



# Broad Street

## Born On Broad Street: Gresham's Ground-breaking College

*By Dr Wendy Piatt, Chief Executive of Gresham College*



**Sir Thomas Gresham**

Broad Street ward should be very proud of its role in nurturing the wonderful Gresham College, London's first ever higher education institute. The College's birthplace in 1597 was a magnificent mansion on Bishopsgate, just off Broad Street, former home of its founder, Sir Thomas Gresham. Arranged around a quadrangle just like an Oxbridge College, the house remained the residence of Gresham College until 1768. You can see a plaque on the site of the old NatWest Tower (Tower 42).

The College was a hub of intellectual activity – fizzing with new ideas and theories; Sir Thomas wanted ordinary folk of London – merchants and craftsmen – to hear all about the latest breakthroughs in both academic and practical knowledge – what he called the 'new learning'. But traditionally, higher education was conducted only in Latin as was the practice

at Oxford and Cambridge at that time. So in a ground-breaking move, Sir Thomas called for the lectures to be taught in English for the very first time in England. This linguistic innovation may have even encouraged one playwright based just across the River at the Globe to frequent the College. Ben Jonson apparently criticised William Shakespeare for having "small Latin and less Greek"! It is entirely possible that the Bard himself listened to some Gresham lectures.

And for me there is a personal coincidence when it comes to speculating who may have engaged in intellectual exchanges in those very early days of the College. My own doctoral thesis focused on a group of writers working mainly in the 1590s who also may have paid a visit to Gresham. I joke about the stars being aligned when the College embarked on their hunt for a new CEO last year. But it is certainly true that the College embodies the values and ethos that have motivated me throughout my career. The location of the College may have changed since it was founded – we are now based at the stunning 14th-century Barnard's Inn Hall, one of the original Inns of Court. But the mission – to make world-class knowledge freely accessible to the public – has stayed the same for over 400 years. And this fruitful marriage between history and modernity that runs through the DNA of the College prevails to this day. So while the time-honoured format of the university lecture is core to what we do, we harness cutting-edge technology live-streaming most lectures and posting all our videos on our website and YouTube.

And while we have retained the 7 Professorships enshrined in Sir Thomas's will which range from medicine to music,

**continued on the back page**



# COVID-19 Booster and Flu Vaccines



The number of cases of COVID-19 in London is rising. But the COVID-19 booster programme can make a real difference. Boosters are available to those 50 years old or older, people who work in health or social care or younger people who have a long-term health condition. The jab boosts waning immunity for those most at risk over the winter period. More than eight million people in the UK have already received their COVID-19 booster vaccine. People will be invited by the NHS when it's their turn. If you have not been contacted within a week of reaching six months since your second vaccine you can call 119 or book online or visit various walk-in sites across London.

Flu is another virus that can be serious. To give people the best

protection over winter, those over 50 years old, and people who have a long-term health condition or are pregnant are eligible for a free flu vaccine and should book an appointment at either their GP practice or their local pharmacy.

The offer of a first and second COVID-19 vaccine remains open to anyone who is eligible, including children aged 12 to 15 years old.

Some of the new variants of concern spread more quickly. This means it is even more important to get both doses of the vaccine or just one dose for those aged between 12 and 17 years old.

[www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations)

## Free cycle services on offer



The City of London Corporation is calling on residents and workers to take advantage of free cycle services as the Square Mile's buzz returns.

Throughout the pandemic, many people across England took to two wheels as the benefits of fresh air and sustainable travel became even more evident during the months of lockdown.

TfL revealed that cycling levels during the coronavirus pandemic were boosted from 21 per cent of Londoners in 2019/20 to 27 per cent in 2020/21.

Those who live, work or study in the City of London are eligible to receive free cycle training from expert instructors who will tailor the session to the rider's ability – from first-time riders to regular cyclists looking to improve confidence.

Since August last year, a total of 218 adult cycle skills sessions have been undertaken by Pedal Me and Cycle Confident in the City of London. In addition, two Square Mile schools have benefited from school cycle training sessions.

