

Jolife

MAGAZINE

ISSUE
15

The official magazine for Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter

We chat tradition, talent and charity with Nick Hobbis, managing director of 200 year old bespoke manufacturer, Vaughtons

Bite Your Brum takes us on a trip around the world with her guide on international cuisine in the Jewellery Quarter

Sunny Dal tells us what it's like to be a young jeweller in the JQ



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With an incredibly difficult two years behind us, the coming months are set to bring a huge amount of activity to the Quarter. None more so than the exciting return of our Jewellery Quarter Festival, back after a hiatus due to the pandemic. This year's festival will take place on Saturday 23rd July and will bring with it music, food, heritage and craft. Read more on pages 16-17.

And with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games just around the corner, we thought it apt to shine a light on the JQ's glittering history in sport (pages 10-13) and meet with Nick Hobbis, Managing Director of Vaughtons, a 200-year-old company that produces many well-known sporting trophies and medals, as well as badges for the likes of McLaren and Aston Martin (pages 18-21). We also feature a guide on our top hotels (pages 8-9), enjoy international cuisine with Bite Your Brum (22-23) and hear from one of the Jewellery Quarter's youngest jewellers (26-27).

Welcome the rebirth of our printed magazines by flicking through our Spring issue of JQ Life, and explore the many stories and events that will get you excited about visiting the Jewellery Quarter in the months to come.

Enjoy reading,

Luke Crane

JQDT Executive Director

 facebook.com/JewelleryQtr

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

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

JQlife

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

www.jewelleryquarter.net/jqbid

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Guest Column:

Putting the Great Back in Great Hampton Street

Marcus Hawley: CEO, Cordia Blackswan



I first saw Great Hampton Street in 2003. New to the city, I walked around, trying to get a gist of what it was like. I discovered this street with monumental buildings, with grandeur, class and character, and no noticeable maintenance over the last 100 years! Different from the main Jewellery Quarter it was big, commercial, brash, but faded. In my mind's eye I could see that like all the metalware made here, with a bit of polish it could be amazing; a cross between Clerkenwell and the Champs Elysée.

I've always suffered from civic FOMO. Every time I go somewhere amazing, my inner voice says,

'Why can't we have one of these?' After all we're the city that helped birth the modern world, a city with vision, and whose motto is 'forward'.

I realised eventually I had to do something about it. It took me 15 years before I could see these two things merge.

It's not a dream anymore, and as such it's fitting that the first building we'll finish is 1 Great

Hampton Street. You may as well start at the start. Known as the Gothic, it's a set of beautiful historic buildings, dating back to the street's halcyon days.

Our vision is that this area will once again have places that we want to visit, buildings we're proud of and a culture that reflects its unique past and maybe a bit of outward, in your face pride about who we are and what we can achieve.

However, our placemaking vision is not just about improving the buildings. It's about the public space too; cleaner and safer with more lighting; greener, not just in looks but also in the way it's used. We want to introduce cycle lanes, pedestrian crossings and extended pavements that become beautiful tree-lined boulevards.

Another huge focus is bringing more footfall to the area, and including the local community too, so that it's not just a gentrification effort. Working alongside Griffley Property, Birmingham's newest and only creative commercial landlord, we have the shared vision to place carefully curated independent restaurants, cafes, and shops into the ground floor of The Gothic, so that we really put the great back in Great Hampton Street.

We hope you're able to see the effort and love that goes into Great Hampton Street, The Gothic, and our other developments and that you too want to be part of the future story of these buildings as they become a new beacon for Birmingham's proud history and culture.

To learn more about Cordia Blackswan visit: cordiablackswan.co.uk

What's On In the JQ

Guided Tours of Warstone Lane and Key Hill Cemeteries

Throughout April and May

Explore some of the area's heritage with a guided tour of the Warstone Lane or Key Hill cemeteries. The tours include a history of the cemeteries, such as the recently restored tiered catacombs of the Warstone Lane cemetery, as well as a look at some of the prolific names who rest there.

To join one of the tours, go to tinyurl.com/2unm98ry

Theatre at Blue Orange Theatre

April onwards

Over Spring and Summer 2022, Blue Orange Theatre plays host to a range of exciting plays and shows. Take a journey through the jazz era in *The History of the Great American Songbook* (13th-16th July), or take in an eerie classic with Charles Dickens' *The Signal Man* (15th-16th July). There are many others to enjoy, too!

Take a look at what's on at www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk/project-grid/

Ex Cathedra: Summer Music

21st June

The perfect way to spend a long, cool summer night. Ex Cathedra presents Summer Music, an evening of seasonal music inspired by nature, summer and sunshine. The event takes place at St. Paul's Church, which is lit up by the gentle flicker of candle lights.

Buy your tickets at www.stpaulsjq.church/events

Fever Candlelight: Tribute to Frank Sinatra

11th April

Experience the feel of an intimate jazz club with Fever Candlelight at St. Paul's Church. The cosy candle lit setting provides the backdrop for renditions of some of Frank Sinatra's classics, performed by a jazz band. Take in the music as you sit back and relax with a drink or two.

Fever Candlelight: Tribute to Queen

14th April

Or, if you prefer something a little louder, Fever Candlelight offers a tribute to Queen with a rock band performing some of the iconic outfit's greatest hits – all by candlelight, of course.

Buy your tickets at www.stpaulsjq.church/events





Birmingham Cocktail Weekend

8-10 July

Want to experience the very best of Birmingham's cocktail scene? Take part in Birmingham Cocktail Weekend at venues across the city. Spend your weekend sipping delicious cocktails, exploring new venues and sampling specialty drinks. Past bars in the Jewellery Quarter have included Saint Paul's House, Arch 13 at Connolly's, Ikigai Grain & Glass and The Button Factory.

Get your wristband at
birminghamcocktailweekend.co.uk/

Birmingham Fest

15-31 July

Birmingham's annual performing arts festival is back for another year. Housed in an array of performance venues across the city, including the Jewellery Quarter's St. Paul's Church and the Blue Orange Theatre, the festival celebrates local artists in an exciting week of live shows and events.

Find out more at
birminghamfest.co.uk/

JQ Festival

23rd July

JQ Festival celebrates the area through history, art and music. Taking place at St Paul's Square, The Golden Square and other numerous trails, the annual summer festival is not one to be missed!

Find out more on
pages 16-17.

Birmingham Jazz Festival

15 - 24th July

Having been running since 1985, the Birmingham, Sandwell and Westside Jazz Festival is England's longest running festival of its kind. Festival-goers can usually expect around 200 performances, alongside workshops, talks, exhibitions and master classes – and what's more, most of it is completely free! Make sure to pop down to St Paul's Square during the week as the Jazz Festival comes to the JQ.

Find out more at
www.birminghamjazzfestival.com/

St Paul's Summer Fete

1st August

Relax in St Paul's Square this August Bank Holiday with the annual Summer Fete. Attendees can expect a day filled with live music, a variety of street food vendors, and stalls from local businesses – all in (hopefully) warm summer weather.

Keep on top of updates at
www.stpaulsjq.church

To keep up to date on all events and goings-on around the JQ, download the **Discover JQ app** via the **App store** or **Google Play**.

Getting a Good Night's Sleep

Whether you're visiting the Jewellery Quarter or you're simply wanting to experience the softness of hotel bed linen, a staycation in the JQ isn't lacking options when it comes to catching a few zzzzzz.

