

FitzroviaNews



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

Issue 137 Summer 2015

Neighbourhood Association celebrates 40 years but faces “severe challenges” to fund services and community work

“Diverse community is under threat from the relentless development”

This summer the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association (FNA) is celebrating 40 years since opening the Neighbourhood Centre, with an exhibition, sale of art and craftwork, and historical talks and walks. Despite its proud history and valued services the FNA faces a difficult time competing for grant funding as the community faces threats from over-development and spiralling rents.

The former glass shop on the corner of Tottenham Street and Goodge Place was renovated and opened in 1975 to provide housing and welfare advice and as a community meeting place with money provided by an urban aid grant from the then Greater London Council (GLC).

The Neighbourhood Centre went on to become a base for many kinds of community activity including street festivals, food co-ops and residents' organisations. *Fitzrovia News* is produced there, along with the annual Fitzrovia Festival.

The Neighbourhood Association is well-known for its work with the local Bangladeshi community and in particular its art projects with Asian women and women from other backgrounds, as well as work supporting older people. It also carries out health projects and works with residents to respond to planning and licensing applications.

Over the past four decades several important central London amenity groups emerged out of the Neighbourhood Centre. The Central London Law Centre, Chinese Workers Association and the Bengali Workers Association all got their start at the Tottenham Street building. Many residents and community groups such as the Charlotte Street Association, Fitzrovia Play Association and Friends of Open Spaces in Fitzrovia have benefitted from using the facilities at the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre. These groups have saved much of the historic fabric of the area and

have helped develop local parks and nurseries for the benefit of local residents.

In the year 2000 a mural showing key figures in Fitzrovia history was painted on the Goodge Place wall by local children supervised by mural artist Brian Barnes MBE. In 2004 the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association became a registered charity.

Like many voluntary organisations in recent years the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association faces problems with funding its work.

Camden and Westminster Councils no longer make grants for the kind of advice work it does, despite the fact that it is one of the few places still offering bilingual work in Asian languages and is needed more than ever with recent changes and cuts in access to benefits, housing and council services which affect everyone. The organisation has to compete with many other groups chasing an ever decreasing pool of money.

Barb Jacobson who runs the Association's Older Fitzrovia project has warned that the organisation “faces severe challenges to fund its services and community work.”

“Back in the 1970s the struggle was to keep residential accommodation in Fitzrovia and preserve its historic Georgian and

Continued on page 5



The Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre on the corner of Tottenham Street and Goodge Street as it is today and how it was as an empty glass shop in 1975. The Neighbourhood Centre went on to become a base for many kinds of community activity including street festivals, food co-ops and residents organisations. Fitzrovia News is produced here, it hosts a housing and welfare advice service, and provides a meeting place and services for residents' groups.



Toy Story, p12



Kenneth Williams, p8



**Fitzrovia
Festival 2015**
3-28 June, p 11



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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
Brian Jarman:
writer and sub-editor
Barb Jacobson:
associate editor
Jennifer Kavanagh:
associate editor
Jess Owens:
associate editor

Contributors:

Jayne Davies
Janet Gauld
Clancy Gebler Davies
Ann Goodburn
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Nick Heath
Angela Lovely
Catherine March
Helene Parry
Sunita Soliar
Clifford Slapper
Adam Stoneman
Mark Thomas
Kipper Williams

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fitzrovia.org.uk
google.com/+FitzroviaOrgUK
twitter.com/FitzroviaNA
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Fitzrovia Neighbourhood
Association,
39 Tottenham Street
London W1T 4RX
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Write to letters@fitzrovia.org.uk or post to Fitzrovia News, Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association, 39 Tottenham Street, London W1T 4RX

Westminster City Council and 87-125 Cleveland Street

In September 2010 Westminster City Council instructed their property managing agents Knight Frank to market the headlease of 87-125 Cleveland Street.

Then in July 2011 cabinet member Councillor Jonathan Glanz gave the go ahead to flog the site to an unnamed buyer. The report on the sale was confidential, only the decision being public.

Later Glanz was to resign his cabinet post after he publicly stated his contempt for tenants living in social housing. Being a man of his word his contempt was backed up by actions — the sell off of the property for development was only 8 metres from those social housing tenants at Holcroft Court. Although to be fair to Glanz his dislike also extended to the leaseholders who'd acquired their homes under the Tories' right-to-buy scheme. Can't say the man's not even-handed, can we?

After the petrol station closed in September 2013 a brief statement from Westminster Council mentioned that the headlease had been flogged to a local occupier with "the option to develop".

A few months later in February 2014, another confidential report, and Westminster Council cabinet members Daniel Astaire and Melvyn Caplan reached for their fountain pens to sign off more liberal terms for the headlease. Glanz's contempt for

Westminster residents clearly did not go far enough for Astaire and Caplan.

In August 2014 the property press reported that Dukelease Properties Ltd and Starwood Capital Europe Advisors LLP expressed an interest in 87-125 Cleveland Street and that they intended to replace the existing building with a mixed use scheme, providing ground floor retail and office space with residential accommodation above. The redundant petrol station would be brought back to use in Clipstone Mews.

Fitzrovia News submitted a freedom of information request to Westminster Council asking to see documents relating to the pre-planning discussions held with the applicants.

The pile of papers revealed that originally the proposals did not include a petrol filling station and that planning officers advice in September 2013 was that this was acceptable as the disused station at Clipstone Street was not on its list of protected petrol stations.

However, correspondence in April 2014 revealed that Westminster's planners made a "suggestion to incorporate a petrol filling station within the scheme". The revised scheme moved the existing station from the wider Clipstone Street and placed it in the narrow Clipstone Mews and next to residents windows.

It seems like Westminster's planning officers are as bad as its cabinet members.

Curious about Time Out building on Tottenham Court Road

I'm an avid reader and work in the area.

I've been trying to learn a little more about the recently demolished Time Out building on Tottenham Court Road (Universal House). When it was built, the architects, former occupants, etc?

And I wondered if any of your knowledgeable readers might be able to shed some light on it's history?

Any archive photo's of the building would also be wonderful to see, especially the front facade as I've recently managed to rescue the old clock from the bulldozers!

Oliver Marshall
oli.marshall@gmail.com

No politics please

Please do not make political statements! This should be a neutral information service and it is offensive. — reader comment via Facebook.

Locals strongly approve of guerrilla gardening

Have you noticed the spread of gentle guerrilla gardening in Fitzrovia?

People are planting flowers at their own expense around trees along a number of streets and it's growing!

Look for example outside Conchiglia restaurant in Clipstone Street, outside the northern end and western side and southern end of Holcroft Court and along Great Titchfield Street just south of Clipstone Street. And Clipstone Street outside Westminster University. Locals strongly approve!

Homelessness is not a 'lifestyle choice'

By Adam Stoneman

"When one has consorted with them, and found that they are ordinary human beings, one cannot help being struck by the curious attitude that society takes towards them," wrote George Orwell about the homeless in his 1933 memoir, *Down and Out in Paris and London*.

What would Orwell, who championed clarity and transparency in writing, have made of Camden Cllr Jonathan Simpson's comments (Only five Rough Sleepers in Camden says council, p3), when he included rough sleepers as among those who have a "street based lifestyle"?

Grinding poverty is cast as a "lifestyle choice" as in a "physically active lifestyle" or a "meat-free lifestyle". Or what about the recent report from Fitzrovia Business

Improvement District (Business group says homeless choose to sleep rough, page 3), which claims that the "vast majority" of homeless people choose to sleep on the streets? The same report opts for the term "street people", which, we presume, are to be distinguished from "house people."

The euphemistic expressions above reflect just how uncomfortable the issue of homelessness makes us. It poses a problem for an image of this country as "fair" and "just" — that despite the inordinate wealth of this city, thousands struggle to keep a roof over their heads.

And it is a growing problem. While Camden Council's low estimates of rough sleepers in the borough have provoked suspicion, homeless charities agree that the number of people sleeping on the streets is on the rise.

The charity Crisis, in this year's Homelessness Monitor, report that councils are underestimating the number of

homeless people and that headline figures "no longer reflect" the true scale of homelessness. The report reveals how "political choices" such as cuts to welfare and housing benefits are behind the increase in the number of people becoming homeless.

Because of this, it is vital that we stop discussing homelessness as a moral problem and start treating it as a political problem. Cuts to housing benefits and a massively inflated housing market are the primary cause of increasing homelessness today, not individuals' poor moral choices.

By rethinking homelessness as a political, rather than moral problem we should also reconsider our reaction to it, and move from "moral" charitable responses to political ones based on solidarity and activism.

There are inspiring examples of political organising all over this city, from the Focus E15 mothers in Newham, who successfully fought for the right to a home, to occupations of empty housing estates led by residents in Barnet and Southwark.

These actions show that by organising together, ordinary people can resist being "passive" victims of homelessness and help put a roof over their heads. Indeed, inspiration is on our doorstep; the old Volvo car showroom at the top of Cleveland Street, which until very recently had been sitting empty, has now become a workspace for Rhythms of Life, an organisation dedicated to helping provide food for the homeless.

If homelessness is set to increase in the foreseeable future, we must stop treating it as a "lifestyle choice", but rather as the most destructive effect of the UK's housing crisis, a crisis all of us are bound up in.

Fitzrovia News deadlines

Our deadline for news, features, letters and adverts is normally two weeks before publication. Sometimes we accept articles later.

The next issue of *Fitzrovia News* will be out on Tuesday 1 September. Deadline is Friday 14 August. news@fitzrovia.org.uk

Corrections and clarifications

If you think *Fitzrovia News* has made a mistake please tell us by email news@fitzrovia.org.uk or contact us at our office.

Many news articles first appear on our website which is updated weekly. Edited versions are then published in the printed paper which is published quarterly.

Business group says homeless choose to sleep rough on London's streets

By Linus Rees

A business group in Fitzrovia has told its members that there is enough accommodation on offer for homeless people and that the vast majority of rough sleepers choose to stay on the streets, an investigation by *Fitzrovia News* has found. The claim comes after government statistics released in February showed a huge increase in rough sleeping in London.

The statements were made in reports earlier this year by The Fitzrovia Partnership Business Improvement District (BID) which works in a public-private partnership with Camden Council. BID members were told "There is enough accommodation in Camden for homeless people to be placed if they wish to engage".

The report in its executive summary says: "It is clear that the vast majority of street people could have accommodation should they engage with the Council. It has been noted that many see the begging opportunities in Fitzrovia and London as being profitable so they would rather be here than in their hometowns where accommodation is readily available."

The business group also told its members "Roma gypsies from Marble Arch are also trying to operate in the area". Staff from Camden Council were at

The Fitzrovia Partnership
Business Improvement District

the meeting and no-one appears to have challenged the crime report which singled-out the Roma as a problem. The crime reports were given by Dave Fereday, a business improvement district consultant currently working for The Fitzrovia Partnership.

The report gives details of membership, environmental projects, finance and budgets, crime and anti-social behaviour, and marketing campaigns. Nowhere in the 35 page report seen by *Fitzrovia News* is there any mention of a housing crisis, increasing rents, or an acknowledgement that rough sleepers are themselves often victims of crime. The report does not acknowledge the complex nature of homelessness, poverty, and the change to the benefits system over the past five years, or the reluctance of property developers to fulfil their social housing planning obligations.

The main driving force behind The Fitzrovia Partnership is property developer Derwent London, and Gary Reeves a business consultant based in Lincolnshire. *Fitzrovia*



The Fitzrovia Partnership is based at 13 Fitzroy Street.

News understands that Reeves works part-time but is in effect the chief executive of the organisation.

The day-to-day running of the Fitzrovia BID is left to Lee Lyons the BID Manager. In a statement Lyons responded to *Fitzrovia News* saying:

"The Fitzrovia Partnership works with Camden Council and the Safer Streets Team to prevent rough sleeping, by offering viable alternatives for those who sadly find themselves sleeping rough. Through this partnership, this type of activity has reduced but is still evident in the Tottenham Court Road area — a rough sleeping hotspot.

"We feel that the most effective way of helping these individuals is to report them to Camden Council who can then take the appropriate action to help and support them and address their needs as quickly as possible, should they wish to engage with the Council.

"The Fitzrovia Partnership will continue to be an effective partner working with the Council to reduce rough sleeping and associated anti-social behaviour and begging in the area to ensure Fitzrovia is a clean and pleasant environment for our members, residents and visitors", says Lyons. (Comment, p2)

Only five rough sleepers in Camden says council

By Linus Rees

Camden Council says there are only five rough sleepers in the whole of the borough, far fewer than neighbouring Westminster, Islington or the City of London, according to the official figures published in February.

But anyone walking through Camden late at night or in the early morning will think that five is not a credible number, nor does it correspond with data published by the Greater London Authority (GLA).

All local authorities were asked in the autumn of 2014 to either count or estimate the number of people sleeping on its streets. The count is designed to give a snapshot of the number of rough sleepers on a single night.

Camden submitted an estimate of 5; Islington an estimate of 21, City of London did a count of 50; and Westminster Council did a count of 265.

Far more detailed figures of rough sleepers in London are also published quarterly by the GLA. These reports give numbers for people known to be living on the streets as well as intermittent rough sleepers.



All local authorities were asked in the autumn of 2014 to either count or estimate the number of people sleeping on its streets

According to these figures in the autumn of 2014 there were 49 rough sleepers classed as "living on the streets" in Camden — ten times more than Camden Council says there are.

The number for Islington was 18, for City of London 53, and for Westminster it was 212, which roughly correspond to what the individual boroughs reported to the government.

