

JO Life

Issue 9 - Spring 2020



JEWELLERY QUARTER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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JEWELLERY QUARTER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

All information correct at time of publication.

Hello from the JOBID

Who would have thought six months ago that we'd be talking about life in a pandemic?

Since then, new habits have been formed, new phrases acquired (hands up who actually knew what furlough was a few months ago?), and new apps downloaded. We've become experts in organising Zoom meetings and hosting 'House Parties' and have mastered the art of always keeping 2m apart. We're also exercising more to ensure we don't lose out on our one bit of 'outside time' each day and have reaffirmed our gratitude to our amazing NHS and key workers.

So, just as we've adapted to our brand new quarantined way of living, it's just as important that we don't lose touch with our community and the places that we love to visit and explore.

It's no secret that the Jewellery Quarter is one of the most unique areas of Birmingham. It's probably a word that's overused, but in times like this, its uniqueness makes it exceptionally strong when fighting against adversity. Slightly detached from the city centre, a hub of independents, professional services and attractions have come together in recent weeks to fight against COVID-19, with the Jewellery Quarter's community spirit greater than it's ever been.

So instead of pausing JQ Life and resuming production once 'normality' returns, just like our fellow JQ businesses we've decided to continue, go digital, and use this as an opportunity to showcase our amazing community — celebrating incredible businesses doing incredible things during the hardest of times.

So turn the digital pages, and read about how you can still drink your favourite cocktails, how you can still eat at your favourite restaurant, and how you can take part in your weekly yoga class. Download activities for the little ones, follow a recipe from a JQ favourite, or learn a new skill. Our special edition also includes financial and legal advice for businesses and a guest column from the National Association of Jewellers.

In this new virtual world, power up your laptop or tablet, get yourself a cuppa (we won't judge on the contents of the cup), and get ready to browse through this very special edition of JQ Life.



CLEAN TEAM UPDATE

After a brief hiatus, the Clean Team are back on the streets of the JQ, addressing issues such as fly-tipping and graffiti, as well as general litter picking. Their presence in the neighbourhood has allowed the JQBID to check up on closed premises on behalf of owners, who are isolating further away from their businesses.

AMBASSADORS UPDATE

The Ambassadors were getting ready to hand out information about our events and distribute Issue 8 of JQ Life, but have had to re-focus their time since working from home.

With the extra desk time, they've been updating our databases, answering queries from businesses regarding COVID-19 resources, and liaising with the Clean Team to resolve issues on the ground in the Jewellery Quarter.

JQ FESTIVAL UPDATE

It is with a heavy heart that we decided to cancel this year's JQ Festival. The health and well-being of the community must always come first, and with the extraordinary situation regarding COVID-19, we were unfortunately left with no choice other than cancelling this year's festivities.

EVENTS UPDATE

Our events calendar has been drastically altered in the wake of COVID-19. The popular Great British Spring Clean campaign has been re-scheduled for September. The British Tourism & Travel Show that the team were due to attend in March has also been rescheduled to next year. Other cancelled events such as the JQDT Members Meeting, the JQBID Social and the BID Levy Payer's Dinner have yet to be re-scheduled, but we are hoping to bring as many of them as possible back in some form this year.

ARGENT CENTRE UPDATE

Restoration works have started at the Argent Centre and whilst there will be some delays due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, we look forward to seeing the building's restoration. The repair works will be documented through a series of photographs and a time lapse film, which will be showcased on the JQTH website as the project progresses.

CHAMBERLAIN CLOCK UPDATE

Planned works to the Chamberlain Clock have unfortunately been postponed due to COVID-19. The project will be resumed as soon as possible, and a new timeline announced when it has been agreed with Birmingham City Council. We're looking forward to seeing this historic landmark restored to its former glory soon!

CEMETERIES PROJECT UPDATE

The capital works in the cemeteries is continuing as planned with contractors taking extra precautions to keep staff and the public safe. The cemeteries remain an open and welcoming space for all JQ residents to use for daily walks whilst practicing social distancing guidelines. Why not take the '[Nature Detective's Activity Pack](#)' on your next cemeteries walk and see what you can spot along the way! Share your discoveries online with [@JQCemeteries](#). Keep an eye out for the brand-new cemeteries website launching at the end of May at [cemeteries.jewelleryquarter.net](#).

ADOPT A STATION UPDATE

Unfortunately, RHS Chelsea 2020 was sadly cancelled, meaning we won't be exhibiting at one of the UK's most prestigious shows this year. However, we're hopeful that our place will be secured for 2021 meaning our exhibit - that highlights how to tackle pollution in inner-city environments - will continue as planned, just 12 months later.

Our other community projects inside the Jewellery Quarter station are currently on hold, but will resume once it is safe to do so.

Stay Creative

THE JEWELLERY QUARTER IS A HUB OF INNOVATION, HOME TO A WEALTH OF CREATIVES SHARING THEIR TALENTS ACROSS ALL SECTORS. WHETHER ART, DESIGN, MUSIC OR CRAFTS SPARK YOUR INTEREST, THERE IS A WHOLE HOST OF VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES TO GET INVOLVED IN OVER THE COMING MONTHS...

JOIN THE HIVE

The team at The Hive are eager to keep crafting while its doors are temporarily closed, and in the spirit of keeping people connected in crafts they're sending out awesome packs free of charge. To date, participants have received kits for jewellery making, glass jar decoupage and copper shim bookmark making. Over the coming weeks, the group will be sending out a mix of physical and online activities for children to get involved too! See their little faces light up as they take their hands to pom-pom garlands, macrame and more. Alternatively, get in touch for a PDF filled with family-friendly projects you can work on together. Don't forget to share your achievements with them on their social media pages using the #KeepWellKeepCrafting to inspire others to do the same.

Contact beinspired@thehive.rmlf.org.uk for more information on how to get involved.

