

JQ Life

Issue 4 - Spring 2019



JEWELLERY QUARTER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

www.jewelleryquarter.net

EVOLVING GREAT HAMPTON STREET

BLACKSWAN SHARE THEIR
VISION FOR GREAT HAMPTON
STREET AND BEYOND

- ▶ **JQ Festival**
29 - 30 June 2019
A first look at this
year's festival fun
- ▶ **In Their Own Words**
Victoria Ball and Raj
Sanghera tell us about
their JQ



LIVE

LEARN

WORK

VISIT

Springing into an exciting few months in the JQ



We have a busy Spring ahead of us in the JQ. It's chockful of events and activities, and of course, the topping on the cake is our annual Jewellery Quarter Festival. These next few months are an exciting

time with lots to look forward to in the JQ.

On the other hand, protecting the heritage of the Jewellery Quarter when construction is at an all-time high in the city is always a major talking point for residents and businesses of the Quarter. In this issue, we welcome Freddy Shrieve from the construction firm, Blackswan, to discuss the vision for their new development on one of the most iconic roads in the JQ; Great Hampton Street (pages 14 – 15). Andrew Fuller, Birmingham City Council's City Design Manager, also gives his opinion on the future of the Jewellery Quarter.

With a slight twist, we delve into the lives of both Victoria Ball and Raj

Sanghera, a couple living in the JQ, as they share an insight into their passion for the Quarter and why it holds such a special place in their hearts (pages 18 – 23).

Hopefully with the stormy weather out of the way, it's time to get excited for the Summer. We have bold inspiring plans for a revamped Jewellery Quarter Festival (pages 10 – 11)! With a brand-new look and an exciting change in format this year, our 2019 flagship event is set to be one to remember.

Enjoy reading.

Luke Crane

JQDT Executive Director

 @jq_bid

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Highlights in this issue

EVOLVING GREAT HAMPTON STREET 14-15
BLACKSWAN'S VISION FOR
GREAT HAMPTON STREET AND BEYOND

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS:
VICTORIA BALL AND RAJ SANGHERA** 18-23
THE COUPLE SHARE THEIR LIFE IN THE JQ

HOW WE MAKE IT 28-29
YARD-O-LED INTRODUCE US TO THE PERFECTA



JEWELLERY QUARTER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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/jqbld

Contents

HERE'S WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IN THE JQ **5**

JQBID AND JQDT HIGHLIGHTS **6-8**

THE JEWELLERY QUARTER AND ITS CONSERVATION FUTURE **9**
ANDREW FULLER TALKS ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HERITAGE AND INNOVATION

WHAT'S ON: JQ FESTIVAL 29-30 JUNE 2019 **10-11**

CLEANING UP THE JQ **12-13**
DAUVIT ALEXANDER SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE WITH JQBID'S CLEAN TEAM

CHANGING SPACES: HARD TO FIND HI-FI **24-25**

90 YEARS OF CHANGE **26-27**

MY PIECE OF THE JQ **30**
A TOBACCO TIN WITH TREASURED MEMORIES



JEWELLERY QUARTER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

JQ Life

Issue 4 - Spring 2019

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What you might have missed in the JQ...

SAY HELLO TO OCHO

If tapas inspired by sunny Spain and the azure coastlines of Portugal is your thing, then Ocho is the place for you. Head Chef Tomek Iwanicki, formerly of Birmingham favourite Purnells, has opened a brand new pop-up over on Pitsford St, bringing a touch of the Mediterranean to the JQ. Pop on down for some delightfully prepared grilled lemon sardines, a hearty vegetable stew, or a wonderfully indulgent orange and lime cheesecake.

Ocho is now open at 19 Pitsford Street, B18 6LJ. Check out the menu or book a table at www.ochojq.com

THE SKIN PRACTICE MOVES ON UP

Sandy Sandhu knew from an early age that she wanted to have a career in the beauty industry, and so began years of hard work which led to the founding of The Skin Practice, whose mission is to empower individuals and create confidence. After a period of time on Northampton Street, The Skin Practice has moved to a brand new premises on Warstone Lane and expanded the services that they offer, including a new anti-aging service, 'Face ReVamps'.

The Skin Practice is now located at 115 Warstone Lane, B18 6NZ. For more information, head to www.theskinpractice.com

JQ REPRESENTED AT BBC GARDENERS' WORLD LIVE!

Alexandra Froggatt Design has created a homage to the Jewellery Quarter which will be at this year's BBC Gardeners' World Live. Surrounded by beautiful cottage garden planting, you can take a stroll through 'the Watchmaker's Garden' and relive experiences of the JQ's craftsmen and their garden workshops at the NEC Birmingham from 13-16 June.

Book your tickets at www.bbcgardenersworld.live.com

SECRET SUPPER IN SUPPORT OF PARKINSON'S UK

Parkinson's UK will be hosting their first Secret Supper on 9 April. Kicking off at The Jam House at 5.30pm, diners will visit three mystery JQ restaurants for three different courses. Tickets have already sold out but its popularity means it's sure to return!

Find out about upcoming events by contacting Gayle Kelly, Parkinson's UK Regional Fundraiser for Birmingham & Black Country, at gkelly@parkinsons.org

40 ST PAUL'S CROWNED BEST IN WORLD

40 St Paul's has been crowned 'Best Gin Bar in the World' at the Icons of Gin Awards, hosted by Gin Magazine. The gin bar, owned by Amanjot Singh Johal, boasts a carefully-curated list of over 140 gins, an intimate space of 24 seats, and Art Deco inspired interiors.

