

FLEET STREET QUARTERLY

FLEET STREET
QUARTER

Spring 2026

Shaping This Historic Location Into a Thriving Quarter

fleetstreetquarter.co.uk



FLEET STREET QUARTER STEPS INTO SPRING

Lady Lucy French OBE
CEO, Fleet Street Quarter BID

How are we already approaching Spring! It feels only a moment ago that Snoopy in the City was welcoming crowds to the FSQ footprint. Snoopy's 75th birthday certainly saw much celebration, and footfall across the quarter was at its highest since the BID began its work in 2022! In a 30 day window we saw a staggering 147,000 clicks on our Snoopy in the City page. How can you beat that you may ask..... well, there is a very exciting plan in the works, but it's far too early to be talking about Festive FSQ 2026!

As part of our Festive FSQ campaign last year we partnered with the National Literacy Trust ahead of 2026: the National Year of Reading. The year is now upon us and we are developing lots of ideas to inspire us all to put the mobile or laptop to one side and open a book! My 7 year old has been tasked to read 20 books this year, shall we all set ourselves a similar challenge?! It doesn't have to be great big tomes, just something to break the daily digital dose of doom scrolling (I am certainly guilty of it) and feast on the infinite array of books to tempt every palate!

On food, we have just launched our 3rd FSQ Cook off with the fabulous CORD by Le Cord

en Bleu. Once again, local businesses will be vying for the much prized Cook Off trophy and some incredible prizes from CORD very soon! If you thought this year's season of the Traitors was tense, you haven't seen anything yet...

We are also proud to have launched our much anticipated second FSQ Festival of Words, from the 12th-16th of May. The Quarter's very own literary festival is back: bringing stories to the place where they have always been born! The theme for this year, inspired by the opening lines of Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, "The Age of Wisdom and Foolishness." Does this seem fitting for 2026 to you? To that I will

only say: "you might very well think that; I couldn't possibly comment!"

We will see more than 40 events and 90 speakers over the 5 days with events taking place across the quarter and throughout the day. Events will run in the mornings, at lunchtimes and during two slots after office hours, why not pop out for some culture on your lunch break - or trade the after-work pint for an after-work book signing? Locations are dotted around the area, including, but not limited to, Dr Johnson's House, Stationers Hall, St Brides Church, and the Maughan

Continued on next page...



Library, King's College London.. Don't miss this opportunity to explore historic venues across the quarter, while enjoying a variety of fascinating events and workshops!

Here's a little preview of what there is to discover this year: breakfast briefings from the Times, and the Guardian, as well as a final news review hosted by Paddy O'Connell. Other speakers include Oscar nominated author, playwright, and screenwriter Hanif Kureishi; beloved broadcaster, journalist, and former politician Gyles Brandreth; and broadcaster, author, and political commentator Iain Dale. In addition, on Saturday the 16th of May - our family day - attend comic-drawing workshops with Beano illustrator Hugh Raine, break a record with the

Guinness Book of World Records event, and see a live performance by children's author and entertainer Rob Biddulph! Whether you're interested in the economics of war or Winnie the Pooh, there's something for the whole family to enjoy at the 2026 Fleet Street Quarter Festival of Words.

In other exciting news, this year is our final year before our Ballot. It has been 4 fantastic years for me and the FSQ team and we are excited to present our BID proposal for our 2027-32 term to you all later this year. This will be hugely informed by your feedback to our perception analysis survey, and we want to thank every person who completed this survey. It's so important to us that we hear from our community about what does or

doesn't work, and find out what opportunities we can offer our local community. Together, we are creating a safer, cleaner, livelier, and more sustainable Quarter - we couldn't do it without you!

This March the Quarter is celebrating Women's History Month, as well as international Women's Day - on the 8th of March. This corner of the city is home to some remarkable women both in the current day, but also in its rich history. In this edition of the Fleet Street Quarterly, you will hear from some of the inspiring women in the area, who are trailblazers in their respective fields, and learn about the historic women of Fleet Street!

The FSQ footprint has been a launch pad for trailblazing women, breaking down boundaries and inspiring others. Take for example, Rachel Beer - who was appointed editor of The Observer in 1891 and The Sunday Times in 1893, a bold breakthrough in an era when female leadership in national newspapers was virtually unheard of. In addition, just last year a blue plaque was instated at 13 Clifford's Inn - just off Fleet Street - to mark Virginia and Leonard Woolf's 1912 residency just before they moved to Bloomsbury! You can read more about Woolf's presence on Fleet Street in the article on page 6 written by leading Virginia Woolf Scholar and vice-chair of the Virginia Woolf Society: Maggie Humm.

Of course in the early 20th century the World Wars catalysed change across the UK. With men who worked in the many printshops and newspapers across the Quarter leaving to fight, women stepped into reporting and editing roles, proving their capability in a rapidly changing media landscape. By the 1960s and 1970s, voices like Katharine Whitehorn brought a fresh, modern perspective to Fleet Street's pages. This period marked the slow but steady dismantling of gendered barriers in journalism. By the late 20th century, women were no longer the exception: they were leaders. Editors like Eve Pollard and, later, Rebekah Brooks helmed major national titles, solidifying women's place in the upper echelons of the British media.

Today, we see the women of the Fleet Street Quarter leading and shaping the world in all spheres of life. The stoic determination of their predecessors echoing through the streets and lanes.

Here's to an inspiring, inclusive, community focused 2026, and we look forward to welcoming you to the Quarter!

