairs.

RSVP has 15 employees, three of whom are full time. Employees include counsellors, social group facilitators, advocates, management and administrative staff. In addition, there are 35 counselling volunteers and 12 helpline volunteers. Lisa has recently recruited 15 student volunteers from the University of Birmingham to support social media, marketing and policy development.

In regards to funding, Lisa commented that RSVP is 40% short for the next financial year which is required to continue the existing services. She added, "We also need to increase income by around £200k to cope with the additional demand for our services – counselling in particular." In addition to external funding, RSVP has been involved in a number of activities to fundraise, including having a team of four run the Birmingham Half Marathon in 2010 and an event that had participants walking on hot coals, which raised approximately £7,000. Lisa herself has personally fundraised for RSVP; activities have included running the London Marathon in 2010 and the JW Ultra 30 mile trail in 2012.

RSVP is currently looking to set up its own private business to offer paid counselling and therapy, aiming to put profits back into its charity services. The charity has a board of trustees that meet every other month and is currently looking for trustees that have skills in business start-up and fundraising. Lisa said, "Even if people don't have the time to become a trustee, we would welcome any pro-bono support from the business community."

For further information on RSVP and its services, visit www.rsvporg.co.uk or call 0121 200 1695.

Following the interview with Lisa Thompson, Colmore Business District (CBD) has agreed with its nominated charity, Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF), to split any future charity funds raised by CBD between CLDF and RSVP.

CBD Christmas Activity Round Up



Colmore Business District (CBD) has built a strong community offering through events and activities such as the annual CBD Food Festival, participation in the Birmingham International Jazz & Blues Festival, Community Games, arts markets, film festivals, photographic exhibitions and a programme of rehearsals and performances for its own business choir, Colmore Chorus. In Christmas last year, CBD built on this offering by providing a number of festive activities to enhance the experience of working in and visiting the area.

The programme of activities was kicked off with a fun Christmas Tug of War tournament in Colmore Square. Facilitated and umpired by the Tug of War Association, the competition had 16 participating teams from the business district, including AWD Chase de

Vere, Barclays, DLA Piper, DTZ, Hays Specialist Recruitment, The Wellington, West Midlands Police and VAX Ltd. Following a very close and entertaining tournament, the police were crowned champions.

An afternoon of festive fun outside Snow Hill Station added to CBD's programme of activities, with Christmas street entertainers and carols from the Colmore Chorus choir. CBD also held a Christmas market in Birmingham Cathedral grounds through Moseley Arts Market and organised a film night with a live accompaniment inside the Cathedral in partnership with Flatpack.

CBD also organised a programme of performances for the Colmore Chorus choir, who sung at events including Ginger's Bar's *Cocktails and Choir* evening, the 24 Carrots

Christmas Market in the Jewellery Quarter, as well as CBD's Christmas market and festive event outside Snow Hill Station.

Building on the community spirit, CBD also organised a Christmas tree decorating competition with hospitality venues in the District, with Opus Restaurant winning the overall trophy.

For Colmore Business District's latest projects and activities, visit www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Advice about Back Pain



Osteopath Geoff Gardener, who works at the Osteopath LaB and is founder of Corporate Health Lounge, is an expert in back pain and treatments that help to reduce it.

What causes back pain?

Your back is a complex structure made up of muscles, ligaments, joint capsules, discs, cartilage and nerves, which means it can be difficult to pinpoint the cause of back pain. If any of these are damaged through lifting, running, clearing snow, brushing your teeth, sneezing, falling over or even sitting down for long periods, back pain can be triggered. Also, as a result of injury, inflammation will usually occur, which can last for days if treated but months if left alone.

What should I do if I have back pain?

Resist searching on Google for causes of back pain or exercises to relieve it. If you do, you're going to have to sift through millions of pieces of information to find the specific cause of your pain and what your next steps should be. I would suggest finding a trained osteopath who can use clinical knowledge and carry out specific tests to

identify what tissues are causing you pain. A tailored rehabilitation programme may also be provided to help you move, work or even compete, pain free.

Are there any exercises I can do myself?

