



FLEET STREET QUARTERLY

Festive special 2025

Shaping This Historic Location Into a Thriving Quarter

fleetstreetquarter.co.uk



Christmas Celebrations from 2024

A YEAR OF FUN, FESTIVALS, AND FESTIVITIES!

Lady Lucy French OBE
CEO, Fleet Street Quarter BID

Is it me or are the years getting shorter? 2025 has positively flown by - and what a year it has been! One of the things I love about the Fleet Street Quarter is that every day is different, be it Bike Marking, playing Wall Ball or spending time with our brilliant neighbours. It is wonderful to get to know more of our community and the vast range of businesses in the area.

Regular readers of the Fleet Street Quarterly will have a good idea of what's been happening over the last year, but the end

of year is always a good time to reflect. Key highlights for me have been working with the City of London corporation, its officers and ward members on the progression of three public realm partnership projects: the Lanes and Courtyard; Holborn Viaduct; and the big one: the Transformation of Fleet Street. These programmes will make a meaningful difference to the urban fabric, creating places to easily navigate, dwell, feel safe and enjoy some much-needed greenery - I have enjoyed initial consultations; meeting stakeholders, businesses and residents, all playing our part in the future of this special place.

Another aspect of the year that I will look back

on with great affection have been our series of festivals! It brings to mind the prologue of Stephen Sondheim's brilliant musical 'Into the Woods' where Cinderella says that above all else, she 'wishes to go to the festival!' She would have been very happy in the FSQ this year! We saw our third year of participation in the London Festival of Architecture, and it was tremendous to work with the Polish Cultural Institute to mark the UK/Polish season this year. Whispers by Oscar Zieta as become a much-loved part of the urban landscape. I particularly loved the Genesis event - where the Copenhagen Collective performed some astounding acrobatics around, in and on

the sculpture, ahead of their performances at Sadlers Wells Peacock Theatre. We hope that Whispers will stay in situ for some time ahead of its transfer to a very special long-term home!

We also held our second Climate Festival across the Fleet Street Quarter BID; sustainability and the March to net zero is a real priority for us and it was wonderful to welcome Mary Creagh CBE Minister from DEFRA to the area. We were privileged to hear her thoughts on the circular economy, and how we can all play our part going forwards.

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While our third year of the London Festival of Architecture and second Climate Festival were tremendous, perhaps most excitingly we saw our very first FSQ Festival of Words: our very own literary festival! It was a thrilling step into the unknown, but our community completely embraced the idea and quickly demonstrated that the place where stories have always been born needed a festival like this. The press came home, and it was a great joy for us all! We are now in the midst of planning next year's Festival of Words, and while our theme should probably be top-secret, I just can't resist giving our readers a sneak preview! I can now reveal that our theme for the 2026 Festival of Words is ... 'The Age of Wisdom and Foolishness'! Given the world as it is right now there will certainly be scope to address both!

As you can tell, we've been doing as much as possible this year to put the Fleet Street Quarter back on the map, to encourage a

connected community, and to keep the area clean and green. On top of that, in our third year we held a huge range of events and activities to make our community as safe and secure as possible. Working closely with City of London Police, we engaged and informed our business community on a range of issues including nighttime and women's safety, cyber resilience and the increasing problem of mobile phone theft. We were pleased to launch a brand-new phone marking initiative with City of London Police, which has helped to drive down phone snatching in the Fleet Street Quarter by 30%!

And so, as the leaves start to fall, the nights draw in, and the air chills, everything becomes a little bit cosier. Having been planning our festive programme since January, it is now very exciting to start to see it come to fruition. From mid-November Festive Fleet Street will welcome its third Wild in Art trail. FSQ has already played host to snowmen and

penguins, what might this year bring? Well, this year it's a hop, skip and a bark along the lanes and alleyways of the area as we invite you to discover Snoopy, and in his 75th anniversary year too!

This holiday season Fleet Street Quarter will see more singing, more workshops, more festive shopping and more festive fun for all! I heartily concur with Snoopy's wise thought "it's not what's under the Christmas Tree that matters, it's who's around it" and we look forward to seeing you, our FSQ community at events across the season.

As we look towards a New Year, 2026 we will see an important landmark for the bid as we enter the penultimate year of our five-year term. This will be a year for reflection, learning, and listening. We will launch our perception analysis where we invite you to help guide us in the writing of our bid proposal for our second term. We will hold our ballot in very

early 2027 and your voices, your ideas, aspirations and hopes for the future are what will drive our second term, if we are fortunate enough to have your continued support.

Now, before I sign off, I wanted to give a word of thanks. We could not deliver any of our work without the FSQ team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our brilliant Board, our fantastic chair, Roy Pinnock (Denton), our Steering Group members and the phenomenal home team who give FSQ their absolute all. We are privileged to serve you as the custodians of a remarkable history and the curators of an extraordinary future.

As our esteemed former local resident Dr Samuel Johnson wrote to his friend Boswell in 1777: "this is the time of year in which all express their good wishes to their friends, and I send mine to you and your family", and I too extend my very good wishes to you all!



The northern facade of the Holborn Viaduct lit up at night

PROPOSED LIGHTING SCHEME FOR HOLBORN VIADUCT

Mike Fairman
Head of Placemaking
Fleet Street Quarter BID

One of the features of Fleet Street is the striking view of Holborn Viaduct over Farringdon Street. It was built by the Victorians as a bridge over the River Fleet valley, although by this time the river had been put into a culvert to allow for the construction of Farringdon Street. The viaduct comprises one of the first flyovers in London and also includes a smaller bridge over Shoe Lane, along with four pavilions that contain staircases to allow access from the Viaduct to Farringdon Street.

Our Era of Change Public Realm vision for the area identified improved lighting of the Viaduct as a priority project due to its role as a gateway, and as a means of bringing the area's rich history to life in commemorating the River Fleet. Not only would new feature lighting celebrate the historic importance of both bridges, but on a practical level better lighting would also improve the look and feel of the area for people walking and cycling under the bridges and make the area feel safer.

Just north of the Viaduct is the Smithfield

Market building which is being refurbished to accommodate new and much larger premises for the London Museum. This is part of a larger transformation of the area and the opening of the Museum in 2027 and its one million plus visitors every year will emphasise the threshold nature of the Viaduct and its role in facilitating welcome and safe passage to the area.

Last year we commissioned the global engineering firm WSP to come up with design ideas to feature-light the bridge, balancing the need for better lighting with the need to respect the historic importance of the viaduct.

This has meant using their technical ingenuity and innovative new lighting products to make our vision into reality. In autumn we held a test of our proposed lighting scheme in front of invited guests to give a preview of how the newly lit structure would appear. Having done this, we now need to apply for Listed Building Consent. Keep an eye out in our e-newsletters (subscribe at www.fleetstreetquarter.co.uk) for project updates where we will keep you updated and please do write in support of our application. We hope the newly lit bridges across both Farringdon Street and Shoe Lane will be in place for autumn 2026.