Camden Council has however defended its statement on rough sleeper numbers. Cabinet Member for Community Safety,

Cllr Jonathan Simpson told *Fitzrovia News*: "Camden has long been a leader in London and nationally on responding to issues around rough sleeping and street activity.

"The Safer Streets Team (SST), works directly with rough sleepers engaged in activities such as begging, drinking, sex work and drug use. It offers services such as accommodation or alcohol treatment to help them move away from that lifestyle.

"We are proud of our per-

formance to date, which remains good despite levels of rough sleeping rising nationally and across the capital.

"Council services are also working closely with the police to tackle issues relating to street based crime," said Cllr Simpson.

Camden says its methodology is overseen by the national organisation Homeless Link. A spokesperson explained:

"We moved from physical counts to estimates a few years ago as we had consistently returned counts of less than 10 since the middle of the last decade. This enables us to focus our resources on those rough sleepers who have been living on the streets for the longest, who are the most vulnerable and at the highest risk of harm." (Comment, p2)

News in brief

According to the *London Evening Standard* (22 May) "A tiny two bedroom home in South Kensington has become the first ex-council flat in London to be put up for sale for more than £1 million."

According to the property website Zoopla there have been nine property sales on Torrington Place over the last five years with an average sold price of £1,295,555. All of them are ex-council.

A group of people called **Squatters and Homeless Autonomy** occupied a commercial building in **Newman Street** for two weeks in May in protest against homelessness. **Conservative** West End ward councillor **Paul Church** believes they are a nuisance to the local community.

NFU Mutual has bought an office building at 4-8 **Maple Street** and intends to refurbish it to maximise income.

University of Westminster has bought 120 **New Cavendish Street** from **Sports Direct** for £44 million as part of its Cavendish campus expansion plans. The building was constructed in 1997 by Great Portland Estates who own the freehold.

Rev Alan Carr will be instituted as **Rector of St Giles-in-the-Fields** at a special service at 6pm 26 July. He has been associate rector since 2010 and takes over from Ven Bill Jacob.

David Lammy, former Universities Minister and MP for Tottenham, has set up a campaign office in **Whitfield Street** as part of his bid to be the Labour candidate for the 2016 election for Mayor of London.

No political change after May's general election. Conservative **Mark Field** was returned as MP for Cities of London & Westminster, and Labour's **Keir Starmer** took over Dobbo's seat in Holborn & St Pancras.

Make Architects has completed its new offices in **Cleveland Street**, converting an underground car park into what looks like... an underground car park.



Fitzrovia street art on traffic light control boxes

BBC London News in May featured an art project where photos of local people were transformed into street art painted on traffic light control boxes in Fitzrovia. They spoke to the project's curator Lucy Williams, filmmaker Paolo Sedazzari, student Ella Taylor-Palfrey, artist Paul Don Smith and photographer Doralba Picerno.

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Neighbourhood Association celebrates 40 years at Tottenham Street

Continued from front page

Victorian buildings during a time of rampant office development, now long-time residents and businesses both struggle to stay here in the face of skyrocketing rents," says Jacobson.

"The richly diverse and creative community here is under threat from the relentless development of luxury accommodation for part-time owner-occupiers and transient tenants. Despite huge disparities in wealth the average income is still only around £25,000," she says.

The 40 year celebration will be based around the Fitzrovia Festival held throughout June. The Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association is hoping people will enjoy the events and give generously to help to fund its much needed work.

fitzrovia.org.uk/donate
The full list of Fitzrovia Festival events is on page 11.

Westminster's planners delay decision on Cleveland Street site

Westminster Council's planners have for a second time postponed a decision on an application to redevelop a commercial building at 87-125 Cleveland Street.

The decision was due to be taken on 21 April but was postponed after residents and community groups made last minute representations to Westminster Council. A new date of 19 May was set but a decision was again postponed.

An email seen by *Fitzrovia News* says that the application, which is due to be decided on by a planning sub-committee headed by Westminster's deputy leader Robert Davis, was taken off the agenda to allow planning officers to update a committee report to include new information and further objections.

Objectors to the scheme say that Westminster council was not being open about its own financial interest in the development and an arrangement it had entered into with owners Soho Data Holdings (SDH) to extend their current 35 year lease on the site.

The proposal by SDH's development partners Dukelease Properties to demolish the existing triangular building and build three residential tower blocks and a petrol filling station is being fiercely resisted by local residents and community groups (front page, FN 136, March

Parents, teachers and children persuade councils to take action on dog poo



"Children walk to and from school from Camden and Westminster and we have a huge problem with litter and dog-mess in the area."

Rebecca Carrigan
co-chair All Souls School Parents and Teachers Association



By Linus Rees

Children and parents walking to and from All Souls Primary School on Foley Street have to be careful where they step to avoid bringing dog poo into the classrooms.

But they have now persuaded Camden and Westminster council to do more to clean up the streets and pavements around the school with the help of some colourful posters produced by the children to help educate the public and prevent dog fouling and littering.

In October last year parents complained to the councils to get something done to ensure dog owners clean up after their pets and put dog poo into bins. Sometimes poo gets bagged but is not binned and left in bags on the street. But little action was taken and by February this year the children, parents and teachers had had enough and decided to campaign in an imaginative way.

During a recent half-term break, the Head teacher Alix Ascough set an all-school homework to design anti-litter and anti-dog poo posters. The Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) asked the two councils to use the children's posters to help promote awareness and to encourage dog-owners and litterers to take more care in our community.

Both councils responded positively and embraced the campaign, but stressed they are already taking action on dog fouling.

Camden council are currently running a campaign to raise the awareness of dog fouling. "One of the ways we are helping residents to combat the problem is offering cans of pink chalk spray so they can warn passers-by and highlight the dog mess until our street cleans-

ing team is next the area to pick it up. We hope that community action like this and more enforcement can together get dog owners to clean up after their pets."

Camden says it does take action against people who fail to clean up after their dogs, but catching dogs and owners in the act is necessary to take enforcement action. "Our residents tell us that they really dislike dog mess not being cleared up by dog owners and we are cracking down on this anti-social behaviour which is unpleasant for everyone and costs us money to clean up."

Cans of pink spray are available from Camden Council by emailing: street.environment@camden.gov.uk

A Westminster City Council spokesperson told *Fitzrovia News* that they would talk to the school about displaying the posters, and have now produced posters using the children's artwork.

"We commend the enthusiasm and interest shown by the primary school students in regard to keeping our streets cleaner and safer."

"Westminster City Council has just completed an 18-month campaign to promote responsible dog ownership and tackle dog fouling. We have installed some 800 signs and distributed 5000 good tips leaflets, and 40,000 doggy bags, which can now be collected free from estate offices and libraries."

"We welcome anyone who wants to get involved and raise awareness of this issue in their local community. We believe working with schools is an important step in bridging the gap with dog owners and their responsibilities," said the spokesperson.

Bad driving adds to road chaos

A combination of bad driving, road works and construction site deliveries is making life a misery for local residents and businesses.

There are so many construction sites with lorries competing to find space to unload, road works being carried out by utility companies, and several roads are closed off that parts of Fitzrovia are a mess.

Most of the time it is a nuisance, sometimes dangerous and occasionally comical.

In April an expensive Mercedes car got wedged

between two buses on Goodge Street after one of the buses appeared to have shunted the car into another bus in front.

In Warren Street, a wooden box with plants was damaged after a careless driver mounted the pavement and crashed into it.

In May a man was arrested after he crashed the Range Rover he was driving into a building on the corner of Warren Street and Conway Street. The Evans Dairy building is Grade II listed and was damaged after the car struck it. The shop is one of the

best surviving examples of a Welsh dairy.

In Rathbone Place at the junction with Percy Street police were called after drivers trying to find their way around a diversion took to driving on the pavement to get around roadworks.





Acts of Percy

The entrance of the former Middlesex Hospital used to display four paintings called the 'Acts of Mercy' (1916-1920) by Frederick Cayley Robinson, until the hospital closed in 2005.

Since then the paintings have had a few homes including the National Gallery in 2010.

Two of the four paintings are on display in UCL Macmillan Cancer Centre on Huntley Street.

These paintings represent the traumatic effects of conflicts on patients sent back from the First World War. A doctor is thanked by a kneeling mother, echoing

traditional images of the Adoration or Crucifixion.

The other two paintings are in the Wellcome Collection on Euston Road. However, on show in the new 'Percy & Founders' restaurant/bar at 1 Pearson Square, next to the restored Middlesex Hospital Chapel are smaller scale prints of the originals.

These paintings show the refectory of an orphanage. The table is reminiscent of Leonardo's 'Last Supper' - their stillness and steady gazes recall Dutch 17th - century painting.

Opening and closing shops Closed

Print Fast 34 Rathbone Place (relocated see below)

The Digital Centre 38 Tottenham Court Road

Cafe fresco 76 Tottenham Court Road

Nonno Lino Italiano cafe 45 Goodge Street

Ceru Levantine cuisine 29 Rathbone Place

Shikara Indian cuisine 65 Great Titchfield Street

Golden needle tailors 152 New Cavendish Street

Fino tapas 33 Charlotte Street (June 11)

Opened

Print Fast 12 Percy Street

Warhammer fantasy/Science fiction games workshop 245 Tottenham Court Road



Caffix fixed price cafe each item costs £1 45 Newman Street

Mapa Cafe 20 Great Portland Street

Bahn Mi Town Vietnamese cuisine 29 Hanson Street

Daley Bread (re-opened under new management) sandwich shop/cafe 20 Gosfield Street

Eye treats brow and beauty bar 38 Hanway Street



Pasta mania

Coco Di Mama, 52 Margaret Street.

Free pasta for a thousand people was served up at the launch of this new Italian eatery last month, with the queue stretching to Regent Street.

Now the fuss has settled down you can still get a pasta for £3.90 (or larger ones from £5), a lasagna for £4.80 to £5.70, or other dishes, the most expensive of which is £5.80. Seats are available for those preferring to eat in at no extra cost, or just take their time over an Italian coffee.



Pasta for £3.90

It is open from 7 am (Mon-Fri) and 10am (Sat) and closes at 8pm.

Radical Poster exhibition



The See Red womens workshop was founded in 1974 by three ex art students wanting to combat the negative images of women in advertising and the media. Also to challenge deep seated sexism in all aspects of daily life -unequal pay, discrimination in the work place, the oppression of housework and domestic violence.

Working collectively and sharing knowledge and skills was central to their ethos.

The collective averaged six women but in all 35 women passed through the workshop, some on apprentices schemes for a few months, others came to produce posters with the collective's help around issues that were important to them. Posters were also printed for community and other groups on request. Many hundreds of posters were sold in the UK and abroad.

As part of this year's Fitzrovia Festival there will be an exhibition of silk screened feminist posters by the See Red Women's Workshop 1974-1983 at the FNA. 39 Tottenham St from June 25th - 28th (for details of talk and exhibition see centre pages)

These posters were recently exhibited at the ICA and the V&A and there are exhibitions scheduled for this summer in the UK and France. The posters on show are a powerful and lively summary of some of the difficult issues facing women during the 1970's and 80's many of which are still relevant today.

It was a time of great community action, when radicals in almost all professions were wanting their skills to be used and to be available to working class people and communities. Artists and those involved with visual images were no exception. Silkscreen printing taught in art schools at the time was especially suitable for producing images in large quantities with the minimum of equipment and comparatively little outlay. Many small groups set up workshops in any available spaces, squats, living rooms and playgrounds in order to print posters which would help advertise and promote the causes of the new left and women's liberation.



Charity is awarded £100k towards new youth club



Plans by a local charity to create a new youth club for hundreds of young people were given a boost this spring with a £100,000 grant.

Fitzrovia Youth in Action (FYA) were awarded the money by LandAid, the property industry charity.

LandAid recognised the need to fund youth activities because, despite the neighbourhood recently having a reputation for sales of luxury flats, it is an area with social deprivation.

"Poverty and unemployment rates are high amongst vulnerable young groups," says LandAid.

The grant will go towards fitting out the basement of Suffolk House, Whitfield Place, part of a scheme which has been developed to provide 13 affordable homes by Origin Housing and long-standing LandAid supporter Derwent London.

Andre Schott, director of FYA, told *Fitzrovia News*: "We are obviously very excited about having been awarded this grant."

FYA still have to fundraise to meet the full project costs but hope to submit a planning application to Camden Council in the near future to convert the basement storage area into a youth club.



Suresh (left) with Jay (centre) and Alka (right) at Western Printers new premises.

Printers on the move

By CLIVE JENNINGS

Husband and wife team Suresh and Jay Patel have been providing printing services as Western Printers in Cleveland Street for almost 30 years. Their first premises were at No.70 (formerly a florist and now the Brazilian Gourmet cafe) where they operated from 1986 to 1993.

They moved into bigger premises across the road, to spend the next 22 years at No. 103 in the triangular building made famous by the Banksy mural, currently subject to controversial plans by developers Dukelease Properties.

They have now moved north a block, and back into Camden, to No. 108 (formerly the short lived Coffee Establishment, and before that Mr Cappuccino) where a new 12 year lease should keep them from zig zagging across the street again in the near future. They are probably the only business to have worked from three different locations on the same Fitzrovia street.

Suresh and Jay moved to London from Nairobi, where they had a paper business, in the mid 1980s. They both had ink in their blood as Jay's father worked in the printing industry and Suresh's father was in typesetting. Suresh explained the company name came from the fact that they were moving west from Africa, and setting up shop in the West End. They still have some of the same clients that first used them in the 1980s, and do work for both University College and University College Hospital. They have served many generations of students and now have clients from all over London who appreciate their attention to detail and high standard of printing. The website at www.western-printers.co.uk brings in business also.