FOR DIAMOND ADVICE FROM THE NAJ

We can't talk about creativity without a nod to all of the wonderful jewellers that continue to shape the essence of the JQ to this day. Luckily, the National Association of Jewellers are hosting a hugely informative selection of free webinars with the most inspiring names in jewellery design and business; they'll be sharing their knowledge, guidance and thoughts on the latest developments affecting the industry. There is even an option to join a virtual coffee break on Monday and Wednesday mornings to talk with fellow creators and a member of the NAJ team. This is a perfect chance to share thoughts and ideas - a must to keep connected during this time! In addition, the website is an excellent place for those in the industry to access the latest news, free resources and information on funding, as well as activities to stay creative.

To find out more, visit naj.co.uk/jewellersupportnetwork



GET CRAFTY WITH THE CRAFTS COLLECTIVE

The Crafts Collective has been busy compiling creative kits for those who are using this time to get crafty and create pieces to make their home a haven. There is a selection of projects available via the website for you to get stuck into. Such kits include paper cut bell jars, wreaths and tin embossing, to name a few. We particularly love the Birmingham Skyline Paper Cut Template, which will bring a little bit of the city inside.

To grab yourself a kit, head to thecraftscollective.co.uk

MAKE SWEET MUSIC WITH GUITAR LESSONS BIRMINGHAM

Many of us have thought about learning a new instrument but just haven't found the time with the busyness of modern life. While you may have a little spare time, it is worth looking into Guitar Lessons Birmingham's offering of online sessions for a range of instruments including piano, drums, bass, vocals and guitar. Choose whether you want to take part in exams for your chosen instrument, or learn just for fun and a little relaxation. The talented team even offers a free trial lesson to ensure that it is the right fit for you! The independent music school teaches all ages and stages, so even little ones can begin their learning journey too.

To find out more and book your session in, go to www.facebook.com/guitarlessonsbingham/

GET SEW-CIAL WITH SEW CONFIDENT

Sew Confident is offering numerous ways to stay creative from the comfort of your own home. Join a virtual sewcial for some friendly chit chat over a cup of tea (or glass of wine!) and your latest project. Or sign up for a workshop where you'll be sent supplies (if required) and learn to produce full items of clothing and homeware over a virtual call. Alternatively, check out the online shop where you can buy mini-kits to pass some time and hone your skills. Be sure to check out Sew Confident social channels too for tips, the latest timetables and finished products. Who knows? Maybe soon you'll be sharing yours. Make sure to use the #CreateWhileYouIsolate hashtag if you do.

To take part, visit sewconfident.co.uk/sewing-classes-in-birmingham

Get crafty with The Hive, Sew Confident and the Crafts Collective at JQ at Home on June 13. More information can be found here: jewelleryquarter.net/jq-at-home

Stay Active

WITH WORK AND LIFE PATTERNS DRASTICALLY ALTERED, MANY ARE STRUGGLING TO STAY ACTIVE DURING THESE TIMES. LUCKILY, IN THE JQ, MANY GYMS AND TRAINERS ARE DEDICATING THEIR TIME TO KEEPING YOU ACTIVE.

YOGA HAVEN

Yoga Haven, who have a studio in the JQ, are offering its members online workshops to help aid them in their ongoing yoga classes. With studios in London, Brighton and Birmingham, Yoga Haven have a team of experienced tutors, ready and waiting to help you. If you're interested in improving your flexibility, then this is the perfect opportunity to start.

Improve your flexibility with Yoga Haven [here](#).

THE PRETTY SWEATY STUFF

The Pretty Sweaty Stuff is yoga with a twist. Lisa, who runs The Pretty Sweaty Stuff, takes a 'modern' approach to yoga, incorporating strength and flexibility drills into her classes. Lisa is hosting YouTube videos and is also offering longer sets to people on a donation basis.

Find out more about The Pretty Sweaty Stuff [here](#).

KAIZEN CENTRE

The Kaizen Centre offers an array of classes; from mixed martial arts to yoga, body conditioning to rehabilitation, they have it all. The impact of COVID-19 hasn't stopped the coaches at the Kaizen Centre, and they are offering online classes for all their members. If you're looking to spend downtime learning a new skill, or getting into shape, then it would be well worth enquiring to see what's available.

Check out what the Kaizen Centre offers [here](#).



HENRIETTA STREET GYM

This JQ-based gym is offering weekday classes to all their members via Zoom. The classes have been catered for all abilities and have been designed to strengthen connective tissues and improve muscle tone.

Check out more about the Henrietta Street Gym's classes [here](#).

SMR FITNESS

SMR Fitness is another JQ business offering its members online workshops during this difficult time. A boutique fitness gym based on Northampton Street, they offer tailor-made workout routines, and pride themselves on getting to know you to help you reach your full potential.

Find out how a tailor-made workout routine could work for you [here](#).

JQ WALKS

If workouts aren't your thing, why not discover more of the JQ with some planned walks around the historic streets? The Charm Bracelet Trail and the Findings Trail are two walks that can take you all around the JQ and can help you really take in all the history that the Quarter offers. If you're looking for a bit of greenery, then why not take a walk through the JQ cemeteries? Warstone Lane Cemetery and Key Hill Cemetery are located within walking distance of each other and have been a place of rest for Brummies since the 19th century.

LOOKING FOR A WORKOUT YOU CAN DO IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME? HAVE A GO AT THIS ROUTINE FROM THE PIT GYM AND GET YOURSELF SWEATY!



