BIRMINGHAM MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
October 2026

Compiled from stories published online in October 2026



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Every photo is numbered with its page. Spot a face, turn to the number.

On the cover: Birmingham Event Highlights Need to Close Digital Inclusion Gap, page 4. Photo supplied by Birmingham City Council.

This is a look-back edition, put together in November 2026 from stories that appeared online in October 2026. Birmingham Magazine's first digital edition was published in November 2026.

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Your turn

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Photo supplied by Birmingham City Council

BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham Event Highlights Need to Close Digital Inclusion Gap

Across Birmingham, too many people are still being held back from opportunities because they do not have access to a device, affordable internet, or the skills and confidence to get online.

Closing this gap is not just a technology challenge. It is about fairness, opportunity and inclusion.

That was the message at the Closing the Gap Together Digital Inclusion Event, hosted by Birmingham City Council's Digital Inclusion Team at Eagle Labs in Brindley Place earlier this month.

The event brought together councillors, community groups, charities, health and social care organisations, businesses and local partners, all working towards a shared goal: ensuring every Birmingham resident can participate fully in modern life.

Throughout the day, attendees heard how partnership working is helping residents access devices, affordable connectivity, digital skills training and ongoing support. From helping people apply for jobs and access public services, to staying connected with family and managing their health, digital inclusion is transforming lives across the city.

The event celebrated the work already taking place in Birmingham's communities while also recognising that more remains to be done. As

services, education, banking and employment increasingly move online, the risk is that those who are already facing disadvantage fall even further behind.

Through presentations, case studies and discussion sessions, partners explored how they can work together more effectively to reach residents who are currently excluded from the digital world and ensure support is available where it is needed most.

Councillor Harris Khaliq, Cabinet Member for City Services and Digital, said:

In the 21st century, access to the internet is no longer a luxury. It is essential infrastructure for everyday life.

Whether it's applying for work, accessing council services, booking a GP appointment or helping a child with their homework, being offline can mean being cut off from opportunity.

Digital exclusion often mirrors wider inequalities. That is why tackling it is about much more than technology. It is about ensuring every resident, regardless of their age, income or background, has the tools and confidence to participate fully in our city.

The progress being made across Birmingham shows what is possible when public services, businesses, charities and communities come together around a shared mission. By working together, we can build a city where nobody is left behind and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

The event also recognised the vital contribution of organisations across the public, voluntary, community and private sectors whose continued support is helping residents gain the skills, access and confidence they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

By Zoe Walker Online 2 October 2026
Read more: **birminghammagazine.co.uk**

Your turn
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Birmingham Launches Dedicated Youth Hub to Support Health, Careers, and Skills



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A major new youth hub has officially opened at 11 Cannon Street, providing a dedicated space designed with and for young people.

Funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the Young Futures Hub offers an inclusive, welcoming environment for young people aged 10 to 18, and up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Developed with direct input from young people, the refurbished ground floor and basement spaces feature flexible activity areas, meeting rooms and IT facilities, reflecting what young people said they wanted from a modern youth space.

Bringing support, advice and opportunities together under one roof, the space provides a safe, youth-led environment where young people can build confidence, develop skills, improve their wellbeing and connect with youth workers . Operating on an open-door basis, it makes it easier for young people to access support when they need it, while digital pathways will help extend Cannon Street's reach beyond its physical location.

Cannon Street already hosts a growing network of partners, including Pause, Aquarius, the Virtual School, Careers Service, Department for Work and Pensions and the Serious Youth Violence Team, enabling young people to access a wide range of services in one convenient location.

By Zoe Walker Online 30 October 2026

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/birmingham-launches-dedicated-youth-hub-to-support-health-careers-and-skills**

The Body as an Archaeological Site



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Photo: Ayọ̀ Akínwándé

Situated in the Grade II listed building formally used for jewellery manufactory, Birmingham based multidisciplinary artist, Abraham Babajide Cole, opened a solo exhibition entitled The Body as an Archaeological Site at the Hive Gallery this October.

The exhibition brings together drawings, paintings, terracotta sculpture and installation which explore a simple but powerful question: what happens to the body when it enters a new place and begins again?

