

Jolife

MAGAZINE

ISSUE
13

**We talk inclusivity and
sustainability with**
Anil Salhan of BLACC + BLOND

Summer in the Jewellery Quarter
Looking towards the future as lockdown lifts





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the Jewellery Quarter

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JQlife

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



www.jewelleryquarter.net/jqbid

Explore the JQ this summer



You just can't beat Summer in the Jewellery Quarter. And while this issue may be smaller in size, it's still packed full of excitement as the JQ begins to return to its usual vibrant self, following the latest easing of lockdown measures.

Hear from JQ indies who are making real change in their communities with Patricia White from Suited for Success (pages 10-11) and Anil Salhan from BLACC + BLOND (pages 12-13). Explore the JQ's heritage and culture with a fascinating story on page 14 and an interview with Head of School at Jewellery Quarter Academy, Jamie Barton on pages 18-19. And with the launch of our brand new app for the Jewellery Quarter, DiscoverJQ, we bring you a taster of what can be seen, in our new What's On section (pages 4-5).

Enjoy reading,

Luke Crane

JQDT Executive Director

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

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What's on In the JQ

Birmingham Cocktail Weekend

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th August

Birmingham Cocktail Weekend is back with over 30 venues from across the city offering their signature cocktails at reduced prices. Running from 6th - 8th August, try out some of the best cocktail bars in Birmingham with wristbands priced at just £10. And what's more, there are also PLENTY of JQ venues taking part this year, including: Grain & Glass, The Button Factory, Rose Villa Tavern, Ikigai, Saint Paul's House, The Rectory and Arch 13.

To purchase your wristbands head over [here](#)



St Paul's Summer Fete - St Paul's Church

Monday 30th August

On Monday 30th August (Summer Bank Holiday), St Paul's Summer Fete returns for its second year. Originally launched in the summer of 2019, the Summer Fete brings a festival of fun to Birmingham's most picturesque Square!

Expect stallholders, food trucks and live music throughout the day as the community comes together to help raise funds for the Jewellery Quarter's most prized asset. With St Paul's Church embarking on a mission to raise £250k for their 250th anniversary in 2029, St Paul's Summer Fete marks the start of a busy decade of events for the Church.

More information on the Fete can be found closer to the time on the Church's [website](#) and on the [DiscoverJQ app](#).



Getting Quizzicle

Monthly

Why not test your Disney knowledge at the Red Lion (Sunday 8th August) as the Warstone Lane pub begins its monthly themed quizzes? Or try and win a bar tab at the Queen's Arms with their weekly quiz every Tuesday at 8pm.



Birmingham Heritage Week

Thursday 9th - Sunday 19th September

September sees the return of Birmingham Heritage Week - a city-wide festival that celebrates Birmingham's rich and diverse heritage. For the past few years, the Jewellery Quarter has been the centre of the festivities and this year's no different with three Museums and a whole array of attractions; expect events, talks, workshops, and tours celebrating the Quarter's glittering history. Details of all events will be uploaded to the DiscoverJQ app in the coming weeks.

Black Business Showcase - Greenwood Presents

Saturday 25th September

A new event programming duo will be shining a light on small and emerging black businesses from Birmingham, the Black Country and the West Midlands at Iron House. The showcase will run from 11am - 5pm, followed by a networking evening 6pm - 9pm. Space will be dedicated to two

young people who demonstrate creativity and or entrepreneurship to give them the opportunity to shine.

The event welcomes a diverse and inclusive audience. Further details about the event can be found on Instagram @greenwoodpresents or the website.

Events in the Cemeteries

Throughout August

Throughout August, the JQ Cemeteries project is hosting an array of events inside Warstone Lane and Key Hill Cemeteries. From live theatre productions in the infamous Catacombs, to a Meet the Trees Walk where you explore the variety of trees inside the Victorian cemeteries.

Jewellery Making Classes - The Quarterworkshop

Monthly

Inspired by the recent BBC2 series, All That Glitters? Or maybe you just fancy trying something new. The Quarterworkshop is running a number of jewellery making workshops over the next few months including earring & pendant making, and silver bangle making. All materials are provided as well as plenty of refreshments!