THE PIT GYM

Stay active with The Pretty Sweaty Stuff and Kaizen Centre on Saturday June 13. Read more here: jewelleryquarter.net/jq-at-home

1

**20 jumping jacks
20 press ups
20 squats
Repeat 3 times**

2

**20 burpees
20 jumping lunges
20 dips
Repeat 3 times**

3

**20 squat jumps
20 shoulder taps
20 bicycle kicks
Repeat 3 times**

Eat Local

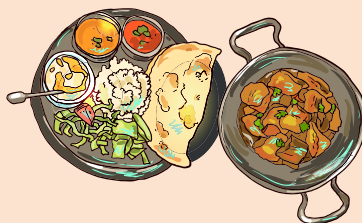
FANCY SOME INDIAN SPICE IN YOUR LIFE? WHAT ABOUT A BIT OF JERK CHICKEN? MAYBE A LIGHT BITE IS WHAT YOU'RE AFTER? WHILST RESTAURANTS IN THE JEWELLERY QUARTER MIGHT NOT BE TAKING GUESTS AT THE MOMENT, MANY ARE STILL TAKING ORDERS FOR YOU TO ENJOY AT HOME. HERE'S A ROUND-UP OF SOME JQ FAVOURITES YOU CAN STILL SUPPORT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PLUS A WONDERFUL RECIPE TO MAKE AT HOME.



DEVON HOUSE

Based in the heart of the Jewellery Quarter, Devon House is still delivering its amazing, traditional Jamaican dishes right to your door. With a wide array of dishes cooked with natural herbs and spices, Devon House produces some of the most mouth-watering dishes around. Try their unique curried lamb, a fine cut of mutton simmered in a rich homemade curry sauce.

Discover the Jamaican delights for yourself [here](#).



VICEROY TANDOORI

You'll find Viceroy Tandoori on Icknield Street, creating a beautiful aroma of Indian dishes. If Tandoori is your thing, then Viceroy Tandoori is a top choice to banish your hunger. If you haven't tried their Tandoori Mixed Grill, then you're missing out. Viceroy Tandoori is offering delivery and collection 5 days a week.

Find out more about Viceroy Tandoori [here](#).



OTTO

Tucked away on Caroline Street, Otto serves delicious wood fired pizzas with a range of fresh toppings available. The restaurant also makes their own dough and mozzarella, as well as sourcing their ingredients from both Britain and Italy. Otto are offering delivery of their amazing pizzas, as well as their garlic bread, flatbreads and desserts.

Check out their menu [here](#).



1000 TAKEOUTS

With a temporary name change, 1000 Trades has become 1000 Takeouts during these trying times. Offering a set menu to the public for collection or delivery, 1000 Takeouts, located on Frederick Street is offering burgers, burritos and tandoori fish and chips. A perfect selection for all members of your household.

Discover 1000 Takeouts [here](#).



HEN AND CHICKENS

On the corner of Henrietta Street and Constitution Hill, you'll find Hen and Chickens, a gastro-pub that serves some amazing Indian inspired foods. Hen and Chickens is available for delivery so you can enjoy their amazing spicy dishes at home. Their mixed grill is one of the best the JQ offers and is well worth a try.

Find more about Hen and Chickens [here](#).



THE VANGUARD

Located above 1000 Trades, The Vanguard is the UK's first cocktail and mead bar. Perhaps this fermented honey and water beverage is something new you could try whilst in lockdown? The Vanguard are offering both mead and their phenomenal cocktails as part of a collection and delivery service.

Find out more about the fantastic selection [here](#).

DARK CHOCOLATE JEWEL BAR RECIPE

BY [THE BRUTALLY HONEST BAKERY](#)

As a free-from bakery, The Brutally Honest Bakery don't use dairy, eggs, gluten or nuts in any of its products. They believe that a restricted diet doesn't have to mean a restricted palate and so have developed a range of deliciously indulgent Big Fat Slabs for everyone to enjoy. Their slabs are sold in cafés and coffee shops throughout the West Midlands and beyond, and can now even be enjoyed at home through its postal and local delivery services. The Brutally Honest Bakery has revealed the recipe to its Dark Chocolate Jewel Bar for you to try and re-create at home.

Ingredients:

Wet mix:

- Dairy and soya free butter - 135g
- Soft brown sugar - 135g
- Golden syrup - 40g

Dry Mix:

- Gluten-free oats - 330g

Chocolate Topping:

- Dark Chocolate - 135g (at least 70% cocoa)
- Dairy and soya free butter - 55g
- Golden syrup - 40g
- Edible jewels and gems - 20g (rough chopped cranberries, mixed orange and lemon peel)



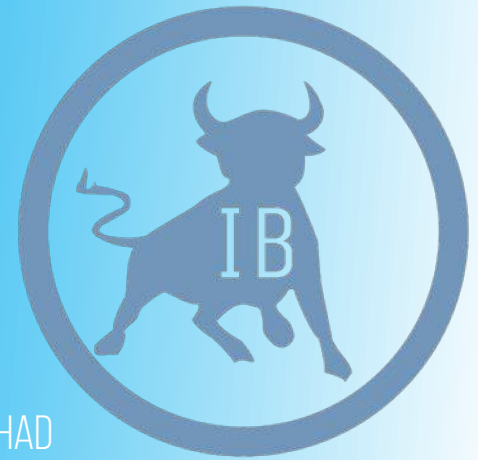


Method:

- 1.** Melt the wet ingredients (butter, brown sugar and golden syrup) in a saucepan over a low heat
- 2.** Measure out the ground oats into a bowl
- 3.** Chop a third of the oats to a rough powder using a food processor
- 4.** Once the wet ingredients have melted, add the oats and wet mix together and stir well
- 5.** Put the mixture into a lined tray (we've used a L30cm by W20cm tray)
- 6.** Bake for 9 minutes at 170 degrees
- 7.** Once baked, remove from the oven and leave to cool on a rack
- 8.** While the base is cooling, carefully melt the topping ingredients (reserving 10% of the chocolate) over a bain-marie
- 9.** Once melted, take the bain-marie off the heat and stir in the reserved chocolate until melted to create a glossy chocolate coating
- 10.** Pour the chocolate topping over the base and smooth with a spoon
- 11.** Before the chocolate is completely set, decorate with an assortment of edible jewels and gems. Our favourites are mixed orange and lemon peel and chopped up cranberries.
- 12.** Leave to set in the fridge for 30 minutes before cutting into 8 or 10 slabs depending on how much of a Big Fat Slab you are after!
- 13.** Enjoy with a cup of tea or coffee!

