

# OUR COMMUNITY PARK MAGAZINE

SPRING 2023



*Community edition*

**POETRY, PLANTING & LITTER PICKING**

**PLUS: EXCLUSIVE BBP OFFER FOR  
CASTLE BROMWICH HALL GARDENS**

## Trialling bus travel of the future



**AUTONOMOUS SHUTTLE BUS CATCHES THE EYE AT BBP**



# hello!

## Welcome to your Spring 2023 edition of 'Our Community' magazine.

In this edition, we've got plenty of content to help you shake off the winter blues and embrace the fresh energy of spring. From gardening tips to understanding the benefits of lunchtime art, a special poem for our community written by poet, Beth Calverley, and an interactive colouring page for you to enjoy during a lunchtime break.

From local events and volunteering opportunities, we hope that this edition will inspire you to connect with your community here at the Business Park.

Make the most of the daffodils along our woodland walk this season by taking part in a lunchtime walk, or why not try out a walk'n'talk meeting with a member of your team?

As always, I'd love to hear from you! If you've got a story you'd like to tell, or a club you'd like to set up, feel free to email me at [lori@birminghambusinesspark.co.uk](mailto:lori@birminghambusinesspark.co.uk).

See you around!

**Lori Henebury, Marketing, Community and Business Development Manager**



## On the Cover



A futuristic self-driving shuttle bus was put to work taking passengers around Birmingham Business Park as part of a Solihull Council trial.

**FULL STORY: PAGES 4 & 5**

## BBP COMMUNITY PICKS LOCAL CENTRE

# Dogs Home is our new Charity of the Year



Birmingham Business Park has named Birmingham Dogs Home as its Charity of the Year for 2023, following a voting process by the Birmingham Business Park community.

Lori Henebury, Marketing, Community and Business Development manager said: "We are delighted to announce that following our community here at Birmingham Business Park taking part in a vote, Birmingham Dogs Home received the highest amount of votes and as such will be our partner charity for 2023!"

"We are super excited to be working with Fi and her wonderful team this year on lots of exciting events, whilst raising essential funding to support the rescue centre based just down the road from us."

Fi Harrison, head of Fundraising & Communications, said: "This means so much to us as a local charity – Birmingham Business Park and BDH are a perfect pawtnership for 2023!"

"We have been serving the Midlands community for over 130 years and we are busier than ever at the moment, with all 120 kennels at our rescue centre near Birmingham Business Park full, as well as 100 more kennels at our centre near Wolverhampton."

"That is why the support of the

amazing organisations at Birmingham Business Park is so vital to help this local charity. Together, through awareness raising and fundraising, we can help the BDH team to provide the

very best care for every dog that needs support in 2023 until they are adopted into loving new homes.

"There will be lots of events to look out for across the year to get involved in. Thanks for all your supawt guys!"

### BIRMINGHAM DOGS HOME 2023 EVENTS

 Look out for detail on how to join in April's BDH, online "Mug-shot" competition. We are looking for the funniest photos of you and your team with your favourite mug and office dog. Winners will


receive a set of paw-some BDH mugs and coasters!




On 24th May BDH will be hosting a BDH "Barking Breakfast" Networking event at Birmingham Business Park. A great opportunity to meet up with colleagues from across the park and make it a paw-sitive start to your day! BDH will be launching their Business Patrons programme, talking about dog ownership and adoption and launching a joint park walking challenge in May too, which is National Walking Month.






 There will also be opportunities for family friendly volunteering at Birmingham Dogs Home's Family Fun Day events across the summer and there are exciting plans for a Festival Pawty week in July, so there is lots to look forward to and join in.

 We will have our own BDH dedicated website page with a calendar of events for 2023 including challenge events such as 10Ks, marathons and adrenaline events to set yourself a personal goal and raise some sponsorship money as well as resources for office based fundraising, including a guide filled with ideas and downloadable posters and sponsorship forms. [birminghamdogshome.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/](http://birminghamdogshome.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/)

 You can also choose to make a donation online to support some of the dogs that have been at Birmingham Dogs Home, patiently waiting to find new homes for too long. These overlooked dogs

need extra support and by choosing to support a "patient pooch" you are helping the charity be able to look after them and provide the medical treatment and extra support the need for as long as they need. Visit [birminghamdogshome.org.uk/patient-pooches/](http://birminghamdogshome.org.uk/patient-pooches/)


 Pop along to the BBP office to pick up a BDH Fundraising Guide, purchase lovely BDH merchandise (key rings, pin badges, coasters) or drop off any donations of dog food and toys which the BDH team will gratefully collect regularly. You will also have the chance to find out more about the charity, adoption

*Main picture: Fi Harrison and Rachel Frost of Birmingham Dogs Home at Birmingham Business Park*

*Left: Charlie and Dakota who have spent too long in kennels*

*Above: The Birmingham Dogs Home stall at BBP's Foodie Thursdays*

and the dogs currently in their care at our monthly Netwalking events when a member of the BDH team and a four-legged friend or two will join in our wellbeing walks.


