

October 2021



MEMBERS' BRIEFING



LORD MAYOR

Pikemen and Musketeers Ladies Night Ye Feast

On 1 October, a full civic party, including the two new Sheriffs, Aldermen Gowman and Lyons, attended the Pikemen and Musketeers Ladies Night Ye Feast at the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC). As governors of the HAC, the Lord Mayor, Major General Chris Ghika and General Sir Patrick Sanders also attended.

Lord Mayor and Lord Mayor Elect meet Permanent Secretaries

The Lord Mayor and Lord Mayor Elect have met several UK Government Permanent Secretaries in the past two months – including from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Ministry of Justice, the Department for International Trade, and the Treasury (second Permanent Secretary) – to discuss the work of the Mayoralty and the Lord Mayor Elect's priorities.

Gulf Visit 2 to 11 October

From 2-11 October, the Lord Mayor visited the Gulf region. Accompanied by the Lord Mayor Elect and Lady Mayoress for part of the programme, the visit's overarching aims were maintaining ties with sovereign wealth authorities in the region, promoting the City as a hub for global investment, and promoting inward investment into the UK in support of the UK Government. A primary focus of the visit was Dubai Expo with the party joining for the climate and biodiversity week, the first of the Expo's 10 themed weeks across a six-month programme. The Lord Mayor took part in the People's Promise and Sustainability for All Majilis panel discussions, both important precursors to COP26. These events gave the Lord Mayor a platform to highlight the COP26 agenda in the Gulf, the City of London Corporation's work in this area, the expertise within the City, and the investment opportunities in this fast growing and developing market across multiple sectors. The Lord Mayor also visited Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Riyadh where he met Government ministers, representatives of sovereign wealth funds, and key stakeholders from the Financial and Professional Services sector in the Gulf. At various points in the programme, the Lord Mayor was accompanied by representatives from the London Stock Exchange Group who promoted London as a secondary listing partner and opportunities for collaboration.

Islamic Finance Event

The Lord Mayor opened the Islamic Finance Forum 2021 in Mansion House on 12 October. The City Minister, John Glen, delivered the keynote speech at the event. The Lord Mayor noted how the UK offers more Islamic finance services than any other Western country.

Canada Visit

Following his visit to the Gulf, the Lord Mayor visited Canada between 13 and 15 October, with a programme of meetings in both Toronto and Montreal. In doing so he became the first Lord Mayor to visit Quebec in nearly 10 years. Building on successful virtual visits earlier in his Mayoralty, this in-person visit to two key financial services hubs in North America allowed the Lord Mayor to engage with financial institutions, especially those that are significant investors and employers in the City. With COP26 around the corner, the main subject of conversation was the sustainability agenda and how, in a country where several provinces are heavily dependent on the traditional energy sector and where public discourse on climate change is not so developed, Canadian banks can help support the transition towards greener alternatives.

Global Investment Summit

The Lord Mayor hosted the Global Investment Summit Dinner at Guildhall on Monday 18 October, speaking alongside the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the International Trade Secretary. The following day the Lord Mayor attended the Summit and a reception at Windsor Castle hosted by Her Majesty the Queen.

Pacific Future Forum

On 20 October, the Pacific Future Forum chaired by Lord Sedwill, brought together senior diplomatic, military and trade attendees, on board HMS Prince of Wales, to discuss the UK's role and future in the Indo-Pacific region. The Lord Mayor spoke during the trade session, alongside Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Asia Pacific, and representatives from the Japanese and New Zealand Governments and from Chatham House. This was originally intended to take place on HMS Queen Elizabeth whilst the Carrier Strike Group was off South Korea in early September, coinciding with the Lord Mayor's international trade visit to the Republic of Korea.

G7 Trade Ministers Meeting

As part of the United Kingdom's ongoing presidency of the G7, a meeting of G7 trade ministers and senior officials took place at Mansion House on 22 October. The meeting was presided over by the new International Trade Secretary, Rt Hon Anne Marie Trevelyan MP. It provided an opportunity for high-level discussions between governments on reforming the multilateral trading system to address 21st century trade issues, and advance free and fair trade. The Lord Mayor also welcomed ministers and delegates at a reception at Mansion House the night before the meeting.

Contact [Michal Arenson](#)

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Autumn 2021 Party Conferences, 3-5 October

Following on from attending the online Liberal Democrat Conference and the Labour Conference held in Brighton, the Policy Chair and members of the Policy and Resources Committee travelled to Manchester for the Conservative Party Conference. The City Corporation hosted a dinner for MPs, London borough leaders and other policy makers at the Manchester Art Gallery. The City Corporation also hosted a private roundtable with the Centre for Policy Studies on "Financial services of the future: digital, sustainable, open?" with John Glen MP the Economic Secretary to the Treasury and City Minister. A fringe meeting was also held with UK Finance and the UK Onward think tank on "Competitive advantage: how to keep UK financial and professional services firing on all cylinders?" with the Trade Minister Ranil Jayawardena MP.

Paris meetings and address to the L'AGEFI Global Invest Forum, 5-6 October

The Policy Chair travelled to Paris for a series of in-person meetings with Paris-based policymakers, officials and stakeholders. This was an opportunity to gather feedback and intelligence from EU stakeholders on current EU-UK relations, provide the City Corporation's thoughts on ongoing policy issues, maintain relationships with stakeholders and restate a commitment to working together. The Policy Chair also spoke at the L'AGEFI Global Invest Forum on "Post-Brexit financial services and the issue of equivalence".

