

AUTUMN 2025





CELEBRATING NATURE, COMMUNITY, AND OUR AWARD-WINNING COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY





Welcome to your Autumn 2025 edition of 'Our Community' magazine.

Autumn's here bringing Halloween magic, pumpkinspiced everything, crisp mornings, cosy scarves and golden leaves underfoot and it's hands down my favourite season on the Park!

In this edition, we're celebrating the people, moments, and milestones that make our community thrive. From the calm of our recent puppy therapy sessions to the buzz of this year's honey harvest, there's been plenty to lift our spirits. We catch up with Combat Stress following a ministerial visit, meet K9 Jets and their four-legged jetsetters, spotlight the individuals and businesses shaping our vibrant community, and share success stories from across the Park including Persimmon Homes' anniversary and a big thank you to our security team for their swift response during a recent incident.

Got a story you'd love to see in our next magazine? We'd love to hear it! Email me at lori@birminghambusinesspark. co.uk.

Thanks!

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

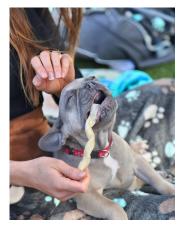
Thanks to Terry A. Grove for the stunning front-page picture!





Our Community magazine is produced for Birmingham Business Park by Edwin Ellis Creative Media

















Birmingham Business Park welcomed a novel and heartwarming approach to tackling workplace stress: 20-minute "puppy therapy" sessions, hosted by Puppy Yoga London, gave office workers the chance to step away from their screens, unwind, and interact gently with friendly French bulldog puppies.

Held outdoors at BBP, the sessions were designed to give staff a break from their day-today pressures, allowing them to cuddle, feed, or simply relax in the company of playful pups and comforting blankets.

According to organiser Crystal Lake, the initiative not only provides mental health benefits to workers but also helps socialise the puppies and get them accustomed to interaction prior to adoption.

Over the course of the day, slots filled up quickly as employees from across the park dropped by between meetings and lunch breaks. One long-time participant, Ali Duffield, shared that a stressful morning melted away when she spent time with the dogs: "When you're with animals, they always destress you. They're just amazing and make everything worthwhile."

Many echoed that view, returning to work with visible smiles and renewed calm.

Community spirit was strong among participants. As Katerina Radeva, Head of Controlling, from IMI, put it: "Thank you so much for organising the Puppy Therapy. It was an amazing event and everyone left so happy!"

Victoria Lane MRTPI, Planner, Persimmon Homes (Central), added: "Thanks so much for sharing these - I had an absolute blast, really enjoyed it and felt so relaxed after the event. I'd definitely attend another session for sure!"

for wellbeing at BBP



Ruth Bennett and Daniel McMulkin from Holiday Inn Birmingham Airport NEC joined us at the BBP Lunch Club and brought the sunshine with them, along with an ice-cream van handing out over 200 free ice-creams! Just minutes from Birmingham Business Park, Holiday Inn Birmingham Airport NEC offers modern, comfortable rooms, a stylish restaurant and bar, and a relaxing leisure club complete with a pool and steam room. With onsite parking, EV charging, and flexible meeting spaces, it's the perfect spot for both business and downtime.

To find out more about the hotel, please contact Ruth Bennett - ruth.bennett@hiairport.co.uk

Pictures: Ian Yates



Hive of activity:

Tenants get hands-on with honey making









Birmingham Business Park recently hosted its eagerly awaited Honey Harvest

Session for its tenants - an interactive and educational event that offered attendees a rare opportunity to experience the fascinating journey of honey from hive to jar.

The session began with an insightful introduction into the world of bees, explaining how nectar is transformed into honey. Guests enjoyed tasting a selection of different honey varieties and were guided through a live demonstration of the honey harvesting process.

Participants were also invited to take part in a hands-on activity, where they uncapped a honey frame, spun the honey, and bottled their very own miniature jar to take home. The event

successfully combined education, sustainability, and community engagement, highlighting the vital role bees play in our environment.

The beehives, located onsite at Birmingham Business Park, continue to thrive thanks to the ongoing support of the park community and local beekeepers. Full-sized jars of Birmingham Business Park honey were available for purchase on the day, with all proceeds donated to Birmingham Hospice, supporting vital local care services.

