

JQ Life

Issue 8 - Spring 2020



JEWELLERY QUARTER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

www.jewelleryquarter.net

FREE

AN AUDIENCE WITH ANDY

ANDY STREET TALKS TO US
ABOUT HIS PICKS IN THE JQ

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Four pages of exciting
things to do in the JQ



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JQ Life

Issue 8 Spring 2020

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Editor

Greta Geoghegan

Art Direction

Courtney Patrick

Design

Rianna Landell

Photography

Lee Allen
www.leeallenphotography.com

James Crockford
www.associatedimages.co.uk

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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/jqbid

Turning up the heat in the JQ

From a December that brought us an original Banksy, to the turn of the year that welcomed wild winds, the winter months have been eventful in the JQ.

As we look forward to spring, it's exciting to see the progress on a number of our regeneration projects. The restoration of our two fascinating cemeteries (Warstone Lane and Key Hill) is in full swing, and the refurbishment of the Chamberlain Clock is just around the corner. The Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage project has also recently awarded their first grant, with works on Frederick Street's Argent Centre already underway. You can learn more about the plans for the Argent Centre on pages 26-27.

With the weather slowly calming across the city, we hope this issue of JQ Life gives you the inspiration you need to visit our Quarter over the coming months. There are plenty of activities for you to get involved in, with experiences for all ages and members of the family — we've highlighted a few on pages 10-13.

You'll also notice that the JQ Festival is returning for its 6th consecutive year on Saturday 20 June (pages 14-15). In a bumper Saturday, expect more entertainment, an extension of our mini music festival in St Paul's Square, as well as a variety of tours for you to immerse yourselves in the life of the Quarter.



In this issue, we're also pleased to welcome Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street, who shares his love for the Jewellery Quarter and the uniqueness it brings to the city of Birmingham (pages 18-23).

Enjoy reading!

Luke Crane

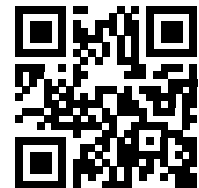
JQDT Executive Director

 @jq_bid

 facebook.com/JewelleryQtr

 @JQBID

For the latest news from the JQBID, scan here to visit our website and sign up to our newsletter.



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JEWELLERY QUARTER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

What's new in the JQ?

MEET THE MUSEUM OF THE JEWELLERY QUARTER'S NEW JEWELLER IN RESIDENCE

Vanessa Miller, an independent jewellery designer-maker, has beat competition to be crowned the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter's second Jeweller in Residence. The competition ran by the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, in partnership with Birmingham City University's School of Jewellery, aims to offer opportunities to budding jewellery designers and graduates of the university. Vanessa, whose own business is based in the Jewellery Quarter, will work from the museum's perfectly preserved workshop regularly over the next year creating a new jewellery range, which will be exclusively sold in the museum's acclaimed shop.

To find out more about the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter visit
www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/jewellery.

More of Vanessa's work can be found at
vanessamillerjewellery.co.uk.

JQ'S DANCE CLINIC ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERSHIP TO HELP DANCERS OF THE FUTURE

The JQ's own Dance Clinic has been chosen as the official training and injury management support for the Centre of Advanced Training (CAT) working with the internationally recognised DanceXchange. The partnership will see Dance Clinic work closely with dance students, providing professional screenings and injury preventive strategies to enhance performance, career development and help create the next generation of dancers. Dance Clinic is an independent clinic run by Phil Birch, a Soft Tissue Injury Specialist, and Darryl Canham, a Martial Arts Practitioner, Performer, and Physical Conditioning Coach.

For further information on Dance Clinic, visit www.danceclinic.co.uk

STU DEELEY BRINGS HOME THE MASTERCHEF CROWN

We're still beaming with pride at Stu Deeley's MasterChef: The Professionals win. The innovative chef, born and bred in Birmingham, triumphed in the final with his fusion-led dishes. Until recently, Stu was Head Chef at The Wilderness in the Jewellery Quarter.

Keep up to date with what Stu's up to at
twitter.com/stuartdeeley

JQ BASED TICKETSELLERS FEED NEARLY 1,500 PEOPLE IN NEED

Led by Fredrick Street based TicketSellers, the JQ community came together to donate food, sanitary products and toiletries for those in need at Christmas. In total, TicketSellers collected 619kg of food, which is enough to provide 1,473 meals. An amazing achievement!

Check out the incredible haul TicketSellers collected at bit.ly/ticketsellersfoodbank

BEST HYBRID RETAILER WIN FOR ARCH 13

Congratulations are in order for Arch 13, who have been awarded Best Hybrid Retailer at the prestigious Drinks Retailing Awards 2020. A well-deserved win for a JQ staple!

Book a table at the award-winning Arch 13 at
arch13bar.co.uk

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

CHECK OUT WHO'S JOINED THE JQ

JQ Bar and Grill
www.thejqbarandgrill.co.uk

Craft Inn
www.craft-inn.uk

Dr Skin
www.drskinclinics.com

JQ Natural Health Centre
www.jewelleryquarter.net/directory/jq-natural-health-centre

Spring Housing Association
www.springhousing.org.uk

Bake Even Cakery
www.bakeevencakery.com

Sew Confident
www.sewconfident.co.uk

Raphael Lionel
www.raphaellionelphotography.com

Ah! Jewellery
www.ahjewellery.co.uk

MB Jewellers LTD
www.mbjewellers.co.uk

Katie Bard
www.katiebard.com

Sustainable Energy Association
www.sustainableenergyassociation.com

The Boogie Shed
www.theboogieshed.com

Horizon Coffee
www.horizoncoffee.co.uk

Correct as of
March 2020

JQBID & JQDT Highlights



SUITED FOR SUCCESS

Teaming up with The Big Peg and GoodGym Birmingham, the JQBID launched a JQ Suit Drive campaign on behalf of local charity, Suited for Success. The charity offers free high-quality interview clothes, styling, and interview skills for unemployed men and women in Birmingham. Suited for Success rely solely on the generosity of residents and businesses for donations of clothes and accessories. The last drive saw over 800 items being donated from generous workplaces around the Jewellery Quarter which is more than four times what was received in 2018 when the campaign was last run.

