

COLMORE



SUMMER 2024



100
Days of
Creativity

Welcome

to the Summer 2024 edition of Colmore Life.

A SPECIAL INTRODUCTION FROM MICHELE WILBY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, COLMORE BID

Get ready to explore 100 Days of Creativity! I'm thrilled to share that an extensive programme of artistic events and activities is taking place in Birmingham this summer. Until 26 August, the city will be alive with creativity, offering something for everyone to enjoy every single day.

This extraordinary initiative is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and led by the City Curator – a position funded by Colmore BID.

Our City Curator, Alex Nicholson-Evans, brings a wealth of experience and passion to the role. Alex is the Founder and Director of Living For The Weekend, the driving force behind Birmingham Cocktail Weekend and Birmingham Restaurant Festival.

The role of the City Curator was born out of Colmore BID's Future Business District Study, which explored the long-term impacts of the pandemic on city centre business districts. The study aimed to ensure that Birmingham remains a desirable place to live, work, visit, and do business.

Imagine wandering through Birmingham, stumbling upon dance performances, immersive theatre, captivating film screenings, and soul-stirring music concerts. The 100 Days of Creativity programme is designed to fill our summer with a rich tapestry of artistic expression, all spread across the city. Each day promises a new adventure, a fresh experience to dive into, and the chance to see Birmingham in a whole new light.

The events listed on the Visit Birmingham website and our Events page include a diverse array of activities. Whether you're a music lover, a dance enthusiast, a theatre aficionado, or a film buff, there's something here for you. Some events might already be on your radar, but we're excited to introduce you to new experiences that showcase the incredible talent and creativity thriving in Birmingham.

We want to hear from you, too! Share your experiences using the hashtag #100daysofcreativity on social media. We'll be resharing some of your posts and can't wait to see the city and our District through your eyes. Your stories, photos, and videos will help us celebrate this remarkable programme and connect our community through the arts.

Join us in celebrating the arts and exploring Birmingham like never before. Let's make this summer a season of creativity, connection, and community. I can't wait to see what we discover together!



THE BID TEAM

- Michele Wilby**
Chief Executive Officer
- Jonathan Bryce**
Chief Policy and Governance Officer
- Katy Paddock**
Chief Operating Officer
- Mike Mounfield**
Chief Technical Officer
- Graham Weir**
Chief Finance Officer
- Kelsey Dwyer**
Events and Partnerships Manager
- Heather Woodhouse**
Communications Manager
- John-Jo Von Johnson**
Community Operations Manager
- Paul Street**
Safe and Sound Project Manager
- Alex Nicholson-Evans**
City Curator
- Philip Singleton**
Project Manager
- Lisa Gibbs**
BID Consultant
- Ali Abbas Rangwala**
Bookkeeper
- Grace Williams**
Project Support
- Nicole Panayiotou**
Community Liaison Executive
- Zack Palmer**
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FOR COLMORE LIFE MAGAZINE

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Editor

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NEW COLMORE BID WORKING GROUP



Following on from the success of the Welcome to Birmingham events, Colmore BID has introduced a new working group. This working group is focusing on supporting the District's new professionals. To find out more please email Kelsey.dwyer@colmorebid.co.uk

CALL FOR DIVERSITY FEEDBACK

Equality, diversity and inclusion is extremely important to Colmore BID and the events team wants to learn more about different cultural celebrations in and around the District. Colmore BID Events Executive, Kelsey Dwyer, said: "We would love to hear from you to understand what events are important to you and how they are celebrated."

If you have any feedback, advice or want to highlight a special date please email Kelsey.dwyer@colmorebid.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW? Colmore BID has committed to the West Midlands Net Zero Pledge. The pledges are managed by Sustainability West Midlands and the West Midlands Combined Authority. Find out more at the pledge website: wmnetzeroplege.org.uk

A DAY IN THE DISTRICT

IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT FOR A MEETING? WHY NOT MAKE A DAY OF IT?

1 BREAKFAST

JAVA ROASTERY

Popular coffee shop and a great place for a work or friends' catch up. Choose from pastries, biscuits and more plus, of course, some of the best coffees in the Business District from 7am Monday-Friday.

124 Colmore Row, Birmingham



2 LUNCH

ZAMBRERO

Healthy, delicious Mexican food freshly made in front of you at their new Colmore Row diner. Zambrero is a Mexican restaurant with a difference – a mission to helping tackle world hunger.

31 Colmore Row, Birmingham

3 SEE THE SIGHTS

BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH: THE BRIGHTER FLAME

A stunning street photography exhibition in Victoria Square celebrating Birmingham's 'poet of the people' through his beautiful prose and captivating imagery of Pogus Caesar.

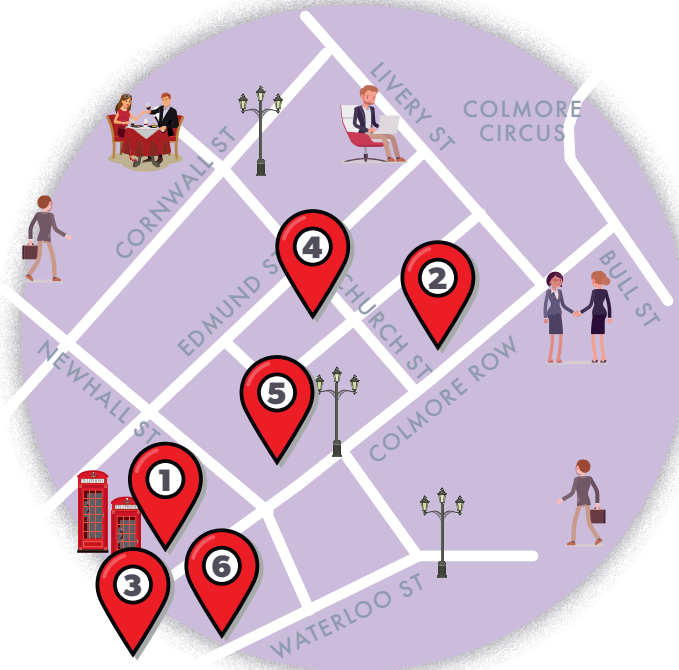
July 5-31
 Victoria Square, Birmingham

4 ME TIME

BENJAMIN RYAN HAIR

Impeccable service and beautiful luxury hairdressing for over ten years in the heart of the Business District. Admire the gorgeous surroundings of Maddox House and Edmund Street during your visit.

Maddox House, 117 Edmund Street



5 DINNER

SIX BY NICO

Experience an original concept: A six-course tasting menu every six weeks (hence the restaurant name) – each one themed upon a different place, memory or idea.

81 Colmore Row

6 ONE FOR THE ROAD

PURECRAFT BAR & KITCHEN

Real ales on tap and 75+ bottled beers amid smart surroundings, plus hearty fare including their legendary Scotch Eggs (if you're in need of a late-night snack!)

30 Waterloo Street

Lowdown



HOTPOD LAUNCHES IN DISTRICT

Hotpod Yoga launched in 2013 with a sell-out series of pop-up classes across London and, as of 2023, counts more than 50 permanent studios.

The company has launched their latest studio in the District, located at 37a Waterloo Street.

As part of the launch, the team are providing an introductory offer of 10 days unlimited yoga for £18. Visit hotpodyoga.com/studios/birmingham/

WELCOME, HEATHER

Heather Woodhouse has joined the Colmore BID team as Communications Manager. Heather has worked across the PR and communications industry for more than seven years, advising on strategic communications, reputation management, crisis communications and awareness-driving campaigns.

Heather will deliver strategic communications about the BID4 Business Plan and support levy-payer relations, social media and events – both Colmore BID led and city wide.

Some of the Midlands' most exciting emerging artists are currently on display across Birmingham city centre.

Birmingham Creates: The Open, is an invitation to local artists to submit their artworks for exhibition as part of the 100 Days of Creativity programme.

More than 70 artists submitted works of all formats – fine art, photography, digital art and installation.

A panel of judges from the city's culture sector selected ten artworks to feature in a month-long exhibition in Snow Hill Square, with the chance for visitors to select a People's Award winner and a prize of £1,000. Fifty artworks are also on display on large-format boards in Victoria Square, featuring more of the stunning paintings, drawings and photographs.

100 Days of Creativity is an extensive programme of artistic events and activities taking place across the city until Monday 26 August.

With the help of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, City Curator Alex Nicholson-Evans has joined forces with West Midlands Growth Company, Colmore BID, Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, Culture Central, Birmingham City Council, Central BID, Jewellery Quarter BID and Southside District BID to bring the festival to Birmingham.

Read more about 100 Days of Creativity on Pages 10-11



The Lowdown



Pastures new

FORMER COLMORE ROW BANK TRANSFORMED

The Pasture Restaurant Group has opened the doors to its new 7,000 sq ft Birmingham venue in the former Barclays Bank building at Fifteen Colmore Row.

Pasture restaurants are a celebration of fire-based cooking and local ingredients. Already operating multiple successful restaurants in Bristol and Cardiff, Pasture Birmingham now occupies one floor of Fifteen Colmore Row.

Pasture's biggest restaurant to date, there is seating for up to 45 people at the bar at Pasture

Birmingham, and a further 180 covers in the main dining room – along with the biggest, glass-fronted dry-aging fridge of any restaurant in the UK.

With views over an open kitchen to display Pasture's theatrical open-fire cooking, and resident DJs who will be spinning house grooves every weekend, the venue brings to life Pasture's signature promise of 'Fire, Meat, Music'.

Sam Elliott is the 36-year-old Chef-Owner behind Pasture's growing portfolio of restaurants.



He said: "We're absolutely thrilled to be opening the doors to Pasture Birmingham – our biggest restaurant to date. The team has put in an immense effort to get us here and I couldn't be prouder. Bookings have been brilliant, we're looking forward to a packed opening week, and we can't wait to welcome the people of Birmingham to experience what Pasture is all about."

The Pasture group has been recognised for its extensive steps to tackle food waste (including composting all inedible food waste in their own anaerobic digester), and Pasture's commitment to using local suppliers who are carefully chosen for their own environmentally sustainable practices.

