

February 2020



MEMBERS' BRIEFING

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LORD MAYOR

Regional visit to Scotland

The Lord Mayor visited Edinburgh on 28 and 29 January. The trip strengthened relations between the City of London and Scotland through a Green Finance Roundtable and reciprocated Burns Night Dinner. Additionally a private meeting with the First Minister of Scotland also took place to discuss preparations for the COP26 UN Climate Change Summit in Glasgow in November 2020. The Lord Mayor learned how the City of London Corporation can further support Financial and Professional Services firms in Edinburgh, such as Standard Life Aberdeen, Baillie Gifford and Green Investment Group. He also learned more about Scottish stakeholders' plans for the Summit. There was engagement with the Scottish Financial Enterprise which also covered upskilling workforces and mental health. The programme also focused on branches of the Lord Mayor's theme, Global UK: Trade Innovation and Culture, with a meeting with the FinTech envoys for Scotland, as well as a lunch with representatives from the Edinburgh International Festival to discuss cultural links between the City and Edinburgh.

Lunch with the Ambassador of Latvia

On 5 February, the Lord Mayor was guest of honour at a lunch hosted by the Latvian Ambassador, along with Nordic and Baltic Ambassadors, and the High Commissioner for Canada as a thank you for their cooperation in 2019. The Lord Mayor spoke of his agenda for the coming year, setting out his priorities for 2020 on a global UK, trade and culture. The attendees also discussed the future UK-EU relationship following the UK's departure from the EU and how the UK will engage with the sustainable finance taxonomy.

Overseas visit to the Gulf

From 8 to 13 February, the Lord Mayor and an accompanying business delegation travelled to Dubai, Kuwait and Qatar. This was an opportunity to continue discussions with the financial and professional services sector and sovereign wealth funds, on two-way investment between the UK and the UAE. It also offered an opportunity to identify areas for collaboration and investment opportunities within the City, and to promote the UK's strengths in sustainable (green) finance. Discussions also focussed on the UK's exit from the EU and the greater political certainty within the UK following the election. Throughout the programme, the Lord Mayor was accompanied by Simon Penney, HM Trade Commissioner for the Middle East. In the UAE, the Lord Mayor met Emirati leaders and UK businesses based in Dubai to discuss investment opportunities and the importance of regulation to enable a thriving FinTech sector. The Lord Mayor learned about the work taking place ahead of Dubai Expo 2020 which will open in October. In Kuwait, discussions focussed on green (sustainable) finance and opportunities for collaboration ahead of COP26. The impact of environmental, social and governance ratings was also a frequent topic of conversation. The Lord Mayor was hosted by members of the Kuwaiti royal family including the Amir of Kuwait, the Minister of Finance, and major financial institutions such as the National Bank of Kuwait. In Qatar the Lord Mayor heard of the high levels of Qatari investment in the UK, and the work taking place within the sustainability sector, particularly around renewable energy and green construction. The Lord Mayor was received warmly by the Amir of Qatar, the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Governor of the Qatar Investment Authority.

Dinner to Archbishops and Bishops

On 13 February, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress welcomed 250 guests, including Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy of the Anglican Communion and Representatives of other Churches and Faiths for the Archbishops and Bishops Dinner. The dinner provided an opportunity for the City to celebrate its strong partnerships with the Church as well as thanking the national leadership for the Church for all that it does for the nation. The Lord Mayor spoke of the role of the Church in the City, in addition to praising its work with the homeless and refugees. This was followed by speeches by Richard Curtis CBE and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Regional visit to Durham and Newcastle

The Lord Mayor undertook the first official mayoral visit to Durham and Newcastle of 2020, from 20 to 21 February. Both Durham and Newcastle have excellent access to talent via world-leading universities and have, as a result, built increasingly recognised financial and professional services and innovation hubs. The Lady Mayoress accompanied the Lord Mayor to Durham, where Durham University hosted the mayoral party. The day concluded with a dinner at Durham Castle, which provided an opportunity for the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress to meet regional business and cultural leaders, as well as catching up with university alumni. In Newcastle, the Lord Mayor met with Virgin Money, the Northern Powerhouse Partnership, and the Lord Mayor of Newcastle. He also attended a working roundtable lunch hosted by Deloitte and visited the Newcastle Skills Hub, the Baltic Centre, and the Helix - an urban green space that connects and engages communities with a café, residential and office space, and community facilities. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to learn about the financial and professional services ecosystem in the North East. It also explored potential scope for support from the City Corporation to ensure the whole of the UK continues to be recognised globally as an innovative and competitive centre following the UK's departure from the EU.

CHIEF COMMONER

During February the Chief Commoner attended the following functions:

- The Barbican Residents' Committee Annual Dinner held in the Guildhall Crypts on 3 February at which the principal guest was Jane Smith, the Barbican Association Chair;
- A Court Luncheon of the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers held at Leathersellers' Hall on 5 February;
- The City Dinner of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers held at Ironmongers' Hall on 5 February at which the principal guests were General Sir Richard Barrons and the Constable of the Tower of London, General the Lord Houghton;
- The Court & Livery Dinner of the Worshipful Company of Tylers & Bricklayers held at Cutlers' Hall on 6 February;
- A Reception to recognise the work of volunteers who support the City of London Corporation, held in the Great Hall of Guildhall on 10 February;
- A Livery Dinner of the Worshipful Company of Barbers held at Barber-Surgeons' Hall on 11 February at which the principal guest was the philanthropist, Sir Thomas Hughes-Hallett;
- The Education Board Annual Dinner held at Grocers' Hall on 12 February at which the speakers were Professor Armand D'Angour, Miss Umran Tuglu, Tim Campbell and Hal Strode, who argued cases imaginatively and persuasively for and against the value of examinations;
- The Archbishops' and Bishops' Dinner hosted by The Lord Mayor & The Lady Mayoress at the Mansion House on 13 February at which the principal guests were the Archbishop of Canterbury and the film director Richard Curtis;
- The launch of London Councils' guide to the City of Opportunity, held at Guildhall on 18 February, where the 32 boroughs and the City Corporation set out their vision for the development of their areas;
- The final presentation in the Chief Commoner's Parlour on 18 February of gifts under the Signor Pasquale Favale Bequest to brides born in the City of London. This anachronistic charitable fund is now very small and its remaining funds have therefore been consolidated into another City Corporation charity;
- The Boyle Lecture on Mental Health and the Gospel given by The Revd Prof Christopher Cook at St Mary-le-Bow and followed by a Reception given by the Worshipful Company of Mercers at Mercers' Hall on 18 February;
- An 'En Famille' Court of Common Council Lunch given by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress in the Long Parlour at Mansion House on 19 February;
- The Freedom Ceremony of HE the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic held at Guildhall on 24 February and followed by a luncheon in the Members' Private Dining Room at Guildhall;
- The Benefices Sub Committee Annual Dinner held in the Members' Private Dining Room at Guildhall on 24 February at which the principal guests were the incumbents of the benefices of the City of London Corporation – these benefices being St Alan & St Augustine Fulham, St John on Bethnal Green, St John the Evangelist Brownswood Park, St Mark Clerkenwell, St Matthias Stoke Newington, St Peter Cornhill, St Peter & St Thomas Bethnal Green, St George the Martyr Southwark, St John North Woolwich, and St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall. The Dinner was preceded by Evensong in St Lawrence Jewry.
- The Annual Inter-Livery Pancake Race held in Guildhall Yard on Shrove Tuesday, 25 February, under the auspices of the Worshipful Company of Poulterers;
- Lecture by Prof Caroline Barron and Recital of period music by Ensemble Trouvère to mark the 900th Anniversary of the birth of St Thomas Becket, followed by a Reception given by the Worshipful Company of Mercers at Mercers' Hall on 25 February;
- The Freedom Ceremony of HE the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland held at Guildhall on 26 February and followed by a luncheon in the Chief Commoner's Parlour;
- The Barbican Centre Annual Board Dinner held in the Garden Room at the Barbican on 26 February at which the principal guest was violinist Nicola Benedetti;
- The Worshipful Company of World Traders' Tacitus Lecture at Guildhall by Mr Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization on 27 February.

Tom Hoffman

Contact [Devika Persaud](#) on 3460

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Annual Business Ratepayers Consultation Meeting

On 3 February the Policy Chair along with the Chairman of Finance, Town Clerk and the Commissioner of the City of London Police updated business ratepayers on crucial issues impacting the City of London Corporation. The meeting provided an opportunity for business ratepayers to comment on the City Corporation's plans and finances for 2020/21.

Contact [Christopher Rumbles](#) on ext. 1405

Bank of China Dinner

On 4 February, the Policy Chair hosted a small dinner for Wenjian Fang, General Manager of Bank of China London Branch. Collaboration on work promoting the UK as a global and regional hub for corporate treasury centres was the main topic of discussion. The Bank of China expressed strong support for connecting the City Corporation to potential Chinese businesses considering setting up a corporate treasury centre in the UK and Europe. The COP26 UN Climate Change Summit was also raised, with the Bank of China expressing strong interest in supporting the City Corporation's involvement at the conference to further their work on climate change and green finance.

Contact [Winnie Seow](#) on ext. 3740

London Councils Executive dinner

On 6 February, the Policy Chair hosted a dinner of the London Councils Executive at Guildhall. The Policy Chair and Cllr Peter John (Chair of London Councils) spoke briefly at the beginning of the dinner, followed by Prof. Tony Travers, Director of LSE London who spoke about the post-election landscape for London, particularly the Government's commitment to levelling up the rest of the UK and what it means for London.

Contact [Peter Cannon](#) on ext. 1758

Visit to Belfast and Derry-Londonderry

On 7 February, the Policy Chair visited Belfast and Derry, as the first visit to take place since the UK officially left the EU. The main aim of the visit was to take stock of the present challenges and opportunities facing Northern Ireland, and scope opportunities to offer support through the City Corporation's UK Partnerships Strategy. The Policy Chair met the Chief Executive of Belfast City Council and the Lord Mayor of Belfast, discussing a range of topics including the Belfast City Deal, support with attracting Venture Capital investment into FinTech firms and Northern Ireland's positioning on trade negotiations (particularly around services). The Policy Chair attended a roundtable lunch with representatives from the financial and professional services sector in Northern Ireland, hosted by Belfast City Council. The Policy Chair also met minister Gordon Lyons and former minister Emma Little-Pengelly to discuss opportunities for collaboration to support Northern Ireland with international trade. The Policy Chair reconfirmed the City of London's historic relations with Derry City & Strabane Council, and gauged progress of and support for City Deal developments in a meeting with its Chief Executive John Kelpie.

Contact [Ijlal Boubout](#)

Dinner following Distressed Debt Investing Conference at Mansion House

On 10 February the Policy Chair and Alderman Vincent Keaveny hosted a dinner at Mansion House, following on from a Distressed Debt Investing Conference, run by the India Professionals Forum and Indian High Commission. It featured representatives from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the State Bank of India, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. Opened by Alderman Sir Charles Bowman and closed by the Policy Chair, the Conference was a great opportunity to build on existing relationships and work that is being done with India. Attended by 35 senior guests, the dinner enabled the City Corporation to test messaging and work streams, and understand opportunities in the Indian market. It also followed on from the Policy Chair's visit to India, and ongoing work to support and strengthen ties between the UK and India.

