

OUR COMMUNITY

SPRING 2024



A world of culture and heritage

INSIDE: A FEAST OF FOOD, DRINK
AND INCREDIBLE HISTORY

hello!

Welcome to your spring 2024 edition of 'Our Community' magazine.

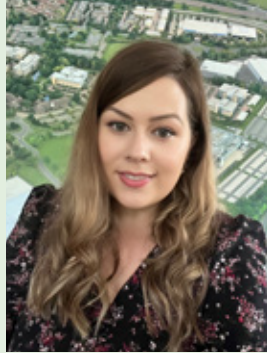
First, it is with great excitement we introduce our partner charity for 2024 – as voted by you – Birmingham Hospice! Thank you to everyone who voted – we look forward to a busy year ahead of fundraising, events, workshops and working closely with Luke Manley and the Brum Hospice team!

In this edition, we pay homage to the rich heritage of our business community with a special feature on the history behind a selection of our businesses. Journey back in time with us as we delve into a treasure trove of stories, timelines and legacies that have shaped the fabric of our thriving business community. Through archival photos, insightful interviews, and nostalgic anecdotes, we'll take a stroll down memory lane and honour the legacy of those who have paved the way.

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@birminghambusiness.co.uk.

See you around!

Lori Henebury, Marketing, Community and Business Development Manager



Introducing Birmingham Hospice

BBP CHARITY OF THE YEAR

Birmingham Business Park is delighted to announce Birmingham Hospice will be the BBP official charity partner for 2024.

Birmingham Hospice is the primary provider of adult hospice care in the city and surrounding areas. The hospice supports patients at its Inpatient Units, Living Well Centres, the community and their own homes, as well as providing emotional and wellbeing support for their loved ones.

In March 2023, Birmingham St Mary's Hospice and John Taylor Hospice rebranded as Birmingham Hospice.

The new name and unique identity celebrates a special 157-year heritage of care in Birmingham and supports its growth reach even more people who need support.

Birmingham Hospice is proud to offer expert palliative and end of life care completely free of charge. However, each year, the charity needs to raise £5.5 million through fundraising activity, Charity of the

Year partnerships, income from shops and voluntary donations to cover the costs of running the charity. That's £41,096 per day.

Birmingham Hospice does not just support elderly patients. As a hospice care is provided for people with a variety of complex conditions including cardiovascular diseases,

chronic respiratory diseases, kidney failure, cancer and complex neurological conditions including Motor Neurone Disease.

Lori Henebury, Birmingham Business Park's Marketing, Community, and Business Development Manager, said: "We are

delighted to announce that following our community vote, Birmingham Hospice received the highest number of votes and as such will be our partner charity for 2024.

"Luke and I have already started planning lots of exciting events and initiatives for the businesses based here at BBP to get involved with, whilst raising essential funding to support the hospice."

DID YOU KNOW?
People do not just come to a hospice to die – many return home once their symptoms are under control

Read all about it



We love seeing your copies of Our Community magazine in your office receptions and staff areas. Share a picture and we'll feature it in the magazine!





HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Birmingham Hospice offers a number of exciting sponsorship opportunities for your company to sponsor some of the events Birmingham Hospice are working on. These include:

■ **Wild in Art.** Similar to the Big Hoot where owls descended onto the streets of Birmingham, the Hospice has announced that in 2025, Birmingham will once again have an exciting new art trail. This time with the iconic Bull statue! There are numerous sponsorship opportunities available including headline sponsors and individual bull sponsorships. See your company's name and logo across the streets of Birmingham and meet the artist designing your bull.

■ **Become headline sponsor for Birmingham Hospice's first ever Corporate Golf Day** taking place 21 June. With a room packed full of likeminded business professionals, this is your chance to get in front of a new and exciting audience for your business.

■ **Help to raise over £140,000 through the Treecycling campaign.** Last year hospice teams and 200 volunteers hit the streets of Brum collecting 6,000 Christmas Trees. With plenty of collateral and materials for your company's branding to be on, why not get green this Christmas and become an official sponsor.



Luke Manley, Corporate Fundraising Manager, Birmingham Hospice, said: "We are thrilled to be working with Birmingham Business Park and all its businesses and feel so lucky to have been selected as their charity of the year for the coming 12 months.

"Despite being a vital specialist healthcare service, hospice care isn't fully funded by the NHS and the sector is experiencing a funding crisis.

"Each year, Birmingham Hospice needs to raise at least £5.5 million from fundraising and voluntary donations to ensure people can die comfortably, in a place of their choice, and with dignity.

"It costs £10,080 to run 30 days of nursing care in the community for our patients who wish to remain at home. For those that choose to be cared for at either of our hospice sites it costs £5,950 a day for round-the-clock palliative care. With over 150 businesses to engage and fundraise with, I am so excited to see where our fundraising journey goes.

"If each business could support raising or donating £1,000 each, we could raise £150,000 and together, ensure those living with a terminal diagnosis and their families can access the care of their choice at the end of life.

"Birmingham Business Park have a wide range of engaging activities planned for the year which we very much plan to be a part of.

"If you see a member of the Birmingham Hospice team, please do come and say hello and speak to us about fundraising, volunteering days, how you can support and get to know us a little better. Together, we're making every moment matter."

For more information contact:
Luke.Manley@birminghamhospice.org.uk
07771681728 / 0121 465 2009

FACT FILE

Birmingham Hospice supports around 1,000 patients on average every day across services and hospice sites in Selly Park and Erdington. During the past year:

- 571 patients were cared for in Inpatient Units by expert doctors and nurses;
- 1,312 patients attended Living Well Centres;
- 40,000 patients were contacted by the Community Team about receiving care at home;
- The Wellbeing Team made over 5,000 contacts to offer vital pre- and post-bereavement support.