You can find out more about Suited for Success here: bit.ly/JQSuitDrive2020

GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL - WINTER

The JQBID sponsored this year's beer lovers event which took place at the New Bingley Hall and featured a week full of British made beer, cider and gin! The JQBID Ambassadors were on site to speak with visitors about the JQ's great pub and brewery scene and to hand out copies of the new 2020 JQ Ale Trail.



To get your hands on the Ale Trail, visit a local JQ bar, or download online here: bit.ly/JQAleTrail2020



JQ CEMETERIES PROJECT

Key Hill and Warstone Lane cemeteries have been part of people's lives for generations, so lots of people have memories to share; occasional visitors, local residents, those who work in the Quarter, people with relatives buried here, and more. We want to know why these historic cemeteries are special to you! We'll be sharing stories, displaying historic images and photos of past events, plus gathering more memories, asking you to get creative by adding them to our tree of life.

If you would like to share a memory or image, please email josie.wall@jqdt.org, use the hashtag #JQCemeteryMemories on social media, or come along on Saturday 25 April 2020 from 1pm-3pm at Warstone Lane Cemetery.

Find out more here: bit.ly/cemeteries-memories



BANKSY IN THE JQ

December saw the surprise arrival of an original Banksy, painted on the wall outside the Jewellery Quarter station. The Banksy was soon covered with Perspex as the JQBID team were keen to help protect the message which highlights the issue of homelessness. The Jewellery Quarter saw an increase in footfall over the festive period as people from as far as Dubai came to visit the street art.

Reminisce on the story that put the JQ in front of the world's media here: bit.ly/BanksyJQ

JQ CITY BREAKS LAUNCHED

Two brand new city breaks to the Jewellery Quarter have been launched. For those that want to experience the creativity that embodies the Jewellery Quarter's heritage or those that want a couple's retreat, take a look at both the Craft City Break and Romantic City Break. These two package deals provide you with accommodation, food, and an array of experiences to choose from.

Book your getaways here: bit.ly/JQcitybreak



JQTH HIGHLIGHTS

SPOTLIGHT ON FREDERICK STREET

The Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage Project celebrated the history of Frederick Street with a week of activities in January. With grand houses, small workshops, huge pen factories, and Greek Revival influences, the spotlight was shone on the historic Jewellery Quarter street.

For a full rundown on the events as well as access to JQTH's research, head over to:
bit.ly/FrederickStreet



ARGENT CENTRE

The first grant of the Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage Project has been awarded to the Grade II* listed Argent Centre, built in 1862. The project, which commenced in early 2020, has an anticipated completion date of autumn 2020.

For a detailed overview of the scheme including plans for the restoration, turn to pages 26-27.

Collaboration and connection at the CORE of the JQ



GUEST COLUMN: JAMIE BARTON, JEWELLERY QUARTER ACADEMY

What makes Jewellery Quarter Academy special is the commitment and drive to build partnerships with organisations to give our students a wide range of wonderful opportunities.

We serve many students that come from disadvantaged backgrounds in some of the most deprived areas of Birmingham and we embrace our geographic location to give students access to opportunities that they might not otherwise get. We have put character development around our CORE values of collaboration, opportunity, respect and excellence at the heart of what we do. Part of the 'journey' for a student at JQA is being encouraged to value the historic community around them in the Jewellery Quarter; we want students to be proud to be part of the Jewellery Quarter community, to respect its history, and contribute to its future.

Our students' excellent artwork has recently been displayed in the beautiful setting of the English Heritage site at JW Evans Silver Factory on Albion St, whilst we have taken talented Year 9 artists to the RBSA to inspire them with the work of local artists. We value working with partners in the Jewellery Quarter and have recently started planning with the JQ Townscape Heritage Project to provide the opportunity for students to work on a craft project and exhibit it in The Hive on Vittoria St.

Another local group we are collaborating with is JQ Neighbourhood Forum. Our students in Year 8 are excited about volunteering on a weekend on their Adopt a Canal project, working together on canal restoration – an important symbol of our shared industrial heritage.

Sporting students have benefitted greatly from our ongoing partnership with the stylish Henrietta St Gym, offering them opportunities to benefit from the superb facilities and gain boxing qualifications, and even sponsorship to recognise their promising talent.

We are always looking to support our students with opportunities to explore more of our community, meet the amazing people that make up the Jewellery Quarter, and make the most of the inspirational culture and heritage all around them, including galleries, museums, and workplaces. We also offer work experience opportunities in March/April for Year 10 students each year and we hope that more organisations in the JQ will continue to open their doors to our students so that, together, we can open students' eyes to the history, heritage, and opportunities within the community of the Jewellery Quarter.

Jamie Barton is Deputy Headteacher at Jewellery Quarter Academy. If you would like to collaborate with JQA, email: jbarton@jewelleryquarter.academy



Made in the JQ: Experiences

THE JEWELLERY QUARTER IS A TREASURE TROVE OF THINGS TO SEE AND DO. FROM EXPLORING HISTORIC BUILDINGS, TO DINING IN MICHELIN STARRED RESTAURANTS, EXPERIENCES ARE MADE IN THE JQ.

TAKE A BROWSE THROUGH OUR PICK OF SOME OF THE MOST EXCITING THINGS YOU CAN DO ON YOUR VISIT TO THE JEWELLERY QUARTER.



MUSEUMS

The Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

Explore the origins of the Jewellery Quarter's namesake and discover the story of its incredible history through a fascinating guided tour around an old jewellery factory. Witness live demonstrations at the jewellers' bench, explore the museum's two self-led galleries, and visit Birmingham City University's jeweller in residence. Make sure you stop for lunch in the Smith & Pepper tearoom for a freshly made sandwich and cake.

