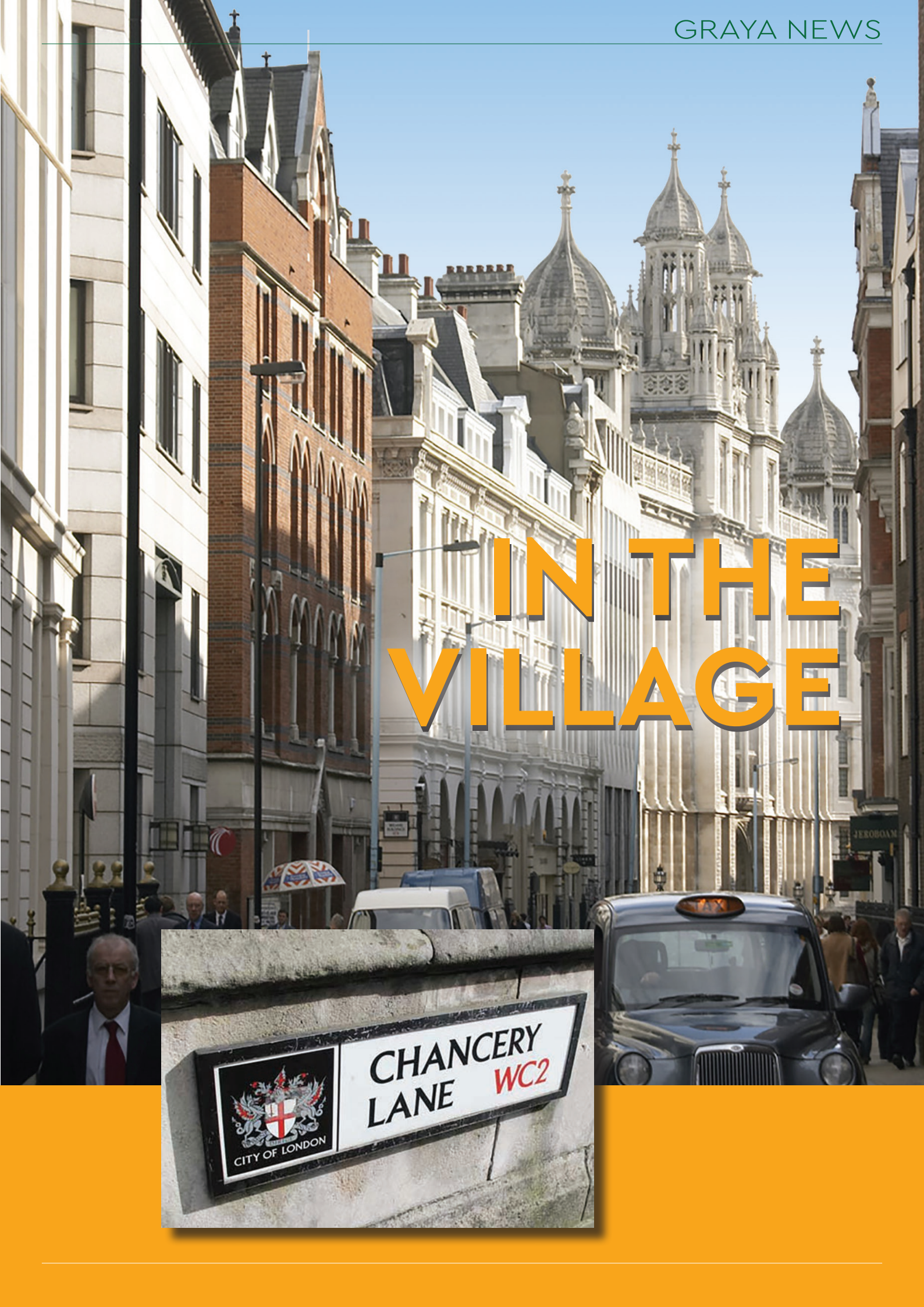


IN THE VILLAGE



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A TRIP DOWN CHANCERY (MEMORY) LANE*

After the scaffolding came off last year, it became increasingly apparent that Chancery Lane – that great bastion of Legal London – had become home to another form of oral persuasion, the advertising industry. Now home to Saatchi, Fallon and others, the tone has become a little more 1980s, than 1880s.

Originally called 'New Lane', the Lane was created by the Knights Templar circa 1160 to access their property around Fleet Street, and it acquired the 'Chancery' label

as a variation on 'Chancellor Lane', when it was owned by the Bishop of Chichester – hence Bishop's Court and Chichester Rents, which run off the Lane – who was at the time the Lord Chancellor of England.

