



Billingsgate

Charities within the Ward: In Kind Direct providing access to life's essentials

The Ward of Billingsgate is home to a number of local and national charitable organisations which play an important role in improving the lives of those in need. Your representatives Matt, Jamie and John are pleased to bring focus to one of those organisations in this newsletter, in what, we hope, is the first in a series.

Founded in 1996 by HRH The Prince of Wales, In Kind Direct works to ensure that everyone has access to life's essentials. They distribute new donated consumer products to thousands of UK charities. In Kind Direct enables all types of small grassroots organisations across the UK to thrive. It's a simple idea. The Prince was aware of the scale and quantity of products sitting in companies' warehouses, unwanted and destined for landfill because of some slight imperfection. At the same time he knew that cash-strapped charities were struggling to find those very items to use in their operations or give to beneficiaries. What was needed was a trusted and professional organisation to make those connections and that was the foundation upon which In Kind Direct has grown and expanded.

In Kind Direct is now a leading national charity. In 21 years, they have distributed £200 million in value of products to 9,000 charities working at the front lines of some of the UK's toughest social issues. Goods have been donated by 1,000 manufacturers and retailers, including Procter & Gamble, Johnson & Johnson, Disney, L'Oréal, Amazon, Kimberly-Clark, Mars Pet Nutrition, Essity, Colgate Palmolive and many more. Over two million people are helped every year. Demand continues to grow and there is still lots more to do.

In Kind Direct needs to raise around £500,000 every year. With the financial support In Kind Direct receives, it enables them to focus on finding the depth and breadth of essential goods which small charities and their

beneficiaries need. Wherever In Kind Direct works, it continues to bridge the gap between unnecessary waste and putting essential products to use as they were originally intended, relieving hardship with quality products, bringing dignity to those most in need. Every cash donation received is multiplied at least tenfold in value of products received by charities. With one point of contact, donors help every type of charity right across the spectrum.

Your representatives Matt, Jamie and John support the valuable and critical role played by In Kind Direct in the community and encourage everyone in the Ward of Billingsgate to take an active interest in its activities. For more information on In Kind Direct and how they bring life's essentials to charities and people in need, visit their website on <https://www.inkinddirect.org> or give CEO Robin Boles a call on 0300 3020240.

Case study

St Vincent's is a residential care home for armed forces veterans and joined

In Kind Direct three years ago. They offer a variety of services. Last year, they noticed a change in Jim. He had started to exclude himself from activities he had always enjoyed and had begun to visit the centre less often. Sharon Atter, Manager at St Vincent's, explained how a simple shaving kit helped to change that:

"Jim, like many of our residents, has a very small personal budget. We had noticed his appearance start to deteriorate and subsequently seen Jim start to opt out of team activities. A soldier always maintains a clean appearance and we wondered if his self-exclusion from activities was down to shame of his appearance. I told him about an electric razor we could get through In Kind Direct and his eyes lit up. We were able to allocate some of our welfare budget to order a razor for Jim and he was so thrilled. He went upstairs with a full beard and came down clean shaven with a huge smile of his face. We wouldn't have been able to make that possible for Jim without In Kind Direct. Being able to provide everyday essentials make a huge difference to confidence, health and well-being."



Jim-before and after

Aldgate Square is open for business (and pleasure)



By the time this ward newsletter is distributed, the new-look Aldgate Square will be open to the public, ahead of its formal public opening on 4 July.

This project has taken several years and involved major changes to the highway layout and public realm improvements. The main aim was regeneration of the

area for the benefit of business and the local community. And the area has had more greenery introduced alongside a new public space and improved lighting – making the area more inviting – a place for people to linger, socialise and enjoy. Safety for road users has been enhanced including new cycle routes and pedestrian access.

A significant new addition is the Portsoken Pavilion, a steel and glass building housing a social enterprise café operated by Kahaila and providing a new hub promoting events, leisure and play.

While Aldgate Square is the centerpiece of this transformational scheme (sitting between Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and St Botolph without Aldgate Church), it has been joined by an

eastern public space at the junction of Middlesex Street and St Botolph Street.

Changes to the traffic layout were completed early in the project timeline. The finished area provides new pedestrian crossing points and allows easier navigation of bus services.

