



COLMORE

LIFE

WINTER
2024/2025



*Stunning new
look for Livery
Street subway*

FIND OUT MORE ON PAGE 10

Cover artwork courtesy Adam Nathaniel Furman



Welcome to the Winter 2024/2025 edition of Colmore Life magazine.

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

As we enter the final months of 2024, I always enjoy looking back on the past year and reflecting on a period of significant progress, meaningful engagement and exciting new developments across our organisation.

From elevating our Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) proposition to launching city-wide creative campaigns with our City Curator, delivering the 2024 Colmore Food Festival and preparing for the festive season, the last 12 months have been a time of dynamic accomplishments.

One of our first major milestones in the last month was the release of our 'The Colmore Life' feedback survey, designed to better understand the views, experiences, and expectations of our community of businesses. We value our local partnerships and strive to continuously improve our services to better meet your needs. Your feedback is crucial in helping us achieve this goal. Please complete the survey (via the QR code below), it will only take 5-10 minutes of your time.

This year has also been filled with creativity and engagement, exemplified by the finalisation of our 100 Days of Creativity campaign. Led by our City Curator, a post funded by Colmore BID, the campaign was a tremendous success, fostering community spirit and bringing people together in a celebration of creative potential. As we wrapped up the summer, it was clear that this campaign not only highlighted individual talents but also reinforced the importance of creative industries in driving innovation and economic growth.

One of the key highlights was our open

art competition and exhibition called 'Birmingham Creates: The Open', which sought out Birmingham's undiscovered artists to provide them with a platform to showcase their work. It was fantastic to bring the community together and celebrate Birmingham's artistic talent, and you can hear from the winners on the later pages. The competition and exhibition were so successful, we're already thinking about how we elevate the concept further – and bring forward further art exhibitions – in 2025.

With this, we're also exploring the possibilities of using AR (Augmented Reality) to showcase our District in ways never seen before – utilising technology to create immersive exciting experiences.

Leadership also remains a top priority, and we were delighted to announce the appointment of three new Board directors this summer. Each brings a wealth of diverse experience, fresh perspectives, and a shared commitment to our mission. The appointment of three female leaders marks a new chapter in our journey, positioning us for even greater success in the years ahead.

We are also proud to have built on the success of the award-winning Colmore Food Festival, which has become one of the highlights of Birmingham's cultural calendar. Showcasing the city's vibrant food scene and bringing people together for two days of culinary delights, the festival continues to grow in popularity and acclaim. The 2024 festival was our best yet.

Looking ahead, we are already finalising our activities for the festive season, with big plans in store for Christmas in Birmingham. This year promises to be bigger and brighter than ever, bringing together local businesses, artisans, and performers to create a truly magical experience for Birmingham's residents and visitors alike.

As we move forward into the new year, we are excited by the momentum we've built and the progress we've made. We're working really closely with businesses across our District and beyond to promote Colmore BID more widely. Our achievements are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, our partners, and our community.

Together, we are shaping a future that is creative, sustainable, and full of possibilities. We can't wait to see what's next!

MICHELE WILBY

THE BID TEAM

- Michele Wilby**
Chief Executive Officer
- Katy Paddock**
Chief Operating Officer
- Jonathan Bryce**
Chief Policy and Governance 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
- Pippa Caulkin**
Officer Manager
- Felicity Blades**
Marketing Executive
- Philip Singleton**
Project Manager
- Alex Nicholson Evans**
City Curator
- Lisa Gibbs**
BID Consultant
- Ali Abbas Rangwala**
Bookkeeper
- Nicole Panayiotou**
Community Liaison Executive
- Zack Palmer**
Senior Community Support
- Dimitrios Mitropoulos**
Community Support Officer
- Ishmael Simpson**
Community Support Officer
- Samson Adejoh**
Community Support Officer
- Jeremiah Richards-Dore**
Community Support Officer
- Peter Charalambous**
District Cleaner
- Syed Islam**
District Cleaner



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Please scan the QR code to take part in our Colmore Life feedback survey

DID YOU KNOW? Birmingham will have its very own Light Festival in February 2024 – an annual event that will bring the city-centre to life at night through a gallery of illuminated artworks. Keep an eye on Colmore BID social media for details.

A DAY IN THE DISTRICT

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

1 BREAKFAST

WAYLANDS YARD

Named one of England's 50 best coffee shops, Waylands Yard prides itself on serving 'proper coffee and proper food'.

Not only does Waylands Yard serve a great breakfast, you can enjoy brunch, lunch and cakes all day. Dog friendly too.

42 Bull Street

2 TO THE SHOPS

THE CO-OP, SNOW HILL STATION SQUARE

Pick up your essentials while enjoying your day in the District with this handy Co-op store next to Snow Hill station. It's ideal for grabbing that bottle of milk, wine or dinner you've forgotten before catching the train home.

1 Colmore Row

3 SEE THE SIGHTS

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

The much-loved BMAG has reopened more of its gallery spaces, shop and Tearooms after the essential maintenance work was completed. Look out for classic artworks and a new take on life in Brum today

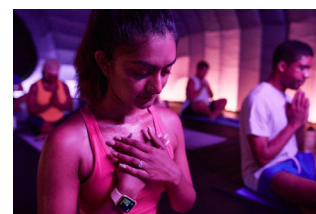
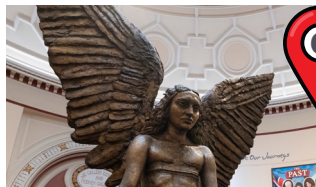
Chamberlain Square
See Page 21

4 ME TIME

HOTPOD YOGA

Experience soothing heat, calming scents and relaxing music in a Hotpod Yoga class. Free mat use and all levels welcome. Get fit and relieve stress in the heart of the Business District, seven days a week.

37A Waterloo Street



5 A POST-WORK CATCH-UP

PURECRAFT BAR & KITCHEN

For the perfect beer and food combination head to Purecraft Bar & Kitchen. The menu, which includes classic pork pies and vegetarian options such as roasted cauliflower tikka, is designed to be the perfect match for its award-winning craft beers.

30 Waterloo Street

6 DINNER

DISHOOM

Stylish Indian restaurant Dishoom is serving Christmas and Winter feasts and Yuletide Tipples with a twist from November 18 until Christmas Eve for £45 per person. We're talking Bacon, Brie and Cranberry Naan Rolls!

Chamberlain Square

Big Interview

'I get to change the aspiration of clients on what they can achieve in terms of sustainability... minimising the impact on the planet'

From Snowhill to One Centenary Way Alison Kilby has been involved in some of the biggest developments which have shaped the Business District in recent years. Now the Associate Director at Arup is lending her expertise to Colmore BID by joining our Board.

Catherine Hendrick finds out more.

When Alison Kilby walked into Arup's Bristol office 20 years ago after applying for a graduate job as a Building Services Engineer she says "I honestly didn't know what it was!"

She must have impressed those in charge though because Alison, who has a Masters Degree in mechanical engineering from Warwick University, got the role.

Two decades later her career has gone from strength to strength and Alison is now Arup's Associate Director of Building Engineering.

During that time she's helped develop building designs across the region and around the globe. Building Services Engineering is all about making the built environment fit for purpose through things like heating, lighting, power and ventilation.

"My job is incredibly varied and also leads to things that last and create a legacy," she says.

"I get to change the aspiration of clients on what they can achieve in terms of sustainability, driving and shaping the future building stock and minimising the impact on the planet."

Some of Alison's earliest project memories are of working on the One and Two Snowhill developments, including designing the solar shading

which protects the floor plates to stop them from overheating.

She's also worked on initiatives involving education, such as shaping the building services for the Sports Hub at her old university.

"Taking my kids to the climbing wall and pool there is a special feeling", she adds.

Another career highlight was helping redesign Sandwell Aquatics Centre for the Commonwealth Games.

More recently Alison was responsible for co-designing Arup's new office at One Centenary Way.

The building, which is at the cutting edge of sustainable and smart design, is home to 800 of her colleagues.

"My role for our move was as the technical client. I came on board when staff had already been made aware that we were looking to relocate at the end of our lease and that the new office would be in the city centre within a ten minute walk of the major transport links.

"I worked with a short list of available properties, evaluated them against the employer's requirements and worked with the developers to ensure that the lease we signed aligned most closely to the Arup requirements.

"This meant agreeing to contribute to the removal of the proposed gas boilers and conversion to all electric, net zero ready technology and agreeing a modification to our lease to eliminate waste by the developer installing generic lighting and ceilings

throughout our spaces prior to our fit out taking place.

"I had to share the vision and evolving design of the office space with our members – from key user groups to the wider staff and take them on the change journey into new, more agile working spaces.

"This included the provision of wellness spaces, work settings to suit different tasks and supporting those with neurodiversity and many other aspects.

"Making sure that the coffee machines lived up to expectations was probably the biggest risk on the journey to be fair!"

"Making sure the coffee machines lived up to expectations was probably the biggest risk on the journey to be fair!"

The biggest benefit of Arup moving from an out of town office to a city centre location is the huge reduction in carbon emissions from travel, according to Alison.

"It's the equivalent of the same quantity of CO2 absorbed by around 40,000 trees every year.

