



Festive special 2024

Shaping This Historic Location Into a Thriving Quarter

fleetstreetquarter.co.uk



FESTIVE FUN IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Lady Lucy French OBE
CEO, Fleet Street Quarter BID

The nights are drawing in, there is a slight chill in the air and festive frolics in the Quarter are underway! Do I hear the pitter patter of feet? It must be Fleet Street Quarter Penguin Parade! Twelve penguin sculptures have descended on our footprint decked out in unique festive finery designed by a whole host of talented artists. Come and seek them out with the help of our Olaf Falafel illustrated map and audio guided trail!

It seems extraordinary to be in the midst of the festive season, 2024 has passed in a whirlwind in the Fleet Street Quarter, it has been an exciting and busy time. It is always such a privilege to meet our community here in this very special part of the City of London. This year key highlights for me have fallen into a variety of important categories, but sustainability has been a big priority.

It was exciting to host our inaugural Climate Festival, recently shortlisted for Best ESG Campaign to Promote and Encourage Climate Action' at the ESG & Sustainability

Awards 2024 which saw local businesses joining forces with thought leaders in the climate action field to tackle some of the most pressing issues. We were delighted to welcome Dr Vanessa Chan visiting from Washington D.C., Dr Chan is the Chief Commercialisation Officer for the United States Department of Energy and Director of the Office of Technology Transitions, and part of the Joe Biden administration. It was tremendous to hear her thoughts on the power of collaboration and the potential that the private sector could unlock in achieving net zero goals.

Over the course of the Festival, it was highlighted that if the UK is to meet its net zero ambitions we need to support green skills. To this end, it was very special to see the launch in June of the Fleet, our meanwhile activation of a development near Blackfriars. The Fleet includes our Green Skills Construction Hub and creative hub - Fleet Studios, featuring a public art gallery exhibiting exciting emerging artists, and affordable creative studios for hire.

These projects are very much setting the tone for our plans next year, building on the *continued on next page...*

success of these initiatives, our climate festival for 2025 will be bigger and more ambitious, and will really drill down on looking at how business and government can work together to achieve collective climate ambitions. I often say if I had my time over again, I would focus on highlighting the value of vocational skills training and so it has been truly wonderful to see the Fleet thriving with young people in training and finding full time work as result.

As to culture, our London Festival of Architecture installation, 'Assembly' created by a team led by Urban Radicals housed outside King's College London's stunning Maughan Library was wonderful. To see an amphitheatre back in Shakespeare's old stomping ground was very exciting! We saw theatre, music, film screenings, listening parties, debate, and a drumming performance all the way from Japan with the Yamato drummers – a big thank you to Sadler's Wells for bringing them to our amphitheatre.

With impending festive feasting in mind, earlier this year we held the inaugural Fleet Street Quarter Cook Off – Master Chef watch out! It got seriously competitive in the CORD teaching kitchen. We crowned Kin Lo, from FSQ based Mott MacDonald as our winner for

2024. Work or live in the Fleet Street Quarter – you could be our culinary Maestro for 2025 when the Cook Off returns next March – watch this space! There will also be some more cultural firsts for the Quarter next year too, but more to come on this...

At this time of gift giving and receiving, might you help us? Our initial BID term is five years and so being founded in April 2022, we have now arrived at our midterm point, and thus we are conducting a survey on how we're doing so far! You can help us to shape the future of our work and what happens in this fantastic footprint by completing our Midterm Survey? Scan the QR code at the bottom of this article to take part, it only takes around 5 – 10 minutes to have your voice heard and make your impact on the Quarter. If you need a bit more an incentive, we even have some great prizes up for grabs to say thank you!

And so, back to Festive Fleet Street Quarter, aside from our Penguin Parade, we're bringing back our ever-popular Makers' Markets to New Street Square in December, with artisan gifts galore provided by Crafty Fox's wonderful collection of traders. Workshops too, think wreath making, cookie decorating, and the sell-out gin workshop with FSQ's very

own distillery – The City of London Distillery (creators of the famous Whitley Neill gin!).

Dates for your diary are far too numerous to mention so have a peek on the back page of this paper, and keep up to date by visiting our website, and following us on our socials (@fleetstreetquarter). There will be Christmas lights across the Quarter this year again, and our switch on event this year will be bigger and better!

Do join us on 13 November at the corner of Cursitor Street and Chancery Lane, where Lucky Voice are generously laying on mulled wine and mince pies, and the London Community Voices Choir will be providing festive song. We'll be joined by the fabulous author and comedian Olaf Falafel who will be switching on the lights! Olaf is also the illustrator of our Penguin Parade map and voice of the audio trail. Once you are feeling truly festive Lucky Voice would love to hear you sing a little at their very fun karaoke bar just across the road!

For our big Ludgate Circus switch on? Make sure to pencil in 14 November, this will truly be a fabulously festive night to remember. Join us on St Bride Street (just off Ludgate

Circus) from 5pm where will see the debut performance of our very own FSQ Community Choir, a Christmas market with delicious festive food and drink, and drum roll... the fabulous actor Alex McQueen who will be switch on our lights! Alex is a real star of British television, starring in classics such as The Inbetweeners, Peep Show, Miranda and Outnumbered, we are delighted to have him join us. Alex will also soon be starring in the new Netflix feature animation from Richard Curtis, 'That Christmas' (out 4 December), a true Christmas treat for us! So, a smattering of snow, celebrity and a few surprises are on the horizon....

Thank you all for your support over 2024 and I much look forward to more community engagement, transformation and of course, fun and frolics in 2025! Skills Construction Hub and Creative Studios, located at Fleet House, 8-12 New Bridge Street. The Fleet focuses on providing key skills and pioneering initiatives designed to meet the London Local Skills Improvement Plan and is supported by the Association of Colleges offering accredited, free learning focused on green and digital construction skills.

70 YEARS OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN LONDON

Mike Fairmaner
Head of Placemaking
Fleet Street Quarter BID

As we bring festive cheer to FSQ with our Christmas Lights and events, and as you admire your local Christmas Lights, have you ever stopped to wondered about how they came about and what's involved in their installation? We lift the lid on the inside story.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the very first Christmas lights were displayed by Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, outside his Menlo Park laboratory in California for Christmas 1880. But the general mistrust of this new found thing called electricity meant they were slow to catch on. The first recorded use of Christmas lights in outdoor trees occurred in San Diego in 1904. In Christmas 1923 President Calvin Coolidge had 3,000 bulbs lighting up the White House and this marked the period around which festive lights began to be widely manufactured and supplied to retailers for general sale.

