

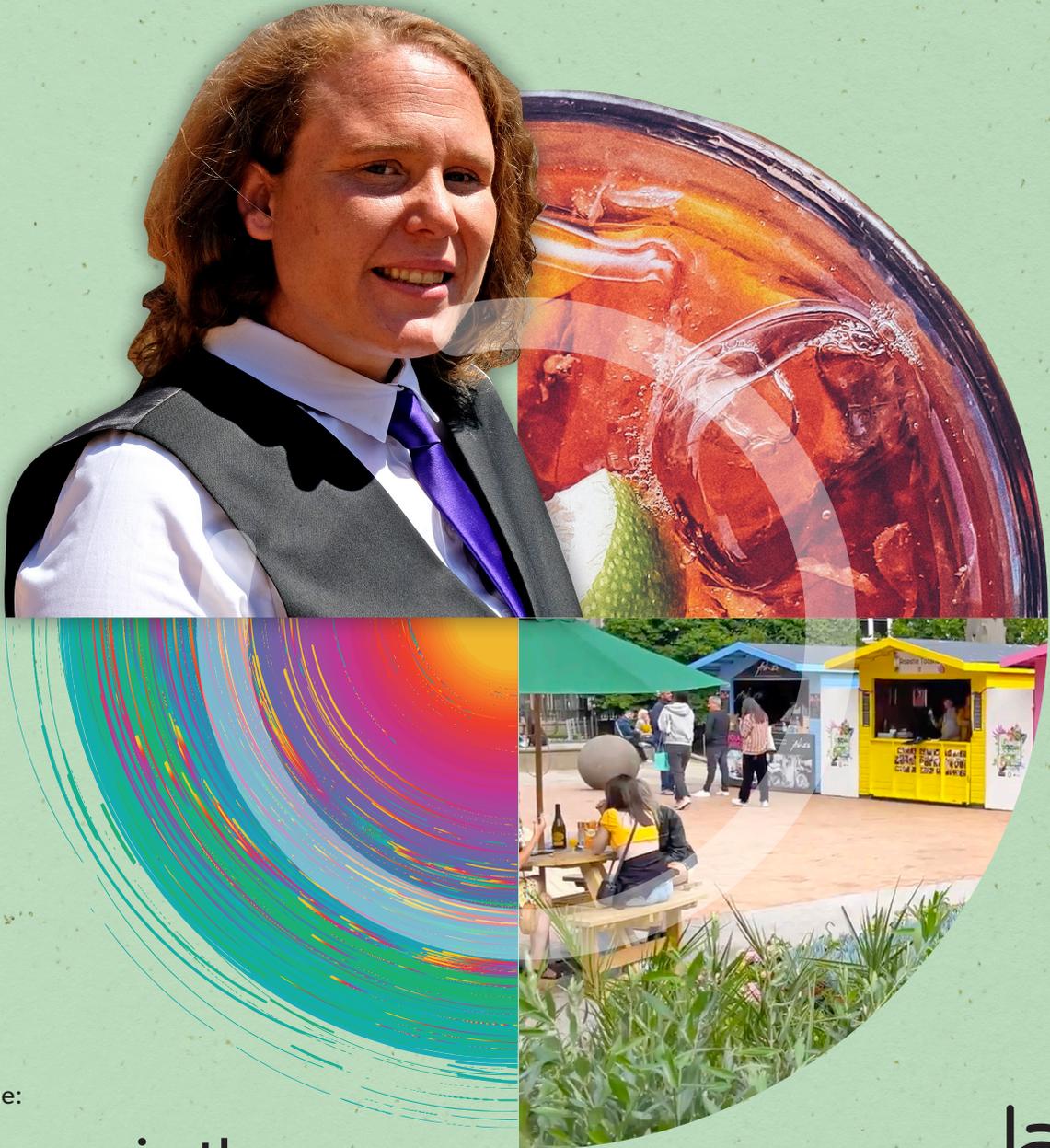
+ More than just business...

COLMORE

Summer 2021

A Day in the District
The Lowdown
Movers & Shakers
Business News
History & Heritage

LIFE



In this issue:

Summer in the Business District



SUMMER colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Welcome

The first half of 2021 has been a busy one in Colmore Business District, with a particular focus on public realm works. We launched our new outdoor seating scheme, Summer in the Square (**page 5**), welcomed two new parklets on Church Street (**page 4**) and installed further seating on the award-winning Church Street Square. The road closure on Waterloo Street, which has been managed by Birmingham City Council, has proved a success with businesses and patrons alike. It's great to see people out and about enjoying the District's venues once again, albeit safely in a socially distanced manner.

Community has never been as important as it is now, which is why we continue to develop existing community spaces and create new ones. Over the coming months, the District will evolve as works on Cornwall Street near an autumn completion date and work begins on our fantastic Livery Street art project, which was postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic. Keep



One of the new Church Street parklets. See page 4

your eyes peeled in July and August as our chosen artists begin work on a stunning new mural to bring even more colour and life to the area. But, while the District's physical appearance may be changing, we must not forget what's happening behind the doors of our businesses. This month, work on our Future Business District report nears completion with businesses from across the area providing vital information on what the future will look like for our cities.

The summer of 2021 we hope will be a cause for celebration as we edge towards the end of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown.

I for one would like to thank businesses for their continued support and determination during these difficult times and I hope to be raising a drink with you soon.

**MICHELE WILBY, CEO,
COLMORE BID**



THE BID TEAM

Michele Wilby
Chief Executive Officer

Jonathan Bryce
Operations Manager

Chris Brown
Communications Manager

Katy Paddock
Events Manager

Paul Street
Strategic Projects Officer

Lisa Richards
Finance Officer

Mike Mounfield
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John-Jo Von Johnson
Street Operations Manager

Aaron Franklyn-Payne
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FOR COLMORE LIFE MAGAZINE

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**SUMMER
2021**

New Parklets to meet outdoors



The story of Rosa's Thai Café



The District's Movers & Shakers



Business news and moves



The man who drew the town



A DAY IN THE DISTRICT

YOUR FIRST VISIT OR BACK AFTER A WHILE? HERE'S A HANDY GUIDE

1 BREAKFAST

COFFEE #1

Coffee #1's modern and welcoming space, with its stripped wooden floors, vintage lighting and signature leather Chesterfield chairs, is the perfect spot.

Edmund House, 12 Newhall Street, B3 3EW



2 TO THE SHOPS

CLEMENTS & CHURCH

A reputation for beautifully finished tailor-made suits and garments using luxurious fabrics with special attention to detail.

22 Church Street, B3 2NP



3 ME TIME

BLAZE

The first of its kind, BLAZE by David Lloyd Clubs has arrived in the Business District. A high intensity interval training (HIIT) workout like you've never experienced.

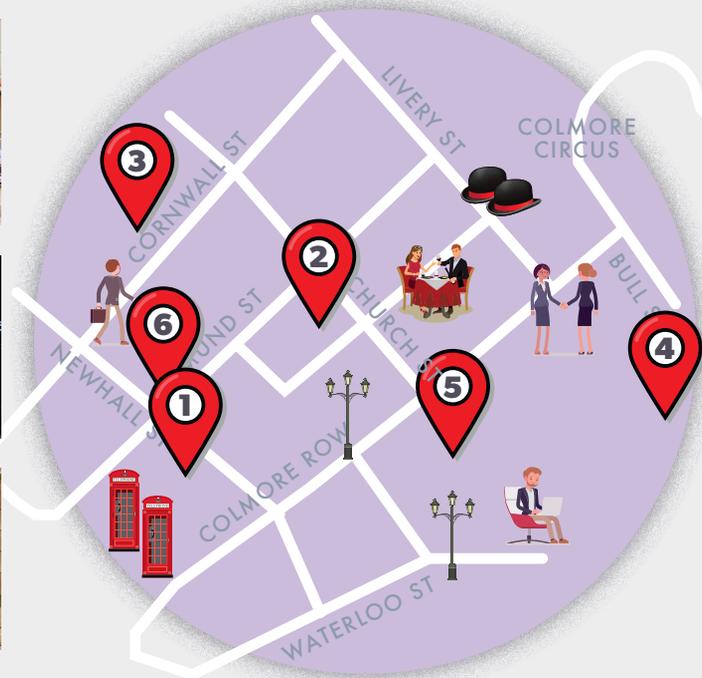
63-65 Cornwall Street, Birmingham, B3 2EE

4 LUNCH

PLANT AND PULSE

Plant-based/vegan takeaway showcasing the incredible produce the UK has to offer, and providing it in as sustainable way as possible.

9 The Minories, Birmingham, B4 6AG



5 SEE THE SIGHTS

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL

Join its visitors from across the world who come to admire the Burne-Jones windows, or enjoy a moment's calm in the heart of the Business District.

Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2QB

6 ONE FOR THE ROAD

ALL BAR ONE

All Bar One really has something for everyone. A great selection of small and sharing plates along with a great main menu, not forgetting their drink offering.

43 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 3NY



COLMORE BID AREA GUIDE 2021

All above details are taken from Colmore BID's Area Guide, available to read online. The guide features a directory of bars, restaurants, coffee shops, retailers, salons, hotels and more!

>>> CLICK HERE TO READ

Lowdown

New Parklets create more seating on Church Street

As the demand for outdoor seating continues to grow in the city, Colmore BID has added to its popular parklet scheme with the launch of two new seating areas on Church Street.

The new additions bring the grand total of parklets in Colmore Business District up to seven and have been welcomed by local hospitality venues who are able to use the space to serve customers.

The two new community spaces have been launched on Church Street, outside Gaucho and The Old Royal pub. They join five previously installed parklets on Colmore Row, outside 200 Degrees Coffee, Barwick Street, outside Primitivo, Church Street, outside Hotel du Vin and Waterloo Street, outside Theatrix and Purecraft Bar & Kitchen.

Each parklet has capacity for 15-20 people within up to four defined areas, including seating with a low

table for coffee and drinks, an area for dining with a high table and standing room. They also include an area that has been specifically designed to be accessible for wheelchair users.

Michele Wilby, CEO of Colmore BID, said: "Our parklet scheme has grown from strength to strength, with both businesses and the public making full use of the various sites. As people slowly return to the District after lockdown, it's fantastic to see all these new spaces that we've created being used for catching up with friends, a quick coffee, meetings and even sit down meals.

"Office life will be different after the pandemic and there's no pretending otherwise. With the needs of those in the District changing, it's important that the BID supports these changes any way we can to ensure we continue to make Colmore Business District an outstanding place to be."

7
PARKLETS
NOW IN
PLACE
ACROSS
THE
DISTRICT



DIGITAL PLATFORM OFFERS CITY'S REMOTE WORKERS NEW OPTIONS

With the constraints of coronavirus restrictions finally easing, a new platform aimed at connecting home workers with workspaces in local venues will be launching in Birmingham this summer.

Work From Here offers remote workers a city-wide directory of venues providing collaborative working spaces; giving users the opportunity to book, search and work within an online platform.

Working alongside the city's cafes, bars and restaurants, the project aims to give the city's once booming hospitality scene the infrastructure to get back on its feet after being devastated by the pandemic; serving as a recovery tool for hospitality venues maximising capacity and driving an additional revenue stream.

Birmingham entrepreneurs Jo Seabright and Tim Andrews, who was named MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, have joined forces with customer experience expert Phillipa Cresswell and leading app developer Matt Foster to create the new platform.

Visit www.myworkfromhere.co.uk.

PARADISE: THE PLACE TO BEE

Paradise Birmingham has welcomed 80,000 new occupants – in the shape of its own bee colonies, housed in two traditional hives.

The bees will be a first for Paradise and will occupy the hives, which are located close to the existing hoarding at the corner of Congreve Street and Great Charles Street.

The bees will not be in and around the public areas of the development in large numbers, so those who are nervous of insects need not fear.

The hives are being installed as part of an ecology-led initiative to bring more wildlife to the development and encourage a greater diversity of insects in this part of the city centre.

Beach hut dates confirmed for Summer in the Square weekends



The dates for this year's Summer in the Square events in Victoria Square have been confirmed.

Colmore BID, the organisers of Colmore Food Festival, have partnered with Retail BID and Birmingham City Council, to establish a new outdoor seating space for people to enjoy at anytime during the summer months. The colourful beach huts will feature the city's top hospitality venues selling an assortment of food and drink, plus a selection of retail businesses selling clothing, gifts and homewares.

Indian restaurant Asha's, Argentinian steak restaurant Gaucho and independent coffee shops Java Roastery and Yorks were among the first selection of hospitality venues serving people looking for a spot of lunch, an outdoor meeting, a catch-up with friends or even an evening meal.

While the seating can be used at any time, the huts will be open for business at key dates, with venues rotating each time. Details of upcoming vendors will be announced soon.

Michele Wilby, CEO of Colmore BID, said: "Colmore Food Festival is the pinnacle of our annual events calendar and while it could not take place this year due to the uncertainty surrounding Covid restrictions, we could not let the occasion pass us by, so we developed the smaller scale Summer in the Square.

"When planning events, safety has and always will be at the forefront of our mind and while we would love to put-on large-scale events, it is not the right time. Summer in the Square allows for increased outdoor seating in the District in a safe and measured way, providing space for people to catch up with friends and colleagues, while adhering to guidelines.

"We can't wait to see the square buzzing with activity once again."

CONFIRMED BEACH HUT DATES

11am-6pm each day

Thurs 15th-Sat 17th July

Thurs 29th-Sat 31st July

Thurs 5th-Sat 7th Aug

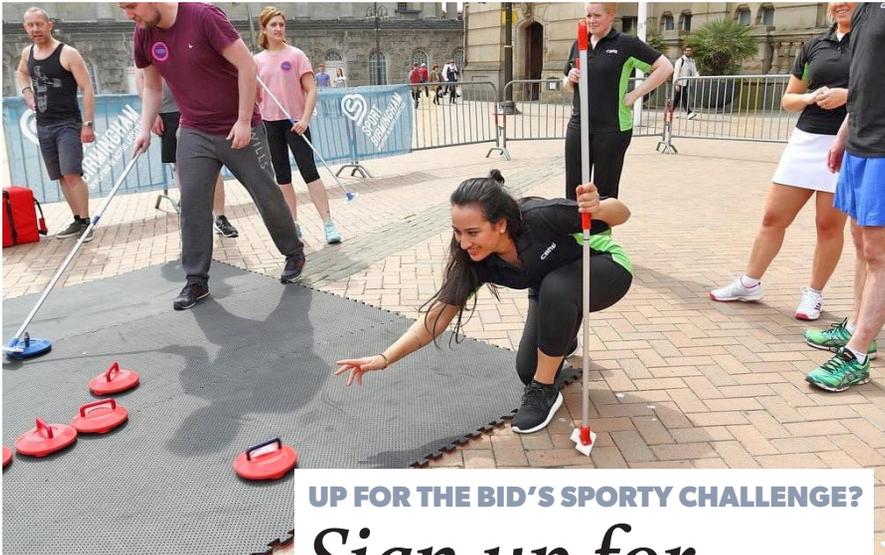
Thurs 12th-Sat 14th Aug

Thurs 19th-Sat 21st Aug

Thurs 26th-Mon 30th

Aug (Bank Holiday)

Lowdown



UP FOR THE BID'S SPORTY CHALLENGE?

Sign up for Community Games 2021

Every year, Colmore BID has a comprehensive calendar of events designed so that over the year there will be something that appeals to everyone. One of our fundraising events that always proves to be popular is the Colmore BID Community Games, probably due to the competitive nature of this team event.

Do you think your team could come along and be crowned the winners of Community Games 2021?

We are inviting teams of four from businesses within the District to take part in the event on Friday, September 17 in Birmingham Cathedral Grounds. This year our organising partner is AllinAll Events, who will be organising the overall activity. We will be confirming exact

details soon, but if you wish to register your team now you can find the registration form **here**.

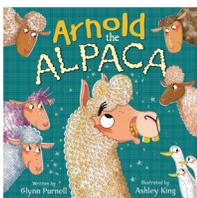
Team entry costs £40, with all proceeds going to Birmingham Food Banks.

After this year's games we will be holding an after party on Victoria Square. More details to follow.

If you would like more details email Emma Jones: signmeup@colmorebid.co.uk

- Our sporting events in this year's games:
- Blindfold Egg and Spoon Race
 - 3-Legged Race
 - Sack Race
 - Relay
 - Dodgeball
 - Tug of War
 - 4 Lane Bungee Run

CHEF GLYNN'S NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK



Michelin-starred chef Glynn Purnell has released his second children's book following the previous success of *The Magical Adventures of Whoops the Wonder Dog*, released in 2018.

Arnold the Alpaca is aimed at

primary school aged children and tells the story of Arnold, a brave alpaca.

Arnold the Alpaca is available to buy nationally from Amazon. It can also be bought directly from Purnell's Restaurant on Cornwall Street in the Business District.

FREE MONTHLY EVENTS



COLMORE BID WELLBEING

Following the success of its Mental Health Awareness Week events, which took place in May, Colmore BID has partnered with Wellbeing in your Office to launch a series of free monthly wellbeing events. The programme has been created to aid with managing anxieties that may have arisen during lockdown or around returning to a traditional office environment.

The programme launched in June with a Digital Wellbeing workshop and will continue virtually on 27 July with Mindfulness for Calm and Resilience and 17 August with Chair Yoga.

