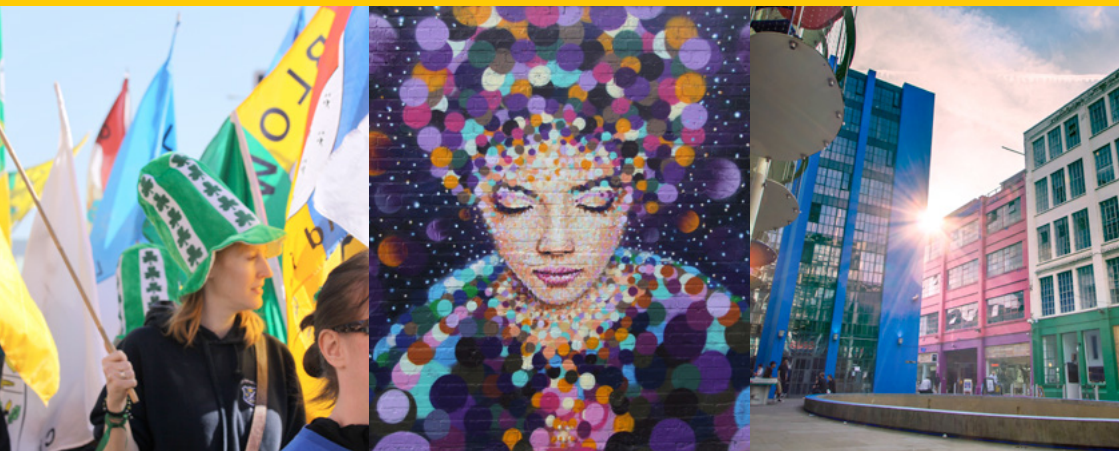


T H E E S S E N T I A L G U I D E



DIG DIGBETH

BIRMINGHAM'S CREATIVE QUARTER



- The heart of Birmingham's Italian ice cream making community lived in Digbeth's terraced houses in Bordesley Street which still survive today.
- Typhoo Tea's headquarters were based in Digbeth and Typhoo Wharf in Bordesley Street is where tea was delivered by canal.
- The Custard Factory is so named as the original site of the famous Alfred Bird's factory where eggless custard was invented and first produced.
- Digbeth Institute was home to the famous Jug of Punch Folk Club with star act, the Ian Campbell Folk Group, and family music traditions continued through Ali Campbell and UB40 who used Digbeth as a base.
- The disused railway viaduct which ends in Adderley Street is the abandoned GWR line originally proposed to take the London Paddington (Chiltern) line into New Street Station.
- The refurbished Bond (Fellows, Morton and Clayton Ltd) building was originally the destination for all bonded goods arriving on the Warwick and Birmingham Canal into Birmingham.
- Birmingham's arguably most iconic and controversial piece of art, King Kong, was located outside a second hand car dealer's at the top of Digbeth High Street.
- Small Heath Amateur Boxing Club, based in Adderley Street, has produced a line of boxing champions including, more recently, Matt Macklin.
- On the Grand Union Canal at Warwick Bar is an iconic warehouse building built in 1935 in the shape of a boat.
- Digbeth was the site of the Battle of Birmingham in the Civil War in 1643.
- The Old Crown Pub in Digbeth is the oldest secular building still in existence in Birmingham and dates back to 1368.
- The JF Kennedy mural outside South Birmingham and City College is an almost exact replica of one originally located in the Snow Hill area funded by the Irish community in the American President's honour. There are 111,604 pieces of Italian 'Smalti' mosaic weighing 500 kilos!





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HISTORICAL DIGBETH



The name 'Digbeth' is thought to be derived from 'Dyke Path' and the first settlement in the area dates back to at least 7th Century. The Deritend area was the crossing point for the River Rea which frequently flooded and had to be forded until the De Bermingham family built a bridge across the river to extract tolls. Streets like 'Floodgate St' and 'Heathmill Lane'(which references a watermill) reflect the presence of a flood plain. Maybe that's even a reason for the theory that the name 'Digbeth' is a comparatively modern version of the tag, 'Duck's Bath'!

However, to some extent, it was the presence of water which attracted industry and led to leather tanneries, iron foundries and smithies being a feature of the Middle Ages. However, in 1643, the English Civil War saw the Battle of Birmingham and was witnessed by the 14th Century Old Crown Pub, now the oldest surviving secular building in the City.

In the 18th Century, the industrial tradition continued with Henry Bradford (hence Bradford St) designating an area of free land for trades. Served by the Grand Union Canal and Digbeth Branch Canal, the area became a destination for anything from bananas to bonded goods. 'The Bond' building still survives today but now is a popular location for creative businesses.



ROWTON HOUSE Highgate Park, Birmingham.



WHAT 6^d. A DAY PROVIDES

ALL
FOR
6^d.

DINING HALL (674 sq. ft. area), and use of fires and cooking ranges and utensils, plates, knives, forks.
 READING ROOM (2,000 sq. ft. area), and LIBRARY of 300 books, use of daily and weekly newspapers, magazines.
 SMOKING ROOM (1,200 sq. ft. area), with newspapers, chess, draughts, etc.
 WRITING ROOM and use of writing materials.
 LAVATORY ACCOMMODATION (3. and c. water) and use of towels and dressing rooms. FOOT BATH and
 BED in separate windowed cubicle room, horsehair mattress, sheets, blankets, pillow and coverlet and other bedding.
 WASHING AND DRYING ROOM for clothes. PARCEL ROOM, use of safe and cycle accom.
 SCULLERY, with use of crockery and use of hot or cold water. CLEANLINESS and strict order.

OTHER ADVANTAGES.

COOKED FOODS, hot or cold, varied every day, at lowest possible prices.
 REGISTER kept of SITUATIONS VACANT, and of applicants wanting work.
 HOT OR COLD BATHS in separate bathrooms, including use of soap and towels, and
 CLEAN SHEETS every night, and LOCKERS for every lodger.
 A TAILOR, BARBER and SHOEMAKER on the premises.

OPEN ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT.

From the Canals and Curzon St Railway Station (one of the world's oldest surviving termini) to Coaching, represented these days by the impressive National Express Coach Terminus, transport has played a pivotal role in Digbeth's development.

The area has an interesting food heritage with the iconic Typhoo Tea located in their Bordesley St building from 1878 to 1896 with their canal basin still surviving today. Add to that an Italian community that was at the heart of Birmingham's ice cream sales and, of course, the famous Alfred Bird's Custard Factory and the area has contributed a lot to British Food culture. The Custard Factory, is now an important creative hub and the complex also includes Birmingham's oldest surviving public library building - once Deritend Library, now used as a popular space for weddings and events.