Experience the best gin in the world at 40 St Paul's, 40 Cox Street, B3 1RD

CHECK OUT WHO'S JOINED THE JQ

Wavelength Marketing
www.wavelengthmarketing.co.uk

PDB Hair
www.pdbhair.co.uk

Dream Health Private Clinic
Search 'Dream Health UK' on Facebook

Vivo Clinic
www.vivoclinic.com

SMR Fitness
www.smrfitness.com

Clearabee
www.clearabee.co.uk

My Beauty Passion
www.mybeauty passion.co.uk

Ffions Hair & Beauty
Search 'Ffion's Hair & Beauty Boutique' on Facebook

Upright Body Renewal
www.uprightposture.co.uk

The Art of Movement
www.theartof movement.co.uk

Joshua Robert Property Recruitment
www.joshuarobert.co.uk

Lightbox Digital
www.lightboxdigital.co.uk

Correct as of March 2019

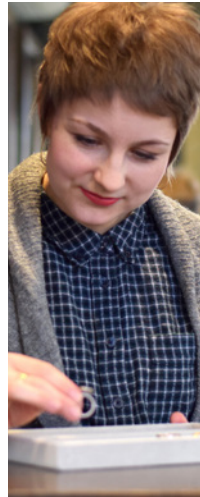
Are you a new business in the JQ? Please get in touch and let the JQBID know by emailing info@jqdtf.com

JQBID & JQDT Highlights



A THROWBACK TO 2018

Christmas may seem like an age ago, but we can't bypass the fantastic events put on in the JQ in November and December. The Christmas lights switch on was bigger and better than ever with over 1,300 people attending to enjoy great food and fabulous entertainment. The highlight of the evening was the spectacular fireworks ensuring the Christmas season kicked off with a bang in the JQ. We also invited our local BID Levy Payers for a Christmas drink at St Paul's House before the Christmas break. The evening was a great success and a chance to catch up with friends old and new.



A NEW LOOK FOR THE 'WORKING IN THE JQ' WEBPAGE

The 'Working in the JQ' webpage has been updated and revamped. We have created a brand-new feature - an online jobs board where any vacancies based in the JQBID area can be advertised for free. There is also additional information about events and meeting room hire in the area, as well as co-working spaces. The website also highlights local networking opportunities and community events - everything you need to get on with the job in the JQ!

Visit www.jewelleryquarter.net/working for more information

JQ HERITAGE INSTAMEET

The JQBID and Townscape Heritage Project teamed up with Instagrammers of Birmingham for a JQ meet up. On a cold but clear Saturday in January, over 100 photographers descended on the JQ for a photography meet up exploring the architectural heritage of the area using the bespoke map produced for the event, ending their tour at The Button Factory for a warming lunch.

Browse the full archive of photos on Instagram by searching [#igb_meet_jqheritage](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/#igb_meet_jqheritage)



AND THE WINNER IS...

We presented the winner of our JQ Life survey, Natalie from 383 Project, with her prize at our JQ Connect networking event on 5 February. The coveted JQ hamper was packed with fab prizes kindly donated by A&N Jewellery, Cake Quarter, The Coffin Works, Escape Live Birmingham, Lily Jones Flowers, The Indian Brewery, and St Paul's Church. Thank you to all that participated!

Townscape Heritage Updates



The Townscape Heritage Project aims to engage local people – both within the JQ and beyond – with the area’s rich history through events and community outreach. The project is a National Lottery Heritage Fund Scheme.



TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME

The exciting plans to restore the Grade II listed Argent Centre are well underway, with the submission of planning for the reinstatement of the pyramidal roofs to the towers, along with repair works to the distinctive façade. This is an important step for the owners in putting together an application for funding from the Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage.

To find out more about the programme, contact the team on townscapeheritage@jqdt.org



JQ HERITAGE MAKERS PROJECT

Jewellery Quarter-based artists and makers are working with local young people to create work inspired by the heritage of the local area. We’ve been delving into the archives for inspiration, and have been amazed by the diversity of crafts and creativity which has existed in the JQ since its early days. As well as the precious metal industries which populated the area, Vittoria Street was home to an umbrella maker, milliner, sculptor, and glass painter.

The project will be showcased during ‘Spotlight on Vittoria Street’ from 24-31 May 2019 - we’re excited to see what the young people produce!

PEOPLE’S ARCHIVE

We have had a fantastic response to the People’s Archive, and our volunteers have been very busy carrying out oral history interviews. Martin Chaplain and his father, Kenneth, were interviewed as their family had businesses in the JQ for many years. Their metal finishing company, EL Chaplain & Co., was based on Frederick Street, where Cappadocia restaurant is now. Their work ranged from metal finishing and one-off jobs, including repairs to the Ryder Cup and plating the FA Cup.

Oral history recordings will be available to listen to online in April, and we have exciting plans for them to be used as part of future exhibitions and performances.



KENNETH HOLDING THE RYDER CUP

Visit www.jewelleryquarter.net/jewellery-quarter-peoples-archive for more information

TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE UPCOMING EVENTS



'SIGN OF THE TIMES' WALK 27 APRIL, 1PM

Join Tracey Thorne for an urban ramble through the Jewellery Quarter in search of signs, lettering, and numbers to see what they reveal about this unique part of the city.

Book in advance. Meet at Golden Square.



JQ LETTERING WORKSHOP WITH SEVEN 9 SIGNS AT 1000 TRADES, 27 APRIL, 3PM

Explore and learn about the different styles of lettering seen around the Jewellery Quarter with sign-painter, Jim Kerr, and have a go at creating and painting your own letter.

Book in advance.



SPOTLIGHT ON VITTORIA STREET 24 – 31 MAY

A week-long celebration of the heritage of Vittoria Street. Activities include an outdoor performance, spotlight tours, talks, and a showcase of work from the JQ Heritage Makers project.



JQ TOWNSCAPE PHOTO WALK 1 JUNE, 12PM

Join photographer, Pete Ashton, for a meander through the Jewellery Quarter with your camera or smartphone. An opportunity to slow down and appreciate the details of the historic environment.

Book in advance. Meet at Golden Square.

For more information and to book, visit www.jewelleryquarter.net/townscape-heritage

The Jewellery Quarter and its conservation future

BRINGING HERITAGE AND INNOVATION TOGETHER

GUEST COLUMN: ANDREW FULLER

Before moving to Birmingham, I was aware of the Jewellery Quarter and its reputation as a unique area where heritage and innovation come together to make it the city's premier creative neighbourhood.

My first impressions on arriving five years ago had me questioning just how successful the area's regeneration had been and I was surprised by the lack of ingenuity in modern architectural designs.

Thankfully, things are changing and that is as much to do with the relationship between the City Council and the Jewellery Quarter's stakeholders as it is to do with aspirations.

Since arriving, I have quickly built relationships with a wide range of the area's interested parties who now understand that I look at design differently. I can also see that there is a strong desire for more inventive design in the Jewellery Quarter.

The difficulty comes when the traditionally low scale, high density, and highly individual design of the Quarter needs to be replicated in an area of increasing land values, often complex land ownerships, and expensive site remediation.


Additionally, sites are often tightly formed with awkward relationships to neighbouring properties, and frequently include listed buildings in poor condition, making redevelopment more challenging and costly. However, with careful collaboration,

a good project team, and sound design priorities all laced together with a creative thread, great things can and are now being achieved.

