

Jolife

MAGAZINE

ISSUE
14

As excitement builds for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, we chat to its Chief Creative Officer, **Martin Green CBE**

We take a look at the festivities taking place across the JQ over the winter period.



Starts
19th Nov
until
25th Dec



JEWELLERY QUARTER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Window Trail

CHRISTMAS 2021

Discover the magic of Christmas as you explore over 75 window displays! Snap & tag a photo of your favourite on Instagram using #JQChristmas.



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JQlife

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The Jewellery Quarter Business Improvement District (JQBID) provides a welcoming environment for visitors, keeps the streets clean and safe, and invests in projects to improve the area.



www.jewelleryquarter.net/jqbid

Gearing Up for Festivities



An exciting year ahead

We're about to enter an extremely exciting year for our city as the Commonwealth Games comes to Birmingham. The Jewellery Quarter is set to become a huge part of the games with cultural events, festivals, and even the marathon taking place in the Quarter.

Hear from local resident and Chief Creative Officer for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Cultural Programme, Martin Green, on pages 12-13 - as well as a behind the scenes look at how the Queen's Baton was part-manufactured inside a Jewellery Quarter factory (pages 06-07). This issue, we're also getting ready for Christmas (pages 04-05), talking transport with Cllr Waseem Zaffar (pages 20-21) and meeting a duo who are representing makers from the black community (page 18).

Enjoy reading,

Luke Crane

JQDT Executive Director

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For the latest news from the JQBID, click [here](#) to visit our website and sign up to our newsletter

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What's on In the JQ

The Jewellery Quarter Christmas Lights Switch On

Friday 19 November, 5pm - 7pm

Kickstart the Christmas festivities with the JQ Christmas Lights switch on! Join us for this year's big reveal by a special guest as well as the magnificent fireworks display off the top of the Big Peg. You can enjoy live music, food from Hockley Social Club, and local traders selling drinks at the Golden Square.

Visit the Quarter's Christmas lights

Friday 19 November until January

Explore the JQ and see it sparkle with this year's Christmas lights. Over 100 bespoke jewellery themed lights are set to brighten the streets in the JQ with cozy warm lighting in the Golden Square. The JQ is also home to Birmingham's largest lighting feature - a giant illuminated diamond ring - perfect for that Christmas selfie. And with two 30ft Christmas trees and a further lighting display - new to 2021 - the JQ has become a true winter wonderland this year.



The Christmas Window Trail

Friday 19 November - Saturday 25 December

The JQBID's Christmas window trail is also returning this year with over 75 JQ independents taking part. The trail is a great way to explore the JQ and a fab opportunity to get in the festive spirit. The Christmas Window Trail map can be picked up at local venues, downloaded online, or followed on the Discover JQ app. This year's trail is raising money for Change into Action, an alternative giving scheme supporting specialist charities and street teams working to change the circumstances of rough sleepers. Ways to donate will be highlighted along the trail. The trail is of course celebrating the creativity of the JQ and visitors can enter a competition to win an incredible JQ hamper by voting for their favourite display.

You can find out more about all the JQ Christmas activities [here](#).

The Affordable Panto at the Blue Orange Theatre

Wednesday 24 November - Saturday 11 December

The Blue Orange Theatre's affordable, family panto is flying on a magic carpet into Birmingham this Christmas. Celebrate the theatre's 5th anniversary of their legendary festive fun with their biggest show ever. This year's production of Aladdin will have all the ingredients for a perfect family show including romance, comedy, lots of magical songs, glorious costumes and buckets of audience participation. It is definitely one not to miss.

Book your tickets [here](#)

Christmas Classics at the Catacombs

Thursday 2 December, 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Join the Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project and Voice of the Town Choir for a Christmas celebration in the catacombs circle at Warstone Lane Cemetery. Voice of the Town is a contemporary choir which performs some of the very best material from soul, gospel, RnB, latin/jazz, pop and rock genres, complete with exciting and bespoke arrangements. They'll be bringing us their fantastic versions of all your favourite Christmas Classic songs.

This free event takes place outside so please wrap up warmly. Lighting levels will be low, as the space will be lit with candles and lanterns, so please take extra care when moving around the cemetery. If you have any concerns or access requirements, please email josie.wall@jqdt.org

For more information on the event, please visit the [cemeteries website](#)

Winter Wonderland with Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 11 December, 3pm - 4:30pm

The Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra is back in the JQ with a sparkling programme of family friendly Christmas classics from across the years. Join conductor Jack Lovell-Huckle and the rest of the symphony orchestra at St Paul's Church for an afternoon filled with Christmas joy.

Book your tickets [here](#)

Christmas Music by Candlelight

Friday 17 December - Wednesday 22 December, 7:30pm

The leading UK choir and Early Music ensemble, Ex Cathedra, is coming to St Paul's Church this December. The church will be lit only by candles, which will allow you to experience the choir in a concert of atmospheric sequences of music and readings celebrating the Christmas story in all its guises. Their repertoire ranges from the 12th to the 21st centuries so you can expect a truly diverse experience.

For more information and to book tickets visit the [Ex Cathedra website](#)



The Mince Pie Takeover at Grain & Glass

Saturday 18 December, 1pm - 4pm

For the whisky novices as well as connoisseurs, try a trio of whisky-soaked handmade mince pies with a matching flight of Mackmyra whiskies. The three whisky-soaked mince pies are made by infusing the mincemeat for a number of months allowing the fruit to really soak up the whisky. By the end of the tasting, it might not only be Rudolph who is red-nosed.