75-80 Vyse Street, B18 6HA

birminghammuseums.org.uk/jewellery

The Pen Museum

Celebrate Birmingham's role in leading the world's pen trade in the 19th century. Based in a former pen factory, this remarkable museum has a unique collection of pens, nibs, machinery and artefacts. Interactive experiences help bring the story of Birmingham's pen trade to life.

Unit 3, The Argent Centre, 60 Frederick Street, B1 3HS

penmuseum.org.uk

The Coffin Works

Take a guided tour of Birmingham's last coffin-furniture factory. Producing some of the world's finest coffin furniture, Newman Brothers produced fittings for the funerals of Winston Churchill, Joseph Chamberlain, and the Queen Mother.

13-15 Fleet St, B3 1JP

coffinworks.org

FOOD AND DRINK

Opheem

Experience the culinary delights of Aktar Islam's Michelin Star awarded restaurant, Opheem, where traditional Indian flavours are given a unique twist. The eight-course vegetarian tasting menu is not to be missed!

48 Summer Row, B3 1JJ

opheem.com

40 St Paul's

Did you know that the World's Best Gin Bar is found in the Jewellery Quarter? 40 St Paul's won this prestigious accolade from the Icon of Gin Awards 2019. Explore their list of 140 gins in this intimate, relaxed space.

40 Cox St, B3 1RD

40stpauls.co.uk

Otto

This casual restaurant serves up tasty wood fired pizza with the freshest ingredients sourced both locally and from Italy. Sample one of their charcuterie boards, or sip on a pint of their very own Otto lager. They're even dog friendly, so your pooch can enjoy too!

14 Caroline Street, B3 1TR

ottowoodfired.com

The Vanguard at 1000 Trades

Nestled above the popular 1000 Trades bar sits the Vanguard. This cosy space is the ideal location to sit and enjoy a speciality cocktail or two, or you could even sample one of their many meads!

16 Fredrick Street, B1 3HE

vanguardbar.co.uk



OPHEEM



THE VANGUARD



ESCAPE LIVE



GET INVOLVED

Escape Live

With a range of escape rooms to test your brain, Escape Live is the perfect activity if you're up for a challenge with your friends or co-workers. Immerse yourself into the world of the Peaky Blinders with the recent addition of two themed escape rooms, 'The Raid' and 'Double Cross'. Are you cut out to be a Shelby?

18-24 Constitution Hill, B19 3LY

escapelive.co.uk

Blue Orange Theatre

Focusing on locally produced fringe productions, this 100-seat theatre offers shows that range from comedy to musicals and spoken word. The Blue Orange Theatre provide performances to suit every taste. Check out their what's on page to see what's coming up soon.

118 Great Hampton St, B18 6AD

blueorangetheatre.co.uk

Crafts Collective

Get handsy with all things craft by joining one of the Crafts Collective's upcoming workshops. Learn a brand-new skill, with everything from copper embossing, to wreath making and printing workshops.

53A Frederick St, B1 3HS

thecraftscollective.co.uk/upcoming-events

The Floating Spa

Melt away the stresses of a busy week by floating weightlessly in salt-rich water. Experience true relaxation with this unique de-stressing experience in Birmingham's only flotation spa.

23-24 Hall Street, B18 6BS

thefloatingspa.com

The 180 Club

Have a drink with friends and challenge one another to a game at the oche. This social darts venue, located beneath The Rectory in St Paul's Square, is a great alternative to your everyday drinks!

[50-54 St Paul's Square, B3 1QS](#)

[180club.co.uk](#)

The Quarterworkshop

Where better to get to grips with making your own unique piece of jewellery than in the Jewellery Quarter? The Quarterworkshop offers workshops and classes in everything from silver pendant making to designing and creating your own wedding ring.

[13-15 Fleet Street, B3 1JP](#)

[thequarterworkshop.com](#)

Birmingham Walking Tours & Heritage Trail

Delve deeper into the history of the Jewellery Quarter, from the historic factories producing everything from jewellery to whistles, and buttons and badges, to the many pubs the area has seen come and go over the years. Take part in one of the Birmingham Heritage walking tours by visiting their website:

[birminghamwalkingtours.co.uk](#)

Download the JQ Visitor Guide

For more tips, ideas and places to visit, download our handy JQ Visitor Guide which also contains a map and useful information on hotels and public transport:

[bit.ly/JQVisitorGuide20](#)



THE QUARTERWORKSHOP



JQ Festival 2020

WITH OVER 90% OF VISITORS FROM LAST YEAR'S EVENT SAYING THAT THEY WOULD RETURN, THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED JEWELLERY QUARTER FESTIVAL IS BACK FOR THE 6TH YEAR RUNNING.

What can you expect to see this year?

This year all of your personal favourites are back for one day only, so keep Saturday 20 June available for a day of family fun entertainment, live music, delicious food, tours of our famous Quarter, and much more!

10:00 - 18:00 -
THE GOLDEN SQUARE

Get hands-on with entertainment, crafts and activities for all ages. Ranging from jewellery making to arts & crafts, interactive rides, and outdoor performances! Stop off for a bite to eat from one of our delicious food truck vendors, or simply lounge on the grass soaking up the atmosphere.

13:00 - 21:00 -
SAINT PAUL'S SQUARE

We're bringing back our mini music Festival to St Paul's Square! Expect swinging rhythms and banging tunes as you sip on ice cold drinks and soak up the atmosphere in the lush surroundings of St Paul's Square.

Visit the local bars and restaurants around the square for a plethora of food & drink options.

All Day - Tours

Want to discover more of what the JQ has to offer?

Sign up to one of our quirky tours and learn about JQ history & heritage, award-winning bars, craft jewellers, indie retailers, and much more! Our expert guides will show you the hidden gems and secret stories inside the historic buildings.

The Lowdown

jewelleryquarter.net/jq-festival

[@jq_bid](https://www.instagram.com/jq_bid)

[facebook.com/JewelleryQtr](https://www.facebook.com/JewelleryQtr)

[@JQBID](https://twitter.com/JQBID)

[#JQFestival](https://www.instagram.com/jq_bid)

SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2020





Brought to you

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.



