

CBD
digest



Interconnect Birmingham

Christmas
in **CBD**

CBD Summer Activities

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

5 Interconnect Birmingham: Delivering a new wayfinding system to Colmore Business District

Christmas in CBD

Celebrating christmas...CBD style!



CBD summer activities

24



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

Business 3-13

Christmas in
CBD 14-16

Culture, Arts & Lifestyle 17-28

CBD 'To-Do List' 28

WELCOME

Gary Cardin
CBD Chairman



The season of goodwill and all things festive is upon us again as we reach the end of 2012 and move towards the New Year. This edition of CBD Digest provides details of Colmore Business District's activities and events during the festive season as well as expert advice on topics related to Christmas and New Year. We have also recently delivered a major new wayfinding system in the city centre with our partners, details of which are in this edition.

CBD Digest also has local business and lifestyle news and features. To get in touch about the magazine, please contact Tahreen Kutub:
tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com
0121 236 4686.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gary

COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT YOUR TEAM

Michele Wilby
BID Executive Director

Tahreen Kutub
Communications Co-ordinator

Kirsten Henly
Projects Co-ordinator

Clare Perkins
CBD Administrator

CREDITS

Managing Editor
Michele Wilby

Production Manager & Journalist
Tahreen Kutub

Designed and produced by
BranchMartinSpicer

News in Brief

£8m business support programme for LEP companies launched

An £8 million business support programme aimed at helping over 200 small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) businesses across the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBS LEP) area to expand and grow has been launched.

The Business Development Programme will provide match grant funding of up to £15,000 for established and eligible SMEs who have plans to expand and create jobs. There will also be assistance in the form of coaching and mentoring for SMEs that can demonstrate growth potential.

Available until June 2015, the scheme is expected to create over 400 new jobs and safeguard over 400 more.

The programme will operate across the whole of the Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP, meaning businesses in the Birmingham, Bromsgrove, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Redditch, Solihull, Tamworth and Wyre Forest local authority areas will be able to apply. For further information, visit <http://centreofenterprise.com>.

Law firm expands just a year after launch in Birmingham

International law firm, Trowers & Hamlins, has expanded its Birmingham office, just a year since opening in the city. Based at 10 Colmore Row, the firm has grown in numbers and subsequently doubled its office accommodation in the city's core.

With staff numbers growing from 13 to 20 in 12 months, the new lease is for the entire second floor of the building. In a deal negotiated by Knight Frank and GBR Phoenix Beard, the firm now occupies almost 7,000 sq ft of Grade A space on a 10 year lease.

Located opposite Snow Hill Station and adjacent to the improved Great Western Arcade, 10 Colmore Row is at the professional and financial heart of the city. The building, which comprises approximately 21,250 sq ft in total has benefited from a full back to frame refurbishment by building owner Aviva Investors.

Celebrating 12 Years of Success

Commemorating 12 years of success, James Hull Associates' Priory Queensway Specialist Dental Centre, Birmingham, recently enjoyed an evening of lavish celebrations.

Held at Nepalese restaurant, Jojolapa, guests were greeted to a champagne reception on their arrival followed by a buffet dinner, enabling both staff and friends of the practice to relax and enjoy a well-earned break.

Over the last 12 years, the team at the Priory Queensway Practice have been committed to providing the very highest standard of service to all patients referred to them. Clinicians from all over the country have referred their patients for a wide range of treatments, including complex endodontics, facial aesthetics and cosmetic periodontics.

DTZ expands Regional Public Sector team

DTZ, a UGL company has announced the expansion of its regional Public Sector Consultancy team following the appointment of Claire Evans as Senior Consultant.

Claire joins DTZ's 10-strong public sector team which provides strategic corporate real estate, development consultancy and planning advice to the public sector across the West Midlands. She joins from

Jones Lang LaSalle where she gained five years experience within its Public Sector Consultancy team providing consultancy advice to predominantly local government clients with a particular focus on strategic asset management and the implementation of asset management strategies.

DTZ's Public Sector Consultancy team operates within five sectors: local authorities, education, health, emergency services and central government. Claire will be responsible for strategic corporate real estate advice including: operational accommodation strategies, multi-asset reviews, property and FM solutions and regulated procurement procedures.

Core brings a splash of colour to Newhall Street

Core, the award-winning PR and marketing agency, has brought its creative talents to Colmore Business District by moving into one of the city's most iconic buildings, The Exchange on Newhall Street.

Offering PR, marketing, digital, events and in-house design, Core has provided many of Birmingham's best known companies with a range of products and services across traditional, digital and social media that deliver creative solutions. The agency also organises and supports networking events, high-profile dinners and launch events.

Core has adopted Birmingham Children's Hospital as its chosen charity for 2012-2013 and has planned a number of fundraising events in the area over the next year. The team is encouraging businesses and individuals within Colmore Business District to get involved and support the activities.

The Ronnie Bowker Foundation



The late Ronnie Bowker

Tahreen Kutub

Ronnie Bowker was the office managing partner for Ernst & Young's Birmingham office for 15 years, a prominent business figure in the city who made a significant impact on the local community. The Ronnie Bowker Foundation was set up by Ernst & Young and Ronnie's family 18 months after he lost his battle with cancer in December 2010. I met with Mark Minihane, tax partner at Ernst & Young and partner sponsor for the Ronnie Bowker Foundation, to talk about the charity.

The aims of the Ronnie Bowker Foundation are to create a legacy in Ronnie's name and to help the causes he was passionate about. Mark explained that Ronnie was in a busy and demanding role as office managing partner but he always found time for causes he was passionate about, particularly within arts, culture, education and training. The Foundation is trying to build a fund to give donations to these causes, supporting community and voluntary groups working in challenged areas in the Midlands.

In February 2012, the Foundation held a charity ball that raised almost £20,000. A community triathlon event is being organised for 30th November at the University of Birmingham to raise further funds. To date, a £2,500 donation has been made to the Marie Curie Big Build Fund, to help build a new hospice for cancer patients in the West

Midlands. A further £2,500 donation has been made to street dance group, Tru Street, who performed at the charity ball and are aiming to set up their own foundation to take street dance to schools. The Ronnie Bowker Foundation has a website that is open for grant applications of up to £2,500.

I was interested to know more about the Foundation's aim to create a legacy in Ronnie's name. Mark explained that the Foundation aimed to keep alive the memory of Ronnie within Ernst & Young: "Every year, we have an intake of new graduates who may not know of Ronnie. It's important that they are aware of the impact he had had on Ernst & Young, the business community and the social community. Through fundraising events such as our forthcoming triathlon, our new employees are able to take part and get involved directly." For specific projects such as the triathlon, Mark arranges a group from Ernst & Young to help organise it. A group of 20 employees have been working on the triathlon event.

Mark took over the lead role of partner sponsor for the Foundation after his predecessor, Bruce Morton, retired last year. Mark had worked closely with Ronnie, who had helped him in the partnership process. He said, "Ronnie always helped me with my career, even when he was very ill. He was never selfish with his time and was always very open about his illness. He would give an email update about his illness to employees

every now and then, which showed his openness with staff. I now want to give something back through my involvement in the Foundation. He was a great man, which is why I devote my time to this. It is also enjoyable to take part in something very different to my day job."

There is a committee of 15 people for the Ronnie Bowker Foundation, formed of Ernst & Young employees and members of the Bowker family. The fund is administered by the Birmingham & Black Country Community Foundation. Although the Foundation is sponsored by Ernst & Young and the Bowker family, Mark stressed that anyone who is interested can get involved in the committee. He revealed the committee is looking at plans to hold a family friendly summer fayre next year, as "Ronnie was a family man".

Throughout the interview, Mark's passion for the Foundation and his fondness of Ronnie was clear. This was summed up by the following statement, which stayed with me as I left Ernst & Young: "Ronnie will always be a hard act to follow. There will only ever be one Ronnie."

To find out further about the triathlon challenge on 30th November and how to enter as an individual or team, contact ronniebowkerfoundationfund@uk.ey.com.

www.bbccf.org.uk/about-us/our-donor-partners/ronnie-bowker-foundation-fund

Deep Cleaning of CBD's Streets



Colmore Business District (CBD) manages a programme of deep cleaning and removal of chewing gum from the pavements in the District three times a year as part of its objective to make the area cleaner and more attractive. CBD's programme of street cleansing is in addition to what is implemented in the city by Birmingham City Council.

