

# FitzroviaNews



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

Issue 146 Autumn 2017

## Charity calls for tougher action on air pollution

A Fitzrovia charity has called on the Mayor of London to take tougher action to combat air pollution in central London by restricting motor vehicles on high pollution days.

The Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association, which campaigns on behalf of residents in the district, says the Mayor "must restrict motor traffic movement in the whole of central London" and "ban all but emergency vehicles on high pollution days".

The charity made the call in its response to the Mayor's consultation on plans for the "transformation of Oxford Street", which ended in June.

The Neighbourhood Association is opposing the "transformation" proposals as put forward by Transport for London and Westminster City Council and slams the Oxford Street vision as a "trophy project" that fails to deal with the more difficult issue of toxic air across the West End and central London.

"The Mayor and TfL must tackle air quality and congestion over a much wider area than just Oxford Street. Yet the ideas being put forward would move air pollution and congestion into the streets surrounding Oxford Street."

The charity which also provides housing and welfare advice to people in Camden and Westminster and is the publisher of *Fitzrovia News* expressed concern about the health of children at a local school which was identified in the recently published report by mayor Sadiq Khan as being surrounded by illegally high levels of the pollutant NO2.

"The 200 children at All Souls Primary School in Foley Street are exposed to an average of 47.9 micrograms of nitrogen dioxide per cubic metre. This exceeds the EU legal limit which is 40 micrograms per cubic metre of air," it said.

The charity opposes calls to ban cyclists from Oxford Street and pressed for environmental and access improvements.

"Oxford Street should be an accessible place for all shoppers

whether they are able bodied or have disabilities. There should be places to sit and drinking fountains and public toilets at regular intervals along the street. It should also be a pedestrian and cycle friendly street. It should have a 10 mph speed limit."

Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association is also carrying out monitoring of NO2 levels at four sites in Fitzrovia as part of a borough-wide project with Camden Council and other community groups. The charity is pressing Westminster Council to also monitor NO2 levels in Fitzrovia's streets.

The Association has asked Camden Council to restrict through traffic in Goodge Place after a similar scheme in Warren Street was hailed a success. It has also asked Westminster Council to close Riding House Street to motor vehicles at the junction with Cleveland Street. Both closures would allow cycles to pass and retain residents' parking and allow access for businesses.

Air pollution is becoming an increasing concern for both people living and working in London. A report published in the British Medical Journal states that University College Hospital in Fitzrovia is surrounded by air that is double the legal level for the pollutant NO2 and ranks as the tenth most polluted NHS site in London.

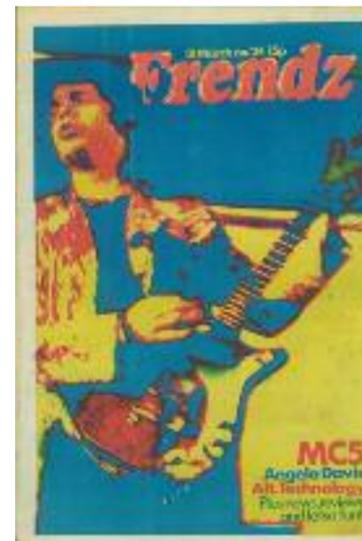
A nearby clinic at the Portland Hospital is even worse off and ranks at number four in the league table of health centres surrounded by unhealthy air.



Jazz group Digby Fairweather's Half Dozen entertain the congregation at All Saints Margaret Street for Father Michael's celebration of the 25th anniversary of his ordination see story page 7. Photo: Andrew Prior andrewgprior@blueyonder.co.uk

"This new finding should not put people off coming to hospitals, but it does show that across

London air pollution is a major problem requiring immediate action," says the BMJ.



Underground press scene of the 1960s  
Page 14



The face of an assassin  
Page 12



  
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# GIGS

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# Letters, emails and comment

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

## BBC wartime appeal

I am trying to find the answers to several questions about the impact of early broadcasting on Fitzrovia and the lives of local people from the 1920s to 1950s.

Do any of your readers have any information (or know others that do) on the following questions:

Did the BBC employ many local people?

Which local venues did the BBC broadcast from? I know some of them: St George's Hall, The Queen's Hall, the Paramount and, I believe, the Grafton Theatre during war-time and possibly the Scala Theatre. Were there any others?

How was the presence of the BBC felt in Fitzrovia? Were there particular pubs and restaurants favoured by BBC staff at that time (1920s-1950s)? Which other local industries might have sprung up or been boosted by broadcasting?

Were there formal or informal connections between the BBC and, say, the Soho film industry or other local media or arts industries?

If so please get in touch with me through this newspaper [contact details on page 2].

**Ann Basu, by email.**

## Help needed to combat anti-social behaviour at The Warren

Many of the residents in the community who live in the area and use The Warren play area are becoming extremely concerned with the alarming rise in anti-social behaviour, littering and rough sleepers.

We have been continuously contacting our local community police to deal with the anti-social behaviour, which is coming from a local club based by The Warren, with groups sitting around the seating in the day and night drinking.

We have contacted Saul Freeman from the Safer Streets Team to engage with rough sleepers plus Councillor Angela Mason (Safeguarding Children) and

Andrew Wright (Camden Parks).

We are both parents who only want the best and safest environment for our children so we contacted Andrew Wright about our concerns. The council made the Warren a play area, signposted for children, but it has become a multi-use space. Adults that don't have accompanying children have no respect for the families using The Warren play area and have added to the anti-social behaviour: littering and drinking alcohol, which concerns us and many of the families who come to use The Warren.

Our latest cry for help was to contact our local

councillor, Adam Harrison, earlier this year. Also over 20 local businesses and residents who have signed a petition in support of more help from the local police and council to help clean up the community and combat the anti-social behaviour and issues that we face.

Councillor Adam Harrison is now liaising with Fitzrovia Youth in Action, a local charity who manage the local football pitch in The Warren, to try and resolve these issues.

As residents we hope our concerns are listened to and resolved by Camden Council.

**Angela and Carla,  
Whitfield Street**

## Obituary: Sally Fiber

By CELINE HISPICHE

I first met Sally Fiber in 2012 through our mutual friend Beth Saunders. Both Beth and myself were working on projects about Betty May the Tiger Woman, a bohemian muse who frequented Sally's family pub 'The Fitzroy Tavern', 16 Charlotte Street, in the early part of the 20th century.

It was even more exciting to discover the wonderful book that Sally had written 'The Fitzroy'. I loved going to visit her at her home in Northwood. I was privileged to spend several lunches with her and she was a fantastic host.

We both loved storytelling with naughty cream cakes and cups of tea. We both encouraged each other with our work.

She spoke at several of my events. One that was extremely special was at her pub 'The Fitzroy' where she gave everybody a potted history of her life and a detailed and informative account of the colourful people both she and her family had encountered whilst growing up in one of the most historical pubs in Central London.

She kept every archive from the original artwork that hung on its walls to the autograph book that was filled with pictures and anecdotes from its bohemian clientele.

Imagine sitting in the saloon bar with Walter Sickert at one table, Augustus John on another and Jacob Epstein, Nina Hamnett and Betty May propping up the bar. Later famous drinkers were Dylan Thomas, George Orwell and Tommy



Cooper to name but a few! An avid bridge player Sally loved people and made everybody feel very welcome. She was a vibrant and elegant lady who would light up every room. This was a woman who was a real trooper and never complained.

From a very early age she encountered much ill health. Sally always kept her spirits up throughout these bouts and kept marching on.

Sally was a passionate lady who was extremely proud of her family and always spoke so fondly of them and her late husband Arthur.

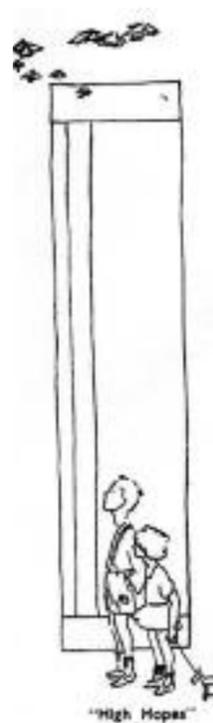
Her work with charities was phenomenal and in her later

years was working on her children's charity that was a rebirth to the original charity her parents set up 'Pennies From Heaven'.