Mindfulness for Calm and resilience is a great way to understand the background of mindfulness meditation and what it can achieve. The practical talk will teach participants why mindfulness meditation works and why it benefits everyone that practices it. The session also includes a discussion on anxiety and how to tackle it.

As the name suggests, Chair Yoga will be practiced in or standing next to your chair. The class teaches participants how to access the benefits of yoga at their desk and includes tips on mindful breathing and stretching. The class is suitable for all abilities and ages.

For more information and to book onto the classes for free, visit www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com/events

Cycle Hire scheme is proving popular

COLMORE BID DIRECTORS GET ON THEIR BIKES FOR LAUNCH OF NEW SERVICE

People have taken almost 500 rides a day on West Midlands Cycle Hire bikes following their launch in central Birmingham.

A total of 43 docks and more than 300 bikes were launched on the streets on Monday, May 24th, and in the first 14 days 6,926 journeys were taken with users covering a combined distance of more than 23,000 kilometres.

More than 300 bikes have been distributed among 43 docking stations placed at key locations in and around the city centre – including bus, train and tram interchanges and popular destinations like Broad Street and Victoria Square.

This number will rise to 83 docking stations and more than 700 bikes later this year – covering an area including the city centre and stretching out towards the University of Birmingham. The bikes are being made by the renowned Pashley company in Stratford-upon Avon.

The cycle hire scheme was launched by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), part of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), to encourage more people to become active and healthy and offer a convenient and more environmentally-friendly alternative to the car for shorter journeys.

Mayor of the West Midlands Andy Street said: "It is incredibly exciting to launch our cycle hire scheme in



Birmingham, and I know riders across the city have been itching to get out and try our bikes. They are already available in a number of boroughs across the West Midlands and have proven to be incredibly popular with more than 14,000 people giving them a go."

Investment in cycling facilities is a key part of the region's plan to encourage more alternatives to the car for shorter journeys around busy towns and cities with a view to reducing congestion, improving air quality and helping the region achieve its #WM2041 net zero-carbon target.

When fully rolled-out later this year there will be 170 fixed docks and

1,500 bikes for hire across the region, of which 150 will be powered e-bikes. The pedal cycles have three gears to cope with hilly parts of the region and are fitted with high quality laser safety lights.

As an introductory offer everyone who signs up will get their first 30 minute bike ride for free. The normal cost of unlocking a bike is £1 with a 5p per minute charge after that. This means a 20 minute cycle will cost £2 and an hour £4.

The bikes can be hired using the Beryl Cycle Hire app. Later this year, they will also be available via the new Swift App.

For more information visit: <https://www.wmcyclehire.co.uk/>

Pictured: The BID's Alex Tross, Nicola Fleet-Miine and Paul Fielding on the bikes in Victoria Square

CYCLING FILM TO MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH BUSINESS

Colmore BID is working with local filmmakers Michael B. Clifford and Sam Lockyer to make a short film about the connection between cycling and business, entitled Making Connections.

We are looking for people who could provide brief case-studies around the topic. Examples might be people who use a bike for their commute to work (newly adopted or of long-standing) and people

who use a bike for some aspect of their business. The cases could be positive or negative, or a mix of the two.

Making Connections is a series of short films about cycling in Birmingham and the wider region. The series will focus on individual's stories and their experiences of cycling, how it features in their lives and what it's done for them. Alongside individual's stories, the series will look

at how schemes in the city have enabled people to cycle, what has been achieved so far and the challenges faced by the City Council and its partners in bringing cycling to a 'motor' city.

If you have a story to tell and would like to get involved in the film, Making Connections please email chris.brown@colmorebid.co.uk



‘Lots of positive things are happening and people want the area to thrive’

COLMORE BID AMBASSADOR NICOLE PANAYIOTOU REFLECTS ON A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT

By Catherine Hendrick

“I can’t predict what’s going to happen in the future. But I can face it with a positive attitude and make sure things happen,” says Nicole Panayiotou.

It is this can-do attitude and positivity that makes Nicole ideal for her role as the Ambassador for Colmore BID. Nicole, who joined the BID in 2018,

is part of the Street Operations team and works alongside the Safe and Sound Working Group. Her main responsibilities involve reporting and helping building managers and venue owners with environmental issues.

“The Colmore District’s a beautiful area and we play a key part in that,” she explains.

“So if there’s an issue with graffiti,

loose slabs or begging I can pass them on to the right department and help sort things out. We collaborate with the council to get things moving faster.”

Thanks to her patience, persistence and customer skills, gained during more than a decade in the hospitality industry, Nicole has helped resolve a number of problems.

But her role is not just about making sure the Colmore area looks good and that its high standards are maintained, it’s about representing Colmore BID and helping to build relationships with members and between businesses too.

Colmore People

'I love networking, getting people together and talking to them and smiling. I feel like over the years I've gained responsibility and respect in the area'

Nicole welcomes new businesses to the area and visits venues regularly to listen to their views and keep them informed about what's going on.

"I'm out strolling every day and popping into places and letting them know Colmore BID is there to support and help everyone in the District," she explains. "I have a great relationship with the venues. Sometimes just having a little chat can help solve problems. If someone has an issue with a neighbour, for instance.

"Over time I think this has helped most venues get to know each other and you'll see them helping each other. It's really nice to see that community."

Having those face-to-face relationships and local knowledge makes a big difference, according to Nicole, whose bubbly personality is perfect for the role.

"One venue lost their industrial bin and had to pay £600 to replace it," she recalls. "We managed to find it for them. It turned out some builders had borrowed it during lockdown because they didn't think the venue needed it.

"Because I'm out strolling every day I know all the bins and what belongs to which business.

"This one had a sign on the side so as soon as I spotted it I knew who it belonged to and I managed to get it returned and the venue got their money back.

"The general manager was so relieved because it was a lot of money."

The torrid events of the past year meant Nicole had to quickly adapt to a different way of supporting the District.

"When we first went into lockdown it was a bit shocking to see an area which is normally so full of hustle and bustle so quiet," she reflects.

"You wouldn't even see any homeless people because our security team had got them all into accommodation."

Rather than carrying out her daily visits Nicole had to work from home. "I'd still contact the building managers and general managers and ask them if they had any issues," she explains. "If it was

environmental they'd take pictures and send them to me and I would put in a report and make sure someone sorted things out.

"I'd also check with our cleaner, who was hired by the BID and was still working in the District, to see if there were any problems."

Nicole also helped businesses access the financial support offered by the Government because of the pandemic.

"I contacted the hospitality venues to make sure they knew about the grants and that they were eligible. I also supported them with their applications," she explains.

Nicole says there are plenty of signs that the Business District is getting back to its best and she's once again visiting venues in person.

"I was begging to come back in the end because I missed being here," she laughs.

"Things picked up when venues were able to open their indoor areas.

"The feedback I've been getting is that venues are overwhelmed with what's going on.

"It's not just Friday and Saturday when it's busy but it's been Monday to Sundays for them too. It's really nice to see. Lots of positive things are happening and people really want the area to thrive."

Nicole is now looking forward to helping out with more BID events and seeing how she can support even more of its projects.

"There's lots going on. Summer in the Square, with the new outdoor seating spaces and food huts in Victoria Square, means people can enjoy their favourite bars and restaurants outdoors and it's really changed the view.

"The parklets have made a big difference to the area too."

Nicole is also hoping to help introduce a safety campaign called 'Ask Angela' to the District.

She explains: "It's aimed at people who might be on a date, for instance, and feel uncomfortable or unsafe. They can approach hospitality staff and ask



Nicole Panayiotou on Colmore Row

for 'Angela'. The staff will be trained to help by calling a taxi or the police to make sure they get home safely.

"West Midlands Police have launched it in a few areas already and it's something we're discussing."

Nicole says she loves her role. "I love networking, getting people together and talking to them and smiling.

"I feel like over the years I've gained responsibility and respect in the area. I've had amazing support from the BID, especially the Street Operations Manager John-Jo Von Johnson.

"I just want people to enjoy Colmore District as much as possible."

Colmore People



Saiphin Moore

From growing up on a mountain farm in Thailand to creating a restaurant empire in the UK it's been an incredible journey for the woman behind one of the latest additions to Birmingham's food scene.

Saiphin Moore is the co-founder of Rosa's Thai Café, which has opened at the heart of the city's Paradise development.

As a child she learned to cook with ingredients harvested straight from her family's fields and fish and meat from her grandparents' grocery store in Khao Kho in northern Thailand.

Before long the enterprising schoolgirl was growing her own crops and by the age of 13 she'd sold enough coriander to buy a motorbike and was making deliveries to neighbouring villages.

At 16 Saiphin opened a noodle shop in her parents' front room. People would travel across the province to try her noodles and she often sold out after lunch.

The cool climate of Khao Kho allowed her parents to grow some unusual crops.

Saiphin had always been taught to use whatever ingredients were available, so she'd surprise her customers by slipping things like iceberg lettuce into her wok. An approach she still uses today at Rosa's.

