

+ More than just business...

COLMORE

SUMMER 2022

LIFE



In this issue:

Bring on the Games...
it's summer in the city



colmorebusinessdistrict.com

Welcome

to the Summer 2022 edition of Colmore Life.

This summer, the eyes of the world turn to Birmingham as we play host to the Commonwealth Games.

The city has been preparing for this for a number of years and while some of these preparations are perhaps more visible in the form of improvements to the public realm, transport in the city and Birmingham 2022 branding, there are countless hours of work happening behind the scenes to make sure businesses are prepared and can make the most of this fantastic opportunity. The BID has worked closely with organisers of Birmingham 2022 as well as Birmingham City Council and other stakeholders to ensure relevant information has been disseminated to businesses. A lot of this information can be found on our website as part of the new Commonwealth Games section.

The Commonwealth Games aren't just about sport though – they are also about community, which is often explored through art. This year the city has a bursting cultural programme to support the games, more information of which can be found on page 6. On the topic of community, our Community Games returned to the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral in June. We shook things up this year with some rather challenging new activities – you can find out more on page 11.

You may remember that earlier in the year we welcomed four new directors to our board – in this edition we meet one; the inspirational Rosie Ginday MBE, who, many of you will know as Miss Macaroon (page 22).

Usually the city is a bit quieter over the summer months as people jet off on holiday, however this year we're in for a busy few months.

As always I hope to see many of you out enjoying the festivities taking place in our great city.

**MICHELE WILBY, CEO,
COLMORE BID**



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SUMMER 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Our summer of culture



New wine bar for Chamberlain Sq



An old favourite gets a new look



On the move in the District



Rosie shares her incredible story



DID YOU KNOW? West Midlands Cycle Hire is offering everyone two free half-hour rides per day during the Games. From 27 Jul to 8 Aug, anyone 16+ who signs up for WMCH via the Beryl app can ride for 30 minutes twice a day – whether or not they are going to a 2022 venue.

A DAY IN THE DISTRICT

IN TOWN FOR A SUMMER OF SPORT? CHECK OUT THESE FAB VENUES

1 BREAKFAST

GOURMET COFFEE & KITCHEN

Pick up a hot drink and bite to eat as you arrive at the District at the new Gourmet Coffee & Kitchen at the Snow Hill station concourse area. Serving all the classic coffees, chilled drinks and snacks, it's got everything you need to kick-start your day.

Snow Hill Rail Station



2 TO THE SHOPS

LIQUOR STORE

Liquor Store on Colmore Row has an eclectic mix of men's clothing, footwear and accessories. Look out for new arrivals from Carhartt WIP, Armor Lux, New Balance, Patagonia and Nudie Jeans and special collabs between up-and-coming indie brands.

3 Colmore Row



3 SEE THE SIGHTS

GAS HALL AT B'HAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Turner Prize-winning artist Lubaina Himid CBE invites visitors to consider the experiences of women in the city, as seen through the lens of art. This exhibition takes place in the Gas Hall at BMAG.

*Edmund Street
(See page 8)*

4 ME TIME

THE STYLE LOUNGE

Lots of familiar hair and pamper treatments for men and women delivered by a talented team, just a couple of minutes away from Snow Hill station.

Countless positive online reviews speak for themselves!
Berwick House, Kiosk 2, Livery Place, Livery Street



5 DINNER

THE COLMORE

Reminiscent of a New York bar, not only does The Colmore stock the best beers from Thornbridge Brewery, but its pizza chefs craft the best Milanese pizzas, with dough made fresh every morning using the finest Italian pizza flour and Green Mountain Hazy IPA.

Victoria House, 114-116 Colmore Row

6 ONE FOR THE ROAD

DIRTY MARTINI

Enjoy a 'dirty' summer at this ever popular bar with its famous Happy Hour featuring half-price Martinis and selected cocktails, £25 bottles of Prosecco, £15 bottles of house wine and £3.50 bottles of beer & cider.

7 Bennetts Hill

COLMORE

LATEST NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

Lowdown

Victoria Square to come alive for 2022 Games

FOOD, DRINK AND MUSIC TO CELEBRATE ARRIVAL OF GAMES

To bring people together to celebrate the Commonwealth Games, Victoria Square will play host to a free Festival Site providing entertainment for local people and visitors to the city during what will be the biggest event ever to be staged in the West Midlands.

As well as a daily schedule which includes sunrise stretch sessions, a disco with Perry the Birmingham 2022 mascot, and a showcase of up and coming local talent, the Victoria Square Festival Site will host some very special events. These include watch parties for the Birmingham 2022 Opening Ceremony on 28 July and the Closing Ceremony on 8 August, and a special celebration, including music and cultural acts, to mark the 60th anniversary of Jamaican Independence.

The District's leisure and hospitality businesses will be on hand at a new pop-up catering facility; The Floozie Food and Drink, providing a range of tasty breakfast, lunch and dinner treats daily from 8am to 10pm. From lunchtime, the square will also be licensed for people to enjoy drinks from the bar, including a menu from The Florence, Purecraft Bar & Kitchen, Loki Wines, Primitivo and Miss Macaroon.

The menus will change across the Games giving return visitors something different to look forward to and showcasing some of the finest Colmore eateries and bars in the city. For early risers, who want a healthy treat on the way into the city,



perhaps after enjoying the sunrise stretch sessions, there will be granola yoghurt pots and overnight oats. Purecraft Bar & Kitchen will be serving morning kombucha and coffee before switching to a selection of lagers and ales. Hookways will provide healthy breakfasts and salads, and Waylands Yard some of its fresh deli bakes, cakes and pastries.

At lunchtime you can pick up vegan cakes and muffins, plus ciabatta and

focaccia from 200 Degrees. Asha's and Zen Metro will be serving up delicious dishes including biryani, spicy chicken noodles and veggie stir fry to enjoy whilst listening to the Fountain Stage Music programme.

The Florence will be serving kebab wraps and shawarmas with selections of salads, pickles, and sauces. Vegan options include crispy tofu meaning Games visitors will be spoilt for choice.



PWC NOMINATES 2022 GAMES BATON BEARERS

PwC UK has nominated ten individuals to be official Batonbearers in the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay.

Ten colleagues from across the UK have been selected in recognition of their work in their communities, and will take on the honourable role this summer during the build up to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

PwC in Birmingham will be represented by Philippa Donnelly, pictured above.

Following a diagnosis of MS in her twenties, Philippa has been determined to show that it is possible to live well with MS. Not only does she sit on the Northern Irish Council for the MS Society, helping the charity make a difference within her community, she also ran over 100km in November 2021 to raise money for this important cause.

DAMASCENA NAMED TOP COFFEE HOUSE

Huge congratulations to the fantastic Damascena coffee house, Temple Row West, which was named the Café/Bistro of the Year in the West Midlands category at The Food Awards England.

The Food Awards England 2022 recognise the success of local professionals and establishments that continue delivering great flavours and experiences to their customers.



District restaurants at heart of Restaurant Festival 2022

Colmore Business District restaurants will be sharing signature dishes and new takes on the classics as Birmingham Restaurant Festival returns for 2022.

Taking place between August 22 and September 4, the Festival celebrates and showcases the fantastic restaurants across the city.

Birmingham Restaurant Festival is supported by Colmore BID and among those taking part in this year's Festival are Gaucho, Gusto, Primitivo, Rosa's Thai, Zen Metro and District newcomer Vinoteca.

No passes or wristbands are required to enjoy the festival, just visit the Birmingham Restaurant Festival website nearer the time to see which venues and menus take your fancy.

Once you're ready to make a reservation, you'll simply click through to book a table directly with the venue, quoting Birmingham Restaurant Festival 2022.

Tickets for dining events and experiences will be available to book in July from the Birmingham Restaurant Festival website.

Founder, Alex Nicholson-Evans, said: "Over the years, Birmingham has been named as one of the top food destinations in the UK and with good reason, the city boasts a diverse and vibrant dining scene. We have established Birmingham Restaurant Festival to celebrate and showcase the fantastic restaurants across the city.



Taking place from 22 August - 4 September, you'll have a full fortnight to enjoy great value menus and some exciting dining experiences too! We hope the festival will inspire you to visit as many restaurants as possible, to spend time sharing a meal with friends or family, and perhaps to try something or somewhere new too.

"Each participating restaurant is busy creating an exclusive, great value, set menu for you to enjoy during the festival."

Visit [birminghamrestaurantfestival.co.uk/explore-restaurants](https://www.birminghamrestaurantfestival.co.uk/explore-restaurants) to find out more about each restaurant taking part.

103 Colmore Row to get taste of France

Restaurant operator D&D London is set to open a new location on the 24th floor of 103 Colmore Row this autumn.

'Orelle' will serve a modern French menu with space for 88 diners.

The space will also include a 24-cover bar, private dining room for 12 and will be accompanied by a café and terrace at street level, with capacity for 66 people.