The event was delivered in partnership with Nurture Landscapes, who led the engaging and informative session. Their expert knowledge and passion for biodiversity helped make the day both educational and enjoyable for all attendees.

Participants learn about the journey of honey from the hive to iar at Birminaham Business Park

Pictures: Ian Yates

Reflecting on the event, Lori McDonagh, Marketing, Community, and Business Development Manager at Birmingham Business Park, said: "It was fantastic to see so many people getting involved and learning more about the incredible process behind honey making. The enthusiasm and curiosity from attendees made the day really special - it was a true celebration of nature, community, and sustainability at Birmingham Business Park."

This event forms part of the park's wider sustainability and wellbeing initiatives, which focus on supporting biodiversity, reducing environmental impact, and fostering a strong sense of community among occupiers. BBP looks forward to continuing these efforts through future educational and ecofocused events.



Flying the flag for sustainability

BBP WINS SOLIHULL CHAMBER AWARD FOR GREEN INNOVATION



We're incredibly proud to announce that Birmingham Business Park has been awarded the Sustainability Trailblazer Award at the Solihull Chamber of Commerce Solihull Awards 2025.

This recognition is a tremendous honour and a reflection of the ongoing commitment we've made to sustainability, green innovation, and creating a business environment that prioritises the planet as much as profit.

Held annually, the Solihull Awards celebrate the achievements of local businesses that are making a real difference in the region. The Sustainability Trailblazer Award specifically recognises organisations that are leading the way in environmental responsibility, sustainable development, and community impact. For Birmingham Business Park to be chosen among so many inspiring nominees is a real testament

to the hard work of our team, our occupiers, and our partners.

Sustainability is not just a tick-box for us - it's a core value. Our vision is to create an environment where businesses can thrive while also contributing positively to the planet. Winning this award reinforces that we're on the right track and motivates us to go even further.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Solihull Chamber of Commerce, the awards judges, and everyone who has supported our sustainability journey. Most of all, thank you to the businesses and individuals at Birmingham Business Park who have embraced our green initiatives with enthusiasm and passion.

We look forward to continuing this journey together, building a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future for all.



Salary Sacrifice car scheme showcases smart driving at the Park

Birmingham Business Park welcomed Fleet Operations, a sister company of Fleet Logistics UK, for an exciting showcase at Waterside Centre, where tenants had the chance to explore an impressive range of electric and hybrid vehicles and learn more about how to drive green and save money through SalAd - the innovative salary sacrifice car scheme from Fleet Operations.

Fleet Operations, based right here at the park, was formed in 2002 and is trusted by organisations across the UK and internationally to manage all aspects of vehicle fleets and driver communities. Recognising the growing demand for flexible, sustainable, and affordable employee benefits, Fleet Operations created SalAd - a scheme designed to make driving a brand-new car both simple and cost-effective.

Through salary sacrifice, employees can exchange part of their gross salary for a non-cash benefit in this case, a fully maintained and comprehensively insured car. The scheme offers significant savings through tax and National Insurance efficiencies, making it one of the most attractive ways to access a new vehicle.

SalAd's fully managed service covers everything from compliance and communications to insurance and maintenance meaning employees can



POWERED BY EDE

driving experience, while employers can offer a valuable benefit at no additional cost to the organisation.

At the event, visitors

directly with SalAd representatives and manufacturer partners to learn more about the scheme and get up close with a stunning range of vehicles, including:

Volvo - EX30 Polestar - 2 and 4 Audi - Q6, Q4, A6 Mini – Hatch Cooper BYD – Sea Lion

Omada - E5 Tesla - Model Y XPENG - XPENG Cupra - Born Chanaan - S07

Even those not considering the salary sacrifice scheme were encouraged to stop by and chat with manufacturer representatives to find out more about the latest models and cutting-edge electric technology.

The event was a great success, sparking plenty of interest from park occupiers eager to make the switch to greener, more affordable driving.

To learn more about how SalAd can help your organisation or employees get behind the wheel of a new electric or hybrid car, visit www.fleetoperations. co.uk or contact Sohrob Aslanbeigi at sohrob.aslanbeigi@fleetoperations. co.uk







Birmingham-based K9 JETS is redefining the way families travel with their pets. As the world's first ATOL-protected, pay-byseat private jet service dedicated to pets and their humans, K9 JETS has already flown over 5,000 dogs and cats in the cabin, never in the hold.