Contact [Amar Mistry](#) on ext. 1753

Visit to Dublin

The Policy Chair attended the European Financial Forum in Dublin on 12 February, accompanied by the Managing Director of the City Office in Brussels, the City Director of International and Head of Corporate Affairs at UK Finance. The visit took place less than a week after a historic general election which resulted in the largest share of first preference votes for Sinn Fein. In addition to the Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland, the Policy Chair met several senior government, regulatory and business representatives. Discussions centred around issues related to the impact on Irish industry on the recent general election.

Contact [Patrick Kiernan](#) on ext. 3647

London Councils Guide to Development in the City of Opportunity

On 18 February, the Policy Chair spoke at the launch of the [London Councils Guide to Development in the City of Opportunity](#), held at Guildhall. This annual publication highlights development opportunities in the City and all 32 London boroughs. The Leaders of Southwark, Wandsworth, Barking and Dagenham Council's also spoke at the event underlining the need to promote London internationally, including at the annual MIPIM property conference in France. The Policy Chair emphasised the importance of all London boroughs and how London's infrastructure needs presented opportunities for developers.

Contact [Peter Cannon](#) on ext. 1758

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

PARLIAMENTARY/GLA

Financial Services after Brexit

The Financial Conduct Authority's Andrew Bailey and Nausicaa Delfas, and the Prudential Regulation Authority's Sam Woods gave evidence to the House of Lords EU Financial Affairs committee. Bailey said he expected there to be a wide-ranging agreement on financial services but felt it may not be "all inclusive." Woods said the Bank had been preparing for a no deal Brexit for three years and the top three issues assessed as part of that work remained relevant in current circumstances, including the continued ability of EU companies to trade into the UK. These are the lack of re-framing contracts for uncleared derivatives on the part of EU-based institutions; and the failure of the EU to provide a temporary regime to permit flows of EU data to the UK. Witnesses noted that most of the issues on the UK side had been resolved through the UK's temporary permissions regime but said the EU had not yet followed a similar course.

There was discussion on the future equivalence of UK and EU regulations, which would facilitate the continued cross-border flow of businesses in the financial services sector. A pre-condition to this 'business as usual' approach was for the EU to decide that the UK had "equivalent" regulations and protections. Bailey expressed the hope that the UK would be adjudged as equivalent because it would be equivalent on "day one." He added, however, that there was scope for "sensible divergence" in the future. Delfas reminded peers that many EU rules were based on international rules and that the UK was a fully engaged participant in the formation of those international rules.

The development of an EU capital markets union was a "big issue" for the EU, Bailey said. He emphasised that UK participation in a capital markets union would be positive for both sides. On other future opportunities, Bailey was "very clear" that "we should align ourselves to take advantage" of "global opportunities." Witnesses pointed to the development of strong non-EU relationships in novel areas such as fintech and green finance. Woods highlighted the recent IRSG report and agreed with its conclusion that supporting competition was an important objective for financial regulation.

Native tree pests and diseases

Lord Hope of Craighead (Crossbench) opened a debate on the threats posed to the UK's native trees by pests and diseases. Lord Hope noted that biosecurity controls needed to be tightened to prevent the accidental introduction of other pests and diseases, and urged the Government to increase the budget for combating the importation of invasive species. He said it should ensure that new woodlands were created from UK-propagated disease-free stock.

The need for stricter controls on the import of seeds and saplings was echoed by Lord Harries of Pentregarth (Crossbench). Former Bishop of London Lord Chartres (Crossbench) cited "the extraordinary importance of the work being done by the City of London Corporation to protect a very large number of some of the most ancient trees in the entire UK." He identified Brexit as providing an opportunity to overhaul biosecurity regulations. Baroness Fookes (Con), the co-chair of the All-Party Group for Gardening and Horticulture, called for the Government to fund more research into pests and diseases affecting oak trees. In so doing, she noted the Corporation's involvement in research into acute oak decline. Baroness Byford (Con) noted the number of ancient trees in Epping Forest and the Corporation's work, at a significant cost, to tackle threats such as Ramorum disease. Noting that prevention is better than cure, she called for the regulations relating to nurseries and the movement of vegetation to be reviewed.

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Lord Gardiner replied for the Government. He agreed that Brexit would provide an opportunity for tightening UK biosecurity and noted that the Government supported the 'Grown in Britain' agenda. He told Peers that new registration requirements had been introduced for all those producing, storing, moving or selling plants and plant products. A consultation on quarantine arrangements for high-risk plants, as well as on an English Tree Strategy, would be launched later in the year, he added.

The 'Tulip'

The Mayor of London has written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to urge him to support his decision to refuse planning permission for Norman Foster's proposed 'Tulip' development in the City of London. The Mayor's rejection of the plans followed the City Corporation's approval of the scheme, and the developer has appealed to the Secretary of State. In his letter, the Mayor has asserted that "the proposal would not constitute the high standard of design required for a tall building" in the City and would affect views of the Tower of London World Heritage Site. The appeal will be heard by the Secretary of State in the coming months.

Innovation & Growth Directorate

Towards an AI-powered financial services sector

On 3 February, the City Office in Brussels hosted a joint event with TheCityUK on 'Towards an AI-powered financial services sector'. This event marked the launch in Brussels of 'Towards an AI Powered UK', a report by the International Regulatory Strategy Group and Accenture. The report author Fernando Lucini (AI Lead, Accenture) presented the key findings, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A.

Contact [Hannah Connaghan](#) on +322 282 8457

Social Mobility Commission Employer Toolkit

A [new employer toolkit](#) has been developed by the Social Mobility Commission in partnership with the Bridge Group. The toolkit provides businesses with practical, easy to use frameworks to track and measure their impact in addressing social mobility. This links in with the [City Corporation's Social Mobility Strategy 2018-28](#). Launched on 6 February, the toolkit recommends measuring and reporting on socio-economic diversity data and creating a more inclusive work culture and recruitment process to diversify staff.

