

Déjà vu but ever optimistic and ready to celebrate

When I wrote my last Chair's Corner, we were waiting to discover if the City would grant a relief from noisy construction work in residential areas on Saturday mornings; not surprisingly, it did not. It decided to keep the construction régime exactly as it is, except that working hours on Saturdays will be 9.00am-2.00pm, instead of 8.00am-1.00pm.

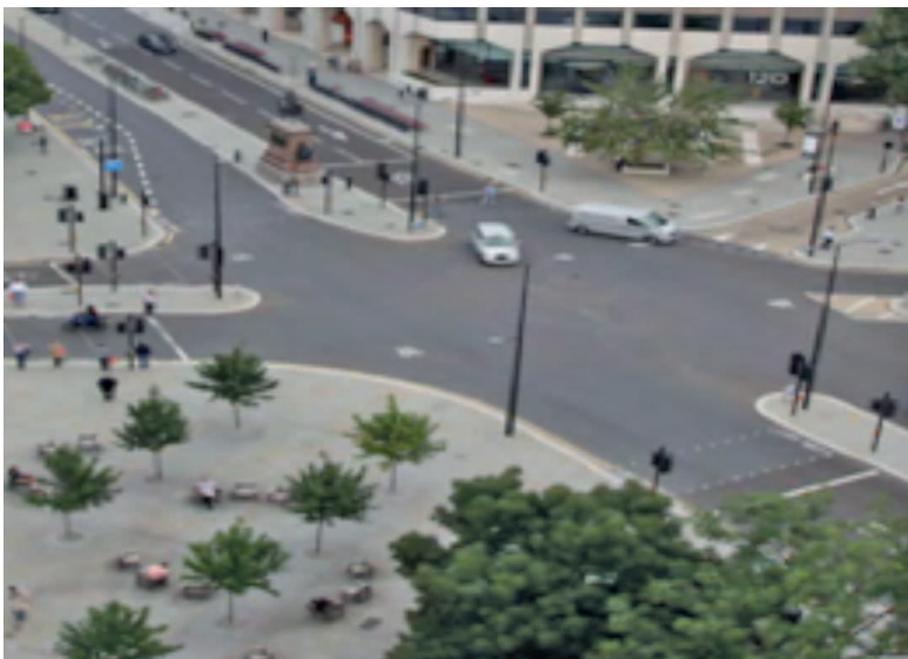
The Port Health Committee, whose decision it was, also emphasised that it would put more effort into dealing with complaints and enforcing construction methods statements. It now levies funds from developers to pay towards enforcing the rules on construction. The Environmental Health Team is genuinely supportive of complaints; it runs a 24-hour service to tackle noise nuisance. The Barbican Association is keen that residents should use this service and complain if they are disturbed because of noise. Complaints are logged on the City's system and they can be used later as evidence, if necessary. An action which the BA has taken, is to put notices around the Estate, reminding residents of the number to ring. I'd welcome feedback from anyone who uses the service; I've already learnt that the team cannot deal with noise created by emergency services' sirens or helicopters and that residents have to repeat their stories more than once to different people. However, one of the reasons which officers gave for

maintaining the status quo on Saturdays was that the number of complaints about Saturday morning construction work was low. Another was that it is difficult to identify residential areas and moreover it would be invidious to give privilege to residents who live in identifiable residential areas over those who don't; in other words, because we can't protect everyone, we won't protect anyone.

A new Local Plan

Even though the Environmental Services officials might find it difficult to distinguish residential areas, one from another, their colleagues in Planning don't seem to have the same problem. The draft new Local Plan (which determines the planning framework for the next 20 years) does recognise residential areas (and it shows them on maps). Indeed, it wants new residential building to be confined to existing residential clusters and forbidden in commercial clusters on grounds that it is difficult to protect residential amenity if residences are mixed in with commercial buildings. It remains to be seen how the thinking and discussion develop.

The process of developing the new plan is lengthy and complicated (<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/Pages/Local-Plan-Review.aspx>). It began in Autumn 2016 with a consultation on



Look...No cars!

CHAIR'S CORNER

options and issues, to which we responded; the draft plan is out now for consultation until 28 February and a revised plan will be published in the autumn. This is then submitted to the Secretary of State and an inspector is appointed to consider the plan and hear evidence on it early in 2020; we

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Happy workers...nice buses

intend to contribute. The City will then consider the inspector's recommendations and adopt a plan in late 2020.

A BA working group is currently drawing up a response and we welcome residents' comments to help populate it. Additionally, we encourage individual residents and house groups to comment directly to the City. We shall, of course, be emphasising those elements that protect and enhance residential amenity and will be commenting on air and light pollution, noise, protection of the listed Estate and the effects of cumulative development on daylight and sunlight.

Transportation strategy

The other strategy to which we have just responded is the City's Transportation Strategy (our response can be seen on our website.) This is a marvellously Panglossian document. Its starting point is to acknowledge that City streets are presently narrow, crowded, noisy, blocked by construction sites, polluted, etc. Yet it paints a wonderful vision of lovely streets with happy pedestrians on wide pavements, swaying trees, the odd cyclist and small, electric vans carrying deliveries; not a construction site in view. I exaggerate, of course and there is much that is worthy in the strategy. However, it is challenging to imagine how a square mile with a medieval street pattern, narrow alleys and a local plan which forecasts increasing numbers of new offices and workers can meet all the aspirations contained in this strategy. We have suggested that it requires regular public reports on how it is being implemented. Still, the London Wall Place Highwalks and the traffic restrictions on Bank Junction, among other newly developed parts of urban realm in the City, do show that environments can be improved radically. So, roll on the vision of an unpolluted Beech Street!

Democratic representation

In the last issue I wrote of our dismay at our resident councillors not being able to speak on our behalf because of the Standards

Committee's restrictive interpretation of the Localism Act and "disclosable pecuniary interests". It seems that many City councillors were similarly dismayed and thought that the Standards Committee was taking an overly-restrictive stance. At the meeting of the full council in December (the Court of Common Council), there was discussion of the issue. The BA, together with the residents' associations for Golden Lane and Petticoat Square Leaseholders' Association, wrote to Court members urging them to support motions that would enable our elected representatives to represent us properly, at least being able to speak on matters which affect the generality of their constituents. In the end, the Court passed a resolution telling the Standards Committee that it "feels that the Committee may have adopted too rigid an approach with regard to dispensations for Members representing residential areas with respect to speaking on issues affecting their constituents.