Stay Independent

THE JEWELLERY QUARTER'S COLLECTIVE OF INDEPENDENT EATERIES, SHOPS AND SERVICES ONLY ADD TO THE DISTRICT'S CHARM. THOSE WANTING TO SUPPORT SMALL, HOMEGROWN BUSINESSES HAVE NEVER HAD TO VENTURE FAR TO FIND FABULOUS FOOD, DRINKS, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.



Independent Birmingham was born in celebration of the business owners who strive to create and provide quality products for those who live in and visit the city. Since then, the JQ has been a prominent feature within city guides provided by IB, and to this day Joe Schuppler, founder of the initiative, continues to shine a light on the JQ which has become well-known for its independent scene.

In its current form, IB acts as the ultimate guide for those wanting to enjoy all of what these companies have to offer, and as an app which offers discounts across hundreds of bars, restaurants, stores, cafes and services, all for just £1.99 per month.

Download, sign up, and pay this small subscription fee to access discounts at over 125 independent city venues, safe in the knowledge you'll be supporting the local economy and community, [here](#).

Check all the wonderful JQ independents that feature on the app - a reminder of the fantastic venues you'll soon be able to take advantage of.

THE WILDERNESS

Famed for its take on modern fine dining. Phenomenal plates and cocktails served to a rock'n'roll soundtrack.

For more head to www.wearethewilderness.co.uk/

THE INDIAN BREWERY

A vibrant venture, boasting a perfect combination of flavourful Indian street-food servings with excellent local brews.

Click [here](#) to explore

THE WOLF

With a lengthy menu to pore over, you'll find something to enjoy from this bar's superb selection of craft beers. Currently offering a takeaway service.

Explore the site at www.thewolfbirmingham.co.uk

MINIMA

This contemporary city store offers ultra-stylish home furnishings, accessories and lighting. The interior-savvy team knows its stuff and will be happy to provide you with advice on decor and trends. Currently offering an online store [here](#).



CHECK OUT THE OTHER JQ INDIES ON THE APP:



The Whisky Club



40 St Pauls



Bloc Hotel



The Vanguard at 1000 Trades



The Quarterworkshop



The Rose Villa Tavern



The Chocolate Quarter



Henrietta Street Gym



Saint Pauls House



1000 Trades



Saint Kitchen



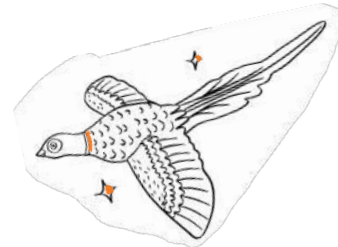
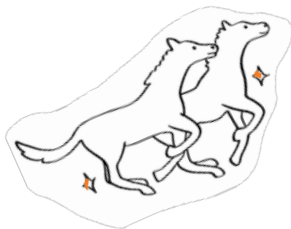
Arch 13



Connolly's

Kids Corner

The Jewellery Quarter is full of organisations that provide activities for your little ones to do at home. From arts and crafts to educational activities to be enjoyed both indoors and outdoors, there's plenty to keep them entertained. The JQBID team have outlined a few for you to try out - let us know how you get on!



HERITAGE FROM HOME

The Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage team have put together a range of activities to get stuck into.



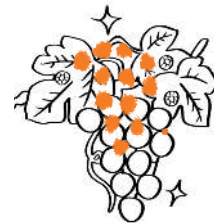
LEARNING AT HOME

The team have also collated educational resources to provide you with digital resources to learn more about the Quarter and to aid homeschooling. This set of activities and fun challenges will help your child to engage with heritage in hands-on and creative ways. They have been designed for children aged 5 - 11 and cover a range of activity types including writing, drawing and designing, making, and maths challenges.

Check out the activities which have been inspired by the Workshop of the World collection of objects and resources [here](#).

COLOURING SHEETS

These colouring sheets, designed by Phoebe Rutter, showcase buildings in the Jewellery Quarter such as The Squirrel Works, The Albert Works and New Standard Works. Time to get the colouring pencils out!

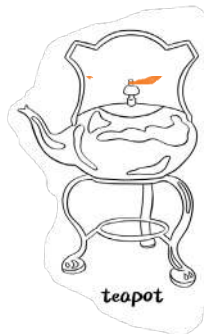


Download yours or request a pack [here](#).

NATURE DETECTIVES

Have some fun in the fresh air with the Nature Detectives Activity Pack. Spot plants and animals in the JQ cemeteries, your garden or any green space. Just don't forget to stay at least 2 metres from people who aren't in your household that you see while walking.

Download the pack [here](#) and share your findings with [@JQCemeteries](#) on Twitter.



teapot

ISOLATION IDEAS

Sarah Finn, Manager of **The Old Fire Station Children's Nursery**, knows better than most how to keep little ones entertained! Here are her ideas for keeping the kids inspired during isolation.

DECORATE YOUR WINDOWS WITH RAINBOWS

To show your support for our key workers, why not create a rainbow picture to stick in your window? We made handprints using lots of different coloured paints to decorate our window.

MAKE A DEN

Collect any old blankets, bed sheets and pegs to make your living room or bedroom into a den! Once it is made you can read stories or have a teddy bear picnic inside.

POST A HUG

Spread out a long sheet of wrapping paper or wallpaper and tape to the floor. On the plain side, trace your child's head, arms, and upper torso and then decorate. Get your child to try and make it look like them using anything you might have in the house, such as wool for hair and bottle tops for eyes. Then cut around the outline and pop it in an envelope. Post to anyone you can't visit at the moment to let them know you're thinking of them.



TRANSFORM YOUR SCRAP

The Scrapstore Birmingham, from Birmingham PlayCare Network, collects and sorts materials, or 'scrap', donated by individuals and businesses for redistribution to individuals and organisations supporting play and creativity. From origami to making your own scarf, The Scrapstore Birmingham demonstrates the amazing things your kids can create with scrap.

