

FitzroviaNews



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

Issue 133 Summer 2014

Tottenham Court Road and Gower Street to return to two-way traffic

Consultation on changes to road system and public realm to start in June

By News Reporters

Camden Council will in June be presenting its plans for the transformation of the Tottenham Court Road and Gower Street area.

"Public consultation on the West End project will take place from Monday 9 June 2014 until Friday 18 July 2014", says the Council.

"The West End Project will

transform the Tottenham Court Road area making the area safer and more attractive for everyone, creating new public spaces and boosting business."

According to Camden the proposals will:

- Create or improve five public spaces, and create a brand new park.
- Replace the one-way system with two-way roads, some pro-

tested cycle lanes and improved public spaces.

- Create 18,000 square metres of new public realm, with nearly 300 new trees planted in the area.
- Reduce congestion and pollution, widen pavements and improve access to public transport.
- Be delivered by 2018 in time for the opening of Crossrail, when Tottenham Court Road sta-

tion will have more visitors than Heathrow every day.

- Help to make this a thriving district, enabling businesses to capitalise on the opportunities of increased visitors.

However, Camden have been reluctant to give much information about how the changes will

Continues on page 3



**Dodgy dealer
- the original
Arthur Daley**

See page 9

Same old political parties in Fitzrovia

Tories in the west and Labour in the east

By News Reporters

Some of the faces are new but the political parties are unchanged after the local elections. The parts of three council wards that make up Fitzrovia — Bloombury in Camden, and Marylebone High Street and West End in Westminster — have been restocked with men and women of the same political colours as they were before.

In Camden's Bloomsbury ward there are three Labour councillors. Adam Harrison was re-elected and polled more votes than any other candidate, just like he did four years' ago when he was first elected. He is joined by newly elected Labour councillors Sabrina Francis and Rishi

Madlani.

In the City of Westminster's West End ward three Conservative councillors were elected. Councillor Glenys Roberts was re-elected, and Paul Church was newly elected and polled the most votes in the ward.

Councillor Jonathan Glanz was re-elected but got fewer votes than his fellow Conservative colleagues. A number of residents no doubt refused to give him their vote after he made remarks about residents association members having time on their hands and nothing better to do than complain. He also did an anti-canvassing job on himself by making remarks about social housing tenants in his ward on



Jonathan Glanz finds time on his hands outside a polling station. He was re-elected but with fewer votes than his Tory colleagues in the West End ward.

the Conservative Home blog.

Glanz made these remarks while he was cabinet member for housing at Westminster City Council. The leader of the council Philippa Roe suggested he resign. He promptly did.

Glanz said at the time "I am happy to stand on my record and

let the voters decide." Clearly many did just that.

In the strongly Conservative Marylebone High Street ward there was little change. Iain Bott and Ian Rowley were both re-elected, and Karen Scarborough was newly elected.



**Champion
boxer**

See page 16

Festival spirit lives on

Fitzrovia Festival 2014 will take place on Saturday 28 June between 12 noon and 6pm at Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre, 39 Tottenham Street, W1T 4RX. There will be books about the neighbourhood to browse and buy, photographs, and a guided walk of the area's music industry locations past and present. Walk starts at 12 noon. Events are free.



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Letters, emails and comment

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I remember Prince Monolulo

I love your newspaper having grown up in Fitzrovia! I now live in Sweden but was "home" for a visit last week and got a copy of the paper from my brother. The article on Peter Preston or "CD" mentions my brother Dave the Dog and an old friend DJ Pete, and of course Sherry Annie who was a neigh-

bour, two doors down from us [in Charlotte Place].

I also remember Prince Monolulo, when we were playing outside (you could safely do so in those days). He'd come by and give all the kids sixpence which was a lot at the time so we could indulge in sweets or ice cream.

So many memories with the paper and its news and many good articles. Keep up the good work!! I shall now follow you online but there's nothing like a paper!

Valerie Ahnegård (Peart), Sweden.

EDITOR'S NOTE: See Valerie's memories of the Beatles on page 9.



Street flowers

Huge thanks to whoever planted the flowers round the street trees in Great Titchfield Street, especially the nasturtium. It looks glorious.

Maybe this is something we could all do - plant some flowers in the earth around our street trees?

Jennifer Kavanagh

Tesco has good variety but staff made to stand all day

I would like to compliment our local Tesco through *Fitzrovia News*.

For such a small store it has an amazing variety of food, for example, there is a section for American food, Asian food, Caribbean food. Then there are plantains for sale and Jamaican sweet potatoes and all kinds of exotic juices. I doubt even the big supermarkets of any brand can rival these lines. No doubt it is due to the good store manager.

On the other hand, I would like to ask why the staff are treated so badly? Everyone in retail knows a store is totally

dependent on its staff. Happy staff means happy customers.

In spite of having to stand all day, except for breaks, the staff still manage to be pleasant and helpful.

When did this torture of staff begin? All the supermarkets do it. When I complained I was told it was due to lack of space. Yet one has only to visit Planet Organic to see the tiny stools used there.

If Tesco and other supermarkets really care for their staff shouldn't they be at least giving them seats to sit on? This would be a start.

Beryl Bainbridge.

Noise is an all too common complaint

Hardly a week goes by without us hearing of a complaint about noise. Most of the recent complaints are about the huge amount of demolition and building work in the neighbourhood.

Normally noisy work should take place between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday and between 8am and 1pm Saturdays. No noisy work should take place on Sundays and bank holidays. Vehicles delivering to construction sites are also not allowed to arrive outside of these times.

But these hours are often breached and building firms seem to think that there should be give and take. They take and residents — and office workers — have to give.

Often a polite but firm phone call to the project manager is all that is needed to put things right.

But there is also the problem of delivery vehicles throughout the working week picking up recycling and rubbish. It seems every premises has its own favourite waste collection service so a there're lorries coming back and fore all day long. We'll be reporting on this in future issues of *Fitzrovia News*.

One neighbourhood under a sandwich

By Angela Lovely

Last month our friends — I use the term loosely — at the Fitzrovia Partnership Business Improvement District (BID) were tweeting away about the latest chain sandwich shop to open. "Who's heading to @Pret? That's right — it's opening today! What a Friday treat!" they gushed full of excitement. What they probably didn't do was count how many of these cloned sarnie outlets are cluttering up the neighbourhood. Sad to say, but my colleagues at *Fitzrovia News* did just that.

There are now 10 Pret a Manger shops in Fitzrovia — a neighbourhood that is barely one square kilometre in size. Fitzrovia is now one neighbourhood under an identical stock of sandwiches (almost). And those clowns at the Fitzrovia BID seem to think this is a cause of celebration and an occasion for a "treat".

Whilst I have nothing against Pret or the people who work in their stores I really don't want to see them every 100 metres throughout my part of town. In fact when I go out for my occasional girly jog around



Cornering the local market. The tenth Pret a Manger to open in Fitzrovia.

the area in an effort to beat the ravages of ageing I'm likely to pass most of them. So now I have to change my running route just so I don't start thinking I'm going around in circles or not getting anywhere. I could end up feeling I'm stuck in perpetual world of Pret!

Tottenham Court Road now seems to have more sandwich shops than computer shops or shops selling anything other than sandwiches. I'm beginning to wonder is there any point to Tottenham Court Road or any other street in Fitzrovia when they are all starting to look the same. I hope I'm exaggerating.

I like it when new shops open. When they are different and add variety to the area. It's somewhere new to visit, say "hello" to the staff and enjoy the experience of seeing somewhere new.

But why are the Fitzrovia BID celebrating another clone shop on a street corner in Warren Street that is highly likely to put out of business the neighbouring smaller shops and cafes? Is that improving the district for business?

One neighbour pointed out that the latest Warren Street Pret should not be allowed because it was a cafe and the building is

classed as retail not a cafe. But the planning officer glibly responded by saying, well it doesn't matter because Pret a Manger have shops in retail premises all over London and those premises aren't cafe use so if other boroughs are doing so, so can Camden.

With that logic I can be a planning officer. Gis a job!

Talk about de-professionalising your own profession. It's bad enough that government have ripped up most town planning legislation so that you now seem to be able to stick what you want, where you want, when you want and how you want. You'd think that might create variety.

But it doesn't, it just creates the same bland streets.

Between The Fitzrovia Partnership and Camden Council's planners Fitzrovia is a doomed district. It's going to suffocate under an avalanche more or less identical fast food.

**10 Prets: 3 on Tottenham Court Road, 1 on Charlotte Place, 2 on Great Portland Street, 1 on Eastcastle Street, 1 on Oxford Street, 1 on Regent Street, and 1 on Warren Street.*



The Middlesex Hospital Chapel. "Memories echo in this sacred space: tiny babies christened, marriages solemnised, funerals conducted, the chapel resonates with prayers, thanksgivings, and sorrows." — Dr Ruth Richardson.

Middlesex Hospital Chapel campaign gets nearly 3,000 signatures in support

Our campaign to preserve the name of the Middlesex Hospital Chapel has gained huge support with nearly 3,000 people signing petitions by 31 May.

We ran the campaign for three months and had the support mainly of former staff and patients both nationally and internationally.

Some of the people signing the petition left a comment saying how important the chapel is to them.

Many of them say they are very strongly against Exemplar's plans to rename a place that was so important a place of solace to staff, patients and visitors.

Exemplar the property developer leading the construction of Fitzroy Place is coming under increasing pressure to abandon its plans to rename the Middlesex Hospital Chapel which it is meant to be restoring as part of a legal agreement with Westminster City Council.

A medical historian, a former surgeon, and the chair of one of Westminster City Council's planning committees have all criticised plans to rename the Grade II* listed building.

In an article published in *The Lancet* journal the medical and social historian Dr Ruth Richardson wrote about the Middlesex Hospital Chapel, saying: "Rudyard Kipling, a benefactor of the hospital and its medical school, lay in state here before his funeral at Westminster Abbey. Four of the lancet windows, by the arts-and-crafts stained-glass makers Clayton and Bell, are the official War Memorial to 49 men from the Middlesex Hospital who died in the First World War, sev-

eral of them medical student volunteers from the early months of the war, and 16 officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps. There is also a wall devoted to the commemoration of members of the hospital's staff who died in the line of duty in the wards, such as nurses Dorothy Adams, Maudie Mason, and Grace Briscoe who died from influenza and scarlet fever in the first 3 months of 1919."

Dr Richardson describes the chapel as an evocative place. "Memories echo in this sacred space: tiny babies christened, marriages solemnised, funerals conducted, the chapel resonates with prayers, thanksgivings, and sorrows."

The sacredness of the chapel held a resonance with many people. Rodney Croft wrote to *Fitzrovia News* to express his concern. "I am a Consultant Surgeon and did my clinical training at The Middlesex having come down from Cambridge in 1965. I heard about the petition from a fellow Middlesex man. The Chapel is very dear both to me and my wife as our three children were Christened there when I was a Surgical Senior Registrar at The Middlesex and during my years at The Middlesex I frequently attended services there. We totally agree with all the sentiments expressed in The Lancet article."

The chair of one of Westminster Council's planning committees, Councillor Alastair Moss, said he disapproved of plans to rename the chapel. He made the comment at a public meeting where Mark Younger a director at Exemplar was present.

After the comments made by Councillor Moss we asked Mark Younger to respond and whether his company would reconsider their plans in response to our campaign. As he has done previously he declined to comment any further to *Fitzrovia News*.

Westminster City Council's response so far

On 15 April 2014 Councillor Robert Davis, deputy leader of Westminster City Council, wrote to us in response to our petition to preserve the name Middlesex Hospital Chapel.

Cllr Davis wrote that he had made enquiries and he reported to us that Exemplar "deny that there is any existing proposal to rename the building 'Pearson Chapel'".

He said: "A Steering Group has been set up to form a Chapel Trust, which will take overall responsibility of the Community Centre Building upon its completion. I have been assured that no new name has been agreed, as they have not progressed as far as appointing trustees yet."

"Once Trustees have agreed upon a name, it has to be submitted to the City Council for our approval under Part II of the London Building (Amendment) Act 1939. It is my sincere hope that the Trustees take into account local views before submitting an application."

Fitzrovia News now intends to deliver the petitions to Westminster City Council and Exemplar in June.

FOI request reveals Exemplar's motives

By Linus Rees

Documents obtained by *Fitzrovia News* under the Freedom of Information Act have revealed that Exemplar were considering a number of different names for the Middlesex Hospital Chapel.

Exemplar were referring to the Middlesex Hospital Chapel as Fitzroy Place Chapel from at least November 2012.

Michael Bucknell, a director at Exemplar, wrote to Westminster City Council on 10 March 2014 confirming that they wanted to change the name and drop any reference to Middlesex Hospital. "... future occupiers both commercial and residential do not necessarily embrace the fact that the site used to be a hospital and due to differing levels of sensitivities, don't welcome overpowering references to the hospital."

The email stated: "The naming of the chapel will again need to balance the memory of the past with the requirements of the future." The email says a "legal name has been proposed, Fitzrovia Chapel Foundation" but that "no 'trading' name has been agreed and no trustees have yet been appointed."

Exemplar propose a plaque inside the chapel saying: "This plaque was laid to remember the Middlesex Hospital which occupied this site between 1757 and 2006 and to celebrate the restoration of this chapel by Exemplar in 2014."

From the information received we have been able to ascertain the following.

The name Pearson Chapel was under consideration after the failure to name the new street through the site Fitzroy Place.

(Westminster City Council rejected it as a street name but Exemplar continue to use the name for marketing the site.)

The new street name Pearson Square was agreed by Westminster council in 2013 and Exemplar then considered the names Pearson Chapel or Pearson Hall. And later Fitzrovia Chapel.

Bucknell's email of March 2014 (and Exemplar's marketing brochure) suggests that Exemplar were promoting the chapel as an asset (actually as a venue) to add value to the sales of flats and commercial space.

Exemplar were therefore pre-empting the set up of the Chapel Trust (which would manage the building) and its approval by Westminster council.

Exemplar were obliged to restore the chapel and set up the trust as part of the planning permission.

In marketing the chapel in a particular way they are acting ahead of any decisions yet to be made by the chapel trust.

All change at Tottenham Court Road and Gower Street

Continued from front page

affect traffic in the smaller streets either side of Tottenham Court Road.

Pre-consultation sessions held with community groups have presented the developing ideas but detail on predicted vehicle movements has been absent.

Max Neufeld of the Charlotte Street Association told *Fitzrovia News*:

"We need to see the traffic modelling figures, but Camden have not made them available. How can we have a proper consultation if we don't know the effect of the proposed changes," said Neufeld.

Under plans shown so far, Gower Street will be reduced to one motor vehicle lane in each direction and open to all traffic. It will also have segregated cycle lanes. But no buses will serve Gower Street, with the existing services moved to Tottenham Court Road.

Tottenham Court will also be reduced to one lane in each direction but will be restricted to buses and cycles only. No taxis would be allowed.

In the proposals presented in the spring this year a time restrictions for other vehicles would be put in place and a complicated system where vehicles would be allowed to use certain stretches to cross the road and for loading.

Many residents have commented that Tottenham Court Road will come to resemble Oxford Street with its famous "wall of buses".

It is these vehicle restrictions that some residents fear will push more traffic into the side streets.

Local residents who have been pressing for more public open space will welcome plans for Alfred Place to become a new park.

However, questions about providing the first public toilet for the area have been met with silence.

The West End Project is estimated to cost about £30m paid for by Camden Council, with contributions from Transport for London, Fitzrovia BID and InMidtown BID. There will also be a levy on new building developments, reported the *West End Extra*.

Work on the the scheme is due to start in 2015 and be completed at the end of 2017 in time for the opening of the Crossrail station at Tottenham Court Road.

Derwent London announces community grants but controversy is never far away

By News Reporters

Derwent London have announced its second round of community grants with £75,000 of funding shared between seven organisations in Fitzrovia.

Three community groups have been awarded grants of approximately £15,000 each: Fitzrovia Noir for an art project, Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association for women's health and exercise, and Upbeat Music to deliver a series of music workshops for people with mental health problems.

Smaller grants were awarded to four organisations: All Souls Clubhouse for an older people's project and kitchen facilities, All Souls Primary School for a photography project, Women Like Us to support working parents, and ArtFitzrovia an independent art collective working with homeless adults.

Eleven other applications for funding from community and business groups were unsuccessful.