The new premises are smaller but the wide range of print services – anything from a poster to a book to a t-shirt – on offer remain the same with state of the art equipment. Suresh explains: "Smaller machines do the same job these days." They have also dropped the stationery side to concentrate on their core business, ably assisted by Alka who joined them in 1994.

The northern end of Cleveland Street, beyond Maple Street is changing as dramatically as the southern end, now overshadowed by the massive Fitzroy Place development. Happily, as well as Western Printers, it still has several small independent businesses including a dry cleaners, a fabric and trimmings shop that also offers a wonderfully random selection of clothing including army surplus, a launderette, two dentists, a tailor, two hairdressers and a shoe repairers, but many of the small businesses have disappeared from this stretch in the last five years, including a wig shop, a general store, an electrical shop that had a sideline in model soldiers and most recently, a stationers/toys/sweets/art materials store.

Coffee shop does things differently and shows compassion for the homeless

By Linus Rees

A speciality coffee shop which prides itself on doing things differently is showing compassion for Fitzrovia's rough sleepers by asking its customers to donate a coffee so that a homeless person can come in and enjoy a free cup.

The initiative which started this spring is in stark contrast to the Fitzrovia Business Improvement District which has been discouraging its members from engaging with Fitzrovia's rough sleeping community.

Gabriel Shohet, one of the co-founders at Black Sheep Coffee and responsible for the Free Coffee Initiative, told *Fitzrovia News* that everyday they see homeless people in the area and would like them to come into the shop and "get a coffee just like anyone else".

At Black Sheep Coffee customers can buy a cup at a discounted price for someone who likes coffee but cannot afford it. For each donated or "suspended coffee" the shop staff write a note on a sticker and place it on their Free Coffee Board, and those who are not able to afford a cup can just tear it off and exchange it for a coffee. A shop in Philadelphia in the USA operates a similar scheme offering free pizza.

"Homelessness means a cold night and an empty stomach so that's why we like to help our struggling friends with a warm cup of Black Sheep when we can," they say.

But Shohet, who grew up in Geneva in Switzerland, is also concerned about people's social well-being.

"Homeless people also suffer from severe isolation and often spend several days without exchanging a single word with anyone, or even make eye contact with another human being," he says.

"Sometimes, ordering a coffee and chatting with a barista who knows you by your first name feels even better than the coffee itself."

A lot of people that Shohet spoke to didn't think it was a good idea. Some even advised him against it saying that encouraging homeless people to come in would cause problems.

"At Black Sheep we are good at listening to advice, and then ignoring it. We like to break boundaries. Black Sheep is about challenging the status quo," he says.

And a big part of their style of business is using a type of coffee that is unusual in speciality coffee shops. While there are lots of gourmet coffee shops in Fitzrovia, "they are all selling the same thing," says Shohet.



Board with sticky notes.



Gabriel Shohet of Black Sheep Coffee

Black Sheep Coffee sells coffee made from the robusta coffee bean, something that no-one else is doing. "We are the only specialty grade robusta retailers. Our robusta coffee beans come from a single estate in India. We do sell some arabica coffee for those who want a filter coffee, but 90 percent of what we serve is robusta."

Robusta, as the name suggests, is a robust coffee plant that can be grown at a lower altitude. It has a high caffeine content which acts as a natural insecticide, has more protein so it creams better, and is less acidic than arabica, so easier on the stomach.

Black Sheep started out with a rented coffee machine doing pop-up shops in Camden Town and has steadily grown, creating 25 full-time jobs along the way. They still have an office in Camden Town supported by the Camden Collective part of Camden Town Unlimited Business Improvement District.

"The Camden Collective was a great opportunity to mix with a variety of other start-up businesses and many of us learnt from each other," says Shohet.

The shop at Charlotte Street opened last year and is only temporary for a few more months. But Black Sheep will be moving into a permanent home at 5-7 Goodge Street, which is currently under construction. They also have a shop at Aldgate East and will be opening another branch in Wood Street in EC2.



Black Sheep Coffee, 63 Charlotte Street.

Huntley Street hospital plans condemned by conservationists and local residents

Camden will decide on

Thursday 4 June on controversial plans to demolish the students' union building and Royal Ear Hospital on Huntley Street.

UCLH plans a new six-storey building and a three-storey basement, for a head and neck outpatient hospital.

The existing buildings total 3,343 square metres of floor space and the new building would be 10,683 square metres.

The plans have been condemned by the neighbouring Gordon Mansions residents, who say the new building will be too big.

Bloombury Conservation Committee says it is "appalled" by plans to demolish the existing facade on Capper Street.

Three weekends of road closures

Several streets will be closed to enable resurfacing and paving works in Mortimer Street.

There will be temporary road closures to Mortimer Street, Riding House Street, Cleveland Street, Berners Street, Berners Mews, Nassau Street, Newman Street and Goodge Street over 3 consecutive weekends of 6/7, 13/14 and 20/21 June.

Caterpillar threat

The Forestry Commission is asking people to report sightings of a caterpillar which threatens oak trees and can be a hazard to people and animals.

The oak processionary moth (OPM) is a native of southern Europe, where local environmental factors and predators keep its populations in check.

But this past winter its nests have been discovered in Regent's Park.

Report OPM on 0845 367 3787. See forestry.gov.uk/opm

Summer party

Fitzrovia Community Centre, Foley Street, will host a Summer Party on July 4.

Food festival

There will be a week of food events around Charlotte Street from Monday 29 June to Sunday 5 July, with special offers in selected restaurants, special menus and promotions, as well as live food events.

Three top chefs from Fitzrovia will join together to create a one-off gourmet meal, and a wine-tasting will feature presentations from wine growers, sommeliers and vintners.

On Friday 3 July Charlotte Street, between Windmill Street and Rathbone Street, will close to traffic to host a summer food fayre. See enjoyfitzrovia.co.uk for full details.



Word from the Streets

By CHARLOTTE STREET and her family

PRESIDENTIAL KNOCK KNEES-UP



Barak Obama shoots a hoop when feeling fitter. Getty Images

US President Obama shirked a challenge to play basket ball against Nobel prize winner, Fitzrovian John O'Keefe - claiming his knees were going.

John was born in New York from Irish parents and has now been to Washington twice to meet the President, who congratulated him on his scientific awards.

John's research into the place cells in the brain is being used to identify various stages of Alzheimers.

To test his theories, he explained on Radio 4's "Life Scientific", he tried shooting a basket ball by looking where the basket was, closing his eyes and moving a bit before shooting, then opening them to see how accurate he was. This proved that you don't use vision alone but also information about where you are spatially.

Hence his offer to "shoot a few hoops" with the President, which was sadly spurned.



NOVELIST AT BAR

Novelist *Colin J Lewis*, I can reveal, is none other than the bar manager at the King & Queen, Foley Street, whom we know as CJ. So far he has got four novels on kin-dle - which he describes as "hard boiled detective novels with a twist." The next one will be a pirate adventure called *Black Hearts and Thieves*. He is not to be confused with another author, Colin Lewis (without the J).

HOW TO AVOID SPILLING YOUR DRINK

Who is this pictured doing something like Chuck Berry's duck walk in the aforementioned King & Queen? Why it is none other than customer and folk music enthusiast, Jerry Stuart.

He has perfected a way of gripping his pint glass with his thumb parallel to his fingers. This enables him to keep his elbows in and so less likely to be nudged in crowded bars.

He also crouches down so his abdomen is level with other people's knees allowing him more room when going to and from the bar. It is an awkward posture, but "It is like a knife going through butter," he proudly proclaims.



Cheeky board outside the Green Man in Riding House Street.

CELEBRITY WATCH

Comedian **Hugh Dennis** was seen striding purposefully up most of Cleveland Street by my sister Margaret (a great fan of his) on May Day with some sandwiches he had just bought.

She followed him to the BBC studio at the corner of Euston Road where he recorded the "Vote Now Show" broadcast that night on Radio 4.

She thinks he must have bought the sarnies in Ishta's Sandwich Bar at 61 Cleveland Street which was mentioned in the last issue of *Fitzrovia News*. Could Hugh have possibly read our esteemed organ?

NUMBERS GAME

Some interesting personalised number plates have been spotted by my brother Percy of late:

A vintage black convertible in Great Portland Street was NIK 1 (a possible target for car thieves?).

A black BMW opposite the Wheatsheaf in Rathbone Place had PE1 (surely not the late bird impersonator Percy Edwards).

And a white car often outside Martin & Co at 112 Cleveland Street has W1 2OLD (surely we are never too old for this area).

CAMP FUN

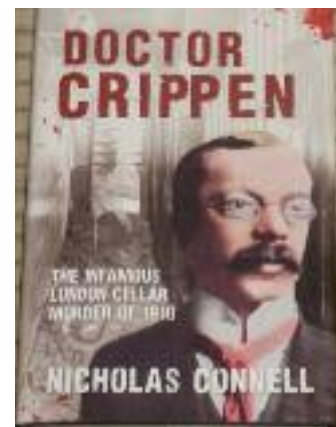
I wonder if Maplins in Tottenham Court Road are aware that the fictional holiday camp, made famous in "Hi-De-Hi!" (recently repeated on BBC2), was also named Maplins and had its headquarters in Tottenham Court Road.

Unfortunately the uncouth spiv of a boss, Joe Maplin, who made excruciatingly crude demands of his long suffering staff, never appeared on screen but was only referred to through his letters read out to them.

COMIC CAPERS

Pear Shaped in Fitzrovia, the stand up comedy group at the Fitzroy Tavern in Charlotte Street, no longer advertises itself as the worst in London. It now proudly claims to be the "second worst in London." My 69-year-old brother Mortimer was mildly miffed to be described as "wizened" by the compere during his visit. The pub's imminent closure for a year is nothing to do with the Wednesday comedy nights but is for renovation.

Mortimer, by the way, agrees with *Quentin Crisp* (the gay eccentric who frequented the pub during the war years) that dust does not get any worse after the third year. So he never cleans his flat and does not have a vacuum cleaner. When he had a visitor that needed impressing recently, therefore, he could neither Hoover nor sweep the dust under the carpet. His solution was to fork out £100 on a new carpet to put on top of it. If any more visitors need impressing the layers of carpet could get ever closer to the ceiling.



MURDEROUS LINK

Another local link with infamous murderer **Dr Crippen**, to add to those listed from Nicholas Connell's book in our last issue, has emerged.

Crippen, hanged in 1910 for the poisoning of his wife, often spent illicit afternoon's with his lover, Ethel le Neve, in a private hotel at 82 Wells Street, one door away from the western corner with Oxford Street.

This information is contained in the *Bloody British History of Camden*, by Dick Weindling & Marianne Colloms.

OUR ILLUSTRATORS

Illustrators who contribute freely to *Fitzrovia News* have had their work published in several books recently. Cartoonist **Kipper Williams** has one of his works reproduced in "Blair Inc", photographer **Mark Thomas** has one of his pictures in the same book, and **Ray Burniston** had a photograph in "Bowie's Piano Man" (reviewed in our last issue). Author of the latter, **Clifford Slapper**, tells me Ray was the singer in a group called the *Passion Puppets* when he lived in Charlotte Street.

Charlotte Street



BEYOND OUR KEN

Cartoon by Jayne Davies

The late raconteur **Ned Sherrin** related some amusing anecdotes about Fitzrovia in an old recording broadcast on Radio 4 Extra recently.

One concerned a night of opera in the Scala Theatre, which used to be at 21-25 Tottenham Street. Afterwards an audience member approached a music critic and said in a mid-European accent what sounded like: "Very good orchestration." He agreed that it was, but was rather annoyed when the comment was repeated several times. He then realised he was being asked: "Where is Good Street station?"

The other concerned the comic actor **Kenneth Williams** who famously lived near Great Portland Street station. He queued up in a bank until reaching a cashier who immediately recognised him and said what a huge fan of his she was and listed all the films and television programmes she had seen him in. He asked her if he could cash a cheque for £100 and she sternly replied: "Have you got any identification?"

McAlpine blames Fitzroy Place contract for financial loss

Construction giant Sir Robert McAlpine has blamed problems with the contract at Fitzroy Place for a £90 million loss, according to a report in the Sunday Times.

McAlpine published its accounts last month and blamed a "number of poorly performing contracts which have incurred considerable losses" but didn't name any specific jobs as the cause. However, The Sunday Times reported: "One of Britain's biggest builders has slumped to a £90m loss because of a troublesome contract to build luxury apartments in central London. "It blamed the loss in the year to the end of October largely on its Fitzroy Place contract — a £750m scheme to build 235 homes, plus shops and offices, on the site of the former Middlesex Hospital in Fitzrovia. The project is nearly complete and McAlpine said it had provided for all the losses."

McAlpine cited problems with rising costs and supplies in London. The mixed-use development was due to be completed last year but *Fitzrovia News* understands that work will not finish until at least the end of August this year.



UCL plans to increase student accommodation at Astor College

Camden's planning watchdog the Charlotte Street Association has criticised plans by University College London (UCL) for the redevelopment and refurbishment of a hall of residence on Charlotte Street. The hall known as Astor College currently has rooms for 235 students and the proposals would increase the capacity to 295.

The plans, which were published by Camden Council in early March, include an eight storey rear extension, a 1.5 storey extension to the front of the building, and a cafe. The designs also include a new cladding over the existing facade, the opening of an alleyway Bedford Passage and landscaping to the rear of the site for outdoor amenity space.

