



## FLEET STREET QUARTER: SHAPING A MORE SUSTAINABLE CITY

**Lady Lucy French,**  
CEO, Fleet Street Quarter BID

It's a jungle out there... well not quite, but we are seeing the beginnings of some exciting growth! As we all think more about the planet and how we can do our bit in securing its future, we at Fleet Street Quarter have been looking to the past to inform how we can protect and nurture tomorrow.

Our historic neighbours led the charge; "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin", I couldn't agree more with former Fleet Street Quarter resident, William Shakespeare and his inspired words from *Troilus and Cressida*, Act 3, Scene 3. Another illustrious former resident, Dr Johnson of Gough Square also agreed, and called the Bard "the poet of nature". As we mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's *First Folio* many FSQ paths lead to this famous man, and his friends...

When we commissioned landscape architects, Wayward, to create a garden for the London Festival of Architecture, I had not heard of John Gerard, the 16th-Century herbalist who also lived in the Quarter and planted his famous garden in Fetter Lane, just a short walk from ours. Wayward uncovered the story of this horticultural tour de force, who also printed the first ever book of 'herbals' in a press here too in 1597! If you haven't seen 'A Shakespearean Botanical', a marvellous book by Margaret Willes, a member of the Stationers' Company, on John Gerard, it is very special and I encourage you to pick up a copy. Going full circle...who was Gerard's chum and another of our great environmentalists...? Yes, Shakespeare! From 1557, all legally printed works had to be registered at Stationers' Hall, a Grade I listed building just off Ludgate Hill, and among its wonders is the page where Stationers Edward Blount and Isaak Jaggard registered their publication of Shakespeare's *First Folio*.

Both of these pioneers existed at the start of the Anthropocene period, when humanity and our activities began to affect Earth's environment and climate 400 years ago. Baby steps have been underway to bring at least a little more green into the urban environment of our 43-hectares and indeed the psyche of the business community here. I don't know if you found your way to our first Community Urban Farm, installed at 109 Fleet Street for the month of June, but during this 4-week period we saw 575 visitors to the farm, tasting, learning and harvesting, and more than 1000 bags of salads generated! And this is just the beginning, plans are afoot for another Fleet Street Quarter Community Urban Farm coming your way this autumn and, drumroll please... our Urban Farmer Project! It will serve as a dynamic platform for educational endeavours and social initiatives centred around sustainable practices and the advancement of British agriculture. And as for the cranes that abound? The development

pipeline in the FSQ footprint is bold and ambitious, embracing sustainability with 3 million sq ft of BREEAM outstanding or excellent certifications and strong EPCs, all supporting the City of London's commitment to a net zero square mile by 2040.

We are truly at the epicentre of change, of how we reinvent commercial centres in a post pandemic, 21st-Century world. And so, back to my jungle... Nature changes us, for the better, this is scientifically proven and demonstrated in... You got it again, Shakespeare! 'As You Like It' sees Duke Senior away from the hustle and bustle of court. The impact on his psyche? To,

'Find tongues in trees,  
Books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good  
In everything.'

An aspiration in these busy times but perhaps one to strive for... Watch this space!



# URBAN FARMING AT THE HEART OF FLEET STREET QUARTER



## Hamish Grant, Chief Growth Office, Square Mile Farms

First held in 1990, the Ecocity World Summit is the pioneer and longest-running global conference on ecology and cities. Every two years it brings together urban stakeholders from across the globe to focus on key actions cities and citizens can take to rebuild our human habitat in balance with living systems. This year, the City of London was the host, with much activity centred in and around the Fleet Street Quarter BID area.

This proved to be the catalyst for an innovative collaboration between the Fleet Street Quarter BID and Square Mile Farms, to explore the theme of this year's conference - Connecting Communities. The BID located an empty retail unit in a prime location on Fleet Street, and together with Square Mile Farms, created a community farm right in the heart of the city.

Using innovative hydroponic growing systems, Square Mile Farms created a cluster of growing spaces for fresh produce. Growing everything from Kale to Parsley, Basil and Sage through to Sorrel, there were wonderful colours, aromas and flavours available, and we threw the doors open for the local community for all to experience.

We had daily drop in growing-at-home workshops for local workers, including tips on how to keep your supermarket herb pot alive. We also hosted school children from a local primary school, and a cooking demonstration of how to make the most environmentally friendly pesto, in addition to growing produce on-site, we gave away seedlings for people to take home and turn their hand to growing a basil plant all of their own!

There were also harvests where the fresh, chemical free produce was given away for free to locals who joined in. Over the month we had

the farm on site, more than 500 visitors from local businesses and tourists from around the world joined us. We harvested around 12 kg of fresh produce, some of which went to a local cafe on Fleet Street, Java Java, who created some delicious, sustainable dishes.

As a way of connecting with the local community, it was a resounding success, with visitors from some of the biggest offices in the area, as well as the smallest, all dropping in to visit the farm. As a partnership, Square Mile Farms and Fleet Street Quarter BID were able to stimulate some fresh thinking about how we can use urban spaces, and provided some great opportunities to talk about collaboration, sustainable food choices, and to share growing tips and recipes.

