



# Bridge

## A Visitor Centre for the Monument

The Monument has stood proudly since construction work finished in 1677 as a signifier and reminder of the rebuilding of the City following the Great Fire. Standing 202ft tall, of course Dr Robert Hooke and Christopher Wren designed the iconic Doric column with its unmistakable 'flaming orb' to be a stark reminder of both the devastation brought about by the fire and to convey the positive message of the City rising from the ashes.

It was also, however, intended for a secret scientific purpose...

As the Royal Society's Curator of Experiments and a member of its council, Robert Hooke made provision for experiments to be carried out in a bespoke laboratory within the Monument's small basement. Think standing at the base of a tall but narrow 'well': the idea was that the entire column would act as a giant zenith telescope (its orb opens), and Hooke hoped to use the Monument in this way to measure the changes in positions of stars and calculate the radius of the earth's orbit around the sun. Sadly, the vibrations from nearby horse and cart traffic rendered any readings taken as wholly inaccurate, after which the idea of the Monument as a telescope was abandoned. Regardless, there were many important experiments successfully undertaken in its laboratory, including the demonstration of the rotation of the earth using the movement of a pendulum hanging from top to bottom.

So the question remains, why is this very interesting part of the Monument's history so little-known? In truth, the visitor experience at the Monument simply does not currently have scope for retelling this tale and many others: its 200K visitors per year enter through a narrow stone tunnel, after



Visitors climb 311 steps to reach the Monument's viewing platform



The Monument stands on the intersection of Fish St Hill and Monument Street

which they purchase a ticket inside a tiny corridor, then enjoy the views from the top. In other words, there simply isn't space for anything other than climbing and descending its 311 steps...until now.

The City Corporation is in the process of finalising proposals and designs for a standalone Visitor Centre in the middle of the Monument piazza. This new facility will allow visitors to not just climb the Monument itself but to learn much more about its rich history over the last 351 years. It is expected the new structure will comprise an exhibition space, a modern retail facility, new content and old artefacts, augmented and virtual reality experiences, a room for facilitating education sessions aimed at Key Stages of the National Curriculum and perhaps even a small venue for hire. Consultations are currently being carried out with key stakeholders, including Historic

England, to ensure the resulting structure will complement and be sympathetic to the historic nature of the Monument and its surrounding area.

It is hoped this new Visitor Centre will open its doors to visitors for the first time in 2020, and that its entrance will sit mere inches away from the exact spot the fire is believed to have started on Pudding Lane.

**Chris Earlie**  
Head of Tower Bridge and the Monument

### "Parish Marker"

The plaque, recently mounted in Monument Yard, is almost certainly a condition of the planning approval for the redevelopment of 11-19 Monument Street. The City's Planning Authority insists that historic artefacts synonymous with the area are retained within or close to their site of origin. This is a common occurrence and is consistent with the City of London Local Plan.



The plaque refers to St Leonard, Eastcheap (L.E.) a City of London Parish Church. The Great Fire of 1666 destroyed this church which was never rebuilt. The area was latterly amalgamated into a new parish arrangement, not uncommon given the devastation wrought by the Great Fire. The plaque itself was placed in position in 1886 and is the 19th marker on the walking route.

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

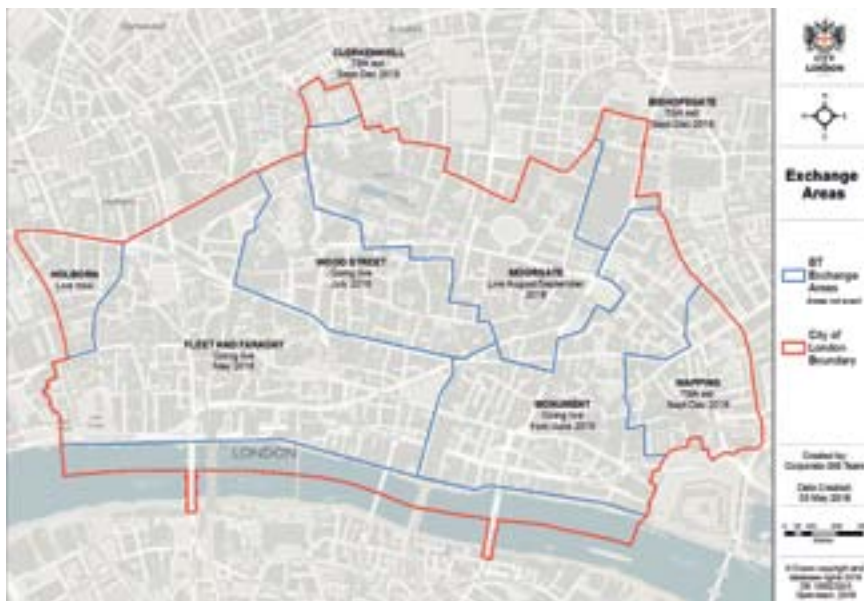
The City Corporation has been busy over the last few months, reviewing and updating its data protection policies and procedures, and taking all necessary steps to ensure it fully complies with the new legal requirements for processing the personal data of its customers, clients and staff (data subjects).

