

OUR COMMUNITY PARK MAGAZINE

WINTER 2023



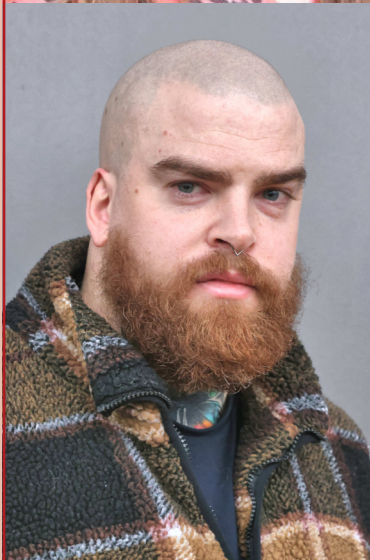
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CITIBASE**

EXCLUSIVE BBP OFFER



The BBP Champions of 2023

**YOU NOMINATE YOUR
COLLEAGUES AND TEAMS**



hello!

Welcome to your winter 2023 edition of 'Our Community' magazine.

If we take a look outside the windows of our offices this season, we see that nature takes this time for rest: trees are dormant, animals hibernate, and plants slow down. I think we should take this as a sign to do the same, and enjoy the stillness offered by the winter months.

Whatever this means to you – mindful lunchbreaks, taking some well-deserved annual leave over the festive period or simply taking this time to 'slow down' – make sure you make the most of it. After all, rest during the workday doesn't just stave off burnout – research shows it can stimulate creativity, help you concentrate better and complete tasks more efficiently.

In this edition, we stop and reflect on the remarkable people who play active roles in making our community as special as it is. Well done to all of those who were nominated – your hard work and impact has been noticed this year by your colleagues.

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.

Wishing you a season filled with warmth, joy, and the simple pleasures that winter brings.

See you around!

Lori Henebury, Marketing, Community and Business Development Manager



Merry Christmas



From all the team at Birmingham Business Park, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Birmingham Business Park
Invested in You

Our Community magazine is produced for Birmingham Business Park by Edwin Ellis Creative Media
www.edwinelliscreativemedia.com



Birmingham Business Park's thousands of employees regularly go above and beyond what their jobs ask.

Whether it's giving up free time to work in the local community, supporting a workplace foundation, or just being there for a colleague in need of a helping hand, there are amazing people at BBP who deserve a festive pat on the back.

In this edition of Our Community magazine we asked you to tell us who deserves a shout-out for their amazing efforts and every team member mentioned in our round-up received a special gift from the BBP management team.

Lori Henebury, Marketing, Community and Business Development Manager, said: "We wanted to recognise the often-unsung heroes from around BBP who go above and beyond their roles. Particularly relating to sustainability and wellbeing. Thank you to all the nominees, we hope you enjoyed your prize of a free meal at the BBP Lunch Club."



THE CATEGORIES

Sustainability Champion

Recognises individuals who have a commitment to environmental sustainability and made notable contributions to help their organisation reduce their carbon footprint.

Rising Star

Acknowledges the achievements of emerging leaders under the age of 35 who have displayed exceptional leadership skills, innovation, and dedication to their roles.

Innovation Pioneers

Recognises individuals who have driven innovation within their teams or businesses, contributing to the growth and advancement of their organisation.

Employee Wellbeing Advocate

Honours individuals who have actively promoted and contributed to the health and wellbeing of their colleagues, fostering a positive and supportive work environment.

SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION

NOMINEE:

GRETA RUSTEIKAIT, 4PS

NOMINATED BY:

ALL OF THE 4PS TEAM

"Greta joined 4PS Construction Solutions back in March 2022 as a Junior Support Consultant and showed an interest in sustainability right from the start.

"This year, she took a three-month Green Advantage course held by Aston's Centre for Growth. During this time, Greta built a knowledge of organisational sustainability strategies and practices. She was inspired by several key speakers and had more direct coaching during the individual mentoring sessions.

"Greta is keen to take what she has learnt and apply it to our business. Since taking her course, she has reviewed our carbon footprint and has already applied several changes, including a transition to renewable energy by changing our energy provider and enhancing energy efficiency with a reduction in the timings for light sensors where appropriate.

"Earlier this year Greta surveyed 4PS employees to see how they felt about our sustainability and to see if there are any suggestions for areas we can improve on. These have been fully considered, and 4PS are looking to make improvements in 2024 with Greta's help."