 BBP will be organising tours and talks at Birmingham Dogs Home for colleagues who would like to visit and we are aiming to raise £5,000 from all of our 2023 fundraising activities across the park and sponsor our very own BBP kennel.

**Please contact [rachel@birminghamdogshome.org.uk](mailto:rachel@birminghamdogshome.org.uk) to chat about ideas and plans for the year.**



# Self-driving shuttle bus trialled at BBP

## SOLIHULL COUNCIL'S FUTURISTIC VEHICLE COMES TO THE PARK

 Solihull Council's state-of-the-art self-driving shuttle took passengers around Birmingham Business Park in the latest round of on-road trials.

This most recent deployment forms part of a wider Council-led project which aims to test out how Connected Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs) might be safely and seamlessly integrated into the borough's transport network in the future.

Solihull is already playing a leading role in the development and deployment of CAV technology. In 2021 Solihull Council became the first local authority in the country to purchase its own electric and fully autonomous shuttle, using a grant from the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP).

Since then, successful passenger trials have been carried out at both Birmingham Airport and the NEC, where the shuttle was also used in the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay. Building on the success of these deployments, this latest trial saw the shuttle take to Solihull's roads once again, this time transporting passengers along a pre-mapped loop of the business park while again interacting with other road users.

Designed and manufactured by Coventry's Aurigo, the futuristic



looking Auto-Shuttle can carry up to ten passengers and uses a suite of sensors, including LiDAR, to understand its surroundings and move around safely. For the purposes of testing, the shuttle was limited to a top speed of 20mph. In line with current legislation, a safety operator was

*The shuttle bus's smart interior and eye-catching exterior*

on-board at all times, and was able to take control of the shuttle at any point if required.

As well as Business Park employees, the passenger trials were also open to members of the public who wanted to experience one of the first fully self-driving shuttles in the UK.

The CAV ran at Birmingham Business Park until the end of March.

These trials have provided Solihull Council and its partners with real-world test cases and data which is being used to better understand how this technology might be used in the future.

Larger scale plans for a Multi-Area Connected Automated Mobility (MACAM) project have also been announced. Overseen by a regional consortium led by leading autonomous technology provider Conigital, part of this exciting development project will seek to establish a new permanent commercial route between Birmingham International rail station and Birmingham Business Park through the NEC using a new fleet of self-driving vehicles. The trials at BBP will be used as an important pathfinder project ahead of this more ambitious project.

Councillor Ian Courts, Leader

## WE'RE PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE HUB

Birmingham Business Park is part of **The Hub**; a globally-renowned point of connection and a major engine for economic growth at a regional and national scale.

The economic powerhouse of UK Central Solihull, and one of four specific areas of Solihull, **The Hub** is fundamental to the vision of creating a new district in the Midlands.

The Hub is also playing a critical role in

achieving the ambitions of **The Midlands Engine**, the partnership responsible for generating added value for the whole of the Midlands, its communities and the wider UK.

Leveraging the unique opportunity of location and assets within a central geography, **The Hub** is one of the most exciting and accessible development growth projects in Europe.



of Solihull Council, said: “CAV technology has the potential to revolutionise the way we get around our towns, cities and rural areas and, Solihull is playing an increasingly important role in this emerging sector.

“We’ve already carried out a series of successful pathfinder trials here in Solihull which are showing how it is possible, taking a safety-first approach, to practically start incorporating autonomous vehicles into our future transport infrastructure.

“The results of this trial will provide further knowledge and experience of self-driving vehicles in a real-world environment, helping to inform our future mobility services and highway infrastructure design across Solihull and the wider region.”

Lori Henebury, Marketing, Community and Business Development Manager, Birmingham Business Park, added: “Birmingham Business Park already lies at the heart of one of the best-connected destinations in the UK and Europe.

“Operating in a busy, but controlled environment, we hope these latest trials will help to provide even more real-world operating experience which can be used to further improve efficiency and safety for passengers.

“We are really excited to be working with Solihull Council on this, and to gain valuable insight into ways we may be able to further improve our site access and transport links, while also working towards our net zero carbon ambitions.”

**Further information is available at [www.solihull.gov.uk/CAVTrials](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/CAVTrials)**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is an autonomous shuttle?

An autonomous shuttle (also known as a self-driving or driverless vehicle), is a vehicle that uses a range of sensors to understand its surroundings – allowing it to move around safely with little or no operator input. For these trials there will always be a safety operator on-board.

### How is the shuttle powered?

The shuttle is fully electric and has a range of 100 miles. The vehicle is charged at the end of each day.

