

CITY OF LONDON'S ICONIC MONUMENT REOPENS

London's memorial to the Great Fire of London in 1666, The Monument, is now open to the public once again. For the last 18 months, the 202 feet high structure has been closed whilst undergoing a £4.5 million restoration project. This included the installation of a new viewing platform balustrade and cage, new telescopes as well as improved lighting, cleaner stonework and repairs to the architecture sculpture. The 'flaming' orb has been re-gilded and real-time panoramic views from the top of the Monument are now relayed on a dedicated website.



Designed by Sir Christopher Wren and the City Surveyor, Robert Hooke, the Monument was built between 1671 and 1677. It is the tallest isolated stone column in the world – 202ft high – which is the exact distance between it and Pudding Lane, where the Great Fire of London is believed to have started.



The newly-regilded 'flaming' orb, which crowns the structure, symbolises the Great Fire and is a timely reminder that the City has undergone more than one crisis in its time – and has not only emerged and recovered, but thrived.

Ian Luder, Lord Mayor of the City of London, says: "I am delighted that the Monument has been restored, repaired and protected for future generations and can now, once again, welcome visitors. Whether they come to admire Wren's work, or enjoy the panoramic views from the top or the contrast between the old and new in the City at street level, visitors have always been drawn to the Monument.

The Monument is open daily from 9.30am – 5.30pm.

images courtesy of Sue Salton Photography

UPTOWN OIL WINS CROSS-PARTY PRAISE

Members of the Transport and Environment Committees at the London Assembly have visited Uptown Oil in Southwark. The company collects used vegetable oil from London restaurants – including many in SE1 – and processes it into 100 per cent recycled biodiesel. Uptown Oil is London's only licensed biodiesel manufacturer, producing between 6,000 and 10,000 litres per week. "This is a great Southwark company which is making a real difference to London's air quality,"

Lib Dem Caroline Pidgeon told reporters. "From a waste product they are creating a fuel which creates far less pollution than conventional diesel. The company has a licence to increase by threefold its weekly production. I hope they soon reach it and make an even greater contribution to tackling London's appalling air quality, which sees over 1,000 people die prematurely in the capital each year."

Roger Evans, the Conservative member said he was impressed: "The recovered fuel is sold, mostly to black cab drivers who usually know a good deal when they see it. Not only is it a good example of reuse, but the fuel actually burns cleaner producing fewer of the particulates that dirty our windows and irritate our lungs. Uptown Oil estimate that the city's restaurants produce enough waste oil to fuel all London's



black cabs and the bus fleet too, simultaneously cutting down carbon dioxide production and air pollution. They also employ ten people which is not to be sniffed at in these challenging times."

CABSURANCE BREAK IN

Cabsurance's office at Dunbridge Street was recently broken into and as you can see from the photograph, the office was completely trashed. Cabsurance are hoping to move into new premises at number 86 Dunbridge Street, just five doors along very shortly. Eddie, Angie and Dani can be found in KPM's showroom at nearby Hemming Street.

Cabsurance can be contacted as normal at their head office in Seven Kings by either calling in or by telephone on 020 8597 2622



LOST PROPERTY – CAN YOU HELP?

On Thursday 19 February, two identical blue St Dupont fountain pens were left on the back seat of the taxi. I was travelling from Savile Row, London to Chandos Street, London W1. I got out of the cab in Portland Place and walked through to Chandos Street in order to save time. The two fountain pens must have come out of my pocket and were left on the back seat of the taxi.

As these have sentimental value, a reward would be paid for their safe return.

Please contact Lynton R Stock on 07976 200234.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

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