CBD contracts industrial cleaning company Ramora to carry out the street cleansing programme, removing graffiti and chewing gum and brightening the streetscape of Birmingham's business quarter.

The last deep cleaning schedule in the District was implemented in October. The streets with highest footfall get cleaned three times annually, with the majority of streets

receiving a deep clean and having chewing gum removed at least once a year. Cleaning takes place after working hours to adhere to health and safety and to cause as little disruption as possible to businesses in the District.

Before CBD came into operation in 2009, Colmore Row was the only street in the business improvement district area that would receive a deep clean; this would take place once every two or three years. CBD's programme of street cleansing results in over 90% of the District receiving a deep clean and having chewing gum removed at least once a year, showing the additionality that CBD is bringing to the area.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com



Mark Staniland - Hays

Tahreen Kutub

Mark Staniland is managing director of the Midlands offices of international recruitment firm, Hays. Based at the Birmingham office at St Philips Place in Colmore Business District, he spoke to Tahreen Kutub about the core changes in the firm in the past few years as well as current and forthcoming projects.

Previously the managing director of the education division of Hays, Mark became responsible for all of Hays' business in the Midlands two years ago, when the firm consolidated its services.

For 25 years, each divisional sector of Hays had its own national managing director. The different divisions would contact companies individually in what Mark described as "a siloed approach." He reflected that whilst this worked for Hays for 25 years, a need for change was recognised to suit what customers wanted – a joined up one-stop service that would suit all recruitment needs. The Birmingham office at St Philips Place now has "110 specialist recruiters that can suit all skills requirements, including finance, IT, HR, procurement, legal, marketing, education and construction."

In the last year, Hays has partnered with Business Birmingham, the city's official inward investment programme, to showcase Birmingham to potential businesses moving into the area. Speaking about the partnership, Mark said, "It is exciting to be part of Birmingham's shop front to investors. There is real optimism about what the Colmore Business District area and Birmingham has to offer to investors and businesses looking to move in."

Hays is one of the largest recruiters to schools in the UK, with the Midlands offices recruiting for around 300 schools. Mark expressed concern that schools are continually finding it difficult to establish meaningful work placements for pupils due to limited contacts with corporate organisations. Hays is looking to help with this challenge by connecting school clients with corporate clients. Mark commented, "I can't think of any other organisation that is as well connected with both schools and corporate organisations. We are aiming to act as a broker or introducer to put the two together to create more effective work placements."



In November 2012, Hays will launch a programme to highlight the challenges faced by schools and link local employers with local schools for work placements. To complement this, Hays is also looking to launch a guidebook for students and employers. This will include a workbook for completion by students during the placement, as well as a guide for employers on how to make the placement worthwhile.

In addition to facilitating connections, Hays also runs half yearly leadership forums for clients. These usually take place at One Snowhill in Colmore Business District and have had high profile speakers. David Parsons, the director of the England Cricket Academy spoke at the last forum and former education secretary, Estelle Morris previously did a talk for school head teachers.

www.hays.co.uk

CBD Annual Meeting



Colmore Business District (CBD) held its Annual Meeting in October at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, with over 60 attendees from the business community.

At the meeting, CBD chairman, Gary Cardin and BID executive director, Michele Wilby provided guests with an overview of the large range of projects and activities delivered over the past twelve months. These included the Church Street Square public realm enhancement project delivered in the summer, which has shown the value and long-term change that CBD can bring to the area. Furthermore, the CBD Food Festival was extended to two days in 2012 and attracted around 15,000 visitors, a five-fold increase in footfall from last year. CBD has continued to add vibrancy to the area through activities including the business Community Games to celebrate London 2012, a photographic exhibition, the CBD business choir – Colmore Chorus, the 'Film Bug' festival as part of Flatpack, outdoor markets, outdoor live music and floral features.

The presentations also looked ahead to CBD's forthcoming projects, including plans for public realm enhancement of the Colmore Square area between Colmore Row and Steelhouse Lane, with a focus on implementing soft landscaping, seating and lighting. Guests were also told about the 'Snow Hill Gateway' project, which CBD is working on with Birmingham City Council, to redefine the space outside Snow Hill Station and the surrounding Colmore Row area. The plans include creating seating, lighting and a more pedestrian friendly area.

CBD will also work with partners on Phase 2 of the 'Interconnect Birmingham' wayfinding scheme following the delivery of Phase 1 (see page 5). The latter has seen the installation of on-street map totems in the city centre, focussing on linkages between CBD and the retail area of the city centre, key transport hubs and stations. Phase 2 of the scheme is being developed with plans to install more totems next year across the city, including Southside, the Jewellery Quarter and Digbeth, as well as building on the initial installation of totems in CBD.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Davis Langdon an AECOM Company

Tahreen Kutub

International project management and cost consultant company, Davis Langdon joined global consultant AECOM in 2010. Davis Langdon provides project management, tax advice, funder advisory services and cost consultancy for projects linked to the built environment.

The co-location of AECOM staff into Davis Langdon's Birmingham office at Colmore Plaza was completed in May this year.

The AECOM Birmingham office now has 240 employees based at Colmore Plaza, who are predominantly technical staff but also include shared services such as HR, finance, IT and procurement.

Head of office, Lee Jones said, "AECOM is a global business with 45,000 employees in more than 130 countries worldwide. Fifty percent of AECOM's business is outside the Americas. This means that Davis Langdon can now deliver anywhere in the world for UK clients. All of our technical staff members are

locally based, with many holding national or global roles."

Davis Langdon has been involved in a number of large, local projects, including providing cost and risk management advice for HS2, working on the Jaguar Land Rover engine plant in Wolverhampton as cost managers and providing project and cost management for Abstract Land on the revamp of 55 Colmore Row. Davis Langdon was the first company to move into Colmore Plaza in 2008, an office scheme that it delivered for the developer, which has since filled up with tenants.

Davis Langdon encourages its employees to take up corporate social responsibility activities. Lee commented, "Davis Langdon gives every employee two days unpaid leave per year to do something for charity. Some choose to do an activity for their own charity; others decide to work together on a chosen charity." Davis Langdon is also involved overseas with the Sabre Charitable Trust, supporting the building of schools in



countries in Africa. It also hosts Macmillan Coffee Mornings twice a year at Colmore Plaza to fundraise for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Lee has a commercial property background and works within project management, cost management and building surveying at Davis Langdon, in addition to leading the Birmingham office. He has also recently taken on the role of chairman for the Midlands Chapter of the British Council of Offices, which aims to research, develop and communicate best practice in all aspects of the office sector.

www.davislangdon.com



Key Personnel

Tahreen Kutub

Key Personnel is an independent recruitment consultancy based in Colmore Business District, which celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. Set up in 1982 by Sue Bates, the business was bought by her sister, Mary Hendry in 2007. Key Personnel specialises in providing all levels of office support roles, including PA and secretarial, HR, marketing and PR and project management.

Sue had worked in recruitment for a number of years when she decided to set up her own recruitment business at the age of 27. At the time, Mary recalls that her sister had felt recruitment was becoming depersonalised and wanted Key Personnel to be close to its candidates and clients. This is the ethos that Key Personnel still adheres to today. Mary said, "We still operate in a boutique way and look to become an extension of the recruitment team for our client companies. We don't take on more candidates than we can proactively manage. We are only as good as our candidates; therefore we're selective about those that we take on and it is important to us that they have a good experience with us."

I wouldn't want to be anywhere other than Colmore Business District.

Key Personnel currently has nine members of staff in Birmingham and Mary is keen to grow the business within the city. In regards to the location, she said, "I wouldn't want to be anywhere other than Colmore Business District. It provides a good safe environment for our candidates to come into. You can also walk to most places needed for business within 15 minutes."

Mary described Key Personnel as "a niche agency with an innovative approach and with working practices that are sometimes associated

with much larger organisations." The agency has recently started offering psychometric testing of candidates for clients. This is done through the Thomas International assessment, which assesses what motivates staff, their core strengths and limitations as well as their potential. Mary commented that psychometric testing is "the norm" at exec level but not common when recruiting support staff. She feels psychometric profiling is key for all candidates and gives employers a clearer idea of a person's working strengths and behaviours and how they can add value to the organisation. She said the profiling looks beyond skills and experience and places huge importance on the attitude of the candidate.

Key Personnel has also recently introduced video CVs to provide clients with more of an insight into the personalities and attributes of candidates. Furthermore, the agency provides bespoke testing for candidates depending on the types of roles they want to apply for, which is in addition to the standard testing of Word and Excel. There are around 150 different assessments including an in-tray exercise that tests prioritising skills of candidates applying for Personal Assistant roles.