In the UK it was Regent Street that had the first central London Christmas lights exactly 70 years ago in 1954, with Oxford Street following in 1959. And we have re-started the tradition here in Fleet Street with new lights at Ludgate Circus, Holborn Circus and renewing the lights started by the Chancery Lane Association 10 years ago. They look so simple and nice, providing additional lighting that cheers people up, makes the area feel safer, and we hope will bring extra people to the area. But have you ever wondered what goes into making Christmas lights happen?

First of all, electricity, unlike WiFi, needs a wire to run along, to connect the light to a source of electricity. This means Christmas lights have to be located near a power supply. For us this means the street lights owned by the City of London who have long since mounted their street lights on buildings, rather than lamp columns, to help keep the pavements free of obstruction. We require permission from the City to tap into this power supply and adaptations to be made so we can run a power supply from their fuse box. This then requires us to gain permission from the building owner,



not just to install a wire along the frontage of their building, but also to install fixings into the external wall of their building to which we can attach the actual lights. Not surprisingly some building owners are reluctant to allow anyone to touch their building, and that's assuming we can persuade tenants and the facility managers to gain us permission from their owners in the first place.

Since last year's lights were taken down, we have spent the rest of the year seeking new locations for Christmas Lights to extend the seasonal cheer across the area, with varying degrees of success. So if you would like lights on your building for Christmas 2025, please get in touch with mike.fairmaner@fleetstreetquarter.co.uk, we would be delighted to hear from you and include you in our plans for next year.



FESTIVE OFFERINGS FROM OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Looking for Festive fun across the Quarter?

We've put together a selection of offers, events and booking packages with some of our fantastic local business community across FSQ!



BRIDEWELL THEATRE

Join Dorothy and all her friends, old and new, on a magical journey through the Land of Oz, filled with laughter, song, and surprises. Will Dorothy ever get home? Will her friends find the wizard?

Don't miss the chance to be part of the magic—book your tickets now for a heart-warming adventure down the yellow brick road! 2 – 9 December.



APEX TEMPLE COURT HOTEL

Celebrate the magic of the season at the Apex Temple Court Hotel on Fleet Street with exclusive festive events!

Whether it's a work night out or a fun family gathering, they've curated a range of unforgettable experiences. Indulge in special seasonal menus or reserve their spectacular spaces for your private event. From

intimate dinners to grand celebrations, let them make this Christmas extraordinary for you and your loved ones.



DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

Discover what's on at Dr Johnson's this festive season with a wide variety of events – with an opportunity to explore the house at each!

There will be free afternoon lectures exploring the history of London, Dr Johnson and his associates, Museum Lates featuring candlelit Christmas drinks in Dr Johnson's enchanting and atmospheric 17th-century House of Words, and two gin tastings featuring seven different gins!



HUMBLE GRAPE FLEET STREET

Humble Grape Fleet Street have got a stunning private event and dining space to host a celebration to remember!

They are now taking Christmas bookings and dates are filling up FAST. Work Christmas shindig? Family reunion with a side of jingle bell rock? Yearly hangout with pals? They've got the bells, the whistles, and they've definitely got the wine. ALSO if you don't want to berushing round Oxford Street in a panic on Christmas Eve, Humble Grape as a perfect line-up of gifts for all wine lovers.



HYATT REGENCY LONDON BLACKFRIARS

Enjoy the festive extravaganza at Hyatt Regency London Blackfriars. Christmas season is the most magical time of the year in London and there's an exciting range of festive celebrations to enjoy at the hotel.

Book their newly refurbished events space for your Christmas celebration, enjoy festive feasts at NYnLON, sharing menus at Chinese Cricket Club, or sip into the festive spirit at Leaf and Cane!



LUCKY VOICE HOLBORN

Get the party started this Christmas with Lucky Voice Karaoke! Book your festive celebration before the 31st of October and receive a complimentary bubbles reception for your entire group!

Whether you're singing your heart out in our private pods or toasting to the season, we've got your holiday cheer covered. Don't miss out on this exclusive offer – book now for an unforgettable karaoke party filled with music, laughter, and festive vibes!

SHAWS BOOKSELLERS

Toast. Feast. Party at Shaws Booksellers, EC4 this Christmas There are Christmas classics on the menu such as Usk Valley turkey breast, or slow braised beef served with all the trimmings – plus delicious vegan and vegetarian options. Also on offer are a fantastic range of starters and puddings to bookend your perfect Christmas feast.

All dishes have been freshly prepared with seasonal ingredients by their dedicated kitchen team.



FOUND BAR & RESTAURANT

Celebrate this festive season at Found Bar & Restaurant, located in Lost Property St Paul's Hotel, just steps from the iconic St Paul's Cathedral. They have a handcrafted French-influenced menu, and festive delights like classic Christmas Pudding with velvety local custard, and the elegant Crème Brûlée for a touch of continental flair.

Their festive menu is £55 or indulge in a special Christmas Day lunch for £89, both including a sparkling welcome. For New Year's Eve, join them for an evening of live entertainment and celebration for £79.



GAUCHO CHANCERY LANE

Celebrate Christmas with Gaucho Chancery Lane. Their festive menus cater to all occasions. Taking a quick break from Christmas shopping for lunch, enjoying an evening out with friends, or planning your team Christmas party?

Gaucho have exciting menus to cater for all occasions across the festive period, and being a short walk from The Strand, it is ideally located for pre and post theatre dining and drinks.

PATERNOSTER CHOP HOUSE

Just a short walk from St Paul's Cathedral, Paternoster Chop House offers the perfect festive setting. Enjoy traditional favorites with charcoal-grilled meats and fish, paired with warm, attentive service in a lively yet cozy atmosphere.

Their terrace is ideal for sipping festive cocktails, Champagne, or your favorite wines. Whether it's a work Christmas party or a family gathering, they have the perfect package to make your celebration unforgettable.

EDITOR'S TAP

The Editor's Tap Christmas Club is all about those unforgettable celebrations – it's what the season's for, right?

Take a peek at their Christmas offers, for those who like to plan ahead they have pre-booked right royal spread buffets, delightful Christmas set menus and some fantastic drinks packages to kickstart your night in style!

They've also got a Festive Bottomless Brunch on offer, available to book from 18 November – 31 December.



FLEETS

Whether you're celebrating an intimate affair with a few of your closest friends or arranging an office party to remember, Fleets have bespoke packages for a variety of occasions. Contact them today to hear more about creating your perfect event.

Conveniently located just a stones throw from St. Paul's Cathedral, Fleets' chefs have prepared a festive menu perfect for dining out this Christmas.

PATCH ST. PAUL'S

Patch has experience of a vast array of stylish Christmas events from formal canapé and champagne receptions to extravagant sit-down dinners or simply the wild office party!