The tasting costs £20 and can be booked [here](#)

The Lost Pubs of Birmingham

Sunday 19 December, 11am - 12:30pm

Join photographer, Kevin Thomas, on a stroll around the lost pubs of the JQ. Find the locations of The Pelican, The Salutation, The Gothic, The Duke of York, The Vampire, and The Engin. It is a brilliant opportunity to explore the JQ's rich history and unique buildings, while discovering some of the oldest watering holes in the Quarter.

The tour covers some uneven ground, and stout shoes are recommended. It will also go ahead come rain or shine, so make sure you dress accordingly.

Book your space [here](#)

For all event listings and the full run-down of what's going on in the Jewellery Quarter, download Discover JQ from either the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

Casting a Baton *fit for a Queen*

It is no secret that the Commonwealth Games are arriving in Birmingham next summer and the city is already buzzing with excitement and activity leading up to the multi-sport event. The Queen's Baton Relay is a Commonwealth Games tradition, and when Jewellery Quarter veterans A Wardle & Co was asked to cast the metal pieces for the Queen's Baton design, it was an opportunity hard to pass up.



The team at A Wardle & Co has worked on everything as diverse as casting parts for award winning silversmiths, door handles, tens of thousands of poppies made for Remembrance, precious metal gem set jewellery and notable trophies for big sporting events. Nothing is too unusual for the family metal casting business. So, when Raymont–Osman Product Design approached them to see whether they could cast the metal in the Queen's Baton for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, they of course said yes.

A Wardle & Co was founded in 1953

by Arthur Wardle and is still run by brothers Nick and Alex with their mother Mary. The business started out as jewellery casters for the trade, however in recent years they have diversified the business to incorporate a broad range of projects. That has even included making props for films including various blockbusters such as *The Fast and the Furious*, *Gladiator*, and not long ago three beautiful eggs for Netflix' new film *Red Notice*.

Community Collaboration

The Baton was created in an innovative West Midlands collaboration that fused art, technology, and science. Raymont–Osman Product Design, along with design and development specialists Kajul, both based in Warwickshire, worked with Coventry–based Maokwo, headed up by artist Laura Nyahuye, who each injected their creativity and expertise into the Baton. The technology inside the Baton is the work of BOM (Birmingham Open Media).



prints of the Baton which could be used in place of the wax mould. For the team at A Wardle & Co, it allowed them to work much quicker than they normally would while still producing quality work.

Due to the intricate design of the Baton, they had to work closely together with Raymont-Osman. The design couldn't be cast in one piece, and together they came up with how best to cast parts that could easily be put back together. This meant that the design team would drop off 3D prints daily for all the individual parts, which would be cast the same day.

The Baton was cast using non-precious metals of copper, aluminium, and brass, whilst lining the length of the Baton with a platinum strand, paying homage to Her Majesty the Queen in her Platinum Jubilee year. The cutting-edge technology inside the Baton includes LED lighting, a heart rate sensor, atmospheric sensors, GPS technology and a 360-degree camera.

A Team Effort

Usually, casting metal is a laborious process. A Wardle uses an ancient technique called lost wax casting. The process for making the Baton for the Queen's Baton Relay was slightly different, however. It combined the traditional processes used in the Jewellery Quarter with cutting edge technology based locally. The product designers had created 3D



The team cast everything made of metal for the Baton: from the outer copper leaves to the inner aluminium chassis and lettering, symbols, and badges. It is a magnificent piece of design that the A Wardle & Co team helped bring to life.

A Family Affair

After nearly 70 years in business, the company is part of a close-knit community. A Wardle & Co considers the JQ as one big family where everyone looks out for one another. Some of the people they know from the neighbouring workshops have been in the industry for so long that they can remember when Nick and Alex' grandfather set up the business. A Wardle & Co's roots certainly run deep within the Jewellery Quarter, and they are just the right fit to cast the Queen's Baton.

If you're interested in learning more about A Wardle & Co's work visit their [website](#) and if you want to know more about the Queen's Baton Relay, visit the Birmingham 2022 [website](#)

Guest Column:

JEWELLERY QUARTER LIVING - MORE THAN A TEMPORARY CITY HOME

Philip Jackson: Director, Maguire Jackson – Independent sales and lettings agent



Over 23 years, I have watched the transition from what was mainly bohemian loft living in a city-fringe neighbourhood into an increasingly sought-after Birmingham city centre residential address. Thanks to the combination of low-rise living, the four-storey limit planning rule, a big pool of listed buildings with clever conversions, and specialist wider commercial offerings that increasingly caters to the audience living locally.

We highlight an area that attracts more owner occupiers than anywhere else in the city core;

a domestic audience who are wanting to be actively involved in the community and are increasingly putting down deeper roots to stay longer. Over recent years we have witnessed several sale chains locally, something much more commonly seen in the suburbs.

Our launch later this autumn, of No.1 Legge Lane, will highlight a terrace of nine freehold houses, the largest new residences to be built in the area for over 150 years. Most of the empty manufacturers' premises have now been developed or are in the process. The largest of these is the A E Harris site, which includes the former Baker & Finemore building. I, like many, am eagerly awaiting this construction, named The St Pauls Quarter commencing in the new year. The result will inevitably revitalise this prominent tract of former industrial land.