Meet the 2023 Champions of BBP

SHINING A LIGHT ON STARS OF THE WORKPLACE



INNOVATION PIONEER

NOMINEE:

MELISSA DUNN, IMI

NOMINATED BY:

GRACE ROTHMAN

"I would like to nominate my lovely colleague Melissa Dunn (pictured right) for the Innovation Pioneers award.

"Melissa is a not only a lovely human being but since I started at IMI, four weeks ago, nothing has been too much to ask. She is so clearly dedicated to growth of individuals and demonstrates exceptional creativity and originality in all areas of her work.

"Melissa has been instrumental in developing and implementing new solutions that have improved the efficiency, quality, and impact of IMI's projects and growth of individuals within the organisation. She has also shown a willingness to share her ideas, both personal and professional, and collaborate with others, fostering a culture of innovation and learning within the team.

"She is always looking for new ways to challenge herself and expand her skills and has truly inspired me to do the same. She is a true pioneer of innovation and a true asset to our organisation."



EMPLOYEE WELLBEING ADVOCATE

NOMINEE:

LANICA AGNEW, PERSIMMON HOMES

NOMINATED BY:

EMILY BERVILLE-CHARLESWORTH AND ALL OF THE PERSIMMON HOMES CENTRAL TEAM

"Lanica is a happy employee, who brings positivity to her team and entire office. Lanica fosters a positive work environment by always reaching out to people, ensuring that everyone is feeling happy and noticing when people aren't.

"Lanica is always sincerely cheerful and always comes into work with a smile on her face and doesn't let the challenges of work impact her mood. Lanica often brings in treats to give everyone that 11am pick me up with their tea. Whilst it is recognised that Lanica has not suggested in office activities such as yoga or pizza parties, which although could be good fun it doesn't encompass what work is about. It is important to recognise that having someone in the office who is genuinely positive and happy to be at work is key to adding to the office moral to ensure the business is the best it can be.

"Lanica is someone who brings a sense of joy, calm and optimism to everyone and that should be celebrated. Thank you Lanica."



More BBP Champions over the page

EMPLOYEE WELLBEING ADVOCATE

NOMINEE:
JAYNE WATSON, REGUS NEC

NOMINATED BY:
STEVEN SINGH, REGUS NEC

"Everyone needs a Jayne in their workplace.

"This lady is a breath of fresh air and makes every morning coming into work after one-hour journey definitely worth the while. Jayne is LOVED and appreciated by all my clients at Regus Birmingham NEC – she is just amazing, her hard work and attention to detail is fantastic.

"Jayne knows all our clients by name, and making sure all offices are nice, clean and tidy for everyone."



INNOVATION PIONEER

NOMINEE:
BALLY KAUR, BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

NOMINATED BY:
GAVIN, BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

"I would love to nominate Bally. Whilst being a constant champion of BBP as well as its companies and employees, Bally has made it her mission to facilitate our Life Saving Training Via RevivR as well as hosting a very well attended networking event.

"What Bally does in the community is utterly inspiring. She has been driving our messages across the Birmingham community, while working closely with our university funded students to deliver their ground breaking research.

"Bally has linked with individual fundraisers to ensure their story is heard and inspire those around her sharing every day our hope that one day we will beat heart disease. She must be commended for her work within the ethnic minority community, a community that suffers from many forms of heart disease.

"Bally has engaged to ensure the work of ourselves and the support of companies based at BBP is heard and the community knows what resources are available and how they are funded.

"She has made a huge impact at the British Heart Foundation with the results of her work being felt across the UK. I could write so much more for Bally and her work, she truly is a superstar, a community star and a charity champion, very well deserving of this amazing award and recognition."



Jayne Watson and Steven Singh, Regus NEC and Bally Kaur, British Heart Foundation, below



'I could write so much more for Bally and her work, she truly is a superstar, a community star and a charity champion'



*Damian Cleaver and
Lisa McCormick, UBC*

EMPLOYEE WELLBEING ADVOCATE

NOMINEE:
AIDEN ROGERS, ROLLS-ROYCE SOLIHULL

NOMINATED BY:
THE ROLLS-ROYCE SOLIHULL TEAM

"Aiden acknowledges the achievements of emerging leaders under the age of 35 who have displayed exceptional leadership skills, innovation, and dedication to their roles. Aiden is currently employed as the Head of Manufacturing for the Electronics Value Stream at Rolls-Royce in Solihull. He leads a multi-functional business team manufacturing Electronic Engine Controls (EECs) for the whole of the Rolls-Royce portfolio of aero-engines, estimated revenue in 2023 of £45 million.