The site currently has 90 spaces for cycle parking but the

plans are to reduce this to 45 as UCL say there is not enough demand from students for cycle parking. However, cycle usage in London is steadily increasing.

The plans also mean the rear extension will be very close to the rear boundary and would adversely affect any residential development on the former work-house site in Cleveland Street, say the Charlotte Street Association. Adding more student accommodation should also be matched with an increase in public open space on the site, but instead UCL want to build a cafe.

UCL says it needs to increase the amount of student accommodation it has to meet the needs of a larger student intake. It also has "major investment plans" for nearby Ramsay Hall in Maple Street.

A cloud hangs over ASH plans

Camden Council's planners are recommending approval of proposals put forward by UCLH Charity to convert the former hospital building at Arthur Stanley House (ASH) in Tottenham Street to mostly offices.

Community groups have pointed out (FN 135) that UCLH's plans fail to comply with borough and local strategic plans to deliver housing and public open space.

A decision is due to be taken by a planning committee on Thursday 4 June and the Charlotte Street Association will be pushing councillors to reject the proposals, tell UCLH to come up with something policy-compliant and give Camden's hopeless planning officers a good ear bashing.



The All Souls School Summer Fair

Saturday 13th June

12-4pm Riding House Street

Bouncy Castle Children's Sumo Wrestling
free drumming workshops lucky dip
tombola & face painting hook the duck
sponge the teacher remote car racing
local Jazz band

lots of delicious food including home made
cakes, sushi, halal hot dogs, fruit kebabs
chocolate fountain and ice creams.
raffle prizes a Mini iPad, 2 x £100 restaurant vouchers, children's hampers

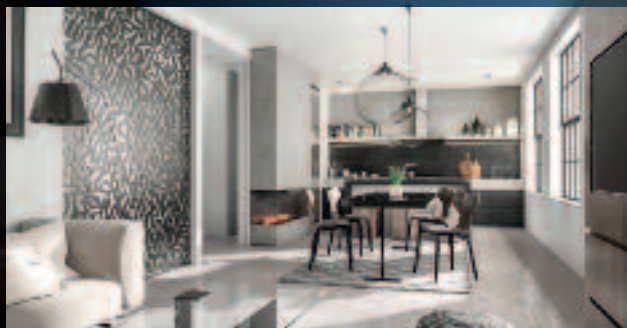
For more information and raffle tickets please email the PTA rebeccacarigan@btinternet.com

All Welcome

SALES & LETTINGS

RIB
Robert Irving Burns
Property Consultants

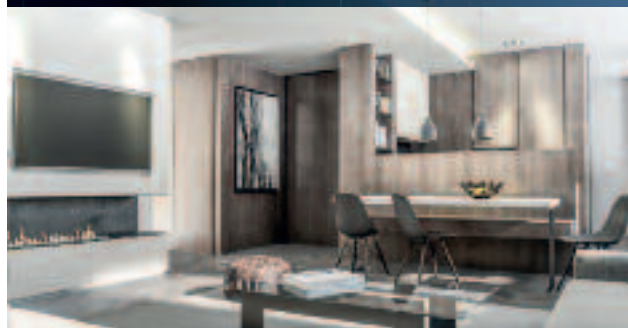
Great Portland St, Fitzrovia W1



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- Direct lift access into each apartment
- Roof terraces to select apartments
- Porter
- New 999 year lease
- Fantastic Duplex Penthouse apartment
- **Prices from £2.175m**

COMING TO MARKET SOON

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- **Prices from £1.9m**

COMING TO MARKET SOON

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Two stunning one and two bedroom loft style apartments finished to the highest standard throughout with the latest high tech devices. These stylish apartments retain their character with beautiful exposed brickwork and restored beams, whilst incorporating modern luxuries throughout.

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Artworks capture visions of London and belonging to reflect indigenous Australian culture



"The London walk": Poles wrapped in textiles created by community groups in Camden and Islington on display in The Great Court.

Community groups across Camden and Islington have been praised for an exhibition held at the Great Court in the British Museum.

"The London walk" which was displayed from 17 April to 6 May was a project led by the Mary Ward Centre and included women working with the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association.

The design for the project was inspired by Indigenous Australian artifacts and art work such as dot paintings, message sticks, painted memorial poles, woven baskets, and paintings of ancestor beings, such as the rainbow serpent. This was in response to a major exhibition at the British Museum presenting a history of indigenous Australia.

The community groups produced a playful scene of columns and designs, taking inspiration from the importance of landscape in Aboriginal paintings, and the design of the London tube map, with the river Thames weaving through the columns like a serpent.

Pattern, colour and symbols are compared with those in London's urban, social and architectural environment — glass panels of skyscrapers and the brickwork of historic build-

ings, and patterns found in the costumes of Pearly Kings and Queens. London wildlife such as foxes, rats, squirrels, pigeons and canal bird life are also included.

Gaye Sculthorpe, curator of "Indigenous Australia: Enduring Civilisation" at the British Museum, said the community groups had excelled in their creations:

"I thought it was wonderful. It ties in with the exhibition and captures visions of London belonging to some of the many communities who live here. I know that the brief I gave wasn't easy, but by avoiding copying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander designs it actually achieves a deeper understanding of some of the concepts that underpin many Indigenous Australian art forms. Also, it looks absolutely stunning."

The pole created by the Fitzrovia women will be returning to the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre and will be on display in June as part of the Fitzrovia Festival 2015.

Indigenous Australia: Enduring Civilisation continues at the British Museum until 2 August 2015.



A woman is impressing audiences with her performance of a male monarch upstairs at The Wheatsheaf, Rathbone Place. Based on "The Life and Times of Henry the Fifth" by William Shakespeare, "Henry V — Lion of England" strips back the famous and lengthy stage play into 75 minutes. Eleanor Dillon-Reams plays all 12 characters.



Goodge Place in the summer of 1975. Workers take a break during work to clear out the former glass shop at 39 Tottenham Street ahead of converting ground and basement to create the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre. In the background is a timber yard (now the site of the Oxfam shop).



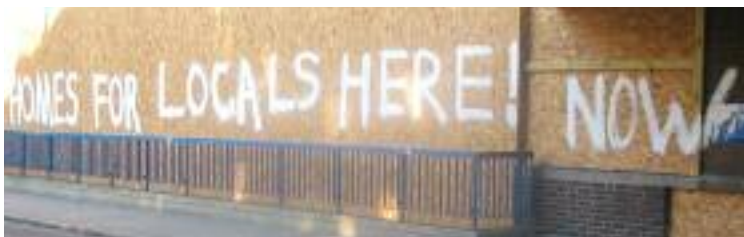
Local charity Fitzrovia Youth in Action (FYA) received a £1,000 grant from the Mayor's Fund for London and the Santander Foundation in May to brighten up Warren Street and Whitfield Street with plants and flowers as part of a community planting day.

Fitzrovia Festival

The people live here

Festival — 3-28 June 2015

Fitzrovia Festival was first held in June 1973 (poster on right) and continues to be a celebration of the life and history of the neighbourhood. This year we celebrate with exhibitions, talks and guided walks.



Full programme of events

All events are free unless otherwise stated. Donations are welcome. Text FITZ15£10 to 70070 to donate £10 to Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association (registered charity).

Events will be held at the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre, 39 Tottenham Street, Fitzrovia, London W1T 4RX.



Fitzrovia Women's Community Art: Exhibition and Sale — 6.00pm to 8.00pm weekdays from Wednesday 3 June to Friday 12 June

Textiles of quilts and other art and craftworks made by women at the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre will be on display. There will be an auction of selected artworks.



Fitzrovia and the Music Industry: Guided walk — 6.30pm Monday 15 June 2015

This 90-minute guided walk will visit buildings and places in Fitzrovia which have a connection with the music industry, stopping outside the sites of famous concerts, shops, recording studios, and the homes of various musical artists. From 1960s psychedelia to the Spice Girls, the walk will include 50 years of sex, drugs and rock and roll in Fitzrovia.

40 Years of Community activism in Fitzrovia: The Early Years, 1970-85: Talk and presentation — 6.30pm Tuesday 16 June

Part of the 40th anniversary of the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association. Nick Bailey, long time resident and author of a book about Fitzrovia, will give a visual presentation looking at important sites of community activism, the struggle for housing and open space. Tottenham Street Tenants Association, the first survey of housing in Fitzrovia, formation of the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association and conversion of number 39 Tottenham Street, campaigns and battles around the Warren playground, declaration of Housing Action Areas and Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs).



Discovering the Secrets of Fitzrovia: A guided walk and talk — 6.30pm Friday 19 June

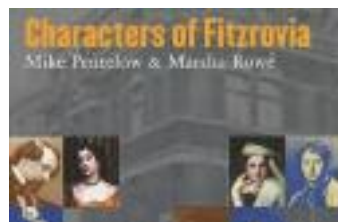
Local resident Peter Twist of Camden Tour Guides Association will lead a walk through the hidden corners of this fascinating part of London. A compelling mix of the great and the good, the sublime to the ever so slightly ridiculous. Fascinating little alleyways and half hidden mews among its many gems, as well as a grand Georgian square, ending at a famous pub.



The Anarchist Free School in Fitzrovia: A guided walk and talk — 12pm Saturday 20 June



Author Lydia Syson will lead a 60-minute guided walk and talk about the life of her great-great grandmother Nannie Dryhurst, a teacher at the International School — an anarchist free school — set up in Fitzroy Square in the late nineteenth century by French anarchist and Communard Louise Michel. "My great-great grandmother Nannie Dryhurst volunteered there with her lover, the war correspondent Henry Nevinson. Discovering this, and the fact that Louise Michel spent her last years in my own neighbourhood of East Dulwich, led me to write my new novel Liberty's Fire, which was published in May. The book is set during the Paris Commune but the final scene takes place in Fitzrovia." The walk will also take in other sites of radicalism in Tottenham Street and Charlotte Street, with contributions from Fitzrovia News editors.



Books about Fitzrovia and by Fitzrovian authors: Exhibition and bookstall — 10am to 4pm Sunday 21 June

A browse and buy bookstall of books about the neighbourhood and by local authors including publications by the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association, E Beresford Chancellor's London's Old Latin Quarter published in 1930, Nick Bailey's street-by-street history of Fitzrovia published in 1981, and London Recruits: The Secret War Against Apartheid published in 2012. There are many books written about the district and we have a small library of books for reference and lots of information about life in Fitzrovia.



A pub crawl through history: Guided walk and talk — 6.30pm Tuesday 23 June



Local author Mike Pentelow and editor of Fitzrovia News will lead a guided visit to five of Fitzrovia's historic hostels stopping off in each one to have some liquid refreshment and to talk about the pubs local and historical significance. Mike Pentelow is editor of Fitzrovia News. He is also the co-author of A Pub Crawl Through History: The Ultimate Boozers' Who's Who, and Freedom Pass London: Make the Most of Your Travel Pass — 25 Special Days Out. Both books written with Peter Arkell.

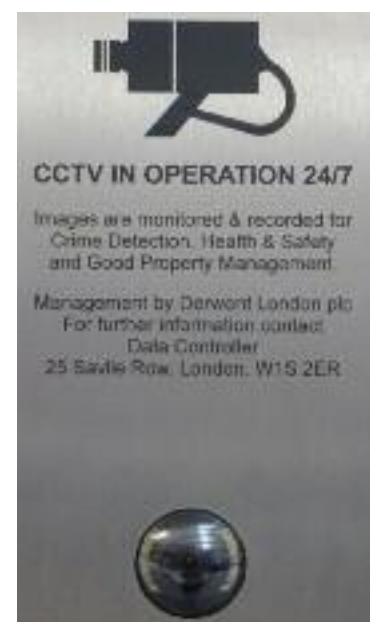


Posters from the See Red Women's Workshop: Exhibition Thursday 25 and Friday 26 June — 6pm to 9pm, Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June — 10am to 4pm

A gallery exhibition of rare posters produced by the See Red Women's Workshop formed in the 1970s to produce poster artworks to combat negative images of women in advertising and the media. **Radical Silk Screen Printing Collective: Discussion** led by two of the founders of the group, one of whom lives in Fitzrovia. — **Friday 26 June 7pm**

The Derwent Dystopia: Guided walk and talk — 12pm Saturday 27 June

Guided trek around the neighbourhood to see how it is changing — and not for the better. This walk which looks at how the buildings, residential community and whole neighbourhood is changing. Find out about the influence of property developers (not just Derwent) Crossrail, dodgy councils, parasites, public relations companies and even a few who should know better. Learn about the connection between Derwent London, Dukelease Properties, and Camden Council, with the destruction of the oldest building on Goodge Street. And what's going on at Cleveland Street with Westminster City Council? Discover why not enough affordable housing and public open space is being delivered, why there is a business improvement district in this the strangest of London barrios, and why does a hospital charity dump its staff on the streets. Led by Fitzrovia News editors.



fitzroviafestival.org.uk
twitter.com/fitzroviafest
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Toy soldiers from the first world war a hundred years ago. All photographs: www.markthomasphotos.com

Pollocks - the toy story with a quirky charm

By HELENE PARRY
Pollock's museum and toyshop is tucked away in Scala Street behind the main streets, but its brightly painted facade makes it stand out from its neighbours. The entrance is via the toyshop, so, unusually, you can visit the gift shop before you've seen the exhibits!

The quaint building is formed by two old houses joined together. When you open the door from the shop to the museum, you are conscious of stepping into what was once someone's home. As you walk up the steep, narrow staircase, and pause to look at the folk toys from around the world that grace the walls, you realise just how old many of its 20,000 exhibits are – some dating back more than a century.