Bollywood Outdoor Cinema

Saturday 4th September

Watch Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge on the big screen outdoors on The Golden Square. The Outdoor Cinema will have live performances and you can tuck into delicious Indian street food from local independent vendors.

For all event listings and the full run-down of what's going on in the Jewellery Quarter, download **DiscoverJQ** from either the App Store or Google Play.

Guest Column:

SHOPPING IN THE JQ - WHERE INNOVATION AND HERITAGE MEET

Henrietta Brealey: Chief Executive Officer, Birmingham Chambers of Commerce



If the pandemic has shown us anything, it's that the vibrant retail, hospitality, and leisure sector sits at the heart of what makes the city a great place to live, work and visit. There's nothing like losing access to something for showing just how much it enriches our lives.

As life and business returns to some sort of normal, we can all now start to get back to enjoying all that these sectors have to offer. Days out exploring vast shopping centres and visiting small independents, stopping along the way for coffee, cake, or a pint, are once again back on the table and something we can all look forward to.

We've come far, but it hasn't been without a whole lot of heartache for our retail industry caused by this pandemic. According to a PwC report published in the spring, just 600 new shops opened in the West Midlands in 2020 compared to 1,468 closures. This is a stark representation of just how hard this crisis has hit our wonderful, hard-working retail sector.

But, despite this, retailers have fought back, hard. At every single point in the pandemic,

where retailers have been told to introduce new COVID procedures, open and shut, sometimes at an extremely short notice, many of them have repeatedly pulled up their bootstraps and got on with the job at hand. Many have taken innovative approaches to keep business moving and their patience and sheer determination is starting to bear fruit.

It has been a joy to see more shoppers, safely, out and about around our high-streets and local shops again. In fact, according to Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce's latest Quarterly Business Report for the second quarter of this year, 60% of firms expect turnover to increase over the next 12 months.

If you'll pardon the pun, the Jewellery Quarter really is a gem sitting in the heart of Birmingham. I've already, this summer, enjoyed many days out shopping in The Quarter or sat in the sun in St Paul's Square, and look forward to many more. It's a place where innovation, on-trend offerings and heritage meet – as illustrated perfectly by the likes of Grain & Glass revolutionising Whisky tasting and bringing the beverage's traditional appeal to a new audience. Or Deakin & Francis, combining centuries of experience and craftsmanship in men's accessories with eye-catching, modern, luxury design.

The Chamber of Commerce has long been a customer of JQ businesses. The medal we award our president is produced to a bespoke design by Thomas Fattorini, and we are proud to have a ceremonial sword, presented to us by Firmin & Sons, on the edge of the Jewellery Quarter, the oldest manufacturing company in the UK, in our collection. Personally, I have Marlow's Diamonds – and my fiancé of course – to thank for my engagement ring.

These glittering organisations, alongside the swathes of others which make up this wonderful part of our city, are set to sparkle again, and I can't wait to get shopping.

JQ Shopping Picks

The Jewellery Quarter is full of wonderful shops. Here is a selection of some of our favourites, where you can find anything from mid-century modern furniture to delicious chocolate gifts.

01 Minima @minimauk



Curated modern and contemporary furniture, lighting and homeware accessories. They offer thought through, well-made and enduring designs, providing a platform for an alphabet of creators from Aalto to Wegner impressing even the most design-savvy shopper.

02 Cash & Cash Co @cashandcash.co



A modern general store selling anything from homeware to sweets and flowers. Their products are eco friendly, cruelty free and hand made through and through. Find treats for all ages and appetites or treat yourself to their flower subscription.

03 Artisan Alchemy @artisan.alchemy.gallery



Showing the best in British handmade design they have an extensive selection of art, furniture and jewellery. The gallery is the perfect place for unique gift ideas and contemporary art which will wow friends and family alike.

04 Deakin & Francis @deakin_francis



Jewellers since 1786, making the world's finest cufflinks, signet rings and gentlemen's accessories - both off the shelf and bespoke commissions perfect for everyday use and special occasions. They continue to build on the heritage and brand that has been created over centuries.