As the 19th Century drew to a close, migrant workers flooded into the area and accommodation like Rowton House was built. The area housed some of the poorest of Birmingham's community with Milk St, typical of back to backs before housing clearance in the 1950s and 60s cleared the slums. No wonder gangs like the Peaky Blinders prospered in this underworld.

Given its history, it's not surprising that Digbeth has two conservation areas - the Digbeth, Deritend and High Streets Conservation Area and the Warwick Bar Conservation Area. However, Digbeth has come a long way from its early roots and is now a natural home to the City's burgeoning young, creative and digital community who represent an important part of Birmingham's economic future.



The Irish presence in Digbeth dates back to the 1840s when immigrants came to the City desperately seeking work and, in doing so, taking advantage of the cheap accommodation in the area. Over the years, the Irish presence grew particularly in the 1940s/50s and 60s and Digbeth continued to be the focal point for the Irish community with the much loved St Anne's Church and the Irish Centre being popular places to congregate.

Well before the onset of the computer age, many people relied either on the post or news announcements at central points... a familiar sight on weekends were large groups of Irishmen waiting to see the results on Gaelic Football (the big ball!) and Hurling (the small ball!).

It was a lonely life for many young men and an iconic figure of support and comfort was Father Joe Taffe, founder of the Irish Welfare Information Centre, who was always on hand to help and advise.



There are many signs of the Irish contribution to the City, not least the JF Kennedy Mural in Digbeth High St, the original funded by the Irish community to honour JFK's visit to Ireland.

Of course, the most tangible sign of the Irish in Digbeth is the St Patrick's Parade celebrations which are now reckoned to be the largest in England, outside London. It's now developed into a ten day festival culminating in a Parade which attracts a figure approaching 100,000.

The Parade itself is usually held on a Sunday before St Patrick's Day or on the day itself between 12pm and 2pm. It starts at Camp Hill and stretches up through Digbeth to Selfridges before returning. The Event is run entirely by volunteers and has heavy community involvement with schools participating. There is a float competition and each parade has a theme. Even Selfridges turns green, on occasions, for this spectacular event.

For more information visit
www.stpatricksbirmingham.com

Our thanks to Pat O'Neill and Anne Tighe for the information in this section of the guide.

Minstrel Music has been an established part of Birmingham's vibrant Irish scene for over 35 years, founded by well known figure John Fitzgerald and Brendan Shine who went on to become an iconic Irish showband star.

Originally a much loved record shop in Stratford Road, Sparkhill, John relocated to the Irish Centre which seems a long time ago now as Minstrel Music has just celebrated its 35th anniversary.

This was highlighted by the Irish Post in an article which stated that 'Minstrel Music has now been supplying the best of Irish Music, giftware and essentials for 35 years. Although it should be stated that there is 'plenty more to come...' and, apart from a fantastic retail offer, Minstrel Music has a large mail order client base stretching as far as South Africa, Germany and Dubai. It is now in the process of constructing a major online presence.

Visitors to the shop can purchase a wide selection of quality items sourced from the Emerald Isle. Sporting goods and Gaelic team shirts, jewellery from Solvar and Newbridge, Rovada watches, Claddagh and Celtic jewellery, Waterford and Galway crystal, Royal Tara China and Donegal Parian china, Genesis fine arts, traditional Irish instruments including bodhrans and tin whistles, Irish soft and hard dancing shoes, religious gifts for first holy communion, confirmation and weddings are just some of the eclectic offerings.

For more information, also visit
www.minstrel-music.co.uk

or the Minstrel Music on line shop
www.theirishshoponline.co.uk

Minstrel Music

The Irish Centre, 12-14 High Street, Digbeth, B12 0LN
Telephone: 0121 622 3763 Fax: 0121 622 5859

A special shop for all Irish things



Choose from an extensive range of authentic high quality Irish goods including; Irish crystal, china, jewellery, accessories and sports goods.

Official suppliers of IRISH DANCING SHOES

Largest and most up to date stockists of Irish music outside Ireland on CD and DVD

Opening Hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm Sunday 11am-3pm, Closed on Wednesday
Open Christmas Eve 9am-5pm

MAIL ORDER SPECIALISTS - PROPRIETOR: JOHN FITZGERALD



In its early days, Digbeth had a sizeable residential population until industry almost completely took over. However, there is now a growing base of residents, many of them passionate about the area.



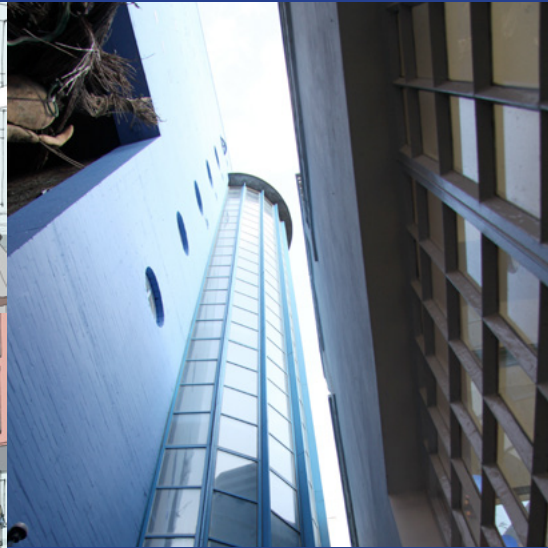
Whilst some of the original terraced housing still remains in Bordesley Street, much of the new build is apartments converted from old warehouses, which sit side by side with the myriad of uses that make Digbeth the fascinating area that it is today.

As you might expect, Digbeth has a residents association, but not in the traditional sense. Digbeth Residents Association (www.mydigbeth.co.uk) works in partnership with local businesses to build a vibrant, friendly and safe place to live. DRA meets on a monthly basis, and organises regular community events in between. Recently, they have worked with Birmingham Friends of the Earth to create an oasis of green space for community use located behind the FOE Digbeth headquarters.

Digbeth has always been a melting pot of cultures with both Cara Irish Housing Association and Father Joe Taffe House offering sheltered housing. The Birmingham Irish Centre is located in the heart of Digbeth, and along with Saint Anne's Centre in Alcester Street, serves as a community hub.

Digbeth is home to the Chinese population too and the Chinese Community Centre - (www.chinesebirmingham.org.uk) is located in Bradford Street, with the adjoining Cherish House housing much of the city's older Chinese population. Birmingham's growing Polish community are also well served with their long established Polish Centre in Bordesley Street (www.polishcentrebirmingham.org.uk) which is the oldest and largest centre in the country outside London.

