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Check out our website for other news of the ward and further details on newsletter topics!

www.castle-baynard.org.uk

LUDGATE CIRCUS TRAFFIC INCIDENT

Your members were very concerned and saddened to learn of the fatal accident that occurred to a cyclist at Ludgate Circus on Thursday 3 April. The Ludgate Circus junction is part of the road system controlled by Transport for London (TfL) rather than the City Corporation, and it is planned to be changed as part of the development of one of the new cycle "superhighways" through the City via Blackfriars Bridge. Your members have, and will continue, to strongly promote and support all actions taken by the City and TfL to expedite changes to improve safety for all users on our roads. We will closely monitor the progress of the TfL plans and report back.

WARD MOTE – TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2014

A well attended annual Ward Mote took place at the St Bride Foundation Institute on Tuesday 25 March. This was an opportunity for voters to meet their Ward Members and raise any questions. Following brief explanations of each Ward Member's responsibilities, questions were taken and current issues reported on. These included:

Broadband in the City: At the moment, surprisingly, there are no plans to provide superfast broadband to our 8,000 residents and 13,000 small businesses, despite the availability of high-speed fibre optic cables under our streets serving the large companies based in the Square Mile. The Corporation has approached BT at the highest levels about this with no success thus far. Graham Packham has written to the Daily Telegraph about this issue and his letter was published in their edition on 13 March. Your members take this problem very seriously and we will encourage the Corporation to do whatever is necessary to resolve this. However, this is unlikely to be straight forward and will take time to bring to a successful conclusion.

Ward Mote Resolution taken: The Ward Mote deplores the fact that a significant number of residents and businesses in the City are unable to access fast connectivity and urges the City of London Corporation to press for superfast broadband to be extended throughout the City.

Cycling / Streets & Walkways: The forthcoming introduction of the 20mph speed limit was welcomed by electors. We reported that the signage in the so called "shared areas" of The City will be re-assessed for safety reasons. One elector commented on the work to improve Holborn Circus and raised concerns about the pedestrian crossings. We confirmed that the works have been completed though questions remain whether the new arrangement is optimal, especially for road users turning right into Holborn Viaduct from New Fetter Lane. Ward members are liaising with the City over this. Further discussion ensued about cyclists having little space to ride safely on streets which have had the pavements widened, like Cheapside, as this has led to less space for cyclists and cars.

Street vendors in New Street Square: An elector raised concerns about regular street markets held in New Street Square. It was explained that New Street Square is private land and the owners are therefore allowed to hold street markets; however, this is not allowed on City Corporation owned land. Ward members will follow up with elector.

Early deliveries: Debate ensued regarding early deliveries in Bridewell Place and the impact on nearby small businesses and what can be done to rectify this.

Policing: A member from the City of London Community Policing Team gave an update on crime figures and warned that thieves were targeting ATMs in local City branches to fraudulently obtain details of debit cards.

LUDGATE HILL CROSSING

In previous issues we have reported on the possibility of a signalled controlled pedestrian crossing at the top of Ludgate Hill in front of St Paul's. We are pleased to report that as a result of the efforts of two Ward members a one year trial of a signalled crossing is due to start in September of this year. The trial will last for one year, and if successful will be made permanent. All of your ward members have been pressing for this for several years to help traffic flow at busy times of day and to reduce air pollution in the ward, when traffic tends to back-up due to continuous pedestrian movement across the crossing.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

The City of London offers a variety of volunteering opportunities in some of the parks and open spaces managed by the City, for example Epping Forest, West Ham Park, Burnham Beeches, Highgate Wood and City Gardens. Please see the City of London website to access direct links to each of the mentioned areas: <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/Pages/default.aspx> It is a great way to get involved and make an exceptional contribution, gain new skills, make new friends and get out in the fresh air!

Your voice on
Common Council:



Ian Luder



Chris Boden



Nigel Challis



Emma Edhem



Michael Hudson



Catherine McGuinness



Graham Packham



Henrika Priest



Jeremy Simons

Find our details on:

www.castle-baynard.org.uk

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

HOLBORN CIRCUS – COMPLETION OF WORKS

Construction that started in July last year to simplify the junction layout with a view to improve traffic safety for all road users has now been completed. The work took ten months and was on time and on budget. Improvements include new signal controlled pedestrian crossings at all crossing points with the exception of Hatton Garden (which is outside the City), a dedicated road space for cyclists, a new public space at the front of St Andrew's church, a shared use pedestrian / cycle facility on Hatton Garden's eastern footway, the realignment of St Andrew Street's to join New Fetter Lane and the Grade II listed Prince Consort statue has been returned to a new place on Holborn.



Refurbished statue being craned into place



Overview of completed junction

RESIDENTIAL RUBBISH COLLECTION POSTERS – WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Related to the last issue's coverage of residential rubbish collections, and as mentioned at the March Ward Mote, we have contacted the Department of the Built Environment to see if we can assist in a further effort to ensure that residents outside the City's estates are kept continually informed about the City's household waste and recycling services and policies. The idea is that contact is made by the City with managing agents and porters of residential properties so that permanent information can be put up inside the actual buildings, either in bin rooms or in communal hallways whatever is applicable. This effort would ensure continuity even if residents move on and ultimately assist with the general cleanliness of our streets. **So, if you have information about your porters or managing agents that you could share with us, please contact henrika.priest@cityoflondon.gov.uk.** We will then pass this information to the Department of Built Environment for them to liaise directly and ensure that posters are put up where possible.

COMING SOON AT DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

Alexander Pope "The Little Nightingale": A presentation by Colin Pinney. Wednesday 21 May at 7pm. The presentation follows the life of "The Little Nightingale" as Sir Joshua Reynolds named him affectionately. Alexander Pope was a much-quoted source of illustrative quotations in Johnson's great Dictionary. Pope's life will be illuminated through his verse. Tickets £7.50, to include a glass of wine in the withdrawing room, from www.drjohnsonshouse.org/events or from the House.

BRIDEWELL THEATRE – SPRING PROGRAMME

The programme at the Bridewell Theatre features the following shows for the next few months. For ticket purchases, please go online www.sbf.org.uk/theatre or telephone 020 7353 3331 for information on how to book.

Lunchbox Theatre

All lunchbox theatre performances take place on Tuesdays to Fridays, start at 1.00 pm prompt and are about 45 minutes long. You are more than welcome to bring a packed lunch! Don't forget that you can get tickets until 11.00 am on the day of the performance at £1.00 advance booking discount. On the door you can buy tickets at full price from 12.00 noon at the theatre box office:

- ▶ Boiling Point (Give it Some Room): 13 – 30 May

Evening Programme

- ▶ Honk! (The RBS Theatre Company): 13 – 17 May
- ▶ Rumours (The Spread Eagle Players): 22 – 23 May
- ▶ The Dumb Show (by Joe Penhall): 27 – 31 May
- ▶ Jesus Christ Superstar (Centre Stage London): 3 – 7 June