Operating routes between London, Los Angeles, New Jersey, Miami, Vancouver, Toronto, and Dubai, K9 JETS transforms what can be a stressful journey into a seamless, memorable experience, with pets sitting right by their owner's side.

Founder Adam Golder said: "It's incredibly exciting to see a Birmingham-born business scaling globally. Our vision is to make petfriendly private jet travel accessible across Europe in 2026, connecting even more families and their pets safely and stress-free. We're just at the beginning of our growth journey."

With its headquarters in Birmingham Business Park, K9 JETS is showing how a small but rapidly growing team can put the city on the global map. As demand soars, the company is scaling operations and planning major European expansion in 2026, proving that Birmingham can be the launchpad for world-leading ideas.

Find out more: Visit www.k9jets.com or email fly@k9jets.com









Our vision

is to make

pet-friendly

private

jet travel

accessible

across

Europe in

2026



Minister visits BBP-based veterans' mental health charity

MP DESCRIBES HIS VISIT TO COMBAT STRESS AS 'DEEPLY MOVING'



Located at Birmingham Business Park, near the highest concentration of veterans in the region, which also corresponds to the region's highest source of referrals to Combat Stress, the hub allows the charity to provide care and treatment to veterans with complex mental health problems living across central England, East Anglia and Wales.

The minister met with local veterans who had benefitted from treatment, where he professed how, as a veteran himself, he was honoured to have the



opportunity to talk to them about their military experience and journey to recovery.

Some of the charity's clinicians spoke at length with the Minister about how treatment has evolved, and, crucially, how 73% of veterans who undertake Combat Stress' treatment recover - an incredible impact and significantly above the recovery rate for PTSD of other mental health services.

The visit culminated with a guided demonstration of key aspects of psychological therapies, occupational therapies and peer and family services.

Minister for Veterans and People, Al Carns MP, said: "As a veteran myself, I recognise the challenges that many of our service personnel can face when transitioning back to civilian life.

'Today's visit to the Combat Stress hub in Birmingham has been deeply moving - seeing the care being provided and meeting veterans who are on their journey to recovery reinforces why this support is so important.

This work complements the Government's efforts to support and empower veterans, from the £50 million VALOUR programme to mental and physical health assistance through Op COURAGE and Op RESTORE. We remain committed to ensuring every veteran



Pictured: Sellv Oak MP AI Carns, Minister for Veterans' and People, visiting Combat Stress at Birmingham Business Park

receives the mental health support they deserve, and organisations like Combat Stress are absolutely central to that

Chloe Mackay, CEO of Combat Stress, said: "We were really grateful to have Alistair Carns, Minister for Veterans and People, visit our England Central Treatment Hub to meet with veterans currently undergoing treatment, see our treatment centre first-hand and learn more about how the specialist treatment and support we provide has evolved"

"We look forward to continuing to work closely together to ensure that all veterans who need it, will have access to the best possible care."

Make a date with NHS community experts

We are delighted to welcome the NHS Community Engagement Team from George Eliot Hospital to the Park on Thursday, 30th October, for a special drop-in session focused on workplace health and wellbeing.

Health inequalities don't just affect individuals - they also have a significant impact on productivity, wellbeing, and the overall success of your workforce. George Eliot Hospital is committed to addressing these disparities by ensuring equitable access to healthcare for all employees, regardless of background, income, or social factors.

At the session, the team will be promoting the importance of cancer screening, flu and COVID vaccinations, diabetes awareness, and the NHS 'Smoking Cessation' campaign. These are key areas where early action and

better understanding can make a lasting difference to the health and wellbeing of your people.

Supporting employees' health is vital to reducing absenteeism and enabling individuals to thrive at work. This drop-in session will provide practical guidance on how employers and employees can work together with the NHS to create a healthier, more resilient workplace.

Lori McDonagh, BBP Marketing, Community and Business Development Manager, said: "I really hope businesses across the Park will come along and make the most of this free

"Tackling health inequalities benefits not only individual employees but also the wider workplace community, and this session is a great step towards that goal."







