

OUR COMMUNITY PARK MAGAZINE

WINTER 2025/2026



**CAUGHT
ON FILM**

OCCUPIERS GIVEN A CHALLENGE –
TO CAPTURE DAILY LIFE AT BBP
THROUGH DISPOSABLE CAMERAS.
SEE THE RESULTS ON PAGES 4-7

hello!



Welcome to your Winter 2025/26 edition of 'Our Community' magazine.

This winter edition is about the real moments – the ones that usually slip past unnoticed. Beyond meetings, deadlines, and office routines, our park is made up of people, habits, and small rituals that give the place its pulse.

Over the summer, we handed out disposable Kodak cameras to tenants across the park and asked a simple question: what does your day actually look like here? No filters. No staging. Just honest snapshots of daily life. Quiet morning walks before the emails start. Shared lunch breaks. Coffee cups on desks. Light hitting buildings at the right moment. The behind-the-scenes details that rarely make it into a polished brochure.

What came back was raw, unexpected, and full of character. A collection of images that feel lived-in – capturing the creativity, resilience, and community spirit that keep the park moving, season after season. This is the park as it really is, seen through the eyes of the people who show up every day and make it what it is.

Grab a cuppa and enjoy a read!

Got a story you'd love to see in our next magazine? Email lori@birminghambusinesspark.co.uk.

Thanks!

Lori McDonagh, Marketing, Community and Business Development Manager



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



'Expect to see more opportunities to connect, and more moments that bring people together across the park'





More than a workplace

A year of connection at Birmingham Business Park



If there is one word to describe 2025 at Birmingham Business Park, it is active, not just in the number of events delivered, but in how people have shown up for one another in a working world shaped by hybrid routines.

Hybrid working brings freedom and flexibility, but it also comes with challenges. Teams are spread across different days, locations and schedules, and it is easy to disconnect from a wider sense of belonging. This year, we made a conscious decision to push against that by creating reasons to pause, step away from screens and reconnect in meaningful ways.

And people did.

From puppy therapy sessions that turned stressful days into moments of calm, to hands on activities like hanging basket planting, the allotment club, and Easter and Christmas wreath making, there was something grounding about slowing down and using our hands again. Our beekeeping experiences were a powerful reminder that sustainability is not just a buzzword. It is about understanding the ecosystems we are part of and the responsibility we share.

Food and connection played a big role too, with the BBP Lunch Club and

the introduction of Mamox, bringing warmth, culture, and a genuine sense of community to the park.

Behind the scenes, we also took meaningful steps forward. The launch of our Social Value Committee helped formalise conversations around impact, purpose, and responsibility, alongside strengthening our charity partnership with Birmingham Hospice.

Across the summer, live music by the lake brought the park to life in a way that felt relaxed, human and joyful, and reminded us how powerful shared moments can be.

Not every conversation this year was easy. Our Book Club sparked thoughtful discussion, while the Menopause Café and Alcohol & Drug awareness workshops and Bereavement Training created space for honesty, support, and shared experience, proving that workplaces are strongest when people are allowed to be human.

As we move into 2026, the focus is on continuing and expanding this work. You can expect to see more opportunities to connect, more shared experiences and more moments that bring people together across the park.

Lori McDonagh



Pictures: Ian Yates

Snap happy!

TENANTS WERE GIVEN DISPOSABLE CAMERAS TO RECORD LIFE AT THE PARK...

WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE THE RESULTS!



There is a particular kind of magic in a disposable camera. Long before smartphones placed endless retakes and instant filters at our fingertips, a single click of the shutter carried a sense of anticipation.

You framed a moment, pressed down, and hoped for the best! Only later, sometimes weeks later, did the image reveal itself, imperfect perhaps, but honest.

It is this spirit of simplicity, surprise, and nostalgia that inspired Birmingham Business Park's latest community campaign.

Throughout summer and autumn of 2025, a selection of park occupiers were invited to put their phones away and pick up something a little more old-school. Teams from Vanderlande, Primis, 4PS, Minebea, and Mamoxx were each handed a Kodak disposable camera and asked to capture life around the park exactly as they experienced it. No filters or editing – just brief glimpses into their working world.