The Court therefore requests that the Standards Committee should, as part of the current review of its policy and guidance on dispensations, adopt a position where Members would generally be granted a dispensation to speak (but not vote) on all matters concerning their Ward where they have an engaged disclosable pecuniary interest other than when that disclosable pecuniary interest would be directly and materially impacted by a matter to be determined at a meeting of the Court or one of its committees or sub-committees, subject of course to the proper exercise of the statutory discretion in each case."

The committee was also asked to consider that members with leases or tenancies from the City might vote, as well as speak, when matters in question do not relate particularly to their own leases or tenancies.

Girls' School

I have another sense of déjà vu over the Girls' School. In December 2017, we learnt that the school wanted to expand and to take over the Thomas More car park as well to build under Mountjoy House for an enlarged

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primary school. That caused enormous concern to the residents around the Thomas More car park. Last summer, the school withdrew that proposal and later produced another proposal. They informed the local house group Chairs and sent a leaflet around the Estate, with an invitation to respond.

Although the plans are not fully developed, essentially, what we were shown was a building, with kitchens and a dining room, under Mountjoy House, a new full-height building on the site of the current small buildings facing the short section of the lake and a new building next to the existing school building on the stretch of podium which forms an entrance to the Girls' School.

We are gathering residents' views and we will hold open meetings. So far, issues raised by residents include:

- The effects of kitchens immediately under residential premises, particularly those of smells and plant noise
- The impact on the Grade II Listed Buildings of the Estate and the Grade II* Listed Landscape.
- The fact that the school has grown incrementally since its inception from just under 400 pupils to a proposed 826. It is not clear if the school has a strategic plan that will cope with further expansion.
- Why the school is not considering using space which will become available on the Bastion House site. This office block, next to Mountjoy House and the Museum of London, is due for redevelopment and it would be interesting to consider whether or not the school might have space in that building, easily accessible to its existing building via the Highwalk and with the potential for future expansion.

The Barbican Association's working group is due to have further meetings with the school and its architects. The school plans to develop its proposals and process them through various City committees, aiming for a planning application in July and a start on site in July 2020.

Meanwhile, on a jollier note, thoughts are progressing within the Barbican Association and the City about ways to celebrate the Barbican Estate's 50th anniversary.

Put a note of our AGM in your diary – 24 April.



Jane Smith
Chair, BA

chairba@btinternet.com

Terrace block service charges to rise?

The City is looking to reallocate some car park costs to the terrace block service charges, although this will be subject to consultation with residents.

The reason for this potential reallocation is that, as the car parks are not fully occupied, the service charge due from the empty spaces is paid by the City, which therefore has an incentive to reallocate some of that cost.

At present, one third of the cost of employing the car park attendants (CPAs) is charged to residents of the terrace blocks, through their service charges. Residents in the tower blocks pay for their own separate concierge service.

The one third charge reflects the fact that the CPAs spend part of their time providing concierge services to the terrace blocks, such as handling parcels and guiding visitors. However, a City survey showed that a greater percentage of CPAs' time was spent on concierge duties and security work, from which all terrace block residents benefit, rather than car park duties.

A reallocation is not simple, as our leases

determine what service charges we pay. The City Solicitors' advice is that there is the potential for reallocation, but this would be subject to leaseholder consultation.

Although this increase may not be welcomed by residents without car parking spaces, it might be argued that everyone has an interest in ensuring the financial viability of the car parks and the concierge service provided by the CPAs. Alternatively, some residents who have car parking spaces might believe that they are currently subsidising their car-free neighbours by paying most of the CPAs' costs.

At the last meeting of the Barbican Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC), views differed among members on this potential reallocation. Do be sure to make your opinions known to the RCC member for your building.

Turning to other suggestions to increase car park revenue and reduce the City's expenses, members of the RCC were strongly against reducing the five-hour free parking period for visitors. Further, members did not support a suggestion that the City

including identifying opportunities to reduce on-street parking for motor vehicles and motorcycles as part of the 'Vision Zero' strategy and reducing speed limits to 15mph

- targeting future zero-emissions restrictions beyond those within the ultra-low emissions regulations which apply to the Congestion Charging Zone from April 19

There is no reference to the continuing exclusion of powered two-wheelers from bus lanes, Bank Junction and Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) streets. Yet, the ability to commute by motorcycle is considered critical by some who live beyond cycle-range and for whom public transport is not a viable or attractive option. They might take the view that the City is not adequately inclined to differentiate between motorcycles and other forms of motorised transport.

There might also be reason for concern

- Track rail and wheel grinding

Concern has been expressed over TfL's initial response to the report. While stating that they were committed to remove the insulated rail joints which have been causing impulsive noise particularly under the western end of the Estate, they did not provide a timeframe. Additionally, TfL did not comment on any measures to mitigate the noise and vibration being caused by the points and crossings that run under the eastern end of the Estate.

TfL did, however, conclude that it remains committed to working with the City of London Corporation to ensure that noise and vibration are reduced as far as possible. With this in mind, CoL officers are meeting TfL experts as a priority to review in greater detail the proposed mitigation options proposed. Given that we are only considering about a 100 metre stretch of track, this is a wholly solvable issue and residents should reasonably expect action from TfL to provide improvements in the form of:

1. In the short-term, implement interim mitigation measures such as those which have been adopted in other parts of London,

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should commission an external report, in addition to the survey to which there is reference above, on how CPAs use their time.

No decision has been taken thus far on this topic. If you would like to hear more about it and find out what else is on the RCC's agenda, Barbican residents are welcome to attend the RCC's meetings. The next is in Guildhall on Monday, 4th March at 6.30 pm.



Christopher Makin

Chair, Barbican Resident's Consultation Committee which represents residents in their relationship with the City – their managing agent and landlord.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

that these proposals may have the unintended effect of over-complicating London's road transport network and the traffic rules applicable to it. Bank Junction has been closed to most forms of road traffic between 7.00am and 7.00pm since May 2017 and has generated over 320,000 individual fines in the first year, amounting to £21m in income from the offending drivers. This can hardly have been the prime motive for making the changes, one wonders.

The 30-year strategy plan for low pollution, in my view, might be improved by taking a somewhat altered view on some aspects of motorcycle usage.