Saint Pauls House

15-20 St Paul's Square, B3 1QU

Right on St Paul's Square, this boutique hotel has 34 rooms that all have been cleverly designed to ensure guests have a comfy stay. The rooms have a cosy, contemporary design with waterfall showers and super soft luxury bedding. And, if you want a change of work space, the rooms come with free Wi-Fi. The hotel also has a fabulous restaurant with a seasonal menu as well as a well-stocked bar that will quench any thirst.

If you want an intimate stay visit www.saintpaulshouse.com/sleep/



Selina

92-95 Livery Street, B3 1R7

Selina is a collection of over 145 beautiful places to stay, travel, and work. Its JQ location is set in the former Vaughtons Gothic Works factory and offers minimalist and carefully curated shared and private sleeping spaces. On top of the pastel-pretty rooms, Selina also has community spaces with free Wi-Fi where you can work, a wellness area that includes yoga lessons and a massage room, and a bar for when you want to unwind.

If an international community is for you visit www.selina.com/uk/birmingham/



Bloc

77 Caroline Street, B3 1UG

When you have come to the JQ to discover its restaurants, bars, shops, or cultural activities, Bloc is a great base. Designed to give you everything needed to sleep, shower, and step out fresh into a new day, the hotel is right in the heart of the action. The slick and efficient design offers everything you need; soundproof walls, snug beds, monsoon showers and smart room control that lets you adjust temperature, lights, and even the HD TV directly from your phone.

If you want a base for great days out visit: www.blochotels.com/birmingham



Stacycity

88 Charlotte Street, B3 1PW

Aparthotels offer you a home away from home with all the comforts of a hotel. The design-focused apartments come with fully-equipped kitchens, living, and dining spaces. There is also a gym as well as guest laundry. The Staycafé offers grab and go breakfasts, pizzas, snacks, and a broad range of drinks. If you are still working flexibly and are tired of your own four walls, Stacycity comes with high-speed wifi making it the perfect home office.

If you want to feel like you live in the JQ visit: www.stacycity.com/birmingham/newhall-square/





Ibis Styles Birmingham Centre

65 Lionel Street, B3 1JE

The Ibis Styles hotels are design economy hotels made for creative minds and is a great location to take in the Quarter's sights. The colourful mural and industrial-themed interiors play homage to the JQ's heritage. Ibis Styles has round-the-clock refreshments, a well-stocked bar, and hearty breakfast spreads. Take advantage of the relaxed check-outs at noon for a snoozy lie in.

If you want to explore the JQ in creative surroundings visit:
all.accor.com/hotel/9130/index.en.shtml#section-location

Frederick Street Townhouse

26 Frederick Street, B1 3HH

Part of a group of exciting hospitality venues, Frederick Street Townhouse offers a unique opportunity to soak up the best of the Jewellery Quarter. Located in the centre of the JQ, the hotel has a range of rooms designed with quality in mind. The company has paid attention to detail which has resulted in rooms where the quality shines through. Why not book a table at its sister site, The Button Factory for some sun-soaked drinks on the terrace?

If you want a stay where design is in focus visit:
frederickstreettownhouse.co.uk



Hampton by Hilton

98 - 104 Constitution Hill, B19 3JT

With the Hilton stamp of approval, Hampton by Hilton offers a range of rooms with quality and consistency at its heart. Soft bed linen and an impressive breakfast spread will set you up for days rambling around in the Quarter. The hotel also has a fitness centre so you can stick to your exercise regimen.

If you want to make the most of a hotel breakfast visit:
tinyurl.com/mwy2wkst

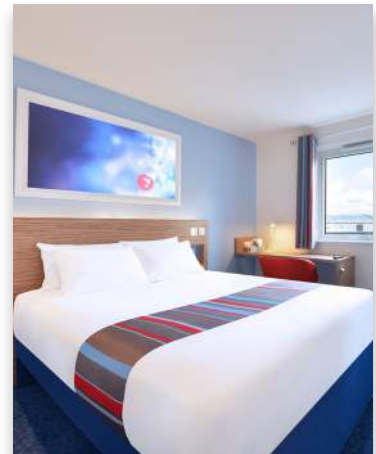


Travelodge - Birmingham Central Newhall Street

Charlotte Street, B3 1PW

Located at the edge of the Quarter this Travelodge is a great base for exploring not only the JQ but the rest of Birmingham. With functional, clean rooms you get a king size bed with plump pillows and a warm duvet - super for snuggling up after a long day roaming the city.

If you want to explore the full potential of the city visit: www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/379/Birmingham-Central-Newhall-Street-hotel



Celebrating the Biggest Wins With the JQ

With the Commonwealth Games arriving in the city this summer, there is a certain buzz of excitement. In this article, we take a deep dive into the Jewellery Quarter's involvement in honouring some of the biggest sporting events in history.

Although Villa and Blues aren't quite reaching the heights of their former glories in this year's Premier League and the Championship, Birmingham, and in particular the Jewellery Quarter, has played a significant role in creating some of the biggest sports moments throughout the past 150 years. It is due to the craftsmanship of the JQ's manufacturers that the Quarter has taken centre stage at many prestigious sports ceremonies, including Wimbledon, the FA Cup Finals, and the Olympics.

Dishy Silverware

When the spectators ascend on the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELT) for the Wimbledon finals, most are not aware that they will experience a piece of Jewellery Quarter history being lifted in the air. The winners of both singles tournaments receive trophies created by Elkington & Co - former JQ silver manufacturers.

The ladies' championship plate, also known as the Rosewater Dish, was produced in 1864, though it wasn't presented until 1886,



Howard Vaughton

when the first women were allowed to compete at the tournament. It is made of sterling silver and partly gilded, and made using a technique called electrotyping, which was the latest technology of the 1800s.

The ladies' plate was so well received that the AELT acquired Elkington & Co again in 1887 to create the new men's trophy. They paid 100 guineas for the trophy which is also made of silver-gilt.

Brothers George and Henry Elkington founded the company in the 1830s, and at its peak employed more than 2,500 workers at their

Jewellery Quarter factory. The brothers were moving at a fast pace and had amassed an enormous amount of experience within the industry. This resulted in George filing the patent for electroplating - a technique which has later become significant in the Quarter.

Sports in the Blood

When Aston Villa managed to lose the FA Cup trophy in 1895, the club had to fund a replacement. They turned to P. Vaughton to make an exact replica who three years previously had taken a plaster cast of the trophy to make a



miniature for Wolverhampton Wanderers. This trophy was in service until 1910 when it was replaced and is now on display at the National Football Museum.

P. Vaughton, known today as Vaughtons was founded in 1819, listed as a button maker, and medalist. After a couple of different location changes across the JQ, the company relocated to an impressive purpose-built factory, 'Vaughtons Gothic Works', on Livery Street.

Founder Philip Vaughton's grandson, Howard, was part of the FA Cup-winning Aston Villa team as well as an international player. He still shares the record of most goals scored by any one player in any England International game as he scored five of the 13 goals in England's victory over Ireland in 1882. Howard also championed a handful of

other disciplines; he was the British skating champion, played both country-level cricket and hockey, and was a first-class swimmer. After hanging up his football boots, he qualified for the 1908 London Olympics, which the company also created the medals for. These could both be reasons why Vaughtons became the preferred trophy and medal supplier to UK sports.

Nick Hobbis, managing director, says:

"I'd like to think that Howard went to both the FA and the Olympic committee and said 'I've got that covered' when they were looking for a manufacturer. It's certainly all about being at the right place at the right time."

The manufacturer has also made the Premier League winners medals since it was founded in 1992 - in more recent years, as a contracted manufacturer. The Vaughtons team has been a crucial part of other major sporting awards ceremonies such as the Six Nations Cup, T20 cricket, and the 2007 IAAF championships among others, making the manufacturers a key player when the big wins are celebrated.

