

# The Fleet Street Heritage Sundial

VOL. 1 - No. 8

THE HERITAGE of FLEET STREET

LONDON 2022



*The sundial showing 10 am (sun time) on 21st October 2021. The gnomon which casts the shadow is at the top left hand corner of the sundial; the shadow moves slowly across and down the sundial during the morning*



*Painting the sundial in October 2021*



*The Lady Mayoress of London, Hilary Russell, cutting the tape to open the sundial*

**T**his unusual east-facing sundial is situated on a vertical wall at the corner of Bouverie Street and Fleet Street in central London.

It measures 10 metres square, and is believed to be the largest vertical sundial in the United Kingdom, and possibly also in Europe. The sundial was opened by the Lady Mayoress of London, Hilary Russell, in October 2021. It commemorates the newspaper industry which, for nearly 300 years, was centred on the Fleet Street area. The face of the sundial shows 5 of the mastheads of newspapers which are no longer published. (Current newspapers could not be shown due to planning restrictions in the City of London: the titles of the newspapers to be displayed on the sundial were selected by a local public consultation.)

More details about the origins, design, execution, and building of this sundial are given on the website [www.fleetstreetheritagesundial.uk](http://www.fleetstreetheritagesundial.uk). There are videos showing the opening of the sundial, and videos showing a number of the sections of the meticulous painting of the sundial by our signwriter. The overall result is a highly-visible sundial which is also highly effective in flagging up the importance of Fleet Street as the cradle of our national newspaper industry.

There are two other interesting modern public sundials in Central London. The Blackfriars Polar Sundial was presented to the City of London by the Tylers and Bricklayers Company in 1999; it is mounted on a plinth of exactly 2000 bricks. There is also a large "Timepiece" equatorial dial designed by Wendy Hiller outside the Tower Hotel near Tower Bridge. Both these dials and many others appear on the London Thames sundial trail at <http://sundials.co/~thames.htm>





# Fleet Street Heritage Sundial

## Additional notes

---

Prepared by: Piers Nicholson

Copyright: All material on this website is subject to our copyright. You may use any of our material under the terms of our Creative Commons – Attribution – Share Alike licence. This permits you to distribute, adapt, or build upon our work, for any purpose including commercially, as long as you (1) credit [www.fleetstreetheritage.com](http://www.fleetstreetheritage.com) (2) includes link where possible and (3) licence your new creation under identical terms to this.

Further Reading:

Website [www.fleetstreetheritagesundial.uk](http://www.fleetstreetheritagesundial.uk)