### How fast does it go?

The shuttle is capable of operating up to 20mph in autonomous mode.

### How does the shuttle sense pedestrians and cyclists?

The shuttle is aware of their environment via many sensors – this means the shuttle will have the ability to stop itself in an emergency or if there is an unexpected hazard in the road. There is also a safety operator on-board at all times who is able to take full control of the vehicle at any time.

### How is this project being funded?

The project has been funded by a grant from the GBSLEP alongside support from the West Midlands Combined Authority.



Abbie Kellas, Vicki Edge, Colin Maltby, and David Balme enjoy a trip around BBP on the shuttle bus as part of the trial



## BBP BUSINESSES INVITED TO COLLABORATE FOR GREENER SCHOOLS PROJECT

'As the next generation, it is truly our responsibility to change our community and the world for the better'



Birmingham Business Park has backed the Solihull Council-led Greener Solihull Schools Awards which recognises schools across the borough who take action on climate change, and has sponsored Damson Wood Nursery & Infant School.

Greener Solihull Schools Awards challenge children and staff to learn about the environment locally and globally, and make their school more eco-friendly. It is open to all schools in the borough and there is an incredible breadth of climate action taking place in Solihull schools.

As part of the partnership Lori Henebury from Birmingham Business Park, along with Graham Brown and Dave Taylor from the BBP landscaping team visited Balsall Common Primary School to hold bee assemblies and highlight the importance of bees in our the local wildlife ecosystem.

Birmingham Business Park is encouraging park occupiers and stakeholders to join the project for future collaborations with local schools.

Lori Henebury, Marketing, Community and Business Development manager, Birmingham Business Park, said:

"This was Damson Wood Nursery & Infant school's first year applying for the award and to receive all three levels is a fantastic achievement.

"It was great to read in the application pack how enthusiastically Damson Wood Nursery & Infant School's ECO-Warriors are working to encourage the rest of the school to become eco-friendly. I loved finding out that they have had toys and plants sales at events and that any profit made was invested back into ECO resources.

"The way their curriculum is encouraging healthy eating and recycling, and the level of support they have gained from charities and



Above: Lori Henebury joins Natalie Chidler, ECO lead, Ruth Garbett, ECO lead and Emily Hume, head teacher



local business is really impressive!"

Ruth Garbett and Natalie Chidler, Damson Wood Eco Leads said: "There are lots of opportunities for our ECO-Warriors to meet and they are always full of ideas about what we can do next. Using our Eco-board, which is both creative and interactive, allows us to reach out to everyone."

Emily Hume, Damson Wood Head teacher said: "As the next generation, it is truly our responsibility to change our community and the world for the better."

**Find out more information visit [www.solihull.gov.uk/your-future-solihull/greener-solihull-schools-awards](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/your-future-solihull/greener-solihull-schools-awards)**



### THE AWARDS ARE BROKEN DOWN INTO THREE DIFFERENT LEVELS: 1,2 AND 3

- Level 1: A team of pupils help to raise awareness and improve their school environment.
- Level 2: Engage the school in three local or national awareness campaigns, linked with sustainability.
- Level 3: Introduce the Global Goals initiative to the whole school and find curriculum links.

### THE OBJECTIVE OF THE AWARD IS TO:

- Develop a sense of pride in the school for sustainability activities.
- Encourage further sustainability related activities through highlighting ve stories and role models.
- Provide opportunities to celebrate, share best practice and reward efforts.

## PARK WELCOMES TAX RELIEF EXPERTS

# RDS chooses BBP for Midlands expansion

 RDS (Research and Development Specialists Ltd) has expanded into Birmingham, with a new office at Birmingham Business Park.

The Greater-Manchester headquartered company is expanding into the West Midlands where, according to Government statistics, 4.3% of UK businesses are registered.

RDS believes that companies in Birmingham and the West Midlands, that could be eligible to claim tax relief through the HMRC Tax Incentive, are potentially missing out on thousands of pounds to inject back into developing their businesses.

RDS has helped its diverse portfolio of over 700 UK clients understand if they are eligible for the HMRC tax incentive scheme, which was set up in 2000 to help stimulate growth and innovation across the UK.

Business Development Lead, Chris Cunnane, said: "We are delighted to announce that RDS have now opened an office at Birmingham Business Park.

"We believe it is a natural progression for our business to expand into Birmingham and the Midlands. Our aim is to help businesses access the research and



development corporation tax scheme. RDS has found businesses in the UK more than £38 million in benefit to help companies gain a cash injection to grow and innovate their company.

"Our financial analysts have helped over 700 businesses through what can be a complicated process. If you are a limited company, who specialise in construction, manufacturing, software development or other technical industries then please get in touch on 0121 289 2480 or alternatively email us at [contact@randdspecialist.co.uk](mailto:contact@randdspecialist.co.uk)."