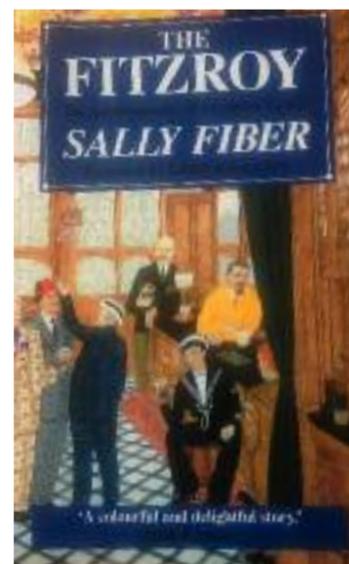
She was a very respected and loved member of the Northwood Liberal Synagogue and was a familiar face in her local community.

They don't make ladies like this anymore, she was one of a kind and will be truly missed by her family and close friends. Let's raise a toast to Sally and I bet she's up there having a drink with family, friends and bygone entertaining regulars.

Cheers Sally!  
Sally Fiber, born 4 May 1936, died 14 August 2017.



Children about to go on one of the outings financed by the "Pennies from Heaven" charity, launched in 1923 by the Fitzroy Tavern. In the picture are Sally Fiber's father Charlie Allchild (right) and her mother Annie Allchild (back row far left). Next to Annie is model Betty May (aka Tiger Woman). The charity was funded by coins thrown in bags attached to darts into the ceiling of the Fitzroy Tavern (logo pictured). Sally, who was born in the pub, later relaunched the fund as the Fitzrovia Pennies Charity which survives to this day aiming to "captivate and cultivate creativity in children of all ages."



## Affordable housing reduced to zero in new plans for former hospital building



Arthur Stanley House in Tottenham Street is now owned by American private equity firm Westbrook Partners who have new plans for the site.

Westbrook say they have “improved redevelopment proposals” for a mixed-use scheme designed by architects Allford Hall Monaghan Morris. However, while summary plans seen by *Fitzrovia News* show an improved visual design and space for a GP surgery, it is an office-led development with only nine homes and nothing in the way of affordable housing or public open space.

Previous plans for the site which were approved after an appeal hearing included 10 private flats and two social rented homes.

The site in Tottenham Street, Fitzrovia was last used for outpatients in 2005 and its ownership was split among at least two parties. Since then it has passed from one owner to another in London’s fluid property market.

UCLH NHS Trust sold its share in the vacant site to its development partner, and naughty sibling, UCLH Charity.

UCLH Charity fought a battle with local community groups and submitted a planning

application to develop the site as mostly offices, instead of providing a housing-led scheme as described in a planning brief in the Fitzrovia Area Action Plan.

Camden Council refused the application and UCLH Charity then sold its interest to two anonymous shell companies based offshore. UCLH Charity allowed these shell companies to use its right to appeal the refusal of planning permission, and in 2016 a government inspector ruled in their favour overturning Camden’s decision.

Now the owners behind these anonymous companies have revealed themselves as Westbrook Partners and *Fitzrovia News* understands that they have recently acquired the freehold of the whole site, too.

Westbrook are no strangers to property in London. In 2014 they obtained the freehold of Dolphin Square in Pimlico, once the largest block of flats in Europe. After first buying the headlease, Westbrook created 612 Jersey-based companies, and sold each company one or two flats on 25 year leases. Westbrook then won the right to gain the freehold of the entire site through collective leasehold enfranchisement from freeholder Friends Life after an appeal court ruled in their favour.

In the same year they bought the New Era Estate in Hackney and set about raising rents to levels which would have priced tenants out of their homes. But Westbrook’s ownership was short-lived and they were shamed into selling to an affordable housing provider after a high profile protest which was supported by the celebrity Russell Brand.

A report in the Guardian described the company’s behaviour in New York as using property like a cash machine.

## Short street that’s long on car crime

One of the shortest streets in Fitzrovia with mainly disabled, residents and ambulance parking spaces, is a hotbed of car theft crime, according to recent Home Office data.

Greenwell Street (between Cleveland Street and Bolsover Street) had 27 car crime offences in the seven months from February to July this year.

This makes it the third highest in the whole of London, according to Co-op Insurance.

## Sexual entertainment venue gets later entrance hours and alcohol sales

Camden Council has given permission for a late night venue on Tottenham Court Road to extend its admission hours and the times it can sell alcohol, but only on condition that it continues to be a sexual entertainment venue.

The Spearmint Rhino “gentlemen’s club” was granted a variation on its premises licence to allow the public admission until

3.30 am and for alcohol sales until 4 am. Previously the club could allow customers to enter the premises until 2 am and alcohol sales had to cease at 3 am.

It also advises motorists to park close to other cars, turn wheels towards surrounding vehicles or the curb, and park on main roads or near shops and restaurants.

The police objected to the variation raising concerns on the grounds of preventing public nuisance and crime and disorder. Of particular concern was the possibility that the licence if granted could be transferred to a different owner who might run a late night bar. But the objection was withdrawn after Spearmint Rhino agreed to conditions where-

by the extended hours would be allowed only on condition that the premises continues to hold a sexual entertainment licence. Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association maintained its objection to the variation arguing it would cause noise nuisance and contribute to crime and disorder in the area during the early hours of the morning.

A licensing panel at Camden Town Hall on 24 August allowed the variation with the agreed conditions.



## Residents praise speedy firefighters after blaze in Langham Street flat

Residents expressed their gratitude to firefighters who raced to a street in Fitzrovia in July to put out a fire which engulfed a home in a mansion block.

Fire crews from Euston, Paddington and Soho smashed through locked doors to extinguish a fire and stopped it spreading to other homes in a residential building in Langham Street at around 10am.

Earlier an internal fire alarm had alerted residents who fled Holbein Mansions, some with their pets, in panic as smoke filled the building. Witnesses said crews wasted no time in getting the fire put out and praised the men and women of the London Fire Brigade for saving their homes.

In a statement London Fire Brigade said: “Four fire engines and 21 firefighters and officers were called to a fire at a flat in Langham Street in Fitzrovia.

“Part of the lounge of a first floor flat was damaged by fire. One man left the property before the arrival of the Brigade and he was taken to hospital by London Ambulance Service crews.

“The cause of the fire is under investigation,” said the LFB.

## New times for rubbish and recycling in Fitzrovia West

Westminster council is changing waste and recycling collection times for some Fitzrovia residents and businesses this autumn in an effort to tackle the blight of rubbish left on the streets at all times of day.

A pilot scheme has been introduced in ten streets from 5 September in partnership with the Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum, and residents and businesses have been sent letters explaining the new collection days and times.

The council is also threatening to fine people who put rubbish on the street outside of the stated times, and punish anyone caught leaving out bulky items such as fridges, mattresses and tables with “substantial fines”.

The Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum said the existing system which was confusing for many people had to change.

“The pilot improves and simplifies the collection arrangements, including an increase in recycling for all streets and an increase in rubbish collection in some streets,” says the Forum.

However, the new scheme has drawn criticism for being equally confusing, and many residents want the bulk refuse and recycling bins returned to the streets.

The removal of the street bins has been extremely unpopular and several residents have told *Fitzrovia News* they were never consulted about their removal and want them put back.

Check your collection times at [westminster.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish](http://westminster.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish)

## News in brief

A new book about **Bloomsbury** by Dr Matthew Ingleby from Queen Mary University of London traces the area’s fascinating history from its foundations in the late 17th century to the present-day. *Bloomsbury: Beyond the Establishment* is published by the British Library and is available for pre-order, price: £10.

Volunteers are needed to help count **street homeless** in Camden this autumn. The count will take place in the early morning in October or November. If you can help please contact Camden SST by email on [streetsafe@cgl.org.uk](mailto:streetsafe@cgl.org.uk) or by calling 0207 833 7970

## Skinny house in the news

Several newspapers ran a story about Westminster council giving planning permission for a “skinny house” to be squeezed into a disused alleyway between a pub and an office block on the Euston Road.

The Sun, The Telegraph, The Independent, and the Evening Standard all reported on the four-storey family-sized home to be built in a gap a little over three metres wide.

Fitzrovia estate agent Jonathan Hudson thought the house would suit a particular kind of buyer:

“I can see an exec or someone well-paid who is looking for something a little bit quirky and a little bit unusual living there. “It’s not going to suit a family,” he said.

Buyers may also think twice about living next to a road that frequently has twice the legal limit of various pollutants.

Not as if that bothers people in the buy-to-leave market who use property as a safe deposit box: a practice that is becoming increasingly commonplace unfortunately.

## Camden Council rubbish and recycling collection

The next delivery of Camden-branded orange bags for residents’ non-recyclable rubbish is arriving in September. You can start using these bags in October.

Camden’s contractor Veolia will deliver a six-month supply of bags, with enough for you to use up to two a week, or four bags every two weeks.

Residents in Camden should check their rubbish and recycling collection times. Many streets have a once a week collection.