The brief was simple: document the moments that define everyday life on the park. Across meeting rooms, reception areas, warehouses, breakout spaces, and the park's landscaped grounds, participants began to look at their surroundings differently.

What emerged was a series of photographs that celebrate the character of our business park in a new and compelling way. Without the ability to check a screen or perfect the framing, teams captured scenes that were natural and spontaneous. People appear mid-conversation enjoying real moments rather than



The imperfections are part of the charm



staged ones. The imperfections are part of the charm; a slight blur or unexpected angle often reveals more personality than a carefully composed digital shot ever could.

The campaign also encouraged colleagues to pause and notice the smaller details of their



day-to-day routines. While digital photography tends to focus on highlights or major events, film slows everything down.

As a result, many participants found themselves reflecting on the everyday interactions that help shape a positive working environment: a welcoming smile at reception, a team lunch outdoors, or the sight of the park's green spaces providing a moment of calm.

By bringing together businesses from across the park, the project has also fostered a sense of shared experience. Though each organisation took part independently, the full collection of photographs reveals common threads – teamwork, camaraderie, humour, and pride in the work being done here. It is a reminder that Birmingham Business Park is more than a place to work; it is a community shaped by the people who move through it every day.

"We wanted to create something fun and nostalgic that also shines a light on the incredible community here at Birmingham Business Park," said Lori McDonagh. "The campaign has given us a refreshing and personal look at office life, captured through the eyes of those who live it every day."

"As the photographs come together in this special feature, they offer a rare and charming perspective – an unplugged portrait of our business park, seen through the warm, grainy lens of film."

*More pictures
over the page...*

'We wanted to create something fun and nostalgic'



'A smile at reception or the green spaces providing a moment of calm'





*'An unplugged portrait of
our business park'*





OUR
COMMUNITY
Profile

Whether you're juggling interviews, hosting clients, or simply running out of desk space, **CITIBASE** gives you a solution



As Birmingham Business Park continues to buzz with new faces, new ideas and ever-growing teams, many businesses are finding themselves wishing for just a little more room to breathe. That is where Citibase Birmingham Business Park steps in. Tucked right here within the park, it offers our community its very own ready-made workspace hub, perfect for those moments when you need extra space without leaving BBP behind.

Whether you are juggling interviews, hosting clients, or simply running out of desk space, Citibase gives you an easy, on-site solution. No commuting across town. No hunting for last minute rooms. Just walk over, settle in, and get on with your day.

Citibase offers a mix of fully furnished offices that can flex with your needs, whether you are planning a short burst of project work or a longer stay. Growing team. Temporary project.



Busy season. Whatever your reason, the suites are ready to go, so you can plug in and get started straight away.

If you are organising interviews or need a quiet room for confidential meetings, you will find a choice of well-equipped spaces that feel calm, professional, and welcoming. There are also relaxed breakout areas for pre meeting catch ups or post meeting debriefs.

Citibase takes care of the essentials too, with fast internet, call and mail handling and helpful admin support. Add in easy parking, bike storage and great transport links, and your guests and colleagues will feel looked after from the moment they arrive.

And because it is right here on Birmingham Business Park, Citibase



feels like an extension of your own office. It is a brilliant option for companies needing ad-hoc meeting rooms, recruitment days, temporary project space, or a smart setting to host clients.

If your business could use a little more elbow room to meet, collaborate or grow, Citibase is ready and waiting. To find out more or book a tour, visit

Citibase Birmingham Business Park and see how this on-site workspace can support your next step.

If you are interested in finding out more, email sales@newflex.com for more details.

Or visit citibase.com/centre/citibase-local-birmingham-business-park

Meet the manager

Nathan Carpenter CITIBASE

Can you tell us a bit about Citibase at Birmingham Business Park and what it offers?

Citibase Birmingham is a fully-serviced office location, with offices starting at one desk all the way up to 100. We offer a warm welcome and a great place to set up your business or to relocate your existing set up.

There is a family feel to our space and the people that are working on site.

What makes the Birmingham Business Park location stand out compared to other flexible workspace options?

Fully serviced means just that in that we include everything into our costs per desk, this allows your business to know

what you're likely to have to pay each month in advance meaning forecasting your future is easier than ever. We are part of a larger UK network of spaces managed by Newflex, across our brands of space we have 28 buildings, the use of these is available subject to availability by talking to any member of our team

As we head into 2026, what key office and workspace trends are you seeing?

There is an ever growing market of serviced space across the UK and Birmingham is no different, the flexible approach seems to be taking hold firmly for now and into the future. A real trend we see and wish to assist with is the 'carrot' approach rather than the 'stick', offices spaces that give colleagues the desire to be in the office rather than companies telling their colleagues that they have to be in the space.



If someone would like to arrange a viewing or find out more, what's the best way for them to get in touch with you?

Email, phone or even WhatsApp are all great ways to get in touch and we'll be happy to help, Nathancarpenter@newflex.com sales@newflex.com or 07585608170.

Holman welcomes Let's Feed Brum to kick-start winter donation drive



 Holman welcomed Birmingham charity Let's Feed Brum into the office on Tuesday 2 December, where they joined the team to share more about the vital work they carry out to support people facing homelessness and vulnerability across the city. Their visit also marked the launch of Holman's winter donation campaign.

As winter approached, the need for hot meals, warm clothing and essential support services increased significantly. Run entirely by volunteers, Let's Feed Brum relies heavily on donors, and the colder months placed even greater pressure on their resources, particularly as they prepared for their annual Christmas programme.

Following the session, Holman officially launched its winter donation drive. Large collection boxes were set up in the Hub for staff to drop off essential items, and plans for a charity raffle were announced, with details on prizes and tickets shared shortly after.

A Holman spokesperson said: "For the past nine years, Let's Feed Brum has served as a lifeline for those living on the streets or struggling to make ends meet. This year proved to be their most challenging yet. With poverty continuing to rise across Birmingham, more people than ever have found themselves without a safe and secure place to call home. Tragically, last year saw a record number of individuals die while homeless – a stark reminder of the necessity of the charity's work."

For the past nine years, Let's Feed Brum has served as a lifeline for those living on the streets

DALKIA UK TEAM CONQUERS THE NATIONAL THREE PEAKS FOR THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

A team of 28 determined colleagues from BBP-based Dalkia UK took on one of the UK's most demanding endurance events: the National Three Peaks Challenge.

Their mission? To summit Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales, within just 48 hours.

Covering more than 26 miles of rocky paths and climbing close to 3,000 metres in total ascent, the challenge tested every ounce of physical and mental strength. The team endured rain, thick fog and hours of trekking in pitch darkness, grabbing only minutes of sleep on a cramped minibus. Yet their spirit never wavered.

Their extraordinary effort has already raised

an impressive £36,400 for the British Heart Foundation, Dalkia UK's charity partner. Donations are still being accepted, helping to fund vital research and support for those affected by heart and circulatory disease.

Team members described the experience as life-changing. Office Services Administrator Vikki Henderson said the trip was "so much more than the Peaks," highlighting the friendships formed and the shared achievement.

Electrical Project Engineer Billy Foran spoke of the challenge's intensity but also its rewards, saying, "If it were easy, everyone would do it." Scheduler Michelle Saunders praised the unwavering team spirit that carried everyone through fatigue, weather and steep climbs.





The Lockdown stories that became Anna's first novel

 Anna Byk has worked at Birmingham Business Park for more than a decade, meeting colleagues and enjoying events. Little did she know how Park Life would influence the biggest thing on her bucket list... to write a novel, something she wanted to do since she was a young adult.

Anna picks up the story for Our Community magazine...

They say we all have a novel inside us, and well, this is mine:

It was five years in the making. Starting off as a short story in monologue style about a character called Jane, written in lockdown to keep myself occupied, I then thought I would keep going with it. I wrote a second short story about a character called Roni and during the process I thought about connecting the characters which worked really well. Once Roni was completed, I began to think about a character she refers to in her story called Layla. Perhaps Layla should have her own story I pondered, and I began scoping out a back story for her. It was at that point that I thought, I have the foundations for a novel - let's get writing!

