

# FitzroviaNews



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

Issue 134 Autumn 2014

## Doctors surgeries under threat

By Fitzrovia News reporters

Doctors' surgeries are being threatened around Fitzrovia meaning patients may have to travel further in future. This comes at a time when GP practices are already under pressure from rising workloads and declines in overall levels of funding.

Two have already closed in Candover Street and Hanway Place, and one in Gower Place is expected to move as part of

### Squeezed by high West End rents and reorganisation of NHS funding

UCL's redevelopment plans. One of the Soho Square practices, run by two doctors, looks likely to be taken over by a multinational because of a new contract system being imposed by NHS England. And Bedford Square Medical Centre (60 Bloomsbury Street) is to be closed at the end of September.

Negotiations with Fitzrovia Medical Centre to move into Fitzroy Place (on the site of the former Middlesex Hospital) are ongoing between the practice, Exemplar the developers and NHS England the funding body. The building works are due to be completed in the new year. News that the two doctors in

Soho Square, shortly after a successful campaign to save their practice, are likely to be driven out was reported in West End Extra.

Stephen Cheung and Louis Brassey have decided to pull out after being advised there was no way they could survive under the terms of the new contract which favours multinational firms with the benefits of scale. The contracts have to be renewed every five years which discourages small practices investing for the long term.

A management consultant advised them there was no way they could make it viable under the terms of the NHS England contract which he suspected were an excuse to disperse the patient list. An NHS England spokesperson claimed the contract for the practice would be financially viable and sustainable.

The doctors were supported by thousands of patients when they were threatened with outright closure a couple of months ago.

The way UCL handled plans to move the Gower Place practice was strongly criticised by its patients and doctors, and so far they have received no acceptable offers for new accommodation.



Tiger Woman and the poet

Centre pages



Trolls in town

See page 13



### Bird of prey at school fair

An eagle owl fascinated one youngster recently. It was at the summer fair of All Souls Church School in Foley Street. Other pupils got more fun from soaking their parents (see page 3).

Please mention Fitzrovia News when replying to advertisers



# GIGS

est. 1958

The home of traditional Fish & Chips  
Fully licensed Greek restaurant

2014 Trip Adviser winners

12 Tottenham Street

020 7636 1424



## Fitzrovia News

Formerly *The Tower*  
established 1973

news.fitzrovia.org.uk  
twitter.com/fitzroviaNews  
facebook.com/fitzroviaNews  
news@fitzrovia.org.uk  
020 7580 4576

Issue 134 Autumn 2014  
Published 2 September 2014

### Editorial Team

**Mike Pentelow:**

editor and features editor

**Linus Rees:**

assistant editor

**Pete Whyatt:**

news and production editor

**Clive Jennings:**

arts editor

**Brian Jarman:**

writer and sub-editor

**Barb Jacobson:**

associate editor

**Jennifer Kavanagh:**

associate editor

**Jess Owens**

associate editor

### Contributors:

**Peter Arkell**

**Beryl Bainbridge**

**Peter Berthoud**

**Julia Cumming**

**Jayne Davis**

**Clancy Gebler Davies**

**Clifford Harper**

**Denise Julien**

**Angela Lovely**

**Sunita Soliar**

**Richard Spivack**

**Rowan St Clair**

**Kipper Williams**

### Printed by:

**Sharman & Co Ltd,**

**Newark Road,**

**Peterborough PE1 5TD**

**sharmanandco.co.uk**

### Fitzrovia News is produced

quarterly by the Fitzrovia

Community Newspaper

Group, ISSN: 0967-1404

### Published by the Fitzrovia

Neighbourhood Association

(registered charity no. 1111649)

39 Tottenham Street,

London, W1T 4RX

fitzrovia.org.uk

google.com/+FitzroviaOrgUK

twitter.com/FitzroviaNA

facebook.com/FitzroviaNA

**Public editorial  
meetings are held at  
7 pm, first Tuesday of  
every month at**

**Fitzrovia Neighbourhood  
Association,**

**39 Tottenham Street  
London W1T 4RX**

**Subscribe to Fitzrovia  
News for regular  
updates:  
bit.ly/fitzroviaNews**

# Letters, emails and comment

Write to letters@fitzrovia.org.uk or post to Fitzrovia News, Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association, 39 Tottenham Street, London W1T 4RX

## Developers dodging affordable housing?

The former Post Office at 50-57 Newman Street was granted Planning permission, reference number 13/07688/FULL, in March 2014, to convert the present offices into residential accommodation, provided they made a contribution of £4,296,000 index linked, for the provision of affordable accommodation within the City of Westminster.

A new Planning application has now been submitted to convert the offices into a 95 room hotel with an increase in area of 851sqm. I believe this is in the hope to reduce this contribution.

'Hotel and restaurant use

that will contribute to character and function of the area and should be taken into consideration in an assessment of potential financial contributions' (reference number 14/07688/FULL Background Papers 5.20).

Does providing a restaurant at street level mean that Westminster Council should take a loss in a contribution to 'affordable housing' in Westminster? How much are Westminster Council going to ask them to contribute this time?

Westminster need to consider this proposal very carefully. It raises many questions. For example, how is this busy junction going to cope with the increase in taxis and traffic?

**Ann Goodburn, Local resident**

## Felix was generous to the community

**By MIKE PENTELOW**  
**Maverick millionaire and passionate poet Felix Dennis, who has died aged 67, had a great love for, and generosity towards, Fitzrovia and its community spirit.**

Apart from making a regular substantial donation to the work of Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association for several years, he also financed the publication of *Characters of Fitzrovia* by myself and Marsha Rowe in 2001.

In his then office at 39 Goodge Street in the late 1990s he explained to me that he was going to publish it not with any expectation of making money out of it (which turned out to be an accurate assessment) - but to give something back to the community which he loved and had embraced him when he was a penniless hippy.

He expressed it well in his foreword to the book. He and his business partner Dick Pountain had both been rejected in other areas when looking for premises in 1973. Then their friend Lemmy from the band Motorhead suggested they checked out the top floor over a paint shop at 39 Goodge Street. "Here was our salvation," he wrote. "The entrance reeked of methylated spirits, the stairs were lethally twisted, and the rooms stank of straw and dogs' turds (the result of the previous tenants' failed attempt to raise cash by breeding Labrador puppies). None of which were insurmountable problems to the likes of us... As soon as we moved in we began to realise just how lucky we were to have hit on Fitzrovia - both the local people and the surroundings suited our temperaments, and our (often empty) pockets."

And they preferred the pubs in Fitzrovia to those in Soho. "Waitresses and publicans remembered your name; they treated you as locals and didn't charge tourist prices," he



*Felix Dennis (right) at the launch of Characters of Fitzrovia with authors Mike Pentelow and Marsha Rowe in 2001.*

explained. "And the variety of shops was astounding for the West End: butchers, bakers, delicatessens, grocers, a fish stall, a paper shop, a cobbler, an art supplier, a hardware store, a jeweller (not much trade from us there!), and scores more of just the kind of place that makes a real community.

"That's an over-used word, these days. But it's what Fitzrovia was then, and to a lesser extent (alas) still is [in 2001]. A community." And it was very much a cosmopolitan one, so it was fitting he staged the book's launch in the Venezuelan cultural centre (Bolivar Hall) in Grafton Way, where the wine flowed freely.

Felix was famously found guilty of "conspiring to debauch and deprave the morals of the young of the Realm" with the other two editors of the underground magazine *Oz* in 1971. The Old Bailey trial was a farce in more ways than one: both the injustice of the ancient charges and some of the evidence given from the witness box, such as comedian Marty Feldman referring to the judge, Michael Argyle, as an "old fart." They were all given harsh jail sentences (suspended on appeal), but Felix got a lighter one than the others, because Argyle said he was "less intelligent" than the other two and been led astray. Naturally this grated, and years later, Felix named one of the

## Blaring music

Apart from the blitz of buses and lorries in Fitzrovia and the numerous building sites, some individual road users contribute to the disturbing increase in noise in the area.

Is it safe to drive with music blaring out of your car? This is particularly annoying when the car is waiting at traffic lights in front of our flat during the night. Some of the drivers are middle aged, so it isn't just the youngsters that are being so inconsiderate.

Motorcycle engines can also be very loud and intrusive. Are there any limits to the noise they can omit?

Living in central London is

never going to be quiet but I would love to know if other residents, workers and visitors feel that we need to have a reasonable level of noise and air pollution to continue enjoying Fitzrovia.

We need less traffic and less air and noise pollution.

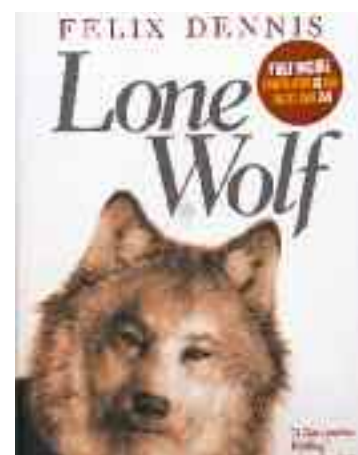
**Keith Crook, Local Resident**

## Community tension

The area is awash with money. Goodness knows where it all comes from; I thought we had just averted national bankruptcy, but you would not know it from the construction work going on or planned.

Maybe it is the Chinese

**Continued next page**



*This book of poems by Felix Dennis is available from the FNA Centre.*

## Creative

I worked for Dennis Publishing as a contributing photographer from 1990 until around 2002, producing conceptual images for their roster of magazines. Felix always wanted to get the best ideas put into action and I worked with many talented art directors who cut their creative teeth at Dennis Publishing.

These were the days of decent editorial art budgets and we would work with model makers to produce anything from a bespoke neon sign to an ice sculpture of an iMac, that were then painstakingly photographed on large format cameras when I had studios firstly on Little Portland Street and then Rathbone Place, both close to the various Dennis offices over the years, that were always firmly rooted in Fitzrovia.

Felix showed a keen interest in not only the creative processes used to get the most striking magazine covers, but always had time to speak to my assistants who were starting out in the business, who were invariably young attractive females. He did however also appreciate a location shoot when we hired a Lear Jet at Biggin Hill and had the male model naked outside on a cold February day, with only an Apple laptop to cover his modesty, as he approached the plane.

**Garry Hunter, Wells Street**

woodlands that he planted after Argyle.

He and Pountain (who had also worked at *Oz*) set up Cosmic Comics at 14 Rathbone Place. I was delighted when Dick accepted a story of mine called "Rail Bilker" for publication, but sadly the artist assigned to illustrate it found it less inspiring and it never materialised. They had more success publishing *Kung-Fu Monthly*. Then Dennis Publishing was formed in 1974 and the following year they bought *Personal Computer World* magazine at a knock down price which earned their early millions. The company is still based in the area at 30 Cleveland Street and has also had offices in Mortimer Street and 19 Bolsover Street.

As Felix's fortune grew (at one point being the 65th richest person in the country) he was always expecting the bubble to burst and to become relatively penniless again, which he did not fear in the slightest.

After a couple of dangerous illnesses he started writing poetry and publishing it. Many (including myself) wondered if it may be a vanity project. But I and others were won round completely when he performed it with passion at a series of readings, again generously supplying copious amounts of fine wine. It became highly acclaimed. A film of the tour called "Did I Mention the Free Wine?" and a CD of the readings called "Lone Wolf" were made and are included in the book of poems, which he kindly donated to Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre at 39 Tottenham Street, where they are available. You can also hear them online by visiting [www.felixdennis.com](http://www.felixdennis.com).

An obituary by Marsha Rowe appeared in the *Guardian* and can also be read online by visiting [www.theguardian.com/media/2014/june/23/felix-dennis](http://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/june/23/felix-dennis).



# Musical family firm goes global

A global music operation is run by a local family business based in Capper Street, off Tottenham Court Road.

It is called De Wolfe Music which sells sheet music and recordings in about 40 countries and has its own office in New York.

Yet it is still run by the de Wolfe family, three generations of descendants of Meyer de Wolfe, an oboe player from Holland who set up the company in 1909. He composed music to be played by orchestras at cinemas showing silent films and provided them with the sheet music, orchestrations and arrangements. With films showing in many cinemas at the same time this proved a lucrative business.

When talkies came in 1927 he recorded music for the sound tracks, including his own compositions.

Today the company has 80,000 recordings available on its website as well as the prestigious Angel recording studio in Islington, which is used by all the top musicians from rock to classical.

## Letters

Continued from page 2

money or Middle Eastern or Russian money we hear about; who knows?

But beyond the swirl of activity new tensions are surfacing, between big money and small people. Money and the power attached to it, and the interests that drive it, are often far removed from the real needs of our local communities.

We people, our families and family networks, the cafe struggling to pay increased rents, the community centre just keeping its head above water, the unglamorous, the unfamous, the real.

I see this tension all around us and I see it growing.

So we cling to what we have, and declare the power of the small and local, and hang on to the meaning of neighbourhood. **Rev Alan Carr, Associate Rector, St Giles-in-the-Fields.**

## Picture puzzle

Enjoyed your puzzle featuring the Goddesses of Bourlet Close in recent issue as that is my view.

But please tell us their history! I was told the building had belonged to the BBC, but love to know when and how they came to be there. Extra marks if you can identify each one. Thank you!

**Andrea Lowe, Bourlet Close**  
EDITOR'S NOTE: See Page 17.

The company is run by 91-year-old James, a piano player, who is the son of the founder. "I joined the company when I was 16," he told Fitzrovia News. "Two years later in the second world war I joined the RAF and worked in aerial intelligence for five years. Then I studied music and furthered my education and learned a lot from my father who was a good musician and guided and helped me."

"I then travelled the world, distributing and getting contracts in lots of countries, many of which I had been to in the war. As a result we became more international, and my contribution was to set up agencies abroad."

The managing director is his son Warren, a 53-year-old classical guitar player. "I started in 1978 in the sound department, editing music, learning about technology and getting into music production," he said.

"I learned how to develop the company, working in client liaison and marketing. Through my travelling I saw chances abroad, and a year ago set up our New York office, which was



James de Wolfe (seated) and his son Warren in their Capper Street office surrounded by pictures of stars they have recorded.

a major step for us." For 60 years the company had been represented there by an agent who then retired. Warren set up their own office employing 14 staff which he manages and is doing very well.

Warren's wife, Rosalind, has worked with the company for 35 years, and their daughter, Janine, now works in sound effects.

The company employs about 65 staff in London and New York. "We are a happy company and work hard and enjoy it," said James. "The reason for our success is the passion we have for what we do."

The feature about the renovation of the Regent Street cinema, which had shown films from 1896 to 1980, in the last issue of Fitzrovia News, naturally interested them.

## 3,000 support retaining name of Middlesex Hospital chapel

Restoration and preservation of the chapel in the old Middlesex Hospital was a condition of the planning permission to develop the whole site, including public access to the chapel interior.

Following a campaign by *Fitzrovia News* to preserve the name of the hospital chapel, the developers, Exemplar, promised there would be an announcement about it this summer.

Fitzrovia News has discovered that in June a private limited company was set up called "The Fitzrovia Chapel Foundation" (company number 9074417). According to the articles of incorporation the company is also to be registered as a charity.

The company documents have been prepared by lawyers at Exemplar's behest and nowhere do they mention the "Middlesex Hospital Chapel"

which is what English Heritage and Westminster City Council presently call it.

Company membership is limited to its trustee-directors (minimum of three and no more than seven). The three founding trustee-directors have been established and are Edward Turner, Wendy Shillam and Claire-Louise John. They are all Fitzrovia residents, but none of them were signatories to the *Fitzrovia News* petition to preserve the name Middlesex Hospital Chapel. The petition has more than 3,000 supporters. *Fitzrovia News* asked Exemplar and the three trustees for a comment but they declined at this stage.

