

A Birmingham We Are and Art4Charity collaboration

BIRMINGHAM GEMS

A celebration of a great city with community

2022 CHARITY CALENDAR



Birmingham We Are

with

art4charity

IN AID OF:



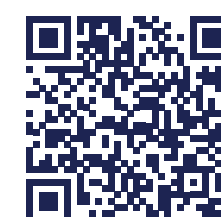
Birmingham
Museums



Queen Elizabeth
Hospital Birmingham
Charity



Lord Mayor of
Birmingham's
CHARITY



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The collaboration that has helped to bring the Birmingham Gems Calendars to life.



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Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity



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A special thanks to our talented photographers who donated their work for the calendar.



Elliott Brown



John Bray



Mat Burling



Reiss Gordon-Henry



Peter Leadbetter



Ross Jukes



Kev Maslin



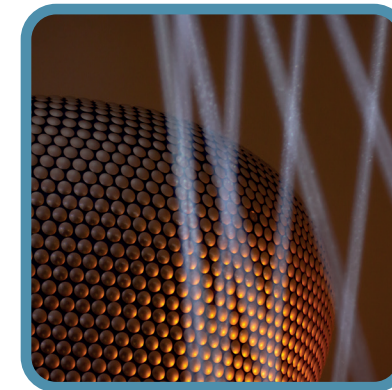
Mac McCreery



Verity Milligan



Tammie Naughton



Tammie Naughton



Daniel Sturley



Damien Walmsley



Barry Whitehead



Christine Wright



Zomerset

The production of the Birmingham Gems calendar for 2022 is a collaboration between Birmingham We Are and Art4Charity. Both organisations are active in promoting the city and supporting those who are passionate about Birmingham and their community.

For more about Birmingham WeAre:
www.birminghamweare.co.uk
www.twitter.com/BirminghamWeAre

For more about Art4Charity:
www.art4charity.co.uk
www.twitter.com/4Charity_art



JANUARY						
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Main photo: View of the city centre at night. Photo by Ross Jukes. Right: The city at night from Clent Hills during fireworks. Photo by Daniel Sturley.

A city of vision and growth

Birmingham is a city with a close eye on the future ensuring the changes that are made now are right for its citizens both now and in the years to come. Birmingham is very much a city with a vision for growth but a vision that is shared with people who live in the city, work in the city and visit the city. Engaging the people who together shape the future of Birmingham is seen as a crucial part of the planning, development and whole place-making process to ensure the city continues to grow to meet the needs of the community.

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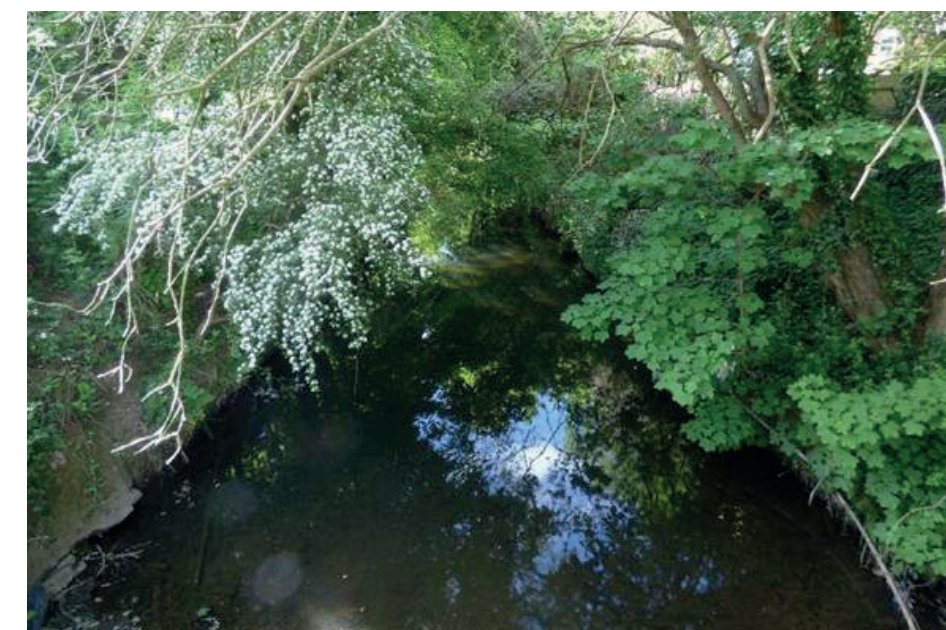
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FEBRUARY						
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Main photo: Gas Street Basin during winter. Photo by Kevin Maslin. Right: River Rea running through Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham. Photo by Elliott Brown.

