



# FLEET STREET QUARTER CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR

Lady Lucy French,  
CEO Fleet Street Quarter

A landmark moment has arrived, Fleet Street Quarter is celebrating its first year! The streets of these 43-hectares of the City of London abound with a cacophony of life and reinvention, the last year has seen events, activities and plenty of fact finding.

Fleet Street Quarter BID was given a strong mandate to deliver its plan for the area by the local business community. To me it feels rather like conducting a symphony, four key sections building together to create one mighty sound, a crescendo that will resonate far into the future. The composer and orchestra are the people that work, live and invest in this important part of our City. The four key parts, the movements if you will, that make up the BID business plan are putting Fleet

Street Quarter back on the map, cleaning and greening, creating a connected community, and safety and security, all of which a crucial in developing this area into a thriving Quarter.

We have consulted with the community to discover what works, what doesn't, what people want to do to have fun, to feel safe, to feel part of the City's Net Zero ambitions, to feel engaged with their environment and to feel part of a drive for growth and investment to create a sustainable, resilient City. Your voices are critical to the future, to delivering on the ambitions that you, the community, have set. It is not merely one set of individuals that drive innovation and change, Fleet Street Quarter BID is embracing a collective, collegiate response working together with our community, key stakeholders and the City of London Corporation, acting as the glue between public and private sector and a catalyst for a revitalised Quarter.

**WORKING TOGETHER WITH OUR COMMUNITY, KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION**

So... what are we doing to achieve this? This April we have launched our Destination Marketing Report, *The Future is the Fleet Street Quarter*. It positions the footprint as the emerging place to work and thrive in the capital, showcasing the extensive development pipeline. Investment is big and bold; 3 million square feet and a value of around £5 billion encouraging a growth in occupiers, operators and retailers in the area and driving footfall, establishing Fleet Street Quarter the new place to be! The report really gets under the skin of why there is this extraordinary level of investment and why it is happening in this part of London, this development pipeline is going to bring growth, change, sustainability, and community.

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We have also commissioned global architect, design and planning firm Gensler, to deliver a major public realm strategy that will set the scene for the next five-to-ten-years in this western side of the City. Our Public Realm Strategy document will set out practically and innovatively how we can redefine this historic area embracing its character at the same time as future proofing it for generations to come – creating a sustainable district for the future. This report will be out later this year, please do look out for it too and we shall certainly provide an update in the next edition of the Fleet Street Quarterly.

Reports and public realm study studies are

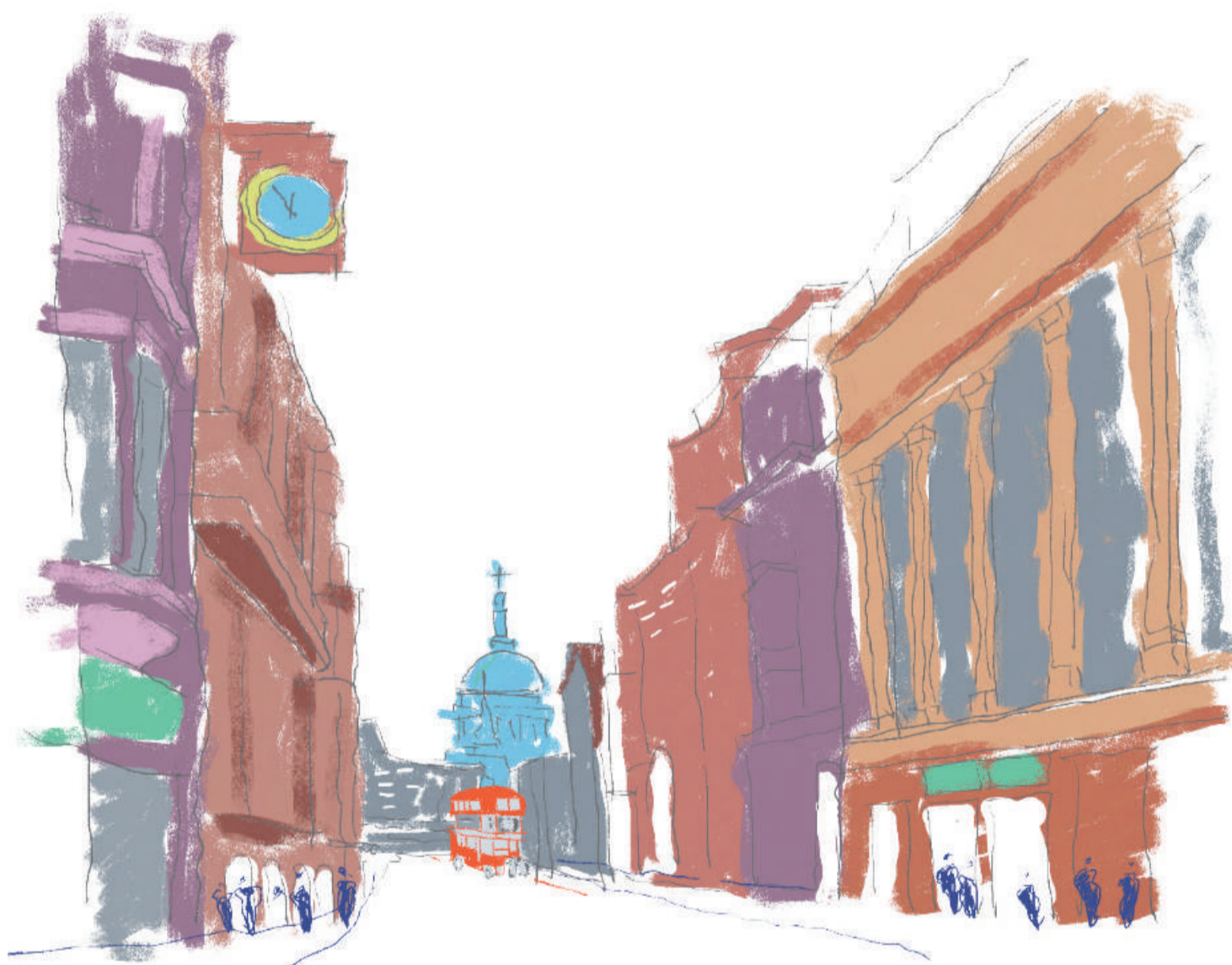
important in how we shape change, but at the heart of it all are people. People are the driver for truly creating place – communities coming together, living, working, and having fun. An important part of the work that Fleet Street Quarter BID undertakes is about creating a fun and creative environment for our community. Over the coming weeks and months, there will be a programme of activities that I hope you will enjoy and take part in. From a BIG Picnic for the Coronation to verdant herbalist gardens, lunchtime lectures at Dr Johnson's House to embracing our green credentials.

