

July 2021



MEMBERS' BRIEFING

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LORD MAYOR

Service of Remembrance, Thanksgiving and Hope

The Lord Mayor conceived and arranged this special Service which was held at St Paul's on 22 June to provide a moment of solemn reflection for those who had died from COVID-19 and to give thanks for the gradual return of life to the City. The service was attended by a wide range of City stakeholders, from Common Councillors to Liverymen and medical workers to teachers. The Bishop of London delivered the sermon.

Reopening Campaign

The Lord Mayor's reopening campaign continues, highlighting the return of activity to the Square Mile. In June, the Lord Mayor visited Eataly, the Noel Coward Exhibition at Guildhall Gallery, the Guildhall Lunch Market, art installations popping up in vacant city windows, and opened Number One Lombard Street. He also visited Aldgate Primary School, the cultural art installations in Aldgate Square, and visited Hampstead Heath with a group of Members to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act.

World Economic Forum (WEF) Regional action group

The WEF Regional Action Group for Europe and Eurasia meeting on 29 June on 'Accelerating the Digital Transformation' considered how applications of Artificial Intelligence, blockchain and the Internet of Things should be leveraged by the private sector and governments to foster excellence, trust and inclusion. The Lord Mayor shared thoughts on how emerging technologies play a vital role in London and the UK's economic recovery, helping to boost the productivity of new hybrid workforces and fulfil the potential of a newly connected UK. Other speakers of note included Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg.

The Financial and Professional Services Address

On 1 July, Mansion House hosted the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Governor of the Bank of England for the Financial and Professional Services Address. The Chancellor thanked the sector for the role that it has played in supporting customers and businesses through the COVID-19 crisis and set out a positive vision for the position of the UK as a global financial centre. The Governor analysed the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and looked at the prospects for the recovery.

UK Saudi Investment Forum

On 13 July the Lord Mayor gave the opening and closing remarks at the UK – Saudi Investment Forum. This event brought together Saudi and British investors with government representatives to discuss the partnership and investment opportunities available to support the transition towards greener and less oil dependent economies. The day was comprised of three panel sessions and a Ministerial lunch with His Excellency His Royal Highness Prince Khaled bin Bandar Al Saud (Ambassador of Saudi Arabia), Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi (Minister of Commerce and Investment and Acting Minister of Media), and Lord Grimstone (Minister for Investment) in attendance.

Dinner with Secretary of State for BEIS and Saudi Minister Qasabi

On 14 July, the Lord Mayor joined a private dinner hosted by the Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in honour of Minister Qasabi's visit to the UK. The dinner followed the second meeting of the Economic and Social Pillar under the Strategic Partnership Council of which the Secretary of State and Saudi Minister Qasabi are co-leads.

UK Board of Trade meeting

The Board of Trade met in Glasgow on 21 July, as part of a drive by the Secretary of State for International Trade to connect with the Devolved Nations and English Regions. The Board heard updates from Crawford Faulkner, Chief Trade Negotiation Adviser & Second Permanent Secretary, on progress with several Free Trade Agreements, bilateral discussions, economic dialogues and mutual recognition agreements. This covered Australia (including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership), USA, New Zealand and India, Canada and Mexico. Minister for Investment, Lord Grimstone, also updated the Board on the Office of Investment, the Investment Council, the National Security and Investment Bill, and on regional investment initiatives that were underway with key global markets. The Board also discussed the final version of the Department for International Trade Green Trade policy paper (to which the City of London Corporation had extensive input) and its planned launch that day. They also discussed the forthcoming Digital Trade and Data policy paper (which will be launched in the next Mayoralty) and the planned Board meeting in Belfast.

Contact [Ben Huntley](#)

CHIEF COMMONER

Back in Great Hall after 16 Virtual Months

57 Members, just under half the Court, turned out for Common Council on 22 July 2021, our first meeting in person in Guildhall since 5 March 2020. Attendance would have been higher had some Members not fallen victim at the last minute to the Pingdemic. The seating in Great Hall was sensibly spaced and lunch was served in a relatively safe environment outdoors in the courtyard behind the North Wing entrance. I think I can speak for all Members who were there when I say that it was good to be back. We are hopeful of an even fuller court when we meet again after the summer recess on 9 September – provided we can do so safely – and we are also hopeful that by then the City and the City of London Corporation will be back to something approaching normal.



For those concerned about missing out by not being there, it is currently planned that any major decisions on implementing Lord Lisvane's recommendations will be taken at the following Court in October. Sheriff Christopher Hayward has heroically chaired no less than 22 meetings with Members on the Lisvane report and it is envisaged that a package of reforms distilled from these sessions will be put to the Court. Headlines are likely to include a reduction in the number of committees, sub-committees and working groups from 140 to just under 100, beefing up powers of delegation, and holding fewer but more strategically focused meetings.

Members using the West Wing during the heatwave in July will have experienced unacceptable conditions. I have looked into this, and like many things in the City Corporation you need to drill down several layers to get to the real story. In a nutshell the air conditioning in our 1970s building is held together with bits of Elastoplast. The current system is 25 years old and has reached the end of its economic life and is in need of replacement. A capital project to replace the west wing chiller plants has been approved but unfortunately work won't be completed until mid-2023. Meanwhile, officers are continuing to investigate temporary solutions to cope with extreme high temperatures, including standalone air conditioning units in committee rooms and individual offices, solar reflective film in more areas and more effective blinds.

More than two decades after the issue was first raised, the Court has finally approved a scheme for paying Members a small allowance. The primary objective is to make the Court more inclusive, with the new allowance claimable from October so that the system is up and running in time for next year's elections. The scheme also retains the previous support available to those who suffer loss of earnings. More details will be provided later, but it is planned that a simple drop-down menu will enable Members to register on-line to claim a flat rate of £7,500 per annum, payable on a quarterly basis. Those who chose not to claim remain unaffected by the scheme and will retain their voluntary status.