Due to the nature of lower back pain, a general one-fits-all exercise is not recommended. It's far better to see a professional who will be able to identify why pain is occurring. In my experience, it's reduced movement in surrounding structures that is often the cause, because this place tissues in the lower back under a great strain. These tissues then become injured and inflamed, and as a result irritate the nerves, causing altered sensations anywhere in the lower back, buttock, hamstring, calf and foot.

These altered sensations can be painful, feel hot or cold, cause pins and needles, numbness and even weakness down a whole limb. If you experience any of these sensations, please speak with your GP or call Osteopath LaB for advice, especially as there may be more even more serious conditions causing these symptoms.

I have been told I should use ice packs to reduce back pain?

Ice packs can sometimes help. However, if you suffer with certain conditions, they can also make things worse. The same applies to using heat, or alternating between hot and cold, which is known as contrast bathing. It's really only through a detailed examination that the best course of treatment can be identified.

So basically I need to see a professional if I have back pain?

Yes, I would suggest to anyone with back pain to get assessed by a trained osteopath. At Osteopath LaB, we are encouraging people to do this by offering a discount to new patients. Simply go to www.osteopathlab.co.uk and enter "CBD" into the promotional code box and you'll receive £10 off your initial assessment and treatment (applicable in Birmingham and London). The offer will expire on 31st July 2013. Or if you simply want to talk to us about any back pain you have, just call us on 07968 787710 and we'll talk through the right course of action for you.



Anil Shrestha - clinical director

Over 12 Years of Success in Business District

James Hull Associates - Smiles Dental

Tahreen Kutub

James Hull Dental Care has spent over 12 successful years operating from Priory Queensway in the Colmore Business District (CBD) area. The James Hull Associates group has recently been bought by Irish businessman, Emmet O'Neill, bringing the practice under the Smiles Dental group and resulting in a rebrand to a Smiles Dental practice. Clinical director Anil Shrestha, who has been working for the business for 20 years, talked to Tahreen Kutub about the practice in CBD.

James Hull Associates (JHA) was established in 1995 with three practices in Wales. With long term ambitions to be nationwide, a practice was set up in Priory Queensway, Birmingham in 2001. The group has since evolved into a national corporate chain of 74 practices, focusing on premium end dentistry. Anil explained that the Birmingham practice (the group's flagship in the Midlands) was the most successful in the JHA group in its first year, attributing this to the dedication of the team. Continuing with its success for over a decade, the practice celebrated its 12th anniversary in Birmingham last year at

Nepalese restaurant, Jojolapa, in the business district.

The core of the business in Birmingham has always been a specialist referral centre, serving around 1,500 dentists in the West Midlands area. The practice also offers general private dentistry with specialists in all the dental disciplines including implants, orthodontics, periodontics, endodontics and cosmetic dentistry. Due to patient demand within the CBD, a recent move has been made to open to the public everyday of the week from 8am-9pm on weekdays and 10am-6pm on weekends; this will commence in March 2013. Patients will be able to self-refer general and specialist treatments as well as being able to be referred in for specialist treatments by their own dentist.

A lot of investment has been put into the interior of the Birmingham practice to reflect the new Smiles Dental brand and as a continuation of general upgrades to the building to make frequent improvements. Anil said the Birmingham base is often used as the central hub for the dental group's national meetings and is also used to host networking events for dentists who rely on the specialist centre for referrals.

Events organised by the Smiles Dental practice include monthly professional development events, which allows dentists to meet each other and learn about the latest developments in dentistry. Many of these events are facilitated by Anil, who has been involved in post graduate teaching since 2004; he is a tutor at The Royal College of Surgeons of England and teaches on Masters programmes at the Eastman Dental Institute in London. In future, the practice is looking to hold open events for existing and potential new clients, in addition to the networking events.

The Birmingham practice has recently been awarded a gold standard rating by the Care Quality Commission, which checks whether hospitals, care homes and care services are meeting government standards. Talking about the future, Anil said, "We are proud of what we have achieved to date and of our location in the business district; having been incorporated into the Smiles Dental group, we are looking forward to the future and hope to make more improvements to enable the business to grow even stronger."

www.jameshull.co.uk

Mode's Moving Mission

Mode Transport Planning moved offices within Colmore Business District to Cornwall Buildings in February 2013. Director David Frisby writes about the experience of moving offices...