Keep an eye out around the Fleet Street Quarter area for more Urban Farm pop-ups coming in the future!

**THE BID LOCATED AN EMPTY RETAIL UNIT IN A PRIME LOCATION ON FLEET STREET, AND TOGETHER WITH SQUARE MILE FARMS, CREATED A COMMUNITY FARM RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE CITY.**



# URBAN FARM RECIPES



Kendal from Java Java Coffee used our Urban Farm produce to create some delicious salads for customers at her Fleet Street café. Try your hand at recreating some of these recipes at home. Measure with your heart!

## KALE AND APPLE SALAD

Curly Kale  
Red onion (quick pickled)  
Green apple  
Grated carrot  
Radish  
Pumpkin seeds  
Sesame seeds

## TAHINI DRESSING:

Mix Tahini, lemon, olive oil, garlic, agave, salt and pepper

## COUS COUS TABBOULEH

Cous cous  
Tomatoes  
Red onion  
Bell peppers  
Cucumber  
Pomegranate seeds  
Parsley  
Mint  
Basil  
Garlic  
Lemon

## VEGAN WALNUT PESTO DRESSING:

Blend Basil, Walnuts, Garlic, Lemon juice, Nutritional yeast, Olive oil, Salt, Pepper in a food processor



# CELEBRATING FSQ'S HORTICULTURAL ROOTS

By Rachael Smith,  
COO, Fleet Street Quarter BID

To celebrate the annual London Festival of Architecture (LFA), Fleet Street Quarter launched The Herbalist's Press, a garden by Fleet Street Quarter at Holborn Circus. Designed and brought to life by Wayward, a London-based landscape, art and architecture

collective of designers. The sensory garden is a greening installation of evergreen, scented and medicinal plants inspired by 17th century English herbalist, author and Fleet Street resident, John Gerard.

The design takes inspiration from the 15th and 16th century printing presses that found their home throughout Fleet Street, Holborn and the Old Bailey. Each installation is placed

within frames that resemble the machinery and mechanics of the original printing presses and they are bedded with the herbal, floral and medicinal plants found in John Gerard's original Herbal - 'Generall Historie of Plante'. John Gerard was an influential 17th Century English herbalist and is best known for authoring and printing the UK's first Herbal in 1597 in Fleet Street Quarter. His catalogues are the source for the plants, and

his woodblock prints are a key visual element in the design for this installation.

Our garden reflects the beauty of his planting and our printing history whilst providing a tranquil escape for people to relax and learn, away from the bustling City streets and roots the BIDs commitment to creating a greener, cleaner and more sustainable Fleet Street Quarter.



## NEW SEATING INSTALLED ACROSS FSQ

Mike Fairmaner,  
Head of Public Realm,  
Fleet Street Quarter BID

I am writing out this article at lunchtime, eating a sandwich at the desk like so many people do in the office. I do promise myself I will go for a walk afterwards, to get some much needed fresh air and this does sometimes happen. However I am pleased to say that many people are much better

behaved than me and on my walks see the rich mix of people who work in the area taking advantage of the outdoor seating in the area, either grabbing a moment of quiet reflection whilst they eat their lunch in the fresh air, or catching up with friends and colleagues. But there is by no means enough seating in the area and invariably there are people standing, awkwardly balancing food and drink whilst they eat and talk at the same time.

This is why we have invested in new seating across the area, replacing some worn out seats and providing new ones to enable more people to enjoy lunch, or indeed any other break, in comfort and outside in the fresh air. These can be found dotted across the area, such as Apothecary Street, Gough Square, where you can give Hodge the cat a pat on the head, to curved benches at Holborn Circus, and traditional

benches at Plough Place and Southampton buildings.

Research has shown that fresh air at lunchtime improves productivity in the afternoon, and during Covid we all learnt the importance of nature, which is why we're also investing in new greenery in the area near the seating. Benches are also good for those with limited mobility and research has shown that they allow people to join in the flow of life in the city and support everyday healthy routines.

This is just the start for FSQ - our emerging long term plan for the public spaces in and around Fleet Street is for more opportunities for people to sit, more greenery and lower levels of pollution to make Fleet Street an attractive destination of choice.



# NEW STREET FOOD MARKET LAUNCHED IN FSQ

Fancy spicing up your lunchtime? Fleet Street Quarter has teamed up with street food pioneers, KERB+, to launch a brand new street food market in the bustling Fleet Place – a stone's throw from Blackfriars station and nestled between St Paul's and Fleet Street.

From the 3rd August 2023 City workers and visitors have been tantalising their taste buds and living their lunchtime dreams with a choice of six weekly rotating food stalls.

Set amongst a backdrop of beautiful architecture, the Fleet Street Quarter, with its rich and iconic culinary history, has become home to one of the most exciting new street food markets within the City of London. So put aside the meal deals and the soggy sandwich, get your sun cream on and grab your mates for an hour of pure food bliss.

KERB are renowned for finding and accelerating the freshest food talent from the streets of London. Earlier this year, they moved all things market, members, positive social impact and delicious dishes across to their new social enterprise KERB+.