In addition to recruitment, Mary runs a quarterly HR forum, which brings together HR professionals to discuss issues and topics. The forum is through invitation, has no more than 25 people and takes place at lunchtime or early morning. Mary also writes recruitment related editorials linked to current affairs for the Institute of Directors' quarterly publications.

When asked for her top tip to candidates, Mary said, "Think beyond academia! Think about presenting yourself at your best and ensure you are able to demonstrate examples of when you have gone above and beyond what's expected of you! Skills can be taught but attitude can set you apart from the outset. There are a lot of candidates on the market so how are you going to make yourself stand out from the crowd?"

www.keypersonnel.co.uk



Snow Hill to London faster and more frequent

Chiltern Railways will be launching a new timetable in December with faster and more frequent peak time trains from Snow Hill Station to London in response to views expressed by business people in Colmore Business District (CBD).

In the last year, CBD has teamed up with Chiltern Railways to hold focus groups to provide the District's business community with an opportunity to voice their preferences, needs and expectations on train services to the capital. One of the key outcomes from the groups was the concern that there were not enough trains starting from Snow Hill Station.

Chiltern has taken on board the views of CBD's business community and has launched the new services from Snow Hill as part of a complete restructure of its timetable, allowing faster and more frequent trains to arrive and depart from Snow Hill Station.

The changes mean that all Chiltern peak time trains from Birmingham to London and vice versa will depart from and arrive at Snow Hill Station in CBD from 10th December. The earliest train from Birmingham Snow Hill

will arrive into London at 8.30am, making it possible to be in the capital for a 9am meeting.

For the very first time, trains from London will arrive at Snow Hill Station before 9am, allowing business travellers to have a full working day in Birmingham. There are also trains between Birmingham Snow Hill and London throughout the day, which will benefit business people travelling between the cities for meetings.

The new service will reduce the overall journey time by up to an impressive 22 minutes and will provide great value for business travellers, who can take advantage of the on-board facilities. These include free Wi-Fi, spacious seats and more plug sockets and tables.

CBD chairman Gary Cardin said, "This is a significant gain for CBD's business community and I'm delighted that Chiltern have listened to and acted upon the comments raised at our focus groups. We recognise the important influence of transport to make our business district more accessible and connected. The rail service at Snow Hill Station to and from London will

hopefully make a positive impact on the working days of people in the District and it's fantastic that all Chiltern peak time trains to London will soon be running from Snow Hill."

Thomas Ableman, commercial director at Chiltern Railways added, "Over the past year, we have seen a phenomenal increase in the numbers of passengers using our new Mainline service between Birmingham Moor Street and London. From December, we will be transforming the service to Colmore Business District with fast, direct trains through both morning and evening peak hours. This will be the first time that the business district has inter-city style services direct to and from London, with fast trains from the capital arriving at Snow Hill before 9am."

Chiltern Railways have a simple and flexible fares structure with walk up tickets starting from £27.50 depending on the time of day you wish to travel. The anytime fare is just £95, which is 40% less than the anytime fare from New Street to Euston.

www.chilternrailways.co.uk

OPUS Restaurant Recycling initiatives

Tahreen Kutub

Opus on Cornwall Street is an independent restaurant that is committed to seasonality and sustainability. It is a member of the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA), a not-for-profit organisation that helps member restaurants source food more sustainably, work more closely with their community and manage resources more efficiently. Opus was given the high rating of Gold Three Star Sustainability Champion by the SRA in spring 2012.

As part of its commitment to sustainability, Opus has been undertaking recycling initiatives for the waste that it produces. Tahreen Kutub talked to managing director, Ann Tonks, about these initiatives.

Opus has been recycling general waste, glass and oil waste for a number of years. Via Birmingham City Council, general waste is taken to the Energy-from-Waste plant in Tyseley where up to 600kWh electricity per tonne is generated. All metal is recovered after incineration and the bottom ash, which is what remains in the furnace, is used in road building programmes. The glass is taken to south Yorkshire, also via Birmingham City Council, where it is turned back into glass bottles for use in the UK. Oil waste is recycled through the oil supplier and goes into producing fuel.

Opus recently started to look at the most environmentally friendly way in which to dispose of paper, cardboard and food waste, and began liaising with Birmingham City Council to achieve this. The consideration started when Opus had applied for its SRA rating in spring this year; on self-assessment

Ann had realised that the restaurant was “weaker than it should have been on recycling.”

Opus considered sending food waste to an anaerobic digester, which is a very efficient way of converting food waste to electricity. This however, proved too costly (up to four times the cost of general waste collection) and so the restaurant decided to continue collection through Birmingham City Council, which takes the food to the electricity generating plant at Tyseley. None of the waste goes into landfill.

Opus is also trying to reduce its general paper and cardboard waste. Ann said, “When we receive deliveries of fruit and veg for example, we unload the deliveries straight away and let the supplier take back the cardboard boxes for re-use. It just takes a bit of thought to make small changes to work practices that can have a positive effect on the environment.”

The remaining paper and cardboard waste is now being picked up by the Council and taken to the Smurfit Kappa SSK paper mill in Nechells, a mile away from Opus, where it is turned back into paper within 40 minutes. Being the self-described “environmental anorak” that she is, Ann recently joined Birmingham City Council to have a look for herself at the paper mill and was impressed with what she saw just down the road from Colmore Business District.

Talking further about changes to work practices, Ann mentioned that separating paper, clear glass and dark glass and general waste makes staff think about how they are disposing of waste and helps with the restaurant’s recycling aims. Ann said, “I have

just about tried everyone’s patience in the restaurant with my obsession with this initiative. I think I’m now labelled as an ‘enviro diva!’ But as it is actually much cheaper to recycle glass, paper and cardboard than to throw them into general waste, we’ve experienced a 35% reduction in collection costs. So it has been worth it from a cost as well as environmental point of view. We’re planning to use this saving towards implementing a new energy saving lighting scheme at Opus in 2013; this will be a New Year initiative as part of our on-going commitment towards sustainability.”

www.opusrestaurant.co.uk

City centre cardboard collection

Birmingham City Council in conjunction with recycling partner, Smurfit Kappa SSK, has launched a daily cardboard recycling service in Birmingham City Centre. The new daily service is custom designed for shops, restaurants, cafes, bars and offices. The cardboard will be recycled at a paper mill one mile from the city centre and turned back to paper within 40 minutes. The system is easy to use: purchase Birmingham City Council’s special recycling tape; flatten, fold and stack your cardboard; circle your bundle with tape; and put outside your business for collection. For more information, contact:

commercialwaste@birmingham.gov.uk
0121 303 1987 / 2894

David Pett

Partner - Pett, Franklin & Co. LLP



Henry Tonks

Henry Tonks undertook a two-week work experience placement at Colmore Business District in summer 2012

David Pett can probably be counted as one of the grandees of the Birmingham legal world, having first arrived in Birmingham to join the tax department of Pinsent & Co in 1985. David's twenty-four years at (what is now) Pinsent Masons included a period of substantial growth during 1996–2004. In 2009 he and his colleagues retired from this firm to found their own practice.

Pett, Franklin & Co. LLP is a boutique law firm operating from offices in 116 Colmore Row in the heart of Colmore Business District (CBD), catering to clients across England and Scotland. David, who, along with partner William Franklin, is a nationally-recognised leader in his field, describes his vision for the team as, "a unique pulling-together of expert knowledge and understanding related to employee share ownership and management and employee incentives." Both he and William are currently involved in advisory work for the Office of Tax Simplification; and the phrase 'I wrote the book on that' acquires a literal meaning for David, whose Employee Share Schemes remains a landmark text after sixteen years!

Much of Pett, Franklin's business is found in London, and given this fact we were interested to know what brought him to locate in CBD. "One of our first considerations had to be accessibility," said David. "Most clients are outside of Birmingham, many in London, and with Snow Hill and New Street Station, you don't get much better transport links... Birmingham offers access like no other city." And

David knows his trains, having recently completed a 9-year stint as a member of Network Rail, the company that operates the UK rail network.

For David, however, factors such as culinary, retail and public realm can be just as important for businesses – areas in which, he believes, CBD excels. Since first coming to work in CBD, one of the key changes David has seen has been the recent improvement in the area's public realm. But he reserved greatest praise for the evolving Midland Metro project; David opined that the removal of bus routes from Bull Street and Corporation Street, and the projected tramlines will give Birmingham "a genuinely cosmopolitan feel, really emulating and improving on great European cities like Zurich or Geneva."