**RDS's new Birmingham Business Park office is at 1310 Solihull Parkway, Birmingham, B37 7YB.**

*"We believe it is natural progression for our business to expand into Birmingham"*



Christopher Cunnane, Business Development Lead, David Siddons, Business Development Manager and Kay Aujla – Business Development Manager

## ParkLife

BBP WORKERS SHARE INSIGHTS INTO THEIR ROLES & COMPANIES

**BALVINDER KAUR,  
FUNDRAISING MANAGER,  
BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION**

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR CHARITY

The British Heart Foundation is a cardiovascular research charity in the UK. It funds medical research related to heart and circulatory diseases and their risk factors, and runs influencing work aimed at shaping public policy and raising awareness. Since being established in 1961, research has resulted in treatment of cardio conditions reducing death rates by 50% in UK. We are proud to be part of partnerships in bringing about positive changes and enhancing life chances.



### WHAT DO YOU DO?

I am the Fundraising Manager at BHF responsible for Birmingham and Solihull. I have recently joined the team and already feel in awe of the commitment by everyone in the organisation working with great dedication towards this amazing cause. My role includes developing and sustaining

working relationships with Communities and Corporate businesses as well as clubs and associations. I have already come across some amazing people in the short space of time and look forward to continued work together.

### HOW'S LIFE AT THE BUSINESS PARK?

Birmingham Business Park is a delightful complex to work in, there is a real community feel amongst all businesses regardless of their size or capacity. The tranquillity and greenery of the setting adds to its beauty. Comprising of lakes and beautiful walkways enhance the serenity of its surroundings. With regular interactive workshops and learning opportunities there is a real team feel with fab wellbeing opportunities.

### YOUR MESSAGE TO A COMPANY OR CHARITY THINKING OF MOVING HERE?

I highly recommend being part of such surroundings and well-structured buildings with modern feel offices which are prepared to a high spec. The opportunity to work and relax in the same surroundings is boundless.



PARK PLOT AVAILABLE TO BUSINESSES TO GROW AND GET TOGETHER

# Allotment club springs into action



The benefits of gardening are well-known: fresh air, exercise, and the satisfaction of growing your own food. But gardening can also be a great way to bring people together, which is exactly what the allotment club at Birmingham Business Park is doing.

Members of the club meet regularly to tend to the garden, sharing tips and techniques as they go. They grow a range of produce, from potatoes, and carrots to tomatoes and pumpkins, and are always looking for new ideas to try.

But the club is more than just gardening. It's also a place where people can come together, socialise, and make new friends. The club, which will be on monthly this spring/summer, will host events and will continue to act as a community space for park tenants.

Val Clarke, General Manager from 4PS, said: "This is an enlightening allotment club for us at 4PS UK. We now have some top tips on what to grow where so we don't end up with a jungle again! We can't wait to get planting."

The club has plans to expand over the next couple of months, with hopes of building more plots. For now, though, there is one plot available for a business willing to commit. Please contact Lori on [lori@birminghambusinesspark.co.uk](mailto:lori@birminghambusinesspark.co.uk) if you would like to enquire.



The BBP community gets tips and advice from Nurture Landscapes  
Pictures: Ian Yates



## Spring gardening tips from the BBP landscaping team at Nurture Landscapes



### 1 PLAN AHEAD

Spring is the perfect time to plan your garden for the upcoming year. Consider what plants you want to grow and how much space you have available. Make sure to take into account the soil type and light conditions.

### 2 WATCH THE WEATHER

The weather in the UK can be unpredictable, so it's important you keep an eye on the forecast and adjust your gardening schedule accordingly. If a frost is expected, cover delicate plants with protection. If there is a prolonged dry spell, make sure to water your plants regularly.

### 3 CONSIDER COMPANION PLANTING

Companion planting involves growing different plants together that benefit each other. For example, planting herbs like basil or chives alongside tomatoes can help to

repel pests and improve flavour. Research companion planting options that work well for your garden and try incorporating them into your planting plan.

### 4 CREATE A COMPOST AREA

It isn't too late to start yours if you haven't already, as it's the perfect way to recycle your organic waste! Plants thrive from rich nutrients, so a good mixture of grass trimmings, vegetable peelings and wooden pruning's will create the perfect compost mix for your garden. Don't forget to keep regularly turning your compost with a fork to keep it aerated!

### 5 KEEP IT TIDY

Regularly remove dead leaves and debris from your garden beds to prevent the build-up of pests and diseases. Also, keep your garden tools clean and well-maintained to ensure they are ready to use when needed.





Rachel Akers, below centre, hosts the paper crafting session at the BBP Management Hub community space



On a sunny Wednesday in mid-February, crafting enthusiasts from around the Business

Park gathered at our new-look Park Management Hub community space for a paper crafting event run by Rachel Akers from Akers of Art.