Hobbis, says:

"I want to get our business known more. We have such a longstanding history of making quality work. We've recently diversified the business to produce badges for the likes of Aston Martin and McLaren. It's all about British brands supporting British brands."

Hand-crafted Boxing Champions

Manufacturers Thomas Fattorini has a longstanding reputation in the jewellery industry. Antonio Fattorini had set up a number of retail outlets in Yorkshire around 1927, specialising in jewellery, watches, and other fancy goods. Due to the high demand for badges and medals from sports clubs, Fattorini decided to open a factory in Birmingham.

By 1927 the original factory was too small and the company relocated to Regent Street Works where production was also widened to include cups, trophies, and other ranges of precious metal wares.

One of Thomas Fattorini's biggest accomplishments for sports was creating the Lonsdale Challenge Belts. First introduced in 1909 by the 5th Earl of Lonsdale, Hugh Lowther, they are the oldest belts awarded in boxing. Lord Lonsdale introduced the belt as the new trophy for the British Champion for each weight division.

Before the British Boxing Board of Control began its governance in 1929, 22 of the Lord Lonsdale Challenge Belts were issued. After this, the belts became the property of any champion who won three title fights in a division.

The manufacturing process is labour intensive and a silversmith spends around 40 hours on each belt. The individual parts are die stamped from silver before being machine and hand finished. There are 24 components attached to the main centre panel with hand crafted chain links. The enamel work is also done by hand and the entire belt is finished in 24 carat gold plating. It's definitely right for a boxing champion.

Thomas Fattorini has also been part of a few other sports moments. The company created badges for the 2012 olympic torch. They were made out of a special aluminium alloy that was wind tunnel tested to withstand the high temperatures generated when alight in strong wind. Fattorini also fabricated the 2018 IAAF World Indoor Athletics Championship medals designed by BCU School of Jewellery student Menna Jones.

Shining a Light on the Future

It is not only the JQ's rich heritage that has been part of some of the biggest moments in sports. The future generations of designers and makers have also had a chance to get involved.

In 2018, the IAAF approached the second year HND jewellery and silversmithing students at Birmingham City University (BCU) to design the medals for that year's World Indoor Athletics Championships. Menna Jones, won the competition with a design that showcased the best of Birmingham and incorporated the Town Hall, the Bullring, the Library, canals and Spaghetti Junction.

Menna Jones, says:

"I wanted to go to BCU because it was the best school for the course I did. It was amazing to be able to be right in the heart of the place"



where all the action happens. I worked with Fattorini which is just around the corner [from BCU] for the medals and got to get a rare insight into their whole process.”

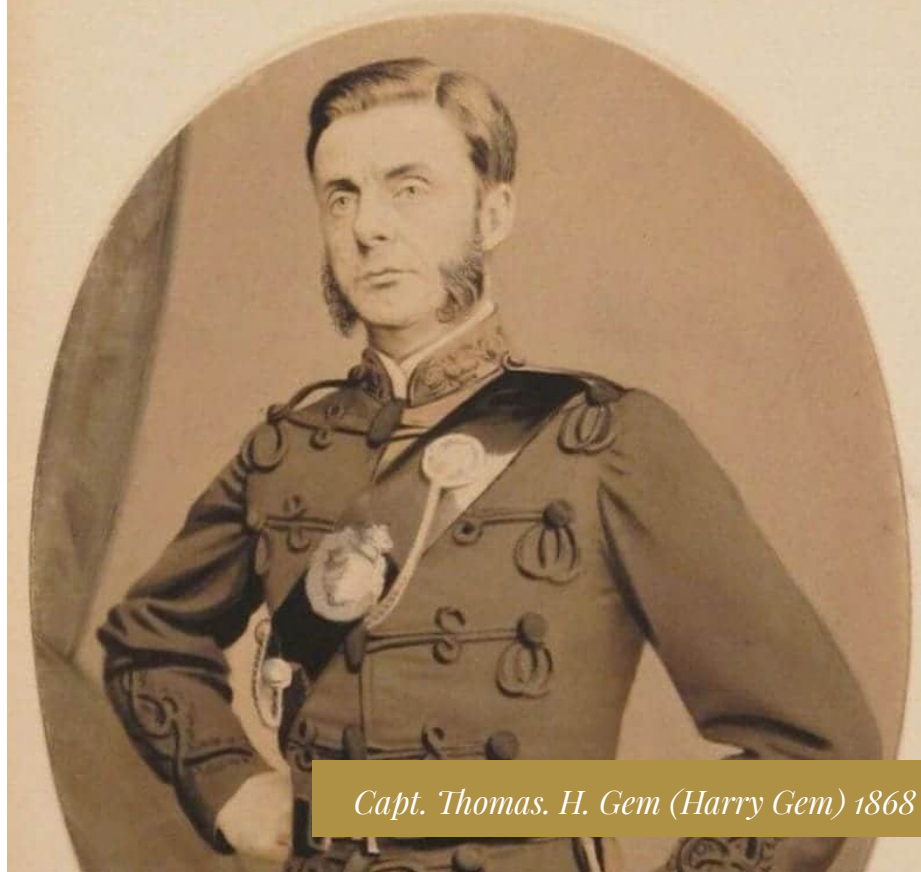
By involving the students from BCU School of Jewellery, the IAAF has helped pass on the baton to the next generation, keeping the tradition, skills, and knowledge alive.

Tennis on a lawn in Edgbaston

In 2019, Harry Gem's restored grave was unveiled at Warstone Lane Cemetery. Living in Edgbaston, Gem and friend, JBA Perera, were frustrated by the costs involved in playing rackets indoors so they decided to come up with a solution. Taking the game outdoors, the first experiments took place in Perera's garden. They initially called the game they invented lawn rackets or pelota - and the forerunner to lawn tennis was born.

Much like Howard Vaughton, Gem was a real sportsman. He was a swimmer, runner, cricketer, rackets and tennis player. With his wife, who was a croquet player, he was a member of the Edgbaston Archery Society in the 1860s.

The friends both moved to Leamington Spa where they formed Leamington Lawn Tennis Club in 1874. It was



Capt. Thomas. H. Gem (Harry Gem) 1868

based at the Manor House Hotel and probably the first club in the world dedicated to playing lawn tennis. After Leamington Spa, Edgbaston Archery and Croquet Society took up lawn tennis and changed its name to Edgbaston Archery and Lawn Tennis Society. It is now the oldest surviving tennis club in the country - even older than the All England Croquet Club (now All England Lawn Tennis Club) which added lawn tennis to its name three weeks later.

Hadn't it been for Harry Gem and JBA Perera, we wouldn't have been able to explore Vaughton's involvement in the Wimbledon trophy plates - and there would have been no sporting success for the likes

of Andy Murray, Fred Perry, or Birmingham's own Dan Evans.

It's Not Just History

With the arrival of the Commonwealth Games to the city this summer, we all get a chance to experience history in the making up close. In issue 14 we spoke to A Wardle & Co who cast the Queen's Relay Baton - so even in these Games, the Jewellery Quarter will be part of the celebrations.

There will be opportunities to get involved with both sporting events as well as community activities across the city so keep an eye out closer to the time.

To learn more about JQ history, head to jewelleryquarter.net

A Green JQ

Living in today's climate, we all need to be doing our bit to help the environment and reduce our carbon footprint. These are some of the businesses in the Jewellery Quarter leading the way when it comes to sustainability.