UK Active Conference, 13 October

The City Corporation was once again able to host the annual UK Active Conference at Guildhall. The Policy Chair welcomed the new Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Rt Hon. Nadine Dorries MP who was speaking at the conference and briefed her on the City Corporation's sports engagement work.

Visit to Northern Ireland, 15-18 October

The Policy Chair met political, business, and other stakeholders in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry in order to further the City Corporation's strong ties with the province. Meetings were held at Stormont with the newly elected DUP Leader, Sir Jeffery Donaldson MP, the CEO of Belfast City Council, and business groups.

Magna Carta Trust and Bingham Centre Civil Justice Seminar - "Build Back Better: Online Civil Justice after the Pandemic", 20 October

Alongside the Master of the Rolls Sir Geoffrey Vos and the President of the Law Society I. Stephanie Boyce, the Policy Chair spoke at this seminar about the acceleration of legal innovation in online civil justice and its future after the pandemic. Hosted at the Guildhall, the event provided an opportunity for the City Corporation to demonstrate its historic support for the rule of law and highlight its work with LawTechUK and through the Lawtech Sounding Board.

London First borough leader event, 21 October

The Policy Chair spoke at one of the regular London First events for business leaders to hear from senior London government leaders on key issues, focussing on the challenges presented by the pandemic and how we can help the recovery of the City and the wider central activities zone.

Annual Brussels Reception and meetings with EU stakeholders, 27-28 October

The Chair and Deputy Chair of Policy travelled to Brussels to host the City Corporation's reception for Brussels based stakeholders, and to meet MEPs, Ambassadors to the EU and Brussels based media. The keynote speaker at the reception was the senior MEP Philippe Lamberts, Co-President of the Greens/EFA Group within the European Parliament with whom the Policy Chair was able to have a robust exchange on the value of the financial services sector for transition to net zero.

Contact [Richard Messingham](#)



Policy Chair with Rt Hon Nadine Dorries MP



Policy Chair at Civil Justice Seminar

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

Budget 2021

Chancellor Rishi Sunak presented his 2021 Budget to the House of Commons. Among the headline figures, Sunak announced that the economy is expected to grow by 6% in 2022, and by 2.1%, 1.3% and 1.6% over the next three years. Unemployment, which had previously been forecast as peaking at 12%, is now expected to peak at 5.2%, while underlying debt is forecast to be 85.2% of GDP this year. It will reach 85.4% in 2022-23, before peaking at 85.7% in 2023-24 and then falling to 83.3% three years' later. Government departments are each to receive a rise in overall spending, totalling £150bn over the course of the Parliament, while grant funding to local government will increase by £4.8bn. The NHS will receive £6bn of funding to help tackle backlogs, while the courts, probation and prisons services will receive an extra £2.2bn for the same reason. The Chancellor also announced an increase in the minimum wage to £9.50 and an end to the public sector wage freeze. With regard to businesses, the Chancellor announced that business rates will be more frequently re-valued from 2023, the £1 million annual investment allowance on companies' tax bills will be extended to March 2023, and companies in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors will be offered a 50% business rates discount worth up to £110,000. The current 8% surcharge on bank profits over £25m will be cut to 3% from April 2023, but with the rise in Corporation Tax, banks will face an overall rate rise from 27% to 28%. Challenger banks will not pay the surcharge until they pass an annual allowance of £100m in profits, up from £25m. In background documents, a seed fund was announced for the new Centre for Finance, Innovation and Technology (CFIT), to tackle barriers to growth and accelerate the UK fintech sector. The establishment of CFIT was a key recommendation of the Kalifa Review. A range of other measures relating to the culture sector, housing and levelling up were also announced.

Online Safety Bill

Temporary Commander Clinton Blackburn, National Economic Crime Coordinator at the City of London Police, gave evidence to the Joint Committee on the Draft Online Safety Bill, sharing a panel with representatives from the Financial Conduct Authority, the Competition and Markets Authority and the Advertising Standards Authority. Blackburn set out the need to both identify fraud as a priority and include paid-for-advertising in the final version of the Bill. The rise of online fraud as a result of growing internet activity during the pandemic was highlighted, noting increases in online shopping, romance (such as scam dating profiles), and investment frauds. Michael Grenfell, Executive Director for Enforcement at the CMA, argued this rise showed the need for platforms to take greater responsibility for content they host. Asked about police resourcing to tackle economic crime, Blackburn noted that while 40% of all crime was economic, only 1% of police resources was dedicated to that area. The impact of the Bill on police resourcing would depend on the processes it establishes. Other questions to the panel focused on the current legislative framework to tackle online fraud. Mark Steward, Executive Director of Enforcement and Market Oversight at the FCA, noted that while the Financial Services and Markets Act (FSMA) imposed restrictions on advertising financial products that are not FCA registered, this did not prevent the practice from happening on social media. There was also a detailed discussion about the coordination between regulators, with Lord Clement-Jones (Lib Dem) noting his concerns about Ofcom's role as the lead regulator under the Bill, who would not be able to give priority to issues such as those tackled by the CMA. Mr Steward argued that the Bill could complement the FSMA, especially if paid for advertising were included in the Bill's scope.