I wish all colleagues a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer break.

Brian Mooney MA CC

Contact [Devika Persaud](#)

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Professions meeting with the UK Ambassador to the WTO

The Policy Chair co-chaired a meeting with the Professional and Business Services Council's International Trade Group. The Group was joined by the UK Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Simon Manley who raised the delivery-focused and business-minded approach being taken by the WTO's new Director-General and communicated his intention for reciprocal business-government support. One key theme is that EU exit work is being dialled down.

Virtual Visit to India

The Policy Chair conducted a virtual visit to India between 30 June-2 July. The aim of the visit was to deepen links with key Indian financial and professional services stakeholders, in lieu of the annual in-person visit to the region, in addition to promoting the City's confidence post-Brexit and through COVID-19. The key showpiece of the programme was the launch of the City of London Corporation India-UK Capital Markets Working Group's first report Unleashing the potential of the Indian Debt Capital Markets. The report provides an initial set of recommendations to increase the depth of corporate bond markets in India. The Policy Chair publicly launched the report along with the Group's co-chairs, who provided an overview of the report's focuses and group's objectives. The strong links between the UK and India was a recurring theme throughout the visit and reinforced in meetings with the new president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Mr. T V Narendran and HM Trade Commissioner for South Asia, Alan Gemmell. Fintech was also a key focus of the visit. The Policy Chair hosted a private discussion that convened UK and Indian fintechs and experts to discuss the current flows and barriers for Indian fintechs entering the UK market.

Launch of the HM Treasury Women in Finance Charter Review

The Policy spoke alongside John Glen MP (Economic Secretary to the Treasury and City Minister) and senior representatives from Refinitiv, Aviva and Virgin Money to look at progress made over the past five years on increasing female representation in the financial services sector since the creation of the Charter. The event was organised by the thinktank New Financial, and their work on this is sponsored by the City Corporation

Children's book on "How the City Works"

The Policy Chair attended the launch of "How The World Really Works: City of London" a book for children explaining the history and work of the City of London. She attended alongside the publishers Guy Fox and the illustrators of the book – children from Aldgate School, who now proudly have their artwork in print. The project was partly funded by the City Corporation's Policy Initiatives Fund.

Social Mobility Taskforce

On 7 July, the Policy Chair spoke about the City Corporation's role in leading the Government-commissioned taskforce which seeks to boost socio-economic diversity within UK financial and professional services. The taskforce is working with 100 employers to ensure progression is led by performance and not just 'fit' and 'polish'. This runs alongside the City Corporation's other Social Mobility efforts; outlined in our Social Mobility Strategy. Please encourage your constituents to sign up to our newsletters to stay informed: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/WhoGetsAhead

Virtual roundtable with the Slovenian Ambassador to the UK

At the start of the Slovenian Presidency of the EU, the Policy Chair led a virtual roundtable discussion with H.E. Simona Leskovar, the Slovenian Ambassador to the UK. The meeting explored the role of financial services in supporting the economic recovery, the UK's bilateral relationship with Slovenia, and Slovenia's EU presidency priorities, including developments on sustainable finance.

Virtual roundtable with the French Ambassador to the UK

The Policy Chair led a roundtable with H.E. Catherine Colonna, Ambassador of France to the UK, which was attended by representatives from The City UK, the International Regulatory Strategy Group, and the financial and professional services sector, to discuss recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, sustainability, financial inclusion and the role of technology.

Contact [Alex Redman](#)

Any Member wishing to know our policy position on any subject can contact the Director of Communications [Bob Roberts](#) or the Head of Corporate Affairs [Eugenie de Naurois](#).

PARLIAMENTARY/GLA

Crossrail

Transport for London Commissioner Andy Byford and Crossrail chief executive Mark Wild gave evidence to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Crossrail's progress. Wild told the PAC that the line was in the trial running phase, "almost the penultimate stage" before trial operations, which would start in the autumn. This would allow an opening window in the first half of 2022, with February given as the earliest date. Wild outlined the impact of COVID-19, which had cost the operation £230m, though he noted the scheduled work lost during the initial lockdown had been made up subsequently. Department for Transport Permanent Secretary Bernadette Kelly did not expect further increases in the cost other than those already identified in the recent National Audit Office report, a point echoed by Byford. Concerns over borrowing and the longer-term impact of COVID-19 on working patterns was also discussed.

London and the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference

The London Assembly's Environment Committee took evidence on London and COP26 from GLA officers Pete Daw and Elliot Treharne, the City Corporation's Environment Committee Chair Keith Bottomley, climate activist and lawyer Farhana Yamin, and Frances Way, executive director of the Climate Champions team supporting the COP26 High Level Champion for business, cities and civil society. Asked about the part of London in combating climate change, Way stressed the key role of cities as centres of commerce, culture and innovation. She emphasised the need for transport decarbonisation and role modelling for others. Bottomley noted that societies were increasingly urbanised, and so cities were crucial to climate mitigation. He noted there was a clearer understanding now of the action required to decarbonise cities and highlighted the importance of finance. He added that COP26 was an opportunity to demonstrate the willingness of the private sector to finance the transition to net zero. Pete Daw outlined the aims of the Mayor's engagement with COP26, though was pressed to provide more detail to the Committee. Bottomley said that the Mayor of London could have a platform at the summit if the agenda was right. It was important, he said, for the summit to not just be "finance talking to finance," and noted the work being done by the City Corporation in the run-up to November and to convene stakeholders at the event. He advertised the City Corporation's willingness to collaborate with City Hall, London Councils and others on COP26. Asked whether the Mayor's Environment Strategy was urgent enough, Bottomley stressed the importance of plans being deliverable, affordable and fundable. The funds required for retrofitting were significant, but there was no shortage of private funding looking for decarbonisation opportunities, he added. Daw discussed City Hall's engagement with the Green Finance Institute on the London Finance Facility and said ideas to accelerate funding would be developed over the summer.