Designed by Olaf Falafel

SNOOPY SCULPTURE TRAIL COMES TO FLEET STREET QUARTER

Lesli Flinn
Head of Marketing and Communications
Fleet Street Quarter BID

The festive season would be nothing without traditions, new and old. Reading classic Christmas stories, indulging in mince pies, reconnecting with friends, cutting loose (but not too loose) at the corporate Christmas party, and, more recently, exploring the Fleet Street Quarter's Festive sculpture trail.

Celebrating the third year of this new tradition of outdoor art trails in the Quarter as part of our Festive Fleet Street offering, we're especially excited this year to have an absolute icon joining us with a world-first trail: Snoopy in the City!

In 1950, Charles M Schulz introduced Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the rest of the Peanuts gang to the world in seven newspapers. In

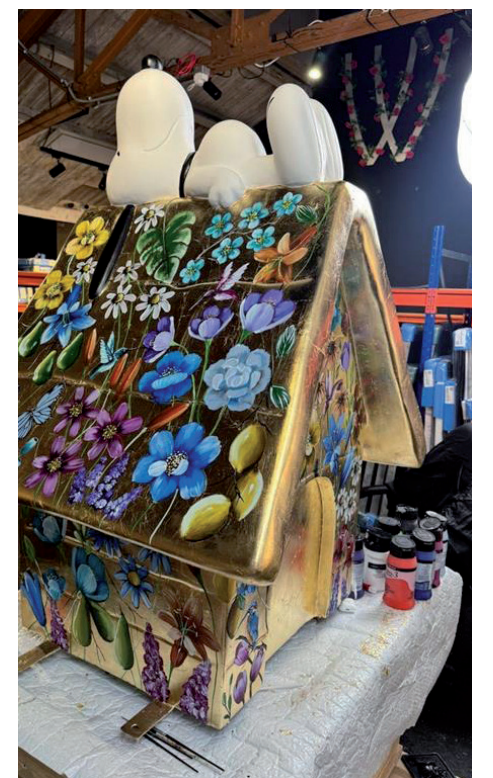
the 75 years since, Peanuts has become a beloved global phenomenon, printed in over 2,600 newspapers in 75 countries in 21 languages. They've even partnered with NASA and been to space! So, we're over the moon (pun intended) to welcome Snoopy to Fleet Street Quarter this season.

We've once again joined forces with Wild in Art, global specialists in spectacular public art events, to bring to life this new Snoopy trail. Featuring Snoopy on his famous doghouse, each sculpture has been designed and painstakingly hand-painted by one of twelve different artists, brightening the city landscape and creating moments of surprise and delight.

Snoopy in the City sculptures will appear across Fleet Street Quarter from 19th November and build on our mission as a BID, to champion innovation, culture, and public art. The trail draws on the legacy of

the Quarter as the earliest home of London's publishing industry and bringing Snoopy, one of the world's most recognised and loved comic strip characters, back onto the streets where he would have first been seen in print nearly 75 years ago, honours the district's cultural heritage while also using art and technology to bring new life and vibrancy to these storied pavements.

In the words of Snoopy, there's something very exciting about going on a journey. So, join us this season on a journey across the Fleet Street Quarter, guided by our festive sculpture trail. See if you can spot references to Dickens, Shakespeare, the lost river Fleet and even a hint at our urban greening initiatives and gardening club! Step away from your desk, tune in to the audio tour, enjoy the joyful artwork and consider the beauty of our shared human experience, as Snoopy and his friends have helped us do for 75 years.



'A Golden Hound' in progress.

LOOKING FOR FESTIVE FUN ACROSS THE QUARTER?

We've put together a selection of seasonal offers, events, deals, and booking packages for you and your team!



CHRISTMAS AT DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE 17 GOUGH SQUARE

Shop for Unique Gifts & Cards at their Gift Shop, 11am-5pm Tues to Sat, or enjoy a Candlelit Evening Visit with Drinks & a Talk on Georgian Christmas: 20 November & 4 December 5.30-7pm. Plus don't miss out on a Historic Walk & Visit Tour: 12 November & 10 December, 1-3pm!

This beautiful Georgian House is available for your sparkling reception: enquire now for dates



LEYDI AND BLACK LACQUER @HYDE 15 OLD BAILEY

Leydi have announced their festive Menu at £75 or £95 per head for tables over 10 people, as well as an A La Carte Menu with a festive twist on desserts!

In addition, Black Lacquer is available to book for shared or private parties. Email to book now!



YE OLDE CHESHIRE CHEESE 145 FLEET STREET

With a variety of beautifully preserved function rooms to cater to different size groups, this historical pub is a great place to celebrate the holidays!

Their delicious Christmas menu is available from 17th of November to 23rd of December offers a set menu for pre booked parties of over 10 people: 2 courses for only £39, and 3 courses for £48.



HUMBLE GRAPE 1 ST. BRIDES PASSAGE

There's no better way to get into the festive spirit than with great food, flowing wine, and the company of friends, family or colleagues.

Book your Christmas party for November and skip the seasonal scramble. Even better? Humble Grape are raising a glass to early birds:

Parties of 8 or more dining on their Christmas Set Menu will each receive a complimentary glass of sparkling wine.



WINTER AT SABINE ROOFTOP 10 GODLIMAN STREET

Not only have Sabine launched their Christmas menu, but they're also offering packages for groups and semi-exclusive or fully-exclusive hire.

- Winter Soirée for £105 per person
- Frosted Elegance for £155 per person
- Starlit Prestige for £205 per person

3 courses and aperitif set menu £58 per person + a glass of welcome prosecco for only £5 a person!



PUNCH TAVERN 99 FLEET STREET

Celebrate Christmas 2025 at Punch Tavern, Fleet Street with mouthwatering dishes, seasonal tipples, and a welcoming atmosphere. Whether it's friends, family or workmates, gather your crew and let the festivities begin. Book now to avoid missing out!



PARTY AT ST BRIDE FOUNDATION 14 BRIDE LANE

Book the perfect Christmas party in one of St Bride Foundation's many beautiful rooms with a range of all-inclusive Christmas packages, starting at only £16.90+VAT pp. You can even design and print your own Christmas cards in their historic print workshop.

Don't forget to check out their online shop for printed Christmas cards and unique gifts!



HARRILD & SONS 26 FARRINGDON STREET

Harrild & Sons are taking bookings for Christmas parties, dinners, work dos – you name it! With a wide variety of spaces on offer, they've got something for everyone.

Their festive menu is available to view on their website and offers 3 courses from £49.50 per person, as well as incredible festive sharing boards. Find out more and book your table on their website!



CORD FESTIVE HAMPERS 85 FLEET STREET

Every product inside CORD's luxurious gift hampers has been hand-picked with care by world-renowned Le Cordon Bleu Master Chefs.

They have crafted three distinct collections, perfect for delighting friends, thanking colleagues, or impressing clients.

They are pleased to offer a 10% discount for corporate clients who buy 5 or more of one type of hamper.



HYATT REGENCY BLACKFRIARS 19 NEW BRIDGE STREET

Discover the perfect setting for your festive celebrations, with tailored menus and elegant spaces.

Book your Christmas event by 30th October and receive an exclusive gift!