The safe and regrettably mundane designs of the past 20 years are gradually being superseded by highly individual solutions. One example is the Ashford & Son Ltd site on Great Hampton Street, currently being transformed into the highly individual Gilders Yard development. Although far from completion, this scheme illustrates what we can do when minds and hearts are set on achieving something entirely distinctive and in the spirit of the Jewellery Quarter.

To ensure that this collaborative approach is applied to other developments in the Jewellery Quarter, I am working closely with others in the area to deliver the Neighbourhood Plan, Design Handbook and Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. These documents, in conjunction with the emerging city-wide Design Supplementary Planning document, will transform the way people will look at the Quarter. Pastiche is out and innovation is in!

I am hopeful for the future of the Jewellery Quarter and excited to see the area growing and contributing towards making the city a truly global destination.



Andrew Fuller is Birmingham City Council's City Design Manager. In his column, he discusses the future of the Jewellery Quarter's conservation and the ambitions for the area.

Have an idea for a column? Email jalife@digitalglue.agency

Experience the refreshed JQ Festival

THE JQ FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR THE 5TH YEAR RUNNING... HERE'S A LITTLE TASTE OF WHAT TO EXPECT!

2019 is shaping up to be an exciting year for the JQ – not least because we're unveiling a brand-new look and feel for the JQ Festival. Plus, we'll be recognising a few anniversaries that are important to the history of the Quarter, so expect plenty to celebrate!

SATURDAY 29 JUNE

EXPERIENCE THE ENERGY OF THE JQ

Join us for some fun favourites on the first day of the festival and experience the energy of the JQ. Expect family fun activities and exciting performances, as well as a special surprise from The Jam House to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their opening!

Highlights include...

- A performance that's out of this world as CircusMASH return to take you to space with their new rig, Project Zero.
- Making your own miniature rockets with Birmingham Museums Trust to celebrate 50 years since the lunar landings.
- A Kid's Activity Zone to learn all about the life of James Watt at the site where he lived in the JQ. Plus, see experiments and historical objects up close.
- Free face painting and balloon modelling, as well as a sand pit and arts and crafts on the Golden Square.
- A ride on the miniature Denver Light Railway, suitable for kids (and adults!), to find out how a real steam-train works.



THE



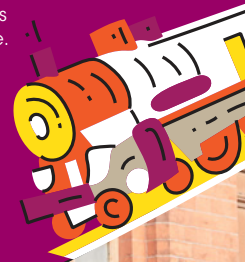
SUNDAY 30 JUNE

EXPERIENCE THE HERITAGE OF THE JQ

Celebrate the history of the JQ on Sunday with a series of talks and walks, and immerse yourself in the heritage of the area with a special exhibition. We'll also have a series of exciting activities to celebrate the life and works of James Watt, the industrial pioneer and inventor who developed improvements of the design of the steam engine and lived in the JQ from 1777 to 1790.

Highlights include...

- JA 'Sign of the Times' walk with Tracey Thorne – an urban ramble to discover the unique stories behind the signs, lettering, and numbers you'll find in the quarter. Kicking off at 1pm from the Golden Square.
- A JQ Lettering Workshop with Jim Kerr from Seven 9 Signs and learn all about traditional sign writing, plus have a go yourself! Taking place 11am – 1pm at 1000Trades.
- A series of exciting and insightful talks to learn more about the history and heritage of the JQ.
- Meeting local businesses and learning more about the work they do and their long-standing traditions.



GET INVOLVED

Want to get involved in the JQ Festival? Our volunteers are key to making sure the Festival is a success year on year and we're always looking for volunteers before and during the event.

Get in touch on **0121 233 2814** or volunteering@jqdt.org to take part.

LOWDOWN

- 📍 jewelleryquarter.net/jq-festival
- 📷 @jq_bid
- 📘 [facebook.com/JewelleryQtr](https://www.facebook.com/JewelleryQtr)
- 🐦 @JQBID
- #JQFestival

Cleaning up the JQ

DAUVIT ALEXANDER SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE WITH JQBID'S CLEAN TEAM.



Ahead of his exhibition, 'A Waste Land', School of Jewellery Course Director, Davvit Alexander, joins forces with JQBID's Clean Team to discover the not-so-usual items found around us in the Quarter.

Everyone who lives and works in the Jewellery Quarter will have seen the distinctive blue vests of the JQBID Clean Team. You may even have spoken to them as they go about their business – litter-pickers in hand, cart to the fore, captained by a top-hatted toy Moomin... but what is it that they really do?

Alongside my role as Course Director of our acclaimed Higher National Diploma Jewellery and Silversmithing course at the School of Jewellery, I also have my own practice as a jeweller, usually working on the interface between fine jewellery and found-object narrative works. My most recent project is an exhibition at the Vittoria Street Gallery in collaboration with jewellery artist, Dan Russell, who makes very political and environmentally-aware work.

We decided that our latest exhibition, 'A Waste Land' would look at the way in which littering and fly tipping have led to an

environment in which we have become unaware of how much waste lies around us.

To do this, we are creating work using only waste materials from the streets and fly-tip sites, and then exhibiting it in cases and boxes made from the same. It seemed to me, therefore, that this was an opportunity to do a bit of research for the exhibition, and maybe gather some materials for it.

I met with the JQBID Clean Team, Dennis Cluley and Allan Hunt, outside The Big Peg – home of



the JQBID – while nervously eyeing the massing grey clouds. Dennis and Allan were keen to chat about their work and the pride they take in making the JQ an appealing and attractive area to be in. Dennis commented in particular that he gets a real satisfaction in seeing the difference in the cleanliness of the streets when he walks into the Quarter every morning. Many of us probably don't really consider what street cleaners actually do and until this morning, I hadn't considered it that much either. I probably imagined it was a horrible job and one which I wouldn't want to do myself, but I was amazed not only by the affability of the team, but with their real sense of civic pride. I was also amazed at how much more they did than cleaning the Quarter.

Every Tuesday to Friday, the team meet at 10am and work until around 4pm keeping the JQ in tip-top shape. Despite these regular rounds, there is still a lot of waste to be gathered.

In the last year, the team collected nearly 8,000 bags of litter, each bag weighing several kilogrammes when filled.

The JQBID also organise regular community litter picking events. Dennis said that he was encouraged by the way in which the local

businesses support them on these days, with the Co-op and Greggs even supplying food for the volunteers and offering volunteer staff. He would, however, like to see more involvement from local schools and the community in arranging clean-ups for specific areas, such as Legge Lane. There is easily several days' worth of work to be done there, removing not only wind-blown litter but also the very obvious fly-tipped waste from domestic renovations – bags of bathroom tiles, old chairs, and wallpaper.



