

# EC1 ECHO

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Pedestrianise  
Exmouth Market  
now, say traders

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like an old friend,  
says Philippa Perry

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'Connection', taken by William  
Hall in Hatton Garden during  
lockdown, 2020



## Decisive moments

The Clerkenwell Community Photography Competition has yielded an exceptional crop, says organiser Chris Walker

**T**he first Clerkenwell Community Photography Competition has now closed and is being judged. The initiative has encouraged all parts of the local community to give

photography a try: from young people with camera phones, to older people who remember the Box Brownie. The point is that photography is now truly democratic. Expensive kit isn't essential,

and there are no longer pricey developing and printing costs.

It's been fascinating to see the entries coming in. There have been various themes emerging, some expected, some truly surprising.

As a beautiful public square, Clerkenwell Green has proved a popular spot. There have been quite a few shots of foxes, who are clearly a part of our community.

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# Moorfields set to move from City Road

## Councillors set to decide on Moorfields Eye Hospital relocation in ‘major step’ for local NHS services

BY ED SHERIDAN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER, WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM EC1 ECHO

Councillors are set to consider the redevelopment of St Pancras Hospital to make way for the new home of Moorfields Eye Hospital, in what a planning report describes as a “major step” in the transformation of NHS services.

A recent consultation found “overall support” for the move of Moorfields to St Pancras, with the existing City Road site, which includes some over-century old buildings considered no longer fit for purpose and unable to “maximise opportunities to deliver excellent science.”

Oriel – the name for the joint initiative between Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology (IoO) and Moorfields Eye Charity – is in charge of its delivery. A spokesperson for Oriel says: “The proposed development is considered to mark a major step in the implementation of joint NHS Service Transformation plan prepared by the North Central London health providers. The development would be paid for via the release of surplus land at the City Road site by Moorfields.”

Property advisors CBRE have been asked to undertake a competitive marketing exercise for the sale of the City Road and Bath Street sites, currently home to Moorfields Eye Hospital and the IoO.

“The sale of the sites will be ‘subject to planning’ so bidders will be asked to come forward with their own planning proposals that complement and enhance Islington Council’s ambitions for the area.” says the spokesperson. “Moorfields Eye Hospital and the UCL IoO will continue to work closely with Islington Council as the plans for the sites progress.”

With increasing demand from the ageing population, Oriel wants to replace tra-



Part of the old Moorfields Eye Hospital site on City Road

ditional hospital-based eye services with new models of care. As it says on its website: “Our current buildings at City Road were built over 120 years ago at a time when hospital care was provided very differently to how it is now.

“The ageing infrastructure of the hospital... is increasingly difficult and costly to maintain, including the Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC), Guide Dogs for the Blind Association UK, London Vision, Visually Impaired in Camden and the

Thomas Pocklington Trust. A planning report summarises their comments as: “This new centre will bring major advancement for the treatment and research into childhood sight loss and attract the finest talent in the field. The centre would offer the very best environment for patients and staff.

“[The] proposed development will allow Moorfields to continue its world-leading clinical outcomes and attract, inspire and

retain the most talented clinicians, researchers and educators. “[The] proposal would create high quality public realm for patients and staff, with active uses at ground floor such as café, retail and education, [and] will also signify a major investment for the local economy, provide local training and employment opportunities as well as being a highly sustainable building.”

Concerns have been raised by the Victorian Society over the impact on the historical site, as well as an objection at the Camden end from local amenity group The Regents Network, which criticises the development as “large, bulky, unappealing and overly dominant.”

Other objectors are also quoted in the report as being overall supportive of the principle of the works, while urging measures be put in place over the ‘last half mile’ between transport and the development, with calls for tests over potential use for tactile paving to aid greater accessibility and green lines directing people from stations to the new bus stop for the site.

The new centre at the St Pancras hospital site is scheduled to open in 2026.

*“The ageing infrastructure of the hospital is costly to maintain”*

# Clerkenwell and City wards merge in boundary review

A consultation from the England Boundary Commission’s 2023 electoral review, which proposes that a new City of London and Islington South constituency be formed, ends this month. With the wider aim to give London an extra two parliamentary seats, the changes would result in Islington being represented by 51 councillors, three more than at present, and give Islington one extra ward, bringing it up to 17.

The changes in Clerkenwell, says the Boundary Commission for England, would join the City of London joined with wards in EC1 including Bunhill and Clerkenwell, as well as several other wards in the rest of Islington, and the proposals are also “being

driven by major developments in the Bunhill, Caledonian Road, City Road and Clerkenwell areas”.

Should the changes come to pass, one of the expected effects would be to bring a higher Labour vote into the City of London as it merges with Islington South, itself currently paired with the historic district of Finsbury – as noted in Emily Thornberry’s title as MP for Islington South and Finsbury.

The proposals also affect the Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer’s Holborn and St Pancras constituency, which would become part of a larger Kentish Town and Bloomsbury constituency.

The proposals are in the first round and will depend on many factors before becoming enshrined in law in 2023.

# Green means go



unless approaching traffic is detected. The locations, including Long Lane, have been chosen on the basis of existing high pedestrian

*“The green person ‘walk’ signal is continuous unless traffic is detected”*

As if to show that creating a more walkable London does not have to include divisive Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs), 18 pedestrian crossings across London have been reprogrammed to have the green person signal showing unless a vehicle

is approaching – including the crossing at Long Lane by West Smithfield.

The crossings, created by Transport for London, were trialed in 2018 and are using “green person authority” or “green man authority” – technology whereby a green person ‘walk’ signal is continuous

traffic. “Giving pedestrians priority is a powerful way of putting them first and making it easier to cross London’s roads,” said Will Norman, London’s walking and cycling commissioner. Added Mary Creagh of charity Living Streets: “Putting pedestrians first at crossings will make streets safer for everyone. This exciting initiative to switch to a default green person gives power back to pedestrians, helping them move around more easily, safely and quickly.”

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### CLERKENWELL GREEN

A handsome commercial property situated in the heart of central London. This space lies in a well maintained Period building and consequently has large floor to ceiling windows throughout giving an abundance of sunlight. Superbly located, Clerkenwell Green is transitioning to a pedestrian friendly environment which will enhance its charm as restaurants and bars re-emerge, making this an ideal environment to reside.

P.O.A



### LLOYD BAKER

An impressive Grade II listed five bedroom Georgian home located within the highly coveted Lloyd Baker Estate. Boasting beautiful period features including floor to ceiling windows, high ceilings and wooden flooring. The property is in need of refurbishment however this particular project would make for an ideal upmarket family home.

£2,100,000



### RADIUS APARTMENT

A lovely one bedroom apartment in a sought-after building on a quiet cul-de-sac in Islington, just a stone’s throw away from Kings Cross station, one of London’s main transport hubs.

£500,000

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NEWS



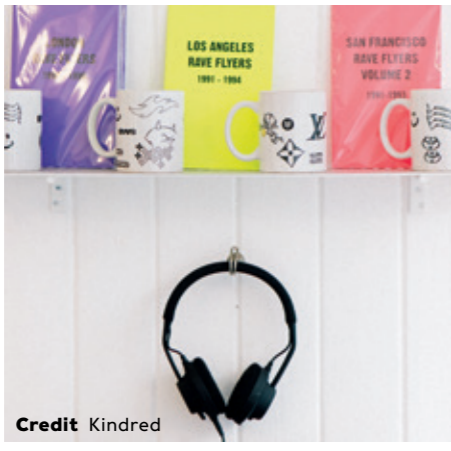
A place for kindred spirits

A new record label, shop and radio station is breathing life into Mount Pleasant

In the group of shops on Mount Pleasant there are some old stalwarts including the feted Process Supplies, one of the last film processors in London, a café, and showing the area’s attraction to company HQs, the home of Fred Perry. Apart from that, the stretch could use a bit of a refresh, so it is fitting that a shop called Kindred has recently joined the fray, selling and hosting music, books, art, t-shirts and, every Tuesday, a live radio station. It is based around the imprint Kindred, started by proprietor and DJ Jojo, who prior to Covid ran parties and club nights across London. “When Covid happened we came across the space and within a month, we were open,” says Jojo. “It was very spur of the moment” At the moment he runs the shop and the radio station every Tuesday with his girlfriend Scarlet and team members Louis and Noah. In the last decade many record shops have closed down, despite a growing taste for vinyl. “Some were intimidating, particularly to younger

customers,” says Jojo. “But this is smaller and cosy and we’ve got young people coming here as well as people who live around the corner.” The shop was previously an office. As well as spending last summer sanding its floorboards, Jojo and his colleagues made all the furniture for the shop. In doing so, the area has seen a

“We’ve created our own platform”



Credit Kindred

bit of rejuvenation. “It’s a great part of London, but this was a bit of a quiet street,” says Jojo. “But it’s all falling into place, and helping to bring in a new community interested in music, art and design.” It has also been a shot in the arm after the dreary days of Covid, adds Jojo. “I feel that it’s been especially difficult for people my age to have been locked away. Here, you can meet people outside when the weather’s nice and have like a social space. We’ve kind of made a little hub and it’s very early days so we’re going to keep expanding with workshops and events.” As Jojo says, it’s partly about repopulating the area following the pandemic, and to get physical space in a digital world. “A lot of young DJs find it hard to get onto platform,” he says “So we’ve basically created our own, and it’s just grown massively. I think it shows there was a need for a space like this.”

