



# Coleman Street

## Coleman Street as Comms Hub

Before texts and emails were dreamt of the City communicated by Telegram and Coleman Street was the hub of Victorian Telegraph systems. Electrical impulses were sent down wires to the receiving machines at the Central Exchange in Founders Court off Lothbury. The Electric Telegraph Company had secured a monopoly to send communications throughout the UK and in 1848 had leased Founders Hall in the City, so they could be at the heart of the commercial world. The huge demand for this new technology then led to the International Telegraph Company being formed in 1859 and an office built on land purchased from the Clothworkers' Company. This was in Great Bell Alley, the eastern end of which the City Corporation agreed to being renamed "Telegraph Street." Thereafter the newly combined Electric & International Telegraph Company continued to break new ground, by employing exclusively female staff in its great telegraph gallery.



The Ward was also centre stage when James Brand formed The Telephone Company Ltd in 1878, to exploit Alexander Graham Bell's newly patented technology. That company opened the first public telephone exchange at 36 Coleman Street in 1879, its 2 panel "Williams"

switchboard serving 8 subscribers. Ultimately The Telephone Company merged with its rival The Edison Telephone Company, but the exchange for UK calls remained in Coleman Street well into the 20th century.

Meanwhile down in Moorgate from 1902 to 1933 the Eastern Telegraph Company (ETC) was aiming to serve international markets. Having laid cables to India, South America and the West Indies, ETC built up the electrical communications system of the British Empire, their group of Companies eventually becoming Cable & Wireless. The strategic importance of Comms companies to governments, especially in times of war, explains why the privately owned telegraph and telephone companies were ultimately nationalised as the Post Office and British Telecom. We have gone full

circle with those companies back in the private sector. With First Class stamps now costing 65p and 2nd class 56p, it's not surprising that these days we prefer to email, text or WhatsApp our business communications. The arrival of Fintech Companies in the City heralds the latest chapter of the long association between money and communication systems.

*Andrew McMurtrie CC*

## Ebbsfleet Garden City

16 minutes from St Pancras, the new housing at Ebbsfleet Garden City is attracting queues of buyers at half London prices. Nearly 1000 homes have been built there by 7 house builders in just 3 years. Two-bedroom houses from £320,000.

Chairman and Coleman St Ward councillor, Michael Cassidy, foresees 5000 homes in the current phase with associated schools, local shops and generous green spaces. It has coveted Healthy New Town status with NHS funding as well as Enterprise Zone tax breaks. Some £300 million of Government money is going into the basic infrastructure, including a frequent bus service connecting next-door Bluewater Shopping, international station and nearby Dartford and Gravesham. Where London meets the Garden of England!

*by Deputy Michael Cassidy*



# Aldgate Square is open for business (and pleasure)



By the time this ward newsletter is distributed, the new-look Aldgate Square will be open to the public, ahead of its formal public opening on 4 July.

This project has taken several years and involved major changes to the highway layout and public realm improvements. The main aim was regeneration of the

area for the benefit of business and the local community. And the area has had more greenery introduced alongside a new public space and improved lighting – making the area more inviting – a place for people to linger, socialise and enjoy. Safety for road users has been enhanced including new cycle routes and pedestrian access.

A significant new addition is the Portsoken Pavilion, a steel and glass building housing a social enterprise café operated by Kahaila and providing a new hub promoting events, leisure and play.

While Aldgate Square is the centerpiece of this transformational scheme (sitting between Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School and St Botolph without Aldgate Church), it has been joined by an

eastern public space at the junction of Middlesex Street and St Botolph Street.

Changes to the traffic layout were completed early in the project timeline. The finished area provides new pedestrian crossing points and allows easier navigation of bus services.

The project has introduced two-way traffic on Aldgate High Street, St Botolph Street, a section of Middlesex Street and Minories. It has already had a significant impact by helping to bring air pollution at the nearby Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School below the legal annual limit for the first time since monitoring began in 2003.  
[cityoflondon.gov.uk/aldgatearea](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/aldgatearea)

**Stop press: An Aldgate Square Festival will be held on 15-17 June celebrating all the area has to offer including music, activities, talks, performances and a children's area.**

**It's free to enter and open to all.**  
[cityoflondon.gov.uk/aldgatesquarefestival](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/aldgatesquarefestival)



## City small businesses: do you qualify for rate relief?

The City Corporation is encouraging small businesses to check if they are missing out on business rate tax relief.

If you're a City business whose sole or main property has a rateable value of £12,000-£15,000 you could be eligible to get a reduction in your business rates of up to 100%. Properties with a rateable value of £12,000 or less get a 100% reduction in their rates bill.

If you meet the eligibility criteria and aren't currently in receipt of rate relief, please contact the City Corporation business rates section.

