

cityview

Getting the
balance right **p6**

Communication is
the key **p10**

Warm reception for
new Lord Mayor **p12**



2012 OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE
OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY
CITY OPEN WEEKEND
CULTURAL OLYMPIAD
CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY
GOLDEN LANE LEISURE CENTRE RE-OPENS
CHARLES DICKENS 200
LIVERY COMPANY TREASURES
CITY OF SPORT

Get set for 2012



cityview magazine

Welcome to **cityview** magazine

SUPPORT AND PROMOTION

A voice for financial services 3

THE INTERVIEW

Keeping faith in the City 4

THE CITY'S WARDS

Getting the balance right 6

2012

A year of celebration 8

STREETWORKS

Communication is the key 10

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

Warm reception for new Lord Mayor 12

ARTS FOCUS

Christmas shopping – Barbican style 14

ARTS FOCUS

One man and his city 15

NEWS IN BRIEF

...and finally 16

cityview is the magazine of the City of London Corporation, a uniquely diverse organisation that promotes and supports the City and provides a wide range of services for the City, for London and for the nation as a whole.

Unless otherwise stated in individual features, more information on both the magazine and online articles is available from the Public Relations Office address below.

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SUPPORT AND PROMOTION

A voice for financial services

It has been a hectic year for the financial services industry. Fluctuating markets, proposed new taxes, changing legislation, sluggish economy – all of which has led to a great deal of uncertainty.

As well as supporting and promoting the City as the world leader in international finance and business services, the City Corporation acts as a voice for the area and for UK industry as a whole. One of its aims is to try and help bring certainty to the marketplace by feeding into the decision making process, whether in Westminster, Whitehall, Brussels or indeed around the world, on behalf of financial and business services UK-wide.

The Lord Mayor and Chairman of Policy and Resources Stuart Fraser are the primary leaders for this work. From regular columns in the CityAM newspaper to media interviews and industry consultation, their year-round activity is often carried out in collaboration with TheCityUK. This is the body which the City Corporation helped to create to promote a greater understanding of the whole UK financial and professional services industry, its role in



national and global prosperity and its links with overseas partners.

There have also been several new pieces of work created by the City Corporation this year to contribute to the debate on key issues on behalf of industry. Its Economic Development Office regularly commissions research from independent bodies throughout the year (subjects are grouped under themes – the City and the UK economy, EU and the regulatory environment, competitiveness and UK regulation, corporate responsibility and regeneration and international markets). To supplement these reports, a series of Topical Issues Papers are being commissioned to offer timely input into current thinking. The first two of these, **The UK's Marginal Tax Rate** and **Relaxation of Planning Rules for Change of Use from Business to Residential**, are now available.

Prior to the Party Conference season, the City Corporation also published a handbook on the importance of financial services to the UK titled **An Indispensable Industry**. "This is very much a 'working' publication," explained Stuart Fraser. "We wanted to set out in straight forward, easy-to-understand language why the industry remains so important to the economy. This is not just from a business perspective but also to show how it affects our everyday lives – from savings to mortgages. The more people understand the contribution it makes to our economy the better informed the debate will be about its future."

More information and to request a hard copy of **An Indispensable Industry** 020 7332 3099
pro@cityoflondon.gov.uk
 or you can download it from here
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/promote



ONLINE liverlyivedigest

↳ The **Mercers'** Company has completely redeveloped its website which now includes an interactive timeline, charting events such as the rise of probably the most famous Mercer, Dick Whittington. See the new site for yourself at www.mercers.co.uk

↳ The 13th Annual **Plasterers' Training Awards** were held at Plasterers' Hall in October. The awards were presented by the late Lord Mayor Alderman Michael Bear - the first Lord Mayor to come from a property and construction background. www.plastererslivery.co.uk

Peter Riddell talks to Chris Leslie, Shadow City Minister

Keeping faith in the City



The Labour Party is not going to turn its back on the City and financial services despite the popular backlash against bankers and the anti-capitalism protests. As Shadow City Minister since autumn 2010, Chris Leslie is emphatic that Labour wants ‘a strong financial services sector’. He recognises the importance for the economy of its ‘great cluster of skills and capacity and wants to build on that success’

He seeks to provide reassurance about Labour’s approach, referring to the danger of talking about the City in general terms when banking exists alongside very distinct, successful, sectors with a large number of players such as insurance, professional services and the commodities markets.

Leslie, still only a youthful looking 39, was first elected to the Commons in May 1997 a few weeks short of his 25th birthday. He served as a minister in various departments from 2001 to 2005 before losing his Yorkshire seat. He then headed a local government think tank before returning as an MP in the May 2010 general election.