London's River Crossings

The London Assembly's Transport Committee took evidence on London's river crossings from Bridge House Estates' Managing Director David Farnsworth, David Rowe and Gareth Powell from Transport for London, the Port of London Authority's John Stevenson, Tom Osborne of bridge specialists Knight architects, and Michael Horodniceanu, the former traffic commissioner of New York City. Powell and Farnsworth offered an overview of how the river crossings under the control of their organisations were managed and maintained, including the use of 50-year maintenance plans. Asked about the challenges faced in maintaining their bridges, Farnsworth noted the coordination required with different stakeholders to close a bridge for maintenance, while Powell cited the costs associated with maintaining heritage assets, the working environment and the inability to shut for long periods of time. David Farnsworth had noted that the Bridge House Estate's endowment allowed it to fund its bridge repair work, much of which was proactive. Pressed on how TfL funded its maintenance programme, Powell argued that the lack of a sustainable long-term funding arrangement for TfL prevented it from proactively maintaining its crossings. Ultimately, unsafe assets could be closed, he said, or speed and vehicle restrictions imposed to increase the asset's longevity. Asked about the lessons of the Hammersmith Bridge situation, Osborne asserted that London was too reliant on existing crossings and needed more, especially in the east of the city. Shaun Bailey (Con) asked if TfL should be given full control of London's river crossings, including where it was not currently the asset owner. Powell argued that funding for TfL was the more important issue, followed by coordination as interfaces would always exist. He spoke positively of the current coordination at various levels with asset owners such as Bridge House Estates. Sian Berry (Green) asked if Bridge House Estates would be interested in taking on more bridges, to which Farnsworth outlined the limitations of the charity's objects. Chair Caroline Pidgeon (Lib Dem) asked if a sink fund on the model of Bridge House Estates could fund repairs for other asset owners, and Powell replied that it would be one possibility.

Contact [James Edwards](#)

COVID-19 rapid testing outreach to the City's SMEs

One in three people with COVID-19 does not have any symptoms of the disease and may be spreading it without realising. Rapid (lateral flow) COVID-19 tests can help to identify when someone has the virus and needs to self-isolate. It is recommended that everyone without symptoms tests twice a week. These tests are free and widely available. In addition to helping keep staff and customers safe from COVID-19, frequent rapid testing can also help to avoid business disruption as a result of workplace outbreaks. As part of its COVID-19 testing programme, starting from 27 July, the City of London Corporation will be conducting twice-weekly outreach to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the Square Mile on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. These will focus on hospitality, retail, and close-contact service businesses where staff are more likely to be in public-facing roles. This initiative is being supported by the City Corporation's Public Health and Environmental Health teams. The outreach team will visit businesses to talk to them about the benefits of frequent rapid testing and provide them with boxes of rapid test kits. In addition, they will provide basic signposting about other COVID-19 related support available to local businesses, such as information about financial support that individuals on low incomes who need to self-isolate can apply for, and how to report positive COVID-19 cases to the City and Hackney Public Health team. The outreach will take place on a ward-by-ward basis, and information will be made available on the City Corporation website and social media channels. Please share information on the benefits of rapid testing and how to access lateral flow and PCR tests with businesses in your respective wards. Information can be found on the [Get Tested for COVID-19 webpage](#) and the [City and Hackney COVID-19 local outbreak management plan webpage](#).

Contact [Xenia Koumi](#)

Decisions taken via COVID-19 Approval Procedure

The Court of Common Council's COVID-19 Approval Procedure was adopted by the Court on 15 April 2021. Since this date, all formal decisions (in respect of local authority functions) have been taken by a designated Senior Officer who has been granted authority by the Town Clerk to formalise any decisions. The decisions taken by the designated Officer reflect the views expressed at virtual/hybrid committee meetings, as set out in the minutes of meetings. Details of all the decisions taken in accordance with the procedure since 15 April 2021 can be accessed on the City Corporation's [Councillors, Committees and Meetings webpages](#). A list of the decisions taken in respect of business considered at formal meetings held in July shall be published once all the decisions have been formally approved by the designated Officers.

Contact [Lorraine Brook](#)

Innovation & Growth Directorate

The UK Regime for Overseas Firms

As a core contribution to the City of London Corporation competitiveness strategy, the International Regulatory Strategy Group (IRSG) launched a new report, [The UK Regime for Overseas Firms](#), focused on regulatory openness. It was the first IRSG event featuring the new IRSG chair, Dr Kay Swinburne who set out her vision for the IRSG. The event featured a keynote address by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen MP, who outlined the follow up to the HM Treasury call for evidence on the overseas framework and a suite of consultations, including on the Overseas Person Exclusion launching in the Autumn.

Digital Sandbox

Three case studies were unveiled for the Digital Sandbox's sustainability cohort on 20 July. Innovators with tech solutions tackling challenges around ESG data and disclosures will be invited to apply to take part in the second phase of the Sandbox, a unique collaboration between the City Corporation and the Financial Conduct Authority. The wider financial and professional services ecosystem will also be encouraged to participate through observing and mentoring the teams. Find out more about the [Digital Sandbox Pilot](#).

Contact Theresa.Yurkewichhoffmann@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Finance for Sustainable Growth

The City Corporation launched the [Finance for Sustainable Growth \(F4SG\)](#) North East pilot, focused on enhancing the visibility of North East green innovation and Greentech start-ups to London-based and international investors - in support of reaching net zero by 2050 and levelling up across the country. With a speech by Stephen Welton – executive chairman of BGF – and a panel discussion chaired by the City Corporation's Policy Chair, the event focused on demonstrating the strengths of the North East sustainable business ecosystem. The [F4SG research report](#) and [the F4SG website](#) was also launched.

