BIRMINGHAM MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
November 2026



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On the cover: Tyseley factory makes UK's first megawatt charger for electric lorries, page 8. Photo: Voltempo.

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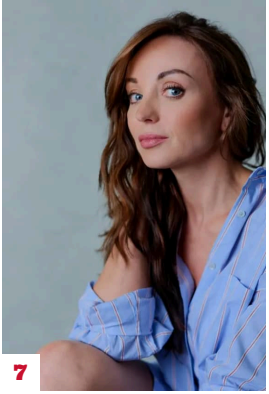
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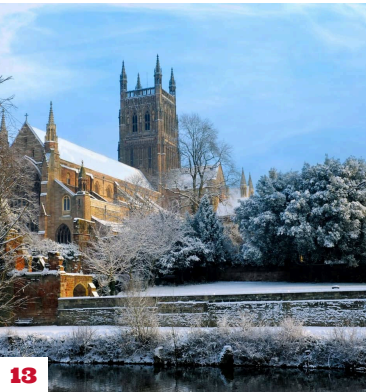
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BIRMINGHAM

Countdown to Christmas Begins as Birmingham Welcomes Back Frankfurt Market and Ice Rink

Christmas has officially arrived in Birmingham as the Frankfurt Christmas Market opens tomorrow (5 November) to serve its traditional festive treats.

The market will be officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Zaker Choudhry, and the German Ambassador to the UK, Susanne Baumann, who will jointly switch on the city's festive lights in Victoria Square at 5.30pm.

This year, due to ongoing public realm works on Bennetts Hill and Temple Street, there will not be stalls between the Apple store and Nando's on New Street, but the market resumes beyond Corporation Street, with craft stalls also along High Street.

It will feature 42 beautifully decorated stalls serving German food and drink, including hot gluhwein, schnitzel, bratwurst, alongside a wide array of handcrafted gifts, decorations, toys, and jewellery.

During the festivities, the Victoria Square bandstand will host a programme of performances of German musicians and upcoming Brummie performers.

German musicians will perform weekday

lunchtimes and evenings daily, with local performers performing between midday and 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

The market will run from 5 November to 24 December 2026:

Mondays to Thursdays: 11am to 9pm

Fridays: 11am to 9.30pm

Saturdays: 10am to 9.30pm

Sundays: 10am to 9pm

On Remembrance Sunday, the market will open at 1pm, as a mark of respect as the city's Civic Service of Remembrance and Parade takes place on Colmore Row on 8 November.

Councillor Deborah Harries, Cabinet Member for Culture, said:

"We welcome the Frankfurt Christmas Market back to Birmingham this week, which is a highlight of the season for residents and visitors alike, starting the countdown to Christmas for many.

"It is a festive fixture which brings in millions of visitors and is testament to the city's reputation as a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive destination, and a major boost to our visitor economy, attracting up to 5 million people each year."

Kurt Stroscher, Director of Festivals and Events, Frankfurt City Council, said:

"I am proud and delighted that we have succeeded in establishing our ancient Christmas market tradition so successfully in Birmingham that this year is our 26th consecutive Frankfurt Christmas Market.

"The acceptance and enthusiasm of Birmingham's citizens and visitors is both confirmation and encouragement for us to continue with great commitment to present a wonderful Christmas market in Birmingham."

The popular Big Wheel and Ice Rink attractions will also be back in Centenary Square, opening daily from 5 November 2026 to 3 January 2027, from 10am to 10pm (closed Christmas Day). For details and to book tickets go to www.iceskatebirmingham.co.uk.

For more information about Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market, visit www.thebfcm.co.uk.

By Zoe Walker

Read more: **birminghammagazine.co.uk**

Your turn

Send us your story

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BIRMINGHAM

Blue Nation bring their big year home with Digbeth headline show

Blues-rock trio Blue Nation are set to bring the curtain down on a remarkable year with a special hometown headline show at The Crossing, Digbeth, on Saturday, November 28th



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Photo: Will Carter

It promises to be a fitting homecoming for a band who have enjoyed a stand out 12 months, releasing new music, major festival performances, completing a headline UK tour and attracting the attention of some of the biggest names in the music industry.