Every Thursday, KERB+ brings a mix of their much loved InKERBator traders and members to the market at Fleet Place. You can expect a rotating line-up of six innovative street food traders who are making waves in the London food scene. Previous KERBanists include some of London's most iconic eateries, amongst them the likes of Pizza Pilgrims, Truffle Burger, and Bao.

The new lunchtime KERB+ Fleet Place market powered by the Fleet Street Quarter will be open for business from 11.30am – 2.30pm every Thursday from 3rd August 2023.

**KERB+ FLEET PLACE  
FLEET PLACE, EC4M 7RA**



## WHERE PRINT HISTORY MEETS MODERN COMMS: STATIONERS' HALL

**Dr Ruth Frenedo,  
Archivist, Stationers' and Newspaper  
Makers' Company.**

Follow Fleet Street towards St Paul's Cathedral, and just off Ludgate Hill, tucked away behind Club Quarters Hotel, you'll find Stationers' Hall. It has stood here, at the heart of the City's historic book trade, for 350 years, although the Stationers' Company itself predates that by over two centuries. Formed in 1403 from the misteries of Textwriters and Limners, and 'other good people, citizens of London, who used to bind and sell books', the Company received an unexpected boost with Caxton's introduction of the printing press to England. Granted a Royal Charter in 1557, the Stationers' Company – and their Hall – soon dominated English book production. Sixteenth-century legislation to curb the circulation of seditious literature meant that before a text could be printed, the publisher needed to secure a licence from the Crown. Duly approved, the publisher then headed for Stationers' Hall to register their exclusive right to print and distribute the text, known as the 'right to copy'.

From the beginning, many Stationers kept printing presses along Fleet Street, including Richard Tottell, printer of the first poetry anthology in English (1557). Stationer Samuel Richardson drafted the first English novel, Pamela, in the backroom of his printing house on Salisbury Court in 1739. As newspapers took over Fleet Street, the Stationers' Company maintained its associations with the street, amalgamating in 1935 with the Company of Newspaper Makers, whose founding members included Edgar Wallace and Daily Express editor-in-chief R.D. Blumenfeld. Today, the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers welcomes all professionals of the content and communication industries into its lively community and historic Hall. The Hall, recently refurbished to improve accessibility, flexibility and sustainability, offers public tours and is available for commercial hire.

For information on Company activities and membership, see [www.stationers.org](http://www.stationers.org), and for tours and Hall hire, see [www.stationershall.co.uk](http://www.stationershall.co.uk)

**STATIONERS' HALL,  
AVE MARIA LANE, EC4M 7DD**

## INNOVATION ROOTED IN 350 YEARS OF HISTORY: THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES

One of the hidden jewels of the Fleet Street Quarter is Apothecaries' Hall, one of the oldest Livery Halls in the City of London. Tucked away in Black Friars Lane with many of the rooms remaining as they were in 1672, the Grade I listed Hall is a portal into another time. The hall is home to the Society of Apothecaries, which despite its historic surroundings is an innovative and progressive institution, firmly established at the forefront of modern-day medicine and a leading player in the advancement of medical research and knowledge.

The Hall can be hired for events with an on-site team that offers bespoke event management and fabulous on-site catering. The recently refurbished ground floor 'shop' takes its inspiration from the original dispensing counter where medicines manufactured on site were sold to the public between 1672 and 1922. It is now a magnificent champagne bar and space for receptions. It can be used in conjunction with the private courtyard in the Summer for cocktail parties, barbecues and pre-dinner receptions.

On the first floor you step back in time as you enter the beautifully furnished Great Hall which has scarcely changed in 350 years. The room is full of life-sized portraits and stunning stained-glass coats of arms of past members of the Society. The hall can seat 140 for lunch or dinner or 200 for a reception. The adjacent oak panelled Court Room is dominated by two large stained-glass windows and a portrait of the Society's founder Gideon de Laune, it is the most amazing setting for intimate dinners for up to 25 guests.

If you would like to learn more about the Hall as a venue for your next event, please call our sales team on 0207 517 3500 or [sales@partyingredients.co.uk](mailto:sales@partyingredients.co.uk). The Hall is just another example of what makes Fleet Street Quarter such a diverse and fascinating area in which to work, live and visit!

**APOTHECARIES' HALL,  
BLACK FRIARS LN, EC4V 6ER**





# FRAMESTORE FINDS ITS HOME IN FLEET STREET QUARTER

Mel Sullivan,  
CEO Framestore

After three decades in Soho it was something of a wrench to leave, particularly since we were one of the companies who'd made it the 'spiritual home' of London's VFX and post-production industry. Over the years Framestore had grown significantly, however, so it was time to bring our teams together under one roof and in a new, modern building that spoke to where we were as a company.

Our modus operandi when looking for a new studio location has always been less about what an area is known for and more about what it could be known for. We saw great scope and opportunity in the 28 Chancery Lane location: the building was far superior to anything we had seen elsewhere, and this has been borne out by how quickly our creatives have made the space their own. The lobby entrance is both impressive and inviting; the fifth floor team space is as popular for informal lunches with friends as for hosting talks from Oscar-winning directors, and the seventh floor with its impressive views of the city is perfect for entertaining clients from all over the world.