For more information and to check you collection day see: [camden.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish](http://camden.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish)

## 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 5 December  
Deadline Friday 17 November  
[news@fitzrovia.org.uk](mailto:news@fitzrovia.org.uk)

## Planners give go ahead for Workhouse redevelopment

Camden Council's planners have approved plans for the site of the former Strand Union Workhouse on Cleveland Street to be converted into homes and offices with a landscaped courtyard.

The grade II listed Georgian workhouse will be retained along with some of the later additions to the building. But the "Nightingale Wards" to the rear of the site will be demolished to make way for a tower block with offices and a public open space.

50 homes will be built: 36 for social rent, four intermediate affordable, and 10 apartments to be sold on the open market. Around a third of the site will be for commercial premises.

The controversial plans were strongly opposed by conservationists and social housing campaigners.

The historian Ruth Richardson had called for the Nightingale Wards to be retained and for them to be used for housing (see story on page 5).

The Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association and the Charlotte Street Association argued that 44 social rented homes promised by a s106 agreement should have been provided and that the planned public open space was far too small to meet the needs generated by the development.



## Neighbourhood forum calls on Westminster council to reject Holden House redevelopment plans

The Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum is urging Westminster council to reject plans by property developer Derwent London to part demolish and redevelop a cluster of commercial buildings on a corner site in the Hanway Street conservation area.

Plans by Derwent are for the demolition and redevelopment behind retained facades of 54-62 Oxford Street and 51-58 Rathbone Place (known as Holden House or Evelyn House); and for the complete demolition of 66 and 68 Oxford Street to be replaced with a new "high quality glass-block building".

Nick Bailey of the Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum has written to Westminster council's planners saying the application should be refused.

"This is an important early work by Percy Adams and Charles Holden and we are concerned that the integrity of the listed building will be lost if redevelopment occurs.

"This site was designed and has evolved with a series of out-build-



ings and an internal courtyard in 54-62 Oxford Street. This pattern of development is typical of Fitzrovia and enables a variety of businesses to locate in this and similar locations.

"While the front façade and external appearance will be retained the character of the building and its architectural integrity would be completely lost," he says.

Derwent argues that the interiors of Adams and Holden's building "have been extensively remodelled and its architectural interest is now



## Rathbone Street's lady of the night gets screwed back into place

One of Fitzrovia's quirky little architectural details has made a welcome return to a window above a pub after a change of heart by a property developer.

The Newman Arms pub in Rathbone Street had for many years a picture of a young woman at an upstairs window peering into the street below. Like many buildings in Fitzrovia it was once home to a brothel and this painted lady of the night is a depiction of those former times. The artwork was on a timber board screwed to the bricks.

But the painting disappeared this summer after Westminster council gave planning permission for the bricked up window, from where she kept watch over the street, to revert back to an opening wood and glass sash frame.

Yet despite the planning approval, property owner Shaftesbury announced the popular lady of Fitzrovia's streetscape was to continue her tenancy.

"The image of the lady of the night located on the third floor has welcomed paying patrons to the Newman Arms pub for numerous years. It has now been agreed she will be restored and left in position as part of our restoration works," declared a notice outside the pub.

Nick Hennegan, who runs the Fitzrovia Literary Pub Crawl, was over the moon with the news: "Well done property developers. The painted lady of Fitzrovia is back!"

considered limited to its external expression".

Fitzrovia West say number 66 should be retained as it is an unlisted building of "architectural merit" and that its replacement would be harmful to Adams and Holden's listed building.

Derwent say "the retention of number 66 would compromise the wider benefits of the scheme".

The site is opposite the western ticket hall of the Tottenham Court Road Crossrail station which is due to receive its first passengers in December 2018. The new transport hub has been the catalyst for a frenzy of activity by property developers which have laid waste to large areas around the new station.

Westminster council is likely to make a decision on the application later this year.

Planning application: Proposed Development Site At 54-62, 66 And 68 Oxford Street And 51-58 Rathbone Place, W1.

## Part of Whitfield Street carriageway closed for 18 months

Camden Council has made a road traffic order to close Whitfield Street between Tottenham Street and Howland Street.

The closure started in August and the road will be shut to all traffic including cyclists until February 2019. The east side footpath will remain open for pedestrians and access only for deliveries to businesses will remain in place.

The road closure was requested by Derwent London and Multiplex to enable construction of a major redevelopment at 80 Charlotte Street (former Saatchi & Saatchi building).

Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association made objections to this closure as it would cause disruption to local businesses, residents parking, and the blocking of an important two-way cycle route running parallel to Tottenham Court Road.

However, Camden Council states it is "satisfied that it is necessary to create this order for the duration specified".

## Demolition to start on fifth construction site in north Charlotte Street

Work to demolish yet another building in Charlotte Street is due to begin adding to the already crowded collection of construction projects that are in progress, and creating yet more disturbance, pollution and misery for local residents and businesses.

Collaboration House at 77-79 Charlotte Street will be the fifth site between Goodge Street and Howland Street where major redevelopments are already taking place and will add to the heavy lorry movements through Fitzrovia's narrow, Georgian streets.

Demolition will also take place at 5 Tottenham Mews which will be the main site for removal of rubble and delivery of the construction materials.

All buildings on the two sites will be demolished and replaced by a new mixed-use building with offices at basement, ground and first floors, and housing on the four upper floors, under planning permission granted by Camden Council.

Residents and businesses surrounding the site have been invited to view the construction management plan and make comments on it.

The site is owned by The Fayre Share Foundation, a charitable foundation promoting philanthropy, collaboration, interfaith relations and conflict resolution. They might have to use those credentials to repair relations with their neighbours in Fitzrovia.

The project is due to be completed by February 2019. Further details can be found at [collaboration-house.co.uk](http://collaboration-house.co.uk).

## Monitoring of air pollution in Fitzrovia

Recording of the levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in Fitzrovia's streets started in August as part of a borough-wide project funded by Camden council.

Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association will run the project for six months recording NO<sub>2</sub> levels at four sites in the Camden part of Fitzrovia. The work will be done by volunteers.

Camden council says there are 21 individuals and community organisations involved with the project across the borough and the data collected will be analysed then published on the council's website.

Volunteers are needed for an hour every month to help with collecting the air pollution data in Fitzrovia.

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# Diesel drivers charged

A 50 percent surcharge will apply to drivers of pre-2015 diesel vehicles paying to park in Fitzrovia, Marylebone and Hyde Park zones as part of Westminster council's Low Emission Neighbourhood initiative.

The hourly charge for pre-2015 diesel vehicles will be £7.35 and all other vehicles will continue to be charged £4.90 per hour, says the council. The surcharge will be added automatically at the point of purchase of parking time.

The area as a whole suffers from some of the highest levels of air pollution in Europe. The 50 percent surcharge level has been introduced to deter the heaviest polluting vehicles from parking in the zone, says the council.

Other measures being implemented include an expansion of on-street electric charging provision, and deployment of Air Quality Champions to tell drivers to stop idling engines when stationary.

The new charges apply to visiting vehicle owners and not residents parking permits. In neighbouring Camden since April 2016 there has been an additional parking charge for diesel vehicles of resident, business, doctor and market trader

permit holders.

Fitzrovia has some of the lowest levels of car ownership in the UK — less than 25 percent of households have access to a car or van — and the neighbourhood is served well by public transport and many people choose to walk and cycle. But the area is blighted by large volumes of through traffic.

**CitiPark is actually undermining Westminster council's efforts to discourage diesel**

The Times newspaper says that "Drivers of petrol and diesel cars will face higher charges to use private car parks under a plan to tackle pollution".

The article by transport correspondent Graeme Paton goes on to say that car park operator CitiPark will "impose a levy on all but the most fuel-efficient vehicles as part of a national drive to cut emissions", and has already rolled out the scheme at its Clipstone Street car park in Fitzrovia.

Paton also refers to Westminster council's introduction of "a 50 per cent levy on diesel cars using roadside parking bays".

But it seems The Times' transport cor-

respondent cannot get his head around simple arithmetic.

The Clipstone Street car park is in Zone F, and on-street parking for diesel vehicles is subject to the surcharge he refers to.

With a charge of only £5 per hour it is actually much cheaper to park a diesel car in CitiPark's car park than it is on the street outside at £7.35 per hour.

Citipark — far from discouraging diesel in Fitzrovia — is actually undermining Westminster council's modest efforts to tackle pollution by undercutting their parking charges for diesel cars.



## Overnight work begins to refurbish lifts at Goodge Street station

Over a year of sometimes noisy night-time maintenance work started in July to overhaul all four passenger lifts at Goodge Street underground station. From September until late-2018 the station will operate with a reduced lift service as two of the four lifts are serviced at a time.

