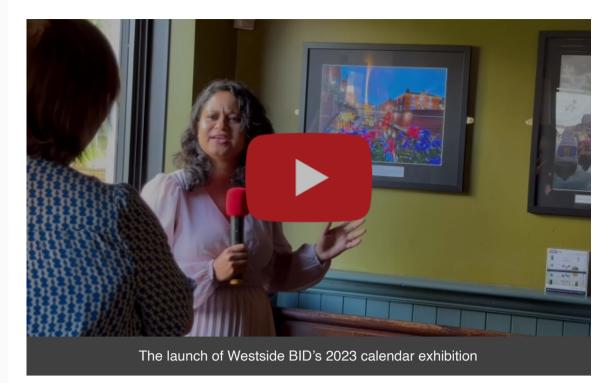
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Hello and welcome to your weekly Westside World news digest. Each Friday, Westside BID brings you the top stories from in and around Broad Street, Brindleyplace, Five Ways, Centenary Square, Broadway Plaza and surrounding areas...



VIDEOS AND PICTURES: Westside **BID 2023 calendar exhibition launch**

The launch of an exhibition celebrating the great photography in Westside BID's 2023 calendar was held at The Flapper pub this week.

A lively mixture of family and friends joined the team of community photographers behind this year's prize-winning shots. Contributors included a medical professional to a data inputter and a gift business owner ... plus many more.



Legend Paul Franks leaves BBC WM

BBC WM legend Paul Franks has left the station – after an incredible 44-year on-air career which began with a competition to find a new football commentator.

Known as 'Franksy' to listeners, one of his last interviewees this week was Westside BID's general manager Mike Olley, a regular guest on Franksy's 'drive time' afternoon show.



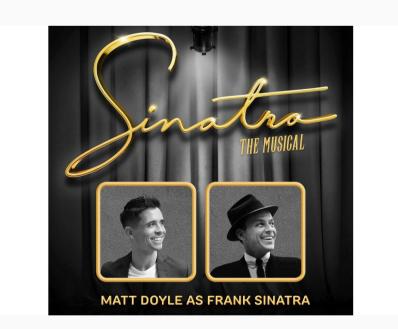


Thousands watch Gerald tie the knot

When Westside business leader Gerald Manton finally tied the knot with Sareena Jones after more than two decades of partnership, they celebrated in style - in front of thousands.

The romantic couple from Sheldon, Birmingham got married at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Solihull, where 160 guests joined them for the ceremony during Solihull Summer Fest 2023.



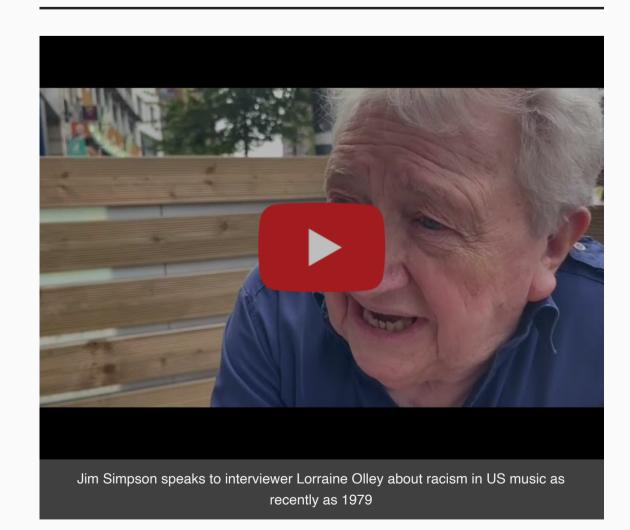


US actor takes on Frank Sinatra role

The world premiere of Sinatra, The Musical at the Birmingham Rep this autumn will see top American actor and singer Matt Doyle in the title role.

The spectacular new musical features 20 actors and 17 musicians performing more than 25 of Frank Sinatra's most legendary songs.





Impresario tells of racial divide in US

Jim Simpson, the organiser of last month's Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival, has revealed the racial divides that still afflicted America's music industry as late as 1979.

Music impresario Jim, the original manager of Black Sabbath, was talking to interviewer Lorraine Olley, a professional who works in the area of equalities, diversity and inclusivity.



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