NEW GREEN HOARDINGS ON FLEET STREET

Mike Fairman
Head of Placemaking
Fleet Street Quarter BID

Green infrastructure is just as important to the city as traditional infrastructure such as roads and broadband cables. Green infrastructure comprises parks and other green spaces, along with street trees and green roofs. Together a rich variety of greenery contributes to a sense of local identity and can make streets more attractive, reduce air pollution and cool the city during heat waves. We are lucky in Fleet Street to have a variety of green spaces, mainly in churchyards, but the busy pedestrian routes are often very urban, with little in the way of respite.

That is why we are installing several varieties of plants on the hoardings around the building site at 120 Fleet Street, with the support of the site's owners and the City of London Corporation. These plants will bring some much needed greenery to this part of the Quarter, located next to the bus stop on the north side of Fleet Street and the plan is also to plant the hoardings along Poppins Court. We will use several different plant varieties chosen specifically for this location that include attractive flowering plants and a variety of ferns.

Such examples of "vertical gardening" are becoming increasingly popular as a means



of bringing more greenery into the city, such as the green wall in New Street Square. They are now also being seen on construction sites where they make them more attractive for people as they walk by, and absorb dust and pollution associated with the site.

Like any garden, our planted hoardings will require periodic maintenance to remain attractive. We would like help from local businesses to enable us to recruit volunteers from across the Quarter to not only help with the maintenance, but also

with the initial planting along Poppins Court that will take place in April. We know gardening and connecting to nature is good for wellbeing, so please contact us at info@fleetstreetquarter.co.uk if you want some fresh air and gentle exercise this spring!



SMALL BUT MIGHTY: HOW FLEET STREET QUARTER SMES WORK TOGETHER TO NAVIGATE A DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE

Beth Nash
Safe and Secure Manager
Fleet Street Quarter BID

In any community, it is an undeniable fact that the independent businesses are the heart of the area, and Fleet Street Quarter is no exception. The small, family run barber

shop that greets you with a beaming smile and remembers your name, or the local indo-asian restaurant that always insists you take a little extra spring roll away with you, for free, despite your protests! One day, after attending an EIDA (Employers Initiative on Domestic Abuse) Foundation Programme, surrounded by huge conglomerates like Virgin

Media, 02, Amazon and Goldman Sachs, it occurred to me that these charming, local, generous businesses may not be equipped with the vast HR teams that their corporate neighbours undoubtedly are.

A business not having the same chance to support its employees, simply due to its size,

did not sit right with me. To bridge this gap, Fleet Street Quarter have worked closely with EIDA as industry leading experts to formulate a small, yet detailed guide for navigating this oftentimes difficult subject. In February, we launched a bespoke, first-of-its-kind handbook for small to medium-sized businesses on How to Navigate a Domestic Abuse Response. The handbook itself is broken down into digestible chapters: Understanding Domestic Abuse in a Workplace Context, Responding Safely and Referrals and Services. Emphasis is placed upon the role of the employer and their limitations yet allows space for care, understanding and support – all of which can make a huge difference to an employee experiencing domestic abuse.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, spotlighting just how much a handy tool such as this was needed amongst the business community, as well as a reminder to not discount the importance of framing domestic abuse in a workplace context. We now offer the handbook in varying formats, to improve accessibility. You can digitally download the handbook by visiting our website and accessing our BID publication library or pick up a physical printed copy from our offices on Fleet Street. If you would like to organise this, please contact beth.nash@fleetstreetquarter.co.uk for further information.

As I wrap up, it would be remiss of me to remind you that whether you are a small to medium-sized business or larger corporate within Fleet Street Quarter, there is always the opportunity to join EIDA, (for free), under their membership charter and by doing so, you join 2,000 other leading employers who are committed to taking effective action on domestic abuse. For more information, please visit www.eida.org.uk/membership.

WHY DOMESTIC ABUSE IS A BUSINESS ISSUE – AND HOW ALL EMPLOYERS CAN HELP



Domestic abuse is all our business.



Kristin Thue,
Communications Manager,
Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse

One in three women and one in five men in the UK will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. This means that one in four UK employees - and every UK workplace - is impacted by domestic abuse. Work may be the only safe place for someone experiencing abuse at home, and employers are uniquely well-placed to provide employees with a safe space to access support. For every victim there is also a perpetrator, and employers play an important part in holding those who use abusive behaviours to account.

Beyond the cost to individuals, there is a clear business case for why employers must take effective action on domestic abuse. The cost of lost output owing to domestic abuse to businesses in England alone is estimated at £17 billion per year. The total estimated cost to society is £89 billion, over twice the cost of organised crime.

There is a new wave of momentum among employers taking a stand against domestic abuse. The Government's recent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy clearly states that employers are a part of a whole-of-society response to VAWG and

domestic abuse, and the accompanying Action Plan sets an expectation that employers must have an effective domestic abuse response in place for their employees. This does not mean that employers are expected to be domestic abuse experts. However, every workplace, no matter their size or sector, can help recognise signs of domestic abuse, respond appropriately, and signpost to specialist support.

Any UK employer can join the Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA), a free-to-join membership organisation supporting employers to take effective action on domestic abuse. EIDA has over 2000 employer members, collectively employing more than 25% of the UK's workforce. EIDA's mission is to equip employers to support their employees affected by domestic abuse and to share best practice with other employers. They provide an extensive suite of resources including a domestic abuse policy template, a step-by-step Handbook, guidance for managers, as well as webinars and in-person events where employers can connect and learn from one another.