BBP is proud to have recognised Adnan Aftab and Adnan Hussain of Ward

Security for their exceptional response in preventing a serious arson attack on site.

On the 1st and 2nd of September, both officers identified and engaged a male attempting to start wildfires around the park. Thanks to their quick thinking and calm approach, we were able to capture clear CCTV footage, leading to the individual's arrest.

Their actions not only prevented further damage but demonstrated true dedication to safety and service.

Certificates and vouchers were

presented in appreciation of their efforts — a well-deserved recognition for going above and beyond.

Erica Spink, BBP Park Manager, said: "Adnan Aftab and Adnan Hussain were instrumental in enabling the police to arrest an individual who had been carrying out arson attacks on the undeveloped land bordering the business park.

"The land is owned by a third party, but both sprang into action to prevent the fires spreading to neighbouring plots and buildings, ensuring the fire service were contacted and escorted to the correct locations to bring the fires under control.

"They stayed late on two separate occasions, working together to identify the perpetrator and obtain clear CCTV images that could be provided to the police.

"As a result of the information and CCTV footage provided by Adnan Aftab and Adnan Hussain, police were able to make an arrest.

'Without their swift response, dedication and hard work, this could easily have had a different outcome for the businesses and employees on the park, and the police may not have been able to make an arrest. We appreciate them going above and beyond."



Without their swift response, dedication and hard work, this could have had a different outcome

Your Future Chelmsley Wood: Building a healthier community

Solihull Council has launched Your Future Chelmsley Wood, an ambitious new initiative designed to create a greener, healthier and more connected community. Funded by the government, the project offers local residents, workers and visitors a range of ways to get involved in shaping the area's future.

Focusing on four key themes, the initiative promotes:

- Warmer, more efficient homes, with free advice and practical upgrades to improve energy efficiency.
- Better access to green spaces, ensuring local parks and open areas become nature-rich places for relaxation and wellbeing.
- Cleaner indoor air, supported by free home air quality monitors and expert guidance.

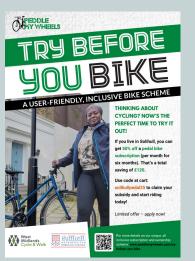
 Active travel, encouraging walking and cycling to improve both physical and mental health.

The project aims to benefit everyone living or working within a 15-minute walk or cycle of Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre, with opportunities to take part in events, workshops and volunteer activities.

Businesses can also get involved by exploring social value and CSR partnerships through yourfuturecw@solihull.gov.uk.

And if you're keen to give cycling a go, the award-winning Try Before You Bike scheme offers affordable bike hire with the option to buy later. Find out more at peddlemywheels.

Learn more and get involved at yourvoicesolihull.uk.engagementhq.com







REGUS



As Community Manager, my job is to make sure everything runs smoothly for our clients, from the moment they walk through the door to the end of their workday. I handle everything from welcoming new members, answering questions about their office accounts, and arranging meeting spaces to coordinating services they might need. Every day is different, and that's what keeps it exciting. It's all about making sure our clients feel supported so they can focus on their business.

What do you enjoy most about working at Regus and being part of the business community here?

The best part of my job is the people. Every day I get to meet professionals from different industries - from startups and freelancers to established companies. I enjoy being able to help them get settled and make their day-to-day experience smooth. There's a great sense of community here; everyone is friendly, helpful, and willing to share ideas. It's rewarding to know I play a small part in helping their businesses grow.

Can you share a memorable moment or success story from your time managing the centre?

One of my most memorable moments was helping a new start-up find their very first office. They were nervous at first, but we worked together to make sure they had the right setup and support. Over time, they grew and eventually upgraded to a bigger space within the same building. Seeing their journey from day one and knowing we helped create an environment that supported their success was special.

How has the demand for flexible workspaces evolved in recent years, and how has Regus adapted?

There's been a big shift toward flexible and hybrid working in recent years. More businesses are looking for office solutions that fit their changing needs - whether that's a short-term office,



'Even with hybrid work becoming more common, we make it a point to keep our community connected'

virtual address, or a space for their growing team. Regus has adapted by expanding our range of workspace options and making it easier for clients to move between locations. Flexibility and convenience have become key,

and we've shaped our services to reflect that.