For those visiting and living in Digbeth, the award-winning Digbeth is Good blog (www.digbeth.org) provides an up to date compendium of events and activities happening around the area. Digbeth truly is a real community in every sense of the word, ask local resident, Pamela Pinski, 'As far as city living goes, you can't get better than Digbeth. Theatre, live music or just a quiet drink in a CAMRA pub to name just a few things to enjoy. The history and industrial architecture is juxtaposed with Birmingham's newest green space, Eastside City Park, making it one of the most vibrant places to live. I love it!'



It is exciting times for Digbeth with plans for the HS2 well advanced and the recent publication of the Birmingham Curzon HS2 Masterplan...

Developments in the area include the prestigious Beorma development on the Cold Store site whilst in nearby Eastside, the flagship Eastside Park, the impressive Hotel La Tour and the new Birmingham City University campus form a fitting gateway into the City's Creative Quarter that is Digbeth.

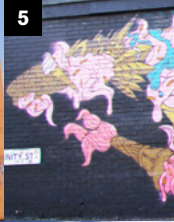
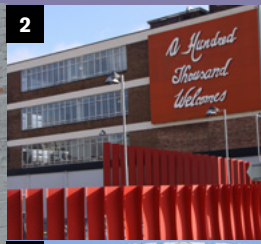
The Birmingham Curzon HS2 Masterplan (www.birmingham.gov.uk/birminghamcurzonhs2) identifies the opportunities which will be unlocked by the proposed HS2 due to open in 2026. Exciting proposals under discussion include an integrated metro stop in New Canal Street extending through and serving Digbeth. At the same time, there are plans for a wide landscaped plaza, Paternoster Place, that will transform pedestrian connections into Digbeth and create gateway development opportunities.

Proposals for Digbeth also include 33,000 sqm of retail place, 150,000 sqm of office space and 75,000 sqm of residential development. It is estimated that this would create over 5,000 jobs...exciting times for the City's premier Creative

Quarter. Digbeth's historic setting will provide a variety of unique and inspirational opportunities perfect for the growing number of companies involved with digital technologies, design, television production and the arts. It is envisaged that this will include a mixed use scheme at the prestigious Typhoo Wharf and a canal side residential neighbourhood.

Other proposals for key sites include the Beorma Quarter mixed use development delivering hotel/leisure uses and business space whilst the Fazeley Street area will continue to grow as a creative hub with proposals for the Digbeth Digital Studios. The proposed new Metro stops will transform connections into the area which will also benefit from the proposed new bridges and open spaces along the River Rea.

DISCOVERING DIGBETH - STREET AND PUBLIC ART TRAIL



With a community of young creatives and a palette of industrial landscapes, it's no wonder that Digbeth has hosted a street art festival that has no compare in the UK. The City of Colours festival (www.cityofcolours.co.uk) was the brainchild of Becci and Karl from 'Street Art Birmingham', based at the Custard Factory.

Working with over 20 expert partners (and a great deal of hard work), they organised a September festival which attracted over 100 iconic street artists hailing from Birmingham to Brazil! with graffiti, dance and music workshops, it is no wonder that it attracted an enthusiastic audience of all ages, approaching 10,000 visitors.

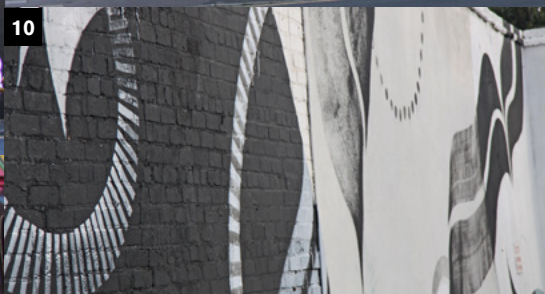
Not surprisingly, it is hoped to repeat the festival on an annual basis and, meanwhile, Graffiti Artist in Lower Trinity St are helping to carry the Street Art tag. They design and paint commercial and private graffiti but also run workshops which are great for both adults and kids. Team building and party events are a speciality and all the graffiti artists are CRB checked. At their purpose built graffiti yard, the artists show the basics and tricks of the trade to the prospective 'apprentice painters' who then have a try using the safest materials and protective equipment. If you're interested, it's as simple as phoning 0121 224 7307 and asking for 'Panda', to book your slot.



8



10



9

1. STREET ART (NATIONAL EXPRESS COACH STATION CAR PARK) N4T4
2. 'HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES' AND RED FENCE (NATIONAL EXPRESS COACH STATION) ROB COLBOURNE, STUART MUGRIDGE, DAVE SHERRY, MAT BECKETT
3. JFK MURAL (CORNER OF DIGBETH HIGH ST/FLOODGATE ST) OLIVER BUDD
4. STREET ART (ADDERLEY ST) TITLE - JIM VISION
5. STREET ART (LOWER TRINITY ST) ANDY COUNCIL
6. GREEN MAN (CUSTARD FACTORY) TAWNY GRAY
7. DRAGON (CUSTARD FACTORY) TAWNY GRAY
8. STREET ART (CORNER OF ANDOVER ST/FAZELEY ST) G - ANDERS
9. STREET ART (CORNER OF NEW CANAL ST/BORDESLEY ST) VARIOUS
10. STREET ART (CORNER OF FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, ALISON ST) LUCY McLAUCLAN

Of course, Digbeth also has some interesting pieces of '3D' public art and street art so it's worth a wander round the area to whet your appetite for a City of Colours tour (see their website) which, in an informative and entertaining 90 minute tour, gives a detailed view of over 60 internationally renowned artists, some of their techniques and giving a greater understanding of this incredibly dynamic art form.

So here's a mere taster of some of the many things that you can see on the tour...



The Custard Factory and Fazeley Studios are the most powerful cluster of creative and digital businesses, independent shops and event venues outside London.



Creating Digital Digbeth

Against a backdrop of post industrial decline, The Custard Factory opened its doors in 1993, welcoming in artists and creative businesses. It satisfied a need in the city for likeminded creative people to congregate and soon became not only a powerful creative and digital hub, but a lifestyle destination for the city.

Over subsequent years, further phases were added to the Custard Factory and other projects sprang up to capitalise on the momentum that had been established. The working community began to shift to reflect the changing economy with a

particular emphasis on digital entrepreneurialism and in 2008 Fazeley Studios opened to cater for the growing demand from digital companies for workspace and event space in Digbeth. Today there are over 2,000 people at work in the creative and digital industries between the Custard Factory and Fazeley Studios and 4,000 in the wider Digbeth area.

Looking for a creative or digital agency?

The Custard Factory and Fazeley Studios are home to almost 400 of the best creative companies in the city, ranging from small, independent start ups to the BBC's new digital innovation unit (in Fazeley Studios) and ASOS (in the Custard Factory).

