



Walbrook

The London Stone: “A Mythological Monolith”

By John Garbutt, Alderman for Walbrook Ward

Where is the centre of the City? Many years ago this was considered by some to be at the precise location of the London Stone which, since time immemorial, has been almost continuously located in what is now Cannon Street. The Stone is an unworked, somewhat irregular oolitic limestone tablet now measuring 53cm high by 43cm wide and 30cm deep, which stood upright supported by iron rods for many hundreds of years in the middle of the street. Its measurements were recorded in 1578 as (equivalent) 90 by 60 by 30; its reduced current size representing the upper part of the original which is thought to have been broken in the Great Fire of 1666. There is some thought that this larger pillar itself originally formed part of an even greater structure (see below).

The name London Stone was first recorded in 1100AD. For many hundreds of years, it was considered London's “talismán”, but to say its origin and purpose is a mystery is a significant understatement! The fact is that no-one knows to this day what its date of origin is or its original purpose, although a huge number of theories regarding these have been advanced over the years. It is thought by modern historians that it was probably a place where oaths were sworn and proclamations



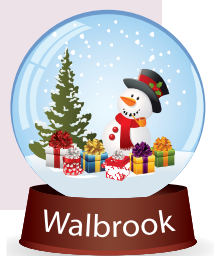
made over the centuries as the symbolic “heart” of London.

On date of origin, the furthest back in time that it has potentially been related to is the New Stone Age. If this were true, it would obviously have been present at the time of the ancient Britons (including the Druids who were said to have worshipped it, being supposedly on several ley lines). There is no proof of any of this. It would also have been around at the time of the Roman invasion. There is at least a grain of truth that it dates from the latter period, but only because this type of limestone was commonly used in Roman architecture. A popular take on this provenance, again without archaeological

underpin, is that its purpose was as a “milliarium”, a stone marking the place from which all distances in Roman Britain were measured. Other theories related to this same period, are that it was the marker for the intersection between the main north-south and east-west routes in Londinium or, alternatively, that it was a part of a Temple of Diana or even the gate to the Provincial Governors' palace.

Moving forward to medieval times, some Londoners adopted the surname “at London Stone”. One such was the father of the first Mayor of London, Henry Fitzailwin, who was in office between 1189 and 1212. Later in

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Wardmotes for the Common Council Elections March 2017

In March 2017 there will be elections of the 100 Common Councillors who represent the 25 Wards of the City of London. An integral part of the election process in the City are the Wardmotes (Ward meetings) which take place on Wednesday 22 March – the day before polling day.

Voters are invited to attend the meeting in their Ward. Although they are conducted with an element of City tradition in the way in which they are opened and closed, the meetings are similar to a 'hustings' event – there is the opportunity for the candidates standing for election to address the meeting, and for the voters in attendance to ask them questions. There may also be the opportunity for voters to talk to candidates more informally before or after the meeting.

If you have any queries regarding the Common Council elections, or the Wardmotes please contact the Electoral Services Office on 0800 587 5537 or at electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

The information below is correct as of 24 October. However arrangements could be subject to change and all electors will be written to in February with conformation of the arrangements for the Wardmote and the election in their Ward. Up to date information can also be found on our website, www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/cityvote17

Aldersgate

Ironmongers' Hall, Shaftesbury Place, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AA
6.30pm

Aldgate

Church Hall, Church of St Katharine Cree, 86 Leadenhall Street, London, EC3A 3DH
Noon

Bassishaw

Meeting Room 2, North Wing, Guildhall, London
Noon

Billingsgate (TBC)

St Margaret Patten's Church, Rood Lane, Eastcheap, London, EC3M 1HS
Noon

Bishopsgate

Parish Hall, Parish and Ward Church of St Botolph without Bishopsgate, Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 3TL
Noon

Bread Street

Rooms A and B, Ground Floor, Fidelity International, 25 Cannon Street, London, EC4M 3TL
Noon

Bridge and Bridge Without

Court Room, Fishmonger's Hall, London Bridge, London, EC4R 9EL
Noon

Broad Street

Carpenters' Hall, Throgmorton Street, London, EC2N 2JJ
Noon

Candlewick

Church of St Clement Eastcheap, Clement's Lane, London, EC4N 7HB
Noon

Castle Baynard

Shoe Lane Library, Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3JR
6.00pm

Cheap

Mercers' Hall, Ironmonger Lane, London, EC2V 8HE
Noon

Coleman Street

Armourers' Hall, 81 Coleman Street, London, EC2R 5BJ
6.00pm

Cordwainer

Church of St Mary Aldermary, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9BW
Noon