A city of canals, rivers and waterways

With over 100 miles of canals to explore, even more than Venice, it's easy to see why Birmingham is at the very heart of Britain's canal network. It's not just Birmingham's amazing stretch of canals, there are 3 rivers (River Rea, River Cole and River Tame), several reservoirs and many lakes to enjoy. Whether it's a walk, a run, a cycle ride or simply a relaxing few hours, the more time spent by water the happier and healthier you feel.

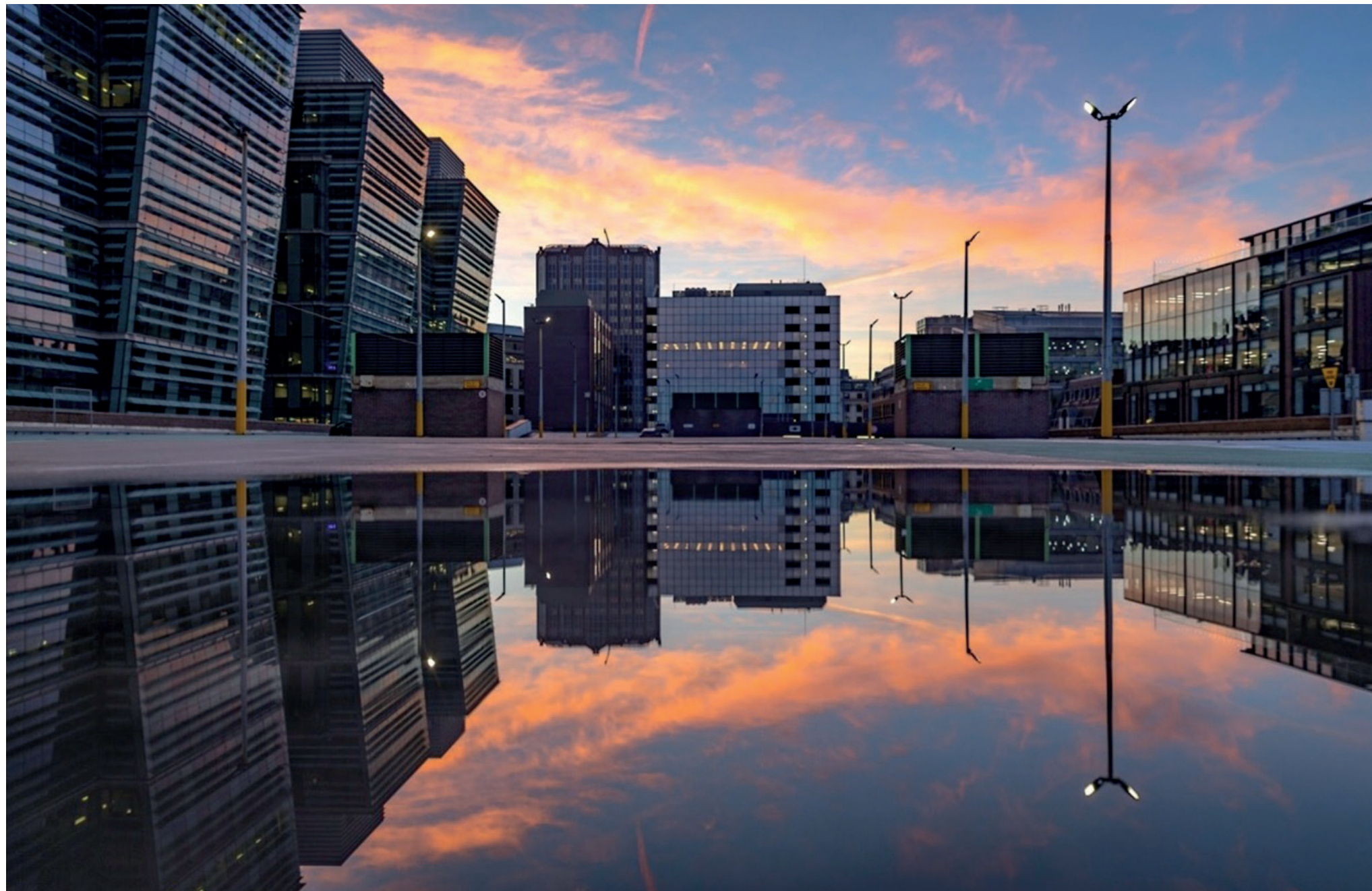
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MARCH						
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Main photo: Snowhill business development in Colmore district of Birmingham. Photo by Damien Walmsley Right: University of Birmingham with 'Old Joe'. Photo by John Bray.