COP26

The Commons was united on the need to address climate change in a backbench debate on COP26 but differed in opinion on whether the Government's Net Zero Strategy was the way in which to do this. Green MP Caroline Lucas, who led the debate, was extremely critical of the Government's recently published strategy. She welcomed the ambition of Government targets but did not believe sufficient action was being taken to achieve them. Other, mostly Conservative, members disagreed and gave fulsome praise to the Government's approach. Chair of the APPG on ESG, Alexander Stafford (Con) referenced the finance sector's role in "getting to a low-carbon future." Stafford acknowledged that the "UK is a global leader in finance, but we must also show how our companies need to play their part. We have heard a lot about how the UK and the world can do more, but businesses can also do a lot more." Responding to the debate, Environment Minister Rebecca Pow noted that, at the Global Investment Summit, the Prime Minister announced "18 new trade and investment deals, which will support green growth and create at least another 30,000 new jobs across the UK, thanks to £9.7bn of foreign investment."

Contact [James Edwards](#)

UK Competitiveness

The Green Horizon Summit at COP26 (GHS@COP26)

Members are reminded that GHS@COP26 will commence on 2 November. Members were sent a full update on the programme last week. Regular updates will be provided over the course of the five-day hybrid event. You can follow each day by viewing the live stream at www.greenhorizonsummit.com

“Global Talent Mobility: Ensuring UK Competitiveness”

This new [report](#) was launched in October in collaboration with TheCityUK and EY. It delivers recommendations to the Home Office on how to ensure that the financial services sector maintains access to the best international talent. This was followed by a virtual webinar with the Policy Chair.

Contact [Melissa Panszi](#)

Annual Brussels Reception

In preparation for November's COP26 Summit in Glasgow, the City Corporation, in partnership with Norton Rose Fulbright (NRF), hosted the Annual Brussels Reception. The event included a keynote speech by Philippe Lamberts MEP, pre-recorded remarks by John Glen MP (Economic Secretary to Treasury and City Minister), and the presentation of a discussion paper on [UK and EU approaches to carbon pricing](#).

Contact [Suzi Nandera](#)

Solutions for sustainable finance

In association with Innovate Finance, Innovation and Growth launched the [Powering the Fintech Revolution: Solutions for Sustainable Finance](#) report focusing on the area of 'Green' fintech. It features case studies of three UK firms with particular emphasis on the area of climate data – a key opportunity for fintech firms to collaborate with financial institutions globally. The report was launched on 13 October at the Innovate Finance event 'Fintech as a Force for Good' at the Level39 Tech Community by Deputy Chris Hayward.

Contact [Jack Brooks](#)

Climate Course for SMEs

Applications for Heart of the City's free course, [Climate for SMEs: 4 Steps to Action](#), are now open to SMEs in the City. The course is funded by the City Corporation as part of its Climate Action Strategy.

Contact [Maggie Berry](#).

Collaboration & Co-Creating report

A new report has been published this month on the changing tech landscape in the Square Mile. ['Collaboration & Co-Creating'](#) sets out why innovation is so important, what is on the horizon for tech, and showcases leading case studies of tech innovation and collaboration in the Square Mile.

Contact [Theresa Yurkewichhoffmann](#)

RMB Business Monitoring group

The City Corporation's London RMB Business Monitoring Group hosted [a workshop](#) on 21 October to discuss the development of international carbon markets, in partnership with IHS Markit. The event featured speakers from the Bank of England, Bank of China (UK), Standard Chartered and IHS Markit.

Employment, Social and Governance (ESG) Leaders Forum

Ahead of COP26, the City Corporation's ESG Leaders Forum (ELF) launched two reports, [Value Creation for Active Engagement](#) and [Scaling Sustainable Solutions – Public and Private Markets](#). The reports highlight the importance of active engagement and scaling sustainable solutions for the investment management community in the UK and in China.

Contact [Shevon Campbell-Roberts](#)

Culture

Square Smile Campaign

[The Square Smile campaign](#) aims to stimulate the City's business economy by encouraging workers to return to the Square Mile and do more while they are here. The campaign is now live and running until January. Advertising channels include Sky, LinkedIn, Instagram and Display, and from 1 November some London underground stations plus key commuter overground stations. An [Employer Toolkit](#) is also available for City employers to cascade the campaign to their employees.

Contact [Michelle McCracken](#)

A Year of Fuelling Creative Renewal report

Chaired by the Lord Mayor, the Culture & Commerce Taskforce (CCT) have published their final report: 'A Year of Fuelling Creative Renewal', a short film (both available on the [City of London website](#)) and an on-line Knowledge Bank containing more information on CCT projects.

Contact [Sian Bird](#)

Creative activations

The City's Outdoor Arts Programme has continued to deliver events across the Square Mile throughout October. Events include: the international activation project [The Walk](#); a series of GLA-funded shows as part of [Pop-Up London](#); and [Keats 200](#) - a new outdoor exhibition in Aldgate celebrating the life of John Keats.

Guildhall Yard Lunch Markets suspended

The Guildhall Yard Lunch Markets have been suspended during autumn and winter.