"The work involves the removal and replacement of all the lift components," says London Underground. From September the station will remain open but will operate as exit only from 07:30 to 10:00 on weekday mornings. The lift overhaul work will take place overnight from 01:00 to 04:30 Sunday to Thursday when the station is closed. London Underground says there will be periods of unavoidable noise during the work but that all staff will be briefed on the importance of keeping any avoidable noise to a minimum. If neighbours have any concerns they can telephone London Underground on 0343 222 2424 (24 hours).

## Athletic ambition



Tyler Skow is 18 and he was born in America but he has been a Fitzrovia resident for the past six years.

He has been studying at the American School St Johns Wood.

He is shortly returning to the States to continue his studies at Princeton University New Jersey.

Tyler is keen on sports and outdoor pursuits both as a spectator and a participant.

He has acclimatised to British sports to the extent that he understands the rules of

cricket and his favourite football teams are Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur!

But it is in rowing that Tyler is making his mark. He has been rowing for four years mostly as a single rower but also in the doubles and quads.

He rows in the 100m, 5km and 2km events.

Recently he was selected as part of the reserve team GB to take part in the Coupe de la Jeunesse near Antwerp.

He says "I have two main aims: to be able to row the 2km event in seven minutes, and to become part of the under 23 GB team. I like the British system and the way the GB team is organised."



## Nightingale wards at workhouse should be 'refurbished as housing for local people' says historian

A prominent historian has criticised plans to demolish buildings on the site of the former Strand Union Workhouse in Cleveland Street, ahead of a decision by Camden council on the future of the site.

Writing on Spitalfields Life Dr Ruth Richardson argues that the destruction of former hospital wards would mean the loss of important historical assets associated with "Florence Nightingale's involvement in the evolution of compassionate medical care in this country".

UCLH Charity which owns the site had its redevelopment plans approved on Thursday 6 July.

"I photographed the site recently and discovered the buildings entirely populated by property guardians, as illustration — if such were needed — of the suitability of all these properties for conversion to residential use rather than the needless and wanton destruction proposed by the developers," says Richardson.

"We hope that Camden Council will make a good decision and we want to see the Workhouse, the Nightingale Pavilions, and the other buildings refurbished as housing for local people, because this historic site deserves preservation," she says.

Florence Nightingale in Cleveland St, by Ruth Richardson, published in Spitalfields Life.

## Opening and closing Closed

**Dabbous restaurant**  
39 Whitfield Street  
**Adam Simmonds optician**  
130 Great Portland Street  
**FireDog restaurant**  
92 Newman Street  
**Paolo Marchetti Interiors**  
230 Tottenham Court Road  
**Sal Capone cafe**  
76 Tottenham Court Road  
**Chillies tandoori**  
160 New Cavendish Street  
**Darren Baker Gallery art**  
81 Charlotte Street  
**Sardo Sardinian restaurant**  
45 Grafton Way  
**Sardo Cucina delicatessen**  
112 Whitfield Street

## Opened



**Fajitas and Tequila**  
20-21 Warren Street  
**Sushi Atelier sushi bar**  
114 Great Portland Street  
**Pennydrop coffee**  
13 Tottenham Street  
**Meraki Greek restaurant**  
80-82 Great Titchfield Street  
**Joe and the juice coffee juices**  
96-98 Great Portland Street



**Tombo poke and matcha bar**  
6 Windmill Street



**Inokim electric scooters**  
327 Euston Road  
**Lotus nails and beauty**  
51 Great Portland Street  
**Shadi Salon hairdressers**  
49 Great Portland Street  
**Lakshmi beauty products**  
21 Eastcastle Street  
**Serge Le Phoque restaurant**  
20-21 Newman Street  
**Cath Kidston gifts accessories**  
251 Tottenham Court Road  
**Yo Sushi**  
106 Tottenham Court Road

## Opening soon

**Starbucks coffee** 5 Warren Street  
**Protein Haus juices**  
3 Great Portland Street  
**Ole and Steen Scandi baker**  
1 Bedford Avenue  
**The Flavour Garden eatery**  
1 Bedford Avenue  
**Hema homewares**  
1 Bedford Avenue  
**Noize restaurant**  
39 Whitfield Street  
**The Whisky Exchange**  
90-92 Great Portland Street  
**Gringos Mexican food**  
76 Tottenham Court Road  
**Jova cafe** 69 Charlotte Street  
**Bibimbap Korean cuisine**  
47 Margaret Street  
**Santa Maria Pizzeria**  
160 New Cavendish Street  
**Greyhound cafe Thai food**  
37 Berners Street  
**Harris+Hoole coffee**  
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## Word from the Streets

By CHARLOTTE STREET and her siblings

### BEWARE BOOZY BANTER

The Horse & Groom at 128 Great Portland Street can count itself lucky that Sports Direct billionaire boss Mike Ashley did not vomit in its fireplace back in 2013.

He was recently sued (unsuccessfully) by a former banker employee who claimed that at a "boozy meeting" in the pub he was offered £15 million if he doubled the company's share price to £8 within three years. But when this actually happened Mike could not remember the drunken deal (unsurprisingly but also conveniently) and palmed him off with a measly one million pounds.

Ashley's lawyer said the offer was just "banter" after a "considerable amount of alcohol was drunk in the pub."

The former banker gave written evidence to the court that at a "senior management meeting" in another pub Ashley won a drinking competition by drinking about 12 pints of beer with vodka chasers.

"Mr Ashley then vomited into the fireplace located in the centre of the bar, to huge applause from his senior management team," he stated.

My alcoholic brother Percy notices the ornate fireplace in the back bar of the Horse & Groom is now heavily protected by a fireguard.

### BLADDERED

The bladders of The Oldie journalists are seemingly stronger than their elderly readers.

The toilets in their office at 65 Newman Street have been out for weeks, according to the Evening Standard. One of the staff had used the local pub (the Blue Posts in the same street, see separate story on this page) four times and the pub was getting annoyed. So apparently they moved to John Lewis in Oxford Street.

My elderly and increasingly infirm brother, Mortimer, informs me that this is a distance of 1,250 steps, according to his pedometer (which on his short fat hairy legs equates to just over half a mile). "It takes me about 12 minutes to do that which is a long time for a full bladder," he told me. "Better to use the pub even if it means buying a drink and setting the whole process in motion again."

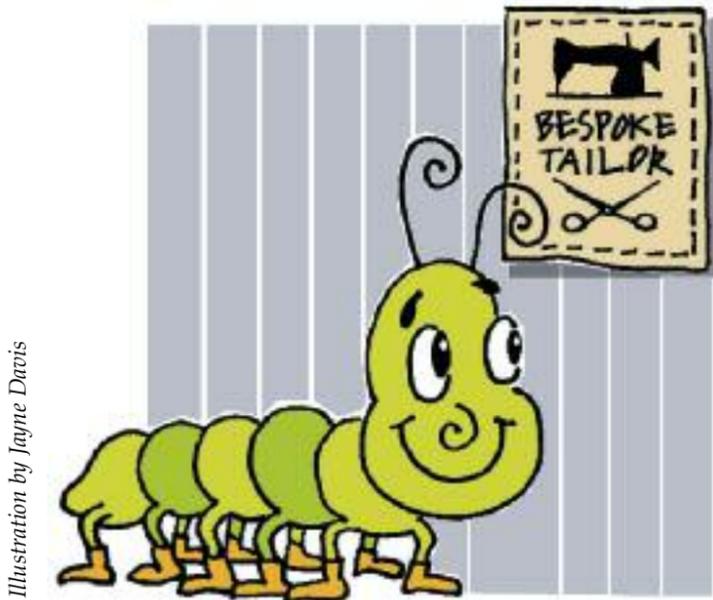


Illustration by Jayne Davis

### LEGGING IT

Madcap pranksters Viv Stanshall (of the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band) and Keith Moon (of The Who) pulled off one of their jolly japes in an Oxford Street tailors.

They asked for the strongest pair of trousers in the shop. They then took a leg each and wrenched them apart tearing them in two. "Not strong enough," they commented before "legging it" without paying.

Then a one legged person (hired by Stanshall and Moon) walked in and declared: "Just what I want, I will buy them." Much to the relief of the shop assistant.

This was recounted by Neil Innes (also of Bonzo Dog) on the BBC radio programme Quote Unquote, which my half-brother Stephen heard and told me about.