"Our old office had a 450-place car park and all staff drove because the anticipated transport links to our business park did

not materialise.

"Moving to the heart of the Business District meant we were able to work with developers who were up to the challenge of ensuring the building we came to met our sustainable and SMART aspirations. Having a smart-enabled building means we can use the data we acquire around our occupancy demands to develop a profile of space use over time and modify the building services to minimise energy use.

Big Interview



“Having been in place for ten months we are now closing one floor every Friday to limit the lighting energy and looking at the set points in spaces to minimise the heating and cooling input.

“Once we have a clear picture we can put the cost benefit to the landlord of creating a BMS ‘Friday’ setting to adjust the air volumes in the main air handling units and further reduce the building energy demands.”

As a result of moving to the Business District Alison became keen to become involved with Colmore BID’s work and joined our Board.

“Being a new person in the area I was keen to understand what the BID did,” she explains. “I saw a very diverse board, but they had no one with my skill set on this aspect of the built environment and sustainability.

“Providing information on decarbonisation, developed at a BID level, saves all of our hundreds of businesses from having to find information individually themselves.

“I also felt that having been so involved in making the decision to move to the BID and selling the

reasons why we made that choice to our members I would be able to share that learning with the BID to help them share it with other businesses looking to make a change to this location.”

What are her hopes for the role? “My aim is to help the BID as an organisation in its ambitions around sustainability ensuring the key performance indicators are reinforced.

“We can also lean in to support the sustainability ambitions of the wider BID and provide education and support around business sustainability journeys. This is already underway in a number of initiatives in their infancy.”

How does Colmore BID’s Business Plan fit in? “In terms of the Business Plan we are looking at trying to reduce the impact on the BID of all of the deliveries and traffic in general. For instance, by looking at facilitating options for last mile delivery of goods and services that can be more consolidated and sustainable, supporting Active Travel initiatives and advocating green travel with our levy payers.

“We can also engage partners to provide things like bike hubs and pop-ups to ensure bikes are maintained and safe and collaborating with Transport for West Midlands to assess inclusivity of the routes in the BID, as well as lobbying on transport issues to provide greater leverage for ambitious projects like the bus gate scheme and supporting cycling in general.”

How does she see Colmore BID’s sustainability agenda developing? “It’s a growing platform and we are looking to expand our information hub with links and details on a number of aspects of sustainability including green energy opportunities, supporting active travel, funding opportunities for levy payers to access grants and other monies to improve their carbon footprints.

“We are also looking at the possibility of a wider solar energy project, perhaps wider than the BID alone and how this could benefit all of the landlords and tenants in generating and using green energy to lower energy bills and reduce businesses’ Scope 2 emissions.”

Pictured: Alison Kilby and the view across the Business District and the Snowhill buildings

The Lowdown

Building bonds in Ladywood

AN UPDATE ON COLMORE BID'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT

By Kelsey Dwyer, Partnerships and Events Manager at Colmore BID

We've always believed in the importance of building strong, resilient communities. It's a belief that has shaped much of our work in the Ladywood Ward, one of the most deprived areas in the country.

Our position in the Colmore Business District places us within this ward, and we've always felt a deep responsibility to give back where we can.

One of the ways we do this is through our Community Building Working Group, serving as a focal point for our outreach efforts in Ladywood. The group has enabled us to form meaningful partnerships with several local organisations over the years:

LADYWOOD COMMUNITY PROJECT

The Ladywood Community Project is one of our longest-standing partners. Together, we've worked on a variety of initiatives aimed at supporting families during times of need. Our Easter Egg Donations are one such example – a small, but meaningful gesture to bring a bit of joy to local children.

We also participate in the Holiday Hunger Scheme, which tackles a much more serious issue: food insecurity

Pictured: Tim Hall, Kelsey Dwyer and John-Jo Von Johnson of Colmore BID at St John's & St Peter's C of E School



programme. For many families, the cost of uniforms can be a financial burden, and this initiative helps to alleviate some of that stress. We also dedicate time to visit the school and host events for the children.

CAREERS EVENT

Earlier this year, we attended St John's & St Peter's C of E School for an inspiring careers afternoon. Our team shared a range of insights about the different industries, career paths, and skills required for the future.

SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBOURS: A NEW COMMUNITY EVENT

Supporting Our Neighbours is a community event and one of the highlights of our summer. We were thrilled to host this, where we connected directly with the families and students of St John's & St Peter's.

Thanks to our incredible partners at Thomas Franks, we provided free delicious and nutritious meals for children. It's a simple yet powerful way of bringing people together, and we're incredibly grateful to Thomas Franks for making this possible.

But the event wasn't just about food. From craft stations, games, sport and face painting – it's about strengthening the bonds between the community and the organisations that serve them.

during school holidays. Many families in the Ladywood area rely on free school meals, and when the holidays arrive, it can be a struggle to put enough food on the table. The Holiday Hunger Scheme ensures that children don't go without, providing nutritious meals when they're most needed.

ST JOHN'S & ST PETER'S C OF E SCHOOL

Our work with St John's & St Peter's C of E School is another example of how we support families in Ladywood. One of the initiatives we're most proud of is the School Uniform Donations





Working Group **UPDATES**

Safer Streets across the Business District

In the last edition of Colmore Life we gave an overview of some of the key projects being delivered by the Safe and Sound Working Group, including an update on the Women's Safety Forum, the work of the Community Support Team, and our partnerships with Licencing SAVI (LSAVI) and the Hollie Guard App.

In our winter edition, we're going to focus on a new project, funded through the Safer Streets 5 Funding Stream.

If you didn't catch our last edition, let's do a quick recap. Safer Streets is a pot of money, provided by the Home Office. It is administered by local Police and Crime Commissioners. Local Authorities are able to bid for funding to deliver projects based around a certain theme.

In this fifth round of funding, the Home Office were looking for bids designed to tackle violence against women and girls and anti-social behaviour (ASB). When the fund was announced, John-Jo Von Johnson and Jonathan Bryce started working closely with Birmingham City Council and West Midlands Police to put together a proposal.

The process is competitive. Local Authorities from across the West Midlands Region can apply for funding, and there isn't enough money available to fund everything. The consortium decided to put in a bid that could fund three projects:

- **Funding to provide additional ASB officers in the city**
- **Funding to set up a project to support vulnerable sex workers in the city**
- **Funding to deliver an education**

COLMORE BID WORKING GROUPS:

NEW PROFESSIONALS

Sold out New Professionals Networking Event at Albert's Schloss.
Breakfast Networking Event at Orelle with Nicola Fleet-Milne.

PLACE MARKETING

Completion of phase one of brand analysis project.
Christmas in Birmingham city-wide campaign.

OUTSTANDING PLACES

Livery Street Subway Tiling Project.
Colmore Square Garden – more to be announced on this soon!

project to support Birmingham's Night Time Economy (NTE).

The last project on this list is now being delivered by Colmore BID. Our plan is to bring together several projects into one package for hospitality businesses. Here's how we're going to do it.

We know that, comparatively, Birmingham is a safe night out. However, the city centre is busy and, at times, significant incidents take place, as they do in all urban centres. And, sadly, people will often pray on people who have been out celebrating, meaning that we are at risk of less serious (but still impactful) crimes. We only ever hear the negative stories. Colmore BID asked themselves: how do we bring some balance back to the narrative about a night out in Birmingham?

We decided to bring together several projects under one banner to try and address some of the concerns people have about nights out in Birmingham.

Our first is to work with venues to encourage greater uptake of the Ask for Angela scheme. Those of you who were able to read our last article will recall that this is an easy-to-implement scheme that pubs and bars can use to signal to customers that they can ask for help, and that staff are trained to assist them.

To complement this, we are encouraging businesses in the city to adopt the West Midlands Combined Authorities Women's Night Safety Charter. The Charter sets out seven pledges that adopting businesses agree they will deliver for their customers. Whilst the charter is aimed at reducing violence against women and girls, the pledges improve safety for all customers.

Both of the above initiatives are low-cost, high visibility schemes, and support venues in delivering against the licensing objectives – four overarching requirements that any venue that serves alcohol must meet. It also indicates to customers that, as far as possible, they will be looked after in their venues.

For those who want to go the extra mile, we are rolling out our venue accreditation scheme across the city. As well as working with LSAVI we are also developing a relationship with the Good Night Out Organisation, whose role is to educate and support people and places to help them better understand, respond to and prevent sexual violence in the workplace.

We recognise that this additional step has a cost implication, but we think it's worth doing, so we have a funding pot that venues can apply to.

Jonathan Bryce, Chief Policy and Governance Officer at Colmore BID, said: "This is an exciting project that tackles something I'm passionate about. I love Birmingham's hospitality scene – I'm a regular customer! It frustrates me that people can hold a negative image of our venues who provide incredible hospitality. By encouraging businesses to be vocal about how they look after customers, I hope we can provide a more balanced view of a night out in Birmingham."

'It is about aligning with the aspirations of Birmingham as a world class destination'

SPECIAL INTERVIEW AND PARADISE PROFILE WITH **ROSS FITTALL** OF MEPC

At the centre of Birmingham's development plans is Paradise; a dynamic, multi-phase project that integrates with the city's existing urban fabric while setting the stage for future growth.