We also want to meet, and hear from you, our community. Would you like to take part

in a climate action competition and get assistance on setting realistic net zero goals for your company—let us know! Why not enjoy some green greens—come and visit our urban farms and learn how to make the most sustainable pesto in the City! Enjoy a family day out and discover what the City has to offer at the weekend—discover our Morph statues dotted around the Fleet Street Quarter footprint and across the other City BIDs. If you don't know the area very well or simply work so hard you never get to walk the historic streets and alleys that abound—come on one of our walking tours with TikTok sensation and member of the Magic Circle, 'The London

Spy', AKA David Harry. If you are tempted by some or all that is on offer, please do join and don't hesitate to reach out with any thoughts and ideas you would like to see in the across the Quarter.

Steering away from my classical music theme, I was listening to Starship's 1985 song, 'We Built This City' the other day, and it made me think... we could 'build this city on rock and roll', in fact I am sure rock and roll will come in there somewhere, but the critical thing is that together, we are building a new Quarter! Let the music play on, invigorating this historic part of London for the audiences of today and tomorrow.



# A PLACE WITH A PAST AND A DESTINATION OF THE FUTURE

Once a vibrant community of news organisations and the hub for UK's print journalism industry, the Fleet Street Quarter (FSQ) supported a successful ecosystem of related businesses, retail, and hospitality. With the departure of the print media, much change has occurred over the past 20 years. Added to this, the pandemic has demonstrated the value and fragility placed on the ecosystem of this location, with retail, leisure and cultural offerings being heavily impacted by the exodus of footfall.

Fleet Street Quarter has always been an important transition space between the City of London (CoL) and the City of Westminster. At its commercial heart, Fleet Street is one of London's most historic thoroughfares since Roman times and together with the Strand,

has served as a ceremonial procession route from St Paul's Cathedral to Buckingham Palace for many centuries. Fleet Street primarily acts as a key transport corridor for through traffic between the two boroughs, but there is significant opportunity to reimagine Fleet Street Quarter as a destination in its own right.

The Fleet Street Quarter Business Improvement District (BID) has set itself the ambitious goal to shape this historic location back into a thriving global destination. The initiative seeks to promote a business district that is inclusive, diverse, innovative, culturally vibrant, and environmentally sustainable. Building on its strategic location, its valuable historic character, and great connectivity, the objective is to establish a contemporary

narrative and identity for the renowned area that aligns with the current era. We recognise that the area has a strong urban fabric with very distinct neighbourhoods, and these should be celebrated both through place-specific public realm improvements and the encouragement of cultural and commercial activities.

In the wake of post-covid social and economic recovery, the key to enticing tenants and their employees back into the City is to focus on differentiators such as the public realm's quality and diversified offer. The scale of anticipated new development will create a 3 million square feet for the FSQ area, adding an extra 25,000 employees to its working population and putting even more pressure on the already compromised public realm.

With this unprecedented investment in the area, this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity that calls for a joint approach. Gensler and the Fleet Street Quarter BID are working with Norman Rourke Pryme (NRP) and UP Projects to create this Placemaking and Public Realm Strategy, working in close collaboration with the City of London (CoL). The strategy will leverage the extensive baseline study, surveys, and consultations that have already been conducted with key stakeholders, including the City of London, Transport for London, local stakeholders and institutions, developers, occupiers, and visitors.

At the heart of this strategy is a detailed analysis of the issues and opportunities across the Fleet Street Quarter area, which will enable the development of a clear set of priorities for public realm improvements. The strategy will establish a ten-year work programme, make recommendations of ways forward to upgrade the public realm, and outline priorities to guide the activities of the BID over the next two terms. Identifying priority projects will provide a clear focus for everyone, where the initial effort will be allocated and, at the same time, set long-term ambitions for transformation. It will also be used to aid discussions with stakeholders and other parties that are involved in the management and improvement of the public realm in the Fleet Street Quarter area.

The Placemaking and Public Realm Strategy will help to secure improvements to reconnect the area, enhance movement and walkability, enable further growth, address issues of legibility and ultimately provide a more unified and better experience for Fleet Street Quarter as a place. This will also be informed by the City's draft Fleet Street Healthy Streets Plan, which sets out high level aspirations for the FSQ BID area and identifies opportunities for enhancing pedestrian, cycling and public realm experience.

The overall goal is to consolidate all those improvements that are ongoing or in the pipeline, with the aim of creating a more meaningful and cohesive public realm upgrade across the FSQ area. Appropriate hierarchy of public space is to be established, while also ensuring that essential connections to adjacent neighbourhoods are prioritised. Special focus will be given to the critical gateways into the area. The resulting strategy will enable phased incremental enhancements to the area, to breathe new life into the Fleet Street Quarter and reposition it as a robust global destination that is vibrant, resilient, inclusive, green, and sustainable.

*Gensler is a global architecture, design, and planning firm working with FSQ BID to create A Placemaking and Public Realm Strategy.*

# POP-UP GALLERY OPENS ON FLEET STREET



We are thrilled to announce a new project taking place at 109 Fleet Street, in collaboration with the cultural sector not-for-profit organisation Affordable Workspace. This exciting initiative has temporarily activated a previously void shop unit, transforming it into a dynamic and vibrant pop-up gallery and creative workspace.

This project aims to provide a platform for local artists to showcase their work, offering a space for artists to work within the Fleet Street Quarter. This solution makes use of empty commercial spaces, whilst economically benefiting the landlord who is allowing their space to be temporarily activated.

