

FitzroviaNews



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Issue 135 Winter 2014

Plans for new block fail to pass local guidelines

- UCLH Charity and Llewelyn Davies propose a mostly office development and only two affordable homes
- Camden Council’s planners criticised for allowing developers’ plans to get this far

By News Reporters

Plans for the redevelopment of Arthur Stanley House (ASH), a former hospital building in Tottenham Street, fail to comply with borough and local strategic plans to deliver housing and public open space, say local groups. The proposals, unveiled at a public exhibition in November are for an office development with 14 apartments.

Camden Council’s planning guidelines, which include the Fitzrovia Area Action Plan (AAP), identify the site for mixed-use, with commercial at ground floor and basement, and housing on the upper floors. The site should create a new public open space. The AAP adopted by Camden Council earlier this year was written by community organisations, Camden’s planners and representatives of UCLH. The document states that if Arthur Stanley House is no longer required for continuing medical/health uses, then any development above ground floor level should be housing including an appropriate contribution to affordable housing. The site could provide over 50 homes with up to half of these being affordable according to Camden’s planning guidance which state that all developments of 50 homes and more should provide up to 50 percent affordable housing.

UCLH Charity who own the site hope to be submitting a planning application in early 2015 to



Plans for ASH site are unacceptable and should never have seen the light of day. Illustration: Llewelyn Davies.

Camden Council. The proposals are to transform the currently unattractive property, empty since 2007, into a minimal glass and brick fronted structure with stepped upper levels. Over 5,000 square metres of the new development will be offices, with 1,500 square metres as residential. The 14 flats include two affordable housing units at basement level. In order to address the severe

shortage of public open space in Fitzrovia, the developers propose a landscaped area situated at the residential entrance of the building of 45 square metres with 575 square metres of private amenity space (some on the roof) for the flats residents.

When questioned by *Fitzrovia News* about the lack of housing in the proposals, representatives of UCLH Charity and the architects

said at the public exhibition that the Fitzrovia AAP was only an “aspirational document”.

Max Neufeld of the Charlotte Street Association is strongly critical of the plans: “The proposals for the development of ASH shown by the applicants at a recent exhibition are wholly unacceptable, indeed their total lack of

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Nobel prize winner

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Flying Lemur

See page 13



Play triumphant

See page 17.

The scourge of Fitzrovia

We map out the sites where property developers are demolishing buildings.

See centre pages.



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news@fitzrovia.org.uk
020 7580 4576

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Editorial Team

Mike Pentelow:
editor and features editor

Linus Rees:
assistant editor

Pete Whyatt:
news and production editor

Clive Jennings:
arts editor

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writer and sub-editor

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associate editor

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associate editor

Contributors:

Amaan Ali
Nick Bailey
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Clifford Harper
Angela Lovely
Helene Parry
Sunita Soliar
Richard Spivack
Mark Thomas
Chris Tyler
Sandra Wheen
Kipper Williams

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Association,
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Rhys Jones and Housing Taxes

Griff Rhys Jones, a Fitzrovia resident, says he is 'contemplating moving overseas' if Labour win the next election in order to avoid paying the party's proposed mansion tax on his £7,000,000 property (see Mansion Tax, page 7).

The tax would affect homes worth over £2,000,000 with properties over £3,000,000 paying a rate of around £30,000 per annum (the policy would raise about £1.2 billion per year according to Labour).

The recent controversy over Jones's comments obscures another, more pernicious tax however: the under occupancy penalty, or 'bedroom tax'.

Introduced in April last year, the bedroom tax currently impacts over 1800 individuals in Camden by significantly reducing housing benefits for unoccupied rooms (up to 25% reduction in benefits for 2 or more spare bedrooms). The government initially claimed the policy would cut the housing benefits bill by £500 million but that projected saving has since dropped to £360 million.

Unlike Rhys Jones, many of those threatened with this tax do not have the luxury of 'downsizing' to a more modest residence due to the acute shortage of council houses in the borough. Many of those forced to vacate their homes due to the bedroom tax face homelessness and destitution.

Rhys Jones, and other rich celebrities, may not be surprised if their outcry attracts little more than public contempt.

Adam Stoneman
Cleveland Street

Changes are brutal and out of control

I was born and brought up in the 50s in Fitzrovia and lived there on and off for 40 years before moving to Suffolk seven years ago. I've seen many changes of course, and can even remember when Oxford Street closed early on Saturdays!

It was a vibrant, colourful place in which to grow up and I consider myself very lucky to be a true West Ender. Our family, from Cyprus, lived on Riding House Street and our neighbours were our friends. Our school was All Souls and as kids we'd play together on the street every night.

Throughout my time the heart of the area remained intact, despite a few tweaks here and there.

But the changes that have taken place in the past few years seem brutal and out of control. The most shocking of these was the demolition of the Middlesex. It was where we were born, where we went to get mended, visit our sick friends and families and where our parents died. The hospital was

the heart of the community and still holds untold memories.

Now when we walk past we see an alien playground mostly for millionaire overseas investors to park their money and with which we have no connection. Other landmarks, like Copyright House, are being earmarked for redevelopment, to the horror of those who've known and loved them.

But it's also the little shops, the independents, that are in danger of being squeezed out, not to mention anyone living there who's paying rent to a landlord.

My parents were "controlled tenants" which meant they paid very little rent (in return they carried out repairs and renovation) but they thrived surrounded by friends and family. God knows what lies ahead and even though the future looks bleak I wanted to say good luck to all of you battling the bulldozers and a big thank you.

A former resident, by email.

Bourlet statues date back to 1990s

This is in response to two mentions in the last issue of Fitzrovia News (Autumn 2014) regarding the statues on top of buildings in Bourlet Close. Both these references show how quickly things get forgotten and need to be recorded while there is still living memory, for it is obvious that the origin of these statues in Bourlet Close is already forgotten.

I am not certain of the exact date but I believe the statues were erected in 1991. (I tried to discover from their owner the exact date but had no reply to queries). I moved into a flat in 1991 in Wells Street, the back of which overlooks the buildings in Bourlet Close. At the time, one of my windows overlooked an old, run-down mews which adjoined the back of the ITN building as it then was.

The mews were soon developed, but as planning permission did not allow a building higher than the mews to be erected, the new owner decided to increase the height of the new structure by extending it with a raised glass

roof. To the old part of the building which remained, he added a beautiful, old-looking clock and around the top of the new building, on the brick structure, he put copies of three famous statues, which can be seen by those working in the glass office below. The only statue I recognise is that of Pauline Bonaparte (Napoleon's favourite sister). I think one of the others may be of Neptune.

At the same time these statues were erected, those mentioned in your paper were also put up on the other side of the Close. I do not recognise any of them. The owner felt at the time that the statues would enhance the Close. The ones on the glass roof can be seen only by those working in the building they overlook or by looking at them from one of the buildings in Wells Street that overlooks them. They certainly are not unclaimed artwork, nor have they any link to the 19th century owners of the Close.

A Local Resident of Fitzrovia
EDITOR'S NOTE: See Page 19

Dickens had a plaque back in the 1940s

I've just been reading your story of a couple of years ago about Ruth Richardson's so-called "discovery" that Dickens lived at 22 Cleveland Street. I just wanted to give you my two pennyworth.

I grew up in Cleveland Street in the 1930s and 1940s. We had a grocery shop near the Euston Road end.

Not only did everyone know that Dickens lived in that house, I clearly remember there was actually a plaque on the outside — not blue but yellow or light brown as I recall — that must have been removed with the passing of time.

LJ Levene

Fitzrovia News gets it wrong again!

Does *Fitzrovia News* not even know how to spell the name of the business it is writing about now? The latest instalment of the famous oily rag — who proclaim themselves to be "biased and opinionated" — highlighting the forthcoming closure for one of Fitzrovia's most loved greasy spoons. It is sad, and a great loss for the area. Although whether anyone has ever heard of "Mateo's" is anyone's guess (*website article about Matteo's cafe, 14 November*).

And whilst we're on it, someone ought to teach the website editor on how to correctly use their web software WordPress?

The residents who usually are a little quieter should start tweeting and posting about what a poorly edited and proofed newspaper this is?

Just goes to show — not even the "best" can get it right all of the time!

A Local Resident
EDITOR'S NOTE: See *Cafe Closure*, page 9.

My futile encounter with Boris

During the London Housing Anti-Cuts demonstrations in June I saw London Mayor, Boris Johnson, cycling in Tottenham Street.

I shouted "Oi! Boris! This housing thing, this development..." I felt that I was speaking for the masses as he was stuck at the red light.

Many Londoners have been told to stuff their communities: from Fitzrovia to Stratford and to "get on their bike" to other parts of the country.

Tory rule has seen half a decade of Londoners suffering poor housing and poor employment rights while swathes of working-class Londoners have been exiled from the city. Recently, the Multitude had a win, ignored by the national mass media: police were forced

to close down the MIPIM property fair due to protesters from Radical Housing Network heckling Boris' speech and developers.

But is that really a win? When I, one of the London masses disaffected by our rulership, with sights on joining the lefty commentariat, had the opportunity to push him off his bike in front of startstruck denizens and tourists, equipped with cameras. The video would have gone viral and propelled me to fame, and possible jail time.

I could not bring myself to risk defamation and prosecution for my ideals to push him into the roadside, where Londoners dreams have been caused to die. Over his tenure; he has pursued a foreign buy-up of London, supporting existing gentrifica-

tion, often in collusion with even Labour councils.

Currently, even the middle class kids of London see no hope in affording their home in a city which should be affordable for all of its children. I could have spoken for this multitude. My voice would be newsworthy and I could have proselytised the RealPolitik of the London Housing crisis, on TV and in the dock.

In the end, I just pointed my finger and I shouted, in the futile hope that my voice is listened to and will encourage someone to do something braver the next time they see Boris on his steed. Additionally, I incite all to shout and point at whoever can fix this mess and save our city.

Amaan Ali

Letters

Poets and actors wanted

I am forming a creative group. Currently it comprises of actors and fellow poets who have the desire to perform and like myself, engage with the audience.

We are interested in talking to artists in all fields. In time we will be looking at venues to showcase our creativity, ideally in Fitzrovia.

Interested? Get in touch.
Richard Spivack,
richardspivack@gmail.com

Right to light seems to be a luxury

It appears that the right to light only applies to luxury flats. Dukelease is proposing to replace the 2 storey arcade adjacent to a 5 storey residential block, with a 10 storey luxury apartment block. As this would deprive Holcroft Court residents of their right to light, they claim that the 2 terraces incorporated in the design would rectify that problem, but that is not the case. The reason for creating the 2 terraces or 3 separate blocks, is to give their sitting rooms windows, and so, their right to light. And, the windows that will face Holcroft Court will be bedrooms, where their right to light is not needed.

Holcroft Court residents would be greatly disadvantaged by this construction and have their flats devalued. But, it appears, Westminster is in favour of this going ahead, claiming 30% of the development would be affordable housing (which is still outside the above-average worker's price). So this new block, built to the same high standards as Fitzroy Place, will most likely to be bought by foreigners or non-residents, who will not be contributing to the local economy.

To make things worse for Holcroft Court, Westminster have insisted that a petrol station needs to be included, and Dukelease is proposing that it should be located in Clipstone Mews which has a width of only 8 meters. Putting a petrol station in a narrow mews is a recipe for disaster; congestion, noise, accidents and all the problems associated with any 24 hour service outlet.

The height of the new building will make Holcroft Court less energy efficient by blocking sunlight to the newly installed solar panels, increasing our energy bill. There is a need to rethink the planning of this great city of ours, and to enforce the rights of those who have invested time money and energy in their local area, before expanding to supply the super rich.

Denise Julien, Holcroft Court

Middlesex Hospital Chapel "was never named" say new trustees in response to petitions



The Middlesex Hospital Chapel has been restored by Exemplar as part of a section 106 agreement with Westminster City Council. The new trust which will manage the chapel has decided to name it The Fitzrovia Chapel.

Our campaign to preserve the name of the Middlesex Hospital Chapel took a bizarre turn when the new trustees who are due to take charge of the building issued a statement saying the chapel "was never named" in the first place.

The statement in October followed a press announcement made by The Fitzrovia Chapel Foundation which said "The chapel will be referred to as the Fitzrovia Chapel, reflecting its key role in a resurgent Fitzrovia".

In a press release Edward Turner chairman of the Chapel Foundation praised the developers Exemplar and Aviva for funding the restoration and supporting the Fitzrovia Chapel Foundation's activities: "London is rarely gifted a new venue; rarely is that venue dedicated to its own neighbourhood and rarely is £2m lavished on its restoration."

The press announcement however did not mention Westminster City Council's role in insisting on the chapel's restoration and an increased financial contribution for its upkeep through a section 106 agreement with the developer as part of the planning permission for Fitzroy Place.

Neither did the announcement respond to our campaign and petitions backed by more than 3,000 signatures calling for the name Middlesex Hospital Chapel to be retained.

So we requested that the chapel trustees specifically respond to the petitions.

In reply Edward Turner chairman of the trustees wrote to us. We publish his statement, below right.

Exemplar will hand over the chapel to the Fitzrovia Chapel Foundation during 2015 when building work at Fitzroy Place is complete.

Michael Bucknell, a director at Exemplar, wrote to

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

Whether the Middlesex Hospital Chapel was ever officially named as such is something that some may want to spend time debating.

But the plain truth of the

matter is that the building which was built within the old Middlesex Hospital was either called the Middlesex Hospital Chapel or the chapel of the Middlesex Hospital. Westminster City Council in its numerous conservation and planning documents has always referred to the building as the Middlesex Hospital Chapel, as does English Heritage.