Patch offer the exclusive hire of the venues so we can give you our undivided attention. Your personal event manager will be on hand at all times from the initial enquiry & tastings, right through to the end of the night on the big day, answering any questions you may have.



NEW YEAR'S EVE AT SABINE

Last but not least on our list, and one for New Year's, you can celebrate 2024's best moments with style at Sabine!

Enjoy Ruinart champagne, free-flowing canapés (8:30pm – 10:00pm), entertainment, and a live DJ. Early bird tickets are £99 and include two glasses of champagne and canapés. Their theme this year is 'Reflections,' so be sure to wear your best sparkles!



WADDLE INTO WONDER WITH THE FLEET STREET QUARTER PENGUIN PARADE SCULPTURE TRAIL

Daniel Dalmau,
Business and Communications Manager
Fleet Street Quarter BID

This Christmas, the Fleet Street Quarter is transforming into a winter wonderland with a magical free penguin parade sculpture trail in support of WWF.

From Thursday 14th November, families and visitors are invited to embark on a fabulous festive adventure to discover 12 adorable penguin sculptures throughout the Quarter. Each penguin, decked out in unique festive finery designed by talented artists, will be perched in iconic spots like Chancery Lane, New Street Square, Ludgate Circus and Fleet Street, adding a splash of Antarctic charm to the City.

But wait, there's more! This enchanting free trail isn't just about admiring cute penguins. Each sculpture will reveal fascinating facts about our black and white feathered pals and the Fleet Street Quarter, narrated by comedic genius Olaf Falafel. Simply scan the QR code and dive into a treasure trove of fun facts. Discover amazing information like how penguins can swim at speeds of up to 22 miles per hour - faster than most Olympic swimmers!

By scanning the QR codes on each sculpture, visitors can support WWF's vital conservation efforts. Donations will help protect these remarkable creatures and their habitats, ensuring they survive for future generations.

The trail, produced by global public art specialists Wild in Art, will run for eight weeks with each penguin sculpture standing at an impressive 1.6 meters tall and is mounted on eco-friendly plinths made from recycled materials. Accompanying plaques will provide insights into the artists' inspirations.

Louise Oakley, Director of Community Fundraising at WWF-UK "We are excited to collaborate with the Fleet Street Quarter on this wonderful penguin sculpture trail. Unfortunately, climate change is a growing worry for Antarctic Penguins. This trail is a fantastic way to engage the public in conservation of this iconic species and highlights the urgent need to protect their habitat. We hope it inspires many to support our efforts to help these amazing species to thrive for generations to come."

Visit fleetstreetquarter.co.uk/festive-fsq-2024 for more information.





By Cecily, age 6

TAKE PART IN OUR KIDS' CREATIVE PENGUIN COMPETITION

Budding artist or writer? Send us in your kid's penguin themed drawings, poems, short stories or any other penguin themed creations for a chance to enter our fun festive competition.

A Penguin prize is up for grabs for the winner, enter by emailing info@fleetstreetquarter.co.uk or by messaging us on Instagram @fleetstquarter. Please include your child's name and age when submitting. Good luck!



URBAN FARMER PROJECT TO TACKLE FOOD WASTE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

Lesli Flinn ,
Head of Marketing and Communications
Fleet Street Quarter BID

In this festive season of community, friendship and giving, it seems fitting to be launching our latest community project in Fleet Street Quarter—the Urban Farmer Project.

We have partnered with Landsec and The London Community Kitchen to launch this new initiative aimed at addressing climate challenges and food insecurity in the heart of London. The project, located at Hill House just north of Fleet Street, is part of our ongoing endeavours to activate meanwhile spaces across our BID area in ways that meaningfully impact our community, and will transform this vacant space into a dynamic hub for urban farming, sustainability, and community engagement.

At its core, the Urban Farmer Project is designed to combat food waste. Surplus food will be used to prepare over 20,000 meals for vulnerable communities this Christmas, in collaboration with the Thomas Franks Foundation and City Harvest, a leading surplus food distributor. By converting food waste into nutritious meals, the project aims to help reduce hunger while promoting sustainable food practices.

The initiative will also showcase cutting-edge urban farming technologies. Square Mile Farms will exhibit hydroponic farming

techniques, which use nutrient-rich water to grow produce faster and more sustainably than traditional farming methods. The Urban Farmer Project will cultivate greens and microgreens on-site, providing fresh, locally grown produce for meal preparation. The project will produce up to 200 servings per month, highlighting the potential of vertical farming in urban environments.

The Project aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, offering a collaborative response to global challenges like climate change and food poverty. By combining innovative farming techniques with community-focused initiatives, the Project sets a new standard for sustainability in London's urban landscape.

Beyond its agricultural roots (pardon the pun!), there will also be a huge variety of cultural and educational activities to take part in. A Sustainable Arts Centre, in partnership with Das Das Box and Mert Firat, will host music and comedy, and the venue will also play host to beautiful and educational installations like 'PLANTATION' by artist Alicja Patanowska, which blends art with sustainable farming.

Open from 10am – 4pm daily, the project will be open to all to take part in the fantastic activities, as well as playing host to a monthly farmers market, workshops on sustainability, and a podcast studio for discussions on urban challenges, in collaboration with the BBC Academy. Green thumbs not required—see you there!

The 3rd KimChi festival London
15 Kimchi Master Chefs Parade

SAT 23 NOV 2024 | 12:00 - 17:00
Place: St Bride, Fleet St. EC4Y 8EQ

Kimchi Demonstration **Kimchi Making Program** **K-POP Performance**

RAFFLE EVENT PRIZE:
- Return Flight Ticket to South Korea
- Kimchi Products
- Korean Snacks

SEOUL

WOMENS SAFETY IN FLEET ST QUARTER: A COLLABORATIVE PATH FORWARD

Beth Nash
Safe and Secure Manager
Fleet Street Quarter BID

As the darker months draw ever closer, Fleet Street Quarter BID remain focused in our collaborative approach to supporting women to feel safer when out socialising, commuting and visiting the Quarter.

This winter, we are adopting the United Nations '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence' campaign, which will see a number of workshops and activations across Fleet Street Quarter beginning on Monday 25th November running through to Tuesday 10th December. During a busy programme of events, we are helping to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls by drawing focus on three key pillars of change, they are: person centred, community based and, importantly, working toward cultural shifts.

On the first day, we are launching our 'Orange the Quarter' Campaign, in line with the UN's 'Orange the World' day. We are asking our FSQ community to get involved and join us in wearing something orange to symbolise a brighter future free from violence against women and girls. If you would like to feature on our socials campaign, please send your team images to info@fleetstreetquarter.co.uk.