*Fitzrovia News* thinks that the new company may apply to Westminster Council in the near future to change the name to Fitzrovia Chapel.



Family fun at the All Souls School summer fair as a parent gets a soaking from a lucky child.

## News in brief

**Percy Street** traffic direction has been reversed (new direction East to West) to allow construction traffic onto former Royal Mail sorting office site "**Rathbone Square**". Locals are annoyed because they fear it will create a "rat run" allowing cars and taxis to take a short cut through Fitzrovia. Camden allowed this measure for three years without any consultation.

An eagle eyed local resident spotted workman removing **old English granite kerbstones** on **Riding House Street** and replacing them with inferior stock. He informed Westminster City Council who sent an officer down who ordered the workman to halt and preserve the remaining historic pieces.

**Lantana** in Charlotte Place are launching "**Shindig**" an evening dining concept in September.

Local housing charity **The Fitzrovia Trust** held a **tea party** at the Fitzrovia Children's Playground in Whitfield Street on 6 July. Children took part in games, face-painting and were entertained by a conjurer. The event was sponsored by the **Fitzrovia Partnership**.

A child had to be rescued from the tracks at **Goodge Street** tube station on 23rd July - seconds before a train arrived - after a gust of wind blew a buggy off the platform. Police are appealing for witnesses. It was widely covered in the media including television.

July and August saw filming in **Fitzroy Square** for three part BBC drama "**Life in Squares**" about the Bloomsbury Set.

Planning application submitted to WCC to turn **Freud Communications** office 50-57 **Newman Street** into a **95 bed luxury hotel**. Residents are concerned about how this busy junction will cope with the increase in Taxis and traffic.

Warren Street eatery have just published their first book "**Honey & Co: Food from the Middle East**"

**Performing Rights Society** staff are leaving **Copyright House** on **Berners Street**. Staff are being relocated to Kings Cross and Streatham. Derwent London have applied for permission to demolish the building.

**Fitzrovia Youth in Action** are holding their **summer street party** on 6th September 3 - 6 pm at **The Warren** Whitfield Street.

Continues on page 5 ...





NEXT PROPERTY

**Next Property are offering all the readers of the Fitzrovia News a special voucher, a meal for two at a leading 5 Star Hotel, this offer is available for all new instructions signed before the end of 2014\***

What's old is new again, Fitzrovia is not afraid to reinvent itself, antiquated pubs sit alongside new build developments, where satin timber meets stained glass and steel, Oxford Street the portal, centre of this journey as a gateway to Fitzrovia.

They may not know that Jimmy Hendrix lived here, but they are delighted to find out he did. It's an endorsement for an urban village that for a time put a roof over the heads of such visionaries as Charles Dickens and George Orwell.

Next Property and Next Property Commercial have embraced these changes, offering a fully integrated service which puts both clients and applicants in an advantageous position to accomplish their goals, utilising ground breaking technology and innovative marketing systems putting us at the forefront of the property market.

## Some of Our Services

- Residential Sales and New Homes
- Residential Lettings
- Residential Property Management
- Investments and Development Opportunities
- Commercial Sales
- Commercial Property Management
- Retail, Restaurants and Coffee Shops
- Offices
- Bespoke Services
- Acquisitions
- Hotels
- Off Market Property

## RESIDENTIAL

43-51 Great Titchfield Street, W1W



**£1,230,000**

Two bedroom apartment for sale in the heart of Fitzrovia, with two double bedrooms and iconic views.

Fitzroy Mews, W1T



**£445 pw**

Gresse Street, W1T



**£460 pw**

Devonshire Street, W1W



**£800 pw**

Bolsover Street, W1W



**£2600 pw**

## COMMERCIAL

Percy Street, W1T



Great Portland Street, W1H



**If you are considering selling or letting your residential or commercial property in Fitzrovia or beyond contact our experienced team.**



**+44 (0) 207 118 0000**  
74 Wells Street, London, W1T 3QQ



**www.nextproperty.co.uk**  
**www.nextproperty.co.uk/commercial**  
**info@nextproperty.co.uk**

*\*subject to terms and conditions*



# Spearmint Rhino under threat of closure

Early this year Spearmint Rhino Gentlemen's club on Tottenham Court Road applied for a renewal and variation of their Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence.

Camden Council considered the application and refused on the grounds that the layout of the premises was unsuitable because of the large number of private booths for dances, and the lack of CCTV in parts of the club, including the open areas of the toilets. These contraventions were prohibited by Camden's Sex Establishments Policy after

local residents raised concerns. Residents living near the club have long complained of nuisance from those touting for business outside the club and people making a noise arriving and leaving, mini-cab doors slamming and people urinating in doorways. So they were pleasantly surprised at this decision - though it was based on the club's layout it effectively meant the club would have to close down.

But their victory was short lived. In July Spearmint Rhino went to the high court and

gained a judgement which meant they could force Camden Council to reconsider their decision.

The Licensing Committee met on 5th August but deferred the decision till 8th September to allow a proper consultation. Local residents were astounded by the poor consultation.

A resident of Paramount Court told *Fitzrovia News*: "The consultations never seem to happen properly. Camden are supposed to inform residents 3 weeks before a hearing and notices at the venue are strategically placed so they are not noticeable. When a café wants to place tables and chairs on the highway we are told about these immediately but when the Spearmint Rhino has a hearing we have to search through difficult corners of Camden's website to find out about it. In 2012 the licensing department issued an apology after a complaint was made because the Spearmint Rhino application did not appear on their licensing register. 'Technical difficulties' were blamed"

The only variation now being sought to the licence is a change to plans for the layout of the premises. The applications for 24 hour opening and liveried vehicles have been withdrawn. The application is now to renew



Spearmint Rhino club is below Paramount Court and less than 250m from many residences, a hospital (UCLH Euston Road) a children's playground (The Warren, Whitfield Place), Fitzrovia Nursery and Children's Playground, (54 Whitfield Street), places of worship (West Central Liberal Synagogue, The Montague Centre, 21 Maple Street; and The American Church in London, 79a Tottenham Court Road.

the existing hours, which are; 09:00 – 04:00 Monday to Saturday, and 10:00 – 02:00 Sunday. The renewal will be considered at a public meeting on Monday 8th September at 7 pm in committee room 2 The Old Town Hall, Judd Street.

## Not really helpful to local business

The food event organised by The Fitzrovia Partnership Business Improvement District (BID) held in Whitfield Gardens on 4th July was not quite all it seemed. They promised "a selection of food stands, live entertainment and drinks alongside the Live Food Show featuring top chefs from across Fitzrovia showcasing their favourite dishes." Camden Council gave permission to use the public park space because they understood the event was supporting local businesses.

The event was organised by a Brighton based PR company and it turned out that all the chefs demonstrating were from Brighton and only one of the food stalls was a local business. Several local cafes and take-aways said their takings suffered and were annoyed that as business rate payers Camden Council would allow this event which gave non local businesses an advantage over local traders.

## New deacon

All Saints church in Margaret Street has a new deacon. He is Michael Lynch, a familiar face at the church for some time, who was ordained as a deacon by the Bishop of London in St Paul's last month.

... Continued from page 3

Frank Dobson MP for Holborn and St Pancras is standing down at the next general election, several candidates have stepped into the frame to succeed him.

UCLH have unveiled plans for a new cancer treatment centre on the site of the old medical students union building in Huntley Street.

From 2nd September the Bolivar Hall on Grafton Way will host a festival of Venezuelan films, entitled "Bolíwood". The free film festival will see a different Venezuelan film screened at Bolivar Hall every Tuesday evening until 16th December.

Licence to operate a private members club at 19 Newman Street open till 3:00 at weekends was granted by Westminster City Council in June

Building works at Fitzroy Place and the Sainsbury Wellcome Brain Research Centre are behind schedule both are due to be completed early 2015.

Poor repair work to cobbles in Grafton Mews by utility companies were later rectified by Camden Council



The Bronze green (original colour) railings outside 43 Fitzroy Street

## Council are off the rails with double standards

By STAFF WRITER

Early in 2012 a resident in a Georgian property in Grafton Way (just off Fitzroy Square) noticed that his railings needed painting. The house and iron railings are Grade II listed

He carried out some research on what colour the railings would have originally been and spoke to The Georgian Group who verbally confirmed that Bronze Green was one of the historical colours used for Georgian ironwork. He researched and consulted several history sources which confirmed that "light green bronze was specified in the 1820's for Regents Park terraces"

The railings and balcony of 43 Fitzroy Street are painted in this shade of green and Fitzroy Square railings were this shade as late as 15 years ago. (If you look closely at the railings there you can see the bronze green colour where the newer paint is flaking). It is evident walking around many of the properties that where the paint is peeling that this lighter shade of green was an original colour.

So he painted his ironwork

bronze green and felt secure in the knowledge that this was a historically accurate colour. In November 2012 he received a letter from the enforcement department at Camden Council: "The works to this Listed Building are not sympathetic to its appearance, character or special historic interest... carrying out of works to a Listed Building without Listed Building Consent is a criminal offence."

So he had to apply retrospectively for planning permission. In a letter to the council he set out his case for the colour being accurate. The Council refused and in September 2013 sent him an enforcement notice threatening him with criminal prosecution unless the railings were painted in the correct colour which they now have been.

Meanwhile the well known owner of a double house on Fitzroy Square has just erected half a ton of new railings outside his front door without planning permission or listed building consent. But they are the right colour so it seems Camden are willing to overlook this. I wonder why?

## Warren Street rogue traders

Warren Street shop Makeover London featured in a June edition of the BBC consumer programme Watchdog. Young women were attracted to the shop with offers of free professional make over and photography packages to build up a modelling portfolio. They were then later "asked" to pay several hundreds of pounds for prints or digital copies of the photos.

The demands for money were made in a small office and staff put pressure on them to make them pay up. The girls found it difficult to leave the premises without paying up.

## 6 Fitzroy Square: The Perfect Venue

The perfect venue for meetings, launches, seminars, dinners, wedding receptions and other corporate events.



The Georgian Group's elegant eighteenth-century headquarters overlooking Fitzroy Square provide a unique location for all types of private and corporate events in the heart of central London.

We cordially invite local businesses and individuals to visit our building and get a taste of the authentic Georgian experience...



For booking enquiries, availability and rates please contact: Rob Kouyoumdjian on 020 7529 8921 or roomhire@georgiangroup.org.uk





## Workhouse proposals



UCLH are thought to be working up proposals to redevelop the workhouse site on Cleveland Street. The main workhouse building at the front will be retained together with the Victorian wings that face on to Cleveland Street. They plan to demolish the Nightingale wings to the rear and build an eight storey block consisting of 44 affordable flats and 31 market housing units together with a small amount of open space and opening up of Bedford Passage between Cleveland Street and Charlotte Street. UCLH are in negotiation with Camden Council about the level of affordable housing and how UCLH can discharge their S106 obligations. The illustration shows the proposals that were presented at the Development Management Forum in March.

Local organisations have criticized previous plans for not providing the local community with the required level of public open space or affordable homes. The site can be sold to Camden Council for one pound if UCLH do not satisfy planning requirements (which they clearly have not at present). It is thought that UCLH will submit a planning application to Camden Council in November.



View of the new Sainsbury Wellcome brain research centre Howland Street which is due to open early next year

## Refurbishment delayed at football pitch

The refurbishment of Warren Playground should have been ready for the start of school holidays but as we went to press work had still not been completed. The works were delayed by the discovery of concrete under the playing area which had to be dug up ready for a new porous tarmac surface which will facilitate multi games uses. Of the £70k budget for the refurbishment works and design fees, £40k came from Parks and Open Spaces capital budget and £30k from S106 contributions from the development at Asta House, 53-65 Whitfield Street. Fitzrovia Youth in Action are holding their street party at the Warren on Saturday 6th September 3-6 pm and were expecting works to have finished in time for this.

## Food bank set up

A foodbank to help people who are struggling to afford food has been set up at St George's church at 44 Queen Square, Holborn. The organisers state: "We are open every Saturday from 11.00am to 1.00pm and offer three days' worth of groceries to people who do not have enough to eat. The food is donated by the public and is all non-perishable – such as tinned fruit and vegetables, pasta, rice, cereal and longlife milk. Our foodbank is staffed by volunteers, who welcome visitors, sort the food and offer tea, coffee and snacks while the groceries are packed. People are referred to us by organisations authorised to give out vouchers. These can then be exchanged for food when brought to the foodbank."

"There are a few foodbanks in Camden already, but we noticed that there was no provision for people in the centre of London where high rents and living expenses are increasingly affecting local communities. We contacted the Trussell Trust – the foodbank charity – and they helped us set up as a sister to the Chalk Farm foodbank in the north of the borough."

"Over 900,000 people have used Trussell Trust foodbanks in the last year, just over a third of them children. Camden (along with neighbouring Islington and Westminster) has some of the highest child poverty rates in London so we met with Children's Centre Services and



Health Visitors to ask them to refer any families in need to the foodbank. Other organisations authorised to give out vouchers include local homeless hostels, mental health services and churches.

"Although we are a Camden foodbank, we hope to help as many people as possible so welcome anyone in need from the local area. Camden residents can ask at their local Citizens' Advice Bureau for vouchers, Health Visitors and Family Support Services if they have children under five; residents of Westminster or other boroughs can contact the foodbank for advice."

"We welcome volunteers to help greet people, pack and sort food and help with collections. We would also be happy to hear from professionals or organisations able to identify people in need and distribute vouchers. If you would like to support our work or get further information, please contact the St George's foodbank at 44 Queen Square WC1N 3AH or foodbank@stgholborn.org or via www.stgholborn.org/foodbank."

## Is last pub in Oxford Street under threat?

By PETE WHYATT

The Tottenham public house at 6 Oxford Street, is located within the Hanway Conservation Area and is a Grade II\* listed building. But the owners have applied to Westminster city council for a Certificate of Lawfulness to change the use of the existing building from Class A4 (Drinking Establishment) to a use either as Class A1 (Retail), A2 (Financial and Professional Services), or Class A3 (Food and Drink) under the Provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development).

This application seeks confirmation that planning permission is not required for the change of use.

The Tottenham is the last remaining pub on Oxford Street. Once known as The Flying Horse, its heritage can be dated back to at least 1790. In its early days the regulars were theatre-goers from the nearby Tottenham Street Theatre an auditorium that was once London's finest music hall. In the pub are three curvaceous ladies painted by Felix de Jong, the leading decorative artist in music hall.

## Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association Response to West End Project Consultation

"We welcome Camden Councils proposals to improve the Tottenham Court Road and Gower Street area particularly the addition of new public open space."

And we welcome proposals to reduce the number of motor vehicle lanes on Gower Street and Tottenham Court Road to reduce motor vehicle traffic speeds."

We have a number of concerns about motor vehicle traffic being displaced into the side streets in Fitzrovia and the negative impact on the quality of the environment for pedestrians and cyclists in these streets."

According to the traffic modelling data, the plan to exclude taxis from Tottenham Court Road would negatively impact quieter side streets. Allowing taxis on TCR could displace delivery vehicle traffic into the side streets."

Recently Camden has done much to improve the side streets for pedestrians and cyclists but the WEP plans threaten to undermine this. Our association is strongly opposed to any increase in motor vehicle traffic in the side streets and these run counter to Camden's policy on traffic management."