The event aimed to bring together like-minded individuals who share a passion for creating beautiful and intricate designs using paper.

Participants were given colourful paper, pens, crafting supplies and a complimentary lunch. Rachel from Akers of Art gave a brief introduction to the various activities available and helped them to explore different crafting techniques.

Some participants chose to make cards, others focused on three-dimensional origami sculptures, whilst the rest explored the art of Zentangling which they took back to the office with them.

Rachel Akers said: "Arts and crafts is a fantastic way to unwind and destress so holding these Zentangling and paper craft workshops at Birmingham Business

# BBP gets crafty at new arts workshop

## PAPER CRAFTING EVENT HELPS WORKERS UNWIND

Park is a pleasure for me, as I love to show people how to relax and forget their worries by introducing them to a new experience in art.

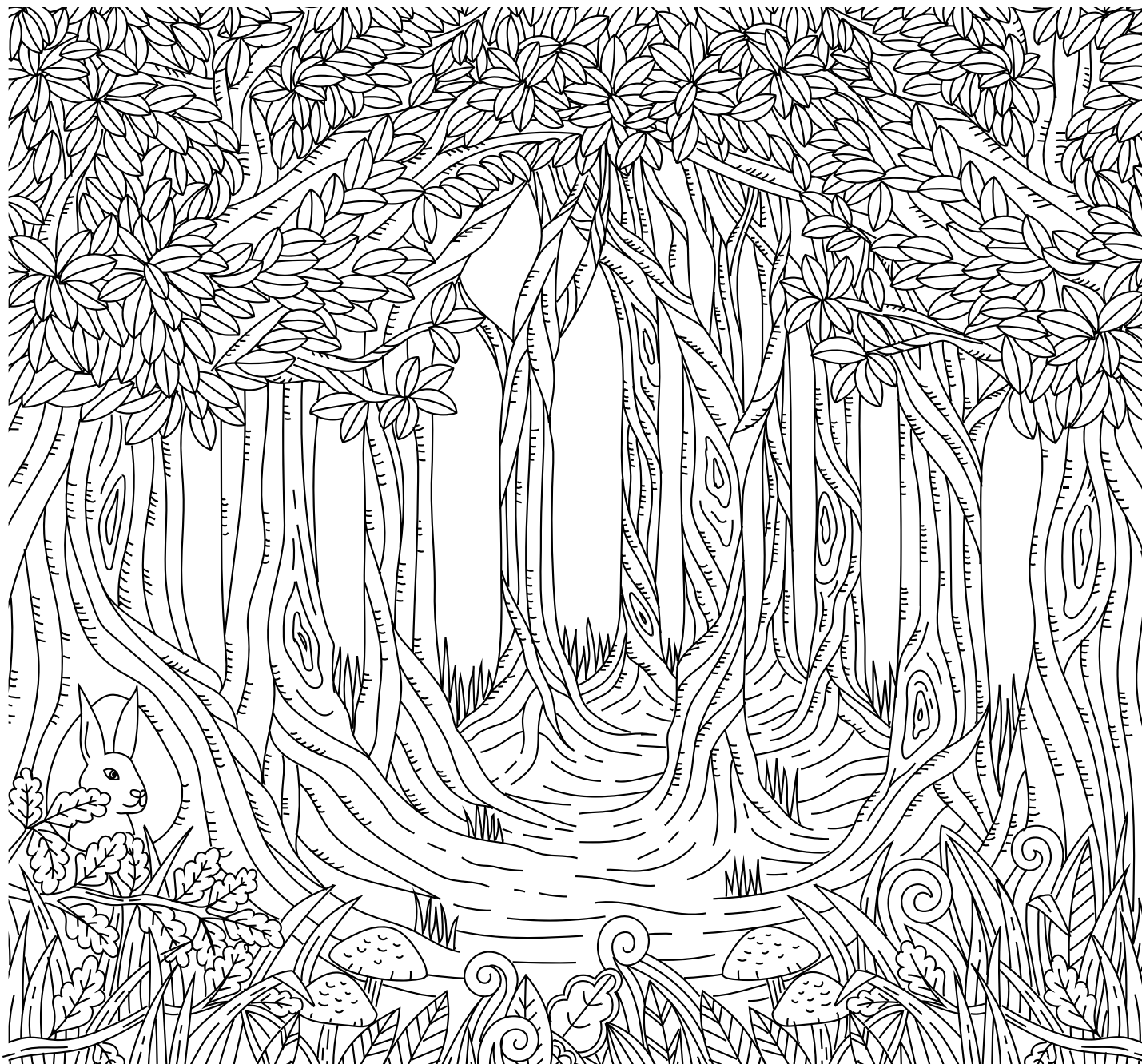
"Zentangle colouring books are popular for mindfulness but with my workshop I go one step further and I teach how to create the Zentangle patterns rather than just filling them in. You can create some really unique pieces of art with this technique and hopefully I have taught something that can be brought into everyday hobbies as a way to get away from the computer screen for five minutes, take a deep breath, destress then get back to work."