Contact [Sophie Hulm](#) on 07834 384 968

Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments/HM Treasury Financial Services Skills Taskforce roundtable

Simon Culhane (CEO, Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments (CISI)), and Deputy Keith Bottomley hosted a roundtable on expanding the talent pool in financial services, in order to secure future competitiveness. Speakers included Mark Hoban, Chair of the HM Treasury Financial Services Skills Taskforce, and students benefiting from the Investment Association's 'Think Investments' programme and CISI's 'Fundamentals of Financial Services' qualification. For the CISI qualification, over the past three years over 80 places have been provided to students that largely come from the City's Academies.

Contact [Claire Tunley](#) on 07827 449325

Heart of the City

This year [Heart of the City](#) celebrates its 20th anniversary and has just welcomed its newest 60 members. Heart of the City runs its popular foundation programme to help small businesses get started on responsible business, whether by supporting the local community, reducing environmental impact or improving employee diversity and wellbeing. The level of interest in the programme now reaches into new industries including construction and creative agencies. As always, most of its members are based in the Square Mile. Heart of the City welcomes enquiries from any businesses in the City keen to develop their responsible business programme.

Contact [Sarah Mitchell](#) on ext. 3848

London RMB Business Quarterly Report

The sixth issue of [London RMB Business Quarterly Report](#) was co-published on 3 February by the City Corporation and the People's Bank of China Representative Office for Europe. New data shows that London's robust foreign exchange continues to be the leading hub for the Chinese RMB currency outside of Greater China. The report also reveals that nearly 3 trillion RMB was cleared by the China Construction Bank London Branch between September and November 2019, up 22.7% year-on-year.

Contact [Winnie Seow](#) on ext. 3740

Improving the Environment

Mansell Street Estate Give and Take Day

The Recycling Teams' 'Give and Take' Days are an opportunity for City residents to make sure unwanted items are reused, recycled or disposed of responsibly whilst also supporting the local community. Residents and the public can give / donate unwanted items between 10am-12 midday. Donated items can then be collected/taken between 1-3pm (City residents must bring proof of address within the Square Mile for priority access at 1pm). The "take" part of the event then opens to the public at 2pm. The next event will be held on Mansell Street Estate in the Green Box Community Centre on 7 March.

Clean City Award Scheme (CCAS) celebrates its 25th silver anniversary year

On 7 February 2020, the Recycling and CCAS Team held its 25th annual awards ceremony at the Mansion House, hosted by the Lady Mayoress, Hilary Russell. Some of the day's big winners included Bow Lane Dental Group, Savills at 122 Leadenhall Street, Brookfield at 99 Bishopgate, Linklaters and Standard Chartered Bank. The Bank of England won the coveted Plastic Free City (PFC) Award for their achievements and compliance with the 13 PFC pledge actions. The annual awards ceremony also received press coverage in the Evening Standard. The CCAS is open to all businesses in the Square Mile and will be open for the 2020 – 2021 membership year shortly.

Contact [Karen Marks](#) on ext. 4975

Our planet, Our business

The Clean City Awards (CCAS) Team are pleased to invite all Members to a viewing of the WWF's "Our Planet, Our business" programme which demonstrates why protecting the environment is a business imperative. The film showing is part of a series of events to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the CCAS. The viewing will take place at 2.30pm at the Livery Hall, Guildhall, 71 Basinghall Street, on 1st April at 2.30pm

Contact [Isobelle Burkitt](#) on ext. 4969

Open Spaces

Brilliant news for beleaguered butterflies

An egg search for the small and elusive brown hairstreak butterfly carried out by conservation volunteers at Spring Park produced encouraging results for this under threat insect. A total of 67 eggs were identified and within a series of blackthorn compartments managed for brown hairstreak butterflies. Spring Park is now the top site in the whole of Kent with the highest number of surveyed individuals. This has been a concerted effort from the rangers to manage blackthorn growth in sections to provide a continuity of valuable habitat for egg laying.

Countryside stewardship work at Burnham Beeches

Restoration of the wood pasture at Burnham Beeches has been taking place in areas of young, secondary woodland. The work, funded by a Countryside Stewardship grant, means that areas which have been over-grown for decades have been re-opened, with young trees thinned out and suitable specimens converted into pollards. There are now 1000 new young pollards which will become veteran trees of the future. With the help of grazing animals this area with increase in light and space and encourage greater diversity of flora and fauna.

Highams Park Lake

Work is almost complete at Highams Park Lake on a project funded by the City of London Corporation Grant 'Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment'. The £13,550 grant was awarded to the Highams Park Community Interest Company to better connect the local community with Epping Forest in the Highams Park area. The project has improved wayfinding through the woods to Highams Park Lake and created an accessible path to the Lake from the nearby park. Once visitors reach the Lake they can now enjoy a new boardwalk to take in the stunning views across Highams Park Lake. In addition, litter bins have been installed to reduce littering and the general appearance of the Lake has been improved through opening up views and revetment works.

Permanent exhibition for Dr John Fothergill

The Friends of West Ham Park are just one of many community groups who have been awarded funding from the City of London's 'Enjoying Green Space and the Natural Environment' central grants programme. The funding will enable to create a permanent exhibition about the legacy of fascinating plant collector Dr John Fothergill who once owned what is now West Ham Park and will be opening in the Summer in the Ornamental Gardens. This follows on from the success of the temporary exhibition which attracted a lot of interest of the fabulous art installations of the historical drawings bought by Empress Catherine II of Russia following the death of Dr Fothergill in 1780.

