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## WEST SIDE World

BIRMINGHAM ★ ★ ★ ★

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...



### Ho ho ho! Santa drops in to spread a little festive cheer across Westside

Businesses on Westside got a real festive surprise this week when Santa Claus paid them a visit to deliver presents across the district with the help of his trusty elves (more commonly known as the BID's Luisa and Elaine), plus the Grinch (Kassim Sagheer).

Together they distributed over 200 gifts to hardworking staff on Westside to celebrate the festivities as businesses prepared to break up for the season.

[Read more](#)

### Wonka is a sweet festive film treat

REVIEW: The year 2024 is the 200th anniversary of chocolate giant Cadbury being founded on Bull Street in Birmingham – so the sheer joy of what you can create with cocoa beans makes Wonka (PG, 116 mins) a doubly-bountiful festive treat from Paddington director Paul King.

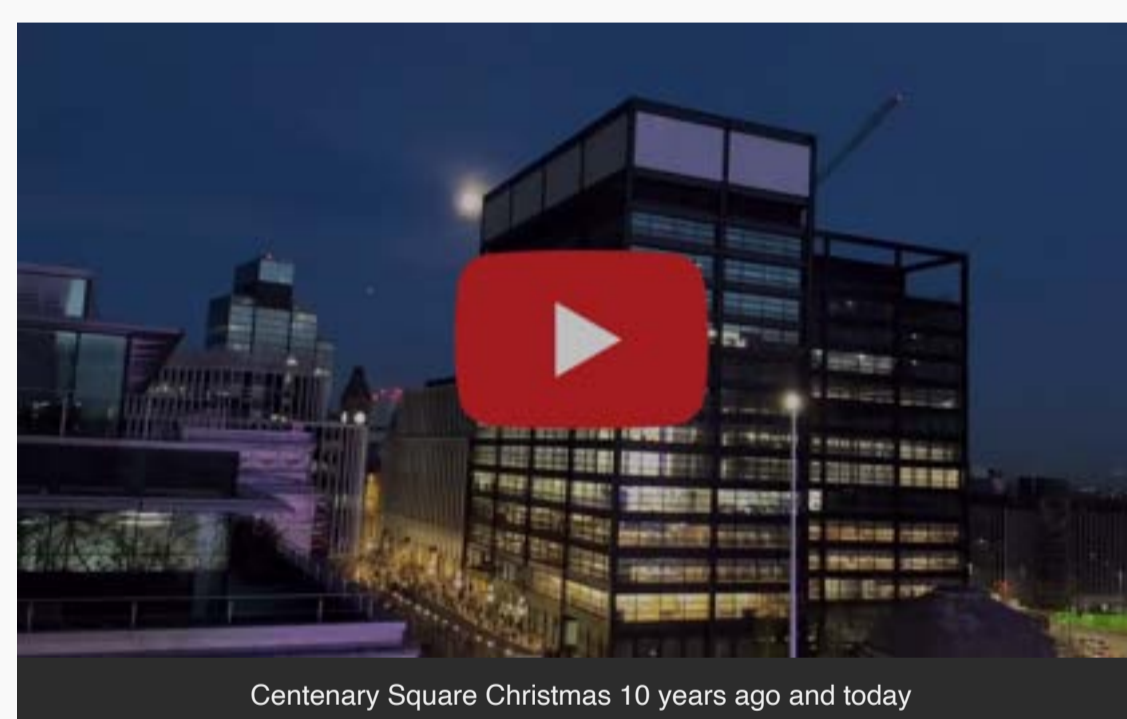
His new Road Dahl-inspired prequel movie is a genuinely warm, family-friendly comedy for the festive period. And both Odeon Luxe Broadway Plaza and Cineworld Broad Street are offering their own kind of chocolate-flavoured celebrations.

[Read more](#)

### Battle of the Christmas lunches

The success of JD Wetherspoon pubs for being so adept at appealing to the mass market is impressive. But how would Christmas lunch at The Figure of Eight and The Solomon Cutler on Broad Street fare against Edgbaston's The Physician for price, value, quality and speed of service?

Our intrepid (and peckish) food spy Graham Young rolled up his sleeves and donned his bib to film us this special video report...

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### Christmas 10 years ago and today

What a difference a decade makes! As our like-for-like Westside pictures and video show, the city has changed greatly since 2013.

Back on Sunday 17 November 2013, the views from the Library's fourth floor garden terrace included the chalet roofs of the former Birmingham Christmas Craft Market. Our then-and-now pictures also compare Centenary Square's Italianate style block paving with today's linear look following the square's redevelopment, completed in 2019.

[Read more](#)

### Support B:Music's festive appeal

The music charity responsible for Symphony Hall on Westside is calling on the public to support its festive fundraising campaign aimed at enriching the lives of disadvantaged children and communities.

Donations raised by B:Music, which also looks after Birmingham Town Hall, will enable the charity to inspire a love of live performance by removing barriers to participation and opening up a world of music to the region's diverse communities.

[Read more](#)

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