For Cole, the body is not only a physical form. It holds memory. It records where we have been, what we have inherited and the experiences that change us over time. This idea has become increasingly central to his practice. Drawing from Yoruba cosmology and the idea of the body beyond the physical, Cole's work looks at movement not simply as travelling from one geography to another, but what happens afterwards: how a person adapts, what remains from a previous place, and how a new environment gradually becomes part of the body itself.

As Cole explained:

"Migration is often described as a journey from one place to another, but I'm interested in what happens after the journey. What do we carry? What do we leave behind? What remains within us, and what do we become? I think of the body almost as an archaeological site because it keeps these traces. Some are visible and some are buried. The work is about trying to understand what we carry through life and how the places we inhabit also begin to live within us."

By Helena Cantone Online 27 October 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/the-body-as-an-archaeological-site**

BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham City Council Wins Prestigious Sustainability Award



Photo supplied by Birmingham City Council

Birmingham City Council has won a prestigious sustainability award for its work to promote ambitious planning policies that require buildings to meet high standards for energy efficiency and low emissions.

Dedicated to celebrating the global leaders building resilient and future-ready urban places, the sustainable cities award from BREEAM considers the work of city governments around the world and how they are delivering sustainable buildings.

In its prize-winning submission, the city council highlighted the high number of BREEAM Outstanding and Excellent-rated buildings which have been built in the city, including flagship projects like the Library of Birmingham, the BBC Tea Factory, and the Paradise development.

By Zoe Walker Online 5 October 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/birmingham-city-council-wins-prestigious-sustainability-award**

BIRMINGHAM

Rockwood Academy Wins National Autism Inclusion Award



Rockwood Academy, part of CORE Education Trust, is celebrating after receiving the National Autistic Society's Autism Inclusion Award, recognising the Birmingham school's commitment to understanding autism and creating an inclusive environment for autistic students.

The award recognises the work taking place across the school to remove barriers to learning, respond to students' individual needs and ensure autistic young people can take part fully in school life.

We are very proud to have received the National Autistic Society's Autism Inclusion Award. It recognises the commitment of our staff to understanding autism and making sure our students feel understood, included and supported in school.

Jamie Henshaw, executive headteacher at Rockwood Academy, said:

By Bede MacGowan Online 29 October 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/rockwood-academy-wins-national-autism-inclusion-award**

BIRMINGHAM

Stop Hate Crime, Report It Campaign Launches in Birmingham



Birmingham City Council is encouraging residents to stand together against hate crime as the city prepares to mark Hate Crime Awareness Week from 10 to 17 October.

Working with partners including West Midlands Police and community organisations, the council's community cohesion team will take the campaign directly into neighbourhoods across Birmingham through a dedicated awareness roadshow and community engagement programme.

The week aims to increase awareness of hate crime, encourage victims and witnesses to report incidents, and highlight the support available to those affected.

By Barbara Parker Online 12 October 2026
Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/stop-hate-crime-report-it-campaign-launches-in-birmingham**



WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolverhampton Launches UK's First Sport for Change Cities Exhibition

Community organisations using sport and physical activity to strengthen communities and transform lives across Wolverhampton have been celebrated at the launch of the UK's first Sport for Change Cities exhibition.

By Albert Nelson Online 8 October 2026
Continued at **wolverhamptonmagazine.co.uk/wolverhampton-launches-uks-first-sport-for-change-cities-exhibition**



WOLVERHAMPTON

University of Wolverhampton Partners with The Big Draw for Three-Day Community Festival

The University of Wolverhampton has partnered with The Big Draw to host a three-day celebration of drawing at the Mander Centre this October, inviting people across the city to make their mark.

By Albert Nelson Online 21 October 2026
Continued at **wolverhamptonmagazine.co.uk/university-of-wolverhampton-partners-with-the-big-draw-for-three-day-community-festival**

In brief



TELFORD

Construction Begins on New Padel Courts at Telford Tennis Centre

Construction has officially begun on new padel courts at Telford Tennis Centre, marking another key milestone in Telford and Wrekin's ongoing partnership with We Do Tennis to upgrade local racket sport facilities.