A visit to Bangkok fuelled her passion for food. Saiphin fell in love with the sounds, tastes and smells of the street food stalls and the sheer variety of ingredients and dishes.

At 18 she took a job as a nanny in Hong Kong but it wasn't long before her talent for cooking meant that she was serving up feasts for her employers and their friends.

As her reputation grew a local grocery store asked her to open an in-store noodle shop which led to a part-time role in a Thai restaurant.

For the next two years Saiphin would often cook from six in the morning until nine o'clock at night, fitting catering jobs around her babysitting duties.

After meeting her husband Alex, who ran a digital marketing business in Hong Kong, Saiphin opened her first Thai takeaway and sit-down restaurant called Tuk Tuk Thai.

In 2006 the couple decided to move to London. Saiphin continued to cook

From Thailand to Chamberlain Square... the family history of Rosa's Thai Café

**CATHERINE HENDRICK MEETS THE PASSIONATE TEAM
BEHIND A NEW ARRIVAL IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT**



Each of Rosa's restaurants is inspired by its local history. So you'll find an interior influenced by the city's famous Jewellery Quarter at Rosa's Birmingham, including metal lamps inspired by the kind jewellery workers traditionally used when making their wares.

but soon realised it could be tricky finding authentic Thai ingredients in the UK. But that didn't deter her.

She challenged herself to cook authentic Thai dishes using seasonal British ingredients too.

Saiphin soon became acquainted with Jersey Royal potatoes (a vital ingredient in Rosa's Beef Massaman curry) and foraged her own ingredients by going wild mushroom picking.

The talented chef began selling home-cooked meals at offices and markets in London which would sell out.

That encouraged her to open a market stall in London's Brick Lane and just two years after arriving in the UK Saiphin and Alex were ready to open their first restaurant. Saiphin also ended up with a new name!

The couple took over the lease of a traditional British cafe called 'Rosa's Spitalfields' with the help of family, friends and credit cards

They decided to keep the name Rosa's on the door out of respect for its history and because they didn't have enough money to pay for a new sign!

Soon everyone was calling Saiphin 'Rosa' and the name has stuck.

Just a year later the couple sold their house in Hong Kong to fund a second Rosa's in Soho, quickly followed by a third branch in Westfield Stratford and a restaurant in Carnaby Street.

They now have almost 30 restaurants around the UK.

Saiphin says Birmingham was the "the missing link" and not just because of its large Thai population.

She realised that she might be able to create something special in the city when chefs from Birmingham who came to work for her in London soon wanted to move back because they were missing home.

Saiphin found the perfect spot for her new restaurant, near Birmingham's Grade I listed Town Hall, the Council

House and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

She wasn't the only one waiting for Rosa's arrival in Birmingham.

The new restaurant's general manager Annie Bowen was born in Thailand and had heard of Rosa's growing reputation.

Annie, who worked at Japanese restaurant Yo Sushi for 10 years, explains: "I was waiting for Rosa's to come to Birmingham.

"I'd heard rumours that she was going to open a restaurant here and I kept waiting and waiting until I heard she was definitely coming and then I jumped in straight away.

"It's my dream job and I get to eat Thai food everyday!"

This year might not seem like the ideal time to open a new restaurant given the pandemic.

But Annie says: "We've had an amazing start. It's been fantastic. We didn't expect so many bookings.

"I think we opened at the right time, just as the hospitality industry was beginning to open up again and we ended up being fully booked until mid-June.

"Birmingham is an amazing city and Rosa's is a place where people can meet their friends and enjoy fresh, authentic, Thai food and a beer in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

"We have an amazing team here and Rosa's at the heart of everything we do.

"She's an inspiration. Every café has a black and white picture of Rosa with her family to remind us of where she has come from."

Rosa's Birmingham serves Thai food, including coeliac-friendly dishes, from 12 until 10pm daily at Unit 2B Chamberlain Square. Delivery and takeaway is also available. Click here to book a table: <https://www.rosasthaicafe.com/book-a-table-reservations-rosas-thai-cafe-restaurants>

Below: The Rosa's Thai Café Birmingham team
Inset left: The original café in London
Bottom: Annie Bowen



Colmore Profile

It's go go for Jojo on Newhall St

ARCHITECT'S RESTAURANT DREAM NOW A REALITY AS HE LAUNCHES NEW VENTURE IN BUSINESS DISTRICT

'The building offers some terrific views down Newhall Street and we would like to develop a roof terrace next summer'

Pictured: Kevin Singh has partnered with restaurateur, Maddie Aulak to open Jojolounge

A chartered architect with a 25-year career in higher education has combined his passion for property and travel to launch a New York inspired lounge bar in Birmingham city centre.

Professor Kevin Singh, who is a founding Director of Birmingham-based architects and designers, the space* studio, has teamed up with restaurateur, Maddie Aulak, to open Jojolounge Bar and Restaurant in the city's Colmore Business District.

The new venue at 55-59 Newhall Street is influenced by the lounge bars of 1920s New York City but has all the trappings of a modern establishment.

The quirky design by the space* studio, pays homage to the building's former use as the Solicitors Law Stationery Society's offices, where maps could be purchased along with other legal documents relating to property purchases.

Its new travel themed features include Vestaboard, a modern take on flight departure lounge boards supplied by a California-based start-up, large wall mounted OS maps of historic Birmingham and GPS coordinates of the building's location.

Jojolounge offers a casual dining experience with table service only,



with guests able to choose from a New York inspired menu and a range of beers from Camden Town Brewery, amongst others.

The bar and restaurant provides booths for up to six people, complete with library style lighting and plug and USB sockets, whilst the building's large front-facing windows can be fully opened to create an 'inside out' feel.

Professor Singh says that the flexible table arrangements at Jojolounge can provide private hire for networking, birthdays and other events for up to 150 people and are

being marketed at the city's business community.

He said: "I've been fortunate enough to visit New York several times and wanted to create a decadent NYC-style lounge bar that delivers great food and hospitality. We're keen for people to come here to work on their laptops during the day or relax at the bar, and in the evenings we are hosting business and networking events.

"We're really excited to have opened Jojolounge at a time when more people are returning to the city. There's a real buzz about Colmore



Business District, where huge efforts have been made to ensure that visitors feel welcomed and safe.

“Our first few weeks have been very successful. We have a growing weekend following and have welcomed plenty of business people from Birmingham’s property and law sectors for lunch and after work drinks too.

“All of the feedback we’ve received so far has been overwhelmingly positive. People like the food and the drinks range, and the vestaboard has been a huge hit with customers, who have been requesting messages and sharing their videos on social media. We’ve recently launched bottomless brunches, pitchers of beer and are taking music playlist requests like a virtual jukebox, which is already proving popular. We also have some great ideas for how to take the concept even further. The building offers some terrific views down Newhall Street and we would like to develop a roof terrace next summer.”

Jojolounge is named after the Nepalese term for ‘welcome’ and takes the space vacated by Jojolapa, the popular independent restaurant that was relocated to the Jewellery Quarter by owners Maddie Aulak and her brother, Sanju Shrestha in 2018, after 12 years in Newhall Street.



‘We have a growing weekend following and have welcomed plenty of business people from the property and law sectors for lunch and after work drinks too’

Movers & Shakers

A round-up of the latest Business District launches, relocations, appointments and promotions



BDO

Snow Hill Queensway accountancy and business advisory firm BDO LLP has strengthened its technology risk assurance team (TRA) with the appointment of Dee Vaghela who joins from EY.

Vaghela, pictured, will support new and existing external audit clients leveraging technology solutions, data analytics and controls specialists across our client portfolio.

He has expertise within the natural resources and energy and manufacturing sectors.

Richard Rose, BDO partner and head of the Midlands, said: "Dee's appointment is part of our continued investment in our wider audit and assurance team and his technology risk experience will complement the expertise of our team in the Midlands and beyond."



MILLS & REEVE

The Birmingham office of law firm Mills & Reeve is celebrating after being featured in the top 10 places to work for in the region, part of Best Companies annual list ranking the finest UK and regional employers.

Nationally, the firm also achieved 23rd place in the UK 100 Best Companies to Work For list, a huge rise from 90th place in 2020, and an impressive second place in Law's 20 best firms to work for 2021.

Mills & Reeve continue to be the only law firm to have been named on a Best Companies list for 18 years in a row. This recognition follows the firm being named as one of the top law firms in the UK for the fifth year running by RollonFriday.

The Best Companies results show that Mills & Reeve improved its scores across all eight workplace factors with the largest increases in leadership, which exceeded Best Companies' three-star benchmark by six per cent and giving something back, which rose by eight per cent from 2020. The other six factors are wellbeing, fair deal, my manager, personal growth, my company and my team.