The thought of relocating our office in the New Year sounded as appealing as going without alcohol throughout January!

Moving is widely considered one of the single-most stressful life events for an individual (after abstaining from alcohol!). Add to that the prospect of losing work time and you can understand why we were hesitant to relocate.

The biggest worry was how to keep up productivity when the office would be in boxes? However, our current rate of growth meant that relocation was a necessity; so we took the plunge.

Being a relatively new business in Colmore Business District, we were unsure where to start looking, but we knew that we wanted to stay within the District. We approached the Colmore Business District team, who provided direct contact numbers of all managed serviced office providers within the District; this cut out a lot of stressful

searching (and hence downtime). To us this was invaluable time saving assistance.

Here are three of the key lessons we learned about moving:

Mission Impossible?

It is impossible to plan too much. We had ours planned to military precision: files, phones, IT, (the very important coffee canisters!) were boxed and labelled the day before. Do not underestimate the amount of equipment (clutter?) you can find in cupboards that have materialised over a very short period of time. We are a small team and we only moved 250 metres around the corner; the move was undertaken on a Thursday and we were "plugged in" and back online the Friday afternoon. Considering the distance this was unexpected; with hindsight a weekend move would have been better for us and our clients!

Upgrade!

We viewed the move as an opportunity rather than a negative; for example, we looked at our computer hardware and decided that some of it was looking long in the tooth (unlike the staff!). We now have



new computers and the old equipment was recycled.

Tales of the Unexpected?

A move forces you to think on your feet, to be ready for anything. If you commute by rail frequently, you probably already know how to do that! E.g. where do you buy CAT5 cables after 6pm? How do you urgently email clients but have no server? It forces you to take nothing for granted: power, phone, IT or staff!

Looking forward...

The move is completed, we are settled, January is behind us and we are looking forward to establishing ourselves in the Colmore Business District. So the only question that remains is: can I have that drink now? Metro anyone?

www.modetransport.co.uk

CBD presents



Colmore Business District (CBD) provides projects, services and activities that make improvements to the business quarter in Birmingham and make it a better place in which to work, live and visit. CBD is keen to provide different and enjoyable activities for people to engage in to improve the quality of their overall experience in the area.

Last year, CBD hosted the popular Moseley Arts Market in the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral as part of the city's Queen's Jubilee celebrations, Purple Flag Week (which showcased the quality, diversity and vibrancy of evening and night-time experiences in the city) and CBD's Christmas offering. Further to the success of these markets, CBD is organising another series for this year.

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 31st May: 9am – 5.30pm

Thursday 26th September: 10am – 7pm

Friday 13th 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





Mark Kelly

Colmore Business District's New Board Director



Lee Bilson

Mark Kelly, general manager at Thistle Birmingham City hotel, joined the Colmore Business District (CBD) board of directors in January as a representative from the Retail / Leisure / Hospitality sector in the District. I met with Mark at the Thistle to interview him for CBD Digest.

As soon as I walked in I was greeted by a member of staff with a lovely welcoming smile, which put me at ease and was a great start to my visit. As we settled down with our cups of tea and biscuits (which were very yummy) I was keen to find out about our new board director.

What is your role at the Thistle?

I have been general manager at the Thistle for over a year. I am responsible for the smooth running of the hotel as well as looking after 75 members of staff.

As general manager it is also my duty to raise the profile of the hotel and the Thistle brand in the Midlands. I'm very keen to create an offering that ticks the boxes for our business and leisure guests and also get involved within the business community.

What is your background?

I have lived in Birmingham for 16 years altogether, apart from two years where I worked at a 5 Star resort in Miami. In Birmingham, I have worked for the Holiday Inn Hotel at Birmingham International Airport and the Crowne Plaza Hotel where I worked in a number of management roles before becoming deputy general manager; in this role I completed a multi-million pound re-development before leaving in mid-2008.

I went on to work for Network Rail as a manager at their state of the art Learning Centre in Warwickshire where I worked on designing an

efficient hotel model for service delivery. I left Network Rail and came to the Thistle in January 2012.

Why did you want to join the Board at CBD?

I wanted to join the CBD board because I think it's important that we showcase the hospitality and leisure side of the District, engage with the other food and drink venues and create a joined up approach.