Tony Swanson

City of London transport consultation and motorcycle usage

The consultation for the generally favourable City Streets strategic plan up to 2044 closes soon. If realised, as residents, we may experience many benefits, as several of the fifty proposals, in my view, are laudable.

However, the City is considering the implementation of a range of measures with potentially significant effects on the ability to commute by the full range of motor vehicles, including motorcycles/scooters, into and around the City, by measures such as:

- further reductions in traffic volumes,

Railroad Blues

The much-anticipated findings of the independent report commissioned by the Corporation into Tube noise and vibration confirm that ground-borne noise is clearly audible and vibration perceptible inside some Barbican homes and back claims that levels are excessive.

Noise and vibration exceed the background levels by a greater amount very early in the morning or late in the evening, seeming louder and more disturbing and in certain cases audibly in excess of the highest threshold set down by the World Health Organisation for noise during night-time hours.

Councillors presented with the report agree that this had become a public health issue and will continue lobbying TfL to address the problem.

The report also proposes a number of potential mitigation options including:

- The removal of points, crossings and track joint
- Track replacement using under ballast mat

as well as those detailed in the City's independent report, including:

- Immediately to introduce a tube speed limit underneath impacted areas of the Barbican Estate

- To relocate the ATMS joint underneath Defoe House and the siding cross-over joint underneath Brandon Mews, to a non-residential area

2. In the medium-term, to create an extended anti-vibration chamber underneath the short sections of track in question. This, more permanent solution, has proven to be effective in other areas of the Barbican Estate

3. Concurrently to establish open dialogue between TfL and impacted residents to acknowledge and discuss the issue fully, as well as to report back on progress. The newly formed Resident Transport Forum provides this opportunity

If you would like to read the Corporation's report into Tube noise and vibration or have any other questions or comments on Tube noise, please get in touch.

Adrian Bastow

Planning Update

Long Lane

Developments at the northern end of the estate are set to gather pace as the combination of the arrival of Crossrail, the potential relocation of the Museum of London and the Culture Mile initiative combine to focus attention on the area in and around Long Lane. It will, therefore, come as little surprise to see that a formal planning application has been submitted for the demolition and redevelopment of the site at 1-12 Long Lane. This can be viewed on the City of London website under planning reference 18/01020/FULMAJ.

1-12 Long Lane encompasses the three buildings from Pret A Manger at the Aldersgate end of Long Lane to the small alleyway by Subway, going towards the new Crossrail station development. Demolition of the existing site is set to commence in 2020/2021, when the current leases on the buildings expire, with completion of the new development scheduled for the end of 2023.

The proposed redevelopment will be 3m higher than the existing buildings at the front and with an additional four storeys to be set in a backwards tiered fashion, up to 20m higher at the rear. The application also acknowledges that this additional height would breach the threshold height of a Landmark Viewing

Corridor from Alexandra Palace to St. Paul's Cathedral. Hence, any objections to the planning application are likely to focus not only on the increased height of the development and the prospect of overshadowing and loss of light to neighbouring properties but also on its detrimental impact on an important and significant vista.

There are several terraces in the proposed development and the Barbican Association objection included a request to limit the use of these terraces after 8.00pm. Our experience has shown that noise from people on terraces can be disturbing.

London Wall Place 1 and 2

Groups of residents are grateful for the continuation of regular meetings with the management teams of these developments. Communication is excellent and Schroders is keen to be a good neighbour.

21 Moorfields

The piling has finished and Mace will soon be leaving the site; McAlpine won the construction contract. Regular meetings will continue with LandSec and McAlpine. Future dates are 17 April, 10 July, 16 October, at 6.00pm in the Lilac Room.

Bernard Morgan House

Regular newsletters and meetings with neighbours continue. Concrete has been poured in, up to the ground floor.

BBB and Illuminated signs

The proposal for illuminated signs and the re-

siting of the four Bs at the Barbican Centre has not yet been on a Planning Committee Agenda. The agendas are published on the Corporation of London website a week before each meeting. See David Kirkby's article on this issue.

ULEV junction Moor Lane

The Corporation of London is consulting on proposals to change the Moor Lane/Fore Street junction to a ULEV only route for a trial period. Ultra Low Emission Vehicles are electric vehicles, including some but not all hybrid ones. One of the proposals was to remove the barrier which is at present closed between 11.00pm and 7.00am; the Barbican Association has opposed this option. The night-time closure was agreed some years ago.

Moor Lane greening

Two residents of Heron Tower have offered to pay for the installation and maintenance of planters along Moor Lane. They want to improve the Moor Lane environment and with all the construction work there is certainly a need to do this. A workshop was called by the Corporation of London to discuss feasibility and gauge local interest, which was positive. The planters would be only a temporary arrangement until the City can complete an agreed and funded scheme for the full greening of Moor Lane, though the maintenance contractors who work on the Heron garden would have to be certified to work on the City streets. The City staff left to discuss the initiative and will respond.

Helen Kay

Chair BA Planning sub-committee

Barbican't! Our "Four B" signs remain at risk!

When Chambers, Powell and Bon put the finishing flourishes to its grand Barbican project, it was fronted with two great signs, one of them being above the main entrance to the Arts Centre in Silk Street. The other was on one of the concrete towers dominating Defoe Place, with the added words below, "Barbican Centre", for those disorientated en route to an event in the Arts Centre.

Aside from the slightly confusing wording on the Defoe sign, as current usage describes the Estate as the BARBICAN and the cultural centre is now the ARTS CENTRE and ignoring the fact that the great flight of stairs to the left of the Defoe sign now leads to nowhere, what is their significance?

The signs are an important element of the design and wayfinding around the Estate; they are instantly recognisable and are listed. The Arts Centre perhaps recognises their importance, as the intention, after taking them

down, is to relocate them elsewhere. Helen Kay highlighted these matters in the August 2018 issue of the Newsletter.

The Arts Centre applied for permission to remove these wonderful, long neglected, historic signs and replace them with new signage and typeface, carried on large metal boxes, with controllable LED lights. The proposal seeks to locate the Defoe sign close to bedrooms in the building; residents in Shakespeare Tower may not enjoy the intrusion either.

The Barbican Association, along with residents of Defoe House and Shakespeare Tower have lodged numerous objections; their comments can be viewed on the City of London Planning web site for project 18/00335/LBC.