Get to know ONE UK

What cultural influences or traditions inspire the dishes you offer?

Sri Lankan Street food culture mainly influenced me to create the dishes I do. As a small country in the middle of South Asia and South East Asia, Sri Lankan street food shares a wide range of food influenced by the region. Kottu is one of the most famous Sri Lankan Street foods.

Can you share a bit about the history or significance behind one of your signature dishes?

Kottu Roti is a Sri Lankan street food consisting of chopped roti (Gothamba roti or Paratha) on a hot griddle, a curry dish of choice such as chicken, mutton, seafood, or veg along with scrambled egg, onions, and chillies and some sauces to add extra flavour.

Kottu became very popular street food among Sri Lankans during 90s and in the late 90s it became a must dish on any menu from small local restaurants to 5-star hotels in Sri Lanka. As Sri Lanka is a tourist destination, Kottu became popular among tourists from all over the world and today you can get Kottu in any country.

Are there any family recipes or culinary traditions passed down through generations that you incorporate into your menu?

The method of Kottu making and the taste of the Kottu can vary from person to person. Especially the taste of the Kottu as this mainly depends on the choice of curry. I use traditional village chicken curry which was inspired by my grandfather's cooking and also Sri Lankan traditional coconut gravy to add extra flavour to the cheese.

Today in Sri Lanka and around the world, Kottu is made with different techniques, garnishes and sauces to give extra flavour and uniqueness.



Welcome to BBP World Food Festival

HUGE CELEBRATION OF GLOBAL CUISINE



Birmingham Business Park celebrated cultural cuisines from across the world at a special outdoor food festival.

The tasty event provided a platform for people from different cultures to come together to share their diverse culinary traditions and to invite BBP occupiers to try food they might not have sampled before.

Birmingham Business Park funded more than 500 free samples across both days on April 10th and 11th so people could try out different cuisines.

The event was organised by Caterly (find out more about Caterly over the page).

During the second day of the food festival, Hettie, the Birmingham Hospice mascot joined the fun. Plus, there was Bhangra Dancing by Nachda Sansaar and henna provided by Divine Style Mehndi.

Louise Pope, from Vanderlande, said: "Days like today are the reason I love working on this Business Park."

Sandra Williams from Platform Housing said: "What a lovely event organised by Birmingham Business Park Management today."

"Tasty food which included something for everyone, the Bhangra Dancing helped to keep everyone warm and smiling."

Lori Henebury added: "Thank you to everyone who ventured out of the office to join us, we hope you enjoyed trying something a little different. We're looking forward to an exciting summer ahead of more community events!"

Get to know

GURDEV'S INDIAN STREET FOOD

What cultural influences or traditions inspire the dishes you offer?

Onion bhajis embody the rich culinary heritage of India, drawing inspiration from Indian cuisine's diverse flavours and cooking techniques.

Rooting from a tradition of deep frying battered vegetables, onion bhajis offer a vegetarian and vegan option making them suitable for various dietary preferences. In addition, our dish is complemented by a delicious tangy tamarind sauce. The tamarind sauce, known for its sweet and tangy flavours, complements the savoury and crispy bhajis perfectly.

Can you share a bit about the history or significance behind one of your signature dishes?

In India, the tradition of making bhajis dates back centuries, when deep frying battered vegetables was becoming a more common technique for cooking. The use of chickpea flour (besan) used in the batter is significant, especially in the vegetarianism prevalent in Indian culture due to religious and cultural influences such as Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism.

Are there any family recipes or culinary traditions passed down through generations that you incorporate into your menu?

We take pride in incorporating several onion bhaji traditions passed down through generations. Our secret spice blend, meticulously crafted and handed down, infuses our bhajis with a signature flavour profile that delights our customers. We adhere to precise batter consistency techniques, ensuring that every bhaji achieves the perfect texture.



FOOD VENDORS WHO ATTENDED AND THE SAMPLES THEY PROVIDED:

WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL
Caribbean – Doubles (vegan)
Sri Lankan – Kottu (vegan/halal)
Dutch – Sweet Mini Pancakes
Plus live band AJ Henry!

THURSDAY 11TH APRIL
Indian – Onion Bhajis (vegan/
gluten free)
Middle Eastern – Falafel (vegan/
gluten free)
Dutch – Sweet Mini Pancakes

Pictures: Ian Yates



Get to know CATERLY

Founded by best friends Aaron and Calum, Caterly is your go-to event catering consultancy that takes your office events to the next level. Whether it's a corporate summer party, an employee appreciation event or a cultural celebration, we've got you covered with a vibrant community of passionate mobile caterers who are all about creating unforgettable culinary experiences.

Among them, One UK is a caterer specialising in authentic Pan-Asian food. Don, the owner can rustle up flavour-packed dishes like Sri-Lankan Kottu, Malaysian Mee Goreng Mamak (Noodles) and Pad Thai and dumplings.

Gurdev's Street Food are a family business, specialising in authentic Indian Street Food. Delicious dishes on their menu include: samosa chaat, curries, loaded naans, onion bhajis and poppadums.

Through our food and drink experiences, we can help your organisation to:

- Improve mental wellbeing
- Improve diversity and inclusivity
- Increase employee morale
- Reduce employee loneliness
- Reduce employee stress

We also take the hassle away by dealing with all the details, logistics and documentation, so you can focus on the other details of your job!