- Complimentary overnight stay
- Luxury Thank-you gift
- Complimentary Drinks upgrade
- Complimentary Dinner for two at NYnLON



EL VINO'S CORPORATE GIFTS 47 FLEET STREET

Looking for a timeless corporate gift? Why not surprise someone with El Vino's festive packages:

- Champagne with chocolates
- Port and farmhouse cheddar truckle
- Two bottle gift sets
- Six bottle gift cases
- Wine and food hampers



THE REFINERY 12 NEW STREET SQUARE

Enjoy a magical mixology class with Drake & Morgan where you'll learn to shake up two different types of cocktails! Starting price is £30 per person.

Then relax with a show stopping three-course dinner - their seasonal set menu is available now!



TERRA ROSSA

62 CARTER LANE

Terra Rossa have launched their Christmas menu for 2025 including an amazing deal on their set menu!



GLEAN RESTAURANT 15

BLACK FRIARS LANE

19 NEW BRIDGE STREET

The Glean Restaurant have released their Christmas menu for 2025 featuring set menus at £50 and £60 per person!

Dine in style this winter for your Office Christmas party!



CHAMBERS RESTAURANT

APEX, 1-2 SERJEANT'S INN

Step into the season of sparkle this December at Chambers Restaurant, right in the heart of London. Our seasonal menu is the perfect way to celebrate.

With flexible layouts, our beautifully designed rooms offer warm hospitality, and a central London location. We'll help you create a seasonal event that's truly your own!



GAUCHO

125 CHANCERY LANE

Gaucha are excited to welcome you for Christmas with an Argentinian twist!

Their festive set menu offers three courses for £55 per person, available from 3rd of November. Bookings open now!



Two cyclists in Ludgate Circus

CYCLING IN THE CITY

Mike Fairmaner
Head of Placemaking
Fleet Street Quarter BID

It's well known that cycling is one of the best forms of exercise, and being able to build it into your commute means it becomes a twice a day exercise every working day.

Across London as a whole, daily cycle journeys have increased by 5% since 2023, with 1.33 million daily journeys taking place in 2024, according to TfL. The strategic cycle network across London is now longer than the Underground network at over 400km! We are fortunate in having Cycleway 3 (along the Embankment) and Cycleway 6 (over Blackfriars Bridge and up Farringdon Road) that give cyclists to the area safe, segregated cycle routes, separated from general road traffic.

Every September we run a cycling competition across our businesses to encourage more cycling: either as part of the daily commute or simply for leisure. We have league tables to promote friendly competition and we also compete with our sister BIDs across the City. This year, we are pleased to say that we had several FSQ businesses in the top 5 for their

company size across the whole of the City – Sainsburys, WSP, LexisNexis, Bird & Bird and we at FSQ came top of our leaderboard for companies with 7-19 staff! It's easy to take part – just sign up on our cycling platform www.lovetoride.net where in January we will be running our Winter Wheelers competition.

FSQ's top position is mainly down to our Operations Manager Ciara who cycles in daily from the other side of Putney throughout the year. It's about 9 miles and is generally quicker than public transport!

Ciara Wilczur-Wieja
Operations Manager
Fleet Street Quarter BID

I've been cycling for as long as I can remember. My dad used to drag me and my sister to school on bikes, rain or shine. At the time it felt like a cruel endurance test, but somewhere between those early morning rides and university commutes through Richmond Park, cycling quietly became a part of who I am.

These days I cycle from the depths of south-west London into the City. It's a journey that takes me through neighbourhoods where cycling feels brilliantly prioritised with wide

cycle lanes, clever traffic lights, and clear signage. On the other hand, there are plenty of stretches where you're suddenly weaving between buses and taxis wondering how this became the designated "safe route" on maps. The difference is huge and it shows how vital good design is if we want more people to ride.

That's something we're trying to improve here in the Fleet Street Quarter. Our upcoming public realm transformation will make the area safer and more welcoming for cyclists with wider pavements and clearer crossing, as well as working with Lime to identify more parking bays and get more people cycling. We are creating an environment where you don't have to be brave to get on a bike.

I've never been Lycra clad or Strava obsessed. I prefer a wide tyre with a decent tread and enough space to enjoy the view. Cycling shouldn't be a niche sport, it should be inclusive, accessible and joyful. Despite the odd patch of traffic chaos there's nothing quite like cycling into the City on a crisp, sunny morning. You don't need to win the Tour de France to enjoy your commute. Just a bike that works, streets that welcome you, and the promise of a hot coffee waiting at the other end.



Attendees voting in our Board directors at the 2024-2025 AGM

FLEET STREET QUARTER CELEBRATES 2024-2025 WITH THE BID COMMUNITY

Cat Pearce
Marketing and Events Intern
Fleet Street Quarter BID

You can read our Annual Report by scanning the QR code to the below.

On the 9th of October we were thrilled to welcome the Fleet Street Quarter BID community to Apothecaries' Hall for our most exciting AGM yet. Our CEO, Lady Lucy French OBE presented on our progress and achievements across our four strategic themes from April 2024 - March 2025. With a continued focus on culture, community, sustainability and safety, this year the BID delivered an ambitious programme that enhances Fleet Street Quarter as a destination of choice for business, leisure and innovation.

The AGM also served as an important platform for the BID's formal governance requirements. Austin Casey, Managing Partner at Primera, presented the adoption of the BID's annual accounts, whilst Fleet Street Quarter BID Chair Roy Pinnock led the appointment of Board Directors and offered closing remarks on the year's achievements.

After the meeting our community joined us for a networking event, featuring our first AGM marketplace which showcased 8 of our local partners and charities. Attendees were able to make connections, meet their neighbours, and explore how they could become more involved with the changing landscape of the area. Accompanied by a live jazz trio of students from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, it was wonderful to see the community's commitment to shaping the future of their district.

The AGM was a valuable occasion for reflection and strengthening our connections and allowed our network to get an early look at some exciting projects in the works for the coming year.





City of London Police walking with our ambassadors as part of Operation Reframe

SAFE AND SECURE END OF YEAR ROUND UP

Beth Nash
Safe and Secure Manager
Fleet Street Quarter BID

As we approach the end of the year, it seems the perfect time to take stock of the projects and activations that have defined the past twelve months at Fleet Street Quarter.

We began the year with the official joint launch of mobile phone marking, coined 'Operation Something' with City of London Police. Mobile phone marking offered a unique opportunity for members of the public to take their own personal safety, and that of their devices, into their own hands. By applying your phone marking sticker to your phone (don't worry, they are anti-tamper proof and can't be scratched off by would-be criminals), you can increase the chance of your device being returned to you if it is stolen and recovered by the Police. We witnessed an overwhelmingly positive response from businesses and locals

to the area and marked over 800 devices throughout the summer months. We continue to work closely with local businesses and City of London Police to bring interactive phone marking pop-ups to you, in your business.