Adopt a Station

THE ADOPT A STATION SCHEME, BY WEST MIDLANDS RAILWAY, ENABLES COMMUNITIES TO ADOPT THEIR LOCAL RAILWAY STATION BY IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES WHICH HELP TO ENHANCE THE STATION'S ENVIRONMENT.

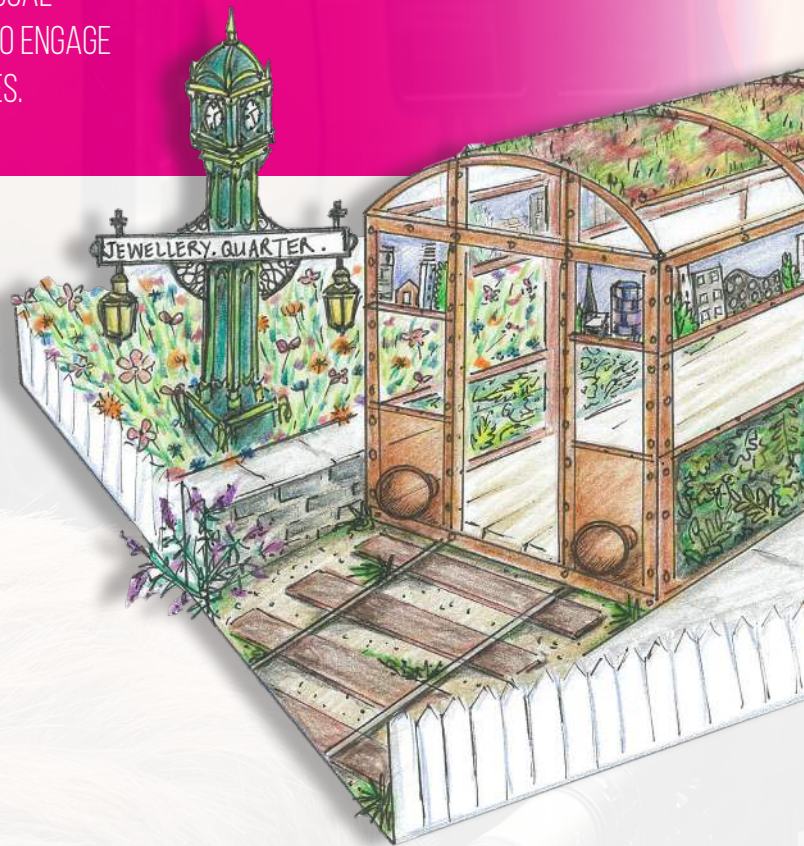
IN MAY 2019, THE JEWELLERY QUARTER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BECAME THE FIRST BID IN THE UK TO ADOPT THEIR LOCAL TRAIN STATION AND HAVE SINCE SET OUT AMBITIOUS PLANS TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY WITH PLANTING, HERITAGE AND ART SCHEMES.

Engaging the community through horticulture

Local JQ garden designer, Gaynor Steele, became the station's Lead Adopter and soon began work on implementing a variety of planting projects, including planters outside the entrance to the station on Vyse Street and an edible garden, containing fruits and herbs, alongside one of the platforms. It is hoped that the gardening work inside the station will not just improve community and passenger experience, but will also contribute to improving the Jewellery Quarter's air quality. By utilising the space within the Jewellery Quarter station, plans now include:

- Planting wildflowers to improve biodiversity
- Developing schemes such as rainwater collection and vertical living walls
- Planting scented plants and herbs to provide sensory rich experiences

Excitingly, the plans for the Jewellery Quarter station will be displayed at the 2020 RHS Chelsea Flower Show, in a bid to showcase nationally what can be done at community level in tackling inner city pollution.

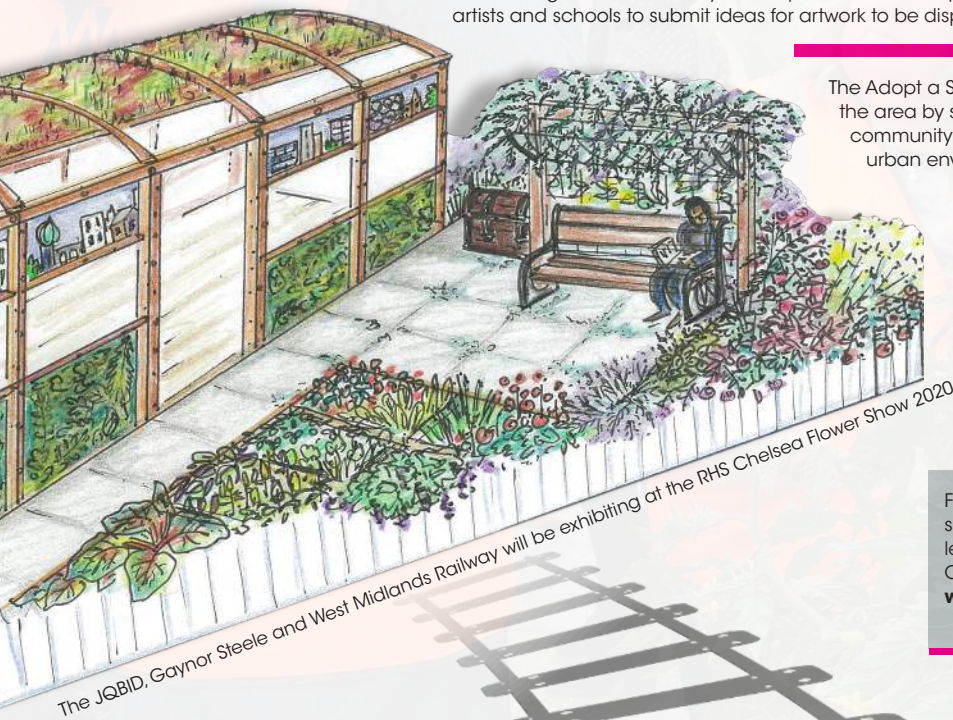


Engaging the community through heritage and art

The Jewellery Quarter is steeped in rich history and heritage so utilising space inside the station to showcase this has become an integral part of the JQ's Adopt a Station scheme. In 2019, a number of exhibitions were hosted including The People's Archive – showcasing the stories of people who have lived and worked in the Jewellery Quarter area - and a War Memorial Gallery which was installed during Remembrance Week.