Here you will find companies specialising in almost every area of the creative and digital industries and arts and media, including:



- Web, social media and digital media
- Marketing, PR and events
- Film, literature and music festivals
- Music and performing arts
- Fashion
- Architecture
- Arts, crafts and illustration
- Online retail
- Training and recruitment
- Charities and social enterprises

View the Custard Factory directory at www.custardfactory.co.uk/directory

Or the Fazeley Studios Directory at www.fazeleystudios.com/community/whos-here/

Studio offices at The Custard Factory

Set in 15 acres of beautifully restored Victorian Factories, where once upon a time Alfred Bird invented and manufactured instant eggless custard, The Custard Factory is home to a range of offices for 2 – 200 people, more than 30 independent shops, a cinema/theatre and bar, Alfie Birds, as well as a packed programme of fairs, festivals and events. Tenants range from artists and photographers to innovative entrepreneurial start ups to household names such as ASOS and The Prince's Trust. It recently won 'The Great Place' in the prestigious Urbanism Awards 2014.

Studio offices at Fazeley Studios

Fazeley Studios is a collection of 45 boutique studio offices for 5 – 150 people, with a cafe bar and a series of beautiful public and event spaces. Its showpiece space is its Grand Gallery reception, a beautifully renovated 19th century Unitarian Chapel. Beside the grand gallery is the oldest part of the building, a Unitarian Sunday school dating from 1865, now holding a spacious conference room and boutique, character studios. Walk through the grand gallery, past the Social and into the landscaped courtyard, and you will see a series of 1920's factories, which have redeveloped into bright, airy, open plan studio offices. Key tenants include Maverick TV (How to Look Good Naked/Embarrassing Bodies), Into Film, Rice Media, Madison Soho, Time Etc, Shadow Giant, Shed Brand Innovation, One Black Bear and the BBC's new digital innovation unit.

Weddings and Corporate Events

Did you know that between them, Fazeley Studios and The Custard Factory host over 70 weddings (not forgetting hundreds of corporate events) every year? Digbeth might not seem like a traditional setting to say 'I do' but that is precisely what appeals to so many brides and grooms. The licensed wedding venues, Old Library at The Custard Factory and Fazeley Studios, are alternative options for couples who are looking for something a little different from a city centre venue, offering bags of character, beautiful interior and a trendy urban backdrop. Not forgetting their highly commended events team!

The Custard Factory and Fazeley Studios are also a unique choice for corporate and private events. With over 10 event spaces across the two venues, a variety of events are hosted throughout the year, from boardroom meetings through to large scale conferences of up to 225 delegates. Regular clients include Clarins, Nandos, Housing Diversity Network, National Express and NHS.

For more information, call Fazeley Events on 0121 224 8486 or visit www.fazeleyevents.com



The words 'Digital' and 'Digbeth' seem made for each other and that is perfectly reflected in the vibrant and progressive digital scene in the area.



It is estimated that, since its renaissance in the early 1990s, Digbeth has generated an estimated 3,500 direct knowledge based jobs and this number is set to double in the next five years.

The Custard Factory and Fazeley Studios remain at the heart of this growth with over half of those jobs based in their complex. Whilst nearby, there has been a substantial investment by education institutions and it is estimated that the student population will reach 10,000 by 2017. This combination of education and dynamic digital entrepreneurialism is a fertile backdrop for regeneration and job creation.

This dynamism is reflected by the decision of the BBC to base its new 'Digital Innovation Unit' producing experimental new forms of content for BBC programming using the technology and approaches, of the future, to engage younger and more diverse audiences.

However, this is just one example of the exciting enterprises based in the area. These include Shadow Giants who successfully ran the first ever NHS social media recruitment campaign and Yamination Studios a fast growing animation company whose collaborative projects include partners such as Sky Arts. In covering the Digbeth digital scene, mention should also be made of production giants, Maverick TV, who have made the area their home and who boast many well known TV credits including the highly popular series 'Embarrassing Bodies'.

The list of Digbeth digital pioneers is endless and this is also reflected in regular festivals such as the highly successful 'Flatpack' and 'Supersonic' Festivals. No wonder the BBC's Director General said, 'Make no mistake, if you're interested in new skills and digital innovation, this is the place to be!'

Following the tremendous success of the BBC drama 'Peaky Blinders', Digbeth has now become a popular place for visitors wanting to track the history of this notorious gang. Dating back to the 19th Century, the Birmingham 'Peaky Blinders' earned their nickname through allegedly lining the peaks of their flat caps with razor blades.



Much of their income was earned by illegal betting and, at one stage; it is thought that their influence and power was spread across all the major racetracks in the country. Vicious gang wars were not uncommon with rivals spanning cities from Leeds to London and with weapons such as buckles, metal tipped boots, knives and even guns being used. However, for a number of years, the Brummie gangs reigned supreme and gang leaders such as Billy Kimber ruled with an iron fist.

Whilst the Peaky Blinders were Small Heath based, places in the Digbeth area such as the Rainbow Pub, on the corner of Adderley St and Digbeth High St, and the Spotted Dog, Warwick St, were popular watering holes for the gang to

go about their business. Other mobsters in the area included the Digbeth Gang led by scar faced William 'Bowery' Beard.

The inspiration for this fascinating BBC series is writer and Brummie Steven Knight. From an early age, he remembers his grandparents and uncles mentioning the illegal betting and gangs in the area and particularly the well dressed gangsters who stood out amongst the poor living in Small Heath and Digbeth!

Champions of the Digbeth area, Digbeth Residents Association, even organise tours and can be contacted via peakytours@mydigbeth.co.uk



With such an inspirational and creative scene, it is no wonder that the area is home to several award winning educational institutions...

South and City College Birmingham

provides vocational education to around 19,000 students and has three centres in Digbeth. The main Digbeth Campus is home to creative courses including media, photography, music and games development, as well as business, IT, and accountancy. As you might expect, there are also a number of specialist facilities including an impressive 350 capacity auditorium, a photography studio, recording studios, and green screen equipment. Digbeth is also home to the college's higher education centre, where a number of university level courses are offered, including HNCs, HNDs and Foundation Degrees.

The Fusion Centre is where the college's fashion and retail courses are held. Students benefit from bright, airy workshops where they design and create exciting fashion garments which are showcased in an annual fashion show. There is also a Fusion Centre 2 where many of the ESOL courses are taught.

The college is proud to be the highest performing general FE college in Birmingham for 16-18 year olds (Nat success rates 2011/12) and an impressive 95% of students pass their courses. For more information on courses, visit www.southandcity.com.