The company said in a statement that a number of interesting proposals were submitted as part of the application process with applicants invited to attend a workshop in April to present their projects, meet other community members and groups and contribute to the decision-

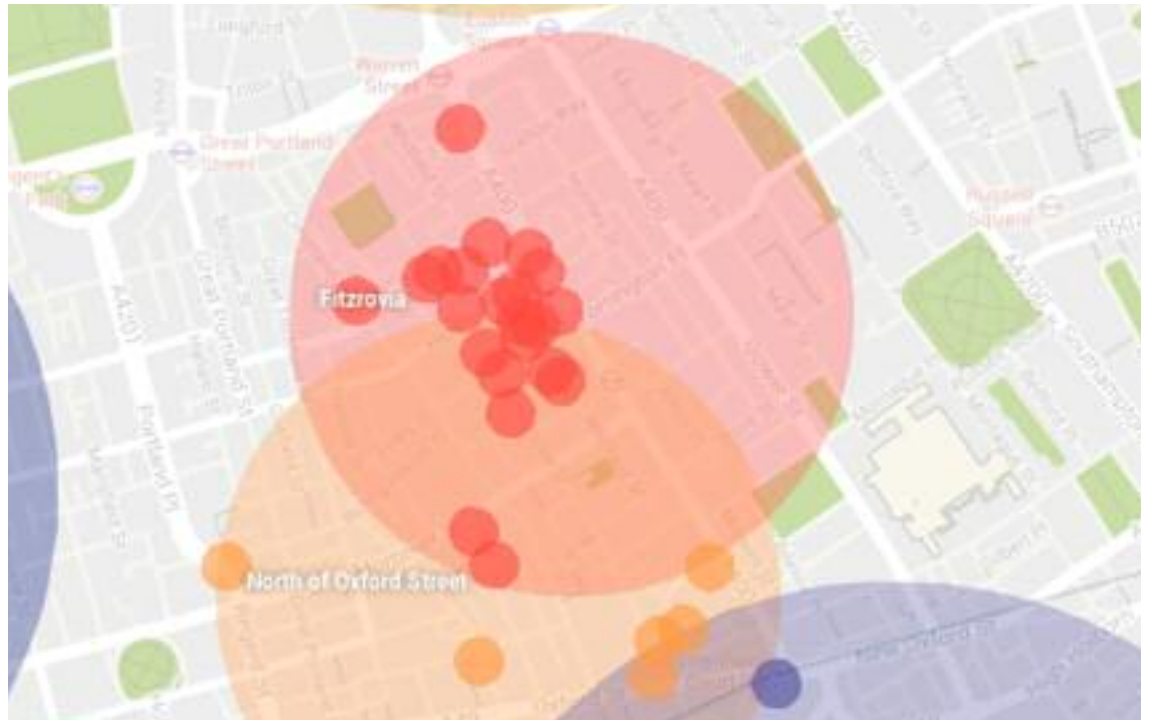
making process.

John Davies, head of sustainability at Derwent London, said: "We are very pleased to have seen such an increase in applications this year and some really good ideas. We were once again faced with a difficult challenge of allocating the funds. Feedback at the community workshop was again invaluable in terms of informing the final decision and allowing community stakeholders to participate actively."

Since 2009 Derwent London has earned itself a formidable reputation in Fitzrovia. The London-focussed real estate investment trust (REIT) has a property portfolio valued at £3.4bn at 31 December 2013 (up from £3.1bn at 30 June 2013) and is steadily ravaging parts of Fitzrovia.

In 2011 Boris Johnson approved plans to part-demolish and redevelop the Saatchi & Saatchi building on Charlotte Street, overturning Camden Council's refusal to grant planning permission because of a lack of affordable housing and contributions to public open space.

In 2012 Derwent pushed through its plans to create a business improvement district in Fitzrovia. High-profile local resident Griff Rhys Jones spoke out against the proposals. The con-



Blast zone. Derwent London have a cluster of buildings in Fitzrovia many of which are being redeveloped.

troversial scheme dragged Camden Council into the mire which led to its cabinet member Valerie Leach admitting mistakes had been made and that there should have been public consultation.

Derwent was earning itself a reputation it probably didn't relish. Then in 2013 Derwent announced plans to provide £250,000 towards community projects in Fitzrovia. The grant

package was put together in conjunction with Soundings a company specialising in public and stakeholder consultation.

Known as Derwent's community investment strategy it is led by Georgina Chimarrides who had also worked as project coordinator on the consultation for the Heygate Estate masterplan in Elephant and Castle for Lend Lease. Soundings' involvement was derided by community groups at Elephant and Castle. Heygate is now a byword for developers (and councils) running roughshod over local people.

Nevertheless Derwent's current round of grant offerings in Fitzrovia have been welcomed in a climate of austerity and a diminishing supply of voluntary sector funding. Derwent will likely win some friends from the grant recipients but there are also those that were unsuccessful.

The allocation of a grant to the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association (FNA) is also likely to raise an eyebrow or two. The FNA is also a publisher of *Fitzrovia News* which has been reporting critically on not only Derwent but its business improvement district.

Local people are likely to question the impartiality of this newspaper to report in the future what Derwent and their colleagues at the Fitzrovia BID are up to in the neighbourhood. However, *Fitzrovia News* editors would like to assure its readers that we will continue to do our very best to report the facts as we find them and keep our readers informed in a timely manner.

Derwent London development projects

73-75 Charlotte Street (demolition in progress); Tottenham Court Road & Stephen Street (works in progress); Middlesex House, Cleveland Street (work to start start shortly); Saatchi Block, 80 Charlotte Street (work expected to start in late 2014); 25-33 Berners Street (application pending)

Camden investigates failure on enforcement

A property developer has been allowed to get away with converting offices to residential in Warren Street without planning permission because Camden Council neglected to take out enforcement action despite having the opportunity to do so. Not only has the developer circumvented the planning system he also gained valuable on-street car parking space despite the council's policy of car-free housing.

For several years Camden planning officers took little action against an unauthorised development and eventually made a decision to recognise the development as legal and is taking no further action.

In April this year an application for a certificate of lawfulness was granted for use of the offices as a self-contained flat.

A Camden Council spokesperson, said:

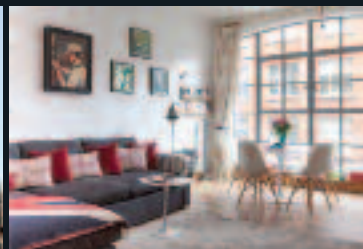
"We are currently investigating the circumstances in which this happened to ensure it doesn't again."

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25-33 Berners Street could be demolished under plans being prepared by Derwent London. The C20 Society have applied to list Copyright House, designed by Richard Seifert (on the left in picture).

C20 Society propose heritage listing for Seifert's Copyright House

By News Reporters

The Twentieth Century Society has made an application to English Heritage to list a building on Berners Street saying it is among the best of architect Richard Seifert's early works. Copyright House was constructed as a purpose built office block in the late 1950s and is a rare example of the architect's work from this period. However, the building is under threat by its current owners Derwent London who are about to submit a planning application to demolish it.

Derwent London purchased the building in December 2012. *Fitzrovia News* understands that the C20 Society had been in touch with them and had hoped that Derwent would refurbish the building and restore it to its former glory. However they later became concerned about its future.

In March this year Derwent announced plans to completely demolish it and two neighbouring buildings to build a new office block with shops and restaurants on the ground floors. Derwent told *Fitzrovia News* they were hoping Westminster council would make a decision in their favour by August this year and would begin demolition by the end of 2014 or early 2015.

Now the C20 Society, which campaigns for the conservation of the best architecture from the period, has submitted an application to English Heritage to have the building listed.

In a statement to *Fitzrovia News* Clare Price, conservation adviser, said:

"The Twentieth Century Society has proposed that the Former Copyright House, 29-33 Berners Street, London W1 be

added to the statutory list as one of R. Seifert and Partners' best earlier works."

Price says Copyright House is a significant building as it is a rare example of Seifert's early Latin American influences.

"Seifert is becoming increasingly recognised as a significant architect of the post-war period. Many examples of this prolific architect's early work have been demolished in recent years, and this example shows the beginnings of the firm's venture into more flamboyant styling with its distinctive pierced undulating roof feature. It was the first building to hint at the South American influence of Felix Candela and Oscar Neimeyer."

"The projecting canopy at high level is a distinctive 1950s feature which Pevsner characterises as 'a playful undulating pierced roof canopy in the Festival spirit'," she says.

The C20 Society question the need to demolish it and would like to see it refurbished.

"The site is a tight urban setting and followed the existing street patterns and building lines, it is hard to see how any replacement could offer any advantage in plot coverage or manage to significantly increase lettable floorspace.

"The Society believes that there is ample scope for the sympathetic refurbishment of this distinctive building. Its loss will only diminish Fitzrovia, not providing any demonstrable benefit through its demise," says Price.

The application to list the building was welcomed by Fitzrovia's longest running campaign group, the Charlotte Street Association. Its members agreed to support the C20 Society's

application to English Heritage.

Local resident and landscape architecture critic Tim Waterman also welcomed the application to list the building. He told *Fitzrovia News* that the building is an important part of Fitzrovia's built environment.

"Fitzrovia is distinguished by a mix of buildings that have come to be cherished primarily because of their contribution to the lively but consistent scale and texture of its streets. Buildings of many eras, often designed with the élan and exuberance suited to a central location, provide both a record of each era's aspirational aesthetics and a comforting assurance of continuity," says Waterman.

"Richard Seifert's Copyright House, businesslike and muscular but with a touch of whimsy in its undulating canopy, is an important part of this cumulative work. Both its interiors and its exterior should be restored and maintained in this spirit. In particular its adjacency to the similarly important Sanderson building and other fine examples of contextual modernism in the area militate for its preservation as part of a local ensemble of twentieth century architecture," says Waterman.

If English Heritage approve the application for listing a decision will then have to be taken by the government before the building gains protected status. It is likely Westminster City Council would delay any decision on the planning application if a government decision is pending.

We contacted Derwent London for a response but they declined to comment.

Three in a row lined up for demolition on Berners Street

A modernist building designed by Richard Seifert & Partners and a neo-Georgian building by Robert Angell & Curtis could be demolished in a redevelopment on Berners Street (pictured left). Derwent London intend to submit a planning application to Westminster council this summer to demolish three buildings and create a single new building.

Derwent held an exhibition in March illustrating outline plans for basement, ground and seven upper floors totalling nearly 14,000 square metres at 25-33 Berners Street. The proposed replacement building designed by architects Piercy & Company would provide an additional 21 percent of floor-space and create shops and restaurants at ground level.

In a letter to neighbours Tom French of Derwent London stated: "The proposed design would create new activity and visual interest at ground floor level, with space for new shops that would open up views through the building between Berners Street and Berners Mews. The new office space would be suitable for a wider range of potential office tenants."

Derwent London bought two of the buildings from MCPS-PRS Alliance (PRS for Music) for £35m before costs in December 2012. PRS for Music is moving to new offices at Kings Cross later this year.

Mega restaurant goes ahead

Exemplar and Cubitt House were given permission for a 230 seat restaurant in the centre of Fitzroy Place on Mortimer Street at a Westminster council planning meeting in April. This was against the council's policy controlling large entertainment uses, and counter to their decision in 2012 which restricted the size and hours of any restaurant use. They were granted longer operating hours so can now open between 08:00 and midnight on most week days.

Residents from nearby streets and the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association expressed concern that noise nuisance would be caused by over 200 people leaving the restaurant each night, without an adequate plan in place to monitor and control the customers and vehicles leaving the premises.

West End ward councillor Glynis Roberts agreed: "I have written to the planning committee on behalf of local residents requesting that this application for a larger premises is refused. A larger restaurant with longer hours will inevitably give rise to the sort of disturbance the policy is designed to avoid."

At a later licensing hearing extended hours were granted with only minimal conditions imposed, despite objections from the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association and individual residents.

Locals feel again let down in that their concerns were not taken into account by the City Council and they have a too close relationship with developers and businesses.

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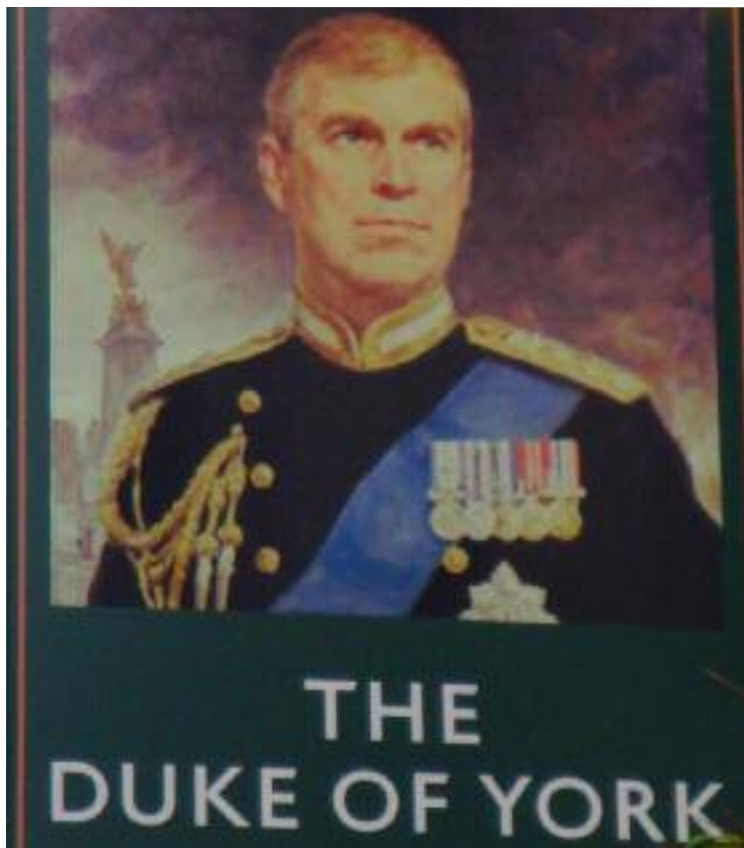
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Duke has a facelift

The Duke of York pub now has the present duke, Prince Andrew, portrayed on its sign in Rathbone Street.

The brewer, Greene King, said they wanted a new sign, so Debi Sickelmore, who runs the pub, suggested the current duke.

"I wrote a letter to Buckingham Palace requesting permission and got a reply from his private secretary agreeing to it and saying he was very touched that we had considered this... especially as his daughter, Princess Beatrice, had been a customer in the pub.

"I remember her coming in with friends for a drink one night."

The princess, sixth in line of succession to the throne, was born in Fitzrovia at Portland



Hospital, 205 Great Portland Street, incidentally.

Debi continued: "So we went ahead and I found a portrait of him on the internet by the Russian painter Igo Babailov which is in a private collection."

Permission to use it was gained and is now on the sign,

which is frequently photographed by Japanese tourists and others.

There used to be a convention that current members of the royal family were not depicted on pub signs, but this no longer applies.

The old sign depicting a bald duke is being kept safely by Debi who hosts meetings of the Inn Sign Society. This was of Frederick (1784-1827), son of George III, who served in the British Army and was the "Grand Old Duke of York" who, in the popular rhyme, marched his soldiers up and down a hill.

Debi, and her partner Alan Monks, have run the pub for nine years, and also managed the Marquis of Granby down the road from 1985 to 1991. They also run the Grafton Arms.

Newsagent forced out by supermarkets

A news agent has been forced to close after 25 years because of competition from supermarkets.

Tops News, 14 Eastcastle Street, was run for all those years by Avey Rahi and his mother "Mama" Nora (pictured right) who have lived in Cleveland Street for 35 years and love the area.

"It is a sign of the times," said Avey explaining the decision. "There are too many supermarkets, and customers now go to Sainsbury for their newspapers and confectionary. We can't compete and smaller shops like us just get eaten up.

"It has nothing to do with our landlord who has been phenomenally accommodating, helpful and understanding."

He thanked all those customers who had remained loyal to the shop and was sorry that it was no longer economical to continue serving them.



Howzat! Hat-trick for museum

The Grant Museum of Zoology has won its third award in the three years since it moved to 21 University Street.

In 2012 it won the Museums and Heritage award as the most innovative museum.

Last year it was voted the UK's most inspiring museum by readers of the Guardian.

And now it has been highly commended for its Micrarium by the Museums and Heritage awards for projects on a limited budget.

The Micrarium consists of 2,300 microscope slides and specimens of tiny animals.

"About 95 per cent of all animals are smaller than the human thumb, yet in most museum you only see quite large animals, so we are correcting that imbalance to show the real diversity of life," explained the museum's manager Jack Ashby.

You can see this and the rest of the museum's fascinating exhibits from 1pm to 5pm from Monday to Saturday.

Currently there is a special exhibition of animal sculptures by Slade School of Fine Art stu-



Jack Ashby with the award in the Micrarium.

dent Lan Lan and prints by other art students next to the appropriate animal skeletons or preserved remains. This lasts until July 19.