The majority of the objections point out that the signs are listed and thus must be protected. They are clearly visible and serve their purpose, while the proposed



B4 it's too late

replacement on Defoe Place is said to be unacceptably intrusive into the bedrooms of nearby flats.

David Kirkby

Is the cost of “free” WiFi by using our heritage assets a price worth paying?

Probably, we all want good mobile phone connection in the City, especially as landline use continues to decline. For my part, I have not had any problems with reception but that may be because there are plenty of masts and other equipment above us to ensure that this is the case.

Vodafone and Telefonica (O2), through a joint venture, Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited (CTIL) currently have mobile phone masts on the roof of Florin Court, in Charterhouse Square but the lease there is about to expire.

In December 2018, the eight Cripplegate Common Councillors received a letter from Rebecca Skerrett, Acting Director of GVA Ltd, CTIL's agents, informing them that, subject to planning permission, it was intended to erect mobile phone masts and other equipment on the roof of Bowater House, on the Golden Lane Estate. That letter, similar to one sent to Mark Field MP, suggested that they should let Ms. Skerrett have their pre-planning application comments within 14 days.

Subsequently, the time limit was extended to 7 January but, at present, it seems that GVA has no intention of carrying out any public consultation, although there have already been several objections to the proposal; not least among the objectors is Taylor Wimpey.

Ironically, bearing in mind how The Denizen affects both listed estates, notably within them Bowater and Breton House, Taylor Wimpey refers to *“the substantial harm caused by the proposed development to the significance of the designated heritage assets is not outweighed by any perceived public benefits nor any commercial benefits to the City as freehold owner of the building”*.

Whatever the outcome of any planning application, our Common Councillors have discovered that CTIL has the right, subject only to obtaining planning permission, to erect masts and other equipment on virtually every building which the City Corporation owns in the Square Mile; in return, CTIL provides the Citywide free WiFi service. Despite CTIL's multi-million Pound agreement, which was signed in April 2017, being for fifteen years, it is said to have been processed through the various Corporation committees including Finance, Policy and Resources and Police, as well as Common Council, in non-public sessions, including, in the case of Finance, under the urgency procedure.

The City Corporation's press release states: *“CTIL will build 4G mobile ‘small cells, which will be housed on City street furniture such as lampposts, street signs, buildings and CCTV columns to provide enhanced mobile coverage*



Many views on this topic

at street level, and ensure that the City is best placed to become an early adopter of 5G which is widely expected to become available in 2020”. Even though “buildings” are mentioned, that is in the context of “small cells” that can be attached to lamp posts and not the multiple masts and other equipment proposed for Bowater.

This may be a Golden Lane Estate issue, but CTIL has the right to install similar equipment on top of Barbican and City of London School for Girls buildings, as well.

Fred Rodgers

Chair, Bernard Morgan Liaison Group

The North Barbican

On the west side of the Red Crosse, is a streete called the Barbican, because sometime there stodee on the North side thereof, a Burgh-Kenning or Water Tower of the Cittie called in some languages a Barbican.

John Stow, A survey of London 1603

The “streete” to which reference is made is, of course, now called Beech Street but before the Barbican Estate was built, it was known as Barbican. Indeed, a map from 1560 shows a red cross standing at the intersection with Golden Lane and Ordinance Survey maps from the 1890s show the location of the former watch-tower around or behind the location of today's Ben Jonson House. So, it might be said that the Barbican Estate owes its name and identity to its northern fringe, the area to the north of Beech Street, which was originally known as the North Barbican.

The history of the planning process for the North Barbican is both fascinating and complicated. It was incorporated into the Scheme by the Order of Common Council on 1 December 1955 with the Scheme's architects, Chamberlain, Powell and Bonn having argued the benefits of extending the new residential neighbourhood to link with the Golden Lane Estate. By 1959, the northern boundary of the Scheme ran along Fann Street to Viscount Street, south to Brackley Street and then west to Golden Lane.

The North Barbican was designed with several objectives in mind; to meet the need for accommodation for young people working in the City; to provide facilities for the Estate's

residents and to improve the Scheme's financial viability by incorporating commercial space. Thus, provision was made mainly for studio and one-bedroom flats, hostel accommodation (today's Blake Tower), extensive commercial floorspace on the podium, the relocation of the Cripplegate Institute into the Scheme and a large open plaza area to the south of Ben Jonson House, containing a recreation centre. The decision was also taken to provide meeting space within the recreation centre for the City of London Residents Association and while the Barbican was under construction, temporary accommodation was built for it on Fann Street.

The North Barbican also incorporated Bridgewater Square, which had been acquired by public subscription in 1926 and had passed to the City with the requirement that it be retained as an open space for use by City workers. In fact, one of the Bunyan Court ramps lies on land which was taken from Bridgewater Square and the City was required to give an equivalent piece of land in exchange, to remain as open space. That exchange land lies between Mountjoy House and Barber Surgeons' Garden, immediately to the north of the Museum of London.

However, by 1962, the City Corporation had still not acquired two critical pieces of land required to realise the 1960 Scheme; the GPO Training School (today's Cobalt Building) and the Cripplegate Institute (the present UBS offices on Golden Lane). With the rising cost of land, Chamberlain, Powell and Bonn was asked to consider alternative layouts that precluded the need to acquire these parcels. Although the firm argued vigorously and persuasively for the retention of the 1960

Scheme, maintaining that the long-term disadvantages of a reduced Scheme more than outweighed the short-term cost of acquiring the necessary land, the City decided against its recommendations and the so-called Scheme 2 was adopted by the Barbican Committee in May 1963.

The reduced land meant that Ben Jonson House was moved to its current location south of Cripplegate Street. At the same time, layout changes in the South Barbican had required the Arts Centre to be moved north and there was no longer space for the open plaza and Recreation Centre; the decision was taken immediately to defer building. It was nominally relocated to Fann Street, adjacent to the hostel, at which location it might be considered at a later date without affecting the remainder of the Scheme. It was excluded from the 1964 planning consent for Phase IV and I found no evidence in my research that it was ever seriously considered again. Over time, the temporary building on Fann Street for the City of London Residents Association became known as the Fann Street Club Rooms. It was demolished in 1995, when land was released from the Barbican for the building of Tudor Rose Court.