Employers can join EIDA for free to help create a society where survivors thrive and domestic abuse is not tolerated: www.eida.org.uk/membership



SPOTLIGHT: JIACHEN LU, HEAD SOMMELIER AT CORD BY LE CORDON BLEU

Jiachen Lu,
Head Sommelier,
CORD by Le Cordon Bleu

Spotlight: Jiachen Lu, Head Sommelier at CORD by Le Cordon Bleu

A US-trained lawyer turned London-based sommelier, Jiachen always considers herself very fortunate to have built a new career around her long-standing passion for wine and food. Indeed, before landing her first job in wine, she completed the wine and cuisine diplomas at Le Cordon Bleu London and an internship in the iconic kitchen of Le Gavroche. These experiences not only broadened and deepened her knowledge in wine and food pairings but also tested her resilience in this highly demanding hospitality industry.

Now Head Sommelier at CORD by Le Cordon Bleu, Jiachen is proud to

be in this profession which was once male-dominant. To her, equality means recognising and valuing differences while treating everyone with fairness and respect – and that has been her own recent experience in the industry, both in the kitchen and on the restaurant floor. She'd say "I might not be able to carry as many bottles of wines in one go, and my interaction and conversations with the guests might be slightly different in style from that of my male colleagues. But the guest experience is just as pleasant – and I might be able to bring in a different touch and finesse."

This March, Jiachen will showcase a few wines made by female winemakers at CORD and serve them by the glass. "One day it shouldn't be a discussion point whether a winemaker is male or female. Both are equally capable of and have been making brilliant wines!"

SAMUEL JOHNSON AND 'THE FEMALE OF THE HUMAN RACE'



Celine Lupp McDaid,
The Hyde Director

In 1755, Johnson defined a woman as:

'WO'MAN. [wifman, wimman, Saxon; whence we yet pronounce women in the plural, wimmen, Skinner.] 1. The female of the human race.

International Women's Day provides the opportunity to demonstrate that Johnson was a great champion of the achievements of women, and, contrary to many of his contemporaries (and an absurd number of publications on the subject), he firmly believed that there was nothing to suggest women were, by nature, intellectually inferior to men. One of his principal motivations as a writer was to support increased literacy (however anachronistic this term may be), and he bemoaned greatly the fact that, as children, girls were not given the same education as boys, and believed this was detrimental to both to the girls individually and more widely, to society.

In 1775 he went so far as to say:

"Men know that women are an overmatch for them. If they did not think so, they never could be afraid of women knowing as much as themselves."

In Dr Johnson's House museum, just off Fleet Street at 17 Gough Square, we celebrate Johnson's advocacy for women's education and his influential support of the publication of their work, at a time when it was highly unusual to see a woman's name in print as author. He counted amongst his closest friends the significant writers Elizabeth Carter and Elizabeth Montagu, members of the prominent all-female group of intellectuals, the Bluestockings. Our collections hold some significant manuscripts relating to Carter and her ground-breaking translation of the Epicurean Greek philosopher, Epictetus, and the wider writings of the Bluestockings.

Johnson married in his mid-twenties a woman near twice his age. Little is known of his wife,

Elizabeth (or Tetty as he affectionately called her), though she lived with him until her death in 1752. Sadly, she did not see the success of his Dictionary (1755), though she greatly supported his work. Following her death Johnson was inconsolable in his grief and fell into the worst depression of his life. This self-imposed solitude was broken with the arrival of Francis Barber, a Jamaican boy who ultimately became Johnson's heir and the first Black British school master in the country. Shortly after, a stream of others joined the household for brief or extended periods of time. This included the poet and translator, Anna Williams, a friend of Tetty, who ended up living with or near Johnson and Barber for the next thirty years. Johnson called her his 'little sister'. She joined the household in Gough Square shortly after an unsuccessful cataract surgery which blinded her. Later additions to the household include the daughter of his godfather and at least one retired prostitute.

The household ultimately became home to anyone in need of compassion and financial support, which Johnson provided in ample measure. This also ensured Johnson could find conversation when he needed it – he genuinely feared for his sanity should he be so isolated again. The intellectual companionship of the women in his life was pivotal to Johnson's well-being and informed his progressive views on the equality of women.

Dr Johnson's House is open to visitors Tuesday – Sunday throughout the year and has a vibrant events programme – come visit us to learn more! Dr Johnson's House will also be hosting a short talk about Johnson and the Bluestockings to celebrate International Women's Day at 1pm on the 8th of March. This is included in the entry ticket on the day, so why not go along!

THE WOMEN OF FLEET STREET: THE TRAILBLAZERS

Cat Pearce,
Marketing & Communications
Assistant,
Fleet Street Quarter BID

While Fleet Street is famously the home of the press, it was historically one of the largest "gentlemen's club" in London, which women could only access in the often sidelined Womens' Pages.

While journalists and TV presenters such as Julie Welch, Wendy Henry, Janet Street-Porter and Eve Pollard were able to break through the glass ceiling in the 60s and 70s, this Women's History Month it's important to look back at the exceptional women who paved the way for equality in journalism, literature and publishing.