Chancery Lanes excellent connectivity, too, has proven tremendously important - particularly given the number of people who now live further away due to the pandemic, or on account of the ongoing cost of living crisis.



While the area is attractive and home to a number of interesting and historic buildings, we do feel that it would benefit from more retail and hospitality options - particularly those that might appeal to a younger generation of creatives, producers and media professionals. This is why we are very happy to be working with the FSQ to enhance the area and

make it an even more of an attractive destination for our colleagues when it comes to both work and socialising.

Moreover, since making Chancery Lane our home we have begun to see more and more of our clients and competitors moving to, or within walking distance of, the area.

We believe that FSQ's plans will help attract even more creative businesses, further strengthening this powerful creative and economic ecosystem.

**FRAMESTORE**  
**28 CHANCERY LN, LONDON WC2A 1LB**



## CORAM SEEKS PARTNERSHIPS IN FLEET STREET QUARTER

Dan Joyce,  
Coram

Back in 1739, Thomas Coram established The Foundling Hospital, and its founding ethos to look after the rights and welfare of children and young people is still going strong today.

Coram is a specialist group of children's charities dedicated to all children, but particularly those who have little or no support around them.

Children's chances in life still depend on where they live and who they live with and right now 2.3 million children in the UK are

living with risk with 400,000 being children in need, 100,000 in care, 215,000 undocumented & in the digital first generation 1 in 6 children face mental health challenges.

Every minute of every day children are denied the security, education, love and opportunity which should be theirs by right. Step by step, child by child, on the journey from infancy to independence, Coram provide adoption and fostering services, education and early years support, advocacy and legal services.

As the UK's first and longest serving children's charity, Coram never stops making positive change happen - helping over 1 million children a year.

Coram's work has never been more needed given the impact of the pandemic and ongoing cost of living crisis but to continue delivering better chances for children now and forever they rely on vital fundraising from individuals, trusts, foundations, communities and companies. Charitable giving from organisations has massively evolved over the past 20 years - from corporate giving that was seen as the right thing to do to the expected CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activity to the more recent change around ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance).

Today companies are looking to establish meaningful, long term charity partnerships that help them demonstrate their purpose to their investors, colleagues and customers. Coram can be that ideal partner for companies across the Fleet Street Quarter as they look

to forge long term partnerships with companies on a shared purpose, shared value perspective which together can deliver real impact and transformational change.

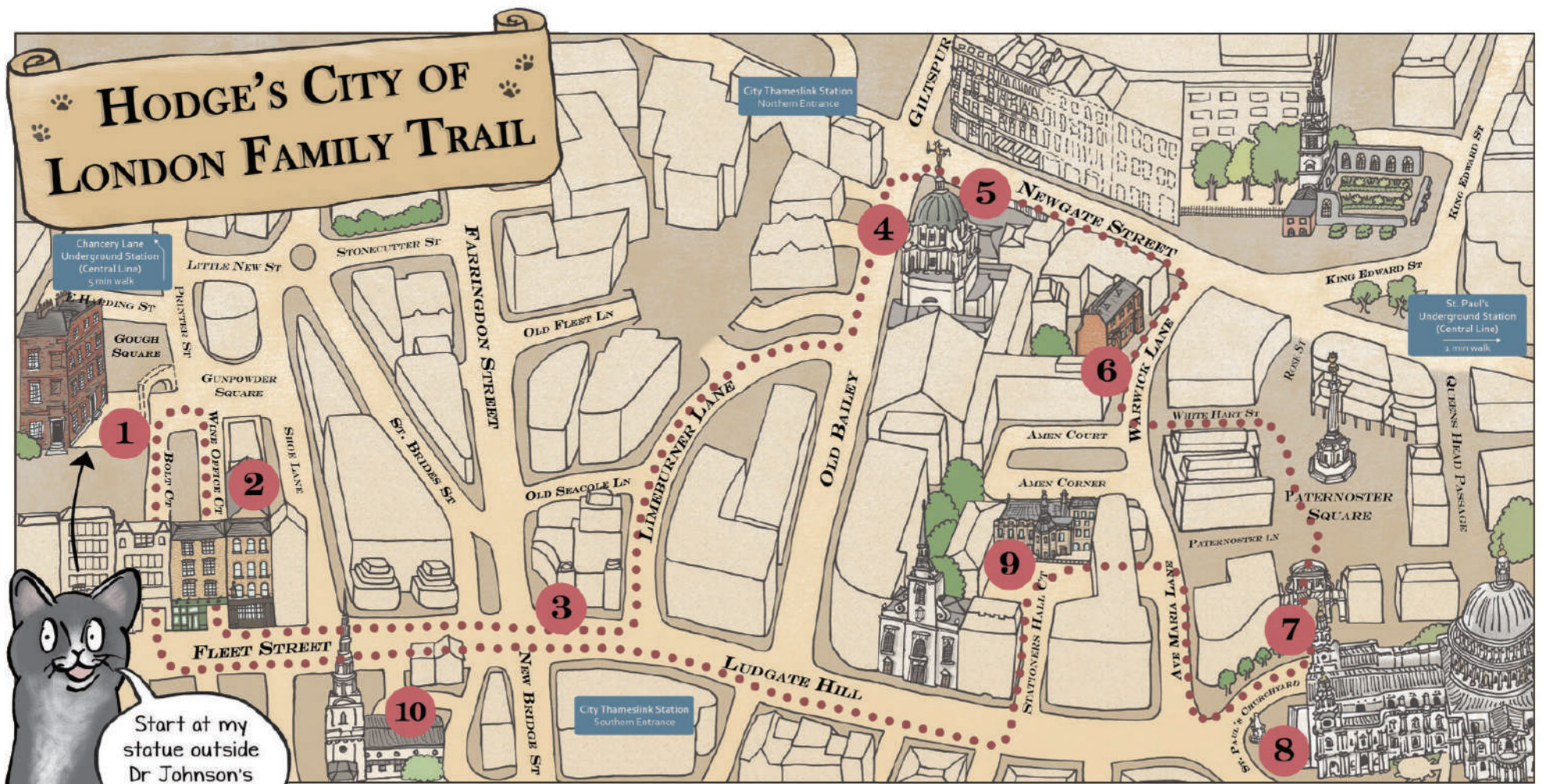
With Thomas Coram laid to rest in St. Andrews Church, Holborn, the Fleet Street Quarter have a tangible connection to the charity and the opportunity to add real value through a mutually beneficial partnership. We need to put children first and shall not rest until each child has the best possible start in life but we can't do this without people and companies across the Fleet Street Quarter. If you're ready to join Coram and help transform children's lives please get in touch with Dan Joyce - dan.joyce@coram.org.uk