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* Advanced booking required. Offer subject to availability.



All Souls kids run with Mo Farah

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Roger Bannister beating the four minute mile, Year 5 students from All Souls Primary School took part in the Bupa Westminster Mile.

They got to high-5 Mo Farah before running against him (for the first 800 metres!) to complete their mile around St James Park.

They were given beautiful gold medals in honour of their efforts.

Computer repair shop

Larry opened his computer repair shop in January on the corner of Charlotte Street and Tottenham Street.

When he came to Britain from Slovakia he started by repairing mobiles telephones. At that time he worked for a shop, this didn't work out and he ended up washing dishes for EMI Records – he was willing to do any kind of work to survive. Then two friends opened an electronic repair shop in Rathbone Place offered him a job. When this shop closed down, he made his move to Fitzrovia.

LK Computer is a small business open in Fitzrovia, this should be cause for celebration because due to the Big Boys buying up every property in sight and 'developing' them, small businesses in the area are becoming rare.

Larry says he can repair anything electrical, not just computers. He does Apple products, and all other brands. Repairs are carried out up to board level not just replacement like other shops.

He advises that any equipment damaged by liquid should be brought in for repair as soon as possible. The first step should be to remove the power source and then the battery. This is very important to prevent more damage and save the

main board. It is imperative that it is brought in within 24 hours.

Larry went on to say that every computer needs to be serviced regularly, the cooling system cleaned and the fan lubricated so that the computer's efficiency (speed) can be returned to its original condition. This should be done every six to eight months depending on the dust concentration in your area, a yearly contract can be negotiated. If regular cleaning is maintained, the life of the computer is extended.

Larry also does data recovery, hard drive recovery and data recovery from any device, USBs etc. He has done a large recovery job for BBC Radio. 99 per cent of repairs are done onsite.

His advice for customers buying electronic goods is to look for at least three years' guarantee on all products because most offer only one year: He feels people should also think about today's hard drives. because the solid-state drives are much harder to recover than the standard drives. In his opinion, a solid-state drive should be backed up at least once a week.

Opening hours are usually Monday-Friday 10-6pm
www.lkcomputers.com

Opening and closing shops, stores and restaurants

Closed



Signor Grilli Italian restaurant 40 Goodge Street



Adnams Cellar & Kitchen Store 30 – 31 Store Street



Chivers flowers 43 – 45 Charlotte Street



On the beat records 22 Hanway Street
Tops news 14 Eastcastle Street (see page 6)



Efes restaurant (for refurbishment) 80 - 82 Great Titchfield Street
Café 2 Charlotte Place

Opened

Burger and Lobster 6 Little Portland Street
Papaya 27 Goodge Street

Opened (Continued)

W Estate Agents 85 Charlotte Street
Central Bikes 68 Charlotte Street moved from 37 Tottenham Street
Sweets from Heaven 260 Tottenham Court Road



Honest Burger 4 Market Place
Chaz Marnie 22 Hanway Street
Barnyard 18 Charlotte Street



Bubbltopia Asian street food and bubbletea
29 Hanson Street



The Co-operative Food 118-122 Great Portland Street



Kin Café 22 Foley Street



In-Ku Invisible permanent clothing
15a Warren Street

Opening soon

Argos 216 – 217 Tottenham Court Road
Revival-Retro boutique vintage style clothing and shoes 30 Windmill Street
La Bottega del caffè 245 Tottenham Court Road
Herman Ze German 43-45 Charlotte Street
Kua 'Aina Hawaiian Burger and Sandwich Grill 40 Goodge Street

Bloomsbury ward councillors' surgeries

6:00 - 7:00pm first Friday of the month at

Fitzrovia Community Centre, Foley Street, W1W 6DN

6:00 - 7:00pm second and fourth Fridays of the month at

Marchmont Community Centre, 62 Marchmont Street, WC1N 1AB

Third Friday of the month is a 'roving surgery'. Get in touch if you would like us to conduct the surgery at your street or building.

Adam Harrison, Sabrina Francis, and Rishi Madlani

Contact 020 7974 3111 or adam.harrison@camden.gov.uk

sabrina.francis@camden.gov.uk rishi.madlani@camden.gov.uk

Neighbourhood areas recognised under Localism Act

By News Reporters

Camden and Westminster councils have approved Fitzrovia as an area for neighbourhood planning under the Localism Act. The two councils came to a decision in March and April to designate separate Fitzrovia East and West neighbourhood areas, but rejected a cross-boundary single area application.

In an announcement in March Councillor Robert Davis, Westminster City Council's cabinet member for the built environment, agreed the recommendations in a report following a period of public consultation on five neighbourhood areas in the City of Westminster.

Councillor Davis agreed that the Fitzrovia West neighbourhood area be designated with minor revisions to the western and southern boundaries.

As part of the Fitzrovia neighbourhood is within the City Council's designated Core Central Activities Zone (CAZ) the area has been designated as "a neighbourhood business area,

since the area is predominantly business in nature", said the report.

In a statement Wendy Shillam of the Fitzrovia West steering committee said: "We are delighted to report that Westminster City Council has just announced their acceptance of Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Area. We would like to thank everyone who wrote to the council."

Councillor Davis also made a decision on the Marylebone application which in part overlapped with the Fitzrovia West area application. He agreed to designate the Marylebone area asked for except for the parts that were claimed by the Fitzrovia West application and the area which included Regent's Park.

Although the Fitzrovia West application was driven by residents interests to protect the residential and small scale businesses in the area, much of the neighbourhood is dominated by the Core CAZ and includes "opportunity areas". While the

forum steering committee includes representatives of businesses — and *Fitzrovia News* understands that positive discussions have been had with local landowners — people wishing to protect residential amenity and control commercial development are likely to find the road ahead a difficult one.

The next stage will involve the creation of a neighbourhood forum which includes representatives of stakeholders in the area. This too will have to be approved by Westminster council. The subsequent working forum will have powers to create a neighbourhood plan to control building development.

Councillor Phil Jones, Camden's cabinet member for sustainability, transport and planning, approved the Fitzrovia East area after a period of public consultation.

Camden's neighbourhood planning officers had worked with their counterparts in Westminster before agreeing the neighbourhood area designation.

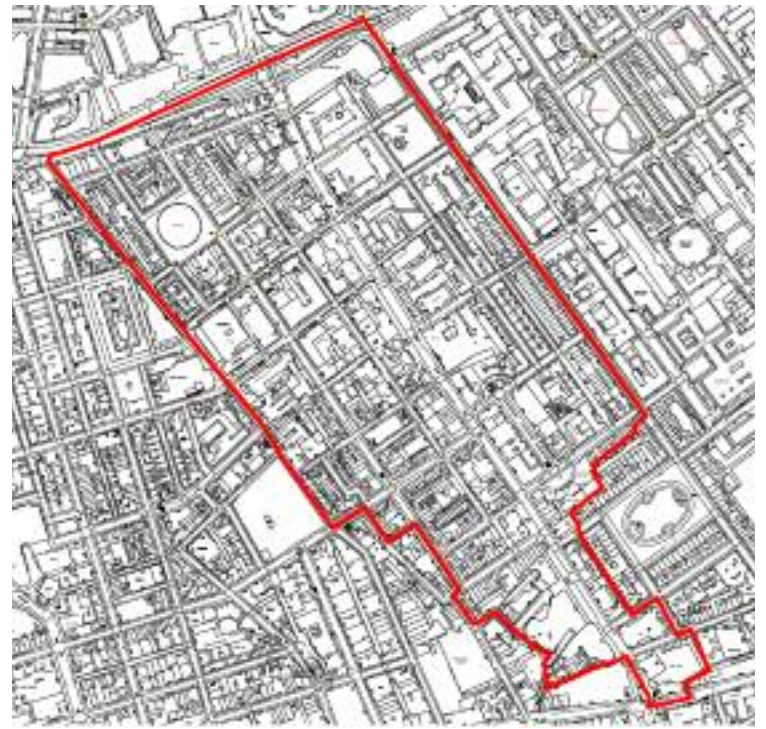
However, unlike Fitzrovia West, Camden decided that the larger Fitzrovia East area is mostly residential.

"While the area does have a considerable business element, it is considered that the proposed area is predominantly residential and therefore, the Council does not consider that it should be designated as a business area in this instance," stated the Camden report.

The Fitzrovia application was broadly supported by community groups within Fitzrovia.

Objections to the application were received from The Bedford Estate who complained that the boundaries proposed cuts the Estate Portfolio in half.

University College London (UCL) also objected. The Camden report noted UCL's



Camden Council approved the Fitzrovia East area (above) and Westminster City Council approved the Fitzrovia West area (below left).

comments: "In addition to objecting to the proposed boundary, UCL raised concerns about the relationship between any future Neighbourhood Plan that may come forward, and the Fitzrovia Area Action Plan (FAAP). They consider that the two documents should be complementary and not contain conflicting policies."

The neighbouring Bloomsbury Association objected saying that their proposed neighbourhood area overlapped along Store Street and the southern part of Tottenham Court Road.

The planners' report stated that "while neighbourhood areas cannot overlap, modifications to designated neighbourhood areas can be made. If a subsequent Bloomsbury application were to be submitted, the Fitzrovia neighbourhood area boundary could be amended with some streets being moved into the

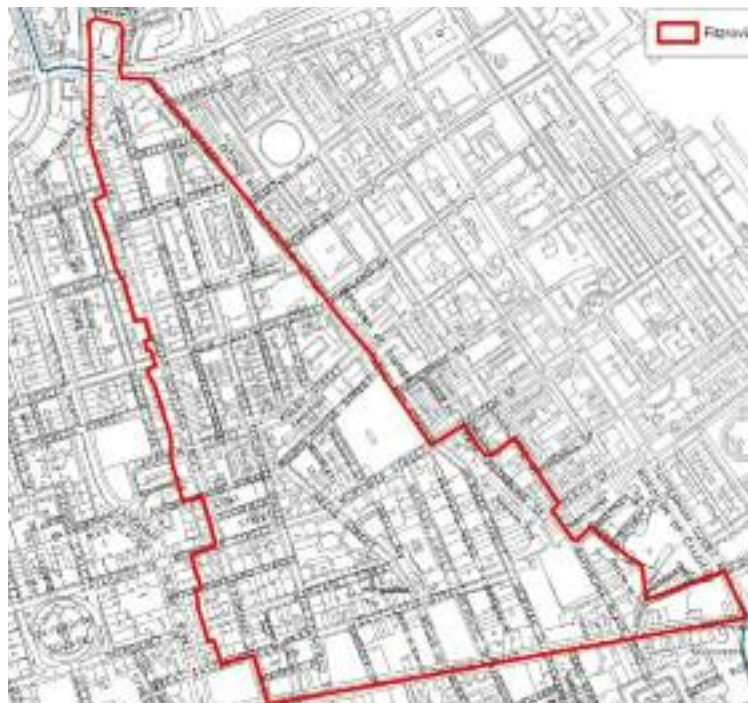
Bloomsbury neighbourhood area".

However, Camden's officers considered the Fitzrovia application to be sound with regard to boundaries. Camden will expect neighbouring forums to work together in areas of common interest.

Wesley Skow who made the application on behalf of the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Forum Steering Committee told *Fitzrovia News* he was very pleased with the outcome.

Fitzrovia West

Public Meeting:
6.30pm 15 July at the
University of Westminster,
115 New Cavendish Street.
To discuss priorities for
the Neighbourhood, elect
a committee and approve
a constitution.



Fitzrovia Area Action Plan approved by Camden Council

The Fitzrovia Area Action Plan was finally approved and adopted by Camden Council in March. The plan will contribute to land planning in Fitzrovia.

The adoption of the plan came at the end of a long process which was started by the Charlotte Street Association in 2010 and drew together community groups, businesses and landowners in Fitzrovia and Bloomsbury. The plan was written by Camden's planning officers with input from many interested parties. The 168 page document had to be sent out for public consultation and be approved by a government inspector before the council could adopt it.

Councillor Phil Jones, cabinet member for sustainability, transport and planning, put forward the plan for adoption by the council, and Bloomsbury ward councillor Adam Harrison spoke in favour of it.

Councillor Harrison spoke about an "enormous amount of development going on in the Tottenham Court Road area". He commented that it was essential for those living locally to also benefit from this and the plan includes provision for new open space, including a new park at Alfred Place, larger affordable housing units to allow the opportunity for families to bring up children and strengthen the long-term sustainability of the

community.

However, opposition parties on Camden Council called for a delay to the debate and adoption of the plan until residents were given the opportunity to make a deputation with concerns about the Strand Union Workhouse.

Ahead of the 3 March meeting of the council *Fitzrovia News* was told by Maya de Souza, Green Party councillor for Highgate ward, that she had received emails expressing concern about the plan.

Councillor Claire-Louise Leyland, leader of the Conservative group in Camden, told *Fitzrovia News* that she had also received lots of emails from

residents concerned about the Fitzrovia Area Action Plan.

"The key issues seem to be the creeping destruction of heritage sites and erosion of historical buildings," she said.

There was concern about the loss of 1-3 Goodge Street and worries about the unlisted Victorian wings of the former Strand Union Workhouse.

There were also letters to the *Camden New Journal* and *West End Extra* during March, April and May.

However, the Workhouse campaign group has said nothing on its website clevelandstreetworkhouse.org

Nor was there any comment about the Fitzrovia Area Action

Plan to council officers at the recent development management forum to discuss current plans for the redevelopment of the workhouse site.

Fitzrovia News understands from speaking to many residents that while the Fitzrovia Area Action Plan identifies shortcomings in open space and affordable housing as well as the threat of over development, many people are concerned about whether the document has the power to deliver. Some people have told *Fitzrovia News* the plan does "too little and too late" to protect the neighbourhood, its heritage assets and bring benefits.



Word from the Streets

By CHARLOTTE STREET and her family



Minder's model

Dodgy dealer Arthur Daley, who starred in *Minder* on ITV from 1979 to 1994, was based on a real life character who lived in Gower Street from the 1950s to 1979.

He was **Sammy Goldshaker**, a smartly dressed tailor who also sold "very good replica" rolex watches and other merchandise in the Fitzroy Tavern in Charlotte Street.

Among those to buy them were members of the *Minder* film crew who drank in the pub along with, **Verity Lambert**, who produced the show for Euston Films, a subsidiary of Thames Television.

"They told me years later that they based Arthur Daley on Sam," his son Alan (who was also Sam's minder) told me as we supped a pint in the Bricklayers Arms in Gresse Street. "Just look at pictures of them both and you can see the likeness."

"When Verity and the crew first started earwigging us in the pub we thought they might be from the old bill, but we were told they were television people. They were interested in all the wheeling and dealing Sam was doing, selling cup final tickets and so on, as money was always changing hands, and indeed he did sell a rolex to one of the crew."

"Sam always wore a velvet collar and a hat like the one worn by Arthur Daley long



ARTHUR DALEY

before the television show. He also used to take illegal bets for bookies before betting shops came in. Later he got a legal bookmaker's licence on behalf of me as I was too young to hold one. He held that licence up until his death in 1990 at the age of 68. He also held the licence for a club in Cleethorpes on my behalf as I had a driving conviction which barred me."

Unbeknownst to Alan, *Minder*'s creator and writer, **Leon Griffiths**, also drank at another Charlotte Street pub, the Northumberland Arms (now the



SAMMY GOLDSHAKER

Draft House), where my brothers Percy, Mortimer and Warren once supped with him.

The photograph at the show's opening and closing of Arthur and his minder Terry (played by **George Cole** and **Dennis Waterman** respectively) with a bent lamp-post was shot in Newman Passage. Sadly the lamp-post is no longer there.

Sammy and Alan also drank a lot in the Bricklayers Arms near where Alan now lives.

Alan has had some interesting jobs himself, which I will reveal next time.

A Beatles fan writes from Sweden

This column's piece about the Beatles playing at the Scala Theatre in Tottenham Street to film *A Hard Day's Night* in 1964 has led to some responses. **Valerie Ahnegard** (nee Peart) who was at the concert emailed us from Sweden where she now lives. "I remember it well and I'm sure they

were filming during Easter school holidays," she states. "We were there every day for the duration." By a strange co-incidence **Alan Goldshaker** (see *Minder* story above) went to school with her and independently told us she was now married and living in Sweden.

Two eccentric professors

How determined do you need to be to play a piano under water for 110 hours non-stop?

Step forward **Professor**

Hugh Montgomery, director of the University College London's Institute of Human Health.

He was a 19-year-old student at Middlesex Hospital Medical School in Riding House Street when he broke the world record for subterranean ivory tickling, as he revealed on *Desert Island Discs* recently.