Our 16 Days Campaign begins with a Women's Safety Roundtable event, bringing together female leaders within the Fleet St Quarter community and City of London Police to listen to your feedback, assess our 2024 offering and collaboratively plan future women's safety initiatives for the year ahead.

Focusing on our community-based work, we come together with Safer Business Network and City of London Police to host an enhanced VAWG Awareness Stand outside key transport hubs across the Quarter. Whilst we raise awareness on important safety initiatives such as Safe Havens and the Ask for Angela Scheme, passersby are also able to have the opportunity to 'Walk and Talk' with a City of London Police officer – sharing any concerns about the area directly.

We understand that driving cultural change is paramount, which is why we are joining forces with Suzy Lamplugh Trust to upskill men and women on how to be an active bystander through an enhanced Bystander Intervention training session, held online over a lunchtime. The training is expertly designed to empower delegates to be active bystanders when they see harassment taking place, without putting their own personal safety at risk. We understand much more work needs to be done, shining a light on unacceptable misogynistic, perpetrator behaviours. On the 5th December, we take to the streets of Fleet Street Quarter to share the 'Don't Cross the Line' City of London Corporation' campaign with our hospitality venues. The campaign aims at challenging sexual harassment and misogynistic behaviours on nights out through stark targeted messaging outlining unacceptable behaviour that will not be tolerated in the City.

And finally, focusing on mindfulness, female empowerment, and sense of self, we are bringing together women for a host of workshops. An immersive sound bath experience, held by The Office Yoga Co, will



provide a calming environment which has been designed for attendees to reduce stress hormones, ease tension and provide mental clarity. Due to the success of our last session in March, we will be hosting another female personal safety class. The class features easy-to-learn practical skills focusing on protection techniques, how to combat the freeze response and improve overall safety confidence.

The safeguarding and welfare of Women in Fleet Street Quarter remains top of our priorities, steering our focus on raising awareness, tackling perpetrator behaviour, and encouraging healthy mindful practices.

Find out more at
fleetstreetquarter.co.uk/16-days-of-activism

MON 25 NOV **ORANGE THE QUARTER** **ACROSS THE QUARTER**

We are launching our 'Orange the Quarter' Campaign, in line with the UN's 'Orange the World' day. We are asking our FSQ community to get involved and join us in wearing something orange to symbolise a brighter future free from violence against women and girls. If you would like to feature on our socials campaign, please send your team images to info@fleetstreetquarter.co.uk.
No booking required.

MON 25 NOV **WOMEN'S SAFETY** **ROUNDTABLE**

Bringing together women leaders within the Fleet Street Quarter community and City of London Police to listen to business feedback, assess our 2024 offering and collaboratively

plan future women's safety initiatives for the year ahead. **Invitation only.**

WEDS 27 NOV, 5:30PM - 6:30PM **SOUND BATH SESSION**

BIRD AND BIRD, NEW FETTER LANE

This relaxing meditation session has been designed to reduce stress, ease tension, and promote mental clarity through soothing sounds produced by instruments like gongs, crystal bowls, and tuning forks.
Booking required.

WEDS 27 NOV **EIDA AWARENESS WEBINAR** **BIRD AND BIRD, NEW FETTER LANE**

An awareness raising webinar held by the Employer's Initiative on Domestic Abuse, shining a light on how employers can respond to cases of domestic abuse through best practice and insights.
Booking required.

3RD DECEMBER, 6 - 7:30PM **WOMEN'S PERSONAL** **SAFETY CLASS**

FOUNDRY ROOM, **ST BRIDES FOUNDATION**

An interactive personal safety class led by women to empower women on how to enhance their personal safety, identify common threats and how to recognise them fast and coping with fear and reducing the 'freeze' response among other tactics. Each person is given a free personal safety alarm upon completion of the class.

3RD DECEMBER **BYSTANDER INTERVENTION** **TRAINING**

ONLINE VIA ZOOM - 12PM - 12:30PM

An enhanced training session designed to upskill all delegates on how to be an active bystander when they see forms of harassment take place, safely and without putting their own safety at risk. Held online via Zoom at lunchtime.

5TH DECEMBER, 12PM-2PM **'DON'T CROSS THE LINE'** **DAY OF ACTION**

ACROSS FLEET ST QUARTER

Partnering with the City of London Corporation on their perpetrator focused 'Don't Cross the Line' Campaign, tackling misogynistic behaviours on nights out. We will be busy engaging with hospitality venues across the Quarter, sharing campaign assets and raising awareness of their message.

10TH DECEMBER, 11:30AM-2PM **VAWG AWARENESS** **COMMUNITY HUB**

OUTSIDE BLACKFRIARS STATION

Working in partnership with City of London Police, Safer Business Network and the City of London Corporation to deliver an awareness raising community hub focusing on initiatives supported by Fleet Street Quarter that aim to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls. Join us as we discuss Safe Havens, Ask for Angela and offer the opportunity for a 'Walk and Talk' with a City Police officer.

CORD UNVEILS LUXURIOUS FESTIVE MENU

As the festive season approaches, the search for the perfect place to celebrate begins. Located on Fleet Street, CORD offers an elegant escape, ideal for adding a touch of sophistication to your holiday gatherings.

This year, Executive Chef Karl O'Dell presents a festive menu with a refined twist on classic flavours. Guests can savour the tender Turkey Wellington, wrapped in golden pastry and served with traditional trimmings, or indulge in the Highland Venison En Croute from the tasting menu, complemented

by seasonal accents like morel mushrooms, pear, and bacon. Each dish is crafted using the finest ingredients, offering a festive dining experience that feels both luxurious and comforting.

But CORD is more than just a place to eat—it's the perfect spot to host your festive gathering. Whether you're planning a private lunch with colleagues or a larger evening event, the restaurant's stylish private dining rooms offer an intimate escape from the hustle of the City, creating a truly memorable celebration.

In a city filled with dining options, CORD stands out for its quiet elegance and commitment to quality. Let CORD take care of your celebration, so you can focus on enjoying great food, company, and the festive spirit.

CORD
85 FLEET ST, EC4Y 1AE



METHOD



1. PREHEAT AND PREPARE THE DUCK

Preheat the oven to 220°C. Pat the duck legs dry with a kitchen towel and season both sides generously with salt and pepper.

2. SAUTÉ THE VEGETABLES

Choose a dish that is suitable for both stove and oven. Over medium heat, gently sauté the chopped onions and carrots until golden brown. Add the garlic and cook for another minute, stirring to prevent burning.



3. ARRANGE DUCK LEGS AND ADD STOCK

Place the duck legs, skin side down, on top of the vegetables. Pour in enough chicken stock to cover the legs just above halfway, then top up with red wine to reach the same level. Arrange four whole clementines and a few sprigs of thyme (optional) around the duck legs.