1663 - 1724 DELARIVIER MANLEY

One of the most notorious political pamphleteers of her time, Delarivier was an author, playwright, and editor of the Tory periodical *The Examiner*. Her most famous work "The New Atlantis" was a political satire about the current political stage and caused uproar amongst her peers! After her husband John Manley abandoned her, she had a relationship with John Tilly - the Governor of Fleet Prison, and there were rumours she had children with him. Although these rumours are uncertain, some records seem to indicate she may have been imprisoned in Fleet Prison at some point, perhaps because her bigamous marriage to John Manley was viewed as fraudulent!



1672 - 1706 ELIZABETH MALLETT

A printer and bookseller who produced, owned, edited, and published England's first daily Newspaper: *The Daily Courant*. While the term editor did not exist at the time, many consider Mallett the first editor of a daily newspaper in Britain, reshaping the way the news and media worked forever. She lived on Ludgate Hill, just off Fleet Street, and although a sign commemorates the *Daily Courant* nearby, her name is not mentioned on it. Very little is known about her and no images survive of the woman who changed the papers forever.



1717 - 1806 ELIZABETH CARTER

Poet, classicist, translator, writer, linguist, and bluestocking, Elizabeth Carter was a hugely accomplished woman, and was often on Fleet Street. She maintained a close friendship with local resident Dr Samuel Johnson, and at times edited his periodical 'The Rambler'. She published the first English translation of 'Discourses of Epictetus' and was an inspiration to many later female writers, including Virginia Woolf. Not only was she dedicated to her work, but she was also a member of the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade.



1826 - 1865 ISABELLA BEETON (MRS BEETON)

Famously Isabella commuted with her husband to his Fleet Street publishing office. Samuel Orchart Beeton was a prominent publisher on Fleet Street, and was a firm believer in the equality of women. Their marriage was an equal partnership, and Isabella was deeply involved in his publishing business. She wrote for 'The Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine', translated French literature for publication, and is most well known for 'Beeton's Book of Household Management'.



1858 - 1927 RACHEL BEER

Born in Bombay to the wealthy Sassoon merchant family, she was disowned when she married into the Beer family and converted from Judaism to Christianity. The Beer family owned several newspapers, and Rachel began contributing to the *Observer* before taking over as the editor in 1891. This made her the first official female editor of a national newspaper, and she was heavily involved in reporting on the 'bordereau' spy scandal of 1898 which broke as front page news. She publicly accused the French military of antisemitism after they arrested an innocent Jewish man in the place of the actual spy, who later admitted guilt in an interview with her,



1858 - 1934 MARY MACFARLANE HOWARTH

Editor of the women's section for the *Daily Mail* in the late 1890s, Mary was appointed the first editor of the *Daily Mirror* in 1903 which was launched as a paper "for gentlewomen by gentlewomen." Unfortunately, after *The Mirror* struggled to make sales, Alfred Harmsworth (owner of the *Daily Mail* and *The Mirror*) said that "women can't write and don't want to read" and scrapped the concept. *The Mirror* was relaunched with Hamilton Fyfe as editor a week later, and focused on printing photographs of events. While the idea didn't pan out, the initial concept was remarkably forward thinking at the time, and Mary was an essential part of *The Mirror*'s first iteration.



1928 - 2019 DOREEN SPOONER

Doreen was the first woman to work as a staff photographer on a Fleet Street newspaper, and began working at the *Daily Mirror* from 1949. She won the British News Picture of The Year in 1950 with an image of George Bernard Shaw at his garden gate, and photographed countless celebrities, royals, and politicians across her career. Her first front page scoop was a now well-known image of Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies, the two call-girls involved in the infamous Profumo scandal of 1963. She captured a photo of the two women at a pub near the Old Bailey, in the midst of the very public trial.



SHAPING THE NEXT CHAPTER OF FLEET STREET QUARTER

Ciara Wilczur-Wieja
Operations Manager
Fleet Street Quarter BID

As Fleet Street Quarter enters the final year of its first BID term, we are moving into an important phase of reflection and forward planning.

Earlier this year, we invited businesses and their staff to take part in our Perception Analysis — a key consultation exercise designed to capture how the area is experienced today and what matters most looking ahead. The survey has now closed,

and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to share their views.

Business Improvement Districts operate on five-year cycles, and in early 2027 businesses in the Fleet Street Quarter will be asked to vote in a BID ballot on whether FSQ should continue for a second term, running from 2027 to 2032. The Perception Analysis plays a crucial role in this process, helping to ensure that our future Business Plan is shaped by real insight from the businesses and people who work here.

The survey explored a range of themes including safety and security, the public

realm, cleansing, communications, business support and the overall identity of Fleet Street Quarter as a place to work, invest and visit. The feedback is now being carefully analysed and will directly inform the development of our Term 2 Business Plan.

Over the past five years, FSQ has delivered a wide programme of activity — from major public-realm projects and cultural initiatives to enhanced on-street presence and business engagement. This consultation allows us to take stock of what has been delivered, understand where it has made the most difference, and identify where future focus

and investment should be directed.

The insights gathered through the Perception Analysis will help shape the priorities, projects and investment plans that businesses will be asked to vote on in the forthcoming BID ballot. We are committed to sharing the results once the analysis is complete and to continuing an open dialogue as we develop our proposals for the next term.

We look forward to updating the Fleet Street Quarter community later this year and working together to shape the future of the area.



VIRGINIA WOOLF'S FLEET STREET

Maggie Humm,
Vice-chair,
The Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain

'I have lived in Kensington, Bloomsbury and the City – I would give the palm to the city' – Leonard Woolf.