His determination to complete it was to raise in sponsorship the full £18,000 needed for the hospital's first portable ultrasound machine in 1981.

"I loved the junior medical life," he said, "even though it meant working 120 to 130 hours a week. It sounds strange but that generated a team spirit." He graduated from the medical school in 1987.

He is now famous for discovering a so called "fitness gene" known as ACE and is professor of intensive care medicine at UCL. But he still finds time for various eccentric activities to raise money for medical causes... such as jumping naked out of a plane at 14,000 feet, running a 135 km marathon, and climbing



Illustration by Jayne Davis

Everest. Considering this, it is strange that he himself does not have the fitness gene he discovered.

Another UCL staff member, **Professor Mark Miodownik**, who studies materials, was also on air, for *The Life Scientific* on Radio 4. He revealed his interest in the properties of materials started when he was stabbed in the back with a razor on the way to school. "I was intrigued that such a small piece of steel caused so much harm," he mused.

Dylan's delight

Dylan Thomas, the inebriate poet, will be chuckling in his grave. The meeting to plan a festival commemorating the 100th anniversary of his birth took place in a Fitzrovia art gallery recently. Sadly much damage was caused when two or three people were accidentally locked in all night and all they had to console themselves was an abundance of free alcohol...

Bill Nighy in The George

*I've been enjoying going to bed with my favourite actor **Bill Nighy** recently. There's nothing I like better than a good detective late at night and Bill has been appearing as the eponymous actor/sleuth in the Charles Paris Mystery series on Radio 4 Extra. One episode is set in the BBC and he frequently repairs to The George in Great Portland*

*Street. The George, you may recall, was where legend has it that **Dylan Thomas** left the original script of his radio play *Under Milk Wood* after lengthy celebrations when the BBC agreed to broadcast it. And in this the centenary year of his birth, I'll be popping along to raise a glass to the old Welsh Bard.*

Singing for his supper

My brother Percy was pleased to hear of new-found fame for one head waiter who's now on the bill with Elton John, Lulu, Beverley Knight and Dionne Warwick. "He's often in here, and has become a good friend" said **Costa** the cheeky head waiter of Sergio's on Great Titchfield Street of **Englebert Humperdink**, "so I've ended up on the sleeve notes of his new album." Veteran singer **Humperdink** (don't call him

crooner or he'll get cross,) has recently produced "Englebert Calling" in which he sings duets with some of the biggest stars in song. But there in the thanks and sleeve notes is **Costa** who can often be persuaded to sing himself whilst ferrying butterfly King Prawns to hungry eaters.

Percy hopes for a new range on the menu perhaps including "Smokey Sausage Robinson," "IL Divo Devilled Eggs" and "Neil Sedaka Sorbet."

Happy birthday to Olives

Happy 11th birthday to Olives Indian restaurant at 20 Cleveland Street, one of my favourite eateries. It is a Bangladeshi family run busi-

*ness that started here in 2003 and is now fully part of the community. As I and my sister Margaret celebrated their birthday the manager **Rahul** was delighted to inform us that it has just received a six-star rating by the Just Eat website.*

Charlotte Street

Fitzrovia's Galleries: a landscape that has changed rapidly

By CLIVE JENNINGS

In September 2011, I enthusiastically reported "The Fitzrovia Gallery Explosion", announcing that we now had 37 art galleries in Fitzrovia of which 21 had opened in the preceding three years. In the two and a half years since that article there has been a phenomenal amount of coming and going with 30 new galleries opening, and 19 galleries closing, of which 10 have been and gone in the period. (The most dramatic departure was Haunch of Venison, owned by Christies auction house, which only lasted a year to March 2013, and whose beleaguered artists only learnt about it online). That's a new art space every month, and a closure every six weeks – hard to keep up. At one point in 2012, there were 54 galleries, and we are now down to around 48.

Here are the latest league tables:

New since September 2011:
4 Windmill Street, Adam Gallery, Bartha Contemporary, Berloni, Black Arts Company, Carroll/Fletcher, Carroll/Fletcher Projects, England & Co., Evelyn Yard, Fred- London/New Art Projects, GRAD, Gallery Libby Sellers, Kashya Hildebrand, Pi Artworks, Rook & Raven, Rose Issa Projects, Richard Saltoun, Scream, Tiwani Contemporary, T J Boulting.

Opened and closed since September 2011:

Dekko, Derwent Gallery, Haunch of Venison, Iberica Gallery, Margaret Street Gallery, Nati Gallery, Nettie Horn, Piper Gallery, Test Space Gallery, Yannick Gallery.

Closed or relocated since September 2011:

Cole Contemporary, David Roberts Foundation, Diemar Noble, Ladiray Gallery, Mummery & Schnelle, Regina, Rollo Gallery, Twist, Gallery Vela.

All this activity is creating new gallery history as several operations have taken over existing gallery premises: Carroll/Fletcher Projects was Nettie Horn; Richard Saltoun was David Roberts Foundation; Kashya Hildebrand was Regina; Berloni was Margaret Street Gallery. In 2011, only Rebecca Hossack had two gallery spaces in Fitzrovia, but now two others have added a second space: Carroll/Fletcher have opened a project space in Riding House Street, and Rook and Raven have recently opened in Evelyn Yard, tucked away between Rathbone Place and Gresse Street.

In the midst of all this flux, there are some truly wonderful

opportunities to enjoy art in Fitzrovia. Hanmi Gallery, which opened at 30 Maple Street four years ago, has had 34 "Interim Exhibitions", each a journey of discovery spread over its five floors. The premises are stripped back to its skeleton, as the gallery plans its eventual refurbishment – hence the "interim" – and many participating artists have taken advantage of this to create site specific pieces and installations that seem to merge with the very fabric of the building. Amongst the wonders that I have seen here are the BT Tower projected on to a gallery wall via a camera obscura, and a naked woman with metre long finger nails emerging from a hole in the basement floor. Gallery director Heashin Kwak describes Fitzrovia as London's art hub, and features both East Asian and Western artists.

Fitzrovia Lates, an initiative to attract visitors to galleries by staying open late on the last Thursday of each month lost momentum at the end of last year after The Photographers Gallery ceased to administer it. However I am reliably informed by Anna Wallace Thompson of Kashya Hildebrand Gallery that it is back on track with the support of around 25 galleries, and both website and facebook page are being revamped in time for Frieze in October. It will be big-

ger and better with curated events and gallery tours. In the meantime, do check with your favourite galleries, as many are still keeping late hours on last Thursdays.

Several of the galleries that have now moved on either started in Shoreditch and Bethnal Green (and in some cases have moved back East) or were first time gallerists. Some galleries have experienced the first stage of a similar scenario to Soho, New York in the 1980s and Spitalfields in the 2000's. Small galleries move in to a previously "undiscovered" but just affordable locale, making it hip and desirable, only to discover that business is not as good as anticipated and after that first rent review, upwards of course as their presence has made the area more popular, they have to close or seek cheaper premises.

Stuart Shave's Modern Art, the gallery that is credited with starting the recent influx of galleries, allegedly called his landlord's bluff when faced with an extensive rent rise at his extensively remodelled Eastcastle Street Gallery. He relocated to Clerkenwell, but cannily keeps a presence in Fitzrovia by leasing a floor of the Georgian Society in Fitzroy Square.

Larger and better-funded galleries able to afford rents in excess of £65 per square foot move in, including many with an international presence. With



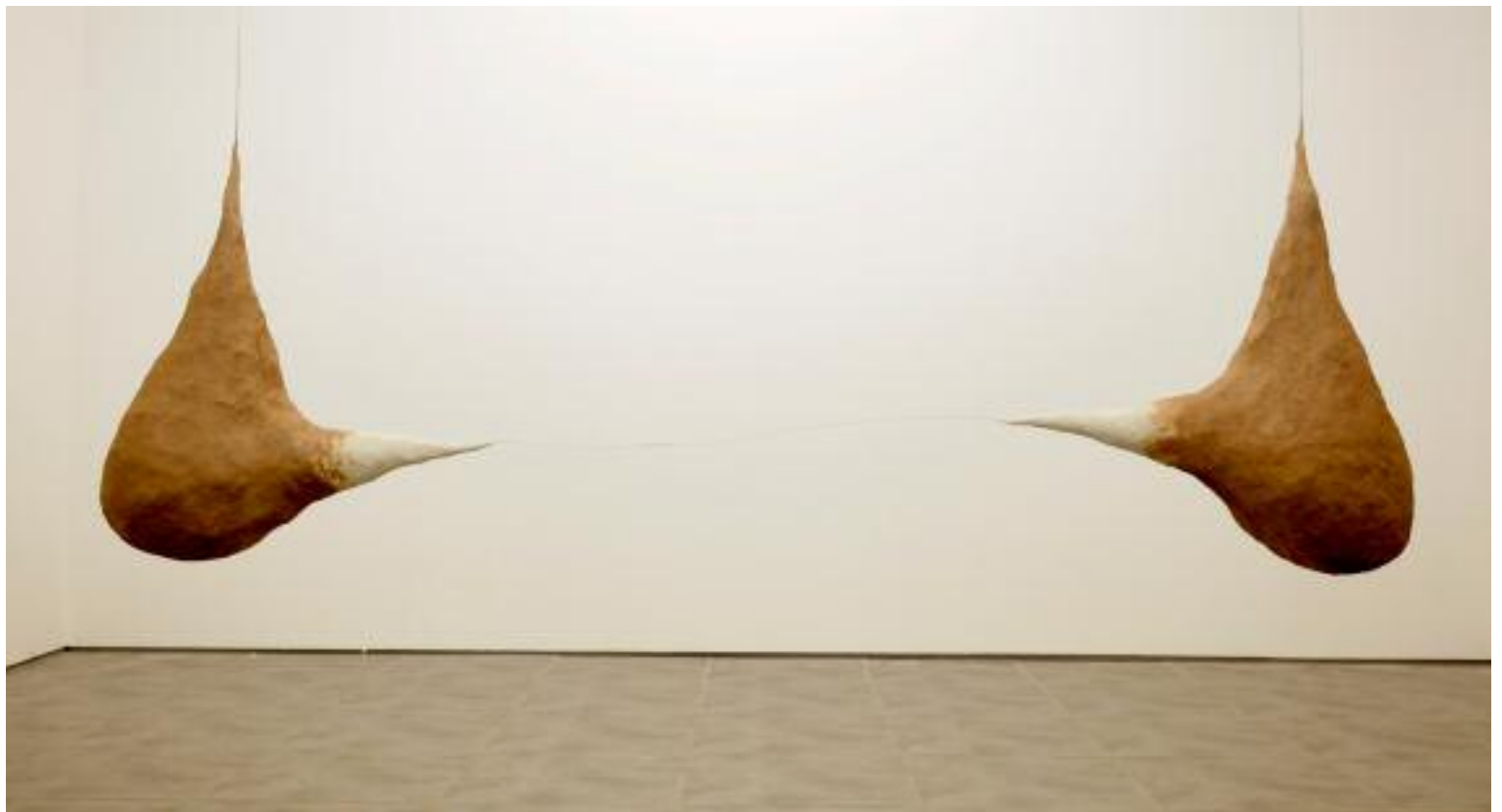
Bongsu Park, *Granulation* (2010) mixed media (Hanmi Gallery)

giants of the New York art scene Pace and Marian Goodman establishing themselves in neighbouring Soho, I think it is only a matter of time until we see a major American gallery opening in our manor.

The other major influx is likely to come from Mayfair. In the wake of the redevelopment by Native Land of that bastion of the British art world, Cork Street, four out of seven galleries on the east side are going for good and there is a future threat to galleries trading on the west side. The *Evening Standard* reported on 12 May that art gal-

leries in Mayfair are under threat from rising rents, which have been pushed up by luxury brands seeking the best locations. A 30-strong group of gallery owners led by property veteran Sir Stuart Lipton and Gallerist John Martin are seeking to find 100-150,00 square feet of space in a multi level, destination building to house them all under one roof, and one of the areas they are considering is ... Eastcastle Street. Watch this space!

Full details of all galleries mentioned, and current listings can be found on the back page.



Bongsu Park, *Lineage* (2013) mixed media (Hanmi Gallery)

Dylan Thomas festival in October

A festival to celebrate the life, work and "riotous pleasures" of the poet Dylan Thomas takes place all over Fitzrovia from October 25 to 26.

"When I do come to Fitzrovia, bang go my plans in a horrid alcoholic explosion that scatters all my good intentions like bits of limbs and into the saloon bars of the tawdriest of pubs in London," he declared in 1936.

The festival marks the 100th anniversary of his birth and promises "poetry on the streets, poetry in pubs, poetry shouted, shared, sung and celebrated

with food, music, film, exhibitions, performances and spontaneous life events."

Among those featured are Sir Patrick Stewart, Griff Rhys Jones, Jonathan Pryce, Rhys Ifans, Tom Hollander, Dylan Thomas's Writing Shed, Murray Lachlan Young, Owen Sheers, The Fitzroy Tavern, The London Welsh Chorale, The London Welsh Chapel, Owain Arwel Hughes, and Sian Phillips.

More information can be found on www.dylanthomas-fitzrovia.com. Those wishing to get involved should email hello@dylanthomasfitzrovia.com

In a separate event the president of the Dylan Thomas Society, Jeff Towns, will be giving a talk entitled "Dylan Thomas: Dispelling the Myths" on June 9 upstairs in The Wheatsheaf, Rathbone Place, at 7.30pm (entry £4).

It is organised by the Sohemian Society and the author will sign copies of his new book "Dylan Thomas: The Pubs."

According to Towns the poet's main attraction to pubs was not the booze. After over 40 years of research he concludes that Dylan saw the pub as "a

place of refuge, a place of conviviality, warmth and shelter, as a theatre in which he could always be counted on to perform, and always be guaranteed an audience."

He adds: "Much of his writing reflects the words, expressions and sayings he heard around him every day, especially so in pubs. Dylan was not only a good story teller, he was also a good listener. It was in these very pubs that Dylan would meet the people who would inspire so much of his work."



Rat pack back

With property prices beyond reach in Fitzrovia, an age-old London resident has been spotted on the streets which could scare off some speculators.

What will the super-rich (who are pricing out long standing tenants) make of the return to the area of one of the oldest Londoners of all - the rat? The mix of rampant building and pungent rubbish has meant rodents are now being spotted yards from new million-pound flats which are springing up all around.

"It was light brown in colour, almost caramel, and it scampered from the rubble of the demolition works on the corner of Tottenham Street and

Charlotte Street," said one resident surprised when out walking early to work.

"It was the size of a small cat, and was making trips to and from the rubbish bags. I guess there's a nest?"

Speculators of the area who love to rename it every now and then (from NoHo to Fitzrovia Village and more besides) will be slow to catch on to the obvious new nickname: Ratzrovia.

Among locals who have been driven out of the area by the rat race of rising rents are nurses, a *Fitzrovia News* writer of over 50 years' residency, and even local councillor Adam Harisson who was born in the manor.

Rates, BID levy and Crossrail are killing electronics shops



Passing trade. Tourists don't buy components via the internet and they are a vital source of business for Tottenham Court Road's electronic shops. But Crossrail works are an obstacle to business.

The electronic retailers at the southern end of Tottenham Court Road complain their businesses are suffering not from competition from online sales but by a combination of high business rates and the Crossrail works. And the InMidtown business improvement district which is taking thousands of pounds in a mandatory levy on the traders is giving nothing in return or responding to their concerns.

Since October 2010 when the street between Charing Cross Road and Tottenham Court has been shut off, tourists and other

West End visitors have been cut off from the electronic retailers and starving them of much-needed custom.

Mr Malik who owns MicroWorld says he has lost half his trade since Crossrail has cut off the direct route from Charing Cross Road.

"The Crossrail works have blocked the road so no tourists are coming up here from Leicester Square and other tourist parts of the West End," he said. "They get to the top of Charing Cross road and just see a building site."

Malik says tourists don't buy over the internet because they are on holiday but they are looking for a variety of electronic and computer components to use while they are in London.

"I rely totally on tourists coming up from the West End and buying things like adapters for their electronic devices," he says.

He has been trying for the last few years to get a reduction in his business rates, but so far he has not succeeded.

He has two shops and pays around £140,000 in business rates for each shop. He is also liable to pay the levy of nearly £3,000 on each shop to the InMidtown Business Improvement District.

News in brief

All Souls School are holding a **Summer Fair**, with **live music and live animals** from 12 noon to 4pm on Saturday 14 June.