BLACC + BLOND began its mission in 2021 to become the most sustainable and eco-friendly salon in the UK. From eco-friendly shower heads to biodegradable gowns to ethical product ranges, BLACC + BLOND takes sustainability seriously right down to the toilet paper it uses.

Find out more: <https://www.blaccandblond.com/sustainability>

Cordia Blackswan, a property development company that designs and builds high-quality sustainable buildings, heritage site restorations and communities. A large part of their efforts is ensuring that the amount of embodied carbon in buildings and materials emitted over time is reduced.

Find out more: <https://cordiablackswan.co.uk/showcasing-sustainability-in-construction/>

Changing the world one meal at a time, **Slow Food Hub Birmingham** focuses on sustainability and biodiversity within the city's local food system. By learning from producers, sharing knowledge and attending events, it connects people to where food comes from and informs them on sustainable, local food production.

Find out more: <https://slowfoodbirmingham.co.uk/>



The Borrow Shop offers the community access to its "library of things" – items used on rare occasions borrowed at an affordable rate. Pairing coffee, vegan cake and sustainable homewares, it also operates as a social enterprise donating 50% of its profits to local charities and organisations.

Find out more: <https://theborrowshop.co.uk/>

Not just your ordinary hair salon, **PDB Hair** is an environmentally-conscious space that's also cruelty-free and vegan-friendly. The products used are also better and safer for the hair, stylist and client as they contain fewer chemicals and more biodynamic, organic ingredients.



Find out more: <https://www.pdbhair.co.uk>

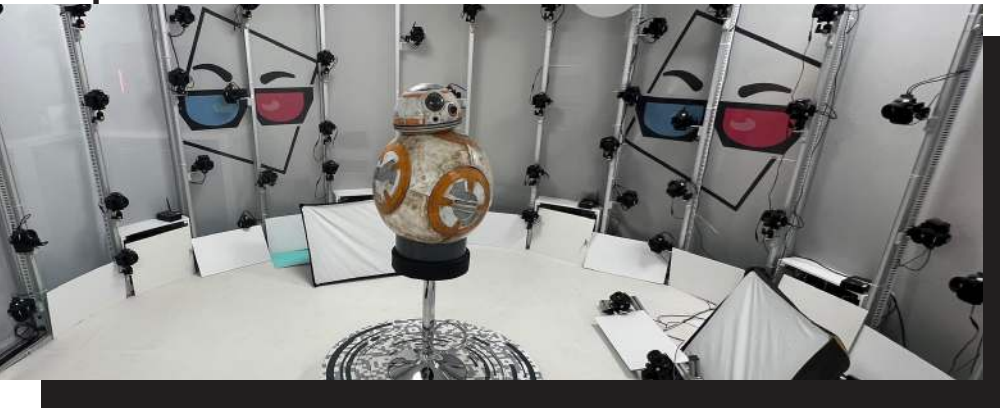
EAN Jewellery is one of many jewellers taking sustainability seriously in the JQ. The environment is at the heart of everything EAN Jewellery does, not only in the shapes and textures of the jewellery produced, but also in its use of sustainably sourced materials and packaging.

Find out more: <https://www.eanjewellery.com/our-mission/>

If you are interested in finding out more about sustainability initiatives in the JQ, take a look at the projects on the JQBID's website: jewelleryquarter.net/jqbid/projects/sustainable-green/

THE JQ GOES 3D

Say hello to Backface, the creatives building a miniature army of 3D figurines in the Jewellery Quarter!



Further cementing the Jewellery Quarter as a place for creatives, Backface is bringing ideas to life using the latest 3D printing and scanning technologies. The start-up moved to the JQ in December 2021 where it masterfully produces 3D printed replications from precise scans.

If you've ever wanted to be Action Man or Barbie, now is your chance to have a miniature replica of yourself. You're probably already considering what pose would be best – and if you weren't, you definitely are now! **There are endless possibilities**, not only for mini-you, but also in what Backface can do.

How they do it

Backface is equipped with one of the UK's largest custom-built rigs fitted with 96 DSLR

cameras. It also has handheld scanners that can be used anywhere in the country. Both capture each angle of the subject to produce dimensionally accurate hi-res 3D scans that can be edited and scaled proportionately.

The studio is also home to one of few full-colour 3D printers and smaller printers that produce high quality prints in resin or wax. The 3D printing process is faster, easier and scalable helping industries, like metal casting, to streamline multiple processes.

Bringing 3D technology to businesses

Fuelled by its creative drive to push boundaries, and the coffee from their JQ neighbours Urban coffee,

Backface work with several businesses in the JQ and across the UK. These range from jewellers and casters, like A Wardle & Co, to creative and digital businesses, such as Fluid Design, producing a range of projects.

Backface provides visualisations for artists, architects, animation and VR companies, digitally recreating 3D scans of people to populate renderings or virtual meetings. **Hello, metaverse!** The company has also worked with names like Netflix, Paramount and Marvel, to create props and CGI and is currently exploring special effects makeup. This will improve the traditional process by accurately scanning faces, digitally manipulating scans, and 3D printing moulds to transform actors into their characters.



For further information visit their website backface.co.uk or contact Tim Milward on 0121 302 0000 and hello@backface.co.uk.

JQ Festival 2022

Getting Around Jewellery Quarter Festival

What?

The Jewellery Quarter Festival

Date?

Saturday 23rd July 2022

Time?

12pm - 8pm

Where?

Throughout the JQ

The Jewellery Quarter Festival is back this year with live entertainment and tours galore.

Bring this map along with you to help navigate the fun!

St Paul's Square

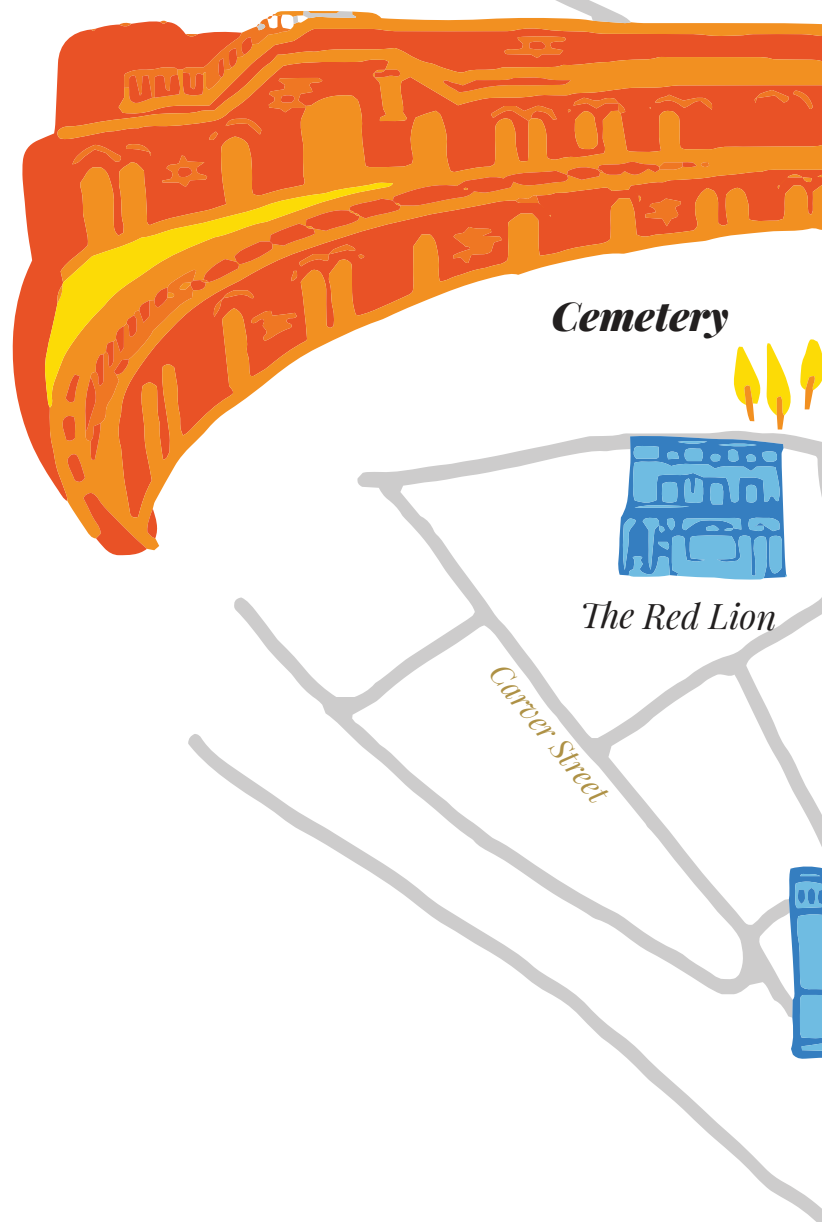
The JQ's most iconic destination will become the centre stage of the festival. Throughout the day into the evening expect music for all tastes and an atmosphere like no other. Enjoy refreshments and food from the restaurants and bars lining the square to keep you energised for proceedings!