Championing sustainable finance report

On 1 July, the City Corporation published [Championing sustainable finance: the UK's global offer](#). This report directly addresses the long-standing ask for an updated narrative to promote the UK as the preferred location for sustainable finance. It looks at how the UK sustainable finance ecosystem can help the world

to mobilise and scale up sustainable finance, and why the UK is well-positioned to be the upcoming international green finance hub.

Contact [Kenix Lee](#)

Green Horizon Perspectives episode 2

Green Horizon Perspectives episode 2 '[Unlocking Transition: the pivotal role of finance](#)' took place during London Climate Action Week. With a keynote from Mike Bloomberg; a video on the City Corporation's own Climate Action Strategy; and a fireside chat with Christiana Figueres and Mark Dooley of the Green Investment Group. The event also featured introductory remarks from the Chancellor of the Exchequer before a live panel moderated by Mark Carney focusing on the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero and closed with a keynote address from Dame Elizabeth Corley.

Contact [Sam Lagan](#)

Bridge House Estates (BHE) and City Bridge Trust (CBT)

BHE Board Meeting

On 14 July, the BHE Board held its second formal meeting and agreed the establishment of a Grants Committee of the Board to have delegated responsibility for the application of funds allocated to further the charity's ancillary objective in accordance with the Bridging Divides Strategy. It is anticipated that the Grants Committee will first meeting in late September. Members will also recall that there are several specialist induction sessions scheduled from various teams in the charity to support the Board.

Blackfriars Bridge

On 18 June, the City Corporation (in its capacity as Trustee for BHE) appointed FM Conway, in partnership with Taziker and Alltask, for the multimillion-pound repaint and refurbishment of Blackfriars Bridge, protecting the fabric of the structure to increase its longevity.

CBT Committee

In March 2021, the former CBT Committee agreed a set of 11 change recommendations following a review of the Bridging Divides Strategy. CBT has also developed ambitious plans for its work on diversity, equity, inclusion, and the delivery of its PACIER values (progressive, adaptable, collaborative, inclusive, environmentally responsible and representative). It is expected that CBT will restart its main strands of grant-making in the Autumn.

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#)

Skateboard GB event in Guildhall Yard

The City Corporation's Sport Engagement Manager has been working with Skateboard GB – the national federation for skateboarding – on an event to coincide with the UK active National Conference taking place at Guildhall on 13 October. A temporary structure will be installed in Guildhall Yard for the day as part of a travelling skateboard activation taking place across the country. The event will involve qualified instructors teaching basic skateboard skills to local school children as well as a display by aspiring Team GB competitors to the conference audience. Skateboarding became an Olympic sport for the first time this year and its popularity is increasing amongst younger people. Members are welcome to come and view the display at Guildhall Yard which will take place between 4-6pm.

Contact [Sam Hutchings](#)

Open Spaces

Come, explore and celebrate 150 years of the Hampstead Heath Act

The Hampstead Heath Act 1871 preserved the original Heath as a public open space. It was a significant moment in the protection of the Heath and the role of green spaces. As part of the 150-year celebrations there is a great informative, historic and educational outdoor exhibition on display until 8 August. It tells the story of the campaign to save the Heath, and also looks at aspects of the Heath over the past 150 years, including its importance for nature, leisure, sport and culture, along with the important role played by the people and organisations who continue to work to protect it for the enjoyment of everyone. The display is located at the South End Green entrance to the Heath, near Hampstead Heath overground station.

Improved access to Wanstead Park for cyclists

The City Corporation has extended permissive cycling in the eastern areas and on the main paths of Wanstead Park. Previously a historic byelaw restricted cycling in this specific area of Epping Forest. In a consultation earlier this year, over two-thirds of respondents wished to see these rules around cycling in the park relaxed. More people than ever are enjoying visiting Epping Forest by bike and indeed this is a very beneficial way for people to arrive at the ancient woodland, meaning that the Forest experiences less pressure from cars travelling through the local roads. In addition, those opting to cycle also experience the wealth of health benefits which come from using pedal power as a mode of transport.

Contact [Roush Islam](#)

Improving the Environment

Recycle Week 20-26 September

Recycle Week is Recycle Now's flagship annual event which is a celebration of recycling across the nation. Now in its 18th year, it's the one week of the year where retailers, brands, waste management companies, trade associations, governments and the media come together to achieve one goal: to galvanise the public into recycling more of the right things, more often. The theme for this year's Recycle Week is "Step it Up". The City of London Corporation Recycling and CCAS Team will be participating via social media and details of any events will be posted on the Recycling Events page of the City Corporation website.

Clean City Award Scheme (CCAS) still open for membership

Forward looking City businesses and organisations exploring how to build back better after COVID-19 can receive environmental sustainability support through the CCAS, organised by the City Corporation's Recycling and CCAS Team. CCAS Members receive a range of benefits including access to resource packs and invites to environmental best practice workshops. If a business or organisation is reducing plastic use, cutting carbon emissions or just going that extra mile to be more environmentally friendly and/or work towards the goals in the Climate Action Strategy, all sites of all sizes located within the Square Mile can enter the Scheme and be recognised and rewarded for their efforts. To sign up, apply and find out more visit [CCAS london website](#).

Contact [Karen Marks](#)

Community & Children's Services

Domestic Abuse Awareness & Insight Hour

In June, Good Night Out delivered two sexual harassment awareness sessions to licensed venues, to ensure staff know how to respond to incidents and disclosures. There are five more sessions scheduled for the coming months. The Community Safety Team also facilitated a Domestic Abuse Insight Hour, with speakers from a range of specialist organisations talking about the work they do within the City, including a representative from the Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office, who provided insights into the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The event was attended by 50 individuals, including staff from across the City of London Corporation and partner agencies. The Team have also added Hestia, the crisis support Charities' Safe Space Online function to the City of London website, to help people access safe specialist support services.

Contact [Ayesha Fordham](#).