The **Great Titchfield Street Festival** had been cancelled this year and events due to take place will be transferred to **South Crescent** on **Store Street** where **New London Architecture** and **The Building Centre** are holding events as part of the **London Festival of Architecture** on Saturday 28 June.

Work has started on a major refurbishment of **The Warren** open space and playground at the north end of Whitfield Street. **Camden Council** say that the works will take around seven weeks during which the area will be closed to the public. The works are due to be completed by the start of the schools' summer holidays.

Residents in Fitzrovia have been invited to participate in a **local social network** called **Streetlife**. Sign up at Streetlife.com or just browse the discussions happening in Fitzrovia by going to streetlife.com/area/fitzrovia.

Fitzrovia Community Centre is holding a **gardening day** 10 am - 4 pm, Sunday 15 June.

Residents in **Gresse Street** say they are disturbed all day long by noise from recycling and rubbish vehicles and shop deliveries.

Ashby Capital and **Exemplar properties** are to demolish the former **Time Out** building, known as **One Bedford Avenue**, on **Tottenham Court Road**. New retail and office accommodation will be built at basement, ground and seven upper floors. Work begins later this year.

In April **masked men** looking like Ninjas were seen travelling at high speed on **motor scooters**, jumping the lights, riding on the pavement

Continues on page 13 ...

THE PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGING THE UNMANAGEABLE

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:
Michael Downing, Charles Jones, Gail Fries, Ann Longman,
John Gorman, Charles Jones, Michael Jones, Jonathan Pryce, Sir Patrick
Stewart, Michael Stewart, Andrew Gurnell, Hugh Grant,
Michael Gove, Richard Branson, Peter Dinklage, Holly Auld,
Heather Robinson and Michael Jones

ALEXANDER STEVENSON
With a foreword by Lord Mandelson

The Public Sector - managing the unmanageable

In this radical yet practical book, Alexander Stevenson (who lives in Fitzrovia) analyses what makes public sector management so difficult, so vital and so fulfilling – and why relying on private sector management techniques is not enough to manage effectively in the public sector.

The book has a foreword by Peter Mandelson and insights based on interviews with more than sixty successful public sector managers.

For more details and to read an extract visit:

www.alexanderstevenson.co.uk

Historic cinema being renovated

An historic cinema will be reopening to the public after 35 years next April.

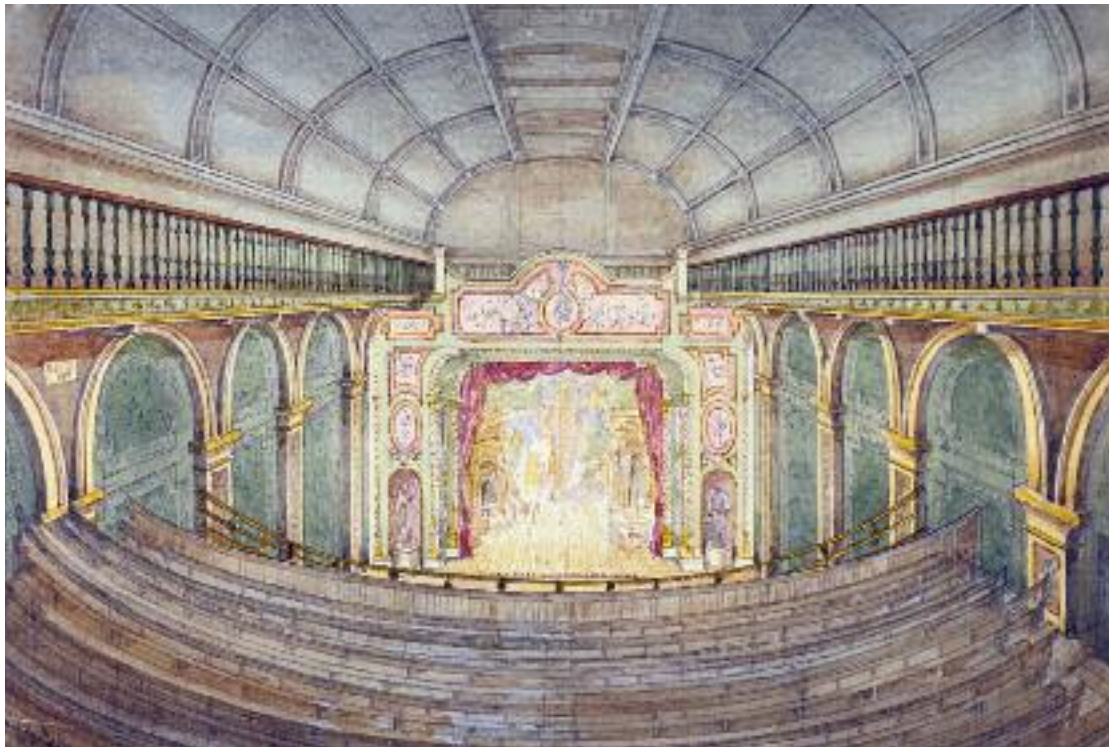
The £6 million restoration work has just started at 309 Regent Street, where magic lantern shows took place from 1848, and where the first moving pictures were screened in 1896.

The University of Westminster, which owns the site, has launched a major campaign to restore the cinema with up to date technology while preserving its historic 1936 organ and the architectural features of its 1920s heyday, for which it has gained planning permission.

There will be 200 seats and it aims to be a "hub for students, the local community, and school-children to learn about heritage and the evolution of film and cinema." In addition it will be "a working cinema, a lecture theatre for stimulating talks, meetings and debates, and a workshop and activities space."

Film director Asif Kapadia (who made *Senna*, *The Warrior*, and *Far North*) was one of the university's students in Riding House Street in the mid-1990s. He said: "At the time we didn't have a dedicated cinema to screen our films."

"Over the years so many fantastic, iconic cinemas in the UK have closed down or been redeveloped, so this is a marvelous



The cinema as it was in 1881 (Collection Cinematheque Francais).

opportunity to restore a venue that played a vital role in the birth of cinema in the UK, and highlights the university's history of innovation in education and learning.

"Bringing the cinema back to life will benefit both current and future students and will provide a platform for independent cinema, short films, documentaries and emerging British talent in the heart of the west end."

University archivist Anna McNally outlined the cinema's history to members of the St Marylebone Society on a recent visit.

The original Polytechnic building was constructed in 1838, and ten years later it was enlarged to include the Great Hall now known as the Old Cinema. It was used to demonstrate new technologies of science in those days, such as diving bells and electricity, to the

public who paid a penny to see them. Part of this was showing magic lantern slides projected from behind on to a huge circular screen. These would also be used for illustrating lectures on travels to such places as Russia and China.

One lecture was devised to illustrate scientific illusions and how they were created. Part of this was for someone to walk under the stage with a mirror and light projecting the appearance of a ghost to the stage. The audience was so impressed that the lecturer decided not to reveal how it was done, and used it instead for theatrical performances including *A Haunted Man* by Charles Dickens. The technique was known as

Pepper's Ghost, after Professor Pepper who devised the illusion (details of which are on www.birthplaceofcinema.com).

The merging of slides together was a technique first used in the Great Hall which then spread throughout Europe.

It was closed in the 1880s after a fire but was then bought by the rich philanthropist Quintin Hogg, who replaced the galleries and tiers by a balcony around the theatre and stalls at ground level. The site served as a club for young working class men (known as "ragged boys") where they were taught skills such as tailoring.

The French brothers, Auguste and Louis Lumiere, hired the cinema for one night only on February 21, 1896, to demonstrate their first ever moving picture show (although they were not present themselves). It proved so popular that it eventually ran for three months.

Whereas they filmed people leaving factories or trains to demonstrate the movement, the showman Alfred West was the first to film a story for public entertainment. His first was of a young man joining the navy, going to sea, going to war, and returning home, all shot in short reels. West had a replica ship towed up and down the nearby streets to advertise the film, shown in Regent Street.

From the 1920s the cinema was showing mainly educational films such as arctic expeditions, and later showed news and cartoons in a continuous loop (hence the phrase "this is where I came in").

Foreign films were shown from the 1940s (it being the first venue in the UK to do so), and then avant garde and art house films in the 1960s and 70s. It finally stopped showing films publicly in 1980.

The university is giving supporters the opportunity to name their own seat in the restored cinema for £750. They can be purchased by individuals or collectively and named after someone who had a passion for cinema, the local area, or the university. For information on this contact James Williams at j.williams2@westminster.ac.uk or 0203 506 6291.



How the cinema will look next year (above, Tim Ronalds Architects) and the front entrance as it is now.



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For more details please see www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk or call the parish office 020 7636 1788

If you come new to All Saints because of this advertisement please tell us that you saw it in Fitzrovia News

Elder activities available

There are a number of activities for older people in Fitzrovia this summer writes Barb Jacobson.

Massage and reflexology thanks to a grant from the Derwent London Community Funding Programme. Free sessions will take place on Wednesdays, 1.30pm – 3.30pm at Fitzrovia Court, 24 Carburton Street, W1W 5AS. I will be doing the schedule for the afternoons on Tuesdays, if you're interested, please call 020 7580 4576.

Time to Sing is on Mondays 11am-12.30pm at Fitzrovia Court. No experience or skills necessary. Come have fun singing familiar songs with a friendly group of people!

Monday lunch is available at the George and Dragon pub 151 Cleveland Street from 12.30pm, at a discounted price of £3 for main meal only, drinks extra. Thanks to Sir Robert MacAlpine, for this donation.

... Continued from page 11

through Fitzrovia.

Over the **Easter weekend** people were disturbed by **loud music** from an unauthorised commercial event in **Tottenham Mews**. Police visited the premises owned by **Camden & Islington NHS** who later secured the site after it had been broken into.

A total of five **shops** in **Charlotte Street** area have converted from A1 (retail) to A3 (cafe/restaurant) use under new permitted development rights. The uses are temporary and will last for two years.

University College London Hospitals (UCLH) are expected to submit a planning application for the redevelopment of the former **Strand Union Workhouse** in **Cleveland Street**. UCLH are expected to sell the property with its S106 obligations for **social housing** to a developer once permission is granted for the site.

Anti-fraud **detectives** in Camden are warning people to be aware of **bank card fraud** after an elderly couple in Fitzrovia unwittingly handed their bank details and cash card to a criminal. Police say the fraud is quite widespread and is known as "courier fraud" as it involves a messenger or driver who comes to collect the bank card under false pretences.



Kirk Truman tracks down the artist behind the chalk doors and reveals all in the Fitzrovia Journal.

Publication opens doors into the neighbourhood

Those of you who frequent some of Fitzrovia's many coffee shops may have noticed a new free publication propped up in the corner with the face of a familiar local resident on the cover staring rather seriously back at you. This new lifestyle magazine is to be produced quarterly with the first issue having been published in April.

Created by Kirk Truman it features long-form features about people and small businesses in Fitzrovia, and a number of editorial comment pieces about the district. Truman says he is writing a book and the

comment pieces are extracts from this ongoing project.

If you've wondered why there are some chalk doors dotted around Euston, Fitzrovia and Soho then pick up a copy of the Fitzrovia Journal to find that Truman has tracked down the artist.

The Journal also features photography and watercolour illustrations. The next issue is due out in July with a launch event to coincide.

See FitzroviaJournal.com for more information and where to get a copy.

Fitzrovia gallery marks centenary of the First World War



Albany Wiseman, illustration from Tommy Atkins, watercolour, 23 x 35cm.

This month the Curwen Gallery in Windmill Street is to mark 100 years since the start of World War 1 with a special art exhibition.

Tommy Atkins In the Great War is an illustrated storybook intended for young children to gain an understanding of the tragic events in the First World War. The book tells the story of a soldier called Tommy Atkins in a way that deals sensitively with the horrors of war but with a lightness of touch that makes it suitable for children to read. Devised by Robin Ollington and illustrated by Albany Wiseman the book was published in 2006.

The original watercolour illustrations from the book are showcased in this exhibition along with sculpture and drawings by James Butler RA and military cartoons by Robin Ollington.

Marking the Centenary of The First World War: 4-17 June, Curwen Gallery, 34 Windmill Street, London W1T 2JR. Private view 6-8pm Tuesday 3 June 2014. A donation from artwork sale profits will be made to The Not Forgotten Association.

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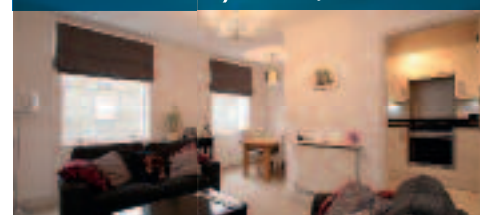
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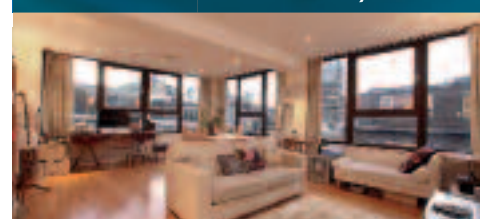
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Poet who employed Mandela's bodyguard

By BRIAN JARMAN

Journalist, poet, businessman, financier, patron of the arts, political campaigner - these are just some of the fields in which John Fisher (right) has flourished. From humble beginnings as a child of a mixed marriage in a South African township, John went out into the world and made his fortune, at one time employing a chauffeur "to give someone a job."

By the time Nelson Mandela's ANC government came to power, he had five friends in the cabinet.

But he's never forgotten his roots and the struggle against the apartheid regime which defined him as a second class citizen.

Those years, he says, were the most exciting times of his life: "We always believed that we would win. We never wavered from that."

John's father was a plumber of Middle European ancestry, his mother one of the indigenous South African San people, or Bushmen. "My mother's people were proper peasants," he says, not without pride.

The home he shared with his parents and three sisters was a two-bedroom house in council-built "Sub Economic Housing" on the edge of Cape Town. There was no hot running water but it did have an enamel bath.

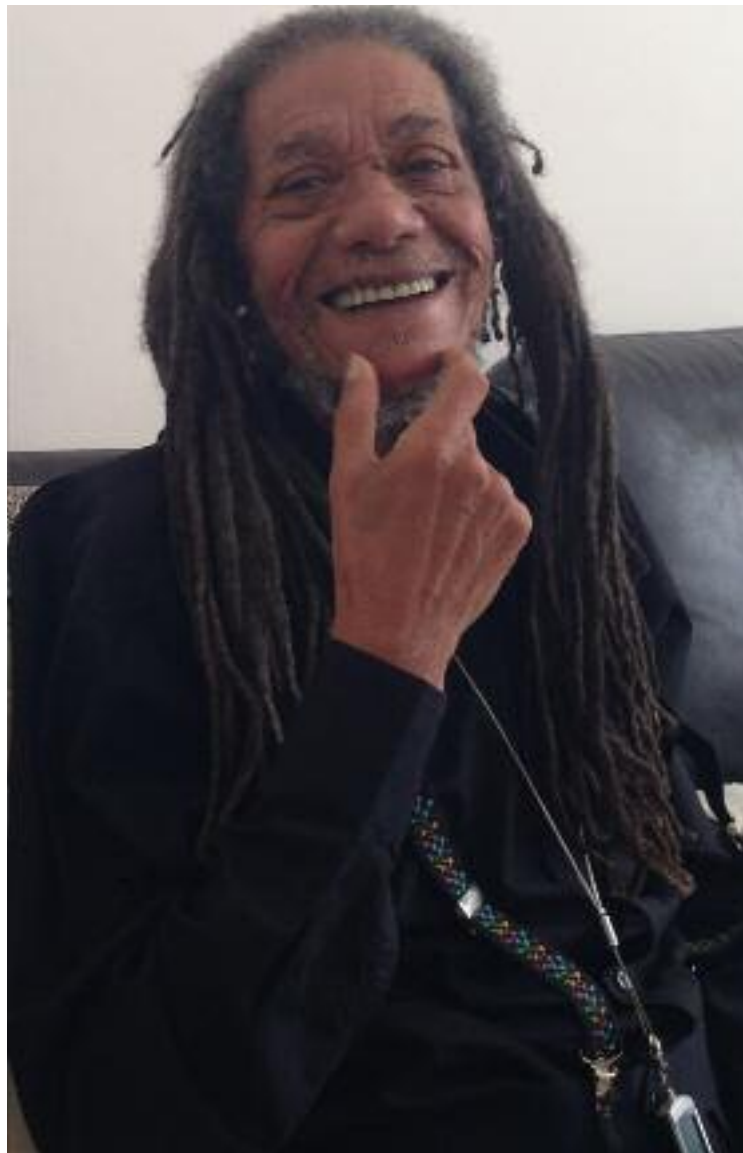
"That was a new thing in our lives," he says.