Being a niche firm in such a dynamic district is never anything less than a challenge, but David seems happier than ever working in the second city. "Improvements to retail and leisure offerings have been incredible, especially in the case of small, dynamic independent restaurants" – CBD is a place where David socialises and relaxes as well as works, and he thinks that it is perfectly attuned to both sides of the business–pleasure coin. "In terms of culture, food, atmosphere – Birmingham has never been better," he commented. Over the last five years, "this area has become a place where we can be really proud to welcome clients."

www.pettfranklin.com

WYG

Award winning global management and technical consultancy, WYG, is delighted to announce the opening of its new West Midlands Regional Office located within Colmore Business District (CBD) at MWB Business Exchange on 43 Temple Row.

Andrew Maclaren, WYG regional director said: "We are delighted to be joining other major professional and business service companies within CBD, which we know will provide us with a unique opportunity to support Colmore Business District, the city and other businesses."

WYG is an established global management and technical consultancy to the built and natural environment that collaborates

with clients in over 40 countries to help them realise their corporate and project ambitions. As a top 15 European consultancy and employing more than 1,400 people around the world, WYG has the expertise for every stage of a project's life-cycle from planning and design to building completion.

www.wyg.com

Common Purpose...

Michele Wilby

I met Louise Teboul, operations director of Common Purpose in one of the delightful independent coffee shops we are so lucky to have in Colmore Business District. On this occasion it was Home Deli; we settled down with our cups of tea, as I was keen to find out what had made Louise leave her PR and marketing career seven years ago to run Common Purpose in the Midlands.

Louise thinks it may have been a mid-life crisis! I still need to check whether she has newly acquired tattoos and a motor-bike, just to clarify the whole mid-life crisis thing! My view is that Louise saw a great opportunity to become involved in something that brings together so many cross-sector people and actually does make a difference.

So, what is Common Purpose?

- It is an international organisation, that has been running cross-sector educational courses for over 22 years – all aimed at developing better leaders.
- It develops the skills of leaders and gives them the connections and insights to make a difference to their own organisation and the places they operate.

Well, what are the benefits?

- By bringing together a diverse group, individuals are challenged on a personal and professional level, which helps them develop as leaders and create new peer groups (or networks).
- Real-life insights and experiences give people a better understanding of the world and context that they operate in, which leads to better decision-making.
- Individuals are challenged through different opinions and challenges which helps them.
- This provides organisations, and potentially places, with more effective leaders.

Common Purpose is a not-for-profit organisation at which Louise is able to utilise her amassed skill set, which includes strategic communications / PR, creative thinking, coaching, training and facilitation. She is a people person, always keen to find positive connections for the participants she works with, and therefore an ideal leader of Common Purpose locally.

Having attended the course, you get out as much as you put in, so the choice is yours as to the value you get from it. You build a new network of fantastic contacts, I now know people from such diverse organisations as the Prison Service, Cadbury Barrow Trust, St Philips Chambers, Vermillion Films and Start-Again Project CIC, which is a social enterprise that is committed to understanding, encouraging and empowering young people aged 13 to 30 in their search for a better life.

In this safe environment, people are very generous in sharing their leadership journeys, they are also very honest. You find yourself with a diverse group of caring people who want to help support each other through the challenges of leadership.

The Common Purpose team are kindly hosted in the offices of Pinsent Masons, as part of their corporate social responsibility.

Well, our time was coming to an end; we were both out that evening - Louise was attending the Birmingham Leadership Foundation Gala Dinner and I was off to the opening of *Birmingham, Its People, Its History* at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. We had discussed that although work has a very serious side to it, it is important to have fun and enjoy yourself and having seen Louise, the "Dancing Queen", in action at the Birmingham Young Professional of the Year awards this year, I think she has the balance just right!

If you would like to find out more about the courses run by Common Purpose, please contact Louise Teboul at louise.teboul@commonpurpose.org.uk or on 0121 625 3269.

www.commonpurpose.org.uk



Common Purpose is a not-for-profit organisation at which Louise is able to utilise her amassed skill set, which includes strategic communications / PR, creative thinking, coaching, training and facilitation.

etc. venues

Maple House

Tahreen Kutub

Maple House on Corporation Street is the Birmingham based venue of the etc. venues group, providing training, meeting, conferencing and event space facilities. The venue is focussed on creating an environment most conducive to its clients' needs, has sustainability featuring high on its agenda and has twice won national awards for customer service levels.

etc. venues was launched in 1992 and currently has 11 venues in London as well as Maple House in Birmingham, which opened in 2008. All venues have been designed to bring in natural light with unbroken sight lines, to help with clients' concentration and productivity as well as providing good visibility. Maple House has 22 rooms in total, with capacity ranging from two to 160 delegates.

The central communal areas are brightly coloured with contemporary art and word play on the walls to "stimulate the mind" as venue manager, Mark Bourne explained. He said, "We want the public areas to be a talking point, as very often delegates of training courses and workshops may not know each other. We want to engage our clients and get them thinking and talking in a visually stimulating surrounding. The courses can be very intense so it's important that we provide a completely different environment within the public areas so they can be used effectively for breaks."

etc. venues have their own chefs using locally sourced produce and ingredients with a focus on healthy eating. Mark said, "We offer a healthy two course light lunch every day for our clients. The focus here is on 'brain food' that will not cause clients to doze off during the afternoon when they go back to their workshops or training courses and need to concentrate. I believe it is the high quality of our food



that makes us stand out!" In fact, Maple House's head chef, Jennifer Goff, has recently made it through to the final 12 for the Annual Chefs Challenge, open to chefs who work within the Conference Centres of Excellence consortium.

Sustainability features strongly in etc. venues' way of working. At a local level, Maple House makes effort to reduce all general waste to landfill. The venue recycles paper and cardboard, and has placed recycled waste paper bins in all meeting rooms. Furthermore, the carpet tiles used throughout the venue are produced from recycled carpets and all meeting room stationery items are made from recycled materials. Maple House also uses a modern environmentally friendly purified drinking water system that removes all glass bottle waste.

In addition to the quality of food and the focus on sustainability, Mark emphasised that a strength of Maple House is the "expertise and knowledge of staff." The low turnover of the 11 members of core staff means that they have "got to know the market and clients very well and know what customers want!" This has been shown through winning the Gold Standard Award twice, voted for by clients for customer service levels through independent research body, BDRC Continental.

www.etcvenues.co.uk/venues/maple-house

Christmas

in Colmore Business District

Colmore Business District (CBD) is celebrating Christmas by installing colourful and sparkling decorations throughout the District, organising festive events and has facilitated a fantastic new grotto to be placed in Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Seasonal Decorations

For the festive season, CBD invests in Christmas lights and decorations to enhance the business district and bring seasonal cheer to the area, improving the environment for all to enjoy.

The CBD installed street decorations for 2012 will be coloured red, white and green to add festive colour to the District. Decorations will include stunning lit Christmas wreaths with holly and berries, placed on lamp columns on streets including Newhall Street, Edmund Street, Barwick Street, Margaret Street and Livery Street. Colourful and lit decorations will also illuminate Cornwall Street.

In addition to the lit decorations, CBD will be wishing the District a *Merry Kissmas* with a large cluster of mistletoe in the centre of Snow Hill Station Square, held together with a big bow. As Snow Hill Station is often a meeting place for people coming into the city centre, the mistletoe provides a great way of bringing additional Christmas cheer to the area by providing an ideal place to meet up and have a kiss!

Following great feedback from last year, look out for CBD's sparkling Blachere tree, which will be going back into Colmore Square between Colmore Row and Steelhouse Lane. A real Christmas tree will also be placed on the new Church Street Square.

Christmas in CBD with Moseley Arts Market
Friday 14th December, 9am to 6pm
Birmingham Cathedral Grounds, Colmore Row,
Birmingham B3 2QB

Following a successful two visits hosted by Colmore Business District this year, Moseley Arts Market will be back in Birmingham Cathedral grounds in December for a Christmas market. Make sure you visit this superb market for your Christmas shopping and meet talented local designers and makers. The high quality handmade products on offer will include photography, illustration, glass and wood products and textiles.