Additionally, Pasture runs its own farm, Buttercliffe Farm, just 2.2 miles from the Bristol restaurant. It practices no dig, permaculture and organic methods and grows a variety of veg, fruit, herbs and flowers for the restaurants. The farm also grows micro herbs to creatively garnish their dishes at all of their restaurants without relying on imported produce in plastic packaging.

'We're thrilled to be opening the doors to Pasture Birmingham – our biggest restaurant to date'



BID4: New chapter, new ambitions

As Colmore Business District (BID) embarks on its fourth term, BID4, the organisation is making significant strides across multiple fronts.

From key appointments to innovative projects, BID4 is poised to elevate the District to new heights. Colmore BID has introduced three new members of staff, is on a journey to expand and diversify its Board of Directors, and relocated to a new office, all while driving forward with ambitious projects aimed at enhancing community spirit, innovation, and sustainability.

LEADERSHIP AND EXPANSION

In the new BID4 term, Colmore BID has welcomed three new members to its team, each bringing unique expertise and vision to the organisation.

Among these appointments is the City Curator, Alex Nicholson-Evans. Her role extends city wide but is funded by Colmore BID. This position underscores the BID's commitment to cultural enrichment and urban vibrancy, ensuring that the District remains a dynamic and attractive destination for both businesses and visitors.

The other two new positions include Communications Manager, Heather Woodhouse and Project Support, Grace Williams. The Communications Manager will focus on delivering strategic communications across BID4 projects, the management of a new branding exercise, and fostering stronger ties between levy-payers

and the wider community. The Project Support is working closely with the operations and events teams to provide additional value to businesses.

Additionally, Colmore BID is in the process of expanding its Board of Directors to include representatives from a wider range of industries and sectors. This diverse board is designed to bring a broader perspective to the District's strategic planning and development, ensuring that all voices are heard, and all interests are represented. Stay tuned for news on the appointments.

NEW OFFICE LOCATION

As part of its growth and evolution, Colmore BID has also moved offices! This move accommodates the growing team and ensures the BID team remains in a central and accessible position within the District. The new office is located on the 2nd floor of Christchurch House, Waterloo

Street – or more recognisably – above Purecraft Bar and Kitchen!

PROJECTS IN FOCUS

EVENTS

Colmore BID is committed to delivering events that add value to levy-payers and those who live, travel and spend time in the District.

Earlier this year the organisation launched its inaugural art competition which called for the most exciting, undiscovered artwork of 2024 from emerging artists across Birmingham.

Following the competition and shortlisting, Birmingham Creates: The Open is a free physical outdoor group exhibition taking place now until 5 July. The shortlisted artworks are on display for all to enjoy (10 at Snow Hill Square, 50 at Victoria Square). Among the artworks are painted portraits, abstract compositions, photographs, collages, drawings and much more.

Colmore BID has also added a voting element to the exhibition, asking local people to crown their 'People's Award' by scanning the QR code to vote for your favourite piece of artwork at Snow Hill Square. The winner will be awarded £1000 plus a portfolio review.

Share your experiences on social media and make sure you tag Colmore BID! Your stories, photos and videos will help us celebrate this exhibition and our city's emerging artists.

Another of the hallmark initiatives of BID4 to date is the work of the Accessible & Sustainable Working Group. This group is at the forefront of ensuring the District is both inclusive, sustainable and environmentally responsible.

RECENT PLEDGES

The Working Group have marked their commitment to sustainability through the signing of industry accredited pledges and memberships.

Sustainability West Midlands – the cross-sector membership organisation that connects, promotes and prioritises members, providing sustainability support through consultancy and collaboration.

West Midlands Net Zero Pledge – signed up to the pledge and will be promoting best practice and guidance for businesses in the District related to energy, carbon, and sustainability.

These activities show the commitment to sustainability as outlined in the BID4 Business Plan 2024-2029.

LOOKING AHEAD

The momentum in BID4 is palpable, and the enthusiasm is shared across the organisation. Michele Wilby, CEO of Colmore BID, said: "We are incredibly excited about the direction we are heading in with BID4. The new appointments, our expanded board, and the move to a new office are all part of a broader strategy to enhance our capabilities and impact.

"BID4 is not just about internal growth; it is also about strengthening the community and fostering closer links with our levy-payers and the city. The excitement and ambition that characterises BID4 is testament to the District's potential. As the term progresses, we will continue to leverage our resources, expertise, and community to drive positive change and ensure Colmore Business District remains a model of excellence."

As the Colmore Business District embarks on this new chapter, the vision for BID4 is clear. They are committed to improving the District through:

- Outstanding Places
- Accessibility & Sustainability
- Creative and cultural activities
- Increasing footfall to our hospitality and leisure venues
- A safe and secure environment
- Building and growing our business community
- Developing our young professionals
- Collaborating, taking a lead and finding opportunities

The recent appointments, new office location, and innovative projects set the stage for a transformative term. The BID is not only addressing immediate needs but also laying the groundwork for a prosperous future.

For more information on BID4 and the several initiatives within it, visit the Colmore BID website.

'NEW STANDARDS' FOR ACCESSIBILITY

Colmore BID has announced the funding of a fresh project that sets new standards in the District's streets for accessibility and cycling.

The BID's Accessible and Sustainable Working Group, led by Paul Fielding, has been concerned for the legibility and safety of none-car users across the city centre. This new project works alongside the team at Birmingham City Council that is designing new street configurations and is a key step forward in the organisation's BID4 Business Plan 2024-2029.

The collaborative work between the Council and Colmore BID will focus on Colmore Row and the routes that lead to and from Birmingham's principal street, setting these new standards of best practice. The Council team will then rapidly cascade these ideas and tools across the whole city centre.

Paul Fielding said: "I am very pleased that we are leading on this project at Colmore BID. We have heard from cyclists that moving across the city centre is far more complex than cycling in and out on the blue routes from neighbourhoods, so I look forward to the outcomes".

Colmore BID has appointed Sustrans, the UK-wide charity, helping people to walk, wheel, and cycle on the National Cycle Network, as leaders in ensuring accessibility for everyone. Alistair Crisp of Sustrans added: "This project will help push Birmingham's active travel ambition to the forefront of pan-disability access across our city centre and beyond. We look forward to engaging with stakeholders throughout this process to gather a range of experiences and views."

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) match-funded the project to allow the team to undertake a full consultation with the communities of interest.

Sandeep Shingadia, Director for Strategic Partnerships and Integration at Transport for West Midlands said: "TfWM is supporting this work as it is recognised that improving road safety can encourage more people to cycle and walk, especially for shorter journeys, helping to reduce traffic congestion, cut carbon emissions and improve air quality."



Safer Streets 5 Initiative: Ensuring safety and inclusivity

By Lisa
Pidington

In an era where personal protection is paramount, the Safer Streets Fund illuminates the way to more secure communities. Colmore BID is working closely with its city centre partners to implement projects that underline its continued commitment as one of the safest areas in the city.

Since it launched in 2020, the Safer Streets Fund has invested more than £125 million of Government funding to bolster security in towns and cities across the country, particularly during evening hours. This year, a direct funding approach has been adopted, and as a result, every police force area across England and Wales has been offered up to £1 million to deliver a range of interventions focused on tackling anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls, and neighbourhood crime concerns.

Colmore BID Project

Manager (Safe & Sound Working Group) Paul Street and Community Operations Manager John-Jo Von Johnson are driving forward the Safer Streets 5 application, working closely with police, local authorities and community stakeholders to create safer environments for residents, visitors and businesses. Key initiatives include: Enhanced Uniform Presence, ensuring constant vigilance with BCC ASB patrol officers extending coverage into the evening; and Venue Accreditation, encompassing the Ask for Angela scheme, Licensing SAVI and an NTE Charter roll out, geared towards fortifying safety standards across the District's vibrant venues.

As one of the flagship projects under the Safer Streets 5 umbrella, Ask for Angela provides on-the-spot support for those feeling vulnerable or unsafe, and now covers 36 venues in the Colmore Business District. Paul explains more: "With Ask for Angela, a successful intervention can range from simply keeping a close eye on a situation to facilitating a safe and stress-free exit from a venue, all dependant on the wishes of the person asking for help. Through greater awareness and training, the scheme helps upskill hospitality staff about various vulnerability scenarios to ensure everyone who visits their venues has a welcoming and safe experience.

"We also have six licensed venues participating in the national police safety scheme, Licensing SAVI, which promotes welcoming and safe venues through enhanced security, vulnerability training and operating procedures. I'm pleased to say all six achieved the coveted five-star National Police Safety Award accreditation."



Pictured:
Paul Street

Colmore BID News

The success of such initiatives hinges upon robust collaborations between local businesses, law enforcement and community stakeholders. "For both Licensing SAVI and Ask For Angela, Colmore BID's Safe & Sound workstream was the driver in introducing and embedding the schemes, and our amazing hospitality venues embraced the opportunities to work with us," says Paul. "With West Midlands Police and Birmingham City Council Licensing Team, we can showcase that the Colmore Business District is really one of the safest places to live, work and socialise."

Undoubtedly, the efficacy of these schemes lies in their tangible outcomes with successful interventions averting potential risks. This also underscores the proactive stance of Colmore BID in fostering a culture of safety and responsibility within the community.

John-Jo adds: "One of our Community Support Officers received a good citizen award from WMP for his role in apprehending a male. He was able to activate his body worn camera to record footage that was later used by police and helped pinpoint the suspect using CCTV cameras."

"The team also offer daily support to numerous individuals around housing, benefits, food, clothing and mental health. We make appointments, arrange street appointments and, on many occasions, go with them to the support services as we build relationships with the people we speak to constantly."

"Many of our venues can give testimonies of how they have appropriately and effectively intervened to ensure any risk of vulnerability is mitigated," continues Paul. "Staff appreciate the impact of the power of 'hello', the simple and friendly contact that lets customers know they are being watched over and cared for. For some customers this is reassuring, to others who perhaps have ulterior motives, it's a warning that they have been noticed."

In an ever-evolving landscape, the integration of high-tech advancements helps augment traditional safety measures. The introduction of the HollieGuard Personal Safety App, coupled with innovative features like 'pins on maps', exemplifies Colmore BID's commitment to leveraging a



'It is these collective efforts that are pivotal in fostering a vibrant, inclusive and safe environment for all'

technology for enhanced security.