Throughout 2025 we continued our strategic membership with Employer's Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA), working hard to ensure that our SME's can benefit from our membership. We have drawn upon the expertise of multiple charities and partners to create a SME EIDA Toolkit, available in January 2026, which will provide advice and guidance for SME's who may not have a domestic abuse policy or HR function. There is such a poignant business case to be made for this much needed support, as new statistics reveal a staggering 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime across the UK (EIDA citation). Find out more about the work EIDA do at: www.eida.org.uk

Continuing our commitment to work towards ending violence against women and girls (VAWG), we proudly became the first external partner to host 'Operation Reframe' alongside the City of London Police in April. Operation Reframe focuses on 'reframing the night' through the power of partner collaborations and creating a safer, more inclusive night-time economy. Positioned outside Blackfriars Station on a busy Thursday evening, the FSQ team, local police officers and cycle medics were deployed to offer high visibility and support throughout the footprint. At the central hub, over 60 engagements were logged, 2 arrests made for drunk driving by covert officers and patrol teams logging over 30,000 steps!

With the arrival of the darker months, our efforts centred on enhancing community safety and wellbeing. Partnering with Culture Mile BID, we delivered 'Winter Vigilance Week' offering a series of events designed

to support staff and their personal safety, organisational resilience and situational awareness as the darker months approach. Personal safety kits were given to attendees across events, including handy items like alarms, bag hooks and reflective bands.

As the year comes to an end, we are proud to once again support the UN's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence for the second year running. From installing a FSQ 'Pledge Tree' to delivering awareness raising webinars and continuing our 'Orange the Quarter' campaign – we strive to raise the profile of gender-based violence and encourage allyship in our communities and beyond. It's been a year of meaningful partnerships working to make our communities safer for everyone, and I'm excited to continue this journey with your support in 2026.



A view of the City of London Skyline from Fleet Street, featuring St. Pauls

THE ROAD TO TERM TWO

Ciara Wilczur-Wieja
Operations Manager
Fleet Street Quarter BID

Fleet Street Quarter is entering its fifth and final year of its first term – can you believe it?

Five years of lights, sculpture trails, seating, festivals and more meetings than we can count. The year ahead will be one of reflection and preparation as we look back at what's been achieved, celebrate our successes and start shaping what we

hope will be our second term (should our levy paying community choose to re-elect us).

For those new to the world of BIDs (Business Improvement Districts) here's a quick overview. BIDs run in five year terms, the very first BID was formed in Kingston around 20 years ago, inspired by similar models in Canada and the US that had emerged since the 1970s, and many have gone on to become long standing partnerships.

A BID is formed through a democratic vote of occupiers within its defined boundary. Every

property that pays the BID levy has a vote and therefore a say in what happens in their area. When FSQ completes its fifth year we'll once again turn to our community to decide whether we continue for another term (and hopefully many more beyond).

And to get there we'll be doing everyone's favourite activity, a survey! We had an incredible response to our mid-term survey with over 43% of our levy paying community taking part. The results directly shaped our delivery plan for the final two years of this term and now it's time to do it again. This Perception Analysis will help us build our next Business Plan for 2027–2032 and give the community the chance to say what we should prioritise and how we should budget.

Once that plan is complete we'll be back in touch, with even more enthusiasm, to secure your vote.

In the meantime it's worth looking back at what's been achieved since we started. From our first festive campaign, major public realm improvements, new seating, and safer streets. From the festivals we've brought to life – Literary Festival, London Festival of Architecture, Climate Festival, Design Festivals and more – to our Kerb food markets, safety ambassadors and endless programme of community events, training and networking.

In five years Fleet Street Quarter has truly come alive – and we're only just getting started.

STEP BACK IN TIME THIS CHRISTMAS!

Monica Law
Co-Head of Marketing and Commercial Development,
Dr Johnson's House

Join us as we celebrate the magic of Christmas at Dr Johnson's enchanting historic house!

Discover the famous Dr Samuel Johnson who lived in this 1690s townhouse when he wrote his Dictionary of the English Language. The son of a bookseller from Lichfield, Johnson walked to London in 1737 in search of fame and fortune. While fortune evaded him, Johnson's fame was assured with the publication of his Dictionary in 1755, from when he became known as 'Dictionary Johnson'.

Built shortly after the Great Fire, the house at 17 Gough Square has survived many near misses over the last 300+ years (not least the Blitz!). The house retains many original features, including a very quirky anti-burglary device. You can browse all the rooms and sit down on the chairs and window seats to soak up the atmosphere in what was still one of the tallest buildings in the area during WWII.

Enjoy our festive season programme in our charmingly decorated historic house.

Come along this Christmas for exclusive experiences as we raise a glass to the man who famously declared: "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life."

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



A Festive wreath hanging on the front door of Dr Samuel Johnson's House

MAKE LIMONCELLO'S GINGERBREAD BISCUITS



Limoncello Gingerbread Biscuits

Eren Kalyoncu
Head Pastry Chef
Limoncello

As the air turns crisp and the evenings draw in, few things feel more comforting than the aroma of gingerbread baking — butter, sugar, and spice warming the kitchen. This Limoncello twist brings a little sunshine to the season, with fresh lemon zest in the dough and a splash of limoncello in the icing. Soft-centred, delicately crisp, and irresistibly festive.

Makes: about 20 biscuits
Prep time: 30 mins + chilling
Cook time: 10–12 mins

Ingredients for the biscuits

- 15 g unsalted butter, softened
- 150 g light brown sugar
- 110 g dark molasses or golden syrup
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tbsp limoncello (Optional)
- 280 g plain flour
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tbsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground cloves
- Zest of 1 lemon

For the icing

- 1 large egg white (or 2 tbsp pasteurised egg white)
- 200 g icing sugar, sifted
- ½ tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp limoncello (Optional)

METHOD

1. Cream butter and sugar until pale and fluffy. Add the egg, vanilla and limoncello, mixing until smooth.
2. Beat in molasses — it will deepen the colour and add richness.
3. Whisk the dry ingredients (flour, bicarbonate, salt and spices) in a separate bowl.
4. Combine gently — fold the dry mix into the wet until you form a soft, slightly sticky dough.
5. Chill well — press the dough flat, wrap and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. You can chill longer (up to 5 days) before rolling.
6. Roll and cut — on a lightly floured surface, roll to about ⅛ inch thick. Cut into gingerbread men and place on parchment-lined trays.
7. Bake at 170 °C (fan off) for 10–12 minutes, until lightly golden at the edges. For a softer texture, bake slightly less; for crisp, add a minute more.
8. Cool completely on a wire rack before icing.
9. Make the icing: whisk egg white until frothy. Gradually beat in icing sugar, then lemon juice and limoncello. Mix until smooth and glossy.
10. Decorate: pipe or drizzle details and let them set at room temperature until firm and its ready to be served!



Handmade ornaments on display at the 2024 Crafty Fox Market

THIS DECEMBER, MAKE
YOUR LUNCH BREAK
MAGICAL BY SHOPPING
SMALL WITH CRAFTY FOX



Sinead Koehler,
Founder
Crafty Fox Market

At Crafty Fox Market, we've always believed that shopping isn't just about buying stuff—it's about making choices that ripple out into the world around us. That's why shopping small and sustainably matters so much. Every time you pick a hand-crafted candle over a mass-produced alternative, or a locally crafted bag instead of a factory-made one shipped from far away, you're investing in something far bigger than the item itself. You're investing in people, in their skills, in their dreams.