A parent whose children were supported by Coram said:

*"Their service provided a safe space for my children and myself to open up and discuss very difficult issues. Both my boys were very hard to reach due to traumatic experiences in the past. They both felt Coram was a place where they were heard and valued. Since our time with you we have learned invaluable skills that help us move forward. It's had such a profound effect on us all. We are definitely in a much better place, our heartfelt thanks to you all."*

**CORAM.ORG.UK**





Start at my statue outside Dr Johnson's House!

Illustrated by Emma Metcalfe

Dr Johnson's House was built over 1300 years ago and was home to all important writer, Dr Samuel Johnson. In the middle of the 1700s Dr Johnson wrote a great deal of different things, including a novel and a play, but his greatest achievement was to write the first modern dictionary of the English language. He did this whilst living at no. 17 Gough Square with his favourite pet cat, Hodge.

## 1. STATUE OF HODGE THE CAT

Hodge was one of Dr Johnson's favourite cats. He loved to eat oysters and today kind passers-by sometimes leave coins in the oyster shells next to his statue.

Have a look at Hodge. What is he sitting on?



## 2. YE OLDE CHESHIRE CHEESE PUB

This small dark pub is hundreds of years old. It's likely that Dr Johnson would have visited here as it was so close to his house

Look at the sign by the door. Which king or queen ruled Britain when Dr Johnson was born in 1709?



## 3. CORNER OF LUDGATE CIRCUS

This part of London was full of printers and publishers in the 1700s.

Look for a sign marking the site where London's first daily newspaper was published in 1702. What was its name?



## 4. THE OLD BAILEY

This is where people accused of committing a serious crime in or near the City of London were tried. In Dr Johnson's time the court was open to the air to try and prevent the judge and jury catching diseases from the prisoners! The Old Bailey is still a working court today.

What is the motto on the front of the building?



## 5. NEWGATE PRISON

This was the site of Newgate Prison in Dr Johnson's day. There was a prison here from 1188, although it was rebuilt several times over the centuries.

Look for a sign marking the site. In what year was the building demolished?



## 6. CUTLERS' HALL

A cutler is a skilled craftsperson who makes cutlery and knives.

Look at the Cutlers' Hall building. Can you see an animal which matches this description from the dictionary Dr Johnson published in 1755?

*"The largest of all quadrupeds...This animal is not carnivorous, but feeds on hay, herbs... and it is said to be extremely long lived. It is naturally very gentle; but when enraged no creature is more terrible."*



## 7. TEMPLE BAR

In the 1700s merchants passed through this arch on their way from Westminster to trade in the City of London. Its original location on Fleet Street is marked with a statue of a dragon (the symbol of the City of London).

Look up at the arch. How many dragons are there? What other animals can you see?



## 8. ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

St Paul's Cathedral was rebuilt by famous architect Sir Christopher Wren after being destroyed in the Great Fire of London.

Look at the statue of Queen Anne in front of the cathedral. In which year was the building of St Paul's completed?



## 9. STATIONERS' HALL

Dr Johnson's dictionary contained entries for over 42,000 words, including TO PRINT - 'to impress words or make books, not by the pen, but the press.'

Fleet Street was very famous for printing and publishing. Can you find a sign telling you when the first printing press was set up here?