The café will feature the original 1970s cast aluminium banking hall doors, designed and made by English abstract artist Henry Haig.

This once formed part of the old NatWest Tower at the site before being demolished.

D&D London, founded in 2006 by Des Gunewardena and David Loewi said Orelle drew inspiration from the French words for gold (or) and her (elle). It is also the name of a French mountain village.

Mr Gunewardena said: "Orelle will be D&D London's debut in Birmingham and has been many years in the making. The interior and views will really be something special. We hope Orelle can do justice to what is a jewel of a site. We are very aware of Birmingham's high-quality and varied food scene. We hope Orelle will bring something new and exciting to that and in time become an established part of it."

Summer 2022 Culture Highlights

City centre comes alive with art, music and more for 2022 Games

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Hew Locke & Ikon
Victoria Square, Birmingham

Birmingham's city-centre sculpture of Queen Victoria is reimagined by acclaimed Guyanese-British artist Hew Locke for the Birmingham 2022 Festival.

Originally unveiled in 1901, Sir Thomas Brock's marble figure of Queen Victoria was then recast in bronze by William Bloye and members of Birmingham School of Art in 1951. Locke's vision is to create "an object of veneration, leading a battalion of other statues to represent the home nation throughout the Empire."

Locke's interest in the power of statues originates from his childhood in Guyana where he passed a sculpture of Queen Victoria every day on the way to school. He has been reimagining historical statues for twenty years. Commissioned by Ikon, this is Locke's first temporary public sculpture.

THE COMMON WEALTH TABLE

Birmingham Cathedral
Until 15 September
Cathedral Square

The Common Wealth Table is a 30-seater table designed by Intervention Architecture. It provides a place for different groups of people to come together for conversation, food and other inspirational gatherings. Herbs will also be grown in the middle of the table.

The table is located in Pigeon Park – Birmingham Cathedral's Churchyard and the main green space in the Business District. Members of the community can use the table from the beginning of July until Harvest Festival in mid-September.

The Cathedral and Grand Union will be partnering to put together a programme of events during the table's installation to create an opportunity for inspirational gatherings in Cathedral Square this summer. Open to individuals and community groups to book from the start of July through to mid-September.

For more information please email TheCWT@birminghamcathedral.com for a booking form.

CHILDREN'S POETRY FESTIVAL

Birmingham Cathedral
July - September
Cathedral Square

Children from across Birmingham have been invited to write poetry inspired by the Commonwealth Games, in particular the themes of humanity, equality and destiny, along with the power of the human body, the spirit of the games and a sporting moment. The resulting poems are displayed around Birmingham Cathedral and Cathedral Square throughout the summer of 2022, for visitors to read and enjoy.

Cultural Education

Birmingham Cathedral and poet Casey Bailey want to inspire children and young people to create hundreds of poems that will be displayed in Cathedral Square and performed at a special event in the summer of the Commonwealth Festival.

Poems can reflect on any of the following themes:

Commonwealth Games values of humanity – destiny – equality

The power of the human body

A sporting moment

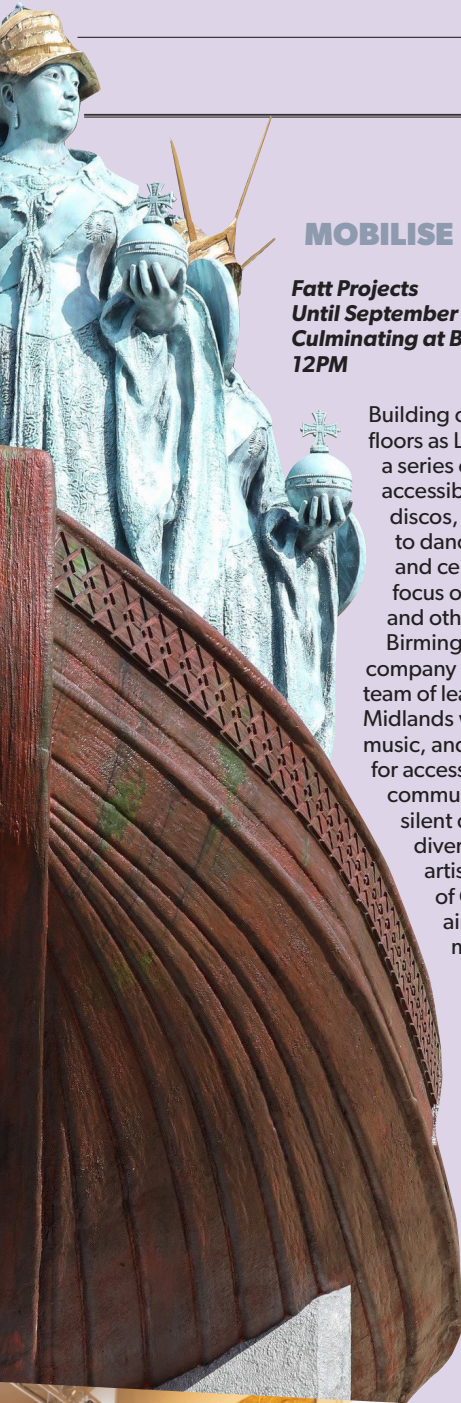
The spirit of the games

Suitable for students up to the age of 14.

birminghamcathedral.com



WONDER
BIRMINGHAM'S CINEMA STORIES
LAND



MOBILISE

Fatt Projects
Until September
Culminating at Birmingham Pride, 24 September, 12PM

Building on the historical significance of dance floors as LGBTQ+ meeting places, MOBILISE is a series of raucous, joyful and radical queer accessible sober social dance parties and silent discos, created specifically to empower people to dance, take up public space, feel confident, and celebrate themselves (with particular focus on centering trans, disabled, fat, PoC, and other marginalised queer bodies). Birmingham based queer performance company Fatt Projects, have assembled a top team of leading queer artists from across the Midlands working across dance, performance, music, and activism to co-create a new model for accessible sober dance spaces for LGBTQ+ communities. Using wireless headphone silent disco technology and working with a diverse team of disabled and non-disabled artists, the company will deliver a series of QUEER POWER PARTIES specifically aimed at creating much needed space for marginalised queer folk.

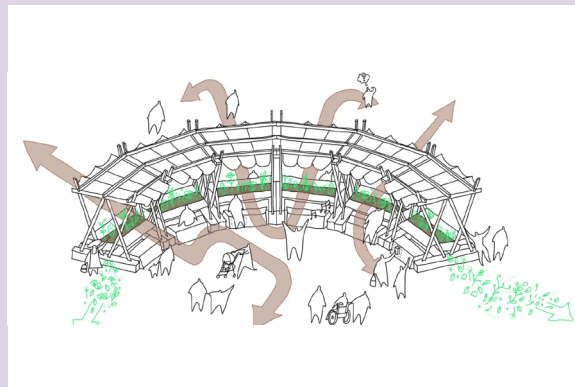
fattprojects.org

HOME FROM HOME

Wassifa
Until 31 October
Open Tuesday and Wednesdays, 1PM - 5PM
Thursday until Sundays, 10AM until 5PM
National Trust Birmingham Back to Backs, 55-63 Hurst Street, Birmingham

The National Trust and Wassifa are partnering to display a 1950s West Indian Front Room and 1980's Sound System at the Birmingham Back to Backs, in celebration of Wassifa's 50th anniversary.

The Back to Backs holds the collection of George Saunders who was a tailor working on the



premises from 1974 to 2001. George was from St. Kitt's in the Caribbean and came to Birmingham in 1954. From 1974, he was able to set up his business in Hurst Street in what was to become the city's last complete court of Back-to-Back houses. George kindly donated the items from his workshop to the Trust which is proud to hold such a unique collection and share his story with visitors.
nationaltrust.org.uk

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery has unpacked a series of pop-up displays and live events that bring a different feel to the historic building for the Commonwealth Games and Birmingham 2022 Festival.

The Round Room, Industrial Gallery, Edwardian Tearooms, Gallery 10 and Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery Shop are now open seven days a week. The Bridge Gallery has also reopened to showcase items from the civic collection and invite feedback on what people want to see from the museum when it reopens fully in 2024 after all maintenance works have been completed.

The partial reopening is taking place while Birmingham City Council's essential electrical works programme continues safely in other areas of the building.

Animating the Round Room and Industrial Gallery, are Birmingham Music Archive, Fierce, Flatpack Projects, Kalaboration Arts and working in collaboration with Birmingham Museums – Don't Settle, in partnership with Beatfreaks.

DON'T SETTLE: WE ARE BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's partial reopening launched with a radical transformation of the stunning Round Room. We Are Birmingham reflects the people of 21st Century Birmingham. Co-curated by Birmingham

Continued over the page



Main image: Foreign Exchange. Left: Jez Collins of In The Que. Top right: The Commonwealth Table

Summer 2022 Culture Highlights

Museums and a group of six young People of Colour from Don't Settle, a project of Beatfreaks, the new display presents a vivid celebration of the city that Birmingham is now as well as aspirations of what the city could become.