The area, located in Colmore Business District, has been transformational in creating a world-class destination; creating a vibrant new location where businesses, entertainment venues and jobs are flourishing.

Commercial Development Director at Paradise Asset & Development Manager MEPC Ross Fittall explains, "The principles we've applied are all about creating a place that is fully integrated into the existing cityscape and enhances it for the future.

"A key driver for the overall development is to open up new connections across the city and be somewhere which attracts the highest calibre businesses who want to be somewhere where they can attract and retain the best talent. It is about aligning with the aspirations of Birmingham and the wider region as a world-class destination for investment and working, living and visiting."

Fittall highlights the careful selection of new bars, restaurants and leisure venues, which are helping to position Paradise as a unique attraction within Birmingham: "We've attracted a mix of new operators and much-loved independents,

which speaks volumes about both the development and the city. For brands choosing Birmingham and Paradise as their first location outside of London, it's a major endorsement."

This vision has already attracted a host of high-profile tenants, from major financial players like Goldman Sachs to popular restaurants like Dishoom and Albert's Schloss.

THE OCTAGON: A LANDMARK OF PROGRESS

The Octagon, a striking 49-storey residential tower, recently 'topped out' – reaching its highest point of construction – becoming a defining feature of Birmingham's skyline. As the world's tallest pure octagonal residential tower, it measures an impressive 155 metres tall.

Backed by global real estate investor, City Developments Ltd of Singapore (CDL), the construction of the £110 million Octagon project has been undertaken by high-rise construction specialist Midgard, part of the JRL Group, and designed by the team at Birmingham architects Howells.

While it's an architectural achievement in itself, Fittall views The Octagon as a symbol of the broader ambitions for Paradise: "The Octagon has been designed to be a successful stand-alone building ahead of it connecting into the final phase of the wider estate."

THE FUTURE OF PARADISE

As Paradise continues to evolve, there are many more exciting milestones on

the horizon. One Centenary Way, the first building in Phase 2, has already proven a commercial success, while Three Chamberlain Square is due for completion early next summer. "We are also working on welcoming a gym and wellness offering to Paradise in the spring of 2025 and this is something we know our tenants are really looking forward to," continues Fittall. "Three Chamberlain Square will evolve the traditional office building in the city further again by pushing the boundaries for staff wellbeing.

"With a focus on smart technology, as well as low embodied and operational carbon as central themes, this building is also a bold statement of design with its sympathetic, red terracotta architecture. We're also working hard to start on the final phase of the scheme, Phase 3, which adds two more commercial buildings surrounding a new public square."

SHAPING BIRMINGHAM'S IDENTITY

Fittall believes the combination of business, residential and leisure offerings will only continue to enhance Birmingham's identity as a global city. "I believe all these elements are integral to the success of a city," he reflects. "People make places, so the more people that live in the city centre, the more likely businesses and the leisure offer will succeed."

For Ross and the Paradise team, the long-term vision is clear: to create a place that not only draws international investment but fosters a sense of pride for Birmingham.

City vision:
Ross Fittall



The Lowdown

Already renowned for its dynamic mix of eateries, cafés and bars, Colmore Business District welcomes the arrival of several highly anticipated restaurants, each bringing something fresh to the local food scene.

From high-end steakhouses to Italian trattorias, these are the new venues set to make a big splash in Birmingham's culinary landscape.

YORKS COMES TO PARADISE

One of Birmingham's most recognised coffee shops, Yorks Café, has opened in Paradise Birmingham.

The open plan venue, pictured, off Chamberlain Square, features floor to ceiling windows and two full-service bars across two floors.

The latest offering from the Yorks brand continues to celebrate bold flavours from around the world, with a menu that has been designed to serve guests from morning into evening.

PREMIUM STEAKS AT COW & SOW

A premium steakhouse known for shaking up Bristol's dining scene, Cow & Sow focusses on prime aged steaks from grass-fed cattle, from single cuts to impressive sharing platters. Diners can enjoy a variety of mains, starters and sides alongside an impressive selection of cocktails and wines; while the open kitchen, bar and private dining area create a high-end setting, perfect for business lunches and intimate dinners.

HOUSE OF CHAI OFFERS A HAVEN FOR TEA LOVERS

House of Chai is nestled in The Minorities and offers a cosy spot for a refreshing twist on traditional chai tea culture. Drawing inspiration from South Asian traditions, it serves up beautiful blends, from classic masala chai to more adventurous fusions like rose, saffron and cardamom. The inviting atmosphere is perfect for casual catch-ups with friends, midday breaks from the office or quiet moments of reflection. There's also a



diverse food menu and shop space that caters for professional events.

ZAMBRERO'S MEXICAN FLAVOURS WITH A TWIST

Spicing things up is Zambrero, combining traditional flavours with a modern twist. This is the brand's second UK location outside of London, and it brings a refreshing take on Mexican cuisine with signature burritos stuffed with slow-cooked meats and vegetarian options, paired with fresh salsas and toppings. The nourishing bowls are packed with wholesome ingredients while fans of street food can tuck into tantalising tacos and nachos. With a commitment to fresh, high-quality ingredients, Zambrero provides a healthy, flavourful twist on Mexican classics, making it a must-try for Birmingham's foodies.

A VIBRANT NEW FOOD HUB COMING SOON

Following the success of its Manchester site, Society is set to open next February. Located at One Colmore Square, it will offer a dynamic and sociable food hub featuring five independent street food kitchens and seating capacity for up to 350 guests, including an outdoor terrace. At the heart of the venue will be the Society-operated bar, which will boast one of the city's largest craft beer selections, with 36 lines on tap. Co-founder Nick Gregory says Society will bring

"something fresh, laid-back and sociable" to Birmingham's thriving restaurant and entertainment scene.

ITALY COMES TO BIRMINGHAM WITH LA BELLEZZA

Big Mamma Group, renowned for its vibrant Italian eateries across Europe, is bringing its flair to Birmingham with the launch of La Bellezza at Paradise, Chamberlain Square. Due to open in 2024, expect an authentic Italian dining experience, complete with a whimsical 25-seat terrace. La Bellezza will showcase 100% homemade dishes, crafted from ingredients sourced directly from over 170 family-run Italian artisans. From juicy burrata from Puglia to 22-month-aged Parmigiano Reggiano, the menu captures the heart of Italian cuisine, providing diners with an immersive and indulgent experience.

A GLAMOROUS TRANSFORMATION FOR ASHA'S

Much-loved Asha's Indian Restaurant & Cocktail Bar has re-opened its doors after a stunning £500k refurbishment, boasting a refreshed, elegant experience in Colmore Business District. With a newly designed kitchen, dining area and a chic private space, it continues its reputation as a top destination for lovers of fine Indian cuisine.

Yorks:

Two Chamberlain Square
www.yorkscafe.co.uk/

Cow & Sow:

One Chamberlain Square
www.thecowandsow.co.uk/birmingham/

House Of Chai:

Unit 9 The Minorities
0121 725 3744
instagram.com/housechai/

Zambrero:

31 Colmore Row
0121 807 1151
www.zambrero.co.uk

La Bellezza:

Two Chamberlain Square
www.bigmammagroup.com/en/accueil

Asha's:

12-22 Newhall Street
0121 200 2767
www.ashasbirmingham.co.uk

The Lowdown



The future is bright for Livery Street subway

One often over-looked area of Birmingham's bustling city centre is about to undergo a transformation, as an ambitious project aims to breathe new life into Livery Street subway. The initiative is the result of a unique collaboration between the Colmore Business District (BID), Jewellery Quarter BID (JQ BID), developer Moda, Birmingham City Council and ceramic artist Adam Nathaniel Furman, and marks a turning point for a crucial pedestrian thoroughfare that has long been plagued by neglect.

The Livery Street project offers a tangible example of how public and private entities can work together to create meaningful change in the city, tackling the persistent issues of anti-social behaviour, safety concerns and a general lack of maintenance that have tarnished the subway's reputation.

Through its revitalisation, it will become a safer, more attractive and dynamic link between Birmingham's two key districts – the business hub of Colmore and the cultural enclave of the Jewellery Quarter.

Philip Singleton, Project Manager and Producer at Colmore BID, explains: "For far too long, Livery Street subway has presented itself as a challenging but key link between the city core and the Jewellery Quarter. Colmore BID has had the uplift of the subway in its sights for a while and has taken the lead on creating the impetus to make it better."

Galvanising support through its



Work begins on the subway transformation

Outstanding Places Working Group, and in partnership with Birmingham City Council, Colmore BID secured an impressive £120,000 to fund the first phase of the overhaul. The collaboration also marks a concerted push to reclaim this essential public space for Birmingham's residents and visitors, reflecting the vibrancy and innovation that define the area's character.