Contact [Roush Islam](#) on ext. 3614

City of London Academies and Schools

Education Board Dinner – 12 February 2020

The Education Board's annual dinner was hosted at the Grocer's Hall. The Chair of the Education Board, Henry Colthurst, thanked Members and Headteachers from the Family of Schools for their hard work and commitment towards delivering exceptional education. Prefects from Newham Collegiate Sixth Form and the City of London School provided persuasive arguments both for and against formal examinations as a means of preparing young people for further study and the world of work. Education Board Member Tim Campbell and Professor Armand D'Angour, Fellow and Tutor in Classics at Oxford, also offered their valuable insights into academic and business success. The dinner was attended by esteemed guests from a range of organisations across Education, Culture and Skills including from Ofsted, London Local Authorities, the Livery Companies and others

City Schools' Concert – 30 January 2020

The annual City Schools' Concert was hosted at the City of London School and united the Family of Schools to perform music, dance, choral and instrumental pieces themed on the Culture Mile venues. This year, each piece was a mixed-school performance and so pupils directly collaborated with pupils from other City schools, learning from and supporting each other. Sigrun and Paul Sævarsdóttir-Griffiths produced the concert and facilitated the schools to collaboratively devise a whole-group performance. The Concert was opened by the Chair of the Education Board, Henry Colthurst, and the proceedings were closed by Deputy Chair of the Education Board, Ann Holmes. The feedback on the evening and the preparatory workshops has been overwhelmingly positive from pupils, teachers, parents and members of the audience. The Concert supports the Cultural and Creative Learning Strategy through enabling pupils across the Family of Schools to perform in public performance spaces, whilst also developing pupils' Fusion Skills of collaboration, creativity and resilience.

Contact [Dan McGrady](#) on ext. 1864

City of London School (CLS)

Late January saw the close of the 2019 UCAS cycle and since then we have had plenty of good news for the Senior Sixth Form who have been waiting for offers to come in. It has been a superb year for CLS musicians, who between them are celebrating two Oxbridge offers, two Conservatoire scholarships and an Oxbridge organ scholarship. The range of courses applied for this year is as broad and exciting as the range of institutions. Film Studies, Ceramics and Product Design are included alongside applications to read Economics, Medicine, Humanities, Politics Philosophy and Economics, Mathematics, Languages and many more besides at universities that span the length and breadth of the country, as well as Europe and the USA: a testament to the diversity and range of skills that we find among our Senior Sixth Form. We have congratulated 25 pupils who have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge universities, again with a broad range of courses including one pupil who has received an offer to read Veterinary Science, the first CLS Vet for over twenty years.

Contact [Georgina Berry](#) on 0203 680 6414

City of London Freeman's School

Freeman's 'Love Languages' began life as a unique competition in which students from both state and independent schools from Surrey and Kent are invited to Freeman's to perform in their chosen language. Ten years on and Freeman's Love Languages competition is as popular as ever, running annually since it was first won by Ashford Priors Prep School and Pennthorpe School. This year, to mark the special anniversary of this popular event, it was held on Valentine's Day. Pupils were judged by a panel of external independent judges with a wealth of expertise in this field. In marking the performances, the judges were looking for three things; quality of language, creativity and originality and quality of performance. At Freeman's we firmly believe it is important to encourage a sense of enjoyment and confidence in the language from a very early stage. Sarah Hankin, Head of Languages commented "when I first came up with the concept for this competition, I did not imagine that I would be hosting our tenth anniversary in 2020. It is thanks to the dedication of language teachers and the enthusiasm and creativity of the pupils that the event continues to be such an important part of the Freeman's calendar. We congratulate this year's winners, Newland House School and Notre Dame School on their polished and imaginative performances on the theme of celebration and of course the number 10".

Contact [Sarah Sergeant](#) on 01372 822447

Gresham College

Professor Dr Heather Couper

The College's first woman professor the much-loved broadcaster Dr Heather Couper, died at the end of February. She was Gresham Professor of Astronomy from 1993-1996. You can find the transcripts from her lectures on the [Gresham College website](#).

Can gender equality help solve climate change?

Is gender equality a key factor in tackling climate change? Many think so, and in [this lecture by Environment Professor Jacqueline McGlade](#) will discuss how, when women are empowered and educated the evidence shows that they have more control over their lives and dedicate more resources to health and education than men. But does gender also influence the way that environmental issues are solved? 3 March, 6-7pm, Museum of London. Unticketed and free.

Mental and Physical Wellness (How to make yourself exercise!)

Exercise is sometimes seen as an optional extra that is desirable if you have the time. This [talk by Gresham Professor of Business Alex Edmans](#) will provide rigorous evidence on the importance of exercise for not only quality of life but also career success and productivity at work. It will also provide practical tips, based on behavioural economics, on how busy professionals can find the time to do it. 4 March 2020, 6-7pm, Museum of London. Ticketed and free.

The Insider's Guide to Becoming a Barrister

In [this lecture by Jo Delahunty QC](#) get an insider's brutally honest guide to what it's like to be a self-employed barrister - the highs and lows of the career, the work behind the scenes that makes a difference to outcomes in court, and the art of persuasion in it. What are the ways of working that can make a difference to success and failure, for the client and to professional development for the barrister? 5 March, 6-7pm, Barnard's Inn Hall. Unticketed and free.

All lectures are live-streamed online and are also made available afterwards on the [Gresham College website](#). Tickets can be booked for schools or colleges for all lectures.

Contact [Lucia Graves](#) on 020 7831 0575

Barbican Centre

2020-21 classical music season announcement

The Barbican announced its 2020-21 classical music season this week – which ranges from major collaborations and artist-focuses, to new and innovative projects. The Barbican will also celebrate composer Thomas Adès at 50 in concerts with the Barbican's family of orchestras, alongside artist focuses on mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato and conductor/pianist Sir Antonio Pappano, plus a series of world-class visiting orchestras and some of the most exciting soloists performing today. With operas, festivals, premieres and rediscovered music too, in the words of Barbican's Head of Music Huw Humphreys: 'In short: this is going to be a season to remember.'