"Technology complements the traditional community safety approaches," says Paul. "A great example is the HollieGuard app from our valued partners, The Hollie Gazzard Trust. It provides essential services, such as notifying a trusted contact of your movements, raising an alert if you feel vulnerable or frightened, and initiating sound and visual recording to capture evidence that meets the highest evidential standards. It is an excellent accompaniment to the traditional crime reduction advice and being situationally aware of your surroundings."

"Furthermore, Colmore BID introduced a national first to the HollieGuard app known as 'pins on maps', with the identification of all our safe venues (Ask for Angela and Licensing SAVI) on its interactive mapping system. This crucial upgrade enables users to navigate their way around our District safe in the knowledge that anytime in the day or night, they have details of their nearest safe locations at their fingertips. This upgrade has now been rolled out across many other UK localities using the HollieGuard app."

Promoting awareness and active participation in safety initiatives remains a

cornerstone of Paul and John-Jo's mission – and the recent appointment of Jasmine Young, Building Manager of SnowHill Three, as the new Chair of the Colmore Women's Safety Forum underlines this.

Through various communication channels – including Safe & Sound working groups, networking forums and digital platforms – the district disseminates vital safety information and engages stakeholders proactively. In addition, wellness sessions and Walk With Women events demonstrate a concerted effort to address diverse concerns and promote inclusivity within the community.

"We all have to work together and communicate what we are seeing in the district," says John-Jo. "We are nearing completion of a new app for our businesses so we can communicate in a more efficient way. We also work with our colleagues from TFWM identifying issues around transport hubs, supporting their Safer Travel Partnership 'See Say' campaign and Op Empower, which seeks to tackle unwanted sexual behaviours and harassment on the public transport networks."

Looking ahead, sustaining the momentum of these safety efforts necessitates ongoing collaboration and adaptability. As the nighttime economy burgeons, Colmore BID remains committed to expanding its safety projects, extending community support services and fortifying partnerships. "The area is popular among people both young and older who chose to spend their leisure time in our District because its aesthetically pleasing and relatively trouble-free," adds Paul. "Therefore, our projects and campaigns with licensed venues will continue and grow."

"Our Community Support Team, which John-Jo manages, is extending their working hours to cover more of the nighttime periods, providing a visible and accessible reassuring presence. Our collaboration with West Midlands Police and the various on-street support outreach organisations will help to manage and support the enduring on-street communities that we know many BID members and the visiting public are concerned about."

"Ultimately, it is these collective efforts that are pivotal in fostering a vibrant, inclusive and safe environment for all."

100 Days of Creativity



'The summer will see art and music taking place in more unexpected places'

ARTS HISTORIAN RUTH MILLINGTON HIGHLIGHTS THE SUMMER SHOWS SHE'LL BE VISITING AS PART OF 100 DAYS OF CREATIVITY

Pictured above: Three Toned Trailer, by John Salt, will be on display at the RBSA gallery

Inset: Hamilton at Hippodrome and Artemisia at Ikon Gallery

Birmingham is a creative city. It's also a resilient city, in the face of council cuts, as this summer is proving. From 19 May – 26 August 100 Days of Creativity invites locals and visitors alike to enjoy a curated calendar of cultural events, activities and experiences taking place here. With music, theatre, dance and art not only flourishing inside major venues but on streets outside, here are some highlights I am most excited about.

I have to start at Ikon Gallery, where a 17th century masterpiece has arrived, on loan from London's National Gallery. In 'Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria' (c.1615-17) Artemisia Gentileschi

has presented herself as a symbolic saint who was martyred – the broken spiked wheel which she clings to tells this story.

In Birmingham, you can see her like never before. Framed by darkness on a wall of her own, she is surrounded by a ritualistic installation by contemporary artist Jesse Jones, whose dramatic curtains and operatic soundtrack turn the experience of seeing Artemisia into an absolute spectacle.

The spectacular can also be witnessed on several of the city's stages. Musical theatre meets the circus at Symphony Hall when Cirque lands on July 27. This family-friendly

and award-winning sensation features amazing performances, incredible contortionists, thrilling feats and a kaleidoscope of colour, set to a high-octane soundtrack.

Colour is also at the heart of Birmingham Mela, taking place on July 13 and 14 in Smethwick's Victoria Park. The largest South Asian music festival in Europe, audiences will experience music, dance, delectable cuisine, and the arts and crafts of South Asia.

On the other side of town, I'll be buying tickets for Hamilton. Lin-Manuel Miranda's multi award-winning cultural phenomenon is now touring the UK for the very first time

and, from June to the end of August, we are lucky enough to have it at Birmingham Hippodrome. Set to a score of hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B and Broadway, this unforgettable modern musical tells the story of America's Founding Father Alexander Hamilton. I saw it in London some years ago and it more than lives up to the hype.

The summer will also see art and music taking place in more unexpected places. Every second and fourth Sunday of the month, Live on the Bandstand will transform Birmingham's Botanical Gardens into a stage for jazz, blues, soul and rock & roll. Meanwhile, July's Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival will see performances taking place in shopping centres, squares, bars, restaurants, hotels, art galleries, libraries, parks, railway stations, canal boats, and even on buses!

The city centre will also celebrate Birmingham's own artists with the inaugural competition and exhibition, Birmingham Creates: The Open. Earlier this year, Colmore BID called for the most exciting, undiscovered artwork of 2024 from emerging artists across Birmingham. The call, which had a great response, has culminated in a free physical outdoor group exhibition with more than 50 artworks displayed in print in Victoria Square, while 10 shortlisted artists have their own show in Snow Hill Square.

I'm thrilled to see the platforming of talented and local emerging artists, whose works include painted portraits, abstract compositions, photographs and collages of the city's well-loved landmarks, exquisite drawings and more. While judges will be selecting an Overall and Highly Commended winner, it's up to the people of Birmingham to crown this year's People's Award. Please do vote by scanning the QR code associated with your favourite piece of artwork.

The winner will receive a £1,000 cash prize plus a portfolio review in support of their career here in the second city.

Birmingham has, in fact, always been a city of artists. Among the most notable is the late John Salt, whose remarkable work is exhibiting at the Jewellery Quarter's RBSA Gallery. During August, a retrospective will offer a rare opportunity to see the remarkable work of the city's leading photorealist painter who took as his subject matter broken down cars and trailers overgrown by nature. While he moved to America later in his career, he was always inspired by his upbringing in this industrial and automotive city.

Finally, this summer will see another tribute – to Birmingham's great Benjamin Zephaniah, who passed away in 2023. The Brighter Flame will bring together powerful black and white photographs by Pogus Caesar with poems by Zephaniah, who took great inspiration from his hometown. Among the images on display in Victoria Square will be that of the typewriter, on which his writing journey first began, while memorial flags will fly high on Colmore Row.

100 Days of Creativity is just the initiative

Birmingham needs right now. Behind it is City Curator, Alex Nicholson-Evans, who says: "We're very lucky to have so many fantastic creative events taking place in the city this summer, some that people will already have heard of, but my hope is that this initiative will introduce the residents of Birmingham and visitors to the city to events and activities that might not have been on their radars yet, too."

Let's spend the summer celebrating Birmingham's great culture, which is here on our doorsteps.

To view the full programme of events, please visit visitbirmingham.com/100daysofcreativity



Let there be light!

Alex Nicholson-Evans, City Curator, shares her latest update for Colmore Life

In the last issue of Colmore Life I wrote about a major event idea I had been researching – Birmingham Light Festival; an annual multi-day event that will bring the city-centre to life at night through transforming Birmingham into an extraordinary gallery of illuminated artworks.

Festival concepts like these encourage local people to explore and experience their city in a (forgive the pun) different light, but they also appeal to tourists, so can be a driver for visits from further afield, too. They also have a proven track record in delivering footfall and associated spend for local businesses.

I have been starting to shape my thinking on what the 9 key principles of Birmingham Light Festival might be, you can read about those on my blog on the Colmore BID website but I wanted to pull out a couple of those here:

PLACE: We will connect audiences with the city in a positive, creative, and playful way through light art that makes connections with Birmingham, its USPs and its people

ECONOMIC: A festival designed to drive footfall and increasing spend in local businesses

ACTIVE: Artworks will all be within walking distance of one another, showcasing Birmingham encouraging participants to actively explore the city centre

SOCIAL: Some artworks will be participatory, encouraging social experience – enhancing community cohesion and human connection

LEGACY: Working with partners to explore how one light art commission per year could remain in place as a long term installation, brightening city spaces more permanently over time.

It's an ambitious project, and as with all of these big ideas, you have to start somewhere. So, we started with an experiment! In March, with the help of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, I joined forces with producers Outdoor Places Unusual Spaces to bring a dazzling mirror ball light installation to the city centre. Our Beating Heart popped-up in Snow Hill Square and it really delivered, here are the headline stats:

117.7% footfall increase on the Saturday alone
100% of people surveyed told us they want to see more artworks and events like this

55% of people who came into the city to see the installation also planned to/had visited hospitality venues

The evaluation gave us these insights and so much more, which I look forward to sharing in future. The findings have left me more excited than ever about this idea and once 100 Days of Creativity has drawn to a close this will be the project I focus on next.