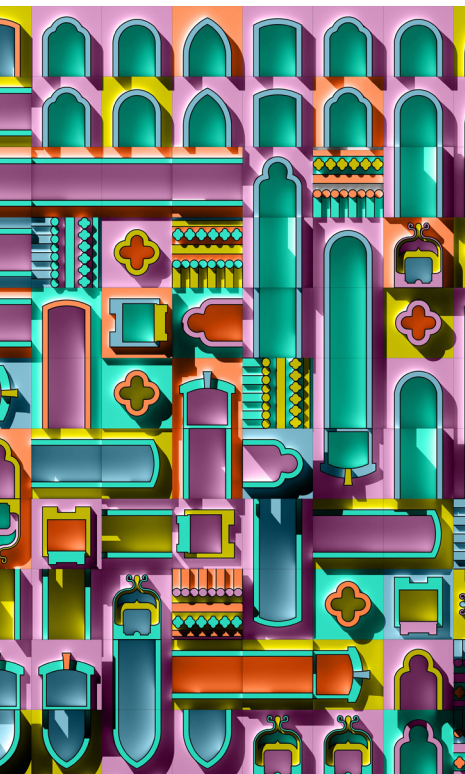
"The timing of this was helped

significantly by the new project partnership with both Moda and Jewellery Quarter BID," adds Singleton. "Moda is currently building new homes to rent along the flank of Great Charles Street that has been a car park as far back as I can recall. Once occupied, this residential scheme will increase the number of people using the subway.

"We looked at graffiti art, printed panels and suchlike, and took technical advice as to these possibilities. We then found an article about a ceramic artist who had developed a track record in working in the challenge of public realm, he was Adam Nathaniel Furman.

"When his ideas were then manifested there was a real sense of pleasure in the propositions."

For renowned artist Furman, whose public works in Bristol and Croydon have garnered widespread acclaim, reinventing the subway's flank walls into a vibrant urban canvas is certainly



no small task. Drawing from the rich industrial history and the architectural aspects of both the Colmore and Jewellery Quarter districts, he has crafted a tile design that promises to captivate the imagination. The tiles, though flat and two-dimensional, are designed to give a 3D illusion and are being meticulously produced by a specialist design studio, ensuring that the final installation remains true to Furman's artistic intent. The installation is set to begin in Autumn 2024.

"We saw a great opportunity to work together to uplift this important yet overlooked part of the city," says Melanie Williams, Board Director and Chair of Colmore BID's Outstanding Places Working Group. "By creating a more welcoming and visually engaging environment, we hope to enhance the overall experience for pedestrians, bringing life and vibrancy to this key link between two major districts."

'When his ideas were then manifested there was a real sense of pleasure in the propositions'

But it's not just about aesthetics, and the practical aspects of the project are equally important. Colmore BID is overseeing essential safety repairs and wall restorations, ensuring the space is structurally sound and secure as the work progresses. These physical improvements aim to address longstanding safety concerns that have made the subway less inviting in recent years.

The involvement of Moda, a developer with a vested interest in enhancing the areas in which it operates, further underscores the significance of this project. A spokesperson highlights the importance of the collaboration:

"Partnering on this project was a natural fit. We're proud to contribute to the transformation of the Livery Street subway, making it a more attractive and safer route for the people of Birmingham."

The first phase of the project focuses on the aesthetic and structural overhaul, with phase two, pending additional funding, hones in on improving the lighting, cleanliness and overall cosmetic appeal. These improvements aim to further boost safety and accessibility, transforming the subway into a welcoming gateway for all who pass through it.

Luke Crane, Chief Executive Officer at Jewellery Quarter BID, adds: "We are proud to partner with Colmore BID, Birmingham City Council and Moda in funding this vital project, which will enhance the public realm and create vibrant, welcoming spaces for everyone to enjoy. Together, we are investing in the future of our community, fostering growth and improving the quality of life for residents and visitors alike."

Super summer of art and culture across the city

Alex Nicholson-Evans, City Curator, reflects on creativity in the Business District and beyond

What an incredible summer we had! It was a true pleasure to celebrate and promote the many ways that people could express and experience creativity in the city with our collaborative campaign '100 Days of Creativity'.

We had over 200 events listed thanks to over 60 partner organisations and we can estimate that there were over 1 million attendances at the 100 Days of Creativity events.

There were two things that really stood out to me in the evaluation data. Firstly the positive feedback from organisers; 92% felt that the campaign united Birmingham's creative sector behind a common goal. Here's what organisers had to say:

'100 Days of Creativity gave real purpose and a feeling of collaboration to Birmingham's Culture sector at an otherwise challenging time'

'The project really showcased the breadth of work taking place in the city and demonstrated all the the Birmingham arts scene has to be proud of'

'We loved being part of it and thought it was a triumph'

Secondly the legacy of the campaign. Over the summer Birmingham was centre stage as the creative heart of the West Midlands, and indeed of the country. To build on this, we collectively need to continue to amplify news of all of the fantastic creative work going on in this city. With that in mind, to read that 73% of our partner organisations are now more likely to list future events on Visit Birmingham really is a fantastic outcome.

Looking to the future I'm thinking about how we can apply some of this learning to the work we are currently doing on establishing Birmingham Light Festival but that's a story for another day and I am so very excited to share more with you about that festival in the next issue!

**ALEX NICHOLSON-EVANS,
CITY CURATOR**

Colmore Food Festival

Glorious food & drink under glorious blue autumn skies

FEATURING VENUES FROM ACROSS THE CITY, COLMORE FOOD FESTIVAL 2024 IS A HUGE SUCCESS

There was plenty to toast when the renowned Colmore Food Festival returned to its original home in Victoria Square for new dates this autumn.

Business District workers and their families enjoyed some lovely autumn weather as they flocked to the popular event, which attracts more than 30,000 visitors each year, to taste the best of Birmingham.

For the first time the award-winning festival, which took place on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 September, featured restaurants from across the city centre as well as Business District favourites.

Celebrity favourite Asha's, Plates by Purnell's and Michelin-starred Adam's were among the local restaurants, coffee shops, bars and hotels, offering mouth-watering taster dishes.

They were joined by newer arrivals such as Asian street food specialist Hawker Dan and independents like Faculty Coffee. The Oyster Club, The Alchemist, Loki Wine and F1 Arcade



were among those offering drinks.

Guests were spoilt for choice with a wide selection of meat, vegetarian and vegan options alongside wines,

beers, cocktails and soft drinks. Price limits were placed on the food and drinks to create an affordable but unforgettable experience.





2025 DATES REVEALED!

Colmore BID has announced the dates for Colmore Food Festival for 2025! On Friday 4 and Saturday 5 July 2025, the much-loved Festival is back in Victoria Square for its biggest edition yet! Keep an eye on Colmore BID social media for latest updates.



A huge Colmore BID thank-you to you all!

OUR COLMORE FOOD FESTIVAL 2024 TRADERS

- Asha's
- F1 Arcade
- Gaicho
- Hotel du Vin
- Isaac's
- Jamaya
- JAVA Roastery
- Loki Wine
- Plates by Purnell's
- Purecraft Bar & Kitchen
- The Alchemist
- Wayland's Yard
- Vagabond Wines
- Zambrero

- Adams
- Anderson & Hill
- Chatty Patty
- Hawker Dan
- Cleopatras Kitchen
- Faculty Coffee
- Kuula Poke
- LA-POP!
- Lulu Wild
- The Oyster Club
- Urban Spice Box

OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

- Birmingham City Council
- Phil Oldershaw – event compere
- RG8 Security Services
- Luxury Live Music
- JP Entertainment
- Albert Schloss D&K
- Richard James
- Lamar Francois
- Liquid
- West Midlands Police Museum
- Cannock Sound
- Greatest Hits Radio
- Birmingham TV
- BBC WM
- Birmingham Live

Christmas in Birmingham

Here's to a magical festive season across the city centre

From a magical reindeer trail to festive menus with a twist it's going to be an exciting Christmas in Birmingham and the Business District. Here are some of the festive treats you and your family can enjoy around the District and beyond.

CHRISTMAS IN CATHEDRAL SQUARE

Our award-winning Christmas craft market returns for its fourth year in the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral from Wednesday November 13 until Sunday December 22.

With twinkling lights, music and entertainment the market is the perfect place to get into the Christmas spirit while picking up art, crafts, gifts and seasonal food and drink from local independent traders.

Kids will love the brightly coloured helter skelter while there's a chance for adults to enjoy a festive tippie at our pop-up Pigeon in the Park pub. christmasincathedralsquare.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM FRANKFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET

A firm fixture in the city's festive celebrations Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market is the largest authentic German Christmas market outside of Germany and Austria.

You'll find traditional gifts and treats, such as handcrafted wooden decorations, toys and glass baubles, at its traditional wooden stalls, which run along New Street and Victoria Square where there's also a



bandstand featuring live music.

The market, which runs from Friday November 1 until Christmas Eve, is a great place to catch-up with family and friends while enjoying pretzels and Bratwursts washed down with gluhwein and weissbeer (wheat beer) or hot chocolate.

thebfc.com

BRUM'S CHRISTMAS REINDEER TRAIL

They might be busy on Christmas Eve but Rudolph and his fellow reindeers are set to make a very special appearance in the city centre over the festive season.

A new art trail featuring colourful sculptures of Santa's reindeer will run from November 6.

Families can download a map from the Visit Birmingham website and follow the enchanting trail to see how many reindeers they can spot.

centralbid.co.uk

GET YOUR SKATES ON

Get ready to hit the ice from Friday November 1 when Ice Skate



Birmingham returns to Centenary Square alongside the popular 40-metre Big Wheel Experience and two new rides.