Steven Singh, Centre Manager at Regus, who took part in the event, said: "Paper crafting was great, there were so many bright colours and creative ideas to share with one another.

"It really helped break up the day and also a change from the office and a brilliant way to make new friends or contacts and network. This activity is great for them mind, and an amazing way to show off your creativity."

The club hopes to organise similar events in the future, providing a space for people to connect and be creative. Keep an eye on the Birmingham Business Park What's On page.





## Take time to colour our woodland scene



Research has shown that colouring is a healthy way to relieve stress and anxiety. It calms the brain and helps your body relax – something we all need during busy working weeks.

So why not take a few moments during your lunch break, pick up a few colouring pencils and complete the woodland scene above.

It will remind you of the Woodland Walk at Birmingham Business Park, near the main lake, home to various BBP events and 'netwalks' throughout the year.

When you've finished your artwork and you need to fire up the phone again, follow BBP social media to be kept up to speed with the latest What's On details.







## POET BETH'S MAGICAL MACHINE VISITS BBP

# Poetry Machine creates poem for the park

The Business Park heron inspired Beth's poem for BBP  
Picture courtesy Terry A. Grove

 Poet Beth Calverley joined Birmingham Business Park with her magical Poetry Machine to create free typewritten poems in conversation with BBP staff.

Beth, above, is a poet, performer, facilitator and founder of The Poetry Machine. Her writing delights in the weird and wonderful things we do when trying to belong.

She spent a day creating poems with staff at BBP and used these conversations as inspiration for her final piece.

Beth is Poet in Residence at University Hospitals Bristol & Weston NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford University Hospitals NHS FT and the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre in Liverpool. She has been

a Poet in Residence for The Poetry House in Ledbury (2021-22), a Bristol Poetry Festival Resident Poet (2021), a Bristol Life Awards Arts Finalist (2020), and a Roundhouse Slam Finalist (2018). She has worked with the BBC, ITV, Sky, and many more.

Beth travels across the country to places of work, care, learning and play – from hospitals to festivals, weddings to woodlands, high streets to heritage sites, schools to universities, meeting rooms to theatres – performing, facilitating and co-creating poetry.

Her debut collection, *Brave Faces & Other Smiles* (Verve Poetry Press, 2020), explores some of the countless and complex reasons why we smile.



Pictures: Ian Yates

## Where Birds Have Names

*A poem for the Birmingham Business Park community*

Dressed in his soft grey suit, Horace eyes the sign: *No fishing. Private Estate.*  
But, for him, it's always Foodie Thursday...

In a flash, there's silver in his beak.

First named by a child in the nursery, word spread  
like light across the lake - people talk to each other in this place,

this nest of many birds, where a tenant's *good morning*  
calms a newcomer's nerves. Where we catch a splash of nature every day.

148 acres to melt our stress away. Forest bathing zen. Allotment lunchbreaks.  
Worklife balance is an egg-and-spoon race. The lake is our silver spoon.

Here, there are hands to steady our eggs. A netwalking group. Social clubs.  
In Summer, we share our picnics with the geese. Hives make honey for charity,

each jar labelled *Bee Happy* - the tagline coined by a schoolgirl.  
In Winter, we make wreaths. Eat churros. Stand and chat on sugared grass.

We share what we catch with neighbours too.  
Litter picking signs for a local group. Cardboard boxes for a Sleep Out.

Tickets as prizes for the games, everyone scrambling to unscramble the clue -  
Togetherness: a treasure hunt that everyone can win.

We're proud as peacocks of this park. And even though we can't agree  
between Phillip or Percy, we can all agree our peacock has a name.

We aren't just here to work. There's nothing private about this estate.  
Community breathes in and out. Whatever the signs at the gates of life might say -

*work, home, nursery, school* - who we are inside doesn't change.  
We're all people, all part of nature. So let's meet for a coffee at the lake.





# How Clean & Green are working together for a brighter Solihull

## LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



"You'll never get the volunteers", Paul 'Pablo' Sultana was told when he decided to ask people to help clean up the streets and green spaces of North Solihull.

But just five years later Pablo, who used to work at Birmingham Business Park, has proved his doubters wrong.

The community group he created, Clean & Green, has grown from one volunteer to 930. They've removed more than 15,000 bags of rubbish and cleared more than 250 shopping trolleys from local watercourses and lobbied local supermarkets about the issue.