The college plays an active role in the Digbeth community from taking part in the St Patrick's Day Parade to supporting and partnering with neighbouring businesses. The college also offer facilities for hire (contact events@sccb.ac.uk).



YOUR FUTURE
DEPENDS ON IT

1005 OF HANDS-ON COURSES

Areas include:

- AUTOMOTIVE & ENGINEERING**
- BUSINESS | CATERING & HOSPITALITY**
- CONSTRUCTION | FASHION**
- GAMES DEVELOPMENT | HAIR & BEAUTY**
- HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE | IT | MEDIA**
- MUSIC | PHOTOGRAPHY**
- PUBLIC SERVICES | RETAIL**
- SCIENCE | SPORT**
- TRAVEL & TOURISM**



APPRENTICESHIPS HIGHER EDUCATION

Excellent facilities
Great results



**SOUTH & CITY COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM**

Join South & City College Birmingham
Your future depends on it



Birmingham City University has around 22,000 students from 80 countries and enjoys almost 40 professional accreditations and a large number of successful industry partnerships. Their commitment to developing graduates means that within six months of studying, nine out of ten undergraduates and postgraduate students are in employment or further study (DLHE 2011/12).

All courses have a strong focus on preparing students for the world of work. Many offer the option of a four year 'sandwich' model, with a full year in industry providing valuable experience.

Naturally, students are at the heart of everything. An example is the ground breaking Student Academic Partners Scheme where staff and students work together to make teaching even better - an initiative that won a Times Higher

Education award for 'Outstanding Student Support'.

The University are midway through a £260 million investment programme and a state of the art £62 million building for their design and media students opened in 2013. Construction is now underway on The Curzon Building which will provide a 24,300 sqm building to house business, law, social science and English courses - a fitting gateway into an area as vibrant and pioneering as Digbeth. A third phase will see the development of a new £41 million home for the University's Birmingham Conservatoire in 2017.

Recent national research revealed that nearly one fifth of the University's total research submission contained elements that were 'world class' - more than any post 1992 University.



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

Birmingham City University at the heart of the city's creativity



With nearly 6,000 students enrolled on courses in music, theatre, writing, media, digital technology, or art and design, we are one of Britain's leading providers of graduate talent to the cultural and creative industries.

Based in Birmingham's cultural district, our new multi-million pound Eastside campus puts our students and staff at the heart of the city's creative economy.

**For more information please contact our
Course Enquiries team on 0121 331 5595.**

www.bcu.ac.uk

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 /birminghamcityuniversity



Access to Music Birmingham provides quality music and media training for young musicians across the West Midlands, while also equipping them with valuable employability and life skills. A wide range of courses are offered, including Music Performance, Music Business, Sound Engineering, Music Production and Creative Media. Courses are ideal for school leavers looking to follow their passion. Degree courses are also offered in partnership with Birmingham City University.

Students at the Digbeth centre have the benefit of working in a state-of-the-art facility, with a digital recording studio, five band rehearsal rooms, Apple Mac music and media technology suites and a performance space. The college also has a real presence in the music industry which allows students to engage safely with industry

practice. This means exciting opportunities, from playing festivals such as Latitude to undertaking showcases for Island Records and The Voice.

The Digbeth centre is part of a national music college which has been graded 'Good' by Ofsted. It ensures a quality music and media training for any school leaver looking for something unique and different. There is free tuition for 16 - 18s as well as free meals and travel if you are eligible. Level 3 courses all generate UCAS points equivalent to taking 3 A Levels, meaning that students are able to progress on to University.



access to music
the music college

ACCESS TO MUSIC BIRMINGHAM

**Digbeth's only dedicated
popular music college**

Offering courses for school leavers in Music Performance, Music Technology, Artist Development, Music Business and Creative Media. Graded 'Good' by Ofsted.

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APPLY OR BOOK AN OPEN EVENT: accesstomusic.ac.uk • 0330 123 3153





If you think that Birmingham shopping is the same homogenised offer as every other big city, then you're in for a surprise if you head down Digbeth way.

However, whilst Digbeth High St has one or two nuggets, it is the Custard Factory that provides Birmingham's truly unique shopping experience. Shops and outlets that delight the discerning shopper abound!

An example is 'Apple Pie House' (www.applepiehouse.com) which is a must for all 'teddy' boys and 'teddy' girls. The shop has a unique range of collectable teddy bears from the handmade to classics augmented by a wide range of dolls, figurines and sculptures. No wonder, they have built up a loyal following of passionate teddy bear aficionados known as the Applettes. With a name like Apple Pie House, a location like the Custard Factory must have been written in the stars.

Whilst almost opposite, a treasure trove of antiques awaits at Gavill's Auction House and Vintage Design Studio (www.gavills.com). Specialists in the period stretching from the 1870s, the arts and crafts period, right up to the 1970s, art nouveau, art deco, the 50s and the Scandinavian 60s are all featured. They also cover

silver, coins, vintage fashion and accessories. Even better, on the last Saturday of each month (2pm start), there is the incomparable experience and entertainment of an auction. Viewing is the Thursday and Friday prior and the morning of the sale. Simply register for a bidding number or, like e bay, leave a bid with the Gavills' team who will use as much of it as needed to purchase the item. However if you're in a selling mood, call in and they'll tell you if it is suitable for auction and then value it. A modest 15% commission is taken from the sale. Incidentally, the stock in the shop changes regularly so it's worth dropping by with vintage lighting and architectural salvage items also usually in stock.

These are just two examples of a great shopping experience and listed below are the many and varied offerings for the shopper who wants something different...

ADEE PHELAN SALON one of Britain's most iconic hairdressers in atmospheric surroundings

AUDIO AFFAIR (www.audioaffair.co.uk) award winning retailer with a massive product range

BLAKELEY-BROWNS (www.blakeley-browns.co.uk) vintage, industrial, and upcycled furniture.

B STORE (www.thebstore.co.uk) casio G-Shock and custom built, single speed (fixie) bike specialist

COCKTAIL COSMETICS LTD (www.cocktailcosmetics.co.uk) stockists of niche cosmetics

DJTECHDIRECT (www.djtechdirect.com) specialist DJ kit retailer with experienced expert staff

FLAMINGO VINTAGE (www.facebook.com/flamingovintagebirmingham) vintage heaven

FRAGILE DESIGN (www.fragiledesign.com) original 20th century furniture and homewares

GINGERMEGS VINTAGE (www.gingermegsvintage.com) 20s to 50s affordable vintage clothing

Birmingham's New AUCTION HOUSE and DESIGN STUDIO



The art deco china cabinet sold for £520



The Hans Olsen table & chairs sold for £900



The 1920s cape sold for £80

Experts in period circa 1870 up to 1970s of Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau, Art Deco 50s and Scandinavian 60s style which are all featured. Silver, coins, vintage fashion and accessories a speciality.