Visitors can enjoy a bird's eye view of the city lights from the Big Wheel while thrillseekers can put their nerves to the test on the 55-metre City Flyer and Air ride, which swings, spins and loops riders 100 feet through the air.

Brum's Christmas Reindeer locations

- Dasher**
Big Wheel and Ice Skate Birmingham, Centenary Square
Sponsored by Ice Skate Birmingham
- Dancer**
Mailbox, Level 3 (BBC)
- Prancer**
Frankfurt Christmas Market, Victoria Square
(from 24 December in the foyer of Town Hall)
Sponsored by Frankfurt Christmas Market
- Vixen**
Cass Art, Corporation Street
- Comet**
Piccadilly Arcade
Sponsored by Hortons' Estate
- Cupid**
Great Western Arcade
- Donner**
Christmas in Cathedral Square
(from 23 December in Great Western Arcade)
Sponsored by Colmore BID
- Blitzen**
Grand Central
Sponsored by Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity
- Rudolph**
Selfridges, Bullring

Fill in the letter you see on each reindeer to spell out the festive word!



Christmas in BIRMINGHAM

- Frankfurt Christmas Market
- Christmas shopping
- Christmas in Cathedral Square
- Big Wheel and Ice Skate Birmingham
- Christmas shows
- Bars, restaurants and coffee shops

Rudolph and the image of a red-nosed reindeer is used under license from Character Arts LLC for Brum's Christmas Reindeer Trail.



The giant ice rink has a fully licensed Ice Lounge and Bar serving everything from fizzy drinks and hot chocolates to mulled wine, beers and cocktails.

Ice Skate Birmingham is open until Sunday January 5, apart from Christmas Day, from 10am until 10pm.

Tickets cost from £11 for 45-minute sessions on the ice, which includes boot hire.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL

A spectacular performance of Handel's Messiah will take place at Birmingham Cathedral on Saturday December 7.

The world famous choral work, which includes the iconic Hallelujah Chorus, will be conducted by David Hardie with a professional orchestra, Birmingham Cathedral Choir and solo performances from Beth Stirling, Celia Butterfield, Tom Hawkey-Soar and Isaac Boulter.

Tickets cost from £16 while under 16s go free to the event at the Cathedral in Colmore Row.

Carol services will also take place at the Cathedral on December 22 (the last day of the craft market in Cathedral Square), December 23 and Christmas Eve.

birminghamcathedral.com

ALBERT'S SCHLOSS' WUNDERBAR CHRISTMAS

Alpine restaurant and beer hall Albert's Schloss is promising that this year's Christmas party season will be its most extravagant yet.

From November 11 until Christmas Eve guests can enjoy festive cook haus feasting featuring Alpine plates and a Bier Palace serving European beers, Alpine cocktails, schnapps and hot chocolate.

There will also be party menus and festive smorgasbords as well as plenty of Bavariaian-inspired entertainment with brass bands, choirs and an extra special Albert's Schloss 'Kaberet' at its venue at One

Chamberlain Square.
albertsschloss.com

FESTIVE FOOD WITH A TWIST

Can't face another mouthful of traditional Christmas turkey? Then head to Dishoom in One Chamberlain Square. The stylish Indian restaurant will be serving Christmas and Winter feasts and Yuletide Tipples with a twist from November 18 until Christmas Eve for £45 per person.

On the menu will be its festive-flavoured Bacon, Brie and Cranberry Naan Roll topped with sweet and sour Cranberry-Chilli Chutney.

You can also try a Christmas Turkey Raan – a whole turkey leg prepared in a traditional Raan style cooked slowly for a day until meltingly tender followed by a Mince Pie Kulfi.

From 12pm each booking will be offered the chance to win the perfect Christmas gift too with a game of chance called Matka. Win and the bill for your feast will be on Dishoom!

dishoom.com

Pictured above: The Christmas in Birmingham map for 2024

Left: Christmas in Cathedral Square and Ice Skate Birmingham

Welcome to Birmingham

Katrania Lowers

ASSOCIATE FINANCIAL PLANNER AT COLMORE PARTNERS

Welcome to Birmingham is Colmore BID's event series aimed at New Professionals who have started to work in Birmingham in the last three years. It was launched in 2021 following the pandemic impact to city centre working patterns.

The overarching aim of the programme was to facilitate skills development and foster new connections among like-minded professionals, in turn helping Colmore Business District to maximise its full potential.

We sat down with Katrania Lowers, Associate Financial Planner at Colmore Partners, located on Colmore Row in Birmingham to hear about her experience.

Q: What was your experience like as a New Professional in Birmingham?

A: My career started a while ago, during a time when Birmingham was a hustling, bustling city – before COVID struck. The city was vibrant, and after-work mingling was a common part of the work culture. It was a time when conducting business online through video conferencing hadn't even been thought of. For me, this was an incredible environment to grow as a professional. I could expand my network and really put myself out there. Collaboration thrived because we were often all in the same room, bouncing ideas off one another.

Q: How does Welcome to Birmingham support New Professionals, including yourself?

A: Welcome to Birmingham is an invaluable resource for new professionals. It provides insights into the city, offering access to events, opportunities, and networks that you might not come across on your own. Through this, it opens doors that help you integrate into the professional

landscape of Birmingham, whether you're new to the city or the workforce. It's about giving you a platform to connect and grow.

Q: What is the biggest challenge you've found in the transition from school to the workplace?

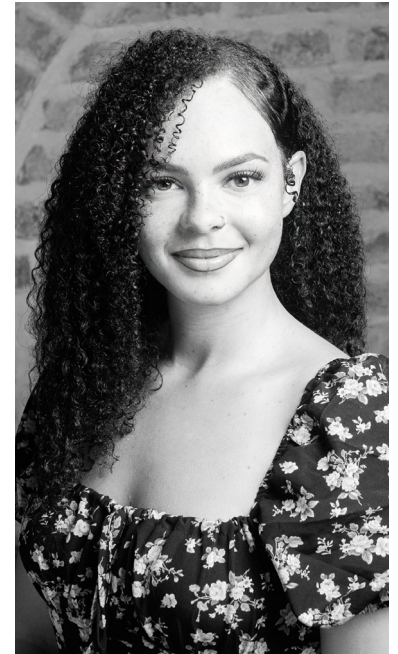
A: I actually didn't attend university. After leaving school, I went straight into the workplace by starting an apprenticeship. I'll never forget one of my first days – sitting at my desk and asking a colleague if we got six weeks of holiday like we did in school. You can imagine my shock when they told me, "no." It was a moment that quickly shattered my naive assumption that the workplace would function the same as school! Beyond that, one of the hardest adjustments was getting used to the long workdays. School was from 8.30am to 2.45pm, so shifting to a 9am-5pm schedule was tough. But, like anything, the more you do it, the more you get used to it.

Q: What has been the best event Welcome to Birmingham has hosted so far, and why?

A: I'd say the best event I've attended was the one where I had the chance to meet the board members of Colmore BID. They gave a talk about their careers and what led them to where they are now. It was a fantastic event for me because it gave me exposure to senior leaders and influential people.

Q: What does nurturing new professionals mean for the city and its future senior leaders?

A: Nurturing new professionals means growth and opportunity for the city! By developing new professionals in Birmingham, we're tapping into the skills and talent that can drive businesses forward and enhance the city's economy. Today's young professionals have access to far more



information and resources than in the past, and if we can nurture that and help them realise their full potential, it will only benefit the city's future. By investing in them now, we're laying the groundwork for the next generation of senior leaders.

Q: After attending events, why did you want to get involved in the New Professionals Working Group?

A: After attending several events, I felt compelled to get involved in the New Professionals Working Group because I believe I can contribute to its goals. Birmingham has so much to offer, and I wanted to play an active role in showcasing the city's strengths.

As a financial adviser, with a particular focus on helping the next generation, I'm especially interested in initiatives that support new entrants into the workforce. Being part of the Working Group is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the growth and vibrancy of Birmingham, and to support fellow professionals along the way.

To find out more about Colmore BID's events, and the New Professionals Working Group, visit the Colmore BID website

'I wanted to play an active role in showcasing the city's strengths', says Katrania Lowers, pictured

Proactive Musculoskeletal Health: The Backbone (key) to a thriving business

HOW YOU CAN PRIORITISE THE HEALTH OF YOUR TEAM, BY THE PAIN AND INJURY CLINIC

Did you know that 23% of all sickness absence within the UK is due to back, neck, and muscle pain? That's more than any other cause.

Today the health of employees is not just a concern for HR, it's a business imperative. Here in Birmingham, maintaining a healthy workforce is crucial to staying competitive.

Yet, musculoskeletal (MSK) issues – conditions affecting the back, neck, and muscles – remain one of the most significant challenges facing employers.

The Pain and injury Clinic, located in the heart of the Business District, is helping companies thrive by promoting a proactive and preventative approach to musculoskeletal health.

With 7.3 million working days lost each year due to MSK conditions across all industries, prioritising the health of your team is a direct investment in the success of your business.