Accessibility and autism friendly awards

The Barbican has been named London's Venue of the Year by disabled access charity Euan's Guide, which highlighted the Centre's range of accessible performances including audio-described, sensory friendly, captioned and BSL shows, plus a Changing Places facility which is provided by only a handful of venues in London's city centre. Barbican Cinema has also been awarded the National Autistic Society's Autism Friendly Award, which was presented to Gali Gold, Head of Cinema, by the National Autistic Society ahead of a Relaxed Screening of Parasite on Friday 14 February.

Masculinities: Liberation through Photography

Barbican Art Gallery's major exhibition Masculinities: Liberation through Photography opened on 20 February. The exhibition brings together over 300 works by over 50 pioneering international photographers and filmmakers to explore how masculinity is performed, coded and socially constructed from the 1960s to the present day. The exhibition has received 5* reviews from the [Evening Standard](#) and [The i Paper](#) and 4*s from [The Guardian](#) and [Time Out](#). It has also been reviewed by The Sunday Times, [The Telegraph](#), [The Observer](#) and [The Independent](#), and received major radio coverage on BBC Radio 4's programmes [Saturday Review](#), [Start the Week](#), [Today](#) and [The Robert Elms Show](#).

Contact [John Kelly](#) on ext. 2389

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Guildhall School announces overhaul of UK auditions for Acting programmes

Guildhall School has announced an overhaul of its auditions for Acting programmes, coming into effect when applications open for 2021 entry in September 2020: these [new measures](#) will support the extensive work already being done to remove barriers from applying to and undertaking training at Guildhall School. The UK application fee will reduce from £66 to £35, a decrease of 47%. This is the most financially accessible one-off application/audition fee of the major drama schools and covers all three rounds of auditions. Guildhall School is also significantly increasing the number of cities nationwide it holds auditions in from two to six, taking place over 22 days in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Leeds, Newcastle and Nottingham, as well as in London. The first two rounds of nationwide auditions will be held on the same day, in an additional move to curb travel costs for applicants. The announcement has received endorsement from Equity (the UK trade union for creative practitioners), Jodie Whittaker (alumna and star of Dr Who) and Paapa Essiedu (alumnus with credits including Hamlet, Royal Shakespeare Company and Press, BBC).

New opera The Angel Esmeralda, commissioned by Scottish Opera

February sees Guildhall School's award-winning Opera department present the world premiere of alumnus Liam Paterson's [The Angel Esmeralda](#), a new opera commissioned by Scottish Opera. Based on Don DeLillo's captivating short story and set in the economic despair of the South Bronx of the 1970s, The Angel Esmeralda takes audiences on a thought-provoking, immersive journey, with music reflecting its 1970s setting. The production received its first performance at Guildhall School's Silk Street Theatre on Monday 24 February and runs for three further performances.

World premiere of Antigone

Written by Olivier Award winner Stef Smith, [Antigone](#) is Guildhall's first production directed by the School's multi-award winning Vice-Principal & Director of Drama, Professor Orla O'Loughlin. Opening on Friday 20 March, the production, which is specially commissioned for Guildhall School, is a contemporary 21st Century retelling of the story of Sophocles' Antigone. The story depicts a city in turmoil as political and familial power struggles wreak tragedy upon tragedy.

Contact [Rebecca Driver](#), Rebecca Driver Media Relations on 020 7247 1894
Contact [Jo Hutchinson](#), Guildhall School of Music & Drama on 020 7382 6130

London Symphony Orchestra (LSO)

LSO Principal Guest Conductor Gianandrea Noseda resumed his Shostakovich symphony cycle and started his Prokofiev symphony cycle in a concert earlier this month where LSO Leader Roman Simovic was the soloist in Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No 1 to complete the programme. Both symphony cycles are being recorded by LSO Live – the Orchestra's own record label – which aims to increase the global reach of the LSO's work and is currently in its 20th anniversary year. More concerts were presented as part of the Barbican's Beethoven at 250 series, with Sir Simon Rattle conducting Beethoven's 'Choral' Symphony – featuring the London Symphony Chorus and soloists Iwona Sobotka, Anna Stéphany, Robert Murray and Florian Boesch – and oratorio Christ on the Mount of Olives, before taking these performances to audiences and concert halls across Germany and Luxembourg. At the end of the month, previous Donatella Flick LSO Conducting Competition winner Elim Chan was at the helm for a concert combining new music with 20th century repertoire, including works by LSO Panufnik composers Elizabeth Ogonek and James Hoyle – the latter of which was a world premiere. The Orchestra's education and community programme – LSO Discovery – continues its work at LSO St Luke's, presenting Free Friday Lunchtime Concerts and relaxed performances which are specifically tailored for people with autism and learning disabilities. A showcase featuring new works by composers on the LSO Soundhub scheme occurred at LSO St Luke's this month, in addition to concerts featuring young soloist musicians on the ECHO Rising Stars programme.

Contact [Veronica Kocovska](#) on 020 7382 2560

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

New partnership project

LMA is pleased to be working with Coram, the UK's oldest children's charity which has received a grant of £1.26m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to enable the digitisation of a major portion of its [Foundling Hospital archive](#). Coram's four-year project, Voices Through Time: The Story of Care, will secure access to fragile and vulnerable items in the archive held by LMA.

Save the dates!

Mollie Hunte Conference, Friday 24 April 2020, the finale to the LMA cataloguing project funded by the Wellcome Trust. Learn about and celebrate Mollie Hunte and the important and significant work she did with and for the Caribbean Community in London from the 1960s until her death in 2015. Mollie was an educational psychologist from Guyana who migrated to the UK in 1961 and worked tirelessly to improve the education and treatment of young black children in London schools. Free, but [book your place on Mollie Hunte Conference Eventbrite webpage](#).