Upstairs, the six small rooms are packed from floor to ceiling with toys once treasured by past generations. The exhibitions have been put together in a rather haphazard labour of love,

with just the occasional type-written explanation on faded paper. With its creaky floorboards and information taped to bats on string, the museum is a far cry from today's hi-tech, interactive screen exhibition spaces, but it has its own quirky charm.

Adults might enjoy the nostalgic quality of the museum more than children ("I had one of those!"), but it provides all visitors with an insight into how toys have changed over the years. For instance, the miniature vehicles on display range from Dinky cars introduced in the 1930s to TV-related merchandise like the Monkees' car and the Batmobile. For many visitors, a highlight will be meeting TV legends Sooty, Sweep and Soo, the original glove puppets having been donated to the museum by their creator, Harry Corbett. Readers who loved Lewis Carroll's Alice books will enjoy the beautifully painted

wooden characters on show, including a fabulously eccentric White Knight.

One small bedroom, glassed off, is home to dozens of old-fashioned wax dolls who stare back in a slightly sinister way. And you'll meet enough teddy bears for an entire banquet, let alone a picnic. One display case houses a group of golliwogs (or is the collective noun "a jam"?). The history of this controversial toy makes an enthralling read. Their lineage goes back much further than Enid Blyton and Robertson's marmalade – in 1908, French composer Claude Debussy even composed The Golliwog's Cakewalk, a pre-rag-time jazzy dance.

The dolls' houses and village stores, especially the 1930s' drapery shop, are a delight. A miniature model farm is surrounded by its animals, each cow, chicken and horse the proof of careful saving and judicious investment of pocket money. The farm, explains the label, was introduced after World War I as a Peace Toy. In contrast, the display of Wartime Toys features tanks, rifles and even a 1982 War In The Falklands board game – possibly not widely remembered because its target market had moved on to video games by then.

The museum is rightly proud of its collection of toy theatres – not surprisingly, as it takes its name from Benjamin Pollock, the last of the Victorian Toy Theatre printers. It was set up



The seaside favourite over generations: Punch and Judy

by Marguerite Fawdry, who bought up the stock of Benjamin Pollock Ltd., after trying to buy one small item for her son's toy theatre. The present museum has been at Scala Street since 1969.

As you descend the stairs that lead to the exit, the collection moves towards the present day, with toys like Subbuteo and the board game version of Mastermind, with its enduring image of the seated question-master and the mysterious Asian girl on the box. (Did you know that in real life, the "question-master" was a businessman who owned a chain of hairdressing salons, and the Oriental lady, fittingly, now works in computer

science and has the married name of Mrs Masters?).

The museum's narrow, steep staircases and small enclosed spaces could make some visitors uncomfortable. It's also not the place for boisterous children who want to touch everything they see. But if you're interested in seeing something different to the popular London attractions, this museum is well worth a visit.

Pollock's Toy Museum, 1 Scala Street, London W1T 2HL. Entrance fee: adults, £6, children £3, seniors/students £5.

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays. <http://www.pollockstoys.com>



Russian dolls with a difference during the Soviet era



The teddy bears picnic continues to attract attention.

The Story of Our Love

I liked your hair. The way you tied it with a ribbon at the nape of your neck. I touched it once. I was behind you in the lift. Joe from graphic design stopped the door with his palm and darted in so you had to shamble back; the frizz of your ponytail tickled my nose. 'Sorry,' you said, over your shoulder, checking if you'd stepped on my feet. You noticed me, you were considerate, you cared, you were amazing. But I couldn't tell you any of this, partly because I had to focus my energy on not sneezing until you got out on the third floor. To sneeze at the touch of your hair would not have given the right impression, would not have shown my appreciation. Joe was casting quick looks at you. He said, 'I like the new campaign.'

'Thanks,' you said. I could tell you didn't like being in the lift with him, the way he smiled at you.

'How does it go?' he went on. 'If love tasted this good ...' Struggling to get it right.

You helped him: 'There wouldn't be enough to go around.'

He said it along with you. 'Right. Did you come up with that?'

'It was all of us.' So sweet, so modest. Worth it. 'Are you coming to the pub tomorrow night?' I knew you were only asking him to be polite.

I wanted to tell you then, but I had to wait for the right time, do all

A SHORT STORY BY SUNITA SOLIAR

the little things that I knew would make you understand. By the time I delivered the first batch of cupcakes to your desk, I thought we were on the same page. I knew how much you liked them. You used to buy one as a treat from the bakery on the corner. Around three o'clock, the red-haired girl at the desk opposite would lean back in her swivel chair and ask, 'Fancy a treat?' You'd say, 'I know I shouldn't. I'll get fat.' But you would never let yourself get fat. The pair of you would put on your jackets and set off. Chocolate was your favourite.

The first time you saw my cupcakes – six in a basket, dusted with glitter – you stared with horror. Redhead caught your stillness and the two of you looked at the perfectly swirled icing as though at a dead pigeon. You didn't touch them. After I'd gone to all the effort of baking them the night before. I had to do two batches because I damaged the tops at my first go at the icing. The baking itself: easy. A matter of getting the ingredients at the right temperature. I learnt that off the internet because it's not as if my mother ever baked for me even

though she was the only person who ever loved me. There are limits to other people's love. But not to mine for you. I sneaked into the office at 7.30, an hour before anyone else arrived so that I could surprise you. It seemed obvious that you

You'd start to walk quickly, fumble your key in the door and slam it behind you

would know they were from me. After all the times I'd followed you on the tube and down your road just to make sure you got home without any interference from Joe. You'd start to walk quickly, fumble your key in the door and slam it behind you. Sometimes you'd give me a funny look, which was hurtful. Because I knew that you knew you were my true wife.

I suppose I can understand about the cupcakes. Perhaps you were keeping it quiet at work; you didn't want people to know that we spoke on the phone every night because you were being professional. I would call every hour just to hear your voice: 'Hello? Hello?' No need for me to speak. Sometimes you would say vicious things, which I won't repeat. You told the police. When I explained that you

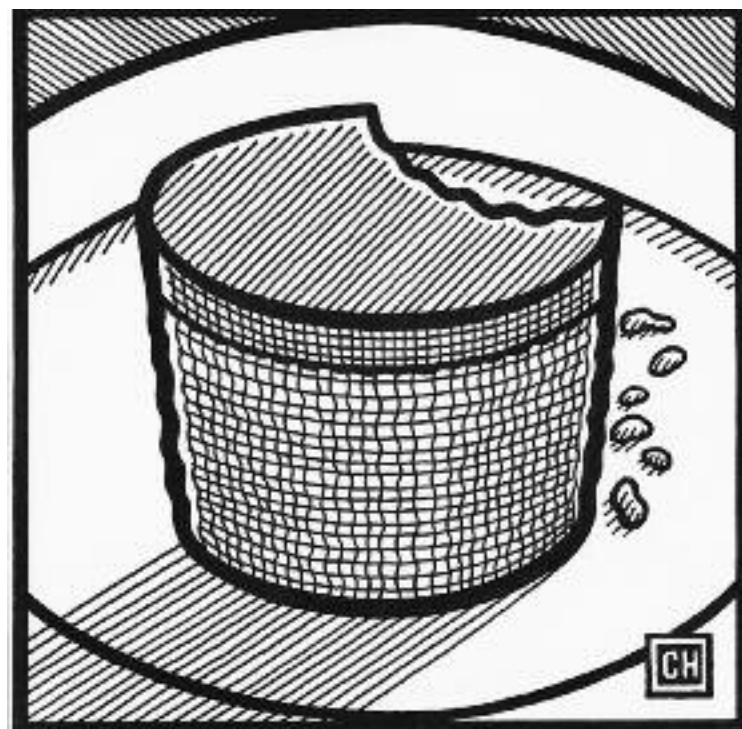


ILLUSTRATION BY CLIFFORD HARPER

were my wife, they got it: no injunction, no charges. After all, I was only showing you love, wasn't I? That time I sprayed my aftershave on your sheets as they dried in the back garden. I didn't realize you didn't like the smell. I wrote to ask what scent you preferred, but you never wrote back.

You must have known we were coming to this, the realization of our love. I kept the cupcakes going everyday for a month. You would pick them up with the tips of your fingers and drop them in the bin; then you would stare at them, until Redhead emptied the bin. I didn't like you embarrassing me in front of your friends. I knew it was time to make our love official. You had to stop denying. You were down in the print room and you didn't see me coming. You screamed and I clamped your mouth – oh to touch

your skin! I had to grip your arms to stop you moving. 'You know I am your destiny,' I told you. You struggled against me and then there were footsteps down the hall and I had to flee. It only had to go this way because you wouldn't admit our love in the open. I have my rights too if that was how you were going to behave.

I meant to show you. I would end it all for you, in front of you. Only as I came into the building the next morning, and people started screaming and hiding under desks, I could see that there was a better way to prove my love. You wanted a grand gesture. You could hear it, the noise, computer screens shattering, the rippling firework sound. All this for you. People would read about the legend of our love in the paper; Jon Snow in a tie with flamingoes or ice-lolly coloured stripes would proclaim it. Only when I saw you scrabbling along the floor away from me – all the effort I went to, all the effort you put me to – at some point you should have shown your appreciation. You jerked and twisted on the floor until I realized it was only me keeping you moving, the jittering of my hands flowing into the ripple sound, the transmission of love. And when I had given it all, I stopped, and you were still.

People did talk about it, and even though they missed the purity of it, I know the truth, the perfection, the story of our love.

THE PHOTOGRAPH ON PAGE 14 IS OF 48 WHITEHILL STREET WHERE HEINSON BROS MADE LAMP SHADES AND WIREWORKERS' FRAMES AND SPOTWELDERS.

Variety is the spice of life at this Italian delicatessen

Cheese sarnie? There are 20 to choose from

The Italian delicatessen at 41 Great Titchfield Street has up to 50 different types of salami, and up to 20 varieties of cheese.

Yet one customer had the same sandwich for five years. "I had to pretend I did not have it to make him experiment with something different," said Danilo Di Iulio. "Now he tries others and enjoys it."

Danilo, who lives in Hanway Place, runs the deli with his father Giovanni, and they keep the name H T Harris from the days when it was a butcher over a hundred years ago.

"An elderly lady told me three years ago how she recalled getting her meat rations from here during the war," added Danilo. "My grandfather, Giuseppe Pozzuto, took it over about 45 years ago and turned it into a deli and coffee bar. It has retained its distinctiveness and is very popular with customers."

"We have very good relations with them and share a great banter with them, which new people sometimes see as a bit cheeky or rude, until they realise it is friendly."



ABOVE: Danilo (right) and Giovanni serve a customer at the Great Titchfield Street deli. BELOW: The historic shop front of what was originally a butcher 100 years ago.



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

The Colour Catcher

A cautionary tale by J E Fairweather

Once, long ago, there lived a man who was known as The Colour Catcher. Except it was not his name, but his title. If it weren't for him, why, all of nature in his country would be colourless. Imagine that, everything transparent. Yet everyone took the lovely colours around them for granted. They expected to find everything the same way every day for ever.

What The Colour Catcher had to do, was rise early each morning and wait for the colours to float across the mountain above him. He caught each colour individually as it floated by and directed it to the correct plant, tree, flower or whatever part of nature should be the colour he caught before the colour evaporated. He had to do this with each colour. This meant that he had to have a very good memory in order to assign the correct colour to each plant. And, he had to be quick. Imagine if, for example, he made a mistake and made all the trees blue or plants pink. And all fruits and flowers perpetually green and had not time to correct the colour.

Only a very few people knew that The Colour Catcher existed. Memory had faded of such a person and that was why his existence was taken for granted, in that even those who knew of his existence forgot what he did. In other words, no one connected his vocation to the colours in nature. Another reason he was forgotten was that he lived high up in the mountain. He had to live up high because as explained above, each morning he had to get up very early and catch the colours as they floated past the mountain above him. If he did not catch them, for the remainder of that day, everything would be colourless. It was a most responsible job but was not appreciated. At least that is how The Colour Catcher felt. He had such

difficulty finding a good apprentice. When the last one died, The Colour Catcher felt he had had enough with apprentices. In the past few months he had had no less than three apprentices, each one more useless than the last.

The reason his last apprentice died was that after learning the job, he became inquisitive and wished to know where the colours came from. One morning early, before The Colour Catcher had arisen, the apprentice climbed the mountain to wait for the appearance of the colours hoping to discover where they came from. In the dark he fell from the mountain and died.

An earlier apprentice had been dismissed when it was discovered that he was colour blind. This came about when he kept sending the colour brown to colour the grass and putting all the wrong colours everywhere without being aware of what he was doing.

Another had been so slow in catching the colours as they floated down that he always managed to catch only one colour each time, usually purple or black; always useless colours, where nature is concerned.

One apprentice had taken this important job far too lightly and had kept playing with the colours. For example, he would choose the colour pink for everything that should be green, and yellow for everything that should be red. The poor Colour Catcher had had to redo everything, and quickly before the colours became fixed for that day.

The Colour Catcher felt that the young did not take things seriously enough. Not one seemed to have that dedication people had in the past. The way they behaved towards the job one would think they were being an apprentice to a street

cleaner, not that the job should not be taken as seriously, except the mistake of a street cleaner did not have the same catastrophic result. At the rate things were going, The Colour Catcher felt that he would die without finding a replacement. This worried him as he was growing old. Because he could not bear the thought of people living in a colourless world, he thought he would teach them a lesson before it was too late.