As part of my project, I've been collecting fly-tipped waste from around Birmingham and I've been amazed at the bizarre things I've found as part of this – a 1970s Levis denim jacket, a plastic model of Mario, boxed samples of Venetian blind slats, a vuvuzela... I asked the team about the strangest things they had found.

Dennis told me they once found a safe, which unfortunately was empty, dumped in the middle of Albion Street, as well as a full set of false teeth in a box which he took to one of the dental practices in the Quarter.

At the School of Jewellery, we are really proud of our contribution to the JQ and are huge supporters of the JQBID and the important work that the Clean Team do in making the JQ a better place to work, learn, live, and visit. As the area is redeveloped, the level of waste may improve, but with increasing numbers of buy-to-let properties in the area, there is the equal possibility that the transient rental community will not be invested in raising the standards of the Quarter. Dennis and Allan, however, are optimistic and believe that things will only get better.



A Waste Land took place from 4 February - 1 March 2019.

For more on the exhibition, visit blogs.bcu.ac.uk/vittoriastreet/gallery/a-waste-land

JQBID's next community clean-up day will take place on World Cleanup Day on 21 September 2019. Keep an eye on www.jewelleryquarter.net for more info.

Great Hampton Street and beyond: Blackswan's vision for the JO

FREDDY SHRIEVE, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER AT BLACKSWAN, SHARES THE COMPANY'S VISION BEHIND THE IMPRESSIVE NEW DEVELOPMENT WORK AT 1-4 GREAT HAMPTON STREET.

“What we love about the sites is that despite the fact they're listed, the way they're laid out means there's so many opportunities to get creative with their uses without disturbing the existing fabric.”

Established in 2009 by Marcus Hawley, Blackswan has grown in size, scale, and scope, gaining trust internationally from investors. With developments spanning The Lamp Works, Gilders Yard, and Hockley Mills, Blackswan's designs blend new with old, and they have gained recognition for sensitively renovating listed buildings in conservation areas, while adding value to investors and surrounding communities.

Blackswan's latest project is the renovation of the long vacant 1-4 Great Hampton Street, including the Old Gothic pub. Built in the 1870s, the Grade II listed Gothic building was formerly an industrial factory, housing a steam engine, and a pub. "We've been looking at the site for a long time," says Freddy Shrieve, Development Manager at Blackswan. "We've got loads of good ideas about what we want to do with it."

The plans for the Gothic are impressive – the basement and ground floor will be transformed into an open plan restaurant and a high-end 16-room boutique hotel will be located above. Units 2 and 3 will make room for 6 small apartments and 2 small businesses – a 'pop-up' shop or café, in-keeping with other businesses in the JQ. Blackswan are looking to run a small competition for businesses in the area to explore the potential for its future occupancy. As for unit 4, Blackswan envisage a restaurant, but are open to ideas, and 4 high-end apartments.

"We're hoping the Gothic's restaurant will be completed by the end of 2019. It's a very tight timescale, but we want to get everything done as soon as possible. The buildings have been left to themselves for a long time, so there's a lot of internal damage. We would like to see the properties restored and ready for occupation by early 2020."

"There are a lot of rentals in the JQ at the moment, but there aren't a huge amount of sales properties," Freddy says. "We want to promote the apartments as owner-occupied. **It won't be investors coming in to buy and let out – we want people to buy the apartments, live in them, and take pride in their community.**"

Blackswan's love for developing the quirks of existing buildings is something that sets them apart. "What we love about the sites is that despite the fact they're listed, the way they're laid out means there's so many opportunities to get creative with their uses without disturbing the existing fabric," Freddy explains.

"We want to keep anything that's original or has unique value. Where possible, elements that are in a state of disrepair will be restored to how they were before," Freddy says. "We're JQ through and through – many of the



team live in the area, so we want to make sure every development we carry out reflects the architectural heritage of the area."

"Marcus loves to put a creative spin on everything he does. I think that's why our architects like working with us – we try to give them the freedom to express their own creativity. If they enjoy the project, we enjoy the project."

One of the repairs that is due to take place soon is to the façade of the building. "These repairs are simply to replace failed elements such as failed brickwork. In terms of the actual finish of the façade, we're not intending on getting it cleaned to the point where it looks brand new. We want to retain that rustic feel – like it's stood the test of time." Internally, the

Old Gothic will retain the barrel drop located in the basement, and an original dumbwaiter freight elevator.

So, why Great Hampton Street? "It's got some fantastic buildings, but it's been left to deteriorate," Freddy explains. "We want to promote the area as a destination – somewhere people will travel to, enjoy the restaurants, the shops, and stay in the boutique hotel, just a stone's throw away from the city centre."

"The conservation area of the JQ starts bang on the corner of the Gothic building, making it the most prominent building on the street into the JQ. The fact that people notice it even when it's in a poor condition shows how amazing it actually is. We want people to think, 'they've done a really good job bringing that building back to life', rather than, 'they've replaced every brick'".

Find out more about Blackswan and their latest development projects. Visit www.blackswanproperty.co.uk and follow @BlackswanPropRT on Twitter for upcoming details of the business competition.

PERSONAL INVITATION

Dr Damien McLaughlin and Helen Melling invite you to attend a FREE, informative open evening about Invisalign and Orthodontic treatment solutions

MONDAY 15TH APRIL 2019

MONDAY 13TH MAY 2019

MONDAY 10TH JUNE 2019

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WELCOME TO ST PAUL'S SQUARE DENTAL PRACTICE IN THE HEART OF JQ BIRMINGHAM.

Currently accepting new patients, Damien and Helen invite you to enjoy the sumptuous setting we have created. Using state of the art equipment and technology St Paul's Square Dental Practice prides ourselves on our beautiful dental studio, our excellent team and the high-quality dentistry that we continue to deliver to our patients every day. Why not come see for yourself?

Many of our staff have been with the practice for 10-15 years. This is testament to our philosophy and has created our top quality team. We believe this sets us apart from the rest. Transforming people's perception of dentistry with a 'no compromise' attitude, St Paul's Dental Practice began its vision to become the stand out and recognised practice in Birmingham, with a true belief in excellence.