More importantly, it is the name used by the former staff, patients and visitors who spent many a quiet time sitting within its beautiful walls.

The full statement from the trustees of The Fitzrovia Chapel Foundation

The trustees of The Fitzrovia Chapel Foundation read the petition surrounding the naming of the chapel and took it into consideration before deciding on the new name of the building.

Prior to choosing the name "The Fitzrovia Chapel", the trustees, whose appointment was approved by Westminster Council, consulted a number of current and future stakeholders of the building. We were also sensitive to the need to ensure that the history of The Middlesex Hospital was not lost. The founding ethos of The Middlesex Hospital of a social purpose to benefit all, without discrimination, will continue in the future life of the chapel.

Through our research we have established that the chapel was never consecrated and never dedicated. More importantly, it was never named.

The trustees have decided to call the chapel "The Fitzrovia Chapel", as we believe this to be the most suitable name. It locates the building geographically as well as architecturally.

The trustees intend to make the chapel open for all to visit

and enjoy, free of charge. In addition, we plan to hire the building out to selected groups and individuals to raise money towards its upkeep. From our conversations with potential users of the building we have had consistent and strong feedback that the name "The Fitzrovia Chapel" will be popular and appealing.

It is important that the history of the chapel is not lost, and the retained memorial plaques and origins of the building as the chapel of The Middlesex Hospital will therefore be presented in the interpretative guide to the building, which we intend to make available to visitors and through our website.

The trustees recognised in the petition a very strong wish to preserve the history of the chapel. This we plan to do, with a memory book, by putting some of the history on line, and by erecting a plaque to commemorate and celebrate its use as a hospital chapel.

Edward Turner,
Chairman of trustees

News in brief

Two Charlotte Street restaurants have been recognised in the Michelin Guide 2015. Kitchen Table at Bubbledogs, and Ollie Dabbous' new project Barnyard.

Works to improve The Warren open space at the north end of Whitfield Street have been completed with a newly refurbished public area, toddler play space and multi-use games pitch.

The Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum is expecting Westminster City Council to formally recognise the forum before the end of the year.

Sidney Bechet's son, the drummer and writer Daniel Bechet, spoke at the ceremony to honour his jazz star father with one of Nubian Jak's plaques in Conway Street in November.

Activities for older people

There are a number of activities for older people over the winter months, writes Barb Jacobson.

Waterstones Book Group is looking for new members and invites you to come and try it out. It meets at 6.15pm for an hour on the Second Tuesday of the month in the basement café of Waterstones, Gower Street. We read mainly fiction or biography set in London. Please just turn up or ring Sandra Wheen on 020 7637 8456 to say you are coming so that the group can look out for you.

Time to Sing is still going at Fitzrovia Court, 24 Carburton Street, Mondays 11am – 12.30pm. Come and sing familiar songs with friendly people. The final day this month will be 15 December. It will start back up again 12 January.

Lunch on Mondays is available at the George and Dragon pub on the corner of Cleveland and Greenwell Streets from 12.30, at a discounted price of £3 for regular main meal only, specials and drinks extra. This is through a kind donation from Sir Robert McAlpine, contractors for Fitzrovia Place, plus the generosity of Paul the pub landlord who makes up any difference.

Massage/Reflexology is on Wednesdays, 2.00 – 3.00pm at Fitzrovia Court, 24 Carburton St W1W 5AS. I do the schedule for it on Tuesdays. If you're interested, please call me on 020 7580 4576 and leave a message.

All Souls Clubhouse has a range of friendly exercise classes available. They also run two very useful services: Clubcare which includes visiting and other help, and a shopping trip available every fortnight on Thursday. The lunches on Wednesdays are also still going. If you're interested in any of these, please call the Clubhouse on 020 7255 9756.



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Paul was kind to all, fond of animals, and never had an ill word for anyone



By BRIAN JARMAN
Fitzrovia has lost one of its favourite barmen with the death of Paul Mathers, manager of the Kings Arms.

Paul, 52, died in University College Hospital from complications after an operation for cancer. He was known for his kindness to people and fondness for animals and was often seen walking his beloved dog Henry in the area.

He'd been at the Kings Arms for many years and for many regulars was the embodiment of the friendly local.

MILD MANNERED

Lessee Johnny Andrews said: "He was mild-mannered and never spoke ill of anyone. He was with me for 16 years and we never had a cross word."

His brother Gary said: "Maybe his best attribute was the fact that he gave people his time. In this busy old world where we are all rushing around, Paul would always give his time to listen. He was one of the Mr Nice Guys."

SUFFOLK

Paul was born in Suffolk and moved to Somerset with his family when he was 12. At 18 he came to work with Gary at the Lamb and Flag in St Christopher's Place, before moving to the Hope and Anchor and then to the Kings Arms.

He leaves behind his parents Frank and Barbara, brother Gary and sister Katherine.



Janet and Ron Gauld

Ron was a passionate campaigner with a great sense of humour

Ron Gauld, who has died aged 83, had "a healthy suspicion of authority and hated the way that profit and greed is allowed to determine people's lives," said Max Neufeld at the funeral.

"Ron's name will always be linked with the early Fitzrovia Festivals of 1973 to 1977 and the real feeling of community they generated, particularly the first one. They were feats of organisation and imagination and would not have happened without the energy and determination of Ron and his close friend Terry Burke.

"From the regimental bands, the Morris dancers to the Bash the Rat stall with squeals of joy as the bashed rat took on the human face of some loathed politician or planner."

An architect by profession Ron came to the area in 1964 when he worked in the office of Richard Matthews in Charlotte Street. In the nearby Newman Arms he met his partner of 50 years Janet and close friend Terry Burke. "Perhaps we should put up a plaque there," said Max.

Ron became a very active member of the Charlotte Street Association in 1970 and "was proud of his part in achieving our greatest success - the small park in Colville Place" the campaign slogan for which was "Green Fitzrovia's open space, a village green in Colville Place," added Max.

"His involvement with the CSA very much reflected his social attitude and views. He was strongly against privilege and power... He was among those who always realised that the use of a building is as impor-

tant as the appearance. He long realised that making the area unaffordable to local people destroyed its essential quality.

"Ron had a great sense of humour. He was good company and something of a raconteur. Often the subject was of some misdeed by authority, but he was never malicious."

Janet told the *Fitzrovia News* that while holidaying in the Dordogne with the Burke family they had seen a country festival and thought it a good idea to start one in their own area. At first there was resistance to naming it the Fitzrovia Festival, but Ron pushed for it successfully.

"A lot of hard work went into it and Ron threw himself into it and was very thorough in all his work." He was also involved in setting up the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association and its centre and became the very first member of the Friends of Fitzrovia.

For a time he was on the committee of the Ridgmount Gardens Residents' Association.

"Ron's childhood was spent in Argentina, Burma and Scotland so he had a width of background. He liked Fitzrovia and its European and Mediterranean feel and got on well with the Greeks and Italians.

"He was a passionate campaigner, in local affairs and a strong Labour Party supporter, as he did not like privilege.

"When Frank Dobson was first elected as an MP in 1979 his first job representing a constituent was put to him by Ron. A friend of his in Charlotte Place was having a problem with his landlord who had locked his bathroom to prevent him using

it. Frank went to the landlord and told him to unlock it immediately, which he did.

"Ron believed in social equality and humanity and regretted how commercialism was taking over the area, and that was why the festival slogan was The People Live Here.

"He was very gregarious, and had a great sense of humour, being a good mimic. He was a pub man who liked the company, and enjoyed a drink but not excessively.

"We used to walk along the South Downs every Sunday. And he loved cooking and enjoyed planning a meal."

His last job was refurbishing housing estates for Islington Council from 1995 to 2004 which gave him great job satisfaction until he retired at the age of 73 for health reasons - lung disease from being a heavy smoker in his younger days until he gave it up.

For a while he liked to sit in the gardens near his flat but later was unable to walk down the stairs to the street.

Until ten years ago his neighbour below was Clive James, the writer and broadcaster, who had the same medical condition as Ron.

That is why the poem Japanese Maple by the writer, recently published in The Guardian, was read out at Ron's funeral in Golders Green.

He was much loved by his family and friends, and will be much missed.

Ronald John Austin Gauld, born Zarete, Argentina, 7 August 1931; died 4 November 2014, London.

Activities for young people

Parents of babies, children and young people may like to know that Fitzrovia has a variety of small play areas and regular organised activities, writes Sandra Wheen.

The Fitzrovia Community Centre has activities for parents with babies and children up to age 4, but there are sessions for older children, too. Some sessions are particularly for Chinese parents and babies and there are fun French classes for children of all ages. To find out more call in at the Community Centre between 9.30 and 4.00 at 2 Foley Street, London W1W 6DL, Tel: 020 7580 8680. fitzroviacommunitycentre.org

There are three outdoor play areas in Whitfield Street for young children accompanied by an adult: Crabtree Fields Play Area at the southern end; The Fitzrovia Children's Playground halfway along the street (open 3.30pm to dusk in term time and dawn to dusk at weekends and in school holidays); and there is The Warren play area at the northern end of the street.

All Souls Clubhouse, connected with All Souls Church, runs sports and other activities for children and young people. To find out more email Mark Wally at

youth@clubhousew1.org or ring him on Tuesday afternoon on 020 7255 9766 or call at 141 Cleveland Street, London W1T 6QG. Tel: 020 7387 1360 clubhousew1.org

Fitzrovia Youth in Action helps young people from 8- to 25-years-old engage in positive activity. Shipon Hussain, is the youth participation officer, and he can be contacted by email shipon.hussain@fya.org.uk or on 020 7388 7399. See: www.fya.org.uk.

Camden's Summer University is free and an opportunity not to be missed by 13-19 year olds (up to 25 for students with special needs who qualify). But it is not easy to get a place. You need to check their website in May and get your application in early. For more information do a search for "Camden Summer University".

Community Christmas Dinner at Indian YMCA

Young people from Fitzrovia Youth in Action would like to invite the local community to a Christmas dinner to celebrate the festive season. There will be roast dinner (halal), cakes and tea and entertainment for all to enjoy. Monday 22nd December 2014 1:00pm - 4:00pm at Indian YMCA, 41 Fitzroy Street, W1T 6AQ.

The next issue of Fitzrovia News will be published on Tuesday 3 March 2015.

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Actress, interior designer, conservationist



By Pete Whyatt

Kitty Edwards-Jones is a well known face around Fitzrovia. She's lived in the area for nearly 30 years, in four different flats since the early 80's. She moved to her present flat 10 years ago. But Kitty's involvement with the area goes back much further and deeper - her family owned and ran 'The Bell Grange & Foundry Co' (Bells Fireplace Company) from a showroom at 16 Berners Street from 1923 to 1941. The showroom was bombed in 1941 and never re-opened. The firm still operates today from Northampton.

Kitty's paternal grandfather was a renowned eye surgeon at The Middlesex Hospital and Moorfields Eye Hospital. Her father Crawford was a Chindit serving behind enemy lines in Burma during WW2, then after the war he trained as a chiropodist at the London Foot Hospital in Fitzroy Square. After qualifying in the 1950's, he moved the family to Bognor Regis and then to Brighton where Kitty and her brother Huw grew up.

Kitty's mother came from New Quay in Wales where her father (Kitty's grandfather) was Dylan Thomas's bank manager. It is widely held that two of the characters in *Under Milk Wood* were inspired by her grandparents. Kitty's mother taught textile art at the 'St Ives School of Painting' in Cornwall and has since moved back to Brighton. She has just published her

first book about a young girl growing up in a small Welsh town during the war years in New Quay and her memories of Dylan Thomas.

Kitty's career began as an actress and after three years at drama school she worked mainly in repertory theatre, touring productions and the West End. She appeared in Bernard Shaw's 'Pygmalion' at the Shaftesbury Theatre with Peter O'Toole, playing a small part and understudying the role of Eliza Doolittle (rehearsing with O'Toole in his dressing room) and she worked with the late Leonard Rossiter in 'The Rules of the Game' at the Haymarket Theatre - "an enigmatic and fascinating actor! He would always call me 'Miss Jones'."

Kitty was later awarded a grant to study interior design at The Chelsea School of Art and has been an interior designer since then. She said: "I miss acting because it is such a team venture with a communal spirit and family unit. I'm a little bit sad that I did not return to the theatre. Possibly I may resume my thespian career, I would quite like to direct, who knows?"

Kitty is a member of the British Institute of Interior Design (BIID) and as a self employed interior designer works with a wide range of different clients and projects. "Over the years I've undertaken many projects at home and abroad. Some of my notable jobs have included restoring, and interior designing the '1930's New Combination Room' at Corpus Christi College Cambridge, an Art Deco delight with coffered ceilings and lined oak panelled walls. I also worked on the Prince of Thailand's residential apartments at the Royal Thai Palace, Bangkok.

"I have a passion for conservation, restoring and refurbishing old buildings, particularly Georgian houses with their perfect proportions and 1920's/1930's properties. I love the Art Deco style, particularly its timeless quality that fits into any contemporary scheme. Also innovative modern design, old and new sit well together. Light and airy spaces are uplifting, natural light gives a positive energy. Once I was asked by a client in North London to interior design her original Art Deco house. It had beautiful wood panelling, stained glass windows and an incredible iridescent tiled fire place. She wanted it all ripped out and replacing with a modern style. I argued that she would be actually devaluing her home with these actions so blankly refused the commission.

