

# News from 104

Our quarterly update from the 104th Alderman for Aldersgate has a pedestrian theme.



in to meet their senior team. I learned how SCPR assists in the development of medicines for difficult to treat diseases, and specialises in inviting patients with specific conditions - such as chronic pain, cognitive disorders and diabetes - to participate in research trials.

If you would like to learn more about SPCR, or might be interested in participating in a research trial, please check out their website [stpancrasclinicalresearch.com](http://stpancrasclinicalresearch.com), or pop into their clinic and make an appointment to speak to a member of the team. Alternatively, afternoons are best for a 'drop-in' to speak with one of their friendly and knowledgeable staff in person.

## Cycling

To finish on two wheels, the inappropriate use of bicycles and scooters on the roads, pavement and highwalks was an issue raised at many Wardmotes including Aldersgate. This will not be an easy problem to resolve, but the City Corporation is taking action, most visibly by the City Police reviving its cycle squad - which I was pleased to see in the Estate recently - and cracking down on the 'bump-starting' of dockless bikes.

If you have any questions about my work as your Alderman, please drop me a line at [makin4aldersgate@gmail.com](mailto:makin4aldersgate@gmail.com) and I'll try my best to provide some answers.

**Christopher Makin**

*104th Alderman for the Ward of Aldersgate*

Walking on the podium between Ben Jonson House and Bryer Court, you get interesting views into the offices at 45 Beech Street, which is set at a slight angle to the street. This is because it was built in 1958 to face onto Barbican. Not the Barbican Estate, but a road called Barbican that ran between Long Lane and Beech Street before the Estate was built.

I learned about the orientation of 45 Beech Street at a meeting hosted by its new owners, HUB, which acquired the building in partnership with Bridges Fund Management for £30m. We were informed that they aim to retain as much of the existing structure as possible, whilst converting the property into studio and one bedroom apartments that they will offer for rent.

It was heartening to hear that HUB has already met with some of its neighbours and plans to meet with more. This will include nearby buildings in the Barbican, plus Bridgewater House, The Cobalt Building and Tudor Rose Court. These conversations will inform HUB's design proposals that should be available in the autumn.

Hopefully the conversion of 45 Beech Street will retain its mysterious bas-relief sculpture which is pictured here. Do you know what this sculpture represents? If yes, please let me know!

## Cleaning

Walking, to continue my pedestrian theme, towards the Neaman Practice or St Barts, you may well travel down Middle Street or Newbury Street. The layout of these neat, straight streets dates, as I read on the Ian Visits website, from the mid 16th century. Further, Ian Visits states that they are "quite significant as it's one of the earliest developments of an entire block at the same time predating even Covent Garden — and the strict linear layout of the roads in this cluster of streets was almost unique at a time when most streets and passages were more, well, curvy."

The third street in this early piece of town planning is East Passage. I'm guessing you don't walk down it willingly as it was, until recently, an unloved byway, home to detritus and pigeons.

I say 'until recently' as a resident in Little Britain highlighted the poor state of East Passage to me and I raised this with City Officers. It's good news that Officers took prompt action to deep clean East Passage, so if there are other locations that need their attention, do let me know.

Walking further south you reach the now empty Museum of London. The report on the future of this important location will be



*What is the hidden meaning of this sculpture?*

reviewed by the City Corporation's Policy and Resources Committee in September. At the Residents Meeting held in Frobisher Crescent we were told that 'expressions of interest' from developers who would retain and adapt the buildings rather than demolish them, is generating a recommended strategy for the site. We can but hope that strategy will be good for the planet, the neighbourhood and the City Corporation.

## Researching

Walking beneath Bunyan Court, you pass the offices and main clinic of St Pancras Clinical Research (SPCR), an independent clinical research company. Having wondered what this organisation does, I was delighted to be invited



*Meeting the team at St Pancras Clinical Research*