One day, to the shock and amazement of all, on waking, they found that there was no colour in nature. At first people were shocked! They didn't know what to do. All kinds of suggestions were made, but still no new apprentice came forward. Soon everyone forgot about it all as they became used to a world without colour. It was amazing how quickly this happened. After a relatively short time, no one seemed upset anymore. In fact, it left The Colour Catcher wondering if they had ever taken real notice of all the lovely colours he had so carefully painted nature with. He questioned whether they had even seen these. Human beings seem to get so used to something (provided it was not too painful), he thought, that they soon stopped 'seeing'. This had certainly happened with the colours of nature. The Colour Catcher asked himself if perhaps all his time and energy and caring, had all been for nothing. Here was the entire population satisfied to live in a colourless world.

Then the Colour Catcher died. Unexpectedly. Before he could train someone up. Things went on as usual for a while, and then something started to happen. People began to get depressed for no apparent reason. Young and old, healthy and sick. A new industry grew



Illustration by Clifford Harper

up to try and fight this depression. Much money was made, but people remained depressed. In fact it grew worse as time went on, until the normal state of mind was one of depression. The happy few were the odd balls. In spite of this, no one linked this depressed state of mind with the colourless world in which they lived.

Then one day everyone woke up to a brightly coloured world. All the plants and trees were as they used to be when The Colour Catcher was alive. Only now the colours seemed brighter than they had ever been which they would to anyone used to a colourless world. It was as if a blind man had suddenly regained his sight. The colours seemed so bright that

some people had initially to cover their eyes because of the brightness. With great excitement, the entire village started for the mountain to see what had happened. They rushed, knocking each other over in their haste. On arrival, they saw smoke coming out of the little hut The Colour Catcher had lived in. They made for the door and knocked loudly on it. It was opened by a youngish man who did not seem surprised at all to see all these people. He had expected this would be the result of his work. They all gathered around him, throwing questions at him. He held his hand up and a hush descended, then he explained what had happened.

He lived in a village quite a way away, but finally news trickled through of what had happened and of the death of The Colour Catcher. He felt sorry for these unknown people, and as he was a fully-fledged Colour Catcher without a job – in his village there were young men queueing up to be apprenticed to the reigning Colour Catcher, unlike in his village where the people took his skill for granted. He decided to come to their rescue and had arrived late that night and had got to work first thing in the morning. He was glad that they appreciated his efforts which they showed by feasting him. However, after chatting with a few of the villagers, the new Colour Catcher had no illusions that in his life time these people would once again take the wonderful colours of nature for granted.



PICTURE PUZZLE

How well do you know Fitzrovia?

Can you recognise where this photograph was taken by Mark Thomas?

The answer is on page 13 at the end of "The Story of Our Love."



All Saints Church Margaret Street

Our diverse and inclusive parish is grounded in the rich catholic tradition of Anglicanism. We offer a place of peace and beauty in busy central London (open daily from 7 to 7). We maintain fine liturgical traditions and excellence in music. The parish would be delighted to welcome you to all or any of our liturgies if you are able to join us in 'one of the ten buildings that have changed the face of Britain' (English Heritage).

Main services on Sunday
11am High Mass
6pm Choral Evensong and Benediction

Times of Daily Prayer, Masses & opportunities for confession & counselling are advertised at:

www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk
Parish office: 020 7636 1788

Please tell us if you came to All Saints after seeing this advertisement.

Estate agents have seen huge changes in the area over last 50 years

Many changes have been seen by property consultants Robert Irving Burns since they were formed in the area in 1962.

Having always been located in the heart of Fitzrovia, the company sees itself very much part of the fabric of the area and like many of the residents has seen significant change over the last 50 years.

Howard Brecker, one of RIB's founding members and still Chairman of the company today, remembers fondly what Fitzrovia was like when the business first opened its doors: "Fitzrovia was known as the Rag Trade area dominated by the clothing industry, with some of the leading fashion houses of the day vying for ground floor showrooms. The atmosphere was akin to a private members' club with no joining fee as everyone knew one another."

As an independent estate agency, located at 23/24 Margaret Street, it is aware of the need to maintain the area's heritage and history.

Damien Field, Senior Director at RIB who has been with the company for over 25 years, comments: "Whilst the area continues to evolve in terms of development opportunities we are always advising our clients with one eye very much on maintaining the aesthetics of Fitzrovia."

One of the most significant changes to Fitzrovia over the last 50 years has been the shift from local textile industries to TV, Media and Technology compa-



Damien Field, Howard Brecker and Antony Antoniou keep up to date on the property market with Fitzrovia News.

nies wanting to base themselves in the area. This of course has resulted in the need to accommodate these companies which has led to also a significant demand for restaurants, bars and coffee shops.

"Without doubt the changing commercial face of Fitzrovia has had a significant knock-on effect to the social fabric of the area," continued Damien. "Fitzrovia today is very much different to the Fitzrovia I was first introduced to, some 25 years ago."

"When I first came into Fitzrovia, the pavements were filled with boxes and rails of stock moving in and out of the many fashion showrooms. Nowadays the same pavements are home to seating of the many bars and coffee shops."

The company has always had a progressive residential

team, specialising in both sales and lettings, but over the last five years the area has seen a significant rise in demand for commercial space being converted into residential accommodation.

David Caldeira, Head of New Homes at RIB, adds: "Whilst demand shifted for certain existing uses, it became clear that presented with the right scheme, such properties could be redeveloped to provide the area with modern living accommodation."

The company feels it has a vital part to play in maintaining close links with those that both live and work in the area, and to keep aware of local community needs. It states that it is "proud to be associated with the area and remains committed to help shaping its future."

Historic pub name change



The Tottenham the last remaining pub on Oxford Street is to undergo a refurbishment. Plans by owners Mitchells & Butler include calling it by its former name The Flying Horse and alterations to the facade, ground floor, new pub signs, and a revamped basement area. The pub is located within the Hanway Conservation Area and is a Grade II* listed building. Originally called The Flying Horse from at least 1809 to 1894 when it became The Tottenham.

Its heritage can be dated back to at least 1790. In its early days the regulars were theatregoers from the nearby Tottenham Street Theatre an auditorium that was once London's finest music hall. In the pub are three curvaceous ladies painted by Felix de Jong, the leading decorative artist in music hall. In 1841 there were 34 pubs along Oxford Street. The Tottenham was featured in the Fitzrovia News Pub Crawl in 2011.

Fitzroy Tavern will close to undergo year-long refurbishment

Fitzrovia's most well-known public house is to close for a year in order to undergo a complete refurbishment intended to restore it to its late nineteenth-century splendour, it will reopen in the spring of 2016. The former Fitzroy Coffee House was converted to a public house in 1897 and named "The Hundred Marks", a reference to the large number of German immigrants living locally.

The historical restoration will include sustainably-sourced polished mahogany timber shopfronts, acid etched and brilliant cut glass panes, wrought iron pub signs, and a traditional glass lantern is to be re-intro-

duced on the corner of the building. The inside of the ground and first floor will be subdivided into "snugs" and there will be additional entrances onto Charlotte Street and Windmill Street.

The pub was first called "The Fitzroy Tavern" in 1919 by then licensee Judah "Pop" Kleinfeld, a Polish Russian immigrant. It went on to have such a rich history that there is a whole book about it: The Fitzroy, The Autobiography of a London Tavern, by Sally Fiber, (published 1995).

Its heyday was from the 1930s to the 1950s when its customers famously ranged from cabinet ministers to road sweepers. And in the days when homosexuality was a crime punished by long prison sentences, the pub was well known for its tolerance of gay customers. (These times were recalled by comedian Kenneth Williams in his diaries). Eventually the pub was prosecuted by police in 1955 for being a "disorderly house" and a "den of vice." The popular governor Charlie Allchild was found guilty on nine counts and suspended by the brewery. He won on appeal but was so disgusted with the brewery that he resigned.

The Labour MP and journalist, Tom Driberg, was a regular in the 1930s when he wrote the William Hickey column for the Daily Express. He was credited with coining the name Fitzrovia for the area around the pub. Although another regular of the pub, poet and publisher, Meary James Thuraijah Tambimuttu claimed to have used the name first.

A delightful new mixture of tastes

LE MENAR
55 Cleveland Street.

What a shame. I have just been to what I thought to be a wonderful local restaurant, on a Monday night and, counting us, there were only four diners among the brass tables and comfortable sofas scattered with brightly coloured cushions. Le Menar serves delicious Italian-Greek-Turkish influenced food from North Africa – countries like Morocco, Libya, Tunisia and Lebanon: all countries which – as we now know only too well if we didn't before – are just on the other side of the Mediterranean.

A mixture of tastes that was new to me. In the starters (among smoked halloumi and moussaka plates) we enjoyed smoked lamb prosciutto slices with figs and sorrel (£9) and hummus with, of all things, wasabi (£4.75). Or you could



By the DINING DETECTIVE

have had a tasting meze of all the starters for two (£20). In the main courses there were kebabs but not quite as we are used to them from Turkey: the Shish Tarouk for instance was chicken pieces served with a garlic sauce. There were tagines of beef, or octopus, or lamb, or

vegetables, all served with cous-cous (£14.50 - £17); confit of duck (£16.50) and Moroccan-style sea bass (£16).

And delight of delights to me: a Quinoa Filo Basket – the quinoa in the very edible container was mixed with preserved lemons and courgettes, topped with a plentiful serving of big cubes of feta – all served on a bed of just-cooked spinach: a delicious combination of tastes.

The desserts were dishes like Mango Sorbet (£5) or Saffron and Pistachio Crème Brulee (£5.50) but out of shocked disbelief we had Deep Fried Madagascan ice-cream with butterscotch served with Medjori dates (£8.50). Outrageous but should be tried once – apparently very popular in Libya.

The wine was a mixture of European and Moroccan. The cheapest bottle of red wine at

£21 was described as a French merlot-cabernet; what came was a St Felix sauvignon-grenache mixture which was excellent. Look out for it. I believe you can also smoke shisha pipes upstairs – but, because of the smoking laws, only electric ones.

I wonder about the lack of customers. This space, near the corner with Foley Street, has been several restaurants over the last years (one rather good Moroccan, some not very successful). The waiter told me this owner took over last September. Perhaps they have not clarified enough that this is new management and (I presume) a new – certainly excellent – chef. Anyway great food and wine, reasonable prices (the bill for two was £73.41 which included 12.5% service) and recommended.

Reclusive genius with water on his brain

By MIKE PENTELOW

A scientific genius and a rich eccentric recluse, Henry Cavendish (1731-1810), lived on the corner of Gower Street and Bedford Square.

He was most famous for discovering that water was not an element but consisted of hydrogen and oxygen, which he proved in 1784 by combining these gases to produce water.

His interest in water dated back to 1767 when he published an article entitled "Experiments on Rathbone Place Water" in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society which was later published as a pamphlet.

This revealed his discovery that hardness in water was caused by calcium bicarbonate (formed by a reaction between calcium carbonate and carbon dioxide) and that it could be softened by adding lime (calcium hydroxide).

These experiments were conducted in what he described as "a pond at the end of Rathbone Place" and that it had a pump.

His other claim to fame was to calculate the density (and so the weight) of the Earth by a

simple apparatus involving balls of different weights and a pendulum. This was in 1798 and became known as "the Cavendish experiment." Modern technology confirms his calculation was within one per cent of the currently accepted figure.

Nitric acid was discovered by him, and he made many breakthroughs in the fields of electricity and other areas which he wrote up privately but did not publish publicly. It was only long after his death that these papers were examined and revealed discoveries for which others were later given credit - including Richters law of reciprocal proportions, Ohm's law, Dalton's law of partial pressures, Coulomb's law of electrical conductivity, Charles's law of gases, and the mechanical theory of heat.

Perhaps the reason he did not publish these findings was his extremely reclusive nature and avoidance of any human contact. It was said he "was not adept at social intercourse and did not try to be civil." Etiquette was of no importance to him and lived only for his experi-

ments. His biographer Dr George Wilson noted: "He was almost passionless... and anything that required an emotional response was distasteful to him."

He only communicated with his housekeeper through notes left on the hall table, and he had a separate staircase fitted for other visitors so he never had to meet them.

Although many offered to paint his portrait he always refused. The only hint of his appearance is through a sketch which was hastily drawn without his knowledge at a meeting of the Royal Society Club.

Those who wished to consult him were advised by one of his few friends, Dr Wollaston, "never to look at him, but to talk, as it were, into vacancy, and then it is not unlikely you may set him going." Then "if

their remarks were worthy they might receive a mumbled reply, but more often than not they would hear a peeved squeak and turn to find an actual vacancy and the sight of Cavendish fleeing to find a more peaceful corner."

Lord Brougham, said "he shuffled quickly from room to room, seeming to be annoyed if looked at." And, he concluded: "He probably uttered fewer words in the course of his life than any man who ever lived to four score years, not at all excepting the monks of La Trappe."

His heir, Lord George Cavendish, was allowed to see him just once a year - for half an hour only.

This was time well spent however as Henry left him £1.75 million which made him one of

the richest men in the country in 1810.

But money never mattered to Henry, who was the third son of the second Duke of Devonshire, even after he inherited an enormous fortune from his uncle in 1773. Rather than spend it he just let it accumulate until it grew so big that the bank thought he should invest it. He gave them short shrift saying if they troubled him again he would remove it.

One thing he did fork out for, however, was a house in Dean Street to accommodate his library and a librarian to look after it. Every time he took out one of his own books he left a receipt for it.

He also experimented with ballooning, and was considered eccentric at the time for not holding any religious views.