This win-win project will foster creativity within our local community, offering an exciting new way of bringing new life to our area.

At 109 Fleet Street visitors can enjoy the artwork on display in a flexible and inspiring environment, where artists can work on their projects, collaborate with others, and gain exposure for their work. The pop-up gallery showcases a diverse range of work, from paintings and sculptures to illustration and British-made product design. Workshops and events designed to promote community engagement are also being planned for later this year.

This exciting project is a fantastic example of how the cultural sector and local businesses can work together to create something exciting for the Fleet Street Quarter, and we encourage everyone to visit the pop-up gallery and creative workspace. If you are a landlord with any empty property, and would like to understand how to replicate this offer of temporary use in your space, please do get in touch.

We spoke to Corinne Alexander one of the artists exhibiting at 109 Fleet Street Gallery about her work, pop up galleries and the relationship between the arts and business:

## CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR WORK?

I create intricate illustrations, which playfully capture the essence of everyday objects. Each illustration begins with a hand drawing, enhanced with watercolour techniques, and frequently brought together in creative compositions. I love bringing colour and playful design into people's homes. My illustrations are available as limited edition prints, and also feature across a range of high quality British-made homeware.

## WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON DISPLAYING ART IN THIS WAY - UNRESTRICTIVE TO TICKETS OR TYPICAL GALLERY OPENING HOURS?

By taking art out of the gallery setting I believe it makes it more accessible to a wider audience. It gives those that wouldn't normally visit a gallery the chance to engage with artwork in a more relaxed environment.

I open my popup space at 109 Fleet Street for the public when I can. Everyone is welcome to stop, pop in, ask questions and enjoy what is on display. Even when the space is closed, I have utilised the big windows at street level to give passers-by a display of my designs. The window also gives me an opportunity to display QR codes that invite viewers to engage with the work online and find me on social media.

## CAN ARTS AND CULTURE AND BUSINESS OCCUPY THE SAME SPACES IN THE CITY, AND HOW CAN THEY HELP EACH OTHER TO FLOURISH?

I believe that mixing different sectors and occupiers in the same location helps to enhance the local environment for everyone.

Local residents, commuting workers and visitors to The City all benefit from the opportunity to be exposed to new creative and cultural activities.

## DO YOU THINK THAT PROJECTS LIKE THIS ONE COULD MAKE THE CITY FEEL MORE APPEALING TO A NEW KIND OF DEMOGRAPHIC, PERHAPS ONE THAT WOULD NOT TYPICALLY VISIT THIS PART OF LONDON?

Projects like this temporary activation of retail units is a wonderful way of generating fresh interest in an area of our capital that is not well-known for connection to the Arts. The more The City makes room for creative and cultural spaces, the more diverse and attractive the area will become.

I think this is a fantastic way of bringing colour and vibrancy to an otherwise empty space on Fleet Street. It makes the area more appealing, as there is something new and exciting for visitors to engage with; whether you are working locally and popping out for lunch, or a passing tourist, those individuals now have something in Fleet Street that will make them stop and explore the local area.

## WHAT KIND OF BENEFITS DO POP-UP GALLERIES AND CREATIVE WORKSPACES LIKE THE ONE AT 109 FLEET STREET OFFER FOR ARTISTS?

By offering artists space to show, exhibit and create artwork outside of the typical artists' studio or gallery environment, it gives creative people like me the chance to meet and interact with a wider audience, a meeting that otherwise might not have happened. I think these interactions help artists gain new insight into what a people think about their work, which in-turn influences our creative decisions.

**VISIT THE GALLERY**  
**109 FLEET STREET GALLERY, EC4A 2AB**

## CORONATION CELEBRATIONS WITH LE CORDON BLEU



To mark the occasion of the Coronation of King Charles III, CORD by Le Cordon Bleu, the fine dining restaurant, café and outpost to Le Cordon Bleu culinary institute, will be offering a selection of

celebratory dishes from 2nd to 5th May. Located in the heart of the City of London, on Fleet street, celebrate coronation week and treat yourself to gourmet treats at Cord by Le Cordon Bleu.

CORD Café will offer a gourmet Coronation Chicken bun and a delicious fruit tart complete with a delicate crown decoration, perfect for a picnic in the park, street party or enjoying in the Café. This will also be made available at Le Cordon Bleu café located at the Bloomsbury Culinary Institute located in Holborn, London.

At CORD Restaurant, the menu will feature a special three course set menu in celebration of King Charles, comprised of his food favourites and considering His Majesty's own ethos around sustainability and provenance. This special menu will include the Coronation Lamb, a beautiful dish of Organic British lamb with forest mushrooms, comprised of seared lamb loin, dry slow roasted crispy shoulder, slow cooked porcini mushroom and pancetta compote, pickled girolles, garlic cream, lamb jus and savoy cabbage. The dish has been created for CORD by Chef Emil Minev, Director of Culinary Arts at Le Cordon Bleu London.

## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Le Cordon Bleu is world renowned for the best education in the culinary arts and used as benchmark for excellence in the industry. Le Cordon Bleu have been privileged to serve the Royal Family over the years, going all the way back to the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. The recipe "Poulet

Reine Elizabeth; now widely known as Coronation Chicken was created by Le Cordon Bleu London to be served at the Coronation Luncheon in 1953. The school was honoured to be involved in such a special occasion and served the Coronation Day banquet to three hundred and fifty people in the Great Hall of Westminster School, the largest party to have been seated there at the time.

The dish that was served can be found on the original Coronation menu as Poulet Reine Elizabeth, and is described as chicken, boned and coated in curry cream sauce with a well-seasoned dressed salad of rice, green peas and pimentos. The ingredients used were remarkable for their time, with many of them only just becoming available, whilst most of the country was still under the restrictions

of post-war rationing. A slightly more developed version of the Coronation Chicken recipe is still a favourite of the nation today and is a popular filling for sandwiches or in salads.