Film Bug presents SILENT NIGHT

Friday 14th December, 7.30pm – 8.45pm
Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB

In partnership with the nationally renowned Flatpack, Colmore Business District is presenting a Christmas film night within the beautiful surroundings of Birmingham Cathedral. The event will include a live accompaniment, Christmas food and drink and provide networking opportunities. The evening's programme will kick off with short films with a festive theme, including Edison's 1910 adaptation of A Christmas Carol, and end with a main feature - Buster Keaton's 1928 feature, The Cameraman. Brecon-based pianist Paul Shallcross will be playing the Cathedral's grand piano and giving a brief context to the films. Tickets are £5. To book a place, visit www.flatpackfestival.org.uk.

Christmas with Colmore Chorus

CBD's business choir in partnership with Birmingham Opera Company will be performing at events and hospitality venues during Christmas. Visit www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com for the latest dates and venues.

**CBD
Christmas
Events**

Meet Father Christmas in his Grotto!

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) will have a brand new grotto this year in its Activity Zone on the second floor. Facilitated by Colmore Business District, the new grotto will have a log cabin with Father Christmas inside and promises to be a great addition to the District, enhancing the city centre's Christmas offering for families.

Dates: 24th and 25th November, 1st and 2nd December, 8th and 9th December, 15th and 16th December, 22nd and 23rd December.

Opening times: Saturdays 11am – 4pm
and Sundays 12.30pm – 4.30pm

Tickets: £3 per child, free for accompanying adults.
No advance booking or timed tickets.

www.bmag.org.uk



Festive Advice

We hear from two professionals with expert advice on topics related to the festive season...

Christmastime the Ultimate Non-Renewable Resource



Mike Mounfield, The Wisdom Factory CIC

Christmas must be one time of the year when we don't need to be told how precious time is. We become aware of just how little we have, as we

try to get our inboxes down to a reasonable level, get outstanding work finished for the holidays and squeeze in some gift shopping. We become aware of how it is slipping by, with both faces of Janus looking at us accusingly over our unfulfilled ambitions. The dial of many old 'grandfather' clocks show the inscription tempus fugit ('time flies'), bearing witness to our forbears' understanding of this supposedly 'modern' problem.

How to do something about it? We need to start by realising that, as far as we are concerned, there are two kinds of time (three if you include Christmastime). The first is physical time, the stuff measured by clocks and watches. The second kind of time, the kind that is much more relevant to our Christmastime problem, is phenomenal time. This varies in apparent speed, can even run backwards (yes, really) and can be very different for two people sitting in the same office.

It's the time that you use at work, but don't get paid for (your boss pays you in physical time). One of the keys to making best use of time is 'structure'. Give your day some of it by remembering to:

- **Prioritise:** A, B, C or, given the season, 'Santa', 'Elf' and 'Reindeer' (cue office arguments about the order of priority).
- **Schedule:** Using a calendar, paper, electronic or Advent (though arguably the latter is best suited for dispensing chocolate rewards – see below)
- **Execute:** Don't underestimate the humble 'to-do' list, especially for present shopping.
- **Monitor:** What went well, what didn't, and why.
- **Reward:** It's amazing the feel-good factor from rewarding yourself with a mince pie or chocolate treat when you get something done.

Here at The Wisdom Factory CIC we run a 1-day workshop on how to manipulate phenomenal time rather than letting it manipulate you.

www.thewisdomfactory.org
@TwisdomFactory



Avoiding a Party Hangover

Tom Long, SGH Martineau LLP



The party season is nearly upon us. However, it is important to remember that the Christmas party is essentially just an extension of the workplace. The party may take place outside of the workplace and out of hours, but an employer will remain potentially liable for the actions of its staff, whilst staff should ensure they behave appropriately. Most concerning from an employer's perspective is that it will be potentially liable for acts of discrimination or harassment by its staff.

Such behaviour could lead to: a claim for compensation for the discriminatory action against both the employer and the employee responsible (such compensation being potentially unlimited); time and effort spent by management in dealing with any grievance and/or disciplinary arising from the incident; and damage to workplace relationships which damage productivity in the longer term.

Practical steps to take

So to avoid, as far as is possible, the Christmas party being ruined by any unfortunate incidents, an employer should take the following steps:

- **Ensure that it has an equal opportunities/anti-harassment policy in place;**
- **Remind employees of the existence of the policy and confirm that it applies equally to business events outside of the workplace and outside of office hours;**
- **Tell employees to enjoy themselves and have a good time, but that inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated and could result in disciplinary action;**
- **Consider limiting the bar tab; and...**
- **Consider appointing a senior, responsible employee to stay sober, monitor behaviour and step in if necessary.**
- **But remember, still try and have some fun - it is Christmas!**

Tom Long is a Senior Associate Solicitor in the Employment Group at SGH Martineau LLP

www.sghmartineau.com

The Square Peg wins Best Bar None

Tahreen Kutub

The Square Peg has been judged the city's best licensed venue in Birmingham City Council's Best Bar None awards. Having won the Best City Centre pub award for the second consecutive year, The Square Peg went on to win the overall Best Bar None award at the ceremony held at the ICC in November.

Best Bar None accreditation is awarded to venues that are raising the standard by operating responsibly and demonstrating a commitment to reducing alcohol related crime. Accredited venues are then shortlisted for category awards, the winners of which are announced at the annual Best Bar None awards. Hotel du Vin and The Old Contemptibles in Colmore Business District had also been shortlisted for category awards, with Hotel du Vin being highly commended in the Hotel Bar category.

Pub manager, Phil Edmonds said, "We are so pleased to have won the overall Best Bar None award this year. Best Bar None is a great scheme, which rewards venues that are responsibly managed and provide a safe night out for customers. I'm proud that we have been recognised and rewarded for these attributes."

In addition to its Best Bar None achievement, The Square Peg has been involved in a number of projects and activities over the past

year. Phil has been working with Birmingham City Council on its Disability Employment Solutions programme to support people with disabilities into employment and training. He said, "We really want to offer opportunities within The Square Peg for people with disabilities. We have recently taken on two people with learning difficulties as pot washers and are looking to take on three more people as glass washers during Christmas and onwards."

The Square Peg has also been working closely with youth charity, The Prince's Trust, offering two-week work placements for young people who have struggled at school, been in care, are long-term unemployed or have been in trouble with the law. To date, four work placements have taken place and of these, two have resulted in full time employment at the pub.

Phil continues to lead the City Centre Pub Watch group made up of licensees of premises in the Colmore Business District (CBD) and Retail Birmingham areas, to discuss and agree on policies of action against crime and anti-social behaviour in their licensed premises. The group has increased its membership of licensees and also has representatives from the Street Wardens and organisations such as West Midlands Police.

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

WHITEWALL
GALLERIES

Whitewall Galleries Moves to 9 Colmore Row

Whitewall Galleries in Birmingham has moved within Colmore Business District to 9 Colmore Row, making it the largest venue in the national Whitewall Galleries group.

The gallery officially opened to the public on 13th October with an exhibition of Rolf Harris' new collection of 'broad brush' landscapes featuring the vast spaces of Australia and USA.

Kate Gilbert, gallery director said, "Over the last seven years, Whitewall Galleries has firmly established its unique experience in fine art at the heart of the vibrant city of Birmingham. This autumn, the gallery has expanded into a stylish new 6,000 sq ft two-floor premises adjacent to Snow Hill Station that will allow it to host large scale events for the huge numbers of visitors that the gallery regularly attracts. We will also continue to host corporate and launch events for businesses."

Alongside artists such as Fabian Perez and modern impressionist Sherree Valentine Daines, Whitewall Galleries showcases international talent such as Danielle O'Connor Akiyama, Anna Razumovskaya and Todd White. The gallery has also released a series of landscapes and manuscripts from late musician, Jimi Hendrix and works closely with modern master Rolf Harris.

On Thursday 22nd November the gallery is hosting the Annual Solo Show from one of the UK's leading contemporary artists Duncan MacGregor. Duncan lives and paints in a stunning but remote setting on the Norfolk Broads. A keen and experienced sailor with some extraordinary stories to tell, he also spends part of the year painting on an uninhabited Scottish island, a mountainous area of undisturbed wilderness and beauty that inspires many of his stunning land and seascapes.

Contact the gallery for further details on up and coming exhibitions.

