



My year ahead

As well as supporting her husband in his mayoral role this year, Lady Mayoress Dr Clare Gifford is pursuing a few interests of her own



grew up in nearby Wanstead and remembers riding horses in the forest as a child. Clare and Roger now live near another of the City's open spaces, Hampstead Heath, where Clare frequents the ladies' pond.

As well as Woodford County High School in Essex, Clare attended the City of London Girls' School and studied medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. A successful 25-year medical career followed, including gaining a PhD and fellowship of two Royal Colleges.

Clare has two children from her previous marriage: 18-year-old Thea is studying Earth Sciences at Oxford University, and Freddie, 16, is at school in Hampstead. She is a Yeoman in the Apothecaries Society and recently joined the Company of Gardeners.

"My role is to support Roger in all that he does, but I also want to convince people of the vital role the City of London has in British society – which I have learned so much more about recently," says Clare.

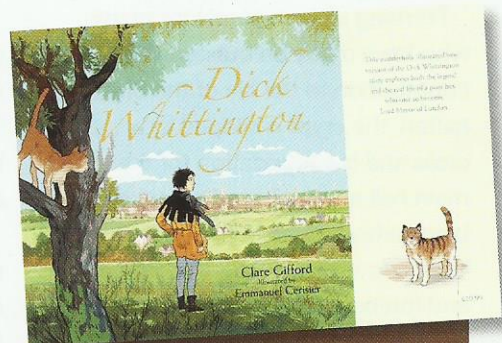
The Lady Mayoress has written a new children's book about three-times elected Mayor of London, Dick Whittington.

"I thought, how much do people know about the real man? There is the familiar fairy story that he became rich by selling his cat as a mouse hunter while on his travels. Few people know that he became rich through trading, as a member of the Mercers' Company, leaving all his money to charity when he died. He was a great philanthropist in his lifetime; plus he lent money to the King and helped fund the Battle of Agincourt too," says Clare Gifford, a former consultant haematologist

who – prior to senior positions at a London teaching hospital and with the UK Blood Service – worked as a junior doctor at the Whittington Hospital.

Clare has also produced and contributed to a book about the art collection of 20th-century philanthropist Harold Samuel, who bequeathed 84 Dutch and Flemish paintings from the 1600s to the City of London. The works are on display at the mayoral residence, Mansion House. Proceeds from both books will go to the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

One of the beneficiaries of the Appeal, Epping Forest, is a place dear to Clare's heart. The Lady Mayoress



Dick Whittington by Lady Mayoress Clare Gifford is sold in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal. Find out where to buy a copy at www.thelordmayorsappeal.org or look for it on sale in the City today.