The institute's association with the Royal Family doesn't end there; in the year 2000, Le Cordon Bleu London's Head Patisserie Chef, Julie Walsh, had the honour making the Queen Mother's 100th birthday cake, and then in 2017 made a four-tier replica of the 1947 Royal Wedding cake for Queen

Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip's 70th wedding anniversary cake. This cake was commissioned for the ITV documentary A Very Royal Wedding and was displayed at Fortnum and Mason's before being distributed to approximately 2500 of the Queen's charities. The top tier was sent to Buckingham Palace for the 70th Anniversary celebrations.

*Visit the CORD website for more information and to make reservations.*

**CORD BY LE CORDON BLEU**  
**85 FLEET ST, LONDON EC4Y 1AE**

# INNOVATION, CELEBRATIONS & COMMISERATIONS: AN ODE TO THE PUB



**Rachael Smith**  
BID Manager, Fleet Street Quarter

'A quick drink after work' is the exclusively British shorthand for an excuse to take a trip to your local drinking den – to which the Fleet Street Quarter has no shortage. The iconic pubs across FSQ are entrenched as a historic gathering place, witnessing famous punters such as Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, Princess Margaret, and Winston Churchill. Our pubs play host as an incubator to celebrate, commiserate, inspire innovation, and spark creativity; albeit fuelled by rounds of the good stuff!

Within the City, our pubs offer the familiar setting that gives space for connection and community enabling us to meet, laugh, share stories, and escape our constant inboxes and looming deadlines. Each with its own charm, our pubs act as the great social equaliser

with the welcoming warmth of the regulars, landlords and landladies and new faces. It's one of the few traditions in our modern society that forces us away from our ever-present glaring screens and allows us to indulge in the very basics of social interactions: conversation.

Generations continue to gather to sit around old tables, celebrated for centuries by the likes of Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese regular and father of the Dictionary, Dr Johnson: "There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn." Our Fleet Street pubs continue to stand the test of time, surviving the hangovers of great fires, plagues, and the great migration of their most notorious and biggest consumers, welcoming new faces, stories and continuing to provide a venue to meet, unwind, and share a drink (or three!).

## INTRODUCING FSQ'S DEDICATED WARD OFFICER

PC Andy Jacks is the Ward Officer for the Fleet Cluster. He has been in the City of London Police for 22-years in a Uniform Role. He has worked on Response, Firearms Ops, and Firearms training. He is close protection trained, lead Advanced Medic Instructor for the Firearms teams and a Command Trainer for all level of Firearms Command.

The highlight of his career, so far, was assisting Key Police Witnesses to return to operational duties after the

terrorist attacks at Borough Market and Fishmongers Hall.

For any non-urgent issues, you can email him at [fleet.cluster@cityoflondon.police.uk](mailto:fleet.cluster@cityoflondon.police.uk)

PC Andy Jacks is currently writing a column for our email newsletter, keeping you updated with police matters within the area, as well as important updates from the City of London Police.

Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter via our website.



## CELEBRATING WREN 300 AT ST BRIDES

**The Revd Canon Dr Alison Joyce**  
Rector of St Bride's, Fleet Street

As one of Sir Christopher Wren's best loved churches, St Bride's, Fleet Street is delighted to be playing an active part in this year's Wren 300 celebrations, commemorating the tercentenary of his death. This month we are hosting conservation workshops and an evening lecture, demonstrating how Wren's stonework is being preserved. A social history project, uncovering the hidden stories of the people associated with St Bride's and its ministry during the time of its rebuilding will be on display later this year. And on 29th September we are hosting our own celebratory event: an evening of period music accompanying a dramatic re-telling of the story of Wren's re-creation of our church, which promises to be a memorable event!

Yet our association with Wren is a relatively recent feature of the remarkable story of St Bride's. In our crypt the remains of a Roman pavement dating back to AD 180 are still visible. The first church on this site, dedicated to Brigid of Kildare (St Bride), was founded in the sixth century by Irish missionaries; and our charnel house contains the bones of our mediaeval parishioners. Many of the memorable events in London's history have left their mark here: one of our clergy and

two parishioners were martyred during the Reformation; another vicar courageously stayed at his post during the Great Plague; the first known victim of Jack the Ripper was married here, and is commemorated in a new memorial. And St Bride's earned the nickname 'The Phoenix of Fleet Street' when it rose from the ashes a second time after the destruction of WWII.

Today St Bride's is famous for being the Journalists' Church (our links with the printing industry date back to the year 1500). Although the newspapers have now moved from Fleet Street, this remains a crucial part of our ministry, and is of global significance. We offer pastoral and spiritual support to journalists of all faiths and none, in a ministry that has never been more urgently needed.

Above all, we are here to serve all who live and work within the Fleet Street area, regardless of their religious affiliation. We are open seven days a week, and entry is free (including to our crypt and museum, and to our regular lunchtime recitals). If you seek an oasis of peace in the heart of the city, come and visit us – you are always welcome!

**ST BRIDES CHURCH**  
FLEET ST, LONDON EC4Y 8AU

## BOOK REVIEW: THE FLEET STREET GIRLS



**Martha Grekos**  
Partner, DAC Beachcroft

The Fleet Street Girls, by Julie Welch, is a marvellous read of the inspiring and evocative story of the female journalists who broke down barriers in the 1970s and 1980s as women moved up the ranks in Fleet Street for the first time.