4. COVER AND BAKE

Cover the dish tightly with foil or a lid. Bake for 20 minutes, then reduce the heat to 180°C and continue baking for another 40 minutes.

5. CHECK FOR TENDERNESS

Remove the foil and check if the meat is starting to become tender. If not, return the dish to the oven, checking every 10 minutes until the duck reaches your desired tenderness.



6. CRISP THE DUCK

When the duck is tender, transfer the legs to a baking tray. Return them to the oven and bake for an additional 15 minutes, or until the skin is brown and crisp.

7. PREPARE THE SAUCE

Strain the cooking liquid from the vegetables into a saucepan. Skim off excess fat, then simmer over medium heat to reduce and thicken, about 10 minutes. If it's not thick enough, whisk in a small amount of cornstarch.

8. GLAZE AND SERVE

While the duck crisps, prepare your chosen sides. Once ready, using a pastry brush glaze the duck with the reduced sauce and its ready to be served!



BRAISED DUCK LEGS WITH RED WINE & CLEMENTINES

Ciara Wilczur-Wieja
Operations Manager
Fleet Street Quarter BID

Winter is my favourite time to cook. With colder nights and more people staying in to save money, it's the perfect season to test your kitchen skills and try something special. There always seems to be a bottle of red wine around and an offer on duck legs, making this recipe both accessible and rewarding. My husband is a big fan of duck, and this is one of his absolute favourite dishes. With the tender duck, sweet clementines, and a hint of red wine, it's a dish that pairs perfectly with a cozy evening on the sofa, a glass of mulled wine, and a favourite festive film.

Total cooking time: aprox 1hr 55min

Ingredients

- 4 duck legs
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 ½ cups (350ml) chicken stock
- 1 cup (240ml) red wine
- 4 clementines, whole
- Fresh thyme sprigs (optional)
- 1-2 tsp cornstarch (optional, for thickening)

Suggested Sides

- Roasted or mashed sweet potatoes
- Tenderstem broccoli
- Peas
- Yellow rice
- Fresh salad

CROSSWORD

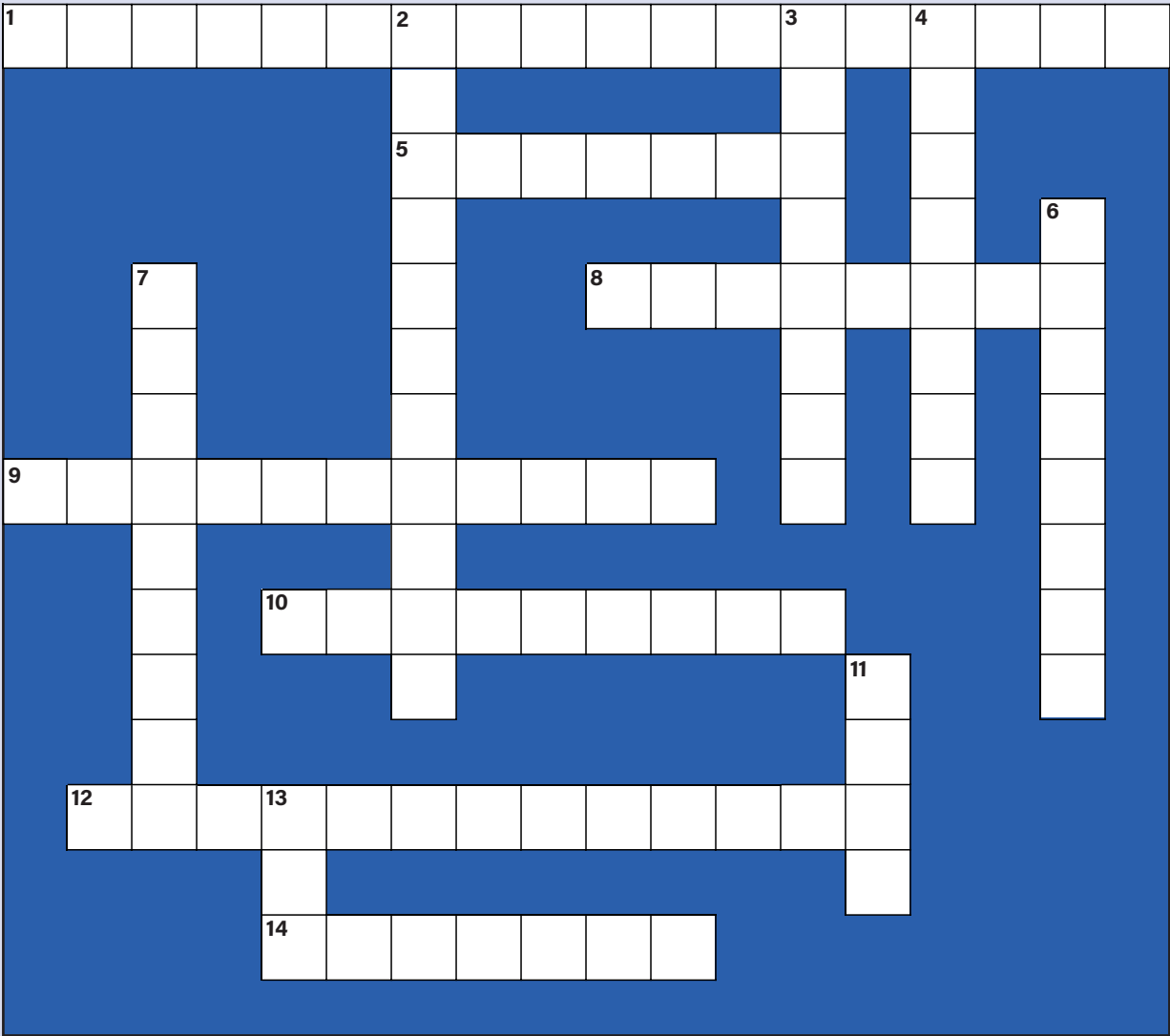
Try your hand at our area themed crossword.
Clues are scattered throughout this paper, with answers available on the bottom left of the next page.

