

# Castle Baynard Resident

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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](http://www.castle-baynard.org.uk)

## WARD SURGERIES

We hope that all residents have been keeping safe and well during the Covid-19 pandemic. We will be holding our next on-line Zoom ward surgery on **September 16 at 6:00pm**. There is no need to book, and members of the ward team will be available to answer any questions or discuss any topics of concern. We will hold further surgeries on October 14, November 18, December 16 and January 20 all at 6:00pm. Details on how to join can be found on our team website at: <http://castle-baynard.org.uk/ward-news/>

## URSULA PASSES THROUGH THE WARD (Graham Packham)

Ursula one of the Thames Tideway Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) arrived at the Blackfriars foreshore in March shortly before the lockdown. Ursula is named after the late Dr Audrey 'Ursula' Smith the eminent cryobiologist. Prior to her arrival Ursula had created nearly 4.5km of new tunnel under the Thames since beginning her journey eastbound from Battersea in March 2019, representing approximately 60% of the eastbound tunneling during which over 2,400 segment rings have been installed to line this section of the tunnel.



Ursula then underwent a period of essential maintenance at the foreshore including changing the cutterhead at her front, in preparation for the final stage of tunneling through chalky ground during the remainder of her journey towards Chambers Wharf in Bermondsey. Since Ursula has departed the giant (3,500 tonne) concrete culvert construction has been completed, the coffer dam has been flooded and the culvert will now be floated into position with this work planned to be completed by mid-September.

The work at Blackfriars is scheduled to be complete by 2023 leaving a legacy of an exciting new public space in the ward on the foreshore immediately to the west of Blackfriars bridge. The new space will be called Bazalgette Embankment. This is in long overdue recognition of the work of the great Victorian civil engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette, who as chief engineer of London's Metropolitan Board of Works was responsible for the construction of the London's Victorian sewer network which is still serving London today.

## E-SCOOTER TRIAL (Graham Packham)

As a response to reduced public transport capacity as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the Government has fast-tracked legislation to allow 12-month trials of rental e-scooter schemes to take place as soon as possible. The e-scooters would be fitted with speed limiters, would only be usable by people with driving licenses and would not be permitted to use pavements. The use of e-scooters is not currently legal on public highways in the UK. The Government has committed to reviewing the legality of e-scooters but has not suggested a date for this review to be completed by.

The Department for Transport (DfT) has provided more information on their high-level goals for e-scooter trials, which include; responding to COVID-19 and the need to support reduced local transport capacity, building a robust evidence base around the safety and wider impacts of e-scooter use and informing any longer-term policy decisions Government may make on e-scooter legality in the UK.

A proposal for the City to participate in the trial was considered by the Planning & Transport Committee in July. Many members had considerable misgivings about the desirability of allowing the use of e-scooters on public highways, particularly in the City. However, it was agreed that we participate with other Local Authorities in London to enable us to influence and shape the outcome of the trials, and any subsequent legislation brought forward. In particular members asked officers to ensure that e-scooters are parked in designated parking bays, strongly encourage or mandate safety helmets for users, require visible unique vehicle registration numbers for identifying e-scooters and ensure sufficient insurance is held by any scheme operator. Please feel free to contact us if you have any observations or feedback on the trials.

Your voice on  
Common Council:



Ian Luder - Alderman



Chris Boden



Michael Hudson



Angus Knowles-Cutler



Natasha Lloyd-Owen



Catherine McGuinness



Graham Packham



Henrika Priest



Jeremy Simons

Find our details on:

[www.castle-baynard.org.uk](http://www.castle-baynard.org.uk)

### **MENTAL HEALTH** (Natasha Lloyd-Owen)

The last six months have tested us all in different ways. According to research published as part of the 'Coronavirus: Mental Health and the Pandemic' study (led by the Mental Health Foundation in partnership with the Universities of Cambridge, Swansea, Strathclyde and Queen's University Belfast), almost one in five (19%) of UK adults feel hopeless, with more than one-quarter (27%) of unemployed people feeling hopeless; almost one-third (32%) of young adults aged 18-24 feeling hopeless; and almost one-third (31%) of people with pre-existing mental health conditions feeling hopeless.

Now, more than ever, we need to be kind to ourselves and each other and to take advantage of the resources available to protect our mental health and wellbeing. Although Castle Baynard's 'Dragon Cafe in the City' cannot currently operate from the Shoe Lane Library, the amazing team behind this programme promoting mental wellbeing has moved everything - except the free 15-minute massages - online. Now, following a break for August, they are back with virtual sessions every second Wednesday, offering free group therapy sessions, creative workshops, talks, Tai Chi and yoga online. You can find out more at: <https://www.dragoncafeinthecity.com/>.

The City of London Corporation has also launched a brand new Mental Health and Wellbeing Centre which will provide online counselling and psychotherapy to individuals, couples and groups who are experiencing any of a range of emotional and psychological difficulties including depression, anxiety, marital and relationship issues, those relating to family and work life, self-esteem issues and life transitions (such as moving towards retirement). Importantly, these services are available to all City residents, including those on low incomes. You can find out more at: <https://www.citywellbeingcentre.org/>.

According to Foresight's 'Mental capital and wellbeing project' the '5 ways to wellbeing' are: connect - with friends, family and those around you, be active - exercise hugely benefits mental wellbeing, take notice - observe the world around you, keep learning - be it something new or not, and give - you benefit too.

So, you might want to take advantage of one of the City's new self-guided-walks or participate in the City of London Time Credit initiative (offering credits in return for volunteering with community programmes in the City that can be redeemed at various attractions and organisations throughout London). Beyond these resources, residents can also always access free help and advice from Hackney Talk Changes if you are experiencing common mental health problems, by calling 020 7683 4278 or via their website; free bereavement support through St Joseph's Hospice, via 0300 303 0400 or by emailing [stjosephs.firstcontact@nhs.net](mailto:stjosephs.firstcontact@nhs.net); and 24-hour Mental Health Crisis Helpline: 020 8432 8020. For more information and a fuller list of resources please visit the City's website. If you have any queries, concerns or issues, please get in contact.

### **PAVEMENT LICENCES** (Catherine McGuinness)

Given the current restrictions of social distancing, hospitality outlets in the city are naturally considering how they can maximize space for customers, including use of nearby pavements and outdoor spaces. The City is therefore seeing an increase in applications from pubs and other outlets to allow tables and chairs on adjacent public spaces.

Local businesses need all the support they can get at this difficult time. But this should not be at the expense of residents, who are still entitled to peace and quiet in their homes and safe passage to them. So, if you find that the pub next door is applying for a license which you feel will cause a significant nuisance, write in to object, pointing out why you feel that the grant would be detrimental to at least one of the following "licensing objectives": Prevention of Public Nuisance; Prevention of Crime and Disorder; Protection of Children from harm; or Public Safety.

Don't hesitate to contact ward members if you feel you need more advice. And please, in these difficult times, where it is safe to do so, shop, eat and drink local, to support our local businesses!