### WEIGHT WATCHERS

*There is a perverse contrariness about my sister Margaret. Consuming considerable quantities of Old Speckled Hen has increased her weight enough to make her diabetic (I forget which type).*

*So I thought she would be overjoyed when I told her about the success of a gastric bypass operation at our local hospital that had reduced the weight of a taxi driver by over ten stone and cured his diabetes.*

*I gave her the UCLH Magazine with the details of bariatric (weight loss) surgeon Andrew Jenkinson. He had reduced the size of the patient's stomach to the size of an egg, reducing his weight from 26 stone to just over 15. The loss apparently is the same weight as 150 footballs.*

*To qualify for the operation, stated the article, the patient must have a body mass index of at least 35 (such as 14 stone 9 pounds for a 5 foot 4 inch woman).*

*"My body mass index is not quite that bad," moaned Margaret, "so I will have to put on a bit of weight to qualify."*

*Talk about finding a cloud in a silver lining.*

### PUNCH DRUNK

Who could begrudge boxer Anthony Joshua celebrating becoming world heavyweight champion three times (WBA, IBF, and IBO) in one night by beating Wladimir Klitchko at Wembley Stadium.

He chose to have a tippie with his meal at the Andreas restaurant at 40 Charlotte Street.

I was particularly impressed that the Watford born pugilist did not indulge in the usual stage managed insults against his opponent beforehand to boost the attendance. Instead he said how much he respected his opponent. Such maturity for a 28-year-old (on October 15).

### HIT FOR SIX

*Sporting a shiner of a black eye in the King & Queen (Foley Street) was its retired gvnor Bill Lea. You would never guess the reason in a month of Sundays.*

*He was watching his grandson, Josh, playing in a youth cricket match at Lords when he dozed off. One of the youngsters struck a six which hit poor Bill in the eye. I am glad to say he is fully recovered now.*

### CELEB WATCH

X-Factor winner, singer Matt Terry, was spotted in Charlotte Street a few days after the final.

John Torode, Australian television chef, in Cafe Nero, also in Charlotte Street (not me but the thoroughfare).

### AI KAF

That was the number plate on a black Mercedes parked in Candover Street. Belonging to the boastful owner of a local eatery perhaps?



Cliff Slapper plays piano as Ray Burmiston sings.

### BOWIE BONANZA

What a treat it was to see Ray Burmiston singing "Always Crashing in the Same Car" at the launching of Clifford Slapper's album of David Bowie songs.

Clifford, of course, is the local pianist who writes for Fitzrovia News. Ray lived in the Northumberland Arms (now the Draft House or something like that) on the corner of Goodge Street and Charlotte Street when his parents ran it. He is proud of his posters for the Fitzrovia Festival from the 1970s which he always attended.

He became a singer in 1978 under the name of Ray Barron (his mother Pearl's maiden name) & The Freebies, then The Limit, and more successfully the



Passion Puppets (centre, above). The latter released an album (Beyond the Pale) and three singles with Stiff Records from 1983 to 1984 - including Like Dust (a cult hit on Canadian radio which was rereleased on CD in 1994 and the video of which can still be seen on YouTube).

He recorded an album under the name Kicking the Moon in 2000, but now makes his living very successfully as a photographer.



illustration by Chris Tyler.

### DEFLATING EXPERIENCE

A local copper was alerted to "good quality Swedish pornography" (in the days when it was illegal) being sold at a beer festival.

"We had to go and confiscate all the stock and take them to a magistrate," said Peter Twist (then a police sergeant and now a successful Camden tour guide living just off Tottenham Court Road).

"We raided the stall and were taking the stock into a police van," he told my brother Warren on a recent walk. "The problem was a blow-up doll which I had to seize. It was already inflated so the legs were akimbo and the arms welcomingly outstretched... which made it more difficult to insert into the rear of the van."

"As I struggled to squeeze it in some of the well lubricated beer festival customers shouted out comments such as: 'Cut the foreplay sarge, get stuck in.'"



### SIGN OF TIMES

Congratulations to the Blue Posts in Newman Street for having a proper pictorial sign hanging outside at last. It is based on the story that in bygone times blue posts were the equivalent of bus stops for pre-motorised transport.

### MANDY MINGLES

Mingling at the expense of the Financial Times for its summer party in Berners Tavern, 10 Berners Street, were (Tory) home secretary Amber Rudd, and ("New" Labour) erstwhile Blairite spin doctor Peter Mandelson. It takes all sorts...

Charlotte Street

# Turning to matters spiritual

*Pete Whyatt talks with local priest Michael Bowie about the joy of worship and his interest in the arts*

Father Michael Bowie has been the assistant priest at All Saints Margaret Street since 2014. Before he moved to Fitzrovia there were spells at Berkhamstead in Hertfordshire, Penarth (like All Saints Margaret Street also a Butterfield Church) in Wales, and Sheffield. Father Michael was born and brought up in Sydney Australia where he was raised in the more austere environment of evangelical Christianity.

His father served as a missionary in China until he was expelled during the Communist revolution in 1952.

Michael's transformation from the evangelical wing of Anglicanism came the day he attended a service in Sydney's only High Anglican church - Christ Church St Laurence, in the centre of the city.

"It was a moment of revelation seeing the spectacle and wonder of music ritual and joy of formal worship. For me, my father's tradition was grey, dull and uninspiring. But it was he who first took me to an Anglo-Catholic service and towards the end of his life he shifted his point of view towards mine because he saw what it meant to me."

As a young man Father Michael came to the UK to study the classics reading Greek and Latin at Oxford University. Ordination into the Church of England was a natural progression and Father Michael was ordained in 1992 at Rochester Cathedral. "I felt a calling to priesthood from my late teens, a gradually increasing sense that this was what God wanted me to do. Having moved to England I was able to train for priesthood here, also in Oxford, and though I worked in my home church in Sydney for a few years, this is now my home."

To celebrate the twenty fifth anniversary of his ordination Father Michael recently invited his friends the jazz band Digby Fairweather's Half Dozen to perform in the church.

The whole congregation were invited to the concert and the band played two lively sets in front of the gathered congregation in the marvellous acoustic setting of the church.

"Some of the congregation were a little bit surprised about my choice of a jazz band but I think they may have changed their minds if they came and listened to the music. The band did turn to matters spiritual when they played as their encore "When the saints go marchin' in."



Father Michael in his sitting room. Photo: Andrew Prior andrewgprior@blueyonder.co.uk

Father Michael's love of traditional and mainstream Jazz started when he was given a gramophone and a pile of old 78 rpm records for his seventh birthday.

I met Father Michael in his sitting room which gives a lot of clues about his character and interests. The bookcases are full of classics of English Literature: P G Wodehouse, Patrick White, Dorothy Sayers and his particular favourite are the works of Graham

Greene. "Grahame Greene is a novelist with a Catholic sensibility and a generous empathy with the human condition; his style is deceptively simple which may be why I think he is the greatest Nobel Prize winner we never had."

There are some DVD cases of classic Italian Films lying around (Visconti, De Sica, Fellini). At the moment he is learning Italian so these films provide useful learning and revision.

Just outside his sitting room there is a bookcase full of 78 rpm records and the magnificent gramophone has a special place there.

Father Michael enjoys the Theatre. He is a fan of Shakespeare's comedies and tragedies and Harold Pinter's works. He raved about Tom Stoppard's recent revival of *Travesties*, with Tom Hollander. "Incredibly clever piece which connects the simultaneous presence in Zurich in 1917 of James Joyce, Lenin & Tristan Tzara (the founder of Dadaism) with a performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. It was so good, I saw it twice."

Father Michael loves living in this part of London, he can attend arts and cultural events and usually manage to walk home afterwards.

He expressed concern about some of the changes in our midst: "I fear the local population moving out and the area becoming hollowed out; although our congregation is stable because people come to church here from all over London and beyond. We also have regular visitors from the USA and Australia, so I feel doubly at home."



Musicians L to R. Julian Marc-Stringle saxophone, Nick Millward drums, Digby Fairweather trumpet, Al Swainger double bass, Chris Gower trombone, and Dominic Ashworth guitar. Photo: Andrew Prior andrewgprior@blueyonder.co.uk

## Senior Activities

**Scythians: Warriors of Ancient Siberia**, community preview at the British Museum on *Sunday 10 Sept 12:50pm*. Please call 0207 580 4576 to reserve a ticket.

**Tea and Cakes on a Sunday** will next be on *24 September 3-5 pm*, at Honey & Co, 25a Warren St - Itamar and the staff look forward to welcoming you back for their lovely tea and cakes! Free.