He is busy developing links with a wide range of bodies in the City, including meetings with the City Corporation and TheCityUK. He seeks to provide reassurance about Labour’s approach, referring to the danger of talking about the City in general terms when banking exists alongside very distinct, successful, sectors with a large number of players such as insurance, professional services and the commodities markets.

On banking, Labour, he says, is taking a strong line on reform: for instance, urging a change of behaviour over bonus issues. He believes the Vickers report on restructuring of banking activities offers a way forward, but argues that implementation is too slow. The consumer voice should be emphasised more, and sooner. He is worried that banks may squeeze consumers more as they consider cutting back free banking for those with accounts in credit or altering fees on mortgages.

Labour has come under fire since Ed Miliband talked of ‘predators and producers’ in his party conference speech. Leslie argues that this was not meant as an

attack on the City, but as a way of opening a debate on corporate governance. He stresses the importance of stewardship and active asset management. At present, management is very powerful and ownership fragmented amongst institutional investors. He favours helping asset managers, such as pension funds, to join forces and hold executives more to account. This, he hopes, would redress the balance of power against predatory practices and restrain over-aggressive managements. At present, when shareholders see bad practices, they tend not to stay and influence the management, but to sell their shares. A falling share price is not a proven way of moderating behaviour. His aim is for shareholders to help management.

On Europe, Leslie argues that Labour can be a more effective voice than the government in battling for ‘the best interests of the financial services sector’. Noting that there are ‘several very big regulations coming quickly down the pipeline’, he highlights the Solvency 2 proposals which he warns could add 10 to 20 per cent to the cost of premiums. Similarly, he argues that the two bodies replacing the Financial Services Authority, dealing with prudential and consumer regulation, do not mesh with the more sectorally based system of regulation being introduced at EU level.

Leslie claims that Britain risks being marginalised in Europe and has difficulty finding allies. This is in part because of Conservative divisions over relations with Brussels, while the withdrawal of the party from the main centre/right group in the European Parliament has left Labour and the Liberal Democrats with the positions of most influence on key committees. He says his conversations with leading figures in the City reveal concern about the paucity of British influence. This is particularly important since many of the key issues on regulation are decided by Qualified Majority Voting so it is important to build up alliances to carry through or to block changes.



growth in their economies. In Britain, he says, it might help repair damage to the domestic economy. Any tax would have to be limited to a rate which would not significantly hamper efficiency in transactions, and would have to be enforceable in the main financial centres or else it would do more harm than good.

The Labour line is cautious on the future of the 50p top rate of income tax. It is 'not something which we would see disappear in this parliament'. After that, and the next parliament, it is a matter for a future Labour manifesto. Of course, he says, everyone wants taxes as low they can be, but not at the expense of a decent quality of public services. Labour is alarmed that the cuts are producing a deteriorating quality. He also believes any assessment of the impact of the 50p rate should be conducted by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility rather than the Treasury. He is sceptical about proposals from, amongst others, the Liberal Democrats for taxing property since taxing income is 'by and large fairer'.

Leslie understands City worries about transport. While careful not to stray into the portfolio of Maria Eagle, Shadow Transport spokesman, Leslie emphasises Labour's support for big infrastructure projects as a means of assisting economic recovery. He accepts that the party will have to think of a new way of involving the private sector in public sector projects as a replacement for the Private Finance Initiative.

Leslie is pleased that he was not moved during the Labour frontbench reshuffle earlier in the autumn. He believes continuity is important in understanding, and developing relations with, the City.



He is critical of the government's response to proposals for a tax on financial transactions which have focussed just on what is happening in the rest of the EU. He is worried that the European debate is mainly about the use of any receipts from such a tax to support the bailout fund for the banking crisis or to boost the EU budget. Leslie argues, rather, that any money should be used to boost jobs, growth and development, as was originally proposed. In Leslie's view, George Osborne should take a lead in all global financial centres and try and see if a consensus can be established along these lines. It would be a failure, in his view, if the Chancellor allowed the EU to take the route of diverting resources to the EU budget and further bailout funds. Leslie believes other countries might be interested in a financial transaction tax to support



Peter Riddell is a political commentator and Senior Fellow of the Institute for Government.

THE CITY'S WARDS

Getting the balance right

Every Monday to Friday the Square Mile is a thriving workplace for more than a third of a million people. The City is dedicated to business in all its forms, especially financial services, and its infrastructure and the way it is run reflect this.

The City Corporation's main functions are to support and promote the business City, provide the highest quality local and policing services and supply a host of extra facilities across London.

To the average worker therefore it might appear as if, apart from visitors, they were the only population in the area.