Check out ideas and purchase The Scrapstore Birmingham's scrap packs on their Facebook page [here](#).



KEEP CRAFTING

Get the whole family crafting with **The Hive's** family-friendly crafts. The team have been putting together easy and fun crafts to keep people busy and connected, even posting out kits completely free of charge. Due to some activities containing small pieces, most of the kits are designed with the adult crafter in mind, but you can still get the kids involved with one of The Hive's family-friendly craft ideas.

Download the free guide to family-friendly crafts [here](#) or find out how you can get involved by contacting beinspired@thehive.rmlt.org.uk. To share your creations on social media, use the hashtag #KeepWellKeepCrafting

Stay In The Know

FROM LETTINGS AGENCIES TO ACCOUNTANCY FIRMS, RECRUITMENT FIRMS TO MARKETING AGENCIES, THE JEWELLERY QUARTER IS A HUB OF BUSINESS EXPERTISE. WE CAUGHT UP WITH A FEW OF THE JQ'S PROFESSIONALS TO GET THEIR EXPERT ADVICE.

GET THE RIGHT FINANCIAL ADVICE

Knowing where to turn to get the latest financial advice that's right for your situation can feel like a bit of a minefield. That's where TaxAssist Accountants are stepping in. They've created a dedicated COVID-19 hub on their website which includes a wealth of useful content aimed at businesses, employers, directors, the self-employed, and landlords. The hub is updated in line with the Government's advice so you can be sure the advice you're reading is the latest. TaxAssist Accountants are offering telephone or video consultations for all new clients in order to discuss your needs.

Get in touch on 0121 794 4888 or check out their dedicated COVID-19 hub for all the latest advice: www.taxassist.co.uk/birmingham-south-west/knowledge-hubs/coronavirus



Kully Sahota

AVOID SOCIAL MEDIA DISTANCING

Explode Social Media will be running free consultations for businesses looking for additional support to help navigate these ever-changing times. With no-strings-attached expert advice, the Explode Social Media team will run audits of your existing channels and make suggestions for how you can better use them at this turbulent time. Lindi Mngaza, managing director at Explode Social Media, gives us a taster of some of their top tips.

- 1.** It's really important that on all of your social media channels you're talking about COVID-19. You need to show customers that you're aware of what's going on, while addressing the fact that you are still in business and still working.
- 2.** Connect with every single member of staff, customer and business partner, and ask them to refer and tag other people. The more people you're connected with on social media, the more people will get your message.
- 3.** Post consistently, and ensure that what you're posting is informative and up-to-date. Scheduling loads of content isn't advised at the moment - you need to be more reactive.
- 4.** There's a lot of negativity and worry at the moment. While you don't want to avoid the severity of the situation, you equally don't want your posts to make people feel worse! Strike a balance between upbeat, light-hearted and informative content.
- 5.** Research trending hashtags and join in the conversation. Encourage your staff to share content on their own profiles too so that it's gaining a bigger reach.

For more advice, give the Explode Social Media team a call on 0121 338 0209 or get in touch via their website: www.explodesocialmedia.co.uk.



Lindi Mngaza

TIPS FOR TENANTS

With social distancing rules in place, what happens if something in your property needs to be fixed? What if you were due to move to a new property? Andy McHugo, Associate Director at James Laurence estate and lettings agency, shares his advice for tenants.

1. Reporting maintenance issues

In such unusual times, contractors, letting agents and 'hands-on' landlords won't be operational as normal. Determine the importance of the issue you are about to report and ask yourself if you need the complication of somebody coming into your property in light of social distancing policies. Try to report essential emergency maintenance only, such as a water leak or heating not working. Ensure you have your letting agency's emergency contact number and establish if they are working from home or contactable currently.

2. Property inspections

Part of your tenancy terms will include regular property inspections, but this is not allowed during lockdown. Record a video walk through and send it to your letting agent or landlord to show the condition of property. It works in your favour if you can help out!

3. Looking for a new property

Currently, viewings are limited. At James Laurence, we recorded video walk through tours at the first news of COVID-19 hitting the UK. Use your time now to browse online and email through your enquiry requesting a video tour of a property. This puts you one step ahead of the crowd in making a more researched decision if applying for a property, and makes it easier to arrange moving once Government policies are relaxed to allow normal activities such as moving home.

Visit www.jameslaurenceuk.com or give the team a call on 0121 604 4060.



Andy McHugo

GET TO KNOW FURLOUGH

You've probably heard the word 'furlough' more in the past couple of months than ever before. What does it actually mean for your business? Sally Morris at mfg Solicitors breaks it down for us.

The Job Retention Scheme enables employers to place their employees on furlough leave, essentially laying them off but paying 80% of their salary, which HMRC will reimburse up to £2,500 per month. Any employee who was employed as of 28 February 2020 through a PAYE scheme can be furloughed, including those dismissed after 28 February 2020, although the right to furlough is the employer's discretion.

Furlough leave must be taken in blocks of 3 weeks, during which an employee can work for other organisations, subject to any contractual restrictions. Placing someone on furlough leave will depend upon their Contract of Employment, as consent may or may not be required. In any event, notification of placing someone on furlough leave must be set out in writing for HMRC purposes.

Contact Sally Morris on 07887 600586 or at sally.morris@mfgsolicitors.com if you require bespoke advice, assistance or documentation for furlough leave or any other COVID-19 employment



Sally Morrison

The Latest from the Jewellery Community



Q&A:

**DAVID DOYLE,
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWELLERS**



The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the jewellery trade hard. For many of our jewellers, who rely on footfall to keep going, this is a particularly worrying time. But support is out there. We caught up with David Doyle, President of the National Association of Jewellers (NAJ), for his take on how the current situation will impact the industry and how you can help.

DO YOU THINK THE CURRENT SITUATION WILL SPARK ANY CHANGE IN THE INDUSTRY?

We're a trade that's been around Birmingham for hundreds of years. The Quarter has a reputation as a destination for both the public to buy their jewellery, and also for the trade worldwide to source products created in the UK.