He first went to school in the local village hall, with four classes in the one room.

When racial segregation was made official policy by the National Party government in 1948, John and his sister were known as Coloureds.

"That was the designation foisted on us by the fascists who were running the country."

When he was 17 the family split up.



"My father left and we had to go out to work. My mother was a home help, as many women were back then."

John got a job as a lab technician in the Zoology Department of Cape Town University. His Uncle Nicky took him under his wing.

"He taught me how to be a man," says John. "He wasn't educated but he wasn't stupid. He was autodidactic."

He had a venetian blinds business and John would go out

with him in his little van.

"I began to see how he operated. If he found something that was unwanted but would be useful to someone else, he would take it to the local bars and shebeens. He never had to pay for a drink."

John went on to work in insurance, and then got a job on The Post newspaper as a reporter. He began to make artistic and intellectual friends, and set up the Arts Communication Centre – work-

shops for artists – in a disused petrol station. He'd acquired it by approaching the Mayor of Cape Town.

"He wasn't racist. He kicked off the meeting by asking his secretary to bring us a coffee." John still remembers the look of surprise on her face.

In 1970 he left his homeland and came to Europe, working for a publisher of scientific journals in Amsterdam before moving on to London.

For a while he lived in the North London home of Denis Goldberg, the noted white anti-apartheid campaigner, who was jailed for 22 years in South Africa before his exile in London.

John decided to resume his education, studying at a workingmen's college in Mornington Crescent, Birkbeck and the Polytechnic of Central London, where he gained a degree in economics.

This is when his long association with this area and newspaper began, contributing poetry and becoming involved in the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association.

He was moving in anti-apartheid circles but his involvement with the ANC, he says, was peripheral. His preferred path was to work in the City, make money, and, perhaps taking a leaf from Uncle Nicky's book, to fund those who needed it.

At the fall of the apartheid regime in South Africa and the release and presidency of Nelson Mandela, John returned to his native land to do what he could to help in its restructuring.

"My mother had died in 93 but the rest of my blood was in South Africa," he says. He had not seen his sisters in almost 30 years. By this time he had split up from his wife, and took his



John (left) as a child with his family

eight-year-old son with him.

John set up four investment companies, and it was through one of them that he met Nelson Mandela.

The President's bodyguard applied for a job in one of John's companies.

"Mr Mandela wanted to know who we were so he invited us to tea," says John.

"He wished us well. You knew you were in the presence of an extraordinary man. That doesn't happen very often."

He also met Winnie Mandela several times and is a great admirer.

"There've been a lot of bad things said about her, but only some of them are true. She was a heroine of the struggle. There was a war on."

But it was Nelson Mandela's ability to compromise, he believes, that avoided civil war.

"The alternative would have been a bloodbath."

And the country still has a long way to go.

"On the one hand, it's an immensely rich country, yet people are living on the edge of death in makeshift housing. Still people have difficulty going to school. There's very little state funding of education. The economy is owned by foreigners and white South Africans to the tune of 70 per cent. Things are changing very slowly."

When he retired ten years or so ago, John decided to come back to London, to Fitzrovia.

"My life-support system was here. I had something to do here with the Fitzrovia

Neighbourhood Association. It was very weird to go back to live in the third world when you've had a long period in the first world. It gives you a higher sense of the difficulties people face."

He now lives in a flat in Great Titchfield Street, near his son. He finds the area very different to when he first came, but that is part and parcel of living in a vibrant city.

"In Goodge Street, for example, you see constant change – some of the old restaurants have disappeared. But most change is for the good."

And he, I guess, should know.



This picture of Simon Bolivar during the Venezuelan revolution was on display outside Bolivar Hall in Grafton Way during its recent refurbishment.

Commute

Friday, and I am on my way home from work, having stayed too late at school, finishing half-term reports. Of course the train is pulling out, as I rush down the stairs. Taking a seat on the bench, I feel daft and avoid eye contact with the people on the opposite platform, as though this humiliation – of having so nearly missed it – is my fault, my just desserts. I do emails on my phone, knowing the next train will be at least ten minutes because this is the slow cycle of the circle line. I am sweating from the short walk in too thick a jacket – it was raining this morning – but I can't be bothered to take it off. Sweat it out. I am going home: my boyfriend and I are past caring how the other looks.

The doors open and I take the seat on my left. It is always hard to say who stares first. Often, I think it is me, one of my bad habits, but today I am sure the man opposite starts it. I look away; then back at him. He looks away. A frown. The twitch of a smile. Like he finds this so stupid and clumsy. But fun, I think. Because no one has looked at me for more than ten years, in my final year of school, or at least that's how it feels. Is this attraction? In public? Like the flurry of wind ruffling a skirt. I catch his eye and realise I know him. A relief in one sense: certainty. Disappointing in another: not attraction after all.

"Saint Anthony's," I say. School. Ours. He wags his finger as if to say, "that's it."

"Hugh," I say, as though holding up the image of the boy,

A SHORT STORY BY
SUNITA SOLIAR

'It is always hard to say who stares first...'

Hugh, over this man's face to see if it fits. I'm aware that people in the carriage are watching. Words spoken across the train by strangers, like reaching over someone's plate for the salt. I move to the seat beside him, even as he begins to suggest it.

He smiles, his face right up against mine. A cartoon head, and I have to stretch away to see him. It is the face of his youth, hardly changed: foppish locks, wide jaw, baby-pink cheeks. Better looking than I had thought when my hair was still bouncy around my face so that when I left the house, I could pass for carefree. Vain perhaps. Frivolous. I strain in my seat as though I might be able to move far enough away that he can't see me: lines beginning around my mouth, wrinkles at my eyes. Well, he didn't have to acknowledge me.

"Sandra," he says. I would not have thought he knew my name and now I remember talking to a former schoolmate I'd met up with a couple of months

ago. She'd said, "I was asking Hugh if he remembered you and he said, 'Didn't she used to be really fat?' I told him he had the wrong girl."

He is asking me how I am and where I am going. Fine, I say. And home.

I wish I were not in this big jacket. Possibly you could think I am chubby, but I am not. I have the teenage desire to take the jacket off and stick out my chest. We must make the most of our talents. As my father seemed to indicate, and as life has borne out, that was my only one.

"What are you doing these days?" he asks, speaking at full volume in the quiet carriage. The woman opposite watches with flinty interest, false nails resting on her handbag. Why is it important that I impress her? "I teach," "I mumble. Then louder: "Only part time. I work in film. I've made a short. I know everyone who says that is nuts, but it got into a festival." A bright, phony voice, belonging to a girl who wanted everyone to know how terrifically happy she was and not a thing wrong. If I overheard her, I would despise her.

He says, "I thought you were going to do fashion."

An insult? A humiliating reference to his memory of my fatness, a jibe at my intellect? I say, "Why does everyone always think this about me? I would never do fashion." I am practi-



Illustration by Clifford Harper

cally shouting in idiotic, teenage singsong, trying to disabuse the entire carriage of this notion. I'm brittle inside my coat. I meant: why did everyone think this? I do my eighteen-year-old self's habit of tucking my hair behind my ear.

He says he's a banker. Of course he is. A pause, and he remarks, ah, Saint Anthony's. Do I remember – Christ, what's the name of the Physics teacher?

"I don't know." Quick, dismissive. He goes on: something about having to leg it to chapel after a night of clubbing. I am all agreement: I know!

God, these privileged voices talking about swanky school-days. This is not me! If you knew – but I don't want you to know. The train slows, and I note the roundel: Euston Square.

"This you?:" he says.

"Yeah."

"I should take your number."

He gets out his phone. Is this flirting? Eighteen-year-old me would not know so I do not. Is it? I tighten up, giving a deliberate look around the carriage of some kind of trapped animal. I mean for you to see my discomfort. I want you on my side. Not that you are looking.

I speak my number, which sounds alien. I have to check with myself that it is the right one. Glancing about the train, ever the little performer: Look at me! Envy me! Help me!

"I'll call you," he says.

"Great!" I get off the train, unstable, apprehensive. How will I get home like this?

It will take me hours, days, a month even, to shake off the mortifying loudness and the sham, helpless girl trying so hard to cling to me. It's raining as I walk up the road to my flat. I want to take off my coat. I want a shower, and more than anything, I hope he will not call.

Poetry corner

WEDDING RING
By Sandra Wheen

Wedding ring
Pretty thing
Band of gold
Glistening.

Wedding ring
'I love you'
Band of gold
'I will be true.'

Wedding ring
Discipline
Band of gold
Binding.

Wedding ring
Bitter thing
Band of gold
Imprisoning.

Wedding ring
On wedding day
Band of gold
On hand of clay.

Wedding ring
On hand grown old
Betokeneth
A heart of gold.

From *A Fitzrovia Miscellany*, price £3.50, available from Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre.

A delicious taste of Sardinia at a palatable price

SARDO, 45 Grafton Way.
SARDO CUCHINA (Café next door)

My "£70 for 2 persons" is becoming a distant dream in Fitzrovia – but if my dining partner and I had not been alcoholically celebrating, I think we could have found it at Sardo, a Sardinian restaurant (which has a sister restaurant in Primrose Hill by the canal), and that has been (to my ignorant astonishment) in Grafton Way for over nine years. It is open for lunch and dinner and is one of the more pleasant places I have eaten in for months. For some reason it reminded me of the old Bertorelli in Charlotte Street – lots of white table-clothed two- and four- person tables (some longer) with identical brown wooden chairs, excellent service and good simple food. I had never had Sardinian-influenced food or wine before: I recommend both – especially an extravagant but absolutely deliciously smooth red wine: DON EFISIO, Monica di Sardegna (£27) And yes I do know that if you spend nearly half of your putative budget on a bottle of wine before you even start eating you are doomed! A £2 per

By the DINING DETECTIVE



PICTURE PUZZLE ANSWER:
Bourlet Close

person cover charge (called a "bread and olives" charge) is just that: stuffed olives and olive oil with generous baskets of bread and crispbread. The starters, at around £7.50 to £9 are excellent: broccoli soup, mozzarella creamed cheese and salad, salami choices. No mains were over £20 – from pasta Malloreddus ala Campidanese (tomatoes and sausage) for £11.90; short pasta in seafood sauce with prawns for £13.90; pork with cabbage cooked in red wine (filletto di maiale al forno) at £14.90; sea bass oven-baked in salt crust with pasta and seafood sauce at

£15.90; swordfish with asparagus and rocket £19.90. I loved the pork and cabbage: if I had it again it would be with a fresh side salad as an extra (£3.50).

The desserts were tarts and ice creams at the same price as the starters – we had the Sicilian cheese: more bread and crispbread with a plate of different cheeses of which a soft brie-type was particularly delicious (£7.50). Really, really nice staff. Go there and try it.

Passing the restaurant again at lunch time a few days later I took note of SADO CUCHINA, a more café-type, obviously connected, next-door establishment. This has pre-cooked hot food on display in a warmer, like pizza pieces, meat and egg, cooked vegetables. There were some cakes also available. I had a huge portion of really delicious pizza and a good cup of coffee for £6.75. I would have wished the pizza was a bit hotter but I probably could have asked for that to happen. Noting bottles of wine, I asked the staff if, as well as being open in the daytime, it was open in the evening. "Yes, till 10pm," was the reply – "as long as we get customers."

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Champion boxer remembered

By MIKE PENTELOW

The British Guiana middleweight boxing champion lived in Charlotte Street just after the second world war.

James Smartt, who was born in 1901, moved into the street, at number 63, in 1946 with his wife and then six-year-old son Fred. "My father used to train in the Olympic Gymnasium on the east side of Fitzroy Square," recalled Fred on a recent visit to *Fitzrovia News*.

Since retiring from boxing James had become an actor (mainly in jungle and gangster films) and was a chef in Soho restaurants. He was also a friend of Prince Monolulu, the colourful racecourse tipster, with whom he often played cards locally.

ALL SOULS

Fred went to All Souls School in Foley Street and remembers playing cricket and football in Charlotte Mews after school, as well as games they invented with marbles.

When he was 12 years old his father got into trouble with the police so Fred was looked after by his father's best friends, Betty and George Clements, at 44 Maple Street, and then adopted by Bill and Elsie Baxter at 12 Tottenham Street, where he lived



for ten years.

"The play centre in Whitfield Street used to be a barracks where soldiers were trained in those days," said Fred. "We

would get tips from them for hopping on to the roof and jumping down the other side into Tottenham Court Road to hail taxis for them."

Fred Smartt (right) with a picture of his father James, at 63 Charlotte Street, where they both lived in the 1940s.

Left: A close-up of James when he was middleweight boxing champion



In 1955, after leaving school at the age of 15, he got work as a bench fitter making medical appliances in Fitzroy Metal Works at 5-7 Tottenham Street. They also applied finishing touches to artificial limbs which were made in Rathbone Place.

Fred followed in his father's footsteps by taking up boxing for a short while at this time, and won one bout even after fracturing his right hand. "I did not want to do it as a living," he said. "It was not in my nature to hurt anyone. I did love it as a sport though and regret I did not take it further." He took up karate for a while but with the same result.

On reaching the age of 18 he joined the darts team of The Hope in Tottenham Street, and

also went jiving in The Russ Bar, in Great Russell Street (just east of the YMCA on the other side of the road), and the Fourposter Club of Heal's in Tottenham Court Road.

At one of these dances he met a local nurse called Mary, who on hearing his surname, asked if his father was James. When he said he was she told him: "My dad arrested your dad."

They were friends for a while but Fred finally left the area in 1963, when he sadly lost contact with his father, who had returned to British Guiana. It gained independence and became Guyana in 1966 and Fred went there in search of him but without success.

Explosive art and bombs in tube station

Exactly 30 years after artist Edoardo Paolozzi decorated Tottenham Court Road station walls with colourful mosaics (right), news of a further artwork has been announced.

It was in 1984 that Paolozzi (1924-2005) created his surrealist images, capturing themes of the nearby streets. He was familiar with the area having been trained at Slade school of fine art in Gower Street from 1944 to 1947. He also designed the logo for the first Soho jazz festival in 1986. But he was also an international traveller and developed the Tottenham Court Road mosaic in his Munich studio. He returned to London for the last part of his life.

Born in Scotland of Italian immigrants he was interned during the early part of the war, when his father, uncle and grandfather were all drowned when the ship deporting them to Canada was sunk by a German U-boat. He was knighted by the queen in 1988.

The new artwork for the Crossrail platforms of the station (set to open in 2018) is to be a patterned image by the French conceptual artist Daniel Buren. Born in 1938 he achieved a certain infamy in the late 1960s when he pasted up hundreds of



his unauthorised posters in more than a hundred Paris metro stations. His new authorised work for Tottenham Court Road, by contrast, will cost £1 million and is being commissioned by the Gagosian Gallery, and architects Hawkins/Brown who are designing the new platforms. It will be paid for jointly by developers Almacantar, which owns Centre Point, and the City of London Corporation.

Tottenham Court Road has an interesting history including being bombed by both the IRA and the Luftwaffe within a year, and being visited in between by the queen travelling inognito at the age of 13.

Back in 1910 however it was the destination for a "theatre trains" service, with trains from

Golders Green leaving at 7.16 pm and then non-stop from Hampstead to Tottenham Court Road's Theatreland. It returned at 11.15pm. In 1913 a similar service operated to and from Highgate. The service was suspended during the first world war and reintroduced in 1922.

In 1914 powers were granted to link the two lines at the station more effectively. What are now the Northern Line and the Central Line were originally run by separate companies and the adjoining stations had separate names. And until 1907 you had to buy a separate ticket to change from the Northern Line station (called Oxford Street) to the Central Line station (called Tottenham Court Road). In 1908 this latter confusion was cleared

up when the Northern Line station renamed itself Tottenham Court Road also (although it kept Oxford Street in brackets for some time). But the powers granted in 1914 to connect them properly were put on hold by the first world war. Work finally started in 1923 and the final escalators finished in 1926. (The full integration of the tube network took place in 1933 with the setting up of London Transport).

In 1936 the platforms were lengthened to accommodate nine-carriage trains, and the following year the station was the first to introduce the repeated station name along the whole platform. An early form of air conditioning was introduced in 1938 called a "weather maker plant". Pipes containing water

just above freezing were installed in a disused lift shaft and air was blown across them so cooling the platforms.

A terrorist bomb exploded in the left luggage office at 5.55 on the morning of February 3, 1939. A red glow had been seen behind the door of the office just before the bomb exploded, wrecking the office and injuring the foreman ticket collector whose leg was broken by the flying door. Another staff member was taken to hospital with shock. Police found remains of an alarm clock used to detonate the bomb. Another bomb exploded 20 minutes later at nearby Leicester Square injuring four staff and a milkman. It was part of a campaign by the Irish Republican Army to get the British government to withdraw troops from Ireland. Eventually 21 IRA members were jailed for the actions.

