

It's Been a Blast!

CHAIR'S CORNER

This is my farewell piece as chair of the Barbican Association, which I have had the privilege of chairing for more years than I ever intended.

I should have gone in April, but we postponed the AGM (which triggers the election of the chair) because of the Covid-19 lockdown. Now we are having our AGM on 4 November at 7pm - virtually, on Zoom. I hope all members have received an email about it. If you haven't please get in touch with Jim Davies, our membership secretary on membership@barbicanassociation.co.uk and give him your email address. The Zoom link for the meeting and the agenda pack will be sent to members by email.

There is a lot to talk about at the AGM because both the City and the BA have been busy following an early lull during lockdown.

Lord Lisvane's governance review

Shortly before lockdown the BA contributed to a review of the City's governance conducted by Lord Lisvane. His report has now been published (<https://news.cityoflondon.gov.uk/city-corporation-publishes-independent-governance-review/>) and it is working its way through a series of City committees so that the City can decide whether to follow his many recommendations—or not. There is good stuff in his report, about good governance principles, reducing the

numbers of committees, the numbers of people who sit on them, overlapping memberships, terms of office. In particular, he recommends abolishing the Standards committee, commenting on the toxicity of "a long running dispute over the granting of dispensations" and is highly critical of the way that the committee has handled complaints against members.

He also discusses the current planning committee. One issue we raised in our evidence is the conflict that arises when the City is both the developer and the planning authority, which under the City's current protocol does not represent a disclosable interest. "This is in my view too lax. It does not meet the accepted conduct standard of something which may be perceived to give rise to bias, and should be amended or removed".

And he makes recommendations closer to home: he recommends abolition of the Barbican Residential Committee. The small working group of the BA and RCC that produced our evidence to Lord Lisvane also produced a response, which we reproduce in this issue. We have concentrated on the outcomes that we as Barbican residents want to see, irrespective of how the City chooses to organise itself, but we have argued for a committee that has a more strategic overview of the whole estate, recognising that is it a unique community and architectural icon. We have started to talk to the City about its plans.

Beech Street

The other thing that coincided with the beginning of lockdown was the experimental traffic scheme in Beech Street. The BA has a small working group, which in March failed to persuade the City to postpone the experiment because the Covid lockdown would make monitoring the changes difficult. And so it has proved. Clearly air quality in Beech Street has improved dramatically—but we are awaiting data on the effects on noise, traffic, and air quality in the surrounding streets. Officers have promised to share these data with us—and we have had an

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Jane Smith

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early glimpse. They have also listened to suggestions about forming breaks in the central reservation so that the car parks on Beech Street can be accessed from either direction. As this goes to press, they are putting that suggestion to the Streets and Walkways subcommittee, together with an exploration of whether there is a way of making local residents exempt from the restriction on Beech Street altogether. Another problem affecting many residents is the reluctance of taxi and delivery drivers to enter Beech Street to drop off people and parcels, even though they are allowed to do so. That is because the numerous temporary red traffic signs on the surrounding streets say that no access is allowed except for zero-emission vehicles. The statutory signs do make it clear that local access is allowed, but there are far fewer of them than of the red signs. The red signs have now been removed, but they might need replacing with more accurate signs.

We'll continue to monitor this and argue for amendments, but individual residents should also feed back their comments.

The consultation remains open till January 2021, and the transport team is inviting specific comments as well as general feedback: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/streets/traffic-schemes-and-proposals/beece-street>

Climate change

Though it was slow to restart its committee meetings (now more accessible than ever because they are held virtually and available on the City's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmtTLockCa4hw2zp-iK9tg>), the City has not been idle during lockdown; considering Lord Lisvane's report, monitoring Beech Street, coning off swathes of carriageway to enable social distancing for pedestrians who haven't really returned. And now, it has committed £68m to an ambitious climate change strategy <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/environmental-health/climate-action/climate-action-strategy>. The BA and the RCC are keen to engage with the City to explore practical measures that we as leaseholders and the City as our landlord can take to reduce the carbon emissions of our homes and make them more resilient against climate change.

Reimagining the City

So watch this space. As well as the above, there will be plenty of other things for my successor to do; further consultations on the Local Plan (the planning regime), the Conservation Area plan for Barbican and Golden Lane, the City's proposals for redeveloping Bastion House, the Culture Mile – and whatever world emerges post-pandemic. We may all have to reimagine the City.

Looking back, I'm not sure what I've got to show for my tenure as chair—sometimes it feels like a lot of lost battles or at best partial successes—but there have been lots of good things. I've met many of my neighbours and other interesting people, learnt a lot, had one or two City dinners, ridden a tunnel boring machine under the Barbican, and celebrated the 50th anniversary of this amazing Estate we live in.

I'm pleased to say there is a succession plan in place and you will hear from my successor in the next issue. I hope you will give them as much support as you have given me.