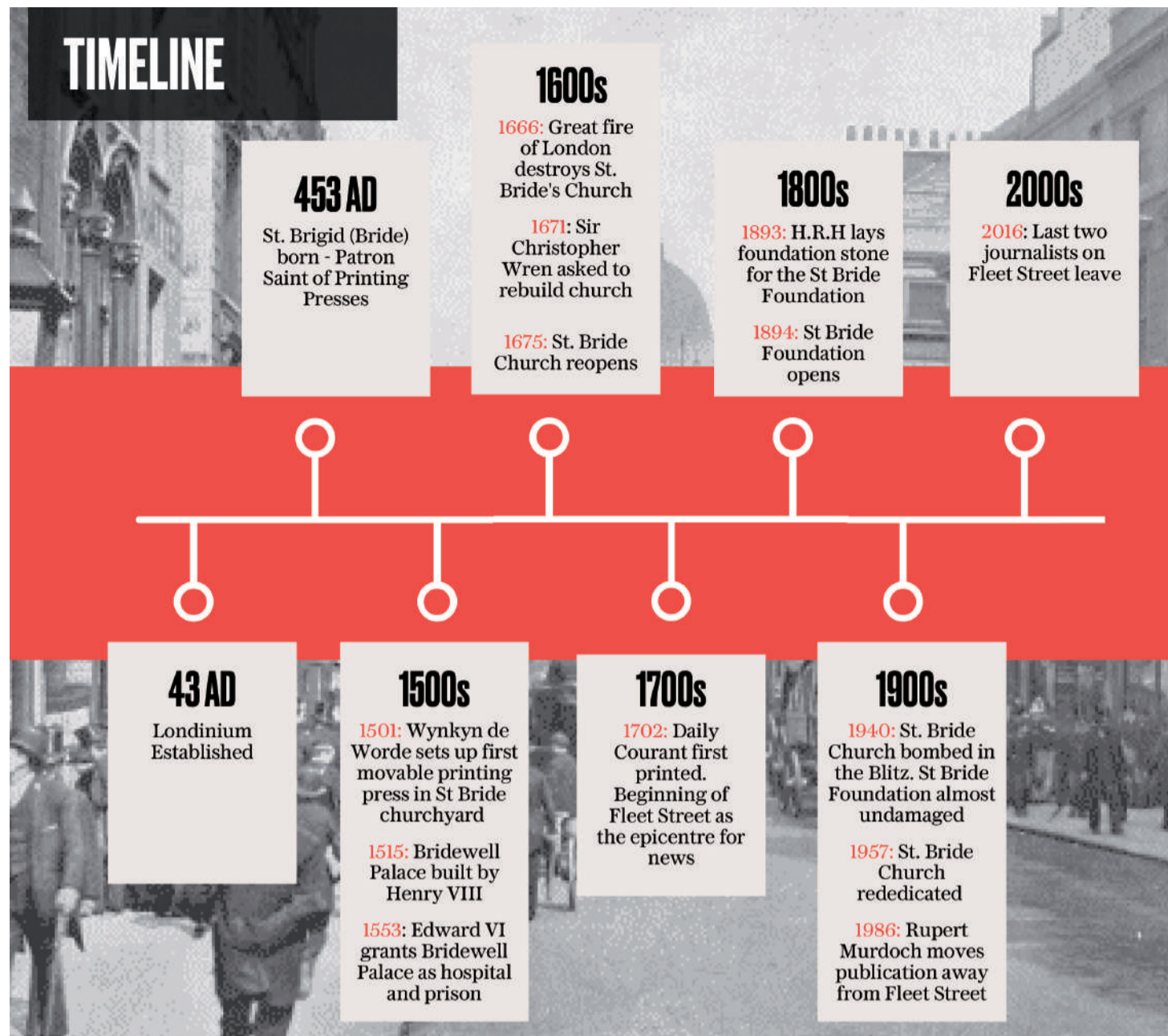
Julie Welch, the only "girl in the press box" for many years, was a football reporter for the Observer until 1986. This book is both a memoir of how she became a sportswriter and an account of some of the other women who began careers in journalism during that time when for most of Fleet Street was a male preserve.

"I've nothing against women, but why must they always infiltrate?," the Observer's deputy sports editor Brian Chapman asked in 1973, after a group of female journalists attempted, unsuccessfully, to gain admission to the all-male Press Club. That was the year that the 24 year old Julie Welch, cardboard press pass in hand, took her seat in Coventry's Highfield Road stadium to watch Coventry City play against Tottenham Hotspur. She was about to make history as the first woman to report a football match for a national newspaper.

"Women in the press box", she heard a voice behind her growl. "So it's come to that." Welch's largely anecdotal account is also full of gorgeous details about the newsroom paraphernalia of old and amazing recollection of stories - such as the landmark discrimination case against the legendary El Vino's refusal to serve women at the bar and one of the greatest scoops in Fleet Street history that of exposing the miscarriage of justice by which Jewish captain Alfred Dreyfus had been falsely imprisoned for treason.

However, the book is also very much about price that these pioneering women paid to open these doors and break down glass ceilings - the long hours, the broken relationships, the necessary childcare arrangements to offset the unsocial hours and demands of the job, the misogyny and sexism. These women instigated change and made the impossible possible.

## TIMELINE



# THE STREET OF INK

The Fleet Street area holds such a rich history, and within this lies the story of print. We have set out some of the key events that changed the landscape of print in this pocket of the city, and invite you to get involved with its future.

In 1501, Wynkyn de Worde, a printer and publisher in London known for his work with William Caxton, set up the first moveable printing press in St Bride churchyard.

In 1702 the Daily Courant, the first British daily newspaper was printed. It was a single newsheet carrying digest of foreign papers and it was produced by Elizabeth Mallet at her premises next to the King's Arms tavern at Fleet Bridge.

In 1893 the Prince of Wales laid the foundation stone for St Bride Foundation, an educational institute and social centre. The Foundation supported the local community who worked for newspapers and the publishing trade around Fleet Street. It housed the London School of Printing for apprentices as well as many social/cultural events and clubs. It also provided basic community needs such as baths and a lending library. In 1940, the Foundation managed to remain almost undamaged by the Blitz bombings which had so badly affected St Bride's Church next door.

In the 20th Century, Fleet Street was a national and international centre for the newspaper industry and it embodied the British Press. It was known for the din of its newspaper printing houses, bustling offices

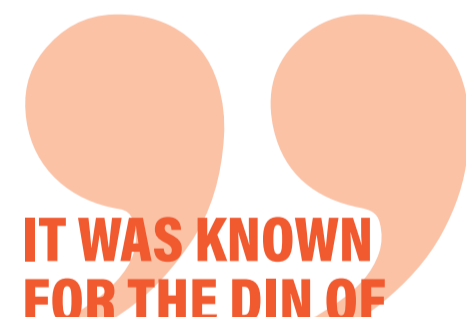
and the smoky bars frequented by printers and journalists. This continued for decades until 1986 when Rupert Murdoch moved publication to a new premises in Wapping and following this, printers and journalists moved out of the area.