Four children being sick outside a pub



By CATHERINE MARCH

Four children being sick outside a pub in the heart of Fitzrovia, circa 1965. The Hillman Minx that brought them home from holiday parked close by, its engine most likely still hot under the bonnet in the heat of the August noonday sun. Three boys and a girl, five to ten years old, all overdosed on blackcurrant and cream soda lovingly served up in haste by their darling nanny, Julia, from the flock warmth and crystal sparkle of the Fitzroy Tavern's Jubilee bar - or was it the saloon?

I am the girl in that vignette, now an old time puppeteer, teacher and community artist.

The Fitzroy was my father's family home from the late 1940s, one of the list of banned pubs for those on National Service, along with my Uncle Danny's pub, the Black Horse at 6 Rathbone Place.



Catherine outside the Fitzroy Tavern today.

Uncle Tommy, the eldest Fitzgerald son, ran the Adam's Arms, at 4 Conway Street, and we four East End children shared a sense of wonder about life up west, the Fitzroy being our regular holiday haunt.

One of our many childhood thrills was hurling wet newspaper bombs from the Fitzroy attic window at the passing bowler hats on the street below.

My cousin Paul recently told me that he was accused of drinking his first Southern Comfort in the Fitzroy, aged four.

We are only just starting to share our anecdotes as an extended family, circulating Sally Fiber's book about the Fitzroy Tavern in the years before our grandfather took it on.

I am hoping that readers of *Fitzrovia News* might have some memories of our three family pubs, or maybe even remember when our grandfather arrived in the West End from Ireland and took on the One Tun, at 60 Goodge Street for a short while. If you know of anyone with anecdotes to share please get in touch through *Fitzrovia News*.

The small anarchist republic

By NICK HEATH

Fitzrovia has a long history of radicalism with waves of French and German revolutionaries arriving after 1848 and then with the clampdown by Bismarck in Germany and the defeat of the Paris Commune in 1871. Swiss and Italian immigrants also added to the radical mix in the area. Among all of these groups were considerable numbers of anarchists who added to the already radical traditions of the neighbourhood.

Let's go on a little walk around this area described by the French anarchist Charles Malato as a "small anarchist republic". We start at 19 Fitzroy Square. Here in 1890 were the premises of the International School founded by Louise Michel who had fought on the barricades in defence of the Paris Commune. Louise had been a teacher in Paris where she had run creches for the children of women factory workers. Exiled to London in 1890 she lived at 59 Charlotte Street and set up the school based on the Russian anarchist Bakunin's educational principles.

The guiding committee included famous anarchists such as Peter Kropotkin, the Italian Errico Malatesta, and the English libertarian socialist William Morris. The school was closed when the police raided it in 1892 and found bombs in the basement. It was suspected these were planted there by the school's assistant Auguste Coulon, who was later unmasked as a police spy in the pay of Special Branch. In a subsequent trial of several anarchists, who were given sentences of ten years' hard labour for possessing explosives, they claimed these had been supplied them by Coulon.

One of these was an Italian shoemaker Jean Battola, who lived at 18 Fitzroy Square. In the



Illustrations by Clifford Harper

dock he remained defiant, accusing the state and the ruling class of all the real crimes of the age, concluding with the question: "How many generals are imprisoned for using weapons of death?"

At the nearby Grafton Arms in Grafton Way, Frank Kitz, the illegitimate child of an English mother and German father came in contact with the emerging socialist movement. He is first mentioned as taking part in a debate on communism in August 1874. He moved in a more radical direction and helped set up the Manhood Suffrage League the following year. He made links with the German exiles and moved in an anarchist direction.

In Cleveland Street the Italian anarchist called Bergia ran a restaurant at No 70 and was involved in organising among catering workers from 1905 onwards. At the Cleveland Hall, at No 54 further down the street, anarchists held many meetings and hosted the International Revolutionary Socialist Congress of 1881, attended by Kropotkin and delegates from Europe and the USA.

At 99 Charlotte Street, another anarchist free school was founded by Lilian Evelyn in 1912. Under the reversal of this name, Evelyn Lilyan, this intriguing woman was the secre-



ERRICO MALATESTA

tary of the London branch of the Industrial Syndicalist Education League and was the only woman delegate at the 1st International Syndicalist Congress in London in 1913. The Manchester Guardian describes her as smoking "her revolutionary cigarette with the rest".

At number 67 down the street, Victor Richard ran a grocery store from the 1870s onward. He had been a grocer in Paris when he was caught up in the events of the Paris Commune and he had fought heroically on the barricades.

One account alleges that his coffee mill popularised the contraption in Britain as well as the French way of making coffee. He only stocked red beans and not the "reactionary" white ones! He was always willing to

extend credit to revolutionary exiles and much of the money he made was spent on the cause in one way or another.

At 30 Goodge Street the French anarchist Armand Lapie ran a newsagents. The Dutch anarchist Alexandre Cohen has left an account of Lapie's shop to where every evening at 5pm many anarchists headed when he returned from the depot with a heavy burden of French, Italian and Spanish newspapers. Putting them down with a "Han!" of relief "he was sold out in a flash. For even the poorest among the poverty-stricken refugees handed over their three pence to see whether this revo-

More information can be found on Nick Heath's website:
libcom.org/history/-small-anarchist-republic-french-anarchists-fitzrovia

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Garson happy to work with Bowie

The feature on local pianist and author, Clifford Slapper, in *Fitzrovia News* 136 stated of David Bowie's pianist, Mike Garson, that: "For a while in the 1980s he took a break from Bowie as he was not finding it enough of a challenge." In fact, Bowie simply did not choose to use Garson from the late 1970s until the 1990s. Garson was always happy to respond when Bowie reached out to him, as he did once again in the 1990s.

Clifford's book *Bowie's Piano Man: the life of Mike Garson* (published by Fantom Books at £19.99) is now available on Amazon and from: www.fantomfilms.co.uk/books/cliffordslapper_mikegarson.htm



The underwater polymath

By Pete Whyatt

Racing cyclist, jazz musician, author and photographer Leo Zanelli has lived at Holcroft Court for 15 years. He was born in 1930 near Kings Cross, to Italian parents (his father was a chef, his mother a waitress). His early childhood was spent at the Angel Islington. In 1939 his family moved into Soho when his father bought the lease on 21 Romilly Street "It was the beginning of the war and my father was immediately interned as an enemy alien and sent to the Isle of Man because he was Italian."

"During the war I slept in the basement and despite being a sound sleeper I used to get woken up by the floor shaking from bombs exploding nearby. An uncle who was an ambulance driver once knocked on the door and said, 'Is everyone alright?' A bomb has just fallen over the road! My mum did bed and breakfasts in the house. My uncle Peter was a band leader and he brought a lot of show-business people in."

"Towards the end of the war my mother turned the ground floor into a vegetarian restaurant called 'Jill-in-the-Green'. I think it was the second vegetarian restaurant in London. We cooked things like nut cutlets but it wasn't a commercial success and when my father got out of the internment camp, my mother asked him if he'd like to work there. He was a big carnivore so he said, 'Cooking nuts all day - you must be nuts' and went off and got another job, but when the restaurant finally closed he took it over and it became The Tosca, an Italian restaurant which served meat dishes."

Leo attended Notre Dame school in Leicester Square. On leaving, his first job was in catering, at the Albany Club on Saville Row. As a young man his passions were jazz, football and cycling. "I was a founder member of the British League of Racing Cyclists. In those days mass cycle riding on public roads was illegal. Time trials were allowed but we used to find clandestine ways of arranging, meeting up and cycling as a group on the road. We always had to be one step ahead of the police. It was like the illegal rave scene of the late 1980's."

Leo played with several modern jazz groups and had alto sax lessons from the well known saxophonist and bandleader Harry Hayes. "My hero was Stan Getz



Leo plays the alto sax in the 1950's



but I couldn't afford a tenor sax," he explained.

At school English was his strongest subject so he decided to try his hand at journalism. "I did consider returning to education to study Law or English but a lot of journalists used to come into my father's restaurant and one of them said to me, if you want to be a journalist the worst thing you can do is study English at university. So I just started freelancing which turned out to be good advice certainly in those days." One of his earliest jobs was with the publisher Collins in Covent Garden as a book editor.

In 1950 Leo went to the USA for one year with Collins to further his career. "I always had plenty of work, my accent was a novelty and an asset." In America he also took photographs for the New York Mirror. Since then Leo has never, ever, been without a camera in his possession.

He returned to London in 1951, and worked as a writer/photographer through the fifties, during which time he also developed a passion for scuba diving. Leo went on to become National Diving Officer of the British Sub Aqua Club, where he trained the first Metropolitan Police diving unit. He helped found the Sub-aqua Association (becoming Chairman), has the First Class Diver certificate and is a qualified scuba instructor.

Leo has published around 30 books, on varied subjects, the first of which was one of the Teach Yourself titles: Sub Aqua Swimming. He has also been the editor of several magazines and part-works, including the best-selling Golden Homes, which helped the publisher, Marshall Cavendish, to get into the Guinness Book of Records as the 'most profitable company in Britain'. "But this wasn't reflected in my salary!" He joined Central Press Features, now part of the Daily Mail group, Fleet Street, in 1976, and over the next 20 years had work published in over 200 newspapers.



Leo aged 22 overtaking a motorbike

Leo Holds a copy of "Teach yourself underwater swimming" which was published in 1967 Behind him are covers of some of the magazines he has edited

"At one time I was writing six different columns a week in addition to my usual work. For 17 years I was 'Adam the Gardener' in the Sunday Express." Leo has also been writing about wine since the 50s, and is a member of the Circle of Wine Writers. In 1971 he wrote Home Winemaking from A to Z. He is a founder and honorary life member of the London Press Club and has honorary life membership of the National Union of Journalists.

He has been a prolific author and written books on many subjects. Titles include – Beer and Wine Making Illustrated Dictionary; British Sub-Aqua Club Diving Manual; Sub Aqua Swimming; All you can build in the garden; Central Heating, Plumbing, Electricity; Shipwrecks Around the World – a Divers Guide; Rock Gardens & Pools.

Recently he qualified as a City of London Guide and then as a Clerkenwell & Islington guide. His main topics are City Highlights and Freemasons in the City, although Leo's most popular guided walk is through Fitzrovia and Soho.



Leo breaks the ice, he was editor and featured on the cover of this 1968 magazine

For many years Leo has been interested in Freemasonry and apart from being editor of "The Square", the Freemasons magazine, for 15 years he has written many articles on the subject. Leo was initiated into the Italia Lodge – the only Italian-speaking Freemasonic Lodge in the English Constitution. He later joined the British Sub-Aqua Lodge. Leo is also a member of the "Oddfellows" a national fraternal friendly society whose local branch is called Duchess of Kent Lodge. They regularly meet at Warren Street. (There will be an article about the local Oddfellows in the next issue of Fitzrovia News).

Recently Leo was interviewed for the Channel 4 documentary "The Queens Big Night Out" about VE Day in 1945 when the future Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret slipped out of Buckingham Palace to join the public celebrations in secret. He spoke about some of the racy and colourful events that happened on that evening.



Leo following his installation as Provincial Grand Master of the North London District Oddfellows 2006-7

'The Piano Man'

By CLIFFORD SLAPPER

When I used to play the piano at Quo Vadis club in Soho a few years ago, one frequent and welcome visitor was Cathal Smyth, otherwise known as Chas Smash from Madness. Always a charming and warm friend, he had a surprising line in on-the-spot massage, offered to those he deemed stressed enough to need it. The force of his charm (coupled with his bear-like demeanour) was such that, more than once, he had me laid out on the club carpet (fortunately, by then I was no longer playing

the spit-and-sawdust gigs) whilst he pummelled my poor pianists' shoulders, to great effect.

Other times he would sit in on the piano and treat us to early versions of one or two of his own songs, as works in progress. The room always fell silent at the sound of his deep-timbred and resonant but sensitive voice, accompanied by a simple piano style over often unusual and poignant chord changes. It was always moving. Now this treat has been made available to a wider audience through the release in May of

his first solo album, *A Comfortable Man* (released by Phoenix Rising).

It is a compelling and moving account of grief and separation in his life, which pulls off a miraculous twist of personal salvation through love and honesty. Every song is a gem and reflects the pain and joy of the gentle soul behind them. Go and enjoy this treat. It may be the nearest thing to a shoulder massage from Cathal himself.

Clifford Slapper, a professional pianist, lives in the heart of Fitzrovia and is the author of "Bowie's Piano Man: the life of Mike Garson" published by Fantom, April 2015.



Cathal Smyth

ART LISTINGS

Continued from back page

Gallery Libby Sellers, 41 Berners St (libbysellers.com)
Getty Images Gallery, 46 Eastcastle St (gettyimages-gallery.com)
GRAD, 3-4a Little Portland St (grad-london.com)
Hanmi Gallery, 30 Maple St (hanmigallery.co.uk)
Ibid, 27 Margaret St (ibidprojects.com)
Josh Lilley, 44-46 Riding House St (joshlilleygallery.com)
Kashya Hildebrand, 22 Eastcastle St (kashyahildebrand.com)
Lazarides Gallery, 11 Rathbone Place (lazinc.com)
Nancy Victor, 6 Charlotte Place (nancyvictor.com)
National Print Gallery, 56 Maple St (nationalprintgallery.com)
Pi Artworks, 55 Eastcastle St (piartworks.com)
Pilar Corrias, 54 Eastcastle St (pilarcorrias.com)
Rebecca Hossack Gallery (1), 2a Conway St (r-h-g.co.uk)
Rebecca Hossack Gallery (2), 28 Charlotte St (r-h-g.co.uk)
Richard Saltoun, 111 Great Titchfield St (richardsaltoun.com)
Riseart, 83 Great Titchfield St (riseart.com)
Rook and Raven, 7/8 Rathbone Place (rookandraven.co.uk)
Rose Issa Projects, 82 Great Portland St (roseissa.com)
Rosenfeld Porcini, 37 Rathbone St (rosenfeldporcini.com)
RIBA, 66 Portland Place (architecture.com)
Scream Gallery, 27-28 Eastcastle St (whisperfineart.co.uk)
Store Street Gallery, 32 Store St (storestreetgallery.com)
Tiwani Contemporary, 16 Little Portland St (tiwani.co.uk)
T J Boulting, 59 Riding House St (tjboulting.com)
White Rainbow, 47 Mortimer St (white-rainbow.co.uk)
Woolff Gallery, 89 Charlotte St (woolffgallery.co.uk)

Looking back

10 years ago

24-hour booze bamboozled

An application to sell alcohol for 24 hours a day by Sainsbury's at 31-35 Mortimer Street was rejected by Westminster City Council.

