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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

ANNUAL WARD MOTE – TUESDAY 17 MARCH @ 7.00 PM, SHOE LANE LIBRARY

The Ward's annual ward mote will be held on **Tuesday 17 March at 7.00 pm at Shoe Lane Library**, Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3JRE.

This is one of your opportunities to meet elected members, hear what we are doing on your behalf, and ask us any questions about local matters which are concerning you. We look forward to seeing you there!

SKATEBOARDING

Electors have complained to us about the increase in skateboarding in and around the ward, particularly the area to the south of St Paul's, and particularly at weekends. This has long been a problem for the ward. Groups of skateboarders can be difficult to pass, and stonework and street furniture is being damaged. Ward members have been pressing the police to take action on this, and the City to explore what further physical deterrents can be installed.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN FLEET STREET

We are pleased to note that following complaints from residents and pressure from ward members the pedestrian crossing time at the junction of Fetter Lane and Fleet Street has been significantly increased. Thank you TfL!

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT ST PAUL'S

We have been pressing for many years for the installation of a signalised pedestrian crossing in front of St Paul's Cathedral to reduce the delays caused to traffic at busy times when there is a continuous stream of pedestrians using the crossing. We are pleased that a one-year trial of traffic signals has just commenced. A single stage crossing is now in place, providing more pavement space and a shorter distance to cross the road. Please let us have your thoughts on the new arrangements.

CYCLE SUPERHIGHWAYS

The TfL Board approved the construction of the North-South and East-West Cycle Superhighways when it met on 4 February 2015. A small number of changes were made to the proposals which went to consultation during 2014. At Ludgate Circus there will be straight-across pedestrian crossings rather than staggered crossings. On the East-West route two westbound traffic lanes will be provided at Blackfriars Underpass, with some narrowing of the cycle track, this will be subject to technical feasibility. Work on the North-South route is due to start within a few weeks south of the River, with work scheduled at Blackfriars Junction from July 2015 to February 2016, at New Bridge Street and Ludgate Circus from October 2015 to March 2016 and in Farringdon Road from August to September 2015. As there are many issues still to be sorted out between TfL and the City of London, these dates may slip.

TfL were unable to address our concerns about over-long waits for pedestrians at crossings, although they have undertaken to look into reducing times elsewhere in the City. We remain concerned that long waits to cross will increase the risk of accidents due to pedestrians frustrated with the wait crossing against the lights. City Officers are continuing to work with TfL on this issue.

RESIDENTS' PARKING

Just a reminder that the City does not provide residents' parking spaces on the street. Road space is at too much of a premium in the City. However the good news is that residents are entitled to a massive 85% reduction on standard season ticket rates in City of London's car parks. Residents may park in the Baynard House Car Park for £185 per quarter, rather than the standard rate of £1,332.50 per quarter.

Castle Baynard Resident

March 2015

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

THE CITY CORPORATION – JUST ANOTHER BOROUGH?

We are often asked questions about the Corporation of London (CoL) and the way that the City is governed and the differences to the rest of London. So we thought the following brief facts would be of interest to residents. The City is not a London Borough like the 32 Boroughs that surround it. However the CoL does act as the Local Authority for the Square Mile providing statutory services such as schools, roads and transport, planning and development, licensing, waste collection and disposal etc. In addition the CoL provides an astonishing range of additional services which include the following:

The CoL manages Smithfield, Spitalfields and Billingsgate markets, oversees the City of London Police, is the Port Health Authority for London, and funds and maintains 10,000 acres of public green spaces in Greater London and the surrounding counties including Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest. The CoL is highly active in the sphere of Culture and Leisure, being the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre, a key supporter of the City of London Festival which it founded in 1962 and it also owns, funds and administers the Guildhall School of Music & Drama one of the world's leading conservatoires and drama schools.

The CoL is also the sole trustee of the City Bridge Trust. City Bridge Trust is the grant-making arm of Bridge House Estates. It was established to make use of funds surplus to bridge requirements and provides grants totalling around £15m per year towards charitable activity benefitting Greater London. Members of the Court of Common Council form the Trust's Grants Committee.

The City has a unique electoral system because of its demographics (some 9,000 residents and 350,000 workers) which means that businesses based in the City can nominate members of their staff to vote (in proportion to their size) as well as residents. Unlike the London Boroughs the City operates a Committee system to oversee its diverse activities rather than a Cabinet. This has the advantage of ensuring that power is not concentrated amongst a few - and the political independence of members ensures that all CoL business is subject to vigorous and critical scrutiny.

The City has more councillors than the London Boroughs but unlike the London Boroughs City elected members are not remunerated. Concerns have been expressed that this may discourage less well-off individuals from standing for election, but a hardship fund is available to compensate those members that need it for loss of income when engaged on CoL activities and this issue should not be a barrier to standing for office. If you have any questions about the City and how we operate or would like further information please contact us at: enquiries@castle-baynard.org.uk

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO DO AT LUNCH TIME OR AT THE WEEKEND?

Then walk over to the Guildhall and pay a visit to the Guildhall Art Gallery a hidden gem which has undergone a major rehang of the artwork – the first since the building first opened in 1999. Of particular interest are the fascinating collections of paintings which provide a unique insight into London's history, the 17th century portraits and the Victorian pre-Raphaelite collection as well as the Roman Amphitheatre under the Gallery.

The building also houses a new exhibition space – the Heritage Gallery which showcases a rotating selection of rare, fascinating and sometimes surprising documents from the extensive archives of the City including at the moment the City's 1297 Magna Carta. Entry is free and this includes the current exhibition "120 Years of Tower Bridge" which runs until 26 April.

COMING SOON AT DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

Dr Johnson's House by Candlelight: A rare opportunity to explore the historic interiors of Dr Johnson's House by candlelight in two special curator led twilight tours. Wednesday 18 March at 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm. Tickets are £10, £8 concessions from www.drjohnsonshouse.org/events

Dictionary Quiz Night: Dr Johnson's House invites you to an evening of word games and Johnsoniana. Put on your thinking caps! A prize for the winning team! Wednesday 15 April at 7.00 pm. Tickets are £10 (includes a free glass of wine) from www.drjohnsonshouse.org/events