Moving swiftly forward in time, it is now a bustling street full of restaurants, coffee shops, bars, offices and even a few sets of chambers, as well as one Inn taking up large swathes of frontage. It is also home to the fantastic charity 'Advocate' and a DX hub. Our journey starts with the northern end, as it meets High Holborn.



Chilango

Welcome to Mexico! The queues may be long, but it is worth it. The perfect place for that satisfying, yet slightly guilty edged, burrito with rice, guacamole, cheese, sour cream, lettuce and a salsa to suit your taste buds, all warming, enclosed in a burrito wrap. Healthier options are available, mostly by shedding the wrap and taking your lunch in a basket. If you want to really want to push the boat out grab a bag of tortillas as well.



London Silver Vaults

This is literally an Aladdin's cave of silverware, boasting the largest retail selection of fine antique and contemporary silver in the world! Step down into the vaults and roam amongst the large number of individual stalls and retailers to find that perfect gift.



Press Coffee

This third generation coffee shop not only serves up a mean variety of brews (v60 if you are feeling extra special) but also will sell you a bag of beans or, when the weather is warmer, cold brew in a bottle. Who knows, maybe you may spot a modern day Samuel Pepys jotting down notes for a new tale in the corner. Press Coffee started with their cafe on Fleet Street and have since moved further afield to Chancery Lane and now even roast their own beans. What would Pasqua Rosee make of his legacy?



Knights Templar

A more cavernous public house you would be hard pressed to find. It was formerly the Union Bank building. If you can put up with the sticky carpet and deafening roars, then this is the beer hall for you.



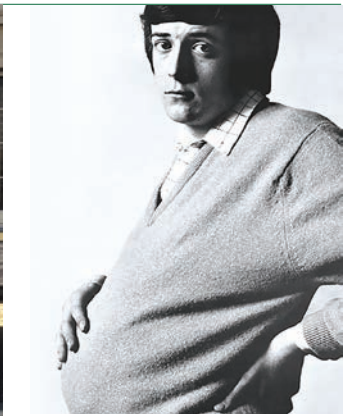
Cojean

Cojean is a certified B Corporation (if you don't know what that is try <https://bcorporation.uk/>). Which in some ways should come as no surprise when you consider their menu, particularly their salads: orange superfood salad, cauliflower tabbouleh salad, raw vegetables, cashew and chlorophyll salad. Everything not only is, but more importantly tastes, fresh. A very modern salad and sandwich bar.



The Pregnant Man

A title that could only have been dreamt up by a canny advertising executive. This bar is linked to Saatchi and Saatchi and is named after one of their early advertising successes in the 1970s aimed at promoting safe sex. Roll forward to 2020 and this bar hits just the right atmosphere of cool fun, usually without being too frantic. A good range of beer and fast and delicious pizzas makes this a great place to unwind or entertain.



The Law Society's Hall

Home since 1832 of our most valued clients, the Law Society is the independent professional body for solicitors. In around 1825, a committee of prominent solicitors raised money through the sale of shares worth £25 to find a home for their profession. When £25,000 was raised they looked for a site near Temple where barristers worked. At the time, apart from the tranquil oasis of the Inns of Court, the area was a thriving mass of brothels and taverns. Here villains could escape the attention of the City militia by crossing into un-policed Westminster at Temple Bar. It took over 75 years to acquire the site for the Law Society. By 1828, only part of the site had been purchased for £13,000. The Law Society was first opened to its members in 1832 and is now a Grade II* listed building. While much of the Hall is for members of the Law of Society, you can eat at the Vulliamy Lounge.



Honi Poke

Poke is a Hawaiian food bowl and it's pretty good. As you approach the saladesque bar, figure out whether you want to go off piste and mix up the ingredients in front of you, with a rice or vegetable slaw base, or chose one of their suggested mixes. Personally, I have rather taken to the Korean BBQ Pulled 'Pork' (the quotes are an indication that in fact there is no meat involved, but jackfruit). As well as the fibrous meat substitute, that comes with pineapple, spring onions, broccoli, sesame seeds, red chilli, edamame and home pickled cucumber (not sure whose home, though). If you want to eat in, the downstairs is surprising bright and airy for a basement dining space.

ICLR (Megarry House)



It would be remiss not to mention the home of the Law Reports at 119 Chancery Lane in the handsome Megarry House, where the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting moved to in 1999, after many years in Lincoln's Inn.

BUPA

After all that eating and drinking, you might need to have a health check. If you have any money left from the Silver Vaults, then you could drop into the BUPA Centre, which offers a range of services, including health and fitness assessments, private GP appointments, physiotherapy and dental services.

**Most of this was written before the Covid-19 lock down, and subsequent restrictions have put more than a little of a dampener on this piece, but once restrictions are lifted (hopefully by the time you read this) you can step out once again onto Chancery Lane and explore all, if not most, of the places mentioned.*