"Aiden started his career in Rolls-Royce as an Apprentice and is therefore passionate about apprentice recruitment and development within the business. He has also developed

Lean Manufacturing skills, both in this role and a prior role supporting Rolls-Royce's supply chain, and is driving lean best practice within Electronics, a light-house for the wider Rolls-Royce manufacturing operations. Aiden has taken the lead for the Solihull business with regards to employee engagement as part of the 2023 business plan, a year that has since an increase in employee participation and engagement measured via Gallup Q12."



EMPLOYEE WELLBEING ADVOCATE

NOMINEE:
KIERAN TAYLOR, ROLLS-ROYCE SOLIHULL

NOMINATED BY:
THE ROLLS-ROYCE SOLIHULL TEAM

"Kieran honours individuals who have actively promoted and contributed to the health and

wellbeing of their colleagues, fostering a positive and supportive work environment.

"Through 2023, Kieran has stepped up within Rolls-Royce Solihull to reinvigorate our LiveWell and Wellbeing committee and to support an improvement roadmap that focuses on everyone being at their best at work. He is an active Mental Health Champion and has organised on-site visits from Prostate Cancer UK, Mental Health support and Bereavement Support as part of an on-going learning campaign to better engage our employees and foster a positive working environment."



EMPLOYEE WELLBEING ADVOCATES

NOMINEES:
DAMIAN CLEAVER AND LISA MCCORMICK, UBC

NOMINATED BY:
TEAM UBC

"Damian Cleaver is the driving force behind UBC at Birmingham Business Park as Business Centre Manager. In his nine-month tenure, Damian has orchestrated a remarkable turnaround, elevating workstation occupancy from 53% to an impressive 90%, demonstrating his commitment to creating an exceptional work environment.

"His visionary leadership and dedication to excellence have been pivotal in retaining existing clients while attracting new business at UBC. Damian's passion for delivering outstanding customer service and fostering a harmonious workplace culture sets a benchmark in the industry. His meticulous attention to detail ensures the smooth day-to-day running of the centre while proactively addressing clients' needs.

"Damian's philanthropic spirit extends beyond business, as evidenced by his participation in UBC's charity effort, most recently featuring an 'Abseil for Autism', showcasing his commitment to social responsibility. His unwavering dedication, strategic vision, and ability to create a thriving work atmosphere make Damian Cleaver a true champion of employee wellbeing at UBC.

"Lisa McCormick, the exemplary Customer Service Assistant at UBC Birmingham Business Park, is the friendly face welcoming clients as they come through the door into our Business Centre. Her role in managing meeting rooms and ensuring top-notch client experiences is unmatched. Lisa's warm demeanour and exceptional customer service skills set the tone for a welcoming and professional atmosphere at the centre.

"With a keen eye for detail and a proactive



Jon Bryan and Kieran Taylor, Rolls-Royce Solihull, and Dale Knight, Nurture

approach, Lisa not only supports the day-to-day operations but also plays a crucial role in managing virtual office enquiries, contributing significantly to our company's growing success in this area.

"Her professionalism, clear communication, and tireless commitment to delivering excellence make her an indispensable asset to the team.

"Moreover, Lisa's active involvement in charitable initiatives reflects her compassion and commitment to making a positive impact beyond the workplace. Her dedication to fostering a vibrant and supportive environment makes Lisa McCormick an outstanding advocate for employee wellbeing at UBC."



INNOVATION PIONEER

NOMINEE:
DALE KNIGHT, NURTURE

NOMINATED BY:
GRAHAM BROWN, NURTURE

"Dale started on the gardening team 21 years ago and has worked his way up to site

'Dale has been busy in all weathers to deliver the landscaping that is enjoyed by the people who work on the Business Park'

supervisor where he has held that position for six years.

"Throughout that time Dale has been busy working hard with his team in all weathers to deliver the landscaping that is enjoyed by the people who work on the Business Park.

"As well as carrying the landscape maintenance Dale is a vital cog in setting up the events that are held on the park, arranging the deck chairs/benches etc to be set up each Thursday.

"Dale also runs the landscape depot and manages the daily health and safety for his team."



SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION


NOMINEE:
JON BRYAN, ROLLS-ROYCE SOLIHULL

NOMINATED BY:
THE ROLLS-ROYCE SOLIHULL TEAM

"Jon recognises individuals who have a commitment to environmental sustainability and made notable contributions to help their organisation reduce their carbon footprint. Jon leads on local Sustainability initiatives at Rolls-Royce in Solihull.

"He has pioneered Building Management concepts to reduce energy loss, minimise CO2 emissions and is now leading on waste mapping combined with an improved facility focus on recycling and waste segregation. As part of his personal development Jon is learning coding in order to more effectively interrogate and manipulate the data from the building management system, combining that with algorithms to predict energy consumption with changing weather patterns. Jon is actively involved in the Sustainability community of practice across the wider Rolls-Royce."



 Birmingham Business Park staff are being offered the chance to hit the right note and improve their wellbeing thanks to a charity called The Choir With No Name.

CWNN has been building “joyful singing communities” with homeless and marginalised people around the UK since 2008.

It also offers workplace singing experiences to businesses to help staff build confidence, relieve stress, make friends and have fun.

Staff at BBP had the chance to experience what it’s like to enjoy the benefits when members of CWNN joined the BBP Lunch Club in October for an unforgettable lunch break.

The charity says singing in a choir can improve our mental and physical health.

“We were founded on the premise that singing makes you feel good,” explains Rachel Clare, the charity’s Head of Development. It distracts you from all the nonsense in life and helps you to build confidence, skills and genuine, long-lasting friendships.

“What we do is simple, but the impact can be life changing.”

Since starting with a handful of singers in 2008 more than 6,500 people have sung with CWNN’s choirs. Many who were homeless and struggling have gone on to find work and stable accommodation.

The charity now runs six choirs

WORKPLACE SINGING CAN HELP RELIEVE STRESS AND HAVE FUN

around the country, including one in Birmingham which meets at St Martin in the Bullring Church each Thursday to rehearse and enjoy a hot meal afterwards.

The choirs have performed around the UK, including at local homeless hostels, community festivals and world class venues like the Royal Festival Hall and Birmingham Symphony Hall. This year the Birmingham choir performed with Supergrass singer Gaz Coombes. Its members also joined chart-topping vocalist James Arthur on stage when the charity’s founder Marie



Benton won a Pride of Britain Award in October.

“Singing in front of an appreciative audience is an amazing feeling and can restore a sense of purpose and self-worth that may have been lost along the way,” Rachel points out.

CWNN is offering to sprinkle its musical magic around Birmingham Business Park through its workplace singing workshops and is inviting businesses to support its work. Rachel explains: “The sessions are led by one of our professional choir leaders, supported by an accompanist.

“The format is simple – the choir director leads a warm-up to get everyone relaxed and ready to sing. You then learn a well-known song, chosen by everyone taking part, beforehand.

“The group then performs the song in full at the end. It’s amazing what you can achieve in a short space of time, and the sense of fulfilment is very powerful!”

The workplace singing experiences usually last an hour but bespoke sessions can be created tailored for groups ranging from five people to over a hundred.

To find out more about CWNN’s workplace singing experiences and how you can help the charity contact rachel@choirwithaname.org or call 07528 099172.

Interview: Catherine Hendrick. Pictures: Ian Yates

Solihull College delivers sum-thing special at BBP

FREE NUMERACY AND MATHS TUITION OFFER FOR BUSINESSES



BBP businesses are being invited to take advantage of free numeracy and maths upskilling tuition delivered by Solihull College.

Multiply is a Government funded scheme promoting numeracy and maths skills in the local workplace and community.

Maths teacher and Multiply Co-Ordinator for Solihull College, Simon Homer, is working in partnership with Solihull Council to raise awareness of the scheme and deliver the upskilling.

Anyone can benefit from the upskilling, even if you already have a maths qualification. The tuition Simon provides is bespoke to individual needs, so can be a one-off session, or a series of regular sessions. Additionally, Simon is happy to provide the tuition on employer premises or online, to individuals, small groups or larger audiences.

Simon recently visited BBP business 4PS to cover off various maths/ numeracy "quick wins" that they could use in everyday life; additionally, Simon also demonstrated some of the techniques now being used in schools, as this is particularly useful for anyone wanting to help their children with their Maths homework.