The year has seen Blue Nation release their latest EP, Wisdom For Pennies, showcasing their distinctive blend of blues, rock, powerful riffs and thoughtful songwriting.

Alongside studio releases, the trio have taken their explosive live performances to prestigious festivals such as Winter's End & Steelhouse Festival before heading out on their own headline UK tour, with several shows either sold out or with low ticket warnings.

Their growing reputation has now lead to a relationship with legendary amplifier manufacturer Marshall, while British audio specialist The Chord Company has partnered with them with high-quality instrument cables and supporting their live and studio sound.

After an exclusive acoustic performance of Wisdom For Pennies at the Gibson Garage in London back in July (hosted by another 'Brummie', Leona Graham of Absolute Radio) the iconic guitar manufacturer has also been supporting the band and their journey in recent months.

By Whitney Ribbins

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/blue-nation-bring-their-big-year-home-with-digbeth-headline-show**

Call the Midwife star Helen George returns home as Mind Body Spirit Festival celebrates 11 Years in Birmingham



Photo: byPip

Birmingham-born Call the Midwife star Helen George will return to her home city this month to appear at Mind Body Spirit Festival as the event celebrates its 11th year in Birmingham.

George, who recently launched the spirituality and wellbeing podcast Mystic Mates with friend Yvette Robinson, will take to the Main Stage on Sunday 15 November as part of the three-day festival at the NEC.

The event's return comes as new research from Mind Body Spirit Festival suggests interest in spiritual and holistic wellbeing practices continues to grow.

An online survey of 611 people from the festival's own database of subscribers, customers and festival attendees found that six in ten (59%) now practise manifestation or intention-setting, while almost half (47%) use therapies such as Reiki or crystal healing.

The findings also suggest people are seeking greater connection through wellbeing activities, with nine in ten respondents (90%) saying they would like more opportunities to connect with others through wellbeing, while seven in ten (70%) believe their local area does not offer enough.

"Spirituality is no longer on the fringes," said Josh Roberts, Managing Director of Mind Body Spirit Festival. "From podcasts to prime-time television, people are talking openly about finding deeper meaning and how they want to live."

By Claire Amos

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/call-the-midwife-star-helen-george-returns-home-as-mind-body-spirit-festival-celebrates-11-years-in-birmingham**

BIRMINGHAM

Tyseley factory makes UK's first megawatt charger for electric lorries



Photo: Voltempo

Voltempo, the Birmingham-based company leading the UK's transition to electric heavy goods vehicles (eHGVs), says its Made in Britain accreditation is playing a key role in bringing government, industry and fleet operators together to decarbonise UK haulage.

Leading eFREIGHT 2030

The company leads eFREIGHT 2030, a government funded consortium seeking to create a widescale switch from diesel to electric power across the HGV industry by 2030.

Through the project, it is building the UK's largest charging network for eHGVs, powered by its Made in Britain-accredited HyperCharger, the UK's first megawatt charger.

By Leah Benthin

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/tyseley-factory-makes-uks-first-megawatt-charger-for-electric-lorries**

BIRMINGHAM

New Birmingham music group welcomes LGBTQ+ singers and musicians



Photo: Misfits Music

A Kings Heath based music group is throwing the stage doors open to singers and musicians from the LGBTQ+ community and their allies.

The Queerly Musical Collective is building a wide-ranging repertoire spanning cult favourites such as The Rocky Horror Picture Show and Cabaret, Sondheim classics, and playful contemporary pieces from The Barbie Movie and SpongeBob Musical.

Created by the Misfits Music charity, it offers a welcoming, sociable space for the LGBTQ+ community and allies, who play any instrument or sing, to make music together.

By Loretta Milan

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/new-birmingham-music-group-welcomes-lgbtq-singers-and-musicians**

BIRMINGHAM

BCU Wins double TIGA awards for games education



Photo: TIGA

Birmingham City University (BCU) has landed two major accolades at the TIGA Games Industry Awards 2026, being recognised for the quality of its games education and commitment to student success.