Whitewall Galleries, 9 Colmore Row,
Birmingham B3 2BJ

0121 200 3328

birmingham@whitewallgalleries.com

www.whitewallgalleries.com



CBD Showcase



Tahreen Kutub

Independent coffee house and artisan bakery, Yorks Bakery Café opened at 1 Newhall Street, Colmore Business District in July 2012. Tahreen Kutub met with owner, Simon Ford, for this edition's CBD Showcase.

What inspired you to open Yorks Bakery Café?

I've always been a 'foodie' so became frustrated at visiting places where the food was great, but the coffee was bad, or where the coffee was good, but the tea offering was a branded teabag on a string. I saw an opportunity to create a relaxed and stylish independent cafe where we do everything equally well. Our motto is if our product isn't the best in Birmingham, then we shouldn't do it. This drives our team to stay focused on consistently delivering a high quality product.

Yorks Bakery Café has an impressive range of teas, tell us more about these.

We have 15 loose leaf teas, consisting of green, white, yellow, blue (Oolong) and black teas. The difference in colour and taste is brought about from the way the picked tea leaves are processed. Basically, the longer the fermentation or oxidation process, the darker the tea becomes. Fresh green tea leaves in China, for example, are immediately steamed or pan-fired to stop any oxidation occurring.

We take tea making very seriously here! It's amazing how many people tell me that they find green tea bitter, as it's not meant to be! It's all to do with the temperature of the water in which the tea is brewed. Using boiling water releases caffeine and tannins instantly, making the tea bitter. For our green and white teas we use water at 70°C, which allows the natural sweet flavour of the tea to develop; a completely different tea drinking experience.

Where do you source your teas from?

Our loose teas are directly from China. The White Peony tea, for example, come from a garden owned by Mr Cho in the hills surrounding Fuding City in the Fujian Province in south east China. The garden has been around for 60 years; the tea is fragrant and sweet with hints of melon and citrus fruits. Importing directly means our teas are fresher as we bypass all the big German tea wholesalers.

Tell us about the coffees you offer.

Before opening the business, I had visited the Café Culture show in London to try and find the right coffee supplier. I had tried and tested various coffees all day, not having found the right supplier, until I met Caravan Coffee towards the end of the show; the taste of their espresso just blew me away! Caravan's coffee is medium roast, which gives the acidity that comes with a light roast coffee but has a fuller body.

In addition to their espresso blend we've recently started using their single origin espresso, along with a range of seasonal single origin coffees on filter.

The seasonality of our coffee stands us apart, as different beans are sourced from different farms as their crops reach their peak. We filter our coffees using either V60, AeroPress or Chemex, each producing subtle differences in flavour. We also serve Cascara at Yorks, which is a coffee cherry tea made from the dried berries of the coffee plant. It is essentially the pulp of the coffee fruit and is a very fruity, yet highly caffeinated drink.

Yorks has recently launched a new menu; what are some of the new things you have introduced?

Our menu is always evolving. We are now open later in the evening and have started to do artisan stone baked pizzas from 5.30pm onwards. We've developed a unique pizza dough enriched with our Birmingham sourdough starter. Sourdough is fermented using natural yeasts in the air as opposed to cultivated yeasts, giving it amazing flavour. We've also introduced bread boards with a choice of hummus, selection of olives or cheeses, available in the afternoons from 2pm. This is in addition to our breakfasts, sandwiches, salads, pastries, cakes and biscuits. A customer recently came in to order our pulled pork sandwich to take out. He was in a rush so ordered and left quickly. It was a pleasant surprise for us when he made the time to come back into the café to tell us that it was the best sandwich he had ever tasted!

You recently hosted our film night with Flatpack in celebration of Purple Flag Week and Birmingham's night time economy; are you looking to hold any more film nights?

Yes, definitely! The space worked really well for the film night and we would like to hold more, as well as acoustic music nights in the afternoons and evenings. We're currently exhibiting paintings on our walls by local artist, James Foulkes. We're not actively selling these but customers have already bought some of the works. We're currently looking for more Birmingham based artists to use our wall space to exhibit their works.

Finally, I was recommended your hot chocolate, which is absolutely delicious! What's the secret?

We use real Belgian chocolate with steamed milk. No chocolate powder in sight!

www.twitter.com/yorksbakerycafe
www.facebook.com/yorksbakerycafe
www.yorksbakerycafe.co.uk

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

Birmingham... ...wins gold!

Birmingham has been granted gold status for the city's stunning Olympic floral displays by securing Best Large City in the Royal Horticultural Society (RSH) Britain in Bloom Awards. The 2012 competition saw over 1,200 entrants from big cities to country villages.

The City Centre Floral Trail in July formed part of the judging route for Birmingham's entry into the RSH Britain in Bloom. Birmingham City Council's floral trail is assisted by the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) including Colmore Business District (CBD), which funds a number of floral features in the District to enhance the area. As part of the celebrations for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, CBD's floral features included a representation of a female weightlifter (attributed to Zoe Smith and Natasha Perdue) on Colmore Square and a Paralympian 'Blade Runner' (attributed to Richard Whitehead) in Snow Hill Station Square.

In addition to the top award, Birmingham City Council also received awards in addition the RHS Britain in Bloom Horticultural Award for the best floral displays throughout the entry.



Giant Screen Competition

The Giant Screen at Millennium Point is home to the largest cinema screen in the Midlands. At 72 ft wide, the screen conforms to the 'giant' regulations defined by the Giant Screen Cinema Association and also benefits from a state of the art digital dual projection system and High Quality Dolby® 3D for 3D content.

All the latest blockbuster movies are screened in 2 and 3D and because it's an independent venue, the Giant Screen can also screen live music, drama and sporting events.

WIN a pair of tickets to see a blockbuster movie of your choice at The Giant Screen.

To enter, simply email Theresa-t@colmorebusinessdistict.com and tell us who plays Bilbo Baggins in *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*.

For more information about the Giant Screen, or to book tickets, visit www.gsmp.co.uk or phone 0121 202 3333/2222.

Terms and conditions

Tickets for the winner's chosen blockbuster film are valid until 31st March 2013 and are subject to availability. Competition closing date is Friday 25th January 2013. Entries must be received by this date. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries.





Colmore Business District's Purple Flag events

Purple Flag is an accreditation scheme that recognises excellence in the management of town and city centres at night. Birmingham was one of the first in the country to be awarded this accreditation and has retained it for 2012.

Purple Flag Week 2012 (22nd to 30th September) saw a range of events across Purple Flag accredited towns and cities, which showcased the quality, diversity and vibrancy of evening and night-time experiences.

To celebrate the week, Colmore Business District (CBD) welcomed back Moseley Arts Market to Birmingham Cathedral grounds and held a film night in the District's Yorks Bakery Café.

Moseley Arts Market, which was open in the Cathedral grounds during daytime and evening, showcased the talents of one of Birmingham's most creative neighbourhoods along with invited guest artists. Products on offer included wood,

glass, leather goods, fine art, illustration, photography and textiles. The market was previously hosted by CBD in June this year; the first time the market has toured to another area of the city.

In partnership with Flatpack, CBD presented *Nightlife*, a selection of short films and archive gems celebrating the joys of a night on the tiles. Films included *Girls Night Out*, an award-winning 1987 short film by a Kings Heath-born animator about a raucous evening on the town, and *Las Palmas*, an outrageous Swedish short film mixing live action with puppets. Visitors were treated to a two-for-one offer on Yorks' hot drinks, cakes and pastries, and bean bags were kindly supplied by Bean2Bed.

Other events in Birmingham celebrating Purple Flag Week included the Southside Stories Film Premier at the Electric Cinema and the Style Birmingham Fashion event at the Mailbox.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

CBD to provide more personal safety training sessions

In spring 2012, Colmore Business District (CBD) partnered with former Royal Marine Commando, Daniel Gibbin, to provide a series of free of charge personal safety training sessions to professionals working in the District.

Following great feedback from attendees and a demand for more sessions, CBD is providing another series in the winter for employees working within the business improvement district area. This is part of CBD's key objective to secure improvements to actual and perceived safety across the business district, addressing concerns about crime and becoming a victim of crime.

The sessions provide an introduction to personal safety, including the law, crime prevention and how to manage conflict. The training focusses on verbal communication skills, including how to diffuse aggressive situations, as well as self defence actions.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com



Home Deli on Church Street

Michele Wilby

Home Deli is a great addition to the Colmore Business District area. It attracts the business community but also people who want to have a leisurely lunch long into the afternoon. There is a fantastic selection of food; you really are spoilt for choice and they have a diverse offering from beef dripping with ciabatta, Croque Monsieur or as they call it, "Brummie Cheese on Toast" or a healthy salmon salad. Anyone with an early start can hold their breakfast meetings at Home Deli, as there is plenty on offer from porridge to a Prosciutto Butty. All of their food is free range and they try to use seasonal and local ingredients wherever possible.