100 Days of Creativity

Street exhibition shares the prose and pics of ‘poet of the people’

***I saw riots in Handsworth,
 I saw revolution loitering on the streets
 Where money had been thrown down drains
 In front of people who were needy,
 But I also saw energy laden creators
 Bringing hope,
 And building sites of new galaxies
 In Brummagem, the centre of it all.***

THE BIG BANG by Benjamin Zephaniah

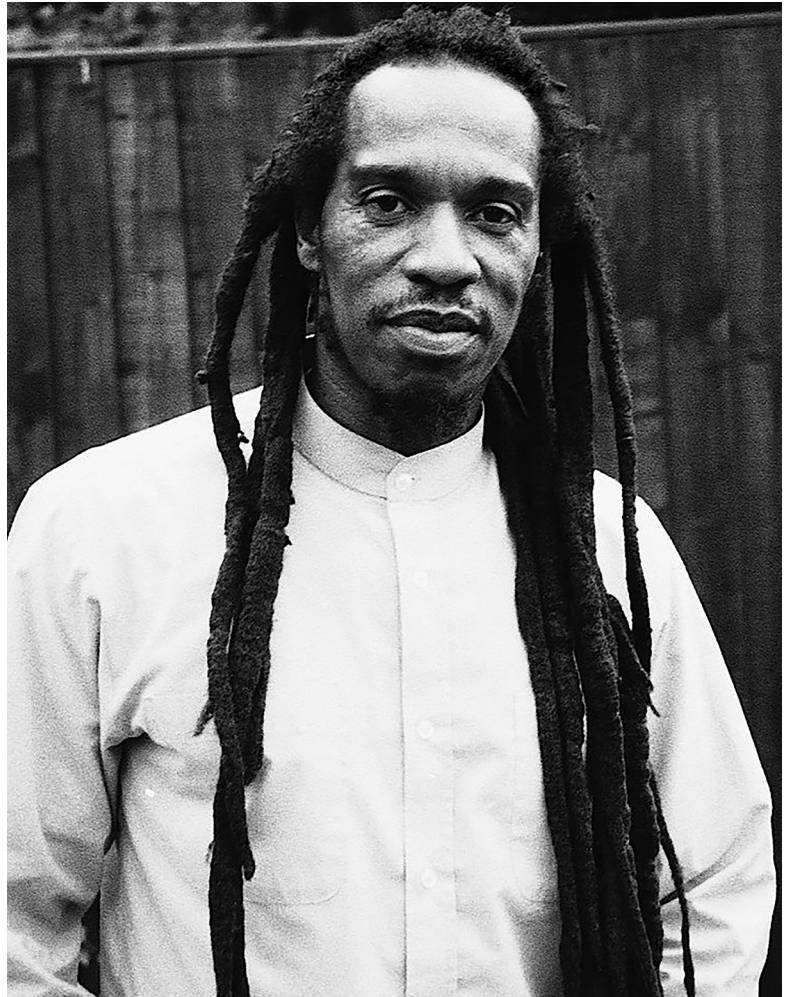
By Ruth Millington

Professor Benjamin Zephaniah’s writing journey began on an old typewriter, which he was gifted as a child. In recent years it has been housed in Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and its image is one which has been included in this summer’s exhibition, The Brighter Flame, which pays tribute to the city’s great poet, author, playwright, actor and activist who sadly left us in December 2023.

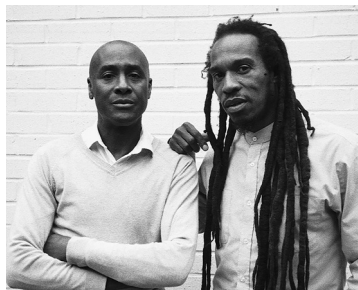
The exhibition tells just one chapter in the life of Zephaniah, who was born and brought up in Birmingham. He once said, “I loved growing up in my city”, which became a huge influence on his work. It was here that he also met artist Pogus Caesar, with whom he collaborated on several occasions, both inspired by their hometown.

This powerful multi-site exhibition displayed in Birmingham city centre has largely been

formed by the eloquent poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah and Pogus Caesar’s thought provoking images. Benjamin Zephaniah - The Brighter Flame unites pivotal moments in their thirteen year creative relationship which has seen them collaborate on ‘Sparkbrook Pride’, ‘Handsworth 1985 Revisited’ and ‘The Tiny Spark.’



In 2011, ‘Sparkbrook Pride’ was published, featuring 70 black and white photographs of Sparkbrook residents, all taken with Caesar’s



trademark Canon Sureshot 35mm camera. In response, Zephaniah wrote in the foreword: “I love the ‘rawness’ of these photos, they have a sense of place, yet nothing is staged...

So people, it is down to us to piece together the rest of this multicultural puzzle”.

Zephaniah’s poetry does piece together Caesar’s multicultural puzzles. In 2019 the pair joined forces for ‘Handsworth 1985 Revisited’, in which the writer’s words accompany Caesar’s images of the Handsworth Riots, which were pasted on billboards around the city, sharing their side to this story.

'I love the 'rawness' of these photos, they have a sense of place, yet nothing is staged...'

Almost 40 years ago, Handsworth was inflamed with anger: cars were overturned, shops were burnt and looted, 35 people were either injured or hospitalised, and two people lost their lives. Having never photographed anything like this before, Caesar arrived on the scene with his camera. "Running on adrenaline" and weaving through back alleys amid smoke, he photographed the action from different, close-up vantage points.

Years later, Zephaniah responded to Caesar's photographs with lines of poetry:

Dis is de news at ten

Dere is a riot ina Handsworth again,

Dis is de news at ten

Dere is war ina Handsworth again,

Riot in sight, a riotous sound,

Some rose up, some were put down,

Run gu tell yu frien bout de report from de news at ten.

The rhythm in NEWS is typical of Zephaniah's style. As a boy, he "struggled to read and write", later finding out that this was due to dyslexia. However, although he left school at the age of 13 without qualifications, he knew he was a poet from the beginning: "as soon as I started using words, I was using poetry".

In 1979 Zephaniah moved to London and published his first book of poetry, 'Pen Rhythm' in 1980, followed by the album 'Rasta' in 1982. Following this success, he gained acclaim for his work which combines political messages and reggae rhythms,



protest with parody, and redemption with humour. Alongside poetry, he has written plays, novels for teenagers, and children's books.

Nurturing new talent was always important to Zephaniah and in 'The Tiny Spark' from 2023 a new generation of Birmingham poets speak his words on screen. Throughout this conceptual film Caesar's images of the Handsworth Riots are accompanied by Zephaniah's poetry, which was written in direct response to them. Film stills, photographs and poems from this film are all included in the exhibition.

Among the most powerful of poems is ASTROPHYSICS? in which Zephaniah writes:
*Brummies are at home with new horizons
And a multi-layered concept of place.*

This free exhibition aims to celebrate Birmingham's multi-layered poet of the people, bringing his words and image to life on the city's streets. Meanwhile, on Colmore Row, flags

will fly high in memory of Zephaniah; each features a black and white photograph of him, taken by Caesar throughout the years, framing their relationship as friends and fellow Black British creatives.

"Benjamin Zephaniah was a local and international legend, an ordinary man who achieved extraordinary things", says Caesar. "Through talent and sheer determination, he proved what was possible and claimed the title, 'Son of Birmingham'."

Part of 100 Days of Creativity, Benjamin Zephaniah – The Brighter Flame will take place from July 5-31 at Victoria Square and along Colmore Row in Birmingham city centre. Funded by Colmore BID, exhibition partners include Central BID, OOM Gallery Archive, DACS/Artimage, Windrush Productions Birmingham Museums Trust, University of Birmingham's The Exchange, Edwin Ellis Creative Media and Build Hollywood. The exhibition has been developed with the support of Zephaniah's family.

Above: The Handsworth Riots, captured by Pogus Caesar

Facing page: Benjamin Zephaniah with Pogus Caesar

All pictures: © Pogus Caesar/ OOM Gallery Archive/DACS/ Artimage

100 Days of Creativity

Summer reads: Five fab books inspired by Birmingham

Birmingham, known as a great industrial heartland, is also home to a famous chocolate factory, green shires, an ancient mill and Needless Alley. These are the sites which have inspired authors who have lived and worked in the region. Major historical events, from Malcolm X's visit to Smethwick in 1965 to the Handsworth riots two decades later, have also offered writers significant contexts within which they have set fictional stories, as **RUTH MILLINGTON** reveals.

As summer approaches, here are five novels and short story collections inspired by Birmingham which you can pack in your suitcase or take to a sun lounger in your back garden. From much-loved classics to contemporary Midlands Noir, these books invite us to travel through the city and see it in new, and intriguing, lights.

NEEDLESS ALLEY

By Natalie Marlow

Private agent William Garrett facilitates divorces for Birmingham's male elite. With the help of a charming out-of-work actor, he sets up honey traps and photographs unsuspecting women in compromising situations.

But William's life changes when he meets the beautiful artist Clara Morton and falls in love. Little does he know she is the wife of a client – a leading fascist with a dangerous obsession. Soon, what should have been another straightforward job turns into something far more deadly.

Heralded as giving birth to a new genre – Midlands Noir – Natalie

Pictured: Ruth Millington with her copy of Needless Alley in... Needless Alley



Marlow takes her readers from canal-side pubs to crumbling manor houses, and into the hidden spaces of Needless Alley. With a menacing atmosphere and countless references to Birmingham's cultural past, this page-turner of a book is definitely one for fans of Peaky Blinders.

THE HOBBIT

by J.R.R. Tolkien

A classic in children's literature and one of the best-selling books of all time, *The Hobbit* was inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien's own childhood in Birmingham. Growing up between the ages of 4 and 8 just across the road from Sarehole Mill, this site is understood to have inspired 'the great mill' in the text.

As he wrote: "It was a kind of lost paradise. There was an old mill that really did grind corn with two millers, a great big pond with swans on it, a

sandpit, a wonderful dell with flowers, a few old-fashioned village houses and, further away, a stream with another mill".

He also wrote that he "took the idea of the hobbits from the village people and children". Although I'm sure most Brummies wouldn't want to be termed hobbit-like, it's impossible not to warm to Bilbo Baggins, who joins Gandalf and thirteen dwarves on a quest to reclaim their home and treasure from the dragon Smaug. A great adventure through Middle-earth, this timeless story will appeal to anyone who loves escaping into fantasy.

THE BOOK OF BIRMINGHAM: A CITY IN SHORT FICTION

Edited by Kavita Bhanot

This is a captivating collection of short stories about Birmingham by authors



who have really engaged with their hometown beyond the city centre. Following an insightful introduction by Kavita Bhanot, readers can enjoy psychodramas set against historic events, from Malcolm X's visit to Smethwick to the Handsworth Riots.

As an art lover, my favourite among these stories is *Necessary Bandages* by C.D. Rose. The author has painted a rich picture of the city's eccentric surrealists, Conroy Maddox, Emmy Bridgwater and John Melville, who shocked Birmingham with their subversive artworks featuring drunk nuns, spiky typewriters and strangely bandaged creatures on canvas.

