



**CANDLEWICK  
WARD TEAM**

— NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024 —

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR COMMON COUNCILLORS  
CHRIS BODEN & JAMES ST JOHN DAVIS



## New Lord Mayor of London to be sworn in

**The Silent Ceremony is the occasion where the new Lord Mayor of London is sworn into office, and it takes place on the day before the Lord Mayor's Show. As the name implies, the ceremony is performed in total silence apart from the swearing of the oath.**

Expect a procession of richly dressed liverymen and officials, the removal of the outgoing

Mayor's tricorn hat and the donning of the new, and the presentation of the various symbols of office to the new Mayor. These include the crystal sceptre (won at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 and presented to the City in gratitude for financing the war effort), sword and badges and all are offered by their respective officers. The party then leave, also in silence, and the new Mayor and family then move into the Mansion House for their term of office.

The Ceremony is one of the City's ancient traditions - for over 800 years and this year's Silent Ceremony takes place in the splendour of the Guildhall on Friday 8th November. We have

secured a number of guest tickets for the Ceremony for Candlewick businesses and residents, which we are happy to distribute on a first come, first served basis to anyone who wishes to attend.

Doors close for admittance to the Ceremony at 14:30 - the precisely choreographed ceremony itself lasts for 20 minutes, finishing at 15:20 and we will be having refreshments for those who would like to join us afterward.

Please email James at [james.stjohn@davis@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:james.stjohn@davis@cityoflondon.gov.uk) if you (and a guest, if you wish) would like to attend this historic event.



## Candlewick Colloquies

---

**Join us for a special panel discussion and presentation on the topic: “What makes a good city?” We will explore how good cities are formed, where people live and work together in such a way that that they know and appreciate one another and enable each other to fulfil their potential.**

Such a city and its members will experience physical, mental and spiritual health; will benefit

the work, leisure, family and other communities to which its members belong; and will experience and value both unity and diversity.

The City of London is the archetypal city and it could be the best ever city. We want to discuss and explore how we – as a Ward Team, businesses and residents – can make this a reality.

The evening will be hosted by St Mary Abchurch on 17 October at 6PM. Everyone welcome. No need to register but do let James St John Davis know if you are coming.

---

## ‘We R Blighty’ an update from our Ward Officer

---

Following a number of concerns raised regarding a ‘charity’ which has been operating in the Ward, our Dedicated Ward Officer has provided an update which we would like to share with you.

This is important as many of you give generously to a variety of ‘local’ charities and support those you see in need but we want to ensure that there is clarity with regards to specific operations within the Ward.

If you have further or ongoing concerns about this issue, please don’t hesitate to reach out to either Chris or James.

“We R Blighty are a community interest company (CIC), which means they have charitable intentions but have no charitable charter. For organisations to collect money in the City of London, they need approval in order to do so. We have not given a permit to ‘We R Blighty’ as they do not have a charitable charter. ‘We R Blighty’ are well aware that they cannot collect money in the City of London and I want to confirm that they have been given a final written warning to stop collecting money, be it through a bucket or via card payment. The only way they can operate in the City is if they are collecting details for direct debits and are not collecting money on the street but it is important that businesses and residents are aware that this is not a charity, as most would understand the word.

We R Blighty have stated they are using an exemption that exists for the sale of periodical magazines on the street without a permit if the proceeds are directly supporting your livelihood, such as the Big Issue. The distinction however is We R Blighty are selling ‘periodicals’ that support their CIC, not their livelihoods. Therefore, this exemption does not apply to them.

Officers are keeping an eye on the situation and informing them they cannot collect money (they already know this). This is being recorded on bodyworn video and statements about the encounters are being written and forwarded to the Licensing Team, who are currently taking the lead in tackling this and are currently prosecuting the directors of the CIC.”

**PC William Skilling, City of London Police**

# London Bridge Maintenance

---

**London Bridge is one of the busiest pedestrian routes in the City, providing access to and from London Bridge Station and the City. We cross the Bridge daily like so many Candlewick colleagues and share the frustration caused by the damaged flagstones on the northern end of the Bridge.**

It has been concerning and frustrating that it's taken over a year to get these flagstones repaired, which have been soaking unsuspecting commuters' feet as rainwater collects underneath them. We first reported this over a year ago, but the patching 'repairs' only lasted a few months. It was clear to us that a permanent repair was required as



well as replacement of that section of the footpath.

Transport for London, who own and manage the footpath, said that budgetary constraints have delayed the planned repair and replacement programme, indefinitely. Having not been prepared to accept this, we have petitioned the City Corporation to do the job instead.

Finally, that pressure has worked, and the repairs have now

been undertaken by the City Corporation's contractors. We continue to pressure TfL on the long-term replacement and have had an indication that this will be included in the Monument Junction re-design works, scheduled to go to consultation this autumn.

There will be further detail on this programme of works in the next newsletter.



# Candlewick Community Events - VVV

---

Hello from VVV!

We are a full-service law firm based here in the heart of the Candlewick Ward. It would be great to get to know our closest neighbours so we want to host a complimentary event to bring everyone together.

We can introduce ourselves and raise a glass to the great work everyone is doing here within our little piece of the City. London can be a little anonymous at times and we are keen to work with the Candlewick Ward Team to change that.

Below is a link to share your interest and preferences for a community event hosted by us, scan the QR code opposite to let us know. (Colleagues would of course be welcome. Just share the link so we can add their preferences too.)

We really hope you are as keen to connect as we are!



# Is your business registered?

---

The City Corporation has just begun the canvass period, where they write to all flats and businesses to ask them to confirm their voter registration for this year.

Registering as a resident or business you have a stronger voice over many areas that directly impact you: whether that's support in growing your business, transport and policing

or enhancing our safe, green and bustling streets that make your colleagues excited to be in the City.

If you have not heard from the City of London Corporation or have registered and would like to discuss the process of allocating and appointing electors in your organisation, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**Deputy Chris Boden**  
[christopher.boden@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.boden@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

**James St John Davis CC**  
[james.stjohndavis@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:james.stjohndavis@cityoflondon.gov.uk)



Scan the QR code to join the  
Candlewick ward whatsapp  
community group

[candlewickward.org](http://candlewickward.org)

*This Newsletter is produced, paid for and distributed by your  
Candlewick Ward Team, at no cost to the public purse.*