05 The Chocolate Quarter @thechocolatequarter



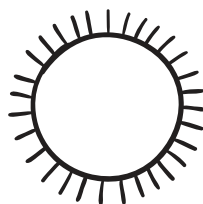
Luxury chocolate gifts - an alternative to mediocre, mass-produced chocolates. Pop in for gift boxes, intricate chocolate sculptures and artisan chocolate truffles. From chili and lime to Black Forest cherry and Kirsch, only the best seasonal ingredients are used.

Visit the Discover JQ [website](#) or download the Discover JQ [app](#) to find inspiration for your next shopping trip.

Bite Your Brum

Top Summer Picks

This month, Laura McEwan aka Bite Your Brum shares her top JQ picks for some alfresco fun, this summer.



01

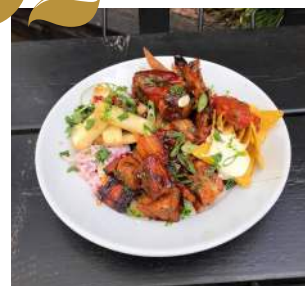


Indian Brewery

Nestled next to Arch 13 on the walk back into the city centre, Indian Brewery has just opened its outside dining area so you can catch some rays and enjoy the family hospitality. As well as spicy street food you'll find some great beers brewed at the taproom nearby, and the benches get the sun well into the evening.

Must try: the masala fish and chips is great value for a tenner – just wait until you hear that batter crack as you tuck in.

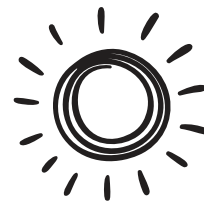
02



The Clifden

People often forget this pub has got a large beer garden hidden away out the back, but it's a great venue to enjoy the sunshine. Both small tables and groups are welcome, and they've got a big screen if you're looking to watch the sport's fixtures coming up this summer. Lovely staff, lots of choice for drinks and they do a pretty good roast dinner, too.

Must try: get booked onto one of their themed boozy brunches if you fancy some raucous fun with friends.





03



Jewellers Arms

One for those of you who like a traditional cheese cob with your pint, this iconic boozier in the heart of the JQ is a must-visit.

Bag a table out the front for people watching or ask to sit out in the courtyard and mingle with the locals. The clientele is a bit older and you'll meet some real characters. Lots of regional ales are on offer, it's dog friendly and all very well priced.

Must try: you'll find 12+ hand pulled ales on offer, some of which are brewed right here in Brum – ask the owners for their favourites.

04



Saint Kitchen

Summer isn't just about beer gardens – what about a sunny brunch overlooking St Paul's Square? Saint Kitchen is a shiny gem in the JQ crown, serving up some of the best coffee I've found this side of the city and well-priced brunch and lunch options. Better yet, you can enjoy them outside on the terrace or take them away for a relaxed picnic in the square just a few metres across the road.

Must try: the pastrami bagel is one of the best value light bites in the city. Grab one with a coffee and you've got a brilliant brunch.



05



The Red Lion

Serving up tasty pub grub and a pretty impressive gin selection, this pub has a two-level terrace for you to sun yourself on while the tunes play. It's colourful, fun and there's a fun vibe at the weekends. There's covering in case a dreaded summer downpour occurs and lots of space in the maze-like bar rooms inside.

Must try: the Sunday roasts are quite legendary – and by that I mean absolutely massive.

Tried this yet?

Hockley Social Club is now open, serving up street food from local heroes such as Low N Slow. You'll need to book in advance but it's a large venue with a great crowd and good music.

@hockleysocialclub

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 the 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 on socials.

In their own words:

Patricia White, chief executive at Suited for Success

In this issue, chief executive at Suited for Success, Patricia White, tells us about her passion for making a difference for people less fortunate and how the Jewellery Quarter has supported her mission through the years.



I've always had a strong urge to help and support less fortunate people for as long as I can remember, and I've been involved in community initiatives addressing social issues from food poverty to unemployment over the last 15 years. After 10 years working as a journalist for the BBC, I was ready to really make a difference within my local community. I grew up in Birmingham and it's where my heart lies. I've been around the Jewellery

Quarter for a number of years, and it was here where I set up the city's first Trussell Trust food bank and ran the food bank for five years. Through the conversations I had with the users, I realised that the biggest reason they came for emergency food help was unemployment. How can people afford to buy an interview suit if they can't even afford to put food on the table? Breaking the food poverty cycle was a natural next step that became part of my mission.