Earlier in the year the queen (then the 13-year-old Princess Elizabeth) and her nine-year-old sister Margaret, had travelled on the underground unchaperoned to Tottenham Court Road and back.

The following year the station was damaged by another bomb - the first of the blitz on September 24, 1940.

White Russian who brought colour to Hanway Street

A colourful White Russian brightened up Hanway Street when he opened up a bookshop at number 34 in 1938.

He was Vsevolod Ivanovitch Korotkevitch, who had been a Colonel in the Imperial Russian Army before and during the first world war. After it, he fought against the Russian Revolution with the British invasion force.

A year after opening the Russian Bookshop in Hanway Street on the corner of Hanway Place, he died on the way to Middlesex Hospital in Mortimer Street from a heart attack. This was on May 31, 1939 just before his 54th birthday.

His third son, Vsevolod Scott-Kemball, was born just 16 days after his father's death to Jeune Marie Scott-Kemball (1896-1968), a bookshop customer of his already married father.

The colonel was born in Tobolsk in 1885, and became a military cadet in Siberia at the age of 11, then graduated at a military engineering academy. In 1903 he was posted to Sevastopol and was soon promoted to second lieutenant.

He became a company commander in Vladivostok in charge of mines and mine clearance in 1906, and was then posted to St

By **MIKE PENTELOW**

Petersburg to research mines and explosives.

He was praised by the Tsar in 1910 for graduating as an officer as top of the class, and received an award for research into searchlights. He was then put in charge of installing these searchlights as part of the defence against Zeppelin night raids from the Germans.

With the outbreak of war in 1914 he was designing armoured cars and was sent to Britain to observe field trials of the latest tanks, and advised the Russian High Command to purchase some.

Just before the Russian Revolution in 1917 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

After the war in 1918 he offered his services to the British army in North Russia and ended up in Archangel as senior liaison officer to General Ironside and commanding the White Army tank units.

He was injured in 1919 while withdrawing tanks from Archangel, but the following year was awarded the CBE (Military) by the British army for his "valour and high qualities of leadership."

Returning to England he ran

a series of bookshops, at 17 St Martins Street, 222 Shaftesbury Avenue, 67 Great Russell Street, and then Hanway Street.

His obituary in the Daily Mail, on June 1, 1939, described him as "one of the best known of London's White Russians" who was also secretary of the Russian church community in Buckingham Palace Road. The fees for his funeral were paid by the Russian Red Cross (now called the Russian Refugees Aid Society).

The bookshop was taken over by another Russian, V V Baratchevsky, who moved it to 26 Tottenham Street on the corner of Charlotte Mews in 1949 where it stayed until 1965. (It is now The Complete Cobbler).

Mr Scott-Kemball is hoping to find a picture of the bookshop (which was also called Rodno Slovo, and the Java Head at different times) when it was in Hanway Street or Great Russell Street in the hope it may also include his father. He would also like a picture of the shop in Tottenham Street after his father died.

If any readers have any pictures of the bookshop please let us know so we can put you in touch with Mr Scott-Kemball.



Picture puzzle



How well do you know Fitzrovia's landscape? Can you identify where the picture above was taken by Eugene McConville? The answer is below the Dining Detective picture on page 15.



COUSINS by Judith Almond

Against a background of social and economic change, four cousins grow up in a small Yorkshire town. Heather and Lesley Atfield are sisters;

Pattie and Elisabeth their cousins, the children of three siblings. Through the 1950s and 1960s the cousins come to terms with their relationships with each other, and with the rapidly changing world around them.

Judith Almond is a pen name of Judith Taylor, who is the author of a number of books on careers and training. Judith lives in Fitzrovia. email: jat_ucl@yahoo.com



Window boxes outside the Fitzrovia Community Centre, 2 Foley Street, which is celebrating the Community Garden Launch in its community courtyard on Saturday 12 July 12-4. All are welcome to enjoy; the garden workshops, music, facepainting, ping-pong, and inside and outside exhibitions



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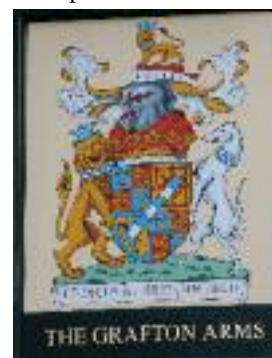
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SUE BLUNDELL concludes (again) her series on Secret Families of Fitzrovia

Eleanor Marx's tragic union

Born in 1855 in a garret in Soho's Dean Street, Eleanor Marx was the sixth child of Karl Marx and his wife Jenny. Her arrival was a disappointment to the great man. "Had it been a male," he wrote to his friend Frederick Engels, "the matter would have been more acceptable." A few weeks later the couple's surviving son Edgar died of TB, and young 'Tussy', as Eleanor was nicknamed, became one of only three Marx children - all daughters - to live on into adulthood.

But Karl was by no means a rigid patriarch, and at the age of 16 Eleanor was already working alongside him as his energetic secretary and much-loved companion. "Tussy is me," he said of her later. Eleanor did indeed follow in her father's footsteps in many ways, becoming a researcher, translator, editor, and political analyst and activist in her own right. She can also be celebrated as one of Britain's earliest socialist feminists.

While staying in France in 1871 Eleanor had a few terrifying brushes with the French authorities during their attack on the Paris Commune. The following year in London she set out to attend a meeting held to commemorate the first anniversary of the Commune. Scare stories about the activities of refugee communards were flying round the capital, and the owner of St. George's Hall, 18-20 Langham Place, refused at the last minute to allow the meeting to go ahead. Nothing daunted, the would-be attendees traipsed down the road to find an alternative venue at The Cercle d'Etudes, Torrington Place (Francis St), off Tottenham Court Road. In the course of this walk 17-year-old Eleanor met the journalist and political exile, Hippolyte Lissagaray, then living at 35 Fitzroy Street. Before long he became her lover, much to the consternation of Eleanor's parents, who were worried about the 17-year age gap between the pair. Eleanor finally received her father's permission to marry in 1880, but she ended the affair with Hippolyte soon afterwards. Had they known what their daughter's future would hold, her family could only have regretted the obstacles they had placed in the way of this marriage.

Eleanor was by this time an active member of a group of socialist thinkers based in the British Museum Reading Room. Beatrice Potter (later Beatrice Webb) met her there once. "in person she is comely," she wrote

in her diary, "dressed in a slovenly picturesque way with curly black hair, flying about in all directions. Fine eyes full of life and sympathy ... Lives alone... evidently peculiar views on love, etc., should think has somewhat 'natural' relations with men!"

These "natural relations" were about to take a turn for the worse. In the British Museum in 1882 Eleanor was introduced to Edward Aveling, aged 32, a lecturer in biology and leading light in the National Secular Society. In George Bernard Shaw's words, Aveling was "an agreeable scoundrel ... who would have gone to the stake for Socialism or Atheism, but with absolutely no conscience in his private life. He seduced every woman he met, and borrowed from every man."

In the years that followed Eleanor was frenetically active. She travelled up and down the country and to the US and Paris, addressing congresses, rallies and union meetings. Some of these meetings took place in Fitzrovia. In 1888 Eleanor attended the first International Trades Union Congress at St Andrew's Hall, Newman Street. And in 1896 lodgings were organised at the Horseshoe Hotel, 267 Tottenham Court Road, and at the Tour Eifel, 1 Percy Street, for delegates to a Social Democratic congress held at the Queen's Hall, 4 Langham Place, with a reception to follow at the Horseshoe.

Numerous strikes received Eleanor's support during this period, including the East End Matchgirls Strike of 1888 and the London Dock Strike of 1889. She also became one of the organisers of the Gasworkers' Union (forerunner of the GMB). "Our Old Stoker", the gasworkers called her - eventually helping to win them the right to an eight-hour working day.

In 1884 Eleanor had written to her sister Laura in France, "You must have known, I fancy, for some time that I am very fond of Edward Aveling ... so we are going to 'set up' together. Do not misjudge us - he is very good ..." Back in 1872 Aveling had married a minor heiress, Isabel Campbell Frank. They had separated after two years, but of course marriage to Eleanor was impossible. "We have both felt we were justified in setting aside all the false and immoral bourgeois conventionalities," she wrote to a friend.

At the time Eleanor was living at 13 Newman Street, but the couple now moved into lodgings at 55 Great Russell Street, opposite the British Museum, remaining there till 1886. Her mother Jenny had already died in 1881 and her oldest sister Jenny early in 1883. Finally Karl himself had succumbed to bronchitis in March 1883, at the age of 64. Along with thousands of others Eleanor had marched in his funeral procession from the Communist Club in Tottenham Street all the way to the cemetery in Highgate. These were terrible losses for Eleanor, and she now turned to Aveling for emotional support. From the time they moved in together she called herself Eleanor Marx Aveling.

During these years Eleanor was busy writing as well as campaigning. There were scores of political pamphlets. She worked with Aveling on the English translation of her father's work *Capital*, and in 1888 she produced the first English version of Flaubert's novel *Madame Bovary*. She clearly felt great sympathy for the sad woman at the centre of this story, who had tried so hard "to make herself in love" with her unsatisfactory husband. Eleanor came into contact with other tragic heroines when she translated Henrik Ibsen's "The Lady from the Sea", and in 1886 she performed in a groundbreaking reading of the playwright's "A Doll's House", with herself as Nora and Aveling as Torvald - a hideously prophetic piece of casting. Other entertainments that she took part in with Aveling were held at the Athenaeum Hall, 73 Tottenham Court Road, now Goodge Street station.

One of Eleanor's greatest achievements as an author was *The Woman Question: From a Socialist Point of View*, co-written with Aveling in 1886. Like many socialist feminists who came after her, Eleanor believed that the simple right to vote was never going to be sufficient to free working class women. "I am, of course, as a Socialist, not a representative of Woman's Rights," she wrote in a letter of 1895. "The so-called 'Woman's Rights' question ... is a bourgeois idea. I proposed to deal with the Sex Question from the point of view of the working class and the class struggle."

By 1897 Aveling and Eleanor



Eleanor Marx drawn in 1881 by Grace Black (National Portrait Gallery)

were living in a house in Jew's Walk in Sydenham. Aveling often spent weeks away from home speaking at meetings or attending social gatherings. Eleanor knew by now that her partner was given to "dalliances", but she was prepared to tolerate them, and also to support Aveling financially. In January 1898 she footed the bill for expensive medical treatment when he suffered a recurrence of a kidney complaint, taking lodgings at 135 Gower Street to be near him while he was being treated in University College Hospital.

Then in late March of that year Eleanor discovered somehow that Aveling had taken one of his affairs much further than she could possibly have imagined. The previous June, while supposedly on a convalescence trip, he had married 22-year-old Eva Frye, a former student and fellow performer in amateur dramatics. On March 31 Eleanor sent her maid to the local chemist with a note saying, "Please give bearer chloroform and small quantity of prussic acid for dog." It was initialised E.A., and Aveling's card was enclosed. The maid Gertrude came back with the package and the poison book, which Eleanor signed with her initials, E.M.A. Gertrude then took the book back to the chemist. When she returned she found Eleanor lying in bed wearing her best summer dress, and scarcely breathing. She died before the doctor arrived.

It is impossible to know now whether Aveling was in the house when Eleanor took the poison. The coroner's verdict was suicide, but many of Eleanor's friends insisted that Aveling had murdered her. Hundreds of Socialists attended her funeral at Woking crematori-



Edward Aveling

um, and wreaths from all over Britain, France and Germany were laid on her coffin. When Aveling himself died four months later, virtually no-one went to pay their respects.

Aveling had never claimed Eleanor's ashes, and the urn containing them remained in the care of the Communist Party for many years. Finally in 1956 it was placed in the tomb of Karl Marx and his wife in Highgate Cemetery. If we visit that famous site, let's remember that there is more than one great socialist who deserves to be honoured there.

I am grateful to Mike Pentelow for suggesting Eleanor Marx to me as a subject, and for providing me with many details about the relevant addresses in and around Fitzrovia. This suggestion happily coincided with the publication of Rachel Holmes' excellent biography *Eleanor Marx: A Life* (Bloomsbury, £25), which was read on Radio 4 in early May.

Try venison as part of a healthy diet

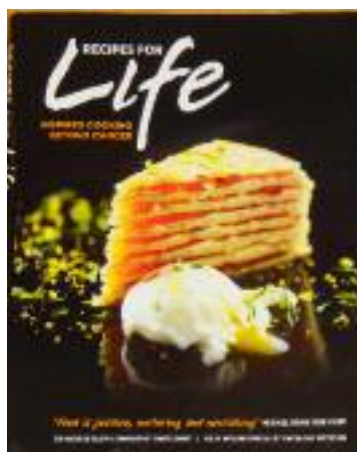
Recipes for Life, Inspired Cooking Beyond Cancer.
By Peter Marshall (Chef Books, £25).

Although aimed mainly at cancer patients this book is also useful for those who want a healthy and tasty diet.

It was recommended to us by *Fitzrovia News* reader Ray Hughes, who is operations and facilities manager at the Leaders in Oncology Care clinic on the corner of Weymouth Street and Harley Street.

Kelly McCabe, a specialist oncology dietician at the clinic, advised chefs on the best ingredients and cooking methods in developing recipes for the book. "What I like about this book is that it is focussing on great tasting food that is also good for you and presents the science in a simple, practical way," she stated.

The meals are not just suitable for those completing cancer treatment, she added, "but also for those simply trying to eat



well to improve their health.... A healthy diet is part of an overall lifestyle that can help to reduce the risk of cancer."

One tip she gives for readers is to have venison rather than beef from time to time as it is a good source of iron and protein, but has 30 per cent less fat and calories.

Fitzrovia News poet in residence John Fisher, who has tried some of the book's recipes, agreed with this.

"I cooked the crusted loin of venison, with carrots, turnips, parsley, garlic, and chestnuts, and it was absolutely delicious," he said. "I can also recommend the Paella of chicken, squid and prawns." The advice on this one is to have it with the skin on the chicken only as an occasional "indulgent treat", but if eating it more frequently to trim the skin to reduce the saturated fat and calories.

Another piece of advice from Kelly is to introduce "a variety of colours into your meals, such as yellow peppers alongside red tomatoes, for a diversity of nutrients."

Ray Hughes is very proud that a lot of these recipes and others are served at the clinic by his head chef Geff Fletcher, who has 32 years' experience. "All our food is fresh every day, with the fish from Billingsgate, and the fruit and vegetables from the new Covent Garden market," said Ray.



Peter Clark Images

Poetry, prose and performances in the pub

In Yer Ear review
by Clancy Gebler Davies

In Yer Ear is the in yer face spoken word event that has risen from the ashes – and trumped – its very well-regarded predecessor Poltroon, late of the Betsy Trotwood pub in Farringdon. More literary saloon than literary salon, In Yer Ear was set up by writer and photographer Dave McGowan and his daughter Sam, Birkbeck's senior lecturer in creative writing Julia Bell and Soho doorman-turned-scribe Ryan Addison-Fletcher in January of this year.

Showcasing established and up-and-coming talent covering poetry, prose, journalism - with a musical interlude thrown in as a bonus (and all for a fiver) – In Yer Ear is held upstairs at the amiable Fitzrovia local the King and Queen in Foley Street with performers coming from as far afield as Yorkshire.

First up was Paul Beck – a debut performer from Scarborough with a piece about a mute and put-upon undertaker that shows he is an original voice.

Next came Ryan Addison Fletcher with a piece set amongst the burning ghats of Varanasi. Dave McGowan introduced Ryan by saying, "You know he's handsome, you know he's talented!" Right on both counts.

Simon Fellowes started his career as a writer at the NME. His tight tale of his encounter with Punjabi popstar Sukhbir and three Saudi princesses had the crowd howling with laughter.

Dr Keith Khan-Harris is a sociologist and expert on Jews and the Metal scene. He profited by sticking to the old adage that you should write about what you know.

Music came from McGowan himself fronting house band The Messengers of God – but it's a shame that the group of people who had come specifically to see them tramped out after they had played without bothering to listen to the writers following.

It was their loss as Julia Bell and the others were a treat – Julia mining her upbringing in a very religious family in Wales with spikily well-observed poems like "Unhappy Clappy", Russ Litten – writer-in-residence at a northern prison who had us riveted by a piece that started with graffiti saying "Dean licked my balls". It was as funny as it was worrying.