Guests often think that we are the wrong side of town with the perception that Birmingham is the Mailbox and Brindleyplace, but I feel that we can use the business improvement district (BID) as a platform to come together and promote what is a high quality leisure destination for visitors.

What CBD activities has the Thistle taken part in?

The Thistle has taken part in three big events since 2012, the main one being the CBD Food Festival which was hugely successful and we will be participating again this year. We successfully catered for the high profile opening of Church Street Square and we also catered for the Christmas 'Silent Night' film night in Birmingham Cathedral.

What are you looking to bring to the Board?

As a public elected governor for Birmingham Children's Hospital and a board director of MARCHE (Birmingham's Hospitality platform) I am looking to bring my experience to the BID and I am also very passionate about raising the leisure and retail profile to both business and leisure tourists coming to the city.

To see the full list of CBD board directors, visit www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com/about-2/director-profiles

CBD Showcase features an interview with a small business in Colmore Business District in each magazine edition.

Lemuria

Tahreen Kutub

Lemuria Retreat is an independent hair, beauty and holistic therapy salon based on 33 Colmore Row and part of the Athena School of Natural Therapies Group. Tahreen Kutub interviewed managing director of Lemuria, Raman Jagpal, for this edition's CBD Showcase.

When was Lemuria Retreat set up?

Lemuria was set up seven years ago in Willenhall, Walsall by myself and business partner Debra Goldston as part of the Athena School of Natural Therapies. Athena has a training school that has been running for 22 years, which we bought 10 years ago to train therapists in complementary therapy and healing. We wanted to have a customer facing, retail arm of the school so we set up Lemuria Retreat in Willenhall. I was keen to open another salon in Birmingham with my sister Rita who has been a top hairdresser in the city for 18 years. Birmingham is also where I worked for the majority of my previous career as a lawyer. A unit had become available in Colmore Row and we opened a salon in Colmore Business District on 16th February 2012.

What are Lemuria's core services?

I believe confidence comes from looking and feeling your best so we offer services in hair, beauty and holistic therapies to our clients. Our clients come to us to step away from busy lifestyles or 'the treadmill' as I see it. They get the opportunity to relax in luxury surroundings and be pampered at Lemuria after which they can step back on 'the treadmill' with confidence.

We work very closely with the training school in Willenhall, where we tap into the expertise and bring in lecturers to provide services at the salons. Over the years, the school has had thousands of students undertake its courses. In addition to hair and beauty services, we provide treatments in physical therapy such

as reflexology and Indian head massage, as well as spiritual healing including crystal therapy and Reiki. We can bring in additional services by request through the training school.

How would you describe your approach to clients?

Lemuria is a family run business and we take a lot of care in looking after our clients and treat everyone as part of our family. As an independent business, the key to success is establishing long term relationships and achieving promotion by word of mouth and recommendation. I'd describe Lemuria as a social club for our clients but with no exclusivity in who can use our services. Clients can come in and spend as long as they like in the salon; regular clients have come in to use the space for their lunch break or to have tea or coffee and a chat, which they are very welcome to do. The salon has official opening and closing times but really we run the businesses any time by appointment to suit the needs of our clients. As creative director, Rita is indispensable and a gem within the business which is shown by the excellent client relationships she has built and retained. I call her the best kept secret in Birmingham.

Where does the name Lemuria come from?

Lemuria is the name of an ancient civilisation believed to have existed in the Pacific or Atlantic oceans. Seen as a land of paradise with a highly spiritual civilisation, it fits in with our ethos and the experience we aim to provide for our clients.

Tell us about the pamper days that you hold.

We provide a pamper day service by appointment, which includes reflexology, manicure, pedicure and blow dry for £55.

Clients call to request a block time for the pamper day, which could be before a big event that they are attending. We also hold social nights or open evenings for clients and anyone who is interested in finding out more about us. These are held every three or four months, details of which can be found on our Facebook page - Lemuria Retreat.

You have been involved in a lot of charity work, what activities have you taken part in?