With Caterly, you can rest assured that your event will be in the hands of dedicated professionals who understand the importance of outstanding food and drink, to leave you and your team wowed!

How does the Caterly team embrace its cultural heritage?

Aaron – I'm a feeder. I love people to have a great time and really enjoy the experience of sharing a meal. This definitely comes from my Caribbean roots. My mum couldn't think of anything worse than someone still being hungry and not fully satisfied by the food. If you ever came round to my house for a meal, there would be an



'I love people to have a great time and really enjoy the experience of sharing a meal'

abundance of food and rum punch!

Can you share with us your cultural influences?

Aaron – I am influenced by an abundance of flavour. I love experimenting with different flavours and thoroughly enjoy well-seasoned food.

Calum – I was born in England but I am Scottish by blood. I hold dear to the values ingrained in my Scottish culture: loyalty, pride, and a deep connection to my roots. These principles have guided me throughout my upbringing as a Macdonald.

Can you share any anecdotes or stories that highlight the unique

character or spirit of your cultural heritage?

Aaron – The first time I went to the Caribbean, I tried a whole host of weird and wacky things, including pig's foot which is a delicacy in some Caribbean islands. It was Christmas Day in St. Thomas, and I am willing to give any food a try! I found out it's definitely not for me though as it is extremely fatty with very little meat on it.

Calum – With memories of my roots always at the forefront of my Scottish heritage, I have frequently travelled to Scotland, particularly to Aberfeldy, where my family tree dates back to the 19th century. Additionally, my most recent visit to Aberfeldy last year was to marry my now wife, Lauren.






HISTORY & Heritage

SPECIAL FEATURES

Did you know Birmingham Business Park is home to some of the world's most famous brands, with rich histories and workplace cultures that have nurtured, promoted and supported staff for generations. In this special edition of Our Community, we take a look at some of the companies based here. Some you may have heard of, others we're proud to introduce you to...

IMI: From a Victorian factory to employing 10,000 globally

 Queen Victoria was on the throne when Scottish entrepreneur George Kynoch headed south and set up a percussion cap factory in Witton in Birmingham.

Within two decades Kynoch & Co. had grown to become Britain's largest ammunition manufacturing company.

By 1900 the Lion Works, as its factory was known, also made soap, bicycle components and rolling non-ferrous metals. The dawning of the 20th century was a time of unprecedented growth for the engineering company and the creation of a metallurgical laboratory helped it become a world leader in metals technologies.

After the First World War a burgeoning market developed for the industrial combustion engine. Kynoch & Co became a major supplier of carburettors and radiators for automobiles and aircraft. It also gained a new name, Nobel Industries, following a merger with a Swedish company. It was a buoyant time for the industry and the company diversified further into new products like zip fasteners.

Thanks to its continuing success Nobel Industries became one of the four founders of Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) in 1927. Its Witton site became the head office and main manufacturing base of ICI Metals Division.

The development of new products continued and in the 1950s the company's engineers and physicists made a major breakthrough – perfecting the process by which titanium could be produced on a commercial scale. By the 1960s it was the most important contributor to ICI's products.

A century after George Kynoch first



opened his factory the company changed its name to Imperial Metal Industries.

Four years later, in 1966, it was listed on the London Stock Exchange with parent company ICI retaining the majority holding. Just over a decade later IMI became a fully independent company when ICI sold its remaining interest.


The next decade was another boom time for the business and in 1989 world-wide sales broke the £1 billion mark for the first time.

In 2003 IMI moved from its historic Witton site to a new international headquarters at Birmingham Business Park with its convenient location close to Birmingham Airport.

The last two decades have seen a series of acquisitions and today IMI plc is a FTSE 100 specialist engineering company which designs, builds and services highly engineered products in fluid and motion control applications and whilst proud of its Birmingham origins, now employs over 10,000 people globally.

Its purpose of 'Breakthrough engineering for a better world', means it is still solving key problems faced by industry, partnering with its customers to solve the demands of today and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow by helping to improve energy efficiency, sustainability, and safety.



 Regents' Court residents, E Manton Ltd originated in the Small Heath area of Birmingham towards the end of the 19th century, moving to Nechells in the 1980s, and then eventually to Birmingham Business Park in 2013.

The company is one of the region's leading building contractors and delivers public and private sector work operating across a range of sectors including education, residential, commercial, mixed use, frameworks, leisure, and healthcare.

In 2023 they celebrated their 125th anniversary and as a company they continue to go from strength to strength, employing 52 employees. In 2021 they reached a record turnover of more than £21 million following the pandemic.

In April, I had the opportunity to sit down with retired Managing Director, Edward McMurray, to find out more about E Manton Ltd, its values and what legacy Edward has left since his retirement in 2023.

Although enjoying his free time, Edward kindly agrees to return to

E Manton Ltd: 'There's no ivory tower here, everyone gets involved'

For Our Community History & Heritage special edition, Lori Henebury interviews Edward McMurray of E Manton Ltd

the E Manton Ltd office one Monday morning in April to be interviewed by me. My questions are mostly aimed at Edward's career but very early on in our meeting Edward



makes it clear he doesn't want this story to just be about him. "A lot of people helped this company grow," he tells me, emphasizing the success of the business has largely been due to E Manton's high calibre of staff. He speaks fondly of the team he left behind, noting that new joint managing directors, Pete Buss and Phil Steele, have since taken over the reins, alongside Ian Clorley as new financial director. "They're the future now," he says with pride.