It was one of the first applications under the new law allowing it. But the council ruled that it failed to fulfil the four licensing objectives of the new law: preventing crime and disorder, public safety, preventing public nuisance, and protecting children from harm.

The Pennies From Heaven charity was wound up after 82 years. It was originally set up by Pop Kleinfeld, publican of the **Fitzroy Tavern**, to finance annual outings for local children. One way it raised money was for customers to attach money to darts and throw them into the ceiling. The charity's remaining funds were handed over to Fitzrovia Youth In Action by Pop's grand-daughter Sally Fiber.

The accident and emergency ward of the new University College Hospital opened in Euston Road. The new hospital, replacing the old UCH in Gower Street and Middlesex Hospital in Mortimer Street, had cost over £400 million to build and contained 669 beds. (*Fitzrovia News*, Summer 2005)

40 years ago

Camden Council was granted a compulsory purchase order for tenement blocks at 8/10 and 12 Tottenham Street because of the landlord's failure to make repairs that it had been ordered to for the tenants.

A possession order was issued against squatters in 8 Conway Street.

The art of **coal hole rubbing** was practised by Jim Kempton of Great Portland Street. It involved placing a sheet of paper over a coal hole cover and rubbing it with special coloured wax - producing "a beautiful design worthy of framing and hanging on your lounge wall."

Music venues listed included the **Speakeasy** at 48 Margaret Street where Jimi Hendrix performed (members 50p, guests £1), **Dingles** at the Adams Arms [now the Lukin], Conway Street (members 25p, others 50p), and **Granny's Folk and Blues** at the Rising Sun, Tottenham Court Road (members 30p, others 40p).

And last but not least, the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association finally got off the ground. It received an Urban Aid Grant of £54,000 over five years. A committee was set up and it was negotiating the lease for the shop and basement at 39 Tottenham Street with the Middlesex Hospital Trustees. (*Tower Community Newspaper*, June 1975)

'Aliens' rounded up during war

100 years ago

The last of the area's German and Italian residents were rounded up and taken to internment camps during the first world war.

The *Daily Chronicle* reported in November 1915 that there were more aliens registered in **Charlotte Street**, Fitzroy Square, than any other metropolitan district, and they were part of the general exodus.

Tottenham Court Road had one of the depots "where the majority were roped in."

In most cases, reported the *Chronicle*, "the roll call was in the yards at the rear of the police stations, where vehicles were in readiness. In few instances was there anything in the nature of a demonstration. From the rear of Tottenham Court Road [police] station, in **Whitfield Street**, several bus loads were despatched. Here a crowd of some hundreds gathered, but a fairly large proportion were the wives and other relatives of the interned men.

"The women were much affected by the parting, and most of them were weeping as they waved farewell to their menfolk. The men too, looked dejected, and as they beguiled the time of waiting by reading the morning papers, their



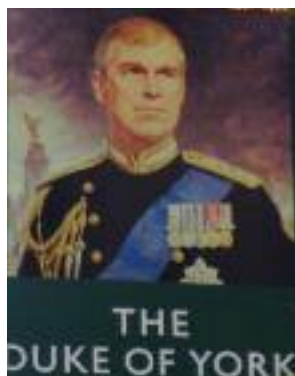
The men looked dejected as their wives wept when they parted.

Illustration by Clifford Harper

gloomy thoughts were obviously not relieved by the news, of the British and French victories.

"All classes were represented, but men of the chef and waiter type and of the middle classes predominated. In the majority of cases they carried bags containing additional clothing and other necessary articles, and a number of buses were almost filled inside with luggage. Generally a constable sat by the driver, with a comrade on top and another in the conductor's place."

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WHAT'S ON AROUND FITZROVIA

Email news@fitzrovia.org.uk by August 19 for the September 2015 issue, and put "Listings" in the subject box.

LIVE MUSIC

The Albany, 240 Great Portland St (thealbanyw1w.co.uk): Ukeles on Wednesday 8pm.

Bolivar Hall, 54 Grafton Way: Irena Radic (award winning young pianist), June 12; Carlos Metralleta Orozco (harp concert), June 18; both 7.30pm and free entry but book at culturaembajadalondres@gmail.com.

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

Tower Tavern, 21 Clipstone St: Live rock music on Saturdays, NOW DISCONTINUED.

The 100 Club, 100 Oxford St (the100club.co.uk): Black Mountain, June 10. Bootleg Runners, June 12. Bluey Robinson, June 15. Tuesday Blues, June 16. The Godfathers 30th Anniversary Show, June 17. Law Rocks, June 18. James Royal & Friends, June 20. Reigning Sound, June 22. Alden Penner (The Unicorns) & Michael Cera, June 23. Who Afterparty (Unofficial), June 26. Tuesday Blues, June 30. Larking Poe, July 1. Let's Wrestle, July 10. Rare Soul All Nighter, July 11. Chastity Brown, July 13. The Moons, July 17. Tuesday Blues, July 21. Darts, July 25. Tuesday Blues, July 28. The Lone Bellow, July 30-31.

UCL Haldane Room, Wilkins Building, Gower St: UCL Chamber Music Club Concert, June 4, 5.30-6.30pm.

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.

The Court, 108a Tottenham Court Rd: Every Sunday, 8pm.

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

The Ship, 134 New Cavendish St: Alternate Tuesdays, 8pm.

OTHER EVENTS

UCL Institute of Making, Malet Place: Festival of Stuff, classes in weaving, woodchiselling, nano-scale making, June 23-27.



Darts are playing at the 100 Club on July 25.

THEATRE

Bloomsbury Theatre, 15 Gordon St (thebloomsbury.com): Wildlife, by Millennium Performing Arts, June 5-6. Rob Delaney, stand-up comedy, June 8. Mark Watson, June 10. Stewart Francis: Pun Gent Tour, June 11-12. Resofit, comedy, music, and art, June 15. Irish Hooley, several bands, June 18. Silver Screen Tour, dance from film, June 19. Louise Pentland, aka Sprinkle of Glitter, June 20. Masters Raw, musical theatre and dance, June 26-27. Youth Choreography competition, June 28. Free Fringe Fundraiser, June 30. Katherine Ryan: Glam Role Model, July 2-3. London Amateur Ballet Gala, July 4. John Hegley & Ronnie Golden, July 5. Robin Ince, July 7. National Youth Ballet Gala, Aug 8.

Camden People's Theatre, 58-60 Hampstead Rd (cptheatre.co.uk): I got dressed in front of my nephew today, by Feral Foxy Ladies, June 4-5. The Trojan Women, June 8. Shrew (one woman adaptation of Taming of the Shrew), June 23-28. Much Ado about Nothing, June 30-July 19. Hitchhiker's Guide to the Family, July 30-31. Jekyll, July 30-Aug 2.

Dominion Theatre, 269 Tottenham Court Rd (dominiontheatre.co.uk): Lord Of The Dance: Dangerous Games, ongoing.

London Palladium, Argyll St (the-london-palladium.com): Beyond Bollywood (Indian dance extravaganza), until June 27. Sinatra, July 10-Oct 10.

New Diorama Theatre, 15 Triton St, opposite top of Fitzroy St (newdiorama.com): Younger Theatre's Incoming Festival, June 1-10.

Maverick Theatre, The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place: Henry V - Lion of England, every weekend and bank holiday until June 14. Advance booking from www.londonliterarypubcrawl.com; tickets@mavericktheatre.co.uk; 020 8090 5082.

CINEMA/FILM

Bolivar Hall, 54 Grafton Way (cultura.embavenez-uk.org): 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.

Regent Street Cinema, 309 Regent St, north of Oxford Circus (regentstreetcinema.com): Now open..

Royal Institute of British Architects, Architecture Gallery, 66 Portland Place (architecture.com): Office Space, by Mike Judge, June 30, 6.30-10.30pm.

UCL Grant Museum of Zoology, 21 University St: Empire of the Ants, July 8, 6.30-9pm.

UCL Main Campus, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Open City Documentary Festival, June 16-21.

UCL Petrie Museum, Malet Place (ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie): Gallipoli (1981). Free but pre-book: www.eventbrite.co.uk.

TALKS

Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place (architecture.com): Welcome to the Playground, by Simon Terrill, June 9, 6-10pm. The Rise and Fall of the Council Estate, June 23, 7-8.40pm.

Sohemian Society, Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place: Patrick Hamilton night, with Nigel Jones talking and Mark Farrelly performing, June 24, 7.30pm

UCL Darwin Lecture Theatre, Malet Place (events@ucl.ac.uk): Tuesdays and Thursdays (1.15-1.55pm) during term time.

EXHIBITIONS

British Museum, Great Russell St (britishmuseum.org): The body in ancient Greek Art, until July 5. Dervishes and Mysticism in Iran and India, until July 8. Ancient lives, new discoveries, until July 12. Indigenous Australia: enduring civilisation, until Aug 2. Prints and propaganda in the age of Napoleon, until Aug 16. Pacific barkcloth clothing, until Aug 16.

Grant Museum of Zoology, 21 University St (ucl.ac.uk/museums/zoology): Strange Creatures: The art of unknown animals, until June 27 (special object showcased June 12, 1-2pm; seminar day, June 13, 10.30am to 3.30pm). Class in drawing animals, June 16, 6.30-9pm.

Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place (architecture.com): Ist-on Situations by EAS-EMRA Arolat architects, until June 30. The Brutalist Playground, June 10 to Aug 16.

Slade School of Fine Art, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Slade MA/MFA degree show, until June 21.

UCL Art Museum, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Re-Launch, post-renovation exhibition of objects, prints, video and live works, Until June 12.

Wellcome Library, 183 Euston Rd (wellcomecollection.org): The Institute of Sexology, until Sept 20. Forensics: The anatomy of crime, until June 21. Alice Anderson: Memory Movement Memory Objects, July 22 to Oct 18.

WALKS

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

Fitzrovia Literary Pub Crawl: Every last Tuesday of the month, 6pm, meet downstairs at the Fitzroy Tavern, 16 Charlotte St. To reserve free space email marketing@fitzroviapartnership, or call 020 7755 3380.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

All Souls School, Foley Street: Summer Fair, June 13, 12-4pm (see page 9 and 19).

Fitzrovia Festival, various venues, June 3-28. For more details see centre pages.

ART GALLERIES

Highlighted exhibitions are marked with an asterisk*

4 Windmill St (4windmill-street.com)

Adam Gallery, 67 Mortimer St (adamgallery.com)

Alison Jacques Gallery, 18 Berners St (alisonjacquesgallery.com)

Art First, 21 Eastcastle St (art-first.co.uk)

Arup Phase 2, 8 Fitzroy St (arup.com/phase2)

Bartha Contemporary, 25 Margaret St (barthacontemporary.com)

***Berloni**, 63 Margaret St (berlonigallery.com): Ben Woodeson / "Obstacle" – Challenging sculpture that exudes both wonder and a sense of danger, until Aug 1

Black Arts Company, 73 Great Titchfield St (theblackarts.org)

Building Centre, Store St (buildingcentre.co.uk)

Carroll/Fletcher, 56-57 Eastcastle St (carrollfletcher.com)

Christine Park Gallery, 35 Riding House St (christinepark.net)

***Coningsby Gallery**/Debut Art, 30 Tottenham St (coningsby-gallery.com): "State Of The Art Cinema" - An eclectic spread of posters and images for movies made around the world by emerging and well established filmmakers, July 14-Aug 7.

Curwen Gallery, 34 Windmill St (curwengallery.com)

Darren Baker Gallery, 81 Charlotte St (darrenbaker.com)

Edel Assanti, 17A Newman St (edelassanti.com)

Evelyn Yard, Evelyn Yard (evelynyard.com)

Exposure, 22-23 Little Portland St (exposure.net)

***Fitzrovia Gallery** (fitzrovia-gallery.co.uk): "SATURATION" | New Spanish Painting" - Eight artists explore the meaning of narrative in painting, June 22-July 31.

***Fold Gallery**, 158 New Cavendish St (foldgallery.com): "Corporeality, Objects and Other Stuff" / group exhibition - Each artist approaches the material and physical matter of their work using a combination of sophisticated visual playfulness, June 6-July 11.

Framers Gallery, 36 Windmill St (theframersgallery.co.uk)

***Gallery Different**, 14 Percy St (gallerydifferent.co.uk): Giulia Zaniol / "Brand Art Sensation: a Mass Debate" – An exhibition that question three of Britain's most influential art personalities; Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin and Grayson Perry and how they have blurred the lines between luxury labels and fine art, June 9-13.

Continued on previous page