We are cautiously welcome

of Camden's plans to run all bus services along TCR. However, we are against the removal and relocation of bus stops."

Currently there are four bus stops north bound and four bus stops (Gower St) south bound. Removing the Percy Street (Windmill Square) or the Goodge Street (Whitfield Gardens) bus stop does not make sense. These stops are next to open spaces and offer convenience to local people."

With all the bus services along TCR instead of Gower Street there is the danger of creating a "wall of buses" similar to Oxford Street."

We welcome the new open spaces particularly Alfred Place and look forward to working with the Council to achieve an attractive green space. We would also like to see a green space created at Mortimer Market as identified in the Fitzrovia Area Action Plan."

We are disappointed that there are no plans for a new public toilet in the Tottenham Court Road area. We suggest the council investigates siting a new public convenience at the deep level shelter on TCR near the junction with Torrington Place. A public toilet that is open long hours and free to use."

## Short stay tenants cause problems for neighbours

Local Councillors and MP's have been speaking out against a proposed change to the law that will make it easier for property owners to rent out rooms to tourists. Websites like Airbnb and Gumtree help visitors find alternatives to hotel accommodation but the deregulation will see thousands of holidaymakers staying in residential blocks and causing a persistent headache for neighbours. Mark Field the MP for the Cities of London and Westminster said: "The loosening of the rules governing short lets will make it much harder for residents to keep their buildings safe, secure and well maintained." A report by Westminster City Council found that where rules are already being abused to facilitate short-term lets the impact on local communities is overwhelmingly negative."

Jonathan Glanz West End ward councillor said in his Conservativehome website col-

umn "This will serve further to hollow out communities in Central London and flood neighbourhoods with a transient population who have little or no interest in the community. A typical one bed flat in the West End, might rent on the open market on a normal Assured Shorthold Tenancy (AST) for £500pw. The very same property listed as a short term/holiday rental can reach £500 + a night. The effects, particularly on mansion blocks, of having daily or weekly changes of occupier will be felt most closely by those who remain living in such properties as their homes."

Local residents told us their street has become a nightmare with tourists turning up in taxis late in the evening with suitcases, causing late night noise during their stay, and leaving bags of rubbish out in the street causing a rat infestation problem

## 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  
sabrana.francis@camden.gov.uk rishi.madlani@camden.gov.uk



## Community garden is opened

By DENISE JULIEN

A dark and neglected space has been transformed into a glorious community garden at the Fitzrovia Community Centre in Foley Street.

A hundred contributors fashioned it into an English country garden with just a smidge of Alice in Wonderland's 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party'. This has been a year-long project, and its launch was attended by 250 people.

It was opened by Dr Shaukat Nazeer, who started his practice in what is now the reception office of the community centre in 1974. He told us that the community centre is now part of the original nurses' home, which was built in 1936, at the same time as The Middlesex Hospital



was rebuilt. In those days many of the nurses were from very privileged backgrounds and some of them were dropped off by their fathers in Rolls Royces. The home was run by a fierce matron called Miss Bender, who took it upon herself to ensure that the girls were protected from the advances of the boys. But, regardless of the matron's strict stance, the girls would often sunbathe on the roof, in a state of partial or total undress. Dr Nazeer ("Naz") remem-

bers how the London plane trees in Foley Street were only a fraction of the height they are now. This emphasised that the greening of Fitzrovia is a continuing process, not one just starting. And, hopefully, future generations will make Fitzrovia even greener than it is today.

Warren Street and Whitfield Street has also been part of the community garden initiative, and others will follow.

This project was financed by £30,000 from Derwent London and further donations from Sir Robert McAlpine, Metro Bank, Circle 33 Housing, and Fitzrovia Youth in Action. The Sheep (pictured), which is currently installed on the roof in the garden was donated by the British Library, which was previously part of the Georgian exhibition.

## Bog standard facilities

The Great Portland Street toilets won a Loo of the Year Awards in 2011 when they were run by Westminster Council. Sadly, the council stopped operating public toilets the very next year, and it was taken over by Cityloos and was padlocked on occasions.

The Fitzrovia News toilet correspondent went to sniff out the facts: "At first sight the steps leading down to both the male and female toilets were covered in leaves and litter," he reported. "So I sheepishly made my way downstairs to the men's where the toilets looked empty and in darkness. I paid my 50p to enter and pushed through the turn-

stile. Surprisingly the room remained in darkness. I thought paying and entering might trigger the lights but no. There was just enough light coming through the stairs entrance to complete the task in hand. But had I needed to use the cubicle with the door shut I would have had to feel my way rather than being able to see fully.

"In the sink both taps ran only cold water, soap was available from dispensers but the hand blow dryers were not working. I knocked on the window and shouted but there was no attendant present. No awards from me."

## Neighbourhood forum news

The Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum held another meeting at Westminster University on 15th July to elect a committee and to discuss the forum's make-up and constitution. Those present formed discussion groups covering housing, traffic and transport and the night time economy. These were such a success that the meeting decided these groups should continue and sign up new members.

Consultation on the forum and its constitution closed on 12th August. Westminster City Council will now make a formal decision about ratifying FitzWest as a statutory Neighbourhood Forum. They will take into account the public response at the meeting and any other representations they have received.

All the West End Forums have been designated as business forums, meaning that once the neighbourhood plan is published both business rate-payers

and residents will have their say in separate referenda.

At the meeting a new Shadow Executive Committee was elected. That committee has now met and selected officers, their topic group is shown in brackets

**Wendy Shillam** Chair (development and Crossrail)  
**Alison Matthews** Vice Chair (environment)  
**Yoram Blumann** Treasurer (night time economy, traffic and transport)  
**Nick Bailey** Secretary (housing)  
**Gwilym Harbottle** (conservation and culture)  
**Brian Weaver** (green environment)  
**Ian Milne** (economy and business)

To join the forum and get involved visit [www.fitzwest.org](http://www.fitzwest.org) / membership or deliver a paper copy of your details to The Fitzrovia Community Centre in Foley Street

Anyone who lives or works in the area, or represents an organisation active in West Fitzrovia is eligible.

## 'Duke' dines at the palace



Pictured at a Buckingham Palace garden party is our very own "duke" - Eddie Duke-Low of Cleveland Street.

He was there in his role as welfare officer and standard bearer for the City and Central London branch of the Royal Air Force Association.

Eddie has lived in Cleveland Street since 1950, and when he was called up for his two years' RAF national service in 1952 where was he billeted? At 32 Cleveland Street where its Central Medical Establishment was housed in Kelvin House.

Later he was transferred around the country with the mobile x-ray unit where he took and developed photographs in trailers.

From a medical family background Eddie was already a qualified first aider before joining the RAF. He regularly updated his knowledge and sat St John Ambulance exams to keep this qualification until just a year ago.

He also attended a high tea with the Chelsea pensioners recently.

## Meet our agony aunt

We'd like to introduce you to the Fitzrovia News' new agony aunt, **Merryn Jones**.

Merryn has a wealth of experience. She's psychotherapist for the NHS, managing a personality disorder day service. She's also worked as counsellor in a GP surgery and as a child and psychiatric social worker.

She's dealt with problems such as divorce, children's problems and bereavement.

One woman she worked with had a grown-up alcoholic son who was making her life very difficult. In examining their relationship it emerged that the mother had her own issues about the loss of her own mother at an early age and her own use of substances to manage relationships. In time she was able to grieve for her loss and set firm boundaries for dealing with her son's addiction.

"An agony aunt can be an opportunity to air something difficult in a more anonymous way to get a different perspective on something that is troubling you," says Merryn.



"While the person with the problem is the expert, it can be useful to allow other views and ways of understanding and therefore make it more manageable."

So if you think Merryn might be able to help you with a tricky problem, drop her a line via the Fitzrovia News (contact details are on page 2).

Merryn lives in Central London with her partner and two daughters.

# Fitzrovia's Finest

Your local Estate Agent for 26 years



Sales

Lettings

Commercial

020 7580 1010  
[www.ldg.co.uk](http://www.ldg.co.uk)

39 Foley Street  
London  
W1W 7TP







## Word from the Streets

By CHARLOTTE STREET and her family



### Fast mover

Usain Bolt, the world's fastest sprinter (above), certainly moved rapidly around Little Portland Street last month. The 27-year-old Jamaican was photographed by the Daily Mail paps dining at the Burger & Lobster at number 6, then moving next door to The Social bar at number 5 where he danced until midnight before leaving with an "unknown woman." You can see the pictures on the paper's website.

No doubt he was celebrating winning a gold at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow a few days earlier in the 4x100m relay.

He holds three world records - 9.58 seconds for 100 metres, 19.19 seconds for 200 metres, and 36.84 seconds for the 400 metres relay. And he has six Olympic golds (two for each of these distances).

### Bowled over

Another legendary sportsman dined in the area in more "sober" fashion.

It was **Gary Sobers**, the West Indian superstar cricketer, who was seen dining in Agra (the Indian restaurant recently reopened in Whitfield Street) by my brother Percy who was naturally bowled over by his hero.

Gary is perhaps best known for hitting a six off each six balls in the same over for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan in 1968, and scoring 365 not out in a Test match against Pakistan in 1958, a record which was unbroken for 36 years.

### Got your number

Whose was the posh car in Store Street with the personalised number plate 1PE? They must have 1 Personal Ego.

### Celebrity watch

Jarvis Cocker and his 11-year-old son Alf were spotted by my brother Mortimer strolling along Riding House Street past the King's Arms.

Presumably the singer was heading for Broadcasting House where he hosts a show for BBC 6 Music.

The last time I saw the pair was in Seven Dials about five years ago when Alf was a lot smaller.



### A fair cop

What a joy to see the late **Ian Collier** in a Hi Di Hi DVD recently (above). Ian, who lived in Great Titchfield Street, was playing Inspector Sutcliffe of the Vice Squad in the "Its a Blue Out" episode. Suspecting pornographic films were to be shown at an orgy he asks the ballroom dancer why she is wearing night attire and a mask "in a state of readiness."

Acting another (racist) policeman too realistically nearly got him lynched at a fringe theatre production before a mainly black audience. Nobody could be less racist than Ian and he is greatly missed in the area.

### Stamping out

Philatelists should mark October 14 down in their diary. That is the date a new set of eight stamps of British prime ministers of the 20th century is being released by the post office. Of special interest is the fact that they were designed by a local business - Together Design of Great Titchfield Street.

### Tasty award

Another local eatery wins an award. This time it is **Gigs in Tottenham Street** who have won the 2014 TripAdvisor award, based on its travellers' favourite restaurants.

My brother Warren is particularly partial to their baked chilli cod when they do it. Another regular at the chippy is his namesake - **Warren de Wolfe** of the musical company (see page 3).

### Confusion Road

Subtitles on live television are notoriously inaccurate (some-time with comical effect). But this is rare in films when there is time to make them accurate and a script to consult.

Not so the information film produced by Camden council for consultation over plans to make Tottenham Court Road two-way. As reported in the Camden New Journal the subtitles were done on the cheap using YouTube.

Tottenham Court Road is given as "Cotton Club Road"!

### Alan of all trades

Great to see **Minder** is being repeated on ITV4 following a piece in this column about how **Arthur Daley** was based on local **Sammy Goldshaker**.

**Alan Goldshaker**, his son, who lives in Gresse Street, is a character in his own right who has had some interesting jobs.

When a foot and mouth epidemic stopped horseracing and hit his bookmaking business he got a job as a stage hand at the London Palladium.

Through this he met **Tommy Steele** who gave him a job as a driver for about eight years, which took him to Las Vegas among other places.

Then Alan became a promoter, managing groups such as the **Ink Spots** in this country, and because he had lost his driving licence his father **Sammy** drove them.

While on tour in Cleethorpes they bought a local club (when drunk) at a knock-down price from the ex-trawlerman who owned it. There were plenty of customers as contractors were building the Humber bridge at the time, and Alan sold the club at a profit after 18 months.



Alan (left) with father Sammy. Below: the **Minder** stars bend the lamp post in Newman Passage.



### Jewellery crafted with pride

Jewels made by a Scottish plater in Newcastle-on-Tyne's shipyards are the proud possession of **Bill Lea**.

He is pictured right polishing them in the King & Queen in Foley Street where he was the publican for many years until his son **Colin** took it over.

"I was fascinated by the fact that such intricate creations could be crafted by a shipyard worker," said **Bill**. "All I know about him is that he was called **Campbell**." The jewellery was owned by **Bill's** late wife.

He is now considering giving it to the Discovery Museum in Newcastle so it can return home and be exhibited among the tools of the shipbuilding trade which are already displayed there.

On a football note one of **Bill's** uncles **Bob Page**, played as goalkeeper for **Tottenham Hotspur** in the last century - but his son supports **West Ham** and his daughter **Wendy** is an avid **Arsenal** fan.



### Alexei's free bingo ruse worked

It was good to renew my acquaintance with comedian and writer **Alexei Sayle** recently. It was 35 years ago that as a member of a little know three-person act he performed at the Polytechnic of Central London (now the University of Westminster) in Wells Street.

Seeing the audience was somewhat sparse he remedied this by going into the crowded adjoining bar and giving out "free bingo" cards. By the time they realised they had been conned they were hooked by the performance.

Alexei was reading from his autobiography "Stalin Ate My Homework" in a Kings Cross bookshop (Housemans) recently and recalled the incident when I mentioned it. The group was called Threepenny Theatre.

Later, when Channel 4 had a video box in Charlotte Street for the public to express their views on screen, Alexei went into it demanding he be given his own show! It did not work, but he was later voted 18th greatest stand-up comic of all time by the channel's viewers.

### Steady service

While researching our 20 years ago column (see page 19) we spotted an article nominating **Mr Patel** of **Shiv Pharmacy** in Great Titchfield Street for best local trader.

That was in September 1994, of course, and I am glad to report he is still going strong.

### Mammoth event



Cartoon by Jayne Davis

Our editor gave a talk on the area's history recently to children aged eight to nine at the after school club in Fitzrovia Community Centre, Foley Street. It started when mammoths roamed both Camden (tusks were found under Kings Cross station) and Westminster (remains found under Trafalgar Square).

At the end one of the children asked if he remembered any of the history. The 68-year-old veteran replied he did not remember the mammoths. They became extinct in this country 14,000 years ago.

*Charlotte Street*



# Punk, squatter, cult member, techie, anarchist, author.



By Pete Whyatt

Local author Stephen Oram lives on Cleveland Street and has been a resident of Fitzrovia for over twenty years. Stephen was born and brought up in Kettering Northamptonshire. "It's a small market town and growing up I felt on the fringe of things and a bit of an outsider. When punk came along in the 1970s it was a big thing for me and marked a watershed in my life and attitude, although I was too punk to be a punk! I came to London in my early twenties and out of necessity became part of the squatter scene in Hackney. In my mid-twenties, for nearly three years, I was a member of a small charismatic Christian church, which actually turned out to be a cult that kept us mentally isolated from the wider world with no mixing allowed except to recruit other members. A family bereavement brought me to my senses and I realised that this church and my fellow followers were not providing any real emotional support and I escaped.

"In the early 1990s I was part of the fledgling software and internet businesses around Shoreditch, helping schools to make the most of these new technologies. We were a band of misfits – good people in a productive atmosphere – and our work won national awards. It was an exciting time in a brand new industry."

Today Stephen describes himself as an agnostic, who is gently attracted to anarchism (but not 100% certain). "Anarchy has positive elements, community spirit, collaboration, and lack of hierarchy." His fascination with exploring our darker places prompted him to imagine alternative worlds and then write his first novel, a near-future fiction. "I want Quantum Confessions to primarily be entertaining, but also hope it will challenge

readers' assumptions, explore their own contradictions and take them to a slightly uncomfortable place. There are no good or bad guys, no absolutes and no answers."