Claire Clarke, managing partner at Mills & Reeve said: "To have received the highest three star 'world class' accreditation by Best Companies is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of our unstinting dedication to create a supportive environment where our people can develop and thrive."

HORTONS' ESTATE

Hortons' Estate Ltd has announced the internal promotion of two members of its team, with almost half a century of service between them.

The historic family-run firm which has an extensive property portfolio in Colmore Business District, has promoted Steve Tommy to head of asset management and James Slater to head of building surveying and development.

Steve Tommy, a chartered surveyor, joined Hortons' in 1996 as an estate manager. He will head the company's estate management team and will be responsible for asset management within Hortons' portfolio.

James Slater has been part of the Hortons' team since 2000 and amongst numerous development projects has overseen the restoration of Birmingham's Grade II* Grand Hotel, which was originally developed by Isaac Horton in the late 19th century. Also a chartered surveyor, he will lead Hortons' building surveying team and its construction and development functions.

Hortons' chief executive, Steve Benson said: "We're delighted to have promoted Steve and James to new positions which reflect their experience, expertise and responsibilities, as well as their tremendous service to Hortons'.

"Steve has an extensive knowledge of our tenant relationships, together with an excellent view on the future direction of portfolio growth, which makes him the ideal choice to lead our estate management team.

"James has a wide range of experience in dealing with all aspects of commercial property, from new builds and refurbishments through to professional matters. Both appointments further strengthen our business during an exciting period of growth and development."



James Slater and Steve Tommy

GATELEY

Gateley has announced its latest promotions in Birmingham as the company continues to invest and develop the region's top talent.

The legal and professional services group has made 15 promotions in its Edmund Street office including one new partner. The promotions span Gateley Legal's restructuring, residential development, real estate, corporate dispute resolution, tax, corporate, construction and employment teams as well as its property consultancy business Gateley Hamer.

The new partner in Birmingham is Kathryn Hacking (restructuring) while Kate Ball (residential development), Shazan Miah (real estate), Richard Tindall (real estate), Adam Percival (corporate) and Karen Levesley (corporate dispute resolution) are all promoted to legal director.

Jo Symes (tax) and chartered surveyor Steve Moon (Gateley Hamer) have both been made a senior associate while Sophie Denton (corporate), Emma Styles (construction), David Williams (tax), Sonal Prasad (residential development), Nicki Roskell (real estate) and Keeley Smith (employment) have been promoted to associate.

Rod Waldie, partner and CEO of Gateley, said: "All of our promotions are extremely well deserved, and those colleagues have all shown a determination to be forward thinking and go above and beyond for the business and their clients. Alongside that each of them has demonstrated, in abundance, our Gateley Team Spirit which are our shared values that underpin our culture."

'Each has demonstrated, in abundance, our Gateley Team Spirit which are our shared values that underpin our culture'

BROWN JACOBSON

National law firm Browne Jacobson has announced its latest partner, legal director and senior associate promotions. The promotions run across all five of the firm's offices with 10 in Birmingham, 1 in Exeter, 3 in London, 1 in Manchester and 14 in Nottingham.

BIRMINGHAM PROMOTIONS:

Partners:

Lauren Webb (Commercial)
Tim Edds (Public Law / Environment / Planning)

Legal Directors:

Lydia Michaelson-Yeates (Education)

Senior Associates:

Scott Mounfield (Construction)
John Swani (Banking)
Clare Hanna (Corporate)
Rebecca Hawkins (Corporate Tax)
Hannah Wallace (Clinical Negligence)
Drina Panic (Clinical Negligence)
Bradley Roberts (Property Litigation)



Promotions: Lauren Webb and Tim Edds

Movers & Shakers

RIDER LEVETT BUCKNALL

Construction property and management consultancy, Rider Levett Bucknall has announced the strengthening of its leadership team with the appointment of Julian Henley as National Head of Public & Civic sector, based out of its Colmore Row office.

Henley's appointment comes on the back of RLB's growth in the public and civic sector, which has already played a pivotal role in post Covid economic recovery. He brings over 20 years' worth of experience in operational delivery, leadership, strategy and business development across public sector areas such as defence, housing, regeneration, water utilities and industrial.

Joining from global consulting and engineering business, Wood, previous clients include the Crown Commercial service, the Ministry of Defence, Homes England and numerous local authorities, many of which are shared with RLB. His experience will align with RLB's strategic commitment to providing client solutions that drive sustainability, improve social value and support town and city regeneration and the levelling up agenda.



Mark Scotney and
Caroline Young

CLARKE WILLMOTT LLP

Law firm Clarke Willmott LLP has promoted two lawyers at its Edmund Street offices.

Promoted to partner is Mark Scotney, a solicitor in the construction team who specialises in resolving construction and engineering disputes. Acting on behalf of all parties in the construction industry supply chain, Scotney is an accredited mediator.

Promoted to senior associate is family law solicitor Caroline Young. Young specialises in resolving issues arising from relationship breakdown, divorce and dissolution of civil partnerships.

Clarke Willmott CEO, Stephen Rosser, said: "This year's internal promotions process was undertaken during unprecedented times and during discussions with candidates it was evident how well individuals and teams have been adapting to our new ways of working.

"It really has been a pleasure to see so many excellent examples of how those being promoted have stepped up in readiness for their new roles."

CENTRICK

Centrick, the leading Midlands-based property specialist, has opened the door to Alex Tross as its new Commercial Director.

With over 15 years of experience working in the property industry, having qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 2008 and most recently heading up the Office Advisory team at Lambert Smith Hampton Birmingham, Tross, who also acts as Deputy Chair of Colmore BID

is set to bring a wealth of knowledge and skills to his latest role.

Centrick has grown consistently since its inception 15 years ago, by successfully prioritising innovation, expertise, and building trusted relationships with its clients to deliver high quality service and results.

First opening its doors in 2005, the agency now has over 16,000 properties across the UK on its books and manages over £1.5bn in client assets.

Movers & Shakers

WMCA

Laura Shoaf has been announced as the interim chief executive of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Currently the managing director of Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), Laura joined the Authority when it was formed in 2016, having previously worked at the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority and as director of transport for the Association of Black Country Authorities.

She has more than 20 years' experience in delivering regeneration projects and is currently responsible for delivering a multi-billion transport investment package.

Laura (pictured) said: "The WMCA is a fantastic organisation, committed to making a difference to the lives of everyone in the West Midlands. I am thrilled to be leading us through some exciting times including our first virtual summit on climate change; a summer of skills events; and recovering from the impact of Covid."

Laura Shoaf replaces Deborah Cadman, who joined the Combined Authority in 2017, and is taking on the role of interim chief executive of Birmingham City Council.



CBRE

CBRE has appointed Richard Hughes as a senior director and head of lease consultancy for the Midlands and South West, to be based principally in the firm's Birmingham office.

Hughes joins the firm from Savills, where he was a director and head of the Birmingham office's lease consultancy department, which he established in 2008.



Martin Guest and
Richard Hughes

As an office and industrial sector specialist, Hughes' experience includes rent reviews, lease renewals, rental valuations and lease restructuring/surrenders, acting on behalf of institutional landlords and property companies. He also advises a wide range of corporate occupiers on their office and industrial property portfolios.

Hughes has returned to CBRE after 13 years, having previously worked at the firm between 2003 and 2008. He will lead the four strong lease consultancy team in Birmingham, with wider responsibility for the Midlands and South West region, including teams in CBRE's Bristol and Southampton offices.

Martin Guest, managing director of CBRE's Birmingham office, said: "It's great to welcome Richard

back to the business as a senior member of the team.

"His knowledge and experience are second to none and his appointment is a real coup for the office and wider CBRE business."

Richard Hughes said: "It's great to be back. I'm looking forward to getting my feet back under the table and building on the successes the Birmingham lease consultancy team has consistently delivered on behalf of its clients."

PwC

Professional services firm PwC has further enhanced its business restructuring services (BRS) offering to help clients navigate the financial climate currently impacting UK firms with the appointment of Helen Wheeler-Jones.

The appointment underlines the BRS team's commitment to investment in teams across the UK, bolstering an already extensive regional offering of more than 300 specialists.

In particular, Helen will be focused on helping mid market businesses, which are typically UK companies ranging from owner-managed, through to private equity backed companies, but often making major contributions to regional economies with critical business issues.

Collectively, the appointments are a key part of PwC's continuing drive to support businesses by providing expertise through its national network of 47 BRS partners and 500 practice staff.

Gensler relocates to Business District after period of sustained growth

MOVE IS A SIGN OF CONFIDENCE AT A TIME OF CHANGE FOR BUSINESS DISTRICTS ACROSS THE WORLD

Award-winning design firm Gensler have moved their Birmingham office to the Business District, signing the lease for 3,700sqft at No.4 St Philip's Place.