Call in and let us give you a free valuation and advise you on how to experience the exciting world of auctions.

Stock changes regularly so it's worth popping in to see what delights there are.

**Open Mon-Fri 11am-3pm and Sun 2pm-4pm.
Other times are available by appointment.**

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Email: matt@developmentenabling.com

Call: Matt McCloskey 07971 165918

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IDEAL SKATE (www.idealbirmingham.co.uk) everything skater (inc the owners!).

JINXY (www.facebook.com/Jinxart) original paintings and commissioned artwork

LE KEUX VINTAGE BARBERS (www.lekeuxvintagesalon.co.uk) rockabilly style retro barbershop

LE KEUX VINTAGE SALON (www.lekeuxevents.co.uk) 50s style salon, vintage inspired hair, make over etc

LEFT FOR DEAD new release and back catalogue on cd and vinyl across the genres

MCTUNNEYS SWEET EMPORIUM (www.mctunneys.co.uk) traditional sweet shop with a twist

MILQUE AND MUHLE (www.milqueandmuhle.co.uk) record shop selling left field vinyls and cassettes

MODERN CASUALS (www.80scasualclassics.co.uk) serving old skool lovers of music, fashion, and football with much individuality, authenticity and exclusivity

MONDAY MOCO (www.mondaymoco.com) a new motorcycle clothing and lifestyle store

MORE BY DESIGN (www.morebydesign.com) retailers of unique rugs, cushions, furniture, fabric, and much more. Also offers design based service

PROVIDE (www.provideshop.com) independent clothing brand and lifestyle shop

RAWHIDE CORSETS (www.rawhidecorsets.co.uk) unique,bespoke custom made corsets and accessories - designed and made on the premises

SARA PREISLER (www.sarapreislergallery.co.uk) the gallery represents over 70 of the UK's leading designers in specialisms ranging from jewellery to ceramics

STAG CREATIVE BARBERS offering traditional and modern barbering services with a creative edge

THE BENCH (www.thebench504.com) the Custard Factory's dedicated international graffiti store and gallery

THE COUTURE COMPANY (www.the-couture-company.co.uk) specialists in custom made, beautiful, unusual and unique bespoke bridal wear

THE FRAMERS (www.theframers.net) bespoke picture and art framing

TRUNK JUNKIES (www.facebook.com/trunk-junkies-vintage) offering cherry picked vintage pieces, retro streetwear and independent brands. Also events and workshops

VINTAGE HIDEAWAY (www.facebook.com/vintagehideaway) specialising in vintage, retro, collectables, antiques and handmade items

WAYLANDS FORGE (www.waylandsforge.co.uk) birmingham's premier stockists of board games, card games, role playing games, war games, miniatures and accessories

If all that is not enough, most Saturdays, the Custard Factory has events programmed to add to the shopping experience (see www.custardfactory.co.uk/whats-on for the latest programme). These include their legendary vintage events such as the B2B Antiques and Vintage Fair Judy's Affordable Vintage Fair and the Vintage Kilo Sale. Music collectors aren't forgotten with VIP Music Fairs.

Take that five minute stroll from the City centre... but don't forget that shopping bag!

ADAM AND EVE (www.theadam.co.uk) a regular programme ranging from live ska and reggae to jazz and blues.

THE ANCHOR (www.anchorinndigbeth) real ale combines with real music for great open mic nights and local singer songwriters

BOXXED WAREHOUSE (www.boxxed.co.uk) a great venue for special music events in their atmospheric 10,000 sqft warehouse in Floodgate St

THE CROSSING (www.thecrossingdigbeth.co.uk) a 600 capacity venue with state of the art sound and lighting based at South Birmingham and City College

THE EDGE (www.frictionarts.com) eclectic mix from the occasional punk party to theatre

THE INSTITUTE (www.mamacolive.com/theinstitute) started out as a Congregational Church and it certainly still attracts a congregation to its 2,900 capacity venue. Iconic bands and artists from the Buzzcocks to Toyah.

THE IRISH CENTRE (www.irishcentrebirmingham.co.uk) enjoy the legendary craic with some great Irish bands like the Hurling Boys and the Full Sha Bang

THE OLD CROWN (www.theoldcrown.com) great outdoor vibe with DJ and barbecue

THE O OBLECK AT ALFIE BIRDS (www.alfiebirds.co.uk) outstanding regular programme with bands like the Blossoms and Turin Brakes followed by some great club nights

RAINBOW (www.therainbowvenues.co.uk) a great Victorian boozier with three rooms and don't forget the Cellar, Warehouse, Arena and Rooftop Mezzanine. is there any end to this Rainbow? Legendary for its buzzy club nights

THE SPOTLIGHT (www.facebook.com/spotlightdigbeth) in Lower Trinity Street, based around a railway arch, this is billed as rough elegance in an alternative venue. Great nights of funk, soul, house and indie.



It's no surprise that Brummies, in the know, beat a path to Digbeth for their musical fix. A rich mix of different venues and musical genres gives it wide appeal and the venue information set out below is merely a verse in the extensive Digbeth songsheet...

THE SPOTTED DOG (www.spotteddog.co.uk) atmospheric venue with outdoor garden and regular live entertainment ranging from traditional Irish music to blues.

In fact most pubs in the area have music nights and then there is the Supersonic Festival (www.supersonicfestival.com), transcending music and the arts and lauded from the Times to BBC 6.

Never has the phrase 'Dig Digbeth' been more appropriate.



It is for good reason that Digbeth is seen as Birmingham's creative quarter with its range of arts based organisations and programme of events. Many of them have an enviably high reputation not only locally but nationally and internationally.



New ones regularly surface to add to the mix but listed below are some of the most established names that underpin the City's arts scene. Their websites are included which will reveal details of ongoing events to enjoy...

CAPSULE (www.capsule.org.uk), based in the Custard Factory, were established fifteen years ago and have gained a reputation as a dynamic and innovative arts producer initiating, commissioning, and producing a range of arts based projects. They are responsible for a number of high profile projects including the internationally renowned 'Supersonic Festival' and the 'Home of Heavy Metal', a groundbreaking heritage project. Clients range from the Royal Shakespeare Company to the Library of Birmingham.

CRAFTSPACE (www.craftspace.co.uk), based in the Custard Factory, is a crafts development organisation working to push the boundaries and perceptions of crafts practice, presentation and learning. Adopting pioneering approaches to engage a diverse public with world class contemporary craft.