We invite you to join us in preserving and celebrating the story of print and typography on Fleet Street. St Bride Foundation houses one of the world's most remarkable and irreplaceable collections encapsulating the history of print, typography and design. We are an independent arts and heritage charity run by a small team of dedicated staff and volunteers. Our Grade II listed Victorian building provides a unique venue for events and is home to an active print workshop, world-renowned research library and a vibrant talks and events programme with a focus on print and design.

With no national print museum in the UK, we are keeping the story of print alive. Your support could help us to safeguard this vital legacy.

We have developed a range of exciting corporate membership packages that allow you to experience the best that St Bride Foundation has to offer.

Corporate members can enjoy a wide range of benefits that offer staff and clients an exclusive relationship with St Bride Foundation. This includes free, discounted and priority hire of our historical spaces and special access to our vibrant programme of talks and events.



**IT WAS KNOWN FOR THE DIN OF ITS NEWSPAPER PRINTING HOUSES, BUSTLING OFFICES AND THE SMOKY BARS FREQUENTED BY PRINTERS AND JOURNALISTS**

If you would like to find out more about Corporate Membership options, please contact our team: [info@sbf.org.uk](mailto:info@sbf.org.uk) or 020 7353 3331.

To see what is currently on at St Bride Foundation visit [www.sbf.org.uk](http://www.sbf.org.uk)

**ST BRIDE FOUNDATION,  
14 BRIDE LN, LONDON EC4Y 8EQ**



# THE THREE-WEEK MONTH

**Dan Jobsz**  
Owner, The Wardrobe Bar & Kitchen

As long as the City has fostered trade and industry, its vibrant hospitality sector has pulsated unerringly alongside, oiling the wheels and spitting the deal-makers' palms. And the sector is robust. After the protracted epic that was Covid, juggling grants, loans and baying creditors, the scrappiest of us fight on but heavy losses to the high street were sustained.

Cue this unchartered, nuanced economic case study that unfolds before us, working

from home Monday and Friday; crippled supply chains; stock, wage and energy inflation; the baron wasteland of a post-Brexit labour market; plummeting consumer confidence; and profit margins(?)— a fabled unicorn!

And if that weren't already a perfect enough storm to wipe out the thinning herd, we were served up the rail-strike-induced loss of one-week per month, including the hallowed Christmas demand spike, salt in the wounds to say the least. UK Hospitality estimates losses of £1billion to Central London as a result of rail strikes. While the right to strike is

of course fair, inner-city hospitality paying the price is not. Having navigated the minefield of the last three-years, a re-emergence of these strikes is now the number one threat facing independent operators.

Fixed costs are lumpy and... hmm, what's the word - fixed! Rents fall due, as do business rates, insurance premiums, ballooning energy bills and of course Bounce Back Loan repayments, whether you're open 15 or 30 days a month. Government protection only extends to the banks, while 80hr/wk, work-horse entrepreneurs buckle under the debt burden. But we are nothing if not battle hardened by now, so we lean up, economise and invariably get on the front line to save cash. Gluttons for punishment maybe — but hospitality is a calling. We pivot towards new

markets and adapt promotions to engage 'new normal' consumer behaviour.

One of the patterns to emerge post-lockdown is more concentrated Tuesday to Thursday demand. One hopes, in moments of optimism, that the event organisers and 'quick-one-after-workers' across the square mile, entertain and socialise more fervently in the available weekdays between industrial action, and keep us bubbling along this seasonally quiet spell until summer climes compel throngs back to the courtyards, beer gardens and roof terraces of our beloved patch.



## THE RUMBLING BUZZ AND LAUGHTER RIPPLES OF A HUMAN SWARM MILLING ABOUT A PUB IS SO QUINTESSENTIALLY BRITISH

The rumbling buzz and laughter ripples of a human swarm milling about a pub is so quintessentially British, but that of the EC postcode bathed in lengthening summer evenings has an unmistakably London accent. So pay your local a visit and show the small operators some love, because none of us wants a Fleet Street Quarter filled with Wetherspoons and All Bar One's... do we?

**THE WARDROBE BAR & KITCHEN**  
53-55 CARTER LN, EC4V 5AE

# CROSSWORD

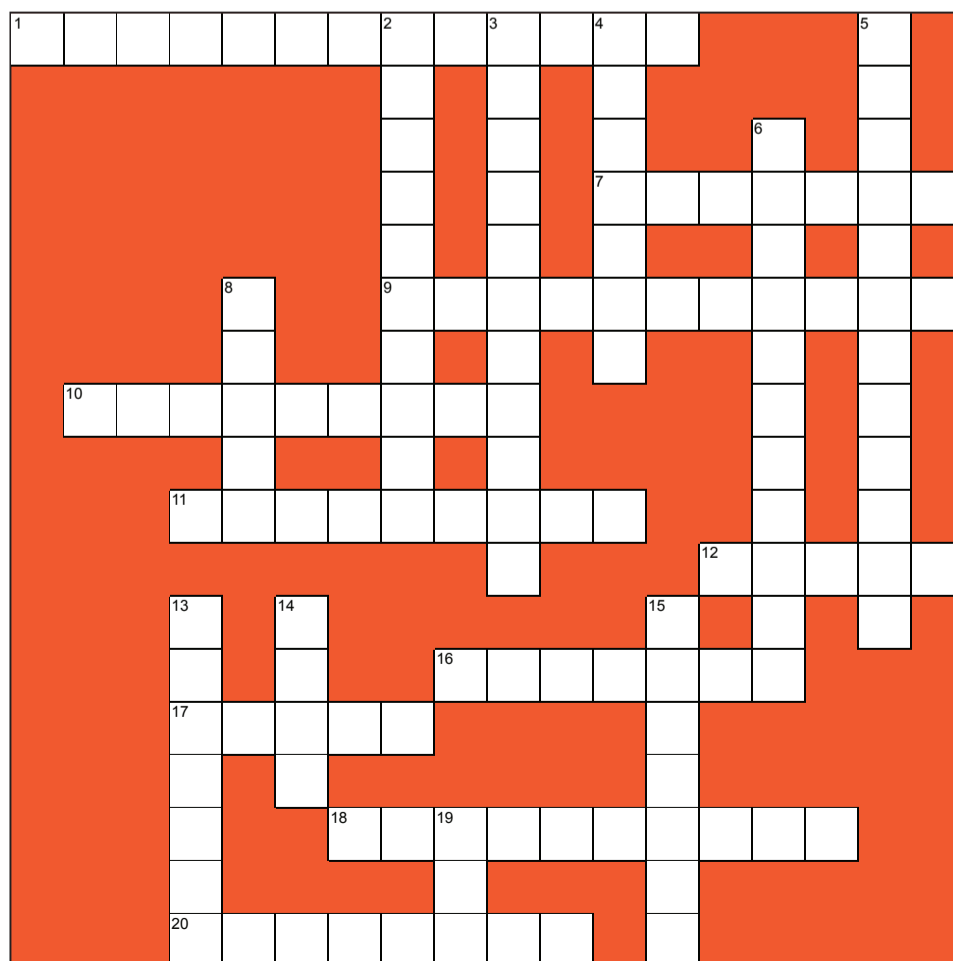
Try your hand at our area themed crossword, with clues scattered throughout this paper. Answers available in the next edition.