But although the City's workforce is so numerous it is also home to a small but significant resident community. There are around 9,000, and numbers have been growing slowly but gradually over recent years.

Their opinions are just as important as those of workers and businesses, especially with regard to local and policing services that affect them more directly. When the City updated its voting arrangements several years ago, any modernisation of its processes had to secure the position of residents – ie protect their 'voice' in the decision making process – which are focused mainly (but not exclusively) in four of the City's wards: Aldersgate, Cripplegate, Portsoken and Queenhithe. Aldersgate and Cripplegate

are neighbours in the north of the City, while Portsoken is on the City's eastern edge and Queenhithe is in the south next to the Thames.

Because of their resident-centric status they often have common interests with regard to local services and how they are provided but they can also have interests specific to their own particular area.

Of course these are just four of 25 wards which make up the City but they have 24 representatives (including Aldermen, the senior members of each ward) on the Court of Common Council – the City Corporation's main decision-making body.

It is balancing the needs of workers and business and residents that makes the work of the City Corporation so different from local councils across the UK.

Sometimes developments meet the needs of both stakeholders – the creation of One New Change on Cheapside, for example, seems to have met with approval from both in boosting the Square Mile's retail

“The City is a business district. Its needs are business led. This does not mean that the needs of its residents are ignored or in any way demoted. Indeed, it is the balance of the residential and business population that makes the City so special and preserving that balance is essential.”
Voting for a world class City publication, June 2000

City's residential wards: Aldersgate, Cripplegate, Portsoken and Queenhithe



offering. They can also be united in disapproval such as the amount of streetworks that take place in the City which can disrupt everyone's daily life in the Square Mile.

At other times, opinions can conflict. Creating new office buildings may be what businesses need but their size or design may cause concern to residents. There are also teams and departments which are primarily concerned with resident issues, such as the Department for Community and Children's Services and a magazine is published specifically for residents.

The City's electoral arrangements were last revisited in 1997 when the City Corporation began looking at revisions which "will meet the Government's wish that the system 'represents more accurately the various interests in the Square Mile'" [cityview issue 32, October 1997].

As of that date, the City Corporation had already held one open residents meeting on the issue as it was "particularly concerned that residents' interests should be protected as they are integral to the character and vitality of the City." This led to adjustments to the boundaries of the four residential wards to ensure that the residential vote continued to dominate in those areas.

As part of its communication and discussion on the proposals, various publications were produced to outline the revised electoral arrangements, and in particular revisions to ward boundaries.

The nature of the reforms meant that a City of London (Ward Elections) Bill had to be

passed by Parliament to make them law. It also meant that MPs and Lords had to satisfy themselves that the reforms were workable and democratic.

Former Town Clerk Tom Simmons was questioned in Parliament on the implications of the changes. In October 2002 he appeared before the Select Committee on the Bill and stated that "We are seeking to protect the residents' interests in a variety of ways in the main residential wards and we intend to adjust the boundary... In the non-residential wards... I believe that a member of the Court of Common Council will neglect at their peril the interests of residents living in those particular wards... I think guaranteeing residents seats on certain committees [and] the existence of the residents units in various consultation arrangements we are putting in place will mean that residents will get a fair crack of the whip at the end of this system. I have been mindful all the way through this process that I must protect the residential interest."

The City Corporation holds resident meetings throughout the year to brief its community on current and future issues and get feedback. In addition it carries out surveys to gauge resident satisfaction. The last of these showed a net satisfaction of 93.1% – the highest level MORI had ever recorded in a residential survey.



The City's electoral arrangements were last revisited in 1997 when the City Corporation began looking at revisions which "will meet the Government's wish that the system 'represents more accurately the various interests in the Square Mile'" cityview issue 32, October 1997



2012

A year of celebration

2012 will be a big year for London and the Square Mile in particular. Even for a City that is already well known for the quantity and quality of its events throughout the year it will be a very busy time.

The two most high profile events will be Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Each of these alone would encourage a large influx of visitors but as it is there is a huge range of additional events taking place – either connected to these or celebrations in their own right.

The City will be specially dressed to welcome the Games with suitably vibrant decoration and events will be held to welcome the Olympic Torch as it makes its way through the Square Mile. It reaches the

City on 26 July and its final journey to the Olympic Stadium will see it travelling down the Thames for the Opening Ceremony. Tower Bridge will be relit for the occasion to act as a spectacular focus for London during the Games time. The City also features on the Marathon routes and there will be plenty of opportunities to see and cheer on the athletes as they pass landmarks such as St Paul's Cathedral, Guildhall and Mansion House.