City of London Academies and Schools

London Careers Festival

London Careers Festival took place between 28 June and 2 July, aiming to connect pupils to the world of work. It introduces them to the diverse array of opportunities offered across Greater London and beyond, fuels their imaginations, develops their skills and inspires their futures. In 2021, London Careers Festival offered a range of webinars and resources for primary, secondary pupils and post 16 pupils. In fact, there were over 50 skills and employer webinars with Natwest, PwC, CISI, Bloomberg, Evening Standard, Role Models and many others exploring careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths, Art, Media, Business, Law, etc. For example, CISI delivered webinars to secondary and post 16 pupils looking at career pathways within financial services and exploring the role 'trust' plays in the industry. For the first time, the festival also had provisions for SEND pupils working closely with grass-roots organisations at local and national level to engage pupils in careers education. For more information visit the [London Careers Festival website](#).

Evolve Project

Westminster Council, the City of London Corporation and Lewisham Council collaborated on the Evolve project, supported by a grant from the Greater London Authority and London Councils' Evolve programme. This grant supports cross-borough collaborative working between culture officers. As part of this project, a short film was created and is based on the vast array of little known behind-the-scenes roles in the film industry for young people aged 11-14 and their parents. The film offers insights into the wide scope and range of careers in the film industry; how people access these jobs, what qualifications and skills they might need, and what they could expect to earn in this industry. You can watch the film on the [findfusion website](#).

Equalities Conference

To further the existing practice and leadership of equalities work across all academies, the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) central team hosted a conference for academy leaders focused on creating an equalities culture in schools aligned with the Trust-wide values of integrity and care. The conference was a platform for academy principals to spotlight an area of effective practice in their school to share with the other schools for knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning and development. Examples of work occurring in the academies shared in the conference included: systemising equalities across all aspects of school life; positive LGBTQ+ activities across the year; diversifying the English literature curriculum

to ensure that texts are sharing a range of stories and perspectives; inclusive working practices for school staff; addressing achievement in underperforming groups; using culture and creativity to promote diversity in the curriculum; considering assessment practices to address potential unconscious bias; and promoting student voice and ensuring everyone is invited to speak and share. The exemplars of excellent practice will be shared across the Trust, encouraging schools to partner up on initiatives, and the equalities agenda will be a regular feature on the termly CoLAT leadership conferences. This work across CoLAT schools is closely aligned with the City Corporation's action plans for the Education Strategy, the Social Mobility Strategy, and the Tackling Racism Taskforce recommendations.

Contact [Catherine McGovern](#)

City of London School

Our Music Department has provided Trinity College London music exams for over 20 years and the exciting, progressive, and wide-ranging nature of the material provided by Trinity is something that we feel is particularly important for the support and development of our young musicians. The syllabuses offer the chance to develop musicality, technique, performance skills, and of course personal enjoyment in playing.

Contact [Georgina Berry](#)

City of London Freeman's School

The re-development of Main House - the Georgian mansion building which first housed pupils at Freeman's when the School relocated to Surrey from Brixton in 1926 - has been a major project in the Estate Development plan, to provide our students with a new Sixth Form Centre. Despite the low-key nature of the 'hand-over' of Main House from the contractors last month, it was a big moment in Freeman's history and of great importance to the School, 95 years on from our first acquaintance with Ashted Park. Huge efforts were made to have the building available for students and staff to enjoy for the last weeks of term. As with all major building projects, there are the finishing touches to be completed during the summer holidays, but we are delighted to report that the doors of Main House stand proudly open and the results are truly breath-taking. Lower 6 students have excitedly enjoyed a tour of their new Sixth Form Centre, and hot on their heels followed Lower 5 pupils for a 'taster' morning to give them a glimpse into how Sixth Form life will be for them in just over a year's time. As soon as we can invite parents and alumni onto site, we will be welcoming everyone for a look around this amazing facility, which will continue to provide a learning and teaching environment enabling us to 'Make a Difference' to student life for many years to come.

Contact [Sarah Sergeant](#)

Gresham College

New Lecture Programme

We launched our new programme on 29 July and it is packed with exciting lectures. We intend to run hybrid in-person and online events this Autumn as in previous years. Look out for Professor Alec Ryrie as one in six of our video views this year were of his lectures. We also have another series by Professor Chris Whitty on [Infections](#) and one on [Race, Colonialism and Power in the Legal System](#) by Professor Leslie Thomas QC.

[The Principles of Finance](#)

Financial literacy is a critical skill for every citizen. It helps families safeguard their financial future, in turn reducing social inequality. It guides small companies in making business and financial decisions, helping them grow and challenge large corporations. However, financial literacy is rarely taught at schools; instead, the principles of finance are typically reserved for expensive MBA programmes. This lecture series by Professor Alex Edmans aims to make essential financial skills available and accessible to everyone, and also demystify financial jargon so that we can understand financial documents, reports and articles.

[The Hidden History of How Protestantism Went Global](#)

In this series Professor Alec Ryrie will tell the story of Christianity's global spread, which is usually told in two parts: first the conquistadores took Catholicism to the Americas and elsewhere in the 16th and 17th centuries; and then the global empires of the 19th and 20th centuries brought Protestant missionaries to most of the rest of the planet. This lecture series takes us into new research revealing the forgotten piece of the puzzle connecting those two stories. These hesitant early missionary ventures did not win many converts, but they formed Europeans' assumptions about 'race', 'justice', 'civilization', 'religion' and the nature of Christianity itself. Find out how their experience primed the age of Christian expansion which followed, producing worldviews which still underpin our own secular age.