Quantum Confessions is launched on Saturday 13 September at 4pm at the King and Queen, Foley Street and all Fitzrovians are welcome. Stephen describes it as a social commentary on the world today and the forecast of near future dystopia. It's the story of two youngsters growing up; the first part covers their young lives from the age of six to their early twenties. The book engages with many existential topics, truth versus liberalism, belief in God, quantum physics, multiple realities and relationships of people working together. The action within the last half of the book as they try to repair a crumbling world is located around Fitzroy Square.

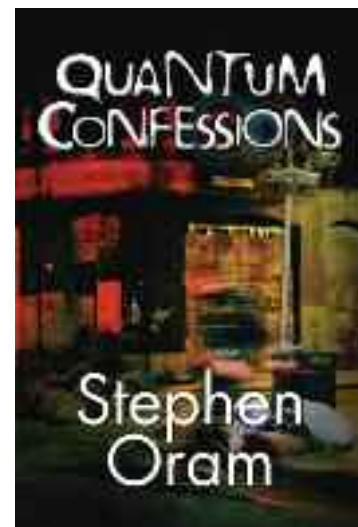
Quantum Confessions was published using a branch of self-publishing called 'self-funded publishing'. "I have utilised professional help and services in terms of cover design and editing. The publishing company, SilverWood Books ([silverwoodbooks.co.uk](http://silverwoodbooks.co.uk)), manages the project to the point of print and then supports authors as they undertake marketing, book promotion, and developing what's called their 'author platform' using social media. The book is marketed in bookshops and online but I retain control and rights over my work which has grown-up echoes of those early punk ideals.

The book is available through usual outlets but also specially through a new alternative to the industry giants called Wordery.com, an independent book seller. I'm delighted that they have made my book their September newsletter Book of the Month."

[www.stephenoram.net](http://www.stephenoram.net)

@OramStephen

[www.facebook.com/StephenOramAuthor](http://www.facebook.com/StephenOramAuthor)



*Grey is a high performing student with attitude. Aled is torn between his morals and his desires. They live in a world where those who believe in absolute truth are on a collision course with those who don't. Society is becoming dangerously polarised and despite their shared history Aled and Grey take opposite sides in the conflict; Grey is recruited by The Project and Aled is given custody of The Proof of Existence.....*

**'Exciting, dystopian and a heady mix of family, physics and futurism!'**

Mayor of Wellington, New Zealand

**Special offer for Fitzrovia News readers**  
until 31 October all purchases (including Quantum Confessions) from **Wordery.com** will be discounted by 10% by quoting code **FITZ14**

  
**Robert Irving Burns**  
 Property Consultants

RIB have been established for over 50 years  
 and offer a wide range of property services.

## Some of which include:

- Residential Sales and New homes
- Residential Lettings

- Commercial Sales and Lettings
- Investments
- Professional Services / Valuations

- Residential Lease Extensions
- Residential and Commercial Property Management.

Call us on: **0207 637 0821**, or email at: [props@rib.co.uk](mailto:props@rib.co.uk)

23-24 Margaret Street, London, W1W 8LF

[www.rib.co.uk](http://www.rib.co.uk)





# Tiger woman Betty May and the celebrated by two books and a m

**T**he Fitzroy Tavern in Charlotte Street was the centre of bohemian artists and writers, particularly in the 1930s and 40s. Among the more eccentric customers to disgrace its bar were Betty "Tiger Woman" May and Dylan Thomas, who were great drinking companions.

Both are being celebrated in October along with the pub itself, which is shortly to be refurbished.

A new musical about Tiger Woman has been written and will be performed by Celine Hispiche (see central panel). And her autobiography has been republished (see page 19).

A whole week of events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dylan Thomas is taking place in the pub and other local venues (see panel, far right).

And finally a new edition of the book about the pub itself and its characters is being republished. It is called *The Fitzroy, The autobiography of a London Tavern*, by Sally Fiber who will be speaking in the pub on both October 25 and 26 at 3pm.



*Celine Hispiche performs "Betty May", for which she wrote the script and song lyrics, accompanied by pianist and musical composer Philippe Jacko (also pictured below left). They were assisted by Edwin Philpott of DeSapinaud Productions.*



## Programme of events

### Saturday October 25

Fitzroy Tavern, 16 Charlotte Street

3pm: Sally Fiber reads excerpts from her book *"The Fitzroy"* followed by the launch of a new children's charity *"Fitzrovia Pennies"*.

4pm: *"Tiger Woman, My Story"* by Betty May. A Duckworth representative explains why they have republished this autobiography. See review on page 19.

Ashley Basil, grandson of Angus Basil who took the photographs of Betty May for her book.

Marie Lee, niece of Betty May, gives a talk.

Cabaret: Songs from the musical *"Betty May"* including a special one for the event.

### Sunday October 26

Fitzroy Tavern, 16 Charlotte Street

3pm: Sally Fiber reads excerpts from her book *"The Fitzroy"* followed by the launch of a new children's charity *"Fitzrovia Pennies"*.

4pm: *"Tiger Woman, My Story"* by Betty May.

Edwin Philpott gives a talk.

Marie Lee, niece of Betty May, gives a talk.

Cabaret: Songs from the musical *"Betty May"* including a special one for the event.



*Portraits of "Tiger Woman" Betty May (left and right) and drinking with artists and writers in the Fitzroy Tavern (above)*





# Fitzrovia musical



*The Fitzrovia "auto-biography of a London Tavern" updated edition (left) is being launched by its author Sally Fiber (above). Sally was born in the pub and worked behind the bar from a young age. She is the daughter of Charles and Annie Allchild who ran the Fitzrovia Tavern for 37 years.*



## Diary of Dylan Thomas festival events

### October 20-27

**The Building Centre, The Crescent, Store Street**

The Writing Shed Odyssey. Dylan Thomas's Writing Shed travels from Carmarthenshire to London in a photographic exhibition of the rooms and workplaces which have inspired great writers.

**Saatchi and Saatchi, 76 Charlotte Street**

A unique archive of photographs of Dylan, Caitlin and their world, including unseen images of Dylan, part of the Nora Summers Exhibition.

**Enitharmon Press** (near British Museum), 10 Bury Place, Great Russell Street, WC1

An exhibition of Sir Peter Blake's Under Milkwood works, with an evening reception and Q and A with Griff Rhys Jones for the artist on Friday 24th.



### October 22 or 23

**Curwen Gallery, 34 Windmill Street.**

Andrew Sinclair, the award winning writer, historian and film director of the classic film of Under Milkwood, gives us his unique perspective on the poet, his world and work.

### October 25

**Welsh Chapel, Eastcastle Street**

'A Warring Absence', a verbatim play about Dylan and his wife Caitlin. With Daniel Evans and Sian Thomas, and accompanied live by the Bernard Kane Players and the London Welsh Chorale. A new commissions inspired by Dylan's work

**Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, Malet Street.**

Gillian Clarke and Owen Sheers. two of Wales's greatest living poets discuss Dylan's continuing influence, with readings from his, and their own work.



*Dylan's birth is commemorated on a Royal Mail stamp. He lived at 12 Fitzrovia Street and 8 Conway Street.*

### October 25-26

**Saatchi and Saatchi screening room, 76 Charlotte Street**

Dylan Filmfest. Round the clock screening of films inspired or written by Dylan Thomas including Under Milkwood, Rebecca's Daughters, and Thomas's wartime propaganda films and rare documentary footage.

**RADA Studios, Chénies Street**

'Dylan Live!' A multi-media performance tracing Thomas's trip to New York through jazz, beat poetry, hip-hop, spoken word and film. 'Clown in the Moon', a one-man show performed by Welsh actor Rhodri Miles. Guy Masterson's one-man performance of 'Fern Hill and Other Dylan Thomasworks', an amalgamation of poetry and prose.

**Walks**

Dylan Thomas in Fitzrovia. A specially devised walk takes its audience on an excursion through Dylan's Fitzrovia, with live interaction, performance, food and drink (six walks in total)

### October 26

**Dominion Theatre, 269 Tottenham Court Road**

A gala performance where Owain Arwel Hughes will conduct the Welsh orchestra Camerata Wales.

**Beveridge Hall, Senate House, Malet Street**

Screening of 'A Poet in New York' with Q&A to follow with Tom Hollander and Andrew Davies.

Theatr Cylwd perform their acclaimed production of Under Milkwood. The Stan Tracey Jazz Under Milkwood performed by an all star jazz quartet and some of Wales's best loved actors.

**Crush Hall, Senate House, Malet Street**

Dylan Swing. Dancing, with a live band in Art Deco splendour.

**Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank**

Gala Concert with music from the Camerata Wales, conducted by Owain Arwel-Hughes, with special guests including Rob Brydon, Tom Hollander, Alex Jennings, Sian Phillips, Jonathan Pryce, Griff Rhys Jones and Sir Patrick Stewart. Other performers who have indicated their desire to be included include Rory Mc Grath, James Dean Bradfield and Ralph Mc Tell.

### Other dates

Other events will include Hannah Ellis, Dylan Thomas's granddaughter, Andrew Lycett noted biographer of Dylan, Professor John Goodby, whose new edition of the poet's work comes out this year, and Professor Tony Curtis.

**See [dylanthomasfitzrovia.com](http://dylanthomasfitzrovia.com) and [dylan-thomas100.org](http://dylan-thomas100.org) for up to date details.**





Goodge Street is traversed by old and new modes of transport these days. Modern omnibuses are diverted through it at present because of Crossrail works. But they have to take their turn behind the old horses and carriage.

## Greek memories

Colourful stories of running two Greek Cypriot restaurants in the area from the 1950s to the 1980s have been recounted to us.

The Ttokkos, the very first Greek kebab house in London, was run by Chysostmos Gabriel at 56 Maple Street from 1956 to 1986, and the Cypriana at 11 Rathbone Street was run by Joakim Soteriou from 1960 until 1997.

Their sons are Gabriel Gabriel and Nick Soteriou, who both went to All Souls School, in Foley Street, and often worked 14 hours a day in the restaurants.

Gabriel said his father came from Cyprus in 1950 and started as a kitchen porter in Brick Lane to save money for his own restaurant. "It was family run by the five of us," he said. "When the Post Office Tower opened lots of tourists came attracting photographers with monkeys who charged people a shilling to have their picture taken with it. When the bomb went off in the tower it smashed our windows.

"Then two days before the FA Cup Final in 1975 we had the entire Fulham football team, who were brought by the famous Warren Street car dealer Jack Sigler. They lost 2-0 to West Ham.

"Among our customers were

racing tipster John McCrick, broadcaster Esther Rantzen, Anna Ford, Angela Rippon, Jason King, and the inebriate columnist Jeffrey Bernard who fell asleep during his main course so we had to wake him up when we were closing. If you caught him sober he was OK."

Gabriel also recalls as kids playing at the All Souls Clubhouse in Cleveland Street "where Madness would rehearse in the very early days before they became famous."

Nick said his father was a carpenter by trade who had served in Italy during the war

and came to London from Cyprus in 1952. The restaurant was called La Pell Vista when he got it in 1960, and it changed its name to Cypriana in 1970. "It is dated back to 1762 in the deeds," he added. "A lot of the ITN newscasters ate here, and all of them were over six foot tall, Andrew Gardner being nearly seven foot." Other customers included John Profumo, Kenneth Williams and Bernard Hepton.



56 Maple Street on the corner of Cleveland /street in 1941 (above) and 1976



## Opening and closing shops

**Closed**  
Montys wine bar 52 Wells Street



**Good News** newsagents  
138 Great Portland Street  
**Piano Piano** restaurant  
39 Goodge Street  
**Shiro** sushi bar 19 Percy Street  
**Ready2munch** 48 Goodge Street



**Crispins** convenience store  
69A Great Titchfield Street  
**Opened**

**Stephen St Kitchen**  
BFI 21 Stephen Street  
**Fitzrovia Coffeebar**  
80a Mortimer Street  
**Rivet and Hide** rare denim  
5 Windmill Street



**Bang Bang** Vietnamese canteen  
53 Warren Street  
**Wrap it up** salads wraps  
19 Goodge Street  
**Bobo Social** gourmet burgers  
95 Charlotte Street  
**Martin and Co** estate agents  
112 Cleveland Street  
**Headmasters** hair salon  
114 Great Titchfield Street  
**Opening soon**  
**Wahaca** Mexican canteen corner  
Margaret / Great Portland Street  
**Big Fernand** French gourmet  
burgers 19 Percy Street  
**Delancey & Co** NY deli  
34 Goodge Street

## Olives Indian Cuisine



open as usual  
**20 Cleveland Street**

despite road closure  
**20 per cent off**  
with this advert

**Free local home delivery**

020 7636 1813

020 7636 2300

## Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association

### Annual General Meeting

will be held at the

### Neighbourhood Centre

**39 Tottenham Street W1T 4RX**

**7:00pm**

**Tuesday 30th September**



# Making cardboard boxes for film Trolls

A film being released on September 12 is about cave dwelling monsters who wear recycled cardboard boxes.

So who better to promote it throughout the world than Cardboard, the specialist entertainment agency, based at 33 Percy Street.

The film is called The Boxtrolls and 2,300 cinemas across nine different countries will have an interactive standee - inside which viewers can stand and be photographed with the stars.

Pictured in one of them are Cardboard directors Jason Casey (left) and James Liggins (right) who designed and produced it.

Both have been in the industry a long time - Jason, aged 44, in structural engineering, and James, 33, in product design - and are known to their customers as Hinge and Brackett.

Just over two years ago they set up the agency, assisted by graphic designers, Victoria Butcher and Amanda Hemmings.

"We had a fabulous first year and now have 45 clients with it fantastic for a small agency," said Jason. "The variety of the

work is also incredible. We dressed the window in Harrods with the costumes from Les Miserables, we design pop-up shops, and we were given complete creative freedom by Fender guitars for a promotion which included a juke box and teeshirts.

"We also did a small pop-up cardboard cinema for Arrow Films to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Cinema Paradiso and the rerelease of the film."

A new Tarzan animated film will be promoted by one of their creations which moves and lights up. And just for a bit of fun they have produced a hedgehog shaped penholder.

Their expertise is in three-dimensional products and they have built up a niche market around the world including America, Poland, China, and India.

"We did a great billboard of huge goggle eyes for one of the Despicable films," said James, "and one was in Mumbai where it was seen by someone in the Bollywood industry. He was amazed at how creative we were with cardboard and tracked us down through our website."



Jason Casey in the case and James Liggins on his shoulder surrounded by Boxtrolls

## Cuts killed my brother

**The horror of how benefit cuts killed her diabetic brother have been exposed by local resident Gill Thompson.**

Her campaign to prevent this happening again has received publicity on television, radio and in the *Daily Mirror* and *Guardian*. And her online petition had nearly reached 200,000 as we went to press.

Ex-soldier David Clapson died starving and deprived of his insulin - all because his £71.70 weekly benefits were stopped as a sanction for missing a single meeting. This meant he could not afford food or electricity for his fridge which was needed to keep his insulin chilled.

Three weeks later he died in Stevenage from diabetes ketoacidosis from not taking his insulin.

David was not a scrounger, says Gill in her petition to David Cameron in an inquiry into welfare benefit sanctions introduced to the Department of Work and Pensions by Iain Duncan Smith.