Jane Smith

Chair, Barbican Association
chairBA@btinternet.com

£10 Million and Counting

Many of us might have liked an 8.59% annual income rise last year. Few of us received one, but Barbican residents need that sort of uplift to pay the 8.59% increase in our service charges during the last year. Not only is this a shocking hike in itself; it is 3.10% higher than was estimated by the City.

Of the 16 major components of our £10 million service charge, 15 increased last year, with only window cleaning showing no cost increase.

The static window cleaning cost is an interesting statistic, as the majority of the costs we pay are for people - our cleaners, car park attendants, lobby porters and engineers, plus their supervision and management. Given that window cleaning costs are also significantly people-based, we must be grateful that that cost has been contained.

As we watch our service charges spiral upwards, all other City departments have managed to hold costs flat or reduce them while maintaining core services. It is disappointing that we have been unable to persuade officers to achieve the same in the Barbican, so our Service Charge Working Party has asked to meet with key

officers to focus minds and encourage improved outcomes.

One positive outcome from our 2019 expenditure is that the concrete repair programme was significantly below budget. It is heartening to see the report state that *"the vast majority of the residential blocks do not require further comprehensive testing for 20 years"*. The car parks, however, will require a survey after ten years.

The last RCC meeting also reviewed a report on actions taken by the Barbican Estate Office during the lockdown period. We owe our front-line staff and their managers our thanks for keeping core services running during a time of national disruption.

From the front page of this issue and elsewhere, you will have seen that the future of the City's committee structure is *'up in the air'* following a review by Lord Lisvane, and that the Chair of the Barbican Association and I have written to a leading member of Common Council on this matter; our comments are set out below. My main objective is to ensure that promises made to Barbican residents in 2003, for a formal consultative mechanism

BARBICAN ESTATE RESIDENTS' CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

as to how the Estate is managed, are kept. While the current system can be improved, it is better than that enjoyed by leaseholders in most other estates, so is not to be disregarded lightly.

The next RCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, 30 November and we plan to hold it virtually with online access, as previously. I hope that you make time to watch the meeting live, or subsequently. The details will be available on the City's website <http://democracy.cityoflondon.gov.uk>



Christopher Makin

Chair, Barbican Estate Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC) that represents residents in their relationship with the City, as their managing agent and landlord.



Lord Lisvane's Governance Review of the City of London

Joint response from the Barbican Association and Estate Residents' Consultation Committee

The Barbican Association and the Residents' Consultation Committee represent more than 4,000 Barbican Estate residents; we were invited to submit evidence to Lord Lisvane's inquiry and do so here.

We welcome the overall direction of his report. We do not comment here on the many specific recommendations (*though purely personal residents' comments from Heather Thomas and Fred Rodgers are included in this issue*) but state below what we as City of London residents' representatives would like to see in relation to the governance of the Barbican.

Governance in General

We welcome the adoption of sound governance principles and any streamlining of the committee structure; at present, recommendations are passed from committee to committee without resultant action. In particular, we welcome the recommendation for structures which would enable Council leaders to have a strategic overview of the City Corporation's activities and the ability to prioritise competing aims and claims on resources. Our experience is that, at present, the City lacks that ability, and in the past, it has been to the detriment of the Barbican.

The Barbican Residential Estate and Landlord Resident Relationships

The current consultative structure, via the Residents' Consultation Committee, reflects the commitment made by the Corporation to Barbican residents before a ballot in 2003, to enable the latter to have more say in the management of their

Estate. This recognises that 98% of flats are occupied by long leaseholders who pay directly for much of the maintenance of the Estate.

Barbican residents would like to see:

- A more effective RCC, that can influence what happens on the Estate, how residents' money is spent, and which can have a say in the future of the Estate
- This should include the ability to hold the Barbican Estate Office (BEO) to account for value for money in the services provided and more creative fora for problem-solving on contentious issues
- A role in prioritisation and strategic planning for the Estate (for example, to deal with climate change) in the medium and longer term

We believe that that is as much in the City's interest as it is in ours. Barbican Estate residents value the services which the BEO provides and the Barbican remains a well-functioning and effective community, as the pandemic has shown in the strength of its community cohesion, and it is important to residents that it remains so, in fifty years' time, as well as now.

The Barbican as a Whole

The Barbican is an architectural gem, of which the City of London should be proud. Although it consists of several separately managed entities, namely, residences, the Barbican Arts Centre, the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, the City of London School for Girls and commercial units, these are bound together by the public

spaces of the Estate, sharing a world-renowned iconic architecture, to create a uniquely integrated mixed-use environment; the landscape has a Grade II* listing, acknowledging its uniqueness and importance. We believe that this review presents an opportunity to reconsider the overall management of the Estate and we urge the City to consider the need for a strategic body to oversee the integrity of the whole.

This is a role which is lacking today and there is concern that the fabric of the Estate is suffering, as important issues fall among the remits of the various stakeholders. Such an over-arching body would not conflict with the Review's recommendation that the Arts Centre and the schools should have more operational freedom.