I started Suited for Success as a boutique within the food bank, but it's grown into so much more since then. In our outfit appointments we offer our clients suitable, smart interview clothes donated from the local community and businesses, and on top of this, we also provide interview coaching sessions and CV help for people who are struggling to regain employment.

We made the decision to pivot a lot of our activities online, when the coronavirus pandemic hit, to still be able to support the many people who had lost their jobs the best we could. We now also host online webinars and workshops where we are bridging the gap between employers and job seekers.

I have seen a huge shift over the past 18 months; before the pandemic hit, our clients were mainly people who were long-term unemployed including military veterans, the homeless,

people with convictions, return to work mothers and young people not in education or training. Fast forward to 2021, I see an older workforce trying to compete with younger generations, but who are unsure of how to navigate the current job market. I also see people with years of experience in the retail, hospitality and travel industries who are looking for alternative routes, and who need help with identifying transferable skills.

Through our bespoke support we give people inside knowledge into different industries and job roles and what employers are looking for which helps open up the market and level the playing field regardless of age, gender or race. I think we have only seen the tip of the unemployment iceberg from the aftermath of COVID.



The JQ has always been a treasured neighbourhood to me. I love the buzz and the vibrant community life of the area. Over the years the local residents have really supported Suited for Success with incredibly generous suit donation drives organised by the JQBID team at the Big Peg. We also have a few residents and business professionals based in the Quarter who also volunteer with us to make a difference for the local community.

I've had a big focus on Ladywood as this is one of the city's poorest districts, and I feel there's been a disconnect between the JQ and Ladywood even though they are neighbouring areas. I'm really keen to bring the two closer together as I believe they can both benefit from each other. When giving local jobs to local people there is usually higher job loyalty, and it presents an important opportunity for social mobility and breaking the poverty cycle.

Job opportunities are not the only way the JQ community can get involved and support our work. We have also two fundraising initiatives; Labels for Change and Pre-Loved which are both donated high-end clothes that we sell at our pop-up shops where 100% of the takings are put back into the charity. We held our first pop-up shop event at St Paul's Church the weekend before the first lockdown kicked in and it was a roaring success. We are already accepting clothes donations for our next pop-up event, but we're still looking for the right venue, so watch this space!

Visit their [website](#) if you want to know more about Suited for Success and how you can support their work.

Style, Substance and Sustainability

at BLACC + BLOND



*Anil's Quick Fire
Top Picks in the 7Q*

Drinks - 1000 Trades
Coffee - Espresso Quarter
Food - Locanta
Shopping - Roots Market

BLACC + BLOND is more than 'just' a hair salon, it's a lifestyle. Since 2018, Anil Salhan and his team have been dedicated to offering a unique service. Not only do they seek to leave customers looking and feeling amazing, they're eager to benefit the wider community and the environment too. In fact, you'd be forgiven for mistaking the store for a gallery over a hair salon, especially pre-pandemic when arts and music events were a regular occurrence here.

BLACC + BLOND moved to its space on Lionel Street in November 2019, just months before the coronavirus pandemic

abruptly brought the entire beauty industry to a standstill. Luckily, Anil's drive to enrich the community, protect the environment and provide meaningful support to his customers was undeterred and inspired him to do better on a much bigger scale.

With that in mind, he shut the doors to the shop and swung the virtual ones open; offering virtual hair appointments to customers helping them to style their hair. Anil recognises the value of a trip to the hairdressers, beyond the material, and the positive impact it can have on a person's mental health. All proceeds from these virtual hair cuts were donated across two mental health charities, CALM and

Birmingham Mind. As a result, thousands of pounds were raised for these organisations in need of support at a trying time.

Just last year, BLACC + BLOND was featured across Sky News and ITV, highlighting the environmental initiatives laid out by the team. Sustainability was once again put into perspective when the pandemic hit and the use of PPE equipment became a non-negotiable. With much of the protection available nonbiodegradable, Anil made it his mission to transform BLACC + BLOND into the most environmentally-friendly salon in the world. He has since been focussed on creating a whole new standard and pioneering a fully sustainable experience, which he hopes will inspire others to do the same.