Contact [Nick Bodger](#)

Bridge House Estates (BHE)

Grants Committee Meeting

Bridge House Estates held its first Grants Committee meeting in October, (replacing the City Bridge Trust Committee), Chaired by Paul Martinelli, with Dhruv Patel as Deputy. Highlights from the meeting include:

- In response to the Afghan refugees arriving in London, City Bridge Trust is collaborating with the sector to share intelligence and avoid duplication, whilst ensuring it enhances support to newly arrived people. The Trust already funds an extensive network of organisations providing advice and support on issues that will be relevant to new arrivals, including benefits, housing and immigration, as well as supporting migrants and refugees to access mainstream services.
- On 28 July the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Bridge House Estates Board agreed via the urgency process to allocate £485,000 towards the next phase of the LocalMotion funder collaboration (as reported to the BHE Board). LocalMotion is the collective endeavour of six leading UK foundations to significantly impact six local places with funding support (both monetary and otherwise) over 10 years. Funding and decision-making is being co-designed by and with places themselves rather than directed by funders. BHE's contribution is towards the London element of this work (based in Enfield) and a portion of central costs.

Freedom of the City for Bharat Mehta

BHE, with Sheriff Alison Gowman, nominated an anti-poverty campaigner, Bharat Mehta for the Freedom of the City of London at a ceremony on 6 October. Bharat recently stepped down as Chief Executive from the Trust for London charity, which he led for 23 years. Trust for London is an independent charitable foundation which tackles poverty and inequality by funding voluntary and charity groups.

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#)

Open Spaces

Archaeological excavation

An archaeological excavation of one of the ramparts on Seven Ways Plain Hillfort at Burnham Beeches is due to take place between 27 October and 2 November after Historic England and Natural England gave consent for the work to be carried out. This will be the second project on the nature reserve in the last two years. It is hoped that the excavation will help improve understanding of how the Hillfort was constructed and what it may have been used for. The work will be live streamed on the project's YouTube channel.

Don't pick your own

An Epping Forest media release reminding people of the byelaw that prevents people from taking fungi from the ancient woodland generated significant interest across the national media and resulted in some excellent TV news coverage. ITV came out to film in the Forest and ran the story on their news bulletins on Monday 11 October. It was a very useful opportunity to remind people of the significance of fungi to the biodiversity of the Forest. It also included coverage of how Epping Forest is home to some rare fungi species and why this is partly responsible for the Site of Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation designations the Forest is proud to hold across two-thirds of the site. Other general code of conduct messages were also promoted including encouragement not to litter, not to light fires or use barbecues, and to respect other visitors.

Park in the Dark

Now in its 12th year, this ever popular lantern walk through the park is set to be a highlight in the Friends of West Ham Park's calendar. Families meet at South gate, after closing, where children elaborately decorate their torch-like lanterns before setting off for a guided walk through the park to the Bandstand. Here they are met with festive tunes from a local school choir and enjoy mince pies and warm drinks. Park in the Dark is the last in a series of events the Friends of West Ham Park have managed over the year.

Contact [Roush Islam](#)

Improving the Environment

Popular Give and Take Days are back!

On 23 October, the Recycling Team held their first post lockdown Give and Take Day. The event took place at Artizan Street Library and was welcomed back by all in attendance. A Give and Take Day is an opportunity for residents to donate items they no longer want and then take items that they do want, all for free in an attempt to keep good items from going to waste. The next Give and Take Day will take place at St Giles Cripplegate Church (Barbican estate) on 22 January.

Tech Takeback is also back!

To mark European Week for Waste Reduction, the Recycling Team together with the Corporate Strategy and Performance Team are hosting a series of Tech Takeback events. On 26, 27 and 29 November, we'll be accepting donations of data bearing tech e.g. laptops, tablets and smartphones at Guildhall (26 and 29) and St Giles Cripplegate Church (27). All items will be securely data-erased before being refurbished for reuse, or disassembled for recycling where reuse is not possible.

City of London's first Resident Recycling Day

The Recycling Team are hosting their first Resident Recycling Day, as part of European Week of Waste Reduction on 27 November at St Giles Cripplegate Church on the Barbican estate. Residents will be invited to take part in activities encouraging them to reduce waste and adopt circular economy behaviours. Plans are being finalised, however activities could include making smoothies from fruit which would otherwise be thrown away, bike repair workshops and much more.

Christmas Tree from recycled materials being created for Mansion House.

The Recycling Team have partnered with the Cheapside Business Alliance and the artist, Áinne Burke to develop a Christmas tree made from an assortment of discarded items for display outside the Mansion House in December. The tree encourages us all to think about the origin and impact what we consume.

Contact [Karen Marks](#)

City of London Police Authority Board

Fraud and Cyber Crime

The tender for the Next Generation Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting Service continues apace, with the initial invitation to tender having been completed and the successful suppliers being taken to the next round of bids. Meanwhile improvements to the existing Action Fraud service have been made to improve the user experience when reporting a fraud – with an increase in the number of call handlers for telephone reporting and a new chatbot that helps users upload details via the online forms. Action Fraud continues to be a key tool in the fight against fraudsters, providing one of the world's only 24/7 online and telephone fraud reporting services. It also collates information that allows key threats to be identified and targeted campaign messaging to be disseminated to the public and businesses, helping them know how best to protect themselves from the most current scams. The City of London Police Authority continues to work closely with the City of London Police and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure fraud is made a priority in local areas and that forces across the country have the resources necessary to play their part in the fight against fraud. Only by working together and all playing our part can we effectively tackle this most prevalent of crimes.

Contact [Oliver Bolton](#)

Community & Children's Services

Afghan Citizens

The Department for Community and Children's Services has been central to the delivery of support to Afghan citizens who have come into the City of London's care. This includes meeting essential welfare needs, organising health care, securing school places for school age children and helping with orientation, while our guests await longer term rehousing by the UK Government.