ACROSS

- 1 British curry; perhaps featuring at The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch? (7,5,6)
- 5 Fleet Street Quarter's icy trail animal (7)
- 8 Archaic term for Christmas (8)
- 9 Spiced biscuit often shaped like a person (11)
- 10 Now obsolete word in Dr Johnson's Dictionary (9)
- 12 Famous story featuring a yellow brick road (3, 6, 2, 2)
- 14 Last name of map illustrator; also chickpea ball often served in pita (7)

DOWN

- 2 Key ingredient for fermented Korean dish (4, 8)
- 3 Pastry containing chopped filling is a Christmas treat (5, 3)
- 4 Location of the first recorded use of Christmas lights (3, 5)
- 6 Temporary South London home of the Migration Museum (8)
- 7 Meditative sonic experience (5,4)
- 11 Typical Japanese citrus fruit; found in Black Lacquer bar cocktail (4)
- 13 Global organization dedicated to wildlife conservation (3)



EXPERIENCE THE LEGACY AND VIBRANCE OF FLEET STREET AT LEONARD AND MICHAEL BARBERSHOP

Tom Whall
Leonard and Michael Barbershop

As we approach our 50th year nestled in the iconic Poppins Court, just a stone's throw from Fleet Street, Leonard and Michael Barbershop continues to be a cornerstone of the historic Ludgate House. Over the years, we've witnessed a remarkable transformation of the neighbourhood. Once the epicentre of the UK's newspaper industry, Fleet Street has evolved into a lively hub for financial and professional services, with the legal sector maintaining its long-standing presence. The completion of the Elizabeth Line at Farringdon and the transport upgrades at Blackfriars have only added to the area's dynamism.

But it's not just the professionals that keep Fleet Street buzzing. We're equally thrilled by the influx of students from world-class institutions such as the London School of Economics and King's College. Their youthful energy infuses the area with fresh ideas and a vibrant spirit, creating a dynamic blend alongside the city's workers, bustling offices, charming shops, and esteemed legal chambers.

At Leonard and Michael Barbershop, we embrace this vibrant mix of tradition and modernity. After the challenges of the Covid pandemic and the shift towards remote work, it's been exciting to welcome this new generation of students alongside our loyal clientele of city professionals. We've adapted to the changing needs of our customers with app-based booking, extended hours, and even Saturday openings - ensuring that our expert cuts and personalised service remain as accessible as ever.

As Fleet Street's story continues to unfold, we're proud to stand as a constant, offering a blend of traditional and contemporary barbering in a community that thrives on innovation and change. Here's to another 50 years of growth, style, and camaraderie at Leonard and Michael Barbershop, where every visit is a celebration of the rich heritage and vibrant future of Fleet Street.

**LEONARD & MICHAEL BARBERSHOP,
1-2 POPPIN'S CT, FLEET ST, EC4A 4AX**



BRITAIN'S MISSING MUSEUM: COMING SOON TO THE CITY OF LONDON

Matthew Plowright
Migration Museum

A landmark new cultural destination is coming to the City of London in 2027, when the Migration Museum will open at its new permanent home on Crutched Friars, a stone's throw from Fenchurch Street and Aldgate.

The Migration Museum explores how the movement of people to and from the UK across the ages has shaped who we are – as individuals, as communities, and as nations.

On an almost daily basis, we see how conversations about migration can become heated and polarising. But it doesn't have to be like this. Far from dividing us, migration is a subject that has the potential to unite us through shared experience and family histories. And migration goes to the heart of almost every aspect of our lives – from the clothes we wear to the food we eat, the places we work to the music we love.

Britain has many brilliant museums, but none comprehensively focused on this important theme that connects us all. Now more than ever, we need an inspiring, permanent cultural institution that puts our migration story at centre stage. And there is no more fitting location for this museum than in the City, Britain's gateway to the world for thousands of years.

The new Migration Museum will encompass permanent and temporary exhibition galleries; dynamic spaces for events, learning, and meetings; an artist studio; and a shop and restaurant providing vibrant platforms for migrant makers and chefs. Our courtyard will host performances, an annual sculptural commission and a migration storytelling garden. And we are planning a programme of walking tours and collaborations with cultural neighbours to show how migration stories really are everywhere you look.

We look forward to sharing more details with you soon. In the meantime, come and visit us at our current temporary home in Lewisham, south-east London, to explore our new major exhibition All Our Stories: Migration and the Making of Britain and our community curated exhibition Inside/Outside and All In Between.

To find out more, visit migrationmuseum.org or get in touch with us at supporters@migrationmuseum.org to find out how you can get involved and help us to create Britain's missing museum in the heart of the City of London.



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across:
1.Chicken Tikka Masala, 5.Penguin,
8.Yuletide, 9.Gingerbread,
10.Jiggumbob, 12.The Wizard of Oz,
14.Falafel
Down:
2.Napa Cabbage, 3.Mince pie, 4.San
Diego, 6.Lewisham, 7.Sound bath,
11.Yuzu, 13.WWF



VINYL VIBES AND TURKISH DELIGHTS: HYDE LONDON CITY IS HERE TO CELEBRATE!

Daniela Aili
Head of sales, Hyde London City

Hyde London City has now been open for a few months now and has been bringing a new vibe to City of London! After a long journey to bring the hotel to life— it's been great to see everything come together and to meet so many of our new neighbours. Hyde has found its home in this fantastic corner of London, and we're looking forward to everything that lies ahead.

Set within our beautiful Grade II listed building at 15 Old Bailey, Hyde London City combines the local history with a modern, playful energy. At heart, we are a hotel based on the freedom of a festival, with our sister sites, in Ibiza, Bodrum and Miami to name a few, Hyde London promises to bring a fresh energy to the area.

Leydi, our modern Turkish restaurant, headed up by Head Chef Halil Simsek, has been serving up the bold, communal flavors of Istanbul. If you haven't visited yet, we're excited to welcome you! With dishes like endless

meze, home-baked bread, and Mangal-grilled meats, our Turkish space, has created the perfect space for long, lively meals. And yes, this Christmas we are celebrating with a special addition to the menu, our very own, mince pie börek!

Head downstairs, and you will find Black Lacquer, our hidden treasure underneath the hotel. Here, the party can really start, Black Lacquer is a dedicated vinyl bar, a vinyl-only DJ line up every Thursday- Saturday, till 2am, to be enjoyed alongside our Japanese-inspired cocktail menu. Cocktails such as 'When doves cry' is a spiced and clarified take on the classic Paloma, using yuzu sake and scotch bonnet. The cosy and intimate hideaway is great for anyone looking to enjoy great drinks and a relaxed atmosphere. Watch this space for news on our New Year's Eve party!

It's been a great start for Hyde London City, and can't wait to celebrate the festive season and New Year with you all!

HYDE LONDON CITY
15 OLD BAILEY, EC4M 7EF



17 GOUGH SQUARE: A STORY OF SURVIVAL SINCE 1690

Celine Luppo McDaid
Director
Dr Johnson's House

The whole of Gough Square was built in the 1690s and funded by a City wool merchant, Richard Gough, who gave his name to the square. He and his family lived in number 17, originally the largest building here. The timber-framed, brick townhouse, was part of a development in Gough Square, of which Dr Johnson's

House at number 17 is the only one to survive.