In advance of the Games, the City will have an 'open weekend' in June during which church and livery halls will open their doors to the public for them to explore their wonderful architecture, history and grandeur. In addition the Barbican Centre will host a diverse programme of art and music as part of the Cultural Olympiad.

Golden Lane Leisure Centre

Continuing the sporting theme, the iconic and Grade II Listed Golden Lane Leisure Centre reopens in January 2012, after just over a year of careful renovation work. The new centre will feature the original 20m four lane pool, sports hall and studio as well as two outdoor courts for tennis, netball, and short tennis for children. A gym now houses 38 stations and there is a treatment room. It is managed on behalf of the City of London Corporation by Fusion Lifestyle, a registered charity which manages sport and recreation facilities across the country.



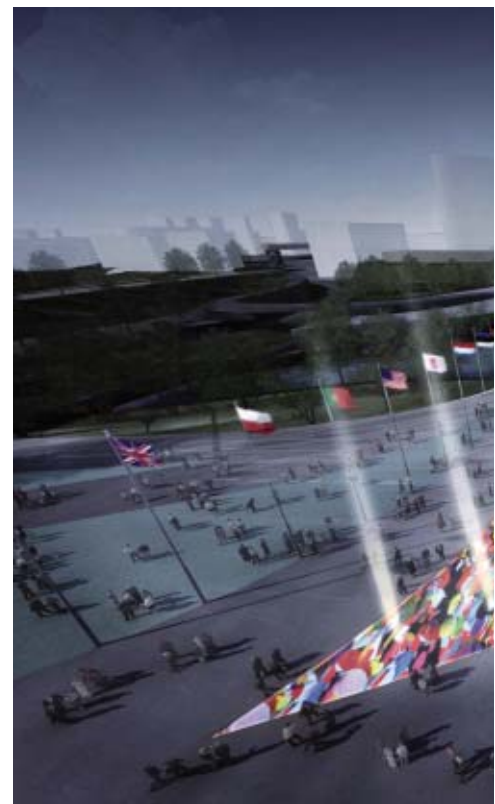
City of Sport

The City Corporation, Greater London Authority and Interactive have teamed up to focus on getting everyone active in 2012 through City of Sport – a project which runs sessions open to all levels of fitness.

The City Corporation's Sports Development team wants everyone to get involved and feel part of the Olympic legacy. So whether it is running through the City streets on a mini urban assault course, trying out its only

outdoor golf driving range, joining the only netball training session in the Square Mile or trying Zumba with friends, whatever your level of fitness, purse size or time, you can get involved.

This has been granted the Inspire Mark by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) which recognises innovative and exceptional projects directly inspired by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



City Dip

City Dip returns to its home at the Golden Lane Leisure Centre in June 2012. This annual sponsored swim raises money for The Lord Mayor's Appeal. Anyone can join in - all you have to do is complete as many lengths as possible within the times of the session you choose. Entrants can swim as individuals or as part of a team of up to six people. Every swimmer will receive a commemorative City Dip certificate and medal. The aim of the event is to get fit, have fun and raise money through sponsorship.