Know Your London: Family and Local History Day, Saturday 30 May 2020. Join LMA throughout the day for history talks, community stalls and family activities. Free, but [register your interest on the Know Your London Eventbrite webpage](#). Alternatively, participate with a free stall promoting your group or projects. To reserve a table and for more information email [Aimée Taylor](#) by 31 March.

Contact [Geoff Pick](#) on ext. 3833

Museum of London

Rare objects discovered in the Havering Hoard reveal fascinating insights into Bronze Age London

This month, the Museum of London offered the first ever glimpse to select media of the Havering Hoard – the largest Bronze Age hoard ever found in London. Among the objects revealed were a pair of terret rings, a rare discovery as these are the first Bronze Age examples of their kind ever to be found in the UK. The discovery of these terret rings, along with a bracelet believed to be from the modern-day French/German border and copper ingots possibly originating from the Alps, suggests a well-connected community of travellers and traders across Europe. The Havering Hoard will go on display for the first time in [Havering Hoard: A Bronze Age Mystery](#) a free, brand new major exhibition opening at the Museum of London Docklands on 3 April.

Museum of London acquires Robin Whitmore's Plan of the Royal Vauxhall Tavern and its environs

During LGBT History Month, the Museum of London shared the news on BBC Radio London that they had acquired [a hand drawn map by Robin Whitmore](#) that was created to save an iconic queer venue from closure. The Royal Vauxhall Tavern has long been cherished by London's lesbian, gay and queer communities. It came close to closure in 2014 when it was purchased by property developers, but a campaign was established to prove the historic and cultural significance of the pub to the LGBTQ community. Whitmore's large, highly detailed and meticulously hand-drawn map was commissioned as part of this campaign.

Queer City: The Museum of London LGBTQ+ Tour

Earlier this year, the Museum of London launched a new free, cross gallery tour exploring the cultural heritage

of London's modern Queer community as seen in its collection, and across almost 2000 years of history. As part of the museum's wider LGBT History Month programme, this tour was offered throughout February and received excellent coverage and praise from both Time Out and BBC Radio London, resulting in all time slots selling out. Due to its success [Queer City: The Museum of London LGBTQ+ Tour](#) will be offered on the first Saturday of each month year-round to be booked in advance for free.

Contact [Emily Brazee](#)

Community Safety

London Drug and Alcohol Policy Forum (LDAPF)

On 7 February the LDAPF was delighted to see the new, all digital, version of [Safer Nightlife](#) go live. This resource provides information for all those involved in venues and events where drugs are a risk. Funded via the Late-Night Levy it has been sent to all City licensed premises and has already received very positive reviews from the trade, medical practitioners, law enforcement and partners across Europe. Safer Nightlife builds on previous work delivered by the LDAPF, going back to the first UK guidance on clubs and drugs issued in 1996. Since then the Forum, through its network of partners, has often been at the forefront of international developments in helping reduce harm in the Night Time Economy and at festivals. We are currently working on a process to enable the website and associated blog to keep up to date with emerging trends, new drugs and legislative changes.

Contact [David Mackintosh](#) on ext. 3084

Safer City Partnership (SCP)

Via the Late-Night Levy, training on sexual harassment is currently being delivered to licensed venues across the City of London. This follows up on the public facing Reframe the Night campaign and is being delivered by Good Night Out Campaign who have been working alongside the Night Czar on the Mayor of London's Women Safety Charter. Domestic abuse is a priority for the SCP and training in this area has recently been made mandatory for City of London housing estate staff and Barbican estate staff. The training package will be rolled out to all staff working on the estates, with more specialist training being delivered to estate managers. In addition, we are working to highlight the City Corporation's pledge to support its employees should they be experiencing domestic abuse. For two weeks starting on 13 March there will a focus on the specially designed "Spotting the Signs Toolkit" resource educating colleagues to look out for their co-workers, links to the City Corporation's Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Policy as well as information signposting staff to access help and support.

Contact [Ali Burlington](#) on ext. 1639

In the News

- [City A.M.](#) reported that London Bridge will be closed from mid-March to road traffic except buses, taxis and cyclists for seven months during maintenance works following an announcement by the City Corporation. Further coverage in [The Londonist](#), [New Civil Engineer](#), [Road.cc](#), [Southwark News](#) and [London SE1](#).
- The Policy Chair's comments in response to the Government's new immigration policy were covered in [City Matters](#).
- An interview with the Policy Chair was published in the [Daily Mail](#) and over 160 other media titles, calling for the safeguarding of data flows following the UK's departure from the EU.
- Further coverage of the Policy Chair's visit to Dublin was included in [City A.M.](#), [Irish News](#), [London Loves Business](#), [City Matters](#), [City Matters\(ii\)](#), [News Letter Belfast](#) [Viewable internally only], [The Press and Journal](#), [The National](#) and [Guernsey Press](#).
- Extensive coverage of the Lord Mayor's visit to the Gulf was included in [Qatar Tribune](#), [City Matters](#), [Public](#), [The Peninsula](#), [Kuwait News Agency](#), [The Peninsula \(1\)](#), [\(2\)](#), [\(3\)](#), [Doha Insight \(1\)](#), [\(2\)](#), [Gulf Times \(1\)](#), [\(2\)](#), [\(3\)](#), [\(4\)](#), [Qatar Tribune](#), [Qatar Tribune\(ii\)](#), [OANA](#), [OANA\(ii\)](#), [Kuwait Daily News](#), [Qatar News](#), [Arab Times](#), [Kuwait News Agency](#), [Emirates News Agency](#), [Zawya](#), [The Gulf Time](#), [Gulf Times](#), [Gulf Today](#), [Qatar Tribune](#), [The Peninsula](#), [Al Arabiya](#), [Al Arabiya](#) [in Arabic] and [Gulf Times](#). The Lord Mayor also wrote pieces in [City A.M.](#) and [The National](#).
- The Policy Chair was quoted in [Reuters](#) on job relocations from the City to the EU, and the UK's future trading relationship with the EU. Also covered in [City A.M.](#) and [Financial Times](#) (£).
- A column by the Lord Mayor on green finance ahead of his visit to Scotland was published in [City AM](#). The Lord Mayor was also interviewed on [BBC Good Morning Scotland](#) [from 1:42:00]. Further coverage of the visit was included in [The Herald](#), [The Scotsman](#), [The National](#), [Press and Journal](#), [Daily Mail](#), [This Is Money](#), [The Herald](#), [The Herald\(ii\)](#) [both viewable internally only], [Edinburgh News](#) and [Daily Business Group](#).
- The Policy Chair was quoted by [City A.M.](#) responding to a speech in which the Prime Minister laid out the government's position on an EU trade deal. Also in [Bloomberg](#), [MSN](#), [The Guardian](#) [viewable internally], [City A.M.](#), and [The Sunday Times](#) [viewable internally].
- The Policy Chair wrote in [City A.M.](#) [viewable internally] about her trip to India and the future of UK-India relations in financial services. Coverage of the visit was included in [India Inc](#), [Eastern Eye](#), [Asia Insurance Post](#),