"I am concerned that many Arts and Crafts/1930's houses in suburbia have all the elements of stunning architecture and interiors yet are not protected by any listed status, nor in a conservation area so are vulnerable to demolition or inappropriate refurbishment by unscrupulous builders. It breaks my heart to see the architectural detailing so often ripped out.

"My interest in architecture and my family connections with the Middlesex Hospital and its incredible social history, drove me to become involved with trying to save the building. I was dismayed when I heard about plans to demolish the Middlesex Hospital. The building was beautiful and was structurally solid, it could have been refurbished and made into fabulous flats. It had stunning Art Deco interiors, a noble history and I was interested in many of the distinguished people connected to the hospital. Rudyard Kipling was laid to rest in the Chapel, was good friends with the famous surgeon Sir John Bland-Sutton 1st Baronet, of Middlesex Hospital in the County of London. Several conservation groups including Save Britain's



Kitty on stage with Peter O'Toole in Pygmalion.
Photo by Zoe Dominic

Heritage (SAVE); The Georgian Group, Ancient Monuments Society supported my cause but the 20th Century Society did not. It was too late in the day and in the end the demolition went ahead

"Since then I became part of the campaign to list and save the Strand Union Workhouse on Cleveland Street which was successful in getting a Grade II listing for the Georgian part and a local listing for the Victorian Wings. There is a campaign to preserve the entire unlisted parts of the workhouse. This building is an historical gem and must be protected. It's not the most attractive building in Fitzrovia but my passion means saving those buildings that present a gritty and hard historical relationship to the present day."

Kitty has been an interior design consultant to several TV programmes series including "Carol Vorderman's Better Homes" for Granada TV. "Some of the crew asked if I was Carol Vorderman's sister because they noticed a resemblance to the presenter. I'm not sure if she would have been amused at this."

Every year Kitty organises the Open Garden Squares Weekend in Fitzroy Square, arranging homemade teas and cakes. "This year we raised funds for the local Leukaemia and Lymphoma unit at UCLH," she said.

'New Quay Wales Remembered' by Catrin Edwards-Jones is published by Book Guild UK available from French's Theatre Bookshop Tel: 0207 387 9373.



In the 1980's Kitty was photographed as a teacher for a National and Local Government Officers Association (NALGO) pamphlet.



The poster for The rules of the Game starring Leonard Rossiter

Olives Indian Cuisine



20 Cleveland Street

open as usual despite road closure

20 per cent off with this advert

Free local home delivery

020 7636 1813 020 7636 2300

Bloomsbury ward councillors' surgeries

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

Fitzrovia Community Centre, Foley Street, W1W 6DN

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

Marchmont Community Centre, 62 Marchmont Street, WC1N 1AB

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

Adam Harrison, Sabrina Francis, and Rishi Madlani

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

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

Plans for Arthur Stanley House are unacceptable

Continued from front page

compliance with the requirement for this site is breathtaking."

He dismissed the developers' remarks that the Fitzrovia AAP is only an aspiration. "The Fitzrovia AAP is a statutory document adopted after an examination by a government appointed inspector. It identifies a number of opportunity sites where development was likely to happen in the foreseeable future."

"These sites were the subject of detailed studies and are intended to set the key principles of development of these sites. They reflect the council's expectations in terms of use and scale of development for these sites," he said.

"The brief also requires the provision of new public open space and makes suggestions as to how this could be provided if not possible on site, including

provision in association with the neighbouring Workhouse development," said Neufeld.

The Charlotte Street Association is also critical of Camden's planning officers.

"The developers have already been in detailed discussions with Camden Council officers, these present proposals should not have been presented they are so far away from policy and guidelines."

"The applicants need to be firmly told that the Council will only support proposals which are in conformity with the requirements for the site in the Fitzrovia AAP," says Neufeld.

The Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association, which also participated in the Fitzrovia AAP, criticised UCLH Charity's proposals saying: "The proposals fail to provide sufficient affordable housing and public open space."

Mansion tax and leaving Fitzrovia

Local resident Griff Rhys Jones has drawn criticism after he said he would leave the UK if Labour win next year's general election and bring in a mansion tax. Rhys Jones made the comment in an interview in the Telegraph newspaper in November.

In the interview Telegraph journalist Matthew Stadlen writes: "His Fitzrovia house has appreciated so significantly that he is contemplating moving overseas if Labour win the election and introduce a mansion tax". In the interview Rhys Jones is reported as saying his house in Fitzroy Square was a "slum" when he bought it.

The house cost £1,450,000 in 1998 and is now estimated to be worth about £7,000,000.

Stadlen quotes Rhys Jones as saying: "It would mean I'd be paying the most colossal tax, which is obviously aimed at foreigners who have apparently come in and bought up all the property in London. That sounds about as fatuous an idea as that immigrants are stealing all the jobs. I'd probably go and live abroad because I could get some massive palace which I could restore there".

While a mansion tax is not to his liking he thinks most people would welcome it: "I mustn't equate my own personal angst about the mansion tax with a national policy angst. No way. It's quite likely that the population is very keen on seeing rich people squeal. So I'm not going to squeal to make them feel bet-

ter," he said.

Local resident, author and playwright Bonnie Greer criticised Rhys Jones for his remarks about tax. She commented on Twitter saying: "I live in the same area as Griff Rhys Jones who might leave us [because of the] mansion tax. Fab. He can leave that pile of his in Fitzrovia Sq to charity."

Rhys Jones was also the subject of an opinion piece in the Mirror and he was parodied in the Guardian where he was compared to Phil Collins, Paul Daniels and Andrew Lloyd Webber who had all promised to leave the country in the past if Labour were elected.

But the most comprehensive and articulate criticism so far has been from writer and land activist Andy Wightman who says in a blog post that the Rhys Joneses have seen their property rise in value since 1998 to make them a "£4.5 million tax-free capital gain without any effort".

In Wightman's view: "The inflated price of houses in many parts of the UK is a consequence of scarcity and a lax fiscal regime."

In Fitzrovia — where there are great disparities of wealth — the majority of homes are rented and their occupants don't welcome the rising land values as it leads to increased rents. Many residents have been priced out or evicted as the area has become increasingly gentrified. Read more at <http://wp.me/puay0-3SH>



Gill Thompson with a picture of her brother David Clapson outside the Fitzrovia News office.

Cuts petition wins inquiry

A great victory in getting an independent inquiry into the benefit cuts and sanctions that killed her brother has been achieved by local campaigner Gill Thompson.

We reported in our last issue how her brother, diabetic ex-soldier David Clapson, died starving and deprived of his insulin. His benefits of £71.70 a week had been cut for missing a single meeting, even though he had applied for numerous jobs and been on training courses.

Gill's online petition was signed by over 211,000 people

which obliges MPs to set up an independent inquiry into the benefit cuts and sanctions, and whether they contributed to David's death.

Gill thanked the *Fitzrovia News* for its support and added: "I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported this campaign."

"You are the ones that have helped make all this possible. Your wonderful support has forced the government to act."

"I'm not normally a campaigner but sometimes in life there are certain things you have to do and starting this petition

was one of them. I am so glad we did it."

"I hope through this investigation, lessons will be learned. People turn to the state when they are in need. That is what the system is for - a safety net for the vulnerable and hard-working people like my brother and your loved ones when they need support."

"Now we need to make sure that all eyes are on the government as they hold this inquiry. This is an opportunity to get to the truth - but only if MPs ask the right questions."

GPs' surgery can't afford Fitzroy Place

Fitzrovia Medical Centre's hopes of moving into a new state-of-the-art facility at Fitzroy Place have been dashed because of problems with funding.

The GPs' practice at Fitzroy Square was to move to a new surgery and had been included by Westminster Council in negotiations for development of a community medical facility on the former Middlesex Hospital site. But NHS England and Fitzrovia Medical Centre have failed to come to an agreement over funding the costs of the new premises.

As we previously reported, many central London GP surgeries are finding the current climate of high land costs and restricted funding threatening their very existence. Nearby Bedford Square surgery has closed and services at Gower Place and Soho are under threat of closure.

Although not under threat of closure, doctors at Fitzrovia Medical Centre are disappointed with the outcome as the new surgery would offer better access for people with disabilities and an improved service for local patients.

Now property developers Exemplar are seeking

planning permission to vary the terms of the legal agreement with Westminster Council to provide a primary care facility on the site, and are seeking a new occupant. Some residents have expressed concern that this will mean a loss of primary care facilities which were specifically intended for treating local healthcare needs.

Exemplar told Fitzrovia News: "We can confirm that an application has been submitted to Westminster City Council seeking a very minor alteration to the wording of Condition 4 relating to space designated for health provision purposes within Fitzroy Place, to align with the provisions already in the Section 106 Agreement. We remain committed to ensuring that the designated space is utilised for public health purposes with the amendment granting greater flexibility as to the potential public health activities and services which may take place there. At present we are still in commercial discussions with would-be providers and as such it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage."



Word from the Streets

By CHARLOTTE STREET and her family



Guo Yue plays his bamboo flute outside his restaurant where he also cooks. BELOW: Sam Idrissu and his wife Marge who ran the old cafe at the same address for more than 20 years in the 80s.

If music be the food...

When singer Boy George was squatting at 21 Carburton Street in 1980 he got free meals from cook Sam Idrissu in the Rambler Cafe at 145 Cleveland Street.

If George was to revisit it now he would be in for a surprise. It recently changed its name to the Bamboo Flute and the cook who now runs it is an international musician who has performed with the singer many times.

He is Guo Yue, which means Great Leap Forward, as he was born in China during that Maoist event in 1958.

Yue does indeed play the Chinese bamboo flute. His music was so beautiful and haunting that it impressed singer Peter Gabriel, the flautist with Genesis, who set up WOMAD (World of Music, arts and Dance). They have since toured the world and made many recordings. Yue has also composed many film scores including for The Last Emperor, and The Killing Fields.

But he is also a quality chef who teaches authentic Chinese



cuisine at various cookery schools. "Wherever I travel to play music people ask me to demonstrate cooking and ask if I have a restaurant," he said. "I always wanted one so was delighted when this one came up for sale. It is a beautiful Georgian street with a wide selection of people and I think we fit in well with the area."

Food critic Faye Maschler who lives nearby was an early customer and gave him an excellent review. Our own Dining Detective's review is on page 12.

A tale of two Richards

Richard Attenborough, the film actor and director who recently died five days short of his 91st birthday, had many experiences in Fitzrovia, some good, some as we shall see not so good.

He trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art at 62 Gower Street from 1940 and in that time sang in Whitefield's Chapel at 79 Tottenham Court Road, and regularly drank in the Fitzroy Tavern at 16 Charlotte Street. Later his first office was in Great Portland Street and he became the first chairman of Channel 4 at 60 Charlotte Street.

His legendary sweet nature was tested however in the 1980s when emerging in the early hours of the morning from Anemos, a Cypriot restaurant famous for nocturnal revelry, at 32 Charlotte Street. Asleep on top of his pristine Rolls Royce was another **Richard**, the well



Cartoon by Jayne Davis

known but far from pristine local street dweller who we still see around. Attenborough's uncharacteristic use of industrial language in expressing a wish to "break a leg" was nothing to do with wishing him good luck however.

A near disastrous misunderstanding

How intoxicated do you need to be to confuse a pizza delivery moped for a Boris bike?

Stagger forward my brother **Percy**. He went to pick up one of the bikes in Foley Street, but first reached the Domino pizza mopeds a few yards away in the same street, also in a line and with similar blue colouring. His vain attempts to operate the moped drew the attention of the Domino staff who gave him a "pizza" their mind in true Italian style. Fortuitously there were no Boris bikes left; otherwise he might be facing a charge of drunken riding.

"Luckily it was not the other way round or I would be trying to deliver pizzas on a Boris bike," he told me somewhat shamefaced.

Let's hope he does not confuse the enticingly entitled Bang Bang clothing exchange for women with the sex shop next door in Goodge Street.

Slumming it?

My sister **Margaret** has always been a great fan of comedian **Griff Rhys Jones**, especially his policeman sketch in Not The Nine O'Clock News. But she was disappointed to hear that he has threatened to leave the country if a future Labour government introduces the mansion tax. He said his large house was a "slum" when he bought it for £1.5 million 15 years ago, and it is now valued at £7.5 million. Margaret says one of her own friends has been driven out of the area from a much smaller "slum" than Griff's when the rent was nearly trebled. But unlike Griff she could not afford to leave the country.

Music to my ears

After my rant about fatuous advice in tube stations in a recent column I have cooled down. Partly this is due to the soothing classical background music played at Euston Square station, for which I have nothing but praise. Maybe some enterprising buskers will take instruments there and mime to the music.



This sign was seen on the residential entrance to the Fitzroy Tavern in Charlotte Street.

Veteran whistle blower

An ex-policeman who is still refereeing at the age of 80 must surely qualify for an entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

My brother Mortimer bumped into his old friend **Pete Smith** outside the Spaghetti House in Goodge Street recently. Pete was a community police officer in the area during the 1970s and 1980s and was a regular in the Northumberland Arms (now the Draft House) in Goodge Street. He assures me Mortimer is

indeed still refereeing park football matches.

Mortimer told him of a park game he had seen where the corpulent referee wearing jeans never left the centre circle. "I am not quite as bad as that," chuckled Pete, whose whistle blowing was not welcomed by criminals when he was on the beat.

Ray in picture

Thumbing through "This is Me", the autobiography of soap star **Michelle Collins**, I noticed a photograph of her was credited to **Ray Burmiston**.

He lived most of his early years in the aforementioned Northumberland Arms when it was run by his parents John and Pearl. Ray's friend **Bob Geldof** who then disliking Mondays rather than world poverty, was a frequent visitor.