For more information: Visit kindredeverything.com

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Waging a campaign  
Islington employers come together to tackle low pay

BY MARIAM CHAUDHRI

Islington Council has joined together with other local employers in a bid to make Islington the first ‘Living Wage’ borough in North London. The council is one of 17 employers, including City University and EC1-based architecture firm AHMM to be signed up to a plan to ensure that 3,000 more workers in the borough receive the London Living Wage (currently £10.85 an hour) by 2024. These figures are based on doubling the number of Living Wage accredited employers in the borough. “By becoming North London’s first Living Wage Borough, we can help bring the huge benefits of the London Living Wage to workers and employers alike, and lift local people out of poverty,” said Cllr Asima Shaikh, executive member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs.



Credit Wikicommons

AHMM has contributed to the Islington Living Wage Action Group by providing a useful perspective on becoming a Living Wage employer and why it is beneficial for local communities. “Issues around the role of local businesses in communities as well as fair employment practices have come to the fore during this time,” said Anna Bazeley, marketing director for AHMM. “We believe the Living Wage Place initiative will play an important role in helping local communities to recover”.

The architectural practice has been a Living Wage employer since 2015. Recent data from the Living Wage Foundation shows that sectors such as accommodation, retail and hospitality are most likely to struggle to pay the Living Wage. Islington Council has said it will initiate a series of conversations with these sectors and the Foundation to explore how it can support more employers to pay the Living Wage. While the main aim of the scheme is to “make Islington a fairer borough, where everyone has the opportunity to reach their potential and enjoy a good quality of life”, the Council also emphasises that higher pay will mean that residents and people who work in the borough will have more money to spend on local businesses. It hopes to work with neighbouring boroughs, including Camden, Haringey and Hackney,

“The Living Wage Place initiative will help local communities to recover”

as approximately 80 per cent of Islington’s working age residents work outside the borough. A Council initiative is to launch an employment portal to make it easier for residents to apply for jobs and a programme called LIFT in partnership with Hackney, Camden and Tower Hamlets Councils which will increase access to jobs for local residents. The Council’s business support team has given out £65m in grants to 4,000 local businesses to support them through the pandemic. Other factors may also cause wages to rise, including labour shortages, which may well change with the ending of the Furlough scheme on 30 September. The British Chambers of Commerce recently showed that 70 per cent of businesses had struggled to hire staff in the three months leading to June. Qualms about the return to work may also have an effect and workplace analytics firm Locatee found that just 17 of respondents actively want a full-time return to the office also potentially incentivising employers to raise wages.

5 NEWS

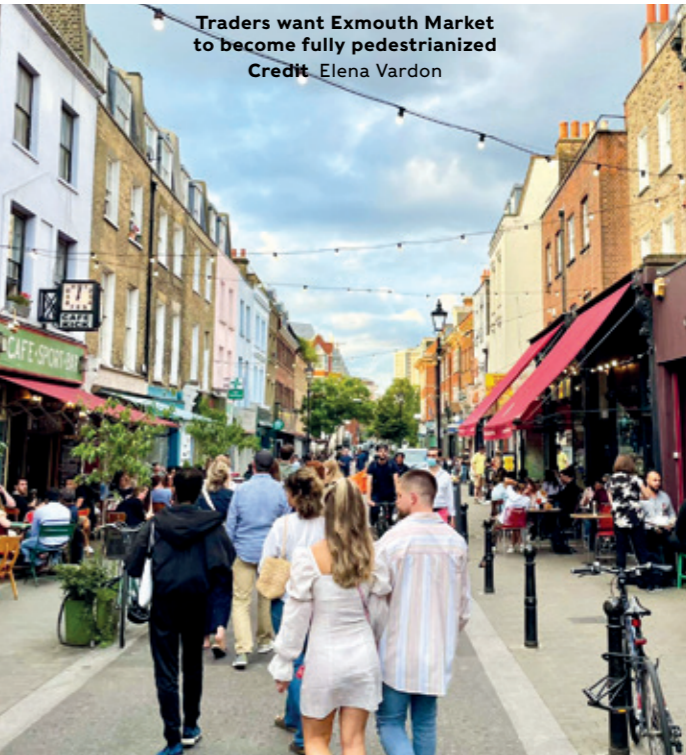
Call for pedestrianisation of post-pandemic Exmouth Market

Exmouth Market traders call for the street to be made more welcoming for al fresco dining – but claim that Islington Council has dragged its heels

BY ELENA VARDON

Restaurateurs and street traders on Exmouth Market are calling on Islington Council to extend the pedestrianisation of the street. Vehicles can currently drive down the market bar between noon and 2.30 pm on weekdays, although most pedestrians already tend to walk on the road. Their argument is that a permanent change of policy, making Exmouth Market fully pedestrian, could boost local businesses and Clerkenwell as a whole. Fifteen pavement temporary licences have been issued to premises in Exmouth Market, according to the council. Councillor Asima Shaikh, executive member for inclusive economy and jobs said: “We’ve issued many pavement licences to help businesses adapt, and we will continue to issue licences wherever we can. Our teams have also worked hard to help businesses use areas on the pavement outside neighbouring premises, with their permission.” “We’re supporting the local cafes, restaurants and pubs in Exmouth Market so they can offer attractive outside seating, welcome customers in a Covid-safe way, and keep their employees protected.”

“The idea is to make the road a promenade” says Garath Kerr, the owner of Café Kick, who has been trading for more



Traders want Exmouth Market to become fully pedestrianized  
Credit: Elena Vardon

than 20 years on the site. Kerr has started a campaign on behalf of traders to make the street pedestrian from noon to midnight, with deliveries and rubbish collection outside of trading hours. He and others argue that a motor-free corridor would allow more footfall and commercial activity for the street’s independents shops and restaurants, enhancing the cultural character of Exmouth Market as a destination street. “We have a real mix of people down this market – we have the locals that live on estates to posh people that buy my most expensive bottle of wine,” he says. As well as bars and restaurants, it also has a variety of shops: a florist, a hairdresser, a tattoo parlour, a cycle shop, pharmacy and locksmith. Kerr adds that residents and passers-by would also enjoy less pollution and noisy disturbances.

All over the country, European-style terrace dining is becoming a fixture in commercial streets. The nature of Exmouth Market makes it

the perfect street in Clerkenwell to be a model of pedestrianisation and al fresco socialising in a controlled and mutually beneficial manner. Traders are currently serving customers on tables outside their premises under the government’s temporary pavement licenses to support social distancing. As a non-pedestrian street with pavements delimited by bollards, only one row of chairs and tables is allowed.

But this wasn’t always the configuration of outdoor dining on the market. Restaurateurs have been serving customers on two rows of tables on the footpath between their shops and the bollards for years. They continued to do so under the temporary licenses since last summer. Yet council enforcement officers, when preparing for reopening after the third lockdown in the spring, told traders they were to be allowed only have one row of tables, as two rows constitute a wilful obstruction of a highway, an offence punishable by fines or

criminal prosecution. Traders argue that an extra line of tables provides more control by allowing people to sit down, instead of encouraging noisy crowds, and that taking tables away results in people standing, leading to less manageable situations. “Even in height of summer, the atmosphere is slightly being lost,” says Samantha Clark, the proprietor of Moro, the restaurant that launched the reputation of Exmouth Market as a gastronomic hub in 1997. As Clark says, “none of this is controversial”. The pedestrian model has already been in place and is proven to benefit traders, customers and policing. Adds Kerr: “We want the street to work positively for everyone.” A consultation period and collaboration with different stakeholders would be needed but Exmouth Market traders are willing to support Islington Council and accommodate temporary adjustments. In a similar fashion to Chapel Market, signs could be erected on each side of the street to keep vehicles from entering. As a council spokesperson says, “Under the Government’s guidance, licences granted by the council under the streamlined pavement licence process are temporary and will not be valid beyond the end of September. “We have looked at temporarily making Exmouth Market a pedestrian street, but this wasn’t possible because of the need to keep access for local residents and businesses. We need to consider all local needs and any proposal to create a pedestrian street would be subject to full consultation with the local community.” Kerr and fellow traders believe that a change in policy in line with the needs of Clerkenwell is crucial to adapt to post-pandemic ways of business and socialising. “This is a chance for Islington to illustrate how a beautiful street can be turned into a vibrant future high street,” he says.



# Noses are Red...

Clerkenwell clown Mattie Faint is seeking a museum for the country’s best archive of clowning

It is odd to discover that a world-class archive of clown memorabilia is in storage in a Clerkenwell basement. But that’s the case, as Mattie Faint, a clown all his life and the archivist for global clowning body Clowns International, and the curator of the Clowns Gallery-Museum, has bought the collection into safe-keeping with him, following a flood at its previous home, Holy Trinity Church in Dalston.

“It’s been lovely having it close to home and it’s given me a lot of joy in lockdown,” says Mattie, 69. “But it’s a huge collection. We have 22 pairs of clown shoes, about 47 costumes, including ones belonging to Coco the Clown and about 300 painted clown eggs. There’s just so much of it, and it would be great if it could be seen by the public again.”

Mattie, from Plymouth, has lived in London since 1969. For

years he worked in the theatre on shows such as *Hair* and *The Rocky Horror Show*, then “fell into clowning.”

“I’ve always entertained people, from school plays onwards. When I put the costume on for the first time I thought, ‘This is such an amazing character’. It’s for everyone, not just children. It’s lovely to make people laugh as a job.”

A new documentary film about Mattie, by director Shane O’Neill, called *It’s a Serious Business Being a Clown*, was recently released which Mattie calls “very funny and very me but quite poignant.”

During his half-century career as a clown, Mattie has clowned on *Blue Peter*, for the Queen and most recently, for a *Call*



*the Midwife* Christmas Special. Clerkenwell-based for many years, he has a special fondness for the area’s clown Joseph Grimaldi and has old posters advertising his harlequin shows. “He lived for years in Exmouth Market and he’s buried in the old St James’ Chapel Churchyard, Pentonville Road, now Grimaldi Park, so he’s very close.”