With years of curating independent markets across London, Crafty Fox Market has built a reputation for celebrating creativity, craftsmanship, and community. This festive season, that legacy comes to life at the Landsec and Fleet Street Quarter's New Street



Square Winter Festival on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th December. Small businesses are the heartbeat of communities, and several of our traders will be selling their homemade items at the festival. Swing by between 11.30 and 6, grab a bite, and discover hand-crafted gifts that carry a story, a maker's touch, and a little magic that mass-produced items simply can't match.

There's a different line-up of traders each day to help you find the perfect gifts. Each small, thoughtful purchase nurtures creativity, supports local makers, and treads lightly on our planet. Shop small, shop sustainably, and bring a little festive joy to your day.

**NEW STREET SQUARE ON 2ND,
3RD AND 4TH DEC, 11AM-6PM**

THE LORD MAYOR'S BIG CURRY LUNCH



Attendees of the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch sit down to eat in the Guildhall



Jessica Riley
Event Manager
The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch brings the City of London together not just to share a meal, but to make a lasting difference—raising funds to support all veterans of His Majesty's Armed Forces into employment. This Lunch with a Purpose is a fixture in the City's social calendar, hosted in the iconic Guildhall, and is the City of London's most prestigious fundraising occasion for military veterans

Since its inception in 2008, the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch has distributed over £4.1 million to support veterans and their families. The April 2025 Lunch raised an incredible £434,000 which funds programmes that support veterans into sustainable and rewarding civilian employment after service, as well as the military's single service charities: the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity; the Army Benevolent Fund; and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

Chronic pain is a significant barrier to veterans finding and sustaining meaningful employment after service. The Pain Management Programme, delivered by King Edward VII Hospital's Centre for Veterans' Health, helps veterans enjoy a greater quality of life by teaching them how to manage their pain. In addition, Lifeworks provide important employability support to veterans. The Lifeworks coaches help veterans identify their strengths, provide practical guidance and coaching in CV writing, job applications, and interviews, and support veterans transition from military to civilian employment.

More than just a lunch, the event offers a full afternoon of entertainment and engagement. The curry lunch is served buffet-style with unreserved seating, allowing guests to mingle and network. Guests can enjoy Pol Roger Champagne or cocktails designed by the Lady Mayor and Consort, while bidding in the Silent Auction and entering exciting prize draws. There will be Livery Company selling stalls and authors' signing and selling their latest books. Guests can also buy the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Masala paste created by master chef Cyrus Todiwala that can be used to make delicious marinades, curries, and more. Part of the proceeds of each jar goes towards the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

and supporting veterans. Also available online!

Attendees will also have the opportunity to enter the Battle of Britain Watch Prize Draw! Designed and handcrafted by Pinchbeck, one of the UK's leading watchmakers, the Battle of Britain Watch is a one-of-a-kind timepiece, exclusive to the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch. Tickets are £20 and 100% of ticket sales go to supporting veterans. The lucky winner will be selected by the Lady Mayor's Consort in May 2026, so get your tickets now for a chance of winning! The Silent Auction is another staple of the Lunch with fantastic prizes - from holidays to once-in-a-lifetime experiences - available to win. The Silent Auction opens in January 2026 and closes on the 16th April.

The next Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch is on the 16th April 2026 in Guildhall. Sponsorship opportunities, corporate group, and individual tickets are available, with every contribution helping to change the lives of veterans across the UK.

Whether you're a long-time supporter or a first-time guest, join the City in celebrating and giving back to all veterans of His Majesty's Armed Forces — all over a plate of delicious curry.

For more information, tickets, or sponsorship enquiries, visit: events.armybenevolentfund.org/lordmayors



CROSSWORD

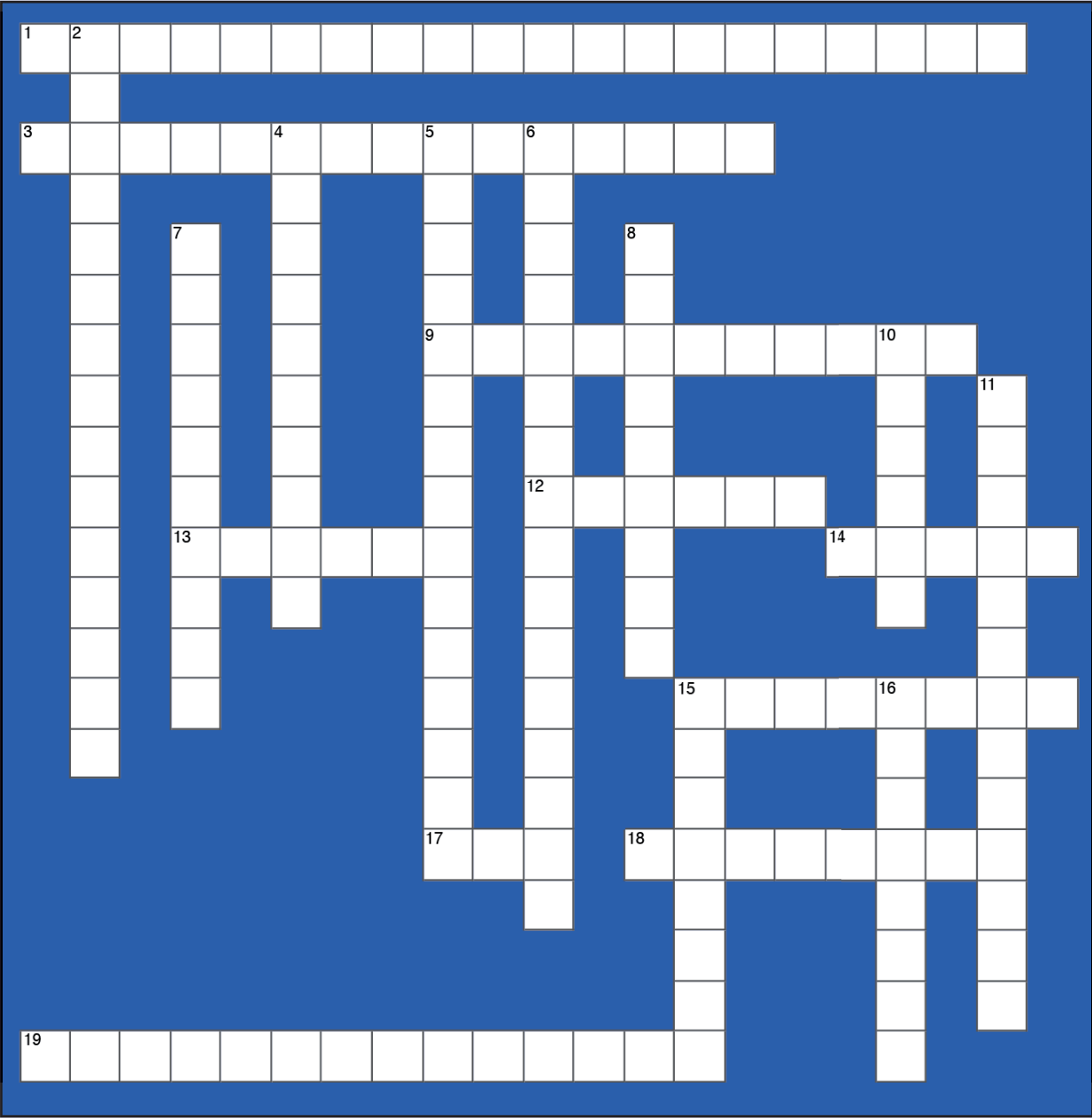
Try your hand at our area themed crossword. Clues are scattered throughout this paper, with answers available at the bottom right of the next page.