From 1966 onwards, scheme layouts found in Chamberlain, Powell and Bonn marketing brochures show the area to the east of the hostel once again as a garden. These images were published in several architectural journals between 1970 and 1974. In 1974, the Barbican Committee finally gave the instruction for the land to be laid out as a garden, thereby completing the North Barbican which we see today.

Ruth Cooke-Yarborough

Blake Tower

WILDLIFE AND GARDENS

Stepping up in the Garden

One result of the Barbican Wildlife Group's response to the recent public consultation on the Barbican and Golden Lane Conservation Area has been the discovery of the original steps leading from the gate at the bottom the Bunyan Court car park ramp up onto the meadow. In fact, it seems

that earlier Tudor Rose Court was built on part of the Garden; the steps formed part of a path through the Garden to the old recreation hut on Fann Street (*for more on this, See Ruth Cooke-Yarborough's article "The North Barbican"*).

A volunteer was able to inspect the files of Avanti Architects and obtain a topographical survey of the Garden and the recreation hut site from 1995, which shows the position of the steps. After cutting back and digging, we have found the remains of them, albeit only rubble and rotten wood.

The Conservation Volunteers, the charity responsible for creating the large pond and constructing the bird-hide, has been asked to quote for rebuilding the steps. If we can obtain

the funding, we hope that we shall be able not only to recreate an access to the Garden from the within Barbican Estate, as there was 50 years ago but also to link the shrubbery to the meadow, creating new habitats and enable new plantings.

Our other project for 2019 is the design and installation of a display board, which we hope will offer visitors a better idea of what is in the Garden and where it can be found. While informative, we believe it will also be educational, especially as increasing numbers of children seem to be visiting the Garden and benefitting from discovering nature.

Joanna Rodgers

Joint lead Volunteer, Barbican Wildlife Garden

New Horticultural Year

After all the holiday season indulgence and excitement, it is time to start planning our horticultural highlights for this year.

Will we have another big freeze and/or hot summer and what can be planted to hedge against these possibilities? Last year's cold snap wiped out many of the Estate's pelargoniums and succulents. It might be

worth investing in woody herbs like rosemary or taking the risk of bedding plants.

This year we are adding a "houseplant" category to the competition, so you don't have to worry about the weather at all.

If you are more interested in abstract thought, there's always the quiz; "*George Stephenson, father of the railways, invented the cucumber straightener? True or false?*"

These are the sort of questions that that might be in play.

If you would like to meet other Barbican gardeners of all levels to exchange tips and for general horticultural camaraderie, join the Barbican Horticultural Society.

Membership is only £5 per year for individuals, £6 for couples/households.

For more information visit

www.barbicanhortsoc.co.uk, or email information@barbicanhortsoc.co.uk.

Lionel Meyringer

CULTURE

"Only Connect" project

City residents can now receive free help with their various electronic gadgets, applications, blogs and more, at locations around the City.

The Only Connect project, is delivered by Age Concern City of London (ACCL) and Barbican and Community Libraries.

The project, which welcomes complete beginners and those who need extra help, has been funded by the City in a bid to reduce social isolation and give people communication skills in a digital age. Anyone considering testing the service for the first

time may borrow an Android tablet and a mobile WiFi plug-in from ACCL to try them at home.

Sessions are held at:

- Kahaila Café, Aldgate Square, Mondays 10.00am-11.30am
- Barbican Library, Tuesdays 5.30pm-7.00pm
- Golden Lane Community Centre, Wednesdays 2.00pm-4.00pm

They are open to anyone aged 18+ who lives, works, studies or spends time in the City.

Barbican Tuesday Club

The Club's Christmas party went with the usual swing. We enjoyed a great gathering of members, local friends, councillors and speakers.

2019 has seen our New Year's luncheon at a favourite Italian restaurant and a talk from a Chelsea Pensioner with a jovial lowdown on the Establishment.

Plans for future speakers and events are under way; we are looking forward to another successful year.

The Club meets every Tuesday from 2.45pm till 4.00pm in the Lilac Room, 02 level of Seddon House. If you would like to join us, you will be made most welcome.

Just come along or ring June Giles (020 7588 1623).

Sessions are run on a drop-in basis with repeat visitors being most welcome. Free refreshments are provided, and learners are encouraged to visit even if they are not sure if they are ready to begin. The Wednesday sessions at Golden Lane function as part of a social and games afternoon, at which other events are regularly programmed.

A series of workshops is planned, each one focusing on a different area of the use of technology.

To learn more, contact Alice Westlake on awestlake@ageuklondon.org.uk or 020 7091 2593.



"Take the plunge"

Secure City Programme

With the start of 2019 we can reflect on 2018, which saw the first known use in Britain of novichok. There is constant pressure on law enforcement to deal with issues of security and public safety. It is against this background that Ian Dyson QPM was asked how he, as Commissioner of the City of London Police Force, intended to deal with current and future risks and threats. This is what he had to say:

"The threat from terrorism and extremism is constant but it is also changing and becoming more diverse and complex by the day. The City of London's historical, cultural and economic importance means that it will always be an attractive target for those who want to do us harm. Around 7,500 residents call the City of London home, although every weekday that number swells by over 480,000 as people come here to work. It is our job to protect all of those people, plus the 18 million who visit every year.

As the threat evolves, so must we. The 'ring of steel', initially developed in the Square Mile in the '90s in response to the threat from Irish terrorism, is being modernised for the 21st century.

Our ambition, together with the City of London Corporation, is to develop a world-leading protective security régime to keep our residents and visitors safe from a range of threats. This is known as the Secure City programme.

Together, we will create the most technologically advanced control room in the world. We will completely remodel our



Hoover up villains in the City

approach to CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition, make use of facial recognition capabilities and link in with smarter city technology, such as smart street lighting. We have visited locations in the UK and across the globe to gain an insight into how other control rooms support the provision of wide-ranging security arrangements that protect people, places and buildings in the most effective way.

Although the modernised ring of steel will help us to make the Square Mile one of the safest city areas in the world, we can't do this alone.

We continue to rely on the support and vigilance of our business and community partners and the people who spend time in the City, to keep us all safe and secure.

The continuing safety and security of the City of London is key to its success. Even though crime levels are amongst the lowest in the country, we aren't complacent and remain committed to fighting crime across the board."

SECURITY AND SAFETY

The Commissioner went on to say that one of the key ways in which the City of London Police work with the community to keep the City safe and secure is by means of Project Servator, an operational scheme which I have previously highlighted.