Gensler have outgrown their previous home at the Custard Factory in Digbeth where they have been located for the last six years. Whilst located in Digbeth, Gensler have been actively involved in the growth of this district and bringing a design voice to the Digbeth Business Forum. Gensler worked with the forum towards establishing a Digbeth BID in addition to hosting various events and discussions around the future of this cultural quarter and Birmingham at large.

Gensler's move to Colmore Business District comes at a time of great challenge as the world battles the pandemic. However, the firm has seen sustained growth with the Birmingham office growing by 30% in the last year alone, supporting its clients across a number of industries including critical facilities, financial services, mixed-use, retail and residential.

Moving to St Philip's Place will position Gensler at the heart of the city, allowing the firm to build on its service to clients in Birmingham, the West Midlands and across Europe, along with engaging in local initiatives and programmes.

Gensler's recent Design Forecast recognises that Central Business Districts are about to undergo great change as they adapt to the need to provide new spaces to live, work and



'Our new home will provide a flexible range of work settings, perfectly suited to our hybrid workforce, allowing us to create together and consistently deliver industry leading design'

play, encouraging human interaction, collaboration, and shared experience. The Gensler team are able to bring this international knowledge, research led design and unparalleled expertise through a growing studio of diverse and highly talented people.

The new office showcases the firm's latest workplace research, creating a progressive, flexible and adaptive

space, that can respond to the needs of the business and give employees the power to fully customise their environment. This design simultaneously celebrates the firm's culture and the evolution of the growth of the Birmingham office over the last six years.

Tariq Shaikh, Managing Director, Gensler, said: "We're excited about our move to St Philip's Place and the opportunity to further grow our network and partner with clients from within Colmore Business District.

"Relocating at this time offers us an ideal opportunity to determine the next generation of working environment, tailored around the needs of our design teams and informed by our research and learnings over the last year. Our new home will provide a flexible range of work settings, perfectly suited to our hybrid workforce, allowing us to create together and consistently deliver industry leading design."



INVESTMENT BANKING GIANT'S ENGINEERING DIVISION TO BE ON SITE IN AUTUMN OF 2021

Goldman Sachs takes a floor at WeWork 55 Colmore Row

Goldman Sachs has signed a membership agreement for one floor at WeWork 55 Colmore Row in Birmingham.

The agreement is for a term of two years with an option to take additional space if required. Employees are expected to be on site at the Colmore Row office by September 2021.

Goldman Sachs announced in April its intention to establish an office in Birmingham, with a potential headcount of several hundred over the coming years, led by its Engineering division. The firm intends to cement its presence in Birmingham with a permanent office in the future.

WeWork 55 Colmore Row covers three of the six floors in the building totalling 55,000 rentable sq ft. On site amenities include a barista bar, new parents' room, bike storage, and showers for those who like to cycle into work or attend a fitness class at lunchtime.

The beautiful Grade II listed building

is light filled, spacious and makes an impactful first impression with thoughtful design that blends the building's historic features, such as the arch windows, with modern influences like the glass atrium.

WeWork 55 Colmore Row is designed to foster collaboration and productivity, and the artwork featured in the building pays homage to the city, for example the Neon 'handshake' artwork demonstrates Birmingham's multicultural community, and the neon 'chimney' artwork makes reference to the city's industrial heritage.

Gurjit Jagpal, Managing Director

'Our new home will provide a flexible range of work settings, perfectly suited to our hybrid workforce, allowing us to create together and consistently deliver'

at Goldman Sachs and head of the Birmingham office, said: "We are delighted to be taking space in this world-class office. The central location, amenities and workspace geared towards collaboration and flexibility will provide the ideal setting for our newly established presence in Birmingham. We are already attracting great talent to join us in the Birmingham office and are excited to build on the entrepreneurial culture of Goldman Sachs in this new office."

Nick Giraudeau, Global Head of Financial Services Sales, WeWork, said: "We're thrilled to be partnering with Goldman Sachs to establish their presence in Birmingham. We're seeing increasing demand from companies across the financial services sector who are recognising the benefits of scalable, flexible space in creating engaging, collaborative workspaces for today's increasingly hybrid working environment."

Business News

Fast-growing public affairs agency picks 55 Colmore Row

RELOCATION MEETS SUSTAINED GROWTH SUPPORTING CLIENTS ACROSS THE UK

Communications and public affairs agency BECG has relocated to 55 Colmore Row following a period of sustained growth.

The office will house staff from BECG and software developer Crowd Technologies, which was acquired by BECG in January.

Verity Barr, head of BECG's Birmingham office, pictured, said: "We are extremely excited to be moving into our new offices, firmly cementing us in the centre of Birmingham."

"Over the past year, we have seen excellent growth in our client base across the Midlands, and now work



with some of the UK's largest brands. This move will give us a solid base to continue to expand our team and clients in Birmingham and the surrounding areas."

BECG is a specialist communication consultancy for the built environment. It offers services including planning communications, public affairs,

government relations, corporate communications, public relations, marketing and place-making services to public and private sector clients. In addition to Crowd Technologies, the company owns government relations and corporate communications consultancy Cavendish Advocacy and Scottish consultancy Liberty One.

Octopus chooses landmark building for city office

Octopus Energy has chosen one of Birmingham's most iconic buildings as the location for its first ever office in the city.

The fast-growing energy technology company has agreed a three-year lease with landlord Hortons' Estate Limited on a 1,123 sq ft first floor office suite at the Grade II* listed Imperial and Whitehall at 23 Colmore Row.

Following successful launches and expansions in Brighton, Leicester, Warwick, Newcastle and Manchester, the company – which supplies over 2 million

households in the country – has chosen Birmingham for another dedicated sales office, where agents will be trained by Octopus directly to provide advice on switching and products. The company will be aiming to hire 40 people locally in the next year, as part of its aim to create 1,000 green jobs in the UK in 2021.

Octopus Energy moved into the office space made available by previous occupant, Node. Hortons' has retained the urban planners as a tenant, agreeing flexible lease terms in a smaller

suite in the same building.

Imperial and Whitehall forms part of The Grand, which was originally built by Issac Horton in the 1870s. The office accommodation was refurbished and offers flexible working office suites, whilst retaining many original features which gives character to the space.

The new lettings to Octopus Energy and Node mean that all of the building's first floor office space is now let, with the only remaining suites being on the second floor.

Nina Meeks of Hortons'

Estate, said: "Imperial and Whitehall is an historic building in the heart of Colmore Business District, that has been refurbished to exceptionally modern standards. We are very pleased that our investment in the building has attracted Octopus Energy to base its new Birmingham office here and we wish them every success. It is equally satisfying that we have been able to work closely to retain our existing occupier, Node, to meet its requirements and facilitate its move to a more suitable office suite."

Black Leaders' Network aiming to create diverse leadership culture

COLMORE BID DEPUTY CHAIR SPEAKS PASSIONATELY ABOUT WORKPLACE INCLUSIVITY IN THE DISTRICT

A group of established leaders from across the Business, Professional and Financial Services (BPFS) sector have joined forces to create a network that champions diversity and inclusion in firms across the West Midlands.

The region is home to one of Europe's largest and fastest growing BPFS sectors, with around 48,000 companies employing over 358,000 people. BPFS Black Leaders Network aims to promote and encourage best practice across the sector and demonstrate that diverse and inclusive leadership is a driver for change.

A recent study by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy underpins BPFS Black Leaders Network's belief that a diverse workforce is the key to unlocking the sector's growth. They estimate that "the potential benefit to the UK economy from full representation of race across the labour market, through improved participation and progression, is estimated to be £24 billion a year, which represents 1.3% of GDP". And yet, the latest FRC (Financial Reporting Council) report on ethnic diversity at board level shows that 11 additional FTSE 100 companies now have a non-white director on their board, taking the total number of boards with diverse racial representation to just 37%.

BPFS Black Leaders Network aims to create a unified voice across the BPFS sector and help establish a peer network for senior leaders to connect, share and grow together.

BPFS Black Leaders Network's founding members includes Alex Tross, Deputy Chair of Colmore BID.

"I have worked in Colmore Business District for over 25 years and in all that time have always felt comfortable and that I belonged," said Tross.

"It saddens me to think that there are people for whom that isn't the case. One of the reasons this is such a fantastic city is it's a real melting pot of people and cultures and the heart of this city is a

place that everyone, regardless of race or background should feel is accessible, welcoming and rich with opportunity.