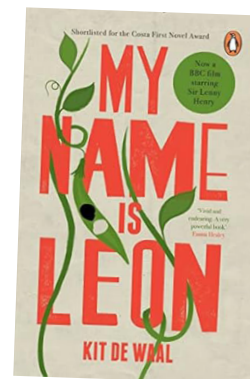
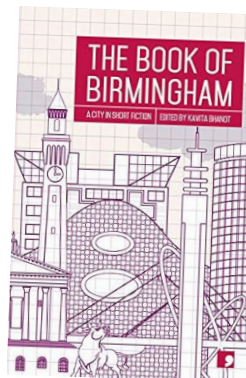
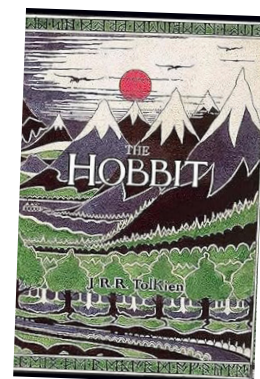
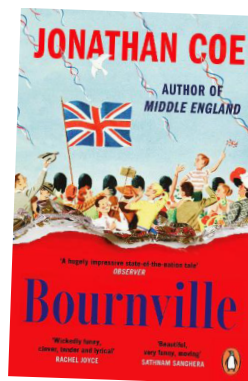
Wrapped up in this collection of contemporary tales are truths about the everyday, as well as extraordinary people who have defined Birmingham. It's a collection that would suit readers who enjoy historical fiction.

MY NAME IS LEON

By Kit de Waal

This moving novel, which made me cry, is told through the eyes of Leon. He is a nine-year-old boy who has been placed in foster care with his younger brother Jake, after their mother is unable to take care of them. What follows is a detailed exploration of Leon's life and his feelings as he tries to find safety, love and belonging in 1980s Birmingham, where the Handsworth Riots have started on the streets.

Heart-breaking and hopeful in equal measures, this book is characterised by its authenticity. The author had a photo of a young boy holding a kite by Birmingham photographer Vanley Burke on her fridge while she wrote it. She also drew on her own experiences – born in Birmingham to an Irish mother, who was a foster carer and a Caribbean father, she worked



for 15 years in family law, advising Social Services on foster children. Readers will be rooting for Leon who battles the system and racism to find family in unexpected places.

BOURNVILLE

By Jonathan Coe

In the suburbs of Birmingham sits a famous chocolate factory. For eleven-year-old Mary and her family in 1945, Cadbury's is the centre of their world. It's the reason their streets smell of chocolate, and the factory where most of their friends have worked for decades. As Mary grows up, she and her family experience social change, and she wonders if British people will come closer together or become more divided than ever.

An epic tale, Bournville sweeps across 70 years of history with one main location; this state of nation novel details the changing face of Birmingham. For anyone with memories of Bournville, it's not only funny but nostalgic. An enjoyable read, and fans of it can also dive into Coe's back catalogue which includes *The Rotters' Club* and *Middle England*.

100 Days of Creativity

BRB's nights at the museum

The city's world-famous Birmingham Royal Ballet is creating a unique residency that will fill the city's Waterhall with dance and music.

To celebrate the re-opening of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's Waterhall, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Britain's biggest touring ballet company will fill the Waterhall with dancers, musicians and the Company's behind-the-scenes teams for a week from 26 June – 2 July 2024.

The residency offers a special "up close" insight into the life of an internationally renowned ballet company and includes a programme of free activities and paid for performances, some including the opportunity to see the acclaimed Victorian Radicals exhibition.

The programme includes free access to watch BRB's dancers taking class and a very special family-friendly Open Day featuring dance performances, demonstrations and a display of costumes, wigs & shoes. There will be invited workshops for schools, for community groups with Freefall (BRB's company for dancers with learning disabilities) and a "backstage careers day" for young people interested in finding out about jobs in the performing arts. Paid for events include exclusive 'How to make a tutu' workshops, and 'A Night at the Museum' featuring the world premiere of a new ballet and access to the stunning pre-Raphaelite exhibition. In addition, for anyone attending Victorian Radicals at lunchtime on Wednesday 26 June, members of the Royal Ballet Sinfonia Robert Gibbs (violin), Joana Valentinaviciute (violin) and Errika Collins (viola) will be playing a concert of chamber music.

Caroline Miller OBE, Chief Executive of BRB said: "We are thrilled to be partnering with Birmingham



Museum's Trust and celebrating the re-opening of this globally important Museum and Art Gallery. Together both our organisations want to shout to the world that Birmingham is a thriving cultural city.

"Our goal is to bring joy to audiences this summer with free and affordable entertainment, whilst also enabling audiences to see what our international ballet dancers, fantastic orchestra players, production and community teams do behind the scenes in our wonderful home city."

For anyone visiting the Victorian Radicals exhibition in the Gas Hall during the residency and picking up on the theme of romance and legend, there will be a display of BRB costumes. Alongside this BRB's partnership with leading motion capture experts, Hologlobe will be showcased with an interactive installation within the main hall where visitors can experiment with their own

movement and see how it is translated into instant digital art. The residency will also include live music from members of the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

Toby Watley, Director of Collections, Birmingham Museums Trust, said: "We are delighted to be partnering with Birmingham Royal Ballet, helping to bring their world-class performers and creatives to a wider audience.

Working closely with cultural partners in the city is hugely important for Birmingham Museums going forward.

"The Waterhall opening again is a key step in the phased reopening of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and it gives us the opportunity to showcase a wide variety of arts to the people of Birmingham. We can't wait to welcome people back into the space."

Visitors can get 'up close and personal' to an exhibition showcasing costumes from BRB's repertoire including Cinderella and La Fille mal

Pictured: BRB company at the Victorian Radicals exhibition at Gas Hall. Picture: Katie Edwards



gardée and find out more about the Company, including the creation of the recently acclaimed *Black Sabbath – The Ballet*, and a chance for those new to ballet to attend a lesson for the first time.

In addition, Freefall Dance, BRB's company of talented dancers with learning disabilities, will be sharing some of their acclaimed work with invited groups. And, alongside other arts organisations in the city, BRB will be part of a planning day designed to introduce secondary school students to the wide range of careers available in the performing arts.

"A Night at the Museum with BRB" offers the chance to experience BRB's popular 'unexpected places' events, and to visit the acclaimed Victorian Radicals Exhibition out of hours. The evening includes the world premiere of a new work by BRB Artist Olivia Chang-Clarke, commissioned for this partnership by the London Ballet Circle, and joined by the Conservatoire Ensemble.

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET AT THE MUSEUM

Wednesday 26 June to Tuesday 2 July

Wed 26 June: 11am BRB Company Class (free).
1pm Adult Beginners Ballet Class.
1pm Lunchtime Chamber Music (free to visitors to Victorian Radicals in Gas Hall).
3pm & 6pm Tutu Workshops.

Thu 27 June: 11am BRB Company Class (free).
6pm "A Night at the Museum".

Fri 28 June: Freefall Workshops (by invitation).

Sat 29 June: Free Open Day (sessions at 10am, 12pm & 2pm).

Mon 1 July: 11am BRB Company Class (free).

Tue 2 July: GCSE Dance Workshops (by invitation).

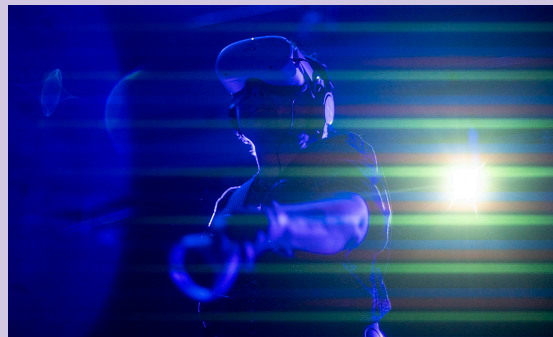
Wed 3 July: 11am-4pm Cultural Careers Open Day (by schools invitation).

For full programme details and to book (all events must be pre-booked) go to www.brb.org.uk/bmag

HIPPODROME WORLD PREMIERE

Birmingham Royal Ballet return to perform at Birmingham Hippodrome with *La Fille mal gardée* (25-26 September) and the world premiere of *Luna* (3-5 October) Carlos Acosta's final part of his Birmingham Trilogy.

THE BEAT GOES ON AT WATERHALL



In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats, the internationally acclaimed, award-winning interactive VR adventure that transports you into the heart of the Acid House movement is heading on a national tour opening at Waterhall at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery from 19 July 2024.

The VR experience, produced by East City Films and created by Darren Emerson, will visit eight cities across the UK with Birmingham opening the tour. The tour is jointly supported by Arts Council England and BFI National Lottery Audience Projects Fund.

The experience will take audiences back in time to the beginning of the Acid House movement and the creation of UK rave culture telling a multicultural story of collaboration and unity that celebrates music, friendship, and the joy of youth.

"Beats uses Virtual Reality (VR) technology to fully immerse audiences in a one-hour multi-sensory interactive experience that is awash with meticulous period detail.

Sara Wajid, Co-CEO, Birmingham Museums Trust said: "In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats is simply one of the most fun experiences I've ever had. I knew after trying the experience and the amount of joy I felt that we had to be a part of bringing this experience to the people of Birmingham and the West Midlands."

In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats launches at Waterhall at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery from 19 July until 1 September 2024. Book tickets at birminghammuseums.org.uk/events

Movers & Shakers



Melanie Williams

DWF LAW

DWF Law has announced Birmingham-based partner, Melanie Williams as head of the business and global real estate practice.

Williams, a Colmore BID Board member, has worked for DWF for over 10 years with both a national and Birmingham presence and has principally spent her 25-year career advising on real estate development projects.

She has built a robust reputation in the hotel sector with particular expertise in the acquisition, funding and development of hotels as well as on public sector and development projects.

She said: "I am honoured to be appointed as global head of real estate at DWF. It is an exciting time for our global team. We will continue to focus on delivering innovative solutions and services for our clients, and I look forward to further developing our strategy to ensure the continued growth of our team and its capabilities across our various locations."

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



Ian Tullett, Adrian Keeling KC, Tony McDaid, all No5 Chambers; James Howarth, Sterling Property Ventures and Jonathan Jones KC, No5

NO5 CHAMBERS

A barristers' chambers founded in Birmingham more than 100 years ago has put down new roots in the city.