This over-arching body's role should include:

- oversight of the fabric of the public realm of the Estate
- setting and enforcing standards, consistent with the conservation area plan and the listed-building management guidelines
- producing a strategy and policies for the whole Estate
- setting policies and byelaws that govern behaviour on the Estate; all to ensure that it survives and thrives for another fifty years and more.

The Future

Residents are committed to the future of the Barbican, recognising its importance to the City. We are keen to participate in shaping the future governance of our homes and our immediate environment.

Jane Smith

Chair, Barbican Association
chairBA@btinternet.com

Christopher Makin

Chair, Barbican Residents' Consultation Committee

The Lisvane Governance Report: Blueprint or Wallpaper?

**GOVERNANCE,
ACCOUNTABILITY
AND FINANCE**

The Lisvane report, published without fanfare on September 16, does not challenge the basic architecture of the City's administration, namely, the 25 wards, the business/residential voting system, the Court of Common Council, the Court of Aldermen and, at the apex, the Lord Mayor. The report accepts the Corporation's role as the promoter of the UK's financial services sector, despite there being no evidence for its necessity (with the success of Canary Wharf suggesting otherwise).

Lord Lisvane acknowledges that outside perceptions of the Corporation are "often not complimentary", it being seen as "secretive and lacking transparency... lamentably out of date...an old boys' club" with "slowness in decision-making, lack of effective political co-operation, poor lines of accountability, and undeserved benefits...". He says that these points have "real force" and are "all things that the Corporation needs to grip". The questions are: "do the Report's recommendations offer a sound basis for getting a grip?"; and "will the Corporation actually do anything?" Lisvane consciously refrains from any recommendation that would require

primary legislation. He makes suggestions in two areas, to streamline and de-clutter the current administration; one is the committee structure; the other is the Corporation's relationship with its satellite bodies, namely, the independent schools, the charities, the Guildhall School, the Barbican Centre and the City of London Police. These aspects play to his strengths, although his recommendations may merely render a fundamentally obsolete structure somewhat more efficient.

The decision-making process, through the more than 130 committees and sub-committees is characterised as "sclerotic". Appendix F of the report summarises the many recommendations made to reduce their number. He recommends abolishing the Standards Committee, the history of which he describes as not having been "a happy experience".

Lord Lisvane also recommends the abolition of the Barbican Residential Committee, which "has given rise to a significant number of standards and conduct issues". He recommends that residential representation on the Policy and Resources Committee should end. The Corporation is encouraged to "review its

mechanisms for consulting and engaging with residents; if so, it would be as well to include all residents, not simply those of the Barbican Estate". This is, I believe, a fair point.

Recommendations are made to dilute the Corporation's stranglehold on the governance of the schools, the charities, the Barbican Centre and, to a lesser extent, the City of London Police (the governance of which Lisvane describes as "anomalous, to say the least"). The competence of the Corporation to participate in the management of these bodies in the way in which they do is explicitly called into question.

Housekeeping recommendations abound; reducing the size of committees, banning outgoing chairs from continuing to sit on committees, terms of office and training. It is a mark of weak leadership that such matters have had to await this report. The proof of the pudding will be in the implementation. Further developments are awaited with interest.

Heather Thomas

The Lisvane Report: Potentially Positive and Negative Aspects

The immediate reaction of some Barbican residents to the City Corporation's Governance Review may have concentrated on the recommendation that the Barbican Residential Committee be abolished and responsibility for management of the Estate be passed to the Property Committee. However, while consideration of the future of the Residential Committee was not in its remit, the suggestion that it might be reconstituted to include all City residents may have merit, particularly if it enables more effective resident representation in Guildhall.

Despite Lord Lisvane having the career experience of House of Commons Service, some might say at the centre of the UK's democratic system, in my view, he has recommended little of democratic benefit for residents.

He makes a number of recommendations which might seriously damage the ability of Common Councillors properly to represent their electors. He recommends abolishing Ward Committees, namely, Finance, Planning and Transportation, Port Health and Environmental Services, Markets, Culture, Heritage and Libraries and Community and Children's Services. Currently, each Ward

is entitled to appoint a set number of members, depending on the number of its electors but the recommendation would remove the automatic right of Cripplegate and Aldersgate representatives to sit on those committees.

Recommending that membership of the Policy and Resources Committee be limited to business members ignores not only the interests of residents but the abilities of their representatives. Recommending that planning applications should be considered by "panels" of members of the Planning and Transportation Committee may be acceptable but, in my view, should not prevent, without reason, any member from voting on a planning application in or affecting his or her ward.

Lisvane makes recommendations that would help extend diversity among Aldermen and Common Councillors, including supporting current discussions to entitle the latter to claim annual remuneration of around £6,500. I believe that other recommendations, especially relating to committees, including number, membership, ability and management should probably be welcomed. However, these may come at the cost of residential representation, particularly on what would

be the former ward committees.