The Jewellery Quarter has an extremely vibrant community and it is this community spirit which needs to be present throughout the station. Working with local Jewellery Quarter artist, Tom Parry, a new Jewellery Quarter map has been created which will be seen inside the station lobby. The installation of a new community notice board will also be a welcome addition and will showcase event listings and community meet ups. There are also plans to invite other local Jewellery Quarter artists and schools to submit ideas for artwork to be displayed alongside the station platforms.

The Adopt a Station scheme will bring local pride to the area by showcasing the Jewellery Quarter's history, community spirit, and endeavour in greening urban environments.



For more information on the Adopt a Station scheme, to join the volunteer group, or to learn more about our exhibit at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, visit:
www.jewelleryquarter.net/adopt-a-station

In Their Own Words: Andy Street

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

IN THIS ISSUE, ANDY STREET, MAYOR OF THE WEST
MIDLANDS, SHARES HIS FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT
THE JQ AND HIS VISION FOR ITS FUTURE.





NAME: **ANDY STREET**

ORGANISATION: **WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY**

JOB TITLE: **MAYOR OF THE WEST MIDLANDS**

“ MY ROLE AS MAYOR OF THE WEST MIDLANDS IS TO CHAMPION BIRMINGHAM AND THE WEST MIDLANDS, WHICH MEANS BRINGING TOGETHER BIRMINGHAM, COVENTRY, DUDLEY, SANDWELL, SOLIHULL, WALSALL AND WOLVERHAMPTON AS A TEAM.

Before being Mayor, I was Managing Director at John Lewis, and spent my working life on the High Street.

I think we have achieved a great deal, but there's lots more to do. We've linked up the region better with the extension of the Metro, we're building new homes quicker than anywhere else in the UK, and our Housing First scheme is starting to make a difference to help rough sleepers.

But the thing I'm most pleased about is I have shown that someone can come into politics, who isn't a career politician, and I have proven that this job can be done in a business-like way. I've always thought that this role is like a job interview with two million people, and on the whole, I believe we have done what we said we would do.

ANDY ON THE JQ...

ON THE DEVELOPING JQ...

What makes the Jewellery Quarter such a gem is the special mix that it has between brilliant places to live, small traditional workshops, brilliant places to socialise, and important heritage. As it develops, it's essential that mix is maintained. So, that means that - while I'm not the planning authority - I'm very clear that any planning consent must always be respectful of existing businesses.

ON INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES IN THE JQ...

It's those businesses that bring uniqueness and differentiation. Individuals express themselves through their brand loyalty to those independent businesses, and they bring character to an area.

The Jewellery Quarter is an example of a place where independent businesses have thrived, and it's something that a lot of other high streets would like to emulate.

ON THE JQ'S ACCESSIBILITY...

Public transport is improving, thanks to the extensions of the Metro, but my hope is that in a second term as Mayor we will be able to decisively improve pedestrian access by linking the city centre with the boundary of the Jewellery Quarter, which remains a barrier. This has been talked about for many years but I'm hopeful that the improving economy of the city centre would give us the justification for solving this once and for all.

MY JQ, MY PICKS

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE WAY TO SPEND A DAY OFF IN THE JQ?

I'd start the day with a good walk along the canal. Then, I'd perhaps drop into one of the galleries to have a look at what's going on. I'd finish the day at 40 St Paul's gin bar, which is the best in the world. For a special treat, I'd have something to eat at Folium.

Follow an exciting, innovative meal at Folium (www.restaurantfolium.com) with an award-winning gin at 40 St Paul's (www.40stpauls.co.uk).

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT THE JQ?

Access to the Jewellery Quarter from the Colmore district is simply not good enough - that needs to be changed.