Her brother had worked for 29 years, including five years in the army (two of which were in Northern Ireland during the height of the troubles in the 1970s), 16 years with British Telecom, and eight years with other companies, and he was recently a carer for their sick mother. When she went into a home he applied for benefits while he looked for work and took unpaid work placements.



Gill Thompson holds a picture of her brother David Clapson.

## 200,000 sign petition for action

"When he died he had just £3.44 to his name, six tea bags, a tin of soup, and an out of date can of sardines," she states in her petition. "A coroner also found he had no food in his stomach."

"People turn to the state when they are in need, that is what the system is for, a safety net for hard working people like my brother when they need a bit of support."

"That £71.70 a week was his lifeline. To withhold it from him

for missing one meeting is cruel.

"And the heartbreaking thing is that he was really trying. CVs for job applications were found near David's body. He had been on work placements, passed his fork lift truck certificates and had been on a computer training course."

"Like many others I believe that benefits sanctions (penalties by the government for things like missing Jobcentre meetings) are completely out of control and putting those most in need at risk. A million people have been sanctioned in the last year, many of them are extremely vulnerable like my brother was."

"I want to know how the Department of Work and Pensions can justify welfare sanctions that are driving people to foodbanks and leading to starvation and death. The DWP were aware of my brother's diabetes and insulin dependency, and, if as they say, they followed procedures and no errors were made, then why did my brother die?"

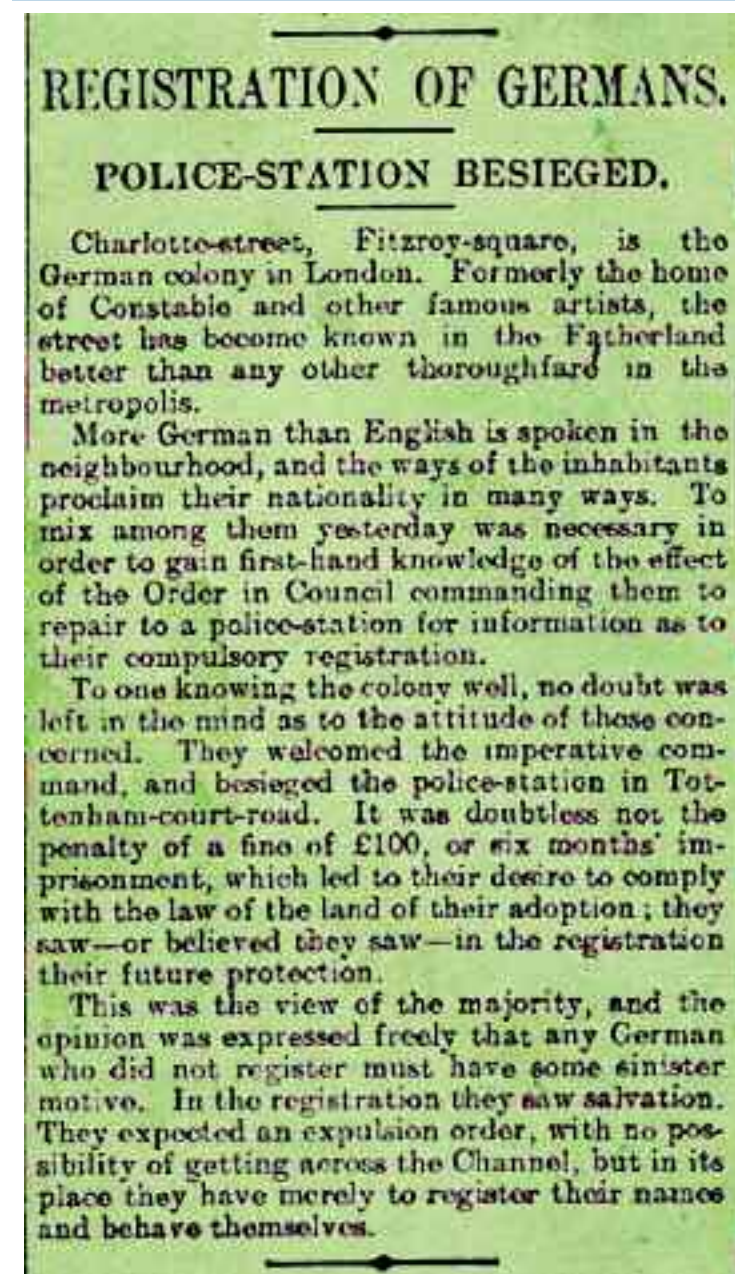
Gill told *Fitzrovia News*: "I phoned him on the Thursday and he died on the Saturday. He did not tell me they had stopped his money. It broke my heart."

"But my campaign is not about compensation or revenge... it is to ensure that lessons are learned and people should not die in future."

**Those wishing to sign her petition can visit**

**[www.change.org/benefitsanctions](http://www.change.org/benefitsanctions).**

## 100 years ago



From *Daily Telegraph World War One Archive* August 7th 1914  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/ww1-archive/>



# Peter directs his first film

By BRIAN JARMAN

**P**utney boy Peter Fudakowski fell in love with cinema when he was a teenager. Films such as *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Cabaret* inspired him to seek a career in the movie business.

It was this dream that brought him, his wife and his children to Fitzrovia, to what he calls Movieland.

Friends told them they were mad to move to the inner city. There were dire warnings about crime and drugs.

"It was the best decision of our lives," he says at his home and office in Colville Place. "It's just the most exciting place to live. I'm a great Fitzrovia. We sold our house in Putney and said 'Right, we're now in the heart of Movieland – we're going to try to make a movie.'"

His first feature film as director, writer and producer - *Secret Sharer* - has just been released and is playing in cinemas around the country. He's waiting to hear about a release in the United States.

But the path to realising his dream of making movies has been a long one. He studied economics at Cambridge University (where he was union president) and in France.

He started off raising money for films, because he knew no other way of getting into the business. He set up a production company, backing movies like *Keeping Mum*, the black comedy with Rowan Atkinson, Maggie Smith and Kirsten Scott Thomas.

"It's a Byzantine process," says Peter. "You have to find the money to develop the screenplay from investors, film funds, government agencies and producers' own pockets. It's like building a house."



PETER FUDAKOWSKI

But ultimately the role of financier was not enough. "You're not expected to understand anything about film," he says. "You don't have any influence on the director because he must direct the film. If you think you can do it better, that's the motivator."

A big break came in 2006 with the film *Tsotsi*, which went on to win an Oscar for best foreign language film. Based on the Athol Fugard novel, it had been 20 years in development.

It is set in Soweto, the township in South Africa, which became notorious under Apartheid for its harsh living conditions and violent state repression.

*Tsotsi* tells the story of a hoodlum who kidnaps a child. But in the end, the film shows a different side to the young man.

"I like reversing stereotypes," says Peter. "The story turns and it reveals his humanity, which is the same as everybody else's."

But Peter's golden rule is that a film must be entertaining, and not preachy. "You can go for the festival market with social realism which tells you how awful the world is, but it's not how I see it. It's never without hope."

"It's very important that a film has a theme, but it can't be too overt."

Peter's current release, *Secret Sharer*, is based on the Joseph Conrad novella. Of Polish ancestry himself, Peter is keen to make the work of the Polish writer more accessible.

Conrad's writing has already inspired many a film such as *Apocalypse Now* and *Secret Agent*.

Peter has updated the story into a contemporary romantic thriller set in the South China Seas. Starring Jack Laskey and the Chinese actress Zhu Zhu, it focusses on the young captain of a cargo ship who is abandoned

by his crew because they suspect he's going to scuttle the vessel after being bribed by the owner.

As the captain waits anxiously on deck that night he spots a naked body floating in the sea. He pulls it up and discovers it is that of a beautiful young Chinese woman who manages to gasp "Hide me."

This he does, in his cabin. But when day breaks a search party arrive looking for a murderer.

And Peter is already working on his next film. It was inspired by a visit to the Foundling Museum in Brunswick Square.

"We chanced on the museum," said Peter. "It had only been open a few years. When we went in I saw the words Coram's Children and I said to my wife 'That's a movie.'"

The Foundling Hospital was London's first home for abandoned children, set up by the philanthropist Thomas Coram, the artist William Hogarth and the composer Handel.

Peter has written the screenplay and now needs to raise £10 million pounds.

"It took Coram 17 years to raise the money to get the Foundling Hospital off the ground," he says. "I hope it doesn't take me 17 years."

Fittingly, for an area Peter Fudakowski loves, it's a local story.

He speaks of Fitzrovia benefitting from "the most wonderful transformation." The beautiful little park opposite his house used to be a car park.

"We want to keep building a sense of community here," he says. "It's a mecca for people from all nations."

His one complaint? "There are lots of screening rooms here, but we need some good cinemas."



## This gripping thriller literally had me on the edge of my seat

By BERYL BAINBRIDGE

I went to see 'Secret Sharer' at the Mayfair Curzon where it was shown for one week. It is an independent film and very well made with beautiful music, and camera work in a fantastic setting. The colour of the sea and those of the sky are masterfully shown.

In fact, the entire setting, whether of the sea and sky, or the interior shots of the old tub, is brilliant. I think 'Secret Sharer' is worth seeing just for the photography and the acting, considering half the cast have never acted before. There are some real characters in it.

The film is based on a short story by Joseph Conrad and was filmed in the South China Seas. All the actors are Chinese except for the Captain. It is very well cast: both leads are good although neither is well known in the West. I enjoyed 'Secret Sharer' very much. In fact I found it quite a thriller, as heart-stopping as the Hollywood film, *Argo*. I was on the edge of my seat all the time.

The story is about a beautiful young woman who is rescued from the sea by the European Captain of a rusty old tub.

(There is also a back-story about the Captain and his ship). He has no idea who the woman is or where she is from, but knows enough about China to realise he is in great trouble in taking her aboard his boat – yet what else could he do with someone who is almost drowning?

He later discovers she is fleeing but that is all he knows. He agrees to hide her from his crew and whoever else may be looking for her. Who she is or where she comes from is a mystery especially as she has no papers. In fact, has nothing, not even a stitch of clothing.

The Captain discovers more about his mysterious refugee when his boat is visited by a group of really tough Chinese men demanding her back. They are certain she is on this ship as there are no others in the vicinity. They cannot find her.

I found the entire film gripping as I waited to see if the young woman will avoid detection and therefore capture.

The Captain discovers that the woman has escaped from their ship and is supposed to have killed a man. She certainly appears to know a lot about ships and the sea.

Keep up to date  
with the latest  
**Fitzrovia News**

facebook.com/FitzroviaNews  
twitter.com/FitzroviaNews  
and

news.fitzrovia.org.UK

You can also receive our  
regular newsletter by  
subscribing here:  
bit.ly/fitzroviaNews

Or using your mobile phone  
text NEWS + your email  
address to 447786200236. It's  
easy to unsubscribe at any  
time.

We have an archive of nearly  
every **Fitzrovia News** and  
**Tower** from 1973  
Visit our archive website  
archive.fitzrovia.org.uk



# Brighter Bathrooms

A SHORT STORY BY  
SUNITA SOLIAR

**I**t is important to remain professional at all times. To remember: just because you are in someone's home, it is not O.K. to make yourself at home. Distance is what keeps you safe from complaints against you or the company. Also from awkwardness. Because, should you get involved, say, in a dispute – it's a stressful decision and lots of couples argue – you still have to gather your samples – tiles, taps, handles – as well as roll up your drawings of the design, before you can exit. Talk about awkward.

Mrs. Quayle is a lawyer and she looks the way I expected her to – she's slim, wearing a fitted skirt, and the toe tips of her shoes are in good condition. But she's younger than I expected, mid to late thirties, because this is a good area and the apartment runs long and wide, with all wood floors and arty furniture: custom-designed angles and perspex. I wore my good suit: I always say people want to buy from people like them, so when you go to nice houses, you have to scrub up, put on the Ritz.

"I've just come in," she says, smoothing herself down. She takes off her shoes and places them on a rack by the door. I move to do the same. "Please," she says. "You don't have to." But I do, even though visible toes make me feel like I might as well be in my underwear.

Mrs. Quayle offers me a drink and tells me to take a seat. I'm good at sitting lightly, not leaving an impression. While she clatters in the kitchen, I strategize. It is July and there are not as many appointments as usual. I didn't make a sale last week. Most people think we get a basic salary and then receive commission on top, but there is no salary, at least not at Brighter Bathrooms. It's all commission. She comes into the living room, slides a coaster in front of me and places a glass of water. "Here you are," she says, and watches me with expectation.

I say, "Are we waiting for Mr. Quayle?"

"He's gone to the gym."

"Oh." I try not to sound surprised because it is not my business, but he has been my point of contact, and when I called earlier to confirm, he said, "We'll see you at seven."

Mrs. Quayle nods as though answering my thoughts. She says, "He likes to be involved." She looks at the coffee table. A lovers' tiff, perhaps. She says, "We got married two weeks ago."

"Lovely," I say. This sort of warm-up is appropriate. They have to feel comfortable – it's their house. I give her five minutes of chit-chat: where was the wedding? How was the honey-



Illustration by Clifford Harper

**'A muffled sound from her and something thuds like it's been lobbed...'**

moon? Then I finish my water decisively and say, "Shall we get started?"

Their current bathroom is better than mine: black and white tiled floor, square shower bath, shelves recessed in the wall for bath foams and sponges. Decent sized toiletry cabinet.

She says, "It was like this when I moved in. Now we're married, I want something new so it can feel like the place is ours. Darren says he doesn't care – men! I was thinking maybe brick walls and a free-standing bath?"

Try being a single parent with two kids to feed. No new bathroom for us just because. I start making notes; then I go back to the car and drag out the samples kit. As we get going, I decide she's not bad, Mrs. Quayle. She knows exactly what she wants and it seems like a sale to me. It takes only a couple of hours to complete the design – some people take that long to pick out a tap. Then she says, "I love it, but I can't make any decisions until my husband gets home. I'm just a bit of a ditz. My thoughts are pure fluff." She makes an airy gesture that seems unnatural. "He'll be here any minute."

Well, she should have said so in the first place: the odds are that when a second party joins some way through, the client gets talked out of it. She assures me her husband is totally on board. She tells me he is an engineer and he's working on an air-conditioning project.

He comes into the bathroom, wearing his gym kit, a huge sweat stain, like a bib, down the front of his t-shirt. He keeps his trainers on. I look to see if she notices. She pretends she doesn't.

"So you've got it all figured out in here?" he says.

"Like we planned," she says. It is almost a question. He nods, scanning the room, the ceiling, like he thinks we've bugged the place. He looks me square in the face, a moment too long, and says, "I'm Darren." A belligerent note. "So what have you been talking my wife into?"

"It's all her idea," I say. "Like we discussed," she repeats. Her voice is spun sugar. "Well, it's her money," he says.

She laughs the sweet laugh. "Ours. We decided – you said

we could."

"I did say." He examines a tile; replaces it like it's a dog turd. "Let's see these designs then."

She talks him through it, watching his face for reaction. He doesn't react. Then he nods. "Sounds expensive," he says. I can see him reeling it back, away from her.

"We can afford it," she says.

"We can, can we? My wife," he announces to me, with a magician's revelatory gesture. "Gets carried away."

Normally, I would ask to use the bathroom to give them a minute. I say, "I'll give you a sec. Tidy these notes in the living room."

He pushes the bathroom door ajar, but I can hear them, and I get the impression he doesn't care if I do. Wants me to even. He tells her: "I knew it was a bad idea. What's wrong with this bathroom?" And she protests that they agreed – he said she could. No, he tells her, she insisted. How does it make him look? She's his wife now. Doesn't she know how to behave? A muffled sound from her and something thuds like it's been lobbed.