THE CORPORATE CASE FOR MUSCULOSKELETAL HEALTH

MSK health isn't just a personal issue – it's a business concern. 1 in 8 of the working-age population reports having an MSK problem. For companies like yours, this translates to reduced productivity, increased absenteeism, and significant financial strain. Here are some eye-opening facts:

- 33% of long-term sickness absence in England is attributed to MSK conditions.
- In 2015, 13% of Employment and Support Allowance recipients reported MSK as their main condition.
- On average, 7.3 million working

days are lost annually due to work-related MSK issues.

However, despite these numbers, many individuals and companies alike are still taking a reactive approach, managing MSK conditions only after they've affected performance.

ADDRESSING THE DESK-BOUND WORKFORCE: SITTING IS THE NEW SMOKING

Despite advances in workplace flexibility, and the increase in hybrid working, many businesses still require employees to spend long hours at their desks. While meeting business demands is essential, the health consequences of prolonged sitting are now undeniable. Studies have shown that sitting for extended periods can lead to poor posture, chronic back pain, neck strain and an increased risk of mental health issues, not to mention the increased risk of heart disease and type II diabetes! It's no surprise that the demands of desk-bound work are a leading contributor to the high rates of MSK issues in the workplace not to mention the many other health issues already mentioned.

HOW WE CAN HELP

We are more than just chiropractors—we are partners in your corporate wellbeing strategy. Our services include:

- Tailored assessments: We evaluate the needs of your workforce to identify potential MSK risks.
- Educating employees about how to maintain proper posture and movement throughout the workday through talks and workshops.
- Prevention programs: We help your employees adopt better working

practices that reduce strain and injury.

- Early intervention and treatment: Our skilled professionals address MSK issues early, preventing them from becoming chronic problems through proactive treatment, stretches and exercise advice.

- Rehabilitation: For those already suffering from MSK pain, we offer personalised rehabilitation plans that ensure a swift return to work.

By proactively addressing the risks of sitting and MSK strain, you can create a healthier work environment while still meeting the demands of your business.

WHY PROACTIVE CARE MATTERS

Preventing problems before they arise is key. Businesses that invest in proactive MSK care for their employees see numerous benefits:

- Reduced absenteeism: Healthier employees mean fewer days off.
- Improved productivity: When your staff are pain-free and comfortable, their focus and efficiency improve.
- Cost savings: The financial burden of sickness and absenteeism is significantly reduced, helping your bottom line.

THE HEALTH OF YOUR TEAM IS THE WELLBEING OF YOUR BUSINESS

By partnering with us at The Pain and Injury Clinic, you can foster a healthier, more productive workforce right here in the heart of Birmingham. Ready to take action? Contact us today.

www.paininjuryclinic.co.uk
Tel: 0121 448 4390
Cathedral Square, 3 Temple Row W,
Birmingham B2 5NY

Movers & Shakers

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



MALMAISON & HOTEL DU VIN

Malmaison and Hotel du Vin have appointed Money Chopra as the new cluster sales manager.

With a proven track record in the hospitality industry and a passion for driving sales excellence, Chopra brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the role.



BEVAN BRITTAN

Law firm Bevan Brittan has recruited a new employment Partner, strengthening its national health and care practice.

Joanna Burrows' arrival from Mills & Reeve comes as employers brace themselves for a raft of new legislation, following the election of the new Government.

'It's really gratifying to know we're making a difference'

A special Movers & Shakers interview with **JOE JONES** of Richborough



With an office window looking out over Victoria Square Joe Jones has seen a lot happen in Birmingham over the last few years. From festivals to food fayres to art shows and the Christmas markets, Jones can chart the year by what's happening outside the window.

Jones is the Midlands Regional Director for Richborough, a leading land promotion firm that works to bring suitable housing sites to the market, a constant issue for recent governments and one that has helped Richborough become something of a Birmingham success story. Founded and headquartered in Birmingham, it is now the third largest land promoter in the UK with two regional offices in London and Bristol and sites

spanning from Harrogate to Bournemouth, it takes its role seriously in sustainable development with an in-house team that includes, planning specialists, masterplanners and technical experts.

Having trained in planning and development at Nottingham Trent University, where he juggled studies with part-time work in regional property agency, Jones joined Richborough in 2016 as a Land Study Manager and has quickly progressed to Director level.

Birmingham has changed a lot in that short time, he said: "When I started Grand Central had only just opened and there was such a buzz in the city.

"Since then and despite COVID it's been

Movers & Shakers

TROWERS & HAMLINS

International law firm Trowers & Hamblins' Birmingham office is relocating to One Snowhill, at the heart of Birmingham's Colmore Business District, to accommodate for its ambitious growth and sustainability strategy.

Trowers & Hamblins has signed a 10-year lease at One Snowhill, for 17,000 sq. ft. located on



great to see Birmingham build on its built environment, restoring the Victoria Square fountains, the changing face of Paradise, 103 Colmore Row, the Grand Hotel and the reworked public realm around the Business District. I love that Birmingham continues to invest in improving its cityscape."

Jones now leads a team working across one of the firm's largest portfolios of sites and across a huge network of landowners, agents and residential developers, it was this social side to the role that attracted him to the firm.

He said: "I had a lot of reasons to join Richborough, not least that it was so ambitious, but also the opportunity to engage and meet people. I'm out and about a lot which

floor 3, moving from 10 Colmore Row where it has been for over 13 years. The firm has worked together with Knight Frank on the lease and CBRE and Overbury on the fit out.

Partner and Head of the Birmingham office, Yetunde Dania said: "We are so excited about moving to our new office, it brings an enhanced new working environment for our staff and vibrant space for our clients to enjoy."

GOWLING WLG

Law firm Gowling WLG has strengthened its UK Tax team with the appointment of Kate Featherstone as a partner.

Featherstone specialises in all aspects of business-related and transactional tax, regularly advising on mergers and acquisitions, disposals, joint ventures, reorganisations, lending and investments. Her clients commonly comprise corporates, management teams, banks and other financial institutions.

She joins the firm from Irwin Mitchell, where she was a partner in the corporate tax team. Featherstone will operate from the firm's offices in Birmingham and London.



I really enjoy. So much of this role is about relationships, helping a landowner find the best solution for their site and then working to get it through planning and to then sell it on to a developer.

"It can be a long process that requires consultation, negotiation and trust. From our home on Waterloo Street, I can network and meet colleagues and consultants as easily from our office as I can from Pure Bar or The Colmore.

The thing he enjoys most though? "It has to be revisiting sites. Going back a few years later to see what's been delivered, the homes built, and the integration of the new and existing communities, it's really gratifying to know we're making a difference."

INTERFACE

Interface, Inc. the global flooring solutions company and leader in sustainability, which has a showroom and offices at The Colmore Building, announced its inclusion as one of the top-ranked sustainability leaders in the Sustainability Leaders 2024 Survey by GlobeScan and the ERM Sustainability Institute.

Ranked fifth in this year's report, Interface sits among an impressive list of companies helping to solve the climate crisis, including Patagonia, Unilever, Natura & Co, and IKEA. The flooring manufacturer is the only company to maintain a spot in the ranking in every report since 1997

"Interface has challenged the idea of 'business as usual' for three decades by consistently innovating to achieve our aggressive sustainability objectives," said Laurel Hurd, CEO of Interface. "We've made incredible progress, and we continue to be 'all in' on solving the climate crisis, focusing our efforts on where we can have the most impact – direct carbon reduction and carbon storage."

M&G REAL ESTATE

M&G Real Estate has announced the largest letting of 2024 in the Business District at its 420,000 sq ft Three Snowhill office scheme with a 10-year lease to National Highways. It signposts a rebound in the city's commercial real estate market, which has seen a record Q1 2024 take-up of 203,000 sq ft – the highest since 2020¹.

National Highways – the government-owned entity responsible for England's motorways and A roads – is relocating from its current Midlands HQ at The Cube and Colmore Square at the end of the year and will take 58,697 sq ft.

Movers & Shakers

Five go to 103 Colmore Row

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

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

The Chambers has taken level 7 and part level 4 at the landmark building and has relocated 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 60 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."

103 Colmore Row comprises



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

225,572 sq. ft. of Grade A, BREEM 'Excellent', EPC A-rated workspace. On-site amenities include Orelle, the double height restaurant on the 24th floor and ground floor bar and café, operated by D&D London, and a members' business club on the 18th floor, in addition to three floors of flexible office space, managed by x+why.

The building also benefits from WiredScore Platinum rated digital connectivity and is the first commercial building in the Business District to connect to the District Heating System, with electricity generated

from renewable energy.

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."

Occupiers at 103 Colmore Row include Arcadis, Browne Jacobson, Colliers, EFG Harris Allday, Evelyn Partners, Facepunch, Gallagher, Grant Thornton, Handelsbanken, Knight Frank, RSM, Shoosmiths and Weightmans.



PKF SMITH COOPER

PKF Smith Cooper is strengthening its Business District presence with a new hire for the tax team.

Nick Skidmore joins the Edmund Street office as a manager to bolster

the firm's transactions tax offering.