The investment funds have woken up to the Jewellery Quarter's potential in recent years and acquired the remaining larger sites. These being Hockley Mills scheme on Pitsford Street, the Ludgate Hill car park site acquired by Moda Living, the former BMW garage site and the combination of empty units on Great Hampton Street now being developed by Cordia Blackswan. If Legal & General's success of the fully occupied Whitmore Collection buildings in Newhall Street is the benchmark of rent only development, the local community can only be encouraged.

From the Jewellery Quarter, a brisk ten-minute walk takes you into the Colmore Row and onto New Street Station. There is also increasing evidence of marketing and media firms expanding their presence locally, alongside construction and other consultancies. Relocating to the Quarter means companies can attract and retain good staff members who wish to work flexibly, with no concerns about team welfare when they are working out of traditional hours. With so many once empty sites filling up, the walk into the city centre from the Jewellery Quarter is getting better and better.

Celebrating Ten Years in the JQ

Pickles and Co



You'll find the Pickles and Co team, based on the JQ's Kenyon Street. The salon, which is marking ten years of service this year, continues to serve sleek styling with a core focus on sustainability, a decade on from its initial opening in the Quarter.

We caught up with owner Helen Davis to talk about her time in the JQ and how Pickles and Co plan to further contribute to the community over the next ten years, with the support of NAK hair.

"We started out in a small salon in the Jewellery Quarter and moved five years ago to the salon we have now. We stayed here because of the community. We have made loads of loyal clients and friends in the area," Helen reflects.

"We certainly feel inspired by our surroundings. Our clients have such individual jobs, which encourages us to always be thinking about what we want to be doing next." She adds: "One of our clients designs clothes for Beyoncé, you can't get more inspiring than that!"

Not only does the creative scene and its continued growth add to the amazing appeal of the area, but also, that in spite of this, it never loses its powerful sense of community.

"We love how the JQ is growing. When we moved in, there were a handful of shops, and now it's a buzzing area to be around. We work with Dual Works, Soda Bread, Hard As Nails and many of the jewellers here. If we ever need anything, we always have someone to call."

Over the next ten years, Helen hopes to pay that back in supporting youngsters by giving them a space to be creative with hair in a sustainable way.



"We were recently asked to be a UK flagship salon for NAK hair which is a sustainable Australian brand. Being an ambassador for NAK gives us the opportunity to recycle 80% of all waste we produce and provide vegan and organic products with packaging made from recycled materials. Being able to train with NAK will give us a platform for change within our industry and we are super excited to be part of it!"

Find out more about the services Pickles and Co offer [here](#)

Bite Your Brum

Plant-Based Eats in and Around the Jewellery Quarter

As we celebrate World Vegan Month this November, it seems only right to acknowledge the fabulous foods being served up by our favourite vegan restaurants across the Quarter. There is no truth to the myth that a plant-based diet has to be bland, and here is just the proof.



01



Otto

Otto smashes out some of the best pizza you'll find this side of the city. There are toppings to suit all, but their vegan options are absolutely delicious and the crust is divine dipped in extra virgin olive oil.

Must try: the number 9 with olives, capers, garlic and basil. Even if you're not vegan you'll enjoy this beauty.

02



Tierra

This neighbourhood Mexican restaurant is now open seven days a week and serves up tasty tacos as well as a host of sides and their famous frozen margaritas. There's a rotating selection of vegan dishes, with many being much more interesting than the usual taco offering you'll find elsewhere.

Must try: grab some of the charred padron peppers to start and the tofu wrapped seaweed is a must. Oh yes.





03



Syriana

People often forget about this Brum staple, but there's plenty to like about the family-run restaurant. Offering traditional Syrian and Lebanese food in a relaxed setting, you can enjoy plenty of plant-based options including mezze platters to share.

Must try: order lots of dips to share – the hummus and baba ganoush are particularly good and they'll give you lots of flatbreads to scoop them up.

04



1000 Trades

As well as the natural wines and vast beer selection, at this award-winning bar you'll also find some epic small plates and Sunday lunches come the weekend. There's a plant-based alternative and it's a lovely place to enjoy a lazy weekend.

Must try: the vegetable wellington is made with maple roasted squash, pine nuts and beetroot – so much more than your average vegan roast dinner. Hit the side plates for an epic two-course meal.

05



Itihaas

Serving up beautiful Indian food in an attractive, spacious restaurant, you can enjoy a variety of plant-based options from a broad menu. There's also a happy hour available so you can enjoy two-for-one cocktails at the same time.

Must try: the tarka dhal can be made vegan and makes a delicious main or side dish. Add on the gol gappa for extra joy.



Did you know the Jewellery Quarter is home to **The Vegan Society**? The initiative, which has been going from strength to strength since 1944, is committed to promoting vegan lifestyles for the benefits of people, animals and the environment.

Francine Jordan, of **The Vegan Society** talks about the fantastic plant-based alternatives available in the JQ:

“We really are spoilt for choice when it comes to the number of delicious vegan options available in the JQ. As well as having plenty of places to pick from when it comes to lunch breaks or a bite to eat after work, it also further proves that veganism has become easy and accessible for everyone. It's a great place for vegans, and those looking to cut back on meat and dairy, alike!”

In their own words:

Martin Green CBE, Chief Creative Officer, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

In this issue, we chat with Martin Green CBE, JQ resident and Chief Creative Officer of Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. He gives us a taste of what is to come at what will be the event of the year, and explains why living and working in the city fuels his creative inspiration.