BIRMINGHAM MUSIC ARCHIVE: IN THE QUE

A sensory exhibition celebrates one of Birmingham's greatest music venues – the Que Club. Curated by Birmingham Music Archive and Pretty Hate Production, *In The Que*, features previously unseen photographs by critically acclaimed photographer Terence Donovan, personal artefacts, archive film footage, flyers and posters and a 35 minute documentary film.

FIERCE: SAVĀGE K'LUB: VĀ TAMATEA

New Zealand/Aotearoa artists Rosanna Raymond and Jaimie Waititi present a SaVĀge K'Lubroom in a secretive corner of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. The installation reclaims the gentlemen's clubs of the same name first established in London in the 19th century. SaVĀge K'Lub poses the question: what might it mean to be a savage today?

FLATPACK PROJECTS: WONDERLAND

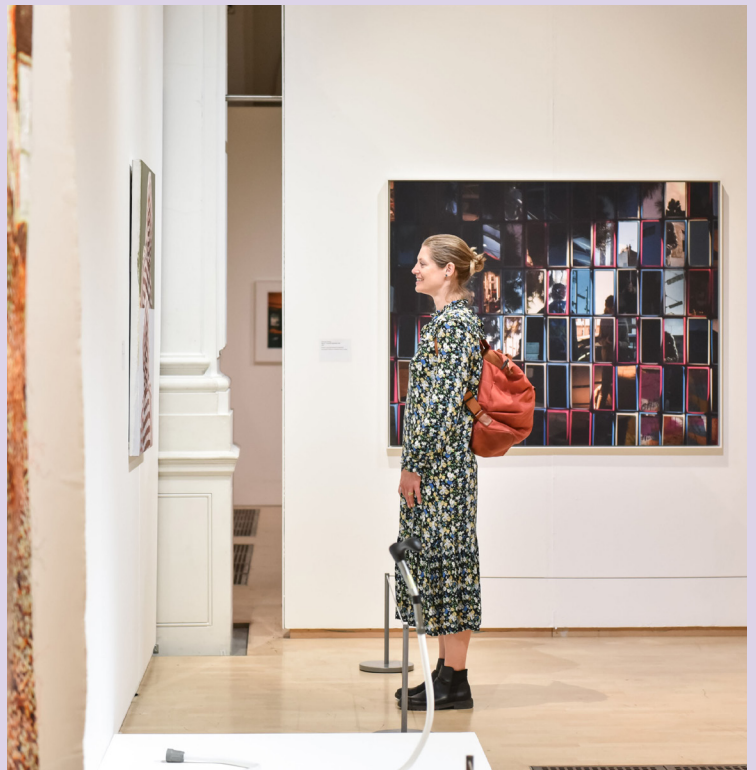
Wonderland by Flatpack Projects and presented by Birmingham 2022 Festival explores how cinema has shaped the streets, social lives and dreams of Brummies over the past 125 years. Flatpack plans to map all 150-plus cinemas in the city – from fairgrounds to multiplexes and from South Asian extravaganzas to pop-ups. The display showcases photographs and cinema memorabilia, alongside magic lanterns and optical toys.

KALABORATION ARTS: BLACKLASH: RACISM & THE STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DEFENCE

From the mid-1980s and over a period of two decades, artist and activist Mukhtar Dar, documented the struggles of Asian and African Caribbean communities against racism. *Blacklash: Racism and the Struggle for Self-Defence*, by Kalaboration Arts, draws on Mukhtar's extensive archive.

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

Finally, an additional exhibition invites visitors to take a moment to pause and reflect on all that has passed in Birmingham over the last two years of living with Covid-19. *Unprecedented Times*, developed in partnership with Birmingham City Council's Public Health Division and



Birmingham Museums' Community Action Panel, will explore survival of the human spirit in public crises past and present.

Found Cities, Lost Objects: Women in the City

BMAG GAS HALL: FOUND CITIES, LOST OBJECTS: WOMEN IN THE CITY

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and Lubaina Humid CBE
14 May - 4 September, 10AM - 5PM
Gas Hall

Turner Prize-winning and internationally renowned artist Lubaina Himid CBE invites us to consider the experiences of women in the city, as seen through the lens of art.

With works primarily drawn from the Arts Council Collection and Birmingham's own collection, this exhibition encourages us to bring our experiences of the urban environment to reflect on the boundaries which may curb our enjoyment or the privileges which mean we are free to roam. This is an exhibition with conversations between audiences and artists at its heart, each exchanging observations, memories and imaginings to give us all a greater sense of ownership and belonging.

birminghammuseums.org.uk

MY COMMONWEALTH GAMES: ABIGAIL BROMFIELD OF ARUP, FORMER ELITE GB ROWER

From GB paddler to town planner, **Abigail Bromfield** is currently seconded to Birmingham City Council, helping set the stage for a summer of international sport. She took time out of her busy schedule to chat about her new role in the city.

Can you tell us more about your career history?

I'm a qualified town planner and mediator and have worked at Arup for 10 years, before which I worked in various public and private sector roles. I currently lead the Cities, Planning and Design teams for Arup Midlands.

What does your role at Arup entail?

My work combines practical planning experience with project delivery. This includes everything from Government policy work to managing transport hub schemes – and recently I advised on the Perry Barr masterplan and Langley urban extension in Birmingham, as well as on developing the strategic outline business case and the Growth and Infrastructure Plan for UK Central Hub, which includes the HS2 Interchange station (Solihull).

I'm one of the leaders in our Midlands business, supporting advisory services to cities organisations. A big part of that is helping to generate more productive and inclusive economic growth to support the levelling-up agenda and post-Covid recovery, increase mobility, improve connectivity, tackle climate change, accelerate regeneration and boost housing growth.

The nature of our work has shifted in recent years in response to some of these market changes and that is one of the reasons we have decided to relocate our largest offices into Birmingham. We are looking to be a key employer in the centre of this fantastic city, growing our team there, moving to its heart and helping to shape its future.

What recent projects have you been involved in? My most recent work in Birmingham has been on secondment to



Birmingham City Council to help the city with its operational readiness and citizen and business engagement in preparation of the upcoming summer, when the eyes of the sporting world will be on Birmingham. It's been a challenge, but I'm proud of what we've achieved so far.

You won medals for the Great Britain Dragon Boat Premier Team. That's quite an achievement:

I used to represent Great Britain in Women's and Mixed teams from 2010 to 2014, achieving eight Gold Medals at European Championships and two Bronze at World Championships. I have competed in a variety of countries including China, where the sport originated. Arup sponsored me in 2014.

What makes an elite athlete?

At points I was a full-time athlete, but most of the time I was working part time to fund my sport, which is still a struggle that elite athletes have in marginal sports. You therefore need a strong vision, plan and commitment to a long term path to keep motivated and working as part of a team helped me drive my performance to its peak. I used to train two-three times a day, six days a week. Some of our training is not just physical or technical

training, but now more and more sport psychology is key to success – having a strong mind, not just body.

Are you still involved in dragon boating?

Yes, I still compete with a local team and have also been part of my company team at corporate events from time to time. It's a very inclusive sport so I like being able to help others get enjoyment and achieve at every level.

What does something like the Commonwealth Games bring to Birmingham?

Pride in place and the city. It's going to really help raise the profile of the city's assets – not just in physical terms by improving sporting venues and transport infrastructure, but also of its fantastic diverse communities and its attractiveness as a place to live and work. It should also generate more investment for Birmingham, and the Council is working to seize the opportunity to achieve that. I think it will end up being an important, international celebration of togetherness for the city which could bring benefits for years to come – both with new investment and by creating memories for the people of Birmingham which will last a lifetime.

What do the Games mean to you?

Fun, celebration and teamwork.

Will you be going to see any of the events?

Yes, my family has tickets so I will go to the Alexander Stadium, which I'm proud of as I led on the planning application for its renewal on behalf of Birmingham City Council.



Lowdown

AWARD FOR XMAS MARKET

Colmore BID has been awarded Best Event for Christmas in Cathedral Square at the Town and City Management Industry Awards.

The BID scooped the award for its delivery of the festive event which attracted more than 300,000 visitors during November and December 2021. In addition to Best Event, the BID was also shortlisted for Best Innovative Partnership for its work with City Centre Strategic Partnership.

The Town and City Management Industry Awards are the pinnacle of the UK and Ireland's place management industry, setting a benchmark for best practice and helping inform public policy.

Michele Wilby, CEO of Colmore BID said: "Christmas in Cathedral Square is perhaps one of the most ambitious events we have organised, attracting independent traders and visitors from across the region."