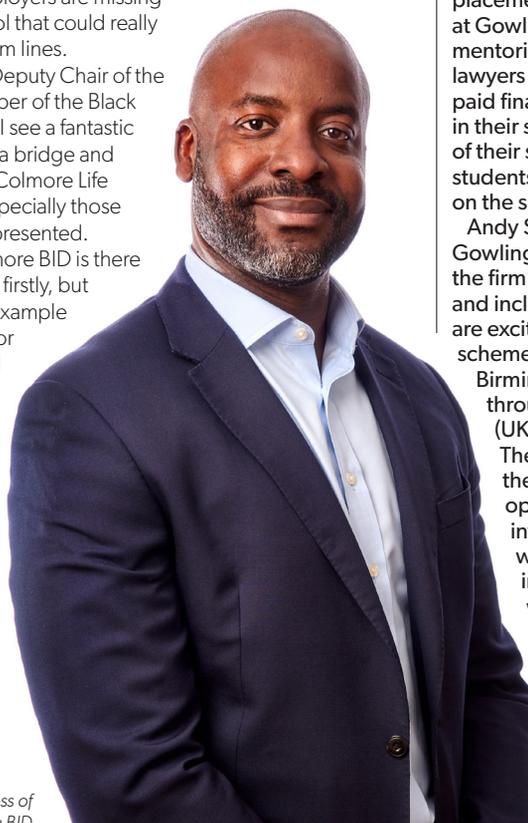
"The Colmore District is dominated by professional services businesses and unfortunately, those businesses don't always mirror the diversity found in other areas of the city. The fact that many people don't see other people that look like them in senior positions is no doubt one reason they feel the district has little to offer them.

"It's an opportunity missed as I can speak from personal experience that the district is a wonderful place to work and play. On the other side of the conversation, employers are missing out on a talent pool that could really benefit their bottom lines.

"In my roles as Deputy Chair of the BID and as a member of the Black Leaders Network, I see a fantastic opportunity to be a bridge and demonstrate that Colmore Life is for everyone, especially those currently underrepresented.

"Ultimately Colmore BID is there for our levy payers firstly, but we also act as an example and ambassador for the whole city and all of its citizens. Encouraging diversity and inclusion is the right thing to do and I am honoured to be able to contribute to an important and incredibly valuable initiative."

Alex Tross of Colmore BID



LAW FIRM JOINS FORCES WITH UNI TO LAUNCH NEW TALENT SCHEME

Gowling WLG Charitable Trust and the University of Birmingham have partnered to launch a new Black Talent in Law Bursary scheme.

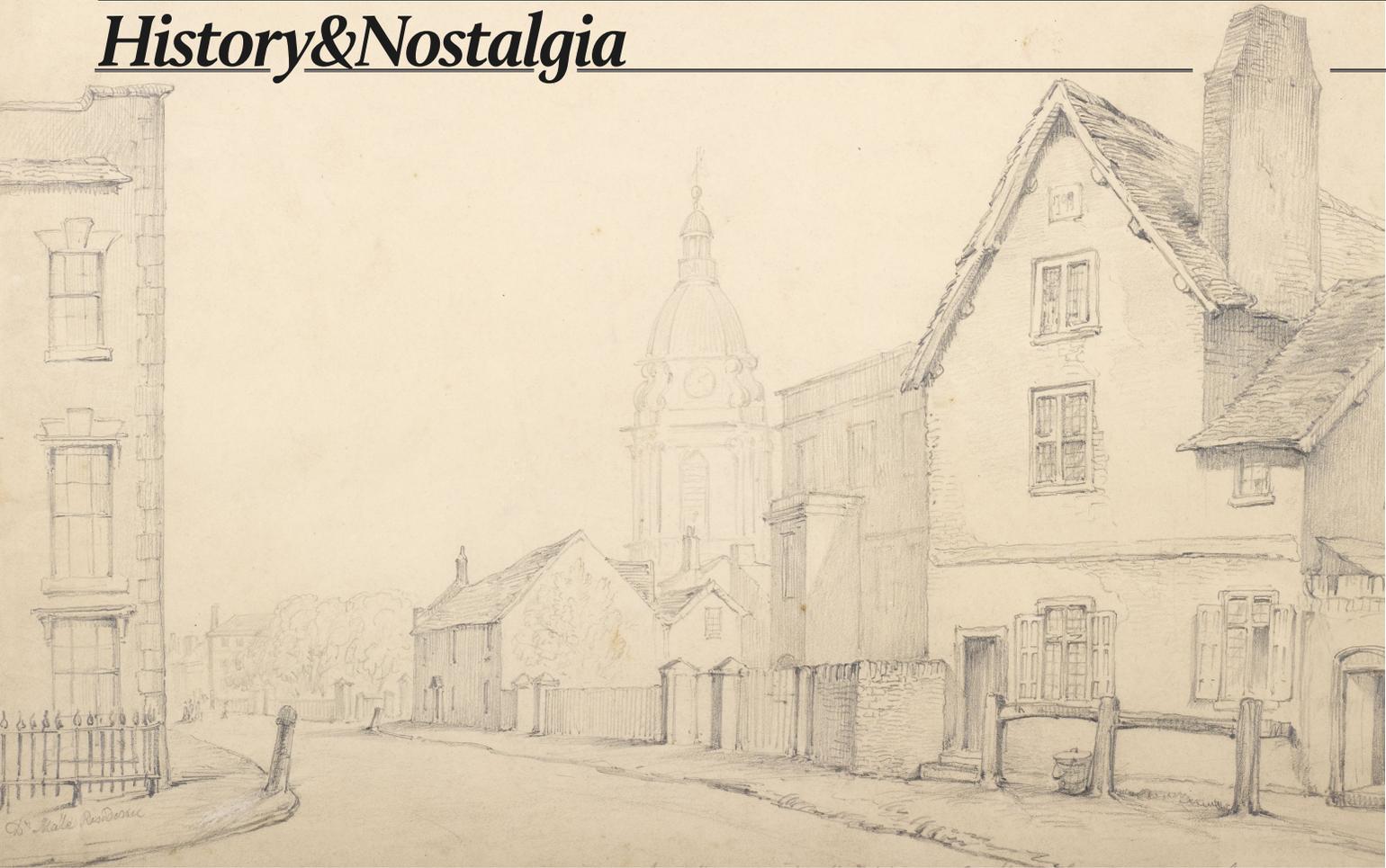
The scheme is designed to support better access to the legal profession for black students, who are currently under-represented in corporate law firms such as Gowling WLG.

The scheme will see Gowling WLG Charitable Trust – a registered charity funded entirely by donations from partners of Gowling WLG – support the studies and future careers of black students at Birmingham Law School.

Students on the scheme will be provided with work placement opportunities at Gowling WLG, on-going mentoring support from lawyers at the firm, and also paid financial contributions in their second and final year of their studies at BLS. Three students will be the first to enrol on the scheme in September.

Andy Stylianou, Chair of Gowling WLG (UK) LLP and the firm's lead on diversity and inclusion, said: "We are excited to launch this scheme in partnership with Birmingham Law School through the Gowling WLG (UK) Charitable Trust. The scheme will offer the students a fantastic opportunity to gain invaluable experience working within a busy international law firm while completing their studies and to be financially supported along the way."

History & Nostalgia



Above: Ann Street opposite the top of New Hall Street. The dome of St Philip's Church is visible in the distance



Right: Portrait of Samuel Lines

Samuel Lines: The man who captured a changing town

UNIQUE ARCHIVE OF PRE-BUSINESS DISTRICT LIFE

By Catherine Hendrick

He was a 19th century pioneer who helped transform art in Birmingham and left a unique visual archive of a town rapidly being changed by the industrial revolution.

Artist, designer and teacher Samuel Lines lived and worked at the heart

of what would become the Business District and many of his fascinating drawings and paintings depict the area.

Take a moment to look around and you can still recognise some of the places he would have sketched not far from his doorstep at No.3 Temple Row West – while others have long gone.

A pencil drawing from 1821, entitled



Above left: Ann Street, which would become Colmore Row

Above: Temple Row

Left: View from No.3 Temple Row West

the ‘View from No.3 Temple Row West, Birmingham’, shows two people sitting on a rooftop looking out over the beginnings of modern day New Street. Behind you can see fields and a windmill.

In the same year Lines painted Birmingham from the dome of St Philip’s Church.

His detailed brush strokes show the church flanked by green fields while alongside smoke rises from a cluster of factories.

In another drawing from 1820, called The Old Wagon House, Temple Row West, a man unloads a horse-drawn

wagon in front of what looks like a cottage.

It could be a painting of rural England and is a world away from the cosmopolitan home the area has become to some of the city’s finest buildings and restaurants.

Lines’ fascinating artwork, much of which is preserved in the Birmingham Museums Trust collection, also reveals how the Business District looked before the arrival of the Council House and Victoria Square.

In a painting titled ‘Birmingham Town Hall and Queen’s College’ you can see the pillars of the Town Hall behind

an 18th century building known as Allin’s Cabinet of Curiosities which was demolished to make way for the Council House.

The foreground shows a bustling area with horses and carriages, traders and workmen, which would become Victoria Square.

Other intriguing drawings, such as ‘The Lawyer Whateley’s House at the corner of Bennetts Hill’, capture the homes and workplaces of people who would have been the movers and shakers of what would become the Business District.