We do a lot of work with Hire a Hero, which supports Army, Navy and Air Force leavers to settle into civilian life. For example, two years ago we organised a fundraising dinner in Edgbaston Cricket Club. This year, we are supporting a team to climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds; we'll be starting outside Lemuria and aim to drive through Europe to Africa. The team plans to do this in three weeks! We have also helped to fundraise for Birmingham Children's Hospital and provided raffle prizes to events supporting Action for ME and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Tell us about the pieces of artwork on display in Lemuria.

Our walls display sketches of the city by local artist Steve Blundell, which really add character to the salon. The artwork is for sale and we tend to change the images frequently, as we like to make subtle changes to the salon to keep it looking fresh.

www.lemuriaretreat.co.uk
www.athenaschool.co.uk

Lemuria Retreat Introductory Offer for New Clients

- * Luxury men's cut, scalp massage and finish at £15 (discounted from £22)
- * Luxury women's cut, scalp massage and finish at £25

Of Mice and Men

Review of a show at The Old Joint Stock Theatre



Teri Tromans

The Old Joint Stock Theatre was joined by the Tin Shed Theatre Company in February to present an emotional adaptation of John Steinbeck's novel, *Of Mice and Men*. The theatre itself is located on the upper floor of The Old Joint Stock Pub and seats around 100 people, creating an intimate atmosphere during the performances. There are performances every week throughout the year from one-person shows to larger performances.

For those unfamiliar with the *Of Mice and Men* story, it follows the life of two close friends, George Milton and Lennie Small, looking for work on the ranches in California during the Great Depression. They both dream of a small holding where they can live off the land and tend to animals; the possibility of this is so remote that you feel yourself desperately hoping they discover their dream.

George is your typical working man of the time; he is accompanied by his devoted friend, Lennie, whose sheer size and strength make him an efficient ranch worker. Lennie's childlike simplicity, however, makes it difficult for him to settle in one place as he often finds himself getting into trouble. He is drawn to anything soft to the touch that he can stroke, from small mice to ladies' dresses.

The adaptation is faithful to the novel, offering the same depth to each of the characters and sensitively covering the themes that the contemporary audience would have been all too familiar with, from poverty and the nearly impossible ambition of the American Dream, to racial segregation. The characters are a great reflection of how I'd imagined them in the novel - even down to the clothing details and southern accents.

I was drawn into the story from the start and became very attached to the characters, empathising with George and his struggles to look after Lennie, and also to Candy, the handyman on the ranch who fears losing his job when he becomes old. The audience was captivated by the performance, which created a highly emotive atmosphere and ended with a stunned silence followed by applause.

To see what's on at The Old Joint Stock Theatre, visit www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Images have been provided by The Old Joint Stock Theatre for use in CBD Digest.



CBD Spring 2013 Competition

Enter our competition for a chance to win a three course meal for two with a bottle of house wine at Primitivo. Send the answer to the following question to Tahreen Kutub: tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com



What is Primitivo's building number on Barwick Street?

Terms and conditions

The prize is applicable from Tuesday to Friday, from 4pm onwards (excluding the month of December). Competition closing date is Friday 17th May 2013. 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.

.....
**Winter 2012/13 edition's
COMPETITION**



Winner!

Congratulations to Louise Pearce from Wesleyan Assurance Society who has won lunch for two at Purnell's Bistro on Newhall Street.



Food Festival

It's back for 2013

Friday 12th July to Saturday 13th July
11am to 7pm in Victoria Square

Enjoy the excellent quality and variety of menu tasters from a host of food and drink venues in Colmore Business District.

**Taste the flavours
Relax in the summer sun
Listen to live jazz and blues**

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

 Follow us on Twitter: @ColmoreBID



Film Bug

(part of Flatpack Festival)

Thursday 21st March to Saturday 23rd March

Various venues in Colmore Business District (see www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com)

Colmore Business District (CBD) has partnered with Flatpack Festival for the second year to bring Film Bug, a mini festival of film, to the District. Film Bug will take over venues in and around CBD for a diverse programme of features, short films and activities to coincide with the start of the seventh Flatpack Festival (21st -31st March). See pages 14-15 for further details.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com
www.flatpackfestival.org

Walking with Dinosaurs The Arena Spectacular

Wednesday 10th April to Sunday 14th April

The NIA, King Edwards Road, Birmingham B1 2AA

Based on the award-winning BBC television series, Walking with Dinosaurs – The Arena Spectacular will be coming to the NIA in April. The show will see Tyrannosaurus Rex and his awe-inspiring life-size pals return to stalk UK shores once more, a whole 65 million years on.