## 10. ST BRIDE'S CHURCH

Dr Johnson would have recognised the 'wedding cake' spire of St Bride's Church, which is now very famous.

Look at the 'welcome' sign on the gate. Which of Dr Johnson's fellow 18th-century writers is buried here?



Fleet Street Quarter BID is currently sponsoring a year long, monthly lunchtime lecture series at Dr Johnson's House. Follow Fleet Street Quarter and Dr Johnson's House on Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn for details.

Dr Johnson's House is open from 11am - 5pm, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday offering discounted entry for families.

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



## MORPH COMES TO FLEET STREET QUARTER

Join in the fun this summer with Morph's Epic Art Adventure, a step-free public art trail. On until 20 August the trail covers iconic locations across central London, supporting Whizz Kidz, the UK's leading charity for young wheelchair users.

Did you know each Morph has a unique design? Fleet Street Quarter is proud to have sponsored 'Make Your Mark' Morph by artist Sarah Emily Porter, located at the corner of Peter's Hill and Disdaff Lane. Her design uses free and unconstrained painting techniques, alongside a bright colour palette, to send the message that no matter your ability, everyone deserves to make their mark on the world, dream and live freely without barriers.

You can visit Fleet Street Quarter's, or any other City BID sponsored Morph, and enter the unique four digit code into the Morph Trail app to unlock for a chance to win a £500 City Gift card to spend at amazing venues and retailers across the City of London.

Find Morph on the corner of Peter's Hill and Disdaff Lane.



# FLEET STREET AREA HEALTHY STREETS PLAN

By Stephen Oliver,  
Project Manager,  
Projects and Programmes,  
City of London Corporation

The City of London Corporation's Fleet Street Area Healthy Streets Plan is a framework to improve air quality, reduce congestion and make the Fleet Street area a more attractive place to live, work and do business by embedding public health in transport, public realm and planning. It

will make streets attractive and accessible places to walk, cycle and spend time and support social and economic activity, the plan encompasses five neighbourhoods north and south of Fleet Street and Ludgate Hill.

The plan identifies opportunities to improve the priority and safety for people walking by restricting some traffic movements and improving crossings. Some existing streets will be improved by pavement widenings, new planting and new seating, locations for new public spaces will also be identified.

Proposals will also benefit the comfort and safety for people cycling, and loading and servicing for businesses will also be assessed for improvements.

A six-week consultation has recently been completed on the draft plan, in partnership with Fleet Street Quarter BID an online portal was provided by the consultation specialists Commonplace. This promoted the City's proposals for the five neighbourhoods and gave the consultees the opportunity to show their degree of support and make comments and suggestions about the neighbourhoods in general.

Both the City of London and Fleet Street Quarter BID highly publicised the consultation and this was reflected in a large uptake by the community with 600 responses.

These responses were predominantly from people working in the area and the demographics of the responders reflected the average age of the people working in the City. Strong support was received for most of the proposals and particularly for those that will improve pedestrian priority and the comfort and safety for people walking and cycling.

The City will continue to refine and develop the plan in partnership with Fleet Street Quarter BID, and will also continue dialogue with Transport for London about proposals that will have wider impacts on traffic in the City. It is anticipated that the final plan will be presented to the City Streets and Walkways sub-committee for approval in November this year.



## MY FLEET STREET QUARTER

Alhoussein 'Al' Fadiga,  
Ambassador Site Manager,  
Fleet Street Quarter BID

Fleet Street Quarter is my fourth BID, starting from Northbank where I was part of the launching team as Ambassador, then to Bee-London in Holborn as Ambassador Supervisor and to Baker Street Quarter as Environment Manager. It's been a great start since April this year. I've been learning history

as I go, I'm a news-person, so I was excited when I was asked to transfer to this historical area as an Ambassador Site Manager. The first thing I learned about was St Bride Church or 'The Journalist's Church', and I translated its story into French for a post on my blog.

What has struck me is that there much history here, and so many nice people working in the area we've met since we started. It's a quiet site in terms of antisocial behaviour, which is good for everyone, and as everywhere in an Ambassador role, every day is different. Since Saud (another of FSQ's Ambassadors) and I started, we have reported hundreds of environmental issues for repairs, which are quickly resolved once raised, and visited many businesses with great engagement from the local community with us and the BID. Slowly, slowly we are getting familiar with the area and also working hard on fixing the issues we are finding as we move around the area. In terms of visitor numbers, they're starting to come back with summer now here, and FSQ's working population is growing too.

Activities that have been organised by the BID such as the activations for King Charles III's Coronation, the 'Fleet Street Quarter Community Urban Farm' created in partnership with Square Mile Farms, and our pop-up garden at Holborn Circus 'The Herbalist's Plant Press', which featured a month-long series of Outdoor Art Workshops, are giving people the idea of what Fleet Street Quarter is about, and with more to come, the BID will be settling strong, with a great future ahead of it!

This is just the start of a great adventure bringing people back to a new vibrant, rebranded, and revitalised patch of the City of London, the Fleet Street Quarter.