"We're thrilled to have our hard work and that of our partners, Birmingham City Council, Danter Attractions and Birmingham Cathedral celebrated. With so much positive feedback, we're pleased to say that the market will return this year."

Christmas in Cathedral Square will return to the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral 16 November – 18 December 2022, featuring more than 50 local businesses selling a mixture of food, drink, gifts and crafts stalls. Attractions such as the helter-skelter and pop-up bar, Pigeon in the Park will also return.

More details about this year's market will be made available later in the year.

Heritage Week shines a light on city history once again

OVER 100 EVENTS, TOURS AND SCREENINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Birmingham's Heritage Week festival is back for 2022 with over 100 events at favourite old buildings and new spaces featured for the first time.

The popular city-wide festival takes place between 9-18 September and will shine a spotlight on Birmingham's fascinating history and will see some of the city's hidden gems and most important heritage locations opening their doors for talks, tours, workshops, walks and much more.

The festival features events which will attract culturally curious tourists to the city and encourage local residents to get out and learn more about Birmingham's past.

Several Colmore Business District buildings will feature in this year's Heritage Week events, including Birmingham Cathedral and The Grand Hotel.

Irene De Boo, Co-ordinator for Birmingham Heritage Week 2022, said: "Birmingham Heritage Week is back and we are thrilled to have such an array of fascinating places for visitors to explore and enjoy."

The Birmingham Heritage Week 2022 supporters are Birmingham Museums Trust and Birmingham City Council.

The full event listing will go live Friday 5 August 2022. Follow Birmingham Heritage Week on social media for announcements.



Birmingham Cathedral and The Grand Hotel





Businesses battle it out at Community Games

EVENT ENDORSED BY 2022 UNITED PROGRAMME

On one of the hottest days of the year so far, 12 teams took to the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral to compete in Colmore BID's 2022 Community Games.

Teams braved the rising temperatures to battle it out across 16 challenges, including The Aztec Tower, Snake Pit, Hazard Material, Ball Drop and Spaced Out. Companies competing for the crown included Birmingham City Council, Colmore BID, DWF Law, FleetMilne Residential, Grand Hotel Birmingham, Hays Recruitment, Liquid, Mott McDonald, Shakespeare Martineau, SpottyDog Communications and Ying Wah Property.

Colmore BID retained its crown and scooped first prize for the second consecutive year. They were closely followed by Grand Hotel Birmingham in second and FleetMilne Residential in third.

Launched in 2012 to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic

Games, The Community Games has seen over 50 businesses compete over the years, raising nearly £6,000 for various charitable causes. This year's games were officially endorsed by Birmingham 2022's United Programme.

Michele Wilby, CEO of Colmore BID, said: "The Community Games are a fantastic time of year for businesses in the District to let loose and really show how competitive they are. While the stakes were high to win the coveted title of Community Games Champion, all participants showcased their team spirit and support for each other, something which we're very proud of in the District."

"The day is always a big success and I'd like to personally thank all those who attended and the businesses that supported their staff."

For more information about Colmore BID events, visit colmorebusinessdistrict.co.uk



Lowdown

Photography exhibition to focus on city's homelessness crisis

PHOTOGRAPHER'S 'CONSTRUCT' PROJECT AIMS TO CHANGE PERCEPTIONS

By Catherine Hendrick

Internationally acclaimed photographer Anthony Luvera is planning to show that a picture really can paint a thousand words by working with people experiencing homelessness in Birmingham to tell their stories through a striking new exhibition in the Business District.

The artist, writer and educator has spent two decades working across the UK with people who've experienced homelessness.

His collaborations have been exhibited in galleries, museums and public spaces, including the British Museum and the National Portrait Gallery.

Now for the first time Anthony is working with homeless people in Birmingham.

The project will culminate in a photography exhibition called 'Construct' in Snow Hill Square in September, which is a partnership with Colmore BID and GRAIN Projects, a Midlands-based arts organisation.

A publication and programme of events will accompany the exhibition, including an event on October 10 to mark World Homelessness Day.

Anthony says: "I've been overwhelmed by the generosity of the individuals I've been

working with in terms of their willingness to be involved, share their experiences and make photographs.

"The exhibition will call on the citizens of Birmingham to focus on the crisis of homelessness in their city.

"I hope it will show people experiencing homelessness in positive and productive ways so they are not

seen as the problem. Homelessness is a situation we are all responsible for.

"Those experiencing homelessness are our fellow citizens who deserve the same respect we show all of our neighbours."

Anthony first began working with homeless people in 2002 after a national charity invited him to take pictures at one of its shelters at Christmas. The photographer felt uncomfortable doing a traditional shoot with him behind the lens. Instead, he wanted to enable people experiencing homelessness to represent themselves and document their own lives.

After a donation of disposable cameras from Kodak he organised photography workshops to teach people how to take pictures. The result was an exhibition on the London Underground.

Anthony was so moved by his experience that much of his work is devoted to campaigning and working with homeless people.

"I want to challenge some of the negative stereotypes people experiencing homelessness face," he explains.

"In the media, popular entertainment and even in some of the campaign material used by charities, people experiencing homelessness are mostly viewed as an abject spectacle on the street.

"People experiencing homelessness are not homeless by choice or through their own fault. Homelessness is a consequence of the way society is organised.

"When the pandemic began, the emergency measures put in place to temporarily accommodate those experiencing homelessness demonstrated homelessness is a political choice and huge efforts can be made to tackle the problem, quickly and at scale."

Anthony says homelessness in the UK

was already at crisis point before the pandemic and despite everything that has been done, the problem's increased.

"The situation in Birmingham is one of the most acute in the UK," he explains.

"According to the latest research from Shelter, 1 in 96 people are experiencing homelessness in Birmingham.

"This figure is likely to be underestimated as not all forms of homelessness are documented.

"Homelessness is not just about people sleeping rough. It includes people sofa-surfing with friends and family, those living in temporary accommodation, in shelters and in sub-standard housing conditions. The cost of living crisis is only going to exacerbate all of this."

Anthony's project in Birmingham was commissioned by GRAIN Projects in 2018, working in partnership with homeless charity SIFA Fireside.

"For the first year, I volunteered and worked in the kitchen and drop-in centre at SIFA. I did this so I could meet clients and staff, get to know people who might be interested in taking part in a project and ask questions about how I should go about it," Anthony says.

The photographer's given people disposable cameras to document their experiences and the things that interest them. He's also run workshops teaching photography techniques. When the pandemic hit the sessions continued remotely by Zoom, telephone calls and even post.

After the restrictions eased, the photographer continued working with people face-to-face teaching them how to create an assisted self-portrait in locations important to them.

"Photography is not just about making an image but it can be about projecting yourself and how you would like people to see you," Anthony explains.

One of the people he's worked with



'I want to challenge the negative stereotypes people experiencing homelessness face'
ANTHONY LUVERA

Lowdown



Assisted Self-Portrait of Mauvette Reynolds from Construct (Birmingham 2018 – 2022) by Anthony Luvera



Documentation of the making of Assisted Self-Portrait of Mauvette Reynolds from Construct (Birmingham 2018 – 2022) by Anthony Luvera



Photograph by Diane Hamilton from Construct (Birmingham 2018 – 2022) by Anthony Luvera



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Photograph from Construct (Birmingham 2018 – 2022) by Anthony Luvera

is Mauvette Reynolds, who became homeless after falling ill.

“My experience of being homeless has been so stressful,” she says. “Being homeless is more than depressing, it drags you down. It’s like being stuck between two brick walls and there’s no way out. I’ve faced isolation, discrimination, rejection, being labelled and stigmatised. It has been traumatising.”

Mauvette has always been interested in photography and as a young woman

wanted to be a model. “Taking part in Anthony’s project has had a deep impact on me,” she says. “It’s been therapeutic. It has been my dream come true. Because I’ve always liked taking pictures and writing and I’ve always wanted my pictures to be published, so people can see what I can do.”

Dan Wakely, Interim CEO at SIFA Fireside, says: “The ability to express ourselves is integral to our mental health and for many people, this involves going down creative avenues and engaging

in the arts. We are so proud of the work done by our clients alongside Anthony Luvera and GRAIN Projects.

“Homeless people often feel unseen and this project has not only given our clients the chance to tell their story, but has enabled them to take control of their narrative through assisted portraiture. The exhibition will be something very special indeed.”

The project is supported by Arts Council England, National Lottery – Awards for All and Galliard Homes.

Food & Drink



New wine independent Vinoteca opens at Paradise

STUNNING VIEWS ACROSS CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE AWAIT AT VINOTECA

A new wine experience has arrived in the Business District as Vinoteca opens at Paradise Birmingham.

Having established itself as one of London's most popular independent venues, the opening marks Vinoteca's seventh site and its first venture outside of the capital.