ACROSS

- 1 A historic pub on Fleet Street visited by many well known literary figures (2, 3, 8, 6)
- 2 A famous author who allegedly attacked a friar on Fleet Street (8, 7)
- 9 A Fleet Street urban legend who was played by a famous pirate in 2007 (7, 4)
- 12 A sparkly decoration made of metallic strips of plastic (6)
- 13 Traditional Christmas door decor (6)
- 14 A famous lexicographer's cat who enjoys oysters (5)
- 15 A thick dark syrup used in Limoncello's Christmas cookies (8)
- 17 The night you should traditionally eat 12 grapes. (3)
- 18 The drink of choice of FSQ's Canine Christmas friend (4, 4)
- 20 A famously picturesque university library often used as a filming site. (7, 7)

DOWN

- 2 Notorious Dickensian Christmas hater (8, 7)
- 4 The eponymous stream of FSQ (5, 5)
- 5 World famous architect who designed St Bride's Church and St Paul's Cathedral (11, 4)
- 6 The famous novel setting the theme for our next Literary Festival (1, 4, 2, 3, 6)
- 7 A warming and cosy winter drink normally featuring cloves, cinnamon sticks, and oranges (6, 4)
- 8 Humble Grape recommend pairing this with Turkey (5, 4)
- 10 A mythical fire-breathing creature which features on the Holborn Viaduct (6)
- 11 The location of our biggest lights switch on (7, 6)
- 15 A board game which features Fleet Street (8)
- 16 A herb often used to season festive meals (4,4)



A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS ON FLEET STREET

Cat Pearce
Marketing and Events Intern
Fleet Street Quarter BID

Fleet Street has always been associated with the literary sphere, and there is no time like Christmas for looking back at the rich storytelling fabric of this historical quarter. I don't know about you, but the first Christmas story to come to mind is always Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, a classic which is universally loved across generations (even becoming a Muppets movie!) Dickens was a regular visitor of Fleet Street and many local establishments such as the historic Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese (also a favourite haunt of Dr Samuel Johnson - author of the first dictionary). Fleet Street also features heavily in two of his most famous novels: in The Pickwick Papers Mr Pickwick is taken to the Fleet Prison, and in A Tale of Two Cities (which eagle eyed readers will have noticed is inspiring the theme for our next literary festival) Tellson's Bank is located on Fleet Street! Not only has Fleet Street been the home of the press, but also of great authors, stories, and characters.

For Dickens, Fleet Street was a bustling place of opportunity where the great minds of the age gathered and exchanged ideas. Indeed, Shakespeare's First Folio - featuring favourites like Macbeth, Twelfth Night, and The Tempest - was first registered within

the historic Stationers' Hall in the heart of the Fleet Street Quarter. Other residents and visitors to the area included John Milton, John Dryden, Samuel Pepys, and John Donne. Many of these great writers conducted their business on Fleet Street: did you know Milton's 1667 edition of Paradise Lost was sold by a bookseller called Matthias Walker who operated under St Dunstan's Church?

It's easy to look around Fleet Street, with its historic pubs, narrow courts and lanes, and incredible views of St Paul's, and imagine a Victorian scene of shouting street peddlers (selling oysters to Dr Johnson for his Cat Hodge perhaps?), rowdy drinkers, and the constant noise of the printing press. Many historical figures have wandered (and found trouble) around this famous quarter - allegedly Geoffrey Chaucer was fined two shillings for attacking a friar on Fleet Street... Around this time of year, parishioners would flock to Fleet Street for Christmas services at St Paul's Cathedral or St Bride's Church - both designed by Christopher Wren - and heard the Christmas bells ringing and carollers singing among the alleys. This Christmas in the historic Fleet Street Quarter we'll have printing workshops, wreath making classes, and plenty of carols - Dickens would surely be proud!



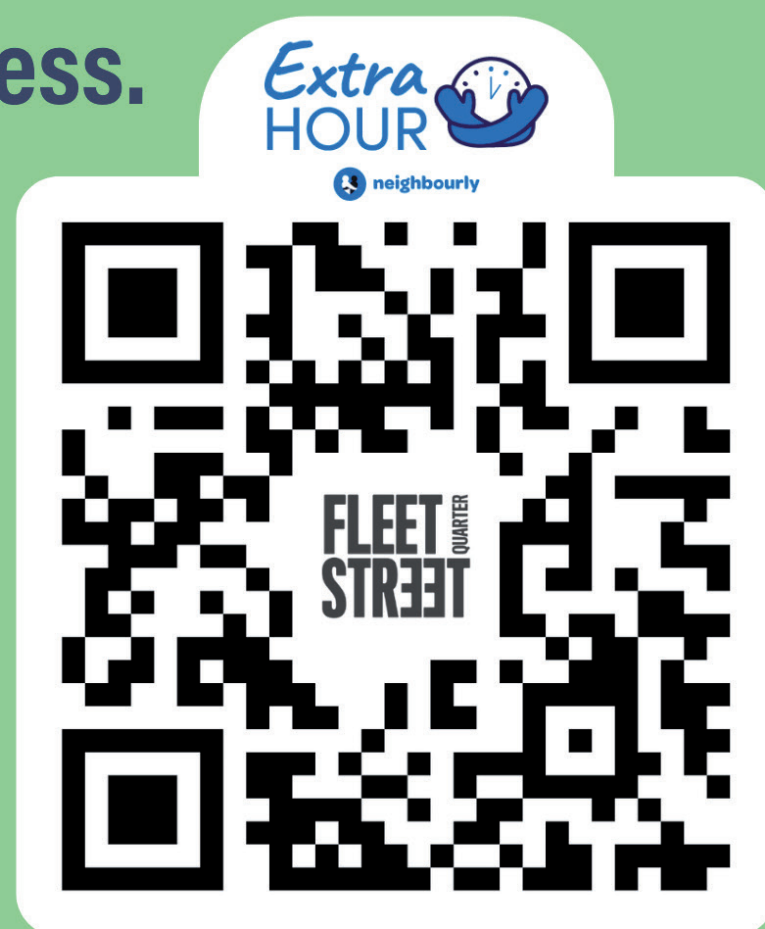
Looking down Fleet Street towards St Paul's Cathedral in 1906 (Getty)

1 Extra Hour. 1 Act of Kindness. 1 Better Community.

This October, when the clocks went back, you didn't just get an extra hour of sleep – you got a gift of time. Let's use it to make a difference. Pledge your bonus hour to a small act of kindness, like calling a lonely neighbour or helping at a local charity. It's simple, powerful, and it starts with you.

We're proud to support #TheExtraHour – Neighbourly's national campaign to spark kindness and connection across the UK. Use the Code FSQ2025 to sign up to volunteering opportunities!