A MESSAGE FROM SIMON:

- If you're not sure what $1 + 2 \times 3$ is, or
- You're not aware of how you can easily work out 4.2% of 50 without using a calculator, or
- You need to use numeracy in your job, or
- You want to be able to help your children with their homework, or
- You just want to tackle that anxiety or lack of confidence
- ...then why not take advantage of this free, informal, and flexible tuition to help boost your confidence and get on with your life/career.

For more information, email Simon.Homer@solihull.ac.uk



Pictured: Simon Homer, left, and hosting the numeracy session at 4PS, above



FEEDBACK FROM 4PS AT BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS PARK:

"Great session presented by a brilliant tutor. The session was pitched at the right level for those attending and was a nice refresher/learning experience for everyone. This sort of thing could really benefit employers and employees alike"

"I really enjoyed the maths session provided by Simon from Solihull College. The focus on basic numeracy skills was really helpful as it's been so long since I learned these, so it was an excellent refresher. Simon was great at leading the session, he was really engaging and made it fun and enjoyable."



LARGE MEETING SPACES NOW OPEN AT CITIBASE BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS PARK



Citibase Birmingham Business Park, situated on Solihull Parkway, is the ideal place to have your next meeting or event.

The centre boasts a beautiful light and open atrium, modern state-of-the-art meeting room facilities and an on-site restaurant, which can cater for meetings and events.

The centre offers car parking, bike parking, 24-hour access, breakout

space, a business lounge and super-fast internet. With excellent customer service, the stylish and modern space is rated 4.7/5 on Trustpilot.

Citibase Birmingham Business Park has a host of meeting suites that can cater for small meetings, or large meetings up to 28 delegates.

As a BBP customer, get 20% off your next meeting room or day pass if you book directly with Citibase.

Claim your discount by emailing sales@citibase.com and quote "BBPMAG20" before 31st January 2024.

Citibase Birmingham Business Park also helps businesses to thrive with fixed office space, flexible coworking and event space. Email sales@citibase.com for more information, or book a tour here: www.citibase.com/bbp

Pictured: Citibase Birmingham Business Park boasts modern facilities and a host of meeting suites and spaces



Wreath making stirs festive spirit

COLLEAGUES FROM ACROSS BBP JOIN ANNUAL EVENT



Businesses from across the Business Park got into the festive spirit at our annual wreath-making event.

Colleagues came together to learn a new skill and create beautiful Christmas wreaths to take home with them on Thursday, November 30th.

The BBP landscaping team, Nurture, hosted the workshops where attendees were shown step-by-step how to make beautiful, unique wreaths.

The event was free, with attendees asked to donate to the Park's partnered charity, Birmingham Dogs Home.

Colleagues attended from BBP businesses IMI, Persimmon Homes, Vanderlande, GKN Automotive, FPS, Morgan Sindall, and Entrepreneurs Circle and , while Moxxy NEC hotel joined the event with tasty, free baked goods from Bakery 91.

Steven Single, Community Manager, Regus NEC, said: "The Birmingham Business Park wreath making session was so amazing! I felt like Christmas all round in the workshop marque they had organised. It was crisp and cold, with festive music and surrounded by like-minded people. Fun was had by all.

"It was definitely a great start to a festive month!"

Caroline Burke, Site Facilities Manager, Atos, added: "It was so good that we all came together in such a happy atmosphere. Everyone was buzzing with festive cheer. I certainly was."





Pictures: Ian Yates

Goodyear Tyres celebrates 125th at BBP allotments

TEAM ADOPTS COLOURFUL THEME AT THEIR BUSINESS PARK ALLOTMENT



Iconic tyre company and Birmingham Business Park resident Goodyear is celebrating 125 years of keeping people on the move.

Since its foundation in 1898 the global business has developed cutting-edge technology which has seen its products travel around the world, be used by some of the greatest drivers in motorsport and even make it to the moon as part of the Apollo 14 mission!

To mark its special anniversary on August 29 the company held a series of celebrations around the world – including one at Birmingham Business Park.

And as a holder of one of BBP's allotment plots Goodyear Tyres UK,

which is based at Trident Court, decided the perfect theme would be growth.

The company's UK undergraduate team were asked to create a design which would transform the company's allotment into a fitting celebration of Goodyear's history and achievements.