DIGBETH FIRST FRIDAY

(www.digbethfirstfriday.com) is held on the first Friday of every month from May to October inc. Digbeth comes alive with exhibitions, late night opening, special events, culture in unexpected places, live music and street food. Inspired by similar events in places like Chicago and Vegas, venues are many and varied across Digbeth with the Bond in Fazeley St as a centre of operations. There's even a Disloyalty Card!



EASTSIDE PROJECT (www.eastsideprojects.org), is an artistic space in Heathmill Lane run by artists and providing free space. Their ethos is clear - 'We do not make art for the public. We are the public that make art. The artist space is not a stop gap. The artist run space is for the public good!'

FLATPACK FESTIVAL (www.flatpackfestival.org.uk), based in the Custard Factory, their film festival is usually held every March with events also throughout the year. Animation, music, artists' film, archive discoveries, offbeat shorts for kids and live cinema, all form part of their programme described as 'magnificently eclectic' by Time Out.

FRICTION ARTS (www.frictionarts.com), based at the Edge in Cheapside, they have been established for over twenty years and encompass everything from production and event management to commissioning and residencies. They also run training and workshops, ranging from dance and drama to digital and installations activities. Their raison d'être is 'celebrating the margins, the excluded, the overlooked and the unappreciated!'

GLUG (www.glugevents.com) is an initiative centred around Fazeley Studios in Fazeley St and encompasses film previews, live art, installations and exhibitions with talks and informal networking a critical component. Stemming from a vibrant partnership involving Created in Birmingham

(www.createdinbirmingham) and Inky Goodness (www.inkygoodness.com).

GRAND UNION (www.grand-union.org.uk), based at Minerva Works in Fazeley St, is a gallery and studios run by a dedicated group of artists and curators.

MOCKING BIRD THEATRE AND BAR (www.mockingbirdtheatre.com) Nestling in the heart of the Custard Factory complex is the newly refurbished Mockingbird Theatre and Bar. This intimate 101 seater venue provides an exciting platform for musicians, storytellers and film makers. Visit their website to find out what's on. By the way, you might not get a choc ice but you will get a wide range of unusual beers and liqueurs in their cosy bar!

RHUBARB RHUBARB (www.rhubarb-rhubarb.net), based in Heathmill St, are a photographic development agency who work internationally with traditional and new technologies. They work with photographers at different stages in their development, bringing artists together with international experts and arts markets, curating and organising exhibitions and commissions.

VIVID (www.vividprojects.org.uk), based in Minerva Works, Fazeley St, they are dedicated to exploring the convergence of film, video, performance, and interdisciplinary practice with the aim of working across live and media arts, music and dirty new media.'

DRINKING AND DINING - DIGBETH STYLE

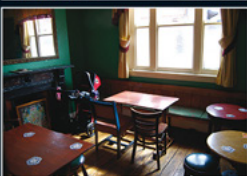


If you like a microwaved lasagne or a tasteless pint of fizzy keg then you won't 'dig' Digbeth. However, if your preference is authentically fresh, home cooked food and an accompanying drink with real character then Digbeth is definitely the place to be.

Typical of the Digbeth dining experience is the Digbeth Dining Club (www.digbethdiningclub.co.uk) held on Fridays at the atmospheric Spotlight Club underneath the arches in Lower Trinity Street. From Filipino and Rastafarian to Mexican and Thai, the tasty street food will only set you back around a fiver.

However, there is no need to wait for Friday to come round to enjoy a drink and a bite to eat, with pubs like the Old Crown (www.theoldcrown.com) in Digbeth High St. Apart from their range of independent ales and ciders, they pride themselves on traditional home cooked food with daily specials, using produce sustainably sourced from the nearby Bull Ring markets. Their recently opened garden area has a relaxing vibe with DJs and a barbeque on Fridays and Saturdays. The Old Crown is a pukka community pub with its rich mix of customers enjoying the convivial atmosphere.

Incidentally, they not only do a competitively priced bed and breakfast but have their own independent café next door. Great coffee, home made cakes and freshly made sandwiches make it



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a popular lunchtime haunt for workers and visitors alike.

Over the other side of Digbeth High Street is the iconic Irish Centre with its welcoming Connaught Bar. Whilst just around the corner from the National Express Coach Station is the legendary historic Grade 2 listed pub, The Anchor. Open every day, it has up to twelve real ales available and six real ciders and perries along with a wide range of unusual bottled beers and keg ales.... undoubtedly a drinking connoisseurs' paradise. Every week there is a mini beer festival with other themed events throughout the year ranging from St Pats to their legendary cider and sausage festival (see www.anchorinndigbeth.co.uk and their facebook page and twitter for more information).

The Anchor also does a wide range of food reflecting the seasons ranging from award winning sausages and traditional stews to haggis, neeps and tatties. Whilst you're indulging, there is no shortage of entertainment with the Anchor

championing local talent through Open Mic nights and acoustic singer song writers. No wonder the pub has scooped the Birmingham CAMRA 'Pub of the Year' four times!

Just a few yards further along Bradford St is the White Swan, another historic pub and listed building. With its range of cask ales, it's predictably popular amongst CAMRA members and Blues fans alike. There's been a pub on this site since 1791 and, who knows, maybe the Peaky Blinders might have popped in for a pint a hundred or so years later. You can be sure of a warm welcome from the landlady, Angela Creaton whose family have been running the pub for almost 50 years.

These are just some of the highlights of a great drinking and dining offer across Digbeth which also includes long established pubs like the Spotted Dog, the Fountain, the Adam and Eve, the Moseley Arms and Cleary's, all in the Bradford St area.



Whilst in the High St and beyond, there are the Dubliner, the Kerryman, the Big Bulls Head, the Friends of the Earth Café, the Rainbow and, in the Custard Factory, the newly opened Alfie Birds which does a mean 'proper' pizza amongst its appetising menu and has an extensive cocktails list. In the same complex is the aptly named 'Yumm' which is a favourite lunchtime haunt and also does a great brunch and a range of cakes. It not only prides itself on its daily changing menu of freshly cooked specials but also its top notch coffee sourced from a local Midlands based specialist coffee roaster. Around the corner in Fazeley Studios is the Fazeley Social. Their classy brunch menu, in equally classy surroundings, includes the classic eggs benedict and smoked salmon and scrambled eggs.

The list of watering holes is endless so explore, enjoy but, remember, ... pace yourself!

THE WHITE SWAN
276 Bradford Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B12 0QY
Situated in the heart of Birmingham's historic Irish Quarter

Good beer, bar snacks and a great welcome awaits you in this cosy atmospheric pub

TEL: 0121 622 2586



DIRECTIONS

Digbeth is less than ten minutes walk away from the Bull Ring area and with its eclectic mix of artist led events, independent shops, pubs and cafes, it's definitely worth that short stroll.