It is clear to see that no stone has been left unturned by the salon's efforts to ensure the environment is being protected. Its minimalist aesthetic that further establishes its eco-friendly commitment with stripped back, modern interiors which have conscious living at its heart.



Eco-friendly showerheads reduce water waste by 65%, all refreshments offered to clients are sustainable, the cleaning products are refillable and the PPE biodegradable. Even the toilet paper is made of bamboo! What's more? They donate 10% of the profits made on first-time client cuts to a charity that plants trees world-wide. The result is a climate positive workforce, which means that through donations from Anil, each team member offsets more carbon than they produce. Quite the achievement!

As much thought goes into its inclusivity and wellbeing policies as does the environment too. Anil knows how important it feels to be a part of something and wants to use his position within BLACC + BLOND to make sure there is a space for everyone to feel at home. He recognises the fundamental part hairdressers can play within an inclusive society. Going to the salon is an intimate experience and Anil wants people to feel comfortable and uplifted by their treatment at BLACC + BLOND. The team certainly stands firm on this, offering a Slow Hair Space where an hour is dedicated to a customer, allowing them a real chance to relax and build meaningful relationships with their hair architect.

As Anil looks forward to the future of BLACC + BLOND, he says expansion isn't a huge part of the plan. Serving the community is number one priority. He intends to work on several new initiatives that tackle other societal issues close to his heart, such as racism and homelessness. He believes that the pandemic has given people time to slow down and reflect on what matters. Therefore he looks forward to welcoming back customers, hosting events for the community and helping his clients to feel empowered by an inclusive environment that values individuality.

James Watt's Villa

The Home of the Industrial Revolution

During the initial groundworks at the new St Paul's Quarter, a four-acre residential and commercial development in the Jewellery Quarter, archaeologists have discovered the former family home of industrialist James Watt who pioneered the manufacturing and mass production of steam engines.



Birmingham a city of international importance, and to find and record the remains of his home is a special privilege."

Despite only discovering the foundations of Harper's Hill, the archaeologists were able to determine the layout of the villa as well as recover artefacts associated with its use. Archaeology Warwickshire, who undertook the excavations will be preparing a report on their work and the artefacts will be with a local museum.

Watt retired in 1800 and devoted himself entirely to research work. He patented several other revolutionary inventions including the rotary engine, the double-action engine and the steam indicator, which records the steam pressure inside the engine. He was a pivotal figure in the Industrial Revolution and his work led to the creation of the steam train and the first automotive engine. He died in 1819 and in recognition of his pioneering work the unit of measurement for electrical and mechanical power, watt, was named after him. The developers of St Paul's Quarter are continuing to honour James Watt and will be naming the new road, linking Newhall Street to Regent's Place, Harper's Hill.

With fellow industrialist Matthew Boulton, their company Boulton & Watt became the most important engineering firm in the country and their steam engines were used for paper, flour, cotton and iron mills as well as in distilleries, canals and waterworks.

The archaeologists found the foundations and basement of the central block of the villa which was split into two back-to-back houses where Watt lived with his family between 1777 and 1790. The two houses were set in a large garden and had kitchens housed externally. It was originally called Harper's Hill and later renamed Regent's Place.

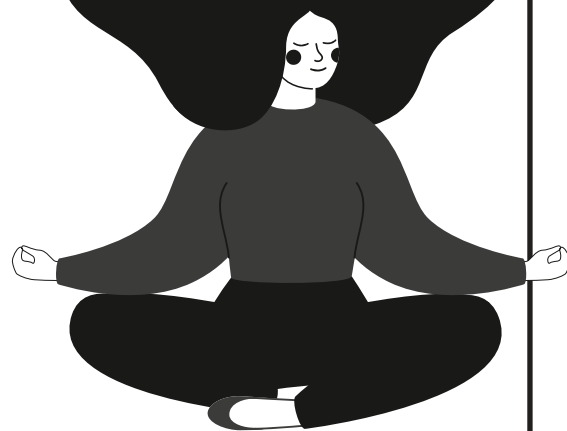
After the family moved out, the villa gradually became submerged into the growing Jewellery Quarter where it was surrounded by workshops and small factories but was eventually demolished in 1885.