Priding itself on working closely with producers to curate one of the UK's most extensive wine lists, including 60 organic, biodynamic and sustainable selections, Vinoteca's mission is to 'redefine the wine bar' by offering a relaxed and laid-back experience that can be enjoyed by all.

As well as an award-winning wine list featuring more than 200 bins from across the world, the 4,500 sq. ft. restaurant serves seasonal British dishes using locally sourced produce, with a weekly set lunch menu designed especially for Birmingham by the venue's head chef.

For guests looking to take away the Vinoteca experience, an on-site wine shop means new flavours and grape varieties can be discovered at home.

Taking inspiration from Spain and Italy, the 150-cover space – Birmingham's largest wine bar set across a ground and mezzanine floor – evokes a relaxed Mediterranean feel, with earthy tones and natural materials brought to life by bespoke neon signs, and a hand-painted mural that is unique to the Birmingham site.

Guests can enjoy views across the newly developed Chamberlain Square, whilst an external terrace of 40 seats offers the perfect spot for drinks in the sun.

With over three decades worth of industry knowledge behind them both across hospitality and the British wine industry, Vinoteca founders Brett Woonton and Charlie Young are looking forward to bringing their

passion for wine outside of London.

"Birmingham has always been onto something new, and with such a unique and diverse food scene, we felt this was the perfect setting for our first regional site," says Charlie.

"We hope to add to the city's existing love and appreciation of wine, by offering our own perspective for guests who are looking to try something different. Our wine list has been carefully designed to tell the stories of producers, vineyards and regions from around the globe, but we also want to celebrate the quality of local suppliers through our accompanying food and drink menus.

"We're excited to announce more details ahead of the launch and look forward to becoming part of such a thriving community in the coming months."

To find out more, visit www.vinoteca.co.uk

‘The city has played a hugely special role for us and the artists we work alongside’

MR & MRS GREY CELEBRATE TEN YEARS OF FIRST-RATE ENTERTAINMENT

From Birmingham’s Platinum Jubilee Festival to the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony Mr & Mrs Grey are on the city’s A list when it comes to providing entertainment.

Now the husband and wife team are celebrating a special event of their own with an array of events and special guest performances.

It’s a decade since singer Chloe-Jean Grey and her husband Benjamin decided to set up their own entertainment business.

Their first taste of success was winning a residency at celebrity chef Marco Pierre White’s newly opened restaurant at The Cube.

In a documentary made to celebrate their 10th anniversary, ‘Cheers to 10 Years’, Chloe recalls: “In our little front room we set up our grand piano, which was about the only thing we owned really.

“I put on my wedding dress and we made a promo so we could sell ourselves basically and then it was a case of trying to find some gigs, earn some money and start building from scratch.”

The talented couple got in touch with Marco Pierre White’s management team and were thrilled to be invited to play.

The duo were rewarded with a long-term residency at the restaurant and their talent soon began to catch the eye of Birmingham’s burgeoning restaurant and hotel scene, including Harvey Nichols, Malmaison and Hotel La Tour.

Mr & Mrs Grey, who specialise in providing luxury live music, soon realised they needed to find more talented musicians and singers to keep up with demand.

Their entertainment consultancy, c/o Mr & Mrs Grey, now represents a team of over 50 artists.

Nurturing local talent is one of the core values of the business and the couple say they pride themselves on spotting the region’s best up and coming artists.

To add to their reasons to celebrate Mr & Mrs Grey were asked to headline Birmingham’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. They’re also set to take part in the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony.

The event, called ‘Undoubtedly Birmingham’, is being directed by Peaky Blinders creator Stephen Knight and will be performed live in



Chloe-Jean Grey and husband Benjamin

front of 30,000 spectators and broadcast across the world.

Mr & Mrs Grey will also host smaller events for dignitaries, press and VIPs at the likes of Hotel Du Vin, Marco Pierre White and The Grand Hotel.

Benjamin says: “We are delighted to be celebrating a remarkable decade of providing wonderful live entertainment to the region.

“From our first gig as a pair at Marco Pierre White’s to taking up residency at some of the most iconic venues in the city and now having a fully-fledged team of over 50 artists it’s been an amazing 10 years.

“Here’s to another decade of luxury live music!”

Chloe-Jean adds: “Performing at both the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony and the Birmingham Platinum Jubilee celebration is such an incredible achievement.

“It’s a poignant year for us, not to mention the region as a whole; we’re celebrating a decade and Birmingham is hosting the Commonwealth Games.

“The city has played a hugely special role for us and the artists we work alongside, it’s been the backdrop of so many memorable moments.

“To now be invited to perform at the Commonwealth Games is truly an honour and to help produce the Queen’s Platinum celebrations was delightfully apt in our anniversary year.”

To find out more about Mr & Mrs Grey, visit www.mrandmrsgrey.co.uk

‘Performing at both the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony and the Birmingham Platinum Jubilee celebration is such an incredible achievement’

Food & Drink



Queen's Head reigns again

BIRMINGHAM BREWERY DISCOVERS FASCINATING HISTORY OF STEELHOUSE LANE PUB

Davenports Brewery, which was established in Birmingham in 1829, has opened the doors to its latest pub, The Queen's Head on Steelhouse Lane in Colmore Business District.

Following months of extensive renovations, a new interior décor has been revealed with new food and drink options that will add to the appeal of the Business District.

Whilst researching the history of the pub, most recently The Jekyll & Hyde, the team uncovered some interesting facts to include former names; The

Queen's Head and prior to 1850, The King's Head.

Marketing Director, Katie McPhilimey, says: "The board were delighted to find a venue that beats in the very heart of the city, that serves both a dynamic district, and a diverse community of professionals, and students.

"In this important Jubilee Year, and in honour of Her Majesty The Queen, the company decided to rename the pub The Queen's Head. Baron Davenport wrote to Her Majesty to advise her of

our plans and received a wonderful letter back from Her Majesty's office to say that she was 'delighted by the news and wished us well'. We have framed the letter."

The pub boasts a wonderful eclectic history, which coin and token expert, Andrew Cunningham, has helped to uncover.

Katie adds: "Baron Davenport found some tokens for sale online with The 'Queen's Head, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham' on them. In the 1800s and 1900s the pub had its own



FAMOUS LEGAL BATTLE

In 1905 Davenports was accused of 'Beer Hawking', selling beer by retail at a place where they were not authorised (beer at home). It was viewed as a hugely important prosecution, fought brilliantly and won by the very theatrical barrister, Mr Marshall-Hall K.C, on behalf of Davenports in the Victoria Law Courts. Marshall-Hall was later knighted. Davenports had paved the way for other brewers to follow a similar scheme.



tokens that were used for various transactions, to include wet rent. Druids, Forrester's and many other friendly societies used The Queen's Head for meetings over the years, and rather than charge for the room, those attending bought tokens for the pub which they exchanged for drinks, guaranteeing the pub an income. They were also used for games such as 'Knock 'Em Down' – with losers using them to buy the winner a pint. Numerous tokens were issued over the years by different landlords."

Over the decades The Queen's Head has been a firm favourite with the residents of the area; most notably barristers, lawyers, law court staff, journalists from the Birmingham Post & Mail, which once had its newsroom and printing press across the road, and NHS staff from the nearby hospital. There has been much interest from all these parties, and passing students whilst the refurbishment has been taking place.

As you would expect from a Davenports pub, The Queen's Head

reopening, which has created 20 jobs, boasts a great selection of drinks – from ales to freshly prepared cocktails, spirits and wines, and not forgetting a strong foodie offering with breakfast available to eat-in or takeaway from 9am through to sandwiches, pub dishes and sharing platters.

Queen's Head drinks include Continental Lager which the brewery are reviving. First brewed in the 60s and with a host of awards to its name, Continental Lager should deliver a taste of the Continent once again.

*Pictured:
New Queen's
Head General
Manager Harry
Higgs*

Movers & Shakers

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

FLEETMILNE

Colmore Row-based residential sales and lettings agency FleetMilne has snapped up Knight Frank's private client lettings business in Birmingham.

The purchase will boost FleetMilne's managed lettings portfolio by 20 per cent, adding £55 million of assets to its roster.

Two members of Knight Frank's staff, Layana Samuels-Sheridan and Katie Pawley, will transfer across to FleetMilne's now 14-strong team.

Founder Nicola Fleet-Milne, pictured below, who Chairs Colmore BID, said: "When Knight Frank was looking to divest itself of its Birmingham residential lettings business, we were the first port of call. We are a trusted lettings agency and its largely international client base will fit in seamlessly with our own local, national and overseas investor landlords.

"The acquisition of the business fits perfectly with our strategy of growing our managed lettings service."

Following the acquisition, Knight Frank and FleetMilne will continue to work together across the Birmingham market.



Emma Bowen joins M3 as Group Account Director

M3

One of the West Midlands' fastest-growing full-service advertising agencies is celebrating a record year for its Birmingham office after it secured a string of new wins.