Although they 'co-founded' the Bloomsbury Group, it was to Clifford's Inn, Fleet Street that the Woolfs moved after their honeymoon in 1912. Fleet Street is mentioned in many Woolf novels, letters and diaries. Elizabeth, Mrs Dalloway's daughter, 'looked up Fleet Street. She walked...to St Pauls, shyly like someone penetrating on tiptoes.' In 'The Waves' Bernard walks down Fleet Street among 'multitudinous, carrying attaché-cases dodging with incredible celerity.' In 'The Years,' Woolf says that 'along Fleet Street conversation was impossible, the pavement was so narrow.' Marlowe the playwright in Orlando is 'drunk in the Cock Tavern in Fleet Street,' and Nick

Greene the poet needs to hear 'the drays roar upon the cobbles of Fleet Street' in order to write. Woolf thought that famous resident Samuel Johnson should be called 'Saint Samuel of Fleet Street.'

Woolf was inspired by the city's bustle, its Underground, omnibuses, workers and shoppers. She was fascinated by monuments like Temple Arch and by Big Ben, and the city lives in her characters, shaping their emotions and actions. Woolf continually walked across London thinking through her novels. The city is essential to her identity as a writer and central to her imagination. Women, most of all, in her writings find London a space of opportunity liberated from domesticity. Clarissa Dalloway praises the rhythms of the city seeing beauty everywhere, unlike the masculine world of Whitehall.

Standing in Fleet Street today, we can still see some of what Woolf saw. The present will fade and we will sense Woolf's Fleet Street.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 1 The Daily Courant, 4 Dictionary, 6 Suffragettes, 8 Rachel Beer, 11 Novella, 12 Telly, 14 Bibliophile, 15 Bluestockings.
Down: 1 The New Atalantis, 2 Clifford's Inn, 3 Manuscript, 4 Dickens, 5 Parchment, 6 Sommeier, 7 The Rambler, 9 CORP, 10 Profumo, 13 Folio.

CROSSWORD

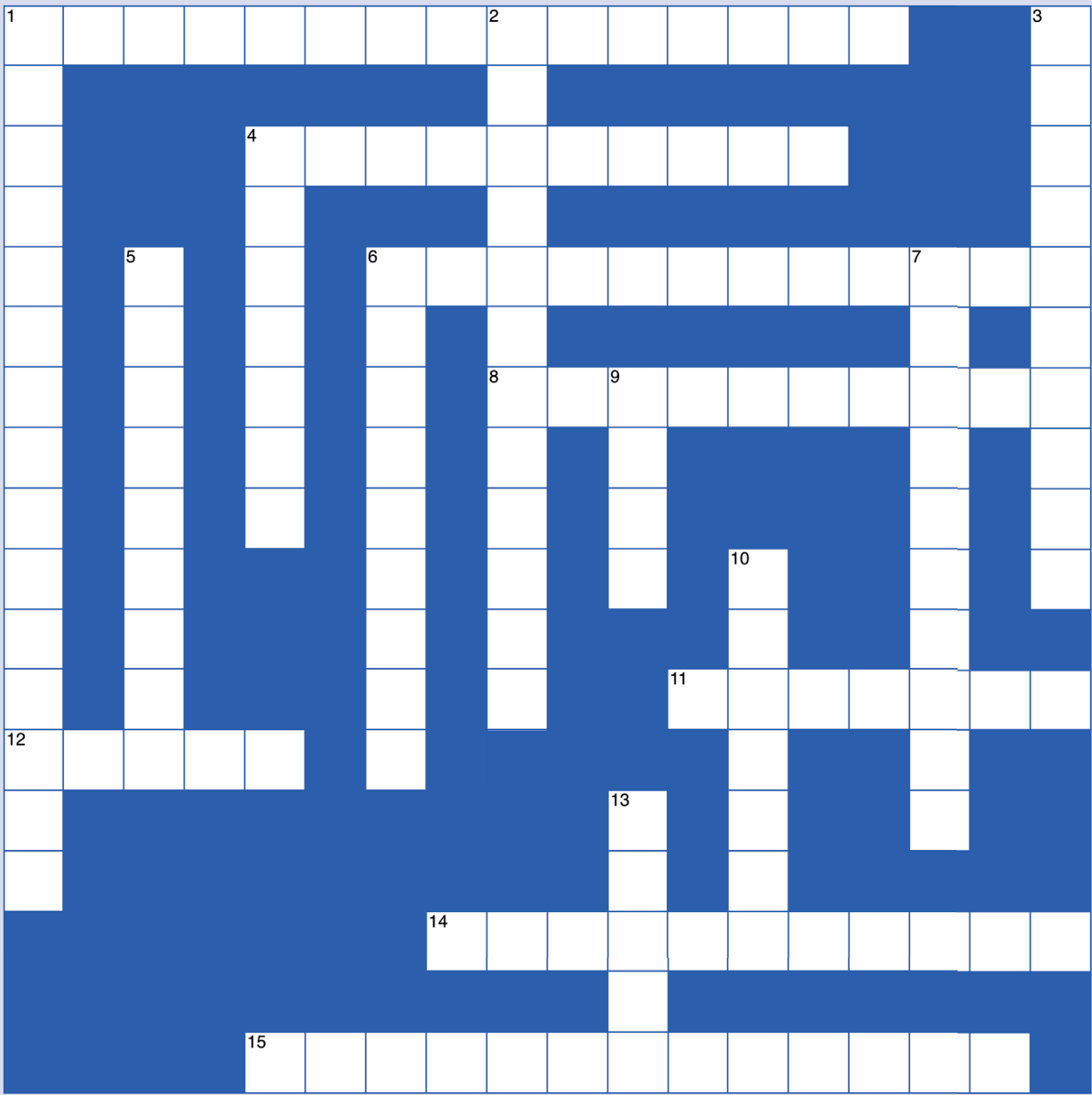
Try your hand at our area themed crossword. Clues are scattered throughout this paper, with answers available on the bottom left of this spread.