Having recognised that the City Corporation future direction "requires muscular and disciplined organisation of business", Lisvane has recommended "fostering a corporate endeavour" to deliver this, rather than a party political system, which would also bring the change of culture which he judges to be vital. The changes necessary to enable the recognition of political parties would require legislation, though political parties can bring resources and discipline, which enable responsible and accountable governance.

Arguably, the most welcome of Lord Lisvane's recommendations has been saved until the end. Thanks, in particular, to the efforts of Barbican resident and Common Councillor, Natasha Lloyd-Owen, he has put climate and green issues at the forefront. Not only has he recommended that climate issues should be the responsibility of a single committee, but also that every proposal being considered in each committee should include a green impact assessment.

Fred Rodgers

Chair, Bernard Morgan Liaison Group

A Climate Action Strategy but No Emergency

On October 8, the City Corporation's Court of Common Council adopted its Climate Action Strategy. This is good news, on the face of it, as the strategy commits the Corporation to achieving net zero carbon from direct and indirect emissions in the City within the six years between April 2021 and March 2027. However, less than two months previously, the target date for achievement was March 2025. Additionally, the strategy includes reducing all other direct emissions from outside the City to net zero by 2040.

No explanation has been offered for that 40% slippage, but it might be that, after spending around £200,000 on consultants, officers were required by the three members tasked with overseeing the preparation of the strategy to adjust the recommendation. Probably, we shall never know, because the Corporation has refused, within Freedom of Information provisions, to disclose the final report from the Arup Group, which, apparently, underpins the strategy.

The strategy has an annual budget over the six-year target of almost £10m in capital spend and £1.5m for revenue, seemingly without adjustment for inflation. Its August version quoted the budget in net terms but after I suggested that the budget should be quoted gross, to cover the risks of not

achieving net, the gross budget has been used.

As a result, comparing net budget over five years and gross over seven is difficult to do with any accuracy. For the Barbican Estate, there are several areas in which the strategy will have a financial impact but, so far, there are no specific items which will have a cost impact on lessees. However, there are areas in which the difference between gross and net might impact them adversely and we should be looking to our ward members to ascertain what these might be.

Although the Court adopted the strategy, it rejected Natasha Lloyd-Owen's motion to declare a climate emergency, with immediate effect (*see my article on Lisvane*), in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on the urgent need to keep global temperatures within 1.5 degrees of pre-industrial levels. The motion included nine commitments to support the declaration. Ms. Lloyd-Owen's amendment to the motion, seeking to guarantee the budget, was also rejected. Those proposed commitments included: prioritising climate change as the City's major existential risk; regarding the Strategy's budget as a minimum; protecting that budget, come-what-may; setting a clear direction to the 2027 and 2040

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targets; regularly assessing funding sources to achieve targets as soon as possible; immediately adopting Lisvane's recommendation that a "green impact assessment" should accompany every policy or project proposal submitted to a committee; implementing a new biodiversity action plan by April 2021; carrying out meaningful consultation among a wide range of City residents, workers, students, alongside engagement with wider communities, particularly young people; and, if there is evidence of a projected increase in global temperatures of more than 2 degrees, increasing investment in climate resilience before 2030, to prepare for a worst-case scenario.

Of the resident members, by my calculation, eight were included in the 59 opposing the motion, of whom six had previously voted to extend the time for consideration of the motion. Perhaps it is fortuitous for them that the Court decided to put next year's ward elections back to 2022.

Fred Rodgers

Chair, Bernard Morgan Liaison Group

Choices in Maintaining a Barbican Estate Environment

In the May edition of the Newsletter, under the heading "Barbican Estate v. Berlin Estate Living" www.barbicanassociation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/BA-NEWSLETTER-MAY2020-approved.pdf, Tony Swanson described in an entertaining and informative, yet controversial way, some of the key lifestyle differences between similar living environments in two wonderful European cities.

The article made me ponder, however, as to my own views on how Berlin, as opposed to the Barbican Estate, is inclined. I concluded that if the Barbican Estate permitted the keeping of domestic pets and did not prohibit the flying of drones, ball games, the facility to cycle, roller skate, skateboard, ride electric scooters, electric skateboards, one wheels and hoverboards and considered it acceptable to do parkour and base jumping within the Estate, even though, in reality, all such breaches occur, it would not be an environment in which I would wish to reside. It is certainly not what I sought when moving to the Estate, even though one must recognise that change is inevitable and that technological innovations can bring enormous benefit

(see Tony Swanson's article, "Cardio-Tower Fitness"). On a recent visit to another great city, Rome, with which I have ties and affection, it was impossible to ignore the astonishing proliferation of rentable electric scooters littering pavements everywhere and left thoughtlessly, as dangerous impediments to pedestrians, especially those with impaired eyesight and other sensory or ambulatory challenges. If this were to be the prospect for London, now that the use of rented e-scooters is permitted, in addition to the rented bicycles scattered around, their benefit might be outweighed by their potential harm.