## SHAPING THE FUTURE FOR FLEET STREET QUARTER

Michaela Winter-Taylor,  
Cities & Urban Design,  
European Lead, Gensler

Earlier this year, the Fleet Street Quarter commissioned Gensler to work closely with key stakeholders and partners to devise a joint Placemaking and Public Realm Vision for the Quarter that will be more than the sum of its parts; a well-connected, well designed, accessible place for businesses, visitors, and residents alike. The aim is to ensure that the public realm is upgraded alongside the 40 new developments planned for the area in a coherent manner, creating a new District and securing the future for Fleet Street.

The ambitious vision for the Fleet Street Quarter Public Realm Strategy is one of reinvention, with vibrant and sustainable public spaces that celebrate the rich history and culture of the area whilst providing a safe and open environment for all users. To deliver the vision, a strategy is being developed that sets out a comprehensive programme of improvements that will enhance the quarter in its entirety. It will be transformed into a global destination of successful businesses and spaces that offer an unrivalled visitor experience, sitting alongside distinct historic neighbourhoods. The strategy is supported by a set of ambitions for the whole quarter: 1- Enrich the Connections, 2- Nurture Public Realm, 3- Enhance Biodiversity, and 4- Drive Activity that will set the overall strategy for the district.

Alongside transport consultants Norman Rourke Pryme (NRP) and cultural consultant UP Projects, Gensler has identified opportunities that align with these side-wide ambitions. Prioritising walking and cycling, and providing green spaces to dwell and other amenities for people to enjoy will enhance the overall pedestrian experience. The urban realm will also support the local economy by creating opportunities for events, markets, and cultural activities that draw people to the area. Additionally, the design will address environmental and biodiversity concerns by creating green corridors and ecological hubs with integrated urban farms and energy-efficient lighting. To further a sense of place and community identity, the use of local materials and plants will be prioritised.

The Placemaking and Public Realm Strategy, due to be finalised in early autumn, will set out a transformational programme for the next ten years that establishes the framework for change and will support a long-term phased approach towards creating a welcoming and vibrant Fleet Street Quarter.

## WREN - ORNAMENT FOR ETERNITY

St Bride's Church

This September, St Bride's Church, in association with Profugo Arts, and supported by Fleet Street Quarter BID, will present 'Wren - Ornament for Eternity'. This unique event will be a celebration of the life and genius of Sir Christopher Wren, revealing the story of one of the nation's greatest polymaths, from his early academic achievements as an

inventor, astronomer and mathematician, to what is undoubtedly his greatest triumph - raising the City of London from the ashes of The Great Fire.

Wren's monumental accomplishments will be brought to life through words and music, in an event supporting the restoration of one of his most beloved masterpieces, St Bride's - the cathedral of Fleet Street. From the tumultuous events of the Civil War, through his scholarly development and early scientific work with the Royal Society, to the height of his architectural success in a world ablaze with change, Wren's impact on world history will be depicted in a

singular theatrical experience, told through dramatised scenes written by playwright Graham Warrener and directed by innovative film and theatre director Jake Sleet.

Complementing this remarkable tale, audiences will be enthralled by music from Endelienta Baroque, which comprises some of the country's most exciting young performers on historical instruments, and, of course, the renowned St Bride's Choir, under Director of Music, Robert Jones, as well as poetry and literary passages from the period, read by journalist and presenter, Giles Coren.

In addition, for those seeking a more interactive experience, a guided Wren walk curated by Lynette Denzey will take place prior to the event itself, beginning at Monument and arriving at The Old Bell Tavern in time for a quick drink before what promises to be memorable evening.

'Wren - Ornament for Eternity' will be performed at St Bride's Church, on Friday 29th September, at 7.30pm.

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



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES FROM THE BID AND UPCOMING EVENTS



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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 1-20 AUGUST WOMEN'S WORLD CUP SCREENINGS

#### APEX TEMPLE COURT HOTEL

Join us for Women's World Cup 2023 screenings in Apex Temple Court Hotel's stunning Chambers Courtyard, which has been kitted out for this year's tournaments, sponsored by Fleet Street Quarter BID. With plenty of comfy seating to choose from, beers on tap, champagne flowing, strawberries and cream and most importantly a big screen to watch all the action, it's the perfect spot to watch this summer's sports under the City sun! **No booking required. Open when games (within reasonable hours) are in play.**

### EVERY THURSDAY EAT IT @ FLEET STREET QUARTER MARKET

#### FLEET PLACE

Fancy spicing up your lunchtime? Fleet Street Quarter has teamed up with streetfood pioneers, KERB+, to launch a brand new street food market in the bustling Fleet Place - a stone's throw from Blackfriars station and nestled between St Paul's and Fleet Street. **Six of KERB's street food members will trade at Fleet Place, every Thursday from 11.30am - 2.30pm.**

### LUNCHTIME SHAKESPEARE IN THE QUARTER

#### TUESDAY 8, 15 & 29 AUG: APEX TEMPLE COURT HOTEL

#### 22 AUG, 11 SEP, 03 OCT: STATIONERS HALL

Join us to celebrate the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's first folio, which was printed in Stationers' Hall in Fleet Street Quarter! Free to attend and sponsored by FSQ BID, Troubadour Stageworks is proud to present a Shakespearean revue celebrating the wit and genius of English literature's most influential playwright.