David Bradshaw C.C.
Chairman, Barbican Estate Security Committee

Useful Police Contact Numbers

Barbican Police Office: 020 7601 2456
Snowhill Police Station Front Desk:
020 7601 2406

General CoLP switchboard
(skateboarding): 020 7601 2222
Emergencies (landline): 999

Emergencies (mobile): 112
Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321

Numbers to call in the event of disturbance

City Noise Team: 020 7606 3030
for noise happening currently.

For advice, email
publicprotection@cityoflondon.gov.uk
(response to emails is not immediate)

Transport for London (Underground):
0343 222 1234* (option 6) 08:00-20:00.

Use online form at
<https://tfl.gov.uk/help-and-contact/>

Crossrail: 0345 602 3813
Email: helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk

BA DISCOUNT SCHEME

The Barbican Association has negotiated the following discounts with the suppliers below. You may need to present your BA Membership Card to take advantage of these. The scheme members offer discounts or incentives to Barbican Association members to buy their products or utilise their services and are publicised in each issue of Barbican Life Magazine, on the www.barbicanlife.com website and in the Barbican Association's quarterly newsletter. Contact Lawrence Williams on 020 7588 0898 – or by email at barbicanlife@gmail.com – for further information.

CURRENT SCHEME MEMBERS

FOOD AND DRINK

Artillery Arms 15% discount on food and drink on presentation of BA membership card. The Artillery Arms is at 102 Bunhill Row, EC1Y 8ND. Telephone 020 7253 4683 for table bookings. Website www.artillery-arms.co.uk

Bowling Bird Contemporary neighbourhood restaurant offering fresh, seasonal food and a select choice of fine wines and spirits. Offering Barbican Association members 25% off all food on the menu. (Please mention when booking and/or show membership card on arrival). Opening Hours Tuesday through Friday 12 noon to 3.30 pm and 5.00 pm to 10.00 pm. Bowling Bird, 44 Cloth Fair, EC1A 7JQ. Tel: 020 7324 7742. www.bowlingbird.com

Chiswell Street Dining Rooms 20% off total food bill in the evenings Mondays to Fridays. To take advantage of the offer please bring proof of membership. Not applicable with any other offer. To view menu or to reserve a table visit the website www.chiswellstreetdining.com

Coq d'Argent A complimentary glass of Champagne when ordering from the a la carte menu (up to 6 Max, not to be used in conjunction with any other offers). To redeem, Barbican Life members will need to mention 'Barbican Life' when making their booking or present their membership card on arrival. Coq d'Argent, No 1 Poultry, EC2R 8EJM Tel: 020 7395 5000.

The Coriander Indian Restaurant. Family-run business, fresh Indian food. 55 Aldersgate Street, Barbican EC1A 4LA. Tel: 0207 600 4747 or 0207 7964 499 www.thecoriander.com/barbican-coriander.html Barbican Resident Special Discount. Take Away Collection –

15% Take Away delivery – 10% Dine in – 10%

Crab Tavern Crab Tavern in Broadgate Circle is a seafood restaurant and bar that boasts a menu that merges New York style with classic west coast American fare. Choose from an abundance of hero crab dishes, rolls and salads, as well as more refined dishes from the classic grill and seafood selection. 15% discount on food only offered to Barbican Association members. Unit 37, Broadgate Circle, London EC2M 2QS, UK. Tel: 020 7096 2044. Website: crabtavern.co.uk

Da Giua Ristorante & Pizzeria. Newly opened on Whitecross Street opposite Waitrose. – offers 10% off food for Barbican Association members. Quality Italian food and pizzas. Take-out available. Da Giua is at 105-107 Whitecross Street, EC1Y 8JH – tel: 020 7374 6713.

Fish Central Bustling neighbourhood seafood restaurant serving the well known as well as the more exotic varieties of the freshest fish. 10% off the total bill – restaurant only. 149-155 Central Street, King Square, London, EC1Y 8AP. Tel: 0207 2534 970

Gattis City Point 10% of final bill in the evenings, Monday to Friday. To take advantage of the offer please bring proof of membership. Gattis Restaurant, City Point, 1 Ropemaker Street, EC2Y 9AV. Tel: 020 7628 8375. www.gattisrestaurant.co.uk Take-away and deliveries also available.

Hammer & Tongs South African style barbecue (braai) restaurant in Farringdon, close to Exmouth Market. Meat and fish dishes cooked over an open wood fire indoors to give the authentic braai taste. 20% discount on the total bill for Barbican Association members. Please mention membership on booking or being seated in the restaurant. Open Monday-Saturday 12 noon to 12 midnight. Hammer & Tongs, 171 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3AL. Tel: 020 3302 6645. Web: www.hammertongs.co.uk

UPDATED: Hix Oyster and Chop House

Restaurant offers Barbican Association members 25% off total bill valid every day a la carte lunch & dinner and Sunday roast set menu. Not applicable on other set menus, Happy Hour oysters or in conjunction with other offers, events or promotions. Maximum bookings 6 people. Please show your BA Membership card on arrival. Kids under 10yrs eat free - Children under 10yrs receive a free main course from the children's menu. One child per dining adult. Monday to Friday 4-6pm and Weekends 12-6pm. Bring your own wine Mondays – no corkage charge. Happy Hour Oysters £3.75 for three between 4-7pm Mon-Fri. 36-37 Greenhill Rents, Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BN. Tel: 020 7017 1930. Website: www.hixrestaurants.co.uk/restaurant/hix-oyster-chop-house. Opening times: Mon – Sat midday-11pm, Sun midday-10pm

The Jugged Hare British GastroPub with open kitchen and separate private events space on the corner of Chiswell Street and Silk Street. 20% off the total food bill Monday – Friday dinner and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. 49 Chiswell Street. London EC1Y 4SA. www.thejuggedhare.com

London Wall Bar and Kitchen Museum of London – podium level: A complimentary glass of Prosecco with a main course order. Residents will need to show their BA Card to redeem the offer, one glass per main course ordered, normal licensing laws apply, not valid with any other offer. For reservations call: 020-7600 7340

Moshi Moshi Sushi Moshi Moshi is a calm, discreet place serving authentic Japanese sushi and izakaya-style dishes. It offers all Barbican Association Members a 10% discount on their total bill on presentation of the BA Membership card. Liverpool Street, Unit 24, Liverpool Street Station, London EC2M 7QH (above platform 1, behind M&S). Tel / Fax: 020 7247 3227

Neo 14-17 Carthusian Street, Tel: 0207 726 8925: Special pizza and drink offer for BA members – any Pizza and a glass of house wine or soft drink for £9.95. Neo's pizza dough is made fresh every morning and only quality fresh toppings are used. Special offer applies from Saturday through to Wednesday.