By Zoe Walker Online 17 October 2026
Continued at **telfordmagazine.com/construction-begins-on-new-padel-courts-at-telford-tennis-centre**



WORCESTER

Santa's Grotto and Elf Trail Coming to The Commandery

Families are invited to begin the festive season with a magical experience at The Commandery, a historic venue that has enjoyed centuries of Christmas celebrations.

By Zoe Walker Online 1 October 2026
Continued at **worcestermagazine.co.uk/santas-grotto-and-elf-trail-coming-to-the-commandery**



TELFORD

Rooted in Recovery: Moving New Exhibition Brings Art, Nature, and Healing to Shrewsbury

Art, nature, and lived experience take center stage in Rooted in Recovery, a new exhibition in Shrewsbury featuring artworks created by service users and staff from Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust's (MPFT) Early Intervention in Psychosis Service.

By Barbara Parker Online 15 October 2026
Continued at **telfordmagazine.com/rooted-in-recovery-moving-new-exhibition-brings-art-nature-and-healing-to-shrewsbury**



WOLVERHAMPTON

University of Wolverhampton Professor Wins National Tech For Good Award

A University of Wolverhampton academic has been recognised with a prestigious national award for her work using digital technology and artificial intelligence to help women entrepreneurs affected by the 2023 earthquake in Türkiye.

By Catherine Wilson Online 18 October 2026
Continued at **wolverhamptonmagazine.co.uk/university-of-wolverhampton-professor-wins-national-tech-for-good-award**

In brief



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WORCESTER

Autumn Makers' Fair to Showcase Local Craft in Worcester

The Autumn Makers' Fair is coming to Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum on Saturday 10 October, bringing together an exciting range of craft makers from across Worcestershire.

Stallholders will showcase their work in the unique setting of the museum.

By Barbara Parker Online 3 October 2026
Continued at **worcestermagazine.co.uk/autumn-makers-fair-to-showcase-local-craft-in-worcester**



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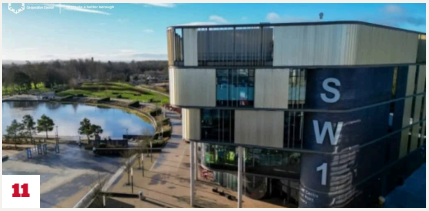
WORCESTER

Worcester Comes Together to Build a More Accessible and Inclusive City

Residents and community representatives from across Worcester recently came together to explore ways of making the city more accessible and inclusive for everyone.

By Catherine Wilson Online 26 October 2026
Continued at **worcestermagazine.co.uk/worcester-comes-together-to-build-a-more-accessible-and-inclusive-city**



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TELFORD

Telford and Wrekin Named Best Place in England to Raise a Family

Telford and Wrekin has been named the best place in England to raise a family in a new national study.

Researchers highlighted the areas affordability, lower Council Tax levels, access to green space and childcare amongst many other factors which support family life.

By Albert Nelson Online 1 October 2026
Continued at **telfordmagazine.com/telford-and-wrekin-named-best-place-in-england-to-raise-a-family**



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Photo: Telford & Wrekin Council

TELFORD

Telford & Wrekin War Memorials Prepared for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day

War memorials across Telford and Wrekin are undergoing final cleaning and maintenance ahead of Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day commemorations.

By Albert Nelson Online 30 October 2026
Continued at **telfordmagazine.com/telford-wrekin-war-memorials-prepared-for-remembrance-sunday-and-armistice-day**



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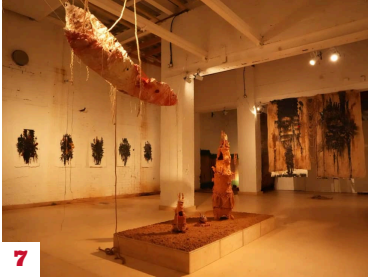

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Your turn

Your story here

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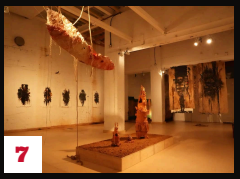





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