**More on the Cycle Confident free training:** [cycleconfident.com/sponsors/city-of-london/](http://cycleconfident.com/sponsors/city-of-london/); **the Pedal Me business cargo bike rider training:** [pedalme.co.uk/training/](http://pedalme.co.uk/training/)

# Meet your candidates

By the time you receive this newsletter the deadline for registering to vote in next year's City elections will almost be due – 16 December.

If you are registered you will be able to vote for the City's Common Councillors in March 2022. These elections are held by 'first past the post' and you will have the same number of votes as councillors you are electing, eg three votes in a three-member ward. If there is a vacancy for an Alderman in your ward next year, you will also have one vote in that election.

You will also be invited to attend your ward's Wardmote, a meeting similar to a hustings, the day before the election, 23 March 2022. This will give you the opportunity to meet your candidates and ask them questions. You will be able to vote in your allocated polling station on polling day, 24 March 2022. As with any other election, you can request a postal vote without needing a reason. If you think you might be away from the City or busy on Election Day, you might want to arrange a postal vote that goes to your home or work address. Postal votes are usually dispatched 10 working days before polling day.

Updated information on the wardmotes, their timing and location will appear on the website.

Invitations to the meetings will also be sent to all electors.

**If you have any queries regarding the meeting in your Ward please contact the Electoral Services Office on 0800 587 5537, [electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk) or [speakforthecity.com](http://speakforthecity.com)**



## WORK OR LIVE IN THE CITY?

## REGISTER TO VOTE BY 16TH DECEMBER

[www.speakforthecity.com](http://www.speakforthecity.com)

 **SPEAK FOR THE CITY**



The City of London Corporation has mounted a new campaign to support retail, leisure and hospitality businesses as well as cultural attractions by encouraging people back into the Square Mile for work and play.

The "Square Smile" campaign is designed to raise awareness of the benefits of returning to the City and face-to-face interaction as firms increasingly give their staff more flexibility on where they locate through hybrid working. It showcases the City's vibrant offer – ranging from world-class culture, heritage, cuisine, entertainment, retail, architecture and much more.

The campaign – which runs until the beginning of 2022 – targets hybrid workers as well as those who have fully returned to their workplace. The campaign seeks to remind them of all the things they missed during the pandemic, including socialising and enjoying the City's culture and entertainment. Whether it be collaborating with teammates, going for a spontaneous lunch or having the opportunity to go for after work drinks, the City can help to bring people together.

[cityoflondon.gov.uk/squaresmile](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/squaresmile)

## ASK FOR ANGELA

**By telling customers that they can 'Ask for Angela' we're giving them a discreet code word that they can give to staff if they feel unsafe or threatened.**

The City of London Police, City of London Corporation and Metropolitan Police Service are working in partnership with Safer Sounds, who are part of the Safer Business Network, and licensed venues to help keep people safe while in the City of London.

The 'Ask for Angela' initiative is being rolled out to bars, clubs and other licensed businesses across the whole of London, including in the City of London. The scheme aims to reduce sexual violence and vulnerability by providing customers with a phrase they can use to get the attention of staff if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable. Staff can help by reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or by calling venue security and/or the police.

The City of London Police, City of London Corporation and Metropolitan Police Service are working in partnership with Safer Sounds, who are part of the Safer Business Network, and licensed venues to help keep people safe while in the City of London.

Many of the City's bars, clubs and other licensed businesses are getting busier and will continue to do so in the lead up to Christmas. For many people, this could be the first time they have been to a licensed premises during the festive period in two years, due to the pandemic.



# Broad Street

## Who We Are



**Alderman**  
**Professor Michael Mainell**  
E-mail: michael\_mainelli@zyen.com  
Tel: 020 7562 9562

**Committee Appointments:**  
Culture, Heritage & Libraries  
City & Guilds (Council)  
Emanuel Hospital Sub-committee (Chairman)



**John Scott J.P., Deputy**  
E-mail: john@historystore.ltd.uk  
Tel: 01258 880841

**Committee Appointments:**  
Christ's Hospital  
Finance  
Gresham (City Side)  
Guildhall Club (Chairman)  
Markets  
Museum of London