Since starting his career in 2012, Skidmore has amassed a wealth of experience, gained primarily from advising private and family-owned businesses

Skidmore is a chartered accountant and tax adviser, winning several

SOFTCAT

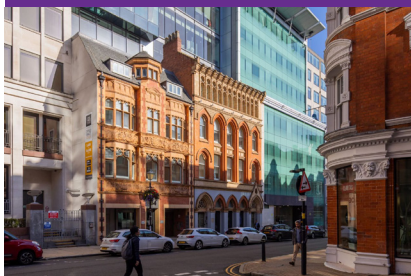
Softcat, the FTSE 250 IT company, has agreed a lease for 9,000 sq ft of office space at the newly refurbished Billiards Building, Birmingham.

The company, which provides IT infrastructure solutions to the public and private sectors, has signed a ten-year lease on the whole of the 7th floor with landlord Grosvenor. It will relocate from its current office at Interchange Place on Edmund Street, where it has been based since 2019.

Joint agents CBRE and JLL advised Grosvenor on the letting. LSH acted for Softcat.

Billiards Building, previously known as 134 Edmund Street, was acquired by Grosvenor in 2021. The 79,000 sq ft Grade A office has been upgraded as part of a £35m capital investment programme to transform the organisation's 500,000 sq ft regional office portfolio. The building now features a new reception and business lounge, café, gym and yoga studio, and communal roof terrace.

A new M&E system and wider energy efficiency improvements, including replacing the building's gas-powered system so that's it's fully electric, have also significantly improved its operational energy usage. As a result, it has achieved net zero status and EPC 'A' rating.



prizes throughout his studies, including the Institute Medal for the best overall performance across the CTA qualification.

He said: "I'm looking forward to working with a dedicated team on complex projects. It's a great opportunity to continue to develop my tax knowledge to help clients achieve business goals."

BMAG reopens with 'Made in Birmingham'

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

An exciting new display exploring the characteristics of Birmingham and what it means to be shaped by this city is at the heart of the latest phase of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's reopening.

'Made in Birmingham' is a new display in the Industrial Gallery – one of several spaces to re-open to the public after essential maintenance work to the heating, electrics, lifts and roofing was completed on schedule across the whole Council House complex.

Whether you're a lifelong resident or a passing visitor, everyone has an opinion on the city and 'Made in Birmingham' looks beyond the stereotypes to examine the real Birmingham – sometimes wonderful, sometimes frustrating, and with a tendency to knock everything down and start again.

Made in Birmingham opens with items such as the giant roadside logo from the now-demolished HP Sauce factory, a sign from the Eagle & Tun pub, made famous in UB40's Red Red Wine video, vintage advertising signage from Cadbury and Bird's Custard and table and chairs from a café at the old Bull Ring centre, among dozens of other quirky items that tell the story of a city "that will be great when it's finished".

Showcasing Birmingham's art collection for almost 150 years, the impressive Round Room gallery has reopened with 'One Fresh Take', a new display about how art can be a way to see the world differently. Visitors can discover how artists from David Cox to Lubaina Himid, Bridget Riley to Cold War Steve, have brought their own fresh take to places that are meaningful to them.

Familiar Round Room favourites – Jacob Epstein's bronze 'Lucifer' and the much-loved painting of penguins 'Dominicans in Feathers' by Henry Stacy Marks – are also back on display.

A new display called 'Wild City' includes two new galleries dedicated to children and families, telling stories about nature in



the city. Additional reopening exhibitions at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery include 'Curtis Holder: Drawing Carlos Acosta' and 'Modern Muse' by Arpita Shah.

Curtis Holder won Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year in 2020 and was commissioned to draw Carlos Acosta, director of Birmingham Royal Ballet.

In the Bridge Gallery, 'Modern Muse' is a series of photographic portraits by Arpita Shah celebrating the identities and experiences of young South Asian women from Birmingham and the West Midlands. This series was commissioned by GRAIN Projects.

Due to visitor demand, the Victorian Radicals exhibition of world-famous Pre-Raphaelite art will continue in The Gas Hall until 31 December 2024.

Sara Wajid and Zak Mensah, Co-CEOs at Birmingham Museums Trust, said: "This reopening is a big first step in the development of a new museum for the people of Birmingham. The new displays are a celebration of our vibrant city and its rich history. It brings us great joy to be able to welcome visitors back into these spaces and we hope people will share in that joy and see themselves reflected in the displays."

Major capital works to Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery were made possible thanks to funding from the Government's Museums Estate and Development Fund (MEND) through Arts Council England.

Open Weds to Sun, 10am-5pm. Visitors won't need to book tickets. Visit birminghammuseums.org.uk



Waterloop work complete

Project to give District streets a new look and safety features draws to a close, with eye-catching results

A project to improve the Business District has been completed after the finishing touches were applied to landscaping work designed to help revamp the city centre.

Work has been taking place since January 2022 around Colmore Row, Victoria Square and Waterloo Street as part of the City Centre Public Realm project which has seen paving, lighting, street furniture and drainage systems installed and upgraded.

Civil engineering contractor CPC Civils, which carried out the work on behalf of Birmingham City Council, is also reinstating the lighting globes in Victoria Square and around the

Colmore Row and Waterloo Street loop and installed cycle hoops to encourage sustainable travel.

To increase public safety the Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) bollards in Lower Temple Street and in front of the Town Hall were also upgraded.

CPC Civils also refurbished the Victoria Square Fountain which saw it reopen in time for the Commonwealth Games in 2022. The water feature recently needed more maintenance work which has also been carried out as part of the project.

The improvements have been finished in time for the arrival of this year's popular Frankfurt Christmas Market. The news will be welcomed by businesses around the District, such as Purcraft Bar & Kitchen, Theatrix and Java Roastery, which all have new frontages and seating areas.



United by 2022 shares vision for city pride

Born out of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, United By 2022 was created to continue the legacy of a groundbreaking Games.

Based at 2 Snowhill in Colmore Business District, we have a vision to make the West Midlands a centre of excellence for community engagement, social value and volunteering.

We drive inclusive growth and social value by connecting responsible businesses with local charities and community groups.

We champion the region as a destination for major events, with a volunteer workforce who keep that 2022 feeling of pride alive!

VOLUNTEERING – with over 2,500 legacy Games volunteers, partnerships with local businesses offering skilled volunteers, and an award-winning youth volunteering programme under our belt, volunteering, in all its shapes and sizes, is our bread and butter!

- **Young people** – we create bite-sized volunteering for 16- to 24-year-olds that increases confidence and employability skills

- **Events** – we run a regional volunteer workforce of 2,500 local people brimming with Brummie civic pride!

- **Skilled volunteering** – there are some fantastic businesses that call the West Midlands home. These Businesses have brilliant people with tonnes of skills and experience that charities are crying out for. We connect those skilled people with not-for-profit community groups who need a hand with their marketing, budgeting, bid writing – you name it!



DID YOU KNOW? In the last 12 months, our volunteers from the Games have donated over 20,000 hours of their time to events

In 2024, 1,188 16-24 year olds have been through our youth programme, helping them develop new skills, paving their next steps into education, training or paid employment

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – we are on a mission to upskill local community groups and not for profits across the West Midlands, to continue driving the inclusive growth we kickstarted in 2022.

- We have a strong network of over 500 community groups across the region. Our speciality is the overlooked communities who face barriers to access.

- We work with local charities and community groups to help build their resilience and readiness to successfully receive funding

- We run community consultations for a wide range of organisations who are looking to tap into the regional voice and insights of local communities.

DID YOU KNOW? In 2024, we have supported 520 local charities with funding opportunities

SOCIAL VALUE – in 2022, the

Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games used a major sporting event to create £300 million in social value.

- We are on a mission to continue to drive inclusive growth and social value across the region, making the West Midlands a social value centre of excellence.

- We use our unique local knowledge to provide a wraparound service, helping Businesses to create, embed and measure their social value, connecting them with local communities they otherwise wouldn't come across, to grow their impact and share their stories.

DID YOU KNOW? We have an award-winning social value team and have created £773k in verified social value this year alone!

GET INVOLVED! We offer a FREE CSR health check, to help you better engage with the communities in which you live and work.

We can review where you are in your responsible business journey, where you want to go and provide practical advice on how to get there!

GOT VOLUNTEERING DAYS TO USE? Why not use them to really make a difference to your community.

Get in touch:
unitedby2022.com/contact-us

Birmingham Creates: The Open



Bright futures for Open-call artists

CITY ART EXPERTS REVIEW THE PORTFOLIOS AND OFFER ADVICE FOR BID'S OUTDOOR EXHIBITION'S WINNING ARTISTS

Over summer, the three talented winners of the inaugural Birmingham Creates: The Open were not only awarded generous cash prizes but offered in-person reviews of their portfolios. With their winning entries and wider work in hand, Ava Khera, David Collier and Misha Leigh Raybone stepped into Colley Ison Gallery on Colmore Row to begin the next steps of their creative journeys.

"For artists, a portfolio review is a critical step towards development, recognition and success. It offers the chance for a conversation between practitioner and reviewers" says lead judge and curator Ruth Millington, who joined Tim Ison, Director of Colley Ison Gallery, to meet the artists.

First into the gallery was overall winner Ava Khera, who is already making a name for painting female figures in a realist style, as featured in

her winning entry 'Nature's Embrace', 2023. A self-taught oil painter with a degree and a previous career in fashion design, Ava blends her passion for representing modern women with her love of nature, expressed through atmospheric environments and exquisite detail.