The project has introduced two-way traffic on Aldgate High Street, St Botolph Street, a section of Middlesex Street and Minories. It has already had a significant impact by helping to bring air pollution at the nearby Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School below the legal annual limit for the first time since monitoring began in 2003.
cityoflondon.gov.uk/aldgatearea

Stop press: An Aldgate Square Festival will be held on 15-17 June celebrating all the area has to offer including music, activities, talks, performances and a children's area.

It's free to enter and open to all.
cityoflondon.gov.uk/aldgatesquarefestival



City small businesses: do you qualify for rate relief?

The City Corporation is encouraging small businesses to check if they are missing out on business rate tax relief.

If you're a City business whose sole or main property has a rateable value of £12,000-£15,000 you could be eligible to get a reduction in your business rates of up to 100%. Properties with a rateable value of £12,000 or less get a 100% reduction in their rates bill.

If you meet the eligibility criteria and aren't currently in receipt of rate relief, please contact the City Corporation business rates section.

Find out if your business qualifies and apply via:
cityoflondon.gov.uk/raterelief



General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Data Protection legislation in the UK has changed, with the introduction of the GDPR on 25 May 2018 and a new Data Protection Act. This new legislation is designed to enhance the rights of individuals regarding the use of their personal data by bringing data protection compliance into the modern digital age.

It also introduces new, rigorous, requirements for all organisations, in relation to the reasons for processing personal data, and the manner in which it is processed.

The City Corporation has been busy over the last few months, reviewing and updating its data protection policies and procedures, and taking all necessary steps to ensure it fully complies with the new legal requirements for processing the personal data of its customers, clients and staff (data subjects).

Updated information, including our new data protection policy and full privacy notice, is available at:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/dataprotection
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/privacy
or by emailing information.officer@cityoflondon.gov.uk



High fibre for the City



Until recently broadband speeds in the City have been amongst the slowest in the UK, affecting small business tenants who cannot afford dedicated fibre optic leased lines.

However Openreach is now seeking to roll out "Fibre To The Premises" to every building in the Square Mile **at no cost to the landlord**, offering faster speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second at affordable prices for businesses and residents.

Openreach will use existing ducting to access buildings, avoiding street works to install the new fibre infrastructure into basements. This work will require landlord consent in the form of wayleave and Openreach will need to undertake a quick building survey.

Openreach will undertake a phased roll out across the City shown on the map.

Residents and business tenants interested should visit
cityoflondon.gov.uk/fibrebroadband
or contact cpat@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Car park spaces at Smithfield Rotunda

Did you know? You can hire car parking spaces during weekdays and weekends at a reasonable cost.

Smithfield Rotunda, located in West Smithfield is manned 24 hours per day, with good lighting and within easy walking distance for most of the recipients of this newsletter.

For more information on hiring and pricing details, please contact the Smithfield.Market@cityoflondon.gov.uk





Billingsgate

Who We Are



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Court of Aldermen
Court of Common Council
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Audit and Risk Management Committee
Court of Common Council
Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee
Markets Committee
Standards Appeals Committee



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Committee Appointments:
Audit and Risk Management Committee (Ex-Officio Member)
Benefices Sub (Culture, Heritage & Libraries) Committee
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee (Deputy Chairman)
Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee
Efficiency and Performance Sub (Finance) Committee (Deputy Chairman)
Establishment Committee
Finance Committee (Deputy Chairman)
Financial Investment Board
Information Technology Sub (Finance) Committee (Chairman)
Investment Committee (Ex-Officio Member)
Joint Consultative Committee
Licensing Committee
Members Privileges Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee
Planning and Transportation Committee
Policy and Resources Committee
Projects Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee (Deputy Chairman)
Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee
Standards Committee

Ward Constable



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CONTACT US

To write to any of your Members, to let us know if you wish to receive this newsletter by email in future, or to inform us if you wish to be taken off the distribution list write c/o

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We are always happy to talk to workers and residents within the Ward about any issues you may wish to raise. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a meeting.

COMMUNICATING WITH THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE CITY OF LONDON



Your ward representatives following the introduction of John Petrie (right) to the Court of Common Council on the day of RAF display in Guildhall Yard.