City Advice Service retender results

The City Advice service provides specialist advice services to residents and workers with issues such as housing, benefits and immigration. The service has been subject to competitive retendering with the new contract awarded to the current provider Toynbee Hall.

Portsoken Community Centre

The new Portsoken Community Centre is nearing completion. The City Corporation will take on the lease for the new building - delivered as part of the Minorities hotel development - in November 2021. After a period of set-up and transition, services and activities in the new community centre will commence in the new year.

Contact [Simon Cribbens](#)

IT Help Groups at Barbican Library

Residents can now get free help with IT such as: email, Zoom, managing photos and music, downloading or deleting apps, booking tickets, and being safe online at the Barbican Library. The support extends to using the internet, smart phones, tablets and laptops, as well as specific IT issues. Residents can drop into the IT help group every Tuesday 5.30-7pm in the Barbican Library. The library may also be able to offer help to those unable to drop in on Tuesday evening. Please contact the Barbican Library on 0207 638 0569 or speak to staff at the desk.

Contact [Helen Tremaine](#)

Health and Wellbeing webpage

The Barbican and Community Libraries have recently launched their Health and Wellbeing page in the Libraries section of the City of London website. Please [view the page](#) and see all that's on offer.

Contact [Charlotte Jones](#)

Laura Smith wins Libraries Connected Award for Reading

Following the success of 'What Next...?' a book recommendation quiz, Laura Smith has won the first ever Libraries Connected Award for Reading. Originally, a Barbican and Community Libraries apprentice, Laura is now a Library Assistant at Shoe Lane Library.

Contact [Carol Boswarthack](#)

City of London Academies and Schools

City of London Academies Trust - Black History Month

The City of London Family of Schools have been celebrating Black History Month in a number of ways, including, through cultural and creative activities, engagement with the local community, engagement with parents, exploring relevant resources, accessing inspirational talks, literature, discussions, newsletters, assemblies & lessons and exploring foods from different cultures. Redriff Primary School saw music, singing, carnival inspired dance, artwork, drama, poetry and writing from across the whole school – exploring and celebrating Black History Month. In The City of London Academy Highbury Grove, Key Stage 3 pupils were tasked with researching a black explorer. They looked at where the explorer was from and what they achieved to make a poster from this. More widely, pupils found out lots of interesting information about how parts of the world were discovered and presented this to their peers in their classrooms. The City of London Academy Southwark have also been celebrating in numerous ways, including a 'Forgotten Heroes' display in their Atrium, Film nights, food from local businesses, debates for all year groups, Black History Month short stories in Reading and some fantastic mini talent showcases. These activities have helped to bring the school and the local community together and help pupils explore Black History Month in a fun and engaging way.

Contact [Catherine McGovern](#)

City of London School

After weeks of assemblies and campaigning, pupils and staff have cast their vote for the new School Charity, and we are so pleased to share we will be supporting Papyrus for the 2021-22 academic year. Papyrus' focus is on helping young people who may be struggling with suicidal thoughts. They primarily do this through their help-line, 'HOPELINEUK', which provides vital support to those who are going through a difficult period in life. In addition to this, Papyrus seeks to influence national policy, to provide more support, and to reduce young lives being taken through suicide. Over the next year, we will proudly raise as much as we can for this invaluable cause through a combination of non-uniform days, charity events, and most importantly the various fundraising activities that the pupils come up with.

Contact [Georgina Berry](#)

City of London Girls School

What an extraordinary half-term, and one, dare we whisper it, that is beginning to feel a bit like a return to normality? It has been so invigorating to return to live versions of those milestones which punctuate the school year, those moments when the School community comes together where the spirit of the City is really palpable. A cake sale in aid of the School's bursary fund made a welcome return. School trips are back with vengeance, including a visit to the Black Country and the Factory East. These community efforts have been coupled with some brilliant individual achievements including in the Foyle Young Poets Award, the Police Cadets and the Arkwright Scholarship programme. In case there should be any doubt that City students are talented writers, the 2021 BBC Young Writers' Award 2021 was won by Tabitha (2020 leaver) for 'Super Powder', a story written during the winter lockdown when young people were struggling with their mental health and self-esteem. As well as Tabitha being shortlisted for the final five entries, Isabella (2021 leaver) was equally successful with her story 'Another Boring Friday Night'. You can listen and read about Tabitha and Isabella, and the other shortlisted stories, as well as interviews with the young writers on the [competition website](#). Our City@6 lecture series this term included a fascinating talk from Baroness Manningham-Buller, former Director General of MI5. You can watch it back as usual on our [YouTube playlist](#). Deputy head girl Tejal led the Q&A.

Contact [Carole Kinnear](#)

City of London Freeman's School

As we approached the half term break, there was some reflection as to how wonderful it has been to see the School back in 'full swing' this term, with the return of sporting fixtures to our timetable; trips to enhance and support our pupils' learning experience, and clubs and activities back on the agenda. With over 150 clubs on offer each week, appealing to pupils of all age groups, our community is really taking advantage of the co-curricular programme, given the importance of grasping learning opportunities and experiences outside of the classroom. The School's much-loved Combined Cadet Force camp returned after a lengthy hiatus owing to Ministry of Defence restrictions. Taking place recently in the School grounds, the CCF camp

provides our Cadets with the experience of overnight sleeping in Bashas in the shadow of Main House. With the recruitment process for 2022 reaching a conclusion and the return of in-person events, we are delighted that our Autumn Open Events - including open mornings and personal family tours - have seen record breaking attendance. Pupil registrations are at their highest level in recent years, continuing to demonstrate that Freeman's is a sought-after school. The Freeman's School Association annual Fireworks Extravaganza on 4 November will be the next opportunity our prospective families have to visit the School, and is certain to be a wonderful experience enabling them to further engage with our community ahead of the entrance examinations throughout November and December.