A reason why many people choose to live in the Barbican, when they might have other choices, is because of these environmental factors, expressed primarily in terms of environmental and physical safety, clean air and the control of environmental noise pollution. Depending on many factors, not least regulatory compliance, there may be a place for some or all of the behaviours in question but, for me, let them not be in the Barbican Estate. Indeed, residents made their views clear, in opposition to the proposal for part of the

proposed City running track to be located on the Highwalk.

Maintaining the Barbican's integrity and appeal is not without challenges, however. Some might opine that a characteristic of a "bad law", of which much is in evidence of late, is one which cannot or will not be enforced, as may be the case in relation to lifestyle issues. The Covid-19 lockdown period and its aftermath has given us many examples of rules and regulations being laid but with no reasonable means by which to enforce them, thereby encouraging cynical attitudes to and disregard for them. Any walk around the Barbican Estate will highlight innumerable flagrant apparent breaches of its rules, particularly relating to noise, disturbance, nuisance and annoyance; how to deal with them fairly, with restraint, sensitively and without delivering or creating hostility, is another matter. David Bradshaw addresses some of these issues in his article, *Addressing Alleged Antisocial Behaviour*, predominantly from security and regulatory perspectives.

Robert McKay

Addressing Alleged Antisocial Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) within the Barbican Estate, to the extent that the conduct in question has caused, or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to any person, might primarily consist of prohibited cycling on the podium; noisy or unruly groups; skate-boarding and parkour activity. The term "antisocial behaviour" is defined in statutory terms by s.2 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Such activity is likely to contravene relevant byelaws which, in the view of many, are inadequate and outdated, particularly in terms of financial penalties. I believe that enforcement is further hampered by the fact that an authorised person, i.e. a police officer, must be on hand to witness and apprehend alleged perpetrators in the act.

Furthermore, the Barbican is complex, in the sense that the podium is a public highway, for which the Department of the Built Environment is responsible; the Barbican Centre has its own security staff members, who are solely responsible for the Arts Centre's specific spaces; security for the general residential areas, including the car parks and private communal gardens, is the responsibility of Barbican Estate Management.

As residents, we are served by the City Police, which is based close-by (and will remain so, even when it moves to the proposed new location in Fleet Street) and able to respond quickly to any serious incident. Officers patrol the Barbican and Golden Lane Estates, although the frequency of such activity has been variable, depending on resources. I know that many residents are concerned that police presence in the office under Shakespeare Tower is being phased out. However, the officers responsible for community policing will continue randomly to patrol, advise and be on-hand for residents as and when required and, I understand, will have the ability to hold meetings

in the Barbican and Golden Lane Management offices.

It might be argued that ways to aid deterrent measures and help ensure against future perpetrators, would be to strengthen byelaws, increase fines and provide additional signage. In order to achieve this, however, supporters of those arguments must be able to make representations to the Corporation, and this requires suitable evidence that ASB activity is at a level which requires further action. The ultimate decision to change byelaws rests with the Court of Common Council, the governing body of the Corporation, and any proposed amendments must also be sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

The long-standing and still-current system of recording ASB incidents is via Barbican Estate Management and the City Police. However, submitted data are dependent on residents reporting evidence of incidents, which can be inconsistent.

The Barbican Estate Security Committee (BESC) believes that a simple, user-friendly electronic-based reporting system for residents to use is the answer. It would be one which would connect the various bodies involved and provide comprehensive, cohesive data. Residents who are not computer-literate or do not have access to an appropriate device would be able to report any alleged ASB activity via their car park attendants or lobby porters, all of whom have PCs and would be linked to the system.

The BESC has been working with Barbican Estate Management and the City Police to identify and agree types of alleged ASB activity, as defined in law, and good progress was being made until, of course, Covid-19.

Recently, a group of residents from Willoughby, Speed, Gilbert, Andrewes Houses and Brandon Mews formed a "Good

SECURITY AND SAFETY

Useful Police Contact Numbers

City of London Police switchboard-
Crime reporting: 020 7601 2222
Non-emergencies: 101
Emergencies (landline): 999
Emergencies (mobile): 112
Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321
Action Fraud Team: 0300 123 2040
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 but 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

Neighbours/ASB Group", in response to an apparently noisy and unruly party, which had been held in one or two of the pods in the lake opposite the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. They established a WhatsApp group to record what they regarded as inappropriate activity and asked to meet members of the BESC, to discuss how we might work together. As a result, one member of the group, a former Metropolitan Police officer with experience of public order policing, has temporarily been co-opted onto the BESC; another member is a computer expert.

Please continue to report alleged ASB incidents, by email to Barry.Ashton@cityoflondon.gov.uk or if a faster response is required, via your concierge or car park attendant, or using one of the contact numbers listed here.

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

Planning for Change

"The times they are a-changin'". Looking around the many empty offices and quiet City streets, Dylan's words come to mind. Indeed, there are many of the view that an obituary for London offices should be written, as working from home and Zoom/Teams meetings become the "new normal", leaving demand for office space requirements potentially nose-diving, as more flexible ways of working become more acceptable.