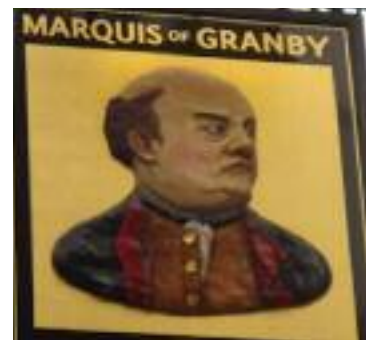
Mad Frankie

I am glad to see that the One Tun in Goodge Street has not removed the brass plates of past customers in its recent renovation.

One of the plates is for **Brian Keats**, who lives just north of Warren Street. He recalled the time a barman made a remark about a frail old man in the corner who had paid for two drinks, one for now and one for later. "I warned him not to mess with him because he was **'Mad' Frankie Fraser**, who used to be a gangster working for the Richardsons," said Brian. "It turned out he was visiting a friend in nearby Middlesex Hospital. It must have been bad news because when he returned he decided not to have the second drink."

Frankie was indeed found guilty in 1967 of torturing people for the Richardsons in their basement at 27 Windmill Street, for which he served 19 years in prison. He has since just died at the age of 90.

The other name plates in the bar are for **David**, who sadly died a while ago, and **Tony Childs** who moved to Kenya about ten years ago. Has anyone heard from him lately?



"Marquis of Granby" said the barman answering the phone as I waited to be served with my friend. "Unusual for the aristocracy to do manual work," commented my companion. I had to point out this was the name of the pub (in Rathbone Street) not its employee. Glad to see it has recently had a new pictorial sign hung outside.

Charlotte Street



Coffee, Cake and Kisses, 54 Warren Street. Opening in December as a result of a crowdfunding campaign promises a polyamorous retail experience.

Opening and closing shops

Closed

Matteos café 32 Tottenham Street
Casa do Brasil advice and assistance for Brazilian community 31 Foley Street
LK Computers electronic repairs 64 Charlotte Street
Ready2 Munch 48 Goodge Street
Yaki Japanese bakery 53 Goodge Street
Mr Cappuccino coffee shop 108 Cleveland Street

Opened

Delancey & Co NY deli sandwiches 34 Goodge Street
Leon healthy fast food 101 Tottenham Court Road
Kua 'Aina Hawaiian burgers 40 Goodge Street
Herman ze German sausages and beer 43 Charlotte Street
In.Spaces events space and product showcase 2 Tottenham Street
Nyona noodle bar 11 Warren Street

Wahaca Mexican canteen corner Margaret Street / Great Portland Street
Le Menar Moroccan cuisine 55 Cleveland Street
Ethos vegetarian cuisine 48 Eastcastle Street
Frag's Lobster Shack 55 Goodge Street
Black Sheep coffee 63 Charlotte Street
The wild Game company reindeer burgers 65 Charlotte Street
Lovefone phone repairs 37 Tottenham Street
Bramah locks and alarms 7 Goodge Place
BensHouse grocery, life style store and counter 64 Grafton Way

Opening soon

Big Fernand French gourmet burgers 19 Percy Street
Konditor and Cook cakes 39 Goodge Street
Coffee Cakes and kisses (pictured) 54 Warren Street

Procol Harum pack them in at the Dominion

Pop group Procol Harum were backed by an orchestra and choir in the Dominion Theatre in Tottenham Court Road last month.

The two-hour recording of it was broadcast on Friday Night is Music Night on Radio 2 on November 28.

The group came to fame in 1967 when their first single "A Whiter Shade of Pale" became a smash hit and it continues to be aired to this day as one of the all time greats.

On stage was the group's original lead singer and pianist Gary Brooker who introduced the present band who still tour, plus the BBC Concert Orchestra and the Crouch End Festival Chorus, who all contributed to a memorable experience.

In Radio Times Brooker revealed: "We took our name from the name of a friend's pedigree cat, but we spelled it wrongly. It should have been Procul Harun, Latin for 'beyond these things'."



Cafe closure

Cafe owner Nuno Martins has bid farewell to his customers after locking the shop up for the last time on November 21. After nearly four years in Fitzrovia, Martins and his wife Jieannie and staff member Roberto Inzane, will miss their little shop on Tottenham Street.

The shop is well known for its affordable breakfasts, freshly-made sandwiches and is often busy in the mornings with building workers from local construction sites as well as office staff.

The building is undergoing refurbishment and so the shop has to close. Martins originally from Portugal is intending to carry on in the catering trade providing food delivered to order to local businesses.

Festive food and puppet show at Pollock's

Pollock's toy shop will be open late for Christmas shopping for one night only, and customers can enjoy some free mince pies, mulled wine, gingerbread men, and view a traditional puppet show. Late opening from 5pm to 8pm Thursday 18 December. Pollock's Toy Museum, 1 Scala Street, London W1T 2HL. Museum and Shop normally open from 10am to 5pm Monday to Saturday. Closed on Sundays. Tel: 020 7636 3452.

Christmas at Clubhouse

Carol Service: 14 December at 6pm; Christingle Family Service: 24 December at 4pm and Christmas Day at 10:30am. All Souls Clubhouse, 141 Cleveland Street, W1T 6QG.

Christmas at Fitzrovia Community Centre

An afternoon of entertainment on 25 December for those who may find themselves spending Christmas alone. Guests must bring a children's gift, to be donated to the children's ward of the University College Hospital and the Great Ormond Street Hospital. christmasfitzrovia.co.uk.

RESIDENTIAL SALES & LETTINGS

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Property Consultants

King Regents Place, Fitzroy Street, Fitzrovia W1



A newly refurbished one bedroom apartment situated on the 6th floor (with Lift) of this popular modern building.

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A stunning three bedroom apartment located in an award winning building in the heart of Fitzrovia.

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 RECENTLY
LET


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A Blight on Fitzrovia

Bit by bit, sites all over Fitzrovia are being demolished and redeveloped at a startling rate. It's made everyone's lives a misery — from residents to businesses. The actions of property developers are a stain on our neighbourhood.

On these pages we map out the scale of what is happening and where. Office premises are being replaced by luxury apartments, other commercial premises are being expanded, and historic buildings are being pulled down. And it is a trend that is unlikely to halt anytime soon. Note: not every proposed or existing development is listed here.



2 Triangular site surrounded by Cleveland Street, Carburton Street, Clipstone Street and Clipstone Mews. Proposed redevelopment with three residential blocks on top of shops, offices, a bar and gallery, includes 100 homes in three tower blocks above, and a petrol station could be reinstated. Dukelease say they intend to submit a planning application to Westminster Council later this year.



1 Cambridge House 373-375 Euston Road. Permission granted for change of use from offices and car showroom to office space at basement and ground floor levels, and 16 residential units on upper floors, including extension to create 4th, 5th & 6th floors.



5 31-36 Foley Street, Fitzrovia, currently occupied by BBC Worldwide and other media businesses. Westminster Council's planning committee approved plans for the office block to be converted into "34 luxury loft-themed apartments".



3 36-40 Langham Street and 94 Great Portland Street proposal to add a roof extension across all the buildings, demolishing behind a facade of the non-listed number 36 and the Grade II listed number 94, and extending at the rear of the site. Commercial use on the ground and basement on the Great Portland Street part while the Langham Street part would be entirely residential. Seventeen apartments ranging from one to three bedrooms would be built.

Freud Communication
50- 57 Newman Street
In October Westminster council gave permission for the office block to be converted into 95 bedroom luxury hotel with a ground floor restaurant which includes added infill roof terraces and a 5th floor extension.



8 Copyright House by architect Richard Seifert and two other buildings at 25-33 Berners Street will be demolished next year. The approved plans are for a new office block with shops and restaurants on the ground floors.



7 Planning application submitted to demolish 41-44 Berners Street and redevelop the site to create a new mixed-use building comprising either retail, restaurant or showroom use on the ground floor and basement, and office accommodation on the upper floors.

4

Construction works to commence in early 2015 for redevelopment at 78-82 Great Portland Street, this mixed use scheme will include offsite residential space linked to another scheme.

6

Tasman House, 59-63 Wells Street, formerly Wells Street Magistrates Court, planning application expected soon "to replace a tired 1950's building with 38,100 sq ft of new office and retail space."



9 18 Wells Street, proposed demolition and redevelopment for residential use



11 70-88 Oxford Street, extensions and alterations including demolition and replacement of the top three levels and additional basement excavation, to provide retail floorspace at basement, ground and first floor levels with 89 residential flats on the floors above.



Former Royal Rathbone Place apartments, including to nine storeys green space. Publicly accessible working works by



Whitbread plc were granted planning consent to convert the Grade II* listed Brook House in Torrington Place to a 179 bedroom business and leisure hotel. The office block is part of the building containing Heals and Habitat the furnishings stores, with an additional storey to be built on top.



Whitfield Place Derwent London have refurbished the commercial premises at Suffolk House to provide seven socially-rented homes and six intermediate homes for Origin Housing. The homes are being provided as a result of two section 106 agreements related to commercial developments elsewhere in Fitzrovia. The work involved demolition of part of the building to create an extra storey and converting the building from commercial to residential use.



UCLH are building a Proton Beam Therapy Centre over 25,000 square metres with four floors below ground and five floors above ground on the site of the former Odeon and Paramount cinema on the corner of Grafton Way and Tottenham Court Road. The work will also mean the demolition of the Rosenheim Building in Huntley Street, with completion due in January 2018.



New owners of 77-79 Charlotte Street plan to demolish the building. The new building would include a double-level basement and ground floor ahub for faith based charities. The upper floors would be for residential use.



New development of flats and offices on the corner of Charlotte and Tottenham Streets, building will be three to six stories plus basement. There will be 9 private flats, 2 intermediate affordable flats, and 253sqm of office floor-space.



£100m redevelopment to part-demolish and redevelop the Saatchi & Saatchi building. The site is bounded by Chitty Street, Charlotte Street, Howland Street and Whitfield Street. Includes demolition of part of Charlotte Mews and part of the corner of Chitty Street and Whitfield Street. Offices, residential, retail, restaurants and cafes and a "pocket park" in Chitty Street should be completed by 2017.



Plans to be submitted for the demolition and redevelopment of the former Student Union building Huntley Street, and the former Royal Ear Hospital, Capper Street to provide a 6-storey outpatient hospital for the treatment of ear, nose, throat, head and neck diseases.



1-5 and 11-13 Goodge Street are being developed by Dukelease into shops at ground floor and basement level with luxury flats above. The developers were supposed to preserve the facade of Goodge Street's oldest building but it was found to be unsafe last Christmas and was later demolished.



The Workhouse site on Cleveland Street is owned by University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH), proposals include construction of a six to nine storey building with 72 new homes including affordable housing. As well as retaining the listed Georgian workhouse building.



14-19 Tottenham Mews Erection of a 5 storey Community Mental Health Resource Centre (MHRC) building, including basement level to provide shared facilities, recovery centre, costulation and activity rooms following demolition of the existing two storey building



Plans to demolish and redevelop the large office building on the corner of Tottenham Court Road and Bedford Avenue create new offices and retail.

17 Arthur Stanley House. Refurbishment planned. See front page story.

16 61-65 Charlotte Street. Likely to be redeveloped in the near future.



Owners of 31 Alfred Place have applied for the refurbishment and internal reconfiguration of two office buildings to create a single building, the erection of an additional storey at roof level and a new ground floor entrance.



Mail delivery centre, 2.3 acres site between Tottenham Court Road and Newman Street, to create 162 residential offices, shops and restaurants in buildings rising over five storeys plus basements situated around a central courtyard. The walkways and green space although public will be locked overnight. completion of build-July 2016.

13 Hanway Street and Hanway Place is an intimate collection of lanes between Oxford Street and Tottenham Court Road. Its residents and the small businesses have been blighted by the demolition and construction in Oxford Street as part of the Primark development and other sites. Its status as a conservation area has done little to protect it.

24 Network House is a large commercial site on the corner of Tottenham Court Road and Howland Street with the historic mews of Cypress Place running through it. Owned by Derwent London who have stated their intention to redevelop on the site in the near future.



Word is getting out about this Chinese gem

THE BAMBOO FLUTE
145 Cleveland Street, W1 (0207-387-2738)

Well. This is all very mysterious. I believe we in Fitzrovia are sitting on a gem – some of the best Chinese food I have ever eaten. It is reasonably priced, my £70 dinner-with-wine for-two rule can apply. And yet The Bamboo Flute is often half-empty – and I only went there because I was walking up Cleveland Street with a musician friend who saw the musical instruments on the wall of the small upstairs space and insisted that we go in, even though there was only one other customer sitting there. One of the owners welcomed us with delight, told us he was a musician and had played with Peter Gabriel.

But the food! The food! It is cooked downstairs either by the musician (pictured) or his partner and a lot of it is absolutely delicious. I have now been there perhaps half a dozen times so have tried many things. I think the starters – pepper and salt spare ribs, golden crispy prawn balls, various very tasty vegetarian, meat, or fish soup, are some of the best Chinese starters I have ever had. And excellent main courses to follow – I have had prawns with spring onions and ginger (£14) several times; a very nice house speciality Four Vegetables (mushrooms, bamboo shoots, dried tofu and sweet



By the DINING DETECTIVE

corn) £6; excellent lemon chicken (£11.80). Half a good crispy aromatic duck with pancakes is £12.00 for half.