Nick Cooke, director at RPS, who managed the archaeological work, said,

"The Harper's Hill House was built on rising ground to the north west of Birmingham and commanded fine views of the city. James Watt was a key figure in developing technologies which drove the Industrial Revolution, and which made

To learn more about the St Paul's Quarter project visit [Galliard Homes](#).

Deep Breaths Mindfulness in the JQ



As much as it is exciting to step back into normality again, adjusting to a life on the go after a long period of lockdown isn't always going to be easy. There is so much to see and do in the Jewellery Quarter, but it's crucial to recognise when it's best to slow down and indulge in some well-deserved quiet time.

Here is a collection of places to visit, no matter how you like to unwind:

St Paul's Square

There is nothing quite like getting out into the great outdoors for quietening the mind. If a sit-down outside works for you when things seem a little intense, then add St Paul's Square to your list of still spots.

Grab a coffee from a nearby café (there are plenty) and do a little people watching while sitting among the rich greenery. Escape modern life for a few minutes and admire the history around you; nothing beats putting things into perspective.

Urban Coffee Company

This branch of Urban Coffee Company is a tranquil oasis in the heart of the JQ.

Watch the world drift by with your choice of hot or cold beverage in hand. The airy space makes it a go-to for those needing a moment alone, in amongst the melee of bustling businesses.

The Floating Spa

If a pamper session sounds idyllic right now, book in for a couple of relaxing hours at The Floating Spa, based on Hall Street. Floatation therapy has many benefits for the mind, making it the perfect place to put everything on pause for a while.

A mixture of Epsom salts and water are combined at body temperature, so you'll really feel like you're floating on thin air, creating the most tranquil sensation.

Let the staff know your preferences for the session and they'll help you achieve an experience suited to you.

JQ Heritage Trail

Enjoy a few hours by yourself on a mindful stroll along the JQ Heritage Trail. Not only will you get the chance to forget all about what's going on in the world, you'll also pick up some knowledge about the poignant sites of the JQ too!

There are 18 steps along the trail with a variety of remarkable landscapes to admire. Heading back to yesteryear will calm the mind, affording you a little escapism as you visit each historic stopping point.

*You can walk the trail by downloading the **Discover JQ app**.*

Rock and Soul:

A collaboration between two of the JQ's breweries

How friendship, beers and scribbling ideas on the back of a napkin led to the creation of your new favourite pale ale.



From left to right: Lynn, Chris & Quinn

When Chris Small first moved to the Jewellery Quarter, it was a happy accident. Having no preconceived notions of the area, he stumbled upon the site belonging to local brewers who were moving out, and then made it the home of Burning Soul. Fast forward four and a half years and Burning Soul is firmly cemented in the community. Its latest venture is a collaboration with another JQ brewery - Rock and Roll Brewhouse - who, despite being a little more traditional than Burning Soul, have joined forces to create Rock and Soul Pale Ale; a canned craft beer that was (fittingly) dreamt up on the back of a few too many beers.

If there's one thing you can say about Chris, it's that he is extremely passionate and knowledgeable about beer, (despite admitting to hating the stuff up until the age of 21) and

that's something that's clear from the onset in the brewery's name, as Chris explains, denoting a 'burning passion for beer'. So, it was only fitting that the brewery would utilise its local links to experiment with new flavours and styles — and that's exactly where the collaboration comes in.

'It made perfect sense to me. We should have done this a long time ago,' Chris says about Rock and Soul, which came about rather informally when Chris met up with Mark and Lynn from Rock and Roll Brewhouse.

'We just started chatting about beer together, and drinking beer and testing beer. From there, on the back of a napkin,' he jokes, 'we managed to come up with the recipe'.

With both breweries having distinct and different styles, all adding to the charm of the JQ, both parties wanted to ensure they were represented. 'We're certainly [making] different styles of beer so we wanted to come up with a beer that was a bit of a halfway house,' Chris notes.

'We chose Harlequin, which is a bolder hop matching the flavours from the US while Lynne chose an older hop from the 1930s called Bramling Cross, known for its blackcurrant flavour.' With the hops perfectly complimenting each other, all that was left was the can design which, like many creative pursuits, took a little trial and error.