"North Solihull often gets bad press or is seen as the poorer relation to South and Central Solihull," says Pablo, who used to be Group Head of Health, Safety and Environment at WM Housing at BPP, now known as Citizen Housing.

"But we have a strong and caring community who pull together and support each other and look after our precious green spaces."

Clean & Green also carries out tree and bulb planting and helps renovate parks and neglected public areas around Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst, Smiths Wood and the surrounding areas. It also runs wellbeing walks and has given out free wildlife cameras, binoculars and wild bird food and feeders to encourage people to care for local wildlife.

Clean & Green has won awards for its work, including Solihull Borough Council's Community Environment Award 2023.



Pablo would love to see people from Birmingham Business Park get involved with its activities, whether through litter picking or helping with tasks like marketing and printing flyers. The group's also looking for businesses to donate equipment and funds.

Clean & Green has a wish list, which can be found on its Facebook page, which includes safety footwear, wild flower seeds, tree saplings and litter picking sticks.

"We also desperately need to find a second hand vehicle, ideally a small van, to store and transport our equipment and have some funds or prizes to help us incentivise volunteers," says Pablo.

**To get involved or find out more visit  
Clean & Green's Facebook page or email  
Pablo at [pablosultana@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pablosultana@yahoo.co.uk) or  
[cleanandgreensolihull@gmail.com](mailto:cleanandgreensolihull@gmail.com)**

### CAN YOU HELP?

Here are the most in-demand items on the Clean & Green Wish List. Can BBP occupiers support them by donating items or funds?

- Sponsored Vehicle (small van).
- Litter picking trolleys
- Gloves
- Safety footwear
- Litter picking sticks
- Flower bulbs
- Tree saplings
- Wild flower seed
- Grass seed
- Shrubs and hedging
- Garden tools
- Compost and pots
- Cycle spares and tools
- Hi viz polo shirts and t shirts
- Bat detectors
- Pond dipping kits
- USB microscopes
- Binoculars
- Non-perishable food (food bank donations)
- Party food and drink for community picnics and celebrations
- Wildlife Camera traps
- Graphic design support (including banners and signs)
- Marketing support
- Printing of flyers
- Volunteer celebration event
- Volunteer incentives/gifts/prizes (achievement badges, milestone rewards, food and drink vouchers etc.



# Stop scrolling and 'Visit Solihull'



We've all been there. You search online for something to do. An hour later, you've found some interesting info about a completely different topic. All very useful for the next time you're bullied into a pub quiz, but it doesn't solve how to entertain your friends, work colleagues or kids now.

Luckily there's Visit Solihull – the 'go to' place for all things Solihull – whether you are local or visiting.

The website showcases bars, restaurants, retail, events, parks, tourist attractions and things to do in Solihull. Plus news, blogs and travel advice to help you get from A to B (Anime to Beer?)

There's a What's On section so that you can

keep up with exciting events in the borough too. And if you've organised an event – you can upload it for free.

If you're planning a visit with your family or friends Solihull has a vast range of places to stay. Eat, drink and stay will help you decide.

And the business visitors section will help you plan a business event or conference.

So – don't spend hours down a rabbit hole. Check out Visit Solihull, visit the beautiful parks and open spaces and maybe get a glimpse of a REAL rabbit!

**For more information visit –**  
**[www.visitsolihull.co.uk](http://www.visitsolihull.co.uk) or follow**  
**[@visit\\_solihull](#) on twitter or instagram**



## NEW HS2 DROP-IN SESSIONS AT BUSINESS PARK

HS2 Ltd will be holding a drop in event on the third Thursday of the month between 1pm and 4pm right here at Birmingham Business Park. At these drop-in events, you will be able to:

- Talk to your local community engagement team about any concerns you may have.
- See maps and plans of the project, including up and coming traffic management in the area.
- Ask questions about the project and explore community investment opportunities.

The event will be held in the Park Management Hub in the community space. Look out for the banner.

You are welcome to simply drop in or you can register your interest in attending and find out about other events in the area by scanning the QR code here.

If you have a question about HS2 or our works, please contact the HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434** or email **hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your area, visit: **www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk**



## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT FOR M42 BOX STRUCTURE

Balfour Beatty Vinci (BBV) will be constructing a new 'box structure' over the M42 near Birmingham Business Park. A box structure is a type of road bridge that will allow four HS2 rail tracks to pass over the motorway at an angle. It is 130 metres in length so to a road user, it will feel like you have entered a short tunnel rather than passing under a bridge.

The construction of the proposed box structure will begin with the demolition of the A446 bridge, the southern part of the Northway Island (roundabout). The planned demolition date is over the weekend of 12th-13th August 2023 and will require the motorway to be closed between Junction 6 and Junction 9.