How do you keep the community atmosphere strong when many people are working hybrid schedules?

Even with hybrid work becoming more common, we make it a point to keep our community connected. We host casual networking sessions, coffee mornings, and small events to bring people together. I also make time to chat with clients when they come in - even a quick "good morning" goes a long way. The goal is to make everyone feel part of the space, whether they're here every day or just a few times a week.

If you could describe the Regus community in three words, what would they be?

Friendly, professional, and supportive. Everyone here is focused on their own goals, but there's a genuine sense of teamwork and respect. It's an environment where people help each other, share ideas, and make great connections.







What do you enjoy doing outside of work - how do you unwind after a busy day managing the space?

Music is a huge part of my life outside of work. I'm a wedding singer and often perform at sangeet events, which are always full of energy and fun. Singing helps me unwind and keeps me connected to something creative that I love. When I'm not performing, I enjoy relaxing with friends or watching a good show. It's all about finding balance after a busy day at the centre.

Finally, what advice would you give to someone considering joining the Regus community?

I'd say go for it! Regus isn't just about renting office space - it's about becoming part of a supportive, professional community. Whether you're a freelancer, a small business, or part of a larger company, you'll find the flexibility and resources to help your workday run smoothly. Plus, you'll meet great people along the way who can inspire and support your growth.



CONTACT:

Regus, 4200 Waterside Centre **Birmingham Business Park** Solihull, B37 7YN **Email: Steven.Singh@regus.com** Call: 0121 717 4722



CRIMSON TO SHOW HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM AL

Birmingham Business Park-based Crimson, a Microsoft Solutions Partner, digital transformation, and IT recruitment consultancy, is inviting fellow businesses to its annual Innovation Conference 2025: Build Your Digital Workforce on Thursday, 13 November 2025, at Hogarths Hotel, Solihull.

The free, in-person event will explore how organisations can build digital-first workforces by combining human skills, Al, automation, and data. Attendees will gain practical insights into how to scale smarter, boost efficiency, and unlock new capacity. A major highlight will be keynote speaker Professor Steve Peters, bestselling author of The Chimp Paradox, who will share his renowned Chimp Model and explain how leaders and teams can adapt to technological change.

Crimson specialises in solving business challenges using Microsoft technology, low-code solutions, AI, and data insights. From its headquarters at Birmingham Business Park, Crimson collaborates with organisations nationwide to accelerate sales, enhance customer experience, and optimise operations.

Crimson's Marketing Director, Mark Britton, said: "I can't wait to bring leaders together to explore how AI, data, and automation can expand capacity without unnecessary headcount. What excites me most is the live transformation of our fictitious company, showing exactly how these technologies can be applied in practice."

With over 100 business and IT leaders expected to attend, the conference also offers networking opportunities, including breakfast and lunch.

Innovation Conference 2025: Build Your Digital Workforce on Thursday, 13 November 2025, Hogarths Hotel, Solihull.

Free to attend, but registration is required: eventbrite.co.uk/e/ crimson-innovation-conference-2025-build-your-digital-workforcetickets-1590158870989



Certes IT completes Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, raising over £3,000 for the Forces Employment Charity

A determined team from Certes IT Service Solutions completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, raising over £3,000 in support of the **Forces Employment Charity.**

strong group of colleagues tackled the demanding 24-mile route across the peaks of Pen-y-Ghent, Whernside

and Ingleborough, completing the challenge within 12 hours. The experience tested every aspect of their physical endurance and mental resilience, all in the name of supporting veterans and their

Funds raised by the Certes team will help the Forces **Employment Charity continue** its vital work, providing tailored support to members of the Armed Forces community as they transition



into civilian life. Since 1885, the charity has offered one-to-one guidance

with career planning, job matching, training, CV writing and interview preparation. Alistair Halliday, CEO of the **Forces Employment Charity,**

"Attempting three mountains in just 12 hours is no easy feat! We're incredibly grateful to the team from **Certes IT Service Solutions** for undertaking the Three Yorkshire Peaks Challenge to raise funds for the Forces **Employment Charity."**



Celebrating 10 years of Persimmon Homes central region

The Central team at Persimmon Homes have recently marked a special milestone: 10 years since the region was formed.