*“The collection awaits a new venue that can do it justice”*

In an era of online entertainment has clowning maintained its popularity? “Well, in this day and age, young people are so distracted by things like social media,” says Mattie. “But I think everyone loves a clown.” Although not a fan of clowns

being used as sinister figures in film, Mattie is at ease about such popular figures as Ronald McDonald, the clown associated with the fast food chain. “Clowning has always been a popular form of entertainment and has never gone away,” he says. “From Charlie Chaplin to Norman Wisdom, Ken Dodd to Mr Bean, there have always been clowns.”

Helen Champion and Luke Stephenson which has been taking the study of clowns in a new direction. Clowns have been around forever, from Roman times to the Commedia dell’arte in medieval Italy. “Clowns have the ability to talk directly to their audience,”



says Mattie. “The painted clown face became popular from about 1800, so their character could be seen from a distance on stage or in the circus. One of the best things about clowning is that it can always be spontaneous and unscripted. Clowns can go off in any direction, which is what children themselves do.”

The collection is now the bedrock of Clowns International, and Mattie is seeking a new museum venue. “Lots of people used to come to the church, to see the museum there,” he says. “In fact, we’ve had five incarnations of the museum in the last 32 years.”

Now the collection awaits a new venue that can do it justice. “It’s a vast collection of things. One idea is the clown egg collection could be displayed at the new Museum of London with some of our unique costumes. I’m sure lots will have to stay as an archive but if there was a venue in Clerkenwell – well, that would be perfect.”

It would also be a post-pandemic tonic. “Everything’s become very serious,” says Mattie. “I think we’re all crying out to laugh at things again.”

**For more information:**  
**Visit** [clownsgallery.co.uk](http://clownsgallery.co.uk)  
**Visit** [clownsinternational.com](http://clownsinternational.com)

*A long-term resident of Clerkenwell, psychotherapist, author and Observer agony aunt Philippa Perry believes that intimate knowledge of an area brings special rewards*

I’ve lived in Clerkenwell, near Exmouth Market, for over 30 years. So long ago, in fact, that I remember a Woolworths in Exmouth Market, and a fishmongers and a butchers. I’m sure some of you remember these shops too. I have learnt that shops and businesses are not the permanent things that I thought they must be when I was a child, but things like humans that come and go, and while some seem to be there forever others have shorter lives. Since those times, there has been a churn of shops in Exmouth Market. I wouldn’t say things were better or that they were worse, but they were different, and I regret not photographing the old shops and savouring them and getting to know the people who worked in them better.

Actually, I’m going to disagree with myself. Things are better. We now have so many more restaurants and even if I’m not eating, I love strolling through Exmouth Market on a warm summer’s evening and watching all the diners on the pavement. When did we start eating outside?

I seem to remember in this country, it was something we learned to do in Covent Garden in the 1980s. Before that if you wanted the al fresco experience, it was either your backyard, a park picnic or a package tour to a piazza in Italy. Maybe that’s why I still find it exotic to walk by people eating outside. And look! Farringdon Tools is still with us, there’s a bit of Italy that we’ve had on the doorstep for many decades. Exmouth Market is both exotic and familiar to me.

I love knowing an area well. It’s almost like a relationship with a person. First of all, there are all the people I recognise and nod at or say “hello” to, and then there are the trees and the plants whose progress I unconsciously clock. Familiar streets feel like friends. You know you are almost home as you go through them but more than this, you recognise them because you become so accustomed to how they appear; they are not just any old buildings, they are somehow yours because

they are imprinted on you. Last year we moved out of our house for a year because it was falling down and needed serious building work and rented a place near the Caledonian Road while it was done. It’s only a mile or two away, but it’s another country. Of course, that isn’t true, but the trees in the squares there are not trees I have watched growing and become familiar with, the businesses there are all new to me, no familiar chemist, a different Co-op and the ironmongery available in the vicinity was not a patch on Farringdon Tools.

In lockdown the area returned to the emptiness it used to have as a business district, when during weekends it became a bit of a dustbowl. It was as if it had been put to sleep, like a chrysalis. I can remember during the first lockdown I was practically in tears. You know when you’re part of something bigger than yourself and it was such a moving experience.

Our lives still have to recover and I think everybody’s having their own individual response to coming back. If there’s anything good about lockdown, it’s that it made us face ourselves. Prior to it, we were all entrenched in habits and routines. Now we’ve had to look at our lives and ask: what am I missing, and what do I want? I also think it’s been difficult for many to come back to the swing of it because people have forgotten how to use their social muscles, and they’re feeling shyer. Remember, we’ve been told that to get close to someone, you could die, and that’s gone in quite deep. For my part, I have stopped social kissing altogether – which I’m quietly happy about.

Coming home to streets that seemed to know me felt like a relief. In our rented house, we had a superior garden to the yard we have near Exmouth Market, but I can do without the fancy garden. After the renovation on our house you’d think I wouldn’t need

to go to Farringdon Tools so often now I don’t have to buy adhesive to try to keep it together, but somehow, I shall always find an excuse. Why would I buy my bin bags anywhere else?



Credit: Anna Forsling

*“I love knowing an area well – it’s almost like a relationship with a person”*



What the London Stones police box will look like Credit: Unknown Works

## Digital Dr Who

### The traditional police box has been transformed for the City of London

BY ELENA VARDON

The City of London Corporation is bringing back the police box – albeit with a new purpose. An innovative design won a competition to reimagine the role of traditional police boxes in the Square Mile, and it aims to provide a hub for police officers to engage with the community anew.

Known as ‘Digital Service Points’, these police boxes aspire to rein-vigorate the way citizens interact with police and offer a reassuring presence in the streets. The City of London Corporation, City of London Police, Bloomberg Associates and New London Architecture (NLA) worked together to run the design competition and the winning design, selected from a shortlist of six, is called The London Stones, designed by Unknown Works, an architecture and design studio based in London and Hong Kong. Its proposal includes digital information screens, communication technology and space to store a first-aid kit and police equipment, and the inspiration comes from the London Stone landmark, a mysterious limestone block now encased in the wall of 111 Cannon Street. The stone-clad design of the booths design are a nod to the City’s cultural heritage and the idea is to be useful for the police patrols but also to offer and battling community services when officers are not around.

In line with the City Corporation’s climate strategy, the box will be made from sustainable materials and monitor pollution. The exterior will host

planting projects and lichens, which will change the colour and appearance of the structure as they grow.

It is thought to be a world first. “What we have asked the designers to think about doesn’t exist anywhere else,” says Rosa Rogina, programmes director at NLA.

A staple of London’s urban architecture – and best known for a cameo in Dr Who – police boxes were installed in the capital in the 1930s. The City of London was equipped with police call posts rather than boxes, adapted to the narrowness of its streets. Advances in communications made them obsolete but eight non-functioning posts still stand in the City as Grade II listed buildings.

Because these were so recognisable, the brief was to build on that public knowledge coupled, says Rogina, “with new possibilities of what a project like this can offer to the public in the long term, while remaining small and accommodat-ing all of these functions.”

The City of London Police will now develop the winning concept into a working prototype and roll out the first London Stone police box in the months to come.



An earlier police box Credit: Elena Vardon

Local author Nicholas Riddell’s new book lifts the lid off Exmouth Market’s magnificent Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer

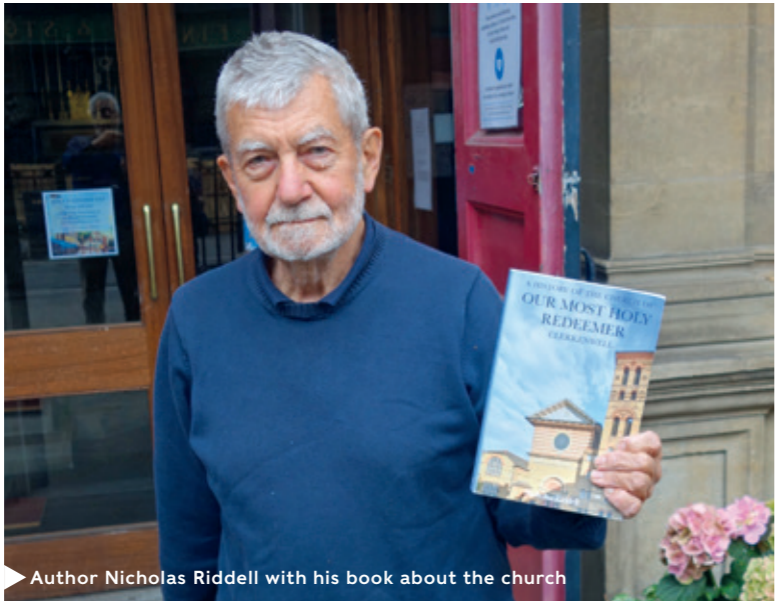
One of EC1’s great architectural splendours, the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer in Exmouth Market, occupies its space so snugly that many passers by hardly notice it. But there’s more reason than ever to admire the huge church, whose splendours reveal themselves the more one looks. As well as an ongoing programme of works, a new book about the church by local author Nicholas Riddell – described as a “four-year labour of love” – has just been published.

Nicholas has written histories of a number of different churches and parishes, and Holy Redeemer is his latest.

“Holy Redeemer started life as an offshoot of St Philip’s church, in the middle of Granville Square, which featured in Arnold Bennett’s *Riceyman Steps*,” he says. “There was much house-building in Clerkenwell in the early 19th century, and a need for more places of worship. The church was for that influx.”