Learn more by scanning the QR code!



VOLUNTEER WITH FLEET STREET QUARTER AND HELP YOUR COMMUNITY!

Sophie Clare
Junior Account Executive
Infinite

"I first heard about Fleet Street Quarter through my colleagues and LinkedIn. Shortly thereafter I attended some events during the Literary Festival. I was impressed by the programme and as a PR specialist I found the 'morning papers' sessions with journalists from The Guardian and The Times a great opportunity to learn and network.

I work at Infinite, a FSQ-based PR and communications specialist firm, which actively encourages volunteering and understands the power of community. The media heritage attached to Fleet Street also strongly resonated with me, so I was delighted to get involved with the FSQ Lunchtime

Gardening Club. I particularly enjoyed being able to meet others who live or work in the area. It was great to get stuck in, learning a few new gardening skills and contributing to the area with refreshed planters in Crane Court.

The newsletter and other FSQ resources help keep me informed of events happening nearby. FSQ has also introduced me to local spots of interest from restaurants to historic sites, which I like to explore during lunchtime walks. I find it rewarding to feel like part of the local community and to have such a range of opportunities available — recently I enjoyed the outdoor stencil art session and I'm planning to attend a winter personal safety class next."

Dish Up December

Christmas wines with Humble Grape

Turn your Christmas wine quest from The Grinch to a cinch with these tips from master vintners Humble Grape Islington.

Pair with food (or just drink what you like)
The classic advice is to match wine with food, so let's start there. If you're going traditional with turkey or ham, opt for a **Pinot Noir** or **Beaujolais**—light, fruity reds that won't steal the spotlight from your main event. Got a beef roast? Flex your muscles with a bold **Cabernet Sauvignon** or **Shiraz**. Seafood or veggie fare? Break out a **Sauvignon Blanc** or cool climate **Chardonnay** (such as a good Chablis). They're crisp, refreshing, and won't leave you feeling like you just ate a log of cheese. But if all else fails, just pop open a bottle of **rosé**—it works with pretty much anything and adds a touch of class.

Embrace the bubbles
Nothing says 'celebration' like sparkling wine. Whether it's **Champagne**, **Prosecco**, or a **Cremant**, it's basically holiday glitter in a glass. Plus, it makes you look sophisticated even if you've been secretly eating pigs in blankets since 10am.

Forget the rules
Sure, pairing is nice, but you know what's nicer? Drinking something you actually enjoy. If that means a big, juicy **Malbec** with your salmon, go for it. It's Christmas – no one's judging (at least not after the third glass). So, pick your wines, pour generously, and remember: the best wine is the one in your hand.

Thirsty for more advice? Visit the Humble Grape Islington team at 11-13 Theberton Street, on hand to help you pick the perfect pour from its more than 450+ wines in stock.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 1. Ye Old Cheshire Cheese 2. Geoffrey Chaucer 9. Sweeney Todd 12. Tinseltown 13. Wreath 14. Hodge 15. Molasses 17. NYE 18. Rootbeer 19. Maughan Library
Down: 1. Ebenezer Scrooge 4. River Fleet 5. Christopher Wren 6. A Tale of Two Cities 8. Pinot Noir 10. Dragon 11. Ludgate Circus 15. Monopoly 16. Sage Leaf



Gillian Dawood and team in the clinic, 1996

FLEET STREET CLINIC & WHITBY & CO: 30 YEARS OF TRUSTED CARE

Dixie Last
Marketing Lead
Fleet Street Quarter Clinic

On 24 October 2025, Fleet Street Clinic and Whitby & Co. celebrate their 30th anniversary, a milestone rooted in trust, expertise and family-run healthcare.

Founded in 1995 by Medical Director Dr. Richard Dawood and Optical Director Gillian Dawood, the two practices share a vision: to deliver fast, flexible, and compassionate care using the latest medical technologies and the highest standards of professional expertise, right in the heart of London.

Over three decades, Fleet Street Clinic has become a benchmark for travel medicine, private GP services, occupational health, and rapid diagnostics with an on-site laboratory providing same-day results. Whitby & Co. has earned a reputation for holistic, time-rich optical care and truly personalised service. Together, their collaboration has enabled countless patients to benefit from early diagnoses and continuous, joined-up care.

"Whitby & Co. have been my opticians for

20 years and their service has never been anything less than excellent" - Whitby & Co. patient

From journalists on assignment in high-risk zones to the Ministry of Defence, West End theatres and even the Rolling Stones on tour, their patients reflect the energy and diversity of London itself. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they played a crucial role in the city's return-to-work efforts, delivering rapid PCR testing from their in-house lab.

For 30 years, Fleet Street Clinic and Whitby & Co. have championed prevention over panic, flexibility over rigidity and trust over trend, providing healthcare people confidently recommend to family and friends.

As they mark this milestone, their message remains simple yet powerful: You matter. Your time matters. Your health matters.

And for three decades, they've been here on our doorstep.

SIP INTO THE HOLIDAYS WITH APEX HOTELS' NO MORE SLEEP COCKTAIL

Recipe by Apex Mixologists Jakob Doyle-Finch and Basil Kurian.

The festive season is the time for relaxation, family, and fun! In celebration Apex Hotels have shared the recipe for one of their delicious cocktails - available on their Festive Cocktail Menu from the 27th of November!

Try your hand at the delicious One More Sleep cocktail (and mocktail!) Or pop in to Apex to see how the professionals do it!

1 MORE SLEEP MOCKTAIL

INGREDIENTS

- 40ml Caleno
- 1 x Shot of Espresso
- 25ml Cream

PROCESS



- Fill a rocks glass with ice
- Pour in Caleno and Espresso
- Top with cream - pour it gently over the back of a spoon so it floats on top for a layered look.
- Garnish with a dusting of cocoa powder and a strawberry

1 MORE SLEEP WHITE RUSSIAN

INGREDIENTS

- 50ml Absolut Blue
- 25ml Kahlua
- 25ml Cream

PROCESS



- Fill a rocks glass with ice
- Pour in vodka and kahlua
- Top with cream - pour it gently over the back of a spoon so it floats on top for a layered look.
- Garnish with a dusting of cocoa powder and a strawberry