The JQ has some of the finest jewellery manufacturers and retailers in the world at its heart, and so whilst we will have challenges for sure, we will all continue to work together to get people excited about jewellery. The NAJ offices, based in the JQ, are working with other bodies to influence consumer demand, so when we do exit the current lockdown and things start to return to normal, activities and campaigns are in place to drive jewellery sales forward.

WHAT'S ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO JEWELLERS WHO MAY BE STRUGGLING AT THE MOMENT?

As a jeweller of over 30 years myself, I'd encourage everybody to keep communicating with each other. The JQ is a very tight-knit community and it is at times like this that we should all be continuing to look out for each other. I am certain that this will continue to be the case. The jeweller community here share professional values with high levels of honesty and integrity; the same core values as the NAJ, actually.

HOW CAN LOCAL PEOPLE SUPPORT THE JQ'S JEWELLERS AT THE MOMENT?

One of the campaigns we're working on is 'Support Your Local Jeweller'. But timing is critical with this, and in truth, supporting the NHS and other essential key workers is the one message for all of us to convey now. We also have started to put the building blocks in place for the jewellery trade for when things begin to return to some semblance of normality. We've already published the Jeweller Support Network, which is a trade hub for available funds, resources, networking and information to help navigate the current situation. As for local people supporting, when our doors open, come and buy - and bring your friends too!



NAJ

If you're a jeweller looking for support and advice, check out the Jeweller Support Network at: www.naj.co.uk/jewellersupportnetwork for the latest advice and resources.

FELLOWS ORGANISE SUCCESSFUL JEWELLERY AUCTION FROM FAMILY HOME

Fellows Auctioneers have come together in the current unprecedented climate to pull off one of their most successful jewellery auctions of 2020. Fellows Auctioneers' Jewellery Auction, which took place on Thursday 26 March, achieved a hammer total of £210,000, and was operated in full from the home of the Whittaker family in rural Shropshire.

Operating 45 miles north-west of the company's main office in the Jewellery Quarter, Managing Director Stephen Whittaker was auctioneer, with twin daughters Alexandra and Nicola Whittaker running the bidding platforms, and Jayne Whittaker (formerly Jayne Fellows), clerking.

Approximately 400 people signed up for Fellows' own bidding platform, Fellows Live. Over 700 lots of alluring jewellery went under the hammer throughout the day, keeping staff from Fellows busy as they assisted the sale from their own homes. The team worked hard to ensure that all government guidelines were observed, using technology and years of experience to continue to offer a professional auction experience to their bidders. A family-run business of 144 years, this is only the second time in their history that Fellows have held an auction from home. Stephen Whittaker, Managing Director of Fellows Auctioneers, said: "Today was a first for Fellows Auctioneers in that we held a jewellery auction from home.

This was just the second time in our history that we have held an auction away from our saleroom. The first was an estate sale over 30 years ago! Luckily for us, we have significantly embraced the use of technology in the intervening years.



My wife and daughters assisting from home helped create a thriving auction atmosphere, and our dedicated staff worked remotely to ensure we held yet another successful sale. I am extremely grateful for their ongoing support from their own homes during these times.

Fellows' embrace of technology doesn't stop there! Check out [these fun Zoom call backgrounds](#) which their marketing team have been experimenting with.

It's delightful that people seem to be taking advantage of a welcome distraction to what is happening in the world by bidding on our auctions from the comfort of their own homes."

Fellows have plenty more timed auctions of jewellery and watches online. Bids can be placed on both of these auctions now at www.fellows.co.uk



Support Your Local Jeweller

DOMINO JEWELLERY



Although their offices and manufacturing premises are currently closed, Domino Jewellery's stylish collections are still available for purchase online. As one of the UK's leading jewellery manufacturers, you'll be sure to find something to suit any style.

Shop online at [dominojewellery.com/collections](https://www.dominojewellery.com/collections)

VANESSA MILLER JEWELLERY

Independent jewellery designer-maker, Vanessa Miller, specialises in unique silver jewellery ranging from small charm necklaces and earrings, to larger detailed pendants, brooches and rings. Her aim is 'to capture something unique and special about the subject and design with a smile in mind'.

Shop online at [vanessamillerjewellery.co.uk](https://www.vanessamillerjewellery.co.uk)



ARTFULL EXPRESSION

Owned by David-Louis, a watch-maker, silversmith and jeweller, Artfull Expression is the ideal spot for unique personalised silver gifts. As well as David-Louis's own creations, the store represents over 60 Jewellery Quarter based jewellers.

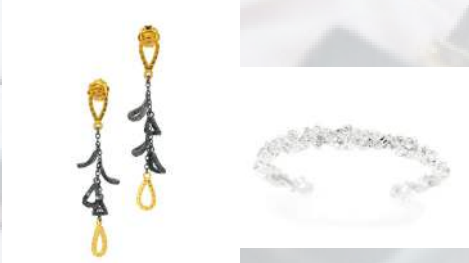
Shop online at [artfullexpression.co.uk](https://www.artfullexpression.co.uk)



NOBUKO OKUMURA

A School of Jewellery graduate, Nobuko Okumura's contemporary jewellery is inspired by geometric and natural forms. Her workshop may be closed to appointments, but her stunning creations are still available to purchase online.

Shop online at nobuko.co.uk/shop.html



CHARLOTTE LOWE



Charlotte Lowe's collections of handmade jewellery are inspired by the joys brought to us through the simple moments in life. Her uniquely styled silhouette designs depict precious memories shared with family and friends to evoke sentimental feelings from within, and make for beautiful gifts, particularly at the moment.

Shop online at charlottelowe.co.uk

AARDVARK JEWELLERY



A family-run jewellers established in the Quarter in 1977, Aardvark Jewellery specialises in the unique. All of the rings they create are made to order and tailored exactly to your specifications.