**John Bennett MBE, C.C.**  
E-mail: john45bennett@gmail.com  
Tel: 020 8579 6890

**Committee Appointments:**  
Culture, Heritage & Libraries  
City of London Freeman's School Board  
Port Health & Environmental Services



**Christopher Hayward**  
E-mail: chris@chrishayward.city  
Tel: 01923 291574

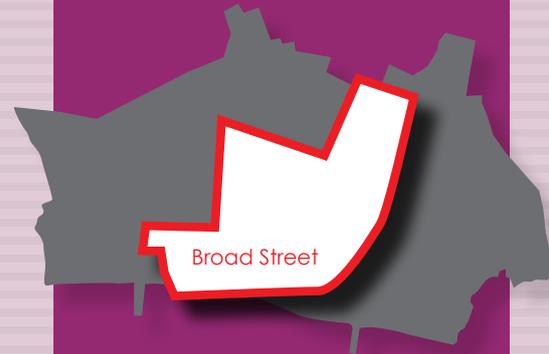
**Committee Appointments:**  
Capital Buildings  
Establishment  
Finance (ex officio)  
Gresham (City Side) (Chairman)  
Investment  
Livery  
Planning & Transportation  
Policy & Resources (Deputy Chairman)  
Property Investment Board  
Children & Community Services

## Designated Ward Officers

**P.C. Shuttleworth and P.C. Brooks**  
[dwo.liverpoolstcluster@cityoflondonpolice.uk](mailto:dwo.liverpoolstcluster@cityoflondonpolice.uk)  
**020 7601 2407**

## CONTACT US

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, only want to receive an email notification to download it or are receiving more than one copy per household then please send your details and the name of your ward newsletter to [wardnewsletters@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:wardnewsletters@cityoflondon.gov.uk) and we will amend our database.

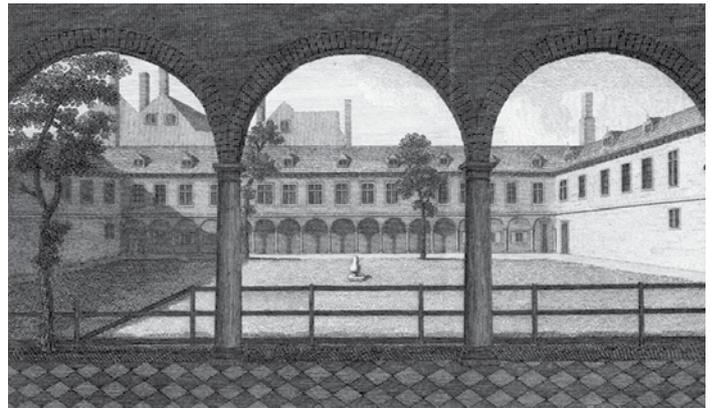


We are always happy to talk to workers and residents within the Ward about any issues you may wish to raise. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a meeting.

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

*continued from the front page*

3 more disciplines – Environment, IT and Business – have joined the fold. Indeed, another great strength of the College is the breadth and diversity of the topics the lectures tackle. For example, this year we have a course on the history of the Universe, called Cosmic Revolutions, a primer on The Principles of Finance including a lecture on how to save and invest; and a course on Six Tech Inventions that Changed the World. And a series by our Professor of Medicine who is also the Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty, on Infections and their Routes of Transmission. And if that's not your cup of tea, take a look at our website [www.gresham.ac.uk/attend](http://www.gresham.ac.uk/attend) – there are over 3000 fascinating lectures and films to choose from!



**Original College - Inside**

## The Broad Street Ward Club

Our Ward Club exists to foster fellowship within the Ward and welcomes new members, whether you work, live or simply have an interest in our historic part of the City. In normal times a regular programme of social events is organised giving members the opportunity to learn more about the City's traditions, governance and institutions. Among the upcoming events are the traditional Carol Service at St. Margaret Lothbury on 15th December 2021 and a Whisky Tasting and Supper at The Scotch Malt Whisky Society on Thursday 27th January 2022. Anyone with an interest in the Ward is most welcome and should contact the Secretary at the address below.

For more details please contact the Secretary at [secretary@broadstreetwardclub.org](mailto:secretary@broadstreetwardclub.org)