Contact [Sarah Sergeant](#)

Gresham College

[Ancient Greek and Roman Libraries](#) - Professor Edith Hall

10 November, 12-1pm, at Barnards Inn Hall or watch online live or later. Ticketed, free.

Although Mesopotamian civilisations had assembled texts, the ancient Greeks brought the idea of the universal book collection to its near-legendary summation in the Library of Alexandria, which edited and housed thousands of papyrus rolls on every subject and attracted brilliant scholars from all over the ancient world. But there were many other libraries, serving also as scientific laboratories, public record offices, restaurants, mausoleums and even baths. This illustrated lecture investigates their history and the continuing influence on our modern world.

[Holocaust History Under Siege](#) - Professor Jan Grabowski

17 November, 6-7pm, at Museum of London or watch online live or later. Ticketed, free.

For the second Annual Alfred Wiener Holocaust Memorial Lecture, Professor Jan Grabowski will discuss how scholars of the Holocaust find themselves confronted with the hostile reactions of various states pursuing the policies of Holocaust distortion. This situation has acquired particular importance and urgency in Poland, where the authorities have introduced a series of measures intended to freeze academic debate, hinder independent research and intimidate scholars whose writings are perceived as opposed to the official, state-approved historical narrative. This lecture is presented by the Holocaust and Genocide Research Partnership between The Wiener Holocaust Library and the Holocaust Research Institute, Royal Holloway.

[The Maths of Beauty and Symmetry](#) - Professor Sarah Hart

22 November, 1-2pm, at Museum of London or watch online live or later. Ticketed, free.

People have always found symmetry aesthetically pleasing and examples of it are seen in the earliest art. The Platonic solids have been known to humanity for millennia, some possibly even to Neolithic man, as can be seen in the carved stone balls found by archaeologists. This will look at how we can understand symmetry using mathematics and explore how the rules of symmetry can deepen our appreciation of beautiful works of art and design.

[Food and Drink-Borne Diseases](#) - Professor Chris Whitty

24 November, 6-7pm, at Museum of London or watch online live or later. Ticketed, free.

Many major diseases are transmitted by food or drink. Cholera (water), brucellosis (milk), BSE/nvCJD, typhoid and many parasites are ingested as part of a normal diet. The more exotic the diet, the greater the range of possible infections. Learn how water technology, sanitation, pasteurisation and animal husbandry can substantially reduce but not eliminate these diseases.

Contact [Lucia Graves](#)

Barbican Centre

Return of The Pit programme

Following its closure for over a year and a half due to the pandemic, The Pit at the Barbican is now welcoming audiences again. The first production in the programme was *Poetry + Film / Hack – Rocks* curated by Inua Ellams and Michelle Tiwo and featuring a line-up of Black femme poets, including Barbican Young Poets alumni. This was followed by Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw, of queer feminist US theatre company Split Britches, returning to the stage after almost two years with *Last Gasp: A Recalibration*, and the winners of the 2020 Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award, IN BED WITH MY BROTHER performing the world premiere of *PRIME_TIME*.

Shilpa Gupta: Sun at Night

Opening in The Curve in October, Barbican Art Gallery is presenting the first major London solo exhibition by Mumbai-based artist Shilpa Gupta highlighting the fragility of one's right to expression whilst raising urgent questions of censorship, confinement and resistance. As part of the exhibition, Gupta is presenting and building on her acclaimed project - *For, In Your Tongue, I Cannot Fit (2017-18)* - an immersive installation and soundscape which comprises 100 microphones suspended above 100 metal spikes, each piercing a

page inscribed with a fragmented verse of poetry by a poet incarcerated for their work, writings, or beliefs. Through each poem, Gupta draws attention to the wider stories and experiences of global histories and gives a voice to those who had been silenced.

Barbican announces its music programme for January-July 2022

The Barbican has announced details for its music programme for the first half of 2022 with live audiences, whilst some concerts are also live-streamed. The programme includes Lise Davidsen, Roderick Williams, Jonas Kaufmann & Diana Damrau, Yuja Wang, Joyce DiDonato, John Holiday, Mahan Esfahani. There will also be the return of international orchestras including the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig and the Oslo & Czech Philharmonic Orchestras, the London Symphony Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle, Zadie Smith with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Vashti Bunyan, John McLaughlin, Hamza Namira, SFJAZZ Collective and many more.

Contact [John Kelly](#)

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

HARMONY produced by Guildhall Live Events at London Wall Place

On 12 October four new pieces of music were unveiled at London Wall Place, which were composed by our Electronic and Produced Music students and the London Symphony Orchestra. They form part of an augmented reality installation, entitled HARMONY, produced by Guildhall Live Events and its award-winning Creative Director, Dan Shorten, for Culture Mile and Brookfield Properties. The immersive experience consists of four overlaid augmented reality visuals, accompanied by the newly commissioned pieces of music. Using their phone camera visitors will experience the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly on the Highwalks, a jellyfish leaping out of the water feature at One London Wall Place, a griffin guarding the St Alphage's ruins and a hummingbird flying over Salters' Gardens. HARMONY will be on show and accessible to the public for free over the next few months.