Last on the bill was Zoe Pilger. Her spellbinding delivery of an unhinged tale of the aftermath of a one-night stand taken from her debut novel "Eat My Heart Out" (Serpent's Tail) makes me want to go straight out and buy it.

Fitzrovia is the centre of exciting new writing in London – just as it always has been.

The next In Yer Ear is on Tuesday July 29 (no In Yer Ear in June or August).

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Looking back

40 YEARS AGO

Four Yorkshiremen in London to see the Rugby League Cup Final were thrown out of a topless restaurant (Josephines) in Charlotte Street - for not wearing ties! One of them was later charged with assaulting the manager, and was sentenced to a conditional discharge.

A verdict of accidental death was recorded on the young fairground operator who was killed at the Fitzrovia Festival. David Kligerman, aged 23, was an

attendant on the cyclo-twist roundabout, and stood up in his seat just after the ride had started and was struck by the overhead arm and died instantly. Notices warned against standing up during the ride.

A picture of an Epstein sculpture, modelled by a retired local dancer, was published. She was Lydia Hammond of Langham Street, then aged 62, who had modelled for it nearly 40 years earlier. Another of her called "Laughing Lydia" stood in a Cambridge college. She remembered Epstein as "a charming man with piercing eyes that seemed to go right through you." Other models she met at his home included Sir Winston Churchill and Lord Beaverbrook.

Taff Jeffery of the Gallery 5 in Ogle Street was praised as a fire hero after breaking the door of a blazing flat in Great Titchfield Street and dousing the flames with water. He asked an onlooker to help but he declined "because he had his best suit on." Taff cracked two ribs and lost a week's work in the process.

Alfie Maron, author of the paper's gossip column, was the star of an ITV programme called "Just One Kid." It showed him returning to his Whitechapel birthplace, recalling how he had overcome rickets and a bad stammer to become an actor. Now living in Langham Street he was often to be seen on the screens of cinemas and television.

(from Tower, June 1974)

30 YEARS AGO

The SURMA Housing Co-operative for local single Bengali men was expanding. It had been formed three years earlier with Camden Council owned properties at 13 and 14 Goodge Place to prevent threatened homelessness. It was now extending to 19 Scala Street, two houses in Warren Street, and others in Drummond Street.

(Fitzrovia News, June 1984)

20 YEARS AGO

Low paid health workers living in Gower Street health service accommodation had been presented with massive rent increases and threatened with eviction by the newly created University College London Hospital Trust. Some earning as little as £400 a month had their rent increased from £80 to £196 a month.

John Andrews, governor of the Kings Arms, was made a Freeman of the City of London. He could therefore drive sheep across London Bridge without let or hindrance. John had raised over £500,000 for charity over the years.

Two local characters died. One was Mallum (Sam) Idrissu who had run the Rambler Cafe in Cleveland Street for many years after coming to London from Ghana. The other was Bill Philby, who had constructed the giant "Fitz the Cat" model for the first Fitzrovia Festival. A jazz singer he often drank in the One Tun on live music nights.

(Fitzrovia News, June 1994)

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WHAT'S ON AROUND FITZROVIA

Email news@fitzrovia.org.uk by August 19 for the September 2014 issue, and put "Listings" in the subject box.

ART GALLERIES

Alison Jacques Gallery, 18 Berners St (alisonjacquesgallery.com): Iran do Espirito Santo (sculptures, drawing) June 11 to July 5. Dorothea Tanning: Web of Dreams, July 11-Aug 9. **Arch One**, 12 Percy St (archonepictureframing.co.uk): Ongoing - various artists.

Art First, 21 Eastcastle St (artfirst.co.uk): Behrang Karimi: Arbeiten aus dem Hinterkopf, until June 28. Natural History II: Africa Edition, July 1-Aug 15.

Arup Phase 2, 8 Fitzroy St (arup.com/phase2): Building the Sydney Opera House, until July 25.

Bartha Contemporary, 25 Margaret St (barthacontemporary.com): Stephan Baumkotter, until June 28. Wunderkammer: Summer Group Exhibition, July 4-Sept 13.

Building Centre, Store St (buildingcentre.co.uk): London's Growing...Up, until June 12.

Caroll/Fletcher, 56-57 Eastcastle St (www.carrollfletcher.com): Constant Dullaart: Stringendo - Vanishing Mediators 12, June 12-July 31.

Coningsby Gallery/Debut Art, 30 Tottenham St (coningsbygallery.com): John Middleton: Painting Works, June 9-13. Sophie Marsham: Profound Objects, June 16-28.

Curwen Gallery, 34 Windmill St (curwengallery.com): Marking Centenary WW1, June 4-17.

Northern Graduates, Aug 6-28. **Gallery Different**, 14 Percy St (gallerydifferent.co.uk): Check web.

GRAD, 3-4a Little Portland St (grad-london.com): The Shabolovka Tower Model Reconstructed by Henry Milner, until June 14. Work and Play Behind the Iron Curtain, June 20-Aug 24.

England & Co, 90-92 Great Portland St (englandgallery.com): Justin Almquist, until June 7. Signals Gallery (1964-1966), June 14-July 26.

Framers Gallery, 36 Windmill St (theframersgallery.co.uk): Sophie Brudenell-Bruce, June 5-7.

Getty Images Gallery, 46 Eastcastle St (gettyimagesgallery.com): Slim Aarons: Slim's Riviera, until June 9. Jewels of the Archive, June 13-Sept 6.

Hanmi Gallery, 30 Maple St (hanmigallery.co.uk): Sungfeel Yung: Chaos, Cosmos and Circulation, on permanent show. Sarah Baker, Caron Geary, David Hancock, Risk Hazelkamp, Brigitte Stepputtis: ID, June 6-15.

Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, 22 Eastcastle St (kashyahildebrand.org): Nobuhiro Nakanishi: Reticulated Time, until June 14. Summer Group Show, June 19-Aug 30. Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann: Multitudes, June 27-Aug 30.

Gallery Libby Sellers, 41 Berners St (libbysellers.com): Studio Formafantasma: De Natura Fossilium, until June 12. Jo Nagasaka, July 4-Aug 16.

Josh Lilley, 44-46 Riding House St (joshlilleygallery.com): Group Painting Show, June 6-July 4. Yana

Naidenov, Bryn Lloyd-Evans, July 11-Aug 8. Closed Aug 12-26.

Laure Genillard, 2 Hanway Place (lglondon.org): Mark Barker: Stuart Certain (video), until July 24.

Lazarides Gallery, 11 Rathbone Place (lazinc.com): Miaz Brothers: Dematerialized: A New Contemporary Vision, until June 14. Katrin Fridriks: Flying Awareness, June 27-July 24. **Nancy Victor**, 6 Charlotte Place (nancyvictor.com): National Geographic Student expedition exhibition, July 16-17.

National Print Gallery, 56 Maple St (nationalprintgallery.com): Check web.

Paradise Row, 74 Newman St (paradiserow.com): Eric Yahner: Sticks & Drones, until June 28. Matt Ager, Laura Aldridge, James Clarkson, Hannah Lees, Dominic Watson: Wearing Potentiality, until June 28.

Pi Artworks, 55 Eastcastle St (piartworks.com): Volkan Aslan: A Day Not Yet Lived, June 6-July 5.

Pilar Corrias, 54 Eastcastle St (pilarcorrias.com): Elizabeth Neel: The People, the Park, the Ornament, until June 14. Phantom Limbs, June 27-Aug 14.

Rebecca Hossack Gallery (1), 2a Conway St (rebeccahossack.com): Juno Gemes & Michael Aird: Up Close, until June 10. Jimmy Pike, June 25-Aug 30.

Rebecca Hossack Gallery (2), 28 Charlotte St (rebeccahossack.com): Frank Hyder: Patterns of Change, June 4-June 21. Emma Hack, June 25-Aug 2. Rolling Summer Show, Aug 6-30.

Rook and Raven, 7/8 Rathbone Place (rookandraven.co.uk): Stephen Wilkes: Day to Night, until June 14. Laurence Owen & Vivien Zhang, June 26-Sept 1.

Rose Issa Projects, 82 Great Portland St (roseissa.com): Farhad Ahrarnia: Stage on Fire, until June 27. Batoul S'Himi: World Under Pressure, July 10-Aug 15.

Rosenfeld Porcini, 37 Rathbone St (rosenfeldporcini.com): Mehran Elminia (MEM), June 11-July 24.

Richard Saltoun, 111 Great Titchfield St (richardsaltoun.com): Nicolas Pope, until July 4. Alexander Rodchenko & Vkhutemas Workshop, July 9-Aug 29.

Scream Gallery, 27-28 Eastcastle St (screamlondon.com): Jacky Tsai: Eastern Orbit, until June 20. Caroline Jane Harris: Anatomy of the Arboreal, June 26-Aug 2.

Store Street Gallery, 32 Store St (storestreetgallery.com): David Hinchliffe and Julia Whitehead: City Life, June 26-July 12.

Tiwani Contemporary, 16 Little Portland St (tiwani.co.uk): Ruby Onyinyechi Amanze, Douglas Rodrigo Rada, Helô Sanvoy & Shoshanna Weinberger: Mutations, until July 5.

T J Boulting, 59 Riding House St (tjboulting.com): Jim Hollingworth: Passengers. Launch of This Is Not a Book About Gavin Turk by Trolley Books and exhibition of illustrations, June 12-July 5.

Woolff Gallery, 89 Charlotte St (woolffgallery.co.uk): Carol Peace, until July 5.

LIVE MUSIC

The Albany, 240 Great Portland St (thealbanyw1w.co.uk): Ukeleles on Wednesdays, 7.30pm.

Bolivar Hall, 54 Grafton Way (cultura.embavenez-uk.org): Big Mandrake Venezuelan Ska Band, June 11, 7.30pm.

Jet Lag, 125 Cleveland St: Jamming on Mondays 7pm, blues and boogie on Thursdays 8pm.

King & Queen, 1 Foley St : Folk once a month on Fridays (visit web.mustradclub.co.uk).

The 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street (the100club.co.uk): Little Barrie, June 10. Vice Squad, June 28.

The Pretty Things 50th Anniversary Show, July 4. Northern Soul All Nighter, July 5. Valient Thorr/Hang The Bastard, July 16. Guitar Wolf, Aug 1. Reggae Carnival After Party, Aug 24.

UCL Chamber Music Club, Haldane Room, Main Campus, Gower Street (ucl.ac.uk/chamber-music): Club Concert, June 5, 5.30pm.

THEATRE

Bloomsbury Theatre, 15 Gordon Street (thebloomsbury.com): Museums Showoff (cabaret), June 10, 7.30pm. Free Fringe Benefit, June 13. School Yard, June 14. Tell Me Something I Don't Know, June 18-19. In The Company of Masters, June 27-28. Stand Up Against FGM, July 4. The Annual LAB Gala, July 5.

Camden People's Theatre, 58-60 Hampstead Road (cpttheatre.co.uk): The Joke, June 6-7. Here Lies Henry, June 9-14. Forensics of a Flat, June 18-19. Before Us (surreal comedy), June 20. Passing The Baton, June 21. Shakespeare Shorts, and Bustopkisser, June 24-July 6. Too Much, Too Young, July 8-9. Dare, July 10-12. Hotel Bastille, July 14. 4am In the Middle of the Night, July 14-16. In Embryo, July 15-16.

Dominion Theatre, 269 Tottenham Court Road (dominiontheatre.co.uk): We Will Rock You, ongoing.

London Palladium, Argyll Street (the-london-palladium.com): Chelsea Handler (American comedienne) - Uganda be Kidding, July 12. Russell Watson, July 27.

New Diorama Theatre, 15 Triton St, opposite top of Fitzroy St (newdiorama.com): Henna Night, June 10-28 (Tue-Sat 7.30pm).

RADA, Malet Street, opposite Birkbeck College (rada.ac.org): **Gielgud**: Punk Rock, June 3-14.

GBS Theatre: There & Back, June 4-14.

Jerwood Vanbrugh: Shee Stoops To Conquer, June 5-14.

Rada Studios, 16 Chenies Street: BBC Ticket office

CINEMA/FILM

Bolivar Hall, 54 Grafton Way (cultura.embavenez-uk.org): All 7.30pm. Postcards from Leningrad, June 10. Death in High Contract, June 17. Diary of Bucaramanga, June 24. Cheila, A House for Mum, July 15. Bolivar, Eternal Citizen of Liberty, July 22. Miranda Returns, July 29. London Socialist Film Co-op, second Sunday of month, 11am.

Green Man, 36 Riding House St: London Animation Club, first Tuesday of month.

Odeon, 30 Tottenham Court Road: Weekly film details from odeon.co.uk or 08712 244007.

Screen @ Rada, Malet St, opposite Birkbeck College (rada.ac.org): Henry IV Part II, June 18, 7pm (screened live from Stratford-upon-Avon).

UCL film screenings (ucl.ac.uk): Xena "Hooves & harlots" shown by Petrie Film Club, Petrie Museum, Malet Place, June 19, 6pm. Call of the Wild (1935), at JZ Young Lecture Theatre, Medical Sciences Building, Gower St, July 4, 6.30pm. The Slice Girls, at Petrie Museum, July 17, 6pm. Stargate SG1 Birthright, at Petrie Museum, Aug 21, 6pm.

DISCO

TCR Bar, 182 Tottenham Court Rd: DJ Thur-Sat, 11pm-1am.

LIVE COMEDY

College Arms, 18 Store St: Mondays at 8pm.

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

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

POETRY

King & Queen, 1 Foley St : In Yer Ear, July 29 (see page 19)

PUB QUIZZES

The Albany, 240 Great Portland St: Every Tuesday.

The Court, 108a Tottenham Court Rd: Sundays 8pm, £100 prize.

One Tun, 58 Goodge St: Every Tuesday, 8pm.

Prince of Wales Feathers, 8 Warren St: Every Monday, 7pm.

WALKS

Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place: London Literary Pub Crawl, every Saturday 5pm. Book online: LondonLiteraryPubCrawl.com.

Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre, 39 Tottenham St: Fitzrovia and the Music Industry, June 28, noon.

Tottenham Court Rd station: Every street of Fitzrovia, July 5, 10am. www.peterberthoud.co.uk.

EXHIBITIONS

British Museum, Great Russell Street (britishmuseum.org): Vikings: life and legend, until June 22. Ancient lives, new discoveries, until Nov 30. Germany divided: Baselitz and his gneration, until Aug 31. Gems of Chinese painting: a voyage along the Yangzi River, until Aug 31. Contemporary Japanese prints: Noda Tetsuya's Diary, until Oct 5. The other side of the medal: how Germany saw the First World War, until Nov 23.

Grant Museum of Zoology, 21 University Street (ucl.ac.uk/museums/zoology): Subnature (sculptures and prints of animals next to their skeletons and specimens in jars) until July 19. Explore Zoology, June 14 and July 12. Show'N'Tell Mangroves, June 27. Animal Showoff, July 8. Show'N'Tell: Amphibians, July 11. Weird and Wonderful Wildlife, July 29.

Royal Institute of British Architects, Gallery One, 66 Portland Place (architecture.com): Places & Spaaces: Urban Realm and Development on the Crossrail Route, June 16-July 17.

Slade School of Fine Art, North Wing, Gower St: Slade MA/MFA Show, June 12-18. Bartlett Summer Show, June 27-July 5.

UCL Art Museum, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Second person looking out: sixth annual UCL Art Museum/Slade collaboration, until June 13.

UCL Main Campus, Wilkins Building, Gower St: One day in the City: a celebration of London and literature, June 13.

UCL Main Library, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Art and Honour: contemporary impressions of WW1, until Dec 19.

UCL Octagon Gallery, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Collecting Knowledge in Motion, until June 21.

Wellcome Library, 183 Euston Road (wellcomecollection.org): The Generosity Plates (images of trees by John Newling), until Aug 3.

TALKS

Grant Museum of Zoology, 21 University St: Show'N'Tell: Ancient DNA, June 13, 1pm. **Sohemian Society**, Wheatsheaf upstairs, 25 Rathbone Place: Dylan Thomas in Soho and Fitzrovia, by Jeff Towns, June 9, 7.30pm.

UCL public lectures (1.15 to 1.55 pm), Darwin Theatre, Gower Street, entrance in Malet Place (www.ucl.ac.uk/events): In June the lectures are at The Guardian offices 1-2pm.

UCL Cruciform Lecture Theatre 1, Cruciform Building, Gower St: Surveillance, Security and Privacy: Have we got the balance right? June 18, 6pm.

DANCE CLASSES

Bolivar Hall, 54 Grafton Way (cultura.embavenez-uk.org): Salsa every Saturday 3-5pm. Dance Group every Monday 6.30pm.