I dig into the company's culture, and Edward tells me: "Everyone knows each other here, there are 50 of us and we all know each other's name – you don't get that everywhere you go".

As a regional contractor E Manton boasts a 'hands on' role in the day-to-day operations of the business. Edwards says, "The only way you find out what's going on is being hands



on” and he tells me with pride “there’s no ivory tower here, everyone gets involved”.

He tells me about the long-serving members of his team who have been with the company for decades. The company boasts an impressive 97% staff retention rate for 2023, and when I ask Edward the secret, he tells me: “Our employees are encouraged to develop to the maximum of their abilities and career development opportunities exist for all.” He adds that all the company’s senior management have advanced to their current positions from within the business.

Although he seems too humble to admit it, it’s apparent to me that Edward established a great company culture in which he always looked out for his employees. So much in fact that in October 2022, Edward transferred ownership of the business to an employee ownership trust (EOT). Edward tells me he set up the EOT “in order to build on everything that has been achieved” since he took ownership over 30 years ago, which he did to “promote and protect the long-term interests of the business, giving employees the opportunity to feel invested in, and well equipped to contribute to its future.”

Sarah Morgan, Marketing & Social Value Manager, says: “Edward has never been one to shout about his achievements. He has worked hard over the last 30 years to be able to hand over his business and for his Senior Team to pick up the reins and continue to deliver the high-quality buildings and remain firmly planted within the construction industry, no mean feat, especially in today’s climate.”

Pete Buss, Director, adds: “I have had the pleasure of working with Edward for the last 10 years, and his business strategy has always been to create a long-term secure and profitable business for our employees, clients, and supply chain.

“This is one of Edward’s biggest legacies and one that myself, Phil and Ian, are proud to have the opportunity of continuing to develop and grow in the years to come.”

Phil Steele adds: “E Manton Ltd has been exceptionally fortunate to ride out a number of industry challenges through the years, not least COVID and Brexit.

“We came out the other side bigger and brighter due to Edward being at the helm and as a Senior Team we are looking forward to what the future holds and to building upon the excellent foundations Edward has left behind.”

PORTLEY ROAD



BIRMINGHAM DOGS HOME



MAPLE LEAF CENTRE



E MANTON NOTABLE PROJECTS

PORTLEY ROAD:
Social housing project.

BIRMINGHAM DOGS HOME:

Phased remodelling and refurbishment of the existing veterinary area for Birmingham Dogs Home.

MAPLE LEAF CENTRE

E Manton Ltd are working with Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and Summerhill Services Ltd again to deliver their new Perinatal Department at the Maple Leaf Centre in Birmingham.

HOW ENGINEERING GIANT NURTURES TALENT FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS



“Whatever you do, do it right. It will not cost you more time to do it well than to do it badly.”

Those are the words of Johann Jakob Sulzer-Neuffert who founded Sulzer.

His wisdom has stood the family business in good stead for 190 years. During that time the company, which opened a state-of-the-art service centre at Birmingham Business Park in 2021, has become a global leader in fluid engineering and chemical processing applications.

Johann established Sulzer in 1834 by setting up a foundry in the Swiss city of Winterthur where his sons, Johann Jakob and Salomon, began producing cast iron and pumps.

Within two years the business employed 40 “journeymen, laborers and apprentices”. Some of them received room and board with the family – a sign of the importance Sulzer placed on looking after its employees.

The company wasn’t afraid to focus on new technology and in 1841 it created a sensation by installing the first Sulzer steam engine.

A decade later the English design engineer Charles Brown joined the business. He proved instrumental in its early success and growth.

By 1860 Sulzer was successful enough to expand its horizons and opened its first sales office abroad in the Italian city of Turin. To keep up with demand and ensure it had an adequate supply of young craftsmen Sulzer set up its first in-house training school in Switzerland in 1870.

It also took care of its workers by building 24 low-cost rental apartments as part of Winterthur’s first large-scale social housing plan. The “Society for Affordable Housing Construction” soon added more homes for employees in Winterthur, which in 1989 received the Wakker Prize for its outstandingly maintained employee housing estates.

Towards the end of the 19th century Sulzer experienced further international success, opening a subsidiary in Ludwigshafen on the Rhine in Germany, along with sales offices stretching from London to Japan.

But it wasn’t all plain sailing. During the Great Depression of the 1930s production fell to less than 40 per cent and many employees lost their jobs.



SULZER: Doing it right for 190 years

The end of the Second World War saw a new phase of growth which brought a strong expansion of Sulzer’s business activities abroad. The company’s manufacturing facilities tripled within 25 years and its product range grew.

By the end of the 1960s it was apparent that Sulzer was transforming from a machine-building company to a technology corporation.

The following decades saw restructuring, a series of acquisitions and continued growth, as the company branched into chemical process engineering and waste and water treatment.

In 2022, Sulzer’s Chairwoman Suzanne Thoma was appointed Executive President to lead the company through the ongoing energy transition and resulting shifts in demand.

The move was intended to allow Sulzer to realise its untapped potential in the growing markets of energy, environment and industrial processes and a reflection of its increasing focus on sustainability.



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SPECIAL FEATURES

With a growing global need for energy and water security Sulzer, which has a network of 160 service centres and manufacturing facilities around the world, is pioneering new transition technologies for biofuels, carbon capture and energy storage. It’s also helping customers optimise operations through its broad product portfolio, including electromechanical, pump and turbo services. These service areas are underpinned by global engineering support, which enables Sulzer to forge lasting partnerships that bring expertise and ingenuity to our customers’ most complex challenges.