Golden Square

For something cute and quaint, join us at The Golden Square where we'll be celebrating all things crafts and heritage. Live demos and workshops will take place, as we introduce an exciting crafts market courtesy of the most talented artisans, makers and creators in the area.

Warstone Lane Cemetery

There is lots to do at the cemeteries over the course of the day. During the morning we'll be hosting tours of the catacombs, before the area is transformed into a theatre for the afternoon! Witness live productions before settling down with some family film favourites as the evening draws in.





Keep your eyes peeled for more information about this year's Jewellery Quarter Festival, here jewelleryquarter.net

In Their Own Words:

Nick Hobbis, managing director at Vaughtons, WH Darby and C&E Plating Ltd

In this edition of JQ Life, the managing director of Vaughtons talks about his family's piece of JQ history, and how a badge dreamt up by his children saw him make a giant £70K for the NHS during the pandemic.

I've always been involved in the trade in some way. Even as a five-year-old I'd be running around the factory, my dad's factory at the time. I remember going there and spending time over the holidays, helping to pack. That was C&E Plating, a company we own till this day, just 500 yards from where I am sitting now. My grandfather took over the business and from there my dad joined him. Vaughtons was actually a customer of C&E Plating before we decided to buy the business just over 15 years ago. I've been managing director for almost four of those. I definitely came willingly, as it was always in my blood.

We date back over 200 years. The company is steeped in history and heritage. We work with the likes of McLaren, Aston



Martin and Gordon Murray. We also supply a lot of well-known jewellers in London as well as medals and decorations for royalty across the world. We even made the first class door plaques for the Titanic. We have strong connections with the sporting world too. Howard Vaughton, a former Aston Villa and England footballer was the son of the founder. It is thanks to this relationship that we've been making football league trophies for 130 years. Back in 1908 we made the medals for the London Olympics too.



What We Do

An average day for me is varied, but because we are a small, family-run business I spend a lot of time meeting with customers and working to generate new business. Given the past two years, there have been a lot more virtual meetings which is hard. I want people to hold our products in their hands and see what we can produce.

We have three sites all within 500 yards of each other. We've chosen to keep it local because business is great here. In keeping with the family ethos, everyone helps each other, and everyone knows each other. This place is personal and it means a lot to me.

I've been around the JQ since I was a child and I love it here. It is a famous area but it doesn't get the recognition it deserves compared to Hatton Garden, simply because it's not in the capital. Here, you see people working individually in workshops, for example, stone setting or silversmithing. With lots of small businesses around it makes for a lovely, close-knit community.

If you walk down Vyse Street you can look into the buildings and see people working hard. Usually under a lamp, maybe on a ring or necklace. It is a special place and we have to be careful not to lose the JQ's heritage.

It was really tough to shut our buildings down on 23rd March 2020 due to the pandemic. My first thought was, **'How do I get the team back into the shop?'**. Luckily my children had the answer. They came up with the idea to draw a rainbow for the NHS for the workshop window and asked if I could make it into a badge. We made a few and I showed a friend who started spreading the word.

A week later, we were on This Morning. That same morning we sold 18,000 badges within an hour! This meant I could get the team back into work. We donated the profits to the NHS Charities Together and we're still selling them now. All in all we've donated around £70,000 so far. It is definitely my proudest moment, especially getting everyone back into the workshop following the uncertainty.



Our Talented Team

All of the team are long serving. Our head enameller has been here for 30 years, as has our production manager. We have an 80-year-old silversmith who has worked here since he was 24. He doesn't want to retire, and he has so much knowledge. He is a model maker too, so he goes home and he'll do that in the evening after a day's work. It is a real pleasure to have someone like him working with us.

He is passing on his knowledge to our two young apprentices from the BCU School of Jewellery and they have completely excelled. We keep bringing fresh talent into the company because I want to keep the tradition alive.

I want to push forward and expand, and I want to create more local jobs in the industry.

People often say this is a dying trade, but I am here to prove them wrong. It won't be for as long as you can find people who want to work with us. Of course, you can design things well on a computer, but who is going to make it? I agree with moving with the times and using CNC machines, but sometimes people do want to see products made by hand - it is about the skillset. We love to offer that personal touch.

Everything is manually done at present. We use presses to stamp the sheets for car badges and even those presses are manually controlled. We've had people from all over the world visit on our factory tours, including lots of Aston Martin owners. They'll see how the badges are made and they can not believe that there is no automation involved in the process, and how much goes into making each one. The same goes for a jewel we'll make for a Lord Mayor, for example.



It may pass through 12 different pairs of hands in the factory as it is processed.

Vaughtons has always been known for quality. That is our reputation and I want to carry that on. Referring back to the example of a jewel for the Lord Mayor, there is likely to be 20 internal checks involved in producing that piece. Every person who works on each stage will not hand it over to the next person until they have signed off their work. We have an inspection process for every step. Every single badge will be checked for defects at the pressing stage for example.

What's Next?

My children are too young to make a decision on their future just yet. I won't push them into the industry, but if they want to come into it though, that is great. They've spent some time

in the warehouse years ago and they often talk about it. They think what I do is cool. Recently on TV, the Carabao Cup medals we made were handed out after the Chelsea v Liverpool match, and my son thought that was really amazing!

Everything we do is prestigious, from the football trophies through to school badges. We offer quality products, handmade in Birmingham, so we take care not to become complacent. A lot of work we do is done by supplying through other companies, but now my dream is for Vaughtons to be a household name that everybody knows. It will take lots of work but I am hoping to achieve it.

To find out more about Vaughtons, visit www.vaughtons.com

Bite Your Brum

Top International Spots

With the Commonwealth Games on the horizon, this issue we're celebrating some of the best international food spots in the Jewellery Quarter.



01



Devon House

This colourful Jamaican restaurant is now open seven days a week and serves up tasty Caribbean classics such as jerk chicken, ackee and saltfish, and curried mutton. The food is flavoursome, the service is delightful and the cocktails are strong – my kind of place!

Must try: While the jerk dishes are unsurprisingly delicious it's the curried goat here that's exceptional – layers of building flavour. A must-have.