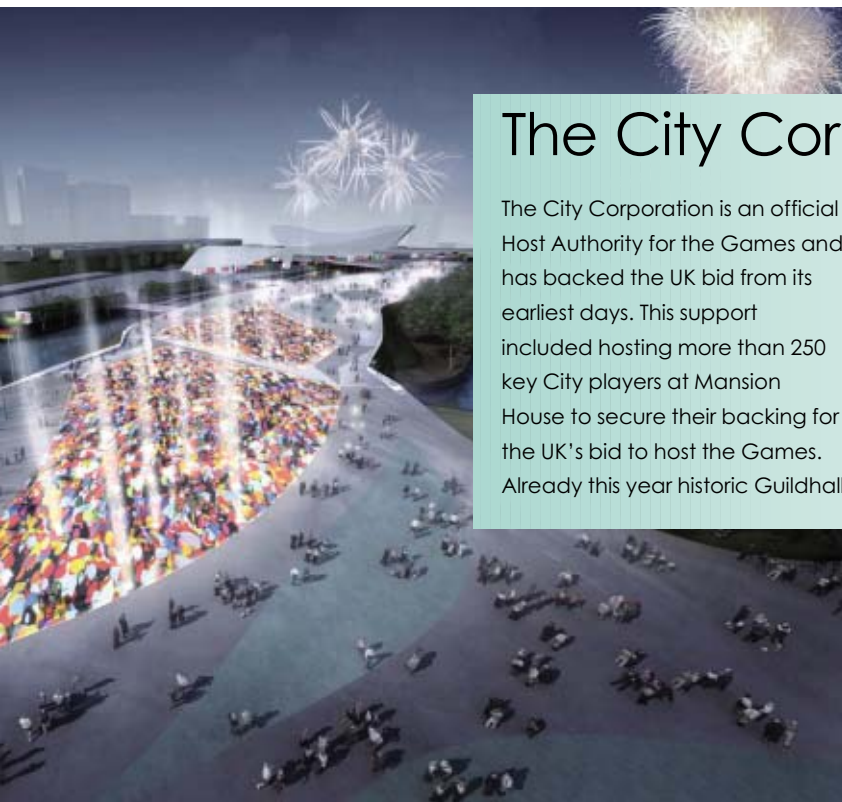


The City Corporation and the Games

The City Corporation is an official Host Authority for the Games and has backed the UK bid from its earliest days. This support included hosting more than 250 key City players at Mansion House to secure their backing for the UK's bid to host the Games. Already this year historic Guildhall

has been the venue, and provided hospitality, for the high profile Chef de Mission visits and also for a World Press Briefing in October. In addition the City Corporation's Green to Gold campaign, organised by its Open Spaces Department, has been awarded the Inspire

mark. This campaign highlights how the public can use open spaces for a vast range of activities. It also promotes the value of these to their surrounding communities and is a chance for communities to help create a lasting legacy for the Games.



City Masters

City Masters is a sports club for adults across the Square Mile comprised of three Olympic disciplines: fencing, table tennis and tennis. It offers quality coaching in each on a weekly basis, with the opportunity to train to a competitive standard and compete against other clubs. The initiative is funded by Sport England's Community Investment Fund in partnership with the City of London Sports Development team and the City of London Sports and Physical Activity Network. It has also been recognised with its 'Inspire Mark'.



Mini Marathon

The Sports Development team will be taking a squad of 11-17 year olds to the Mini London Marathon to represent the City on 22 April 2012. This event is always a fantastic occasion where elite children from all London boroughs take part to run the last 3km of the London Marathon. The London Marathon is offering each participant a ticket for one of the athletic sessions in the Olympics next August as part of efforts to support grass roots athletics.

And also

On non-sporting themes, other notable anniversaries include Charles Dickens's 200th birthday and the Museum of London will be marking the date with a special show dedicated to the famous author. Not quite so old but certainly more sprightly the City of London Festival marks its 50th year in style with a programme of arts and music throughout the summer that offers something for every taste.

Butcher, Baker and Candlestickmaker is the name of the programme being put together to celebrate 850 years of London livery company treasures which will include displays at Guildhall Art Gallery.

So look out for future editions of **cityview** and keep an eye on the City Corporation website for more details on each of these as we get nearer to the main event.



www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/2012games
www.london2012.com

STREETWORKS

Communication is the key

It seems to be a generally accepted fact that people are more willing to put up with disruption or inconvenience as long as they are told why it is happening.

Transport delays, late deliveries and technology failures are just some of the everyday problems people have to bear which can be mitigated by good communication. Why the disruption is taking place, who is responsible and how long it will last are the basic questions people want answered. If they know the answers to these they are more likely to understand and have patience.

The City Corporation has taken this to heart and is stepping up the communication surrounding one of the most contentious issues facing the City – streetworks.

Since the summer the organisation has had a new series of signs in place, organised through its Streetworks section in the newly-formed Department of the Built Environment. These signs spell out the companies responsible, the contractors carrying out the work, the reason for the work, when they are due for completion and contact details to find out more. These have been attached to free standing display stands right across the Square Mile or to the fencing surrounding these works.

This does not just cover the work for which the City Corporation is responsible – such as repairing potholes, broken paving, upgrading the highway and environmental improvements. They also cover the work carried out by the utility companies who are the major sources of streetworks.

The City has around 28 utility companies with active networks and they have statutory rights to dig up roads for new installations or repair work. Around a quarter of all streetworks is carried out by Thames Water and its contractors Clancy Docwra as part of its Victorian Mains Replacement programme. Thames Water is one company that already has consistent and widespread signage at all its sites.

In November a meeting was held with City Corporation officers and representatives of the



major utility companies. Discussions centred on, among other issues, how to minimise the duration of work carried out, especially for traffic sensitive streets, and to encourage companies to improve the quality of their signage. Irrespective of the work being carried out, the City Corporation has asked for a similar level of detail to its own signs, or those of Thames Water, to be included in external companies' signage.