Shop online at aardvarkjewellery.com

DIRECTORY

Their doors may be closed but there are still ways you can support our jewellers at the moment. We've highlighted a few picks here, but for a full directory of our Quarter's jewellers and jewellery retailers, visit jewelleryquarter.net/the-directory.

Stay Busy

AT THE MOMENT WE'RE ALL LOOKING FOR WAYS WE CAN SPEND OUR TIME, BE THAT CREATIVELY OR JUST FINDING SOMETHING TO WATCH. LUCKILY THE JQ IS A HIVE OF IMAGINATION, AND BUSINESSES ARE PROVIDING WAYS TO KEEP PEOPLE BUSY. HERE ARE JUST A FEW THINGS YOU CAN DO TO KEEP YOURSELF OCCUPIED.

THE COFFIN WORKS



One of the JQ's cherished museums has put together a downloadable PDF version of their guidebook. For just £5 you can find out about the history of the building, and read stories from the people who worked there. They are also selling gift packs to help support the museum while it's closed.

Get your guide book at the Coffin Works website www.coffinworks.org/

CONNECTION STUDIO



JQ based Connection Studio are offering donation-based webinars on topics from Managing Anxiety and Dealing With Isolation. Many of us are suffering with mental health issues at the moment, but Connection Studio has resources to help you, and keep your mind occupied.

Find out more about the support for you www.connectionstudio.net/

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS LAUNCH INSPIRE 2020



This year, Birmingham Museums trust has moved their annual Inspire art competition online to encourage people of all ages to get creative for their well-being and be inspired by what they can see.

Officially launched now, Inspire 2020 has the theme 'What I Can See' and invites people to submit a whole range of art from poems to paintings, videos and sculptures. Perfect for children and families, the competition is ideal for those looking for activities to do together and for older learners who want to test out their skills, as well as anyone looking to find a way to get their creative juices flowing.

Louise Alden, Learning and Engagement Manager at Birmingham Museums Trust, said: "Making art for your own well-being can be really helpful, whether preparing you for the day ahead or slowing your mind down. We always look forward to this competition and seeing what people create, but it feels more important than ever to inspire people to create art to make sense of the difficult times we are living through. We would love to be able to display work from the finalists across our museums once we are able to reopen, but we'll also be creating an online gallery to showcase submissions."

The deadline for submissions is Sunday 14 June, and will be showcased online, with the aim of eventually showing winning entries at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery once it is back open.

So get your creative juices flowing, and find out more about Inspire 2020 www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/blog/posts/inspire-20-now-open.

PROGRESS MUSIC ACADEMY

Want to use this time to learn a new skill? How about picking up a new instrument, or finally trying to play that guitar you've had gathering dust for years? Progress Music Academy are offering music lessons held in online sessions. Using 1-1 tutoring, you can learn all you ever needed to become that musical genius you've always wanted to be!

Find out more progress-academy.co.uk/

ALABASTER & WILSON VIRTUAL TOUR

For over 100 years, Alabaster & Wilson have been producers of fine jewellery, bought to you by JQ Townscape Heritage and Scantech Digital. With this clever virtual tour you can step inside their historic workshop and take a walk around without ever leaving the comfort of your couch!

Take a virtual tour online
my.matterport.com/show/?m=Dhwqrq2ssfQ

BUILDINGS RESEARCH

Do you ever take a walk around the JQ and look at the buildings around you? Ever wonder about the people that have lived and worked within them over the years? The JQTH has an amazing online resource for finding out more about these historic buildings.

Take a digital walk around the Quarter by visiting the research pages on the website th.jewelleryquarter.net/research/

THE PEOPLE'S ARCHIVE

The JQ is made by the people in it. From historic business pioneers, to the rich jewellery community we still see here today, the people in the JQ come from all walks of life with varied histories and stories to tell.

Discover more about these people by visiting the People's Archive online
<https://th.jewelleryquarter.net/peoples-archive/>



Shop To Support

WE'RE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A WIDE VARIETY OF BUSINESSES IN THE JQ, AND NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED TO SHOW THEM OUR APPRECIATION. HERE'S OUR PICK OF PURCHASES YOU CAN MAKE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR SOFA OR ON YOUR DAILY WALK TO SHOW A BIT OF SUPPORT FOR OUR BUSINESSES.

HONEY BEE HOME



SPRUCE UP YOUR SPACE

If you're getting fed up of staring at the same old space, why not spruce it up by treating yourself to some beautiful homeware from Honey Bee Home? Add a spot of nature to your home with their Queen Bee and Jungle Cheetah collections.

Visit www.honeybeehome.co.uk to check out their stylish homeware.

SHAKE IT UP

If you're looking for a truly unique piece, look no further than James Newman Jewellery's salt and pepper diamonds collection. The unique diamonds collection is just one of many beautiful collections by the independent jeweller, available to purchase online. Not sure what you want? The team are now offering consultation sessions via video conferencing for bespoke commissions.

Discover the perfect piece or get in touch for a consultation at www.jamesnewmanjewellery.co.uk.

JUST THE ESSENTIALS

SodaBread Café is open as usual for takeaways of drinks, sandwiches and treats. The café has also been transformed into a mini-market for the local community, with extra supplies of bread, milk, eggs, and even hard-to-get items such as toilet roll and hand sanitiser!

Find SodaBread Café at 63 St. Pauls Square, B3 1QS



HAZEL & HAYDN

A CUT ABOVE

To say a huge thank you to our amazing frontline NHS staff for all their dedication and incredible work during the COVID-19 pandemic, award-winning salon, Hazel & Haydn, is offering the public the opportunity to purchase a Pamper Package for NHS staff to use once the salon is open. What an amazing gesture!

Vouchers start from £5 and are available at hazelandhaydn.co.uk/vouchers/

HOME BREW

Burning Soul Brewery now have two of their favourite brews available for delivery. Get Ice Cream Pale and Coconut Porter delivered to your doorstep, and just imagine you're soaking up the atmosphere of this JQ spot.

Order your favourite brew on Burning Soul Brewery's order form [here](#).