A city of enterprise and learning

Although, relatively speaking, Birmingham is considered a young city, it grew fast as a 'powerhouse' for manufacturing and business during the Industrial Revolution and because of this has become known as the 'City of a Thousand Trades'. This entrepreneurial, innovative and 'get things done' spirit is very much associated with Birmingham today and the city is now home to many of the largest businesses across the world. The city boasts a large and inclusive number of schools, colleges and universities, providing the learning and encouragement needed to nurture the all important skills needed today and in the future.

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APRIL						
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Main photo: Oozells Square and the Ikon Gallery. Photo by Verity Milligan. Right: 'Forward in Unity' mural from Art4Charity by artist Gent48. Photo by Tammie Naughton.

A city of art and artists

If your passion and interest is art then Birmingham is definitely the place for you with galleries all over the city, public art always on display and, of course, Birmingham's famous street art. Go and experience the work of many of the masters on display at Birmingham's Museum & Art Gallery and The Barber Institute of Fine Art. Then there's the Royal Birmingham Society of Art, Mac Birmingham, and, of course, the Ikon Gallery for wonderful displays of contemporary art. If it's street art you're after then we suggest you visit Digbeth. You won't be disappointed!

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MAY						
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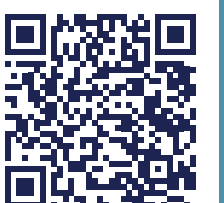


Main photo: Symphony Hall over Centenary Square. Photo by Mac McCreery. Right: Black Sabbath bench on Broad Street. Photo by Reiss Gordon-Henry.

A city of music, poetry and dance

If it's music, poetry or dance you're after, then Birmingham is most definitely the place for you and the City has a large number of quality venues. The Birmingham Symphony Hall is home to the world famous CBSO , an orchestra that has been led by many of the world's most famous conductors including Sir Adrian Boult and Sir Simon Rattle. The Birmingham Royal Ballet is one of the five major ballet companies of the UK and it was delighted to announce the appointment of Carlos Acosta as its artistic director in 2020. Birmingham's music hall of fame includes Black Sabbath, ELO, UB40, Duran Duran, to name just a few.

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JUNE						
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Main photo: Wonderful walk with best friend through Kings Heath Park. Photo by Christine Wright. Right: Beautiful scene at Fox Hollies Park. Photo by Tammie Naughton.

A city of parks and open spaces

With over 550 parks covering a combined area of 14 square miles, more than any other equivalent sized European city, Birmingham is rightly proud of its green open spaces. The prestigious Green Flag Award has been awarded to 15 of Birmingham’s parks. Parks and green open spaces are important for so many reasons. They play a vital role in bringing people together, providing a safe and family friendly environment. Parks provide a space where people can relax and enjoy nature and the great outdoors on a walk, a run or a cycle ride.

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JULY						
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Main photo: CG2022 countdown clock in Centenary Square. Photo by Daniel Sturley. Right: Be Bold Birmingham campaign in Chamberlain Square. Photo by Mat Burling.