To celebrate, they hosted a summer BBQ with great food, offering the chance to celebrate everything the team has achieved together over the past decade.

A big thank you went to everyone who helped organise the day - and to all colleagues, past and present, who've helped make the Central region what it is today. Pictured: Neil Williams,

Managing Director and the Central team









10-MINUTE **TEA BREAK**





HEAD OF OPERATIONS

CLUB CONNECTIVE



WHAT DOES YOUR MORNING AT WORK LOOK LIKE?

I usually start the day catching up on emails, reviewing live projects, and making sure our temporary staff are set up for success on site. It's about getting ahead before the phone calls and urgent requests start rolling in.

TEA OR COFFEE?

Definitely coffee – it's the fuel that keeps everything moving.

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR ROLE AND WHAT A

TYPICAL WORKDAY LOOKS LIKE FOR YOU.

I run a recruitment business that connects skilled workers with companies who need to scale their teams quickly and cost effectively. A typical day involves everything from speaking with clients and candidates, resolving last-minute site requirements, supporting my team, and making sure compliance is watertight. No two days are ever the same, which keeps it interesting.

HOW DO YOU KEEP UP WITH TRENDS IN THE IOB **MARKET?**

I stay close to the industry by networking with clients, candidates, and other business owners, as well as keeping an eye on policy changes and market data. Real conversations with people on the ground are often the best indicator of what's coming next.

IF A BUSINESS ACROSS THE PARK IS LOOKING TO GROW THEIR TEAM, **WHAT'S THE BEST WAY FOR THEM TO CONNECT WITH YOU?**

The easiest way is to drop me an email, give me a call, or just pop into the



Dylan and Bruce - picture courtesy Venture Studios in Leamington Spa

office for a chat — I'm always open to conversations about how we can help businesses arow.

DO YOU WORK IN A HYBRID SETUP, FULLY REMOTE, OR ARE YOU BASED IN THE OFFICE? HOW DOES THAT WORK FOR YOU?

I'm mainly office-based because I like being hands-on and available to both clients and my team. That said, flexibility is important in recruitment, so I'll work remotely when needed.

WHO INSPIRES YOU IN YOUR CAREER OR **PERSONAL LIFE?**

I'd say my dad. No matter what life has thrown at him or our family, he never gives up, never moans, he just finds a way to get through it and keeps our family strong. Always.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO **OUTSIDE OF WORK? ANY HOBBIES OR INTERESTS?**

I've got a mischievous Jack Russell called Bruce who keeps me busy. I also enjoy socialising over an expresso martini and making the most of time with family and friends.

HOW DO YOU UNWIND AFTER A BUSY DAY?

Usually taking Bruce out for a walk, followed by a decent meal and a chance to switch off.

WHAT'S ONE THING **ABOUT YOUR JOB THAT PEOPLE MIGHT FIND SURPRISING?**

How fast-paced it is, sometimes you're solving problems in real time to keep projects moving, and you don't get much notice. It's about being calm under pressure, especially when you are depending on people to show up, the anxiety that goes with the job is not for the faint-hearted!

ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR **SOMEONE STARTING OFF THEIR CAREER?**

Be open to learning, ask questions, and don't shy away from opportunities that push you out of your comfort zone. The experience you gain early on can shape the rest of your career.

save the date!

Wreath-making workshop **December 4th, BBP**



One of the most popular events in the Birmingham Business Park calendar is back! Join us on Thursday 4th December for our annual wreath-making workshop, a festive favourite that brings our BBP community together to celebrate the season in style.

Led by experts, this hands-on session is the perfect opportunity to get creative, unwind, and craft your own beautiful wreath to take home. Whether you're a returning regular or joining us for the first time, it's a great way to meet other park members, enjoy some holiday refreshments, and kick off December with a touch of sparkle and greenery.

Spaces for this much-loved event fill up fast so be sure to save the date and sign up for park updates and ticket access by emailing lori@ birminghambusinesspark.co.uk.

We can't wait to celebrate the season with you!





Take the hassle out of disposing of your Christmas tree. Book to have it collected and recycled by your local hospice.

Book today at birminghamhospice.org.uk/treecycling or call 0121 752 6150

In partnership with:

Operating partners:











