

# FitzroviaNews



Fitzrovia News is produced by residents and volunteers and distributed free to all businesses and residential addresses in Fitzrovia

Issue 123 Winter 2011

## MASSIVE OPPOSITION TO 11-STOREY DEVELOPMENT ON HOSPITAL SITE

### By News Reporters

A huge number of objections have been made to the proposed new development of the former Middlesex Hospital.

Residents expressed concern:

1. That it will be up to 11 storeys high, when Westminster City Council ruled in 2005 it should be no more than six.
2. The proportion of affordable housing is also below council guidelines.
3. The quality and size of the open space proposed is inadequate.
4. Problems from the large underground car park proposed.

More than 100 people contacted the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association with enquires about the development and 130 parents of children at All Souls Primary School have written in to object to the plans. The parents are very concerned that the height of the building will block out daylight.

In their letter, they say that the new building would be higher than the Middlesex Hospital was and that "the playground and most of the classrooms on the Riding House Street side of the school will be almost permanently deprived of sunlight".

The parents cite the council's own planning brief for the site (see panel at end).

Mandy Chang, a parent of a child who goes to the school,

says the social and environmental impacts of the development have not been properly considered. In the 1930's the school signed away their right to light to the Middlesex Hospital and, as this new building is a private concern which does not have the hospital's charitable function, the agreement should be revoked.

Max Neufeld, of the Charlotte Street Association criticised the plans for their height, bulk and inappropriateness in a conservation area with listed buildings.

"We believe that the Council has solid planning grounds for securing some reduction in the height and bulk in the most affected locations, greater open space provision and more affordable housing," he said.

This could be afforded by the new developer, he wrote, because since the Candy Brothers 2007 plans "there has been a material change in circumstances affecting the viability of the scheme: the owners paid a third less for the site, property values for both office and residential have increased dramatically since 2007, and building costs have fallen."

The current scheme offers 17.5 per cent of floor area as affordable housing, whereas the 2007 provision was for 30 per cent of units (not floor area), he added, and council policy "requires a provision of at least 22 percent rising in 2012 to 30 percent."

Neufeld argues that the Camden residents living along Cleveland Street will be blighted by the presence of not only the car park entrance but also the service bay. Westminster's policy to protect the residential amenity of residents, says Neufeld, should also apply to its Camden neighbours.

Open space provision on the



How the new development would look from the corner of Nassau Street (left) and Mortimer Street (right)

site is insufficient to cope with the increased amount of commercial and residential uses, he concluded.

Yoram Blumann, of the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association, criticised the development because of its height and bulk.

Mr Blumann said: "More than 70 people attended our drop-in sessions at the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre to look at the plans. We also received more than 30 other enquiries by the end of October. And we continue to have people raise concerns."

The planning application was submitted by a consortium led by Exemplar in September to development three, nine to 11 storey mixed use buildings on the site. Roughly half the site would be residential.

There would be the creation of new open space, new vehicular and pedestrian accesses, basement car and cycle parking, landscaping, and repair of the existing chapel.

Mark Younger, of the developers, a consortium of Exemplar, Aviva and the former Kaupthing Bank, told *Fitzrovia News* it was "a fantastic opportunity to create something that will have a positive impact on Fitzrovia. Our proposals are smaller than the previously consented scheme and we have made significant efforts to ensure the architecture reflects the local neighbourhood. The 2005 planning brief set out some broad guidance and the consented scheme, which has been implemented, provides a framework of what is acceptable to Westminster City Council."

"Current policy looks to maximise the provision of affordable housing subject to development viability. With the provision of 54 affordable housing units, the proposal has maximised the amount of affordable housing in the context of viability."

Westminster City Council will make a decision on the plans in the new year.

### Planning Brief issued by Westminster City Council in 2005

"All Souls' School and properties on Cleveland Street are already overshadowed by the hospital buildings and the redevelopment of the site will be an opportunity to reduce this impact."

"On redevelopment the opportunity should be taken to reduce the height of buildings to create a better architectural relationship to the surrounding townscape."

"New buildings should generally be no higher than four storeys on the street frontages; a recessive fifth storey may be acceptable."

"Buildings of more than six storeys are unlikely to be acceptable."

The opportunity should be taken to reduce the height of buildings. The site is an opportunity to provide new public conveniences, including baby changing facilities.



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## Cat amongst the pigeons?

As a Fitzrovia resident I would like to know your readers stance on the local pigeons that live amongst us. I ask, because on my way through Whitfield gardens today I put a little bread down for the small flock that resides there.

I was approached by a man telling me that I cannot feed them and to "not do it again". How is it, a young woman putting a little bread down should even occur on his radar?

I took umbrage, and stubbornly said I would continue to do this if I so wished. He said he would take my photograph next time and tell the council and I would get an ASBO. He told me that two people had already received these.

I spoke to Camden Council who told me clearly, there are no laws against feeding the birds, and I would not receive an Asbo.

I understand feeding large quantities of food can increase their ability to breed and therefore increase their numbers, which can be seen as a nuisance. Having lived here for several years, this flock has certainly decreased in number. Pigeons are such an iconic species of London. Just last Memorial day in central London a service was held in memory of those animals that served in the war effort and in Worthing a memorial service was held for WW1 fighter pigeons.

Hundreds of studies have been conducted on pigeons, they have excellent cognitive ability, and unlike some other bird species do not spread diseases such as bird flu, fact.

I love my local area, what a pity it would be to never see birds flying high in the sky above the city first thing in the morning when the city is waking up.

Yours sincerely  
Charlotte Street resident

## Uncharitable landlords hit hospital workers

Huge rent increases of 50 per cent have been imposed on tenants at four blocks in Cleveland Street, owned by UCLH Charity Special Trustees but managed by Genesis housing. The rent of one tenant has been increased from £500 to £790 a month, and others from £400 to £600. It could drive out the tenants, many of whom still work for NHS or retired from it. They also complain there had been no refurbishment of flats since at least 1987 despite crumbling conditions.

Originally rents in hospital housing were based on income. "Now they're trying to get rid of low-paid workers by pricing

them out," said one tenant. "It is disgusting that current and retired low-wage hospital workers are being forced out for people on higher pay." The UCLH charity said that rents are managed by Genesis and they are responsible for the rise. Genesis said that they only charge the rent that is set by the property owners - the UCLH charity.

No one was told that rents would go up until after people moved into refurbished flats and signed leases, said one tenant. Her rent went from £500 a month to £790. Fortunately she'd put her name down for Camden housing long enough ago that

she accumulated enough points to get a flat. This is larger (with a kitchen separate from the living room) and the rental will be affordable. At Cleveland Residences her direct debit was amended to the higher rent without getting her permission. She therefore ended up with an overdraft for the first time in her life, and was "very embarrassed". There have been many different change of management and agents over the years. First there was the Middlesex Hospital charity, then 'PCHA', then Pathmeads, now UCLH Charity, using Genesis Housing Association as managing agents. These agents managers have a history of poor management errors and bad treatment of tenants.

Several older tenants have had their contracts terminated and been kicked out of flats. Some of these flats have been refurbished and relet at higher rents.

Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association is helping to fight the rent increase and get tenants rehoused after Genesis offered no help at all and the UCLH Charity was unmoved.



Rico (right) with friend Giacchino in a Goodge Street cafe.

### By FIONA GREEN

The friendly face of Enrico (Rico) Fumagalli will no longer be seen in his favourite Fitzrovia haunts because he died at his home at the end of October, aged 65.

He had been suffering from multiple tumours but he bravely kept going to his favourite places because he loved eating and drinking (the Di Montforte restaurant was one favourite), socialising and visiting seaside resorts like Brighton.

Briefly married to a Swiss doctor, he was widowed five years ago. There were no children.

Rico came from Bellusco a town near Bergamo in North Italy 20 years ago.

He had sold a construction company and gone to live in Thailand for one year prior to his arrival in London. Here, he

was Duty Manager of the Spaghetti House in St James. His friend Giacchino Labruzzo told me they were neighbours in the same block in Charlotte Place for 20 years. His friend Radames Bonaccosi-Ravelli was an old family friend from Bergamo, who helped him manage his medications. Both friends described him as funny, open minded and generous.

A regular customer at Icco and Italia Uno in Charlotte Street where, Claudia Schiera told me, he came every day to drink tea like an English man with his friend and workmate, Sandro.

He loved the stylish, extraordinary performances at the Molly Moggs, the pub/cabaret bar in Soho.

His funeral was in Bellusco, a small town near the City of Bergamo. He will be sorely missed by all of us in Fitzrovia who knew him.



The temporary residents of the Cleveland Street Workhouse were hoping for a reprieve after being asked to leave in early December.

## TRANSITION FITZROVIA - IS MULLING

Exciting new ideas to share! Do you have some? If you would like to come to a meeting in the New Year about how best you can help Fitzrovia thrive and sustain itself in the context of massive global change, please call. We need you all. Venue in next issue of Fitzrovia News.  
Fiona Green

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The corner of Goodge Street pictured a few years ago with the Georgian building on the right.

## Goodge Street's oldest building under threat

Plans to redevelop the corner of Goodge Street and Tottenham Court Road will destroy a Georgian building. Number 1-3 Goodge Street was built in 1763 and retains many original external and internal features and has an unusual floor layout.

It is the oldest building on Goodge Street but, although it is in the Charlotte Street conservation area, it is not a listed building. Previous attempts to demolish the building have been refused permission and the planning inspectorate dismissed a previous appeal to demolish it.

The latest plans included a design for an ugly multi-storey fish tank-like corner building that the CSA describe as "more like Las Vegas than Goodge Street".

At a stormy meeting of Camden's Development Control (planning)

Committee on 24 November, this planning application was refused by a large majority because the new replacement corner building was not of sufficient design quality in the Conservation Area. Although the committee, did not like the demolition of the Georgian building (but only retaining its facade) at no. 1-3 Goodge Street, they have not included this as one of the reasons for refusal. This means that for any new scheme, the developer only needs worry about the design of the new corner building.



Refused: This corner development

## Mayor of London approves major redevelopment of Saatchi block despite strong council opposition

By Peter Whyatt

Mayor of London Boris Johnson has approved a major redevelopment scheme in the heart of Fitzrovia after a public hearing at City Hall. The mayor overturned Camden Council's refusal so now Derwent London can carry out a major redevelopment at the Saatchi & Saatchi building in Charlotte Street (pictured, how it will look).

The redevelopment will demolish the internal mews and Victorian buildings, the Charlotte Street and Howland Street facades, and infill the site with new floor plates and add extra storeys. Also demolished will be the Pregnant Man pub which sits in the open space in the middle of the Saatchi block.

The development was opposed by residents, campaign groups and conservationists who argued the proposals were an over-development, and that more affordable housing and more public open space should have been included. Less than 30 percent of the target for affordable housing is met and the open space is less than a tenth of what is required.

The mayor dismissed calls for more affordable housing and open space on the site because he needed to impose the full £1.6m Crossrail contribution. He angered residents when he stated that because Fitzrovia has had little recent improvement in affordable housing provision that the offered 16 homes should be seen as a good deal.

Residents living directly opposite the site argued that Charlotte Street area is low-rise not a high-density, high-rise office area and



the new building will "not be sympathetic to the local character."

Max Neufeld of the Charlotte Street Association attacked the Crossrail levy which encourages over-development - "in this case a 69 percent increase in floorspace on an already fully developed site." Derwent London's chief executive John Burns said: "We are pleased that our 80 Charlotte Street planning application has been approved by the Mayor of London."

Saatchi & Saatchi who occupy the building named after them will have to move out when the redevelopment starts in 2013 and they are likely to leave Fitzrovia for good because they can no longer afford the rents here. The agency is being priced out of an area it made fashionable 40 years ago.

So it's not only goodbye Pregnant Man Pub but goodbye Saatchi & Saatchi. It seems Boris Johnson didn't stop to think before saying: "The capital's adland, centred around Charlotte Street, has developed an international reputation for creativity and I have no doubt that its redevelopment can only be good news for both the West End and the wider London

economy."

Good news for Derwent - they get to increase the space in Charlotte Street from 200,000 to 370,000 square feet. Income will quadruple from £4.2 million to £18 million. That will boost book value to £360 million from less than £100 million, given the new block will be worth 20 times the rent. Not bad, given building costs of £125 million.

Saatchi & Saatchi have been in Fitzrovia for so long that they are very much part of the scenery. The workers there have contributed to the local economy of shops, cafes, restaurants and pubs. Their office block — a combination of Victorian, 1930s and later architecture — may not be the prettiest pile around but they've been good neighbours.

Derwent London, on the other hand, haven't been here very long and are already shaping up to be the neighbours from Hell. Now Boris Johnson has sent out a signal that this sort of behaviour is acceptable. In his lust for Crossrail cash, the bigger the development, the bigger the contribution to its £18bn construction costs.

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# Are too many cafes and restaurants choking the neighbourhood?

By Angela Lovely

There used to be a couple of furniture shops along Tottenham Street but now in their place is a tea room and a hot food outlet, adding to the five cafes and restaurants that are well established along the street between Tottenham Court Road and Charlotte Street. The long-standing businesses are complaining there is not enough trade to go round, and residents say that the influx of yet more eateries is killing the diversity and character of the neighbourhood.



It's not just Tottenham Street, it has happened in many streets in Fitzrovia. Parts of the area has become saturated with cafes, restaurants, sandwich bars and hot food outlets and more are due to open. So is Fitzrovia in danger of eating itself?

London's old Latin quarter, as the area was referred to in 1930, has for a long time been known for its variety of restaurants and cafes, many of them independently owned. But Fitzrovia also has a wide range of other businesses including furniture, electronic goods, and fashion wholesalers. Tossed in among the ground floors are small offices, and some quite

unusual shops selling musical instruments, hardware, and specialist shops. There's the advertising and media industry, conservation areas with listed buildings, and the BT Tower plonked in the middle.

That's what those of us who live here find attractive. It is mixed in many ways.

But Fitzrovia has been changing. Rents have risen. Where there was once a shop selling groceries or flowers, there's now food ready to eat. There are a huge number of places selling sandwiches, hot food, takeaway or eat in; and up-market coffee shops have settled here. A lot more than there were ten years ago. And of course, they are all competing with each other.

Some people say the planning rules are being broken and that Camden Council has not been enforcing properly (or at all). Others say the A1 planning class (which allows for a variety of shops) is being abused and in effect allows everything to be sold from a back massage to some sort of hot meal.

Strictly speaking, if a business is cooking food on the premises it should have an A3 planning consent. If hot food is



The cover of Fitzrovia Partnership's latest brochure

being served to takeaway then A5 planning permission is needed. But there is some flexibility allowed.

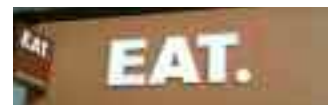
However, owners from three independent cafes and restaurants with A3 permission in Tottenham Street are furious that a Pod Food store boasting "Proper Hot Food" is being allowed to trade with an A1 planning consent. But it is not clear if the Pod people are breaking local planning regulations, and I'm not saying they are.

One resident in Colville Place said: "I have no sympathy with businesses complaining about market forces. If they want socialism, they can move to Cuba!" But others say that the small independent businesses are being driven out and the area has become a victim of its own success. "It's just not fair on

these small independent cafes and restaurants that have been here for ages. They are being strangled by the bigger guys who just roll out their clone outlets," said a resident in Tottenham Street.

When a Barclays Bank on the corner of Tottenham Court Road closed it was replaced by a large Costa coffee shop. But the bank had a planning use of A2 which allows financial services. Didn't that protect the premises from becoming a cafe or restaurant?

No, because planning permission was not needed to change from A2 to A1. Camden's regulations protect A1 which is a retail use but don't protect A2 in the same way. So a company can open a large cafe as long as they are not cooking hot food from raw ingredients. In theory there is also a limit to the number of seats on the premises, but in Fitzrovia this rule appears to have been blurred. Or chairs suddenly disappear when an inspector pops in for a skinny latte.



In another case, a large newspaper shop on Tottenham Court Road near the corner with Goodge Street closed down, and now the premises is being prepared to open as a coffee and sandwich shop, part of the Eat chain. Eat already have another store on the corner of Goodge Street and Charlotte Street, and another branch further up Tottenham Court Road. Where's the next one going to be?

Tottenham Court Road used to be a street with a variety of shops selling furniture and electronic goods with a few independent cafes and takeaways dotted along it. But when a furniture or electronic store shuts it often becomes a Pret a Manger or another chain sandwich shop.

When we asked a sample of cafe and restaurant owners if they thought there were now too many eateries in Fitzrovia, almost all of them said there were far too many to be sustainable. Most of them fear they will be pushed out by the big chains.

Is a source of the problem Derwent London's Fitzrovia Partnership business group? The Fitzrovia Partnership is promoting existing cafes and restaurants through its website and literature, and has introduced a loyalty card scheme.

But is the Fitzrovia Partnership marketing Fitzrovia

as an eating destination and encouraging more eateries? It has produced a leaflet entitled "Eat your way through Fitzrovia".

One of the stated objectives of the Fitzrovia Partnership is to "increase the dining and eating offer to add value to the vibrancy of Charlotte Street and its surroundings". This is according to Derwent London's annual report 2009.



When we showed this report to cafe owners they weren't pleased that anyone should be encouraging more eateries in Fitzrovia. It seems the small independent businesses in Fitzrovia are being squeezed and the Fitzrovia Partnership is partly responsible.

After a full breakfast and an Americano we put this to Gary Reeves company secretary of the Fitzrovia Partnership. He told us:

"We have not been marketing Fitzrovia to encourage more eateries. We have come a significant distance since 2009 and having spoken to a wide range of businesses, the Partnership wants to encourage an eclectic mix of businesses in Fitzrovia. As a membership led organisation it is our role to reflect the thoughts of our members."

However, Mr Reeves is a former CEO of the New West End Company, a business improvement district covering Oxford Street, Regent Street and Bond Street. With that background, aren't the Fitzrovia Partnership just wanting to replicate more of Oxford Street in Fitzrovia, which will of course push out the small businesses and produce a "clone town" here?

Mr Reeves said: "What I have done before is irrelevant. Oxford Street is the epitome of a cloned high street. But we absolutely don't want to see a cloned high street in Fitzrovia."

On the western side of Fitzrovia, Great Titchfield Street was (and still is) known for its rag trade and fashion wholesale showrooms as well as its collection of restaurants around the junction with Foley and Langham Streets. A few new cafes have opened up: the successful Kaffiene and Scandinavian Kitchen have added to the existing ones but the street has escaped the well-known brands.

Sadly I hear that Efes Restaurant, which has been on Great Titchfield Street for 37 years, is closing.

The owner is apparently selling up due to the rising cost of meat.



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# Bulbs planted for spring

By News Reporters

Gary Sollof from the Friends of the Open Spaces of Fitzrovia (right) gave some gardening instruction to adults and children as part of a community bulb planting day.

The morning of bulb planting in one of Fitzrovia's most well-used parks was hailed as a huge success. Around 700 bulbs were supplied to the Friends of the Open Spaces of Fitzrovia by Camden Council to plant in Whitfield Gardens on Tottenham Court Road. The event was part of a series of Autumn gardening days across the London Borough of Camden.

The planting which took place on Saturday 5 November was attended by about 30 adults and children who shared the digging of bulb plots to create a



display of colour for next spring. Gary Sollof, secretary of the Friends group, led the activity.

"We all had a lot of fun and are looking forward to when the bulbs bloom in the spring. It was also very good exercise. It's

great to be out in the open doing a bit of work. But more importantly it all helped in building a feeling of belonging to the park and caring for it," said Gary.

A spokesperson from Camden Council said it was "one of the most successful events we've had in the borough. It's been a fantastic turnout from the people of Fitzrovia and we're very pleased." Camden supplied bulbs including Snow Drops and Anemone.

The Friends group meet on a regular basis to work with Camden Council to help improve Whitfield Gardens, Crabtree Fields and The Warren. All the open spaces run along either side of Whitfield Street.

Open spaces in the neighbourhood are in short supply

and they are heavily used by not just residents but also the thousands of workers and visitors that come to Fitzrovia every day. A group of residents and businesses are currently working with Camden Council to identify potential new open spaces in the neighbourhood to take the pressure off the existing ones as part of an Area Action Plan for Fitzrovia.

Whitfield Gardens has recently been refurbished by Camden Council and there are also plans to restore the Fitzrovia Mural which is central feature of the gardens.

If you want to find out more about the Friends group or keep up to date with events in Fitzrovia, please contact Fitzrovia News and we can keep you informed.



Hajj certificate (detail). 17th–18th century AD. Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art (Khalili Family Trust) British Museum.

## Women's Art project at British Museum

Local women in Fitzrovia were involved in a partnership project with the Mary Ward Centre in making of the "Mahmal" highly decorated tent. In the olden days this mahmal used to carry the holy Quran and the covering of the "Kaaba" given by the Sultan and inspired people in history making the journey to Mecca. The final art piece produced by the local community will be exhibited at the British Museum in Spring 2012 coinciding with the exhibition - Hajj: journey to the heart of Islam 26 January – 15 April 2012

## Chance encounter on the grapevine

By JOHN AXON

The late Indian Summer came as a bonus to Fitzrovia's al fresco troughing and sluicing establishments and was just as eagerly welcomed by patrons of the same, this reporter included. Given the excesses of the 2010/11 winter many jumped at the chance (and a few crawled) to savour a last opportunity to wine and dine in autumn sunshine in the area's many and varied outside eating areas and to temporarily forget terms such as Eurozone Crisis and Greek Debt.

With this in mind a route was plotted to Andres Restaurant in Charlotte Street, Greek no doubt but again no debt and pre-prandial drinks ordered. All was well in the world; the riots were over and the diets put on hold.

I then noticed a man approaching the table, smiling and with hand outstretched in greeting. No acquaintance, I nevertheless reciprocated his gesture as he admired my selected bottle of wine. Puzzled, I admitted my fondness for the particular brand and grape variety only for the amiable stranger to explain that he was the Australian winery owner responsible for its provision. I quickly asked him to join the table. A pleasant time ensued with stirring tales of viniculture from one side and Fitzrovia reminiscences from the other. It was akin to having a pint with Arthur Guinness.

The top right picture shows the winery owner (right), your reporter and the wine itself, cradled by waitress Huyen N from Andeas'. Readers might be able to distinguish between the consumer and the grower via the method of holding the glass!



## A kitchen where you can relax

Fitzrovia has its own secrets, and one of these is its strange and wonderful array of restaurants: good, quirky, cheap, expensive – and sometimes over-rated and horrible. The Dining Detective will try them out and rate them for you, completely anonymously, and try and advise where our best restaurants are:

JERUSALEM BAR AND KITCHEN, 33-34 Rathbone Place, just down from the end of Charlotte Street. Phone: 0207-255-1120

This was a pleasant surprise and a good beginning – although it seems to have been well-discovered by those pesky people from over the border. It is a wine bar with a menu, housed in a basement, and on the Tuesday night our undercover diner visited had very many customers and the first impression is noise. What it might be like to eat there on a Saturday night which is "Showgirl Night" I don't like to think! However, don't be put off: it is also large and has various tucked away spaces for casual diners, and sofas for conversationalists, where people can be comfortable and hear themselves. You can also book: a party of twelve who had booked came in while I was there which seemed like a good advertisement. The menu was good, well-cooked, simple



By the DINING DETECTIVE

food – sausages and mash, pasta, pie of the day, salmon and mash, haloumi kebabs – all main courses under £10. There were salads. There were starters for under a fiver if required, like soup and chicken wings. It's nothing posh at all, but the salmon of the detective was pleasantly-seasoned and presented – and with a very quaffable, generous glass of Chilean Merlot (I know I know, red wine with fish, just a quirk) the meal cost well under £20. A friendly, un-harrassed-on-a-busy-night waiter gave particularly good service – by chance I found out later he was the under-manager.

A good find.

**PICTURE PUZZLE ANSWER:**  
51 Fitzroy Street, corner with Warren Street, home of Fitzrovia Group Analytic Practice.



## Picture puzzle corner

How observant are you when walking around Fitzrovia?

Can you identify, for example, where the above photograph was taken?

It was taken by Eugene McConville and is the first in a new series in the paper.

The answer to this one is at the bottom of the last column of this page.

## Joseph's real drawing



"Shrike", by Joseph Berryman, which should have been included in the article about him in our last issue. Apologies for the error.



# Cutting edge art gallery breathes smell of success into historic sanitary factory

By CLIVE JENNINGS

One of Fitzrovia's most loved buildings is the elegant Arts & Crafts block at the corner of Riding House Street and Candover Street, famous for the luxuriant turquoise and gold mosaic panels, proudly pronouncing in swirling Art Nouveau script, "T J Boulting & Sons Gas & Electrical Engineers. Est.1808" and "Sanitary & Hot Water Engineers" on its two facades. There is a small enclave of similarly styled mansion blocks in the surrounding streets, an area that would have still been predominantly Georgian in 1903 when they were built, and would have been the height of fashion at the time, taking their cue from the style made popular by near neighbour, Arthur Liberty, in Regent Street who popularised what was flatteringly known on the continent as "Style Liberty".

The latest incumbents are Trolley: a dynamic combination of publishing house and cutting edge contemporary art gallery. Directors Gigi Giannuzzi and Hannah Watson fell in love with the building and patiently waited a year to move in while a saga that included a lorry knocking down a tree, that resulted in excavation that caused water damage unfolded. In fact they have embraced the building to the extent that the gallery arm is now called T J Boulting, while the publishing arm remains Trolley Books, an inventive solution that I'm sure would flatter the eponymous T J Boulting, and sons, who were obviously very proud of their business. The building is Grade 1\* listed, and in their sympathetic refurbishment, they have peeled back layers of lino to reveal parquet floors and another beautiful mosaic in, appropriately for sanitary engineers, the bathroom.

The story of Trolley starts in 1997 when Gigi was involved in publishing a book of photographs by cult America photographer, Nan Goldin. He went on to work with art world greats Richard Serra, and Richard Long and by 2000, was promoting his latest publications around the book fairs of Europe. Lacking the funds for an official stand, and unconventional by nature, he chose a strategy of guerilla attacks, sporting a red velvet suit and pushing his stock around in a shopping trolley, hence the imprint name. Gigi moved his operation to London in 2001, meeting Hannah, then an intern at the Peggy Guggenheim Foundation, in Venice in 2005. They ended up in Redchurch Street, the once scruffy thoroughfare that connects Shoreditch to Brick Lane.

Taking over the premises of Stuart Shave's "Modern Art"



"Gigi Giannuzzi and Hannah Watson outside T J Boulting / Trolley"  
Photo: Carla Borel

gallery, now relocated in nearby Eastcastle Street after a spell in Bethnal Green, they started organising exhibitions there in 2005. Redchurch Street still had an edgy attraction then, and was home to several galleries and louche bars. As always, the money followed the art and the Street's fate was sealed when Terence Conran opened his boutique hotel Boundary, the designer stores moved in and most recently artist, Sam Taylor Wood filmed her beau, actor Aaron Johnson, throwing himself around for an REM video. Exorbitant rent increases and the desultory offer of a shipping container round the corner for over £30,000 per annum made Fitzrovia, an area Hannah knew from days working in Newman Street, with its buzzing gallery scene, seem very attractive.

The irony of the cycle of people having to move from an area that only became popular due to their creative energy because they are now priced out (Hoxton and most of lower Manhattan) being typical examples, is not lost on Hannah and Gigi. The old gallery had the legend "Greed, it ain't going anywhere" painted the length of the building, a prescient sentiment. Like Josh Lilley Gallery across the road the modest ground floor is the tip of iceberg, and visitors walk through the informal open plan publishing side to the impressive basement gallery, many times its size. Down here, ceilings are a majestic 4 metres high in places, and a beautiful arch has been uncovered, having been panelled in for years.

The Gallery got off to a flying start in mid October with an anarchic exhibition by Kling & Bang, an Icelandic artist led gallery who has previously shown at Tate Modern and Frieze in nearby Regents Park. It consisted of a video archive playing concurrently on ten individually headphoned screens and individual pieces by member artists ranging in size from small drawings to whole room installations. On the opening day, there was a party atmosphere with performance, music and a custom-built gold bar. The contributing artists, of whom there were many, mainly with names ending in "dotir", dispensed Icelandic Schnapps whilst others cooked Icelandic pancakes. A Prosecco fountain was fed by 180 bottles of Prosecco, sourced from the vineyard next to Trolley's printers in Italy.

Trolley Gallery started with exhibitions by artists connected to books they had published: Paul Fryer, author of "Don't Be So" illustrated by Damien Hirst, being an early example. Subsequent highlights include photographer Nick Waplington, Nina Gehl and a group show curated by Tracey Emin. The gallery has established a good relationship with many artists and photographers that has lasted, and, as is often the case, the roster has grown organically, often through artist recommendations. Forthcoming exhibitors include Jennifer Taylor in December and Boo Savile in February. Plans are also afoot to mount a mini exhibition in the

building's oak panelled vestibule with its half timbered ceiling, which only has about a square metre of floor space, a real private view with room for only two at a time.

The publishing arm specialises in photography and photo-journalism with a wide ranging list from the wonderful sartorial perfection of the sapeurs featured in "The Gentlemen of Baongo" who stride across the war torn rutted landscape of sub Saharan Africa looking like characters from PG Wodehouse, to very hard hitting documentation of war and conflict, such as "Attack on Gaza" with text by Noam Chomsky and "The Only House Left Standing" the Middle east journals of Tim Hundalls. Art and architecture also feature and the attention to detail in the design of the books makes them a pleasure to handle and read. Trolley is renowned for the respect with which it treats its contributing photographers' documentation of what Gigi calls "life trajectories". A typical example is the experience of Philip Jones Griffiths, whose photographic essay "Recollections" they published. He explains: "Meeting Gigi was the closest I'll ever come to a religious conversion. While most publishers balked at the number of photographs I want to include, Gigi said 'No good' and asked for more."

Two recent publications concentrate on events on either side of Fitzrovia, both within a ten minute walk of Riding House Street, in Soho and St Pancras. "Gaz's Rockin' Blues, The First

30 Years" documents, through illustrated flyers and Gaz's recollections, the one nighter that ran and ran, still hosted by the ebullient Gaz, son of '60's blues man John, and still playing the best ska and reggae in town every Thursday night at The St Moritz in Wardour Street, a time warped '60's nightclub with a Swiss chalet theme, apparently very popular at the time. Trolley's first foray into fiction is "The Hardy Tree" by first time novelist Iphgenia Baal. It tells the story of how, 150 years ago, a young and sensitive Thomas Hardy headed a group of thugs known as "The Resurrection Men" whose job was to disinter and rebury on consecrated land 10,000 corpses whose graves were on the route of the Great Midland Railway from Manchester to London. The only memorial now extant being the tree in the grounds St Pancras church from which stacked gravestones emanate like the spores of a necrogenic upturned mushroom.

Hannah and Gigi would love to know more about their building. Did any engineering actually take place there or was it an administrative headquarters? Was T J Boulting Fitzrovia's answer to Thomas Crapper, who was also a sanitary engineer and popularised the flushing water closet at around the same time from his base in West London. Any information or stories about Boulting or any other previous occupants, from local residents and workers would be gratefully received at: [clive.jennings@fitzroviafnews.org.uk](mailto:clive.jennings@fitzroviafnews.org.uk)



This is the old photo of the King and Queen pub on the corner of Foley and Cleveland Streets we told you about in the last edition. It came to light when builders began a demolition nearby and took it in to the landlord. It's reckoned to date from the 1950s or 60s and shows the narrow two-way streets almost traffic-free. Landlord Collin Lea would love to hear from anybody who has old shots of the interior



# Your local shopping list

Independent shops and services have been under great pressure in the area recently with soaring increases in rents, rates and leases. Many have had to literally shut up shop. It is important therefore that maximum support is given to those that remain. In this four-page feature we list just some that readers should check out. More may be listed in future issues.

## AQUARIUMS

Aquatic Design Centre, 107-109 Great Portland Street.  
Nearly 500 tanks of tropical fish, coral creatures and aquatic plants are stored in the two floors of this shop. It can provide (or hire) everything from a single goldfish in a small tank to a living, breeding coral reef. Most of the stock is farmed to avoid depleting wild fish stocks.

## ARCHITECTS

Bar Gazetas, 16-19 Eastcastle St 020 7363 5581. Architects' practice and design consultancy covering public realm, residential and mix use projects.

Nigel Bird, 6 Middleton Place, Langham St. 020 7580 5152  
Clients range from The Salvation Army to The Rolling Stones.

Collado Collins, 17-19 Foley St 020 7580 3490. Specialise in mixed use urban projects.

Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios 21 Great Titchfield St. 020 7323 5737. Working on urban regeneration and social housing projects throughout the UK.

Stephen Fletcher, 121a Cleveland St. 020 7637 1244. Specialise in residential refurbishment. Will meet potential clients in London free of charge to discuss ideas.

Hazan Smith and Partners, 5 Goodge Place. 020 7631 3678. Projects range from small-scale listed building alterations to large-scale residential development.

David Miller, 41-42 Foley St. 020 7636 4318. David was project architect for the Media Centre at Lord's. Interests include regeneration and projects which foster cohesive communities.

Shillam and Smith, 122 Great Titchfield St. 020 7637 0057  
Also host contemporary art shows and offer tours of Fitzrovia during Architecture Week.

David Walker, 39 Great Portland St. 020 7631 0523. Small design-focused practice whose projects include offices, hotels, house and cultural buildings

## ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Reharmonise, 1st Floor, 83 Charlotte Street  
Tel : 07770 933 900  
www.reharmonise.com  
Free 15 min trial  
Initial Consultation save £10 off £60 fee. Quote Fitzrovia News Laura Merie MBAC.

As a practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture, Iridology and Western Herbal Medicine, the unique combination of therapies produced by Laura are dedicated to improving your health and wellbeing holistically. Laura has over 10 years' experience in the field of integrated medicine and is a firm believer in creating optimum health status, as opposed to managing disease symptoms. Treatment to restore, rebalance and "reharmonise" your mind, body and spirit.

## ART

Nancy Victor Gallery, 6 Charlotte Place. Tel : 02078130373

This gallery has been in Fitzrovia some time, but previously hidden away in a basement in Charlotte Street, now in splendour in Charlotte Place. It specialises in emerging UK artists and designers of hand crafted work. 25% commission.



Well heeled at Black Truffle

## BOUTIQUES

Black Truffle, 52 Warren Street, London W1T 5NJ. 020 7388 4547  
Contact: Melissa Needham  
http://www.blacktruffle.co.uk/  
Black Truffle is a fashion boutique providing stylish women's clothes and accessories. The store also serves coffee and cake and offers a range of short courses in accessory design. Courses – group and private – include shoemaking, bag making, belt making, corsetry, millinery and tutu making. Course attendees are entitled to 20% discount off full priced products.

## BOOKSHOPS

French's Theatre Bookshop, 52 Fitzroy Street. Tel: 020 7255 4300  
Mon-Fri: 9.30-17.30 (Thurs: to 19.00) Sat: 11.00-17.00.

An oasis of peace off Tottenham Court Road: On entering this specialist bookshop, it's difficult to believe that just around the corner is the mad rush of Central London. The bookshop specialises in play scripts and stocks - over two thousand of them. It also stocks other theatre material. You can sit and browse. Can't make up your mind? then order on-line. The shop is well worth a visit.

Indian Book Shelf – Star Books, 55 Warren Street. Tel: 020 7419 9169 Mon-Fri: 10.00-18.00

I came across this unique bookshop on my way from French's. They specialise in books published by Star Books in many languages and on various subjects. Languages include English, Bengali, Farsi, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Panjabi, Latvian, Lithuanian, Nepali, Polish, Spanish and Sinhalese. Subjects include poetry, cookery, biographies, history, health, and novels

BooksInRussian, 24 Goodge Street : Tel : 0207 436 6390



Sandwiched between the sex shop "Simply Pleasure" and Leyland hardware supplies, is this interesting shop which also now sells Russian food. I've tried their meat dumplings in a soup of my own made from miso and spring onions, and they are delicious! A snip at £2.80. The shop specialises in all things Russian: books, lecture space (also at their branch in Denmark Street).

Treadwell's Bookshop, 33 Store Street. Tel: 020 7419 8507.  
www.treadwells-london.com  
Specialising in "the banned, burned and ridiculed", Treadwells has an extensive stock of both second hand and new books on the Occult, Tarot, Wicca, Folklore, Mythology and Religion in addition to artifacts

from crystal balls to Day of the Dead skeletons. Also a lively programme of lectures and courses on the premises. Daily Tarot readings.

## BICYCLES

Central Bikes, 37 Tottenham St. Scooters, servicing, clothing and accessories. Dan Rose has been working in the West End for nearly ten years, but opened his shop nearly two years ago. Assistant Chris Hilton says most of the customers work in Fitzrovia. They offer full service on all motorbikes, and have an online shop too www.central-bikes.co.uk. A new gift card is being launched to prime the pump for that biker in your life. "You can buy credit and give it as a present."

## MPL Maintenance and Flooring

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Milecourt Properties Ltd T/A MPL Maintenance



# Shops and services direct

## BUTTONS AND BELTS

Taylors Buttons and Belts, 22 Cleveland Street. Thousands of hand made buttons are in this shop... so it came as a surprise when a television crew brought a woman with a buttons phobia.

"It was very strange," said Maureen Rose, who runs the shop. "I think they wanted to show her that buttons were not going to bite her, but I thought it not worth the risk of frightening her."

The business was established 100 years ago in Soho but was forced by developers to relocate here ten years ago. Maureen makes the buttons (and can cover or make belts) for theatres, costumers, television and film studios, designers, and colleges.

## CAFES

Julia's Meadow, 44 Newman Street, W1T 1QD. Telephone 020 7580 4464. A small, gourmet sandwich joint for very reasonable prices. Hot dishes and the best salads in Fitzrovia. The service is efficient and friendly. Eat-in tables and deliveries.

Lantana Café, in Charlotte Place is an unusually laidback corner of London, an atmosphere which the Australian-owned Lantana does its best to maintain. 13 Charlotte Place, W1 Tel: 020 7637 3347

## COBBLERS

Brodies, 88a Cleveland Street. Tel: 020 7387 3978

The friendly owner of this establishment, untypically in my experience, actually seems to like both shoes and his work.

He will happily discuss the merits of the Goodyear welting system and the pros and cons of the stick on sole. He will treat your handmade Lobb boots with the respect they deserve, while not turning his nose up at painstakingly rescuing those chain store cheapies that cost little, but you wear every summer.

Fifth Avenue, 41 Goodge Street. Tel: 020 7636 6705

This place offers a wide range of English mens shoes by Loake, Cheaney, Alfred Sargent, Church's and carries out traditional shoe repairs to all types of mens' and ladies' footwear. Perhaps slightly on the expensive side, but this family-run business really pays attention to quality, and it shows.

George Shoe Repairs, 35 Tottenham Street. Tel: 020 3302 6437

Helpful neighbourhood shoe repairer. Many long standing and satisfied customers.

## COMPUTER SUPPORT

Ameris IT Support, 84a Cleveland St, London W1T 6NG  
Ameris provide comprehen-



Maureen Rose handmaking buttons at Taylors in Cleveland Street

sive IT solutions for small to medium sized London businesses, including secure network installation and server and desktop support.  
Call 020 7436 7778  
ameris.co.uk

## DELICATESSENS

Dino's Delicatessen, 12 Charlotte Place. 020 7580 3938. Sandwich shop that sells a range of Italian groceries and caters for parties.

H T Harris Delicatessen, 41 Great Titchfield St. 020 76364228. Long-established cafe which sells cured meats, cheeses and Italian produce

Iberica, 195 Great Portland St. 020 7636 8650. Wide range of cured meats, cheeses and produce from Spain with a restaurant next door.

Sardo Cucina, 112 Whitfield St 7383 3555. One of 3 family-run restaurants which also has delicatessen selling Sardinian oils, breads, pasta and coffee.

Scandinavian Kitchen, 61 Great Titchfield St. 020 7580 7161. This popular cafe does a great range of open sandwiches, sells a wide range of Scandinavian food and caters for parties.

Villandry, 170 Great Portland St 020 7631 3131. The foodstore attached to the upmarket restaurant sells a range of continental products and hampers and caters for parties

## DRY CLEANERS

Aristocrat, 26a Mortimer St. 020 7580 5040. Dry cleaning and bespoke tailoring on the premises

The Complete Cobbler/LAS, 26 Tottenham St. 020 7636 9040. This has been going for 35 years

and does laundry and dry-cleaning as well as shoe and bag repairs.

Fitzroy Cleaners, 90 Cleveland St. 020 7387 9677. Dry-cleaning on the premises.

F-Dry Cleaners, 36 Langham St. 020 7580 6020. Also does a tailoring service.

Masterclean, 34 Berners St 020 7323 9190. Dry cleaning, laundry and carpet and curtain cleaning.

Parkers, 28 Goodge St. 020 7636 6373. This has been going for more than forty years and also does tailoring services.

Sole Heelers, 82a Great Titchfield St. 020 7580 9066 Dry cleaning, shoe repairs, repairs and alterations, key-cutting.



Spectacular view at Zacks eye clinic

## EYE CLINIC

Zacks Fitzrovia Eye Clinic, 30c Warren St, London, W1T 5NF 020 7383 4898. Contact: Jonathan Cohen. Zacks Fitzrovia Eye Clinic has led the profession for four decades, performing numerous clinical trials to facilitate the research and development of contact lens products. In 1997, Zack Contact Lenses incorporated W. Johnson & Sons Opticians who in the 19th century were at the forefront of spectacle lens technology and held a royal warrant for the supply of spectacles to Queen Victoria. This shop not only specializes in contact lenses but also sells funky glasses and sunglasses too and have up to 50% off selected products.

## FLORISTS

Chivers Flowers, 43-45 Charlotte Street.

This family business has been here for 50 years, and before that was opposite Warren Street station for 40 years, having been started by the grandmother of the present owner, Steven Chivers.

"Our customers are all local and I love the area with its characters who are interesting, diverse, creative, and very friendly," said Steven who also likes the community atmosphere. The shop also sells gift items such as hand made jewellery and scented candles, as well as vintage and antique products such as mirrors.

## HABERDASHERS

Barnett Lawson Trimmings Ltd, 16-17 Little Portland Street. Tel: 020 7636 8591 [www.bltrimmings.com](http://www.bltrimmings.com). All types of trimmings including ribbons, braids, fringes, motifs, sequins, tassels, boas, feathers, pearls, diamonte, buttons and cords to mention just a few. They supply the theatre, film and television trades and anybody with exciting trimmings for any purpose.

Halicombe Trimmings Ltd, 15-16 Margaret Street. Tel: 020 7636 1789

New Trimmings, Princess House, 10 Winsley Street. Tel: 020 7637 0307.

## HAIRDRESSERS

Vannoli Hair, 92 Cleveland Street, Fitzrovia, W1T 6NN. 07533 216874. Contact: Simone Vannoli.

Opened in February 2011 this hairdressers offers the full range hair services for both men and women at great prices. You can book or just drop in. They are offering 20% off all services between 16th and 29th January 2012.

Nicolas, 38 Goodge Street. Tel: 020 7637 1809 Mon-Sat 10:00-19:00

Andreas has been cutting this writer's hair for over sixteen years and always made an excellent job of it. Gracious and courteous, he has been serving the tonsorial needs of Fitzrovians since 1969. Three chairs, and son now also cutting.



Ciarra Currie arrangers flowers at Chivers in Charlotte Street.

More news a  
and at twitter.



# Story

Sharps Barber & Shop, 13a Charlotte Street. Tel: 020 7636 8688.

Cutting edge (geddit?) barbers with contemporary interior. Drinks on offer, convivial atmosphere and a step up from the traditional "something for the weekend, sir?" establishment.

Toppers, 48 Goodge Street, 61 & 160 Tottenham Court Road. This chain of discount unisex barbers currently charges £9 for a basic haircut. Feedback mixed from brilliant to awful. Seem to have a frequent turnover of staff, so less likely to have the same barber twice. My 14 year old son loves them.

Tower Barbers, 164 New Cavendish Street. Tel: 020 7636 3950 Mon-Fri 8.30-18.30 Traditional barber. Haircut: £11.50; + shampoo: £14.50.

Vannoli Hair, 92 Cleveland Street, Fitzrovia, W1T 6NN 07533 216874. Contact: Simone Vannoli. Opened in February 2011 this hairdressers offers the full range hair services for both men and women at great prices. You can book or just drop in. They are offering 20% off all services between 16th and 29th January 2012.

## ICE CREAM

Polka Gelato, 45 Fitzroy Street, W1T 6EB. Contact: Anna and Ross. 020 7387 3841.

Polka Gelato is a modern ice cream and coffee shop that opened in August this year offering mouth watering Italian ice creams made of all natural ingredients. They offer all Fitzrovia residents 10% off and deliver for free their take home tubs. When you visit make sure you say hello to their couscous (you'll have to go in to find out more).



10 per cent off ice cream at Polka Gelato



## JEWELLERY GIFTS

Be Marvellous Jewellery (pictured above), 38 Goodge Street, 020 7637 2144

Costume and bespoke hand made oneoffs commissions, necklaces, brooches, rings, earrings, hand bags, evening bags, soaps, hair slides, grips, hand made costume jewellery from £5. Thursday late opening.

## LEATHER GEAR

Lewis Leathers, 3-5 Whitfield Street.

Motorbike clothing and more. One of the most historic firms in Fitzrovia, Lewis Leathers was founded in 1892 in Great Portland Street, but moved to its current site in recent times. Their range is made in England, and can be made to measure too. There's an online business, www.lewisleathers.com with a big fan base in Japan.

## MUSIC SHOPS

J P Guiver of 99 Mortimer Street, London, W1W 7SX. 0207 580 2560. Claiming to be the oldest violin dealer in England they specialise in violins, violas, cellos and bows. They have a world renowned selection of conductor's batons, and sell strings, cases and accessories. The business is spread over five floors, was originally established in 1863 to manufacture strings, and moved from Soho to its current address in the 1940s. Customers can try a selection of instruments and/or bows in private practice rooms. They keep a good selection of fine older instruments from the best European violin-making schools. A choice of at least 36 available handmade conducting batons (different styles and lengths). Repairs and restoration on-site from routine repairs to extensive restoration of instruments and bows. The mugging at the start of Howard Jacobson's novel "The

Finkler Question" describes Julian Treslove looking into J P Guiver shop window when he is assaulted.

Ivor Mairants Musiccentre, 56 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JT. 0207 636 1481

This shop specialises in fretted stringed instruments: guitars, banjos, ukuleles, and bass guitars; and also sell strings books, pickups, tuners, amps, and pedals.

Ivor Mairants was born in 1908 in Rypin, Poland, and came with his family to the UK in 1913. He took up the banjo at the age of 15 and at 20 became a professional musician.

From the 1930's he was a featured banjoist and then guitarist of many of Britain's leading dance bands. In the 60's and 70's his guitar playing was often heard on television, radio, film soundtracks, and many recordings including the Mantovani orchestra, and Manuel and his Music of the Mountains. His guitar quintet broadcast regularly in the late 1950's on the BBC's 'Guitar Club' series.

In the 1950's Ivor Mairants established his central school of dance music in London. All instruments were taught but special emphasis was given to the guitar. In 1958, together with his wife Lily, he opened The Ivor Mairants Musiccentre, Britain's first specialist guitar store. The Ivor Mairants Musiccentre became a Mecca for professional and amateur guitarists. It moved to its present premises in 1962. David Antony Reid with over 13 years' experience and hand-making and repairing guitars spends his Thursdays at Ivor Mairants taking care of repairs, set-ups and restorations.

All Flutes Plus 60-61 Warren Street, W1T 5NZ 020 7388 8438

This shop moved from Chiltern Street, Marylebone, about ten years ago and has a large selection of flutes including bass and alto flutes, piccolos and headjoints. Instruments range from student models to advanced professional models. It also has the latest lighter flutes made of resin which are suitable for musicians suffering with RSI.

An extensive library of music is available featuring pieces for flute, flute/piano duets and ensemble pieces.



Hobgoblin Music: An Aladdin's Cave of instruments.

It also has a range of CDs, cases, covers, music stands, instrument stands, lights, pickups, tuners, metronomes, and flute cleaning materials.

Two small instrument try-out rooms are available and a small studio/space in the basement - "The Warren Room" is available to hire for rehearsals, individual and group teaching, masterclasses, workshops, and seminars. The room holds 12 people, has a piano and is also used for musicians' posture and bodywork classes.

A repair and servicing workshop is fully equipped with specialist technicians dealing with minor adjustments to complete overhauls and renovations.

Notice board and leaflets give details of concerts, recitals, teachers and flute related events.

Hobgoblin Music, 24 Rathbone Place, W1T 1JA. 020 7323 9040.

This shop has been in Fitzrovia for 13 years and is an Aladdin's Cave of musical instruments with a huge range of acoustic, folk, celtic and

world musical instruments to try out and compare.

Concertinas, melodeons, accordions, mandolins, mandolas, dulcimers, bouzoukis, bass guitars, bodhrans, flagelots, world percussion, bagpipes, flutes, tin whistles, banjos, low whistles, harps, fiddles/violins, harmonicas, saxophones, zithers ukeleles, kalimbas, bells glockenspiels, xylophones, recorders, amplifiers, strings, straps cases, books, tutors, CDs and DVDs (this list is not exhaustive!)

The staff are friendly and knowledgeable, they're happy to let you make a noise in the shop and will give you pressure-free advice.

A range of secondhand and handmade instruments are stocked and Hobgoblin buy certain instruments outright, especially concertinas. They take trade-ins and can sell on a commission. If you have an instrument to sell, pop into the shop. Noticeboard with musicians contact details, teachers, bands and upcoming gigs.



Magic Flutes at 60 Warren Street

## Bloomsbury ward councillors' surgeries

6.00-7.00pm on the first and third Fridays of the month at Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre, 39 Tottenham Street, W1T 4RX  
And on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at Marchmont Community Centre, 62 Marchmont Street, WC1N 1AB

**Adam Harrison, Milena Nuti, and Abdul Quadir : 020 7974 3111**  
adam.harrison@camden.gov.uk, milena.nuti@camden.gov.uk,  
abdul.quadir@camden.gov.uk





# Shops and services

## PICTURE FRAMERS

Arch 1 Studio, 12 Percy Street.  
Tel: 020 7636 8241.  
Part of the group that includes artists' materials purveyors Cornellisons in Great Russell Street and artists' canvas suppliers Russell & Chapple in Covent Garden. Arch 1 Studio have a wide range of mouldings to suit all types of pictures and a changing exhibition of framed work by various artists.

Artefact Picture Framers, 36 Windmill Street. Tel: 020 3417 2258.

[www.artefactlondon.co.uk](http://www.artefactlondon.co.uk)  
Artefact have over 30 years of experience in the manufacture and supply of creative picture frames.

All picture framing and mirror manufacturing is done by a team of highly skilled and talented craftsmen in their own workshop in Surbiton. Also a gallery to hire.

Riccardo Giaccherini Ltd, 39 Newman Street. Tel: 020 7580 1783. Known to specialise in top end hand carved and gilded frames. They were the personal framers of Lucian Freud.

## PHOTOGRAPHY COURSES

Nigel Wilson Photography Workshops, 36 Mortimer St. A 20 per cent discount is being offered to Fitzrovia News readers for weekend photography courses at this teaching studio. Just mention the Fitzrovia News when making contact by phoning 020 7793 8664 or 07969 900790, or email [nigel@photographycourses.org.uk](mailto:nigel@photographycourses.org.uk). Or visit the web: [www.photographycourses.org.uk](http://www.photographycourses.org.uk).

## SCULPTURE MATERIALS

Alec Tiranti, 27 Warreen Street. Customers come here from all over the world for their sculpture materials and equipment, from novices and students to professional artists and those working in animation, technical design, special effects, as well as plasterers and restorers. The British Museum is also a regular customer. The shop was established in 1895 and moved here from nearby 15 years ago.

## SECOND HAND

They say second-hand Britain is booming and as millions of cash-strapped Britons face another winter of spiralling fuel bills, job insecurity and wage cuts, one industry is at least thriving.

Here in Fitzrovia we have many Charity shops. Indeed, there have always been second hand dealers here. I remember in the 1950s when Warren Street was rife with its wheeling and dealing in second hand cars. The street was filled with spivs and well-known for its sharks.

How many of you out there know where the song Second Hand Rose derives from?

Much of the current demand is coming from middle-class households forced to seek out second hand bargains.

Our local Oxfam shop in Goodge Street which opened in May 1990 is managed by Mary Lawlor and many volunteers, including Emad who has been with the Company for many years.

Oxfam said second-hand sales from its shops were up 3.5 per cent year-on-year but donations of goods were down by 14 per cent, a sign that people were hanging on to goods or selling them. They say during the economic downturn they have seen

a definite increase in the popularity of re-using, but the recession has also caused a drop in donations.

Donations are the life blood of Oxfam shops and they urge the public to bring unwanted items into their shops. They generally have an excellent range of books, sports and computer equipment, etc. Many customers who have children going to University are able to avail themselves of a bargain.

The YMCA, also in Goodge Street, likewise is a thriving concern with a regular turnaround which opened on 26 July 1989.

The newest to the area is Bang Bang, in Goodge Street too, which operates a buy and sell scheme, residing here 11 years.

## TATTOOS

Soul Rise, Tattoo & Piercing Studio, 32 Newman Street, basement.

The upgrading of a customer's private parts was one of the more unusual requests here. "He already had two stars on his penis and wanted a third," explained Edward Ziani who runs the studio. "I did it, but won't do it again."

Edward has just moved to the area from Camden Town and has found it so good to trade that he is taking on another artist soon. "New techniques have really improved so people can bring in their own colour pictures and we can photo and transfer them," added Edward.

## TAILORS & ALTERATIONS

A-Z Tailoring, 38 Langham Street. Tel: 0207636 9196. Mon-Sat: 10.00 to 19.00; Sun: 12 to 19.00

This small alteration and repairs service is on the ground floor of a mansion block. The very helpful proprietor, Ali, claims his prices are around 30% below the norm, which with hemming from £5 seems very reasonable, and Sunday opening is very convenient.

Josh Demou, 62 Warren Street. Tel: 020 7388 9196.  
In Warren Street for 12 years and specialising in top end work for Saville Row, Josh Demou can undertake anything from an alteration to a bespoke suit.

The Golden Needle, 152 New Cavendish Street. Tel: 020 7580 7727.

Very impressive alterations and repairs undertaken for this writer. Great attention to detail and excellent workmanship. Reasonable prices.

Paul Kitsaros, 66 Cleveland Street. Tel: 020 7323 6757.  
Excellent bespoke tailor, at very reasonable prices. Saville Row quality, for whom he does much work, at around half the price. Don't let the scruffy frontage deter you. Personal recommendation from this writer for whom Paul has made several suits.



Family business: Kyri Sotiri (left) and his father Klitos, owners of Soho Wine Supply.

Jonathan Quearney, 7 Windmill Street. Tel: 020 7631 5132 Mon-Fri 9.00-6.00.

[www.jonathanquearney.com](http://www.jonathanquearney.com)  
Saville Row trained tailor Quearney has been in Fitzrovia for seven years in three different premises, and now also lives here with his young family.

All suits are cut on the premises and the house style is a soft shouldered look. Clients can browse 1960's copies of "Tailor and Cutter" for inspiration or admire the typewriter that is used for labels in his comfortable but quirky showroom. Bespoke suits from £2,300 and made to measure from £1,100.

Russell & Hodge, 3 Windmill Street. Tel: 020 7580 7655.  
[www.russellandhodge.com](http://www.russellandhodge.com)

Proprietor Kerry Ford moved his shirtmaking operation to Windmill Street from Jermyn Street eight years ago. One of the last bespoke shirt-makers in London where everything is made on the premises, Kerry does a lot of work for films and television now. Recent projects include "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy", "The Iron Lady" and the new Batman film. Bespoke shirts from £175.

M. Sakhi, 118-120 Great Titchfield Street. Tel: 020 7436 2132. Mon - Sat: 10.00 19.00  
This light basement workshop will make ladies and gents garments from scratch, in addition to alteration and repair services.

## WINE SHOPS

Soho Wine Supply, 18 Percy St.

A family business on Percy Street since 1977. Kyri Sotiri (pictured with his Dad) says the shop flourishes on the site of an old storeroom.

"Much has changed, we used to bottle alcohol here on Percy Street, and tastes have altered too."

The shop now stocks five shelves of different vodkas and the range of gin is quickly expanding. With a full range of champagnes, wines and malts, as well as serving local residents, the firm supplies hotels, bars and restaurants across London, and is now actively encouraging more Fitzrovia business.

"If there's a hotel or bar in the area that wants to come along and talk we'll be delighted."

Do you know of a local shop or service that should be publicised? If so let us know (contact details are on page 2).

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# Blackout killer unmasked

A short story by  
SUNITA SOLIAR

The lights go out on London – street lamps dim and people cover their doors and windows. From his flat Gordon Cummins looks at the hazy glow of fire in the distance, and polishes his work shoes.

He likes the status that the RAF uniform gives him: people see only what he represents – he could have any face. The other chaps call him 'The Count' – it's really true that he's high born, and he doesn't like the ones who snigger. He inspects the shoes and puts them aside – tonight he's a civilian, one who can slip in and out of the blackness. He takes his gas mask out of the box and tries it on. The smell of the disinfectant exhilarates him. He likes this new face, all seeing and powerful. This is his true face. He puts the mask into his bag and goes out into the street.

Across London, Greta Hayward puts her stockings and dress back on. She can hear the fatigued breathing of the man on the other side of the bed. He told her his name was John Smith. She doesn't believe him, but it's fine with her: she doesn't like to know anything about these men who call her out. It's this time when she's leaving that she can't bear to look at their faces. She wonders if the war does it, makes them so lonely that they need these sweating, grunting nights. But no, war doesn't make you take off a wedding ring. This is who he is all the time, John Smith. She looks at her lap as he goes into the bathroom. When the door is locked she collects the money he has left her on the hallway table. She catches her face in the mirror and pushes up a sad curl with her hand. Greta Hayward – with a name like that, people used to say, she ought to have been a movie star. The wrinkles around her eyes are deep and she puts on some lipstick to reduce their presence. She chooses a respectable brown for her journey home – even in the dark one wants to be seen in a certain way.

\*\*\*

Gordon moves down the street alongside men with briefcases, and secretaries heading home after a long day at the office. The air is chilly and made colder by the dark but people smile at each other as they step cautiously into the road, listening for blacked out traffic. He knows that no one will remember him: Londoners on their way home from work want to trust each other, and so he is just another man with his chin up, keeping the city's spirit going. An air raid warning goes out

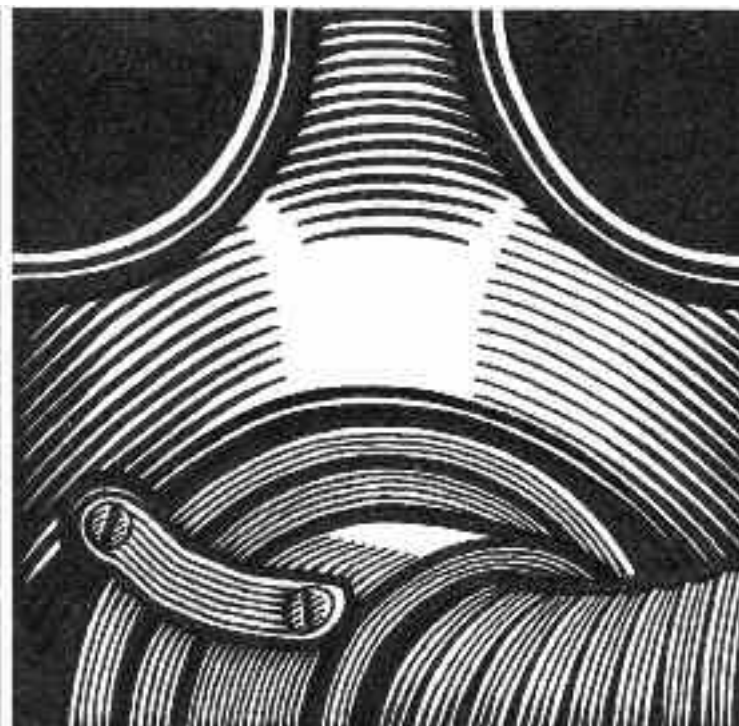


Illustration by CLIFFORD HARPER

## The air is chilly and made colder by the dark

over the sky, and he pulls his bag close to his body, his gas mask case jostling against a knife and a razor blade.

Greta twists her ankle because she doesn't see the curb, and limps all the way back home to Fitzrovia. She shivers in the crisp night and thinks about stopping at the air raid shelter on Montagu Place, but she's too afraid since that woman, Evelyn something, was strangled there. Her flat is small and cold, and she keeps her coat on as she boils the kettle. Her flatmate, Kathleen, went to visit a friend in the afternoon. It's late now and she isn't back yet; perhaps she'll stay there. Greta is disappointed about coming back to an empty place: she can't bear the thought of the long, dark night alone, the not talking to anyone. The kettle begins to whistle and she hums a tune as she takes her shoes off and hangs her coat up, and she does not hear Gordon as he jimmies open the front door. While the kettle shrills he creeps into her bedroom, where she fumbles in the open closet. She jumps as she feels something – a hand – over her mouth, and then she struggles for breath. She wriggles and bites his finger. He lets go and she sees a distorted, rubber face; the transparent eyepiece misted by breath. Gordon goes after her but he is stopped by the screams of her flatmate. He turns to see Kathleen in the doorway.

Alarmed that her noise will set the neighbours on him, he begins to back out.

But that won't do. Greta can't let him disappear. She hurls herself towards him and rips at his mask. She catches a glimpse of his face, an ordinary face, with dull brown hair. Pushing past Kathleen, he flees into the street, nameless and unseen.

When he is gone the women watch each other for a century of seconds. When they can breathe Kathleen helps her friend to sit down on the bed and goes into the kitchen to make her a cup of tea.

As Greta steadies herself she looks at the mask, which lies on the floor. She can't bear to touch it – the sight of it makes her tremble with sickness and anger. Yet she is transfixed by it and she knows she must pick it up. Her fingers reach out guardedly. The rubber is still moist from his breath – it makes her shiver. But inside she finds him: the service number of his mask is 525987. In the morning, when the light comes up again, she will give this to the police.

Our new astrology column:

## Boxing Day starts a new period in the Zodiac

By GEORGE BINNING

It's the time of year when our astrological position will be felt acutely by all. The early evenings, and impending winter solstice, on December 21st, force us all to draw on our deepest reserves of energy to see the winter through. Coupled with this, a lunar eclipse on the 10th will have made life's obstacles feel particularly trying, for Cancers especially, who are ruled by the moon. Never fear! Boxing Day marks the start of a period in which all the planets will move forward through the Zodiac, for the first time in eleven months. Similarly, this will be a time for all to move forward and play to their strengths.

**Aquarius:** Venus will enter the realm of Aquarius on the day of the winter solstice. In intellectual Aquarians Venus manifests herself through a love of balance, and with Jupiter at a right angle on that day, the signs point to a formal agreement that will lead to prosperity. Beware that stubborn individualism does not prevent you from reaching an outcome that can make everybody happy.

**Pisces:** A Pisces is able to see through the glossy packaging of Christmas to the glowing embers of Christmas spirit beneath. The compassionate side of Pisces will be a blessing to those around you, although these same people may have caused you unnecessary worry earlier in the year.

**Aries:** The lunar eclipse coincides with Uranus' exit from retrograde on December 10 as the planet starts to progress slowly through the house of Aries. When the emotional force of the moon is briefly overshadowed, you will be able to return to a nagging grievance with renewed creativity and intelligence. You might discover something about yourself in the process.

**Taurus:** After a very long period of frustrated aspiration, Jupiter's exit from a long retrograde on the 26th, will bring with it growth in the world of work. As Taurus' ruling planet Venus moves into Aries, this change of fortune will be reflected in your personal life too.

**Gemini:** Poor communication caused conflict in a battle of ideas last month, but as Mercury exits its retrograde in Sagittarius the lines are open once again. While you

should avoid trying to send a message early in the month, you will find it much easier to be clearer after the 14th.

**Cancer:** This may seem quite a difficult month, as internal worries are not easy for Cancers to voice during the lunar eclipse. The obscured moon may leave emotional Cancers feeling confused or at a loss, but overall positive motion of the rest of the zodiac will ensure that that support will be at hand.

**Leo:** As a child of the Sun you may struggle to find your strength at this time of year, especially when a new addition to your extended family thrusts you onto unfamiliar ground. But under Sagittarius' influence your ability to adapt to these new circumstances will hold strong.

**Virgo:** Mars rises in Virgo this month. The assertiveness of Mars pushes the analytical intelligence of a Virgo into a debate charged with emotion. Perhaps cool, resolved problem solving is what is needed, but don't forget to take the feelings of others into account.

**Libra:** As Libra's guiding star Venus moves from Capricorn to Aquarius in the middle of the month, deeper concerns will give way to levity. But in spite of the rise in spirits, your sense of responsibility will not be forgotten: Saturn's authoritarian influence remains strong, still hovering near its angle of exultation.

**Scorpio:** Don't be disheartened by the way this year has panned out. Most importantly, resist feelings of vindictiveness and bitterness towards that particular individual. Your ruling planet, Pluto, a symbol of rebirth, should empower you to pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start all over again!

**Sagittarius:** Leadership will be very important for Sagittarius in the first half of the month, although Mercury's retrograde motion may inhibit its delivery. Luckily any misunderstandings should be ironed out in the second half.

**Capricorn:** The departure of Venus will be counterbalanced by the immediate arrival of the Sun in Capricorn's sky. Although a particular source of pleasure will be lost, the self will prevail with renewed vigour. Also, your birthday approacheth!

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# A novel take on Fitzrovia

By BRIAN JARMAN

A young woman steps off the wooden escalator at Warren Street tube station and walks into the street. She's smartly dressed in the style of the late 1920s. She looks a little stuck-up, but when she stops to talk to a news vendor, Jack, her accent is the same as his.

This was the scene that came to Jacqueline Winspear one morning when she was stuck in traffic in a downpour while driving to work south of San Francisco.

'It was like watching a movie,' says Jacqueline. Another half an hour down the road the first chapter of a novel was forming.

'At the end of the day the whole book was in my head,' says Jacqueline. 'I came home and wrote the first chapter.'

And so her heroine, private eye Maisie Dobbs who has an office in Fitzroy Square, was born.

Jacqueline was born in South

## 'It was like watching a movie' in the middle of a downpour

East London and emigrated to California 21 years ago. Her first job was in Fitzroy Square and she fell in love with it. She worked in publishing and wrote for education journals but never thought she'd write a novel.

'I didn't think I could,' she says.

Since then Maisie Dobbs books have won awards and made the top ten of the New York Times bestseller list. She's comparatively unknown this side of the Atlantic, but that could soon change because Allison and Busby have just published her seventh Maisie Dobbs crime novel, *The Mapping of Love and Death*.

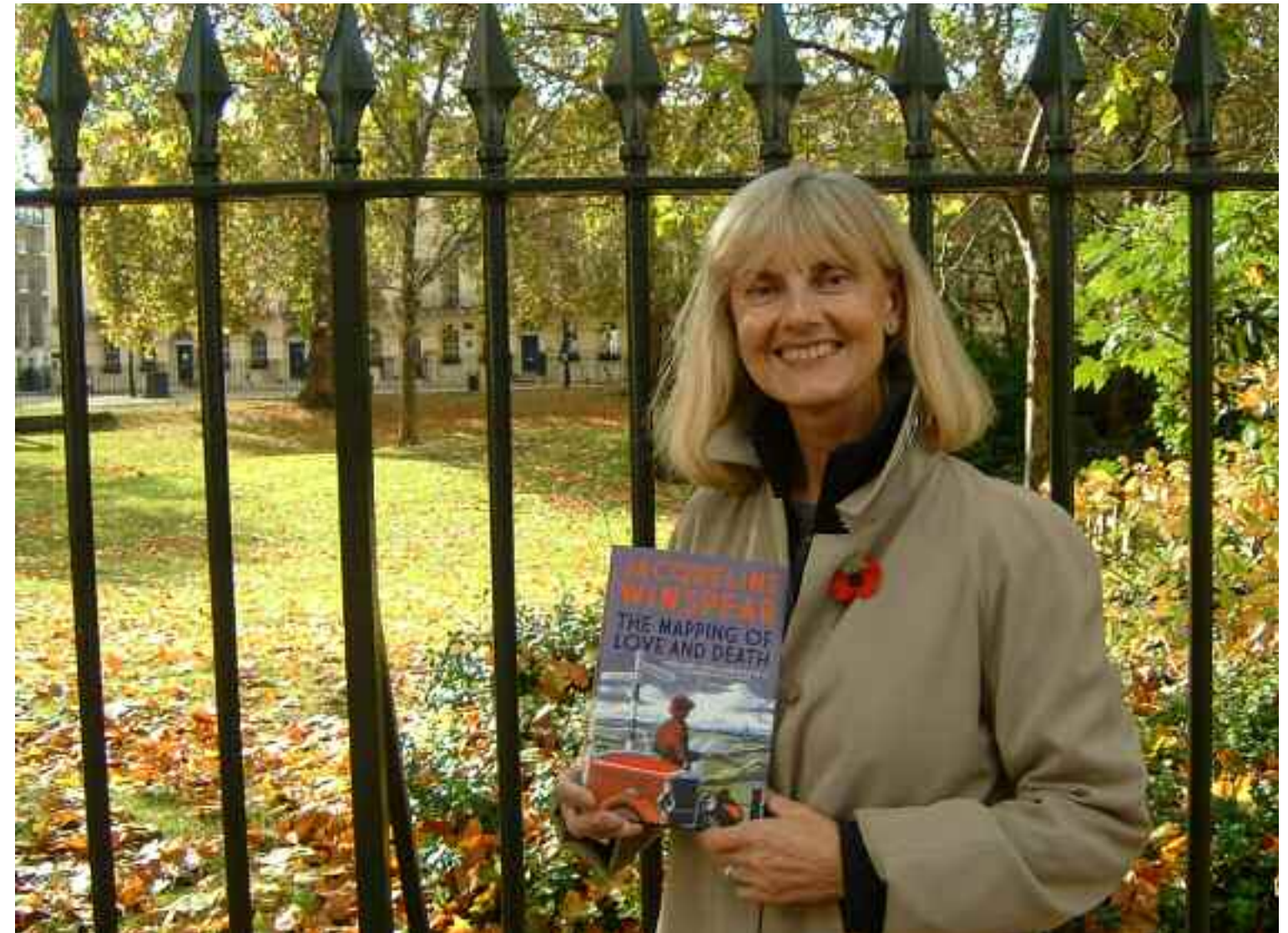
Appropriately enough, the publishers are also based in Fitzrovia, in Charlotte Mews, which is where I meet her.

The novel relates how the remains of a young American are found in an old French battlefield in 1932. It proves to be the body of a missing war map-maker Michael Clifton. A post mortem reveals he was not killed in battle but murdered.

His parents hire Maisie to find the woman who wrote the love letters found on his body. She identifies herself only as The English Nurse, and the parents believe she may unlock the mystery of his death.

It was inspired by a letter written to her local newspaper in Santa Barbara.

'It was a long letter from a former English policeman,



Jacqueline Winspear outside her beloved Fitzroy Square where her latest novel, *The Mapping of Love and Death* (below), is set.

David Bartlett, who ran small group tours of the battlefields of The Western Front,' says Jacqueline. 'He was involved in identifying some remains they found in Belgium.'

On the body were papers with the address of the Central Bank of Santa Barbara, and David wanted to know if anyone had any information.

Jacqueline got in touch with him and he told her that they'd also found on the body a set of expensive coloured German pens.

'I knew they were draughtsmen's pens,' says Jacqueline. 'I knew they were used to draw maps.'

That particular mystery was never solved, but Jacqueline started speculating on what could have happened. Known for her meticulous research, she started looking into cartography. Her love of maps came in handy, and one of the backdrops of *The Mapping of Love and Death* is the vital but unsung role cartographers played in the First World War.

Her fascination with the First World War started with family stories – her grandfather was wounded in The Somme and her grandmother was blinded in one eye while working in munitions at the Woolwich Arsenal – and grew with a visit to the battlefields of The Somme and Ypres in 1994.

'I started imagining the people who were left behind,' she says. 'If a soldier dies you get a telegram, but if they go missing you're left with a hope. What

really fascinates me is what happens to ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

'One of the groups truly impacted by the Great War were women. It was when they started becoming independent.'

Which brings us back to Maisie Dobbs. She came from lowly beginnings and after her mother died went into service in a large house in London. It had

## Fitzrovia is an ideal setting for private eye Maisie

a library and Maisie used to sneak down in the middle of the night to read.

'She's discovered by the lady of the house, who has always fancied herself as a social reformer,' says Jacqueline. 'She sees this as an opportunity and sees to Maisie's education.'

So Maisie is equally at home in the drawing room of a Mayfair mansion or an East End pie and mash shop. She has contacts in the underworld and the upper crust.

This makes Fitzrovia an ideal setting for her. Because just around the corner from the beautiful square is Warren Street. In the 1930s, as a family friend reminded Jacqueline, it was full of second-hand car dealers and 'not a very salubrious area.'

And although Jacqueline has loads of books about old London, her favourite way of researching the area is just to wander around – she comes back about four times a year.

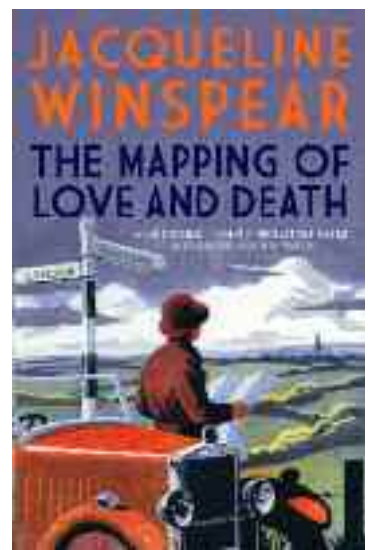
'I love the history of the area,' she says. 'I love looking into a mews and imagining the horses there. 'In Maisie's day, you'd be walking in horse muck. Horses were still vying with cars on the street.'

It's on these walks that Jacqueline pictures what was here before modern buildings, and finds clues for the authentic detail that makes her writing so vivid.

The children's hospital in Coram Fields, for example, was demolished in the 1920s.

'So when Maisie was walking past, it would have been a building site.'

Maisie's next adventure, *A Lesson in Secrets*, is out next spring. Meanwhile she's working on other books – fiction and non-fiction – but is keeping the subject matter close to her chest. She believes that talking about her writing interferes with the process.



For a writer who never thought she'd write a novel, she finds that Maisie Dobbs brings together many of her great interests – the First World War, the changing roles of women, Fitzrovia – and brings them alive.

'You can touch truth more readily with fiction than you can with fact,' she says.

*The Mapping of Love and Death* by Jacqueline Winspear. Allison and Busby. £19.99.

## Pollocks Toy Museum

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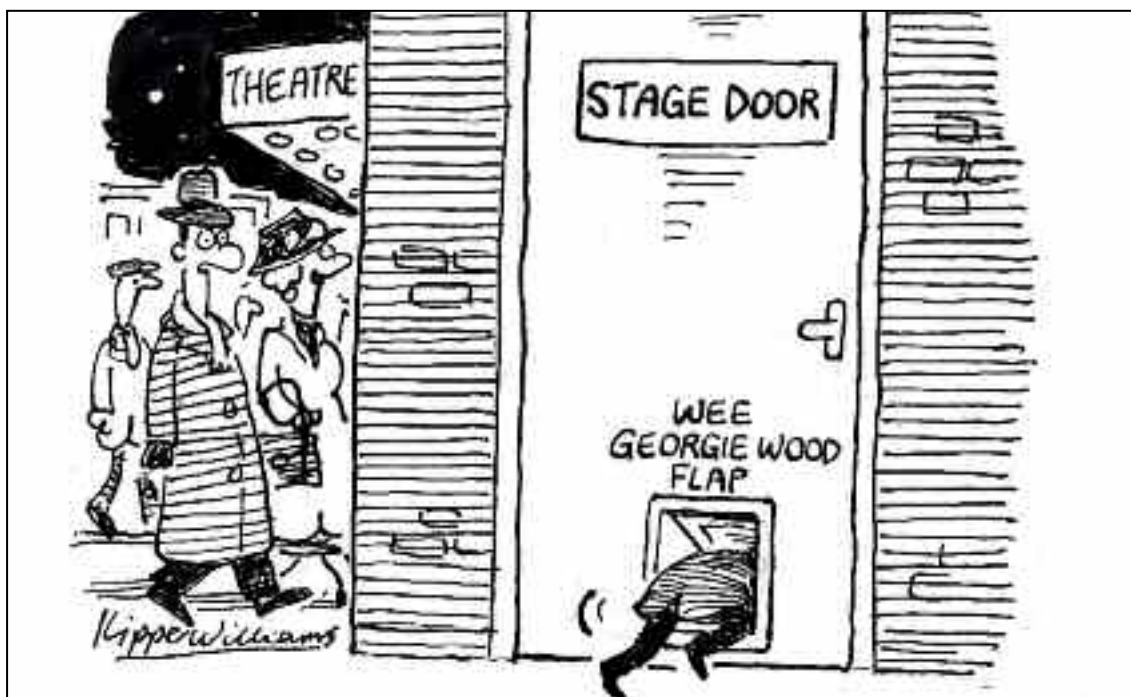
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Part 18th and 19th century the rooms are small and connected by narrow winding staircases. It exudes atmosphere and evocations of those special times of childhood.

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# Comic in a bottle

! Wee" Georgie Wood (1895-1979), the internationally famous comedian who lived at 52 Gordon Mansions, Torrington Place, for the last 29 years of his life, was celebrated on radio recently.

Roy Hudd told anecdotes on Radio 4 Extra about Wood (pictured right), who had been on stage since the age of six but never grew beyond four feet nine inches in adulthood.

According to Hudd, Georgie rather pompously told a fellow performer that he was thinking of donating his body to medical science at the University College Hospital in Gower Street.

"Good," he replied. "We can all come and see you in your bottle!" Georgie was in fact a great friend of Dr Robert Scarff, who conducted cancer research at Middlesex Hospital in Mortimer Street.

One of Georgie's neighbours, Eileen O'Keefe, recalled: "When a new lift was installed at Gordon Mansions a special low button was put in for Georgie." Also when he was honoured by the Grand Order of Water Rats "he took us all to the reception."

Georgie took jokes about his



By MIKE PENTELOW

diminutive stature in good heart. When he heard an actor had said he was so small that he was carried in a shopping basket, Georgie accosted him. The actor apologised and asked who had told him about it. "Nobody," quipped Georgie. "I heard you from the shopping basket."

When Georgie became converted to Catholicism he regularly worshipped at St Charles Borromeo church in Ogle Street, where he befriended Rev George Wright.

Hudd, in his "Book of Music Hall Variety and Showbiz Anecdotes", said that as a convert Georgie was often over zealous in preaching the merits of his new religion to others. The story was that when he had

an audience with the Pope he was with him longer than normal. A Cardinal began to worry, so opened the door to the inner sanctum, just a crack, to hear the Pope say: "But Mr Wood - I am a Catholic!"

This tale may be apocryphal, but Georgie did in fact have two audiences with Pope Pius XII in 1949 and 1950.

The comedian became so well known internationally that in Australia "Wee Georgie" became rhyming slang for "good". A railway engine was also named after him.

He confessed he could be pompous at times, but saw the funny side when his ego was deflated. As in the case when he was dropped off at his flat by a taxi driver, who asked "You are Wee Georgie Wood ain't yer?" Georgie did not like to be recognised but confirmed that he was.

"You're bleeding marvellous," said the cabbie with an admiring look that Georgie warmed too. After a few more words, he said: "Well, I won't keep you, but as soon as I recognised you I felt I just had to tell you that I think you're bleeding marvellous... the way you can get in and out of the cab without anybody to help you."

His long term partner Bella Marshall, who shared his Gordon Mansions flat, requested to be kept out of his autobiographies - "I Had To Be Wee" in 1947, and "Royalty, Religion and Rats" in 1963.

## Lofty the postman

By SAM LOMBERG

Simon Glyndwr John's story about his policeman father brought to mind a pleasant childhood memory about another "public servant" our local postman. Pre-war a letter posted before 6 p.m. in central London to an address in central London would be delivered with the last delivery at 9 p.m. In those days the post was delivered morning, noon and evening.

Back to my childhood memories. During the good weather months I'd wait on our doorstep for our regular postman to come by with the 9 p.m. delivery. He was a very pleasant young man - a six-footer that I called "Lofty". I would then join him to walk the rest of his route - or as much as I could manage! We would walk along Fitzroy St. around the Square, Cleveland St., Clipstone St, Carburton St., and surrounding streets. It was quite a route and usually I left him to go home at around ten o'clock.

Very often there would be somebody on the doorstep waiting for Lofty to arrive with the post.

"Hullo Mr. Dopolski looks

like a letter from your sister in Poland" - "Hullo Mrs. Young, how's your daughter, recovered from her operation?" - He'd also introduce me as his new assistant! Afterwards Lofty would tell me the names of the persons we'd seen and interesting tit-bits about them - if they were foreigners where they came from, their work and so on, but no gossip about their private lives.

Maybe stopping for a chat meant that it took longer for Lofty to complete his route, but, how shall I explain it? I think it added a new dimension to his work, made it much more pleasant and interesting - he wasn't just a postman delivering letters, he was a dispenser of good and bad news, a link to the outside world.

I may not have thought about it at the time, but thanks to Lofty I knew my way around all the back streets, discovered a mews here and there I'd never seen before, but what was most important was that I met people from all walks of life, found out what made the area "tick" - heard its "heartbeat". Sadly I doubt the postman has the time, nor possibly the desire, to stop for a chat these days - everything moves so fast.

## Who remembers Buhler's cafe?

A newsagent and coffee shop where artists and writers mixed until it was bombed in 1941 is of interest to the author of a new biography.

So if any readers have any memories or photographs of Madame Lucie Buhler's shop at 56 Charlotte Street (on the northern corner with Scala Street) they should contact Peter Miles, who is writing about the life of

her artist son Robert Buhler (1916-89).

The coffee shop was the haunt of art students and teachers from Slade School of Fine Art in Gower Street, and poets such as Dylan Thomas during the 1930s.

Peter Miles can be contacted at [peter.miles@firenet.uk.net](mailto:peter.miles@firenet.uk.net), 0208 800 1737, or 07910 109436.

## Historic Holborn library offers

Historic maps, drawings and guides of Holborn (which covers south east Fitzrovia) are available from the archive library in Theobalds Road for £1 or less.

The official guide, produced around 1964, costs just £1 and includes much of the history of the area, including Tottenham Court Road, Torrington Place, Chenies Street, and Gower Street.

Maps, dated 1720, cost just 50p and show the corners of

Tottenham Court Road when it was called Tottenham Road, and Oxford Street when it was called Tiborn (as in Tyburn) Road.

Twelve Views of Camden 1733-1875 costs £1 and includes the famous Hogarth print "March of the Guards" in 1745 outside the King's Head which was at the top of Tottenham Court Road.

The archive library is on the second floor of Holborn Library at 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1.

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# Fighting Franco's Fascists

By MIKE PENTELOW

Local artists, nurses, and students fought against Fascism in Spain in 1936, the 75th anniversary of which is now being celebrated.

The Spanish people had just elected a Popular Front government, including socialists, by a narrow majority in February. General Franco led an armed revolt against it in July, with the support of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, which supplied troops, tanks and planes, as well as the Moroccan soldiers of the Spanish colonial army. Support for the legally elected government was denied, however, by the British and French governments with a policy of "non-intervention" that prevented the Spanish government buying arms to defend itself (although some were supplied by the Soviet Union).