A city of sport

Birmingham is both proud and delighted to be hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2022. However, as our sports historians will confirm, Birmingham is a pioneer when it comes to the hosting of multi-sport festivals. In 1867, Birmingham hosted the National Olympian Games, accepted as one of the forerunners of the Modern Olympic Games. Given the city’s commitment to sport, it is no surprise that the city has two original founders of the football league, hosts regular international cricket at Edgbaston Stadium, world gymnastics at Utilita Arena and is recognised as having some of the best sporting venues to be found anywhere in the world.

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AUGUST						
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Main photo: Harborne Walkway connecting Summerfield Park and Harborne. Photo by Mat Burling. Right: Beautiful Kingfisher and nature along the River Rea. Photo by Zomerset.

A city of nature and wildlife

Given the number of parks, open spaces, rivers and canals across Birmingham and the neighbourhoods that make up the city, it is not surprising to find an abundance of nature and wildlife. From scarce mammals like water voles and polecats to dragonflies and kingfishers, there is much to treasure and so many wonderful places to go and enjoy the city’s nature and wildlife. This is made even more possible due to the dedication and passion shown by volunteers who continue to work tirelessly to protect the city’s parks, canals and open spaces.

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SEPTEMBER						
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Main photo: Sarehole Mill Museum complete with restored 18th century working mill. Photo by Elliott Brown. Right: Highbury Hall, a grade II listed building in Moseley. Photo by Elliott Brown.

A city of history and heritage

Although Birmingham has grown to become the second largest city in the UK, it was only actually incorporated as a city in 1889. Prior to that, and as far back as the 12th century, Birmingham was a popular market town with Lord of the Manor, Peter De Bermingham, given royal approval to hold weekly markets close to what is now known as the Bullring. Early engineering pioneers James Watt, Matthew Boulton and William Murdock, chemist Joseph Priestley, printer John Baskerville, as well as entrepreneurial families such as Cadbury's and the Chamberlain's have all played their part in shaping the Birmingham of today.

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OCTOBER						
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Main photo: Library of Birmingham lit up in blue and purple. Photo by Tammie Naughton. Right: 'A Real Birmingham Family' public art in Centenary Square. Photo by Daniel Sturley.

A city of cultures within community

As well as being a relatively young city, Birmingham is the most culturally diverse city in the UK and is proud of its fusion of culture. Birmingham is also one of the most modern and forward thinking of all the cities across the world. Diversity in its community is without doubt one of Birmingham's unique offerings, with a culture evolving as the city's community evolves. For a unique culinary experience and a unique creative experience that spans all continents of the world, Birmingham just has to be the city of choice!

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NOVEMBER						
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Main photo: Historic and modern architecture as seen from Chamberlain Square. Photo by Daniel Sturley. Right: Baskerville House with 'Industry and Genius' public art in Centenary Square. Photo by Peter Leadbetter.

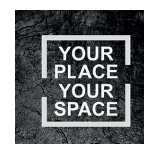
A city of design and build

Over recent years, given the large number of major developments at various stages of completion, Birmingham has enjoyed an ever changing and evolving skyline. The city has become a magnet for followers of great modern architecture and is rightly proud of how its built environment has evolved. But what makes Birmingham unique is how, as well as building for the needs of current and future generations, it recognises the importance of protecting the city's historic builds and providing a space where modern and classic complement each other perfectly. Public spaces and public squares continue to play a crucial role in the future of Birmingham.

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DECEMBER						
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Main photo: Looking over to The Cube from Gas Street Basin. Photo by Barry Whitehead. Right: Under the arches at the Custard Factory. Photo by Barry Whitehead.

A city of creativity

People with a passion for creativity just can't help but fall in love with Birmingham! From street art and public art to a wonderful mix of great architecture, Birmingham has provided creatives with a wonderful canvas to showcase their amazing passion and talent. However, the city also has a wonderful ability to ensure that whatever is new and inviting complements the city's amazing history, heritage and culture. For the city as a whole, the attention it pays to supporting and promoting creativity whilst protecting culture will ensure that Birmingham continues to grow as 'A city of the people for the people'.

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