

News

Network Rail makes tracks to new offices

By **ANDY RICHARDS**

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THE company in charge of railway infrastructure in England has made tracks from one iconic Birmingham building to another.

Engineering company Network Rail has moved from The Mailbox to the historic Baskerville House in Centenary Square.

It has taken three floors in the historic Art Deco building which was originally the home of printer John Baskerville.

The floors have been transformed into 85,000 sq ft of refurbished office space. It includes meeting rooms of various styles, a staff restaurant, kitchen, a comfortable waiting area and communications rooms.

Network Rail decided to make the

move after deciding that its previous premises had aged significantly and would have been difficult to refit while occupied.

The 17-week refurbishment was carried out by specialists Overbury.

Danny Parmar, business development manager at Overbury's Birmingham-based Central team, said: "We were delighted to have secured the fit-out for Network Rail under competitive bidding.

"This was helped by the pre-existing relationship we have with Network Rail, having worked with the company before.

"It is a very well-known and much-loved

building within the city, and there was a lot of interest in Network Rail's move when news of it spread last year. This made it an even more attractive proposition for us as it gave us a platform on which to showcase our high quality work."

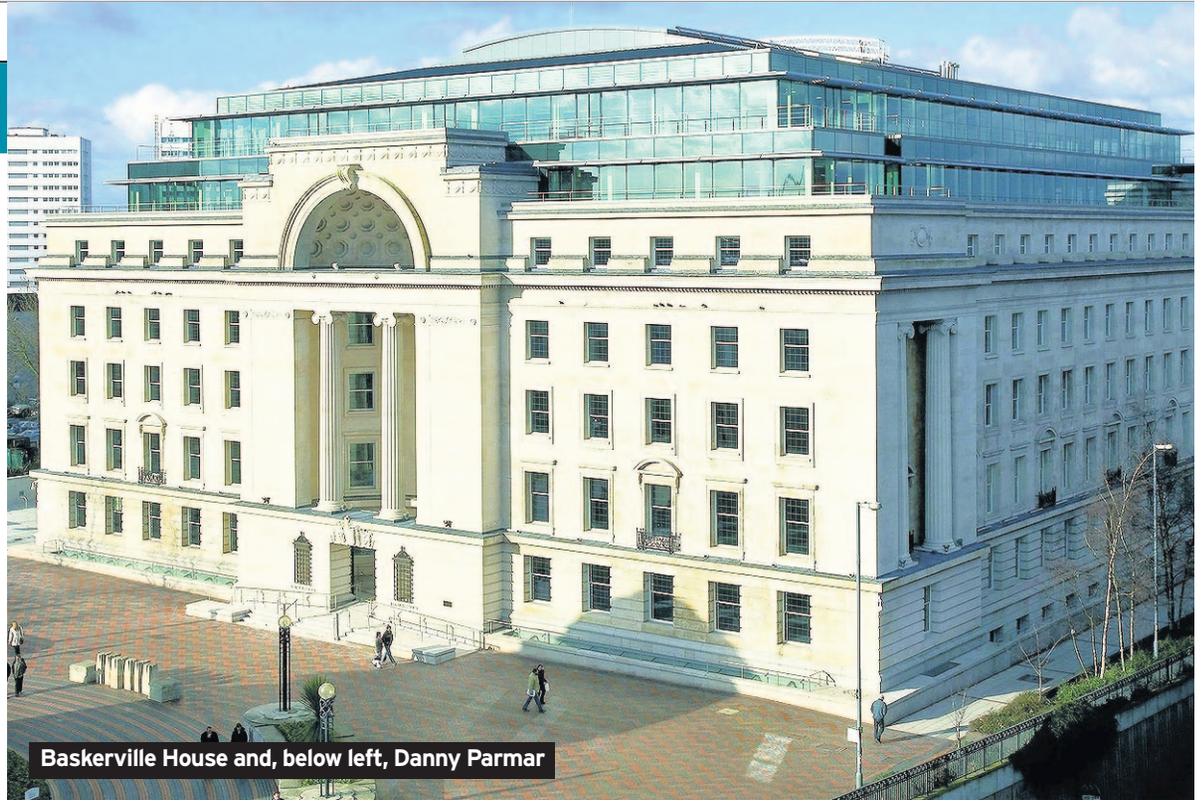
Originally completed in 1938, in later life the Grade II listed building was used as offices for Birmingham City Council. There were once plans to convert it into a Radisson Edwardian Hotel and later a feasibility study was carried out into whether it was possible to locate the old Central Library there.

But the building was deemed not to be suitable as it would not be strong enough to hold all the books.

Some believe that Sherlock Holmes author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who lived briefly in Birmingham, used the name of John Baskerville as

the inspiration for The Hound of the Baskervilles, the thriller set on Dartmoor which tells the story of an attempted murder inspired by the legend of a fearsome, diabolical hound of supernatural origin.

Network Rail has nominated the new workspace for a British Council for Offices award – an industry accolade which recognises the most inspirational offices across the country and celebrates best practice in commercial fit-out.



Baskerville House and, below left, Danny Parmar



ADVERTISMENT FEATURE



IS YOUR EMPLOYER PAYING YOU PROPERLY?

Are you being paid what you're entitled to?

The National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage are going up on 1 April. If you're aged 25 or over and not in the first year of an apprenticeship, you're entitled to the National Living Wage, and this will rise to £7.50 per hour on 1 April.

If you're aged under 25, or an apprentice, you're entitled to the National Minimum Wage, which is also going up.

The current rates and a National Minimum Wage calculator which shows you what you're entitled to are on www.gov.uk/checkyourpay

It is illegal for your employer to pay you less than the National

Minimum or Living Wage and even if your hourly rate is at or above the amount you should be paid you could still be missing out because employers sometimes make mistakes when calculating your pay.

Common mistakes include:

- deducting the costs of work wear or tools from your pay;
- not paying you for the time spent travelling between assignments;
- including tips as part of your pay, and
- not paying you for time spent training or while on a trial period.

If you think you aren't getting

what you're entitled to you can call the Acas Helpline on 0300 123 1100 for confidential advice.

You can also register a complaint online with HMRC at www.gov.uk/checkyourpay

HMRC will investigate all complaints and you can even make a complaint about a previous employer. If HMRC finds that you have been underpaid, they can tell your employer to pay you what you are owed.



HM Government

ARE TIPS COUNTED AS PART OF YOUR PAY? IF SO, YOU COULD BE UNDERPAID.

By law, you're entitled to the **NATIONAL MINIMUM OR LIVING WAGE**. If your employer counts tips as part of your wages, you might not be getting what you're owed.

Check what you're entitled to: gov.uk/checkyourpay or call the Acas helpline for confidential advice: **0300 123 1100**



A STEP UP IN PAY



HM Government