## ACROSS

- 1 Nickname for The City of London (3, 6, 4)
- 7 Wynkyn de Worde emigrated to England from here (7)
- 9 London street synonymous with the newspaper industry (5, 6)
- 10 Theatre in Fleet Street Quarter (9)
- 11 Square in Fleet Street Quarter, Chancery Lane was also originally named this (3,6)
- 12 Comic magazine with offices on Fleet Street (5)
- 16 First printed London newspaper; 'The Daily\_\_\_' (7)
- 17 Tavern in Fleet Street Quarter; also to strike with the fist (5)
- 18 Number of hectares that Fleet Street Quarter covers (5, 5)
- 20 Fleet Street Quarter church with a tiered spire (2, 6)

## DOWN

- 2 Body of water that Fleet Street is named after (5, 5)
- 3 Tiled alley, featuring illustrations and historic photographs (6, 5)
- 4 One of a trio of hills in Central London, and the westernmost gate in London Wall (7)
- 5 London legal district (8, 4)
- 6 Meaning of the letter 'i' in BID (11)
- 8 Name of one of Samuel Johnson's cats, immortalised in Gough Square (5)
- 13 London landmark with famous dome, visible from Fleet Street (2, 5)
- 14 Style of lettering used in printing (4)
- 15 Library designed by Sir James Pennethorne and constructed in 1851 (7)
- 19 What colour is Fleet Street on the UK version of the classic Monopoly board (3)



# AMBASSADORS HIT THE STREETS AROUND THE QUARTER



**Mike Fairmaner**  
Interim COO, Fleet Street Quarter

In our five year plan for Fleet Street we promised to deploy an Ambassador Team to patrol our area.

The Ambassadors started last month and are dressed in a distinctive uniform that takes its inspiration from the area's newspaper heritage, they provide a visible reassuring presence for anyone to call on. Their other role is as our environmental guardians, taking a pride in how the area looks and logging and reporting issues to the respective agencies

to get them resolved. This might be dumped rubbish, damaged street furniture or poorly parked hire bikes. To begin with they will be patrolling Monday to Friday 09:00-18:00 and occasionally on Saturdays when there are events that attract people into the area. Longer term our ambition is to increase the vitality and vibrancy of the area to create the demand for our Ambassadors at the weekend.

It takes a special sort of person to be an Ambassador – out in all weathers, walking all day ever vigilant for anyone in need of assistance or to report an eyesore – so we asked Saud our new Ambassador what makes him tick.

## WHAT CAN AMBASSADORS OFFER TO THOSE WHO WORK, VISIT, AND LIVE IN FLEET STREET QUARTER?

A general welcoming presence is the first thing that is offered, but also key is providing assistance with regards to directions and undertaking on-street management, additionally street infrastructure fault reporting is crucial in keeping the area's public realm safe, clean and accessible. Alongside this, conducting visits to local businesses of all sizes, ensuring that their needs are met and any on-street issues they may have are quickly resolved.

## WHY DO YOU ENJOY BEING AN AMBASSADOR?

The everyday nature of the job, helping people, and ensuring the upkeep of the area is really meaningful to me, and it's a great feeling when my reports are followed up on by our external partners such as the City of London Corporation and Transport for London, as it gives me a sense of belonging and playing a vitally important role as part of the local community – this further motivates me to be the best caretaker of the Quarter I can be.

## YOU'VE WORKED AS AN AMBASSADOR ACROSS LONDON, IN AREAS SUCH AS BAKER STREET AND ALDGATE, WHAT MAKES FLEET STREET QUARTER UNIQUE?

Fleet Street Quarter is extremely unique, being sandwiched between two very popular tourist hotspots, the Strand and St Paul's Cathedral, it becomes a great location for interacting with people. The historical buildings, sites and walkways which all tell an age-old story unique to this part of London, great for those who like to explore, read, and

gain a somewhat immersive experience by taking themselves back in time.

## WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT FOR FLEET STREET QUARTER AS AN AREA LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE?

The Fleet Street Quarter already is a well-established locality within the City of London and is currently emerging as perhaps one of the City's most important areas with its development pipeline set to bring fresh businesses and thousands of new workers to the area, and I am excited to play a role in this development. Looking to the future, Fleet Street Quarter can be a champion of community engagement and supporting this growth both through its four key strategic themes, in addition supporting London and City-wide plans such as London Recharge 2025 and City Plan 2036.

## FINALLY, IF YOU HAD TO RECOMMEND SOMETHING TO SEE OR DO IN FLEET STREET QUARTER FOR A FIRST TIME VISITOR, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I would recommend people to experience and enjoy a walk through the history-steeped maze of alleyways and side streets throughout the Fleet Street Quarter area. Beginning at Dr Johnson's House (perhaps after a visit to the museum there), work your way around and take in the history and some of the oddities these alleys have to offer, such as the tiles of Maggie Alley off Fleet Street, which tells the story of the newspaper trade. Make sure to finish up by walking into the grounds of the Temple Church which I think is really beautiful.