We have created a centre of clinical and contemporary excellence that aims to provide the highest quality care in every aspect of clinical dentistry while drawing on the talents of our wonderful and experienced team. Whatever you come to see us for, be it for a general dental check-up, a smile makeover or dental implants, you can be rest assured you will receive gentle, tailor-made treatment to suit your wants and needs.

We know that your smile is one of your biggest assets and that having major dental treatment can be one of the biggest decisions you can make. We also believe it is one of the best long-term investments in your health and self-confidence. To help you achieve the smile you've always dreamed of, we'll be with you every step of the way.

With five dentists, an orthodontist, a hygienist, and a full team of support staff in the shape of dental nurses and receptionists, you won't need to wait long for an

appointment. We know many people have busy lifestyles and will do everything we can to book your appointments at a time convenient to you.



TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT OR FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PRACTICE AND THE SERVICES WE OFFER, CONTACT OUR GORGEOUS RECEPTIONIST EMMA ON 0121 2330867



In Their Own Words: Victoria Ball and Raj Sanghera

IN EVERY ISSUE, WE INVITE MEMBERS OF THE JQ COMMUNITY TO TELL US ABOUT THEIR JQ IN THEIR OWN WORDS.

IN THIS ISSUE, VICTORIA BALL AND RAJ SANGHERA, A COUPLE LIVING IN THE JQ, TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES AS JQ RESIDENTS, THEIR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE, AND THEIR TOP JQ PICKS.

VICTORIA BALL

Victoria Ball is a Legal Director at DLA Piper and Immediate Past Chair of BPS Birmingham Future. Victoria is also on Birmingham Law Society's Property and Development Committee, and often takes part in panel discussion events across the city.



RAJ SANGHERA

Raj Sanghera is a Construction Manager at Blackswan Property and member of BPS Birmingham Future's Engage Committee. Raj is also on the committee for Young Entrepreneurs in Property (YEP), which brings professionals in the sector together to network.





MEET VICTORIA AND RAJ



When I came back to Birmingham in 2015 after 5 years away, a lot had changed. I needed to rebuild both my business and personal network.

BPS Birmingham Future offered the perfect opportunity to do that. After attending the Birmingham Young Professional of the Year Awards in May 2015, I was amazed at both the scale of the event and the incredible celebration of the city it represents, and decided I needed to get involved. I became an active member of BPS, taking part in initiatives such as the Leadership Development Programme, run in partnership with Aston Business School. It was through this that the opportunity came up to put myself forward for the Deputy Chair position of Birmingham Future in 2016, and then take over as Chair from September 2017. It all happened very quickly but it was amazing to be involved in something I was so passionate about. I stepped down as Chair in September 2018 but am still actively involved as immediate past Chair. It's just a bit less intensive day-to-day now!



The reason I first got involved with Birmingham Future was in a large part to be able to spend time with Victoria in her new role as BPS Birmingham Future chair! We were on holiday in Santorini when she asked: 'So, which committee are you going to join?' But genuinely it gave me the opportunity to get involved in something extremely worthwhile outside of the day job. The Birmingham Future Engage Committee appealed to me most to get involved in and I am really glad I did as it is extremely rewarding. We help school children interact with businesses in and around the city centre; providing them with crucial encounters with the business community, which helps reduce chances of them becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in the future. It's a way of giving back. Whilst we run initiatives all year around, our biggest event is Professional Services Week which I was able to help organise last year. Around 2,000

students from 45 schools were taken to different businesses in the city centre to find out more about various roles in professional services firms from the people actually doing them. This equated to an incredible 3,750 meaningful encounters for the students taking part. We've recently connected with CORE Trust, who have two schools in the JQ alone, and are planning some business walks with their students in the spring.



In addition to our roles within Birmingham Future, our day jobs keep us very busy. I'm a construction lawyer which, in simple terms, means I help clients get development projects off the ground, from a concept and planning consent to starting on site. This means ensuring all of the parties involved - from the architect to the building contractor, from the developer to the funder - are properly appointed and the requirements of the project are properly documented. Construction projects can be complex and can be delayed or complicated by all sorts of matters. If the parties ensure their roles and responsibilities are clear from the start and it is clearly set out who takes the risk of certain things happening, it reduces the likelihood of disputes down the line. Lawyers often have a bad reputation for complicating matters, but I hope to dispel that and aim to give my clients a different experience. It's really nice to see projects reach completion that have had minimal disputes along the way due to the parties taking the time to make sure the contract was watertight at the start.

I largely act for developers and funders of real estate development projects, and have been fortunate enough to work for some of the most active developers in the region, including those who have kickstarted regeneration of key areas across the city - including projects in the JQ. It's great to work on local projects. On an average day, I'll be reviewing, drafting, and negotiating

contractual documents, and meeting or having calls with clients, other lawyers, and consultants to progress the relevant project.



Like Victoria, my days can often involve a lot of meetings and chasing up various information. However, I recently started a new role at Blackswan, meaning I'm spending more time on-site and getting my boots dirty. It also means my commute has shrunk even further; it only took me six minutes to walk to my previous role at Fellows, but the Blackswan office is literally around the corner from our flat! My role involves taking a project from literally an empty building or a plot of land for sale, all the way through the planning and development process, through to construction, and then handing over and possibly selling. It's really exciting to see your projects taking shape.

Want to get your business involved in Professional Services Week?

Get in touch with **BPS Birmingham Future** on hello@bpsbirmingham.co.uk



OUR LIFE IN THE JQ



A lot more people are subscribing to the idea that they don't need to move to London to have a fulfilling career in professional services. They can work on high-profile projects for exciting clients right here in the Midlands. They can actually play a part in the on-going transformation of the region. What's maybe driven people away in the past is that the job offering hasn't had the lifestyle to match. That's where the JQ has stepped in. It's allowed people to make a career choice that has the lifestyle to go with it; the JQ offers a unique setting with a thriving independent scene with history and heritage too. It's played such an important role in retaining and attracting the city's talent.

When I moved back to Birmingham, I considered flats in other city centre locations as well as the JQ. I was on my way to view a property in the JQ when I walked past a sign saying 'flat to rent' in the door of The Old Biscuit Factory on Caroline Street. I immediately rang the number on the sign and the landlord, Charlie, happened to be in the vintage shop which he owned (now Otto) below the flat. I fell in love with the property straightaway.

It was full of character as so many of the buildings in the JQ are. The landlord and his team were

so welcoming and lovely that it instantly felt like the right place to live. That set the tone for our experience of living in the JQ. There's such a welcoming community here.