However, nobody seems to have told potential City developers, as numerous planning applications/re-consultations have been submitted lately. We presume that they must be taking a positive longer-term view, that workers will eventually return to their offices and that demand for office space will hold up/bounce back when we are through this pandemic.

We highlight two significant redevelopment projects which have returned for re-consultation, following design changes. They are:

1-12 Long Lane - here, the re-submitted plans showed a reduction in height and mass with a proposed 8 rather than 9-storey building. However, despite these revisions, the structure would still be almost 60% larger than the current footprint and would overtake the height line in

Long Lane. This would create unwelcome loss of light and overshadowing on neighbouring properties and on the Smithfield and Charterhouse Conservation Areas. We shall therefore continue to push for further reduction in height to that of the Crossrail building.

150 Aldersgate - having studied the re-submitted documents, it is clear that our previous objections regarding excessive height, mass, impact on daylight, loss of residential amenity and overlooking have not been addressed. Indeed, all that seems to have changed regarding the Aldersgate frontage is the removal of the planned trees on the roof! Objections to this scheme centred on the unacceptable loss of light levels that the increased height of this proposed redevelopment would cause to many residents at the north end of the Barbican Estate; we shall reiterate our objections and request that the building be reduced in height to match the height of its other neighbour, 140 Aldersgate, rather than 160 Aldersgate.

In other developments:

The Turret - the application to convert the Turret on the Highwalk into a flat continues, with some information regarding the proposed materials to

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be used still lacking. This is of importance, given the Turret's Grade 2* Listing. If this application is to be approved it is vital that the conversion be done sensitively and that the correct materials are used in line with Listed management guidelines.

Roof of the Jugged Hare - issues surrounding excessive noise and smells from the extractor fan on the Jugged Hare's roof have persisted since 2017. These have caused disturbance to residents in nearby properties and while temporary repair and shielding measures have been unsuccessful, planning permission for the installation of enclosure and noise attenuation equipment has been granted, but with several important conditions attached. *Inter alia*, these specify that the equipment and works be completed by 13th November 2020 and that the kitchen extract system should not be operated between 11pm and 7am. We hope that this resolves this unsatisfactory situation.

Barbican Underground Station - as the 5G roll-out across the country gathers pace, an

application has been made for approval, if required, for installation of mobile communications transmission equipment on the roof of the building above Barbican Underground Station. Objections can be made by any concerned residents on grounds of potential loss of residential amenity and on health concerns. We would comment, however, that the 5G roll-out is advancing across the country and is seen as part of rebuilding the economy post-Covid, particularly in London.

In the pipeline - there are several pending schemes of which we are aware, that may soon join planning application lists. These include the

proposed redevelopments of **18-19 Long Lane** and **55 Basinghall Street** and the conversion of **Wood Street Police Station** into a luxury hotel and spa. Further ahead, the relocation of the Museum of London to Smithfield and the redevelopment/refurbishment of the neighbouring Bastion House will inevitably become significant.

So, while the times may be a-changin', the pace of development around the City shows no sign of slowing down. While it may be easy to focus on the current misery facing the City, remember that after 9/11 it was thought that no-one would ever fly or go into a tall building

PLANNING AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

again. So, are the developers right to be optimistic or are they merely setting out to create white elephants? The answer, Bob might say, "is blowin' in the wind".

Sue Cox

Chair, Barbican Association Planning Committee

Whither the Trellis?

"The Trellis" is the nickname bestowed upon the proposed skyscraper at One Undershaft, an addition to the cluster of high rise office blocks bounded by Bishopsgate and Fenchurch Street and fostered by the Corporation's Planning and Transportation Committee in their explicit encouragement of tall buildings. When it was completed in 2003, the Gherkin was the third tallest building in London, at 180m. Now it has been left behind among the rash of skyscrapers constructed in increasing proximity to one another.

The name derives from its external cross-bracing; at 290m, it is the second-tallest building in Western Europe after the Shard. It was originally to be higher, but airspace restrictions trimmed Eric Parry Architects' ambitions. It will be elevated 10.5m off the ground, creating public space beneath. Over 1.4m sq. ft of office space will

house over 10,000 workers on 74 floors, serviced by 17 lifts. A public viewing gallery, now an essential ingredient of high-rise planning applications, is provided. In tune with encouraging environmentally friendly and virus-free travel, there will be 1,800 cycle spaces and, to restore the fragrance of the cyclists, 167 showers.

The site has been occupied since 1969 by the Aviva Tower, whose design was clearly influenced by Mies van der Rohe. Unusually, its lower floors are suspended from above in order to maximise floor space. At 28 storeys or 118m, it was tall in its day and, if demolished, would be the tallest building demolished in the City; that process would likely take 18 months.