Join us in a seamlessly woven tale travelling through the forests of Arden, Athens and Rousillon, the high seas of Illyria and the castles of Glamis and Elsinore. Expect music, laughter, lovers and rivalry to sing through the streets he once walked. **Booking required. 12:15 - 1:15pm (show run time 45 mins).**

### TUESDAY 22 AUGUST THE POWERFUL GRACE OF PLANTS: JOHN GERARD, WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE AND BOTANY

#### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HOLBORN

Join author and historian Margaret Willes for a fascinating talk focusing on Holborn herbalist John Gerard, his links to fellow former FSQ local, William Shakespeare, and their shared passion for all things botanical. Sponsored by Fleet Street Quarter BID. **Booking required. 12:30 - 1:30pm**

### 31 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER BARTHOLOMEW FAIR

#### CARTER LN, NEW STREET SQUARE

Join us to celebrate the beginning of Bartholomew Fair, a City-wide celebration with over 30 free events, live performances, and unique spectacles to celebrate the City of London's heritage and contemporary culture. Fleet Street Quarter's Carter Lane will be pedestrianised with businesses will opening their doors for al fresco dining on the Lane, and New Street Square will host a series of cultural events over the three days. [thecityofldn.com/bartholomew-fair](http://thecityofldn.com/bartholomew-fair)

### THURSDAY 31 AUGUST "LET OBSERVATION WITH EXTENSIVE VIEW, SURVEY MANKIND, FROM CHINA TO PERU..."

#### DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

A talk about Johnson and Boswell's travels to Scotland and subsequent publication, to coincide with the 250th anniversary of travel writing. **Booking required. 12:45 - 1:45pm.**

### THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE LECTURE

**DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE**  
**Booking required. 12:45 - 1:45pm.**

### FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER WREN - ORNAMENT FOR ETERNITY

#### ST BRIDES CHURCH

An evening celebrating the life and genius of Sir Christopher Wren, his work in raising the City of London from the ashes of The Great Fire, and his vision for St Bride's - the cathedral of Fleet Street. Supported by Fleet Street Quarter BID. **Booking required. 7.30-9.50pm.**



© Eric Parry Architects

## WATCH THIS PLACE

### Roy Pinnock, Chair, Fleet Street Quarter BID

Cities and towns face challenges that are not new, but continue to be shaped by technology, with the twin catalysts of public health and economic shocks: attracting investment, tenants, workers, visitors, families, services; supporting commercial and environmental resilience - retaining what has been attracted; governing spaces that are environmentally and socially sustainable.

This boils down to one essential question - as old as cities - why come? Not all places can (or should) answer this the same way or compete at the same level. Whatever their role, though, places need more than ever to have clarity about destination and purpose - why go there?

Urban reinvention is not new - it is the norm. What matters is pace: too slow, and places ossify, become brittle and exposed to creeping change revealed when the tide goes out suddenly; done without care, places can lose their integrity. Collaboration between City partners - occupiers, investors, developers, government, citizens - is a necessary condition for success. This will not always mean consensus, but requires dialogue where all partners recognise the value, sometimes competing, sometimes aligned, of adventure, restraint, bravery, risk-taking, respect for place and stewardship of social and environmental capital. Different cities, towns and urban quarters can answer the essential question differently, and setting expectations is essential for this to happen without delaying investment.

Fleet Street Quarter is a young Business Improvement District - in its second year - covering 43 hectares of a truly global city, it aims to help build a community that is founded on quality of place. FSQ is not struggling with investment in change, within it, more than thirty heavy refurb and redevelopment projects will deliver around £5bn of state of the art office, retail and leisure space in the next five-years - perhaps 25,000 new members of the community, and around it, the imminent completion of city-scale projects whose zone of influence will overlap at the heart of FSQ, the Blackfriars Bridge Foreshore open space (completion 2025) and the London Museum (opening 2026) at West Smithfield.

The BID has an essential role to play in ensuring this is a success - in environmental, social and governance terms for occupiers. Our strategic focus is thus on public realm, safety, connected community and destination-marketing.

Since startup in 2022, the BID team has invested hugely in building relationships with our City partners and helping to deliver projects that allow this part of London to do what it does best; evolve, inspire and engage. Our FSQ Ambassadors, Al and Saud, have welcomed thousands of people to the area since starting in March this year, we have partnered with the charity Whizz-Kidz to bring Morph to the Quarter and to help his Epic Art Adventure, they have piloted street parties in Carter Lane, street gardens at Holborn Circus and an Urban Farm on Fleet Street itself with a meanwhile-use scheme that bring vacant high street properties to life.

Earlier this year, we launched our Destination FSQ report, 'The Future Is Fleet Street Quarter', to help put FSQ back on the map, and coming up later this year we are on track to launch our ground-breaking Public Realm Strategy, following close work with our City partners.

15-months in, we have much to celebrate but are only just reaching the end of the beginning. Watch this place.