We built up a local network very quickly. This was of course helped by meeting Stuart Holt - Mr Javelin Block - and it didn't take us long to find out about his Camden Street Loft apartments, where we've now lived for 18 months. It's been great to have been able to move back to the city and rebuild a professional and personal network so quickly.



There is this really nice atmosphere and vibe in the JQ. We have so many amazing places on our doorstep. Just recently we had a really great evening all within spitting distance from our flat. We had drinks at 40 St Paul's, which has recently won 'Best Gin Bar in the World', followed by dinner at Folium, which is a gastronomic experience!

The traditional side of the JQ is amazing too. I got Victoria's engagement ring made here by Gavin Mack. I loved talking through the whole process with him, it really made me feel part of the creation.



We've had such a positive experience living here and we want others to have that same experience, in terms of lifestyle. There are a lot of residential units being delivered in the JQ and will therefore be a lot of new people moving in. It'd be great to see this allow the independents in the area to thrive and the increased

headcount encourage even more independents to move into the commercial space that is often attached to new residential developments as a condition of planning, in order to match the growing demand from residents. Some of the current commercial use isn't great - do we need two bookmakers by the clock tower, for example?



William Hill is housed in a stunning building, it seems such a waste. That building would make an amazing jewellery shop or independent business.



Developers need to be thoughtful about using their commercial space wisely, instead of trying to fit in as much residential space as they can. And it's crucial that the need to cater for the increased residential population of the JQ isn't to the detriment of the jewellers too - because it doesn't need to be.



It's really important we preserve what the JQ is famous for. On the weekend, we see so many tourists come in to the area to shop for jewellery, so we need to maintain that balance between amenities for both residents and visitors.

OUR JQ, OUR PICKS

FAVOURITE PLACE IN THE JQ?



1000 Trades. Embarrassingly, I only learnt why it was called 1000 Trades very recently...

Enjoy craft beer, natural wine, and an exciting food menu at independent neighbourhood bar and kitchen, 1000 Trades.

www.1000trades.org.uk



Urban. I could literally spend hours in there and often do.

Sit back and relax with a delicious brunch and great coffee at Urban's Jewellery Quarter location.

www.urbanemporiums.com/jewellery-quarter



HOW WOULD YOU SPEND A DAY OFF IN THE JQ?



I'd start the day with a run along the canals, followed by a long brunch at Urban reading the paper. We enjoy a mooch around usually taking pictures (often to share with the IgersBirmingham & Birmingham We Are communities) and then a Sunday brunch at The Pig & Tail or 1000 Trades. If we stay out for a drink, 40 St Paul's is the spot.

Once a pig sty, The Pig & Tail is now a thriving and modern cocktail, craft beer, and grazing style bar.

www.thepigandtail.co.uk



My only difference there would be a yoga class at Yoga Haven in the morning.

Escape the bustle of the city at Yoga Haven's dedicated hot yoga studio on Livery Street.

www.yogahaven.co.uk

WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT THE JQ'S FUTURE?



The redevelopment of Great Hampton Street which Blackswan are leading. As a street, it has some stunning buildings on it which need to be saved and it has great potential to be somewhere where people will actively visit.

be somewhere where people will actively visit.

Check out Blackswan's exciting development plans at www.blackswanproperty.co.uk



I've seen so much change even in the three and a half years I've lived here. The area is still in a transition period which means some independents have sadly come and gone over the past couple of years. I'm looking forward to seeing those businesses with ambitious ideas flourish as the JQ continues to grow.

WHAT DO YOU WISH PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT THE JQ?



I was amazed when I discovered the catacombs of Warstone Lane cemetery. They are hidden away on a site which was formerly used as a sandpit quarry and where a church stood until 1953 when it was demolished due to disuse.



I wish people knew that it was a destination where you could spend the day or even the weekend. There's so much here; shopping, museums, places to eat and drink, and more.

FAVOURITE MEMORY IN THE JQ?



A couple of summers ago, there was a call from the Friends of Key Hill Cemetery and Warstone Lane Cemetery for volunteers to clean up Warstone Lane Cemetery. We went along with a rake and spent the day clearing up leaves and cutting overgrown branches from around the catacombs. We went back to the flat and just collapsed on the floor; we were exhausted, but it was such a cool thing to get involved in.

Support the Friends of Key Hill Cemetery and Warstone Lane Cemetery at www.friendsofkeyhillcemeterywarstonelancemetery.wordpress.com



I hadn't long moved in to The Old Biscuit Factory when I opened my front door to find a large group of people standing outside, led by a man in top hat and tails. He was leading a ghost tour (it was Halloween) and telling a story about my building, so I decided to stop and listen. He recounted a wartime tale about a bomb that had destroyed the pub that once stood opposite my building. Luckily it wasn't too spooky, but it was fascinating! Either that or the time I made my own necklace at The Quarterworkshop – a real insight into the skill of the jewellery trade.

Check out The Quarterworkshop's latest courses at www.thequarterworkshop.com

WHAT'S YOUR TOP TIP FOR A VISITOR TO THE JQ?



Explore the side streets and look up and around. The history is everywhere. If you have time, join one of the Letterbox Tours or the Ghost Sign Tours.

Discover the Jewellery Quarter's tours and trails at www.jewelleryquarter.net/tours

WHO ARE YOUR 'ONES TO WATCH' IN THE JQ?



Folium. They're gunning for a Michelin star and I wouldn't be surprised if they get one soon. It'll also be really interesting to see what Aktar Islam continues to do with Summer Row. He's already breathed new life into it with Opheem and Legna, and he now has plans for a boutique hotel.

Restaurant Folium is a modern British restaurant, serving up innovative and exciting food.

Book a table at www.restaurantfolium.com



40 St Paul's. They've recently won 'Best Gin Bar in the World'! And Rebel Chicken. I'm a big fan – it's chilled out and the food is really good.

Enjoy the best gin in the world in an intimate setting at 40 St Paul's (www.40stpauls.co.uk), followed by Rebel Chicken's signature Rebel Wings (www.therebelchicken.co.uk)

Changing Spaces: Hard to Find Hi-Fi, easy enough for the music lovers of Jewellery Quarter

BORN OUT OF A PASSION AND LOVE OF MUSIC, HARD TO FIND HI-FI IS BEST DESCRIBED AS A ONE-OFF, UNIQUE STORE THAT OFFERS CUSTOMERS A DIVERSE MUSICAL EXPERIENCE IN THE JEWELLERY QUARTER.