There is so much to look at as well, art work and other trinkets and an ornately framed TV screen; I have now discovered that *Pride and Prejudice* (the Colin Firth version) is just as enjoyable without sound!

Ami Sanobar, who opened Home Deli with business partner, Richard Clarke, gave us an overview of the look and feel of the deli:

"We've aimed to create a laid back feel inside Home Deli; the quirky but homely look has been inspired by delis in New York. I personally designed the interior. All the tables were bought new but were then sanded down to achieve an old, rustic and quirky appearance. We want Home Deli to feel comfortable as soon as you walk in, with laid back tunes playing in the background."

I am pleased to report that there will be mulled wine, Christmas sandwiches and mince pies on the menu and I am sure they will be showing some great Christmas films - *It's a Wonderful life*in Colmore Business District!

www.homecafedeli.com





Metro Bar & Grill approaches 15th birthday

Tahreen Kutub

Metro Bar & Grill, one of the longest serving independent food and drink establishments in Colmore Business District (CBD), will celebrate its 15th birthday in November.

A favourite amongst many business people in the District, I wanted to find out the secret behind Metro's success and longevity and so met with owner, Chris Kelly and his business partner, Alastair Tyson.

Throughout its 15 years, Metro has always been a grill and seafood type restaurant and was never designed to be 'trendy' as Chris explained. He said, "Trends by nature go out of fashion. I wanted to achieve a classic restaurant with staying power. We reinvest every year to develop and enhance the look of the restaurant but have never changed the business itself. In short, we're about evolution, not revolution!" Perhaps this is best portrayed by a comment once made by a customer: "I like Metro because it's like my old shoe! It's comfortable, you keep it well polished and it's got a great soul!"

When Metro first opened on Cornwall Street in the business district, there were not many other food and drink businesses in the area to cater for the professional and financial service community. Chris wanted to take a risk and open Metro in an area that was not known for food and drink, as he believed there would be a demand for it within the business community and that if "you build something good, people will come to it." This philosophy clearly worked with Metro's success to date. The success also led to the opening of Metro Solihull eight years ago.

The past 15 years have seen the culinary reputation of Birmingham grow substantially with the city currently home to three Michelin starred restaurants and what Chris described as "a much better range of middle market restaurants." The inevitable effect of increased vibrancy in the city's hospitality industry has been increased competition for food and drink businesses. As the owner of an independent business in the city, Chris stressed the importance of supporting independents, as "if people don't, the independents will eventually go!" He elaborated, "independent businesses offer

difference but don't have huge marketing budgets; therefore we rely a lot on word of mouth and reputation to spread the message and attract customers."

Metro's main customer base is the business community and the recession in the past few years has made a big impact. Alastair said, "The eating and drinking culture changes with recession and we no longer have the long work expense lunches. Previously, customers would come in at 1pm on a Friday and stay for the rest of the day. This is no longer the case in the current economic climate." A number of loyal business customers, however, still visit three or four times a week.

With the change in the business eating and drinking culture, Metro has been seeking to take advantage of new opportunities. Over the past two years, Chris has identified the growing demand for private parties and has chosen to host more. On Saturdays, Metro is now open for private parties only, the bookings for which come predominantly from the business customer base who want to hold personal parties at the weekend.

Talking about the future, Chris mentioned that he will be opening another Metro in Harborne in summer 2013. He has also recently extended the lease of Metro on Cornwall Street by 15 years, as "he has confidence in the CBD area as a place for trading." He feels the District is becoming more vibrant and thinks Church Street Square, Colmore Business District's recent public realm enhancement project with Birmingham City Council, is "great for the area." He also thinks the re-opening of the Grand Hotel will be of benefit to CBD, attracting more visitors to the District.

Metro's 15th birthday plans will include a month of celebrations throughout November, with events and offers. As we finished the interview, Chris told me he is proud that Metro is one of the oldest and most established bar and restaurants in Birmingham and feels that aiming for a classic and high quality venue was "exactly the right approach!"

www.metrobarandgrill.co.uk

Purnell's Bistro Recipe

Purnell's Bistro is located in the heart of Colmore Business District at 11 Newhall Street. The bistro menu is inspired by rustic home-cooking with an eclectic twist, driven by chef Glynn Purnell's passion to excite people through food, especially the innovative dishes taken from his childhood and the food he loves to cook and eat at home with family and friends. Purnell's Bistro has kindly provided a recipe for CBD Digest.

www.purnellsbistro-gingers.com

Devon Cod with Chorizo, Goats Cheese, Butterbeans & Spinach

Recipe Serves 4

Ingredients

- 600-800g Fillet of Devon Cod, skin and bones removed, cut into 4
- 2 Small cooking chorizo, skin on
- 200g Goats cheese
- 1 Can of butter beans, drained and washed
- 100g Baby spinach leaves, picked and washed
- 50g Softened butter
- Baking parchment (optional)
- 1 Lemon
- Tablespoon of chopped chives
- Salt and pepper



Method

- Pre-heat oven to 180°C / gas mark 4
- Cook chorizo in simmering water for 5-7 minutes, remove from heat and allow to cool, put the chorizo stock to one side and remove the chorizo.
- Place cod on a tray lined with buttered parchment, season, cook for 7-10 minutes in the oven.
- Peel skin from chorizo and cube, warm in pan with 200ml of the chorizo stock.
- Add butterbeans and cook for a further 3 minutes.
- Crumble the goats cheese into the chorizo and butterbeans, allowing it to melt and cream the sauce.
- Add spinach and cook for a further 2 minutes until wilted.
- Finish the mixture with a squeeze of lemon juice and place in a bowl.
- Take the cod from the oven and serve immediately.



Glynn Purnell

Michelin starred chef, Glynn Purnell has trained with top chefs including Gordon Ramsay, Gary Rhodes and Claude Bosi. He worked as head chef at Jessica's, which was awarded Birmingham's first Michelin star back in 2005. He is now the proud owner of three establishments in Birmingham, Purnell's, which was awarded a Michelin star in 2007, Ginger's Bar and Purnell's Bistro.

Glynn has successfully made the transition to television and

has taken part in the Great British Menu, winning twice and then appearing as a mentor. He has featured on The Great British Food Revival and is a regular guest chef on Saturday Kitchen with James Martin. Glynn will be appearing at the BBC Good Food Show at the end of November.

Purnell's Restaurant recently received the BMW Square Meal Best UK Restaurant award. It was also placed in 17th position in the Sunday Times top 100 restaurants in Britain 2012.

Glynn said, "In the past five years since we opened Purnell's,

Colmore Business District has continued to improve. As a business operating within such a vibrant area of the city we have been fortunate to benefit greatly from such improvements, so much so that we made the decision to launch Ginger's Bar and Purnell's Bistro in an adjoining street.

"Colmore Business District offers support to its businesses and creates a welcoming and safe environment for visitors. There is a varied mix of organisations across all sectors and we are proud to be a part of such a professional community in the heart of Birmingham."

CBD

CBD Summer activities



Floral Features



Magnum Sport Exhibition



Church Street Square





CBD Food Festival



Jazz & Blues Festival



CBD Community Games



Colmore Chorus



CBD team walks Jurassic Coast for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation



In October, a Colmore Business District (CBD) team of professionals walked a natural World Heritage Site of 95 miles, raising over £1,500 for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF). The team, made up of CBD Board Directors, office team members and guests, walked the Jurassic Coast path in South West England from Friday 5th October to Monday 8th October. Starting at Orcombe Point near Exmouth, the team walked many stretches of coastline to Old Harry Rocks near Bournemouth.

CBD communications co-ordinator Tahreen Kutub said, "We have trained very hard for this trek over the past 10 weeks to get fit for the challenge and are so proud of what we have achieved. We've been meeting at weekends over the past three months to do training

walks in areas including the Peak District, Cannock Chase, Shropshire, The Malverns and The Wrekin. I'm delighted that our hard work has paid off and that we've been able to raise over £1,500 for such a great cause."

CBD chose the Children's Liver Disease Foundation, based in the District, as its nominated charity in summer 2012.