M3, which also operates out of sites in Albrighton and London, launched its presence in the Business District just over three years ago and in that time has built up a global client list that is generating over £1.2m of the firm's £8m annual billings.

Specialising in executing digital creative and marketing campaigns, the agency's second biggest base has created five new jobs in the last few months and plans to move to larger offices shortly that can accommodate up to 30 talented individuals.

It marks what has been an exciting period

of growth for the company and comes just a few weeks after it completed its senior management team with the appointment of Emma Bowen as Group Account Director.

The vastly knowledgeable Film, TV and Radio Studies graduate brings with her two decades of experience in the media and marketing worlds, including heading up Adgen for four years. She will be tasked with the challenge of helping to recruit, shape, develop and manage the client services team, in addition to ensuring well executed marketing campaigns for B2B and B2C accounts.

Nick Lovett, Managing Director of M3, said: "This is a massive coup for our business to get someone of the pedigree of Emma and gives us strength in depth in our senior management team."

ARCADIS

Arcadis, the global design, engineering and consultancy services business, is to relocate its Birmingham office to 103 Colmore Row.

The company has signed a ten-year lease on 12,132 sq ft on the 16th floor of the 26-storey building with Tristan Capital Partners and Sterling Property Ventures, joint developers of 103 Colmore Row.

Arcadis will relocate from Cornerblock, on Cornwall Street, where it employs 500 people and has been based since 2017.

Simon Marks, City Executive for Birmingham and the Midlands at Arcadis, said: "The move to 103 Colmore Row represents an exciting new chapter for Arcadis in Birmingham, demonstrating our commitment to the city and region. We firmly believe that we still need offices and office space, but it must be a different type of space that reflects the changing nature of the workday and our people."

RSM

The leading audit, tax and consulting services firm, RSM, has become the latest tenant to sign up to 103 Colmore Row – Birmingham's tallest office building.

The company, which employs more than 300 people in Birmingham, has signed a ten-year lease on 12,132 sq ft on the tenth floor of the 26-storey building with joint venture partners Sterling Property Ventures and Tristan Capital Partners. The rent is undisclosed.

RSM Birmingham is currently located at St Philips Point, on Temple Row. The move will help facilitate collaborative and flexible working, while also creating an improved working environment for staff and clients.

GRANT THORNTON

Grant Thornton has moved into its new flagship office at 103 Colmore Row.

Signing a 10-year lease for just over 12,000 sq ft, its 400 staff will be based on the 17th floor of the 26-storey building.

The firm says the office has been fitted out in order to enable flexible working and collaboration and as part of the low-carbon Birmingham District Energy Scheme (BDES), the sustainable building aligns with its environmental aspirations.

The recently opened office offers a range of diverse, high quality working areas including both standing and seated desks, collaboration spaces and private booths with advanced audio-visual equipment and superior acoustics.

Sue Knight, Partner and Practice Leader at Grant Thornton UK LLP in the Midlands, said: "The last two years have had a fundamental impact on how we perceive the ways we work. At Grant Thornton, we understand that the office is still an important part of any effective flexible working model, as it's pivotal for collaborating both internally and externally as well as helping to drive and nurture the careers of our team members."



Mark Taylor and James Howarth, RSM

'With 50 new starters set to join our Birmingham office this August, we look forward to seeing our team grow'

WEIGHTMANS

Law firm Weightmans has appointed Mike Brown to lead its counter-fraud team.

He joins from Direct Line Group, where he was head of counter fraud intelligence and disclosure.

At DLG, he successfully implemented a dedicated Intelligence Capability and an industry-leading dedicated Data Protection Act (DPA) disclosure function with a focus on fraud, compliance, and risk.

Prior to that, he was head of fraud intelligence at the Solicitors Regulation Authority, where he led an award-winning team for four years.

Although based in the firm's St Phillips Point office, Brown will have national responsibility for the management and development of the firm's fraud offering developing products that assist in the identification, defence, and where appropriate, prosecution of fraudsters.

DAVISON'S LAW

Davison's Solicitors has announced a package of expansion and investment. The firm has been working in recent months to consolidate its position as leading property lawyers in the West Midlands and Warwickshire, whilst continuing to grow its non-property related services.

At the core of this expansion is the rebrand of 'QualitySolicitors Davison's' to 'Davison's Law'. This is a move which the firm, with an office at 75-77 Colmore Row, sees as creating a "fresh, modern look, that dispels the view of law firms as old fashioned and stuck in their ways," explained Director, Darryl Wilkes.

Since March 2020 the firm has continued to grow its team and now employs over 350 people. As a testament to the hard work of its team the business managed to increase turnover by over 90% in the most recent financial year.

Movers & Shakers

ONE TEMPLE ROW

A trio of office lettings has been completed at One Temple Row in Birmingham.

Law firm Capsticks has signed a ten-year lease on 6,987 sq ft on the 12th floor, while media agency MediaCom has taken 2,753 sq ft on the third floor, also on a ten-year lease.

Existing tenant Greens Solicitors has also expanded within the building, doubling its office space by taking a further 2,900 sq ft and relocating from the eighth to the fifth floor. It has agreed a ten-year lease with landlord Aviva Investors.

CBRE advised Aviva on the lettings to MediaCom and Greens Solicitors, with joint agents Cushman & Wakefield advising on the letting to Capsticks.

Located in the Colmore Business District, One Temple Row comprises 98,235 sq ft of office space over 12 floors.

Aviva has invested £1 million in a comprehensive refurbishment of the building since acquiring it in 2019, adding a large roof terrace and introducing new tenant amenities, including cycle storage, shower and changing facilities, bookable meeting rooms, informal break-out areas and a coffee shop.



KENNEDYS

Global law firm Kennedys has promoted its largest ever number of lawyers to partner.

With 22 new partners joining the partnership, it is more than double the number promoted last year (10) and takes the total worldwide partner count to 293.

This year's partner promotions include 13 women and nine men, among them Angela Fisher, based at Kennedys' Business District offices on Newhall Street.

Fisher, who joined Kennedys in 2008, is a property, energy and construction specialist. She acts for and advises on construction, property damage, product liability, professional negligence disputes and associated coverage issues.

GRAYLINGS

Communications agency Grayling has relocated to WeWork 55 Colmore Row in the Business District.

With a presence in the Midlands for more than 40 years, Grayling's Birmingham team forms part of the agency's network of nine offices across the UK and 30 internationally. Grayling Birmingham's clients include Midlands Engine, The British Masters, HSBC, Intercity, Great Western Railway, National Grid and The Ivy Collection.

Bethany Pearson, Director and Head of Grayling Birmingham, said: "We're thrilled to move into our new home in the heart of the city and at the heart of the action, making us better connected than ever before."

Movers & Shakers

CENTRICK

Residential & commercial property specialist Centrick has announced a restructure of its Midlands sales and lettings division.

Five new roles have been created, covering offices in Birmingham, Solihull and Nottingham, to enable its teams to deliver streamlined services, promote innovation and improve customer satisfaction.

Birmingham-based Centrick's Group Managing Director Phil Johns said the continued growth of the ambitious company had led to the need for a restructure of the management of its branches.

"We are always driven by the desire to maintain and improve the already high levels of service our clients and customers have come to expect from the talented teams in our sales and lettings division.

"After a full internal review, we have decided to move to a fully fledged branch model, where all of the services we provide will sit within the governance of the branch managers. It will give our clients a more personal and tailored service that will listen to their wants and needs."

Of the five new roles within the business, four have been filled through internal promotion. They include Chris Whiley, Group Projects Director, Group Sales and Lettings, Stuart Macdiarmid, now Area Director, Group Sales, Katie Vassar, now Area Director, Group Lettings, and Shelley Wootton, now Solihull Lettings Manager. Sophie Harmer-Knight joins the company in the new role of Lettings Manager in Birmingham.

"Stuart and Katie will oversee the three branches, ensuring that as a business we're focused on delivering a world-class service and that our strategy is driven in the right direction," added Johns.



Alex Tross of Centrick and Charles Warrack of Fisher German at The Barwick

THE BARWICK

A Grade II* listed office building in the Business District is fully let.

The entire third floor office suite has been snapped up at The Barwick, a three-storey building on Colmore Row.

It is the third recent deal to be completed at the boutique style office building, following lettings to global construction and property consultancy, WT and PR agency Make More Noise.

Hortons' Estate spent more than £750,000 transforming The Barwick into 5,238 sq ft of self-contained Grade A office space as part of The Grand Hotel scheme. Former meeting rooms and bedrooms, as well as the bar that once served the Grosvenor Ballroom, were all comprehensively refurbished as modern office accommodation.

Nina Meeks of Hortons' said that the high quality renovation and the property's close proximity to the city's regional and national rail network had been attractive to occupiers.

