

Regeneration News

The Community Newsletter of the Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company Ltd



Ecclesiastical Insurance commit to Gloucester Docks

One of Gloucester's largest and most important employers, the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, has confirmed its intention to move from its current premises in Brunswick Road into a stunning new 100,000 square foot headquarters building on the Southgate Moorings site in Gloucester Docks.

Southgate Moorings runs parallel to Southgate Street, between the main entrance to the Docks and Kimbrose Corner.

This site will be transformed from a car park into an inspiring headquarters building that will complement the historic environment of Gloucester Docks.

Looking across the Victoria Basin Marina to South Quay where the new Ecclesiastical Headquarters will be built.



The transformation of Blackfriars Priory begins

Following the demolition of the Clutch Clinic in Commercial Road, local contractors (EG Carter & Co) are now on site and work has begun on the development of the new Language Immersion Centre and the Blackfriars Priory Performing Arts Centre. Both projects are due to open in early 2012.

The South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA), English Heritage and the County Council have now invested more than £7.8 million in the Greater Blackfriars scheme and over £7 million in Gloucester Docks and the Economic Linkages project that will soon link these sites with Gloucester Quays and the city centre.

SWRDA is also currently seeking permission to demolish the 'E & J Printers' building and the redundant 'BT Repeater Station' on Ladybellegate Street, paving the way for the area-wide regeneration of Greater Blackfriars.

Further information from: www.englishheritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/blackfriars/



The North Range of Blackfriars Priory - soon to become a new Performing Arts Centre.

Did you know... that telephone calls were originally transmitted via copper cables that could only carry one conversation at a time. Unfortunately, the electrical signal rapidly declined over distance; hence the need for massive 'BT Repeater Stations', such as the one in Ladybellegate Street, to re-amplify the fading messages.

Modern telephony uses Optic Fibre cables which can send telephone calls and emails around the world literally at the speed of light (i.e. 186,000 miles/second) and London, England and Tokyo are now linked by a huge fibre-optic cable called FLAG (Fibre-optic Link Around the Globe) which was laid down in 1997.

Medieval Floor Tiles Discovered

Archaeologists working on the demolition of the Clutch Clinic in Commercial Road have found part of a thirteenth century tiled floor which once belonged to the Chapterhouse of Blackfriars Priory. These tiles are in remarkably good condition and will almost certainly be retained in situ, under the floor of the new Language Immersion Centre.

The Chapterhouse was an important room where the Monks of the Blackfriars Order would meet every morning to 'hold chapter'; that is, to read aloud from the Bible and from the Priory's Rule Book and to discuss monastery business. Then, at the end of the each meeting, Monks would publicly confess their sins.

Discovering the 800 year old tiles at Blackfriars Priory.

Did you know... that the Dean of Gloucester is the chief resident cleric of Gloucester Cathedral (full name: The Cathedral Church of St Peter and the Holy and Indivisible Trinity), whereas the Bishop of Gloucester is the head of the Diocese of Gloucester which is responsible for all of the Parishes within the County of Gloucestershire.

The current Bishop is the Right Reverend Michael Perham MA, the 40th Lord Bishop of Gloucester. Bishop Michael was appointed to the House of Lords in 2009 and is a member of the Board of Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company. The much admired Very Reverend Nicholas Bury retired as Dean of Gloucester Cathedral on 30th September 2010. We wish him well.

Gloucester Restored! The 'Linkages Project' nears completion

Construction of the Gloucester Quays - Gloucester Docks - City Centre Linkages Project is making good progress, with large sections of the new paving, public realm upgrade and vehicular routes already complete.

Wolfgang Buttress's Candle on the South Quay, Katayoun Dowlatshahi's dramatic new surface at Back Badge Square and Tom Price's Kyneberg Tower and Artwall at the new Kimbrose Square are all on schedule to be officially launched when the Linkages Project opens in early 2011.

More information: www.gloucesterurc.co.uk/The_Magnificent_Seven/Pedestrian_Links.aspx

'The Candle', now installed on the South Quay of Gloucester Docks.

The Fleece Hotel

SWRDA have recently appointed King Sturge to market the historic Fleece Hotel site in Westgate Street.

Potential users include a new hotel and/or housing, retail, bars and restaurant opportunities at ground floor level.

The adjacent image shows the impressive size of this site, most of which lies behind the comparatively modest Westgate Street frontage.

The Fleece Hotel site, looking up Westgate Street to Gloucester Cross.

Greyfriars moves forward

Developer Partner, Linden Homes, has appointed a new design team for the Greyfriars residential-led project, comprising architects Feilden Clegg Bradley and masterplanners, New Masterplanning.

A planning application for both of the former 'Gloscat' sites is scheduled for submission by the end of December 2010. Nearly 270 new houses and apartments are currently proposed for this site, 25% of which will be dedicated as affordable housing.

The scheme also includes a new health centre, restaurants/cafes and community facilities along with the retention and enhancement

of existing public open space fronting Brunswick Road and adjacent to Greyfriars Monument.

A major change to earlier schemes is the introduction of three impressive 'residential villas' overlooking the retained grassed area which follows the line of Gloucester's ancient Roman Wall.

More information:

www.gloucesterurc.co.uk/The_Magnificent_Seven/Greyfriars.aspx

Pictured: The Revised Plan for Greyfriars, showing the retention of the green area fronting onto Brunswick Road and improvements to the open space in front of Greyfriars Monument.



Did you know... that the first Roman fortress at Gloucester was built in the late 40's AD on a site close to the present day citadel of Kingsholm Stadium. This site was then abandoned and a new legionary fortress, called Glevum, was built in the AD70s on the site of the present day city centre.

The first Roman Wall was an earth rampart fronted by a ditch and mounted by a wooden palisade, but, by the end of the first century this was replaced by a massive stone wall, parts of which were used to protect the city during the English Civil War, some 1,500 years later!

STOP PRESS

One more week for the Cathedral Sculpture Exhibition

By popular demand, the stunningly successful Crucible Sculpture Exhibition at Gloucester Cathedral will stay for an extra week and can now be viewed until 7th November. Don't miss it!

Student Photography Competition Winners

Gloucester Heritage URC and Gloucestershire College recently launched a Regeneration Photography Competition and over 750 students responded magnificently to the challenge of capturing the physical changes taking place in Gloucester.

Jasmine Dalmeny, aged 19, who hopes to become a professional

photographer, won both the first prize and the joint-second prize which she shared with Alex Booty, 16. Third prize went to Richard Parks, 18.

The winning entries, seen below, will be exhibited at Gloucestershire College and online at www.gloucesterurc.co.uk.



2nd



Jasmine Dailey

2nd



Alex Booty

3rd



Richard Parks

Did you know... that since its opening by fashion guru Gok Wan in May last year, the Gloucester Quays Designer Outlet Centre has already been visited by over 2 million shoppers! That's an average of about 120,000 additional shopping visits to Gloucester each month.