As Chris explains, when it comes to the aesthetics, Rock and Roll Brewhouse really ‘lean into the 60s, psychedelic vibe whereas we have a reserved colour palette.’ The first design focused more on the former with a colourful floral print, which Lynn from Rock and Roll said to be ‘more rock than soul.’ For the second attempt, the colours were stripped out completely which Chris then joked as looking like a ‘children’s colouring book.’ Finally, the two ideas were moulded together, resulting in a bold design that Chris now sees as one of his favourites. ‘That’s one of our best looking cans. I’m really chuffed with it.’

Burning Soul primarily got into can distribution in the wake of the lockdown. ‘It forced us into it. We were planning on going into cans anyway, but prior to that we only sold to pubs, so once the pubs closed we had no way of getting beers to our customers.’

Rock and Soul Pale Ale will only be available at either Burning Soul Brewery or Rock and Roll Brewhouse; ‘We agreed not to send it out to trade, so the only place you get it is in our breweries.’ This was a move that aims to promote the community spirit of the area, as Chris says; ‘It’s 100% a Jewellery Quarter beer. You don’t get this unless you’re in the Jewellery Quarter.’ Admittedly, Chris says he would have liked to promote the community a little more. ‘All our cans say ‘proudly made in Birmingham’ on the side. I should have changed it to ‘proudly made in the Jewellery Quarter.’ And Chris certainly is proud to be in the JQ.

‘It’s a really cool vibe, everyone’s lovely. We wouldn’t want to change it. Even if we had the chance to move we wouldn’t. He laughs; ‘I think I’m Jewellery Quarter till I die now.’ And this is perfectly embodied by the friendship Burning Soul has with Rock and Roll. ‘We share the same customers, we drink at each other’s [brew]houses – it’s a real community vibe.’ He then continues; ‘it’s an ace brewery. Their style and their whole vibe is so crazy cool – it’s probably my favourite place to drink in the Jewellery Quarter. It’s a hidden gem.’

For Chris, brewing beer has been a passion for eight years, but his favourite aspect is seeing other’s enjoy it. ‘We have customers tell us their favourite beer was such and such, and then follow it up with ‘because after we had that beer this happened’ and they always have a positive memory, so it’s nice to be part of [that].’

As for Rock and Soul Pale Ale? Chris reckons you just need ‘sunshine with good music and good people.’ While they can’t promise the former, Burning Soul prides itself on its friendly atmosphere, as well as a good choice of tunes.

Rock and Soul Pale Ale can be found at Rock and Roll Brewhouse or Burning Soul Brewery, and can be bought online for delivery [here](#).

How the JQ *shapes one school*

Jamie Barton, Head of School at Jewellery Quarter Academy, discusses how he utilises the Jewellery Quarter's culture to enrich his teaching.



If there's one thing the Jewellery Quarter is synonymous for, it's its rich heritage. As newly-appointed Head of School at Jewellery Quarter Academy, this is something that Jamie Barton is adamant on bringing to life — despite having only recently uncovered his own family's heritage within the historical district.

Moving from one cultural hotspot to another, Jamie Barton switched from Bournville School to the Jewellery Quarter Academy in

2019. Seemingly a fan of rich local history, he had no idea of his own heritage that was steeped in the Jewellery Quarter, dating back many years. It wasn't until his mum unearthed some old photos and mentioned that his great-great-grandmother lived in a flat on Pope Street in 1906, coincidentally the same area where the school's entrance now is — though, it looks a lot different now.

'It's no longer there now, I think it's become [apartments],' Jamie

notes, 'but it's nice to see that, and imagine what the building once was like.' Indeed, it's this balance between old and new that makes the Jewellery Quarter so revered, and something Jamie is exceedingly passionate about.

For Jamie and his approach to his role at Jewellery Quarter Academy, utilising the local heritage and history has been a vital method in teaching and providing opportunities to his students. In fact, he has recently appointed a design & technology teacher to teach classes on jewellery making.

'[I want to] revive jewellery making to give students a local link to the Jewellery Quarter.' This particular venture resonates with Jamie himself, having recently learned of his own great-grandfather's occupation as a gem-setter based in the Jewellery Quarter in the early 1900s.