There was, however, huge public support from democrats throughout the world. Over 35,000 joined the International Brigades in Spain, with over 2,500 of them being from Britain and Ireland. They fought until the end of 1938 when they were withdrawn.

The very first British person to be killed in Spanish was Felicia Browne (1904-1936) who had studied in the Slade School of Fine Art, at 62 Gower Street, and was a member of the Artists' International Association, based at 84 Charlotte Street.

She was driving to Barcelona in July 1936 when the war started. Surrounded by fighting she joined a communist militia in defence of the government on August 3. Three weeks later she

took part in blowing up a Fascist munitions train. On her way back she and the rest of the group were ambushed by 40 Fascist soldiers. One of her comrades, an Italian, was shot through the foot. Felicia went to get her first aid equipment and returned to him under heavy fire. As she tended the wounded man she was killed with bullets through her chest and back.

Felicia had studied metal-work and stone masonry in Berlin during Hitler's rise to power, where she took part in anti-Fascist street fighting. On her return to Britain she joined the Communist Party in 1933, and the following year won a TUC prize for designing a medal to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

Clive Branson (1907-1944) was another Slade student and AIA member who fought in Spain for the International Brigades. Early on in the war his task was to escort volunteers to Paris for the onward journey to Spain, which was illegal because of the British government's so called "non-intervention" policy. Finally in January 1938 he was given permission by the Communist Party, which he had joined in 1932, to fight in the British Battalion of the International Brigades. He was captured by Italian Fascist troops in April 1938 and held in a prisoner of war camp under atrocious conditions, which he sketched.

He was released after six months and returned to London. When the second world war started he was arrested for criticising the government for not providing deep air raid shelters. (His comrade George Caffell, a communist transport worker who had also fought in Spain, supported him in this and led the breaking of gates to let people shelter in Goudge Street underground station).

Branson painted many scenes of the blitz which were exhibited by the AIA, until in 1941 he joined the Royal Armed Corps and became a tank commander posted to Burma. He was killed in February 1944 on the Ngankedenk Pass when an enemy shell penetrated the top of his tank.

His paintings were recently exhibited in Marx Memorial Library at 37a Clerkenwell Green, which he had helped set up back in 1933. His works are also held in the Tate Gallery.

A third Slade student to fight in Spain was Humphrey "Hugh" Slater (1907-1958). Like Felicia Browne he had also been in Berlin in the 1930s, witnessing the rise of the Nazis, and joining the Communist Party. In 1936 he

Artist Felicia Browne was killed while tending a wounded fellow anti-Fascist fighter. Illustration below by Clifford Harper.



fought for the International Brigades and became a Chief of Operations. During the second world war he was a trainer in guerrilla warfare for the Home Guard, before becoming a private in the regular army. After the war he wrote novels about his experiences in Spain, one of which, "The Conspirator", was turned into a film starring Elizabeth Taylor and Robert Taylor.

Wogan Phillips (1902-1993), was an artist with a studio at 8 Fitzroy Street, who was in Spain when the civil war broke out. He immediately joined the Medical Aid to Spain campaign as an ambulance driver, operating between Valencia and Albacete. He was wounded in Segovia in 1937 and returned to London. There he visited artist Vanessa Bell (1879-1961) who had a studio below him in Fitzroy Street. He told her he had seen her son Julian (1908-1937), a poet, who was also an ambulance driver in Spain, and that he was unharmed. Sadly, the news of Julian's death came a few days later.

Phillips joined the Communist Party in the same year, and later inherited his father's title of Lord Milford in 1963. In his maiden speech to the House of Lords he called for its abolition.

Patience Edney (1911-1996) was a trainee nurse at University

College Hospital in Gower Street in the 1930s and joined the Communist Party after observing the effects of poverty on health. The poor could often not afford treatment in these days before the National Health Service was formed.

The News Chronicle organised a medical convoy to Spain which she joined. Patience and six other nurses were sent to the Aragon front as part of the Carlos Marx communist division, but she switched to the International Brigade after an uprising in Barcelona. After helping to deal with an outbreak of typhoid she transferred to a mobile hospital. This took shelter in a cave as Nazi bombs fell during the battle of Ebro as she continued treating the wounded.

Symbolically she died in Madrid in 1996 just after being awarded honorary Spanish citizenship for her service during the civil war.

Another to fight in Spain was Manassah Lessor (1916-2010) who had won a scholarship to study Egyptology at University College London in Gower Street. While there he drank regularly in the Fitzroy Tavern, Charlotte Street, and joined the Communist Party, taking part in demonstrations against Oswald Mosley and the British Union of Fascists. He was starting his third year at UCL when the civil war broke out

and he was one of the first to join the International Brigades. After three weeks' training, he was sent to the front, and was badly injured in the leg during the battle of Lopera at the end of December 1936. He was stranded in no man's land until his comrade Jock Cunningham found him and dragged him back. After recovering from his wounds he stayed in Spain as a correspondent for the Daily Worker, writing under the name of Sam Russell (an approximate reversal of his real name).

Fitzrovia also had some pro-Fascists. Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists had a recruiting office nearby in Regent Street, and its members regularly met in Schmidt's restaurant at 33-37 Charlotte Street.

One of these was William Joyce (1906-1946), later to be known as Lord Haw Haw for his radio broadcasts of Nazi propaganda from Germany to England. (Coincidentally his brother worked as an engineer at Broadcasting House in Langham Place).

Joyce studied at Birkbeck College, where he became a cadet in the University of London Officer Training Corps in Malet Street.

His poetry teacher was alarmed when he brought his rifle to class, and she insisted he put it in the umbrella stand.



CLIVE BRANSON



PATIENCE EDNEY



Photographs reproduced courtesy of Marx Memorial Library



MANASSAH LESSOR (left) and HUGH SLATER (right)



# Ex-messenger delivers arresting art pictures

By MIKE PENTELOW

From delivering art works to film and television studios George Skeggs now paints them in his own studio.

Back in the 1970s George was a messenger for West One Studios, the offset printers and commercial artists, at 15-16 Newman Street, and then at 14 Hanway Place when they moved there in 1973.

"We did a lot of work for film and television studios and I had to deliver them," George, now aged 68, told *Fitzrovia News*. "I remember one particular job for advertising Star Wars, which was premiered at the Dominion in Tottenham Court Road, and I had to take the posters there."

At the same time he pursued his own talent for painting, which had first been spotted in the 1950s by television artist Rolf Harris who taught at George's east end school. At the age of eight George's work was chosen to be included in the London Schools Exhibition which toured China. Later on, encouraged by his art teacher, he joined art workshops at the Whitechapel Art Gallery to

broaden his horizons.

When working in Fitzrovia, in 1974, he had work exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts, and the National Museum of Wales.

He was also involved in the Arts Laboratory scene in Seven Dials, which was frequently raided by the police, seizing what was perceived as subversive work. This is recalled in one of George's contemporary works, which was exhibited recently at the Seven Dials Community Centre. It shows George being "nicked" by a police constable.

While at West One Studios he joined the print union, Sogat, and in 1975 won a competition for paintings by printworkers, which were exhibited at the TUC headquarters in Great Russell Street.

After leaving West One Studios he became a junior manager for the British Museum Library acquisitions department for 27 years. While there he became chair of the Sogat branch and led the 24-hour strike in support of the nurses' pay claim.



George Skeggs with a pop self portrait of himself being arrested

He now has a studio in Long Acre, on the site of an old banana warehouse. His paintings have been displayed in Paris and Caracass, and he has provided art work for CD and album covers.

"In recent years I have become

obsessed with the mystique and stories which surround the myths of King Arthur's Camelot," he said. "I have used them as a starting point for a series of Gothic paintings, using the words of the poet Tennyson as a stimulus. I

also had in the 1980s a passing interest in Pop Retro, which resurfaced this year."

His work can be viewed on his website (<http://merlintwo.com>).

## A hub of London socialism

By JESS OWENS

The Communist Club was one of two prominent venues in Fitzrovia (the other was Cleveland Hall at 54 Cleveland Street) where social reform was advanced from the mid to late 19th century.

Its origins began with the efforts of some German Asylum Seekers, fleeing persecution, after taking part in direct political action in Paris. Their first meetings were held in 1840.

During November 1877 it briefly met at the Grafton Arms, 72 Grafton Way, Fitzroy Square. In the early 1880s the original club split and its Social Democratic members moved to 49 Tottenham Street. Their former comrades followed them into Fitzrovia, a few years later, meeting in Stephen Mews, Rathbone Place. They were attacked there by the Metropolitan Police in May 1885.

The Tottenham Street premises became a hub of London Socialism, also attracting a group of Socialists probably centred around Theodore Wright and his wife, a significant actress, who lived in Gower Street. Many famous names spoke there including Edward Carpenter, George Bernard Shaw and Eleanor (Marx) Aveling. William Morris chose it as the venue for his final Conference of the Socialist League in 1890.

In 1897 it became a centre of protests against the treatment of anarchists in Catalonia. The Bealfearst Newsletter reported:

"Louise Michel was among those present at the proceedings, which were closely watched by detectives...."

Later, in July, the Glaschu Herald, and other papers, recounted that: "The [Spanish Anarchist] party of 28 arrived at Euston yesterday afternoon from Liverpool. They were met by Louise Michel and others. Several Liverpool detectives travelled with the party to London. Plain-clothes officers from Scotland Yard met the train and kept the refugees under surveillance. The exiles were driven to the German Club in Tottenham Street, and several men went to the Communist Club".

In August the Spanish Atrocities Committee based at the club, arranged for a mass meeting in Trafalgar Square. It was proposed that a resolution would be put to it declaring: "it has been proved by incontestable evidence... that the most barbarous tortures, recalling those of the Middle ages, have been inflicted by the Spanish government on prisoners arrested wholesale on mere suspicion, and some of whom so tortured were never even brought to trial...this meeting of Englishmen and women feels that it has a right on every ground to record its public protest against these detestable outrages on the common humanity of the civilised world."

The Club was also used in this period to organise London's May Day rallies. In 1900 there

### The Communist Club



Keith Scholey

was an innovation of venue for this pageant, with the event being moved to Crystal Palace from Hyde Park. There was an athletic contest, singing, and The Communist Club took second place in the awards for the finest banner carried on the celebration.

In 1902 the Club moved its home to 107 Charlotte Street. Although it could not be foreseen at the time, this eventually furnished the authorities with a pretext to close it. To facilitate improvements in their new premises the members formed a 'limited company' and issued shares. In response to their application, The Board of Trade promptly referred the matter to the Home Office. An official opined that: "the term 'Communist'...is somewhat suggestive of unlawful objects, possibly anarchy..."

The following year, an exile conference of the RSDLP took place in its premises, attended

by Lenin and Stalin. When the Social Democratic Federation began to fragment in 1904 a London section of dissidents formed the Socialist Party of Great Britain and their first offices for a short time were at 107 Charlotte Street. It was there they held an inaugural conference and launched their journal, Socialist Standard, still running today.

A major crisis for the Communist Club came with the outbreak of the First Great European War, especially as it advertised itself as a "German Club". Several members were interned including Peter Petroff and George Chicherin (refugees from Tsarist prisons) and 37 were arrested in one raid. The security forces were also interested in Soviet ambassador Maxim Litvinoff who was a member under the name of Harrison. On Nov 24, 1917 the Board of Trade ordered the "Communist Club Building Company Ltd" to be wound up "under section 1 of the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1916". A liquidator was appointed. It was finally struck off the Companies Register in Feb 10th 1919.

The Club is believed to have struggled on, but by 1920, when the Communist Party of Great Britain was founded, it was no longer active.

*A longer and more detailed version of this article will appear on our website (see page 2 for details).*

### Ten years ago

#### Sex and drugs

Jeffery Archer picked up a prostitute in a Goodge Street strip club when deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, according to his former aide in a television programme (on the day the politician was convicted of perjury).

Michael Stacpoole, who had handed over £10,000 to prostitute Monica Coughlin for Archer in 1986, said a month before that he was in a Goodge Street club with him.

"It was basically a drinking and strip club with a dingy, dirty small bar and a dance floor for the girls," he said. "We had a drink at the bar. There were black and white girls. Jeffery was sizing up the women. He didn't say anything about them in general, but he looked at one coloured girl and said, 'I fancy that one.'"

"I said, 'I'll bring her over.' I went and said, 'Darling, come here. My friend fancies you. Do you want to go with him?' She said, 'Sure.' I said, 'This is Jeffery. Enjoy yourselves.'"

"He gave her £50 and took her to his flat. The next day I rang him up and asked if he had had a good time. He replied, 'Yes, thanks very much.'"

Minister for Young People, John Denham, and Radio 1 DJ, Spooner, met members of Fitzrovia Youth in Action as part of a national consultation exercise with young people. Junel Miah told the minister that drugs were a big problem in the community. (from *Fitzrovia News*, Dec 2001)



# WHAT'S ON AROUND FITZROVIA

Email [fitzrovianews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fitzrovianews@yahoo.co.uk) and put "Listings" in the subject box by Feb 24 for the March 2012 issue.

## ART GALLERIES

**Alison Jacques Gall**, 18 Berners St ([www.alisonjacquesgallery.com](http://www.alisonjacquesgallery.com)). To Dec 22 - Ryan McGinley - (Wandering Coma). Jan 13 to Feb 11 - Catherine Yass. Feb 17 to March 17 - Thomas Zipp.

**Arch One**, 12 Percy St ([www.archonepictureframing.co.uk](http://www.archonepictureframing.co.uk)). Ongoing - various artists.

**Art First**, 21 Eastcastle Street ([www.artfirst.co.uk](http://www.artfirst.co.uk)). To Dec 20 - Donald Teskey (Nature Reserve) To Jan – Group Show.

**Arup Phase 2**, 8 Fitzroy Street ([www.arup.com/phase2](http://www.arup.com/phase2)). To Jan 20 - Fritz Haeg: Animal Estates London.

**Building Centre**, Store Street ([www.buildingcentre.co.uk](http://www.buildingcentre.co.uk)). To Dec 23 - Pylon Salon des Refusés.