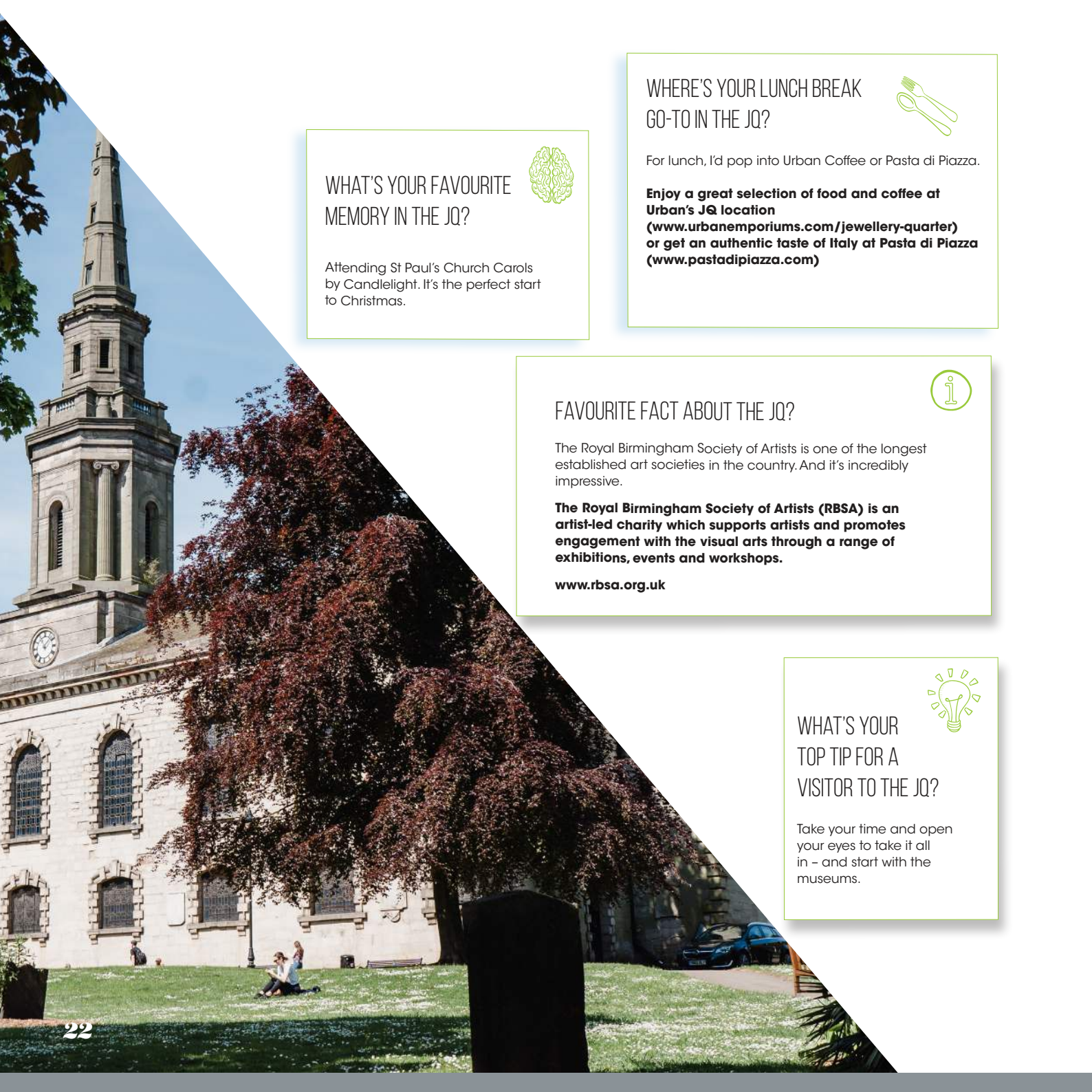
WHAT DO YOU WISH PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT THE JQ?

I think people ought to know about all the famous Brummies who are buried in the cemeteries in the Jewellery Quarter. The list is incredible. If you go to the Warstone Lane and Key Hill cemeteries, you'll find the last resting places of local people who genuinely changed the world.

Discover the latest about the cemeteries at www.jewelleryquarter.net/about/jewellery-quarter-cemeteries-project/

Keep up to date with the latest from Andy Street at [www.fb.com/andy4wm](https://www.facebook.com/andy4wm)





WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY IN THE JQ?



Attending St Paul's Church Carols by Candlelight. It's the perfect start to Christmas.

WHERE'S YOUR LUNCH BREAK GO-TO IN THE JQ?



For lunch, I'd pop into Urban Coffee or Pasta di Piazza.

Enjoy a great selection of food and coffee at Urban's JQ location (www.urbanemporiums.com/jewellery-quarter) or get an authentic taste of Italy at Pasta di Piazza (www.pastadipiazza.com)

FAVOURITE FACT ABOUT THE JQ?



The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists is one of the longest established art societies in the country. And it's incredibly impressive.

The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) is an artist-led charity which supports artists and promotes engagement with the visual arts through a range of exhibitions, events and workshops.

www.rbsa.org.uk

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



Take your time and open your eyes to take it all in – and start with the museums.

FAVOURITE PLACE IN THE JQ?



I love St Paul's, the museums and galleries, and I know many of the restaurants in the Jewellery Quarter very well too, but I think I'm going to have to say the Big Peg because we have chosen it to be our campaign headquarters this year!

**Set right at the centre of the JQ,
The Big Peg offers stylish office space
to a wide variety of businesses.**

www.thebigpeg.co.uk

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE JQ'S FUTURE?



Actually, I'm excited about how the influence of the JQ's success is now spilling into the Gun Quarter and encouraging similar development over the road. The fact that it is spilling across the boundary into a neighbouring quarter illustrates the momentum behind the growth of the JQ.



HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP THE JQ IN THREE WORDS?

One word will do – **unique!**



Changing Spaces: Sleep well at Selina

**THE CENTURY-
OLD VICTORIAN
FACTORY NOW HAS
A NEW LEASE OF
LIFE AS A STYLISH
BOUTIQUE HOTEL.**



“We’re always looking for unique and exciting properties with rich heritage. Selina Birmingham was an incredible opportunity to build on that history and bring it up to the modern-day in such an iconic location.”





Starting life in 1903 as a purpose-built factory, the building has a rich history of creating a number of significant items behind its stunning exterior. Today, behind the beautiful terracotta facade is the latest boutique hotel to hit the JQ, Selina. Head of Country in the UK, Erwin De Jong Oliveira, shows us around.

Complete with special relics, freshly painted murals and art that has been locally curated, the building has been renovated to represent the city's industrial heritage, but with an added contemporary twist created by Selina's resident artists.

"Each Selina property is designed in partnership with local artists, creators and tastemakers, with the vision of breathing new life into existing buildings in interesting locations around the world," says Erwin.

The Grade II listed building, at the heart of Livery Street, once played host to the Vaughton Brothers company (now Vaughtons), who started off as gold and silversmiths. Having moved to various locations across the JQ, in 1903 they relocated to their purpose-built factory, the Vaughton Gothic Works, where they stayed for over 100 years. The company became famous for manufacturing the original FA Cup (and the second after the first was famously stolen), as well as the medals for the 1908 Olympics. It's this rich history that Selina hopes to be a part of.

The hotel, which caters for all types of tourists, features a wide range of amenities not usually seen in your standard hotel including an artisanal cafe, a movie room, and a wellness room, which was created for people to unwind after a long day.



For Selina, the JQ was the ideal location for opening its Birmingham hotel.