No5 Barristers' Chambers has agreed a 20-year lease on 18,800 sq ft with Tristan Capital Partners and Sterling Property Ventures at 103 Colmore Row.

The Chambers has taken level 7 and part level 4 at the landmark building and moves from its former premises of 60 years at Fountain Court, Steelhouse Lane.

No5 is the largest set of chambers in the UK, with more than 260 barristers including 40 King's Counsel, and offices in Birmingham, London and Bristol.

Tony McDaid, chief executive officer at No5,

said "We left Fountain Court with a heavy heart as we considered it our spiritual home, but the opportunity to create a platform for future generations was one we simply had to grasp. We resolved that if we were to find a new home it had to be the right home and the search has taken circa seven years. The building is a building that will encourage people back into the office and the design, including the provision of a multi – purpose conference and training facility has been designed to give our clients the best experience possible when engaging our services."

James Howarth, managing director of Sterling Property Ventures, said: "No 5 is the second occupant of 103 Colmore Row – along with EFG Harris Allday – to be seduced into a move after five decades in their former homes. That's the power of our offer here."



Mike Best, Turley, and Sandeep Shinghadia, TfWM

FLEETMILNE

Birmingham residential estate and lettings agency FleetMilne celebrated its 20th anniversary with a party at Eighteen, 103 Colmore Row.

More than 100 guests, including friends, family, clients and members of the city's business community, attended the bash at the rooftop terrace bar, enjoying music, food, drinks and sunset views across Birmingham.

FleetMilne was set up in 2004 by founder and CEO Nicola Fleet-Milne. Over the last two decades, the Colmore Row based business has established itself as Birmingham's go-to agency for property investment and management.



Nicola Fleet-Milne and Kirsty Cove from FleetMilne



Ruth Thompson, UK Athletics, and Michele Wilby, Colmore BID



Meet Charlotte Bowden, a proud Brummie with a passion for fostering business growth within the District. Currently working for Birmingham City Council and with Business Growth West Midlands, Charlotte delivers programmes dedicated to empowering female business leaders. She also chairs a Women in Leaders committee with TAG Network Midlands and sits on the Place Marketing Group for Colmore BID.

CURRENT GRANT OPTIONS:

UK SME GRANT

This is a 50/50 match funded grant for capital spend. If in Birmingham for every £10,000 you apply for 1 FTE must be created. There is no job creation for Solihull based businesses.

More information at birmingham.gov.uk/info/50293/wm_sme_grant_programme/2693/

INTERNATIONAL TRADE GRANT

100% funded grant for up to £6,000 for international activity. This can help with IP, to help start trading overseas or trade shows and exhibitions.

NET ZERO GRANT PROGRAMME

Sustainability grants to help with solar panels, heating and lighting, this includes an energy efficiency assessment. 50/50 match funded.

Visit birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/5935/net_zero_grant_programme

Movers & Shakers

GATELEY

Professional services group Gateley has made 15 promotions at its office on Edmund Street, including one to partner.

Alison Davidson-Cox (banking) has been made partner, after first joining Gateley as a solicitor in 2012. Gemma Murphy-Punzo (corporate) has also been promoted to legal director.

Overall, six people have been promoted to senior associate: Paul Oxley and Jonathan Cree (both residential development), Eliza Summerfield (real estate), Jamie Gillespie (corporate), Ed Locock (commercial dispute resolution (CDR)), and Sonia Thandi (complex international recovery work (CIRW)).

Promoted to associate are Simon Jarvis and Harveer Mehat (both residential development), Parmjit Singh (corporate), Lauren Jones (banking), Sara Hipkiss (CDR), and Sophie McCormick (regulatory & business defence).

Property consultancy Gateley Hamer has also announced a senior appointment in Birmingham, with Malcolm Newman appointed as director.

Birmingham office head Rebecca Sherwin said: "I'm delighted to announce so many well-deserved promotions within the team here in Birmingham. All these promotions are a reflection of the immense talent we have at Gateley and a testament to the hard work and dedication they have shown in delivering results that have delighted our clients, inspired our people and supported our communities."



WALKER CRIPS

Walker Crips Investment Management has announced the appointment of Sally Greenwood as Investment Director in its Birmingham office, based at 126 Colmore Row.

Sally brings over two decades of extensive experience in the financial services industry, having commenced her career in 2000. Her journey began

as a dealer, before qualifying as an investment manager at Pilling & Co. Sally then spent seven successful years working as a private banker with Barclays Wealth & Investment Management. This diverse background has equipped her with valuable insights into the broader financial services landscape.

Known for her passion for managing bespoke portfolios and building lasting client relationships, Sally is a Chartered Wealth Manager and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (FCSI). Her dedication to delivering tailored investment solutions aligns seamlessly with Walker Crips' commitment to providing exceptional service to its clients.

Greenwood said: "I look forward to contributing to the firm's continued success and leveraging my experience to create meaningful, tailored investment strategies for our clients, both in the Midlands region and across the UK."

Wesley Coultas, Head of Investment Management at Walker Crips, expressed his enthusiasm about Sally's appointment, adding: "Sally's proven expertise and client-focused approach make her a valuable addition to our team. We are confident that her leadership and wealth of experience will enhance our capabilities in Birmingham and contribute significantly to our ongoing expansion."

FISHER GERMAN

Fisher German has underlined its ambitions to boost its influence within major cities in England at an official opening celebration at its new Birmingham office.

The property consultancy held the event at its new office at Fifteen Colmore Row, which saw guests from Midlands property, business, and local government hear about the firm's exciting new plans for growth.

Attendees took advantage of the chance to network before a speech from Divisional Managing Partner Stuart Flint.

Flint highlighted the firm's aim to grow its

share of the market not only within Birmingham, but around its city centre offices in London, Manchester, and Liverpool acquired after the merger with the former Matthews & Goodman in 2022.

He said: "Fisher German is going from strength to strength as a result of the new Birmingham office and the three offices in London, Manchester and Liverpool, which complement our existing network of town-based offices across the country.

"Birmingham is a key city where we have identified a lot of untapped potential, and our Birmingham office has put us in the perfect location to grow our influence."



KIM LEARY

Kim Leary, the founder of Squibble, a creative design agency based on Colmore Row in Birmingham, has been recognised as one of the 100 most influential people in the UK's digital industry. This accolade was awarded by the British Interactive Media Association (BIMA), a leading organisation representing the tech and creative sectors in the UK.

Leary, who founded Squibble in 2010, was honoured in the CEO and leaders category for businesses with annual turnovers of up to £5 million. Her recognition on the BIMA 100 list for 2024 highlights her significant contributions to promoting the technology industry in the Midlands.

In addition to her role at Squibble, Leary is a co-founder of the Midlands Marketing Awards and serves as the chairperson of Tech WM, a not-for-profit organisation that supports the tech sector in the West Midlands. The BIMA 100 list is an annual recognition of individuals shaping the future of the UK's digital industry, with this year's winners celebrated at a central London ceremony on May 21.

The citation for the CEO and leaders category commended Leary's outstanding leadership, noting how she has fostered an environment of support and excellence within her company, leading to significant advancements.

Movers & Shakers



RSA INSURANCE

Multinational insurer, RSA Insurance has chosen Cubo as the new home for around 250 of its employees across Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds.

Cubo has rapidly expanded across 10 major regional cities in the UK with its offer of Grade A flexible workspaces in prime buildings and locations. The decision by RSA to select Cubo in three major UK cities demonstrates the ongoing shift in the commercial office space market

towards flexibility and quality. RSA will join a host of other leading multinationals who count themselves as Cubo members across Tech, Professional Services and Financial Services.

Marc Brough, CEO of Cubo, said: "We are proud to be RSA's partner of choice in Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham. This deal is a testament to the strategy that we have stayed true to from day one, which is to offer the best space and best customer service within the best buildings in the best locations, wherever we go."

TLT

National law firm TLT has appointed Jacob Cork as a partner in the Trusts and Estates team, strengthening the firm's expertise in private wealth and family law and adding to the team's international capabilities.

Based in TLT's Two Chamberlain Square office, Cork joined from Mills & Reeve, bringing nine years of experience advising on a wide range of estate planning and taxation issues, helping protect family wealth across generations.

His practice typically includes advising on wills and trusts, and succession planning for family business owners.

He has in-depth experience of dealing with foreign jurisdictions, allowing him to take a strategic and holistic approach to protecting his clients' assets.

The news builds on the recent opening of TLT's office in Birmingham at Two Chamberlain Square – the firm's seventh across the UK.

TLT has also appointed five new legal directors as the firm continues its growth at its new offices in the Business District.

The new appointments will further broaden the firm's offering across financial services disputes and investigations, corporate, commercial and commercial dispute resolution practices.

The firm has grown its litigation practice with the appointment of three expert litigators including Rebekah Finch who has joined TLT's national commercial dispute resolution team to advise a wide range of corporate and commercial clients in relation to various commercial disputes.

Alongside Rebekah Finch, Amanda Wootton and Julie Peel have joined TLT's financial services disputes and investigations team, providing expert legal advice to a wide variety of financial institutions, and advising on some of the most complex disputes in the financial services sector.

Three Chamberlain Square topping out milestone

CEREMONY ON 9TH FLOOR OF LANDMARK CITY CENTRE BUILDING

Paradise Birmingham has commemorated the topping out ceremony of its newest landmark commercial building, Three Chamberlain Square.

Chris Taylor, Head of Real Estate at Federated Hermes Limited and Chairman of MEPC, joined colleagues from main contractor Sir Robert McAlpine (SRM) and the wider project team on the 9th floor of the 189,000 sq ft building for the ceremony to mark reaching the construction's highest point.

The ceremony commenced with the traditional Scottish bagpipe to reflect the heritage of SRM and the pouring of the last concrete into the building's framework.

Construction of the low energy, low carbon building commenced in May 2023 with completion scheduled for summer 2025 when it will become Birmingham's most sustainable and amenity-rich commercial building.

Designed by architects Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios (FCBS), Three Chamberlain Square is championing sustainability and innovation through design principles and has already secured BREEAM Outstanding and NABERS 5* ratings at design stage – making it one of the UK's most sustainable buildings.