The Games Academy at BCU won Best Education Initiative and Best Educational Institution at the awards, held in London on 18 November.

BCU were recognised for their work in bringing together four game development disciplines from across the university to create one collaborative Games Academy.

The initiative was a response to industry feedback highlighting the importance of graduates being able to communicate and work effectively across disciplines.

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/bcu-wins-double-tiga-awards-for-games-education**

BIRMINGHAM

Quinton School Recognised for Giving Every Student a Chance to Make Music



Photo: Lift Four Dwellings Secondary

Lift Four Dwellings Secondary in Birmingham has received the Music Mark of Recognition for Dedication and Improvement, recognising its commitment to inclusive music education.

Every student has the opportunity to learn an instrument for free, with lessons available in piano, brass, singing, drums, woodwind and guitar alongside the school's music curriculum.

The recognition highlights the work of Ms Lovatt, the school's Head of Music, and her commitment to giving every student the chance to take part in music, whatever their background or previous experience.

By Bede MacGowan

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/quinton-school-recognised-for-giving-every-student-a-chance-to-make-music**

BIRMINGHAM

Global expansion for Birmingham's Brandauer as it hits £10m milestone for the first time



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Photo: Tom Madge

Brandauer, a globally recognised precision metal stamping and tooling expert, has sealed long-term orders to supply complex components for two automotive customers and a large tooling project for an electrical connector automation line in the last six months.

This has seen it record £10m sales for the first time in its 164-year history and given it the confidence to establish an on-the-ground presence in both the EU and in America with the appointment of Jürgen Wollbold and the team of Brian Coyne and Lauren Brown respectively.

By Russ Cockburn

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/global-expansion-for-birminghams-brandauer-as-it-hits-10m-milestone-for-the-first-time**

BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham mentor and University of Wolverhampton win national awards



10

Photo: NASBTT

Andrea Morgan, who leads mentoring at Bishop Challoner Training School in Birmingham, was named Mentor of the Year, while the University of Wolverhampton won the Higher Education Institution of the Year award.

Both were recognised at the National Association of School-Based Teacher Trainers' annual awards at BMA House in London.

Helping trainees build confidence

Judges highlighted Andrea's work with around 120 trainee teachers and more than 150 mentors each year across a network of primary and secondary schools.

By Phil Smith

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/birmingham-mentor-and-university-of-wolverhampton-win-national-awards**

In brief



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BIRMINGHAM

Library of Birmingham Celebrates 1.1 Million Visits as Residents Praise Its Services

Birmingham residents have confirmed their love for the Library of Birmingham in a recent survey, with 90 per cent saying it is important to the city.

By Barbara Parker

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/library-of-birmingham-celebrates-11-million-visits-as-residents-praise-its-services**



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BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham's Dudley Road improvements completed with safer cycling and better transport links

Birmingham residents, cyclists and commuters are set to benefit from safer roads and improved transport connections following the completion of a major improvement scheme along the A457 Dudley Road.

By Barbara Parker

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/birminghams-dudley-road-improvements-completed-with-safer-cycling-and-better-transport-links**



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Photo: Birmingham Symphony Hall

BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham band Skum bring their DIY spirit to Symphony Hall

Birmingham's rising heavy alternative band Skum are set to take to the stage at Symphony Hall's Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space on Monday 30 November, following their success in B:Music's Battle of the Bands competition earlier this year.

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/birmingham-band-skum-bring-their-diy-spirit-to-symphony-hall**



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BIRMINGHAM

New Walking Tennis Sessions Launch in Solihull for People With Parkinson's

People living with Parkinson's in Solihull and surrounding areas of the West Midlands are invited to try a new walking tennis programme which is aiming to help more people live well with the condition in a fun and social way.