Find out if your business qualifies and apply via:  
[cityoflondon.gov.uk/raterelief](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/raterelief)



# General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Data Protection legislation in the UK has changed, with the introduction of the GDPR on 25 May 2018 and a new Data Protection Act. This new legislation is designed to enhance the rights of individuals regarding the use of their personal data by bringing data protection compliance into the modern digital age.

It also introduces new, rigorous, requirements for all organisations, in relation to the reasons for processing personal data, and the manner in which it is processed.

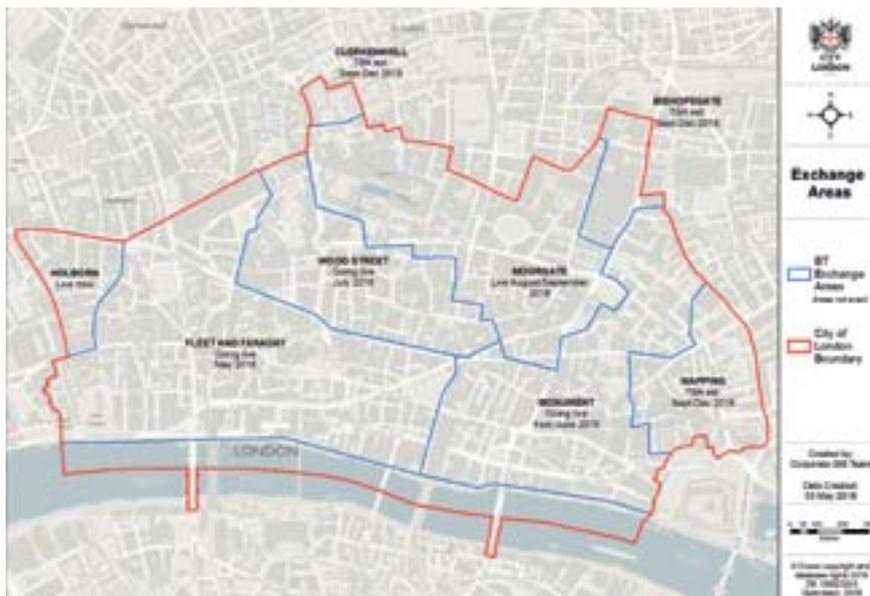
The City Corporation has been busy over the last few months, reviewing and updating its data protection policies and procedures, and taking all necessary steps to ensure it fully complies with the new legal requirements for processing the personal data of its customers, clients and staff (data subjects).

Updated information, including our new data protection policy and full privacy notice, is available at:

[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/dataprotection](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/dataprotection)  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/privacy)  
or by emailing [information.officer@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:information.officer@cityoflondon.gov.uk)



## High fibre for the City



Until recently broadband speeds in the City have been amongst the slowest in the UK, affecting small business tenants who cannot afford dedicated fibre optic leased lines.

However Openreach is now seeking to roll out "Fibre To The Premises" to every building in the Square Mile **at no cost to the landlord**, offering faster speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second at affordable prices for businesses and residents.

Openreach will use existing ducting to access buildings, avoiding street works to install the new fibre infrastructure into basements. This work will require landlord consent in the form of wayleave and Openreach will need to undertake a quick building survey.

Openreach will undertake a phased roll out across the City shown on the map.

**Residents and business tenants interested should visit**  
[cityoflondon.gov.uk/fibrebroadband](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/fibrebroadband)  
or contact [cpat@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:cpat@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

## Car park spaces at Smithfield Rotunda

Did you know? You can hire car parking spaces during weekdays and weekends at a reasonable cost.

Smithfield Rotunda, located in West Smithfield is manned 24 hours per day, with good lighting and within easy walking distance for most of the recipients of this newsletter.

For more information on hiring and pricing details, please contact the [Smithfield.Market@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Smithfield.Market@cityoflondon.gov.uk)





# Coleman Street

## Who We Are



**Sherrif Peter Estlin**  
Alderman  
E-mail: peter@estlin.co.uk



**Michael Cassidy CBE, CC**  
E-mail: COL-EB-TC@cityoflondon.gov.uk



**Stuart Fraser CBE, CC**  
E-mail: COL-EB-TC@cityoflondon.gov.uk



**Andrew McMurtrie CC**  
E-mail: andrew.mcmurtrie@cityoflondon.gov.uk



**Sophie Anne Fernandes CC**  
E-mail: sophiannefernandes@gmail.com

## CONTACT US

To write to any of your Members, to let us know if you wish to receive this newsletter by email in future, or to inform us if you wish to be taken off the distribution list write c/o

Member Services  
City of London  
Guildhall  
London EC2P 2EJ

or email  
col-eb-tc@cityoflondon.gov.uk



We are always happy to talk to workers and residents within the Ward about any issues you may wish to raise. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a meeting.

COMMUNICATING WITH THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE CITY OF LONDON



*Coleman Street Ward Alderman and Common Councilmen wish you a happy and sunny Summer.*

*If you have questions or queries, we will, as always, be available on the above contact details.*