So there was your Dining Detective, waiting to write for the next edition of the Fitzrovia News, never booking, going in with various friends to a half-empty (or worse) restaurant and finding that my friends too were impressed. Sometimes I wondered if I might get there and find it closed down; I could see the musician-owner was trying to keep cheerful.

Then occasionally groups of Chinese diners started appearing from below looking pleased.

Then one day I appeared at the door with a friend and found the restaurant full to bursting, I turned away with disappointment and amazement but the musician-owner with his usual glass in his hands saw us

and called out: "Come in, of course come in, I just had a cancellation of two," and before we knew it we were sitting at a table with half a dozen people we didn't know and surrounded by a very jolly crowd and much laughter. All was revealed by the very pleasant couple we sat next to: they had met Guo Yue, as the musician-owner's name was revealed to be, at Glastonbury or Womad, or both – and as well as playing the Chinese flute there, he had given a cooking demonstration and people got signed up to his email list, and then every now and then he has what he calls a "tasting" and people book to come from near and far (this couple had come from Chelmsford) for a banquet which costs £28 per person, but you order your own drinks.

The "tasting" was stunning: dishes I knew, dishes I didn't, and beautifully cooked whole steamed bass with ginger and spring onions on every table while Guo Yue played the flute and a fine baritone from the next table led singing.

So of course I have to tell about this find. So of course I probably won't be able to get in so easily. But that is the duty of a Dining Detective. If you are a Chinese food aficionado don't miss this place.

Just one lone cry: PLEASE improve that red house wine by the glass, Guo Yue!!!

Exploring tunnels under the tube

The mysterious depths of the deep shelter under Goodge Street station were clandestinely explored by some adventurous schoolboys in the 1970s. At the time it was rumoured the shelter would be used by the government in the event of a nuclear attack (see *Looking Back*, 40 years ago, on page 19).

Tom Burke, now aged 53, told Fitzrovia News how 38 years ago he and his younger brother Tim, who lived in Goodge Street, and others found their way into the tunnels.

"We gained access through a small hole somewhere in the blockhouse between the Whitfield Street Play Centre and Tottenham Court Road. It did not look like a secret government office, rather a mothballed facility.

"The twin bores were mostly filled with steel triple-decked bunk bed frames and the walls were covered in graffiti, most of it was moaning about being down a deep hole in the ground for weeks on end." [The shelter was occupied by American troops during the second world war planning the D-Day landings].

"The express lifts mentioned [in the original Tower report in 1974] were in service at Goodge Street tube station and identical lifts were also at the Chenies Street entrance (though without the automatic voice).

"There was also a large stair that led up to a sealed blast door at the tube platform level, between the platforms where the stairs descend from the lower lift level.

"We certainly saw what could well be a connection to the GPO [BT] Tower [linked to Regional Seats of Government] or maybe parts of the GPO's underground railway system [for transporting mail].

"On the western side of the bores there was a modern steel wall with a locked kind of bulkhead door which was sealed



from the other side, and all the bolts in this structure were stamped GPO and were certainly very modern as was the lighting in this immediate area.

"Below the Chenies Street entrance there was a door which was completely closed from the other side including a 'judas' window. On a map we found this door was marked 'To Holborn' and this tunnel may lead ultimately to the deep shelter near Red Lion Square and Chancery Lane tube station.

"So there were certainly links going in an easterly and westerly direction as well as a connection with the Northern Line which runs in a north/south direction (there are five similar deep shelters below Northern Line stations). There may have been other connections but I never saw them.

MAZE

"We were more interested in using the dimly lit corridors lined with full fire extinguishers, the working lifts and the maze of interconnecting passage ways as the ultimate adventure playground which we incorporated into our games of run outs and hide and seek.

"It was fun while it lasted but in the end Post Office engineers sealed the entrance up. We watched while they were doing this and asked them about the GPO wall, and the engineers said it connected to post office tunnels."

Tom was at the funeral of Ron Gault (see page 5), a great friend of his late father Terry Burke.



Picture puzzle

How well do you know Fitzrovia?

Can you recognise where these busts are?

The answer is at the end of the short story on page 14.



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Here be dragons

Words by HELENE PARRY
Pictures: MARK THOMAS

Want to come face to face with a dragon? And a quagga, and quolls? No need to wait for your acceptance letter to Hogwarts Academy – you can see them all at the Grant Museum of Zoology in Fitzrovia.

The Grant Museum, part of University College, London (UCL), is the only remaining university zoological museum in London. Packed to the rafters with the beauty and fascination of nature, this intimate, eccentric space feels more like stumbling across a hidden private collection than visiting a working museum.

The small room is lined with Victorian display cabinets full of skeletons, mounted animals and specimens preserved in fluid. One popular exhibit is the Jar of Moles, a jumble of little pink noses and paws in a jar of brown fur. “They were collected for an anatomy class that never happened!” explains visitor services assistant Will Richard.

When Robert Grant, the first professor of zoology at UCL, started his collection in 1828, it was for teaching purposes. One of his students, a certain Charles Darwin, reportedly contacted his professor for advice on preserving specimens before boarding *The Beagle*. Both Charles and the Grant collection went on to greater things, the latter evolving into the present-day museum.

The collection is a visual treat, its main focus being on endangered or extinct animals, like the quagga, a subspecies of zebra hunted to extinction in the 1880s. I marvelled at the exquisitely preserved seahorses, jewels of the ocean now endangered after long being used in traditional Chinese medicine.

Some areas are not for the faint of heart, such as the collection of dissected animal brains. But the museum’s 50,000 visitors a year are clearly not discouraged by such sights. Another popular section is the Micrarium, which houses over 2,000 microscope slides. Specimens on display include legs of fleas, arranged on the slide in a way strangely reminiscent of the Isle of Man flag, and whole squid, just a few millimetres long.

Even if you’re not a fan of creatures that crawl, it’s still fascinating to see them close up. I never thought I’d admire a trap door spider and its nest. The dragon on display is a sturdy, rough-scaled lizard appearing under its real name of agamid, and the chameleons were a surprisingly subdued shade of beige. “Only certain species change colour,” notes Will Richard. “Colour change is used to communicate mood, rather



A quagga: a subspecies of the zebra hunted to extinction in the 1880s.

than for camouflage.”

That’s not the only preconception a visit to the museum will shatter. It turns out the flying lemurs aren’t lemurs and can’t actually fly – instead, they glide on stretches of skin between their limbs and tails. The trigger fish resembles neither a horse nor a Peckham roadsweeper. And the adder so accurately preserved isn’t black, although that could be something to do with the staining. But seeing the dodo bones brings it home to you that this quasi-mythical bird really existed. “Dodos were basically big pigeons!” says Will, deftly destroying their mystique.

The museum is home to working scientists, barricaded from the public by little more than a rhino skeleton. But younger visitors are encouraged to take an interest in the natural world – a number of iPads are provided, enabling the public to ask questions about science and how museums should operate.

Visitors can even adopt specimens as a way of raising funds for museum projects. When you sponsor a specimen, your name will be inscribed on a card next to it, in its cabinet. You’ll also receive newsletters, and invitations to events hosted by the museum. Many of these are free, and include lectures, films, and Q&A sessions with curators.

Regular opening hours are Mon-Sat from 1pm-5pm, but occasionally the museum opens later, or on weekends, for special events.

The Grant Museum of Zoology, University of London, Rockefeller Building, 21 University Street, London WC1E 6DE. Tel: 020 3108 2052. Twitter: @GrantMuseum.



A jar of moles



A Porcupine Fish



What big teeth you’ve got! Rosina Down, former curator examines a jaw dropping specimen



Dodo bones and models of what they looked like before becoming extinct.

Nobel Prize winner



LEFT: John receives the Kavil Prize from the King of Norway

ABOVE: John in his UCL laboratory

BELOW: The announcement of John's Nobel Prize.

Pictures by Jonathan Nackstrandt and Peter Macdiarmid, Getty Images

By SUE BLUNDELL

A local scientist has won the Nobel Medicine Prize and also the prestigious Kavil Prize for Neuroscience.

He is John O'Keefe, a Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at UCL.

The Nobel Prize was awarded to him jointly with two of his former students, the Norwegians May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser in Stockholm in October. A month before he received the Kavil Prize in Oslo from King Harald of Norway in Oslo for outstanding scientific research.

The Nobel was given to John for his discovery in the early 1970s of the 'place cells' which form a navigational system in

Medical scientist scoops two top awards

the area of the brain called the hippocampus. These nerve cells - a kind of GPS of the human brain - help to build up a map of the space around us and monitor our progress as we move around in the world. As a keen walker, John has a particular personal interest in his subject.

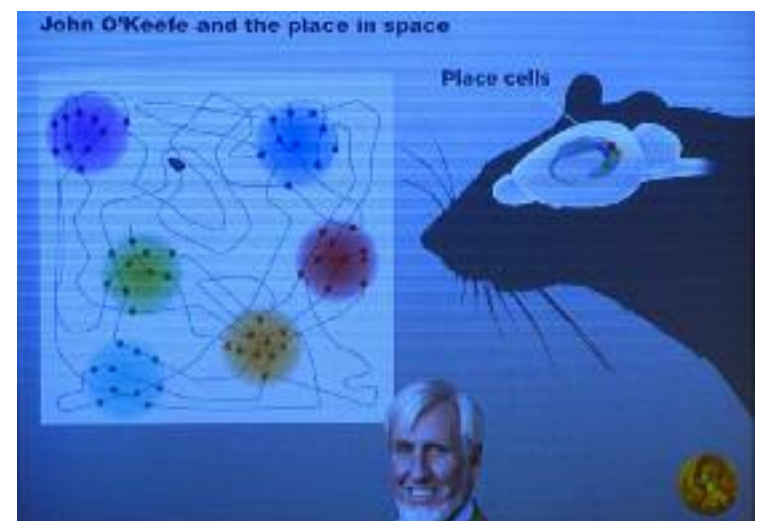
John was born in New York, and came to London in 1967 to do post-doctoral work at University College. He and his wife Eileen have been here ever since, and have lived in Fitzrovia for over 40 years. Both are active members of our local community.

A Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at UCL, John is currently conducting research which will help us understand when and where diseases like Alzheimer's start, and how they can be tackled. The 'place cells' in the brain are among the first to be hit by Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, which explains why sufferers often get lost and confused. Next year he will take up residence as Director of the new Sainsbury Wellcome Centre for research into neural circuits and behaviour, currently being built on Howland Street.

In the meantime John is rather busy collecting awards. As mentioned he was presented with the Kavil Prize in Oslo "for the discovery of specialized

brain networks for memory and cognition." This and the more recent Nobel Prize mean that he's now flown twice to the US to receive congratulations from President Obama. John has dual British/US citizenship, and one of the reasons why he wanted to stay in the UK, he says, is the British National Health Service. By now he's certainly contributed as much to our health care system as he's taken out of it.

John will be interviewed by Sue in our next issue.



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Other people's gifts

A SHORT STORY BY
SUNITA SOLIAR

Each year, Jack's mother bought herself a Christmas gift: she sent him a plane ticket and he flew 5,000 miles to spend the holiday with her. She repaid him with an envelope of sweet, new bills. He liked the way his fingers slipped on the clean paper: unsoiled, unspent cash carried no taint, only possibility.

This year, however, he was put out, forced to endure the festivities with Marco, his mother's new boyfriend. How he was supposed to pick out a gift for a man whose prized possession was a collection of rifles was anyone's guess. He retaliated by arriving on Christmas Day itself, with the pretence of obligations to the youth orchestra preventing an earlier flight.

His mother was all bounce when she met him at the airport. She wore flip-flops and an Aztec print dress, like she'd just been at the seaside. She dragged him into a hug; then she squeezed his cheeks in what he thought of as her 'world's best Mom' performance and said, 'How's my beautiful boy?' He squirmed free, and just about held off from telling her he was sixteen years old, for crying out loud, and wasn't going to play at being twelve just so she could feel good about herself.

Marco shook his hand with a deliberate, too-hard grip, and lifted his suitcase as though it were a beach ball and jaunted back to the car. Jack followed the slap of his mother's shoes, and tried not to think about the house parties he was missing back home or the fact that Phoebe would be there, with that red-mouthed smile that nearly killed him, awkwardly telling jokes about cheese – What do you call a cheese that's not yours? Nacho cheese!

In the car, his mother kept up the act by assaulting him with questions: How was the flight? How was school? Did he have a girlfriend?

'Asshole!' Marco yelled, as he took a left and cut off the driver in the next lane.

Two weeks of this. At least there was his mother's cooking. Her trifle.