Ross Fittall, Commercial Development Director at Paradise



Chris Taylor (CEO Real Estate and Private Markets Federated Hermes and Chair, MEPC), Hector McAlpine (Executive Partner, Sir Robert McAlpine) and Alex Housden (Development Manager, MEPC)



An artist's impression of the completed Three Chamberlain Square

asset and development manager MEPC, said: "Reaching this milestone is a pivotal moment towards the completion of Three Chamberlain Square. The ceremony not only celebrates our progress but highlights the achievement through the dedication, hard work and enormous collaborative approach from the construction, design, and whole project team to deliver a best in class commercial development for the city."

"Its unique design and sustainable features also highlight our commitment to a net zero future across all of our buildings and has helped to create a benchmark for the remaining phase at Paradise."

Key features of the building include its revolutionary inside-outside design, with more than 8,000

bespoke terracotta panels, 3,000 openable windows as well as the 9th floor open terrace, all helping to set a new standard in the city for both environmentally conscious architecture and premium commercial space.

Hector McAlpine, Executive Partner at Sir Robert McAlpine, commended the collaborative efforts and technical expertise in achieving the milestone, stating: "The topping out ceremony not only marks a moment of achievement in construction but also reflects our commitment to delivering excellence in sustainable development. We are very proud to be a trusted partner here at Paradise and celebrate our ongoing delivery of class leading buildings while being part of this cutting-edge development."

Three Chamberlain Square is engineered with sustainability measures in place, including a low-carbon terracotta façade, all-electric infrastructure, and a SMART building design aimed at maximising occupant wellbeing. Moreover, the building's commitment to social value, circular economy principles, and climate resilience aligns seamlessly with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

City offices celebrate best in class at BCO

ONE CENTENARY WAY RECOGNISED

One Centenary Way in Birmingham was crowned Best Commercial Workplace at the recent British Council for Offices Awards, which were awarded to five office buildings across the region.

The Midlands and Central England's most outstanding workplaces were announced at the ICC event.

The BCO's annual Midlands and Central Awards Lunch recognised projects that demonstrate best practice in office design, fit-out, operation and sustainability, setting the standard for excellence across the sector.

The winners of this year's competition in the Midlands and Central England stand out for their ambition in combining user-centric design credentials with the creative implementation of wellbeing and sustainability measures.

Judges commended the bravery and ambition of the One Centenary Way speculative office scheme, which delivers 280,000 sq ft in the heart of the city's new mixed-use district. One of Birmingham's most sustainable

There were awards for One Centenary Way, right, and Arup's new offices, below



buildings, One Centenary Way is all-electric, BREEAM 'Excellent' and EPC A rated, and has been designed to WiredScore requirements for connectivity. It also has a fully demountable superstructure, enabling a circular economy. The building houses the city's first public cycle hub for 450 bikes, with showers, storage and maintenance facilities, and provides shared access to high quality wellness suites.

Arup's Birmingham office at One Centenary Way was awarded Best Fit Out of Workplace. The judges were struck by the close collaboration

between occupier and developer in redesigning the building's gas fire boilers to incorporate air source heat provision and smart gateways. Embodied carbon was minimised during the fit-out through a natural and recycled material pallet and the project is on target to achieve WELL Building Platinum certification. Arup's approach to innovative smart enabling operating systems will also allow for minimal energy use in unoccupied areas of the building. The judging panel applauded the steps Arup had taken to support neurodiversity, wellbeing and inclusivity through a series of flexible workspaces.



The BCO Regional Award winners for the Midlands and Central England are:

- TTP Campus, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire (Corporate Workplace)
- One Centenary Way, Paradise, Birmingham (Commercial Workplace)
- Arup, One Centenary Way, Paradise (Fit Out of Workplace)
- 10 Brindleyplace, Birmingham (ESG and Refurbished/Recycled Workplace)
- Rare, Manor Park, Twycross, Sheepy Manga (Projects up to 2,500m²)

Life&Leisure

The innovative concept behind aparthotel Birmingham

Offering an elevated experience for those seeking the perfect blend of comfort, convenience and luxury, aparthotel Birmingham's dynamic concept comes from a deep understanding of modern travel needs. Levi Bailey, Group Operations Director at Switch Hospitality Management Ltd, explains more.

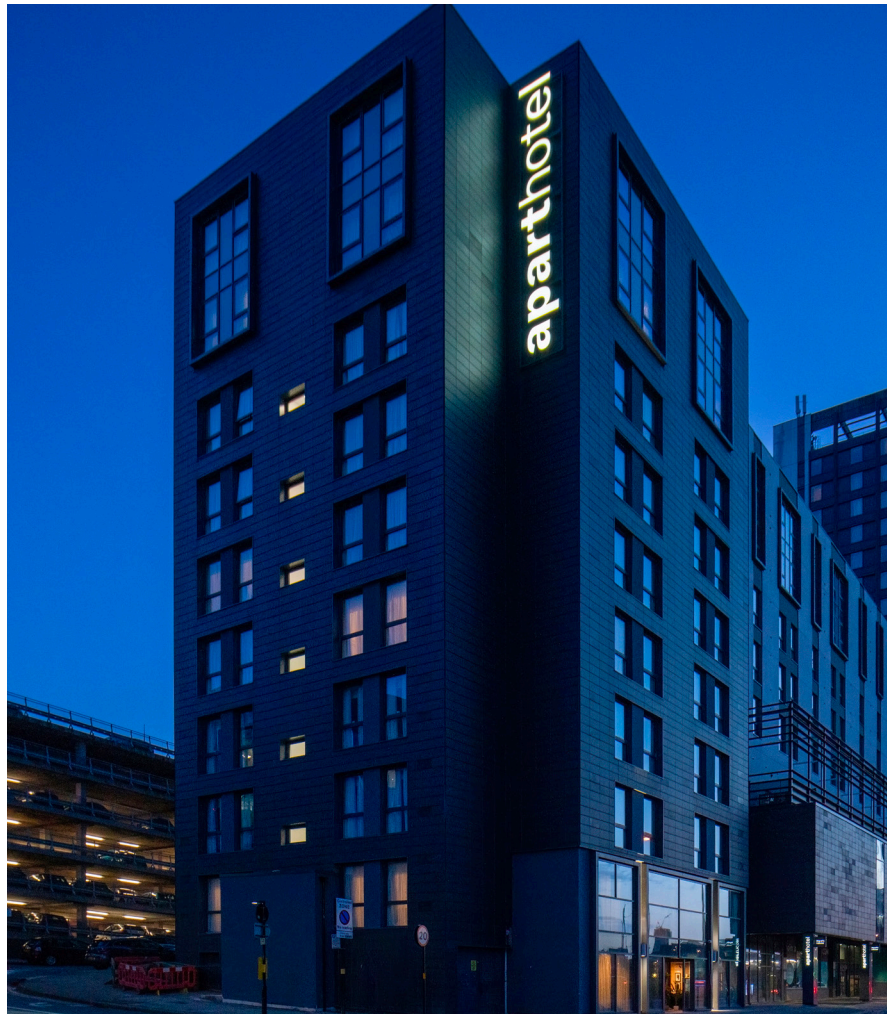
Interview by Lisa Piddington

WHAT INSPIRED THE CONCEPT OF APARTHOTEL BIRMINGHAM?

The initial concept came from our understanding of the way guests increasingly want and need flexibility when they travel. With this in mind, aparthotel looks to offer the everyday comforts of home, the luxury of a hotel and the versatility of a self-catered apartment. It's an exciting new proposition designed with every type of traveller in mind.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE AMENITIES AND FEATURES GUESTS CAN EXPECT?

aparthotel Birmingham offers the choice of ten accommodation types across 161 luxury suites, from a classic 22sqm studio to two-bedroom and dog-friendly apartments with private terraces. Creating a 'home away from home' experience, rooms are furnished with a fully-equipped kitchen, while guests also benefit from the latest technology,



including self-check in portals and wi-fi hotspots. Our ground floor, named The Hub, features a 12-seat boardroom alongside modern co-working spaces, while an on-site NISA Local is stocked with everyday essentials.

HOW DOES APARTHOTEL CATER TO THE NEEDS OF BOTH SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM GUESTS?

With our prime city-centre location, neighbouring the Colmore Business District and in walking distance of Birmingham Snow Hill station, aparthotel Birmingham has been

designed to meet the needs of both leisure and corporate travellers. For long-stay guests, who may be staying with us for business, we know it's important to have accommodation that's comfortable, convenient and affordable, but also has plenty of space and flexibility so that they can work effectively. Dedicated living areas in each suite mean it's easy to switch off at the end of the day, and fully-fitted kitchens give guests the freedom to cook their own meals if they don't want to eat out every night.

We also look to promote wellbeing and foster a real sense of community, with weekly drinks receptions hosted in The Hub, so residents can get to



know their neighbours a little better.

Inter-connecting suites are perfect for groups staying with us for a shorter break, enabling guests to socialise in shared spaces, whilst being able to retreat to a private ensuite room.

HOW DOES APARTHOTEL INTEGRATE SUSTAINABILITY?

Formerly the Royal Angus Hotel, we have overseen the sensitive redevelopment of the site into aparthotel Birmingham, which today offers a highly sustainable and eco-conscious design. From the earliest design stages, we invested in

upgrades to the site's infrastructure to ensure its operations would have minimal environmental impact. Upon opening, it was awarded an Energy Performance Certificate rating of "10A", where "0A" indicates net-zero carbon emissions. This rating has positioned aparthotel as one of the city's most sustainable commercial developments, producing significantly lower emissions than the industry average of "17A" for new builds and "68C" for existing stock.

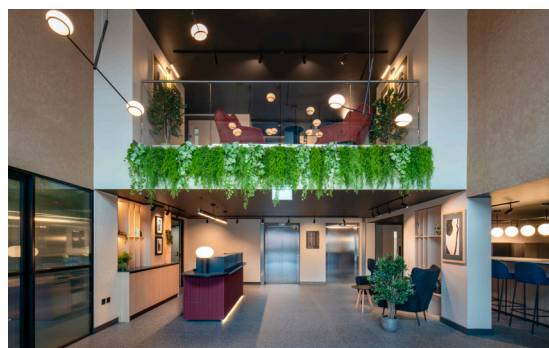
COULD YOU SHARE SOME INSIGHTS INTO THE DESIGN AND DÉCOR?