One of the first things you ask people when moving to a new place is ‘Where should I live?’ Considering that I am a member of the creative community, I found out quite quickly that the Jewellery Quarter was a top recommendation. It’s close to everything, it’s friendly and there are great places to eat! It just suits me down to a tee; it is a brilliant place to live.

I’m often found in Saint Kitchen on a weekend morning, or in the other great delis and shops, that I consider to be creative businesses. There’s also a lot of cultural businesses based here such as theatre companies, who I’ve got to know because of my work. It all adds to the vibrancy of the place, the vibrancy we want to put on the world stage at the Commonwealth Games.

It’s not very long to go before the Games kick off! The opening ceremony is in production and the closing ceremony is soon to be too. I hope that we’re going to see something innovative, modern, relaxed and fun, which is also absolutely world class! The Commonwealth Games Federation is open to change and innovation, and to doing things differently. It’s not the Olympic Games; and I mean that, having worked on The London 2012 Summer Olympics. It is known as the friendly games; it’s more relaxed and it is slightly smaller. I’ve enjoyed being able to work on modern concepts and bringing in new technologies.

I hope that it will sweep away those preconceptions people have of Birmingham. And, for the vast majority of global audiences who have never clapped eyes on the city, we will introduce a place they’ll feel compelled to visit, study, work, and invest in. Because ultimately, this is a fantastic global marketing opportunity for the city.

Birmingham has sometimes suffered slightly through its proximity to London, really. I think cities close to London have to fight harder to shout about their identity. But as we all know, Birmingham is an incredibly young city. It’s diverse, it’s creative and it’s inventive. There’s lots of interesting collaborations going on between different forms of creativity and that’s really what we want to put on show.

We also want to show everyone that Birmingham is a real world-class city. So, from the community things we are doing, right up to things we may do with Birmingham Royal Ballet and City of Birmingham Orchestra, we want to be ambitious and showcase the highest quality, because we can. Ultimately it will speak of the creativity and confidence of this place.

Birmingham's geography, its history and its people are totally unique. Sometimes people say, 'How do you make sure things are different?' And I say, 'it is actually very simple. You just need to lean into this place, the people, the history, and the creativity.'

That is why the important thing for me is having a Birmingham and West Midlands-based team run the opening ceremony. It's going to be an amazing, creative advert for Birmingham. Our music director is a local musician and producer who goes by the name of RTKal. We're working with the writer Maeve Clark and executive producer of the opening ceremony, Peaky Blinders creator Steven Knight. We also have Misty Buckley, who curates all of Coldplay's concerts and worked on Stormzy's Glastonbury stage set-up, designing the show.

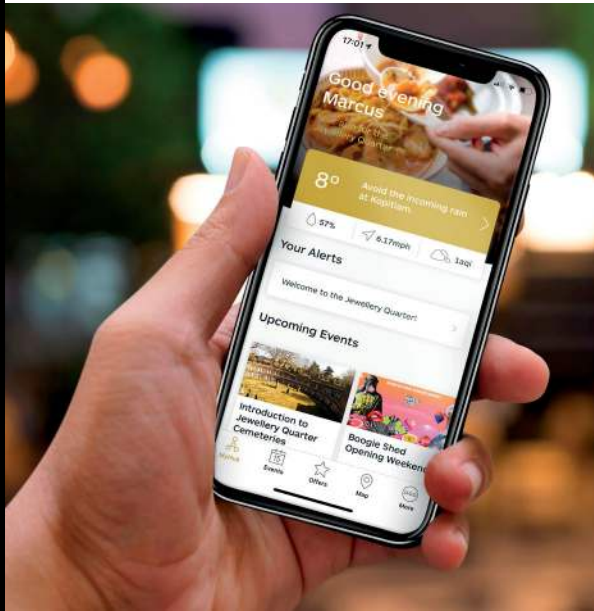
Birmingham 2022 Festival, the cultural event that will run during the Games from mid-March until the end of September, is now all done and in production too. We're going to open with a big show about the stories of the city in Centenary Square. This opener will pick up particularly on stories from places that surround it, like the ramp, Library of Birmingham, Symphony Hall, and Exchange building. We also launched the creative community's programme which focuses on two ends of the scale: great quality, grassroots community work and some real spectacle pieces as well. The main announcement of the whole programme will be in February. And we're excited because there's lots of amazing projects coming together from that, which celebrate the creativity in Birmingham.



To find out more about the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, click [here](#)

Discover the JQ

with our new App



Regardless of whether you live or work in the Jewellery Quarter, or simply love visiting, our new app, Discover JQ, is for you! We're connecting our growing resident base and regular visitors to the JQ's thriving independent scene via a user-friendly platform.

Full to the brim with hundreds of independent businesses, as well as the latest news, exclusive offers and upcoming events, the Discover JQ app is your one stop shop for exploring what's going on in our ever-growing community. So, if you enjoy the JQ, take full advantage of all the area has to offer with an app that is designed to help you discover more about the Quarter.

So, if you haven't yet downloaded the app, or already have it on your phone but need a reminder of its features, keep your eyes peeled to see how the Discover JQ app can help you explore all the independent businesses that the JQ boasts.

All you need right at your fingertips

The app will give you the latest news, weather updates and travel information in the centralised dashboard - MyHub. We have made it as easy as possible for you to keep up to date with the Quarter with the most important information right at your fingertips. MyHub will give you the perfect overview of everything that is happening in the JQ and you can navigate through the different sections that may take your fancy in a breeze.

Through GeoAlerts we will notify you of interesting places and spaces nearby as you walk through the JQ. This means you can easily take advantage of all of the Quarter's glorious offerings and hidden gems.