She said: "We're very pleased to have fully let The Barwick, especially given the backdrop of the pandemic. This is a charming historic property that has been carefully refurbished to deliver stunning modern offices, very different in character to traditional office spaces. All of the office suites boast original features, including exposed brickwork and beams which were part of the original hotel."

The Barwick was marketed by joint letting agents, Alex Tross of Centrick and Charles Warrack of Fisher German.

SHOOSMITHS

A long-standing Birmingham partner at Shoosmiths has become the law firm's new CEO.

David Jackson, who is based at the firm's Birmingham office, takes over from Simon Boss.

Formerly head of the firm's national commercial group, Jackson played an instrumental role in growing this area of the

business and finding and developing innovative solutions for clients. Jackson said: "I am excited to build on Simon's exceptional legacy. I have been working alongside Simon, Peter and the rest of the management team for the last six months and we used this time to work on a new strategy designed to take Shoosmiths into its next phase in consolidation and growth."

Partner Robin Webb will now replace Jackson as head of the firm's commercial group.

Changing lives, one macaroon at a time

Eleven years ago, Rosie Ginday MBE started Miss Macaroon with just £500. Today, her successful social enterprise not only supplies sweet treats to high-end restaurants, but she also provides career opportunities for the city's vulnerable young people

By Lisa
Piddington

With a love of fine food and a personal promise to improve lives, Rosie Ginday has combined her two passions to create one of the city centre's most successful brands.

Miss Macaroon opened its doors in February 2011, with its first retail space in the iconic Great Western Arcade five years later. More than a decade on, the patisserie has become a firm favourite with city shoppers, selling thousands of macaroons each week and supplying an endless list of top restaurants and retailers across the UK.

But where the business really stands out from the crowd is its work offering young people hope for a brighter future. With the aims and objectives of a true social enterprise at its heart, the innovative MacsMAD (Macaroons that Make A Difference) training course has helped 140 long-term unemployed youngsters build their confidence and skills to become work-ready.

A few minutes into our interview and it's easy to see that Rosie has always had the drive and determination to succeed.

"I studied Fine Art at university but I always had a love for food," she explains. "I went to Taiwan after I graduated and started my first business there – a vegan and vegetarian restaurant, with an art space, called Timbuctoo. It sparked a desire to work in food rather than art –

although my background did give me a deep understanding of colour theory. In fact, this has enabled us to become the only patisserie in the world to be able to Pantone match macaroons to brand colours."

After returning from Taiwan – and despite feeling too old to "go back to college" – Rosie signed up for a catering course at University College Birmingham's College of Food.

"I asked them if I could do the three-year course in one year, would they give me my certificate. I knew I was capable of putting in the long hours and work."

After finishing her studies (and yes, she did complete the course in a year) she secured her first placement working with renowned chef Glynn Purnell at his Michelin starred restaurant. "It was an incredible experience. I learnt so much working at such a high level, working alongside top professionals. So much so it inspired me to start my own business. I knew I wanted to focus on social enterprise so I needed a job that required me to work less hours and figure out what I wanted to do."

BAKING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Rosie moved to the city's Hyatt Hotel to take up the role of pastry chef, and with £500 of her own money and the use of kitchen space at UCB, she bought her first ingredients, designed her packaging and created her brand.

"I also knew I wanted to help young people – a close family member was in care as a child – so I spent time working out the structure and vision of the business."



By ploughing 100% of her profits into social enterprise, she started helping youngsters break into the highly competitive catering industry, collaborating with a network of referral organisations, housing associations, prisons and probation services.

Training is available to 18 to 35-year-olds and the ten-week course is tailored to address their personal barriers to employment, using Miss Macaroon's production kitchen or Prosecco bar to hone their skills. Each of the MacsMAD trainees leave the course with their five-year plan, an up to date CV, extensive interview practice, industry contacts and help to apply for jobs.

Rosie believes her personal reward is seeing young people work confidently and diligently in a pressurised environment; added to that, she knows her customers are also investing in these young people with the purchase of her products. Her work has also been recognised nationally, and she was awarded an MBE in 2019. "It's such a huge honour, not only for me – it's recognition for my whole team and all of the trainees."

BOARD DIRECTOR AT COLMORE BID

Earlier this year Rosie took on her latest challenge, taking up the reins as a new Board Director at Colmore BID working alongside Kate Bailey, Tim



Hall and Victoria Osgood. "I want to ensure that the hospitality businesses in the area are well represented and that we are able to work to support the local community. Birmingham is such a diverse city – with the youngest population in Europe – so I want to champion opportunities for our young people.

"The Commonwealth Games will be incredible for us all and I am excited to be part of such a vibrant time. The whole city can come together to celebrate. For Miss Macaroon, we will be providing key corporate desk drops around the UK to promote the Games – after all, it's a national event and a great opportunity for us to bang the drum outside of the city."

THE FUTURE OF MISS MACAROON

Never one to stand still, Rosie and

her team will unveil two new launches for the brand this summer. They have created exclusive Jasper Ware blue macarons to be served as part of afternoon tea at Wedgwood's Stoke on Trent visitor centre.

Using a unique Pantone matching process, the complex algorithm perfectly matches colour swatches – so much so it even takes in to account the fading that occurs. And there is also an exciting range of flavoured vodkas in the pipeline too ... but that's currently hush hush.

Despite her successes, Rosie remains very much rooted to Birmingham. "The city is well known for its global food offering, and macarons bring another international flavour."

And away from work, what's her favourite bar and restaurant? "Purnells and The Pineapple Club in the Great Western Arcade," she says without hesitating.

Property

Gensler brings a splash of colour to the District



WORLD-RENOWNED ARCHITECTURE FIRM MOVES TO THE HEART OF COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT

Award-winning architecture, design, and planning firm Gensler has relocated its Birmingham office to 4 St Philip's Place, in the heart of the Colmore Business District, allowing the studio to expand after more than doubling in size over the last 18 months.

The new central location places Gensler in close proximity to clients, partners and collaborators.

Designed in-house by Gensler's interiors team, the 3,700 sqft studio is characterised by an open office environment supported by a number of distinct zones, including a series of shared informal spaces, meeting rooms, booths and client areas. Incorporating a high percentage of free address working, focus is given to providing a choice to individuals and teams of where to work. The



workplace strategy clusters teams in 'neighbourhoods', aligned to foster collaboration. Gensler's smart space management system, Wisp, enables flexibility in the studio by supporting desk reservations, check-ins, hot-desk management and wayfinding.

Tariq Shaikh, Managing Director, Gensler, said: "As world-leading workplace strategists and designers, our clients are looking to us to

understand the challenges and opportunities of adopting hybrid working.

"We see this new workspace as a place that responds to what our people need each day. We know that we can't always anticipate future needs – but we can anticipate change and proactively respond. So by making adaptability a functional goal of our design through ensuring reconfigurability, providing as many alternative work settings as possible and giving people the choice of where and when to use these spaces, this will be a place in permanent beta mode – allowing us to continually trial, test and better understand how we work, and most importantly, how we want to work in future."

A bold and playful aesthetic defines the interiors, juxtaposing it with the building and its historic surrounds. The Red Gallery – which speaks to the Gensler brand and showcases its projects and people

– welcomes you into the space. An area for meetings, charrettes, design reviews, collaboration and informal gatherings, it offers a spirited glimpse of what's to be discovered beyond.

In the Observatory, full height, openable windows offer panoramic views of the Grade I listed St Philip's Cathedral and square. With plenty of natural ventilation and daylight, the space functions as a kitchen and 'decompression zone' whilst also providing informal working areas where employees can unwind, regenerate, socialise and enjoy the familiarity of home.

The Workshop is the nerve centre of the studio with open plan workspace, storage, focus space, meeting and collaboration areas, so that employees have a choice and variety of spaces to support their work process.

The Gold Stage with its raised, tiered seating and built-in-storage is a multifunctional and adaptable environment. It provides an alternative work setting – a place for collaborating, focusing or simply socialising. In addition to the high-spec conference rooms with technology geared towards hybrid meetings, the studio also includes two private, acoustically sealed booths for privacy and focus.

The design of the studio encourages health, sustainability and wellbeing with spaces designed to encourage an active work life, movement and interaction. Physical activity is promoted using principles of active design such as adjustable workstations, activity spaces and clustered amenities and equipment.

Gurtake Singh, Principal and Interior Designer added: "Our new home in the city is not just a great quality workplace in the heart of Birmingham but it provides our teams with an opportunity to fully embrace agile working. We wanted to create a non-static workspace with character, diversity and autonomy in order to give our colleagues a good reason to come to the studio. Distilling our culture and values and manifesting that in the design, whilst adding the cosiness and comfort to mimic domestic workspaces has given us a place where we can make a positive impact on our people, clients and the local community."

District offices recognised as the best workplaces in the Midlands

BCO JUDGES COMMEND EXCEPTIONAL FACILITIES

Three Snowhill and PwC at One Chamberlain Square have been recognised as being amongst the best workplaces in the Midlands at the annual British Council for Offices' (BCO) Regional Awards.