Classing itself as 'not a high street store', Hard To Find Hi-Fi opened on Jewellery Quarter's Spencer Street last summer. The Hard To Find brand was created in 1991 by selling rare and collectable vinyl in the city centre, before going online. Hard To Find Hi-Fi is now an extended additional service of that brand, which also includes Hard To Find Whisky.

The old office space has been transformed – the floors have been re-kitted, brick walls have been restored, and sofas have been put in to add comfort for customers.

Setting up a new store in the Jewellery Quarter was a no brainer, with Justin Bourne, Hard To Find's Managing Director, describing the area as 'the Notting Hill of Birmingham'.

"The Jewellery Quarter is the ideal place for Hard To Find Hi-Fi to be situated. It's an iconic part of Birmingham which has seen customers from all walks of the world come in to see us. We moved into the Jewellery Quarter in 2014 to set up our premium whisky store, Hard To Find Whisky, where we now have over three and a half thousand different types of whisky on display. This has been going from strength to strength and Hard To Find Hi-Fi was naturally the next step and service for us to provide".

Positioned directly above Hard To Find Whisky, Hard To Find Hi-Fi can be classed as a luxury hi-fi store, which welcomes people looking for more of a musical experience, rather than just a shop.

Proudly named as a reference centre for the renowned McIntosh brand, which offers a range of audio products for home audio and home theatre needs, Hard To Find Hi-Fi has McIntosh's largest demo display in the UK.



"Customers want to buy from people with expertise and knowledge, and we have this in abundance at Hard To Find. The space itself has been created to be as relaxed and inviting as possible. We were finding a lot of people who were coming in to discuss whisky had a love for music, so there was a nice connection between both stores".

A big part of Hard To Find Hi-Fi's service is helping music lovers re-catalogue all of their vinyl records to digital with the software available in-store. Using the most intuitive recording software available on the market to date, Hard To Find Hi-Fi offer vinyl recording sessions in-store, demonstrating how they record from vinyl to digital on various pieces of equipment.

And it doesn't just stop at regular customers. Hard To Find Hi-Fi has had its fair share of celebrities pop in to have a browse.

"We can't name names, but we've had high profile musicians and celebrities fly in from Hong Kong and the USA to spend the day with us. I can say as a proud Brummie we're the only company outside of London providing the services we do, and our quality of customers proves this".

You can visit Hard To Find Hi-Fi at
1 Spencer Street, or find out more information
at www.hardtofindhifi.com

90 Years of Change:

THE GROWTH OF THE HOCKLEY FLYER AND THE FUTURE OF THE JQ.

'The Queen of the Jewellery Quarter', Marie Haddleton, has witnessed 90 years of change in the JQ. In this final instalment, Marie discusses the growth of the Hockley Flyer, the many regeneration projects which the JQ has been subjected to, and the future of the area in her eyes.

From its first round of distribution in 1985, growth of The Hockley Flyer didn't show any sign of stopping, and this meant we had to grow with it. When my husband, Ken, died in 1989, it was decided to transfer the publication of the magazine to my son, Mark, under the name 'YBA Publications'. From this, he progressed from a second-hand printing machine to one that had the capability to fold, staple, and collate, later advancing to computerised equipment. Eventually, the flyer was printed in full colour, and distributed by an external print company.

Nearly every event and change to the JQ was recorded within the pages of The Hockley Flyer, resulting in it being fondly known as 'the voice of the Jewellery Quarter'.

It's fair to say that many improvements to the area such as Vyse Street station, the Chamberlain Clock renovation, and the numerous exhibitions and festivals would never have happened without the support of The Hockley Flyer.



The Flyer has since become an icon in its own right – with its 400th issue published in November 2018!

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE JQ

One of the projects detailed in The Hockley Flyer was around the arrival of URBED in 1989 – Birmingham's urban regeneration scheme, which campaigned to kick-start a 'tourist' industry in the area. Thanks to URBED, the JQ

was signposted and the historic significance of the area was highlighted. During this time, the first of the festivals in the JQ was successfully held and the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter was opened (originally as 'The Discovery Centre'). To tie in with this new influx of visitors, Mark began publishing books about the area, including the History and Guide to the Jewellery Quarter which flew off the shelves.

With tourists however, decent facilities are needed, and very soon we had pavement repairs, a railway station, better bus service, improved lighting, public toilets (which were later demolished), and cafes. The streets were



properly signposted and road markings were provided. Unfortunately, it also meant an invasion of parking wardens!

CONSERVATION AND REGENERATION

With these regeneration projects, there were both highs and lows, and one of the lows unfortunately came in 2000 with the announcement to turn the JQ into an 'Urban Village'. There had been no building for residential use for nearly 100 years, and so the idea presented in the scheme was to introduce small houses back into the area, mixing with workshops to create a close-knit community. However, the scheme made no allowance for the fact that jewellery making is light engineering. Aspects such as the use of cyanide, arsenic, and ammonia, the need for dust extraction, and the noise of machines and constant thumping of hand presses and hammering were not taken into consideration.

Developers instead anticipated wide-scale demolition and the building of high-rise luxury

apartments. They were then visiting buildings, carrying open cheques and even cases full of cash to entice jewellers to sell their premises. In response, The Hockley Flyer published an item entitled, 'The Urban Village (the worst scenario)' and brought the scheme to the attention of the Conservation Advisory Committee, English Heritage, The Victorian Society, and The Civic Society – none of which had been consulted.

Around this time, the JQ was divided into three separate conservation areas – Key Hill, St Paul's, and Vyse Street. The only way to curb the Urban Village plan was to introduce new legislation and a design guide which took two years to prepare and achieve adoption. This started with priority zoning where special legislation was allocated to each zone, followed by making the area a single conservation area. In addition, over 120 buildings became Grade II listed.

2019 AND BEYOND

The JQ Development Trust and JQBID now have the present and future of the Jewellery Quarter in their hands. As for the next 90 years – well, it's anybody's guess, but I don't think I will be here



A KIOSK FIT FOR A PRINCE

In 1997, 18 students from the Prince of Wales' Institute of Architecture designed and built an information kiosk in Vyse Street. HRH Prince Charles personally 'opened' the kiosk, and during its last few years, before it was removed to make way for the Golden Square, Mary Bradley did a wonderful job turning it into a kind of 'Tardis' – changing the inside regularly to keep up with calendar events.

to see. However, I believe that once you have lived or worked in The Jewellery Quarter, it is as if a piece of elastic is attached between you and the Chamberlain Clock, pulling you back.