Incredibly, St Philip’s was demolished, barely leaving a trace. “We have one of its altars here in our St Mary Magdalene chapel,” says Fr Christopher Trundle, Vicar of Holy Redeemer.

Prior to there being a church



“Local workers and passers-by come in to spend a moment in quiet contemplation”

in Exmouth Market, in the 18th century the site was occupied by a large domed drinking den. It then became a Methodist Chapel. From 1887 onwards, Holy Redeemer began to be built, finally being finished in 1895.

The area is now seen as affluent. But as Fr Christopher says, “You can’t separate the church from Clerkenwell’s history of social deprivation and transformation.” Nicholas’ book has harrowing examples of just how grim life was in the Victorian era and early

20th century, with crime-ridden “rookeries” in the vicinity. If ever there was need for redemption it was here, and offering its congregation a glimpse of heaven, Holy Redeemer has always beckoned the local community.

When Holy Redeemer was built, it stood out in the terrace – and therein lies another fascinating aspect of its history. As Nicholas says, “How does there come to be a large Anglican church in an Italian Renaissance style in a street in Clerkenwell

best known now for its restaurants?” As well as the need to provide space for worship in a rapidly growing area, there was another, theological reason.

Those who have attended a service will have noticed the ‘bells and smells’ aspect of Holy Redeemer. Although an Anglican church, it was inspired by the late 19th century rediscovery of the Church of England’s Catholic inheritance started by the Oxford Movement. “That movement is expressed vividly in the very fabric of Holy Redeemer”, says Fr Christopher. So instead of the often gloomy Gothic Revival architecture of the time, architect John Dando Sedding built Holy Redeemer as if in Tuscany rather than central London, including a dramatic campanile and inside, a baldachino or canopy over the altar.

“It has always been very ornate, with lots of statues and holy images, and that tradition continues today,” says Fr Christopher. “Our worship is as exuberant and rich as it always was.” On the façade of the church is the huge message ‘Christo Liberatori’, an arresting feature that Fr Christopher says tells a couple of complementary stories. “It refers to Christ’s death and resurrection,” he says. “But as Nicholas

has written, there’s also a sense of liberation from the local poverty and deprivation.”

The Holy Redeemer, which has excellent acoustics, has adapted to modern life. While the core congregation is local, the church has found a secondary congregation in those who come in to find a moment’s solace.

“As the church is open every day except Monday, workers and passers-by come in to light a candle, say a prayer and spend a moment in contemplation,” says Fr Christopher. “The busier the market gets, the more people enjoy its beauty and peace. In a sense, that is our largest congregation.”

Nicholas, who describes himself as a “rather secular Christian” is not a worshipper himself but is delighted that this huge edifice has such a rich story – particularly as Holy Redeemer was once threatened: “There was once a post-war proposal to pull down all the churches in Clerkenwell to the west of St John Street and build one new modern church.” Even the most irreligious bar-hopper would agree that Holy Redeemer is a worthy survivor.

**‘A History of the Church of Our Holy Redeemer Clerkenwell’ by Nicholas Riddell costs £12.99. It can be bought at the church itself or at book@holyredeemerclerkenwell.com**

Locally sauced

Due to open this month in Clerkenwell, Anastasia Georgousis talks to the staff at charity Migrateful, which unlocks the talents of migrant chefs

As Migrateful’s chef support officer Elizabeth Kolawole-Johnson puts it, “We combined food and travel. Who doesn’t like food – and who doesn’t like travel?”

Migrateful runs cookery classes led by migrant chefs facing the challenge of integration and accessing employment in the UK due to legal and linguistic barriers. These classes allow them to build skills and confidence, as well as promoting a cross-cultural exchange between migrant chefs and participants. Since being founded in

2017 by Jess Thompson (who featured on the 2020 Forbes 30 Under 30 and Women of the Year lists) the charity has now held over 1,674 classes, hosted 18,414 participants and supported 57 refugees.

Classes were previously held at a number of venues across London, giving Migrateful a nomadic existence. So in February, it launched a 90-day crowdfunding campaign to raise £126,00 to secure its own cookery school at The Peel’s Three Corners Centre. It raised half of the target in just two weeks, and in March, the Mayor of London pledged £45,000, helping it meet its goal. Donations continued to flood in, enabling Migrateful to transform the space, including an outdoor area with herb garden. Local businesses have also been generous – the interior of the cookery school is being redesigned by Old Street-based architects AHMM and the outdoor landscaping will be done by MRG Studio. In a serendipitous



Elizabeth Kolawole-Johnson Credit Migrateful

move, the charity also found the perfect office space for its staff across the road at the Finsbury Business Centre.

“I can’t believe how lucky we got, it just worked out so beautifully,” says Nadine Shamji, Migrateful’s events coordinator. “The Finsbury Business Centre has been so accommodating, as has The Peel. It really has made us realise how much of a family concept Clerkenwell has, to have taken us in and we feel so welcomed to the area. It’s quite incredible.”

So what impact will having a permanent base make to Migrateful? “It’s really a very big one for us, and a long time coming,” says Elizabeth, who started out as a Migrateful chef when she arrived in the UK from Nigeria. “I’m in a unique position of being a staff member, chef and facilitator. I know it can be really difficult sometimes to move from place to place, trying to locate the venue for the night, carrying ingredients and equipment everywhere and adapting to new environments.”

The cookery school will also provide a space for Migrateful chefs, staff, participants and volunteers to come together. After

The Italian shop and restaurant Terroni’s has a secret weapon – a singing waiter

BY OLIVER BENNETT

During the Euro 2020 football tournament, fans of both Italy and England flocked to Clerkenwell’s great Italian survivor, Terroni’s on Clerkenwell Road.

And as fans of all stripes found, the shop and restaurant has a formidable asset in the form of its part-time singing waiter, Alan Chan. After a pizza or pasta, Alan is likely to belt out show tunes in his trademark tenor, giving one of the best shows in town – indeed, some might recognise him from the television. “I managed to successfully reach the quarter finals in *The Voice UK* 2020, and I’m proud to say I was the first Chinese person to do so,” he says.

Alan, 41, is a Londoner who, by his own testimony, has “overcome all the negativity in my life through music and performance”. After working in Clerkenwell Road for several years Alan met Terroni’s community and has worked for them for about six years.

“There’s Uncle John who runs a social club upstairs, and Onorina De Cristoforo, who was everyone’s godmother before she passed – and who called me her ‘godson’. The whole Italian community just opened their arms to me,” says Alan. And while his Italian remains limited to pleasantries

and the menu, he “can support the football team and that’s good enough for them – although I supported England too, of course.” Being an Italian restaurant, there’s no problem with Alan singing on shift.

Alan is indebted to his late uncle, Grandmaster Sifu Joseph Man, a martial arts grandmaster, who died almost five years ago. “I had a very delayed promise to myself to become a musical artist and had stalled,” he says. “He made me promise him to get back into music and that I must pursue a musical career as he believed that I have talent.”

His uncle’s support motivated him. Although Alan had an early musical success with a band, they broke up and he gave up on his musical ambitions for years. “I grew up with people telling me I’m not good enough,” he says. “So it was easy to give up.”

With renewed inspiration – and the help of his partner and three children – Alan honed his talent as a singer and has now performed at 10 Downing Street, the House of Lords, Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square and Media City in Salford, supporting many charity organisations while doing so. He also went onto do a degree in music and is currently signed to the Universal Music UK label. “I’m turning my dreams into reality” he said.

His experience on *The Voice*



Singing waiter Alan Chan at Terroni’s in Clerkenwell

*UK* was “transformative. I spoke to the producer of the show, who was auditioning. They said ‘congratulations, you are all the last 100 out of 100,000 auditions in the whole of UK and Ireland’ and that was it.” Donny Osmond even gave credit, saying on Twitter than Alan had knocked his version of the Osmond’s hit *Crazy Horses* “out of the park”.

Alan went on to reach the quarter-finals. “I was extremely proud, and the Chinese press went mad which was very pleasing, as I am the ambassador of the London Chinese Community Association.” Alan is also ambassador of the Ma Dong Lei Wing Chun Association, a martial arts institution which offers what he calls “a sense of pride and honour.”

The Euro 2020 football tournament was not without incident. As well as hosting several media giants from CNN and ITV at Terroni’s, Alan ran the gauntlet of football hooligans.

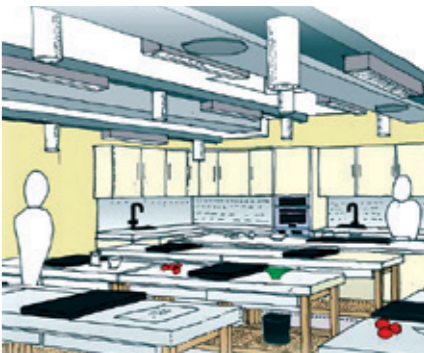
“During the competition I was

walking down the road and about six England supporters started shouting at me. The police arrived and asked if I’d like to press charges.”

Alan refused, on the basis that he too is British and proud to be British, as well as being Chinese in origin. “I said that I will forgive them and give them the opportunity to learn that we are all British. They had no idea that my granddad fought for the British Hong Kong Navy against the Japanese in the Second World War, so they have no idea how proud I am to be British. And as I left I said, ‘By the way, all your England kit – socks, shoes, everything – is made in China.’”

The tournament bought more customers to Terroni’s, which Alan calls his “second family” – and where he will continue to sing during supper.

“It’s a brilliant thing to do, especially when it’s a special occasion,” he says. “We can offer an operatic *Happy Birthday*. Working in a restaurant is a little bit of a performance.”



How the kitchen at Migrateful will look Credit Migrateful

and the loss of a sense of identity is very prevalent. With Migrateful, I really felt that reconnection to my old self.”