The BCO Midlands and Central Awards recognise the region's highest quality developments and those setting the standard for excellence in the office sector across the UK.

Winner of the Commercial Workplace category, Three Snowhill is a Grade A development and part of the largest ever speculative city centre office scheme built outside London.

The BCO judging panel commended the building for delivering an exceptional working environment with an exemplary range of facilities for its occupants and visitors. In particular, praising the emphasis that has been placed on wellbeing facilities, including a gymnasium, treatment rooms, sauna, showers and clothes drying facilities for cyclists, along with cycle storage and electric bike and EV charging points. It is complemented by an impressive arrival experience and office floor plates with excellent views over the city.

One Chamberlain Square in Birmingham city centre continues PwC's workplace

evolution and has won the award for best Fit Out of Workplace. Taking the blank canvas of a Grade A office space, the fit out (pictured inset) has created what PwC describes as a new 'work-home', a distinctive yet highly functional workplace destination for its people, clients and visitors. The BCO judges

felt that the sense of hospitality was evident at both occupier and visitor level, with strong sight lines

across the space and positive wayfinding enabling the visitor to understand the internal geography.

Lee Jones, Partner at Quantem and Chair of the BCO Midlands and Central Judging Panel said:

"This year's entrants not only showcase the very best of

our sector, they also continue to redefine what best practise looks like. We have seen a number of exceptional working environments nominated for the BCO Midlands and Central awards, which clearly demonstrate the continued importance of the office."

Midlands and Central England winners will now compete with those from other regions at the BCO National Awards in October 2022. For more information on the awards and applications, visit the BCO website at www.bco.org.uk



Green light for Three Chamberlain

Birmingham City Council's planning committee has unanimously granted permission for Three Chamberlain Square, a new 10-storey, 185,000 sq ft commercial building, a key part of the second phase of the Paradise masterplan.

Grounded in sustainability and with a unique 'inside-outside' ethos to the workplace, Three Chamberlain Square will be one of the most sustainable commercial buildings located in the city centre. It will be a first for Birmingham in terms of environmental standards, while offering a

unique working setting for occupiers.

It is the fourth commercial building at the estate after One Chamberlain Square, Two Chamberlain Square and One Centenary Way. The residential Octagon tower is also currently under construction on the northern part of the estate, fronting Summer Row.

Designed by award-winning architects Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, Three Chamberlain Square is a key statement of sustainability for the city and aims to be one of the greenest commercial buildings built in the UK post-Covid.

Art & Culture



Burne-Jones masterpieces to get new lease of life

CITY'S ARTS TREASURES UNDERGO CONSERVATION AND 'FUTURE-PROOFING' PROJECTS

Spectacular arts treasures by Birmingham-born Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones can be preserved for future generations after funding was raised to conserve and protect them.

Birmingham Cathedral has been awarded £641,200 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to support an extensive programme of conservation work to the cathedral's remarkable Burne-Jones stained-glass windows.

The project, called Divine Beauty, will see extensive conservation work and a programme of activity and engagement over the next two years at the cathedral.

Meanwhile, Birmingham Museums Trust has raised £50,000 to carefully assess, reglaze and reframe Burne-Jones' stunning *The Star of Bethlehem* – the world's largest

watercolour – which has been on display at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery for 130 years. Funding for the reglazing came from members of the public, The Pilgrim Trust, The Friends of Birmingham Museums, and Tru Vue Inc.

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery partially reopened in the spring of this year with a selection of displays in the Round Room and Industrial Gallery while electrical maintenance work continues safely in other parts of the building.

The museum is expected to reopen fully in 2024 when the newly-glazed Burne-Jones watercolour can be brought out of storage and revealed to a new generation of admirers.

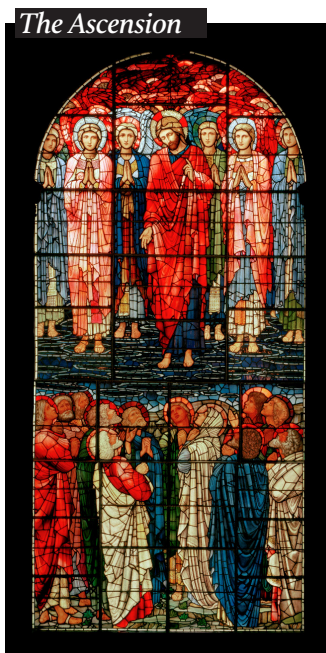
Victoria Osborne, Curator of Fine Art, said: "We're so grateful to all the donors and funders who supported BMT's appeal to conserve and reglaze one of the treasures of Birmingham's collection. The new low-reflect glazing will protect *The Star of Bethlehem* for

the future and will make it easier for visitors to see and enjoy the picture in all its rich colour and detail. We're excited to reveal it again when the Museum fully reopens."

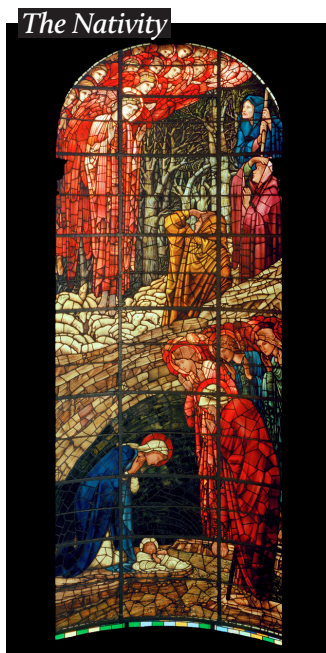
Birmingham Cathedral was built as the parish church of St Philip's over 300 years ago and the four remarkable windows – *The Ascension* 1885, *The Nativity* 1887, *The Crucifixion* 1887, and *The Last Judgement* 1897 – were added between 1885-1897. The windows are some of the most exceptional stained-glass in the world and amongst the best examples of Birmingham artistry in the city. During The Second World War the windows were removed, courtesy of Birmingham Civic Society, and placed in a slate mine in Wales for safekeeping.

Essential conservation work is required to remove the substantial build-up of debris, as well as repair areas of cracking, failed leading and paint loss.

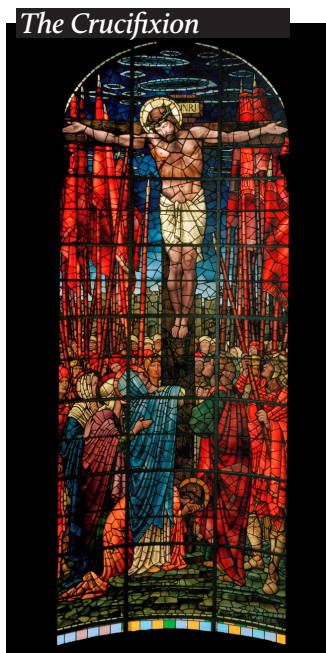
Above: *The Star of Bethlehem* watercolour



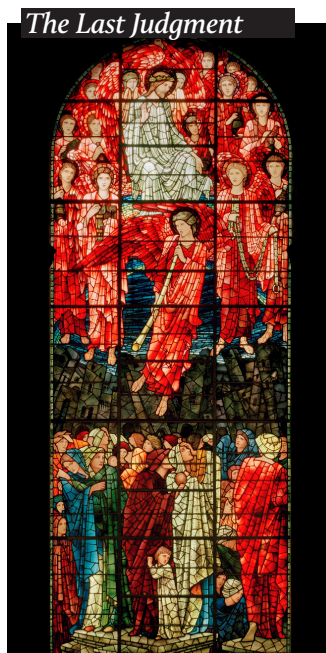
The Ascension



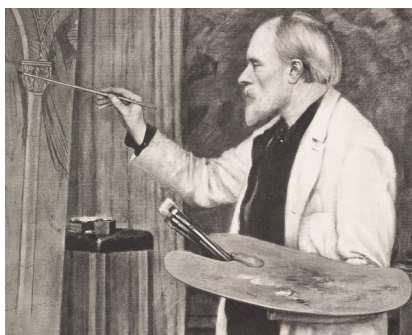
The Nativity



The Crucifixion



The Last Judgment



The unsightly protective grilles on the exterior of the four windows will be replaced with a more sympathetic and bespoke alternative. Other engagement will include performances in the churchyard at the time of the Commonwealth Games. Understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the windows will be improved with a walking trail, guide book, events and films.

The Very Revd Matt Thompson, Dean of Birmingham Cathedral said: "We're delighted that we've received this support thanks to National Lottery players. The windows are a remarkable inspiration to visitors and worshippers from all over the world and we are pleased now to undertake this important and vital step in their preservation."

Above:
 Birmingham
 Cathedral's Burne-
 Jones masterpieces

Far left: Edward
 Burne-Jones

Left: The Cathedral
 glass during an
 inspection