Exclusive offers for things you love

We have partnered up with local businesses to give you exclusive offers only available to Discover JQ app users. Make exciting dinner plans with mouthwatering offers from local restaurants, uncover the next happy hour, or get inspired by local, artisanal craftspeople when looking for unique gifts for friends and family. Simply locate the offer you want to use on the app and then show your screen to a member of staff in the venue to redeem.

Keep up to date with the latest events

The Discover JQ app is also your definitive guide to what's on in the JQ. Browse the calendar and get inspiration for a great day out in the Quarter. Whether you're looking for a guided heritage walk, workshop on jewellery making or pottery, or searching for fun nights out, as well as quirky theatre performances or heart-gripping gigs, our events listings will keep you entertained for days.

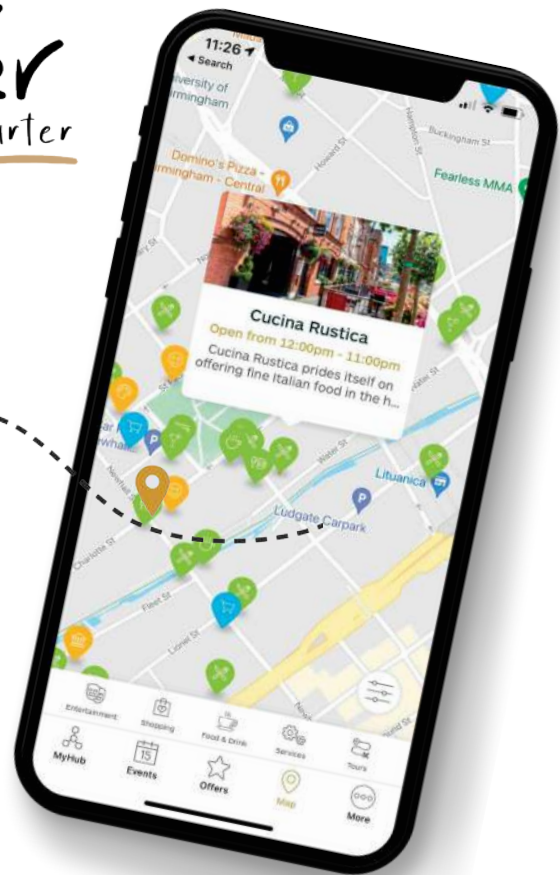
The app is updated daily, so you can be sure to find the latest happenings. So, regardless of whether you live or work in the Quarter, or are visiting for the day, make sure to check it out.

So, if you fancy trying something new or are looking to plan a night out, discover the wealth of independent businesses through the map.

Through the map's tours, you can discover the heritage and history of the Quarter. With easy to follow routes and audio descriptions it's a great way to discover the treasures within the JQ. The self-guided tours vary in length so you can even pop out in your lunch break and learn something new about our neighbourhood.



Discover
Jewellery Quarter



Unlock your JQ with interactive maps

Even though you think you know the JQ like the back of your hand, you might be surprised what you find when opening the app's interactive map. Filter your search by entertainment, shopping, food & drink, services or tours and zoom in to narrow the search down to your particular location.

To uncover the best of the JQ, download the Discover JQ app via the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

JQ Diamonds

An Engagement Ring Guide

With Christmas and Valentine's Day fast approaching you may be thinking about sealing the deal with the love of your life. It's not everyday you're tasked with finding the perfect piece of jewellery for your forever person, so it is a rather daunting process. What style is best? What carat is appropriate? What metal should I go for?

There is a lot to think about, so we asked JQ Diamonds and sister store Sonny's Jewellers for a comprehensive guide to shopping for the right ring. With over 50 years' experience crafting bespoke jewellery in the heart of the JQ, they were just the team for the job.

Ring Style

There is an endless list of ring styles available so definitely do some research beforehand as you may feel spoilt for choice! Take note of the jewellery your partner already wears. This could be a good time to get tight-lipped family and friends involved for their opinions.

Some of the most popular ring styles are Solitaire, Halo and Three Stone.

Solitaire

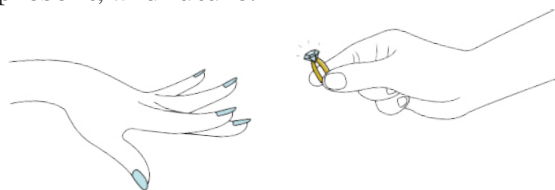
The solitaire is a classic and conventional option. Its setting holds a single diamond. It is an incredibly popular style.

Halo

The halo setting holds one centre stone surrounded by a circle of smaller diamonds.

Three Stone

This style is also known as a trilogy ring. It has a deep meaning for those who are a little more sentimental. The stones represent the past, present, and future.



Metal Choice

The most important thing when considering the right metal choice, is simply the person's preference.

We'll make it a little easier:

Platinum

Platinum is the most durable option for a ring. It has a naturally white colour which means it won't fade like other pieces can. Thanks to its strength, weight, and colour, it is the metal most likely to stand the test of time. Due to its array of qualities, it also has the highest value of the metals listed.

White Gold

This metal is the most popular choice for engagement rings. Due to its striking white colour, it is one of the best choices for allowing diamonds to stand out.

Yellow Gold

This is a very traditional choice and is perfect for someone looking for an elegant, classic ring that will never go out of style.

Rose Gold

This option has become much more popular in recent years, making it the most modern choice. If your other half has a unique style, this is the one for them!