Today, Sulzer, which describes itself as sustainably successful since 1834, is a global leader in fluid engineering with sustainable pumping, agitation, mixing, separation and application technologies and rotation equipment services.


Director of Sulzer’s Birmingham Service Operations, Derek Wendel said “Sulzer’s ability to adapt and thrive over two centuries may come as a surprise to some, but not for those of us who know the calibre and commitment of the people that power our company.

“Here in Birmingham, we have some of the industry’s brightest engineers who take pride in going the extra mile for customers and are relied upon to deliver high-quality ingenious solutions to diverse engineering challenges. While those challenges may be different, the founding principle of Sulzer remains unchanged: whatever we do, we do it right.”

CANON: A picture of success over 90 years



IN THE WORLD OF PHOTOGRAPHY, ONE NAME HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME...

 From its humble beginnings in Tokyo to global dominance, the brand remains an industry leader 90 years on.

In 1933 in a small Tokyo street shop, visionary engineers Goro Yoshida and Saburo Uchida established Precision Optical Instruments Laboratory. A year later they unveiled their prototype, The Kwanon. Named after the Buddhist goddess of mercy, they hoped the deity would share her benevolence as they pursued their dream to produce the world's finest camera.

Little did they know that this dream would pave the way for a revolution in the world of imaging technology, as Canon quickly gained recognition for its commitment to innovation and precision craftsmanship. Two years after the birth of the Kwanon, with the company registering the Canon trademark, it introduced the Hansa Canon – its first commercial 35mm focal-plane-shutter camera.

Over the next ten years, the company started in-house production of the Serenar Lens, and developed Japan's first indirect X-ray camera, the midrange J II focal-plane-shutter camera, and the Canon S II – all to great acclaim. By 1947, the business emerged as Canon Camera Co, Inc; a pivotal moment that marked the beginning of its ascent to prominence in the global market.

Throughout the following decades, Canon continued to expand its product line and push the boundaries of technological advancement. It released its first single-lens reflex (SLR) in 1959 and the iconic range-finder Canonet series in 1961; the later proving such a success that it sold out an entire week's worth of inventory in just two hours.

With the dawn of the digital age, Canon once again proved its ability to adapt and innovate. The world's first SLR camera equipped with a built-in microcomputer was followed by the launch of the world's first autofocus



SLR to employ a fully electronic mount system. These devices signalled a new era, laying the foundations for Canon's success in the digital imaging market. By 2012, the company released the Cinema EOS System, a lineup of professional digital cinematography cameras and lenses leveraging the technologies and know-how it had acquired throughout its history.

Fast forward to today, and Canon's The Centre in Birmingham Business Park exemplifies its continued dedication to innovation and

collaboration. Serving as a hub to showcase advancements, the dedicated customer experience centre focuses on industrial printing systems, ranging from small to large formats. Here, visitors have the opportunity to test-drive these latest technologies in a cutting-edge environment.

Through initiatives like The Centre, Canon continues to push the boundaries of what's possible in the world of print, photographic and video imaging technology, underlining its position as a global leader.



‘The **HOLMAN** story started with one dream... to do the right thing for our people, our customers and our community’

BBP NEWCOMERS HOLMAN REMAIN STEADFAST TO THEIR CORE PRINCIPLES



Automotive company Holman has travelled a long way since it began life as a single Ford dealership in America in 1924.

Today it’s the largest family-owned fleet services company in the world with more than 6,000 employees.

As part of its continued expansion and major new contract with BT, Holman opened a new site at Birmingham Business Park at Lakeside last year, creating 100 new jobs.

Holman first set out on the path which would see it become an international success in 1948 when Ford asked Holman to organise a new renting and leasing company for passenger cars and trucks. It opened for business as one desk in the corner of the existing dealership.

The firm, whose motto is ‘driving what’s right’, began to grow and innovate, making the most of new technology.

In the 1980s it began introducing services and online systems for maintenance, renewal and title management. Customers were also given access to its Client Information Systems Team – the first in the industry to provide customer direct technology related support.

During the 1990s Holman began opening offices throughout North America alongside the first of several maintenance call centres.

In 2011 it launched sites in England and Germany operating under the name ARI. The UK business became unified under the Holman name in 2022 and has won a series of awards, including being Supplier of the Year. Holman’s continued commitment to innovation can be further seen in their latest achievement: winning the award for Innovation in Cost Reduction at the 2024 Great British Fleet Event.

The historic family firm is driven by tradition and innovation. To make sure it continues to be in the driving seat as a leading global automotive business



Above: Holman workers in 1924 and recent recognition at the Great British Fleet Awards, below



it’s launched Holman Strategic Ventures which aims to develop its core business competencies and adopt disruptive technologies to meet future business and environmental challenges. EV Consult has also been created to help companies innovate their EV strategies with a focus on sustainability.

Chair of the Board, Mindy Holman, is the third generation of her family to take the reins of the business, which was founded by her grandfather Steward C. Holman.

She explains: “The Holman story started in 1924 with one dream, to build a family business, and one vision, to always do the right thing for our people, our customers and our community.

“Since then, we’ve stood by this commitment, and our collective actions have taken a visible place in our lives and our work.

“We will continue to be guided by the core principles upon which our business was founded – hiring and empowering the best, most talented individuals, providing exceptional customer service, and giving back to our communities.”



ROLLS-ROYCE: One of the greatest names in engineering, design and innovation

From powering many of the icons of flight like the Spitfire and Concorde to its famous cars Rolls-Royce is one of the greatest names in engineering.