**Reminiscence for Older Adults (50+)**: Wednesdays from *6 September 10.30-12.30* (during school term times) at Fitzrovia Court. These sessions explore not only personal stories but local history in general. Run by Open Age. (£1)

**Let's Sing!** run by Open Age from *Monday 11 Sept, 11-12am* at Fitzrovia Court and will continue until at least December each Monday during term times. Come have some fun and meet new people! (£1)

**Knit, Natter and all crafts between** continues on *Mondays 2-3pm* at Fitzrovia Court. A chance to share and learn craft skills plus have a jolly good chat! (£1)

**Massage** Alan Wysman, a local resident who is a trained acupuncturist and masseur, is offering massages free of charge. *Wednesdays, 2-3.30pm* at Fitzrovia Court. Please contact 020 7580 4576 to book an appointment.

**Regent Street Cinema 307** Regent Street 'Matinee Classics' every *Weds 2:00pm*. Tickets are £1.75 for people over 55, and there are free dance classes there afterward from 4pm, first come first served. More info 020 7911 5050 or look online for the schedule here:

[www.regentstreetcinema.com](http://www.regentstreetcinema.com)  
**Margaret Street Lunch Club** at the WORD tearoom at the Jesus Centre, 83 Margaret St. for over 60s, opens again on *Friday 1 Sept and then every fortnight . 12pm* Lunch and Desert with Tea/Coffee for £4.50 - served at 12.30. Info: Doris Kahnes 020 7637 0600

**Fitzrovia Centre fitness programme** over 55s. Term-time only, starts up again *11 September*. Mondays: Zumba dance (mixed): 9.15-10am (£2) Fitzrovia Village (dance & social): 12-3 (Free) Tuesdays: Zumba Gold for older adults: 11-12am (Free) Wednesdays: Tai chi/Chi Kung (mixed age): 2-3pm (£2) Thursdays: Legs, bums and tums fitness (mixed age): 9.15-10am (£2)

## Editorial code

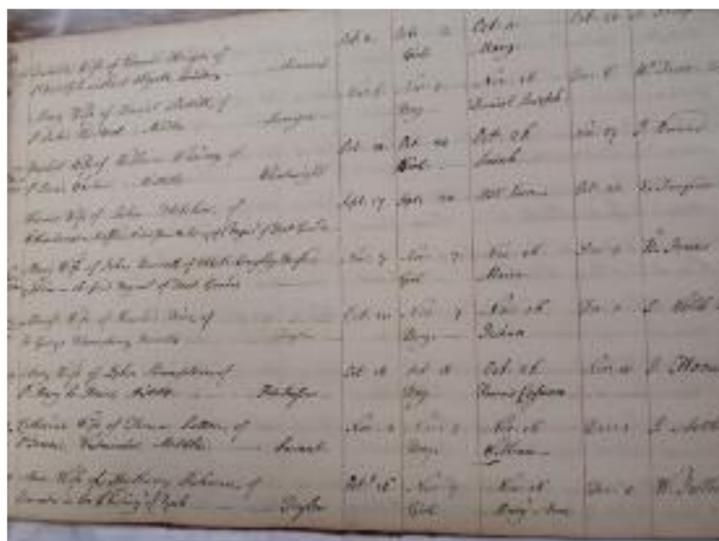
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# Middlesex Hospital's historic gems preserved and catalogued

By JOSIE WALES  
(UCLH arts and heritage  
Cataloguing Archivist)

**F**ormer staff of the Middlesex Hospital may recall the large leather-bound volumes housed in cabinets in the tunnel connecting the main hospital building to Cleveland Street. Comprising medical and surgical case papers, these volumes tell the stories of the countless patients who were treated at the Middlesex.

In 2001, they were transferred to the UCLH repository at 250 Euston Road, where a project is now underway to fully catalogue the archives of the Middlesex Hospital and its Medical School.



The Lying-In Register from 1754

## BAPTISMS

The material in this collection spans over two centuries of patient care and medical innovation at the Middlesex, from its founding as a charitable infirmary in 1745 to its closure in 2005.

Amongst the oldest items are the Minutes of the Weekly Board and Court of Governors, and a Baptismal Register dating back to 1747; the Middlesex Hospital was the first in England to have a dedicated lying-in ward (for married women only).

## CANCER

Containing patient records, administrative and legal documents, medical instruments, and around 5,000 photographs, the collection is an invaluable resource for researchers, documenting not only the history of the Hospital and its Medical School, but also the broader transformation in the teaching and practice of medicine since the mid-18th century.



The original Middlesex Hospital at 8-10 Windmill Street from 1745 to 1756

Home to the first cancer ward in the United Kingdom, The Middlesex continued to specialise in cancer treatment, and provided a world-class education at its internationally renowned School of Radiography.

Before the cataloguing project commenced in 2015, the

majority of the collection was unlisted, and the full extent of its contents unknown. As progress continues, we regularly uncover new items of interest, and move closer towards creating a fully searchable catalogue.

Cataloguing the collection requires each individual item to be listed, carefully repackaged,



Documents and photographs are stored in acid-free boxes in a temperature controlled environment.



The hospital moved to 2-6 Mortimer Street in 1756 and was rebuilt in 1935.

and assigned a unique reference number. A concise description and details of its location are then stored in the database, which helps users to identify specific subject material. Basic conservation work is also carried out; for example, photographs are stored in individual acid-free polyester sleeves, allowing them to be handled by visitors. Some of the more fragile documents and volumes will be digitised, to protect them from further damage whilst still ensuring their contents are accessible to the public.

## EXHIBITION

A lot of the work so far has taken place behind the scenes, but an exhibition is planned for next year to launch the completed catalogue. In the meantime, a small selection of items from the collection can be viewed in the University College Hospital Heritage Trail. There is also a temporary exhibition in the UCH Street Gallery featuring

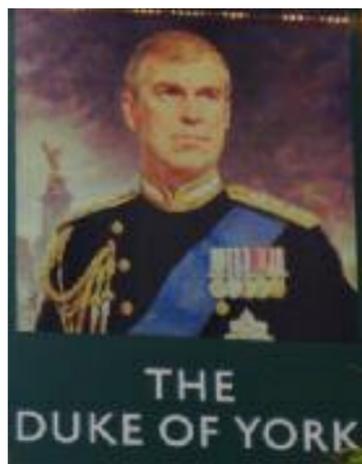
photographs from the Middlesex Hospital, which celebrates the contributions of Support Services staff throughout the years.

For specific enquiries, members of the public are welcome to make an appointment to visit the archive, or get in touch via email. We have had a number of local visitors conducting family history research, in addition to enquiries from as far afield as Australia and South Africa, seeking information on relatives who were born or treated at The Middlesex. By digitising parts of our collection, we hope to further facilitate access to the collection for those who are abroad, or unable to visit in person.

Although the building itself no longer remains, the preservation of this rich archival collection will allow researchers and members of the community to explore the heritage of the Middlesex Hospital for years to come.

Visit: [uclh.nhs.uk/aboutus/whowere/archives](http://uclh.nhs.uk/aboutus/whowere/archives)

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# Soupwithcauliisfantasticshakshukaisdelicious

By Pete Whyatt

The Shoop soup shop at 27 Tottenham Street opened in March.

It is the result of three pals coming together to form the business and make changes to their previous lives. They all bring individual attributes and temperaments which complement each other in the mix.

Noam Oppenheimer brings design carpentry and hospitality, together with boyhood friend Gill Brem, who he knows from his hometown Haifa Israel. Gill, brings his cooking and food skills. He trained in Lyon France under chef Paul Bocuse. Together with an old army colleague Yotam Yinhal who brings his construction and entrepreneurial skills. Noam told me they make a really good partnership with a good mix of skills for running the business.

Noam trained as an architect and spent 10 years in construction and design. He built and designed the shop. "We came to London looking for new opportunities."

"I was tired of architecture and construction, I enjoyed the food business and worked part time in family restaurant pub in Israel. I enjoyed the service side of things dealing with people or more specifically customers.

"We decided on soups because it seemed no one else in this district was specialising in this. Soups are simple and unpretentious, they are healthy and an opportunity to eat a warm nutritious and properly cooked meal in an easily carried quickly served form.

"They provide a basis for experimentation and innovation bringing different cuisines and ingredients together (watermelon gazpacho, lemon and Swiss chard with cauliflower dumplings and shrimp island



Gill Brem and Noam Oppenheimer outside Shoop! Photo: Etienne Gilfillan

stew for example). Also we tailor at least half of our soups for vegetarians and vegans.

"We hope to bring the Israeli traditions of seasonal ingredients, Mediterranean flavours and food freshly prepared every day."