Diamonds are Forever

When it comes to purchasing your diamonds, always remember to consider the four Cs. Carat, colour, cut and clarity.

Carat

This is a measurement of weight, not perceived size. Although the larger the carat, the larger the diamond generally is.

Colour

This is the evaluation of the absence of colour. The clearer the diamond, the higher the value. The highest colour grade is D which is the whitest. Z has the most colour presence. Sonny's recommends aiming between a D – J, if you can.

Cut

The cut grade refers to the way the chosen diamond interacts with light. The more accurate the cut, the brighter the diamond will appear.

Clarity

A test for clarity identifies any blemishes within the stone. This is tested under a magnification loupe, as some are too small for the human eye to see! The more blemishes, the lower the quality.



S

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Here are some of the most popular shapes to choose from:

Round Brilliant Cut

This simple design is the best option for maximum sparkle and is the most popular diamond shape.

Princess Cut

A square shaped diamond with a modern flair.

Emerald Cut

For someone who loves a statement piece, this design gives outstanding clarity over most other shapes.

Cushion Cut

A square cut with rounded corners. Classic with a modern edge.

Pear Cut

A teardrop shaped diamond with a modern flair.

Heart Shape Cut

The choice for a true romantic. A unique shape that makes for an eye-catching alternative to more common cuts.

Should you need further guidance or advice on finding just the right ring, head to **JQ Diamonds** to find out more! Alternatively, take a look at its sister store **Sonny's Jewellers**.

Introducing Greenwood Presents

Deborette Clarke, founder of B18 Leather and Janet Douglas, of Feed My Creative, are the two creative heads behind Greenwood Presents, a business they started in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement as a way of proactively supporting the Black community. Both coming from artistic backgrounds respectively, Janet and Deborette met through working in the JQ and established Greenwood Presents to promote local businesses and give them a space to sell. They held their first showcase on September 25, 2021 at Jewellery Quarter's Iron House.



Left: Deborette Clarke, right: Janet Douglas

Greenwood Presents takes its name from Greenwood in Tulsa, Massachusetts — a prominent self-sufficient Black neighbourhood that unfortunately suffered extreme racism and tragically lost members of its community through the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921. The community was home to over 600 established businesses, including libraries, a hospital, restaurants and a bank. With Greenwood Presents creating a space for Black small-business owners to showcase their work, it pays homage to the community.

The first showcase was a gleaming success, providing a space for 12 local Black-owned businesses to network and engage with other members of the community, as well as those outside. For Janet and Deborette, it was also vital to ensure the event was as inclusive

as possible. “We wanted to have people attending that you wouldn’t usually see at a Black business market”, Janet says.

“We curated it purposely so we could have a good mix of businesses that are open to everyone.”

Both Janet and Deborette come from teaching backgrounds, with Deborette as a teacher in art and design and Janet in textiles, so for them it’s key that Greenwood Presents offers a space to learn — particularly about their culture. “We’re very much about educating people about what they want to know,” Deborette says. “We want it to be a safe space where you’re not going to be judged.” For both, having a place where attendees can ask questions relating to Black culture or societal issues

is incredibly important, and they even had someone at the showcase talk about Afro-Caribbean hair.

“The only way you will learn is by asking. We wanted to have somewhere you could ask those questions.”

In terms of the next steps for Greenwood, it’s no surprise that Janet and Deborette have a lot of ideas up their sleeves. Though they’re keeping the details under wraps for the time being, you can expect to see something ‘bigger and better’ as Greenwood establishes itself even further.



To find out more about Greenwood Presents, check out their [website](#) or [Twitter page](#).

JQ Cemeteries

A Retrospective

As the JQ Cemeteries project comes to an end, Josie Wall, Activities Programme Manager for the Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project, reflects on the achievements and activities over the past couple of years.

The restoration work in Key Hill and Warstone Lane Cemeteries started in July 2019 and was completed in August this year, having experienced some delays due to Covid disruptions. The works brought huge improvements to both cemeteries including new railings around Warstone Lane, catacomb repairs on both sites and improvements to the pathways and drainage, which finally made the permanent puddle in Key Hill a thing of the past!

One of the most popular parts of the work has been the creation of a new Garden of Memory in Warstone Lane. The garden is on the site of the former chapel which was demolished after World War II bomb damage. It has become a lovely hub for the community – a space for events but also a great place to stop for lunch or chat with friends.

The Activities Programme was just building up steam when the pandemic hit in March 2020, and so also experienced a lot of disruption, but we are lucky to have been able to run outdoor events (when safe to do so) that were very much in demand. It also provided a unique opportunity for the local community to connect with the cemeteries as green spaces, as the many photos taken on daily walks show.

The Activities Programme has aimed to remind people that the Victorians built the cemeteries, not just as a space to honour the dead, but also as a place for the living – to walk and picnic, to learn about art and trees and to be inspired by their Birmingham forebears. We have encouraged

all those things with guided tours, nature walks, art workshops, theatre, music, film and so much more. We've partnered with local businesses, residents and community groups and been astonished by the love and support. We have enjoyed welcoming everyone from three-year-old budding gardeners from Old Fire Station Nursery and key worker kids from Jewellery Quarter and City Academies during lockdown, to Birmingham Blitz survivors – and everyone in between!

As the project draws to a close, we'd like to take the opportunity to express our gratitude. Thank you to our funders the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Birmingham City Council and the Jewellery Quarter Development Trust. But also, to everyone who has supported us or visited the cemeteries over the last two years. The cemeteries are yours to enjoy – thank you for helping us look after them.



Read more about the JQ Cemeteries project [here](#).

Navigating Change

An Update on JQ Transport from Councillor Waseem Zaffar

Over the past year we've seen the way we travel to and within the Jewellery Quarter transform. With the removal of free parking, the introduction of the Clean Air Zone and road closures, it can be hard to keep up. We catch up with Councillor Waseem Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, to help you navigate the changes that are happening in the Quarter.



It's been an interesting year for travel in the JQ. What other changes or initiatives can Jewellery Quarter community and visitors expect over the next six months?

Introducing the Clean Air Zone is part of a bigger plan to reduce traffic within this area (inside the Middleway ring road), whilst retaining and improving access for public transport and active travel – things like walking, cycling and scooting.

In 2020 we made some temporary changes around Newtown Row and Summer Hill Road and we'll be making these permanent soon,

with a few improvements such as creating a pedestrian and cycle zone on Albion Street outside the Jewellery Quarter Academy. This will mean that the main route into the Jewellery Quarter for private vehicles will be via the B4100, Great Hampton Street, with Warstone Lane - another option off the Middleway.

We also have plans to make the pop-up cycle route on Graham Street, Legge Lane, Carver Street and over the Middleway towards City Hospital a permanent fixture. Look out for public consultation on that route in November.

We recently completed a review of the Jewellery Quarter Controlled Parking Zone, and will be creating different uses for the current on-street parking. This includes permit holder bays for residents, park and pay by phone bays for visitors and a new blue badge holder space on Summer Hill Terrace by the Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

How will Birmingham City Council make it easier for visitors and residents to travel to and within the Jewellery Quarter?

The Jewellery Quarter benefits from being a well-connected area of the city, with lots of sustainable transport options available to commuters and visitors – including a Metro route, several bus services and rail routes.

The Birmingham Transport Plan, which was recently approved by our Cabinet, sets the tone for the future of Birmingham's transport. This is something that we have been working on for some time and is the next step on Birmingham's journey to becoming a greener and healthier city.

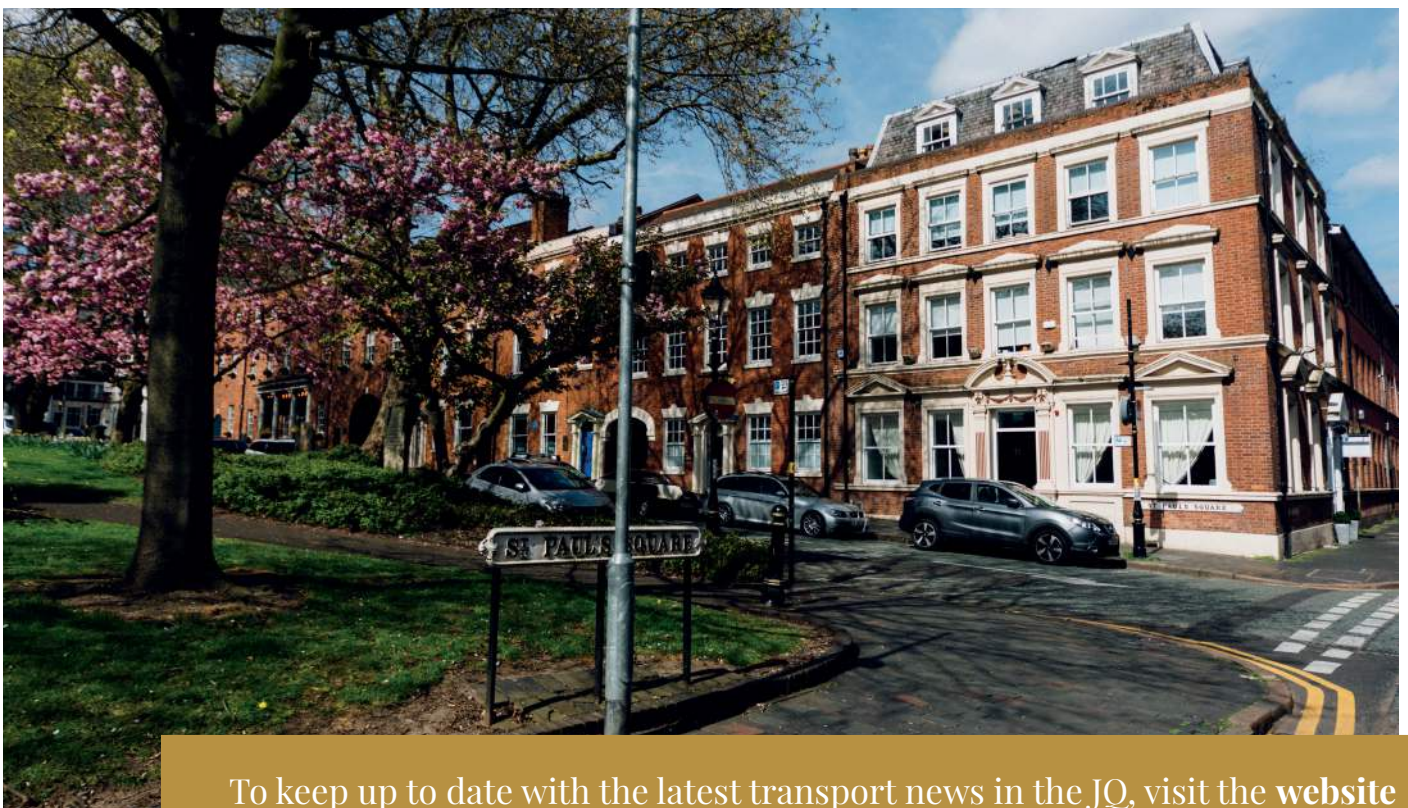
The climate emergency should set the pace for us to make these changes now – before it's too late. The Transport Plan will help shape transport projects and policies in Birmingham for the next ten years – supporting the delivery of a fully integrated, high quality, public transport system. It will also help us to prioritise road space to create safer environments for walking and cycling, especially in places like the Jewellery Quarter with its thriving independent shops and hospitality businesses.