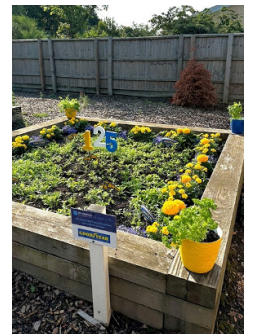
The talented team used the instantly recognisable blue and yellow of Goodyear's iconic logo as inspiration and chose flowers and decorations in the brand's colours to create an eye-catching display. When it was finished a celebratory lunch was held at the allotment for Goodyear's associates.

Birmingham Business Park's Allotment Club was set up to help residents enjoy the wellbeing benefits of gardening and allow them to learn



about growing their own food. It also provides a chance for people to get together, socialise and make new friends. Members of the club regularly meet to tend to the garden on the Business Park and grow a range of produce from carrots and potatoes to tomatoes.

For more information about the Allotment Club, please email lori@birminghambusinesspark.co.uk



ParkLife

BBP WORKERS SHARE INSIGHTS INTO THEIR ROLES & COMPANIES

**SOPHIE KORTBEEK,
OWNER OF THE TRAVELLING
COFFEE BAR**

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS?

The Travelling Coffee Bar is a coffee shop on wheels! Running from a fully converted Frelander 2, The Travelling Coffee Bar can operate fully off grid, making it possible to bring coffee directly to you.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

The Travelling Coffee Bar provides delicious barista coffee along with tasty

tea and warming hot chocolate. A lovely roastery in Cirencester called 'Fire and Flow' roast the coffee beans, and they also have a fabulous espresso bar which is definitely worth a visit! The beans I use are called 'Ignite' and are a mixture of beans sourced from Brazil and Papua New Guinea.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK ON THE BUSINESS PARK?

You can find me at the Business Park on Thursdays, 11.30am-2pm, alongside the Lunch Club. I am also available to book for events, coffee mornings or meetings for individual businesses on the park. Call or text



07581892499 to book your slot or get in touch via Instagram [@thetravellingcoffeebar](https://www.instagram.com/thetravellingcoffeebar).

Coffee mornings are a great way to boost morale and get teams to socialise in a relaxed setting. It's also a great way to greet and impress any visitors to your business.

WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING ON THE BUSINESS PARK?

I love working at Birmingham Business Park, it's a great community to be part of. I'm fortunate enough to see lots of different events put on by the park and it's lovely to see so many businesses taking the opportunity to get out the office and be part of this great community.

New recruitment business helping to find dream jobs

NEW VENTURE FROM
BBP-BASED CEO



The CEO of BBP-based online distance learning provider Open Study College, Samantha Rutter-Bryant, has launched a new recruitment consultancy, Bloom Connections.

The company works across a variety of sectors including customer services, sales, pharmaceutical, HR, legal, and marketing. The new business will focus on cultivating long-lasting relationships with clients to understand the company culture with a personal approach.

Bloom Connections first emerged in 2021, when founders Samantha and Shawna Baker decided to branch out into the recruitment industry, having previously found incredible success with online distance learning provider, Open Study College, where Samantha is the current CEO and founded the business with her father back in 2007.

Formerly named OSC Recruitment, the business began with internal recruitment for Open Study College, but quickly evolved to support external businesses and candidates with their



recruitment requirements. As the client roster continued to develop, the time came to separate the two businesses and relaunch OSC Recruitment, creating a new identity that supported the overarching message of the

*Samantha Rutter-Bryant,
Claire Hancox and
Shawna Baker*

company. Bloom Connections was launched to help people discover their potential to flourish and thrive, with the reward being to introduce candidates to the impressive roster of companies currently enrolled with Bloom Connections.

Claire Hancox, Recruitment Manager of Bloom Connections, said: "Our personal approach to recruitment enables us to truly connect with our candidates and clients alike, giving us a deeper understanding of who they are and what they are looking for. We have gone from strength to strength since first launching our recruitment services, so establishing a standalone business became the ultimate goal. Now, we hope to onboard even more clients and become the go to recruiter in our markets."

Samantha Rutter-Bryant, founder and CEO of Open Study College and Bloom Connections, said: "Launching this recruitment company has been a labour of love.

"Our original recruitment service was a natural extension of our offering as a distance learning provider, but as the business grew it became clear that there was a real gap in the market for a company like ours.

"I can't wait to see what's next for Bloom Connections."





Just months after almost folding, local youth football team Sheldon Royals Under-15s are back on the pitch and hoping to be 'crowned' champions of their league, thanks to Birmingham Business Park.

Things were looking bleak for the team, who play at the King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy, as they were struggling to find sponsorship.