Adding to the innovations they bring a Middle Eastern breakfast dish called shakshuka. "It's eggs poached in a spicy tomato sauce with peppers onions and zaatar. It's served with bread and a spinach and feta boureka.

"We think the dish originated in North Africa and has been introduced into the region. It's very popular in Israel."

As for Fitzrovia, Noam loves it here: "I feel this district is very welcoming and it is truly a Neighbourhood in the traditional sense. We looked at setting the business up in a few areas but this one has the right mix, both busy lunchtime trade and a residential element.

"We are a small start up business and hope we have an identity that's individual and funky. We hope our love, passion and personalities are communicated to our customers through our food. Because of our size we feel we can employ characterful and quirky staff. We would like to think our customers understand that."

# Fitzrovia features in detective series

Fans of detective fiction may enjoy the Sunday night series broadcast on BBC One and which features scenes filmed in the West End including Fitzrovia.

*Strike: The Cuckoo's Calling* is based on the novel by Robert Galbraith (actually J.K. Rowling writing under a pseudonym) about private detective Cormoran Strike who lives and works from an upstairs office in Denmark Street.

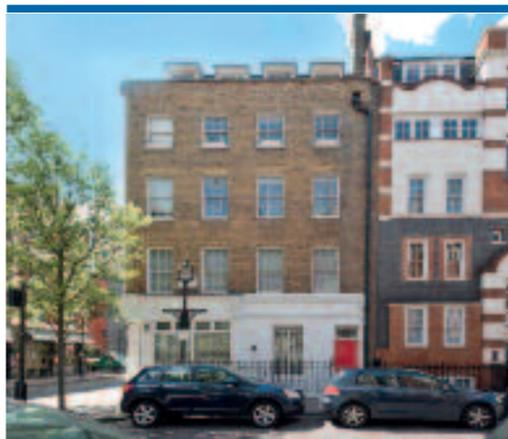
His regular pub is The Tottenham (now renamed the Flying Horse) on Tottenham Court Road but it is actually filmed in the Duke of York in Rathbone Street.

Tom Burke and Holliday Grainger star as Cormoran Strike and Robin Ellacott, and the multi-part mystery also features well-known TV actor Martin Shaw.

The three-part series is available to watch on BBC iPlayer until late September.

A second two-part series called *Strike: The Silkworm* will start at 9pm on Sunday 10 September.

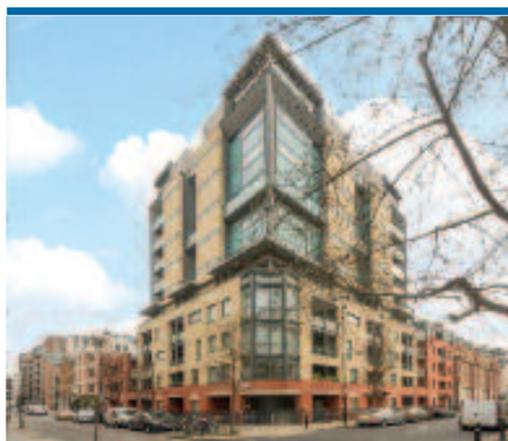
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# War of the wards

By MIKE PENTELOW

**A** ferocious feud raged between two eminent surgeons at University College Hospital in north Gower Street during its early days.

And it led to some bizarre incidents, as related in a new book called *The Mesmerist*, by Wendy Moore.

In one corner was Professor of Medicine, John Elliotson, who was largely responsible for getting UCL to build the hospital which opened in 1834 (originally called North London Hospital for three years).

In the other corner was amateur boxer and professional Professor of Clinical Surgery, Robert Liston, who joined the hospital just after it was opened. He took an instant dislike to Elliotson and their rows were so loud and furious that onlookers expected them to end in violence.

Refereeing between them was another amateur pugilist, Thomas Wakley, radical MP, medical reformer, and editor of *The Lancet*. He was a shareholder in UCL, tirelessly promoted its hospital, and lived round the corner at 35 Bedford Square.

Elliotson was born in 1791 in Southwark, the son of a chemist, and described himself as a cockney. He qualified the hard way and was very much against the medical establishment which gave people jobs through nepotism and patronage rather than merit, so excluding him for many years. He treated more than 20,000 poor patients free of charge in his first ten years from 1818 to 1828.

Before the hospital opened the UCL medical students and their hordes of poor patients relied on a tiny dispensary in north Gower Street (called George Street in those days). As the population in the local slums had doubled to 340,000 in the previous 20 years, this was totally inadequate.

So when the hospital, built on a former rubbish dump, opened with 130 beds the starving and destitute poor and sick flocked to it for free treatment.

Wakley campaigned for medical reforms against the medical establishment so supported the hospital and Elliotson whom he befriended.

A Frenchman named Baron Duportet arrived in London in 1837 to demonstrate what he called "animal magnetism" but was better known as mesmerism. He was laughed at in Middlesex Hospital, in Mortimer Street, but one of the physicians, John Wilson, directed him to Elliotson at UCH. One of his patients suffering from epileptic seizures had been in the hospital for seven months without any improvement. With his hand movements Duportet induced



sleep in the patient for several minutes, and repeated this daily. The seizures diminished and within three months he was cured.

Elliotson learned how to mesmerise his patients, and it did seem to cure some of them, including two Somers Town epileptic sisters, Elizabeth and Jane Okey. He discovered they seemed impervious to pain when mesmerised and demonstrated this before audiences in the hospital, giving the girls electric shocks from powerful batteries, and sewing thread in the back of one of their necks with a medical needle.

Another patient, Ann Ross, had her teeth removed without pain at UCH while mesmerised in 1838. This use as an anaesthetic, however, was not properly followed up until later.

First there were unfortunate diversions more in keeping with theatrical performances. The Okey sisters claimed they could tell while entranced when fellow patients were about to die by the appearance of ghosts near them, and another patient could tell her doctor which medicine to prescribe her and on which shelf it was.

And John Wilson, the Middlesex Hospital physician, experimented with mesmerism on a variety of animals. This included a tomcat that could be lifted by the nape of its neck and have its ears tickled without stirring, fish who let him stroke their backs, and two elephants who eventually became drowsy after lashing out at him with their trunks.

Such diversions were ridiculed by many including Robert Liston who used it to attack Elliotson. Eventually Wakley supported this debunking of mesmerism, and the hospital banned any further practising of it on its premises at the end of 1838. Elliotson resigned the next day.

Fortunately he concentrated more on its use as an anaesthetic. In 1843 he published a pamphlet called "Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations Without

Pain in the Mesmeric State", with detailed reports from around the world, and launched a journal called *Zoist* to promote research into it.

This was read by a Scottish surgeon called James Esdaile who was working in India and encouraged him to experiment with mesmerism. A common disease in that country, caused by an accumulation of fluid in the scrotum, led to enormous swellings and great pain. He used mesmerism to remove a scrotal tumour twice the size of a human head, then another weighing 80 pounds which was so large that the patient, a clerk, used it as a writing desk!

He told Elliotson of his successes and was rewarded with a surgical knife to help with further amputations. This he used to "separate a 90 pound scrotal tumour from its owner" and helpfully supplied a sketch of it to Elliotson.

Meanwhile, despite these examples, Liston maintained his scepticism. To his delight an alternative came along - ether gas. He had known UCL students had inhaled it and found they felt no pain when accidentally knocking their knuckles on a desk. But he was wary of it until an American visiting London told him of its use in an operation in a hospital in front of eminent medical experts.

Liston jumped on this as a chance to upstage mesmerism and undermine Elliotson. He was further emboldened when a dentist, James Robinson, used ether to painlessly remove a tooth from a patient at 52 Gower Street on December 19, 1846 (which has a plaque). He lived and worked at 14 Gower Street where there is another plaque.

Two days later Liston used it to amputate the leg of a butler, Frederick Churchill, at UCH. Previously the butler had refused an operation because of his terror of pain. Five minutes after the leg was removed he woke up and announced he had changed his mind and did not want the leg removed after all. The students present grinned at

each other, and only when Churchill sat up did he realise to his delight it had been removed without pain.

Liston crowed: "Hurrah! Rejoice! Mesmerism, and its professors, have met with a heavy blow... this beats mesmerism hollow!"

This helped redeem his reputation after two other operations had gone wrong. One was to accidentally amputate a patient's left testicle as well as his leg. The other was to kill three people at once! He amputated a patient's leg but also sliced off his assistant's fingers, and slashed the coat of a spectator. The spectator dropped dead from shock, and the patient and assistant both died from infection. "Thus it went down in history as the only operation with a 300 per cent mortality rate," as the book observes.