ACROSS

- 1 England's first daily newspaper founded by Elizabeth Mallett (3,5,7)
- 4 a compilation of words (10)
- 6 a group of women who campaigned for women's right to vote (12)
- 8 the first official female editor of a national newspaper (6,4)
- 11 a short novel or a long story (7)
- 12 Dr Johnson's affectionate nickname for his wife (5)
- 14 a book lover (11)
- 15 a group of highly educated women in the 18th century (13)

DOWN

- 1 famous work of notorious editor and satirist Delarivier Manley (3,3,9)
- 2 first home of the newly married Woolfs (9,3)
- 3 a book or piece of music written by hand, and normally not yet published (10)
- 4 the author inspiring this years literary festival (7)
- 5 a historic equivalent to paper made using animal skin (9)
- 6 a wine waiter (9)
- 7 Dr Johnson's periodical publication (3, 7)
- 9 the restaurant on Fleet Street by Le Cordon Bleu (4)
- 10 a former British secretary of state whose career ended in scandal (7)
- 13 an individual leaf of paper or parchment (5)



SPOTLIGHT: GRADUATE FILMMAKERS CHRISTINA SINGLETON AND KATIE ORVES

Christina and Katie are two recent graduates from London South Bank University, having studied Film & TV Practice. During their final year of university, they worked with the Museum of Diversity to curate a short documentary on underrepresented women in the workforce.

“Troy Richards, CEO of the Museum of Diversity, has supported and mentored us throughout our documentary, introducing us to incredible individuals. In our research we found disheartening statistics about women's experiences working in male-dominated fields, such as high rates of leaving these industries due to discrimination.

We felt it was important to give voices to the women living these real experiences and share their stories about things that are not often spoken about, and determine what they think is necessary for change. Despite having the pleasure of interviewing women from a wide range of sectors, from IT to law to film, we encountered recurring shared experiences that led many women down unintended pathways. Listening to their struggles, but most importantly how they overcame them, was truly inspirational.

Each woman we interviewed spoke with confidence and pride about who they are and the successful positions they hold today. Filmmaking is all about telling a story, and that is what we are aiming to do with this documentary. We are still working on the edit in order to do justice to the stories we have heard, but are very excited to be able to share it with you soon.”



THE TIMES: GET BRITAIN READING

Reading for fun transforms lives. It builds children's confidence, stretches their imagination and is a proven driver of future success. More importantly, as the bestselling author Katherine Rundell puts it, "if there is a silver bullet for ordinary, everyday childhood happiness, it is reading for pleasure."

Yet the proportion of children who don't read for enjoyment is rising across every age bracket, according to the National Literacy Trust. One in five aged 11 to 13 never pick up a book voluntarily. One in ten aged 5 to 18 do not have a single book of their own.

That is why The Sunday Times started the Get Britain Reading Campaign last October. We challenged our readers to:

- Take Our Pledge to read, just for fun, for at least 10 minutes a day for six weeks.

- Donate money to the brilliant charity Bookbanks and put books into the hands of those who need them most
- Volunteer to read with children in schools, via the organisation Coram Beanstalk

With the backing of everyone from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie to Graham Norton the campaign has already enjoyed enormous success. We've seen our first wave of pledge-takers complete their six week challenge, raised tens of thousands of pounds and recruited hundreds of volunteer readers. When the Chancellor unveiled a new library book fund for every secondary school in England she cited us.

But there is so much scope to do more. As the government begins a National Year of Reading we urge you to sign up to The Sunday Times campaign and make your mark on the

fightback against the reading crisis. Share the link **[thetimes.com/uk/get-britain-reading](https://www.thetimes.com/uk/get-britain-reading)** on social media, take the pledge, and tell us what you are reading now.



FLEET STREET QUARTER IS VERY PROUD TO BE SUPPORTING THE SUNDAY TIMES GET BRITAIN READING CAMPAIGN DURING THIS ALL IMPORTANT NATIONAL YEAR OF READING.

THE CITY IS A BUSY PLACE, WE LEAD BUSY LIVES AND WE ARE INEXTRICABLY CONNECTED TO OUR MOBILES AND LAPTOPS. THIS CAMPAIGN GIVES US A REASON TO BREAK FREE AND REDISCOVER THE JOY OF READING! THIS YEAR, I FOR ONE AM DITCHING DIGITAL TO READ A BOOK, AT LEAST ONCE A DAY - EVEN JUST 10 MINUTES COUNTS!

LADY LUCY FRENCH



WOMEN'S HEALTH SHOULDN'T MEAN WAITING

For many women, healthcare still involves waiting for appointments, for answers, or until symptoms become impossible to ignore. In busy working lives, preventative health often slips down the priority list, even when it plays a crucial role in long-term wellbeing.

Cervical screening plays a key role in preventing cervical cancer through early detection, yet around one in three eligible women in England are not up to date with their smear test, according to NHS data. Delays are rarely about a lack of awareness; more often they reflect practical barriers such as limited appointment availability, long waiting times, anxiety, or simply a lack of time.