02



Cappadocia

If you like meaty kebabs and heaving platters of moreish dips and bread, this is the spot for you. Offering traditional Turkish food in a casual setting, you can enjoy plenty of veggie options, too, including mezze platters to share. A relaxed setting for an informal meal with friends.

Must try: I love the shish kebabs here and recommend going for the mix of lamb and chicken. For seafood lovers the balik guvec is a great shout.

03



Opheem

The undeniable shining star of the Jewellery Quarter. This Michelin star restaurant serves up some of the most interesting food in the city, let alone the area. Innovative, bold and modern – Indian cooking with the volume turned up to 11.

Must try: it's all about the tasting menu. Aktar also offers at-home kits so you can get the taste of Opheem anywhere!

04



Kopitiam

This unassuming café on a JQ back street may not pique your interest on first impressions but it's more than worth a visit. A great lunch spot. There's a huge choice of Malaysian dishes and it's remarkably cheap.

Must try: the beef rendang is one of my favourites – comforting, rich and the perfect hangover cure (as I discovered a few months ago).

05



Damascena

A staple of the Brum café scene, this old faithful is ideal for friends looking for brunch with a difference. Specialising in Lebanese and Middle Eastern delights, it's an inviting space to enjoy a meal with some seriously good coffee right in the heart of JQ.

Must try: Although I love the shawarma here (marinated strips of lamb, home-made garlic dressing and gherkins in a toasted wrap. Lush!) there's some excellent vegan options including the dips.



Laura McEwan is the author behind award-winning food blog Bite your Brum. Covering food, drink and hospitality news in Birmingham, Bite Your Brum offers a fun insight into the best places to eat, drink and be merry within the city. She focuses on independent businesses and the best places to spend your time and money, helping readers get the best out of their local area. Having lived and worked in the JQ Laura knows the hidden gems and where to get the best bites. Check out www.biteyourbrum.com and [@biteyourbrum](https://www.instagram.com/biteyourbrum) on socials.

Putting Heritage on Display

The Jewellery Quarter is an area filled with history and heritage, but unfortunately due to age, many of its beloved buildings lost their sparkle. And so, to revive their charm, the Jewellery Quarter Development Trust has been working on rebuilding the area, as well as planning a host of activities and events to shed light on its restoration projects.

Since 2011, the Jewellery Quarter Development Trust (JQDT) has been on a mission to instil even more life into the area, namely for businesses, visitors and residents. Working closely with the National Lottery Heritage fund, the JQDT has managed to secure funding to further improve the JQ, with the help of the Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage (JQTH), as well as the JQ Cemeteries project.

The JQTH has worked on restoring and repairing many of the JQ's famous landmarks and buildings, including the Chamberlain Clock and Jointworks building. You can find more information on the restoration projects on pages 28 and 29, where we look at the history and development of the repairs.

Sophie Slade is the activity programme manager for the JQTH, a funded project that aims to bring the 'industrial middle' of the Jewellery Quarter back to life through restoration and repairs. As part of this, she has been working on several exhibitions over the coming months that aim not only to shed light on the restoration projects the organisation has been working on, but also to share the JQ's rich history with residents and visitors, and to further boost the area's sense of heritage.

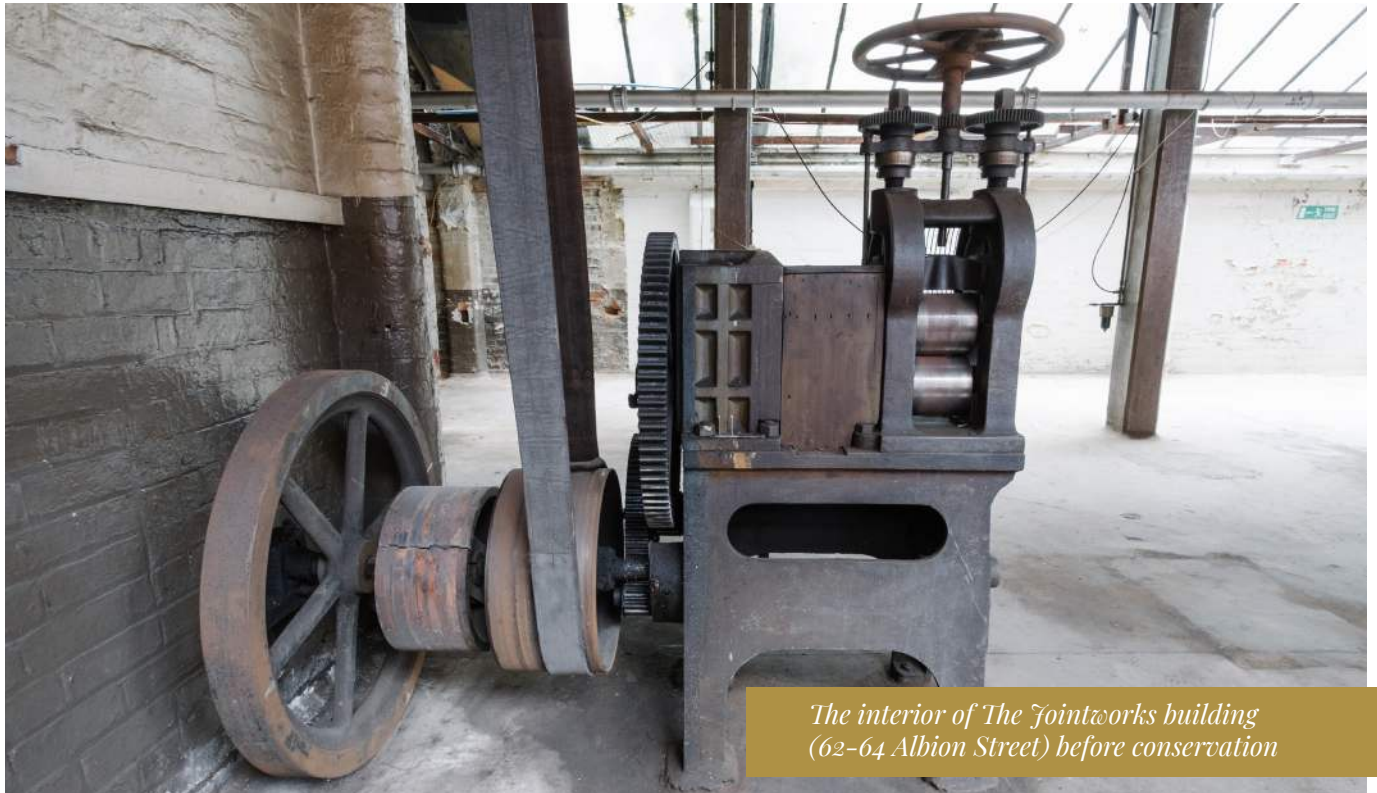
"It's going to be a culmination of the projects," Sophie says of the exhibitions.

"It's kind of the final activity in the [restoration] project, so it's celebrating everything we've done in the last few years. It'll be in two forms, an outdoor exhibition and an indoor exhibition."

The outdoor exhibition will feature a gallery of panels of each building the restoration team has worked on, including an overview of the work that has been done, as well as the history of the individual buildings.



Carving stone detail for the Argent



The interior of The Jointworks building (62-64 Albion Street) before conservation

“What I hope will make it more interesting is focusing on the unique historical features of the buildings, and what we’ve done to conserve those. We’re also planning to bring out some unique, engaging personal stories that relate to the buildings.” Sophie says. For these outdoor exhibitions, Sophie has gathered a team who have been working hard on researching the buildings’ history in preparation.