He comes out and bypasses me, going into the kitchen, his glare daring me to speak. I wish I had my shoes on. I don't say anything. It isn't my place. A quarrel, that's all. Besides, I feel tricked. She said it was a go. The kids want to go on a school trip in September. I give her a moment, but she does not come out.

I knock on the bathroom door. She wipes her face. I try not to look. Gesture that I need my stuff. She sees it now, as though she had forgotten it was there and tries to hide herself. I don't look. It's not like she's hurt or anything. No red marks. A shower-gel bottle lies next to the toilet. Purple streaks slime the wall.

I see myself out. Everyone gets gnarly sometimes. It doesn't mean anything.

## Poetry corner



**Coffee the catalyst of change**  
by Richard Spivack, "The Property Poet"

Coffee the finest indulgence  
Draws us closer to the reality of the sublime  
A break to consequential  
A move to the labyrinth of most confidential  
Imbued is the secret that the modern world takes  
As we move to a hybrid robusta  
A morphing of the climate change in a small cup  
To embrace our humanity  
As for wars and famine  
We've had enough.

richardspivack@gmail.com

## Mirth

By Felix Dennis

Locked up in the laughter of mortal man  
Is the knowledge of what such a gift has cost him,  
Does the tiger laugh? The orangutan?  
Does the elephant smile when jackals accost him?  
From feather and fang He has hidden his plan,  
And Adam first laughed at the apple Eve tossed him.

To know is to die. From the moment of birth,  
Intimations of death are the midwives of mirth.

**From "Lone Wolf" - for details of how to get this book see page 2.**



## All Saints Church Margaret Street

Your neighbourhood and one of the UK's favourite churches (National Churches Trust 2013)

A diverse congregation we warmly welcome you to worship with us in the catholic tradition of the Church of England with glorious music from our professional choir in one of London's finest church buildings.

**Sunday Main Services**  
**11am High Mass**  
**6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction**

The church is open throughout the week 7am - 7pm and there are regular daily services.

For more details please see [www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk](http://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



By MIKE PENTELOW

**W**hat do singer Freddie Mercury, philosopher Jeremy Bentham, a leper, a brewery worker, two nurses, a German officer and a bewhiskered butler have in common?

Their ghosts have all been reportedly seen in the area.

Freddie Mercury's ghost was seen by several people at the Dominion Theatre, 269 Tottenham Court Road, during the run of the Queen musical "We Will Rock You" which finished a long run earlier this year.

He appeared during the singing of "We are the champions" according to Ian John Shillito, who was stage manager there. "I had felt a presence behind me whilst I was cueing the show, then I clairvoyantly saw him watching the show from the wings and criticising it," he wrote in his book "Haunted West End Theatres." Freddie was also seen by Becky Walsh (co-author of the same book and also a stage manager at the Dominion), and one of the singers in the production.

The ghost of the brewery worker was seen in the same theatre more than 20 times by doorman Dave Allen. He described a stranger in front of the safety curtain dressed in a leather apron and hitting a stopper into a beer barrel. There was a brewery on the site in the 18th and 19th centuries - and eight people were killed there in 1811 when a huge beer vat exploded. They were drowned or poisoned from the fumes as 600,000 gallons of beer flooded the premises and surrounding area.

The leper ghost was seen in the same theatre by its resident fireman Andy Sutherland while playing with a Ouija board on

stage after a performance of "Grease". A leper hospital also used to be on the site of the theatre from 1101 when it was founded by Queen Matilda, consort of Henry I. This was a condition of releasing her from her nun's vows in order to get married to the king. In the same Ouija session was seen the ghost of one of the theatre's stagehands who had died of an overdose.

An actress in Dressing Room 27 at the theatre was twice hit in the face by a flying light bulb, as witnessed by electrician Danny Twoomy, and just outside it hovered a white mist the size of a

football as seen by deputy master carpenter Kerstin Muller. She also heard steps behind her but nobody was there. A black figure of a man walking through a closed caged door and then disappearing was seen by backstage crew member Alex Sayer. A Victorian girl was also seen in the corridor and doors opened and closed themselves.

University College London in Gower Street is reportedly haunted by Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832). He was a great supporter of University College when it was set up in 1826 to be "open to members of all religions or none" earning it the

nickname "Godless Gower Street."

To make medical research less dependent on body snatchers he donated his own body. While he was being dissected a violent thunderstorm raged. His skeleton and head were then dressed in his clothes and preserved in UCL's South Cloisters where it is to this day (his head being replaced by a wax effigy after it was frequently borrowed by students to play football with). His ghost has been seen chasing staff around with his walking stick which he called Dapple.

Just over the road, the origi-

nal University College Hospital at the top end of Gower Street is haunted by nurse Lizzie Church's ghost. When patients there were injected with morphine she hovered over them protectively to stop them being given an overdose. This was because she had mistakenly killed her own lover by giving him too much morphine when she was a trainee nurse there at the end of the 19th century.

The ghost of a patient with his head swathed in bandages terrified a lady guest in one of the small hotels in the same street when it visited her room in the middle of the night. She described the bandages as being luminous and the figure faded into nothingness after terrifying her for a few minutes.

The Middlesex Hospital Radium Wing in Nassau Street was haunted until 1931 by the ghost of a nurse dressed in the grey uniform that used to be worn in those days. This wing opened in 1899 for the treatment of cancer with the then new treatment of radium. The dangers of radiation were not then known and two nurses, Sister Clark and Sister Phillips, both died from exposure to it while treating patients, along with Dr C R C Lyster and Mr R Mann. The nurse's ghost was "wont to take her silent stand beside the bed of anyone about to die."

The ghost of a bewhiskered butler with a hole in one of his socks holding a tray was seen by an engineer on the fourth floor in the original Broadcasting House in Langham Place early one morning. It was also seen by compere Brian Richie and newsreader Lionel Marsie just before the second world war.

A German officer's ghost has been seen in Room 333 on the third floor of the Langham Hotel, just opposite Broadcasting House, by more than one person. The late disc jockey Ray Moore saw it in January 1971 at 4.30 am. "He was a biggish man, thick set, with a crew cut and wearing a uniform style coat that buttoned up at the neck, surrounded by a kind of aura of bright, white light," he stated. After fleeing he told the commissioner "who said it sounded like the German officer who committed suicide before world war one by jumping out of a window." In 1973 news reader and announcer James Alexander Gordon saw it in the same room. He described a fluorescent ball taking a human shape and floating towards him two feet above the ground with arms outstretched - "its eyes fixed in a terrifying unblinking stare." He said it was dressed in Victorian era clothes including a cloak and cravat.

Another news reader Peter Donaldson also reported seeing a ghost in the same room. "I woke up to find a force trying to push me out of bed," he said. "The curtains were closed but there was a glowing light inside the room."

# Spooky haunts



## Persian perfection at a reasonable price

**DEL'ISH 161 Whitfield Street**

"Persian Promise" said my dining companion looking at the menu of this restaurant with its warm mezze and cold mezze, a good vegetarian selection, and interesting-looking main dishes, as well as kebabs of many kinds.

This wonderful summer has of course meant it has been possible to dine outside as well as in, and Del'ish - a relatively new, large corner restaurant with good outside seating near Warren Street tube station - seems to be open all day, Monday to Saturday and you can go there just for a coffee or a drink if you want. Its outside tables during the heatwave were seldom empty, and the staff are extremely friendly and efficient.

Del'ish is Persian-oriented (Persian is their word) and reasonably priced. Plenty of good wine served: a large glass of Australian shiraz, enough to last the whole meal, is £7.50. Cold mezzes (Tzatziki, Tabouleh, Baba Ghanouch among others all at £3.50) and warm mezzes

By the DINING DETECTIVE



(mint and feta borek, spiced lamb with yoghurt, grilled veal Balkan sausages and many others £4-£6). The chef knows how to cook halloumi without it going rubbery (an art!), which is served with quince as a warm mezze for £4.50; a very tasty aubergine mezze with warm bread is also £4.50. There were kebabs and shish kebabs of every kind: Persian chicken shish for £10.50, Lamb Shish for £12.50 and a Shish Platter to

share for £28. Takeaway kebabs are available for around £6.50.

But the absolute delight for us was a dish called Fesenjoon: described as "succulent chicken breast in crushed walnut, pomegranate and maple sauce" - it seemed more like a rich, sweet stew but was wonderful, served with a beautiful separate dish of saffron rice topped with more pomegranate seeds (£12.50). We sat outside as the sun set over Warren Street eating this dish and thought we were quite near to paradise: my companion called it "Persian Perfection."

Perhaps the desserts at £5.50 were the least satisfactory part of the meal (we didn't really need desserts but I take my Dining Detective work very seriously!): I thought the point of Baked Alaska was that it was warm on the outside, not something out of the fridge. Nice coconut icecream. Hot drinks at £2.75. For all this the bill for two was £63.50 - but of course the obligatory 12.5% service charge was added. Still: I had

found my Fitzrovia heart's desire: an enjoyable good meal for two for under £70 (well, £71.44).

I had been so impressed that I went back a few weeks later with someone else. The wine was still good. Lovely cold vegetarian mezze of dips and vegetables and pitta bread, to share for £17. My companion had lamb shish and enjoyed it. And with such good memories I decided to have the Fesenjoon again. As I said it is described as "succulent chicken breast" and last time was slightly more like a stew. This time it was mostly legs, lots of bones and a small piece of breast, served with boiled rice with a tiny bit of saffron rice on the top and no pomegranate seeds. The sauce was still very nice but the chicken wasn't succulent like last time. So although I think this restaurant is most certainly worth a visit for you to make up your own mind, perhaps finding "Persian Paradise" there might be the luck of the draw.



# Ten easy-to-miss artworks on the streets of Fitzrovia

By PETER BERTHOUD

The streets of Fitzrovia contain a feast of beautiful architectural details, excellent sculptures, joyful pieces of street art and interesting items of street furniture but they are often easy to miss. This is a selection of some of my favourites. If you haven't already spotted them all, I've given an approximate location for each piece. Have fun looking for them and spotting even more of interest in the process.



## 1. Serpent Boy

This marvellous weather vane adorns the former Catesby's Department Store, built 1903-05 by Henry A. Whitburn. Catesby's were the specialists in linoleum.

The great architectural critic Pevsner neatly describes the upper floors of this building as a "froth of eclectic detail". I particularly like the stone dragon.

Location: Tottenham Court Road, near Goodge Street Station.



## 2. Lady With a Spear

She is Minerva, Roman goddess of wisdom and the symbol of the swanky Minerva Motor Car Company of Belgium, whose London offices were built here in 1912.

George Vernon was the architect but Minerva's sculptor is unknown.

Location: Just off Chenies Street.

## Picture puzzle special



## 3. Colourful Gum

Several examples of Ben Wilson's chewing gum art can be found in and around the entrance to this local gallery.

More on Ben Wilson on [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben\\_Wilson\\_\(artist\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Wilson_(artist))

Location: Maple Street.



## 4. Muscular Arms

One former local industry is remembered in this building's decoration. George Manning Whitley was a Goldbeater whose company produced gold and silver leaf.

He commissioned this new company HQ which was completed in 1919 and had it decorated with the traditional symbols of his trade, Goldbeaters' Arms.

Location: Whitfield Street.



## 5. Guardians of the Close

This Close bears the name of a family firm of picture frame makers who had their warehouses here in the 19th century.

The company also specialised in packing, storing and removing works of art and held Royal warrants from Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales.

Are these statues unclaimed artworks formerly in their care?

Location: Off Riding House Street.



## 6. Faces Set in Brick

A fine selection of characterful military men look out from the walls of the former drill hall of the Bloomsbury Rifles.

Built 1882-83, the architect was Samuel Knight.

Location: Chenies Street.



## 7. Glum Angels and Their Friends

This whimsical collection of figures adorn the London studio of the Office for Subversive Architecture, "osa".

Location: In a mews between Rathbone Street and Newman Street.



## 8. The Devil Observes

This demonic figure watches customers from high above the entrance to his pub. The building is one of the finest examples of Treadwell & Martin's specialist pub architecture and dates to 1896.

Location: Tottenham Court Road, south of Goodge Street and north of Hanway Street.



## 9. Girl at a Window

Alluring mural set within a blind window. On the same building are some beautiful daffodil tiles.

Location: The best view can be had from the only Passage off Charlotte Street.



## 10. Ice-Cream Railings

The former offices of Shirt Sleeve Studio, a model making and design company set up by husband and wife team Nancy Fouts and Malcolm Fowler in the late 1960s. The plastic ice-cream cone bears their initials NF & MF. Look too for the paintbrush bearing hands in the window frame.

One of Shirt Sleeve's greatest hits? The first ever Fitzrovia Festival Poster in 1973!

Location: Tottenham Street

## How to contact Peter

**Peter Berthoud is a London historian, writer, and guide. He runs unique guided walks in London including one that visits "Every Street in Fitzrovia in a Day"!**

The next date for that walk is September 27th. For more details and to book places email [Walks@peterberthoud.co.uk](mailto:Walks@peterberthoud.co.uk) or visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/walk-every-street-in-fitzrovia-in-a-day-saturday-september-27th-tickets-11600051065>



# Head for the horizon, I'll meet you there

By CLIVE JENNINGS

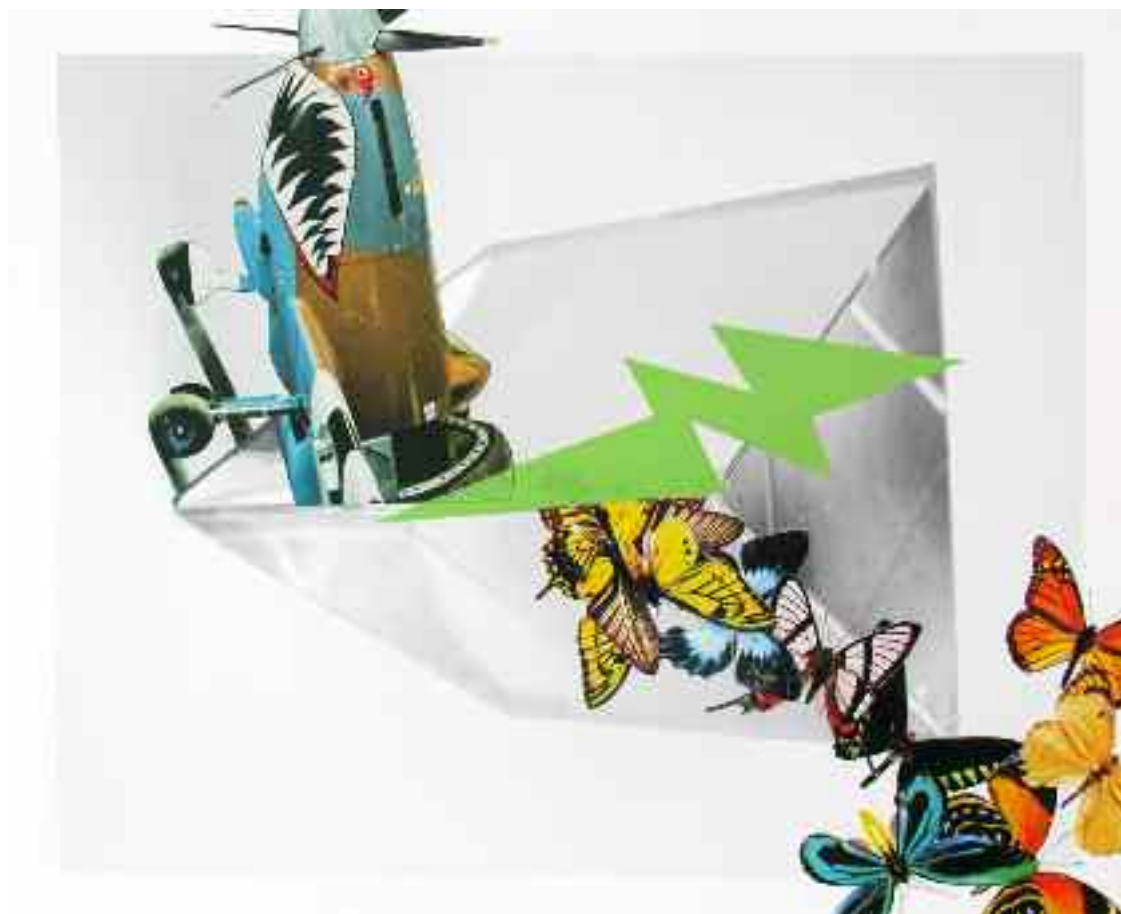
London artist Alice Stallard's exhibition of collages at Fitzrovia's Nancy Victor Gallery from October 28 to November 3, with a Private View on Thursday October 30 from 6- to 8pm, has the intriguing title *Head for the Horizon, I'll Meet You There*. This relates to the journey taken by the artist in making the artwork and the interaction with the viewer on seeing it. Alice explains: "The pieces are about the objects that people carry with them to tell their stories by, or to bring good luck. There's part of me in it but hopefully people can look at it and create their own stories from the work."