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

[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/dataprotection](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/dataprotection)  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/privacy)  
or by emailing [information.officer@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/fibrebroadband)  
or contact [cpat@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Smithfield.Market@cityoflondon.gov.uk)





# Bridge

## Who We Are



**Alderman Sir Alan Yarrow**  
E-mail: alan.yarrow@cisi.org

**Committee Appointments:**

Committee of Aldermanic Almoners, Common Council  
Governors and Donation Governors of Christ's Hospital  
Court of Aldermen  
Court of Common Council  
The Committee of Aldermen to Administer the Sir William  
Coxen Trust Fund



**Deputy Keith Bottomley**  
E-mail: keith.bottomley@cityoflondon.gov.uk

**Committee Appointments:**

Board of Governors of the City of London School  
Capital Buildings Committee  
Court of Common Council  
Economic Crime Board of the Police Committee  
Education Board  
Establishment Committee  
Finance & Estates Sub-Committee of the Board of  
Governors of the City of London School  
Information Technology Sub (Finance) Committee  
Licensing Committee  
Local Plans Sub (Planning and Transportation) Committee  
Member Development Steering Group  
Performance and Resource Management Sub  
(Police) Committee  
Planning and Transportation Committee  
Police Committee  
Policy and Resources Committee  
Port Health & Environmental Services Committee  
(Deputy Chairman)  
Projects Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee (Chairman)  
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub  
(Policy & Resources) Committee  
Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee  
Standards Appeals Committee  
Streets and Walkways Sub (Planning and Transportation) Committee



**Tim Levene CC**  
E-mail: tim@timlevene.co.uk

**Committee Appointments:**

Board of Governors of the City of London School  
Court of Common Council  
Finance Committee  
Information Technology Sub (Finance) Committee  
Investment Committee  
Markets Committee

## 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

Member Services  
City of London  
Guildhall  
London EC2P 2EJ

or email  
col-eb-tc@cityoflondon.gov.uk



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

### Vanquis Bank & Mencap



Vanquis Banks', based at 20 Fenchurch St in the Ward, approach to corporate social responsibility is to create partnerships with charities that deliver mutual benefits and sustainable impacts. We provide investment to create new services or products that, in turn, might attract new and additional funding for our partner. Colleague engagement opportunities are also at the heart of any partnership, e.g. volunteering, fundraising activities and sporting challenge events that promote wellbeing and team work, activities that underpin our social purpose.

Since April 2016 we have been working in partnership with Mencap. Through our involvement in Learning Disabilities Work Experience Week in 2015 we identified a gap in Mencap's provision of employment services in Bradford and Chatham.

To date 470 people with a learning disability have been reached and supported through this partnership including 180 who have completed the employment programmes in Bradford and Chatham, with 32 gaining paid employment and a further 41 taking up volunteering positions or work placements.

In London, we have provided funding to support Mencap's new programme to promote inclusion in schools – the 'All in Award'. Research suggests that children with learning disabilities are less accepted and have fewer friends than non-disabled children. An assessment of the 'All in Award' was carried out by UCL in July 2016 confirming that the initial pilot involving 286 children did improve childrens' attitudes towards peers with learning disabilities.

Additional funding has been provided to allow this programme to be rolled out to schools in Chatham, and eventually in Bradford.

We are also collaborating with Mencap to utilise their expert knowledge help our customer-facing colleagues identify, understand and support customers exhibiting mental capacity limitations.

And our colleagues have given 574 business hours to support the delivery of the programmes in Bradford and Chatham, and participated in fundraising activities; in 2017, a total of £42,604 was raised.

**Annette Saunders**  
Corporate Responsibility Manager