But did you know the company began after a meeting between a Mr Rolls and Mr Royce more than a hundred years ago?

English engineer Henry Royce had just built his first motor car in 1904 when he first came face to face with Charles Rolls, whose company CS Rolls & Co sold quality cars in London.

Rolls was so impressed by Royce's first foray into vehicle design that he enlisted him to manufacture a range of exclusive cars. It would bear the name which would become famous around the globe and symbolise the best of British manufacturing – Rolls-Royce.

The huge success of that first range saw the official formation of the Rolls-Royce company in 1906. Later that year it launched a car which was hailed as 'the best in the world' – the six-cylinder Silver Ghost. The company was on its way.

As well as cars Rolls-Royce began to produce the engines on which Britain's aeronautical history was built.

As the First World War dawned the country needed military aero engines

and Rolls-Royce answered the call by developing its first – the Rolls-Royce Eagle.

In 1919 two of the engines powered the first transatlantic flight. It wouldn't be the only time the company's engineers set a record.

In 1931 Rolls-Royce established a new world air speed record of more than 400 mph with its R aero engine, which was used in Britain's entry in the International Schneider Trophy seaplane contest. It was the first of several achieved by the engine on both land and water.

The engine was the foundation for Rolls-Royce's legendary V-12 Merlin engine which powered Britain's Hurricane and Spitfire aircraft during the Battle of Britain in 1940.

Demand for the Merlin grew during the war and as a result it helped transform Rolls-Royce from a relatively small company into a major contender in aero propulsion.

The firm also began ground-breaking work developing the aero gas turbine pioneered by Sir Frank Whittle, the English engineer said to have invented the jet engine.

After the war Rolls-Royce entered the civil aviation market with its Dart turboprop aero engine. It became the

cornerstone of universal acceptance of gas turbines in the airline industry.

The arrival of widebody airliners in the 1960s saw Rolls-Royce's cutting-edge technology cement its position as an industry leader.

The next decade was a period of huge change. The company was taken into state ownership in 1971 and Rolls-Royce Motors Limited was established as a car business as its own separate entity.

Sixteen years later in 1987 Rolls-Royce returned to the private sector. It underwent a number of mergers and acquisitions to create the only company in Britain capable of delivering power for use in the air, at sea and on land.

The company now operates in more than 50 countries and Rolls-Royce Control Systems is based in the Business Park's Derwent Building.

The company is still breaking new ground. In 2021 it laid out plans to achieve net zero carbon by 2050. It also helped set the world record for the fastest all-electric vehicle when the Spirit of Innovation all-electric plane reached a top speed of 345.4 mph using its technology.

Last year Rolls-Royce helped set another milestone when its Trent 1000 engine powered the world's first 100% sustainable aviation fuel transatlantic flight by a commercial airline from London to New York.

Today Rolls-Royce has been at the forefront of innovation in engineering for more than a century. It helps power, protect and connect the modern world through its core businesses covering civil aerospace, defence and power systems.

It remains one of the most famous engineering names in the world.

OUR
COMMUNITY
HISTORY & Heritage
SPECIAL FEATURES

ANDY PICTON and LEE BROOKES from CBRE:
The BBP on-site team caring for all your maintenance needs

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR ROLES?

Andy – Day-to-day we manage all the statutory mechanical and electrical compliance for buildings. I’m based on-site at the Business Park Monday to Friday doing jobs such as fire alarm tests, legionella checks, organising subcontractors, and park lighting around the core estate.

Lee – I’m a mobile engineer supporting engineers like Andy across the country. I currently do 2-3 days at the Business Park.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THAT INDUSTRY?

Lee – When I turned 18 after doing my A-levels, I wanted to get out of education to earn and learn. A girl at school told me there was a job going at her dad’s factory as an apprentice and so I applied and got it.

Andy – Same for me really, I was 16 when I left school and I wanted to do something hands on. College didn’t interest me, I wanted to learn a trade, so I looked for an apprenticeship. I came across an advert in the Evening Mail for an apprentice multi-skilled electrician, went for it, and the rest is history.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT WORKING AT BBP?

Andy – I like that no two days are the same, as well as working across the buildings, we also support the on-site management team, for example, you’ll probably see me in the charity mascot suits. I’ve been Hearty for British Heart Foundation, Teddy for Birmingham Dogs Home, and I’m looking



forward to becoming Hettie the Hedgehog for Birmingham Hospice this year.

Lee – The park is a stone’s throw away from where I live which is convenient. I love working with people from all different walks of life from across the Business Park. And of course, working with my mate Andy is a bonus!

Andy – It’s nice because we’re based on the park which means that we’re able to act swiftly to any call out or emergencies. It also means we get to grow relationships with businesses from around the park and can pop in for a cup of coffee or biscuit from time to time.

Lee – I also like the community vibe – I’m running the Great Birmingham Run 10k in May for Birmingham Children’s Hospital, and lots of our customers from across the park have supported me by donating. You

might see me running around the park on the lead up to the charity run.

SHARE A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF

Andy – I’m a keen swimmer and used to swim at a national level for the City of Birmingham. I recently picked my hobby back up and am swimming at master’s level for a local swimming club in Cannock.

Lee – Outside work I run a cricket coaching business called Lee Brookes Winners. We run cricket coaching for clubs and events at local leisure centres. We’ve recently introduced a women and girls cricket club.

The aim is to create an inclusive and supportive environment for girls to experience the benefits of playing cricket. I would love to start a BBP cricket club!