"The Jewellery Quarter is a great spot for tourism; consistently leading the way with trendy bars, independent restaurants and creative spaces, as well as being home to a plethora of amenities. The location is the perfect in-between for people who want to experience the independent restaurants and bars of the JQ but also have the choice to visit the centre of the city."

Want to experience Selina in the Jewellery Quarter?
Head over to their website at

www.selina.com/uk/birmingham

92-95 Livery St, Birmingham B3 1RJ

0121 236 4031





The Argent Centre: Restoring a key historic cornerstone for modern use

THE JEWELLERY QUARTER CONTAINS MANY FASCINATING BUILDINGS, ONE OF WHICH IS THE LANDMARK ARGENT CENTRE.

This Grade II* listed gem, originally known as Albert Works, has a unique history. It was built in 1862 by local architect John George Bland for William Edward Wiley as a factory making pens and pencils. The building also housed Turkish baths on the upper floors of the four-storey wing on Frederick Street.

The Turkish baths cleverly utilised the waste steam from the factory engines below and were lavishly decorated with marble seating and stained-glass windows. There were suites for working men, gentlemen and ladies which were arranged over three floors with separate male and female entrances.

The baths remained open until 1870 when Wiley's factory merged with other local companies to form Perry & Co Ltd. By 1983, only a small area of the original floor tiling remained of the original Turkish baths.

The building was constructed in such a way that it could be easily extended and added to over the years. Such an addition was made in 1915 when it was extended to the west, and extended further still with an additional floor added in the 20th century.

Within the Jewellery Quarter, the building is well known for its ornate architectural detailing, with chequered brick arches and the use of different coloured brickwork to create an elegant visual effect.

Over the years, the building has seen many changes in use, from its original use as a pen factory, to a warehouse for scientific equipment! Nowadays, the building is known and loved as the Argent Centre, owned by Midlands Industrial Association Ltd, and houses small businesses along with the JQ's very own Pen Museum. (Find out more about the Pen Museum on pages 10-13).

Most recently, the Argent Centre has been awarded the very first grant from the Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage project. This grant will allow restoration work to be completed on the building that includes:

- Repointing and repairing the brickwork and stone detailing
- Refurbishing the cast iron windows
- Reinstating the pyramid quarter turrets evidenced in contemporary drawings of the building



This work will help protect the building for the future and showcase the architectural beauty of this key historic cornerstone of the JQ. Alison Walker from the Argent Centre says, "The Argent Centre is an important place for small businesses who need a high-profile image at a modest cost. There are a diverse range of businesses operating from the Argent Centre including web designers, a security company, a chocolatier, photographers, jewellery designers, a martial arts dojo, the Pen Museum, of course, and even a master puppet maker!

We are pleased to restore the frontage of this important Grade II* building to its former glory with assistance from the Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage project."

The Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage (JQTH) project is a three-year scheme funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other partners. It aims to regenerate an area within the Jewellery Quarter's 'industrial middle' through the repair and restoration of historic buildings and the delivery of events and activities for all.