Cornhill

Vestry, St Michael's Church, St Michael's Alley, London, EC3V 9DS
Noon

Cripplegate

Barber-Surgeons' Hall, Monkwell Square, London, EC2Y 5BL
7.30pm

Dowgate

Innholders' Hall, 30 College Street, London, EC4R 2RH
Noon

Farringdon Within

Cutlers' Hall, Warwick Lane, London, EC4M 7BR
12.30pm

Farringdon Without

Church of St Andrew Holborn, 5 St Andrew Street, London, EC4A 3AB
Noon

Langbourn

Church of St Mary Woolnoth, King William Street, London, EC3V 9AN
Noon

Lime Street

Old Library, Lloyd's Building, 1 Lime Street, London, EC3M 7HA
5.00pm

Portsoken

Learning Centre, Artizan Street Library and Community Centre, 1 Artizan Street, London, E1 7AF
5.00pm

Queenhithe

Painters' Hall, 9 Little Trinity Square, London, EC4V 2AD
Noon

Tower

St Olave's Church, 8 Hart Street, London, EC3R 7NB
Noon

Vintry

Parish Room, Church of St James Garlickhythe, Garlick Hill, London, EC4V 2AL
Noon

Walbrook

Long Parlour, Mansion House, London, EC4M 8PH
Noon

Date for your diary

The 10th Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch will be taking place in April 2017, raising money for ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

Join them and take part in the prize draw, bid in the silent auction or visit the Livery stalls selling flowers, fruit, preserves and olives or enjoy the champagne and cocktails on offer. In 2017 there will be several brand new attractions and exciting surprises – come along and find out!

To be the first to hear when tickets go on sale contact Amy Kenyon
akenyon@soldierscharity.org or 020 7811 3960.



The City and Brexit



Following the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union, the City of London Corporation has been heavily involved in ensuring the voice of financial and professional services firms is heard in helping to shape the future relationship between the UK and the EU.

You can find out more about what the organisation has been doing and the five, high level 'asks' that it's putting forward to be considered as part of the Brexit negotiations, at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/brexit

Get on the register – it's not too late!

It's City of London ward elections next March and you've still got time to register if you haven't already.

16 December is the absolute deadline – whether you live or work in the City – and if you have received registration forms but have not yet registered, they need completing and returning if you want to vote in these elections.

If you need any help, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Electoral Services Office: 0800 587 5537

electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/cityvote17

**HAVE
YOUR
SAY!**

**CITY
VOTE
2017**

Stop press: know your boundaries

The Boundary Commission has published its initial proposals for the review of parliamentary constituency boundaries, which is due to take effect for the 2020 General Election. A public consultation is now taking place.

The Commission has recommended retaining the Cities of London and Westminster constituency (with the addition of new areas including Holborn, Covent Garden and Bloomsbury).

The easiest way to view and respond to (whether in favour or against) the initial proposals is through the review website: <https://www.bce2018.org.uk/>.

A hard copy may also be viewed in Guildhall Library.

Responses to the proposals may be submitted until 5 December.





Walbrook

Who We Are

**Alderman John Garbutt**

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Tel: 020 7739 8200

Committee Appointments:

Court of Aldermen
Court of Common Council
Finance Committee
General Purposes Committee of Aldermen
Planning and Transportation Committee
Port Health & Environmental Services Committee

**Deputy James Thomson**

E-mail: james.thomson@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Committee Appointments:

Court of Common Council
Planning and Transportation Committee
Port Health & Environmental Services Committee
Board of Governors of the City of London School
Police Committee

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

Following the resignation of Lucy Frew as Common Councilman, there will be a Wardmote (Ward meeting) on Wednesday 30 November 2016 at 12.00 noon in the Long Parlour, Mansion House, London EC4N 8BH.

A poll will take place in the SABTAC room, Mansion House on Thursday 1 December 2016.

If you are a registered voter, you should have received information on this from the Town Clerk's Office.

Walbrook

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

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1450 Jack Cade, leader of a rebellion against King Henry 6th, purportedly entered the city with his men and struck his sword on the London Stone claiming, as he did so, to be the "Lord of this City". (There is a notch on the top of the stone...!)

In fact it did stand as a somewhat inconvenient stump, being a traffic hazard in the Cannon Street roadway, until 1742 when it was finally removed from this position and set in an alcove beside the door of St Swithin's church on the north side of the street. Amazingly, the church took a direct hit by a bomb in 1941 but the stone survived. Subsequently it was housed in the front of the office building which replaced the church. This year it has been moved temporarily and is now displayed at the Museum of London pending its expected return in 2018 to what will be the new office block at 111, Cannon Street. It will be in approximately the same position as before but hopefully, as a Grade 2 listed structure, with improved signage and illumination.

The artefact is sometimes referred to as the "Stone of Brutus" (Brutus of Troy in legend being the founder of London and Britain as a whole.) This mythical



status, said over the years to embody the city's well-being and protection, has been alluded to by numerous writers throughout history, including Shakespeare, and is encapsulated by one such who stated: "So long as the Stone of Brutus is safe, so long will London flourish". It remains an enigma to this day.