FLEET STREET QUARTER FOOTFALL UPDATE Q3 2025

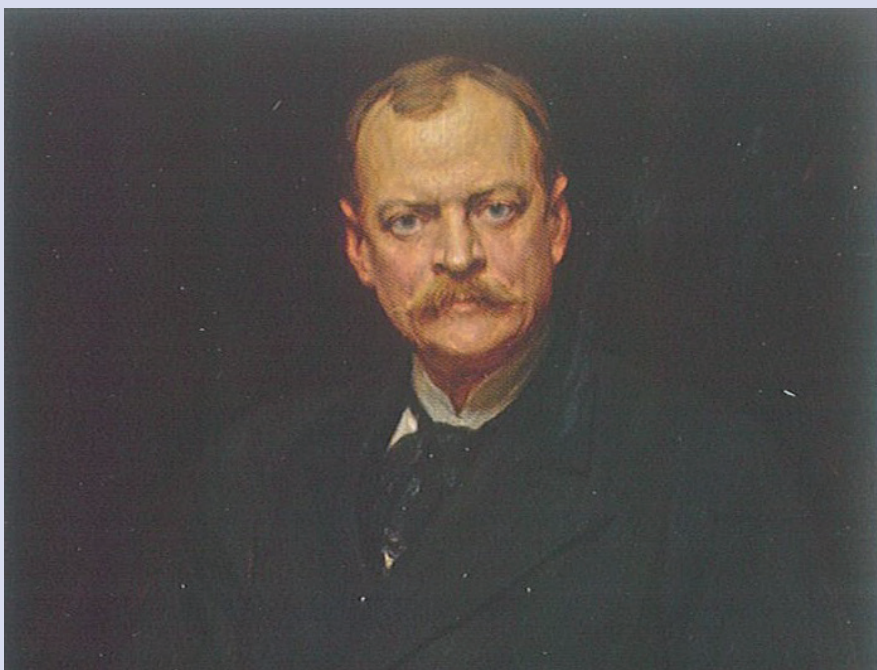
Fleet Street Quarter welcomed **35.2 million visitors** between Q3 2024 and Q3 2025, a **10% increase** from Q3 2023 to Q3 2024.

Average Daily visitors now exceed 110,000 people!

Dwell time has increased by 33% with the average visit now lasting 194 minutes

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR FULL REPORT

WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR ON FLEET STREET



William Waldorf Astor by Hubert von Herkomer

Paddy Altern
Director
Two Temple Place and The Bulldog Trust

Two Temple Place, between Temple tube station and the Middle Temple, was originally the spectacular neo-Tudor office of one of Fleet Street's great newspaper proprietors – William Waldorf Astor – its carved wood interior one of the most spectacular in London. It is now the home of The Bulldog Trust charity and frequently open to the public and community groups. Armed with a fortune made from being the landlord to the tenements of much of Manhattan, Astor set about securing his place in British society after immigrating in 1890.

An essential part of his strategy was controlling his profile in the press, a lesson learnt from his rough treatment in New York. Astor soon purchased the Pall Mall Gazette in 1892, and established the Pall Mall Magazine, where contributors had included George

Bernard Shaw, H.G. Wells, Oscar Wilde and Friedrich Engels. He bought the Observer in 1911, passing it on for several generations.

Two Temple Place allowed Astor easy access to his editors on the Gazette and may well have been part of his thinking in the site of his office on the Embankment. He would have two purposes on his regular short walk up to Fleet Street: getting his own awful stories published (they did try to say no) and famously driving his newspapers to take more conservative stances.

Learn more about Two Temple Place at twotempleplace.org/about-us/ and on the Bloomberg Connects app.

For more information, tickets, or sponsorship enquiries, visit: events.armybenevolentfund.org/lordmayors

Exhibition

The Weight of Being, curated by Angela Thomas, will explore the profound ways in which external pressures shape artistic expression, mental health, and resilience, highlighting the power of art as a means of expression, resistance, and survival.

Including the work of a diverse range of twentieth century and contemporary artists and their varying perspectives, The Weight of Being will showcase how artists have captured the psychological and emotional impact of societal pressures, resilience in the face of adversity, and existential uncertainty.

Through the wide range of artists, mediums, and represented demographics, The Weight of Being is intended to spark meaningful conversations about resilience, identity, and emotional well-being, offering a profound reflection on the toll of existence and the strength found in shared experiences, ultimately fostering hope and deepening understanding.



John Wilson McCracken, Moving Torso, 1974, Oil on board. © Estate of the artist. Image courtesy of Hartlepool Borough Council

The Weight of Being

24 January -
19 April 2026



**Admission
free**

**TWO
TEMPLE
PLACE** The Bulldog Trust
Two Temple Place, London, WC2R 3BD
www.twotempleplace.org

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH EVENTS ACROSS FLEET STREET QUARTER!

NOVEMBER

12TH

**CHANCERY LANE FESTIVE
LIGHT SWITCH ON**

WEDS 12TH NOVEMBER, 5PM - 6PM

18TH

**WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP WITH
JAR & FERN AT DASDAS BOX ***

TUES 18TH NOVEMBER, 6PM-7PM

**ADRIAN DUNBAR: T.S ELIOT'S THE
WASTE LAND AT MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL**

TUES 18TH NOVEMBER, 7PM - 8PM

19TH

**SNOOPY IN THE CITY
SCULPTURE TRAIL**

WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2025
TO FRIDAY 16 JANUARY 2026

**LUDGATE CIRCUS FESTIVE LIGHT
SWITCH ON AND CELEBRATION**

WEDS 19TH NOVEMBER, 5PM - 8PM

20TH

**JAZZ EVENING WITH THE LUCA
WADE QUARTET ***

THURS 20TH NOVEMBER, 5:30PM

25TH

**CARTER LANE FESTIVE
LIGHT SWITCH ON**

TUES 25TH NOVEMBER, 5-8PM

25TH

**DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE
MONTHLY LECTURE ***

TUES 25TH NOVEMBER,
12:30PM - 1:45PM

27TH

**CHRISTMAS CARD PRINTING
WORKSHOP WITH BELLA GOMEZ
AT CREO CHANCERY LANE ***

THURS 27TH NOVEMBER, 12PM - 1PM

DECEMBER

1ST

**WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP
WITH JAR & FERN AT DASDAS BOX ***

MON 1ST DECEMBER, 12:30PM - 1PM

**FESTIVE COOKIE DECORATING WITH
LOST TOGETHER BAKERY AT THE
REFINERY, NEW STREET SQUARE**

MON 1ST DECEMBER, 5:30PM - 6:30PM

2ND

**WINE TASTING WITH THE AMICABLE
SOCIETY OF LAZY BALLERINAS AT
APEX TEMPLE COURT HOTEL**

TUES 2ND DECEMBER, 5:30PM - 7:30PM

2ND - 4TH

**LANDSEC AND FLEET STREET
QUARTER PRESENT THE NEW
STREET SQUARE WINTER FESTIVAL**

2ND - 4TH DECEMBER, 11AM - 6PM

3RD

**FLEET PLACE TREE
LIGHTS SWITCH ON**

WEDS 3RD DECEMBER, 4PM - 5PM

4TH

**LITERARY HISTORY WALKING
TOUR WITH DAVID HARRY (AKA
THELONDONSPY) ***

THURS 4TH DECEMBER, 12PM - 1PM

6TH

**SNOOPY TRAIL FAMILY WALKING
TOURS WITH DAVID HARRY (AKA
THELONDONSPY) ***

SAT 6TH DECEMBER, 12PM - 1PM
OR 2:30 - 3.30PM

9TH

**DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE
FESTIVE LECTURE ***

TUES 9TH DECEMBER, 2:30PM

Booking required for events marked *

All money from ticketed events will be
donated to the National Literacy Trust

**SCAN TO BOOK. SIGN UP TO OUR
NEWSLETTER TO BE THE FIRST TO
HEAR ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS.**



FLEETSTREETQUARTER.CO.UK



@FLEETSTQUARTER