Dr Samuel Johnson (1709–1784), one of the greatest literary figures of the eighteenth century, lived here when he compiled his famous Dictionary of the English Language, published in 1755. This publication was of crucial importance in the development of the English language and the House is an open window into the Age of Enlightenment.

The Grade I listed building has retained many of its period features, which include historic

panelling, a fine open staircase, wooden floorboards, a quirky cellarette cupboard, coal holes and even the original door handles. The eighteenth-century front door still has its original anti-burglary devices intact, including a heavy chain with corkscrew latch.

Dr Johnson was a tenant at 17 Gough Square, and following his departure in 1759, the house went through a variety of different uses. It had other lodgers, was used as a small hotel and B&B and was even a printers' workshop.

By 1911 it had fallen into a sad state of disrepair, with water leaking through the roof. At this point it was saved and restored by Cecil Harmsworth, a Liberal MP.

During World War II, the then Curator and her daughter were granted permission to run an informal canteen at the House for the Auxiliary Fire Service. The House later became a social club for the Auxiliary Firemen - known as 'the heroes with the grimy faces' - giving many a tired fireman some respite from the bombing during the Blitz. The servicemen also used the building as a watch tower for the neighbourhood as one of the tallest buildings in the area. Dr Johnson's House was struck on several occasions: the Garret was badly damaged and a new roof had to be constructed after the war but, remarkably, the fires were always put out in time and the House survived.

Dr Johnson's House has been welcoming visitors since 1911. Cecil Harmsworth, who was passionate about the importance of Dr Johnson's legacy for future generations was also adamant that Dr Johnson's House should always feel like a home and not a 'stuffy museum'. You can enter all the rooms in the House and sit down on the chairs and window seats to soak up the atmosphere.

And in keeping with Lord Harmsworth's wishes – and Dr Johnson's convivial and sociable personality - the House still has tea parties, and can be hired for private and corporate events and dinners.

DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE
17 GOUGH SQUARE, EC4A 3DE

THE LORD MAYOR'S BIG CURRY LUNCH



Michael Hockney
Co-Chairman and Founder
The LMBCL

The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch first took place in April 2008, hosted by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at Guildhall, the centre of the City of London's governance, ceremonial and philanthropy.

It was planned to be a Civic and Guildhall event but with a number of differences: an informal occasion with an accessible fixed price which allowed guests unlimited curries and accompanying drinks, no seating plan, everyone serves themselves – and can go back for seconds as often as they wished.

At the outset the Lunch had a number of purposes:

- to raise funds to support former Soldiers, both Regulars and Reservists who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families
- to raise awareness in the City community of the role of the Armed Forces of The Crown, particularly among a younger generation of City folk
- to build awareness of the Army's national service charity that works ceaselessly to support veterans and their families
- to emphasise to City workers the breadth and depth of the City's philanthropy in support of those in society who need help in a variety of ways

The first Lunch in 2008 attracted 700 guests and raised £143,000. Its success was helped hugely by the support of His Majesty The King, when as The Prince of Wales, he agreed to be the first Royal Guest of Honour at a Curry Lunch.

Following its success, the attendance grew year on year to the extent that we now use all the principal rooms in Guildhall, generously provided by the Corporation of the City of London without any charge, to accommodate 1,650 guests.

In 2023 for the first time we filled every one of the 1,650 available places at the Lunch and raised over £400,000 after expenses. We did the same again this year at the Lunch in April 2024

As of May 2024, we have contributed a total of over £3.7 million to help support veterans and their families.

SUPPORTING ALL MILITARY VETERANS

In 2018 we took the decision to widen the scope of support from the proceeds of the Lunch. The LMBCL now supports veterans of all the Armed Forces of the Crown and their families.

FOCUS ON VETERAN EMPLOYMENT

From 2019 onwards we have focussed our efforts on helping veterans secure rewarding and sustainable employment in the civilian

world. In doing so, the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch has aligned with the employment and employability strand of the Civic and Mayoral strategy 'A Better City For All', by providing financial support for veterans to take part in two programmes to help veterans into work.

THE PAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

From the April 2019 Lunch, part of the proceeds have funded veterans of the Armed Forces to be able to take part in the Pain Management Programme (PMP) at the King Edward VII Hospital's (KEVII) Centre for Veterans' Health (CVH).

CVH's PMP is unique in that it is designed solely for veterans. The purpose is to address the individual issues, both physical and psychological, involving pain that prevents a veteran from leading a full life. The CVH team has found that chronic pain is the most significant barrier to a veteran being able to find and sustain meaningful employment, which is the 'backbone' of their future wellbeing and impacts on every other aspect of their personal lives and their families.

It costs £6,500 to fund one veteran through the PMP. From the proceeds of the 2024 Lunch, we are funding 15 military veterans waiting to go on the PMP.

LIFEWORKS

In 2022 we are adding a second charity which focuses on veteran employment. Lifeworks' sole focus is to provide education and training for veterans from all the Services and their families.

This involves practical advice, guidance, and support regardless of the length of service and is available nationwide, wherever veterans live.

The Lifeworks team is made up of highly experienced career coaches and vocational assessors who work across the UK:

- they help veterans identify their strengths and help decide on potential career and training opportunities
- they help veterans develop the skills they need to job search and write a cv
- they build confidence by helping veterans manage the impact of a major change in situation after leaving the Armed Forces
- they enable veterans to approach working in the civilian workplace with increased confidence and motivation.

Each course run by Lifeworks costs £1,500 but is always free of charge to the veterans taking part. This means that Lifeworks is entirely dependent on public donations and grants from charities and trusts.

Through the proceeds of the 2024 Lunch, we are providing funding for 65 military veterans to attend a Lifeworks course.

THE SUPPORT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY

Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was the Patron of the three single service charities and received an annual report on the Lunch. A Message from Queen Elizabeth was always included in the Lunch Programme. For the 2023 and 2024 Lunches, we have included a Message from His Majesty The King.

Every year since 2008 the Lunch has been graced with the presence of one or more members of The Royal Family as our principal guest(s).

THE SUPPORT OF THE MAYORALTY

The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch has enjoyed the active support of each successive Lord Mayor of the City of London since the first LMBCL in 2008. The Lord Mayor co-chairs the Committee for each Lunch, along with the founder of the Lunch, Michael Hockney. The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress/Lord Mayor's Consort host the Lunch.

THE UNIQUE POSITION THAT THE LUNCH HOLDS IN THE CITY

The City and the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch are intertwined. Since the first Lunch in 2008, the Lunch has become a staple event in the City calendar with many institutions and businesses offering their support.