Guildhall alumni among the winners at the Primetime Emmy Awards 2021

Congratulations to the Guildhall Acting alumni who were among the winners and nominees at the 2021 Primetime Emmy Awards. Acting alumna Michaela Coel (2012) won the Emmy for outstanding writing for *I May Destroy You* which she wrote, produced and directed. The limited series also featured alumnus Paapa Essiedu (2012) who was nominated for Outstanding Supporting Actor for his role as Kwame. Alumnus Ewan McGregor (1992) won his first Emmy - for lead actor in a limited series - for his role in the Netflix show *Halston*. *Ted Lasso*, which features alumnus Toheeb Jimoh (2018) as Sam Obisanya, won seven Emmys - including Outstanding Comedy Series. *The Crown* took home 11 Emmys — including Outstanding Drama. Series four of *The Crown* featured nine Acting alumni including Marion Bailey (1973) as The Queen Mother and Eva Feiler (2013) as the Young Margaret Thatcher.

Girls in Jazz Day 2021

On 4 November Guildhall School will invite young female instrumentalists and vocalists aged 11-18 to an exciting day of practical workshops covering improvisation, jazz standards and women in jazz. The day will feature a performance by the workshop leaders and culminate in an informal sharing performance in Milton Court Concert Hall. Girls in Jazz Day participants will also be invited to watch an open rehearsal by the Guildhall Big Band ahead of their [evening performance](#) with special guest director Josephine Davies. Further information can be found on the [Guildhall School website](#).

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

Small Business Research + Enterprise Centre (SBREC)

SME support showcase

On 25 November, SBREC will be hosting the [City of London's SME support showcase](#), an evening networking event to showcase sections of the City Corporation that help small businesses. This event has been organised after requests from the SME Strategy focus group participants who expressed a desire to network more with other City businesses and to understand more about the City Corporation. It is open to all businesses currently located in or looking to locate in the City.

Online events programme

Our [online events programme](#) continues apace. In November, our business advisers will be presenting a four-part course on business planning for entrepreneurs and our outside speakers will cover topics including sustainability and business, finding your ideal clients, and content creation and marketing. We will also be hosting an in-person Business Model Canvas Workshop for entrepreneurs preparing to write their business plan. Our outreach programme continues with presentations to entrepreneurs attending courses run by

Islington Adult Community Learning and Enterprise Exchange. We are happy to support courses run by similar organisations.

City of London Celebrating Our People Awards (COPA)

The team is delighted to be joint winner of the COPA Excellence in Customer Service (Team) staff award and our apprentice received a nomination for Apprentice of the Year award.

Contact [Wendy Foster](#)

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

London: Portrait of a City

The LMA will be re-opening its onsite exhibition space in Clerkenwell on 8 November with [London: Portrait of a City](#) which runs until 7 April 2022. The exhibition explores the formats chosen by artists and surveyors since the 16th century to create their images of the city, from the earliest Victorian daguerreotype photographs to intricate engravings, and elegant watercolours to vibrant aquatints. Currently on display in the [City of London Heritage Gallery](#) at Guildhall are Magna Carta, the City of London's magnificent 1297 charter; John Keats' copy of Shakespeare's Poetical Works, with Keats' own handwritten poem 'Bright Star'; and plans of the Royal Festival Hall, which celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2021.

Positive history: preserving the archives of HIV/AIDS

Back in May 2020 LMA was delighted to be awarded a substantial grant by the Wellcome Trust for a project entitled Positive history: preserving the archives of HIV/AIDS: care and testimony. Following a delay owing to the pandemic, we are pleased to report that the project got underway in September 2021 with the appointment of the first archivist who will be cataloguing the oral histories filmed by the National HIV Story Trust. A second project archivist will be appointed in 2022 to catalogue the archives of Mildmay Hospital and the charity Positively UK (formerly Positively Women). Together these archives will illuminate two important threads of the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and its aftermath: pioneering medical treatment, care and support; and lived experience of those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, their carers, partners, relatives and friends.

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

Guildhall Library

Online events programme

Guildhall Library's [online events programme](#) continues to pull in large audiences including a talk about the Queen's Paintings: Royal Collections, 388 attendees; Georgian Lodgings, 308 attendees; and London Villages: Bloomsbury, 371 attendees.

History Day

This year's Institute of Historical Research (IHR) "History Day" will be held online on 4 November. The theme for this year is environmental history in its broadest sense, encompassing the experiences of ordinary people, collectors and scientists, looking at nature, landscape, climate change and much more. You can discover more about History Day on the [IHR website](#). Guildhall Library is delighted to be taking part in the IHR History Day 2021 and has contributed a [History Collections blog](#) highlighting some gems from the Gardener's Company collections. TV chef and food journalist Glynn Christian has donated his collection of food related books and an archive of his writings to Guildhall Library. Descended from Fletcher Christian, leader of the 1789 mutiny on HMS Bounty, Glynn Christian helped found The Guild of Food Writers. These items are in the process of being catalogued and added to our collections.