But cervical screening is only one part of women's health. Many women experience symptoms linked to hormones, reproductive health, fatigue, stress or fertility concerns long before they seek support. Too often,

care is delayed because accessing it feels complicated or disruptive to everyday life.

At Fleet Street Clinic, we see this every day. That's why we offer same-day cervical screening alongside a wider range of women's health services, helping women access timely advice, testing and treatment without lengthy delays.

The same applies to breast lumps and other concerning symptoms. For maximum peace of mind, we can nearly always arrange specialist imaging tests and appointments on the same day.

When healthcare is easier to access, women are more likely to take action sooner, not later. Earlier support often leads to better outcomes, fewer disruptions and greater peace of mind.

Find out more: **www.fleetstreetclinic.com**
29 Fleet Street | 020 7353 5678



FREE ONLINE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES WITH SEEDL

Cat Pearce,
Marketing & Communications
Assistant,
Fleet Street Quarter BID

As part of our continued partnership with the virtual live learning service SEEDL, businesses in the Fleet Street Quarter can access free training opportunities whenever and wherever they are! This online learning hub offers courses designed to upskill local employees, boost business performance, and contribute to the continued growth of the Fleet Street Quarter. Learn on a flexible basis via online webinars on a huge range of subjects and skills.

Upskill for free by learning to manage your inbox more efficiently, manage stakeholder relationships effectively, or even by creating a robust onboarding process for new hires. Additionally, SEEDL offers courses on self improvement outside the workplace such as

learning to meditate, how to inspire and motivate others, and how to overcome social anxiety.

Scan the QR Code to sign up for free, and view the huge range of learning opportunities available.



WINTER WHEELERS

The Winter Wheelers campaign over December to January saw 56 people, across 15 workplaces log a ride in the Fleet Street Quarter. In total, that's 1,007 trips with 710 being commutes. The winner from Bluefield Partners LLP - Martin Eales, won a Proviz light set, and Abby Knight was the top encourager for the City of London and won a £50 Evans gift card. Join the race now and sign up at lovetoride.net !

"I barely cycled in my 20s and 30s but bought a road bike at 40 and have never looked back. I love to get out at the weekend and do a long ride, but the advent of the shared e-bikes in London has made the commute the most enjoyable part of the day. I now use them to and from the station at the home end and in the City whenever I can. The Cycle September challenge really inspired me to think more about how I could replace shorter car journeys with a bike. Looking forward to the next one."

Martin Eales,
Group Finance Director at Bluefield
Partners LLP

I've been cycling from Hackney to the City for about 7 years now, and it's just become part of my day. It's the easiest way for me to fit in some exercise, and it beats standing on a packed tube first thing in the morning.

The ride home is my favourite part, especially in the summer. The parks are full, the pubs are buzzing, and it's a nice way to slow down after work. Even in winter there's something special about it cycling past all the Christmas lights in December always feels a bit magical (as long as it's not pouring with rain!).

Abby Knight,
Group Office & Administration Manager



OFFERS FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES



We are excited to introduce our newly launched breakfast at Terra Rossa La Cantina, located on Limeburner Lane, EC4M 7AX. Starts from Monday 9/02

To celebrate, we're offering a Fleet Street discount for the whole of March.

Enjoy 10% off your breakfast at La Cantina only by quoting "Fleet Street Breakfast 10" when booking.

Join us for homemade sweet and savoury breakfast options in the heart of the City.



CREO: MEETINGS MADE EASY

Just steps from Chancery Lane Station, the newly renovated Westgate House offers bright, modern meeting rooms designed for productivity and style. With advanced AV technology, whiteboards for collaboration, and catering from breakfast to sushi lunches, everything is taken care of. Whether it's a pitch, workshop, or team session, Westgate House is the perfect place to host.



NOW OPEN: VALLIST - FINLAISON HOUSE

To celebrate the opening of our first London location, Vallist at Finlaison House (15-17 Fournival Street), we're offering a special rate to local businesses on coworking memberships and meeting room bookings. Vallist is a hospitality-led workspace offering private offices, flexible coworking and meeting rooms, supported by on-site concierge service.