Find out more at: th.jewelleryquarter.net

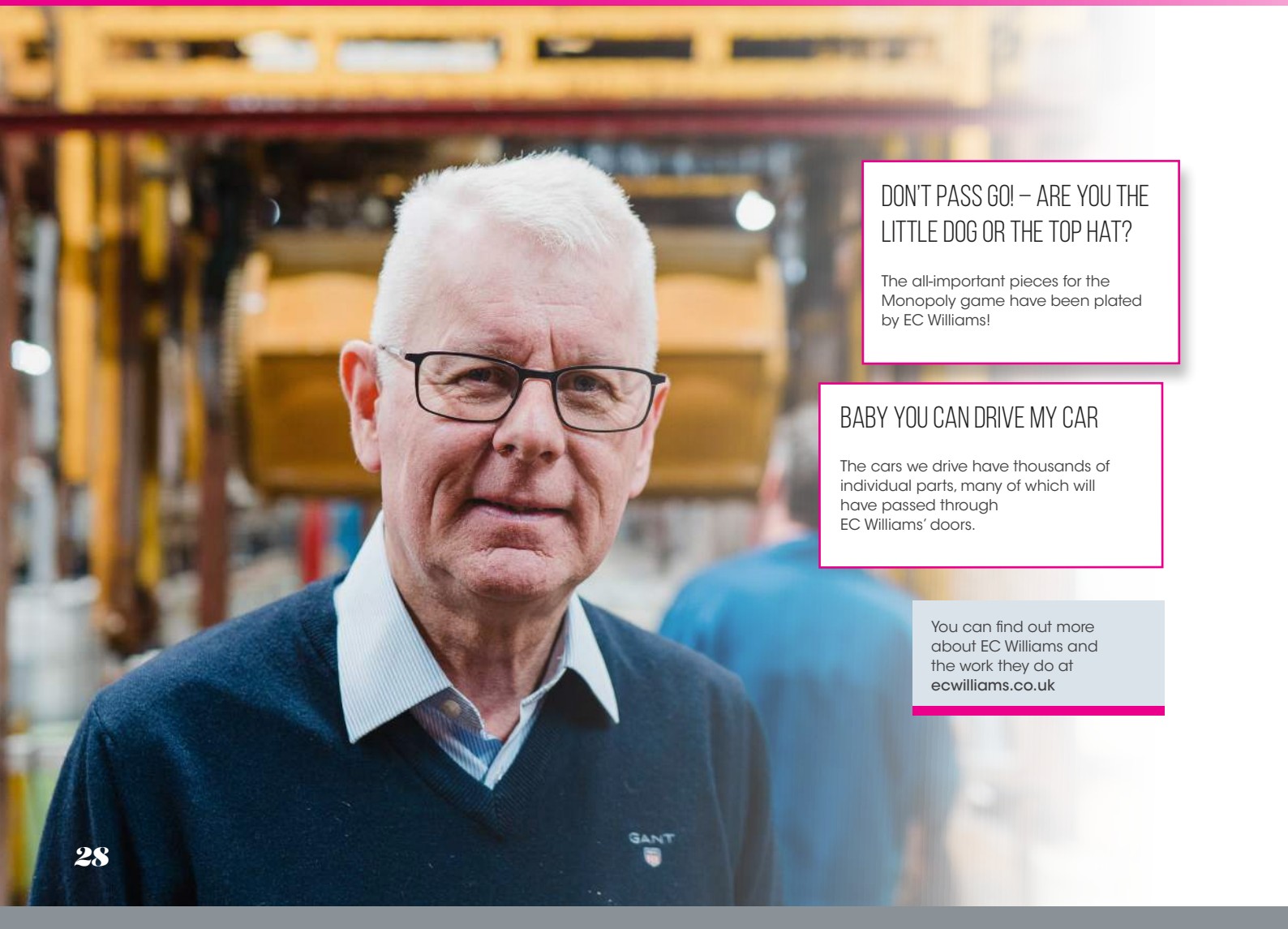
 TOWNSCAPE
HERITAGE

*The
Argent
Centre* 

How We Make It

EC WILLIAMS

BUILT ON LUCKY BRICKS






DON'T PASS GO! – ARE YOU THE LITTLE DOG OR THE TOP HAT?

The all-important pieces for the Monopoly game have been plated by EC Williams!

BABY YOU CAN DRIVE MY CAR

The cars we drive have thousands of individual parts, many of which will have passed through EC Williams' doors.

You can find out more about EC Williams and the work they do at ecwilliams.co.uk



"WOULD YOU LIKE TO
KEEP YOUR HANGER?"

EC Williams have plated the metal components for coat hangers for Marks & Spencer.

EC Williams started life in 1923 when Jewellery Quarter based electroplater, Charles Edwin Williams, set up his own electroplating business. Born and raised in Hockley, Charles, known as Ted, was a true JQ native, and so building a business in the area he knew and loved was important to him.

Canny readers may notice the difference between Charles' initials, CE Williams, with the company's name, EC Williams. This was no accident, but rather a clever move on Ted's behalf, as businesses used to be listed alongside private residences in the phone book, and this way he could avoid getting calls from customers at home!

Since inception, EC Williams has stayed a family business, being passed from Ted to his nephew Kenneth Holder, and then on to his daughter, Christine Skouby, who still works there today alongside her husband, Henrik Skouby - the current managing director.

This family connection is clear even now, with the initials 'ECW' visible in the brickwork outside, and 'KAH' within their reception area.

"Uncle Ted always used to tell my father that EC Williams is built on lucky bricks, and so these bricks were kept from the original factory when it was reconstructed."

The factory has changed a lot throughout the years, with premises moving and growing, and the building you see now constructed in 1974. Much of this growth was made possible post-war, when Birmingham City Council had the need to sell off many of their assets. Buildings that were leased at the time were purchased by Mr. Williams, and used to create his factory.

In the early days of EC Williams, silver-plating was the name of the game. Other businesses in the Jewellery Quarter would construct items from whatever metal they had available to them, and this would then be brought along to EC Williams to be silver-plated. They were also heavily involved in plating cutlery for fine dining in hotels across the country.

WHAT IS ELECTROPLATING?

Electroplating involves coating a metal surface with another metal. EC Williams currently coat with a number of different metals, from silver to copper, zinc and nickel.

Once a process that involved many stages, much of the work is now done on an automated line that involves:

- Cleaning
- Plating - using an electric current to plate one metal to another.
- Drying
- Packing

On any one day, thousands of items come through the doors of the factory to be plated!



FIT FOR A QUEEN

EC Williams have, in the past, specially plated the shot for the Queen when she'd go shooting. The shot was layered with nickel and brass so that they look like gold! Nothing less for Her Majesty.

My Piece of the JQ

DON'T LET THE MEMORIES FADE

JEWELLER AND GEMOLOGIST, LORA LEEDHAM, REMODELS SENTIMENTAL JEWELLERY SO THAT MEMORIES CAN LIVE ON FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER.

"I've always had a strong interest in gemstones. As a child, I used to collect gems, attempting to collect as many different stones as possible. It was this love of gemstones, combined with a passion for design, that led me to become a jeweller in the first place."

Find out more about Lora Leedham and her jewellery on her website:

www.loraleedham.co.uk

After a few years of working in the Jewellery Quarter, I saw that there was a gemology course that I could undertake. This was key in my development. As a gemologist, I am able to advise customers on important matters such as the durability of stones, treatments for a variety of gems, the different cuts available, as well as the ability to offer them gems they have never even heard of. With people being more aware of unusual stones, I am able to aid them and direct them to ethically sourced gems which is really important to me. In all of my years as a jeweller, I have witnessed many sentimental stories and reasons behind my customers wanting jewellery created or remodeled. The rings pictured on the right are from a mother and father. The father had recently passed away and the mother herself didn't have long. They decided to make three rings for each of their daughters from the original rings, including the repurposing of the gemstones. I managed to create the rings in time, just before the mother sadly passed away, allowing her to see her daughters wear the rings that were once a piece of her own jewellery collection.



Another beautiful story that comes to mind is that of a daughter being able to be with her father on her wedding day, not physically, but sentimentally. The father used to be a pawnbroker and had a multitude of gemstones lying in a box, which the daughter brought in. She picked those that stood out to her, and those that she recalled playing with as a child, along with his favourite gold cufflinks. I was able to remodel her father's gold cufflinks into earrings, and clean and re-set her chosen gemstones into these for her. She was able to wear the earrings pictured on her big day and have something to remember her father by.

I first got into jewellery remodeling at a time when gold prices started to rise, due to many requests coming in to use old broken jewellery and repurpose them as opposed to allowing them to lie abandoned in a box at the back of a drawer. Remodeling enables me to see an emotion in customers that makes the extra work that goes into the process worth it, from the melting and reshaping of the jewellery to the final touches such as gemstones."



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



58 George Street
Birmingham
B3 1QA
0121 212 0387
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