



What's in a name

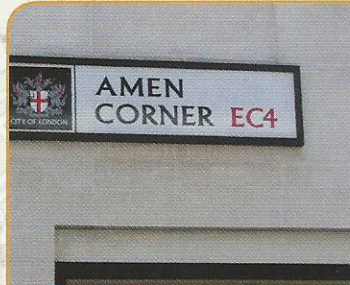
Did you know there are no roads in the City of London?

Check against a map and you will only find streets, alleys and lanes but no roads. However, many thoroughfares have wonderfully colourful names. Some recall erstwhile local trades, others are named after landmarks and many are derived from pub names or people connected with the street. And then there are the randomly named, of which there are many. Here are 10 of the most curious.



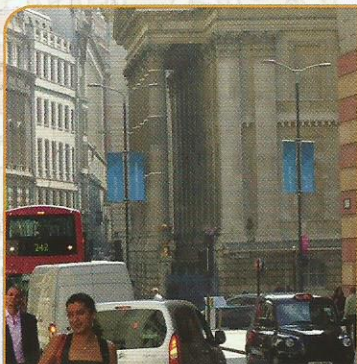
SWEDELAND COURT

Named after a small Scandinavian community that lived next to a Lutheran Church close to Mansion House.



AMEN CORNER

Monks would occasionally form a praying procession to St Paul's Cathedral. The route included Amen Corner, Ave Maria Lane and Paternoster Row, all of which refer to parts of the Lord's Prayer.



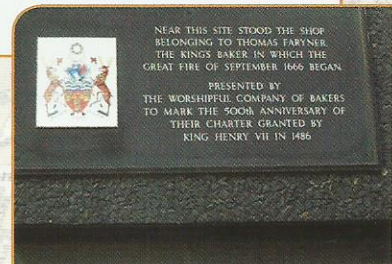
POULTRY

As with many of the nearby thoroughfares, this is named after the produce that was traded at the medieval market alongside Cheapside. Nearby you'll find Milk Street and Bread Street.



WARDROBE PLACE

The former site of the King's Wardrobe, a building that stored the royal ceremonial robes until it was destroyed in the Great Fire.



PUDDING LANE

Now infamous as the location in which the Great Fire of London began, the street acquired its name in the 16th century as it was made a dumping ground for 'pudding' or animal guts by butchers located on nearby Eastcheap.

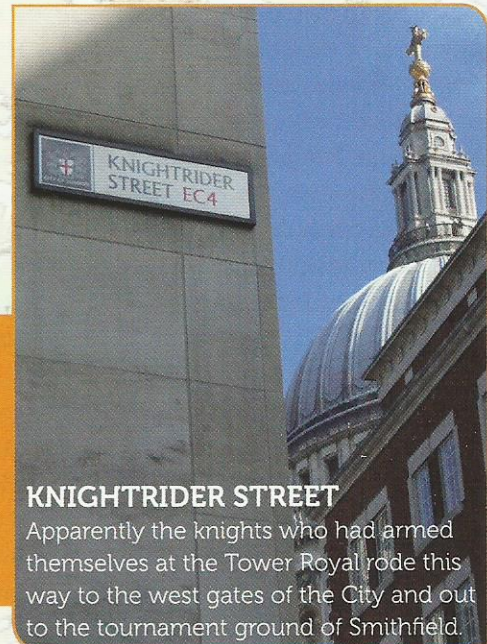
TURNAGAIN LANE

Thought by many to refer to the mythical story of Lord Mayor Dick Whittington who turned back to London after hearing the Bow Bells, it is in fact named thus because this is a cul-de-sac in which one must turn and go back!



PAGEANTMASTER COURT

Originally called Ludgate Court, this narrow road off Ludgate Hill was renamed in 1993 to honour John Reid, former Pageantmaster of the Lord Mayor's Show. His son Dominic has masterminded the parade for the last 20 years (see page 50).



KNIGHTRIDER STREET

Apparently the knights who had armed themselves at the Tower Royal rode this way to the west gates of the City and out to the tournament ground of Smithfield.



HOUNSDITCH

John Stow, in his 1598 Survey of London, suggests that this name refers to the dogs – probably former hunting animals – that were thrown into a ditch at the site.

SAVAGE GARDENS

Wonderfully named, but in all likelihood this minor road took its name from Sir Thomas Savage who is recorded to have lived here in 1626, the year he was made a Viscount.