They pulled up to the house – a square, glass and stone structure with silk floss and jacaranda trees on the lawn. He always hated the house, hated the way the kitchen trespassed into the dining room, the slip of the cowhide rug on the wooden floor and the way his reflection followed him around in the glass panes. There was a new coffee table, a big brick of knotty wood, which sat like a thumped fist in the middle of the living room. Around it, his aunts, uncles and grandparents were gathered, looking as mismatched as the jumble of plastic garden seats and

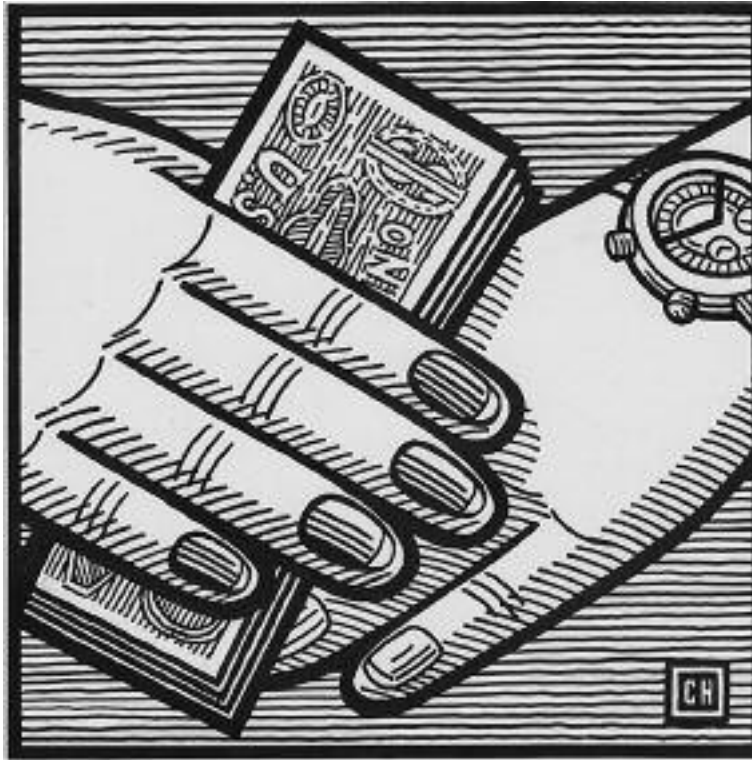


Illustration by Clifford Harper

folding kitchen ones brought in to accommodate them.

His cousins came to greet him with an elbow in the ribs and slaps on the back. He slipped away to his room to shower and take a breath. When he came out, his mother was laying the table. He peeked into the kitchen. Instead of turkey and cornbread, there was pasta. Meatballs. Clams. What kind of a Christmas meal was this? His mother caught the look on his face. 'It was Marco's idea,' she explained. 'Isn't it terrific?' He checked the fridge. No trifle in sight.

They did presents while the clams simmered. He and his

cousins tore into theirs – video games, jeans, socks. The adults passed their new things to each other to admire, showing great enthusiasm for jumpers and arts-and-crafts books.

'Alright,' his mother announced, retrieving a small, wrapped box from behind the tree. 'I'm breaking the rules here, but I've got one special present for my kid, seeing as he's sixteen this year. Here you go.' She extended the box to him, like a bashful valentine. His relatives watched. He felt his cousins waiting with anticipated resentment. He began to panic. It couldn't be

money – she usually gave that to him in private.

'Come on,' his mother said. 'We're waiting.'

He ripped the paper and opened the box. A watch. A big, bulky thing for men who wore too much cologne.

'Do you love it?' his mother said. 'Marco tried it on for you in the shop.'

He caught a jealous twitch on Marco's face.

His mother went on: 'You're almost a grown man. Time you had a grown-up watch – time!' She laughed at the haphazard pun.

He sulked all the way through dinner. He did not take seconds, even though he was hungry. He caught his mother eyeing him, as she told the family about Marco's clam recipe. Jack stared at his plate. There were things he wanted to buy. A new bike, a cable for his computer. Useful things. Maybe something for Phoebe – if he got up the guts. But his mother was selfish. She never thought what a sacrifice it was to come here at sixteen.

By ten, people were either slumped on the sofa or heading home. Marco snored in the armchair, his boots on the coffee table.

His mother caught him alone in the kitchen, picking at leftover meatballs.

She said, 'You can change it if you want. Pick out something else.'

He broke up the mince with a fork. You weren't supposed to do that with gifts. She was testing

him. He pretended he was still chewing.

'Think about it,' she said.

He thought about it all night. He didn't want a stupid watch. And so expensive too – she could afford it, but why waste all of the money that was being denied him under his nose? The worst thing was, you could see she'd spent hours on this, pootling about the shops, picking out not a watch, but a statement: she cared. It was that that bothered him. He felt sick and tried to sleep.

Jetlag woke him early. He got up when he heard his mother clattering in the kitchen. She was making pancakes.

He said, 'I'd like to exchange it. I'd prefer the money.'

She didn't turn around.

'Alright,' she said.

They were polite on the drive to the mall. Jack said that the dinner was good. She thanked him for playing carols on the piano.

As they stood at the watch counter, he knew he didn't have to go through with it. It was spite, he knew. His mother handed the watch and receipt to the sales assistant, who counted out nearly a thousand dollars in cash. Why had she paid cash? She must have known they'd end up here. It wasn't his fault.

He'd expected to feel bad, but he didn't. The assistant handed him the bills – dirty, dog-eared money. But it was free of her choice, her intention. It was just money that had the mark of hundreds of other people, and which passed momentarily to him. It didn't own him. He looked at his mother. 'Thanks,' he said. They were themselves again, at least.

Picture puzzle answer:
The busts pictured on page 12 are in Eastcastle Street on the corner with Berners Street

Poetry corner



Birthday Years

By Greta Bellamacina

*Pink smiles that make the candles dimmer
and the dutiful eye of a friend
in the singularity of a birthday.*

*There are only single things in years,
the mountains calling the moun-*

*tains untouching.
The arch of the bridge higher than the stream,
the singular wings of the arch still higher than
the single sunshine flooding the floor.*

*The elegant shadow, the weeping shadow,
the shadow that is a great impression to the sunshine itself.
That all used up beauty
and it is always 20 miles brighter than birth,*

*where unbending candles make single wishes
like mustard seeds of different shapes, single shapes on the ground, thrown out in harsh sunlight by rows and rows of trees
which look like hands*

*breathing, and all those minds, all those greetings, all those smiles,
don't meet the wind, they have their own sunsets, and their own years, their own birthdays.*

(Greta lives in Fitzroy Square)

The Zen of London's Reception Areas

By Sandra Wheen

*I'm on the top deck of this bus
And sad thoughts are in my mind,
Of troubles that are coming
And comforts left behind.*

*We inch painfully along
Above a busy pavement scene
Then stop outside some offices
And I can peer right in.*

*And what I'm looking at
In deepening contemplation
Is a quiet reception area
With its bland illumination,*

*Its formal flower arrangements,
And rectangular motifs -
Set in the warm marble
In tranquil low relief.*

*And I'm transported to past times,
Days of working in an office
When to arrive in the reception
Was to leave behind life's chaos*

*And the nod from the receptionist,
Well-presented at her desk,
Implied a world of discipline
That gave the soul a rest.*

*To me, now, this reception
Breathes restraint, proportion, grace
The unsung kind neutrality
Of London's corporate space.*

Solace for 2015

By Richard Spivack

*Engage in the spirit
Feel the flames of life
Evolve your own sense of inclusion while others may abstain
Devour the consequence of not being the authentic you
A version of tangible design
Though we wage war to define
A solitary prayer
Enter the doorstep
And never beware....*

The Property Poet Redefining the genre Taking you beyond.
richardspivack@gmail.com
See Poets wanted page 3.

Great war: sex in the city



By MIKE PENTELOW

Fitzrovia was a den of vice during the first world war with brothels, illegal drinking and gambling clubs rife.

This has been recorded by Birkbeck history professor Jerry White in his new book "Zeppelin Nights, London in the First World War" (published by Bodley Head), on which he based a recent talk to the Sohemians at the Wheatsheaf in Rathbone Place.

Most of these activities took place after the area's then strong German population had been interned or deported. This, states the book, "stripped the trading backbone from the area" removing the German cafes, bakers, butchers, restaurants, delicatessens, clubs and meeting rooms. Bertha Trott, an antique dealer and beauty specialist from Frankfurt living in Portland Place, for example, was shipped off to Rotterdam.

She may have been grateful in view of the threat to German lives expressed in high places. The First Sea Lord at the Admiralty, Jackie Fisher, said his minister Winston Churchill, "proposed to me that we should take a large number of hostages from the German population in our hands and should declare our intention of executing one of them for every civilian killed by bombs from aircraft." Fisher threatened to resign if he did not get his way, and Churchill was



forced to take the proposal to the cabinet but fortunately persuaded them to reject it.

The Mayor of Bury St Edmunds was loudly cheered at Trafalgar Square when he denounced the Germans as "an accursed race" and urged: "Intern them all. Or rather let us leave out the letter 'n' and say inter them all."

Their removal from Fitzrovia, however, had a detrimental effect, as observed by author Thomas Burke, who went in search of "what remained of the German Quarter" in 1915. In "a grey street off Tottenham Court Road" he found "a poor man's cabaret in the back of a coffee bar." He observed: "Two schonk [an offensive name for Jewish people] boys, in straw hats, were at a piano, assisted by an anaemic girl and a real coal-black coon, who gave us the essential rag-times of the [American] South. The place was packed with the finest collection of cosmopolitan toughs I had ever seen in one room."

Another author, Arnold Bennett, observed prostitutes in

Soho and Fitzrovia in the thick gloom that "put all girls, the young and the ageing, the pretty and the ugly, the good-natured and the grasping, on a sinister enticing equality."

When French, Belgian and other "continental entrepreneurs" took over the German cafes and restaurants, and allowed prostitutes the run of them, the police got interested.

DISORDERLY

The Sub-Divisional Inspector of Tottenham Court Road Police Station in November 1916 reported: "A large number of cafes kept by foreigners have sprung up on this Sub-Division during the past few months and I have received information that drink is sold in several of them, and that gaming is also carried on. Disorderly conduct is prevalent, prostitutes and other undesirables are harboured, and the establishments are much frequented by British, Colonial and foreign soldiers. Most have Automatic Pianos which are playing almost continuously till

late at night."

He listed 28 cafes "kept by foreigners", 22 of which were used by prostitutes, and run by Belgian, French, Swiss, Russian and Romanian proprietors.

Among those prosecuted for harbouring prostitutes were:

Cafe de Allies, run by August Storms, at 31 Rathbone Place;

Au Roi Albert Cafe, run by a Belgian, Lopold Roaluilt and his wife, at 13 Tottenham Street;

Cafe Franco-Italian, run by a French couple, Gustave le Marchant and Francois de Winter, at 4 Windmill Street.

Pub licensed hours were drastically restricted (originally a temporary measure for the first world war which has lasted a century). But underground clubs of unlicensed early morning drinking sprang up in Fitzrovia and elsewhere, as did gambling especially among Russian Jews in clubs run by French, Italian and other migrants, where high stake poker was played.

There were also claims that soldiers were being drugged

and robbed in the Euston area.

A reaction to this was mounted by the National Council for Public Morals, based off Tottenham Court Road in Great Russell Street. It appointed the Rev James Marchant as its "Cinematograph Commissioner" who called for cinemas to be closed on Sundays, the suppression of demoralising pictures of crime, and expressed concern about darkness being used by young couples "for seclusion."

There was innocent pleasures however, such as piano recitals by the eccentric Vladimir de Pachmann at the Queen's Hall, at 4 Langham Place, in the spring of 1916. He was of Russian-German ethnicity and performed Chopin in a playful style with gestures, muttering and addressed the audience during his performance. George Bernard Shaw said he gave "his well know pantomime performance, with accompaniments by Chopin." Another critic called him "the Chopinzee." You can see a performance of his from 1925 on YouTube. In the same hall the far right National Party, led by Lord Charles Beresford, was formed in August 1917 which incited violence against pacifists and peace campaigners.

BOMBS

Bombs were dropped by a Zeppelin near Euston station on the night of September 8, 1915, and then Holborn where the first fatality occurred at the Dolphin public house at 10.49 pm, where the clock stopped at that time is still in the bar. Further bombs were dropped by aeroplane on Osnaburgh Street, by Great Portland Street station, on the night of September 19, 1917. One of the patients there in St Saviour's Hospital heard guns at about 8.16 pm. "Firing came nearer and nearer, then a fearful crash of a bomb came," she recalled. "Some of the bombs, or aerial torpedoes made a horrible noise: the echoes were so terrific... we could hear the roar of the aeroplanes as they came nearer and nearer."

"The guns from Regent's Park began blazing forth and as we are quite close to them they made a fearful noise and the shrieking of the shells was terrific."

"Then we heard the bombs falling and we were very relieved when they began to go further away. A lot of bits of shrapnel came rattling down by my window."

On the other side of Regent's Park even the zoo animals were enrolled into the war effort, as is shown by a picture in the book of a tortoise with the message "We can't do without our shells" painted on its back.



Remembering local soldiers killed a hundred years ago

Wreaths were laid on Remembrance Day at the memorial (pictured left) by the Eisenhower Centre in Chenies Street to commemorate local soldiers killed in both world wars.

They were members of the 12th County of London Battalion known as The Rangers. Their headquarters were at 14 Chenies Street, known as the Drill Hall until recently taken over by RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art). The battalion was formed in August 1914. One of their early tasks was to guard the railway and camp at Aldershot. On Christmas Day of that year they were moved to the front, landing at Le Havre.



Jenn Harper (centre) plays *The Vase* in the theatre at the British Museum. Other members of the cast were: Lee White, Natalia Hinds, Owen Clark, Lilian Schiffer, and Kluane Saunders. The play was directed by Katie Merritt. Picture by Nick Bailey.

Full house in British Museum for local author's play

The British Museum theatre was packed for the single performance of "189 Pieces", a play about the Portland Vase by Fitzrovia playwright Sue Blundell.

And she was also interviewed about it on radio station Resonance104.4FM by Nick Hennegan of the Maverick Theatre group which staged it, and who also guides walks in Fitzrovia.

Sue used to lecture on classics at Birkbeck College and for the Open University, and it was this that led to her writing plays.

"A lot of actors do Open University degrees, and one of them who was my student said he would bring in 12 of his acting mates to read Homer out loud. We then took it to the British Museum. I took my students to the British Museum a lot and have given lectures there and put on monologue plays."

This play however has a cast of six who play 28 characters between them - including *The Vase* - and also play two guitars and a drum.