From the attendance of senior City officials at the Lunch to the generous contribution of Guildhall without charge, to the financial and in-kind support of businesses and the Livery and Ward Clubs, the Lunch relies on the City in many ways and is so grateful for its support.

WHO ATTENDS

Among the 1,650 guests at the Lunch, there are usually Ministers from the MOD, the senior officers of the Armed Forces, Aldermen, HM Judges from the Old Bailey, Livery Masters and members and a large number of business and professional leaders from the City.

In recent years, we have targeted younger members of the City community, believing that this is an occasion to use the Lunch to tell the story of what the Armed Forces of The Crown are called upon to do in the service of their country.

At the Lunch we have a number of serving members of the Armed Forces and veterans who have been helped in a variety of ways with funding from the Lunch. They share their experience and stories with the other guests.

Then there are the 300 volunteers drawn from London UOTC, Sandhurst Cadets, the HAC, FANY, London District Garrison, the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force, the three single service charities and young City workers who just want to give of their time to support.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Do have a look at the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch website, where you can:

- consider sponsoring a veteran
- buy tickets for the raffle of the unique Trafalgar Watch, handmade by one of the UK's leading watchmakers
- buy a jar of Mr Todiwala's Lord Mayor's Big Curry Masala

events.armybenevolentfund.org/lordmayors

To talk to a member of the LMBCL team: email: lmbsc@armybenevolentfund.org



CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH EVENTS ACROSS FLEET STREET QUARTER!



Chancery Lane

CHANCERY LANE LIGHTS

Switch on Wed 13 Nov, 5:30pm
Until Sun 5 Jan

Kick off the seasonal cheer with a dazzling festive lights display illuminating the famous Chancery Lane. Our launch event on the 13th will feature festive song from London Community Voices Choir and festive treats from Lucky Voice Holborn.

Across the Quarter

FSQ PENGUIN PARADE

Thu 14 Nov - Sun 5 Jan

This winter, discover the Fleet Street Quarter Penguin Parade sculpture trail, created by Wild in Art and in support of WWF. Embark on a fabulous festive adventure to discover 12 adorable penguin sculptures throughout the Quarter. Each penguin is decked out in unique festive finery designed by talented artists.

Ludgate Circus

LUDGATE LUMINATIONS

Switch on Thu 14 Nov, 5:30pm
Until Sun 5 Jan

Join us as we illuminate Ludgate Circus with a shimmering spectacle of festive lights! Expect mince pies, mulled wine, hot chocolate, alongside carols from our FSQ Choir and market stalls from Crafty Fox.

Workspace Fleet Street

FESTIVE WREATH WORKSHOP ★

Tue 19 Nov, 12 - 1pm
Tue 10 Dec, 6 - 7pm

Get into the festive spirit with Jar and Fern's Wreath Making Workshop! Join us to create your own stunning wreath using seasonal foliage and decorations.



Meet outside Blank Street Coffee,
Ludgate Circus

LITERARY HISTORY OF FSQ TOUR ★

Wed 20 Nov, 12 - 1pm

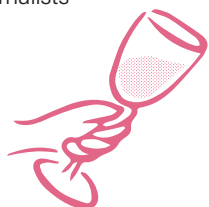
Join David Harry for a festive tour through the storied streets of FSQ, where the legacy of British literature and journalism lives on in every corner. Discover tales of literary giants like Dickens and Wilde, the infamous Sweeney Todd, and pioneering women journalists who shaped Fleet Street's vibrant history.

The Amicable Society
of Lazy Ballerinas

FESTIVE WINE TASTING ★

Mon 25 Nov, 6pm

Indulge in the joy of the season at Lazy Ballerinas Bar with our Festive Wine Tasting. Explore exquisite wines guided by experts – you could even find the ideal Christmas present, or simply a treat for yourself!



St Bride Foundation

CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP ★

Wed 27 Nov, 12 - 1pm

Design and make your own Christmas cards with Bella Gomez. Each card is unique and features a design that can be detached and used as a Christmas tree decoration!

Tattle Coffee House - St Paul's

CHRISTMAS COOKIE DECORATING ★

Tue 3 Dec, 5:30 - 7pm

Join us for biscuits & bubbles! Taught by bespoke biscuit maker Lost Together Bakery, you'll learn to decorate and get to take home six of your own almost-too-good-looking-to-eat biscuits. Accompanied by drinks and canapes from the luxe Lost Property hotel near St Paul's, you don't want to miss this treat of a class.



New Street Square

MAKERS' MARKET

Wed 4 & Thu 5 Dec

Our Festive Makers' Market returns with hand-crafted gifts from independent artisans provided by Crafty Fox. Pick up the perfect present right here in FSQ!

Kimchimama

CHRISTMAS KIMCHI WORKSHOP ★

Wed 4 Dec, 6 - 7pm

Make your own kimchi with Kimchimama Fleet Street. Kimchi is an emblematic dish of Korea and in this one hour class you'll make an jar of your very own kimchi from scratch – perfect for gifting!

Dr Johnson's House

MUSEUM LATE AT DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE ★

Thu 5 Dec, 5:30 - 7pm

Join us for candlelit Christmas drinks in Dr Johnson's enchanting and atmospheric 17th-century Home of Words! Dr Johnson is one of the greatest literary figures of the 18th century and compiled his Dictionary of the English Language at his home in Gough Square.

Dr Johnson's House

FREE FAMILY FUN MORNING ★

Sat 7 Dec, 10am - 12pm

Explore Dr Johnson's incredible House of Words! Ever wondered what a Slubberdegullion, Jiggumbob or Camelopard is? Find out in Dr Johnson's famous Dictionary of the English Language!



City of London Distillery

GIN MAKING WORKSHOP ★

Tue 10 Dec, 6-8pm

Craft your own unique gin at a hands-on experience with The City of London Distillery! Learn the art of distillation and create your own personalised bottle to take away.

Dr Johnson's House

DR JOHNSON'S FESTIVE LECTURE SPECIAL ★

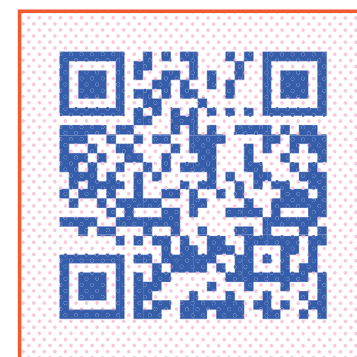
Thu 12 Dec, 12pm - 12:30pm

Join us for a very special festive edition of our Dr Johnson's House lecture series. We'll be exploring the history of Georgian Christmas and the yuletide traditions in Dr Johnson's time.

★ Booking required for events marked

All money from ticketed events
will be donated to WWF

SCAN TO BOOK



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