Marie Haddleton is a founding member of the Jewellery Quarter Association and the founder of The Hockley Flyer, which she still publishes with her son, Mark. The Hockley Flyer recently celebrated its 400th issue.

Find out more about The Hockley Flyer at www.thehockleyflyer.info

How We Make It

YARD-O-LED

WRITING 200-YEAR-OLD
TECHNOLOGY AND CONTEMPORARY
DESIGNS INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS.



In 1822, British silversmith Sampson Mordan submitted a patent for his 'ever-pointed' propelling pencil. Just over 100 years later, German-born Ludwig Brenner expanded on Mordan's design with a new patent. Brenner's design allowed the pencil to hold 12 three inch leads inside its casing. In other words, this new design held a yard of lead, and so The Yard-O-Led Pencil Company was born.

Surprisingly, the manufacturing process used by Yard-O-Led today has remained very much the same since then. "Every pen and pencil is hand made using 19th century machinery and technology, and no two pencils are the same," explains company Director Emma Field. "Our silversmiths don't use a stencil or pattern - everything is done by eye and is recognisable from one craftsman to another. You and I can't tell them apart, but the team know each other's works and can attribute every hand-chased pen as being say Bernie's, Jess's, or Alex's work."

During the Blitz, the London premises of S. Mordan & Co was destroyed, and so work was subcontracted to a Birmingham company called Edward Baker & Co. They subsequently bought the patents, which were then bought

by Yard-O-Led, giving the company a permanent home in the Jewellery Quarter. Despite using nearly 200-year-old technology, and a unique path to a home in the Jewellery Quarter, one thing remains the same - behind their hand-crafted approach, there is always a pride in the heritage of the writing instrument. "Yes, pens and pencils can be mass produced, but we believe there should be joy in the creation, which is then passed on to the owner and they in turn create with their pen or pencil," says Emma.

History and heritage play a significant part in the creation of every Yard-O-Led pen or pencil - each design inspired by a unique moment in history. Last year, Yard-O-Led created an exclusive set of writing materials in celebration of the royal wedding, with the first set being donated to Scotty's Little Soldiers, a charity who help children who have lost a parent serving with the British Armed Forces. Their Perfecta Victorian Pencil is no different.



MEET THE PERFECTA

Yard-O-Led's Perfecta Victorian Pencil was designed around 1990, but the inner workings of the pencil remain the same as in the original patent by S. Mordan & Co 80 years ago. The pencil bears Yard-O-Led's signature Victorian pattern – hand-chased by eye, the design is learnt over several years and each silversmith develops their own style. Yard-O-Led don't draw the pattern on the pencil – the pattern lives in the heads of the silversmiths, who can expand and decrease the size of the pattern at will.

The internal mechanism is also unique to Yard-O-Led – the design has a lead holder which is specially made, and when turned propels the lead forward and back. This part is made by hand using fly presses and there are four different stages of production, including assembly by hand in the final stage. While the rest of the pencil is made of sterling silver, the lead holder is made from UK brass sheet. This is used because of its malleable qualities and long shelf life. The lead holder can hold 12 three inch pieces of lead, or a yard of lead, of course. As Emma puts it, the mechanism is "what makes Yard-O-Led who we are."



Behind their hand-crafted approach, there is always a pride in the heritage of the writing instrument.

The Perfecta is available for £395 at Yard-O-Led and retailers across the country. Find out more information at www.yard-o-led.co.uk



My piece of the JQ

A TOBACCO TIN WITH TREASURED MEMORIES.

Michael Kirwan has a piece of the Jewellery Quarter that has been with him since the start of his adult working life, and something he cherishes to this day. The story of how it came back into his possession is rather unusual...

Three months short of his 16th birthday, Michael started out as an apprentice tool maker at James Harrison and Sons on Warstone Lane in 1966, with the factory making all types of rings, cufflinks, and earrings.

Working amongst experienced and long-serving men, Michael was excited to be in the thick of it and couldn't wait to receive his first wage packet.

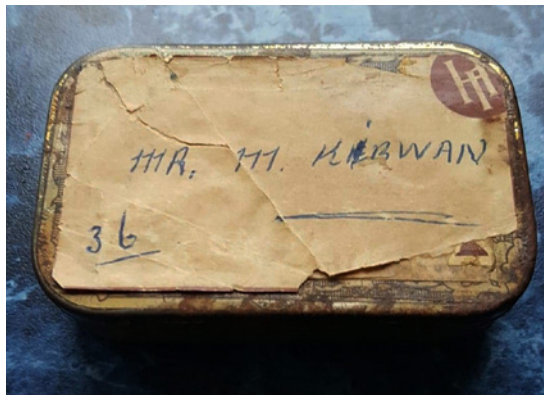
"Picking up your first wage packet is a moment to be proud of. So imagine the day comes to receive it, and it's given to me in an old tobacco tin with my name and clock-in number on it. I was told by the older men that it had been like this since they could remember. To be honest, I was just happy to be getting paid!"

The unusual pay packet tins were returned once workers had counted their wages. They were eventually phased out and replaced with the modern-day process of wages being directly paid into the bank.

After progressing over the years from an apprentice to a toolmaker and drop stamper, Mike's time at the factory came to an unexpected and abrupt end one day.

"I'd been at the company 26 years, the majority of my adult working life. It was a sad day when I saw the receivers come in one morning around 11am, only to make us redundant by 3pm".

Mike and a fellow toolmaker, Roy, were then asked by the bosses to sort out the good tools and machinery for re-sale, and do a general sweep of the factory to tidy it up. However, Mike had no idea of the surprise that was to come.



It might only be an old tobacco tin, but what a history it has for me!

"We were tidying up the cashier's office, which was the last room we were cleaning. I was sweeping under a bench which was affixed to the wall, but suddenly felt something that was in the way. To my shock and surprise, I crouched down to find the same tin I'd received my very first wages in. I'd assumed all of the tins had been disposed of, but mine had obviously hung around for me!"

"That was the very last day I was in the factory, and to find that tin almost makes me feel like my journey at Harrison and Sons had come full circle. I still have that tin, just over 26 years on from when I initially found it in 1992. It means a lot to me for its sentimental value, and reminds me of the good times I had at the factory. It might only be an old tobacco tin, but what a history it has for me!"



Do you have a story about a piece of the Jewellery Quarter? Share it with us by writing to jlifedigitalglue.agency

JQ Life



JEWELLERY QUARTER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



BE SEEN IN THE JQ AND BEYOND

Get your business seen by those who live in,
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