Contact [Lucia Graves](#)

City of London Police Authority Board

Police Authority Chair appointed to the Association of Police & Crime Commissioner's (APCC) Board

The Chair of the City of London Police Authority, James Thomson CC has been appointed to the Board of APCC. He will represent the other police governing bodies which include the Mayor's Office for Policing

and Crime for the Greater London Authority, British Transport Police Authority, Ministry of Defence Police Committee and Civil Nuclear Police Authority. James Thomson is also the APCC Deputy Lead for the Economic and Cyber Crime Portfolio. Within this role, he champions the economic and cyber-crime agenda and seeks to raise fraud as a priority in local crime and policing plans while providing a channel to share the views of PCCs with key central stakeholders, particularly the Home Office. The APCC is the national body that supports Police and Crime Commissioners and other local policing bodies across England and Wales, to provide national leadership and drive strategic change in the policing, criminal justice and wider community safety landscape, to help keep our communities safe.

New City of London Police Commissioner

Angela McLaren is set to be appointed as the new City of London Police Commissioner, following a meeting of the Court of Common Council. The appointment, which is subject to Royal Assent, will see the new Commissioner lead the City of London Police. Since December 2020, she has served as Assistant Commissioner for Economic and Cybercrime, a recently created position in recognition of the force's increasing national responsibilities, providing strategic leadership, and driving the national policing strategy on these growing threats. Angela McLaren will replace Commissioner Ian Dyson, who announced his planned retirement after 38 years of distinguished service in policing, with six of them as Commissioner. The recruitment process was overseen by the City of London Corporation's Police Authority Board, with the appointment reported in the media by [Police Professional](#), [City Matters](#) and [Police Oracle](#).

Contact [Alex Orme](#)

City of London Police

Fraud continued to dominate the media coverage, with highlights being an intellectual property team operation on fraudulent goods in Manchester with Crimewatch in attendance, a week to focus on 'ghost broking', both operational and awareness raising, and an operation to seize counterfeit medicines. These proactive exercises complement, as ever, the advice given out in print and broadcast media on emerging scams and how people can protect themselves from becoming victims of fraud. Also announced in July was the invitation to tender for the future iteration of Action Fraud, an important and significant milestone in improving the victim experience and satisfaction with the service, as well as improving the flow of information through the system so criminal activity is disrupted and the public is better protected,

Contact [Amanda Malyon](#)

Culture Mile

Business Partnership: Transitioning Culture Mile to a mixed economy model by 2023/24 .

The new business partnership will meet again in October to discuss emerging priorities for the area.

Businesses represented on the partnership Board include BDB Pitmans, CO-RE, NLA, Norges Bank, Landsec, Legal & General, Helical, Brookfield Properties, Pella REP, British Land and the Haberdashers Company with several more in discussion.

Creative Learning: A partnership of 27 cultural organisations, supporting learning and social mobility through a schools and young people programme.

Creative Spaces: Developing the spaces within Culture Mile.

Play Nice, winners of Culture Mile and Foundation for Future London's £50,000 Fusion Prize have launched Gaia's Garden in partnership with property developer Dominvs Group. Developed by five young female creatives, the free community garden at 61 Holborn Viaduct will be open until September, with a live events programme focused on sustainability.

Creative Collaborations: Developing the City's creative ecology and deeper relationship between commerce and culture.

The Culture Mile team will be using BE Offices, Beech Street as a hub for creative collaboration, throughout the summer, as part of the Culture & Commerce Taskforce Create in the City initiative – a pilot project recommended in the Fuelling Creative Renewal report.

Creative Communities: Strengthening connections with our neighbours and the culture on their doorstep.

The City Corporation's Neighbourhood Fund has approved Culture Mile's bid for their Creative Communities work, subject to an annual review. Funding is agreed in principle for the next three years and will allow the team to build on work started at the beginning of the pandemic. Plans this year include outdoor family play events, and the Creative Citizens Lab, which will find new ways for residents to create their own creative projects.

Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#)

Barbican Centre

Anything Goes

Anything Goes has had its first previews in the Barbican Theatre, playing to sold out houses. Ahead of press night on Wednesday 4 August, co-stars Robert Lindsay and Felicity Kendal were guests on [The One Show](#). The programme closed with an exclusive three-minute performance of the cast from a cruiser on the River Thames. Kendal and Lindsay also did a joint interview with [The Daily Mail](#), and Kendal has spoken to [The Times](#) and The Daily Express. Gary Wilmot was a guest on [BBC Radio 2's Claudia Winkleman Show](#) and spoke to The Express. Sutton Foster was a guest on [Sheridan's Showstoppers](#) and spoke to [The Stage](#).

Bars and restaurants fully reopen at the Barbican

With the further lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on 19 July, all bars and restaurants across the Barbican Centre have reopened. It is also possible to use recyclable coffee cups again in the Barbican's cafes. Barbican Kitchen is a family-friendly restaurant located on the ground floor of the Barbican. Osteria is a modern Italian restaurant, with spectacular views of the Barbican lakeside and fountains. Bonfire serves burgers and milkshakes in a relaxed, rustic setting. Whilst the Martini Bar offers views over the foyers and lakeside and is perfect for a pre-performance drink.

The Secret Life of the Conservatory

A free, family-friendly audio trail has launched in the Barbican Conservatory focusing on wellbeing and our connection to nature through storytelling and soundscapes. Aimed at families aged 7+, but open to all, visitors are taken on a journey of stories, sound and imagination with headphones and an illustrated activity sheet. Created by Barbican Creative Learning with writer Emma Hayes, sound artist Xavier Velastin and illustrator Aleesha Nandhra, the trail consists of five stories each around five minutes long. For more information and booking visit the [Barbican website](#).

Contact [John Kelly](#)

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Violinist Marlon Barrios Araya wins Junior Guildhall Lutine Prize 2021

Violinist Marlon Barrios Araya won Junior Guildhall's most prestigious award: The Lutine Prize. At the final, which was broadcast online, Barrios performed Beethoven's Violin Sonata No 5 (first movement), Ysaÿe's Violin Sonata No 2 (first movement), and Sarasate's Zigeunerweisen, accompanied by pianist Louisa Lam.