If you need to hop on a bus, there are a number which travel down Digbeth High St such as the 50, 97 and (900 airport bus) (see www.nxbus.co.uk) for bus enquiries.

For those travelling by car, on and off street parking is generally available and there are copious carparks, many charging less than £3 for a day.

Many people arriving in Birmingham do so at the newly refurbished Digbeth Coach Station...a location that dates back almost one hundred years. The original Digbeth depot and coach station became part of the National Bus Company in 1968 but was still operated by the Midland Red

before it was taken over by National Express in 1986. However today's point of arrival is a far cry from those early beginnings as a bus depot and National Express' decision to invest in Digbeth has resulted in smart and comfortable waiting areas, a coffee shop and newsagent which is proving a real asset to the area. However, it still doesn't forget its roots in the community with National Express supporting initiatives like the City of Colours festival - check out the brilliant street art in the Coach Station car park

For those needing a bit of spare cash for some inspirational shopping or a bite to eat then there is also a free ATM machine in the Coach Station.

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Paragon Hotel Events



WHERE TO STAY

Digbeth has a fantastic variety of events ranging from the artist led 'Digbeth First Friday' (www.digbethfirstfriday.com) and the nationally acclaimed 'Digbeth Dining Club' (www.digbethdiningclub.co.uk) to the unique 'City of Colours' street art festival (www.cityofcolours.co.uk). Consequently, an overnight stay might well be a sensible option and the area is well served to suit all pockets...

At the top of Bradford St, in Alcester St, proudly stands the iconic Paragon Hotel which has 250 en suite bedrooms. This historic hotel has recently undergone a major refurbishment but it's particularly refreshing to stay in a Birmingham hotel with real history and atmosphere, rather than the homogenised hotels that proliferate in the City Centre.

Opened in 1903 by Lord Rowton (Private Secretary to Disraeli), it was originally built to accommodate large numbers of migrant workers and it is still a striking and impressive example of a Grade 2 listed Gothic Edwardian building. In those early days meals such as roast beef or sausage and mash ranged from a farthing to a penny. Whilst the price of something to eat at the hotel is now a bit more expensive, eating in their Princess Helena Restaurant represents excellent value for money. One thing is certain, you can be sure of a warm and hospitable welcome reflecting the hotel's historic roots and ethos.

Alternatively, for those on a tight budget, the Backpackers Hostel in Coventry St is an independent hostel offering a free breakfast and free WiFi as part of their package. A variety of pubs also do excellent bed and breakfast deals notably the Old Crown, the Big Bulls Head and the Moseley Arms.



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THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT IN MAKING THIS FIRST GUIDE TO
DIGBETH POSSIBLE**

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We have endeavoured to include as many businesses and community initiatives as possible and if you wish to be included in the next proposed annual edition of the **DIG DIGBETH GUIDE** please contact anna@ams-consultancy.org

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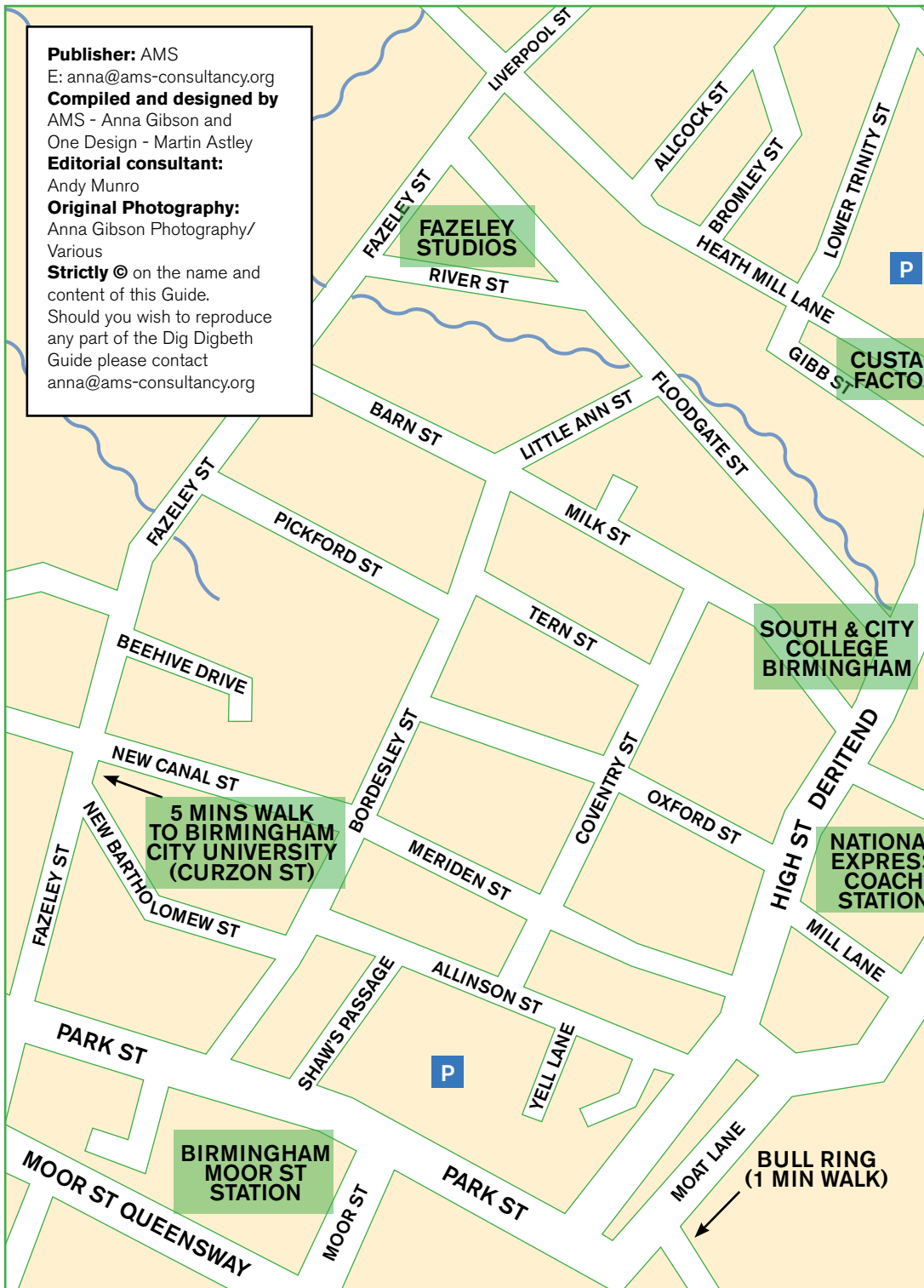
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