The Portland Vase is housed



in the British Museum, and was made of glass by the Romans in the late first century. It may have been owned by Augustus, the first Roman Emperor, and Pope Urban VIII. It was brought to London in 1783 and sold to the Dowager Duchess of Portland for £1,800. Josiah Wedgwood borrowed it three years later to make ceramic copies.

The 4th Duke of Portland

deposited it on loan to the British Museum in 1810. Then in 1845 a visitor to the museum, William Mulcahy, picked up a statue and used it to smash the vase - into the 189 pieces of the play's title. Little is known of him or why he did it. Luckily the vase was painstakingly put together and is now safely on display.

The play was rehearsed in Fitzrovia Community Centre in Foley Street, and it is hoped to perform it in other museums, especially those who exhibit copies of the Portland Vase, such as the Wedgwood Museum, and in Oxford and Cambridge.

Sue's previous plays have been based on people she was teaching her students about, including Greek goddesses and philosophers.

Her next play is about the suffragette Mary Richardson, who in 1914 slashed a painting of Venus in the National Gallery, as a protest against how the government was forcefeeding women campaigning for the vote.

A Warring Absence

A play created by Tim Schneider and performed at the Welsh Chapel in Eastcastle Street

By BRIAN JARMAN

Dylan and Caitlin Thomas' union was a notoriously fiery one, from their first meeting in a Fitzrovia pub to his deathbed scene in New York where his wife reportedly barged in shouting: "Is that bloody man dead yet?"

But there was warmth, laughter and poetry too, and these contrasts are what Tim Schneider's verbatim play so brilliantly captures.

It's based on Dylan's letters from America and Caitlin's memoirs. While he is in Hollywood hobnobbing with the likes of Charlie Chaplin, she is back in Wales struggling with cash-strapped motherhood. She doesn't begrudge him his place in the sun - she would just like a little of it herself.

Dylan's airy, grandiloquent love letters arrive regularly, but so too do reports of his philan-

dering. In contrast, Caitlin's musings on him, his writing, their marriage, are earthy, witty and gritty, proving she's a good match in the wordsmith stakes. In the philandering stakes too, when it comes to that.

The play premiered at the Olivier Theatre, before transferring to The Welsh Chapel in Eastcastle Street as a one-off part of the Dylan Thomas in Fitzrovia festival, celebrating the centenary of his birth.

The job of encapsulating this larger-than-life man and woman fell to actors Daniel Evans and Sian Thomas and they did it magnificently. Sian's portrayal of the feisty Caitlin was captivating.

Their words were interwoven with new music from the string and wind quintet, the Kane Players. The effect was funny, sad, and moving - and for me the highlight of the festival.

Live music played in hospital

Talented young musicians and a choir now perform in the atrium area of University College London Hospital on the first three Thursdays of every month. There are also weekly concerts in the UCH Macmillan Cancer Centre in Huntley Street, and monthly ones in the Basil Samuel outpatients department.

A wide and varied repertoire of music from classical to new world is performed.

A choir known as UCLH Staff Singers has also been set up to learn and perform a variety of popular songs. It comprises 25 staff members including matrons, medical secretaries, nurses, data co-ordinators, complimentary therapists, psychologists, administrators, and clinical researchers.

They have sung a range of songs from musicals including the works of Cole Porter, Irvin Berlin, and the Gershwins.

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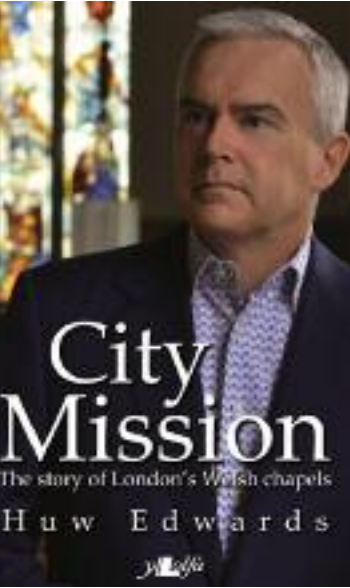
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Book reviews



Pristine chapel

By HELENE PARRY
Fitzrovia’s newly-renovated Welsh chapel in Eastcastle Street is a masterpiece, a magnificent work for the Welsh in London to be proud of, says newsreader and journalist Huw Edwards.
In his latest book, Huw describes the chapel’s £1.3 million refurbishment programme, which has seen the Victorian stained glass windows, plaster-work and paintwork in the chapel restored to their original glory. “The result is spectacular, a great credit to all those involved,” says Huw.
Huw, best known for presenting the BBC News At Ten, has a strong interest in Welsh history and culture. His new book, *City Mission: The Story Of London’s Welsh Chapels*, traces the 300-year history of London’s Welsh churches and chapels, shedding new light on one of London’s oldest ethnic communities.
The Eastcastle Street chapel was formally established as a place of worship for Welsh Baptists on May 3rd 1859. It went through sweeping changes, sometimes surviving for years without a minister, but by 1889, according to contemporary accounts, it had become “a church of most aggressive character, doing a grand work among young people”. Reassuring for Victorian parents in rural Wales whose children

had 'emigrated' to London to find work.
The chapel made the front pages in 1917, when the serving prime minister, David Lloyd George, escorted his daughter Olwen to her wedding there. The London press went into a frenzy at seeing one of the society weddings of the decade conducted in a modest Welsh chapel. Through Lloyd George, the Welsh were suddenly at the heart of government and the focus of London society.
Another big moment in the chapel’s history was in 2006, when it joined forces with the Independent Welsh churches of King’s Cross and Radnor Walk to form The Welsh Church of Central London (Eglwys Gymraeg Canol Llundain) and all three chose Eastcastle Street as their new home. Services are bilingual. “Since the refurbishment, there’s a real confidence and buzz there,” says Huw. “It impresses everyone who visits.”
Huw, from Llanelli, has lived in London for over 30 years, and admits that, even today, Welsh people in London can find it difficult to sustain Welsh life in the English capital. A native Welsh speaker, he attends a Welsh church in South London and speaks the “language of heaven” to his children at home – “Although they answer in English!”
Huw Edwards’ book, City Mission: The Story Of London’s Welsh Chapels is published by Y Lolfa, and costs £24.95.



Huw Edwards signing a copy of the book for Siw Harston, the Welsh teacher who taught Helene Parry.



By FIONA GREEN
In the spring of 1958 I went with my schoolfriend, Aeronwy Thomas, to visit her grandmother, the elegant Yvonne MacNamara, at her home in Blashford, in the New Forest. This was the bohemian residence in which Aeronwy’s mother Caitlin stayed with her new husband, Dylan Thomas, 20 years earlier.
This was the first of many visits every school holiday, and I loved the house, large, untidy and rambling, her Aunt Brigit, the meals cooked by “Granny Mac” as she was known, and the wild ponies roaming outside for all the world like the gypsy encampment which the Augustus John family nearby created, and where the two clans lived in close bohemian harmony and rural bliss.
Yvonne had a long and happy affair with Nora Summers, which began when her husband, the poet Francis MacNamara, had abandoned the family in 1914.
Nora took to Yvonne’s family and photographed them all as they grew up, but it was Caitlin and Dylan she focused on, and are the subject of this beautiful book, compiled by Nora’s family with the help of Jeff Towns, who runs the Dylan Thomas bookshop in Laugharne, Wales. The book contains many unseen photographs and an interesting family history. It was put together to celebrate the Centenary and to coincide with an exhibition at 76 Charlotte Street, for the Dylan Thomas in Fitzrovia Festival. Dylan Thomas and the Bohemians.
The Photographs of Nora Summers. By Gabriel Summers and Leonie Summers with Jeff Towns. Parthian Books £13 (free delivery in the UK)



By FIONA GREEN
Hannah Ellis (pictured above courtesy S. Wales Evening Post) is the grand daughter of Dylan Thomas and this beautifully selected volume of essays begins with a poem by Archbishop Rowan Williams “Swansea Bay”. The book – with marvellous end pages drawn by Sir Peter Blake – celebrates the poet’s life in three parts: his early years, later life, and his legacy.
It is foreworded by Terry Jones of Monty Python fame, who says:
“Reading Dylan Thomas is to celebrate life. To enter into a festival of words for their own sake. Dylan Thomas is a unique voice, singing in his chains, like the sea”.
Hannah, in her introduction, talks about what led her to read her grandfather’s work and to discover more about the family she was born into. She chose to take on the mantle of Dylan, inherited by her mother, my friend Aeronwy; take a break from teaching, and focus on the centenary of the poet’s birth in order to engage young learners in schools everywhere with her grandfather’s work.
We learn about Dylan’s formative life through early family photos and through the writing of David N Thomas, the National Poet of Wales, and other luminaries in the literary academic world of Swansea.
The second part of the book is the most fascinating to me as an artist.
Anthony Penrose writes about the effect Dylan’s contact with the surrealists had on the young poet and his craft; and Paul Jackson, senior lecturer in history at Northampton, writes on Dylan’s anti-fascist stance. Andrew Lycett, biographer, writes about Dylan’s female patrons and Hilly Janes on the long, family connection which started with her father’s friendship with Dylan.
There are other chapters which afford a unique glimpse into the life and work of the great man.
This is a book for the great-grandchildren of Dylan: Matthew Squire, Oscar Ellis, and Charlie Jackson and their generations to come, as well as an excellent introduction to Dylan the poet, for all of us.
Dylan Thomas: A Centenary Celebration. Edited by Hannah Ellis. Published by Bloomsbury.



By LINUS REES
A new guide book describing walks in and around London was launched at a Fitzrovia pub in November. Freedom Pass London is written by local author and editor of Fitzrovia News Mike Pentelow and illustrated by photographer Peter Arkell.
Intended as a companion to The Freedom Pass travel ticket it describes 25 destinations that can be reached free of charge and enjoyed by walking and visiting sites of interest. The book maps out walking routes across the city, through its open spaces, and among the suburbs to the areas of outstanding natural beauty that can be reached by train, tube or bus. It is the first book published to help city dwellers make use of the pass for days out and for suburban dwellers to enjoy London’s rich cultural heritage.
A route from Soho via Fitzrovia and Bloomsbury to Hampstead and Highgate recalls the life and days out enjoyed by Karl Marx and his family. While a train journey to Amersham leads the walker on a trail of fictional mystery through the villages where the TV series Midsomer Murders is set.
With this book you can discover art treasures, little known churches, wildlife and nature reserves. There are detailed route instructions, colour photographs and an invaluable index.
It is published by Bradt Travel Guides, priced £12.99.



The Petticoat Men, by local novelist Barbara Ewing, has just been published by Head of Zeus will be fully reviewed in our next issue.



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Sculptures mystery goes on: Can you identify them?



Here are some more pictures of the sculptures by Bourlet Close, after the interest shown in them by Andrea Lowe in our last issue. We have had no luck identifying them unfortunately, but these ones are from the other side of

Bourlet Close, as seen from the back of Wells Street. They were taken by Catherine McGuinness and Mike Pentelow. (See letter on page 2)



ART LISTINGS

Continued from back page

Dec 6 ongoing.

GRAD, 3-4a Little Portland St (grad-london.com): Bolt, Dec 6-Feb 28.

Hanmi Gallery, 30 Maple St (hanmigallery.co.uk): Wen Wu, now until Jan 6. Group show Jan 8-Jan 31. Sungfeel Yun, ongoing.

Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, 22 Eastcastle St (kashyahildebrand.org): Max Gimblett, until Jan 25.

Gallery Libby Sellers, 41 Berners St (libbysellers.com): Anton Alvarez, until dec 13.

Josh Lilley, 44-46 Riding House St (joshlilleygallery.com): Rob Pratt, Dec 11-20. Vicky Wright, Jan 15-Feb 20.

Laure Genillard, 2 Hanway Place (lglondon.org): Peter Downsborough, Dec 6-Jan 31.

Lazarides Gallery, 11 Rathbone Place (lazinc.com): Robert Proch, Anthony Lister, until Dec 20. Nancy Victor, 6 Charlotte Place (nancyvictor.com): Michelle Swann, Charlotte Hamson, Dec15-19.

National Print Gallery, 56 Maple St (nationalprintgallery.com): see website for details

New Art Projects, 17 Riding House St (newartprojects.com): Jonathan Parsons, until Dec 22.

Pi Artworks, 55 Eastcastle St (piartworks.com): Maria Friberg, Dec 5-Jan 31.

Pilar Corrias, 54 Eastcastle St (pilarcorrias.com): Tunga, until Jan 15.

Rebecca Hossack Gallery (1), 2a Conway St (rebeccahossack.com): mixed hang, until Dec 24. Joan Dannatt: 90 Years an Artist, Jan 7-Feb 8 (dates t.b.c.).

Rebecca Hossack Gallery (2) 28 Charlotte St (rebeccahossack.com): mixed hang, until Dec 24. Thomas Allen, Jan 7-Feb 8.

Rook and Raven, 7/8 Rathbone Place (rookandraven.co.uk): Vanessa Jackson, Rupert Newman, Vanessa Hodgkinson, until Dec 20. Corinne Felgate, Jan 23-Feb 28.

Rose Issa Projects, 82 Great Portland St (roseissa.com): Etel Adnan; Maliheh Afnan; Farhad Ahrarnia; Slah Armajani; Ayman Baalbaki; Said Baalbaki; Matthew Corbin Bishop; Al Braithwaite; Bita Ghezelayagh; Susan Hefuna; Iraida Icaza, until Dec 19. (then gallery closing)

Rosenfeld Porcini, 37 Rathbone St (rosenfeldporcini.com): Roberto Almagno, Leonardo Drew, Herbert Golser and Sebastian Gordi, until Jan 31.