The outdoor exhibition is expected to run across June and July 2022, on the Golden Square in the JQ. Sophie is very keen for it to be a chance to raise awareness on the restoration projects. “I’m hoping that it will be on show for about two months in the summer period, so when people come out and have their lunch, they can enjoy it and take it all in,” Sophie says.

There’s also set to be an art exhibition, which will be displaying the work done by a collective of neuro-diverse artists called the Heritage Creatives. “They’ve created their own responses to some of the buildings, or some of the subject matter that we’ve been working with. They’ve made some amazing artwork.” Sophie says.

The Heritage Creatives have already developed artwork inspired by many buildings and landmarks restored by the JQTH, including the Argent Centre, a former pen factory. These artworks were created on paper and canvas using dip pens and inks in a nod to the history of the building.

The funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the JQTH is due to end in February 2023, with the activity programme for events and exhibitions coming to an end around August, however the work will not be forgotten.

“What’s really important is the legacy of the project. The website will be hosted for at least five years, which will have plenty of resources. I’m also really keen to see if we can find an outlet for some of the archival materials we have worked on, so that these can continue to be accessed by people for years to come.”

For more information on the JQTH and the role of the JQDT, go to www.jewelleryquarter.net

Young Jewellers of the JQ: Sunny Pal, Ritz Diamonds

At the age of 23, Sunny Pal decided to take the plunge and set up his own jewellers; something quite out of the ordinary for someone his age. Ritz Diamonds is set in the heart of the bustling Jewellery Quarter, surrounded by well-established jewellers, many of which have been running for over 30 years. However, instead of succumbing to the pressure, Sunny Pal uses his youth to his advantage.



With a passion for jewellery since childhood, he always knew he was going to work in the industry. “My family’s history is in jewellery. My dad had his own jewellers,” Sunny explains.

“I’ve always wanted to own something.”

“I went to university and did the jewellery business course at the School of Jewellery. I’ve just always been very interested in jewellery.”

After saving up all the money he could between studying, by working at Tiffany & Co.

Sunny bought Ritz Diamonds, a comparatively different path to many other people his age. The business was then known as Ritz Jewellery, and had been established for around 30 years. “I bought the business off the old owners and refurbished it, changing the name to ‘diamonds’ to sound more young and modern.” Sunny explains.

“I kept some of the elements of their business and implemented my own ideas.”

While opening a jewellers in your 20s may be enough of a feat on its own, Sunny

also started the business in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. “It was a bit tricky.” He says: “Not many people wanted to go out and actually shop for jewellery.” And that isn’t the only challenge he’s faced. “I only had one counter when I bought the shop. From that one counter, I had to grow it all out. **Everything the business makes is being put right back into it.**”

Despite this, Sunny is keeping positive. “At the moment, we’re doing well, compared to last year’s turnover.

As a young jeweller, Sunny brings many fresh new ideas to the industry. He has been working on lots of exciting new concepts and leads with a keen focus on sustainability. "I do a lot of lab-grown diamonds," he says. "If I had to buy an engagement ring, I'd always buy a lab-grown diamond, because there is no difference. It's exactly the same chemically. They still sparkle the same. I like to explain to the customer, you can spend £10k on a natural diamond, or you can spend half of that on the same thing!"

Sunny prides himself on this honest customer service, and is keen to provide tailored experiences for his customers. "It's a nice feeling, that our customers are getting the best they could get," he explains. "That's the main reason I do it. I always try to find the best item for that price point."

As a romantic at heart, Sunny wants Ritz Diamonds to eventually be renowned for its engagement ring offering. "I enjoy working with them, because it feels like I'm a part of something special," he says. "I want to be an engagement ring specialist, because that's what I enjoy most," he continues.

"Our main specialty will be designing engagement rings, and adding that sentimental touch to it. It's about taking pride in what we do. If we aim to prioritise customer focus, then you know they're getting a good treatment."



In December 2021, Sunny Pal won the JQ Christmas Window Trail, for which he designed a festive window display that represented not only the spirit of the community, but also explored Sunny's fun side. As a young person bursting with ideas, Sunny has been creative in many other ways with the business, including having a friend paint the jeweller's logo on his nails and using it as a marketing tool for publicity on social media!

As the sole owner of Ritz Diamonds, Sunny takes care of everything, from managing the shop and designing jewellery, to

marketing. While many of his friends are out socialising, Sunny is often found working seven days a week, only with the occasional helping hand from his mom. For Sunny, the sheer passion for his work keeps him motivated, and he's ready to see what the future brings; not just for his own business, but for the industry as a whole.

"The future of the industry is very much going away from tradition"

he says. "More and more young professionals are joining the jewellery trade, allowing businesses to modernise the approach they take towards the customers." One of these ways will be through sustainability. "We are more likely going to see lab grown diamonds take over unless natural diamonds start producing a certification of transparency." he says

"Overall, I am excited to see more young jewellers in the industry."



Ritz Diamonds is located in the Jewellery Quarter on Vyse Street. For more information on Sunny and Ritz Diamonds, go to www.ritzdiamonds.co.uk.

A History of the JQ's Development

From Old to New

From the distinctive buildings, to the businesses that reside within them, the Jewellery Quarter is steeped in a rich history. The area dates all the way back to 1553, when goldsmith Roger Pemberton was one of the first jewellers in the area, and it's remained a vital part of Birmingham's heritage ever since.

As the industrial revolution began in 1760, more and more people flocked to Birmingham's factories and workshops for job opportunities, with workers beginning to manufacture trinkets, buttons and badges. And it wasn't just the jewellers who added to the JQ's industrial boom; medals, coins and pens were all manufactured here during the 19th century, leading to Birmingham to become known by its alias – The City of a Thousand Trades.

The industrial revolution has long since ended, but its legacy within the Jewellery Quarter still remains prevalent. However, as time waned, many of the iconic buildings that housed some of Birmingham's most prestigious businesses started to lose some of their charm. Luckily, the Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage (JQHT) project, a three-year scheme funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, aims to bring the JQ's industrial heritage back to its former glory through a series of building renovations.

The Chamberlain Clock

Standing tall in the heart of the Jewellery Quarter, the Chamberlain clock is a cast-iron monument reaped in local history. In 1903, the Chamberlain clock tower was put in place to commemorate Joseph Chamberlain's tour of South Africa, after the Second Boer War.

Having survived over a century, the Chamberlain clock had unfortunately begun to lose some of its charm. In order to prolong its legacy, it was removed from the area in 2020 for refurbishments, returning in 2021.

The restoration included repainting and fixing the inner workings, ensuring it would continue to chime for years to come. As well as the restoration, the JQHT orchestrated an oral history archive of memories of the clock, to help inform visitors, as well as locals, of its history.



The Chamberlain Clock

Argent Centre

The Argent Centre is one of three Grade II* listed buildings in the area, originally built in 1863 for W.E Wiley, a manufacturer of gold pens. In its decades of existence, the striking red brick walls have been home to many businesses, and today it remains true to its roots by housing Birmingham's Pen Museum.

As the years went by, the brick and stone work of the Argent Centre began to break away, which not only affected the aesthetics of the building, but the integrity of its structure. In order to return the building to its original state as closely as possible, it underwent a series of repairs throughout 2020, and was completed by February 2021. These repairs included the reinstatement of two pyramidal corner turrets, which had been removed in the 20th century.



Jointworks

Jointworks

Naturally, the Jewellery Quarter is home to a plethora of impressive jewellery workshops and buildings, one of which is the Jointworks. Distinctly Italianate in design with its arched window mouldings, the Jointworks remains a symbol of its era. It was designed in 1833 by William Tadman Foulkes, and was used as a jewellery workshop from its conception all the way through to 2009.