It becomes more than a charity, says Nadine: “Our participants feel that sense of community around Migrateful. It’s a home and a community. It involves everyone from our participants and volunteers to even the chefs and the staff. We’re all intertwined.”

**Visit migrateful.org to book cookery classes. You can also find a volunteer form if you would like to help with classes, sharing skills with chefs at weekly team meetings, or pack ingredient boxes**



'A Haircut for Santa', Exmouth Market, Prayas Gurung, (35–65 category). "Last Christmas, Santa waited for a haircut."



'Kamen House', Farringdon Road, Stephanie Pietraszkiewicz (18–35 category). "One in a series called 'Seeing Basic Shapes'. I find a lot of buildings and streets around Clerkenwell very cool because you can see everything mixed so well: Brutalism, modern design and English traditional features. They are all clean basic shapes: triangles, circles and squares."



'Happiness, delivered', King's Square Garden, Ryan Saadeh (18–35 category). "After a quiet first winter in Clerkenwell, the twice daily rounds of the icecream van coming through our neighbourhood provided an audible reminder of the life surrounding us."

“It felt like a distillation of love in the time of coronavirus”



'Bus on Rosebery Avenue', Andrew Plume (Under 18s category). "The busy road with the bus connects us."



'Red fox cub', Myddleton Square, Nicole Valente (18–35 category). "It was early morning on 12 April and I was just about to sleep till I heard a fox cry in the distance. The next day I heard the cry again but it seemed closer. I had a look around my area until I found this little fox cub underneath a blue car."



'Smithfield Café on a Sunday', Dieter Wagner (Over 65 category). "Unfortunately they closed it down quite a while ago."



'Pigeon with attitude', St Luke's Gardens, Aidan Taub (35–65 category). "Taken while out and about on my lunch break in Clerkenwell."

● Continued from Page 1

And bizarrely we’ve had four very different but great shots of buses on Rosebery Avenue – one from a younger entrant, another from an older entrant. Lockdown obviously had an effect on the range of images. Isolation has meant there weren’t a huge number of portraits and certainly no shots of crowds. But plenty still reflected the local community. Heywote Bekele captured her favourite shopkeepers and traders with simple portraits of them in their doorways. “For me, it’s the people that make the

community,” she explained. Jon Cox shared a shot of cousins Kenny and Tommy, both born and bred in Clerkenwell – “In the shot they met up for a cup of tea and sandwich during the Covid lockdown in St Luke’s Churchyard where they were joined by an uninvited guest – a pigeon” – as well as Al from Scotti’s in Clerkenwell Green having fun. And William Hall captured early Lockdown love with his shot, called ‘Connection’ (see front page). “This was taken in April 2020, three weeks into the first lockdown,” said William. “Cast in shadow and compressed by emptiness, I saw them because there was no one else around.

It felt like a distillation of love in the time of coronavirus.” We had some excellent entries in the Over 65s age group, and there were quite a few highly talented photographers just below that age group, too. “I’ve reached my early 60s, and become invisible it seems,” wrote one entrant – but as any photographer will tell you, that’s sometimes a good place to be. At the younger end, we also received some highly impressive shots. Two brothers, both under 10, sent shots of nature taken in Myddleton Square, as did their dad and mum, who sent an intriguing shot of Exmouth Market that looks like it could be from

100 years ago. Meanwhile, youth group SoapBox Islington, based on Old Street, ran a special internal project to generate some superb entries. Now comes the judging, which will be agnostic of age or experience. Likewise the prizes – which include a £50 prize per each of the four age categories (under 18s, 18–34 years old, 35–65 years old, and over 65s.) and a special £100 prize for the image that best illustrates The Peel’s mission of creating a more ‘Connected Community’. There will be prints for all the winners and runners up and a £1,000 Commission for a real-life project and an internationally

respected 12-month mentorship programme. Also for those keen on a career, one prize will include spending a day shadowing a professional to give a glimpse into the real world of professional photography and portfolio reviews from professionals. All of these could be awarded to someone in their 60s as easily as someone in their teens. You can show promise at any age and ‘up-and-coming’ doesn’t necessarily mean young. And whoever wins those special awards, they will provide a great start to a new career or even a second career. But most of all, we just want to encourage people to

look around the local area with fresh and creative eyes. Who knows, perhaps a little photography group may form where people can swap ideas and share pictures, or go for the occasional photography walk? The results will be announced at an awards event to be held at the SoapBox at 69–85 Old St, London EC1V 9HX on Friday 10 September, where the shortlisted entrants will be invited to attend. The winners and runners-up shots will then be on view to the general public at SoapBox. Please check in at [www.clerkenwellphotography.com](http://www.clerkenwellphotography.com) to see the latest news and final details of the judges’ decisions and exhibition details. The exhibition will show all the winning and nominated images for all the age categories: Best Under 18s, Best 18–34, Best 35–65, Best Over 65. On show will also be the winner and nominations for best series, and the Peel Prize for best Connected Community shot. There will also be the favourite shots selected by each of the individual judges and sponsors, as well as the organiser, Chris Walker.

HISTORY

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Guides, grandees and landlords

Local historian Mark Aston mines the rich seam of Clerkenwell’s street names

Since Roman times, streets have been part of our everyday lives, but have you ever thought about how they got their names? As the EC1 area developed in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the layout of streets appeared, many were named by and after local landowners and builders. Later, the Metropolitan Board of Works, the GLC and, more recently, Finsbury and Islington Councils decided upon what new streets would be called and renamed. We take a closer look at the stories behind these names, and reveal unique connections to our past.

**Old streets**  
Long before postcodes were created in 1857 – numbers were added 60 years later – streets signposted major routes, such as the ‘Road to Chester’ (St John Street) or the ‘Road to Islington’ (Goswell Road). As the district grew, local trades, institutions, buildings and pubs also gave their names. Ralph Agas’ attributed map of Elizabeth London (c.1570) records streets still familiar, such as ‘Cowe Crosse’ (Cowcross) Street, with connections to Smithfield market, ‘Turner’ (now Turnmill) Street, once named Trylmyl-streate (or Three Mill Street) after mills on the River Fleet, and Old Street. As its name suggests, this is an extremely old thoroughfare, thought to have been a Roman road connecting the eastern counties with London. The earliest mentions of the name are Ealdestrate (1200AD), then Oldestrete (1373AD).

**Renaming**  
Renaming of streets came as early as the 1810s and as late as the 1930s, in an attempt to avoid confusion with similarly named roads elsewhere. Myddelton Terrace became Claremont Square and Brewer Street became Paget Street; after Sir James Paget, surgeon to Queen Victoria. A number of alleys were swept



The renamed Naoroji street sign



Myddelton Street (1906)

Jerusalem Passage (1899)



”  
*Topham Street is named after pub landlord and strongman Thomas Topham*  
“

aside after World War II. In the 1960s, a labyrinth of Victorian terraces were demolished to make way for Finsbury Estate and Library, including Coburg Street and Plumbers’ Place, housing in Gloucester Way, Meredith Street and Whiskin Street – the last two named after John Meredith, who with John Whiskin, leased the ground from the Skinner’s Company (Skinner Street), landowners, for building purposes.

**Landowners**  
Some streets were named for local landowners. The family name and locations of country estates associated with the Northampton Estate, local landowners, proliferate in EC1 including Northampton Road, Northampton

Row and Northampton Square, while Compton Street is named after the Compton family, earls of Northampton. Ashby Street is named after Castle Ashby, where the Comptons had a seat and Earlstoke Street recollects where Charles Compton, 1st Marquess of Northampton married Maria Smith of Erlestoke Park, Wiltshire in 1787.  
He also had the title Baron Wilmington, hence Wilmington Square and Street. Easton, Tysoe, Wynyatt and Yardley Streets are named after locations in Northamptonshire where the Comptons also owned property. In EC1, since the 12th century, the Order of St John of Jerusalem (Knight’s Hospitallers) at St John’s Gate is remembered in many of the area’s streets: St John Street and

Square, Hermit Street, Jerusalem Passage and Malta Street.  
Perhaps the best-known name connected with the New River Company is Sir Hugh Myddelton, responsible for building the New River (see page 14–15) and bringing freshwater from springs in Hertfordshire to London in 1613. He is remembered in Myddelton Street, Myddelton Square and Myddelton Passage, as well as a local primary school. Other streets recall locations at the New River’s source, such as Amwell Street and Chadwell Street and, of course, River Street leading to Myddelton Square. Directors of the New River were also immortalised including engineer and architect William ‘Chadwell’ Mylne (1781–1863), Mylne Street, surveyor to the New River Company. Great Percy Street and Percy Circus were named after Robert Percy Smith, company director and MP for Grantham and, later, Lincoln. Vernon Rise and Vernon Square are after Robert Vernon, 1st Baron Lyveden, another director of the New River Company, and Inglebert Street remembers William Inglebert, who petitioned parliament to bring water from the springs of Amwell and Chadwell in 1606.  
Smaller landowners are commemorated too, including Thomas Sekforde (d.1588), in Sekforde Street and Woodbridge Street where, in Suffolk, he founded a hospital for the poor; Woodbridge Street, with Hayward’s Place (after a local builder), was once called Red Bull Yard in which the Red Bull Playhouse (c.1605–65) was located, open during Cromwell’s Commonwealth and said to be the first theatre in which a female performer appeared.



Other theatres, pubs and places of entertainment are also remembered in EC1. The Fortune Theatre (c.1600–42), a contemporary of Shakespeare’s Globe, and once located between Whitecross Street and Golden Lane, is commemorated as Fortune Street and Park. Rosoman Street is named after builder Thomas Rosoman, the proprietor of Sadler’s Wells Theatre from 1747 to 1771.