Richard Saltoun, 111 Great Titchfield St (richardsaltoun.com): Robert Filliou, Dec 5-Jan 30.

Scream Gallery, 27-28 Eastcastle St (screamlondon.com): see website for details.

Store Street Gallery, 32 Store St (storestreetgallery.com): see website for details.

Tiwani Contemporary, 16 Little Portland St (tiwani.co.uk): Mary Evans and Emeka Ogbob, until Dec 20. Virginia Chihota, Jan 9-Feb 7.

T J Boulting, 59 Riding House St (tjboulting.com): Henry Hudson, until Jan 24.

Woolff Gallery, 89 Charlotte St (woolffgallery.co.uk): Clay Sinclair,

Looking back

40 years ago

Twin tunnels under the platforms of Goodge Street tube station will form deep government shelters in the event of a nuclear attack on London or civil insurrection, according to an article published by **Anarchists Anonymous**.

The tunnels possibly connect with the GPO (now BT) Tower, the aerials of which were linked to Regional Seats of Government.

The Kebab Restaurant at 14 Tottenham Court Road was fined £535 for 27 offences relating to cleanliness, ventilation and food hygiene.

The two guinea pigs at the Whitfield Play Centre, Blackie and Snowy, have just produced a baby girl, called Suki. Mother and baby are doing well.

From *Tower*, December 1974

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30 years ago

A fire in a hotel at 46 Gloucester Place killed the wife and two children of Abdul Karim, who had lived in Fitzrovia for many years, until moved by Camden council nine months previously.

Reports suggested that the fire escape was blocked and all the fire extinguishers were empty.

The case highlighted the plight of homeless families in London, with Camden having more than 700 families in bed and breakfast hotels, 60 of them in the Gloucester Place hotel.

Channel 4 finally honoured its 1981 agreement to provide a "public viewing cinema" in its Charlotte Street premises. Local residents were then able to see major feature films at no cost in the 70-seat cinema. It was in the basement, previously occupied by The Other Cinema (previously the Scala).

The 400th anniversary of the death of St Charles Borromeo was celebrated at the church named after him in Ogle Street (built in 1862), when its priest Father Alan Fudge welcomed Cardinal Basil Hume, Primate of England & Wales to celebrate Mass.

From *Fitzrovia Neighbourhood News*, December 1984

20 years ago

Pensioners protested at the number of street seats being removed to discourage vagrants sleeping on them.

One bench in Portland Place was removed after complaints by the Chinese Embassy staff because of this. A much more positive example was set by pensioners at Holcroft Court who found a local lad made homeless sleeping on a bench outside their flats. They took up his case and helped him find housing.

Channel One, a new cable television station under the same ownership as the Evening Standard and the Daily Mail,



50 years ago

Security was less tight when the FA Cup was carried unguarded on the tube. Ron Greenwood, then manager of West Ham, is pictured with it at Tottenham Court Road station shortly after his team won it in 1964, beating Preston 3-2 at Wembley, having twice come from behind. Does anybody recognise the seemingly unimpressed lady sharing his seat?

Picture: Getty Images.

took over the studios vacated by Channel Four in Charlotte Street. It provided local news, weather and traffic information for five areas of London. Chairman of the station was Sir David English, who edited the Daily Mail for 21 years. It employed 90 journalists.

The Jack Horner pub opened on the corner of Tottenham Court Road and Bayley Street, by Fullers as an ale and pie house. "Already the neighbouring Bedford Arms has cut its prices by 20 per cent in anticipation of the competition."

From *Fitzrovia News*, December 1994

10 years ago

The world's first political cartoon gallery opened at 32 Store Street and chronicled 150 years of British history right up to the present day.

It was managed by Tim Benson who said it was for those "interested in learning about history and politics through the medium of cartoon." The then London mayor, Ken Livingstone, was due to open a London exhibition in the next few months. Sadly huge rent rises imposed by the Bedford Estate forced the gallery to close in 2010.

Plans for revamping

Broadcasting House were announced. An artist's impression of the New Broadcasting House was surprisingly accurate - unlike the prediction of when it would be completed. "The new building will be added by 2008," it announced. In the event it was opened five years after that.

Gigs fish restaurant in Tottenham Street was taken over by new owners, Chris Jordan and Aristos (known as Aggi or Harry) Papa-Savva, who still run it today.

Artist Glynn Boyd Harte, was profiled in the paper some months after his death at the age of 55. He had lived in Fitzrovia (Percy Street and Gower Street) from the 1960s to the 1990s, and his watercolours and lithographs were frequently exhibited at the Curwen Gallery in Windmill Street. Less known was the fact that he was an accomplished pianist and composer, and performed cabaret in several pantomimes at the Art Workers' Guild, of which he was the Master.

From *Fitzrovia News*, December 2004.

**Back copies can be viewed online at
archive.fitzrovia.org.uk**

WHAT'S ON AROUND FITZROVIA

Email 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): Ukeleles on Wednesdays.

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).

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

The 100 Club, 100 Oxford St (the100club.co.uk): Frank Sanazi's Das Vegas Xmas Show, Dec 4. The Outcasts, Dec 12. Wreckless Eric, Dec 13, 6.30-10 pm. The Boot Boys' Christmas Knees Up, Dec 19. Christmas Mod Ball, Dec 20. Blues Brothers Banned, Dec 21. Resolution Festival, five day celebration of classic punk in its spiritual home, Jan 6-10. Eddie & The Hot Rods, Jan 17. The Rage - Live & Wild, Jan 23.

CAROL SINGING

All Saints Church, Margaret St: Carol service followed by mince pies and mulled wine, Dec 15, 6pm. Carol singing in the parish followed by mince pies and mulled wine, meet church courtyard, Dec 18, 6.30pm. Carol service, Dec 22, midnight.

St Giles-in-the-Fields, 60 St Giles High St: Carol singing for the community with St Giles Choir followed by mulled wine, Dec 17, 7pm. Annual carol service, Dec 21, 6.30pm. **UCL, Front Quad**, Wilkins Building, Gower St: ICLU Charity Concert, Dec 2, 1-8pm. Holst Singers Charity Christmas Concert, Dec 5, 7-9.30pm. **UCL Chamber Music Club**, North Cloisters, Wilkins Building, Gower St (ucl.ac.uk/chamber-music): Christmas Concert, Dec 9, 6-7pm.

LIVE COMEDY

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

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

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

PUB QUIZZES

The Albany, 240 Great Portland St: Every Tuesday.

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

POETRY

All Saints, Margaret Street: Christmas Poetry Tea at Pamela's, Dec 6, 3pm (phone Sandra on 7637 8456).



White Christmas, The Musical is showing at the Dominion Theatre until January 3.

THEATRE

Bloomsbury Theatre, 15 Gordon St (thebloomsbury.com): John Shuttleworth, Dec 1-2. The Nutcracker, performed by West London School of Dance, Dec 5-7. Over The Top Xmas Love-In, benefit gig for homeless and unemployed, featuring Josie Long, Bridget Christie and others, Dec 8. Peter Pan, Dec 11-14. The Santa Claus Science Experiment, plus Robin Ince's Christmas Science Ghosts, Dec 15-21. Sex Appeal IV, hosted by Al Murray, Jan 10. Festival of the Spoken Nerd, Jan 16-17. Girls Night Out, female comedy, Jan 19. The UCL Classical Play, Euripides' Bacchae, Feb 10, 7.30pm, Feb 12. 2.30 and 7.30pm. **Camden People's Theatre**, 58-60 Hampstead Rd (cpttheatre.co.uk): State of Affairs, Dec 2-7. Licensed to Ill, hip-hop musical, Dec 9-12. Passing the Baton 4, and Dialogue Social, Dec 13. Shit Theatre's Sing-a-long Muppet Christmas Carol, Dec 14. The Collective Project, Dec 16-20. Tatterdemalion, hilarious mixture of puppetry and mime, plus Be Better, Jan 16-18. UCLU Arts and Cultural Societies showcase their talents, Jan 19-Feb 28. Keith Johnstone's Maestro Impro, March 1.

Dominion Theatre, 269 Tottenham Court Rd (dominiontheatre.co.uk): Irving Berlin's White Christmas Musical, Nov 8-Jan 3. Lord Of The Dance: Dangerous Games, March 13.

London Palladium, Argyll St (the-london-palladium.com): Cats The Musical, Dec 8 for 12 weeks.

New Diorama Theatre, 15 Triton St, opposite top of Fitzroy St (newdiorama.com): Fat Git with Boy Meets Girl, Dec 2-6. Rhum and Clay On the Run with No Such Thing, Dec 7-8. Idle Motion with Borges and I, Dec 9-13. Brain of Brittain, plays by Jon Brittain, Dec 15. Nativity In Creakbottom, Dec 21. Romeo and Juliet, Jan 6-9, 16-17, 20-21, 24-25. The Talented Mr Ripley, Jan 10-11, 14-16, 22-23, 28-29, Feb 5-7. Joan of Arc, Jan 30-31, Feb 3-4, 7-8.

CINEMA/FILM

Bolivar Hall, 54 Grafton Way (cultural.embavenez-uk.org): All 7.30pm unless stated. What a Mess!!! Dec 9. Pete Seeger: The Power of Song, and Blacklisting - Giant Steps, Dec 14, 11am. Bolivar, A Man of Difficulties, Dec 16. London Socialist Film Co-op screen films at 11am on the second Sunday of each month.

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 or 08712 244007.

RIBA, 66 Portland Place (architecture.com): 1914 Now: Screening of Films, Dec 9, 6.45-10 pm.

UCL Garwood Lecture Theatre, 1st Floor, South Wing, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Aftermath (2012), Dec 10, 7-9pm.

UCL Petrie Museum, Malet Place: Xena, Warrior Princess, For Him the Bell Tolls, Jan 22, 6-8pm.

TALKS

RIBA, 66 Portland Place (architecture.com): Nearly Zero, energy buildings and the influence of European and National regulations on sustainable architecture, Feb 10, 6-8.30 pm.

UCL Freud Museum, DMS Watson Building, Malet Place: Love, Lust and Longing in Greek Poetry and Image, Jan 27, 6-8.30 pm.

UCL Petrie Museum, DMS Watson Building, Malet Place: How does stuff get into museums? Feb 5, 6-8pm. Caroline Lawrence on Scribes of Alexandria, Feb 18, 2-4 pm. **Sohemian Society**, Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place: All at 7.30pm.

WALKS

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

EXHIBITIONS

British Museum, Great Russell St (britishmuseum.org): Celebrate China's Ming dynasty, until Jan 5. Witches and Wicked Bodies, until Jan 11. Pilgrims, healers and wizards: Buddhism and religious practices in Burma and Thailand, until Jan 11. Poetry and exile, until March 29. A 600-year history in objects, until Jan 25. Eight mummies, eight lives, eight stories, until April 19.

Royal Institute of British Architects, Architecture Gallery, 66 Portland Place (architecture.com): Ordinary Beauty: The Photography of Edwin Smith, until Dec 6. Mackintosh Architecture, Feb 18-May 23.

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.

Wellcome Library, 183 Euston Rd (wellcomecollection.org): The Institute of Sexology, until Sept 20.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Charles Dickens performed by **Maverick Theatre Company**
Dec 8-24 upstairs at The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place. 1pm weekdays except Fridays, and 7.30 pm weekends.
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ART GALLERIES

Adam Gallery, 67 Mortimer St. (adamgallery.com/london): Mixed exhibition until mid-December.

Alison Jacques Gallery, 18 Berners St (alisonjacquesgallery.com): Saul Flecher until Dec 20, Graham Little, Jan 16-Feb 14.

Arch One, 12 Percy St (archonepictureframing.co.uk): various artists, ongoing.

Art First, 21 Eastcastle St (art-first.co.uk): Moon – group exhibition co-curated with Simon Morley, until Jan 31. Art First Projects: Post card project, until Jan 31.

Bartha Contemporary, 25 Margaret St (barthacontemporary.com): Beat Zoderer, until Feb 28.

Berloni, 63 Margaret St (berloni-gallery.com): William Bradley & Mark Selby, until Jan 24.

Building Centre, Store St (buildingcentre.co.uk): Smarter London: How are digital technologies shaping the capital? Until Dec 18. A Shed of One's Own, until Dec 24.

Carroll/Fletcher, 56-57 Eastcastle St (carrollfletcher.com): James Clar, Frederik de Wilde, until Dec 20.

Coningsby Gallery/Debut Art, 30 Tottenham St (coningsby-gallery.com): Walter Newton, Jan



19-31. **Curwen Gallery**, 34 Windmill St (curwengallery.com): Christmas group exhibition (pictured above) until Dec 23. John Brokenshire, Mark Godwin, Robin Richmond & Richard Walke, Jan 8-31.

England & Co, 90-92 Great Portland St (englandgallery.com): Monica Ross, until Christmas.

Evelyn Yard, Evelyn Yard (evelynyard.com): Holly White, until Jan 23. Tiril Hasselknippe, Dec 17-Jan 23. Paul Kneale, Jan 27-Feb 27.

Framers Gallery @ Artefact, 36 Windmill St (theframersgallery.co.uk): Lincoln Townley, until Dec 13. Caroline Tate, Joanna Stoga, Dec 15-Jan 31.

Gallery Different, 14 Percy St (gallerydifferent.co.uk): Christmas Collective, now until mid-Jan.

Getty Images Gallery, 46 Eastcastle St (gettyimages-gallery.com): Winter Sale from

Continued on previous page