Another issue to be addressed is additional signage that can be displayed when contractors are not present on site. This is a particular grievance for people when they see unstaffed works as they



believe this means the companies are not working as hard as they should be. However, this can often be for legitimate reasons – such as materials setting, water pipes being chlorinated, freezing conditions preventing the laying of concrete, the need for specialist equipment or materials or bad weather. Extra signage can at least indicate to workers, residents or visitors that these works have not been forgotten. Highways officers also carry out regular visits to sites to ensure that the reasons for work delays are legitimate and where they are not, follow these up with contractors to ensure they improve performance.

Another message to get across to people is the necessity for such works and the future benefits they will bring. Much of these streetworks are a large financial commitment by the utility companies to ensure that current and future building stock is properly served by gas, electric, water and telecomms. By including such messaging into their signage these companies can help manage frustration and expectation when their work does disrupt the roads and pavements in the City.

In terms of better overall management of these works, the City Corporation already has a permit system in place to allow for

earlier warning of streetworks and to improve coordination where possible. A Fixed Penalty Notice also allows for Highways officers to penalise companies for working without a permit or in breach of permission. The City of London takes this matter seriously and over 50 penalty charge notices have already been issued this year.

A longer term solution may be a lane rental scheme which may give utility companies a greater incentive for finishing work on or ahead of schedule (utility workers are often paid by the linear meter of cabling or pipe they lay, not by the hour). Transport for London expect to be trialling such a scheme next year and if it is successful the idea could be made available to other local authorities (currently it is not).

Stuart Fraser, the City Corporation's Chairman of Policy and Resources, believes that the long term benefits of all this work will outweigh the short

There are many ways to find out what streetworks are currently happening or are due in the near future.

Call

020 7332 3553

Email Traffic.management@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Visit

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/streetworks.

This web page includes an interactive map, a list of the week's work and a link to live traffic status on Googlemaps.

Sign up

To receive a weekly Traffic Management Bulletin by emailing lan.hughes@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Twitter

The City Corporation is also trialling a twitter feed for major road users so they can keep ahead of any changing streetworks information.

They can subscribe @Squarehighways or

twitter.com/squarehighways

or by visiting

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/streetworks



term inconvenience. "No one likes streetworks but it's only after they are completed that people can appreciate why they were done – particularly for environmental improvements such as the work on Cheapside. To continue to compete as a world class city we need the right infrastructure to support it both now and for the future. The ongoing communications programme – both ours and that of the utility companies – will hopefully go some way to alleviating frustration."

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

One of the mildest days for many a Lord Mayor's Show helped to spur an excellent turnout of spectators to greet new Lord Mayor Alderman David Wootton in November.

Although protestors were still camped at St Paul's Cathedral there was no disturbance and the Show proceeded without a hitch to ensure that the Lord Mayor's year began in style.

The mild weather would certainly have been appreciated by several, scantily-clad dancers in the Show as well as the crowds while some of the marching bands may have felt over-dressed for the temperature.

Every Show has elements that reflect the new Lord Mayor's area

of business, upbringing and personal interests. For Alderman Wootton that included floats from Bradford Grammar School, the Lord Mayor's Appeal, legal firm Allen & Overy, the Langbourn Ward Club, the Fletchers' and Bowyers' Companies, Welcome to Yorkshire and the City of Stoke on Trent.

In keeping with his background as an avid rower, the day started on the Thames (harking back to the days when the entire show was held on the river – where the term 'float' originated). A flotilla of vessels travelled from Westminster to St Katherine's Pier with the Lord Mayor's craft bringing up the rear as onlookers perched on the City's many bridges to wave on the flotilla.

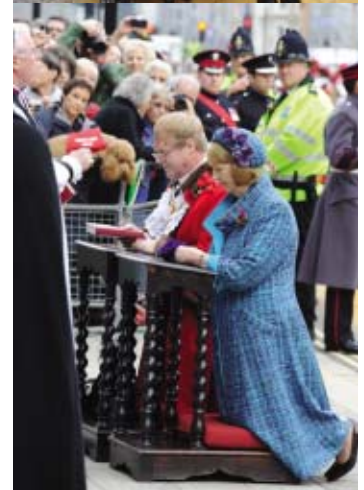


In the Show proper the armed forces were well represented, as always, with both military units and marching bands providing suitable spit and polish while many livery companies were also on hand to raise the profile of their particular trades, both ancient and modern.

The international reach of the Show means that the procession included floats from the Hong Kong government, Kerala –

Incredible India, the Mexican Chamber of Commerce and Colours of the Philippines. Not surprisingly these were among the most colourful and musical of the entries but were matched by floats sponsored by the City Corporation. These were Bromley by Bow (an innovative community organisation in east London), Pan Nation Steel Band (the newest in north London) and Paraiso Samba (based in

Warm reception for new Lord Mayor



Camden and modelled on the samba schools that help create the Rio Carnival).