**Places and people**  
Meanwhile, during the 17th century, Bowling Green Lane was, indeed, home to a bowling green, as well as a ducking pond and the celebrated Cherry Tree public house. Merlin Street is named after Merlin’s Cave public house (c.1735). Exmouth Market is, however, not named after the well-known Exmouth Arms pub but after Edward Pellew, Admiral Lord Exmouth GCB (1757–1833), celebrated naval commander – the Captain of HMS Indefatigable in some of CS Forester’s fictional Horatio Hornblower novels. Once known as Baynes Row, it become Exmouth Street in the 1820s, and Exmouth Market by 1939.  
Joining Pellew are Dame Alice Owen (d.1613), who founded her school in Goswell Road and is recalled in Owen’s Row, Street and Fields. Catherine Griffiths Court commemorates Catherine Griffiths (1885–1988), local politician, nurse and suffragette, and Dadabhai Naoroji (1825–1917), Britain’s first Asian MP in 1892–95

FEATURE

Fleet Footed

*A new trail along the River Fleet is being devised by the Ramblers, says Des Garrahan*

London has many rivers but they are often hidden under centuries of development. Rivers like the Fleet, London’s most famous hidden river, which runs through Clerkenwell and Farringdon, have left an indelible mark on the city physically, historically and culturally and they still form an important part of our subterranean world.  
Now my group, the Ramblers, is proposing that the Fleet is marked as it passes through Clerkenwell and the City of London, as part of the Greenway walking trails. As the deviser of the walks, I’m hoping to have plaques en route. Currently there is only one in St Pancras Old Church and it would be good to have more, particularly near Clerkenwell Green, where the area has really been shaped by the Fleet. Insets on the pavements or nearby buildings would suffice and we’re hoping that the local authorities might agree, particularly as Sadiq Khan’s doing a big tourism push for London.  
Here in Clerkenwell you can still conjure the essence of this great river that tumbled down towards the Thames, and into which everybody threw their rubbish. It’s historically alive, although plans to open it up and “daylight” it, as they have done in some Italian cities – and which Boris Johnson proposed in his first Mayoral campaign have come to nothing. At Phoenix Place, WC1, part of the Mount Pleasant development site, an alternative plan by the Mount Pleasant Association to create a linear park along the route of the Fleet didn’t work. So at the moment there are just a couple of places where you can hear the Fleet under the street and although the idea of a Venice-like waterway in the City is appealing – it would be such a major piece of infrastructure planning that opening it up is unlikely to happen.  
But there’s still a huge amount of interest in the Fleet. I’ve been absolutely staggered by the popularity of the walks. Books by Ben Aaronovitch’s novel *Rivers of London* and Paul Talling’s *London’s Lost Rivers* have also inspired interest.  
The Fleet rises in two places on Hampstead Heath and joins together in Kentish Town to continue its journey to the River Thames at Blackfriars. The three-mile stretch starting from St Pancras Old Church makes a perfect stroll, especially on a summer’s evening, tracing the river as it wends its way through King’s Cross, past Mount Pleasant into Clerkenwell, under Holborn Viaduct and past Fleet Street to Blackfriars.  
Along the route it conjures ghosts: of Boudica battling the Romans, Lenin eating fish and chips, the Knights Templar decamping the medieval city of London, Dickens tramping the night streets, postal workers, press barons and black-cloaked Dominican Friars ministering to their flock.

**Des Garrahan of the Ramblers, leads regular free walks tracing the line of London's Hidden Rivers. Drop him an email to ramblendes@gmail.com if you'd like more info on these and other walks and follow him on twitter @walkingclasshero.**



On a Fleet River walk with Des Credit Des Garrahan

*There are several hundred streets in the EC1 area, each with its own story to tell. To discover more streets, visit the Friends of Islington Museum website (friendsofim.com) and view Streets with a Story: the Book of Islington. You may have your own story to tell about your street.*

FEATURE

A run on the banks

In part two of his New River walk from Clerkenwell to its Hertfordshire source, local author Barnaby Rogerson pounds park and pavement along the elusive watercourse

WORDS • BARNABY ROGERSON

The New River, neither new or a river, is a 17th-century aqueduct cut to bring fresh spring water from Hertfordshire to the City of London. On a major walk in lockdown, it took us five days to follow it from Sadler’s Wells to its Hertfordshire source. We walked around nine miles a day, and it felt a considerable achievement. Covid lockdown had provided the inspiration to follow this trail, but it turns out to have been well timed, for it has just been announced that after 300 years of use, the New River is to be switched off as a working aqueduct. The first day was a flaneur-like stroll that took us through bustling Islington to bohemian Stoke Newington (see *EC1 Echo* March–April). Our second day kicked off from Clissold Park, which is bisected by an ornamental remnant of the New River. In Clissold Park you can clearly see two tall brick towers and a spire to your north. Make your way towards these, for they are



The gatehouse of Rye House, near the New River head. Below and right, the author and friends find beauty spots along the New River



an old pumping station, beside which you will find the first section of the working New River. It is a bit stagnant, but the watercourse still clearly links up with the two great pools beside it, the East and West reservoirs. Their future was long in doubt but fortunately they have been turned into an open air swimming pool and a nature reserve with circular walkway.

”The New River walk could be opened up to make another lung for London”

At the end of this walkway you pop out into the edge of Stamford Hill, which we witnessed at its best, with the streets swarming with families celebrating Purim. But if you are keeping to the New River avoid this suburb and follow the gently curving riverbed, held back by a banked-up contour above the East End.

Then cross a road in order to enter the northern corner of Finsbury Park, which the New River cuts through – the prettiest part of the day’s walk. The rest of the day was committed to tarmac pavements, with partial views of the New River between a toast rack of residential streets between Wightman Road and Green Lane. There’s a better stretch of path north of Hornsey High Street-Turnpike Lane and a welcoming park laid out beside a restored pumping station. A fenced-in urban trackway then takes you past old filter beds below the glass walls of Alexandra Palace. Day Three began at Alexandra Palace railway station, to the east of which the New River runs underground. A broad grass track turns into wooded Finsbury Gardens - laid out in 1904 - before the brick-and-flint Baptist Church on Braemar Avenue, Temperance obelisk and welcoming Prince Pub on Trinity Road. Once north of Myddleton Road N22, you re-find the river and its path. At this most neglected section the path twists, showing you bits of the river, the back of Palmers Green Library and a mosque before passing beside Hazelwood playing fields. None of this is pretty, but it is oddly

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rewarding as you make your way north. Ridge Avenue marks a social frontier, after which you find yourself passing cricket pitches, then desirable riverside houses shadowed by old trees. Then you lose sight of the New River and head up a normal footpath, passing through a golf course, before descending into the river park at the centre of Enfield with old branches of the New River turned into pretty lakes. This bias towards Enfield was confirmed at the morning start of Day Four. The blossom was out, foxes played on deserted playing fields, the houses along Gentleman’s Row appeared like a stage-set of Olde England, and locals seemed happy to chat. Then we found a street marker outside Enfield church, after which the walk got drabber along Southbury then Ladysmith roads. We found the New River north of Carterhatch Lane and the path turned almost rural as the green ‘Docrwa aqueduct’ passed over Maiden’s Brook, after which there were fine long, open stretches of the New River. Crossing the M25 was easier than I feared, on a broad pavement almost wide and long enough to land a plane. Then for the first time we were in the country, welcomed by geese and the woodland of Theobalds Park over the old Roman Ermine Street. We dipped under the A121 to emerge in the centre of Cheshunt, and while a building project on the edge of Broxbourne sent us off route this was a happy diversion, taking us through the old beech woods of Topfield and Cozens Grove. We ended the day finding the New River at its prettiest, with picnicking families by the flint church



of St Augustine at Broxbourne. On our last day of walking (starting off at Broxbourne station) we realised that the bed of the New River was now very close to the river Lee, whose serpentine coils embrace nature reserves and feed dozens of ponds. The highlight of the day was unexpectedly discovering the handsome late medieval gatehouse of Rye House, as brick-built castle wrapped up in a plot to abduct King Charles II, while on his way to the Newmarket races. Then we followed a meadow-like stroll beside the slow moving water before reaching the village of Amwell where an ornamental pond fed the first 17th century aqueduct. Two more meadow-like stretches took us to the old Hertfordshire malting town of Ware, then the last stretch, marked out by the high tower of a pumping station, to reach the 18th century stone sluice which marked where the Chadwell spring (now a chain of bird-filled ponds) once entered the New River. We had reached the end. A consistent feature of our walk was the succession of weirs, mechanical filters, handsome pump houses and mysterious pipes. The Water Board dominates the whole route, alongside notices telling you not to swim, fish or paddle. We estimated that we were kept away from its banks for at least a third of the walkway. Now the New River is to be switched off a new future could open. The river could stagnate into a rubbish-filled moat – or could be opened up to make another lung for London. The success of the Regents Canal towpath surely shows us what to do.

15 HISTORY

Dive into London’s memory bank at the LMA, a local treasure of international importance



Studying the past at the LMA Credit London Metropolitan Archives

BY LAURENCE WARD

Located on Northampton Road, opposite Spa Fields, London Metropolitan Archives is a public research centre that specialises in the history of London. If you haven’t visited an archive before, it’s a little bit like a library but with one key difference: the majority of items in an archive are unique, handwritten documents that cannot be seen anywhere else. London Metropolitan Archives cares for and provides access to the historical archives of businesses, schools, hospitals, charities and all manner of other organisations from the Greater London area. With

thousands of books, maps, photographs, films and documents dating back to 1067 in the strong rooms, it is one of the largest city archives in the world – indeed, you could call it the “memory” of London. Anyone with an interest in London can visit. London Metropolitan Archives is open to everyone and free to use. You can explore the collections to find out more about the history of your house, street or local area and the free research facilities include computers with access to a number of research resources including family history websites, so if you’ve been thinking about tracing your ancestors, it’s a good place to start.