SHINE ON

For stunning contemporary silver jewellery, check out Summer and Silver, who are still taking orders via their online shop. They've even got you covered for special occasions with their gift-wrapping service.

Browse the collection at www.summerandsilver.co.uk



SWOON OVER STATIONERY

New stationery is a must if lockdown has got you trying your hand at poetry or sketching. BirminghamStationery's stylish range will leave you spoiled for choice. In addition to notebooks and sketchbooks, BirminghamStationery have added 'pocket hug' and poem cards to their range, perfect for sending to loved ones to brighten their day.

Check out BirminghamStationery's etsy shop [here](#).



BIRMINGHAMSTATIONERY

Feel Good

WE KNOW THAT THESE HAVE BEEN TRYING TIMES, BUT THE JQ COMMUNITY IS A STRONG FORCE FOR GOOD, AND BUSINESSES HAVE BEEN ADAPTING IN MANY WAYS, FROM CHANGING THE SERVICES THEY OFFER, TO GETTING INVOLVED IN FUNDRAISING EFFORTS.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE GREAT THINGS THE JQ COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN UP TO!





THE ACTIVE WELLBEING SOCIETY OFFER SUPPORT



The Active Wellbeing Society is a community benefit society that is changing the approach to how they work by focusing on what people need the most at the moment. From having a friendly voice to offer support on the end of the phone for those self-isolating, to offering resources for people having to home school, and helping people get hold of the food they need, there is a wide range of services that The AWS are able to offer.

Connect with each other on Twitter using the hashtag #BumTogether, and if you'd like to get in touch give the AWS a call on 0121 728 7030 or visit their website www.theaws.co.uk/

OAKS CONSULTANCY CHARITY SURVEY



Oaks have been conducting a survey into what the impact of COVID-19 has on corporate social responsibility and support for charities. This survey was put together to identify the immediate challenges facing charities, and to identify future opportunities for partnerships.

The findings of this survey will provide recommendations for organisations to create mutually beneficial partnerships that will also help contribute to the region's recovery from the pandemic.

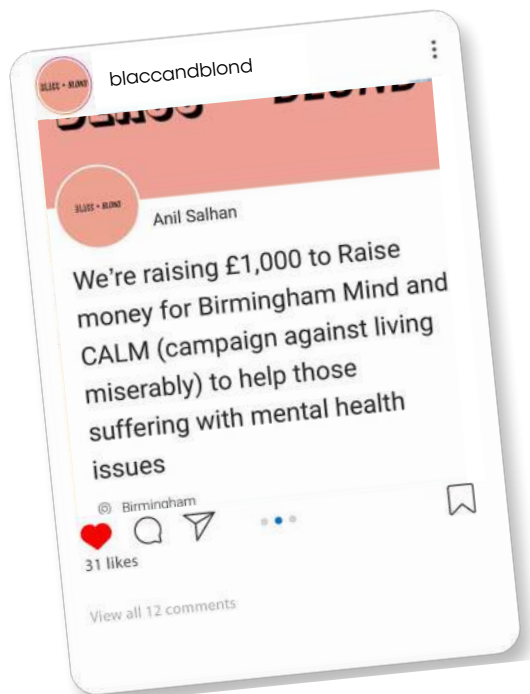
To read the survey results in full, and to find out how Oaks can help you, visit www.oaksconsultancy.co.uk/

WEDDING QUARTER GETS BRIDES TALKING



Wedding Quarter is a family-run boutique that sells off-the-peg sample gowns at outlet prices, while offering brides the boutique experience. During the lockdown, they have been using their social media to create a community for those brides who have had their weddings delayed and postponed. Christine Cattanaach, owner, says: "As a small, independent business, we thrive upon the JQ community. It has been incredibly upsetting and stressful for brides that have had to cancel or postpone their weddings, so we want to assure them we are here to chat and help out. We are trying to keep brides positive and encourage them to make the most of this time to plan the final details of their weddings to make them even more special."

Visit Wedding Quarter online at www.weddingqtr.co.uk/





BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF JEWELLERY PROVIDES PPE



Part of Birmingham City University, the Birmingham School of Jewellery has taken a break from silver and gold and turned their efforts to producing much needed PPE. By turning existing materials into 3D printed masks, the school is able to donate some much-needed supplies to the front line.

Visit the School of Jewellery online at www.bcu.ac.uk/jewellery.

DEBORETTE GETS CREATIVE



Deborette at Deborettecreative and B18 Leather has been using supplies to sew drawstring bags for the staff at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The bags are designed to safely transport scrubs and uniforms and can be put straight in the wash with kit inside.

Check out Deborette on Instagram at [instagram.com/deborettecreative/](https://www.instagram.com/deborettecreative/)



ROMANTIC DREAMS BRUM SCRUB HUB!



This JQ bridal store has become the base for creating thousands of scrubs for Birmingham's front-line NHS staff. After a successful fundraising campaign, the team has been able to purchase more fabric and continue their work to keep up with the demand.

Check out what Romantic Dreams have been up to at [instagram.com/romanticdreamsbridal/](https://www.instagram.com/romanticdreamsbridal/)

PASTA DI PIAZZA FEEDING THE FRONT-LINE STAFF



JQ based Italian restaurant Pasta Di Piazza have been looking after hard-working NHS staff by providing 100 meals to the Queen Elizabeth hospital!

Discover Pasta di Piazza at pastadipiazza.com/



**YOUR SUPPORT MEANS EVERYTHING TO OUR BUSINESSES AT THIS CHALLENGING TIME.
SHARE THE LOVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA WITH THE HASHTAG**

#ISUPPORTBIRMINGHAM



WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU BACK TO THE JQ SOON!

Keep up-to-date with the latest ways to support JQ businesses via our social media:

 www.facebook.com/JewelleryQtr/  [@JQBID](https://twitter.com/JQBID)  [@jq_bid](https://www.instagram.com/jq_bid)



JQ at Home

Saturday
13th June

jewelleryquarter.net/jq-at-home