**Cole**, 3-4a Little Portland Street ([www.colecontemporary.com](http://www.colecontemporary.com)). To Dec 17 – Oliver Michaels (A Journey Between Two Fixed Points). Jan 19 – Feb 18 – Heppner James (Moth). Feb 23 – Mar 24 – Iain Hales

**Contemporary Applied Arts**, 2 Percy Street ([www.caa.org.uk](http://www.caa.org.uk)). Jan 20 to Feb 25 - Various artists (Target the Heart), March 2 to Apr 14 - Cleo Mussi & Matthew Harris.

**Coningsby Gallery / Debut Art**, 30 Tottenham Street ([www.coningsbygallery.com](http://www.coningsbygallery.com)). April 10 - 28 – Guy Reid (Little Me).

**Curwen Gallery**, 34 Windmill St ([www.curwengallery.com](http://www.curwengallery.com)). Mar 1 - 31- Robin Richmond (The Still Point in a Turning World).

**David Roberts Foundation**, 111 Great Titchfield Street ([www.davidrobertsartfoundation.com](http://www.davidrobertsartfoundation.com)). Jan 6 - 12 – Time Capsules and Conditions of Now. Jan 27 to Mar 24 – Lydia Gifford (Midday). Apr 6 to June 9 - Curators Series 5.

**Dekko**, 85 Charlotte Street ([www.dekkoadvertising.com](http://www.dekkoadvertising.com)) Check website for details.

**Diemar/Noble Photographic Gallery**, 66-67 Wells Street ([diemarnoblephotography.com](http://diemarnoblephotography.com)) To Jan 7 – Christian Tagliavini (Cut Out & Keep).

**Gallery Different**, 14 Percy Street ([www.gallerydifferent.co.uk](http://www.gallerydifferent.co.uk)) To Jan 7 – Winter Collective.

**Exposure**, 22-23 Little Portland Street ([www.exposure.net](http://www.exposure.net)) Check website for details.

**Framers Gallery**, 36 Windmill St ([www.theframersgallery.co.uk](http://www.theframersgallery.co.uk)) Check website for details.

**Gallery at 94**, 94 Cleveland Street ([www.gallery@94.com](http://www.gallery@94.com)) Check website for details.

**Getty Images Gall**, 46 Eastcastle St ([www.gettyimagesgallery.com](http://www.gettyimagesgallery.com)) Check website for details.

**Hanmi Gallery**, 30 Maple Street ([www.hanmigallery.co.uk](http://www.hanmigallery.co.uk)) Check website for details.



A three dimensional glass art work now showing at the Coningsby Gallery

**Iberica**, 195 Great Portland Street ([www.ibericalondon.co.uk](http://www.ibericalondon.co.uk)) To Jan 12 – Juan Perez Fajardo (Gigs).

**Gallery Libby Sellers**, 41 Berners Street ([www.libbysellers.com](http://www.libbysellers.com)). To January 26 - Mark Braun with Lobmeyr (Fortune). Feb 8 to Mar 8 - Nicolas le Moigne. Mar 15 to May 2 - Richard Hollis.

**Josh Lilley**, 44-46 Riding House Street ([www.joshlilleygallery.com](http://www.joshlilleygallery.com)) Check website for details.

**Laure Genillard**, 2 Hanway Place ([www.lauregenillard.com](http://www.lauregenillard.com)) Check website for details.

**Lazarides Gallery**, 11 Rathbone Place ([www.lazinc.com](http://www.lazinc.com)). To Jan 19 – Jonathan Yeo (You're Only Young Twice).

**Modern Art**, 23-25 Eastcastle Street ([www.modernart.net](http://www.modernart.net)). To Dec 21 - Paul Lee (Moon River).

**Mummery+Schnelle**, 83 Great Titchfield St ([www.mummeryschnelle.com](http://www.mummeryschnelle.com)). To Dec 23 - Paul Cafell (Looking/Listening).

**Nancy Victor**, 6 Charlotte Place ([www.nancyvictor.com](http://www.nancyvictor.com)) To Dec – David Shrigley & others (Cultural Ties).

**National Print Gallery**, 8b Conway St ([www.nationalprintgallert.com](http://www.nationalprintgallert.com)). To Jan 15 – Darren Coffield (Face Up).

**Paradise Row**, 74 Newman Street ([www.paradisierow.com](http://www.paradisierow.com)) To Dec 23 - Margarita Gluzberg (Avenue des Gobelins).

**Pilar Corrias**, 54 Eastcastle Street ([www.pilarcorrias.com](http://www.pilarcorrias.com)). To Dec 16 – Charles Avery (Place de la Revolution). Jan 13 to Feb 17 – Tobias Rehberger.

**Rebecca Hossack Gallery (1)**, 2a Conway Street ([www.r-h-g.co.uk](http://www.r-h-g.co.uk)) To Dec 24 – Rebecca Jewell (Birds Becoming Artefacts). To Jan 3 – David Whitaker (Retrospective). Mar 1 - 30 – Gilchrist-Fisher Award 2012.

**Rebecca Hossack Gallery (2)** 28 Charlotte Street ([www.r-h-g.co.uk](http://www.r-h-g.co.uk)) To Dec 24 – Ken Butler (Recent Works).

**Regina Gallery**, 22 Eastcastle St ([www.reginagallery.com](http://www.reginagallery.com)). To Jan 28 – Various artists (Foot to Foot).

**Rollo Gallery**, 51 Cleveland Street ([rolloart.com](http://rolloart.com)). To Mar 12 - Helen Carmel Benigson, Miri Segal,

Anne-Marie Sclainer (The Body in Womens' Art Part 3).

**Rook and Raven**, 7/8 Rathbone Place ([www.rookandraven.co.uk](http://www.rookandraven.co.uk)) to Jan - David Walker (Brides on Fire).

**Rosenfeld Porcini**, 37 Rathbone Street ([www.rosenfeldporcini.com](http://www.rosenfeldporcini.com)) Check website for details.

**Store Street Gallery**, 32 Store St ([www.storestreetgallery.com](http://www.storestreetgallery.com)) To Jan 15 – Various artists – (Inside Life).

**T J Boulting**, 59 Riding House Street ([www.tjboulting.com](http://www.tjboulting.com)). Jan – Colin Glen. Feb – Boo Savile.

**Twist Gallery**, 67a Great Titchfield Street ([www.twistgallery.co.uk](http://www.twistgallery.co.uk)) Check website for details.

**Gallery Vela**, 38 Langham Street ([www.galleryvela.com](http://www.galleryvela.com)) Jan 12 to Feb 11 – Matthew Draper

**Whisper Gallery**, 27-28 Eastcastle Street ([www.whisperfineart.co.uk](http://www.whisperfineart.co.uk)) Check website for details.

**Woolff Gallery**, 89 Charlotte Street ([www.woolffgallery.co.uk](http://www.woolffgallery.co.uk)) Check website for details.

## THEATRE

**Bloomsbury Theatre**, 15 Gordon Street ([www.thebloomsbury.com](http://www.thebloomsbury.com)): Dec 14-17 & Jan 9-21 - The Firework Maker's Daughter (children's show). Dec 16 - Paul Foot (comedian). Dec 18-23 - Nine Lessons and Carols for Godless People. Jan 13 - Sex Appeal (charity comedy night with Al Murray and others). Jan 18 - Festival of the Spoken Nerd (comedy). Jan 23-26 - Live Canon (performing poetry). Feb 4 - Terry Alderton (comedy). Feb 7-9 - Hipplytus (UCL Classical Drama Society). Feb 11 - Charity Comedy Night. Feb 19 - Jimmy Carr.

**Camden People's Theatre**, 58-60 Hampstead Road ([www.cptheatre.co.uk](http://www.cptheatre.co.uk)): Until Dec 11 - Lecture Notes on a Death Scene. Until Dec 20 - Sprint & Starting Blocks (experimental theatre festival).

**Dominion Theatre**, 269 Tottenham Court Road ([www.dominiontheatre.co.uk](http://www.dominiontheatre.co.uk)): Ongoing - We Will Rock You.

**Drill Hall**, 16 Chenies Street ([www.drillhall.co.uk](http://www.drillhall.co.uk)): Dec 7, 2pm - Twelfth Night, 7.30pm - Merry Wives of Windsor. Dec 14-16 - Miss Whittington & Her Cat, 8pm.

**London Palladium**, Argyll Street ([www.the-london-palladium.com](http://www.the-london-palladium.com)):

Dec 12 - Will Young. Dec 19 - Lindsey Buckingham (Fleetwood Mac). Ongoing - The Wizard of Oz.

## CINEMA/FILM CLUBS

**Green Man**, 36 Riding House St: London Animation Club <http://londonanimationclub.com> monthly meetings, first Tuesday of month 7pm.

**Odeon**, 30 Tottenham Court Road: Weekly film details from [www.odeon.co.uk](http://www.odeon.co.uk) or 08712 244007.

**Screen @ RADA**, Malet Street, opposite Birkbeck College ([www.rada.org](http://www.rada.org)): Jerwood Vanbrugh Theatre: Dec 11, 3pm - Cinderella by Birmingham Royal Ballet. Dec 14, 7pm - Graduate Night. Dec 15, 7.15pm - Sleeping Beauty Live (broadcast from Royal Opera House).

## LIVE MUSIC

**All Souls Clubhouse**, 141 Cleveland Street ([www.club-housew1.org](http://www.club-housew1.org)): Dec 14, 11.30am - Christmas Carol Service.

**Bolivar Hall**, 54 Grafton Way ([www.cultura.embavenez-uk.org](http://www.cultura.embavenez-uk.org)): Jan 12, 7.30 - an evening of cello and piano by Prokofiev, Cilla-Lobos, Piassolla.

**The 100 Club**, 100 Oxford Street ([www.the100club.co.uk](http://www.the100club.co.uk)): Dec 16 - Red Roulettes. Dec 17 - Mike Sanchez. Dec 18 - Steve Hogarth. Dec 22 - Northern Soul Christmas Party. Dec 23 - Suzerain, Van Susans, Joe Corbin. Dec 31 - David Devant and His Spirit Wife. Jan 17 - Various Cruelties. Jan 19, lunch jazz (11.30am-2.30pm), Graham Hughes' Sunshine Kings.

**Green Man**, 383 Euston Road, opposite Great Portland Street station: Jazz every Wednesday, basement, 7.45pm.

**King & Queen**, 1 Foley Street: Folk music upstairs some Friday nights, phone 0208 340 0534 for details.

**One Tun**, 58 Goodge St: Live jazz with Phil Stevenson and his band, Friday, Dec 30, 8pm.

**Smugglers Tavern**, Warren Street: Piano bar, every Thursday 7-10pm.

**UCL Chamber Music Club**, North Cloisters, Wilkins Building, Gower Street ([www.ucl.ac.uk/chamber-music](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/chamber-music)): Dec 13, 6-9pm - Christmas concert. Other concerts on Jan 12, 24, 31, Feb 10, 23, Mar 6, 15.

## PUB KARAOKE/DISCO

**The Bar @ TCR**, 182 Tottenham Court Road: 70s and 80s music, every Thursday, 8pm.

**One Tun**, 58 Goodge St: Karaoke Dec 19, 17, 31, all at 8pm.

## LIVE COMEDY

**College Arms**, 18 Store Street: Mondays at 8pm.

**Fitzroy Tavern**, 16 Charlotte Street: Wednesdays at 7.30pm in basement.

**Wheatsheaf**, 25 Rathbone Place: Improvisation on Thursdays, 8.30pm, and stand-up on Saturdays, 7.30pm upstairs.

## PUB QUIZZES

**College Arms**, 18 Store Street: Every Wednesday, 8pm.

**One Tun**, 58 Goodge Street: Every Tuesday, 8pm.

**Prince of Wales Feathers**, 8 Warren St: Every Wednesday, 7pm (subject to cancellation).

## EXHIBITIONS

**British Museum**, Great Russell Street ([www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)): Until Feb 19 - Grayson Perry: The Tomb of the Unknown Craftsman. Until April 1 - Landscape, heroes and folktales: German Romantic Prints and drawings. Until Apr 8 - Manga at the British Museum: drawings by Hoshino Yukinobu. Jan 26 to Apr 15 - Hajj: journey to the heart of Islam.

**UCL** ([www.ucl.ac.uk/events](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/events)): Main Library, Wilkins Building, Gower St : Until Dec 23 - An Enquiring Mind: Francis Galton 1822-1911. North Lodge, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Until Dec 14 - The Body in Pieces: Fragments from the Great Ormond Street Hospital Collection. Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, Malet Place: Until Dec 22 - Typecast: Flinders Petrie and Francis Galton. South Cloisters, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Until Jan 9 - The Slave-owners of Bloomsbury. Strang Print Room, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Until Dec 16 - Word and image: Early modern treasures from the UCL Collections.

**Wellcome Library**, 183 Euston Rd ([www.wellcomecollection.org](http://www.wellcomecollection.org)): Until Feb 26 - Infinitas Gracias: Mexican miracle paintings. Until Feb 26 - Felicity Powell - Charmed Life: The solace of objects.

## TALKS

**UCL** ([www.ucl.ac.uk/events](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/events)): Darwin Theatre, Gower St, entrance in Malet Place (all at 1.15-1.55pm): Jan 17 - Exploring the Arctic from Space. Jan 19 - What has Facebook done for us? Jan 26 - The Triumph of Human Rights: Dream or Nightmare? Jan 31 - The lure of the Kremlin: Ivan the Terrible. Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Jan 10, 6.30-8pm - Inspector Sangiorgi and the Sicilian mafia, 1875-1877.

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**All Souls Clubhouse**, 141 Cleveland Street ([www.club-housew1.org](http://www.club-housew1.org)): Dec 16, 2-5pm - Christmas Party.

**Bolivar Hall**, 54 Grafton Way ([www.cultura.embavenez-uk.org](http://www.cultura.embavenez-uk.org)): Dec 11, noon to 9pm - Christmas Bazaar (Venezuelan seasonal food).

**UCL Grant Museum**, 21 University St ([www.ucl.ac.uk/events](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/events)): Dec 19-23 - Christmas Creatures - School Holiday Activities.