Lockdown lent itself well for writing. The solitude and forced hunkering down at home, meant I could think, plan, and write for long periods of time, especially at weekends. I found myself thinking about the characters when I went walking or running, to the point they became tenants in my head! I nick-named all five of my characters - 'My Girls'.

After a long day in the office, it was hard to keep writing in the evenings. To fire up my laptop after working on a PC all day was challenging, in addition to energy levels being low, my creativity mojo was weak; hence it was at weekends that I felt most productive. But with other commitments

at the weekend, it wasn't always easy to fit in a block of time for writing. But I did it, bit by bit.

After multiple drafts and very kind friends reading chapters for me, I got to a point where I needed to step back from it. I couldn't see the wood for the trees, so for several months, I left it. As it happened, it was the best thing I could have done. When I felt I wanted to resume writing again, I had a renewed passion for it, I began to review my chapters with new clarity.

Embarking on a sabbatical this year, I thought if I don't do this now, I never will. I tidied up my chapters and started contacting agents. Gaining an agent is truly very difficult, so I went down the self-publishing route. I found a publisher who provided a full-service offering which was exactly what I needed. From proof-reading, editing to formatting and cover design; they also do all the necessary aspects of book publishing such as gaining an ISBN number and the legal requirement of placing a copy of the book in the National Library as well uploading the book onto Amazon and other platforms. Although there is a fee involved, it is worth it, not to have the hassle of organising everything yourself.

The pinch-me moment arrived when my proof copy arrived in the post. I stared at it emotionally, so proud to see my name on the front cover and all my words printed inside.

On the dedication page, I express my thanks to my parents, my friends and those that helped with the book. It is also dedicated to women everywhere who strive for happiness, success and freedom – may they never give up!

So enough from me, I'd like you to meet my girls, they are desperate to tell you their stories...

It's Never Really Over, by Anna Byk
Visit www.linktr.ee/annabykwriter to find an Amazon link to purchase the book.

Park Life

BBP WORKERS SHARE INSIGHTS
INTO THEIR ROLES & COMPANIES

**Iram
Fiaz, 4PS
Construction
Solutions**



IRAM, CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR CAREER JOURNEY?

My career began in healthcare, where I worked for several years before deciding to make a major change. I'd always been curious about technology, so I took the leap and retrained.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO MOVE INTO TECH?

I wanted a career that challenged me in new ways and allowed me to explore innovation and problem-solving. That curiosity led me to pursue a Master's in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR WAY TO BBP AND 4PS CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS?

During my Master's, I started a placement with 4PS Construction Solutions here at the Park. I immediately felt at home working with Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central, a powerful cloud ERP platform. That placement soon became a full-time role.

YOUR JOURNEY HAS INVOLVED CHANGE. WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

Balancing my studies, placement, and family life, especially becoming a mother for the third time during it all. It was intense, but also incredibly rewarding.

WHAT MESSAGE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH OTHERS THINKING ABOUT A CAREER CHANGE?

It's never too late to redefine yourself. With determination, support, and a belief in your own potential, change can become the start of something extraordinary.

Add a splash of colour to your
winter break

This edition of Our Community includes a relaxing colouring-in page featuring one of our Park buildings and a friendly robin – a familiar sight around Birmingham Business Park.

Whether you're stepping away from your desk or enjoying a quiet lunch break, we invite you to take a few minutes to switch off, get creative, and enjoy a moment of calm. Grab your pens or pencils and bring the scene to life.



Christmas workshop

Creativity and community spirit shine



Businesses across BBP came together to celebrate the festive season in style at our much-loved annual Christmas workshop.

Held beside the Main Lake on Thursday 4 December, the event welcomed colleagues from across the Park, alongside special guests from our partner charity, Birmingham Hospice.

Hosted by our talented landscaping team at Nurture Landscapes, the workshop was delivered through a series of relaxed, one-hour sessions designed to help everyone slow down, get creative and enjoy some seasonal cheer. Using environmentally friendly materials including pine cones, fresh foliage and fragrant slices of dried orange, participants were guided step-by-step in crafting their own sustainable Christmas wreaths to take home and enjoy.

