

20th April 2010

Rare opportunity to acquire an office with a history

Farebrother has been appointed by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries to let the historic Magnesia House and Grade I listed The Houses, two newly-refurbished 18th Century office buildings close to St Paul's Cathedral. The offices provide occupiers with a unique branding opportunity.

The Society of Apothecaries is well-known as the founder of the Chelsea Physic Garden in 1673, one of the oldest botanical gardens in Europe. From its Courtyard of buildings centered on Apothecaries' Hall on Blackfriars Lane, erected soon after the Great Fire, the Society helped establish a pharmaceutical industry in this country by manufacturing drugs for members of the Society, as well as the Navy, the Army, the East India Company and the Crown Colonies. Ex-Licentiates of the Society of Apothecaries who qualified in medicine in the buildings include the romantic poet John Keats and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the first woman to gain a medical qualification in the UK.

Magnesia House in Playhouse Yard, EC4, as its name suggests, was used for the manufacture of Magnesium by the Society. The building provides 3,153 sq ft of offices arranged over basement, ground and three upper floors. Remodelled in 1780 when it became the house of the Bedel to the Society and the Chemical Operator of Magnesia House, The Houses, 16-18 Blackfriars Lane, EC4, now provides 4,603 sq ft of offices. Both form part of a private estate around the Society's Courtyard. Both are within the St Paul's Conservation Area.

Iain Malcolm, Partner at Farebrother, commented "An excellent refurbishment, coupled with the buildings' role in history, provides occupiers looking for 'something different' with a wonderful opportunity and they have already attracted interest from a wide range of occupiers including merchant bankers, media firms, barristers and charities."

Farebrother is sole agent.

ENDS

Notes

Journalists and photographers are very welcome to view the properties and to tour Apothecaries Hall, by prior arrangement. Hi-res Internal and external images of both properties are available on request.

Particulars for both properties are available via the following links.

<http://farebrother.net/pdfs/farebrother-magnesia.pdf>
<http://farebrother.net/pdfs/farebrother-thehouses.pdf>

Farebrother

Farebrother are property advisers and chartered surveyors offering a full range of property services in the Centre of London, specialising in Midtown and Southbank. Founded in 1799, the Practice acts for funds, estates, property companies, occupiers and private individuals, including Scottish Widows, PRUIM, The Governing Body of Rugby School and Delancey.

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London is one of the Livery Companies of the City of London. Originally, apothecaries were members of the Grocers' Company (1345). The Apothecaries separated from the Grocers in 1617, when they were granted a Royal Charter and during the rest of the 17th Century its members laid the foundations for General Practice.

The Apothecaries Act of 1815 granted the Society the power to license and regulate practitioners of medicine throughout England and Wales. Today, the Society grants diplomas in general areas such as Medical Jurisprudence, Medical History and Medical Philosophy.

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