The charity's chief executive, Catherine Arkley commented: "CLDF takes action against all forms of liver disease in children. We do this by providing a comprehensive information hub, giving emotional support to families, helping to fund vital research and acting as a voice for all those affected. We rely on community fundraising for 75 percent of our income so are delighted that CBD have

chosen us as their nominated charity.

"The money which CBD has raised on the Jurassic Coast trek will help fund our small grants programme, which enables research teams to gather evidence and lever funds from major donors for large scale work. It's a vital area of our work – one which gives the families we support, hope for the future."

CBD is also holding a quiz night at Metro Bar & Grill in November to fundraise for CLDF and provide networking and team building opportunities for businesses in the District. The event has had huge interest from the business community.

For further information, visit www.childliverdisease.org or call 0121 212 3839.



As part of its charity activities, Colmore Business District is working to raise awareness of the Rape and Sexual Violence Project (RSVP), based in the District.

RSVP was established in 1978 to support those affected by sexual violence and abuse to make positive meaningful changes, to live a future with hope and confidence.

RSVP is a Birmingham based charity, covering Birmingham and Solihull, which supports women, men and children, from the age of 13 upwards, with compassion, professionalism and humanity.

RSVP's services are holistic and include:

- One to one counselling, including outreach counselling
- Independent Advocacy, supporting people who have reported, through Police and Court processes
- Telephone Helpline, providing emotional support, information and signposting
- Social Groups, where survivors can mix safely with other survivors and take part in fun, social activities (e.g. Tai Chi, cinema trips and meals out)
- Visual Evidence for Victims: RSVP takes photographs of any injuries caused by sexual violence and abuse; these become evidence if the crime is reported to the Police within six years
- Drop-in Coffee Mornings, helping survivors learn new self help coping tools and strategies

- Self Help Information on the common effects of sexual violence and abuse, including self harm, flashbacks and supporting a loved one who has been abused.
- Specialised support for abused asylum seekers and refugees.

RSVP also has an enterprise called "Arts with Hearts." This was set up to sell quirky arts and crafts goods, made by some service users who have creative skills. Each purchase raises funds for RSVP services, so it can empower those who still need its support and restore faith and confidence in the survivors who create the goods.

If you'd like more information please contact RSVP on: 0121 200 1695 / 0121 236 5763 or email: rsvpwm.info@gmail.com.

www.rsvporg.co.uk

Summer edition's COMPETITION

Georgina Duffy, senior secretary at Baker Tilly, has won a colour and cut makeover at Lisa Shepherd Birmingham on Temple Row West in Colmore Business District. Congratulations to Georgina!



Winner!

CBD DIGEST WINTER 2012

Competition

To be in with a chance to win lunch for two at Purnell's Bistro on 11 Newhall Street, send the answer to the following question to

Tahreen Kutub:
tahreen-k@colmorebusinessdistrict.com

How many venues are there under the Purnell's brand in Birmingham?

Terms and conditions

Lunch for two at Purnell's Bistro (food only), valid Tuesday to Thursday. Competition closing date is Friday 25th January 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.

Professional men of Birmingham, who's the boss?

When it comes to the boardroom, who really rules the roost? (In style that is)

Step forward and take part in Clements & Church's Birmingham search for the smartest members of the business community to be in with a chance of winning the top dog prize of a complimentary shirt, tie, pocket square and cufflinks from limited edition ranges.

Five runners up will all receive a complimentary limited edition hand woven silk tie.

What do you need to do to enter?

Visit in store (22 Church Street, Birmingham B3 2NP) for your photographic entry or send a full-length photo of yourself to matt@clementsandchurch.co.uk or harj@clementsandchurch.co.uk with your full name, work place, email and contact number.

Rules of the competition and terms & conditions

All entrants must send a full length photo of themselves in what they consider to be their sharpest look. Shirt and tie must be worn. Jacket, trousers and pocket square all optional but strongly advised!

Only one entry per person. So get it right first time! Only entries with full contact details will be accepted. All entries must be submitted by 25/01/2013.

By entering this competition you agree to have your contact details added to Clements & Church's mailing list to receive updates from the store.

The overall winner and five runners up will be announced in the Spring edition of CBD Digest.

www.clementsandchurch.co.uk

Clements & Church
Competition



CBD To-do List

Revealed: Government Art Collection

Saturday 17th November to Sunday 24th February

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

Revealed will bring together a collection of nearly 200 works that form part of the Government Art Collection. It will be the first time that these works, usually displayed in British Government buildings across the world, have been united under one roof. Free exhibition.

www.bmag.org.uk

The Twelve Dates Of Christmas

Wednesday 5th December to Saturday 15th
December

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

2011's HIT off-Broadway show makes its UK debut at The Old Joint Stock this Christmas! Bridget Jones meets Carrie Bradshaw in this delicious one-woman show about how much the holidays suck after your heart's been crushed! See website for times and ticket prices.

www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Evening Carols for the Business Community

Tuesday 18th December 5.45pm

Lunchtime Carols for the Business Community

Wednesday 19th December 1.05pm

Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham
B3 2QB

A traditional carol service for all working in the city centre. Mulled mora juice and mince pies served afterwards. For further information, contact Chris Dinsdale at ChaplaincyPlus: 0121 236 9742.

www.chaplaincyplus.org.uk

Birmingham Royal Ballet

Cinderella

Wednesday 21st November to Sunday 9th
December

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

Created for the City of Birmingham to celebrate the Company's 20th anniversary in 2010 and televised by the BBC, Cinderella is stunning, and one of David Bintley's most successful creations to date. This is one family Christmas treat you definitely shouldn't miss! See website for times and ticket prices.

www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Christmas in CBD with Moseley Arts Market

Friday 14th December, 9am to 6pm

Birmingham Cathedral Grounds, Colmore Row,
Birmingham B3 2QB

Make sure you visit this superb market for your Christmas shopping and meet talented local designers and makers. The high quality handmade products on offer will include photography, illustration, glass and wood products and textiles.

www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Barbara Nice's Countdown to Christmas

Tuesday 18th December to Saturday 22nd
December

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

Join local housewife superstar, Mrs Barbara Nice, in a seasonal selection box of fun and frolics! The perfect way to rediscover the joy of Christmas - it's a party every night! Barbara Nice is the comedy creation of Janice Connolly best known for her role as Holy Mary in Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights. See website for times and ticket prices.

www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Meet Father Christmas in his Grotto!

Weekends from Saturday 24th November to
Sunday 23rd December

Opening times: Saturdays 11am - 4pm and
Sundays 12.30pm - 4.30pm

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

Meet Father Christmas at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. Situated in the Activity Zone, the Grotto tickets are £3 per child (price includes a small age-appropriate gift). Free for accompanying adults. No advance booking or timed tickets. www.bmag.org.uk

Film Bug presents SILENT NIGHT

Friday 14th December, 7.30pm - 8.45pm

Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham
B3 2QB

Enjoy a fantastic programme of films with a festive theme, including Edison's 1910 adaptation of A Christmas Carol and Buster Keaton's 1928 feature, The Cameraman. Brecon-based pianist Paul Shallcross will be playing the Cathedral's grand piano and giving a brief context to the films. Tickets are £5.

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

Strictly Come Dancing Live 2013

Friday 18th to Sunday 20th January

The NIA, King Edwards Road, Birmingham B1 2AA

Strictly Come Dancing Live is back for a sixth golden year, again opening the tour at Birmingham's NIA on 18th January 2013! This multi million pound production features all the must-haves from the hugely popular BBC1 TV series. See website for times and ticket prices.

www.thenia.co.uk

The Wind in The Willows

Wednesday 28th November to Saturday 19th
January

The Crescent Theatre, 20 Sheepcote Street,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE

The charming tale of Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad comes alive this Christmas as The REP heads downstream to the riverbank and embarks on a glorious adventure that leads to Toad Hall, to the perilous Wild Wood and finally to battle! See website for times and ticket prices.

www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Robinson Crusoe and the Caribbean Pirates

Saturday 15th December to Sunday 27th January

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

Birmingham Hippodrome's swashbuckling pantomime adventure, Robinson Crusoe & the Caribbean Pirates features fabulous sets, outrageous costumes and stunning special effects...along with a few surprises to shiver your timbers! See website for times and ticket prices.

www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Madagascar Live!

Friday 18th to Sunday 20th January

LG Arena, National Exhibition Centre,
Birmingham B40 1NT

Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the hip hip Hippo and of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins as they escape from their home at New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar. See website for times and ticket prices. www.lgarena.co.uk