Links with the wider community were also on display in the City Bridge Trust float. The Trust is London largest independent grant-maker, of which the City Corporation is sole trustee, and partnered with Heart n Soul, one of the UK's leading creative companies with learning disability culture at its heart in a float incorporating music, dance and drama. Roll on next year!



Alderman David Wootton is the 684th Lord Mayor of the City of London.

He is a partner in internationally recognised law firm Allen & Overy. He joined after studying law at Jesus College, Cambridge, and the College of Law and has advised a wide range of British, North American and European companies on all kinds of corporate transactions – from mergers and acquisitions to insolvency and restructuring.

The Lord Mayor is elected annually and is both head of the City of London Corporation and a dedicated ambassador who supports and promotes the City as the world leader in international finance and business services. His year will include around 90 days travelling abroad to foster goodwill and boost British trade, especially the markets and services of the City.



His appeal for the year is Fit for the Future which aims to promote better health opportunities for all, including those from some of the UK's most deprived areas. Monies raised will go to five charities with the primary recipient being Barts and the London Charity on behalf of the Trauma Unit at the Royal London Hospital. Other recipients are Fields in Trust, London Youth Rowing, The Rowing Foundation and Futures for Kids.

For more information on the new Lord Mayor visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lordmayor or to receive a copy of his official biography contact Public Relations on 020 7332 3099 or pro@cityoflondon.gov.uk For more information on his chosen charity visit www.thelordmayorsappeal.org

ARTS FOCUS

Christmas shopping – Barbican style

As the festive season gets well underway there will probably be more than a few people fed up with shopping, endless queues and a belief that the real spirit of Christmas has been lost.

If so then the Barbican has the perfect antidote to any festive blues with its **Copyright Christmas** – an alternative seasonal show that takes a tongue-in-cheek approach to the commercialisation of Christmas.

The audience will be invited to move through the show by stepping inside a superstore for a chance to buy their dreams – love, peace and happiness – all boxed up as consumer durables. Conspicuous consumption will be the order of the day with saucy shopaholics, supermarket sweepers and sweatshop santas all leading to the question: does Christmas mean more than shopping?

Copyright Christmas is being staged by Duckie, a collective of cabaret artists who have previously won rave reviews for their production **C'est Barbican!** Although the production is aimed at provoking discussion about what really makes Christmas, the emphasis will be on providing a good romp for the audience rather than any heavy handed messages.



But there is more on offer from Duckie than just the show. In keeping with its shopping theme there will be a Christmas market within the Barbican foyer including more than 60 stalls, with new ones set up every day.

These will showcase cult craft people, underground artisans, DIY designers, thrifty retro hawkers and community art curios – all offering goods at affordable prices. Items to buy will range from housewares to clothes and speciality foods to cards.

There is also a Crafty Christmas Workshop on selected dates that will give people the chance to learn new crafts skills and create their own Christmas presents and wrapping paper.

Duckie – Copyright Christmas runs until 31 December at the Barbican Theatre (age guidance 11+).



More information and to book tickets
0845 120 7511
theatre@barbican.org.uk
www.barbican.org.uk/theatre

One man and his city

This winter the Museum of London delves into "A tale of one man and his city..."

As part of Dickens 2012, marking the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens's birth, the Museum of London is opening the largest exhibition of this event, **Dickens and London**.

The exhibition examines the central relationship between the great novelist and London – the city he described as his "magic lantern". It will evoke the atmosphere of Victorian London and the River Thames which inspired Dickens's settings, characters and plots. Visitors can follow in his footsteps and take a memorable and haunting journey, discovering the places which sparked his imagination.

Items on display include –

- Dickens's writing desk and chair
- William Powell Frith's celebrated portrait of Dickens lent by the V&A
- Original and rarely seen manuscripts of *Bleak House* and *David Copperfield*

The exhibition will also feature costumes from the upcoming BBC drama adaptation of *Great Expectations*.

Alex Werner, Head of History Collections at the Museum of London and lead curator of *Dickens and London*, said: "Dickens is the first author to describe the modern city of the 19th century and its profound



impact on society and, in particular, on ordinary people. London was Dickens's inspiration. He knew its alleys and streets better than anyone. His writings remain relevant especially for the rapidly developing mega-cities around the world today, which face many of the problems and challenges that impacted on Victorian London 150 years ago."

Alongside the opening of the exhibition, the Museum will be launching a new iPhone and iPad

graphic novel app, **Dickens: Dark London**, guiding users through the darker side of Charles Dickens's London. These will

be published monthly throughout the run of the exhibition. The first edition will be available free of charge with following editions available for download monthly from iTunes at the cost of £1.49.