[Londonlovesbusiness](#), [Eastern Eye](#), [Hindu Business Line](#), [Asian Voice](#), [DevDiscourse](#), [Foreign Investors on India](#) and [News Vibes of India](#).

- The Lord Mayor wrote in [India Inc](#) about the potential for the UK and India to work together on green finance ahead of COP26.
- Coverage of a video message to China in the light of the coronavirus outbreak by the Lord Mayor and Policy Chair appeared in [CCTV](#) [viewable on mobile only], [CGTN](#), [21st Century Economic Journal](#), [Phoenix TV](#), [Sina](#) and the [Shanghai Friendship Association](#). Widespread coverage also on social media, including [Global Times](#), [China Daily](#), [T House](#), [Shine](#), [China Economic Daily](#), [CRI](#) [Chinese] [China Daily](#), [Shanghai Daily](#), [People's Daily Online](#) and [CCTVplus](#).
- [City A.M.](#) ran a front-page story on the City of London Corporation's reforms to the selection process for the City of London's Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. Also featured on [BBC London Radio](#). [from 1:15:06]
- Extensive coverages about the swimming ponds and charges at Hampstead Heath, Chairman of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee, was interviewed and quoted in a number of pieces including [The Observer](#), [Evening Standard](#), [FT Magazine](#), [Camden New Journal](#), [Outdoor Swimmer](#), [Ham&High](#) (iii), [Ham&High](#) (iv), [BBC London TV](#) [from 20:34], [BBC London Breakfast](#), [Evening Standard](#), [Camden New Journal](#) [Ham & High (v), [Ham & High](#) (vii) and [Ham and High](#) (viii)]. Also viewable internally only in [Ham and High](#), [Ham and High](#) (ii) [Camden New Journal](#) (ii), [Ham & High](#) (vii) [The Sun](#)
- The Policy Chair was quoted in [Sina](#) [Chinese] and the CBI's [China Direct](#) on the City Corporation's publication of the "London RMB Business Quarterly Review". Further coverage in the [Telegraph](#) (£), [City A.M.](#), [JRJ](#), [CN Stock](#), [Sina](#), [CNfol](#), and [London Loves Business](#).
- The [FT](#) covered the IRSG's new paper which sets out the City's vision for the UK-EU future relations.
- The Chairman of the Capital Buildings Committee, was quoted in a [MarketScreener](#) article on the sale of Wood Street Police Station. Further coverage in [MyLondon](#), where Alderman Alison Gowman was quoted and in [City AM](#) [viewable internally only], [Estates Gazette](#) [£], [Property Week](#) [£] and [React News](#) [£].
- [Property Week](#), [Estates Gazette](#) and [Construction News](#) reported that the City Corporation has approved plans for a mixed-use development in Holborn, which will be London's greenest building. Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee was quoted. Further coverage in [Architects' Journal](#), [UK Construction Media](#), [The Planner](#), [The Caterer](#) and [MyLondon](#).
- The [Evening Standard](#) reported on the installation of fire doors in 2,300 homes run by the City Corporation across London. [viewable

internally]. Further coverage in the [Islington Gazette](#) [viewable internally], Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee was quoted. Also in [Southwark News](#), [Docklands & East London Advertiser](#) and [Islington Tribune](#) [Viewable internally]..

- [Charity Today](#) carried an article mentioning the City Bridge Trust, after 23 London charities granted a share of a multi-million-pound investment pot. Chairman of the City Bridge Trust Committee, was quoted. Also in [City Matters](#) and [SE16](#).
- [The Evening Standard](#) ran a piece about music festivals attracting tens of thousands of people could be held in Epping Forest.. The City Corporation will consider tendering for three "large events". Also in [MSN News](#), [Simple News](#), [Yahoo UK and Ireland](#).
- The [Evening Standard](#) reported that City firms cutting back on single-use plastics swept the board at the Clean City Awards. The Chair of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee, was quoted. Further coverage in [City Matters](#) and [Moose Gazette](#).
- [The Times](#) reported on an investigation into Action Fraud, stating the City of London Police will be working with the City Corporation and other stakeholders to address the issues raised [viewable internally only]. Further coverage in the [Daily Mail](#), [Sun](#), [BBC](#), [Birmingham Mail](#) and several other outlets.
- The [Evening Standard](#) [viewable internally only] reported of the City Corporation's proposed site for the relocation of three food markets to Dagenham Dock. Also in [The Barking and Dagenham Post](#), [Building Design](#), [Docklands & East London Advertiser](#), [Barking and Dagenham Post](#), [New Steel Construction](#), [City Matters](#) and [Building](#).

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

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