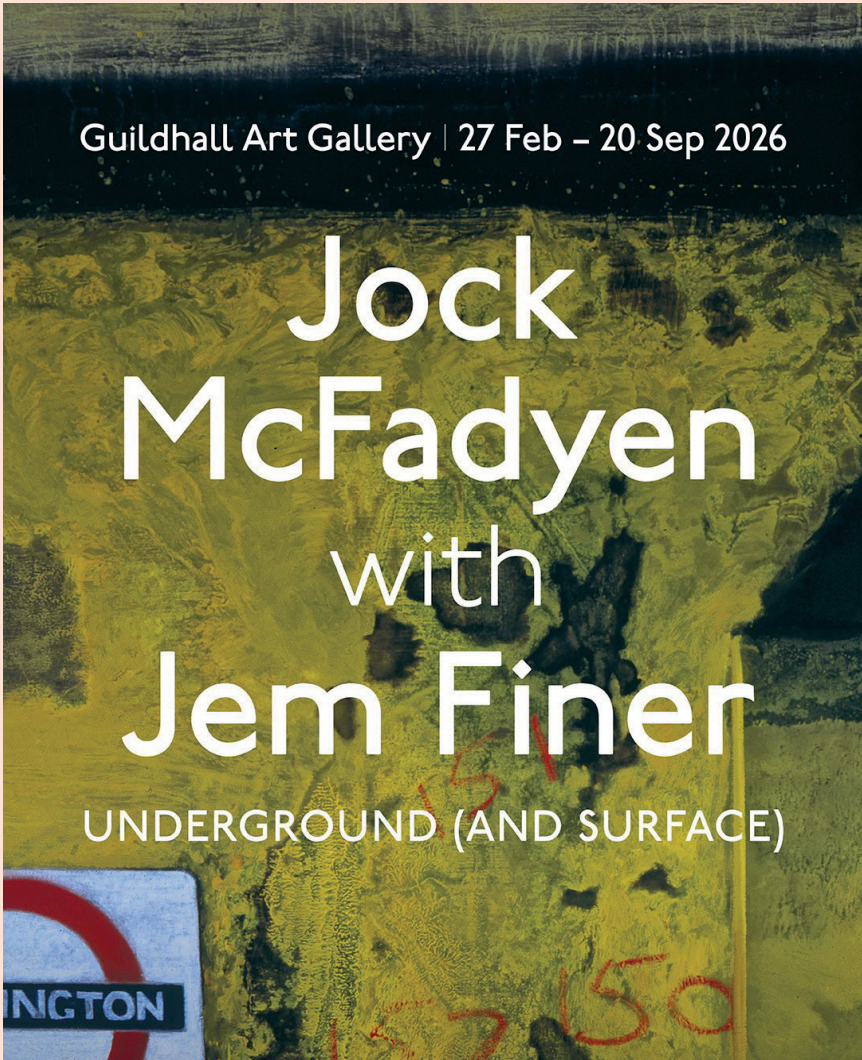
Fleet Street Quarter members can take advantage of the following opening offers, valid until the end of February:

50% off Work Club memberships for the first 3 months. £300 → £150

20% off meeting room bookings and day passes

Use promo code 'FleetStreetQuarter' when enquiring via our website or by emailing finlaisonhouse@vallist.com.

For full details, availability, or to view the space, please visit www.vallist.com, pop by, or get in touch by email.



JOCK MCFADYEN WITH JEM FINER: UNDERGROUND (AND SURFACE)

Step into the sensory world of the London Underground at Guildhall Art Gallery. This new exhibition, running from 27 February to 20 September, brings together Jock McFadyen's large-scale Tube station paintings, revisiting his Underground series from the late 1990s, with a layered soundscape by Jem Finer of The Pogues crafted from field recordings on the Northern and Central lines. Image and sound intertwine to transform familiar

sights and everyday noises into a striking, otherworldly experience, inviting you to see and listen to the Underground like never before.

The exhibition continues with McFadyen's expansive cityscapes and early works featuring people, offering a counterpoint to the shadowed subway interiors. **Admission is Pay What You Can.**

Plan your visit: thecityofldn.com/jockmcfadyen.



Try your hand at letter writing in the historic home of Dr Johnson in the heart of the Fleet Street Quarter. In this fun session, you'll learn the art of quill writing and letter folding. The workshop will be led by Liz Ison, editor of *A Literary Letter for Every Day of the Year*, who will give a short talk on letter writing and what you might find in an 18th century letter writing manual. Tea and biscuits

included. This drop-in session is included in your admission fee to the house. Families are welcome, though children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. The workshop will run throughout the afternoon, starting on the hour at 1, 2 and 3.

Sunday 8th February or Sunday 15th of March, book online or on the day!



SPRING IS HERE, AND SO IS OUR NEW SEASON MENU

CORD BY LE CORDON BLEU, 85 FLEET STREET

Executive Chef Karl O'Dell is showcasing the best of British seasonal produce, from wild garlic and asparagus to spring lamb and day-boat fish, crafted with the precision and creativity you'd expect from a Le Cordon Bleu kitchen.

As our neighbours, we're pleased to offer 10% throughout March, valid for lunch and dinner, on both our à la carte and tasting menus.

Whether it's a working lunch, client dinner, or after-work celebration, we'd love to welcome you. **Simply mention "FSQ" when booking or during your visit.**



THE SPRING AND SUMMER EDIT AT THE REFINERY, NEW STREET SQUARE

The Refinery is made for summer gatherings in every form. The semi-private main bar opens onto the terrace for drinks parties & standing receptions, while the mezzanine overlooks the buzz below, perfect for meetings or intimate gatherings.

Outside, the sun-soaked terrace is made for cocktails, nibbles & long sociable days, with a large screen on the square for live Wimbledon screenings. Book small areas or the full venue for effortless entertaining, whatever the occasion.

Their open-plan layout makes The Refinery new Street Square a versatile destination for every kind of gathering. From cosy corners for productive meetings, to lively after-work drinks in the bar, and private celebrations on the semi-private mezzanine, every space is designed to suit your occasion. With sun-soaked terraces, stylish interiors, and a vibrant city-centre atmosphere, The Refinery is the perfect setting

to relax, socialise, and make every event effortlessly memorable.

Get in touch with their team at info@refinerynewstreetsquare.co.uk



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FLEET STREET QUARTER

FESTIVAL OF WORDS

THE AGE OF WISDOM AND FOOLISHNESS

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EXPLORE THE
PROGRAMME

The Festival of Words returns, bringing five days of enlightening and transformative conversations to this historic western side of the City of London.

Featuring an array of authors, journalists and thinkers across multiple genres, the Festival of Words once again celebrates Fleet Street Quarter as the place where stories have always been born.



12 - 16 MAY 2026