From the moment guests enter aparthotel Birmingham, we want them to feel special. Showcasing a modern, biophilic design, the reception area looks to instil a sense of calm, while visitors to The Hub co-working space can get focused on their work within a stylish and inspiring setting.

Our quiet and spacious rooms are equipped with black-out curtains, luxurious linens and super-soft pillows, so guests can relax and unwind from the hustle and bustle of the city, while our in-room Nespresso coffee makers provide the perfect morning pick-me-up. Pairing the convenience and practicality of serviced apartments with the luxury and comfort of a five-star hotel, we're proud to have created a concept that redefines the city staycation. Designed by hospitality experts, our stylish mix of accommodation offers a range of modern luxuries, with the familiarity of home.

IN WHAT WAYS DOES APARTHOTEL EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY?

Our guests can benefit from the latest technology including self-check-in portals, high-speed broadband and either a Chromecast TV or top-of-the-range media wall in each of our suites. Guests can work uninterrupted or catch up on their favourite films and box sets from the comfort of their room. The use of QR codes throughout also allows



us to reduce printed collateral and minimise waste, in turn supporting our sustainability agenda.

HOW DOES APARTHOTEL ENGAGE WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT NEARBY BUSINESSES AND ATTRACTIONS?

Situated in the heart of Birmingham, we're a proud member of the city we call home. In the community, we work closely with charities, volunteer organisations and partners to help make a difference. This includes supporting fundraising activity for Birmingham Children's Hospital, and providing discounted rates for local charities and key business sectors. We love to shine a light on Birmingham, and through our weekly social media series 'Local Spotlight', we showcase great local independents and areas of interest, so that visitors from outside of the region can explore the very best of the city.

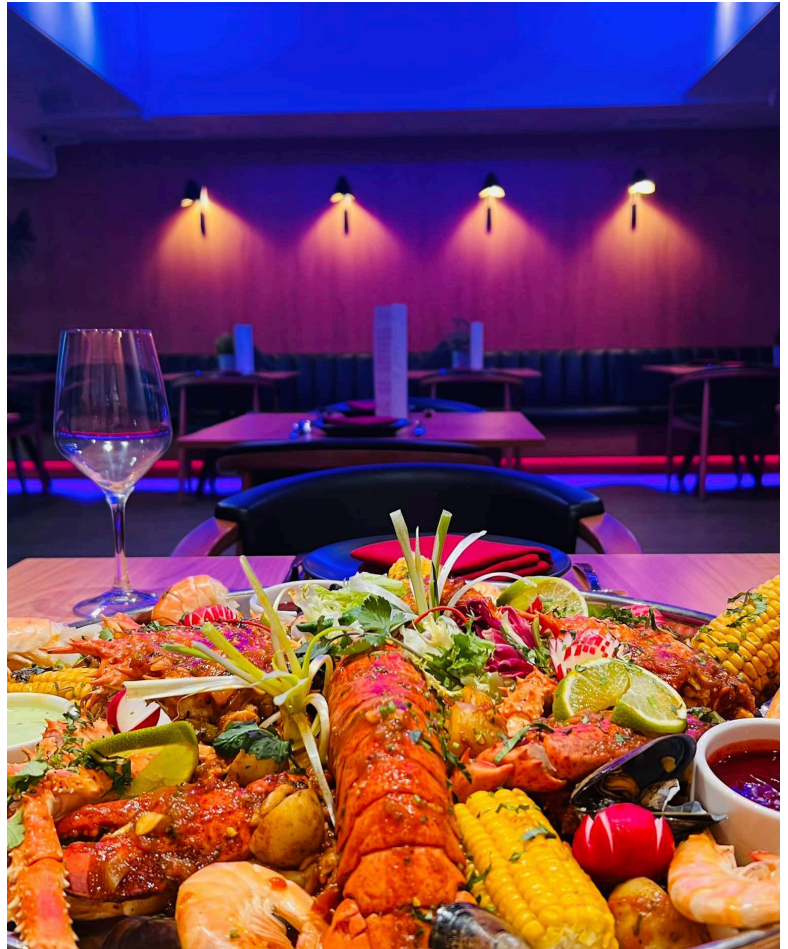


A labour of love for Carbon Cycle chefs

Named after the element forged in the heart of ageing stars, The Carbon Cycle is a labour of love for one Handsworth family. Shaju Bibi, part of the senior management team, opened the new restaurant alongside her British Bangladeshi relatives who took their inspiration from the diverse flavours of their childhood to create the menu.

"If you came to our house you'd find a minimum of six curries, even now that we're all grown up," Shaju said in a recent interview with Birmingham Live. "Our mum will always cook our favourites for when we visit. Because we're all so different and wanted different things, there was always lots to choose from."

Commitment to quality and excellence is paramount, with a selection of authentic favourites alongside more modern options, including the social media star – the Seafood Boil. As one of the standout dishes on the menu, it's given an Indian spin to reflect its popularity on TikTok. As a meal



designed for two, it includes lobster, king prawns, squid rings, crevettes, sweetcorn and spider crab served with sautéed potatoes.

The classics are there too - including Korma, Bhoona, Madras, Balti and Rogan Josh – as well as chef specials such as Tawa, Jalfrezi, Sherpuri, Roshni and Shorisha. But it's the addition of

more Western-sounding choices that makes the restaurant stand out. There's Angus Sirloin, Ribeye, T-bone and Tomahawk steaks all marinated with The Carbon Cycle's special sauces – you can choose your preferred spice level – as well as a range of burgers (including the Desi Smash Burger topped with green chillies, naga pickle and birds eye chillies).

The Carbon Cycle's approach means no artificial colours or food additives are used in the preparation; instead, the chefs use freshly ground spices prepared in-house, ensuring each dish is authentic and made to order. There's a comprehensive drinks menu to complement, with a range of draught and bottled beers (including non-alcoholic), wines, Champagne and fizz, spirits and soft drinks.

*Pictures courtesy
The Carbon Cycle*

HOW TO BOOK A TABLE

The Carbon Cycle is at 55-59 Newhall Street, and is open Sunday-Thursday 4.30pm-10.30pm; Friday and Saturday 4.30pm-11.00pm; and Sunday Buffet 4.30pm-10pm. For more details visit thecarboncycle.uk and for reservations contact 0121 236 0111 or email thecarboncycle@mail.com



Charity & Community

Gensler's splash of colour for Hospice



Gensler Birmingham has partnered with Birmingham Hospice, a local organisation dedicated to providing care for individuals living with life-limiting illnesses and supporting their loved ones in Birmingham.

As part of their commitment to community engagement, Gensler Birmingham participated in painting and installing a mural specifically designed for the Living Well Centre at the hospice's Selly Park site.

The Living Well Centre focuses on assisting individuals with a terminal diagnosis to live well alongside their illness. The centre offers a range of programmes aimed at managing symptoms, engaging in therapeutic activities, and setting achievable goals that prioritise personal wellbeing. Attendance at these sessions provides opportunities to connect with professionals offering support and expertise, working in tandem with GPs, district nurses, and other members of the hospice's Specialist Palliative Care Team.

"Words can't describe how grateful we are to Gensler for what you and the team have done for the hospice," said Katie West, Senior Fundraising and Supporter Experience Manager.

By sharing the story of the Birmingham Hospice Living Well Centre, they aim to raise awareness of their exceptional work and encourage increased support and funding for their initiatives, particularly during these challenging economic times and government funding cuts. Together, as a community, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of individuals and families living with a terminal diagnosis.

For further information on Birmingham Hospice and how you can contribute to their efforts, please visit their website at www.birminghamhospice.org.uk.

**Design credits go to Joanna Siecla, Architect at Gensler Birmingham office, for the selected mural artwork installation.*

CHARITIES CONNECTED TO COLMORE

Just a few of the charities who have an office in the city, some of whom are based within the Colmore District.

CHILDREN'S LIVER FOUNDATION

From its head office in Birmingham, it provides a comprehensive information hub on childhood liver disease for healthcare professionals and for families.

childliverdisease.org

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

A home away from home that provides comfort, support and resources to families who travel far from home for the medical care their child needs.

rmhc.org

LIONHEART

Offering the expert and confidential support that can help someone through a difficult time. When you ring for help, you'll speak to one of LionHeart's highly experienced support officers who will take time to listen to your circumstances and then work out what can help.

lionheart.org.uk

SIFA FIRESIDE

SIFA Fireside provides an ever-evolving range of responsive services, including homelessness intervention, recovery and prevention.

sifafireside.co.uk

RSVP - RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT

RSVP believes everyone deserves a life free from sexual violence and abuse. The charity supports people who have been subjected to sexual violence and abuse to thrive and enjoy a future of hope and confidence.

rsvporg.co.uk

ST BASILS

Are you aged 16-25 and homeless, at risk or just in need of some housing advice? St Basils can help!

stbasils.org.uk

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST

The Trust oversees nine extraordinary venues that provide a fascinating glimpse into Birmingham's rich and vibrant past and showcase world class museum collections.

birminghammuseums.org.uk

COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT



Birmingham Children's Hospital

Law Courts

Wesleyan Building

Three Snowhill

Hotel Du Vin

The Lightwell

BT Tower

Paradise development

Bull Street/Priory Queensway Interchange
For northeast bound bus services.

Moor Street Interchange
For national and regional rail services and southeast bound bus services.

Snow Hill Interchange
For national and regional rail services, Metro and northwest bound bus services.

Cathedral Square
The green heart of the city centre around the historic cathedrals is a place to relax and enjoy the many cafes and pubs nearby.

Victoria Square
The city's civic heart is home to the town Hall, Council House and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The square is used all year round for a wide variety of events.

New Street Interchange
For national and regional rail services and southwest bound bus services.

Paradise

Paradise development

Paradise development

Two Colmore Square

The Colmore Building

The Minorities

Great Western Arcade

The Grand Hotel

Louise Ryland House

Birmingham School of Art

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Paradise development

The Square

Martineau Place

Birmingham Cathedral

New Street Central Station

New Street Grand Central Station

Council House

Town Hall

Paradise development

Paradise development

103 Colmore Row

Paradise

Paradise development

Paradise development

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