Pho Vietnamese Cafe/Restaurant 10% discount at all times. 86 St John Street, EC1M 4EH. Tel: 020 7253 7624. Email: info@phocafe.co.uk. Pho is open Monday to Friday from late morning to late evening and on Saturday evenings.

Sourced Market Barbican The new Sourced Market independent food and drink market underneath the Citadines Hotel in Goswell Road offers Barbican Association members 10% off its fantastic coffee, artisan bread, bean to bar chocolate, craft beer, wine and a selection of great food from breakfast to lunch to light plates in the evening. Sourced Market, 7-21 Goswell Road, EC1M 7AH. www.sourcedmarket.com

St Barts Brewery Bar/restaurant on corner of Long Lane and West Smithfield. 20% weekend discount off all food and drink on production of Barbican Association membership card. Bookings not necessary but advised. 66 West Smithfield, EC1A 9DY. Tel: 020 7600 2705. To view menus see website www.stbartsbrewery.com

Vecchio Parioli Friendly Italian restaurant at the corner of Aldersgate Street and Carthusian Street offers Barbican Association members a 10% discount on production of their membership card. 129 Aldersgate Street, EC1A 4JQ. Tel: 0207 253 3240.

Vino & Vino Italian wine bar – wine shop – lunch – aperitivo. FREE Italian tapas with your wine from 5 pm. 15% off food on presentation of Barbican Association membership card. Open Monday-Friday, 10 am to 9 pm. Over 60 carefully selected Italian wine labels to choose from, ham and cheese platters, large bruschettas and salads served daily. www.vinoandvino.co.uk. 16 West Smithfield, EC1A 9HY.

Wood Street Bar and Restaurant Mon to Wed 10% off total bill when sitting down to dine. Maximum of 6 people in a party. The Barbican Association card discount must be mentioned either when booking or when ordering to take advantage. Barbican Association membership card should also be shown to person taking order. Wood Street Bar and Restaurant, Cnr. Wood Street and Fore Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 5EJ. Tel 020 7256 6990

HEALTH, BEAUTY AND WELLBEING

Acupuncture Access Acupuncture Access at 193 Whitecross St offers 20% off initial consultation to Barbican residents, and 10% thereafter. Beat-off burn-out with this deeply relaxing treatment. Herbs are not used, which keeps the overall cost of treatment down. www.AcupunctureAccess.co.uk | 07553 636841

Barbican Dental Care 10% off normal fees; 25% off customised home whitening; 30% off combined "thermal diffusion" and customised home whitening Amanda Lenihan, Barbican Dental Care, Lower Ground Floor, 2 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7DA. Tel: 020 7256 2477. Website: www.barbicandentalcare.com

Barbican Dental Practice 10% discount on procedures for BA members on production of their Membership Card. (5% discount for all Barbican residents). 1 Wallside, Barbican. Phone: 020 7638 8200 for appointment. www.barbicandentist.co.uk

Barbican Physio A team of highly qualified and experienced physiotherapists offer a broad range of physiotherapy services. 15% discount on physiotherapy fees for self-paying Barbican Residents on presentation of BA card. Entrance off Podium Level. No. 1, The Postern, Wood Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 8BJ. Tel: 020 7606 6530. Website: www.barbicanphysio.co.uk

Bodymotion Chiropractic Clinic 15% discount on presentation of Barbican Association membership card. No. 1 Wallside, Barbican. Phone 020 7374 2272 for appointment. www.body-motion.co.uk

City Psychotherapy Psychotherapy and Jungian analysis for adults by UKCP accredited psychotherapist. 10% discount on initial consultation for BA members. Consulting room 2 mins from Barbican tube station. To arrange an appointment please call Catherine Cox on 020 7796 3454 or email ccox@citypsychotherapy.org. For further information please visit www.citypsychotherapy.org

Clear Coaching and Training Moving you from where you are now to where you want to be. 1-2-1 coaching in the Barbican with accredited Coach, DISC assessor and NLP Practitioner. 10% discount on Coaching Sessions. Contact Michele 020 7628 0887 / 07939 047 094 E-mail: michele@clearcoachingandtraining.com, www.clearcoachingandtraining.com

Health in the City Formerly the Feelgood Centre and now moved to Room 57, 65 London Wall, EC2M 5TU, is offering Barbican Association members a 10% discount on a wide range of Therapies and Treatments which

are available from specialist practitioners. For a full listing please check the website: www.feelgoodcentre.com. For booking or further information call 07946 084 848 or email feelgoodcentre@yahoo.com.

Web: www.healthinthecity.co.uk

Insight London Counselling and Psychotherapy 20% discount on the initial consultation for BA members. Fees for ongoing sessions are negotiable according to individual circumstances. Individual, couple and family sessions with a Chartered Clinical Psychologist. Consulting rooms in Golders Green, close to the Underground, 25 minutes from Moorgate. On-street parking is available. Website: www.insightlondon.co.uk. To arrange an appointment contact Marc Hekster 07775 629 432 or email. info@insightlondon.co.uk

Justwaxit Waxing & Threading: Justwaxit has opened at the Malmin Clinic, 131 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4EB (between Barbican tube/Nat West and Tesco). Barbican Association members receive 20% off all body waxing, 30% off intimate waxing. Tel: 0207 251 2222 website: justwaxit.co.uk

London Eye Optique London Eye Optique Optometrists is offering Barbican Association members 10% discount on all complete pairs of spectacles. *Terms and Conditions apply. London Eye Optique Opticians, 2a Cherry Tree Walk, Whitecross St. Barbican, London EC1Y 8NX. Tel: 0207 256 9778. To find out more about our services please email us on optician@londoneyeoptique.co.uk or alternatively visit our website www.londoneyeoptique.co.uk