But Birmingham Business Park stepped in and offered to support the players which helped spur them to carry on.

Sheldon Royals Under-15s now sport the BBP logo across their kit for the 2023/24 season.

"We can't thank Birmingham Business Park enough," Assistant Manager Ian Stafford says. "Since Covid it's been

BBP is perfect match for Sheldon Royals

PROUD TO SPONSOR LOCAL TEAM

very hard to get sponsorship due to small local businesses being hardest hit. If we don't get sponsorship we have to ask our parents for money and some just can't afford it, especially at the moment with the cost of living crisis. The team has been going for nine

years and this summer was probably the hardest because we nearly folded.

"One of the reasons we carried on was because we had a sponsor in place and didn't want to let people down. I'm glad we didn't now.

"We won our first league

game of the season 6-3 and the lads looked great."

BBP is proud to sponsor the young team as part of its aim to be at the heart of the community and grassroots sport.

Lori Henebury, BBP Marketing, Community and Business Development Manager, said: "Sponsoring the kit is not just about putting our logo on the shirt; it's about investing in the spirit of our community. Supporting Sheldon Royals is more than a marketing strategy – it's a commitment from business to the local area. Thank you to Ian for this opportunity, we'll be rooting for Sheldon Royals throughout the 2023/24 season, and you never know, we might see the next Jude Bellingham rise through the ranks!"



Picture: Ian Yates

New review updates HS2 stakeholders

INFRASTRUCTURE WORK NEAR BBP CONTINUES



Work is continuing on High Speed Two (HS2) around Birmingham Business Park despite the Government's decision to cancel the northern leg of the scheme.

The Government has said it's still committed to delivering Phase One of HS2, between London Euston and Birmingham Curzon Street, including Interchange station. The new scaled back high-speed line will now connect to the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre Junction, just north of Birmingham, to allow HS2 trains to reach cities in the North of England and Scotland on the existing West Coast Main Line. This means that work remodelling and improving sections of the existing road network in the BBP area and creation of new routes on HS2 land, as well as new access to Birmingham Business Park are still going ahead.

The Secretary of State for Transport, Mark Harper, has also stated that the Government is focused on unlocking all the benefits of the flagship infrastructure project. They include increased rail capacity, more connected communities and economic growth. HS2 is also seen as a vital part of plans to create a green transport system in the UK.

Matt Hadlington, Senior Business Relations Lead at HS2 Ltd, says: "As an organisation we are working closely with the Government to understand in detail the implications of their recent Network North announcement on the project.

"What remains clear, however, is

the Government's commitment to delivering Phase One of HS2, between London and the West Midlands."

Despite the changes Britain's biggest infrastructure project is now becoming reality after hitting the halfway mark.

As the main works enter the fourth year HS2 has produced its first Construction Review for stakeholders highlighting the project's achievements and key statistics.

It describes HS2 as Britain's "new industrial feat" adding: "We're creating thousands of jobs and opportunities, just like our predecessors and supporting a skills legacy for future infrastructure projects across the UK."

More than 3,000 UK businesses have been engaged in HS2's supply chain, with over £3.6 billion awarded to SMEs, representing 73% of HS2's UK based supply chain.

The Review also states that HS2 is "leading innovation in engineering, building smarter and achieving global

Above: An artist's impression of the future HS2 Interchange station

Below: The future road network in the interchange area

firsts for sustainability as we help to tackle the climate emergency by driving down the emissions produced by travel."

It even refers to Charles Dickens' novel, *Dombey and Son*, which describes the transformative effect of the arrival of the railway in London to emphasise HS2's vision as a major regeneration project which will provide zero carbon rail travel.

"We are designing and building the most sustainable high-speed railway in the world," it states.

"We're working hard to reduce our impact on the environment and we're investing in nature recovery along the route – our work represents Europe's biggest environmental programme.

"Although much of our construction activity is visible, a lot is already hidden, like the seven tunnelling machines we've launched so far between the West Midlands and west London."

One of the most significant engineering developments has been the successful installation of the 'Marston Box' rail bridge which was slid into place over the M42 motorway in the most ambitious project of its kind anywhere in the world.

HS2's Matt Hadlington says: "We're continuing to hit our construction milestones with work underway at more than 350 sites. This review celebrates the benefits already being delivered across the country from the progress we're making."

To read the Construction Review visit www.hs2.org.uk



 **GREGGS**

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