If you would like to contact the CBRE team, who are working on behalf of Workman, contact Andy.Picton@CBRE.com




HS2 DROP IN: EVERY THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway for Britain. The team will be holding drop-in events every third Thursday afternoon here at Birmingham Business Park in the Park Management Hub. 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 near you and ask questions and explore the new railway in more detail. This month we will be joined by the stakeholder team from the M42 J6 Improvement scheme.



Welcome GALLDRIS GROUP

 Galldris Group are a family-owned Infrastructure Company. They pride themselves on self-delivering large scale projects with flexible, agile, and self-driven solutions. With a strong commitment to excellence, they prioritise meeting their clients' unique needs and exceeding their expectations.

Their dedicated team combines years of experience with a forward-thinking approach to create innovative and sustainable solutions. Through all phases of the project life cycle, Galldris are driven by a passion to deliver exceptional results. This is demonstrated by their unwavering commitment to Safety, Quality and Sustainability. Galldris are currently delivering infrastructure projects for over 40,000 new homes as well as HS2 mainline structures and the Sizewell C power station.

Due to continuous growth of the company, Galldris opened a regional office in Birmingham Business Park late last year, offering a fresh new location and accessibility to their current infrastructure project with HS2. This is the second regional office to be established following the opening of Suffolk office last year, as the company expands from its headquarters in Enfield, North London.

The opening of the Midlands office will help Galldris to pursue new opportunities within the region whilst enabling the company to service existing customers more effectively. The office will provide a base for our Midlands management team and capacity for future growth. The space

is being designed to support multiple user experiences, with permanent and hot desks, customer meeting rooms, and informal meeting spaces, with integrated smart technology throughout.


Birmingham Business Park provides the ideal location, with excellent transport links, fantastic open spaces, and amenities, whilst providing exciting opportunities to network with local businesses and get involved in park initiatives.

Tom Kerins, Galldris Group Managing Director, said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to open a new regional office at Birmingham Business Park. This location offers us the opportunity to expand and deliver a variety of future works across the Midlands region."

'This location offers us the opportunity to expand and deliver a variety of future works across the Midlands'



ARTY EVENTS KEEP OCCUPIERS BUSY!

 An excellent time was had by all when artist Flic Blades hosted two creative workshops at Birmingham Business Park in the run up to Easter.

Flic, a Birmingham-based digital collage artist and illustrator, believes creativity can help people lead happier and healthier lives.

She runs her own events business, Drink & Draw, which hosts workshops in venues such as workplaces, restaurants and bars to help more people experience the benefits of art.

Flic, who's also known as Felicity, ran a free Macramé Keyring Workshop for BBP tenants on February 15th with two sessions 11.30 to 12.30 and again 12.30 to 1.30pm.

After an introduction to the delicate art of macramé she showed people how to create a pretty heart keyring which made a perfect Valentine's gift for them or a friend.

No experience was needed and all the materials were provided for free at the workshop, which gave people the chance to celebrate workplace friendships, meet new people and unwind.

BBP tenants were also invited to learn how to make and illustrate their own unique greetings cards at an Easter Card Making Workshop at the Park Management Hub on March 14.

Flic, whose workshops aim to help people embrace their creative side in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, offered practical tips and inspiration and demonstrated how to create an eye-catching floral design.

If you would like to keep up to date with the latest park events, email lori@birminghambusinesspark.co.uk to join the BBP mailer list


BBP gets crafty!



Picture: Ian Yates



Pictures: Ian Yates

 In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability in every aspect of our lives, including the spaces where we work.

As a forward-thinking business park, we are committed to embracing practices that promote biodiversity, sustainability, and ecological balance.

That's why this May, we are participating in 'No Mow May' on some parts of our business park (not all!).

No Mow May is a movement gaining traction worldwide, encouraging people to refrain from mowing their lawns for the entire month of May. While this may seem like a simple act, the benefits it offers to the environment and biodiversity are profound.

Here are several reasons why we've decided to participate in No Mow May and why we believe it's important for business parks like ours to do so:

Promoting Biodiversity: Traditional lawn maintenance practices, such as frequent mowing, the use of chemical fertilizers, and pesticides, often lead to the degradation of biodiversity. By allowing grass and wildflowers to grow freely during May, we create a habitat that supports various forms of wildlife, including pollinators like bees and butterflies, as well as birds and small mammals.



BBP TAKES PART IN NO MOW MAY

Enhancing Soil Health: Continuous mowing can lead to compacted soil and nutrient depletion. Allowing the grass to grow naturally helps improve soil structure and fertility, leading to healthier and more resilient landscapes over time.

Reducing Carbon Emissions: Lawn mowers, especially those powered by gasoline engines, contribute to carbon emissions and air pollution. By reducing mowing frequency, we're doing our part to minimize our carbon footprint and mitigate climate change.

Educational Opportunity: Participating in No Mow May provides an excellent opportunity to educate our tenants and the broader community about the importance of biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management practices, and the role each of us can play in creating a more environmentally friendly future.

By participating in No Mow May, we are not only making a positive impact on the environment but also demonstrating our commitment to corporate social responsibility and sustainable business practices. We encourage all our tenants to join us in this initiative by refraining from mowing their lawns at home throughout the month of May.

Together, we can create a greener, more biodiverse, and sustainable business park that benefits not only our present community but also future generations to come. Let's embrace No Mow May and pave the way for a more environmentally conscious future.



BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS PARK ALLOTMENT CLUB

Join us for an hour of fun and gardening on our community allotment. This event is perfect for anyone who loves gardening or wants to learn more about growing their own food.

We'll start the session with a tour of the allotment, where you'll learn about the different plots and what's currently growing. Our knowledgeable experts from Nurture Landscapes will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Throughout the day, there will be plenty of opportunities to socialise with other members of the allotment club and make new gardening friends. We'll even throw in a FREE lunch and drink.

Don't miss this chance to get outside, enjoy the fresh air, and learn new skills. Book your ticket today and join us for a fantastic hour of gardening!

LOVE TO RIDE? JOIN NEW CYCLE SCHEME

Solihull Council is partnering with Living Streets to offer free access to a training programme and workplace challenges as part of the Love To Ride campaign.

Love to Ride is on a mission to transform communities, one bike ride at a time. The scheme aims to get more people riding bikes, more often, and for transportation.

With Love to Ride, you can track your bike miles, see your carbon savings, set goals, and find help and support to ride more often. You can also download a new app to make your ride tracking a breeze.

Love To Ride Solihull is in partnership with Love To Ride. This is an app and web based platform enabling new and existing cyclists to log their rides to earn points, win prizes and take part in challenges.

This May, join the movement to create safer, more bike-friendly streets with the Bike Month Challenge and #MakeEveryRideCount!

There are amazing prizes to be won and everyone is invited to take part – from regular riders to people who haven't been on a bike in years (or ever)! Let's #MakeEveryRideCount! To sign up visit lovetoride.net/solihull



NEWS & EVENTS

BBP BUS TRAVEL INCENTIVE

TRY-BEFORE-YOU-BUY OFFER TO TEMPT NEW PASSENGERS ONTO BUSES



Transport for West Midlands is offering Birmingham Business Park staff 'try-before-you-buy' bus tickets as part of a £19 million Government-funded scheme to drive up bus passenger numbers and protect services in the local area.

The incentive scheme will be offered to employers to invite staff, who currently travel by car to work, to sign up for a Swift travel card or account to get a period of free or discounted bus travel, similar to new customer deals offered by streaming TV companies such as Netflix.

It is hoped that this latest scheme will encourage many more people to switch to bus travel long-term and help keep more bus services on the road – and fewer private cars – reducing traffic congestion and pollution across the West Midlands.

TfWM, which is part of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), will use part of the £88 million Bus Service Improvement Plan funding awarded last year to support

the new incentive scheme.

As well as supporting bus services, the funding is designed to encourage more passengers on board and, in reducing car use, cut traffic congestion and contribute towards meeting the #wm2041 target of a net-zero carbon region within two decades.

Many large employers in the region already benefit from discounted ticketing, including NHS Trusts that have worked with National Express West Midlands and TfWM to invite staff to sign up for digital nBus tickets delivered straight to their mobile phones.

In addition to encouraging staff to travel more sustainably and supporting organisations' own travel plans, employers are seeing the programme as a powerful recruitment and retention tool, as the free and discounted travel enables colleagues to save money by ditching the car and switching to bus.

If you and your team would like to redeem this offer, please contact corporatesales@nationalexpress.com



MENOPAUSE CAFÉ AT BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS PARK

Come along to our monthly Menopause Cafés taking place 1pm-2pm, every last Thursday of the month, at Birmingham Business Park.

We meet at the Management Office at BBP.

Meet like minded people, chat about all things menopause over a cup of tea or coffee, share your experiences! This is an open meeting for people of all genders to come and chat about all things peri and post menopause related. The aim is to break the taboo and increase awareness of the impact of the menopause transition on those experiencing it, their family, friends and their colleagues.


Want to share some tips? Bring them along! Have a specific question about something bugging with menopause? Ask others on the day or message us the week before! Want to bring a friend, or 2, or 3? Sure! The more, the merrier! Just book them here as well to help us with managing the space at the venue.

We welcome all ages, all genders, and all walks of life.





SPECIAL OFFER at LivingWell Birmingham Metropole

 BBP businesses are invited to join LivingWell Birmingham Metropole on a reduced Membership Rate. LivingWell Heath Club is situated in Hilton Birmingham Metropole hotel just five minutes' drive from the park. The health club not only hosts a fully air-conditioned state-of-the-art gym where you can exercise using Life Fitness cardio and resistance

equipment but there's an incredibly inviting 20m swimming pool. To completely relax and unwind there is a spa pool, sauna & steam room and members can help themselves to complimentary hot and cold drinks in the club's juice Bar.

For more information or to arrange a tour, call a member of the LivingWell team on 0121 780 6359 quoting Birmingham Business Park.



BBP OCCUPIERS COME TOGETHER FOR DONATION OF 500 EGGS

A huge thank you to our businesses and suppliers for coming together for our Easter Egg appeal.

We are delighted to reveal we collected over 500 eggs for two fantastic charities (not all pictured!). All credit goes to the following businesses for their kind donations:

- Persimmon Homes
- Three Maintenance Services Ltd
- The Nurture Group
- Minebea Intec
- Alliance Automotive Group
- National Fostering Group
- PRIMIS Mortgage Network
- TMA Club
- E.Manton Limited
- Astrum Commercial Cleaning
- IMI
- Pinewood Technologies
- M&BG
- SMMT Industry Forum
- Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure

The eggs were delivered to Meriden Adventure Playground & The Colebridge Trust Ltd (registered charity)





BOOST AWARENESS OF YOUR BUSINESS

THROUGH SOLIHULL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP



FIND OUT MORE