By Philip Lindley

Continued at **birminghammagazine.co.uk/new-walking-tennis-sessions-launch-in-solihull-for-people-with-parkinsons**

In brief



Photo: Lamar Francois Imaging

COVENTRY

Coventry Peace Festival Returns with Two Weeks of Free Events and Celebrations

Coventry Peace Festival returns from 2 to 14 November, bringing residents together for a celebration of peace, unity and community spirit.

By Albert Nelson
Continued at **coventrymagazine.co.uk/coventry-peace-festival-returns-with-two-weeks-of-free-events-and-celebrations**



Photo: RSPCA Coventry and District

COVENTRY

All Bailey wants for Christmas is a home: RSPCA Coventry launches Santa Paws fundraiser

Bailey has spent 344 days, almost an entire year, at RSPCA Coventry & District's animal centre, waiting for someone to offer her the right home.

By Emma Davies
Continued at **coventrymagazine.co.uk/all-bailey-wants-for-christmas-is-a-home-rspca-coventry-launches-santa-paws-fundraiser**



WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolverhampton Graduate Helps England's Para Lionesses Win European Bronze

A University of Wolverhampton graduate is celebrating an impressive international sporting achievement after helping England's Para Lionesses secure a bronze medal at the 2026 IBSA Women's Blind Football European Championship.

By Catherine Wilson
Continued at
wolverhamptonmagazine.co.uk/wolverhampton-graduate-helps-englands-para-lionesses-win-european-bronze



Photo: Sing Social

WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolverhampton Sing Social leader on the joy of singing together

"Who here has been told they can't sing?" I asked when I ran my first Sing Social session in Wolverhampton. Around 80% of hands went up.

By Jackie Sherlock
Continued at
wolverhamptonmagazine.co.uk/wolverhampton-sing-social-leader-on-the-joy-of-singing-together

In brief



Photo: Wendy Peterson

WOLVERHAMPTON

Codsall Dramatic Society bring festive cheer with their production of Cinderella

There's something magical about seeing a classic fairy tale unfold on stage, especially when it's brought to life by local people who are passionate about creating theatre for their community.

By Jackie Sherlock
Continued at **wolverhamptonmagazine.co.uk/codsall-dramatic-society-bring-festive-cheer-with-their-production-of-cinderella**



WORCESTER

Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre returns with over 200 stalls and four days of festive fun

Worcester is preparing to welcome the festive season with the return of its much-loved Victorian Christmas Fayre, bringing four days of traditional Christmas entertainment, live performances and festive cheer to the city.

By Albert Nelson
Continued at **worcestermagazine.co.uk/worcester-victorian-christmas-fayre-returns-with-over-200-stalls-and-four-days-of-festive-fun**



Photo: Worcester Cathedral

WORCESTER

Worcester Cathedral launches Christmas Appeal 2026 under theme of Hope and Light

Worcester Cathedral is inviting people across the region to support its Christmas Appeal 2026, helping ensure the Cathedral remains a place of hope, welcome, and sanctuary throughout the festive season.

By Zoe Walker
Continued at **worcestermagazine.co.uk/worcester-cathedral-launches-christmas-appeal-2026-under-theme-of-hope-and-light**



TELFORD

Spread Festive Cheer This World Kindness Day with Telford Theatre's Kindness Ticket Scheme

This World Kindness Day, Telford Theatre is inviting people to spread festive cheer by purchasing a Kindness Ticket, helping a local family experience the magic of pantomime this Christmas.

By Catherine Wilson
Continued at **telfordmagazine.com/spread-festive-cheer-this-world-kindness-day-with-telford-theatres-kindness-ticket-scheme**

In brief



Photo: James Bailey

TELFORD

Christmas tree collection in Telford and Shropshire helps older people

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin have announced a partnership with Just Helping, and will be bringing its popular Christmas Tree recycling scheme back this festive season.

By Stuart Cox
Continued at **telfordmagazine.com/christmas-tree-collection-in-telford-and-shropshire-helps-older-people**

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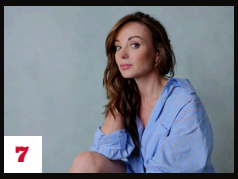
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