The planning process has been uneven for the site's owners, Singapore-based consortium, Aroland Holdings. An option over 20% of the £330m site was held by Perennial Real Estate Holdings (also Singapore-based). Hailed as

evidence of continuing faith in the City after the Brexit referendum, permission was originally granted by the Planning and Transportation Committee in November 2016. There followed three years of wrangling over objections and conditions. In August 2019, Perennial allowed its option to lapse, citing concerns over the timescale of the project. Final permission was granted in November 2019, by way of a 19-page letter containing 47 conditions. Aroland was free to proceed and had five years to do so; the question now is if they will. While Brexit did not extinguish enthusiasm for high-rise City buildings, Covid-19 moth-balled them in days.

If Aroland found the three-year planning delay frustrating, they may now think themselves lucky to have been prevented from commencing the demolition/construction works before Covid-19 took hold. Not so much whither the Trellis, as will the Trellis wither?

Heather Thomas

Autumn in the Barbican Wildlife Garden

A key Autumn event in the Barbican Wildlife Garden is the annual scything of the Meadow. It was carried out by The Conservation Volunteers (tcv.org.uk) but the decision was taken to leave it until early October, a little later than in previous years, as bees continue to forage into Autumn, and to ensure that plants released all their seeds. Cutting back on an annual basis gives less-dominant species a chance to compete with the more robust ones in the meadow, thus improving diversity.

After cutting, the grass is raked into piles called "stooks" which are left to dry before being added to the Garden's compost. All green waste is recycled within the Garden and once composted, will be re-used next year. The meadow will be left cut back and short until Spring, with new seed being sown later in the month, after the ground has been raked to aid germination.

This year, the northeast quadrant was again left un-scythed, as ever. This quadrant is the most sunny and well-drained of the meadow, with sandy soil and the richest variety of wildflowers and grasses. It is being used to experiment with sowing new species, to see what can thrive, given the soil conditions and the shade which it experiences from late October to early March. Ground preparation consists of selective cutting back by hand of the larger plants to ground level, clearing any remaining clumps of coarse grass and raking to remove dead leaves.

The more shaded southeast and northwest quadrants, with their heavier and damper clay, support flowers such as wild carrot, champions, black horehound and cow parsley, that are



See tcv.org.uk

typical of field margins and woodland edges. Here, regular scything and raking, along with selective removal of over-dominant species like rye grass, nettles, dock and bindweed, brings in more light in early Spring, to offer the less-dominant plants a chance to gain a foothold.

For years, the southwest quadrant has been cultivated as a "pictorial" meadow, featuring annual species such as poppies, cornflowers and corn marigold, which require annual resowing and ground preparation. While they are strikingly colourful in May and June, these wildflowers do not support the wide variety of bees, hoverflies, butterflies, moths and beetles that we see in the rest of the meadow.

For this reason, the focus in the remainder of the meadow is on creating a rich and permanent mosaic of perennial wildflowers and grasses that flower and seed in succession throughout the growing season. Initially, the results may appear to be less-spectacular but, on inspection, they

WILDLIFE AND GARDENS

reveal their own subtle but rich shades and textures.

Given the importance of wildflower meadows as habitats for a range of wildlife and their relative decline in recent years, it has become doubly important that we continue to nurture and protect this City haven.

Francis Pugh

Ruth Cooke-Yarborough

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Cardio-Tower Fitness

During the period of Covid-19 restriction, the Barbican podium has been a boon for some residents, for their fitness walks. In my case, I discovered that running up a 40-story Barbican Tower fire escape four times burns 762 calories, increases my heart rate and provides wonderful views from the top. During the one-hour and twenty minutes for four climbs, I stream music from my smart watch to my wireless earbuds, check my heart rate after each ascent, monitor calories burnt as I go, take calls and text messages and then record in a watch screen-shot my performance for the day. The watch tells me how it compares with earlier sessions. It is a combination of clever technology, exhilarating views and (as my watch tells me) enables more restful sleep afterwards.

Tony Swanson

BA DISCOUNT SCHEME

A list of organisations offering discounts or other incentives to Barbican Association members. If you are not already a BA member, make sure you join the Barbican Association to qualify – for most of these just one visit will more than cover your annual BA membership subscription cost. Local businesses which wish to participate and offer a discount or other incentive to BA members should contact Lawrence Williams on 020 7588 0898, or 07853 836 623 or by email to barbicanlife@gmail.com for further information.

CURRENT SCHEME MEMBERS

FOOD AND DRINK

Après Food Co – MAKE FRIENDS WITH FOOD Delicious homemade gluten free food your body loves. Comfort food without the slump. We all need great food that makes us feel alive – that's why this isn't just a restaurant; it's a movement. *Offering Barbican Association members 15% off all food on the menu (so please mention when booking and/or show membership card on arrival).* Open Mon – Fri: 8am – 4pm and 6pm – 10pm & Sat: 10am – 2pm, 72 St John Street, Clerkenwell, EC1M 4DT, Tel: 0207 6868 888, Email helo@apresfood.com

Artillery Arms 15% discount on drinks 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

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 Poutry, EC2R 8EJM Tel: 020 7395 5000.