*Saud Ahmad is one of Fleet Street Quarter's on-street Ambassadors*



# MORPH'S EPIC ART ADVENTURE

Fleet Street Quarter are delighted to be supporting Morph's Epic Art Adventure as a community partner for the UK's first step-free art trail, taking place during the summer of 2023. Over sixty uniquely designed, super-sized sculptures of much-loved children's TV character, Morph, are shapeshifting their way through central London to form an extraordinary, free public art trail alongside iconic London landmarks.

Bringing colour and creativity to the streets of London, Morph's Epic Art Adventure will be hosted by Whizz-Kidz, the UK's leading charity for young wheelchair users. From 19 June to 20 August 2023, Childhood favourite for over 50 years, Morph, can be found alongside some of London's most famous landmarks; each Morph sculpture will be uniquely designed by epic,

well-known and emerging artists, providing a fun family-friendly art trail for locals and visitors to follow. A series of smaller 'Mini Morph' sculptures adopted and created by schools will also be displayed as part of the adventure.

Whilst exciting and inspiring people of all ages to celebrate London through creativity, the art trail will encourage the public, business community and young people to envision what a more inclusive world might look like for young wheelchair users, and what role they might wish to play in making this a reality. Let's enable everyone to have epic adventures in London.

**MORPHSADVENTURELONDON.COM**  
**19 JUN TO 20 AUG 2023**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## ONCE A MONTH LUNCHTIME LECTURE SERIES AT DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

A series of monthly lectures at Dr Johnson's House, with lunch provided. Check [fleetstreetquarter.co.uk](http://fleetstreetquarter.co.uk) for dates and times.

## TWICE MONTHLY TOURS WITH DAVID HARRY

Join David Harry aka 'The London Spy', winner of the 2022 Walking Tour Company of the year in England, for an exclusive tour around the Fleet Street Quarter. Keep an eye on our social media channels for monthly dates.

## THU 3 & FRI 4 MAY CORONATION BIG PICNICS

The bustling streets of Carter Lane, Bream's Buildings and Gough Square in the Fleet Street Quarter will celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III by hosting its first ever 'BIG Picnic' from 12pm - 4pm.

## 6 - 8 JUNE ECOCITY

Look out for our urban farms popping up in empty units across Fleet Street Quarter. Visit to take part in a workshop, attend a talk or see how we are making the most sustainable pesto in the City of London.

## 1 - 30 JUNE LONDON FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE

Green initiatives popping up across the Quarter, as part of a month long celebration of architecture and city-making, taking place across London.

## 19 JUNE - AUGUST MORPHS EPIC ART ADVENTURE

Look out for our Morph statues and mini Morphs in and around the Quarter.



# DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE LAUNCHES NEW LUNCHTIME LECTURE SERIES

Celine Luppo McDaid  
Curator, Dr Johnson's House

Dr Johnson's House is a charming late 17th-century townhouse in Gough Square, nestled amongst a maze of courts and alleys within the Fleet Street Quarter. Samuel Johnson, the writer and wit, lived and worked here in the middle of the eighteenth century. Today, the House is open to the public with a collection relating to Johnson, a research library, restored interiors and a wealth of original features. It offers a vibrant programme of exhibitions, events and education programmes and private hire opportunities. Often described by visitors as a hidden gem, 17 Gough Square is a tranquil spot in the midst of the bustling City. The house, built in the 1690s, is an extraordinarily intact survival. It was saved and converted to a museum 112 years ago, survived two world wars and the recent Covid-19 pandemic - and long may it stand!

The son of a Lichfield bookseller, Samuel Johnson (1709-84) had an unprepossessing beginning. Early illnesses left him scarred,

partially deaf and visually impaired. For much of his life, he struggled with these disabilities, as well as bouts of intense melancholy, and probably OCD and Tourette's syndrome. Johnson's financial struggles also remain part of his story; his life is one of extraordinary talent rather than affluent privilege. A professional writer in a new age of print, he rose to become one of the greatest literary figures in the English language, celebrated for his agile conversation and profound wit, and making lasting contributions to English literature as a poet, essayist, moralist, literary critic, biographer, novelist, and, in succeeding decades, as an editor of Shakespeare's plays. He is, however, best remembered as 'Dictionary Johnson' - the fame for which followed his extraordinary creation of the first authoritative English dictionary, published in 1755 and compiled over several years in the garret at 17 Gough Square.

Johnson's time at Gough Square was intensely significant; here he fully realised his ambitions to be a successful writer, loved and lost his wife, brought Francis Barber into his

household and forged the enduring reputation by which his legacy - and his words - still live on today. Barber was another fascinating resident. Born into slavery in Jamaica and later freed, he came to live with Johnson in 1752 at just 10 years age. Johnson was fiercely anti-slavery, called Jamaica a hellish 'den of tyrants' and argued that 'no man is by nature the property of another.' In fact, 17 Gough Square is thought to be the only surviving building in England where a formerly enslaved person is known to have lived as a respected, independent individual. Barber later married and had children, but nearly always lived with Johnson, and ultimately become his sole heir.

We are partnering with FSQ BID to deliver a year-long series of lectures, to be held in Johnson's Dictionary Garret. The programme is exciting and varied, with lectures to be held on the last Thursday of every month from April 2023 - March 2024.

**DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE  
17 GOUGH SQUARE, LONDON EC4A 3DE**

## DID YOU KNOW ?

This is what Fleet Street Quarter has been up to over the past year

## OVER £1M

**REINVESTED BACK INTO  
FLEET STREET QUARTER**

## 100,000

**WE HAVE EXTENDED THE  
REACH OF THE FLEET STREET  
QUARTER TO OVER 100,000  
PEOPLE.**

## £10,000

**INVESTED INTO A  
COMMUNITY FUNDING  
POT SUPPORTING LOCAL  
CHARITIES.**