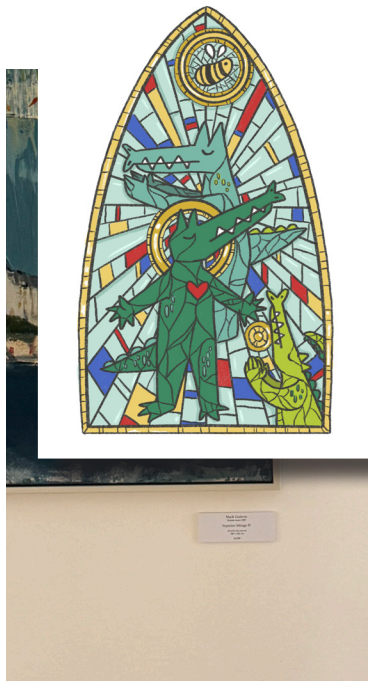
As Khera said: "Being a part of the Birmingham Creates: The Open Exhibition and Winning 1st Prize has been an incredible experience. Having my work shown in a great outdoor city centre location has allowed people to come across and discover my work. The portfolio review gave me some great insights and I appreciate the time and initiative taken by everyone involved to support emerging artists. I'm excited to release and show a new collection this year and continue exploring the female experience in modern society through my art."

Second to step into the gallery was David Collier, whose photomontage 'Rotunders', 2024, received high commendation for its poignant reflection on the city's-built environment history. The winning piece is based on the original – but never undertaken – plans for Birmingham city centre to build five Rotundas to represent the human hand.

Having studied art and design at UCE Birmingham with a BA in 1999, David has gone on to produce a consistent and impressive body of work, while spending a number of years working in the film industry, with credits on such films as Harry Potter.

During the review, Collier presented an impressive body of work which included portraits, as well as the more satirical collages for which he has ambitions for an exhibition here in Birmingham, as well as an archive to ensure his legacy.

Meanwhile, Misha Leigh Raybone brought into the gallery a book full



Above, left to right, Ava Khera, David Collier and Misha Leigh Raybone at Colley Ison Gallery.

Inset for each image, their winning Open artworks

of whimsical alligator drawings, including her winning digital artwork, 'Stained Glass Gator', 2022, which belongs to her digital '365 Days Gator' project. She shared the story behind this collection of works, which began during Covid-era lockdowns.

Making art alongside her full-time NHS job in Organ Donation, she drew costumed alligators and crocodiles on a whiteboard in her kitchen during lockdowns as a way of saying 'See you later, Alligator' to her partner who left their house before the artist in the mornings.

For Raybone, the competition and review has been a confidence-boosting experience:

"The portfolio review helped me to see where I could take my project and having people excited about my work again gave me so much confidence in myself. I now have a clear idea of what I'll be working on going forward and how I can try to make my artwork into a career, which is very exciting.

TO FOLLOW THE ARTISTS:

You can find Misha Leigh Raybone's crocodiles, with a new one appearing each day during October, on Instagram @[The.Crocodoodle](https://www.instagram.com/The.Crocodoodle)

Ava Khera shares her paintings @[avakheraart](https://www.instagram.com/avakheraart) or you can view more of her work at www.avakheraart.com

David Collier's practice is available for view on Instagram @[nospaceartgallery](https://www.instagram.com/nospaceartgallery) and his website www.david-collier.uk

"It's been so heartwarming to see other people love the crocs and gators as much as I do. Getting to meet other like-minded artists was an amazing opportunity to feel like a real artist when imposter syndrome is such a constant in my life. Being able to put my artwork forward with no

submission fees made this accessible at a time when money counts, I would never have felt able to put my work forward had this been behind a paywall like many art competitions are. As a hobbyist, I would never have felt comfortable doing that."

Rediscovering her love of drawing over the course of 365 days, she now brings the creatures back for 'Croctober', when she draws a gator every day of October each year to keep the project alive.

For all three artists, The Open has been a positive next step in their journeys in the heart of Birmingham, and the judges, reviewers and exhibition organisers have taken something away too.

Tim Ison adds: "It was great to invite all 3 artists into Colley Ison Gallery, where we have supported and represented talented Birmingham artists for the past 15 years. It was a privilege to be able to discuss their work and wider careers plans at a time of change in the contemporary art world."

Life&Leisure

Book shines a light on public art across the District

“There is a reason there isn’t a coffee table book of Birmingham,” city photographer and author Jonathan Berg was informed when he approached a London publisher with an idea for just such a book more than 30 years ago. So he raised £20,000 to print and publish it himself.

By Catherine Hendrick

This autumn marks 30 years since *Positively Birmingham* was released at a Civic Reception at the Council House and it’s been a bestseller about the city ever since.

The first edition of 5,000 copies sold out in nine months and the fifth edition sold out during the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

Now Jonathan has published another coffee table book, called *Birmingham’s Public Art*, featuring everything from Victorian statues and modern classics to vibrant and edgy street art.

Inside you’ll find more than 300 colour photos of public art which can be seen across the city and the stories behind them. The book also explores how Birmingham has accumulated what Jonathan believes to be the largest collection of public art of any UK regional city.

“Aspects of our city’s back story are so well told in the public art all around us,” Jonathan says.

“There are early works, such as the Group of Trophies on the Gun Barrel Proof House, visible if you care to look, as you leave New Street on the train to London.

“Look a little further into Digbeth and you see the continually changing street art scene of Bohemian Digbeth.

“How on earth did Birmingham



manage to amass so much public art? The answer in part is in the fact that we have a tendency to tear down our built environment every few years.

“The buildings may have gone but the associated public art often lives on.

“The Angel Drinking Fountain and the NatWest Tower Banking Hall Doors are two such examples to discover in the Colmore BID District.”

Jonathan, who also runs *Positively Birmingham Walking Tours*, adds: “Public art is there for us to come across – it can confront, inspire and sometimes it is quite rightly left for us to make our own interpretation.

“Some public art has a more detailed story to tell if you stop awhile and take a closer look.

“Umbra in Church Street Square, which was commissioned by Colmore BID and Birmingham City Council, is one such piece and I love showing it to people on our Sunday afternoon walking tour.”

Here are five public artworks

featured in Jonathan’s book which you can enjoy around the Business District or just a short stroll away.

THE ANGEL DRINKING FOUNTAIN

Date: c1880

Artist: Unknown

Where: *St Philip’s Square railings*
Jonathan says: “As so often happens with public art the Angel Drinking Fountain lives on when the building itself has long since gone. Originally located on Christ Church, in what is now Victoria Square, when the church was demolished the fountain itself was relocated on the outside of St Philip’s Cathedral Square.”

NATWEST TOWER BANKING HALL DOORS

Date: 1975

Designer: Henry Haig

Where: 103 Colmore Row

Jonathan says: “When the NatWest Tower was demolished in 2015 it appeared that the impressive



NATWEST BANK DOORS



THOMAS ATTWOOD



UMBRA



OZZY THE BULL

banking hall entrance doors might be lost. Instead, they were stored and sympathetically restored and now form the entrance to the lifts whisking you to the top of 103 Colmore Row and Orelle restaurant, with its great food and service and amazing city views.

"A closer study of the doors sees an early form of the National Westminster bank's triangular logo."

UMBRA

Date: 2012

Artist: Wolfgang Buttress

Where: Church Street Square

Jonathan says: "Umbra looks like a substantial but unassuming piece of bronze but there is more to it than meets the eye. "Inside is a silver cross, signifying the location in Church Street in line of sight of both St Paul's Church in the Jewellery Quarter and St Philip's Cathedral on Colmore Row. This is one of two public art installations in the city by Wolfgang Buttress, a Birmingham born and internationally renowned

artist who today works from his Nottingham studio."

THOMAS ATTWOOD STATUE

Date: 1993

Artists: Sioban Coppinger and Fiona Peever

Where: Chamberlain Square

Jonathan says: "The reclining Thomas Attwood statue is certainly a twist on a traditional piece of public art.

"It remembers the Birmingham banker and political reformer Thomas Attwood, who came to work in his father's bank in New Street. Thomas argued that adhering to the gold standard was limiting Birmingham businesses, and he also pointed out that Birmingham was not represented in Westminster."

The statue was presented to the people of Birmingham by Thomas Attwood's great-great-granddaughter, Priscilla Mitchell, in 1993.

OZZY THE BULL

Date: 2022-2023

Artist: Special effects and creative model making company Artem

Where: New Street station

Jonathan says: "Ozzy the Bull is certainly an interesting story of people power generating a public art installation.

"Originally commissioned as a theatrical prop for a one-night stand at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games, by next morning it was drawing huge crowds when temporarily installed in Centenary Square.

"A year later, after a public vote found in favour of naming the bull in celebration of Ozzy Osbourne, it came back to the city, this time on permanent display on the concourse of New Street Station.

"After Ozzy was installed Grand Central saw a 50 per cent increase in footfall, demonstrating the huge potential impact of public art in our city."



You can buy a copy of Birmingham's Public Art, including signed copies, from www.birminghampublicart.com. There are discounts for bulk orders. The website also gives details of local stockists, including Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery Shop. You can also find it on Amazon with a discount.