It's arguable that Jamie's enthusiastic approach to teaching his students about the Jewellery Quarter's heritage is part of the reason for why they are 'very inquisitive and curious' and generally keen to learn about the history that's right on their doorstep. For instance, dating back to the early 1900s when it was gifted by MP, Joseph Chamberlain, the Chamberlain Clock is a discernible historical monument in the Jewellery Quarter. With it positioned close to the school, Jamie noticed it was something students 'really engaged with', and viewed it as vital for the students 'to understand the history behind it', going out of his way to enlighten them on its heritage. But it's not all about the Jewellery Quarter's past for Jamie.

'I'm trying to involve myself in the community as much as I can,' he states. For him, engaging with the area's future is just as important as connecting with its past. The school regularly organises events within the community. A personal favourite for Jamie and something the school regularly participates in is litter picking down the canal. As a symbol of Birmingham, it is important for Jamie and his students to take care of the area.



'One time it was chucking it down,' Jamie laughs, but that didn't stop them from having 'a lovely experience.' That's not the only goodwill activity Jamie has actively encouraged within Jewellery Quarter Academy's walls; the school has also been collaborating with local artisans and utilising local resources, which the students will then use to make leather key fobs and present to NHS key workers as both a token of gratitude and a way of connecting with the local community.

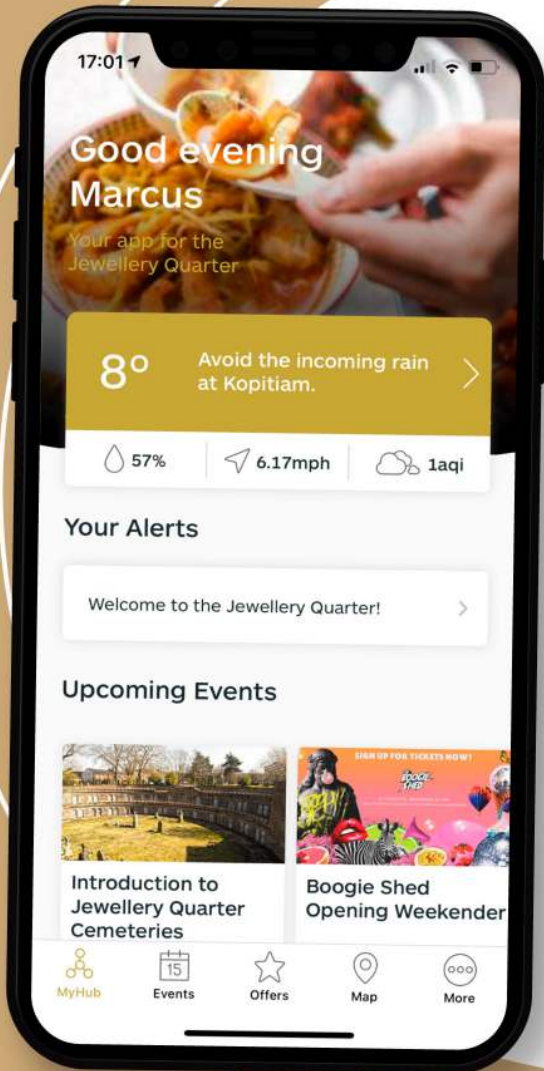
With a passion for the Jewellery Quarter's culture and plenty of links to utilise, Jamie is determined to 'give [his students] access to all the opportunities possible.' Having worked with resident artisans and community volunteering, what's next?

'I would love to work with local art galleries and factories, and for

students to see the manufacturing process. [We've had] craftspeople come into the school previously, and I want more opportunities like this.' He's also hoping to work with local restaurants to help his students have more of a 'sense of career within the Jewellery Quarter.' He continues, 'it's important for me that students feel part of the JQ [and] for them to see what opportunities it has.'

Jamie's own heritage plays a large role in his own passion for the Jewellery Quarter and one of the aspects he loves most about the area is its strong history rivalling many districts, and the 'awe and wonder' that it brings. This is, indeed, something he is keen to share with his students but ultimately, as he tells his pupils, 'we live in an area surrounded by diamonds and gold but the most precious thing is the students.'

To find out more about what Jamie Barton and Jewellery Quarter Academy are up to, check out their [website](#) or follow them on [Twitter](#).



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