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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...

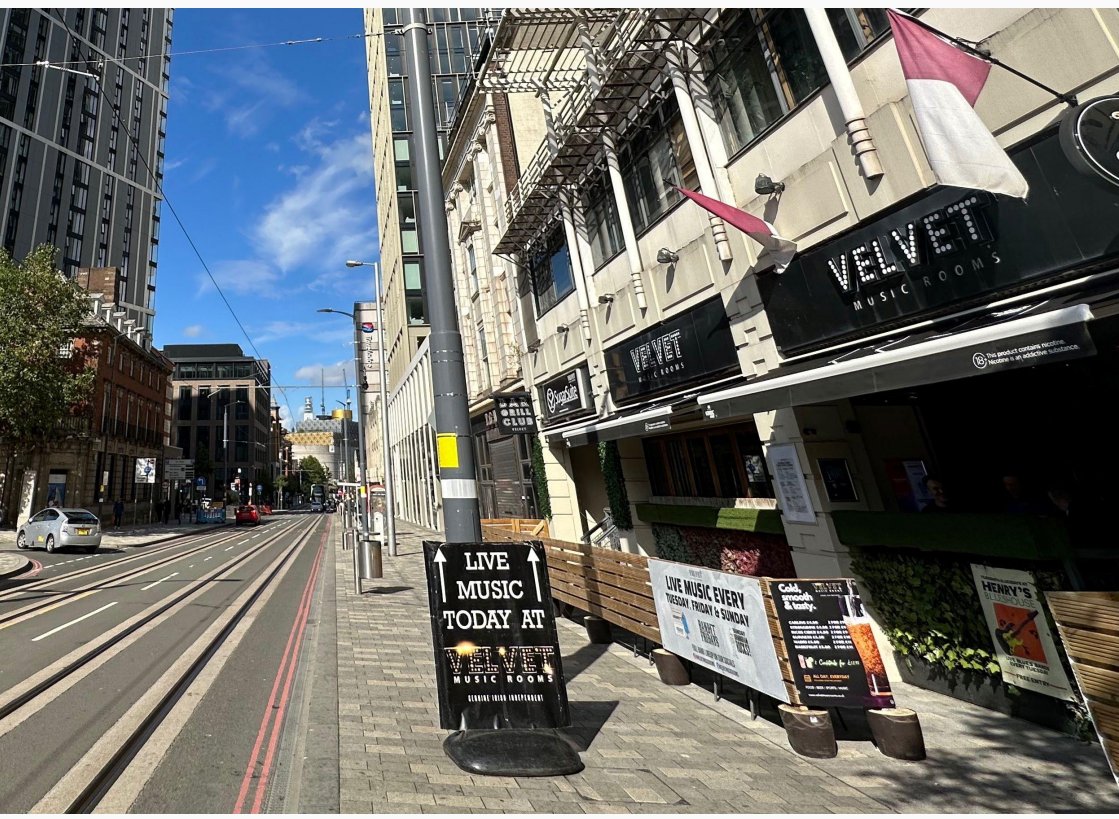


### Cameras at the ready... it's time to fight for calendar competition glory

Amateur photographers have got a new chance to win cash and see their picture shine in Westside's 2024 calendar competition.

Westside BID is offering more than £1,000 worth of prizes to the winning entries that will each host a month on next year's calendar - and all winners will also see their pictures displayed and celebrated in a new exhibition at a Westside venue next summer.

[Read more](#)



### WhatsApp group snares a suspect

An alleged prolific thief and burglar has been caught with the help of a WhatsApp group of Westside managers following a month-long crime spree.

The offender is believed to have targeted numerous bars and restaurants on Broad Street and Brindleyplace over the past few weeks, either forcing doors to break into premises or sneaking inside and stealing staff property, drink bottles and food.

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### Wellbeing dates off to a healthy start

More than half a dozen workers enjoyed the first in a new series of wellbeing events organised by Westside BID last week.

The 'Be kind to your mind' programme, launched to coincide with International Fitness Day on Wednesday 20 September, began with a virtual Tabata workout by Coaches for Change founder Jamie Cullen, with the help of Harriette Luscombe doing the demonstrations.

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### Setting the standard for charity

A special ceremony was held at Gas Street Central church this month for the dedication of a new Standard for the Armed Forces Charity in Birmingham. Originally founded as the SSFA in 1885, the organisation changed its name to the SSAFA in 1919 following the founding of the Royal Air Force in 1918 – thus becoming the Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association.

Now better known simply as the Armed Forces Charity SSAFA, it is a hugely important means of supporting military veterans, building on the work of its first president the Princess of Wales (and future Queen Alexandra).

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### Enter a winter wonderland at the Rep

Families are flocking to book tickets to see The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe at the Birmingham Rep on Westside this winter.

The family-friendly production, which played to packed houses at The Gillian Lynne Theatre in London's West End last winter, will run in Birmingham from Tuesday 14 November to Sunday 28 January 2024.

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