Forthcoming events in November

Forthcoming events at Guildhall Library include:

1 and 2 November, 2pm - King George II: All The weakness of A Little Mind

3 November, 2pm - How to be a Lord Mayor

10 November, 2pm - Five London Novels

12 November, 2pm - A Wicked City

16 November, 2pm - Indignities Suffered by The Famous Dead

23 November, 2pm - Gallery on the Street: Public Art in the City

Please [book your places online](#)

Contact [Isabelle Chevallot](#)

In the News

- Lord Mayor Elect Vincent Keaveny was quoted in widespread coverage of his election as the next Lord Mayor, including the [Irish Independent](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Bloomberg Quint](#), [BNN Bloomberg](#), [Daily Advent](#), [MSN UK](#), [City AM](#), [Exploring London](#) and [Financial News](#).
- Policy Chair Catherine McGuinness was quoted in a [City AM](#) article about the launch of a joint report from TheCityUK, EY and the City Corporation exploring the challenges for financial services in accessing global high-skilled talent. Widespread national coverage including the [FT](#), [Sky News](#) (13:38), [Sky News](#), [Reuters](#), [Evening Standard](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Yahoo Finance](#), [Bloomberg Law](#), [The Daily Express](#), and [Sydney Morning Herald](#)
- [The National \(UAE\)](#) carried an interview with Lord Mayor William Russell on the benefits to both countries of Britain's new sovereign investment partnership with the UAE ahead of his visit to the Dubai Expo 2020. [CNBC Middle East](#), [KBC](#), and [Khaleej Times](#) ran interviews with the Lord Mayor at Dubai Expo 2020 focusing on green finance and COP26.
- [The Guardian](#), [Daily Telegraph](#) (£), [BBC News](#), [Evening Standard](#), [My London](#), [City AM](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Hamodia](#), [Pehal News](#), [Planning Resource](#) and [Construction News](#) reported on the decision by the City Corporation's Planning and Transportation Committee to reject the planning application for a 48-storey tower at 31 Bury Street, nearby to the Bevis Marks Synagogue.
- The Policy Chair was quoted in the [Evening Standard](#) on the City Corporation's new 'Square Smile' campaign to welcome back City workers. The campaign will showcase the City's vibrant offer, ranging from world-class culture, heritage, cuisine, entertainment, retail and architecture. Also in [Daily Mail](#), [Scottish Daily Mail](#), [MSN](#). The Lord Mayor also wrote in [City AM](#) on the new campaign.
- [Bloomberg](#) quoted the Policy Chair in an article on the City Corporation announcing a new 2040 net zero target for its combined investment portfolios. Further coverage including [Yahoo News](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [City Matters](#), [Yahoo Finance USA](#), [BNN Bloomberg](#) and [Bloomberg Quint](#).
- [Reuters](#) and [The Times](#) covered a Court of Common Council report recommending the statues of William Beckford and Sir John Cass are retained at Guildhall with contextual explanatory plaques. Also in [City AM](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#) (£), [BBC London Radio](#) (link not available), [BBC Breakfast](#) (link not available). Widespread coverage the Court's decision including [ITV London](#) (viewable internally), [The Times](#), [Daily Express](#), [BBC News](#), [City AM](#), [City Matters](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Reuters](#) and [Russia Today](#). Statues Working Group Chair Doug Barrow was quoted in most stories.
- The Policy Chair was quoted in [Derry Journal 1,2](#) on the City Corporation visit to Belfast and Derry/Londonderry to strengthen ties with Northern Ireland's thriving fintech sector. Also in [Sync NI](#), [4NI](#) and [Daily Advent](#). The Policy Chair was also interviewed by [BBC Radio Foyle](#) (link unavailable).
- [City Matters](#) led coverage of the City Corporation winning 15 Green Flag awards and Gold in the Town Category of London in Bloom. Further coverage in [Epping Forest Guardian](#), [Slough Express](#), [Maidenhead Advertiser](#) and [Newham Recorder](#).
- The Policy Chair wrote in [City AM](#) urging people to register to vote ahead of City elections next year.
- Coverage of the City Corporation's Carbon Removals Project, which is part of its Climate Action Strategy, appeared in [The Sun](#) [viewable internally only], [The Express](#), [The Scottish Daily Express](#) [viewable internally only], and [Epping Forest Guardian](#). Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, Graeme Doshi-Smith, was quoted.
- Epping Forest and Commons Committee Chairman Graeme Doshi-Smith was quoted in [Metro](#), [Evening Standard](#) (viewable internally), [Daily Telegraph](#) (viewable internally), [Epping Forest Guardian](#), [MyLondon](#) and [City Matters](#) on illegal mushroom pickers taking fungi from Epping Forest.
- The Lord Mayor was quoted in [City AM](#) in on applications opening for a free course helping City SMEs to play their part in tackling global warming. Further coverage in [City Matters](#).
- The Policy Chair was quoted in a front-page story in the [Evening Standard](#) about concerns from London businesses about the potential impact if work from home guidance is reintroduced.
- [City AM](#), [City Matters](#) and [WiredGov](#) reported on the suspended jail sentence handed to the director of a company, which conned job applicants into applying for positions that didn't exist. Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee, Keith Bottomley, was quoted.
- [City Matters](#) reports on the return of the Lord Mayor's Show. Lord Mayor Elect Vincent Keaveny is quoted. The show is featured in the [Londonist's](#) November activities guide. Further coverage in the [London Post](#) and [Salesground](#).

Key Links: - [City Corporation website](#) - [YouTube](#)
- [City Corporation intranet](#) - [Twitter](#)

For all enquiries contact MembersBriefing@cityoflondon.gov.uk
or telephone the Communications Team on 020 7332 3467