Alice studied painting at Brighton University, going on to take a Masters degree at Norwich School of Art & Design, and later a teaching qualification at Goldsmiths College. She currently has a work on exhibition at Tate Britain as part of the Tate Collective Spotlight display. Her oeuvre encompasses drawing, illustration, painting, printmaking and sculpture, but she has

chosen to exhibit new collages. This is particularly appropriate as there is a local connection with the birth of collage (from the French *coller*: to glue) around a hundred years ago.

It was Picasso and Braque, no one is exactly sure who made the first snip, who first experimented with the process in 1912. Around this time critic and artist Roger Fry - the principal figure behind the design enterprise of the Bloomsbury Group the Omega Workshops at 33 Fitzroy Square in 1913 - gave fragments of decorative wallpaper to his grateful pal Picasso, who would use them in his early collages.

The starting point of the works is a small physical object which Alice photographs and prints on to a sheet of archival paper in monotone. This might be a prism that her father gave her; an exquisite milagro (the religious folk charms used as votive offerings in Mexico) in the shape of a heart; a toy tiger or any other talismanic item small enough to hold in the



*Transformation by Alic Stallard*

hand and fit in a pocket. They have a history and a resonance for Alice, which is passed on to others, for them to respond to and interpret. Part of the human

condition is that we collect things, and Alice has no shortage of source material, having accumulated a fascinating collection of ephemera, toys, small sculptures and models, each selected for both its visual appeal and its unique back-story.

Alice then collages images around the object, playing with scale and colour, sometimes adding a screenprinted element, to create a new narrative. Figurative collages almost inevitably have a surreal quality due to the juxtaposition of images that are often unrelated in size and subject, what André Breton described as "The chance meeting on a dissecting table of a sewing machine and an umbrella".

## BUTTERFLIES

The themes of the works echo this: everything from Muhammad Ali morphing into a boxer to butterflies turning into a fighter plane as they pass through a prism.

As well as the original item, the donor material often has special meaning for Alice: "A picture over 20 years old suddenly has its moment". In some cases these are pictures she has had since childhood, making the collage even more significant. The textural qualities of the donor images are also an important element: papers from different periods have a very different feel when stuck down. There is a major contrast between the edge of an old banknote that has travelled around the world, a cheap paper bag and an old magazine. Some pieces will be mounted on wooden blocks, rather than framed behind glass, so these tactile qualities are retained and can be experienced by visitors.

Alice's family has connections with the West End dating

back to the 1960s when her parents lived in Gerard Street, in a flat above a drinking club, in Soho's Chinatown area, as students, staying until 1975. They loved this area, and her architect father, Robert Stallard's interest extended to writing his dissertation about the then fast changing urban landscape of Soho. He compiled a map detailing many of the premises in the area, offering everything from delicatessen to delights of the flesh, and took photographs documenting the disappearing old shops and businesses.

The prospect of exhibiting in an area linked to her family history is very important to Alice, and echoes the story telling and folkloric aspects of her work. It gives her an opportunity to create her own history in Fitzrovia by showing where her heroes lived and socialised, and make her contribution to the great artistic heritage of the area, following in the footsteps of Duncan Grant, Nina Hamnett, Augustus John, Johnny Minton and so many others.

*Head For the Horizon, I'll Meet You There*, Nancy Victor Gallery, October 28 to November 3 at 6 Charlotte Place.

[www.nancyvictor.com](http://www.nancyvictor.com)



*Paper Tiger by Alice*

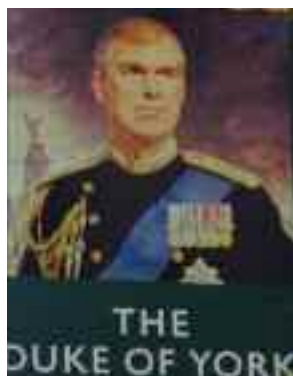


*Alice Stallard at work in her studio*

## THE DUKE OF YORK

Opening hours, Mon-Fri, 12-11pm, Sat 1-11pm, Sun closed  
47 RATHBONE STREET, LONDON W1T 1NW  
020 7636 7065 [thedukepub@gmail.com](mailto:thedukepub@gmail.com)

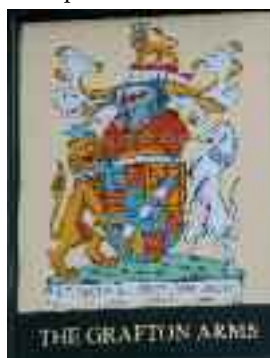
A traditional pub, with a good selection of real ales And varied wine list.  
Upstairs Bar/Function room available for private parties and Buffets.  
Check us out on Facebook!



## THE GRAFTON ARMS

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 12-11pm, Sat 5-11pm, Sun closed.  
72 GRAFTON WAY, LONDON W1T 5DU  
020 7387 7923 [thegraffonpub@gmail.com](mailto:thegraffonpub@gmail.com)

Newly refurbished heated roof terrace. Food served 12-3, 6-10 pm  
Parties catered for. Range of real ales. Function area. Friendly service!





# Searching for Sarah on the Northern Line

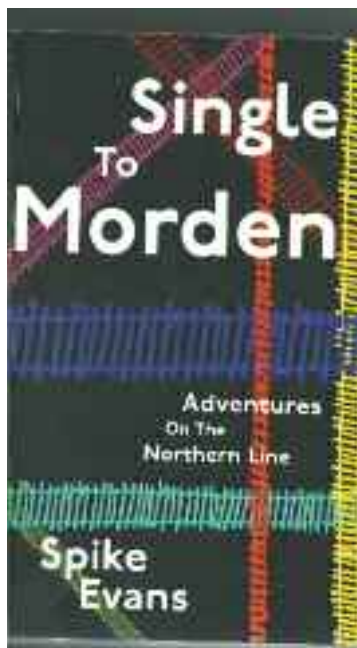
By JULIA CUMMING

**Single to Morden, by Spike Evans (Up Yours! Publishing)**

"Flatshare - £430 pcm inc. - nice area - one month deposit handy for the Northern Line": this is all the information Tim Howden has to try and find Sarah, his former girlfriend after an acrimonious parting.

Tim and his friend Jeremy meet in the Fat Ox Pub in Whitby and decide on a way to find Sarah. Tim plans to do this on the supposition that Sarah commutes to work from one Northern Line Station. So if he visits every station on the Northern Line in time for the morning commute and stays there for about 14 hours he will surely find Sarah.

The publishers describe this book as part romantic comedy and part travelogue. Northern Line tube station names are assigned to each of the 50 chapters. In some, the station, its surrounds and the people Tim encounters become part of the



story. Claire, a receptionist at the Happi-Lodge in Edgware where Tim stays from his arrival in London, is the first character introduced to his search. Claire remains in the story throughout.

Thus the Northern Line journey begins. There are misunder-

standings aplenty: as Tim loiters by the ticket machines at Euston he's picked up by the police, is mistaken for somebody who wants to look at porn at Mornington Crescent and is suspected of being a stalker.

Some of the chapters contain a wealth of detail about the stations and surrounding area - such as Tottenham Court Road. Tim ends up being inveigled by a charity fundraiser to support the Giant Panda. He does not know how he ended up sponsoring a panda. The mosaic tiles in the ticket hall at the station are described as being reminiscent of 1973.

His quest takes him north and south of the river. Elephant and Castle is described as a "bloody big roundabout" and Claire assures him Sarah would not be living there.

In Hampstead Tim receives advice by a gay couple he meets - not to look like a stalker. Tim is left with the feeling that he's "a retrosexual dinosaur that's somehow wandered into a GQ

photo shoot". Of Woodside Park he comments, "I actually find myself gagging in disbelief that anyone would willingly get off the train here. That's how boring the place is."

I was disappointed that Goodge Street gets the smallest of mentions only in respect of pubs and Charlotte Street's restaurants. The chapter is not material to the story. We are fortunate in and around Goodge Street to have such illustrious places as the Cleveland Street workhouse, the former and much-missed Middlesex Hospital with its splendid chapel, and the many Blue Plaques. None of this is included in the book. Warren Street fares no better. But it's an intriguing idea and the descriptions of stations such as Tottenham Court Road are evocative.

The illustrations in the front pages of the book gives the reader a hint as to the outcome of the story - it ends up far away from the Northern Line.

## Bloodcurdling tales of an adventurous life

**Tiger Woman, My Story, by Betty May (republished by Duckworth Overlook, £8.99)**

Where do you go to recover from the death of your husband after he drank the blood of a cat he has just slaughtered with a Gurkha knife?

The Fitzroy Tavern in Charlotte Street of course. That is what Betty May (1901-1958) did in 1923, as revealed in her original memoirs of 1929, now republished to celebrate the new musical of her life "Tiger Woman versus The Beast" (see centre pages).

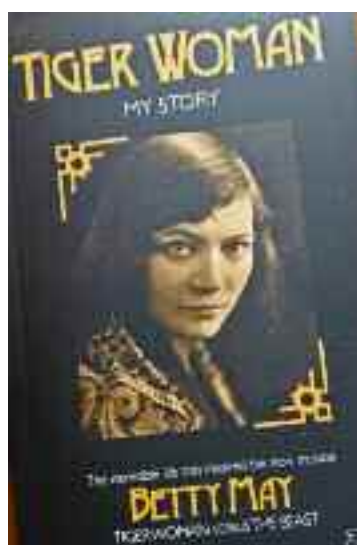
Her husband Raoul Loveday had been coerced to sacrifice the cat by satanist Aleister Crowley

(1875-1947) in his Sicilian Abbey. Betty fled back to London and took a taxi straight from the station to her favourite pub, the Fitzroy Tavern.

"There is nowhere quite like the Fitzroy," she wrote. "It seems more of a cafe than a public house, or at least as like a cafe as anything I know in England."

It was here that she met the artist Jacob Kramer (1892-1962) who painted a picture of her entitled The Sphinx. This painting was exhibited at the Wembley Exhibition after which he became famous. Up until then he could not afford a studio so she posed for him in a drinking club. They agreed to marry but his Jewish mother refused to allow him to marry a Christian.

When they got the money for the painting (which had been paid for by a Bradford manufacturer) they gave a series of parties at another of their favourite Fitzrovia pubs - the Yorkshire Grey at the corner of Fitzroy Street and Maple Street (now the



Potion Bar currently closed).

It was then the meeting place of a considerable artistic circle, she recalled. "Here I met a remarkable man, Brooks, the fox-hunting painter, and his wife Pete, who was once one of Epstein's most promising pupils, but has done little serious sculpture since her marriage."

It is a colourfully descriptive

and gripping narrative, as she tells the story of her early life, from being born into poverty in Limehouse, living on a barge (and dancing for passing sailors for coins) as a youngster, living on her wits among gangsters in Paris, and then mixing in Fitzrovia with artists such as Augustus John, Jacob Epstein, and Nina Hammett (whose sketch of her at the bar of the Fitzroy Tavern is published in this book), often dining in the Eiffel Tower at 1 Percy Street. Later she met and became the "twin soul" of a "Red Indian" called Princess Waletka who was a hypnotist and thought reader. Together they went to her reservation in America, but eventually the pull of London again proved too much for Betty.

She concluded the book by observing that she was still young and her future undecided, "but one of these days you will certainly hear of me again, and perhaps read of the further adventures of Betty May." MP

### Pocket poets

**Bloomsbury and The Poets, by Nicholas Murray (Rack Press Editions, £8).**

We learn that poet William Empson (1906-1984), who was kicked out of Cambridge after contraceptives were found in his room, preferred to drink in Fitzrovia although he lived in Bloomsbury from 1929.

The wonderfully named poet Winthrop Mackworth Praed (1802-39) wrote *Discourse*, a wicked satire of the University of London ("the Cockney College") in Gower Street. And in the same street war poet Isaac Rosenberg (1890-1918) attended Slade School of Fine Art. A handy booklet of literary walks.

### Looking back

#### 30 years ago

**Dangerous levels of radiation** were found in office buildings at 1-3 Riding House Street. It previously housed the Radium Institute and during refurbishment a precautionary geiger counter reading revealed levels up to 40 times what the Department of the Environment considered to be safe.

"All aspects of the operation had been kept secret but it is understood that at least 24 barrels of plaster wood and concrete have been taken off to the Atomic Energy HQ at Harwell" we reported.

Andrew Ridgeley and

**George Michael** of the pop group Wham were happy to sign autographs for large crowds of youngsters outside their publicity office in Gosfield Street.

(Fitzrovia News, September 1984)

#### 20 years ago

Recordings of a solo falsetto to lull and catch sharks, and a special yodel to cure sickness in mosquito-infested areas of Papua New Guinea, were featured.

They had been recorded by Nassau Street resident John Thornley, who was a BBC Radio 3 producer of ethnic music programmes.

(Fitzrovia News, September 1994)

### ART LISTINGS

Continued from back page

Place (lglondon.org): David Connearn until Sep 13.

**Lazarides Gallery**, 11 Rathbone Place (lazinc.com): Lucy McLauchlan, Sep 19-Oct 18.

**Nancy Victor**, 6 Charlotte Place (nancyvictor.com): Arantza Vilas, Katherine Pogson, Karen Henriksen and Stephanie Ray until Sep 15; Magnus Gjoen, Flora Bors, Mariska Karlo, Maria Koshenkova, Sept 19-Oct 7; ArtDog London (pop up) Oct 14-18; Alice Stallard, Oct 29-Nov 1; Yael David-Cohen, Nov 5-10; Carol Justin, Nov 14-15; LUXAC (pop up), Nov 18-21; Anna Magnowska, Nov 25-29; FORMULA (pop up), Dec 2-5.

**National Print Gallery**, 56 Maple St (nationalprintgallery.com).

**Paradise Row**, 74 Newman St (paradiserow.com).

**Pi Artworks**, 55 Eastcastle St (piartworks.com): Steven Morgana, Christian Newby, Lisa Slominski, Theodoros Stamatogiannis, Farniyaz Zaker, until Sep 10.