Guildhall School of Music & Drama announces end of year prizes

Guildhall School is delighted to announce the winners of three end of year prizes. The winner of the Acting Gold Medal is Aoife Gaston (BA (Hons) Acting). The Production Arts Gold Medal goes to Joshua Collins (BA (Hons) Technical Theatre Arts- Theatre Technology). Max Rodriguez-Thorp (BA (Hons) Technical Theatre Arts- Design Realisation) has been awarded The Hazel Sharples Memorial Prize.

Music Education Islington students launch Seasons Change

73 students who attend Music Education Islington music centres, which Guildhall School delivers in partnership with the London Borough of Islington, have created a pop song called *Seasons Change* in response to climate change and Sir David Attenborough's New Year's speech. Two of those involved wrote to Sir David about the project and received a hand-written reply. *Seasons Change* premiered on [YouTube](#) on 7 July.

Penguin Random House UK collaborates with Guildhall School

Penguin Random House Audio undertook a pioneering new collaboration with Guildhall School on Joseph Knox's audiobook TRUE CRIME STORY, published on 17 June. 17 third year acting students from Guildhall played 30 characters. This provided the students with insight into the industry and paid acting work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Penguin Random House Audio hopes to continue working with them after graduation.

Junior Guildhall student performs composition in honour of NHS

Six-year-old Junior Guildhall student Apollo Premadasa (Cello and Trombone) contacted St Bart's hospital in 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, to tell them about his composition PANDEMIA, written as a thank you to health workers. Apollo performed PANDEMIA at the hospital, alongside medical staff, as the NHS celebrated its 73rd birthday on 5 July. The piece's three movements Survival, Hope and Fight represent the different stages of the past 18 months.

Contact [Rebecca Driver](#), Rebecca Driver Media Relations
Contact [Jo Hutchinson](#), Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Small Business Research + Enterprise Centre (SBREC)

SME Strategy

SBREC is leading the development of the City of London Corporation's SME (Small and Medium-sized Enterprise) Strategy. This month saw a series of focus groups where City SMEs were able to feed into the strategy by discussing the support they need going forward. Their input will ensure that the SME strategy adds value and drives recovery in the City. The draft Strategy will be presented to Members in September/October 2021 for comment and sign-off.

Front-line support for SMEs

SBREC staff remain very busy providing 1-2-1 front line support for City SMEs applying for the City Corporation's [Recovery Grant Fund](#) and many businesses have already applied and received their grants. Applications are open until 30 July. SBREC staff supported the London Careers Festival organised by the Department for Community and Children's Services with presentations for secondary and post 16 students on starting a business. These presentations were very well attended by students from across London's schools and colleges.

Webinars for Entrepreneurs

SBREC has hosted a full suite of webinars this month for entrepreneurs including Market Research for Small Business presented by SBREC staff and a three-part course on The Entrepreneurial Mindset, challenging and coaching business owners to achieve what they want in their business. In addition, staff have presented a Start-up Essentials webinar on behalf of Business for London.

Collaboration with Enterprise Exchange

SBREC staff have continued to reach out to other business support organisations to promote the Centre and have started working with Enterprise Exchange which supports ex-offenders in their self-employment journey. The work will continue over the summer to support people on their self-employment journey.

Contact [Wendy Foster](#)

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

Royal College of Surgeons of England in partnership with LMA

From 2017 until July 2021 the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) of England archive was based at LMA while the College building was closed for re-development, enabling RCS to keep its archive reading room and enquiry services running throughout. The RCS archive collections were moved into the LMA store, its service users viewed its collections in the LMA archives study area and its archives team were based in the LMA office. Being based at LMA raised the profile of RCS Archives and was a great opportunity for staff from a small, specialist repository to see how a major record office operates, to learn from the expertise of LMA and to work collaboratively. RCS Archives will be reopening in the new building in Lincoln's Inn Fields in the autumn (see [the RCS website](#)).

Bringing community groups back on site

LMA has started running test events to bring community groups back on site. The first was a group of care-experienced young adults working on the Coram's National Lottery Heritage Fund project [Voices Through Time: the Story of Care](#). These young people saw a selection of documents from Coram's Foundling Hospital archive including the billet books in which mothers left small tokens (usually scraps of fabric) so that should they be able to take their child back they could be identified; and items that gave them a feel of the everyday life of the hospital including school books and dinner menus. They also took a behind-the-scenes tour around the building, learning more about how the documents are stored and used.

Contact [Tim Harris](#) or [Charlotte Scott](#)

Guildhall Library

Guildhall Library's [online events programme](#) continues to draw in large audiences from all over the world. The latest analysis of attendees shows that people are joining lectures from the EU, USA and Canada, Russia, China, Japan, India, Australia and many other countries besides. Recent highlights include Coffee and Tea in the City: a virtual walk, which attracted 394 visitors and New Beginnings: Rebuilding the City after the Great Fire of London, which pulled in 398. This year's programme focuses on Georgian London. Forthcoming lectures include:

- **Caroline of Brunswick – 'Injured Queen of England' 6 August.** 7 August is the 200th anniversary of the death of Queen Caroline, the estranged wife of George IV, who was put on trial in the House of Lords charged with adultery. Librarian Ann Martin looks at Caroline, her ill-fated marriage and her unlikely role as the standard bearer of the oppressed in Georgian Britain.

- **More than Just Buns – Dining Out with the Georgians 24 August.** Georgians of all classes dined out in pubs, French Ordinaries, and Confectioners. Principal Librarian, Dr Peter Ross reveals where they dined, what they ate and how much they were willing to pay

For more information and to book tickets visit the [Guildhall Library eventbrite page](#).

Contact [Isabelle Chevalot](#)

Museum of London

The Clash's famous Fender Precision bass goes on permanent display

The Museum of London announced that The Clash bassist, Paul Simonon's, broken Fender Precision bass will go on permanent display from 23 July 2021. [The news was first covered by the Guardian](#). Simonon smashed the bass on stage in New York City on 20 September 1979 and this iconic moment subsequently featured on the cover of The Clash's third album 'London Calling. The bass featured in the popular exhibition **The Clash: London Calling**, which was open at the museum from November 2019-September 2020. The guitar is now on display in time for the summer holidays when the museum changed its opening hours to seven days a week, Monday-Sunday, 10am-5pm from 26 July-5 Sept 2021. [Find out more](#).