The atmosphere was warm and inclusive, with opportunities to meet new faces from neighbouring businesses. Companies taking part included Atos, Rolls-Royce, Morgan Sindall, IMI, Persimmon Homes, Align Technology and many more, truly reflecting the collaborative spirit of the Park.

Festive fun was matched by generosity, with the event raising an impressive £500 for Birmingham Hospice. This takes the BBP JustGiving total to £5,000, helping the Hospice continue its vital work supporting individuals and families across the city. A wonderful way to give back this Christmas while celebrating community, creativity and connection.

Luke Manley of Birmingham Hospice said: "A truly beautiful experience that gave our patients something creative and uplifting to enjoy."

Abbey Sond of Siva Tec described the event as 'a fun, relaxing and creative way to get into the festive spirit'.

Mandy Roberts of Persimmon Homes added: "A magical, joyful activity that brought people together, spread kindness and supported a wonderful cause."

10-MINUTE TEA BREAK



With
**NIMESH CHAUHAN,
CUSTOMER SUCCESS DIRECTOR,
HOLMAN UK**

What does a typical morning look like for you when you're starting your day at Holman UK?

When I arrive, I normally check in with the teams and Head of Operations to see if there's anything urgent that we need to get on top of. You'll quite often see me walking the floor, as I like to walk around and talk with our teams to see how our people are.

Tea or coffee - what's your go-to for staying energised?

Definitely a tea in the morning. I cut out all caffeine post midday to help me to sleep better at night (and it really does work.)

Tell us a little about your role as Customer Success Director. What does a day leading customer success usually involve for you?

My role is about ensuring we

keep the customer top of mind and that we are strategically delivering the best for them, and for our business. Normally, I'm in meetings or calls with the customer working on strategic matters – for example, how is their fleet performing.

What is something about working in customer success at a large, fast-paced organisation like Holman UK that people might find surprising?

In a bigger business it can quite often feel like you're 'just a number' however at Holman, no matter how fast paced and busy we are, every single person is approachable and will make time to support you. Our culture really is important to us.

Do you work in a hybrid setup, fully remote, or primarily in the office? How



does that setup support your role?

We work hybrid, which creates a nice balance. Our teams are in the office for three days a week, which helps to enable collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Who inspires you – professionally or personally?

My wife is a big inspiration. She's a primary school teacher and has so much patience with the children that she teaches. In addition, she is also really into her crafts and has mastered sewing, crotchet, water colour painting, calligraphy, free motion embroidery and tailoring. There are no limits to her talent!

Professionally, I'm inspired by Simon Sinek who has some great tips for leadership which are simple yet very effective.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work? Any hobbies or interests you always make time for?

I really enjoy photography – I like to take photos of nature and of street art, it fascinates me at how effective and detailed it can be. I also really enjoy drawing and make time to do so with a nice drink and some good music on in the background.

After a busy day, what's your favourite way to unwind?

A Merry Mamoxx Christmas

The Mamoxx Christmas Mixer brought together businesses, and members of the BBP community to celebrate the end of the year and recognise the support shown to Mamoxx throughout 2025.

The festive event, on 19 December, acted as a thank-you gathering, with guests enjoying a complimentary buffet, beer and bubbles, alongside a live DJ.

The event highlighted the strong sense of community on the park and the value of supporting independent, community-led businesses like Mamoxx.



I actually really enjoy the commute home, time to reflect on the day and listen to some music. We have a two-year-old so the minute I'm home I'm both a dad, and a husband.

What is one piece of advice you would give someone starting their career, especially if they're aspiring to work in customer relationship management or a leadership role?

Quite often in your career I hear of people focusing on their weaknesses to improve them and that is important especially as you develop into more senior roles but embracing what you're good at is equally as important and keep working on those things too to a level of mastery.





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**SOLIHULL CHAMBER IS NOT
JUST A MEMBERSHIP. IT'S A
TOOLKIT FOR GROWTH,
SUPPORT, OPPORTUNITY AND
MOMENTUM.**

**BECOME
A MEMBER**



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