Prior to the bridge demolition, BBV will be carrying out several preparatory tasks in the vicinity leading to this target date. These tasks include vegetation clearance, earthworks, utility diversions in the area and the removal of existing street furniture such as street lighting columns, Vehicle Restraint System (VRS), street signs, gantries and so on but also a National Roads Telecommunications Services (NRTS) temporary diversion.

The proposed works will impact the surrounding traffic networks around the Business Park, specifically along the M42 between the two bridges.

Traffic Management will need to be put in place resulting in the closure of the Hard Shoulder in both directions.

The traffic management will initially be in place at night but from May onwards will be in place on a permanent basis until demolition in the summer.



Students get hands on with HS2's construction

Picture courtesy HS2 Ltd

# High-speed rail stats reveal local growth

New figures released by HS2 Ltd show that over the last six years, 422 West Midlands companies have received a share of over £1.7bn in contract awards.

The figures demonstrate how HS2's construction is playing a vital role in the survival and growth of businesses across the region.

Small and medium sized businesses based in the area are emerging as the biggest winners, with a 78% share of local contract awards.

In 2022 alone, the value of HS2 contracts awarded to local firms (£816million) totalled almost twice the value of economic uplift delivered in the West Midlands by the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games (£453.7million).

HS2's impact is being felt near Birmingham Business Park, with a new Interchange Station

that will serve Solihull, Birmingham Airport and the NEC.

The new HS2 Interchange Station will be part of a new public transport interchange serving Solihull and the West Midlands, with links to local roads and the UK motorway network, making it one of the best-connected places in the UK.


The positive effect of HS2's construction is also being felt by local people working on the project, developing their careers, and accessing free training to upskill for new opportunities.

Balfour Beatty VINCI, HS2's construction partner for the region, has already delivered over 81,000 hours of training to create the 7,000-strong highly skilled workforce it needs to fulfil a wide variety of on-site and office-based roles.



# 20% OFF AT CASTLE BROMWICH HALL GARDENS

## GREAT BUSINESS PARK OFFER

 Blossom picnics, outdoor theatre, historical re-enactments and family scavenger hunts are just some of the exciting activities you can enjoy at Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens.

And Birmingham Business Park employees can enjoy 20 per cent off an annual membership for this green gem on the edge of the city.

As well as free entry to the ten acres of historic walled gardens and surrounding parkland, membership gives visitors discounts on ticketed activities too.

They include the chance to picnic under the blossom in the apple and pear orchards over the Bank Holiday weekend on April 29 and May 1.

The event is inspired by the Japanese celebration of Hanami and renowned Birmingham-based Japanese Chef, Yumi Grindley, will be cooking a range of her specialities for visitors.

On May 8 the Gardens celebrate the Coronation with a day of royal fun called 'Meet A Monarch'.

Families can discover four kings and queens who reigned during the garden's long history, see what it feels like to sit on a throne and enjoy music and entertainment. Visitors are encouraged to dress like royalty and prizes will be given for the best costumes.

The summer sees the arrival of live music sessions and outdoor theatre performances, including Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew and David Walliams' Bad Dad.

A Lego workshop with Lego Masters Kevin and Emily from Brick Galleria and a Murder Mystery are also planned.

To mark the Summer Solstice on June 20 you can watch the sun go down over Birmingham from the Garden's hillside vantage point. There's even a chance to camp and watch the sunrise.

For little ones the Gardens host regular Forest Schools and activities like

pond dipping and nature-inspired arts and crafts.

Young explorers can also learn more about nature with a free Percy the Park Keeper self-guided trail and seasonal activities. Four-legged friends are catered for too. Pooches enjoy a free doggy muffin with every hot drink purchased at the monthly 'Canine Café' held in the Courtyard Café.

As well as annual membership there are other ways to get involved and support the historic site.

With ten acres of formal gardens and 30 acres of nature reserve to look after the Trust welcomes volunteers. It even organises team building and away-day activities to help protect this beautiful area for generations to come.

**Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens are in Chester Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 9BT. For more information visit [www.castlebromwichhallgardens.org.uk](http://www.castlebromwichhallgardens.org.uk) or call 0121 749 4100.**



### 20% Off

Annual Membership ticket for Birmingham Business Park

**Free Entry for over 300 days.**

**Discounts on ticketed activities and entertainments**

Individual membership	£20	
Joint (couple) membership	£36	
Family Activities Annual pass (<5 people, max 2 adults)	£40	

**Deal valid until Sept 30th 2023**

## FACT FILE

Described as a "secret treasure which is perfect for quiet wanders, family picnics and nature adventures" Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens were once part of the Earl of Bradford's estate. But, despite being a rare example of a 17th century Jacobean country house with its original garden setting, towards the end of the 20th century the grounds had fallen into a state of disrepair. In 1985 the Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Trust was launched to restore and protect this historic gem.



# Find Out What's On



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'What's On' page**

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