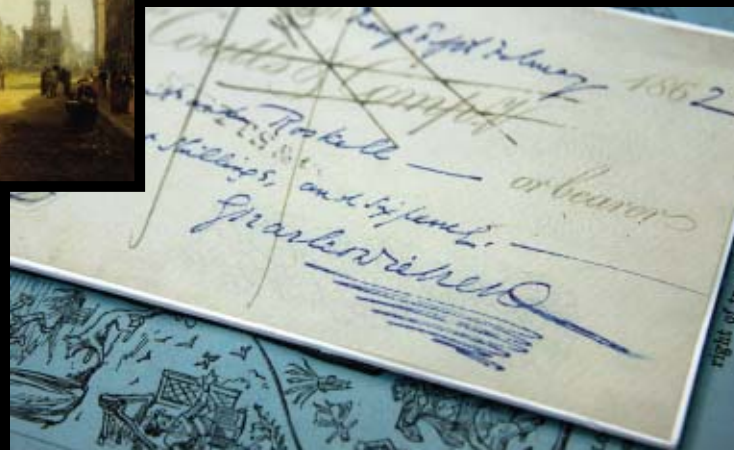
Until 10 February 2012, the acclaimed creative director and set designer, Simon Costin, will be designing a playful and contemporary window installation inspired by the exhibition. The display will create a fantastical vision of a wintery London in the mid-19th century. The model will explore winding alleys, shop fronts and at night, hundreds of tiny LED lights will illuminate to make the murky windows of the city and street lamps glimmer. The installation will also feature stylised

versions of Victorian 'window tappers'. These were once small mechanical toys, which were wound up and would tap against the glass of a shop window to attract the attention of passersby.

The Museum of London has also commissioned artist Suki Chan to produce a work that responds to the nocturnal world of Charles Dickens's London and draws parallels with the modern city. The commission will be displayed in the museum's entrance, entitled 'Sleep Walk, Sleep Talk'.

There are also a number of events alongside the exhibition including an after-hours exhibition with live music from the London Gay Men's Chorus, a screening of the 1946 adaptation of *Great Expectations* and a number of walks that look at how Dickens was inspired by Victorian London.

Dickens and London runs until 10 June 2012. For more information on events and ticket prices visit www.museumoflondon.org.uk or call 020 7001 9844



NEWS IN BRIEF

...and finally

All presents and correct

Shoppers are spoilt for choice for Christmas presents and for new year bargains in the City.

From the historic surroundings of Leadenhall Market and the Royal Exchange to the modern environments of the Paternoster Square area and One New Change, now one year old, there are plenty of opportunities to find presents for the whole family. There are also 'hidden gems' on Bow Lane and gifts on a more specific theme from the Museum of London shop.

There will also be carol singing, tree lighting and other activities on offer in keeping with the festive season.

And from Boxing Day onwards many stores will be open to attract shoppers looking for a break from television and to pick up bargains.

More information
www.visitthecity.co.uk



In time for the festive season two new books offer attractive explorations of different elements of the City.

London 1000 Years documents treasures from the collections of the City of London. It covers items from the 11th century right up to present day, chosen and described by the experts who curate them, in full colour. Highlights include the City's

charter from William the Conqueror, its Magna Carta, a property deed signed by Shakespeare and pre-Raphaelite paintings.

The City of London: Architectural Tradition and Innovation in the Square Mile is an illustrated celebration of its architecture and of the City. Its main part is divided into eight chapters, each devoted to a particular district of the City and includes entries on individual buildings and urban spaces. These range from major landmarks such as St Paul's Cathedral and 20th-century developments such as the Barbican, and each of the bridges that connects the City with the South Bank.

Both are available from book stores and online.

Protest camp at St Paul's cathedral

At the time **cityview** went to press protesters were still camped outside St Paul's Cathedral.

Legal proceedings have commenced in the High Court to remove the tents and the

case is due to be heard on 19 December.

The City Corporation's position remains that, while lawful protest is a democratic right, it does not extend to the right to set up a camp in the present location.

This situation can change on a daily basis so for the latest information please check the latest news box on our website homepage.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

Good call

Motorists parking on-street in the Square Mile can now pay by mobile phone in 84 locations across the City.

The PayByPhone service is an easy and secure payment method and an alternative to the traditional methods using the Pay & Display machines.

Customers using the service for the first time will need to register their vehicle registration number and payment card details, using their phone to send a text, visit the mobile website, download the PayByPhone app or make a phone call.

Once registered the parking payment is completed in less than one minute and users can also get on-line receipts.



More information
www.paybyphone.co.uk