The Coriander Indian Restaurant. Family-run business, fresh Indian food. 55 Aldersgate Street, Barbican EC1A 4LA T: 0207 600 4747 or 0207 7964 499 www.thecoriander.com/barbican-coriander.html Barbican Resident Special Discount (please show BA card). Take Away Collection – 15% Take Away delivery – 10% Dine in – 10% Fare New all-day-dining bar and canteen split across two floors offering a grab and-go coffee area, intimate cocktail and wine bar, and restaurant serving a selection of modern seasonal small plates with larger sharing dishes from the robata grill. 20% off food for Barbican Association members. State resident discount when booking and show membership card on arrival. Find Fare Bar & Canteen at the Morelands building on Old Street, EC2O3 034 0736 www.farebarandcanteen.com.

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, EC1V 8AP. Tel: 0207 2534 970

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

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

LINO London LINO is a new bar and restaurant taking a new approach to drinking and dining in the city. The offer they are currently running for residents is 25% off the food bill. (Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Subject to availability. Offer valid for bookings + walk-ins. State resident discount when booking and show membership card on arrival). Find LINO at 90 Bartholomew Close, EC1A 7EB or call on 020 8016 5199 www.linolondon.co.uk

Moshi Moshi Sushi 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. Reopening 2021

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.

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 menu see website www.stbartsbrewery.com

Stem and Glory Vegan restaurant located close to the Barbican in Bartholomew Close. First London location following huge success of initial Cambridge establishment. Restaurant offers Barbican Association members 20% off food for bookings and walk-ins. Please mention BA discount offer when booking or entering. Stem and Glory is at 60 Bartholomew Close, EC1A 7BF. Tel: 0203 969 9392. Web: stemandglory.co.uk. Open Mon-Fri 08.00-23.00, Sat 10.00-23.30, Sun 10.00-17.00.

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.

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 Car 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 Cophall Avenue, London EC2R 7DA. Tel: 020 7256 2477. Website: www.barbican-dental-care.com

Barbican Dental 10% discount on examinations and hygiene treatments for Barbican Association Members. 1 Wallside, Wood Street, Barbican, London EC2Y 8BL Tel: 0207 638 8200 Website: www.barbican-dental.com

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

Easton London New barber in the WeWork building on Moor Lane. Online booking only (pay after) and customers can also enjoy free café and bar. Currently, Easton London offers a 50% discount on first-time bookings for their hair and beard package. Use the code EASTON50 to redeem. However, for Barbican Association members, you can also use the code BARB10 for an ongoing 10% discount on all services. Book your appointment at <https://www.eastonlondon.com/pages/locations-moorgate> and just show your Barbican card at the shop to qualify.

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

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 Parkon Street, EC1Y. Call Lucy on 07712 647 282 or email Lucybracken@mac.com

Registered Osteopath and pain management – Christopher Blackburne BA members and residents receive a 25% discount for Initial Osteopathic consultation and treatment and 20% discount thereafter. Hermes Health, 33-35 Chiswell Street, EC1Y 4SF. For bookings text Chris on 07966 243653 or email chris@cbosteopathy.com. Website – www.cbosteopathy.com www.hermeshealth.uk

Thao V Hair Studio – UPDATED Our spacious and stylish hair salon is located at the foot of Lauderdale Tower in the Barbican. We offer Barbican Association members 10% off a haircut or blow dry on your first visit, and we also have a loyalty scheme for regular customers. Please request the discount when you book. Full details, pricing and opening times are on our website www.thao.v.com. Bookings: 020 7628 4897, or Book Online at www.vagaro.com/thao.vhairstudio

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@abraserve.co.uk Website: www.abraserve.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.certaxaccounting.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.lso.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 6.00pm Monday – Friday. 128 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4AE. Tel: 0203 3261116, email: info@mbebarbican.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

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

Charterhouse 10% off the Charterhouse tour, or the Brother's Charterhouse Tour, subject to availability (normally £15 and £20 respectively). Tours daily Tuesday-Saturday. Book at Museum Reception showing your card (one tour place per card). You can book up to one week in advance. A great opportunity to discover one of London's most important historic sites, embracing seven centuries of history, right on the Barbican's doorstep. The Charterhouse has been a burial ground, a monastery, a Tudor mansion, school, and almshouse, which it remains to this day. www.thecharterhouse.org Charterhouse Square, London EC1

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 | galler@velorose.com

FURNISHING

Adams Blinds Measure, supply and fit premium made-to-measure window blinds and shutters. Use promo code BARB01 for 15% discount. www.adamsblinds.co.uk or email John at info@adamsblinds.co.uk for further details.

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.

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 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 0118 5654. Email: spiro@mydreamkitchen.co.uk Web: www.mydreamkitchen.co.uk