Although visits currently have to be booked in advance and the range of services on offer may still be limited due to Covid restrictions, once fully reopened, you’re welcome to drop in and explore exhibitions on London’s history, attend workshops and events, and browse film and images collections. In the meantime, you can explore the photograph, print and map collections on the London Picture Archive ([www.londonpicturearchive.org.uk](http://www.londonpicturearchive.org.uk)), the LMA’s picture website, which includes a gallery dedicated to our historic area, Clerkenwell.

Find out more about the collections and services at London Metropolitan Archives at: [cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma)

Vanishing point



View of Rosoman Street Images courtesy of City of London: London Metropolitan Archives



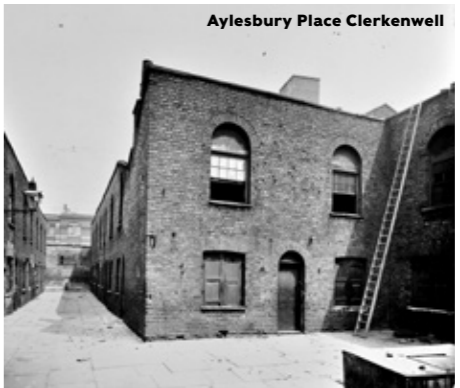
Buildings in Meredith Street



Northampton Arms Public House, Goswell Road



General view of Goswell Road



Aylesbury Place Clerkenwell

As an area that’s seen good times and bad, not to mention political changes and a crippling war, Clerkenwell and its near neighbours have experienced a lot of demolition as well as development. Some of is hard to argue against. Few would wish for the return of the NCP Car Park on Farringdon Road, for example, and some would argue that certain other buildings, such as the infamous hulk of 20 Farringdon Road, on the corner of Charterhouse Street, would merit the wrecking ball. But the most elegiac of all lost buildings are often the least grand: the terraces, pubs and shops that served earlier communities, and which gave life, character and presence to the area. Here, courtesy of the London Metropolitan Archives, are a few of those we have lost.

COMMUNITY



Only connect

In the wake of the pandemic, Clerkenwell-based NGO The Relationships Project has charted a surge in human connection

BY IMMY ROBINSON

Here at The Relationships Project, a small organisation based in EC1, we’re on a mission to build a better society by building better relationships. Over the past 18 months, we’ve seen an outpouring of community-led support in which an estimated nine million ‘volunteers’ – 15 per cent of the UK’s population – stepped forward to help out. Neighbours shopped for one another, lent tools and recipes, and bolstered each other’s spirits.

These past months have been filled with heartbreak and hardship. Wherever we look there are long shadows of grief, inequality, and tension, but also shafts of light: a greater awareness of others, empathy and more meaningful relationships. As the effects of the pandemic continue to unravel, supportive community relationships will become ever more essential. We must hold on to these rays of light and strive to build better relationships.

The care and involvement that we’ve seen in the past year have been underpinned by changing relationships – from slow-moving bureaucracy and formalised support to more accessible relationships rooted in local places. We’re now setting out to understand why those people offered their support – and what is needed to maintain this activity going forwards. Most weren’t mobilised by an organisation. They are willing citizens making an individual

commitment – more “Me Too” than “Neighbourhood Watch”.

Through conversations with Covid volunteers across the country, including several here in EC1, we found five broad types of volunteer:

Practical Taskers

New to volunteering, they thrive on getting tasks done. Inspired to offer support by (social) media coverage of acute need and heroic acts (here’s to Captain Tom) these busy doers are looking for tangible tasks they can fit around existing commitments, and are signed up to the NHS and GoodSam apps as well as local groups. They shopped for shielders, baked for key workers and picked up prescriptions for neighbours. The practical tasks opened up an accessible dimension to volunteering, but they’re wary of being tied down or being asked more than they can give.

Community Weavers

Leading the local response, these are the connectors and organisers building platforms, infrastructure and connections for others to get involved. Community Weavers are central figures in their communities and know who’s who and what’s what. They join the dots and help things work smoothly. Fuelled by self-confidence and energy, they’re leaders who take responsibility and are full of ideas for strengthening their communities.

Neighbourly Empathisers

These are sociable companions who have found meaning

in new neighbourhood connections. They often made their way in tasks but found purpose and fulfilment in the relationships they formed with those they supported. A degree of ‘officialdom’ and the sense of ‘permission’ this provides is important in giving Neighbourly Empathisers confidence to offer support. They then seek opportunities to provide longer-term support within their local area.

Everyday Carers

These are old hands who provide unwavering care to someone close to them. Looking after others is a core part of the Everyday Carer’s identity. Often stemming from beliefs ingrained in upbringing or faith, the pandemic has just induced them to do more of what they have always done. They don’t seek reward or recognition – indeed praise would likely be embarrassing – and instead, they self-organise, working with those they care for outside of formal structures and schemes.

Visionary Disruptors

As big picture thinkers, Visionary Disruptors are excited by the potential of grassroots community organisation. Curious about new models of coordination and governance, they’re interested in the strategies of community organising and challenging the status quo. They see grassroots activism and bottom-up organising as a way of building a society that works better for everyone and believe that now is the moment to grasp a new future. Visit [relationshipsproject.org](https://relationshipsproject.org)

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Wall Street Crush

East London-born entrepreneur Natasha Vigille explains the concept behind Black Wall Street and Black Pound Day – and how she aims to help grow London’s Black-owned business community

London has a new monthly event for the capital’s growing black business community. Called Black Wall Street, London, it is named after the Black Wall Street Massacre in 1921, among the single worst incidents of racial violence in American history – and it coincides with Black Pound Day, a monthly campaign that encourages consumers to shop from Black-owned businesses on the first Saturday of the month.

Three inter-connecting routes have led to this vision – the day when Black African Caribbean businesses are recognised as important contributors to Britain’s national economy. With the capital’s 10,000 black-owned businesses currently turning over a tiny

fraction of overall income, the road ahead is long and full of twists and turns but I remain full of optimism and have started my own com-

pany, Cornucopia Emporium Ltd., making luxury scented candles from scratch.

During lockdown, Black Wall Street was established as a mutually beneficial support stream to reinforce the message of collaboration by hosting a series of monthly online live events, inviting influential business and organisation leaders onto a virtual platform. With a core belief that collaboration is key to our success, it’s done with the community as the focal point.

With the assistance of a local authority grant I exhibited at

the UK Black Business Show at the QE2 Conference Centre in Westminster in 2019 and this ignited my plan to set up Black Wall Street London. Launched last September in Dalston with 20 handpicked exhibitors, it represented many well-established Black owned businesses, including my own candle company

Since then Black Wall Street London, as an Afrocentric exhibition, marketplace, and business development hub, has successfully provided accessible and affordable workspace and business-trading space to Black-owned businesses while promoting an inclusive audience.

This month we are hosting an event on Sunday 15 August at Conway Hall in Holborn, WCI called Rise Up. It’s a free post-lockdown Black-owned business exhibition to connect and provide 60-plus businesses with a networking platform and help them to get back to business and we’re expecting everything from fashion to soft drinks, floral design, gifts, cosmetics, food, and jewellery.

Natasha Vigille



I’m now seeking to create a permanent exhibition building in London for the Black business community and have now launched The Black Million Campaign to raise an initial £1million towards this building, as well as to spread business knowledge and invest in Black-owned businesses. As I say, when you face a problem – and there are many along the way – step over them as if they were cracks in the pavement and move on: and never take ‘no’ for an answer.

Visit the official Black Wall Street London website: [blackwallstreetlondon.com](https://blackwallstreetlondon.com)

CULTURE MILE

A dancer leading a workshop at a recent Culture Mile community event  
Credit Francis Augusto

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Summer in Culture Mile

Culture Mile is the City of London’s cultural district, stretching from Farringdon to Moorgate. Led by the City of London Corporation, with the Barbican, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of London, its five core partners work together on creating a vibrant, creative area in the north-west corner of the Square Mile.

Blooming City Quilt

Led by Madhumita Bose from the Forget-Me-Not Project, Culture Mile aims to bring together different community groups within the Square Mile through embroidery quilting activities based on the theme ‘Blooming City’. Participants from Mansell Street, Barbican, and Golden Lane estates are creating individual quilt pieces that will be stitched together into a collective quilt and be placed on display later in the year.

Alongside this, Madhumita will also be hosting free drop-in embroidery workshops throughout August. Participants will be encouraged to make their own

textile pieces symbolising their identity or culture using various flower templates. The workshops will take place on selected days between 2–14 August at the Barbican Library, with two additional workshops at Portsoken, Mansell St on 11 & 18 August, and all materials will be provided. For more information on dates and times, visit [www.culturemile.london](https://www.culturemile.london).

Play Packs Live

Over the past year, Culture Mile has been working with local cultural institutions and artists to create play and imagination focused packs for

families. Called Play Packs, these bundles contain activity sheets, Play Prompts and free art materials, providing families with everything they need to get creative together at home, without needing expensive materials or digital access.

As London opens up, Culture Mile will host free live versions of these Play Packs in the City of London throughout summer, reclaiming the streets for local community families and culminating in a giant den-building workshop in partnership with Islington Play Association and Museum of London on 11 September at Whitecross Street Party.