Most importantly, it will serve a future Birmingham. One that is better for everyone to live and work in, irrespective of age, disability, or income.

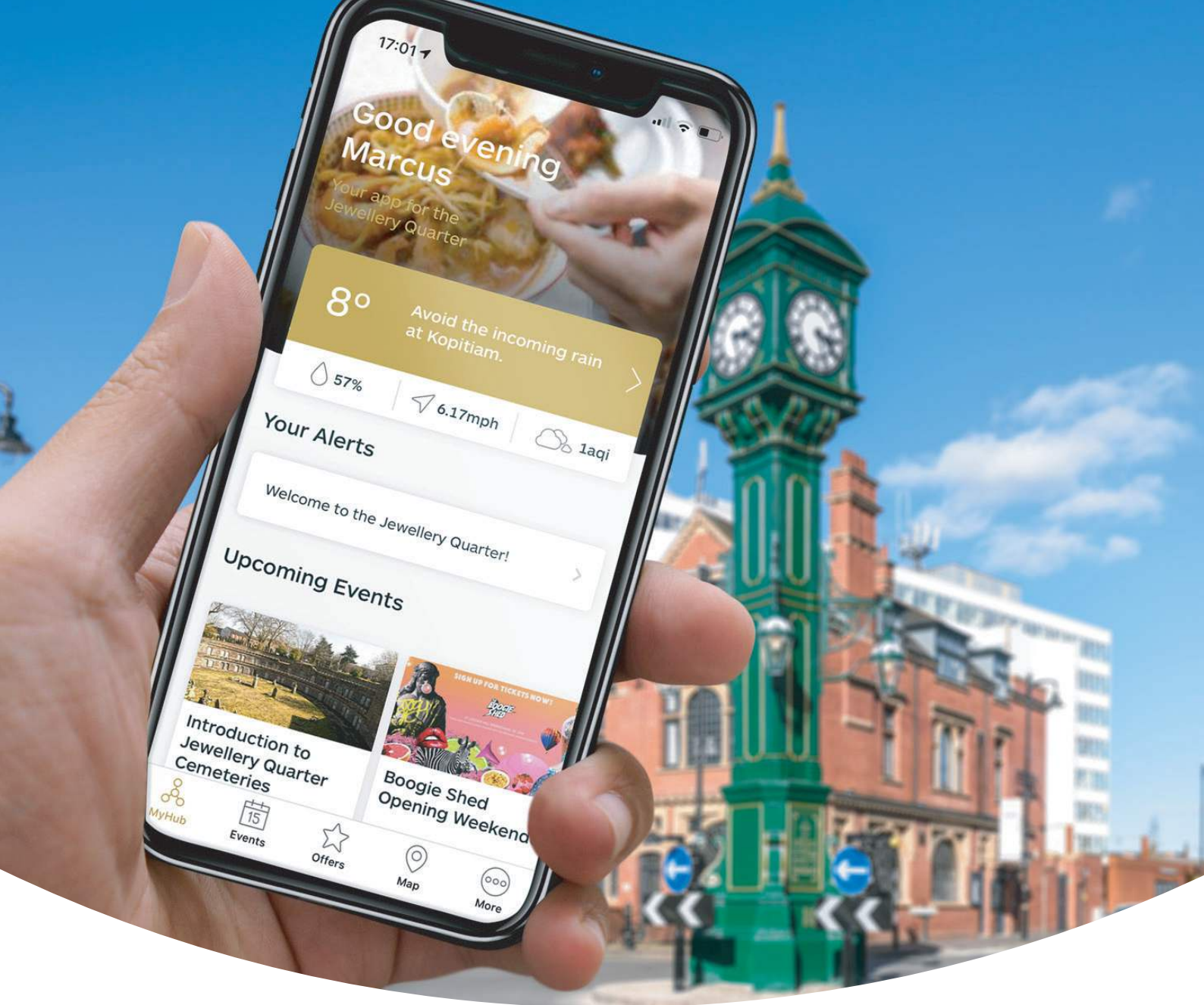
With a lot of the on-street parking becoming residential permit parking, can you confirm that Vyse Street car park will continue to operate and won't be closed by Birmingham City Council?

There are no plans to close the multi-storey car park on Vyse Street in the near future. However, one of the key principles in the Birmingham Transport Plan is to look at parking in the city and use it as a means to manage demand for travel by car and encourage people to make more sustainable journeys. Eventually, we will need to review all our Council-owned car parks in the City and see where we could be putting land to more productive use.

Birmingham is on a journey – we need to fundamentally change the way people and goods move around the city in order to improve our air quality, reduce congestion and achieve our climate change targets. We'll be consulting with local people every step of the way – keep an eye on our website and social media for regular updates.



To keep up to date with the latest transport news in the JQ, visit the [website](#)



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