See website for times and ticket prices.

www.thenia.co.uk

CBD Presents Moseley Arts Market

Friday 31st May, Thursday 26th September, Friday 13th December

Birmingham Cathedral Grounds, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB

Visit Moseley Arts Market in Colmore Business District. Talented local and visiting designers & makers present high quality handmade products, including photography, illustration, glass and wood products and textiles. See page 22 for further details.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Metropolis: reflections on the modern city

Saturday 23rd March to Sunday 23rd June

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

Metropolis presents visions of the modern city from artists around the world in this striking new exhibition. It brings together stunning work by around 20 contemporary artists of the highest international standing to Birmingham and includes digital projection, painting, sculpture, photography and mixed media installation.

www.bmag.org.uk/events

Findings: Photography Exhibition

Thursday 25th April to Friday 19th July

Church Street Square (Colmore Business District) and St Paul's Square (Jewellery Quarter)

An outdoor photography exhibition of 50 new pinhole images taken by internationally acclaimed photographer and artist, Tom Hunter. The images will show spaces and places that are both everyday and architecturally significant to be found in the city's Colmore Business District and Jewellery Quarter. See page 17 for further details.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Dean's Dinner

Saturday 8th June

Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB

The Dean of Birmingham, The Very Revd Catherine Ogle is hosting a four course candlelit dinner inside the Nave of Birmingham Cathedral. Businesses are invited to take a table and entertain their clients or contacts at this unique black-tie event which will include entertainment by the Cathedral choir and promises to be a very special occasion. For further information, contact Amy Burton: 07843 093711
amy.burton@bakertilly.co.uk

www.birminghamcathedral.com

Of All the People in All The World

Friday 12th April to Sunday 21st April 2013.

Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA

Two Snowhill, Birmingham's latest Grade A office development, will host the 10th Anniversary version of Stan's Cafe's award winning installation 'Of All The People In All The World.' The performance installation uses grains of rice to communicate a variety of local and global human statistics, responding to real time events and local and world news as they happen. Free of charge. See page 4-5 for further details.

www.stanscafe.co.uk

Hairspray

Tuesday 21st May to Saturday 1st June

Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Southside, Birmingham, B5 4TB

Hairspray tells the story of Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart as she sets out to follow her extraordinary dreams, inspire her mum and win the boy she loves. A musical with everything - the ultimate feel-good show which has played to sold out houses in London, on Broadway and theatres around the globe.

See website for times and ticket prices.

www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Disney's The Lion King

Saturday 29th June to Saturday 28th September

Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Southside, Birmingham, B5 4TB

Disney's The Lion King is a worldwide theatrical phenomenon, seen by over 65 million people and still drawing sell-out crowds at London's Lyceum Theatre in its 14th year. In June 2013 this acclaimed production will begin a limited season at Birmingham Hippodrome as part of its first UK tour.

See website for times and ticket prices.

www.birminghamhippodrome.com

The Miller's Tale With The Songs Of Bob Dylan

Saturday 6th April

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Birmingham B2 5NY

It's The Miller's Tale from the Canterbury Tales, told as never before! A musical comedy of Chaucer's '14th Century Carry-on', told by England's oldest song and dance man, the Miller.

See website for times and ticket prices.

www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Dr Frankenstein's Travelling Freak Show

Wednesday 22nd May to Thursday 23rd May

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Birmingham B2 5NY

Accompanied by an original score composed by Cardiff based band INC.A, Tin Shed Theatre presents the darkly comical and sickly twisted, Dr Frankenstein's Travelling Freak Show, delicately treading the line between hilarity and morality.

See website for times and ticket prices.

www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Food Festival

Friday 12th July to Saturday 13th July
Victoria Square, Birmingham

Back for a third year, the hugely popular CBD Food Festival showcases the fantastic 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 jazz and blues music and outdoor theatre.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

See what's been happening in CBD

Download the 2011/2012 CBD Annual Report

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com



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