A woman makes a flower textile at a Blooming City Quilt workshop  
Credit Francis Augusto

Gaia’s Garden

A new community-built public garden has now opened in the heart of the City of London. As well as being a place to socialise and relax, Gaia’s Garden will host free workshops, talks and performances throughout summer focusing on climate change and sustainability.

Play Nice, the winners of Culture Mile and Foundation for Future London’s inaugural Fusion Prize, are spearheading the project in partnership with property developers Dominvs Group who provided the space.

The garden was conceptualised by five young female creatives from across fashion, graphic design, movement, music, and photography, who took part in Play Nice’s prize winning cultural incubator programme The Pattern. Mentored by Noga-Levy Rapoport, an ambassador for the UK Student Climate Network, the group’s vision is to present sustainability through a more inclusive and feminist lens.

Located at 61 Holborn Viaduct, Gaia’s Garden forms part of the City Lord Mayor’s Culture and Commerce Taskforce’s Enhancing the City initiative, which seeks to fill repurposed commercial spaces across the City with curated creative activity in order to animate the area and drive footfall.

For more information on the garden and the live events programme, visit [www.gaiasgarden.london](https://www.gaiasgarden.london)

Cross-sector collaboration

Following recommendations by the Culture and Commerce Taskforce, chaired by Lord Mayor William Russell in partnership with the City of London Corporation and Culture Mile, five creative schemes designed to help the Square Mile recover from the pandemic have been given the green light.

The approved plans will see businesses work more closely with creatives to animate shops, offices and foyers across the City. Young people will also learn new skills to help them build their careers in the creative sector while commercial sites will be redesigned into dynamic workspaces to support small, diverse, and creative businesses.

To find out more about the above projects and to explore what’s happening in and around Culture Mile, simply visit [www.culturemile.london](https://www.culturemile.london) or follow @CultureMileLDN on social media.

# LISTINGS

Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in EC1. For the next issue, email the details of your event to [ec1echo@peelinstitute.org.uk](mailto:ec1echo@peelinstitute.org.uk)

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## SOCIAL

**Singalong  
On Zoom  
Every second  
Tuesday of the month**

Our free online Singalong celebrated its first birthday in May 1 and is still going strong. Log on if you like music from the shows (Cole Porter, Jerome Kern etc), Folk and much more. Dates coming up: 10 August, 14 September.

**Link and worksheets:**  
[giselameyer.me.uk/event/clerkenwell\\_singalong/](https://giselameyer.me.uk/event/clerkenwell_singalong/)  
**Visit** [peelinstitute.org.uk](https://peelinstitute.org.uk)

## EXHIBITS

**More! Oliver Twist, Dickens  
and Stories of the City  
Until 17 October  
48-49 Doughty St WC1N 2LX**

Step back in time to 48 Doughty Street, the home of the ambitious young writer: Charles Dickens. Observe him in the early stages of his career, as he brings the story of Oliver to life.

**Adult £9.50, Student £7.50  
Visit** [dickensmuseum.com](https://dickensmuseum.com)

**Jean Dubuffet – Brutal Beauty  
Until Sun 22 Aug  
Barbican Centre EC2Y 8DS**

An exhibition celebrating the one of the most singular and provocative voices in postwar modern art.

**£5-£18  
Call 020 7638 4141  
Visit** [barbican.org.uk](https://barbican.org.uk)

**Wish You Were Here:  
151 Years of British Postcards  
Until Sun 2 Jan  
15-20 Phoenix Place WC1X 0DA**

Celebrating the 151st anniversary of the British postcard and its iconic role in connecting people.

**£16 (with entry to the museum)  
Visit** [postalmuseum.org](https://postalmuseum.org)

## MUSIC

**Come Down and Meet The  
Folks w. Los Pisteleros  
Sunday, August 22**

Live music and DJ on the last Sunday of each month at The Betsey.

**Free  
Visit** [comedownandmeetthefolks.co.uk](https://comedownandmeetthefolks.co.uk)

**Gareth Davies and Michael  
McHale (Summer shorts)  
Fri 13 Aug, 13:00-13.45  
Jerwood Hall, LSO St Luke's**

LSO Principal Flute Gareth Davies and pianist Michael McHale take to the stage for the second concert in our Summer Shorts 2021 series.

**Pay what you can  
Visit** [iso.co.uk/whats-on](https://iso.co.uk/whats-on)

**Naoko Keatley & Zeynep  
Özsuca (Summer shorts)  
Fri 20 Aug, 13:00pm-13:45pm**

Opening with Tonia Ko's Plush Earth in Four Pieces, the duo will also perform Beethoven's Violin Sonata No 10.

**Pay what you can  
Visit** [iso.co.uk/whats-on](https://iso.co.uk/whats-on)

**Concerts at Fidelio  
91-95 Clerkenwell Rd EC1R 5BX**

August 10 & 11, 19:00-23:00  
Gabriele Carcano: Beethoven sonatas

August 14 & 15, 16:30-23:00  
Up Close and Musical: Chloë Hanslip, Misha Mullov-Abbado Group

**From £15  
Visit** [fideliorchestra.cafe.com/whats-on](https://fideliorchestra.cafe.com/whats-on)  
**Email** [info@fideliorchestra.art](mailto:info@fideliorchestra.art)

**Renewed masterpiece  
at Charterhouse  
Charterhouse Square,  
Barbican EC1M 6AN**

The Charterhouse's painting Luca Giordano's Visitation of the Blessed Virgin to St Elizabeth (1695) has now been restored and can be seen in full glory at the historic complex in Smithfield.

Set in the Sutton Memorial in the Chapel, the baroque masterpiece is part of what Charterhouse calls its "own reawakening following its

doors being opened once more."

As the conversationist on the Giordano painting Jim Dimond puts it, the painting's lining was to replace the lining and take off old varnishes to give it a new lease of life. "It isn't exactly like it was when it was painted," says Jim. "But it's the nearest thing that we've got. So I'm happy that we're honouring the artist's original intention."

**See the painting at the  
Charterhouse in Smithfield,  
for all details of opening  
times and prices go to  
[thecharterhouse.org](https://thecharterhouse.org)**



# Support local independent journalism



## What we do

Here at *EC1 Echo* we do things differently. We combine professional journalism with voluntary contributions from people who live and work in the area and create content which is responsive to and reflective of the community.

These are challenging times for print media with many newspapers closing and advertising revenue in decline, but our not-for-profit model offers a new approach to creating local journalism which is inclusive and accountable.

## How you can help

As a not-for-profit publication, started by The Peel, a longstanding Clerkenwell charity, we rely on the generous support of our community. We look to our readers, who recognise the value of independent journalism, to help support us.

You can do this by becoming a member either as an individual or as an organisation. See the rewards opposite and once you've decided what package you would like, visit [EC1Echo.co.uk/join](https://EC1Echo.co.uk/join)

### We would like to say thank you to our members:

David Wilcox, Daniel Winn, Laurence Colchester, Diana Alsobrook, Sarah Falconer, David Chapman, Tania Cohen, Brian Jones, Veran Patel, Katrina Fialko, Mirela Popoveniuc, Sarah Wood, Stephanie Pietraszkiewicz, Juliana Lottmann, Daron Pike.

## Individual rewards

### £3 per month upwards:

Name in print and online, pin badge

### £5 per month upwards:

Name in print and online, pin badge, tote bag, paper posted to you every month

## Organisational rewards

### £10 per month:

Name in print and online, 10% discount on advertising

### £20 per month:

Name and logo in print and online, 20% discount on advertising

### £50 per month:

Name and logo in print and online, 40% discount, six free small adverts per year



## NURSERY OPEN DAYS

We have a variety of opportunities for you to come and visit us!

Book a private 30-minute tour to visit our 'Outstanding' Montessori Nursery or a free Forest School taster session for your toddler, led by our qualified Forest School leaders! Please visit our website for dates and more info!



## PRIMARY SCHOOL TASTER DAY

Saturday 9th October 2021

Taster Day 9:15am or 10:30am  
Open House 12pm-1pm

If you are looking for a Reception place for September 2022, please join our Taster Day 2021 and experience everything our 'Excellent in every area' Primary School can offer your child!



[www.thegowerschool.co.uk](https://www.thegowerschool.co.uk)

[winkworth.co.uk/clerkenwell](http://winkworth.co.uk/clerkenwell)

# Winkworth

for every step...



**Bowling Green Lane, EC1**  
**£1,690,000**

This large three bedroom apartment is situated on the second floor of this small lift serviced warehouse conversion. The apartment has the benefit of a large living space with south-east facing floor to ceiling windows. The apartment further benefits from two bathrooms and a large entrance hall.



**Wilmington Square, WC1**  
**£1,400,000**

A spacious ground floor and lower ground floor apartment set within this substantial Grade II listed house. This Georgian conversion offers plenty of character overlooking the highly sought-after Wilmington Square.



**Central Street, EC1**  
**£700 PW / £3,033 PCM**

A luxury three bedroom apartment, with balcony; situated in the modern Worcester Point development, just moments from the City in EC1.



**Bartholomew Close, EC1**  
**£575 PW / £2,491.66 PCM**

A spacious and well-presented two bedroom apartment on Bartholomew Close, off Little Britain.



**Farringdon Road, EC1**  
**£600 PW / £2,600 PCM**

A very spacious and bright two bedroom/ two bathroom apartment in the heart of Clerkenwell.



**Munro House, St. Cross Street, EC1**  
**£500 PW / £2,167 PCM**

A modern, two bedroom two bathroom apartment situated on the first floor of a modern building on St Cross Street.

## Winkworth Clerkenwell & City

66 Exmouth Market, Clerkenwell, London EC1R 4QP

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