The Jointworks is currently undergoing renovation, which includes repairs to the exterior, such as a complete overhaul to its historic windows, as well as minor repairs to the brickwork. Interior works will be done to uncover some of its iconic historical features. The whole makeover is due to be completed in Spring 2022, which will turn the currently vacant space into a creative working hub.

Vittoria Street

What was originally a pair of three-storey townhouses circa 1830, 51-53 Vittoria Street was converted for industrial use by 1875, and the building has faced many alterations over the years. The restoration reversed many of these changes and reinstated some of its striking architectural features, as well as ensuring both buildings were structurally sound to ensure it continues to stand the test of time.



Both Buildings were part of the Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage project and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

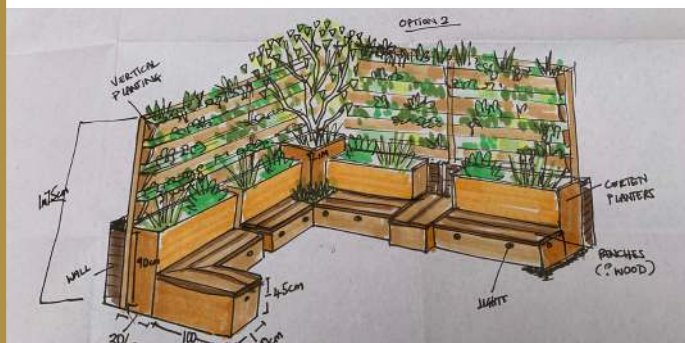
The Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage continues to work on many projects around the area, both aiming to restore its buildings and to share its history. To find out more about the JQTH, visit jewelleryquarter.net/

Making the Jewellery Quarter Station More Than Just a Transit

The Jewellery Quarter Station is one of Birmingham's busiest inner-city transport hubs with over 500,000 users a year. To ensure impressions of the Quarter are great from the moment visitors arrive, a handful of exciting initiatives have been rolled out as part of the Jewellery Quarter Business Improvement District's (JQBID) Adopt a Station project. Read on to see what has happened!

Greening a Grey Station

Green is more than good for the eyes. Studies show that plants improve air quality and boost mental health. With a community grant from the West Midlands Railway, 12 long planters designed and arranged by the JQBID team and Lead Gardener Gaynor Steele were installed across both station platforms in September 2021. A group of local volunteers will ensure the planters are refreshed throughout the seasons to ensure year-round greenery.



A Pocket-Sized Park

Work started on a pocket park outside the entrance to the station in March. The green oasis will provide a place to rest your feet while taking in the hustle and bustle of Vyse Street. This pocket of green will have vertical planting as well as lighting powered by solar panels. The park offers a great place to switch off before continuing your onward journey.

Ticket to Community Art

A 6m wide mural depicting the heritage of the JQ was installed along platform two in July 2021. It was created by local artists, Barbara Gibson and Marta Kochanek, who designed the artwork with contributions from eight students from the School of Jewellery. It displays the JQ's industrial past, highlighting a number of important buildings. A piece of art was also installed on platform one in collaboration with the JQ Cemeteries Project.



To showcase the rich history of the Quarter, the JQBID installed a timeline along the length of the main walkway windows. It looks back to the 1800s and travels through to the current day, detailing important dates and events.

No Improvements Without the Local Community

The changes to the station couldn't have been done without support from the local community. The JQBID has worked with: Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage Project, Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project, students from the University of Law, Jewellery Quarter Heritage Squad volunteers, local volunteers, West Midlands Railway, local businesses, and local artists to make the plans come to life.

To learn more about what is going on in the Jewellery Quarter, visit www.jewelleryquarter.net/news/



Saturday 23rd July

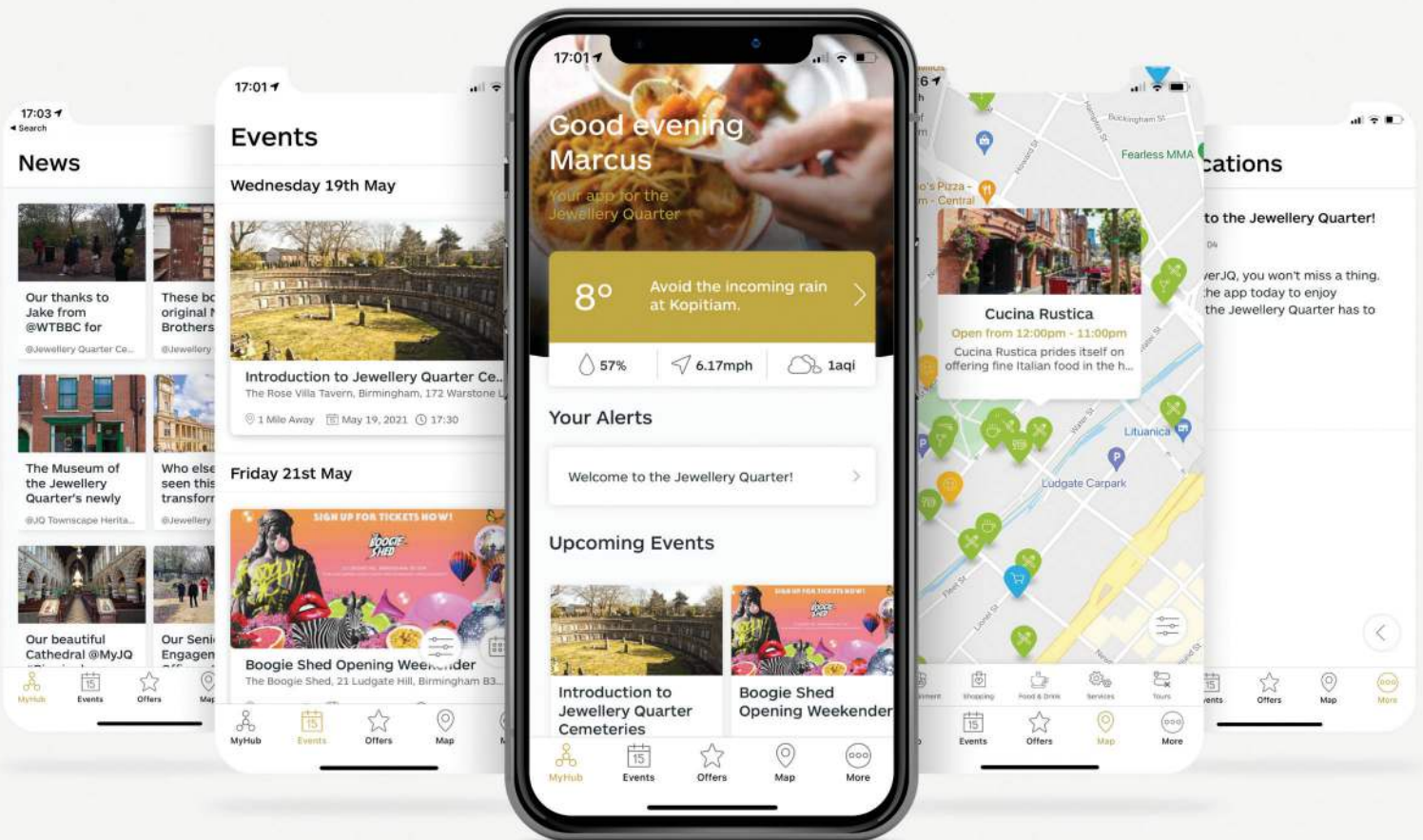
12pm - 8pm

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