No74 Hair & Beauty No 74 is delighted to give a introductory 30% discount for the first visit on a single service for all BA Members. Discount 30% off for the first visit, permanent discount 10% off on all hair and beauty services incl. YON-KA massage and facials, Sebastian, Wella & OPI treatments @ No74, 74 Compton Street, EC1V 0BN. www.no-74.co.uk | info@no-74.co.uk | Tel. 020 74 908555. BA card required

Personal Training Private personal training in a studio – up to 20% discount for BA members. Individual 1:1 sessions provided by an experienced, passionate trainer close to Old St roundabout (less than 10 minutes walk from the Barbican): phone 07729219328 email: JamesDrainEsq@gmail.com Website: BodyEngineer.co.uk

Psychotherapy City 10% discount on first four psychotherapy, counselling or coaching sessions to BA members on production of their membership card (5% to all Barbican residents). Practice at London Bridge. Contact: Amanda Falkson. Phone: 0777 557 0208. Email: amanda@psychotherapycity.co.uk Web: www.psychotherapycity.co.uk

Registered Osteopath – Lucy Bracken 25% discount on the first three appointments 10% discount thereafter to all BA members. Based five minute walk north of the Barbican. Drakes Gym, 1 Pardon Street, EC1Y. Call Lucy on 07712 647 282 or email Lucybracken@mac.com

Thao V Hair Studio We are a new hair salon, based in a lovely location at the foot of Lauderdale Tower in the Barbican. We are pleased to offer a discount to Barbican Association members: 20% off your first visit, and 10% off subsequent visits, for haircuts or blow dry; Full information, opening times, and pricing is on our website www.thaov.com Bookings: Phone 020 7628 4897, or Book Online at www.vagaro.com/ thaovhairstudio

SALES AND SERVICES

Abacadabra Services 5% discount off regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly cleaning prices and a 10% discount off prices for one-off Spring and end of tenancy cleans. Contact Abacadabra Services Ltd., 10 Glasshouse Yard, Barbican, London EC1A 4JN or call Allan Lee on 020 7336 7686. Fax: 020 7336 7687. Email: info@abracadabra.co.uk Website: www.abracadabra.co.uk

Certax Certax Accounting (EC London) 5% off the first years Tax & Accounting services if you are looking to change accountants. Aimed at individuals, companies, contractors & landlords. Contact Marie on 07903 585959. 81 Rivington St., Shoreditch, EC2A 3AY. www.certaxaccountinglondon.co.uk

Computer Saviour Friendly visiting computer specialist undertakes maintenance, repairs, installations, networking virus removal etc. – all your computer needs. 10% discount for Barbican Association members. Call Neill Hoskins on 079 600 89528 or email neill@computersaviour.co.uk

LSO Live LSO Live is the record label of the London Symphony Orchestra, the Barbican's resident orchestra. Barbican Association members may claim a 20% discount – using the code BARBICANLSO – on any orders of CDs or downloads made via the online shop – https://lsolive.iso.co.uk. LSO Live CDs are also available from the Barbican Centre shop but without a discount for now.

Mail Boxes Etc, Barbican 10% discount to BA members on any Fedex International Priority or UPS Express shipment. Members should show their BA membership cards and discount will be applied at time of purchase on the current Fedex or UPS retail price. Not valid with any other offer and only available at Mail Boxes Etc, Barbican. We are open from 8.30am to 6.30pm Monday – Friday. 128 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4AE. Tel: 0203 3261116, email: info@mbbarbican.co.uk

Prince of Wales Dry Cleaners Service includes, dry cleaning, laundry service, linen service. We also clean leather and suede, and do alterations and repairs. We also provide shoe repairs. Free pick up and delivery service. Special offer laundering 5 shirts for £7.50. Offering 10% discount on first orders and any bulk orders. 17 Prince of Wales Rd, London NW5 3LH Phone: 02072 671540 and 07590 377245

RE:tailoring We are a local tailoring service offering both Bespoke and Made-to-Measure suits and quality alterations to all types of garments. We are happy to offer 10% discount on all items for Barbican Association members. RE:tailoring, 12 East Passage, London. EC1A 7LP. Tel: 020 7600 4600. Opening Hours 9:30 to 6:00 Monday to Friday, Saturdays by appointment

Urban Locker Self Storage Your stuff, close by at Paterson Court, Peerless Street, London EC1V 9EX. Tel: 020 3637 0850. Catering for all your storage needs. Business and Domestic, Safe and Secure 10% Discount on any solution when presented with the BA membership card

CULTURE

Velorose Gallery: Cultural Hub Gallery in beautifully refurbished landmark building offers Barbican Association members 5% – 10% discount on works from current and previous exhibitions. 1B Charterhouse Square EC1M 6EE | www.velorose.com | 020-7253 1090 | gallery@velorose.com

FURNISHING

Alma Home 10% discount on furnishings. View at showroom at 8 Vigo Street, London W1S 3HN, or in Selfridges. See also website www.almahome.co.uk. Contact Tisha Richbell on 020 7377 0762 or by email: tisha.richbell@almahome.co.uk for further details.

NEW – Hand Drawn Walls Bespoke murals from Hand Drawn Walls: Make your space your own with an interior mural. See a wide range of examples from small details to full walls at www.handdrawnwalls.co.uk. We'd love to offer all Barbican Association members a free initial visit and a 15% discount. Drop us a line at tom@handdrawnwalls.co.uk, or call Tom on 07906 382 639.

MAR-DEN We source and sell a range of art deco, midcentury and modernist furniture. We already have fantastic clients in the Barbican and would now like to offer all residents a 10% discount. Please contact Frances on 07940 762885, or email info@mar-den.co.uk. Alternatively you can enter 'barbican' in the discount box and purchase items online. Please visit www.mar-den.co.uk

MILK Concept Boutique Bespoke small furnishings, contemporary hand-crafted lighting, collectable porcelain, fragrances, travel accessories and exclusive fashion labels can all be found relaxing in comfort amid the whitewash Victoriana and petite elegance of The Clerk's House, beside Shoreditch church. BA Members offered discounts of 5% to 10% on all goods except Fornasetti. 118 1/2 Shoreditch High Street, London E1 6JN, Tel/Fax 0207 7299880

MyDreamKitchen 5% discount on fitted kitchens. Contact Spiro Nicholas, MyDreamKitchen, 708 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW. Freephone 0800 018 5654. Email: spiro@mydreamkitchen.co.uk Web: www.mydreamkitchen.co.uk

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