New display open at Museum of London Docklands

[Feeding Black: Community, Power & Place](#) opened on 16 July in the London, Sugar & Slavery gallery at the Museum of London Docklands. This new exhibit explores the central role food plays in Black entrepreneurship and identity in South East London by spotlighting and celebrating four Black-owned African and Caribbean food businesses in Camberwell, Croydon and Woolwich. Its opening was covered by BBC London News Online, [The Voice](#), LBC National Radio and more. [Feeding Black: Community Power & Place](#) is open and free to view at the Museum of London Docklands until 17 July 2022.

Two London agencies appointed to develop new visual identity

Following a nine-month open procurement process the Museum of London has appointed a partnership between creative agency [Something More Near](#) and creative design studio [Uncommon](#) to develop a new visual identity ahead of its move to West Smithfield in 2024. These London based studios, in partnership with the museum and Londoners themselves, will develop a new all-encompassing visual identity that reflects the museum's ambition to be a shared place in the middle of it all and its mission to enrich the understanding and appreciation of London and Londoners – past, present and future. Find out more in this piece on [Campaign](#).

Contact press@museumoflondon.org.uk

In the News

- The Lord Mayor William Russell and Policy Chair Catherine McGuinness were quoted and pictured in widespread coverage of the Financial and Professional Services Address at Mansion House, with over 170 articles in international, national and regional outlets including [Reuters](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Sky News](#), [FT](#) (£), [The Guardian](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Independent](#) and the [Evening Standard](#).
- Lord Mayor William Russell wrote in [City AM](#) about the easing of COVID-19 restrictions on 19 July. Policy Chair Catherine McGuinness was quoted in [City AM](#), in relation to workers' return to the City, following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.
- [City A.M.](#) reported that the City of London Corporation has called for City workers to return to the Square Mile, following the lifting of most of the COVID restrictions, saying that "the economic bounce back has to start now". The City of London Corporation's Deputy Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Chris Hayward, was quoted.
- [City Matters](#) reported that for the first time in over a year, the City of London Corporation's main decision-making body – the Court of Common Council – was convening in person on Thursday. The Lord Mayor and Policy Chair were quoted on the reopening of the City.
- The [Financial Times](#) (£) reported that the Court of Aldermen has agreed to support Alderman Nicholas Lyons for the mayoralty in 2022-23, subject to an election at Common Hall in 2022. The news was covered by [Financial News](#) (£) [City AM](#) and [Insurance Post](#) (£). Several elected Members were also quoted in a second piece in [Financial News](#) (£) and [Reporter Wings](#).
- [City Matters](#) reported that Alison Gowman and Nicholas Lyons were elected as Sheriffs of the City of London in a socially distanced meeting of Common Hall at Guildhall.
- Lord Mayor William Russell was referenced in a [City A.M.](#) article about a new Board of Trade report setting out the UK's plan to encourage greater free trade in green technologies, ahead of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow later this year. Further coverage in [TradeFinanceGlobal](#).
- The Policy Chair was quoted in [The Times](#) following her speech at the Institute of International Finance. It reported that the UK is uniquely positioned to become a hub for a multibillion-dollar marketplace in carbon offsets.

- [Police Professional](#), [City Matters](#) and [Police Oracle](#) [£] reported on the appointment of Angela McLaren – currently, Assistant Commissioner for Economic and Cybercrime - as the new City of London Police Commissioner, taking over from Commissioner Ian Dyson. Chair of the City of London Police Authority Board, James Thomson was quoted.
 - Chairman of the City of London Police Authority Board, James Thomson, wrote in the [Financial Times](#) (£) about the need to step up the fight against ransomware attacks.
 - [City A.M.](#) and [City Matters](#) reported that the City of London Corporation has approved plans to offer free pavement licences to City bars, restaurants and cafés for another year. Chair of the City of London Corporation's Planning and Transportation Committee, Alastair Moss, was quoted.
 - [BBC Radio Berkshire](#) reported on volunteers who are working to tidy up the City of London Corporation-owned Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common. Graeme Doshi-Smith, Chairman of the City Commons Committee and a volunteer were interviewed
 - The City of London Corporation was referenced in the [Independent](#) about its public consultation on the proposed Riverside Strategy, which aims to protect the Square Mile against rising sea levels. Alistair Moss, Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee was quoted. Further coverage in [City Matters](#) and [City AM](#).
 - The [Daily Mirror](#) reported on Tuesday evening's flooding and referenced Hampstead Heath.
- Further coverage in [Evening Standard](#), [The Scottish Sun](#), [Ham & High](#), [the Independent](#) [viewable internally], [The I](#), [The Sun US](#) and [The Times](#). Later in the week, the [Evening Standard](#) reported on the closure of Hampstead Heath Bathing ponds, following the recent flooding. A City of London Corporation spokesperson was quoted, praising the success of the Heath's dams. Further coverage in [My London](#), [The Ham & High](#) and [Yahoo News](#). The [Camden New Journal](#) also runs a letter on the subject.
- Chair of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee Anne Fairweather was interviewed live on [BBC Radio London's Robert Elms Show](#) (skip to 2.20.30) about the Heath 150 celebrations. The City of London Corporation was mentioned in a [Ham&High](#) article on the 150th anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act 1871. [BBC London](#), [Horticulture Week i, ii](#) (£) and [Ham&High](#) reported on celebrations marking the anniversary. Hampstead Heath Management Committee Chair Anne Fairweather was interviewed live on [BBC Radio London's Robert Elms Show](#) (from 2.20.30) about the Heath 150 celebrations.