**Pilar Corrias**, 54 Eastcastle St (pilarcorrias.com): Mary Reid Kelly, Sep 10-Oct 4; Phillippe Parreno, Oct 14-Nov 15; Tunga, Nov 21-Jan 16.

**Rebecca Hossack Gallery** (1), 2a Conway St (rebeccahossack.com): Sherry Karver until Sep 27; Esther Nienhuis until Sep 27; Andy Dixon, Oct 8-19; Andrew Mockett, Oct 20-Nov 3; Barbara Macfarlane, Nov 5-Nov 29; Derren Brown, Nov 5-29.

**Rebecca Hossack Gallery** (2) 28 Charlotte St (rebeccahossack.com): Stephen Anthony Davids, until Sep 13; Worrwur Owls, Sep 17 to Oct 4; Song - Nyeo Lee, Oct 8-Oct 18; David Forster, Oct 22-Nov 8; Hepzibah Swinford, Nov 12-Nov 29.

**Rook and Raven**, 7/8 Rathbone Place (rookandraven.co.uk): Shaun McDowell, Manuel Laralde, Vanessa Garwood, William Roper-Curzon, until Oct 4

**Rose Issa Projects**, 82 Great Portland St (roseissa.com): Nermaine Hamman, Sep 3-Oct 3.

**Rosenfeld Porcini**, 37 Rathbone St (rosenfeldporcini.com): Kieta Miyazaki and Bongsu Park, until Sept 30.

**Richard Saltoun**, 111 Great Titchfield St (richardsaltoun.com): John Hilliard until Oct 9.

**Scream Gallery**, 27-28 Eastcastle St (screamlondon.com).

**Store Street Gallery**, 32 Store St (storestreetgallery.com): Muse, Oct 9-25.

**Tiwani Contemporary**, 16 Little Portland St (tiwani.co.uk): Rotimi Fani-Kayode, Sep 19-Nov 1.

**T J Boulting**, 59 Riding House St (tjboulting.com): Boo Saville, Oct 16-Nov 15; Henry Hudson, Nov 26-Jan 2015.

**Woolff Gallery**, 89 Charlotte St (woolffgallery.co.uk).

## Shiv Pharmacy

70 Great Titchfield Street  
London W1W 7QN

Prescriptions  
Multivitamins  
Herbal Medications  
Natural and  
Homeopathic  
produce

Friendly Medical  
Advice  
Open Monday to Friday  
8.30am to 6pm

Tel/Fax  
**020 7580 2393**

shivpharmacy@hotmail.co.uk



# WHAT'S ON AROUND FITZROVIA

Email [news@fitzrovia.org.uk](mailto:news@fitzrovia.org.uk) by November 19 for the December 2014 issue, and put "Listings" in the subject box.

## LIVE MUSIC

**The Albany**, 240 Great Portland St ([thealbanyw1w.co.uk](http://thealbanyw1w.co.uk)): Ukeleles on Wednesdays.

**All Saints Church**, Margaret St: Organ recital by Charles Andrews, Sept 14, 7.15pm. Organ recital by Carl Bahoshy, Sept 28, 7.15pm.

**Bolivar Hall**, 54 Grafton Way ([cultura.embavenez-uk.org](http://cultura.embavenez-uk.org)): London Classical Guitar Festival, Sept 20-21 and 24-25, 7.30pm. Sistema in Norwich, concert celebrating UNESCO International Music Day, Oct 1, 6pm. Discovering South America: A Guitarist's Journey, Christian Wood, Oct 9, 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](http://web.mustradclub.co.uk)).

**Tower Tavern**, 21 Clipstone St: Live rock music most Saturdays, 8-11pm.

**The 100 Club**, 100 Oxford St ([the100club.co.uk](http://the100club.co.uk)): The Sex Pissed Dolls, Sept 19. Dan Sartain, Sept 25. Lust for Youth, Sept 26. Special Kinda Madness, Sept 27. Take Me to the River Allstars, Sept 28. Tuesday Blues, Sept 30. Jazz Poetry Superjam, Oct 3. Sleaford Mods, Oct 23 and 24. Skinny Lister, Oct 25. Legendary Shack Shakers, Oct 27.

**UCL Chamber Music Club**, Haldane Room, Main Campus, Gower St ([ucl.ac.uk/chamber-music](http://ucl.ac.uk/chamber-music)): All 5.30-6.30pm unless stated. Baroque concert featuring Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 4, Oct 2. Music by Brahms, Oct 14. Vaughan Williams, Oct 29, 7-9.30pm. Richard Strauss, Oct 31, 1.10pm. **UCLU Music Society**, Nov 12, 1.10pm. Composers on composers, Nov 21, 1.10pm. UCL Front Quad. Wilkins Building, Gower St: ICLU Charity Concert, Dec 2, 1-8pm.

## LIVE COMEDY

**The Albany**, 240 Great Portland St: Mondays at 8pm.

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

**Mully's Basement Bar**, 136 Gower St: LOL Comedy Show, Oct 26, 7pm.

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

## WALKS

**Wheatsheaf**, 25 Rathbone Place: London Literary Pub Crawl, every Saturday, 5pm. [LondonLiteraryPubCrawl.com](http://LondonLiteraryPubCrawl.com) **29 Fitzroy Square**, Virginia Woolf guided walk starts Sept 20, 10am. **Every Street in Fitzrovia**: Sept 27 - see page 17.



*Animals by Brendan Hansbro at the Curwen Gallery until Sept 27*

## THEATRE

**Bloomsbury Theatre**, 15 Gordon St ([thebloomsbury.com](http://thebloomsbury.com)): Paul Foot: Hovercraft Symphony in Gammon Major, Oct 18. Peter Pan and the Designers of the Caribbean (in aid of NSPCC), Oct 28-Nov 1. Dead Funny (Charlie Higson, Stewart Lee, Josie Long and others), Nov 2. I died in hell (They called it Passchedaele), WW1 through Europe's literature, Nov 4. John Shuttleworth, Dec 1-2. Peter Pan, Dec 11-14.

**Camden People's Theatre**, 58-60 Hampstead Rd ([cptheatre.co.uk](http://cptheatre.co.uk)): 20:20 Vision, Sept 18-20.

Women's Hour cabaret, Sept 24-Oct 12. Festival of the Spoken Nerd, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1.

**Dominion Theatre**, 269 Tottenham Court Rd ([dominiontheatre.co.uk](http://dominiontheatre.co.uk)): Evita, Sept 16 for seven weeks. White Christmas, Nov 8-Jan 3.

**London Palladium**, Argyll St ([the-london-palladium.com](http://the-london-palladium.com)): Lord of The Dance, Sept 1-Oct 25. Cats The Musical, Dec 8 for 12 weeks.

**New Diorama Theatre**, 15 Triton St, opposite top of Fitzroy St ([newdiorama.com](http://newdiorama.com)): Reptember, Sept 2-20.

**RADA**, Malet St, opp Birkbeck College ([www.rada.org](http://www.rada.org)): GBS Theatre: Raft of the Medusa, until Sept 6.

## CINEMA/FILM

**Bolivar Hall**, 54 Grafton Way ([cultura.embavenez-uk.org](http://cultura.embavenez-uk.org)): All 7.30pm unless stated. Breach in the Silence, Sept 9. More Than Honey, and Flashmob Veezuela, 11am. Samuel, Sept 16. Palmeras Kanibales, Sept 19. Topsy Turvy, Sept 30. Fire in the Blood, and Cricklewood Craic, Oct 12. 11am. War Matters, and The Lab, Nov 9, 11am. Pete Seeger: The Power of Song, and Blacklisting - Giant Steps, Dec 14, 11am.

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

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

**Screen @ Rada**, Malet St, opposite Birkbeck College ([rada.org](http://rada.org)): All at 7pm. Two Gentlemen of Verona, Sept 3. Medea, Sept 4. A Streetcar Named Desire, Sept 16.

**UCL film screenings** ([ucl.ac.uk](http://ucl.ac.uk)): **Basement**, 1-19 Torrington Place: All at 6.30pm: Pariah, Oct 10. Wadjda, Oct 13.

**Petrie Museum**, Malet Place: Immortal, Oct 15, 6pm.

Gentlemen of Horror: Mr Cushing and Mr Lee, Oct 31, 6pm. Lucifer Rising, Nov 6, 6pm.

**Grant Museum of Zoology**, 21 University St: One of Our Dinosaurs is Missing, Nov 25, 6.30pm.

## PUB QUIZZES

**The Albany**, 240 Great Portland St: Every Tuesday.

**One Tun**, 58 Goodge St: Every Tuesday.

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

## TALKS

**UCL lunch hour lectures**, Darwin Theatre, Gower St, entrance in Malet Place ([ucl.ac.uk/events](http://ucl.ac.uk/events)): All at 1.15pm: On supernovae and serendipity, Oct 7. Does parliament matter? Oct 9. The powerful effect of placebo, Oct 14. Distracted, confused and unaware: the elusive gift of attention, Oct 16. Truth and illusion in philosophy and theatre, Oct 21. How to read paintings, Oct 23. The powers of the EU: myths and realities, Oct 28. Bright Sparks: the history and science of fireworks, Oct 30. **Sohemian Society**, Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place: All at 7.30pm. Patrick MacGoohan and The Prisoner, speaker Rupert Booth, Sept 29. Zeppelin Nights (London in the First World War), speaker Jerry Booth, Oct 22.

## ART GALLERIES

**Adam Gallery**, 67 Mortimer St. ([adamgallery.com/london](http://adamgallery.com/london)).

**Alison Jacques Gallery**, 18 Berners St ([alisonjacquesgallery.com](http://alisonjacquesgallery.com)): Dorothea Tanning until Sept 27. Irma Blank, Oct 17-Nov 15. Saul Fletcher, Nov 21-Dec 20.

**Arch One**, 12 Percy St ([archonepictureframing.co.uk](http://archonepictureframing.co.uk)): Various artists, ongoing.

**Art First**, 21 Eastcastle St ([art-first.c.uk](http://art-first.c.uk)): Dan Sturgis, Sept 4-Oct 4. Will Mclean, Oct 8-Nov 8. The Moon group show co-curated with Simon Morley, Nov 13-Dec 20.

**Arup Phase 2**, 8 Fitzroy St ([arup.com/phase2](http://arup.com/phase2)).

**Bartha Contemporary**, 25

## EXHIBITIONS

**All Saints**, Margaret St: John Lewis Partnership Arts & Crafts Club, Sept 21, 12-6pm.

**British Museum**, Great Russell St ([britishmuseum.org](http://britishmuseum.org)): Eight Mummies, until Nov 30.

Celebrate China's Ming Dynasty, from Sept 18. How Germany saw the First World War, until Nov 23. Contemporary Japanese prints, until Oct 5. The magical world of Turkish shadow theatre, until Sept 28.

**Royal Institute of British Architects**, Architecture Gallery, 66 Portland Place ([architecture.com](http://architecture.com)): Ordinary Beauty: The Photography of Edwin Smith, Sept 10-Dec 6.

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

**UCL Octagon Gallery**, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Solutions: exploring the influence of science and technology on prostate cancer, until Dec 19.

**UCL South Cloisters**, Wilkins Building, Gower St: UCL's Past, Present and Future, Black History Month, Oct 2-30.

**Wellcome Collection** 183 Euston Rd ([wellcomecollection.org](http://wellcomecollection.org)): An Idiosyncratic guide to the human condition, until Oct 12.

## OTHER EVENTS

**Grant Museum of Zoology**, 21 University Street ([www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/zoology](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/zoology)): Explore Zoology, Sept 13, Oct 18, Nov 15, 1-4.30pm.

**Open House London**, Sept 20-21: All Saints, Margaret St; A Hard Working House, Grafton Way; Government Art Collection, Queen's Yard, 179a Tottenham Court Rd; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel St; Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, 62-64 Gower St; UCH Macmillan Cancer Centre, corner of Capper St and Huntley St; RIBA, 66 Portland Place.

Margaret St ([barthacontemporary.com](http://barthacontemporary.com)): Wunderkammer, Sep 2-13; Jill Baroff, Oct 17-22; Beat Zoderer, Nov 28-Feb.

**Berloni**, 63 Margaret St ([berlonigallery.com](http://berlonigallery.com)): Carl Randall, Sept 17-Nov 15.

**Black Arts Company**, 73 Great Titchfield St ([theblackarts.org](http://theblackarts.org)). **Building Centre**, Store St ([buildingcentre.co.uk](http://buildingcentre.co.uk)).

**Carroll/Fletcher**, 56-57 Eastcastle St ([carrollfletcher.com](http://carrollfletcher.com)):

Pencil/Line/Eraser until Sept 13. Rafael Lozano-Hemmer: Obra Sonora, Sept 26-Nov 1.

**Coningsby Gallery/Debut Art**, 30 Tottenham St ([coningsby-gallery.com](http://coningsby-gallery.com)): Dan Llywelyn Hall, Sep 7-13; David Mahoney, Sep 22-27.

**Curwen Gallery**, 34 Windmill St ([curwengallery.com](http://curwengallery.com)): Artisan Editions and Brendan Hansbro, until 27 Sep; Prize for Figurative Painting shortlisted artists, Oct 8-29. Lucy Wills, Nove 5-26. Macmillan Cancer Support group exhibition, Nov 29-30. Christmas exhibition, Dec 4-21.

**England & Co**, 90-92 Great Portland St ([englandgallery.com](http://englandgallery.com)): Anthea Alley, Sep 5-27; John Dunbar, Oct 4-Nov 1.

**Evelyn Yard**, Evelyn Yard ([evelynyard.com](http://evelynyard.com)): Alex Clarke – Figurative, Sept 9-Oct 10.

**Exposure**, 22-23 Little Portland St ([exposure.net](http://exposure.net)).

**Framers Gallery**, 36 Windmill St ([theframersgallery.co.uk](http://theframersgallery.co.uk)): Tunnel Project, Sept 23-27. Hilary Painter, Sept 30-Oct 11. Amit and Naroop Singh, Nove 3-15.

Christopher Dolhem, Nov 24-29. Fred - London, 17 Riding House St ([fred-london.com](http://fred-london.com)).

**Gallery Different**, 14 Percy St ([gallerydifferent.co.uk](http://gallerydifferent.co.uk)): Society of Women Artists – Curator's pick, until Sep 10; Denis Bowen, Oct 6-31; Louise Giblin, Nov 6-15; Sleep, Nov 24-29; Winter collective group show, Dec 4-Jan 10. **Getty Images Gallery**, 46 Eastcastle St ([gettyimages-gallery.com](http://gettyimages-gallery.com)).

**GRAD**, 3-4a Little Portland St ([grad-london.com](http://grad-london.com)): A Game in Hell – the Great War in Russia, Sep 27-Nov 30 (£5).

**Hanmi Gallery**, 30 Maple St ([hanmigallery.co.uk](http://hanmigallery.co.uk)): Sungfeel Yun, ongoing; Aisha Abid Hussain until Sep 25.

**Galerie Kashya Hildebrand**, 22 Eastcastle St ([kashyahildebrand.org](http://kashyahildebrand.org)): Sam Mara and Lee Westwood, Sep 10-Oct 11; Nakanishi, Oct 14-Nov 22; Max Gimblett, Nov 27-Jan.

**Gallery Libby Sellers**, 41 Berners St ([libbysellers.com](http://libbysellers.com)): Peter Marigold, Sep 11-Oct 31.

**Josh Lilley**, 44-46 Riding House St ([joshlilleygallery.com](http://joshlilleygallery.com)).

**Laure Genillard**, 2 Hanway

Continued on previous page