Continued over the page

History & Nostalgia

Below: Birmingham Town Hall and Queen's College

From previous page

Lines was born in 1778 in the Warwickshire village of Allesley and was an early member of the Birmingham School of landscape painters.

Although his first job required little of his artistic talent as his working life began with him helping his uncle in agriculture.

In 1794 he moved to Birmingham where he won an apprenticeship as a designer to a firm of clockmakers and enamellers called Thomas Keeling.

His artistic skills also saw him employed as a sword blade decorator, designer and engraver by Messrs Osborn and Gunby of Bordesley.

He learned to draw under the watchful eye of landscape painter Joseph Barber at his academy on Great Charles Street.

In 1807 Lines decided to open his own academy in Newhall Street, which was such a success that he was able to build his own house and drawing academy at No.3 Temple Row West.

There was no shirking for students. Classes began at 5am and if anyone was late legend has it that Lines went to rouse them himself!

Lines' role as a tutor had a significant impact on the standards of craftsmanship and design across Birmingham's industries.

A catalogue from the Great Exhibition in 1851 showed that at least 42 of Birmingham's "most distinguished manufacturers" were trained at his academy.

In 1809 Lines was one of a group of local artists who founded a school of life drawing called the Birmingham Academy of Arts.

It would eventually evolve into the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) and Birmingham School of Art.

The RBSA was highly influential in late Victorian times, especially within the Pre-Raphaelite and Arts and Crafts movements.

Some of the most significant figures



in English art became members and its presidents included Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris and John Everett Millais.

Lines also founded one of Birmingham's most distinguished artistic dynasties, with three of his five sons becoming artists.

He died in 1863 and is buried in the graveyard of Birmingham (St Philip's) Cathedral – a stone's throw from the home and art school from where he made such an impact.

But his legacy continues.

A blue plaque, erected by the

Birmingham Civic Society to mark the 150th anniversary of his death, now adorns the site of his former home, which is next to where the Old Joint Stock Pub and Theatre now is.

And the RBSA continues the educational activities he pioneered.

Left: Samuel Lines' grave in the Cathedral Grounds, directly opposite the site of his home and studio, below



Archive pictures courtesy of Birmingham Museums

Cathedral glass to be restored for future generations

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL STARTS CONSERVATION WORK ON ITS WORLD-FAMOUS STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

Divine Beauty is a project that aims to conserve and celebrate the remarkable stained-glass windows at Birmingham Cathedral. As well as conservation the cathedral aspires to create opportunities for learning and engagement to enable the widest audience to enjoy these wonderful treasures.

Birmingham Cathedral received initial support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for Divine Beauty in 2020. Made possible by National Lottery players, the project aims to conserve and interpret the world-famous stained-glass windows designed by Birmingham born Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones.

Essential conservation work will be carried out to the stained-glass to remove the build-up of decades of dirt and debris and to replace the external protective grilles with a more sympathetic and bespoke alternative.

The way the cathedral shares information about the windows will be improved with enhanced interpretation both inside and outside the cathedral, events and an education programme. The project will link with other sites in the city with a walking trail and tours. There will be a new short film and there will be opportunities for people to



get involved, learn the history of the windows and the techniques by which they were made.

Birmingham Cathedral was built as the parish church of St Philip's over 300 years ago and the four remarkable windows were added between 1885-1897. The windows are some of the finest examples of Birmingham artistry and hold an important place

in the life of the city. During the Second World War the windows were removed courtesy of Birmingham Civic Society and placed in a slate mine in Wales for safekeeping.

There is a dedicated website for the Divine Beauty project www.divinebeautyproject.com. Follow @BhamCathedral on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok and Instagram.

Charity Profile

‘Everyone has the right to live a decent and dignified life and an opportunity for rewarding work’

Colmore Business District is renowned for its law and financial businesses but did you know it is also home to a number of life-changing charities too?

Here we take a look at Shaw Trust, which is based in Great Charles Street, Queensway.



Shaw Trust’s core belief is that meaningful employment is the pathway to a better life.

The charity began in the Wiltshire Village of Shaw in 1982 helping disabled people find jobs.

Today it employs 2,500 people across the country and works with 1,000 volunteers.

Its Colmore Business District hub helps people across Birmingham, many of them with complex needs, to improve their lives through work, training and education.

The Trust delivers contracts on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions, the Education Skills Funding Agency, the devolved nations and combined authorities. It recently won two new contracts in the Midlands to deliver a scheme called ‘Thrive into Work’, which helps people with physical and mental health conditions find and sustain employment.

The charity, which prides itself on having a “charitable heart with a business brain”, offers a free recruitment service to businesses and works with them to understand their staffing needs.

It helps recruit staff and fill skills gaps through a partnership with training provider Ixion, which Ofsted has rated outstanding. It also organises corporate volunteering.

Staff mental and physical wellbeing is another area where the Trust plays a role.



Working in partnership with local groups and commissioners it connects people to the services they need.

The charity has set up social enterprises, including a series of garden centres, to employ, train and support disabled adults.

Another of its aims is to make sure some of the most vulnerable children and young people build the skills and resilience they need for the future.

The charity sponsors the multi-academy Shaw Education Trust, whose schools educate children of all ages, ambition and ability. It’s also one of the largest private providers of children’s residential homes through Homes2Inspire.

To help shape the future the Trust has a policy institute and each year it publishes The Shaw Trust Power 100 which recognises the 100 most influential

disabled people in the UK, such as Dame Tanni Grey Thompson.

It has more than 30 charity shops selling new and pre-loved items, to raise funds and also provide work experience and training for those it supports.

Nicola Rooney, who heads up the Trust’s Employability work in Birmingham, says: “At Shaw Trust we believe everyone has the right to live a decent and dignified life and an opportunity for rewarding work.

“Employers need the best people to flourish. We can help them recruit the right staff, fill the skills gaps by training them and look after their health and wellbeing.

“With us, their teams can also give something back to their community through our volunteering programme.”

The Shaw Trust is on the 1st Floor at 36 Great Charles Street, Queensway.

For more information visit www.shawtrust.org.uk or call 0300 30 33 111.

BMI selling offices to help fund facilities refurbishment

MARGARET STREET INSTITUTION REVEALS EXCITING PLANS

The Birmingham & Midland Institute is selling two interconnected office buildings to help fund a major refurbishment of its Margaret Street base.

The Birmingham & Midland Institute is one of the city's cultural hidden gems which has connections to Dickens, Chamberlain and the city's pioneering Victorian leaders.

A registered charity, it continues to offer arts and literature lectures, exhibitions and concerts. The sale of the two buildings will enable the BMI to refurbish its Grade II*-listed building on Margaret Street, the Birmingham Library, conference rooms and lecture theatres.

The 93 and 95 Cornwall Street buildings are being marketed as one property for sale.

Daniel Parsons, Operations Manager, explains why the BMI is selling the offices.

"The Birmingham & Midland Institute, founded in 1854 and originally situated on Paradise Street, has been resident on Margaret Street since 1966, when it took over the building of the original Birmingham Library, which had become part of the BMI 10 years earlier.

"The two buildings now for sale on Cornwall Street were purchased and added to the building in 1972. While the BMI has always been significant in the cultural life of the city, running programmes of events on a wide range of topics and managing



"The BMI staff and Board of Trustees are excited by their ambitious but achievable plan"

the original Birmingham Library, renamed the BMI Members Library in 1966, the building has deteriorated over the years and is in need of refreshment, from decorating to the upgrading of facilities.

"With this in mind the Trustees took the difficult decision to sell the two Cornwall Street buildings to raise some capital to transform the remaining building to its former

glory, whilst making it a top-quality venue for events and activities. The plans include extending the BMI Members Library to almost double the size, adding a wonderful ground floor café, and building a state-of-the-art theatre. All of which will be fully accessible and built with sustainability at the forefront of the project. We aim to be entirely net carbon neutral within five years.

"The BMI staff and Board of Trustees are excited by their ambitious but achievable plan to regenerate the building in order to facilitate our plans for the Institute to continue and grow as a significant cultural centre in the region, and we are excited for the future of this august organisation."

The Cornwall Street offices being sold by the Birmingham & Midland Institute

COLMORE

LIFE

SUMMER 2021

BIG PICTURE

Isaac's restaurant, a New York-style brasserie on Barwick Street is bringing a taste and the hustle and bustle of New York to the heart of the city.

Isaac's is nestled beneath The Grand Hotel Birmingham with its own entrance on Barwick Street. Housed in one of Birmingham's most iconic buildings on Colmore Row, the luxury hotel is a Grade II* listed building that re-opened in May after a £45million refurbishment.

Executive Chef, Adam Bateman, said, "Isaac's is a neighbourhood restaurant with a New York vibe and a pinch of Brum. The menu combines brasserie classics with American comfort food: it's easy and affordable whether you want to dial your evening up or down."