Ether did not always work however, and when it failed to send two patients to sleep Liston went ahead causing the usual amount of pain.

It could also have side effects such as violent coughing.

This was addressed by John Snow (later to find fame for discovering the cause of cholera) who designed an inhaler to ensure the correct dose and strength was administered which he used at UCH.

Later, chloroform was developed as a safer option. But when this was used by the dentist, James Robinson, on a patient in Gower Street in July 1848 the patient died. Ironically the coroner was Thomas Wakley and the verdict was unclear.

Elliotson, meanwhile, had not given up on mesmerism. In January 1850 he set up the London Mesmeric Infirmary off Tottenham Court Road at 9 Bayley Street (which was called Bedford Street in those days). It treated only the poor and charged what they could afford up to one guinea.

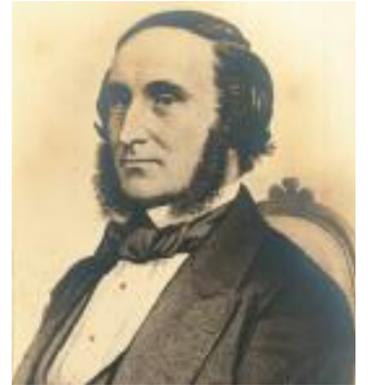
It had many successes. One patient with dropsy caused by an ovarian tumour had spent six months in UCH, where they drained 97 pints of fluid from her abdomen without effect and predicted her death before long. Her sister suggested Elliotson's new infirmary where within a year she was cured, and she returned several years later to demonstrate she was still well.

Another patient, a three-year-old lad with a wounded knee, had been told at Middlesex Hospital that amputation was the only remedy. Again a relative suggested Elliotson's new infirmary and three months later he was cured.

Chloroform was considered too dangerous for a 30-year-old woman who suffered fainting fits and a cough. So her doctor



JOHN ELLIOTSON  
(National Portrait Gallery)



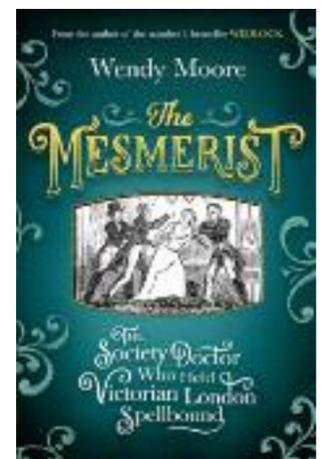
ROBERT LISTON  
(UCLH Archives)

took her to the London Mesmeric Infirmary and successfully completed the operation on her breast cancer.

Yet these successes were rarely reported in the *Lancet* or the rest of the press. Word of mouth however led to its growing success. So much so that after three years it had to move to larger premises in Fitzroy Square. Snooty residents in the square, however, objected accusing it of conducting "evil spiritual works." So it was forced to move again by 1855 to 36 Weymouth Street, off Great Portland Street, when it had become the "Mesmeric Infirmary for the Gratuitous Cure of the Diseases of the Poor."

Elliotson died in 1868 and his infirmary closed a year later.

He would have felt vindicated however in 2005 when University College London Hospital (which includes UCH) became the first NHS trust to develop a hypnotherapy service (the modern name for mesmerism) which can be very effective in curing stammering and other conditions.



*The Mesmerist, The Society Doctor Who Held Victorian London Spellbound*, by Wendy Moore, is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £18.99.

# Love, Object

A short story by  
**SUNITA SOLIAR**

Illustration by Dennis Tuhim from  
the cover of "The Fitzroy" by Sally  
Fiber.

**W**hy doesn't he come? He promised that the sitting wouldn't go on past nine. He said he'd come over straight after.

It's Margaret's fault, trying the only way she knows to keep him there, and who has she lined up to tempt him today? She tries one new girl after another: this one a redhead, this one nubile. She's not the least bit subtle. I've seen her letters: *Mr. Epstein is very enthusiastic about the prospect of painting you. Come any day except Wednesday. Mr. Epstein. As though she can't bear to come any closer. To use one's husband's Christian name! How novel. It's not enough that she shot me, but now she must parade these women in front of Jacob. And can't she see that he's chosen for himself?*

If she keeps it up, I might have to take a stand. I told

*'That would be absurd! To come to life only for a man who wants to cast me in stone!'*

Jacob: *I could always change my mind about pressing charges. I hoisted my sleeve to remind him: her bullet wound in my flesh, see. It had little effect: he kept the full weight of his eyes*



Sculptor Jacob Epstein (right) frequently drank in the Fitzroy Tavern in Charlotte Street accompanied by his models. One was called Dolores (left), who often used to fight there with another of Epstein's models, Betty May, known as Tiger Woman.

on me, as though taking an oracular journey into my soul. He said, *Would you rather a scandal?*

*Rather than what?* I asked. He kept his eyes on me. He has a way of doing that, consuming the object of his gaze, so that you are left with only the shell of yourself. *And if I don't, what will you give me?*

*There's nothing more I can give you, he said, than my whole self.* Smooth. Lazy. Words don't matter to him, only bronze. But he needn't let me know how certain of me he is: I could never sue and he knows it. I could never be the one to cause the painful shift in his vision. And he does adore me. I can't say no to that. I'm much more than mortal, remember that. I am the one he sculpts, while she, Margaret, will always be human, made of thick flesh and dry, hairy legs.

Where is he? It's disgusting what she's doing. Procuring. I know what she thinks: *at least it's me doing it and anyone but Kathleen.* Well, I have something to tell her: when my father caught me reading *Madame Bovary*, he tossed it in the fire, but I got another copy and picked up right where I left off; then I moved onto *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and *Fanny Hill* straight after, so she can just try

to stop me. And she might note that it is he who pursued me. He will not substitute me with a different, cheap edition. We are not all the same to him, no.

Because she's hoping it's all surface he sees in me, as though his sculptor's eye was so shallow. She thinks the only difference between us is alluring lace versus thick stockings. But if that were so, why doesn't she change? Because she knows that she could never costume herself as me, just as I could never dress as her. All women must be allowed to be themselves and if her husband prefers – well. Her husband! A husband is not an arm or a leg, rightful property at birth, and even if it were, I hear that surgeons are becoming highly skilled at amputation.

Why doesn't he come? I have made us a supper of cucumber sandwiches. I could eat because it's something to do, it passes the time, but I don't think I could swallow. It is foolish to be nervous: he will come. She thinks it is merely a matter of whim, the crassness of lust. She seemed very pleased with herself about scarring my skin. No more short sleeves, yes, it's true. I shall have to start a fashion for long ones. He will come. No, I won't eat. I will wait because he

will come. The mark she cast on me is only her acknowledgement of the truth of his love for me.

Those are feet on the stairs. I can't be sitting here waiting as he comes in, as though only animated by him. That would be absurd! To come to life only for a man who wants to cast me in stone! What can I be doing? Drawing. Yes, I'm in the middle of this drawing. I shan't look at him full on. Out of the corner of my eye, then: he's dishevelled from the work of creation.

*I'm sorry Margaret keeps putting you through these tests. I must pay close attention to the detail of this tree.*

*It's not as terrible as all that. You liked her then? The model? I like my work.*

*Without her, the model, there would be no work. Therefore it reasons that if you like the work, you like the model.*

He touches my shoulder. He needn't treat me as though I were a difficult child.

*I didn't realize that a procuress was what you were looking for in a wife. I'd say it was optimistic of you to expect me do the same when we marry.*

He's frowning. Did he like her then?

*I need you to do something for me, he says.*

Would he really replace me? With someone of her choosing?

*Perhaps it would be best if you were to take a carriage ride, for the sake of the press. You, Margaret and I.*

A carriage ride! Surfaces I can do. Surfaces are harmless, they are Margaret's work. They are not the depth of us.

*A unified front. I am still married to her, he reasons.*

His love still intact. Yes, a carriage ride in long, velvet sleeves perhaps. *I suppose I could.*

He kisses my head. *Thank you, he says. Adorable girl.*

Yes! For him anything. Because he came back, because she has not won, because he is the one who adores, isn't he? The one who turns now to his latest sketches, as I linger on him, my ruse of drawing forgotten now that he is here. And he will stay, won't he?

## Poetry corner

9/11 by Terry Egan

*An airplane -  
it strikes a building...*

*And again.*

*A flower  
blooms from each glass stalk,  
each tower.*

*A man drops  
from the hundredth floor -  
motion stops.*

*Out of air  
collapse into dust  
what were there...*

*How many  
firefighters come back -  
if any?*

*Into crowds  
roll the cumuli  
of grey clouds.*

*A statue  
that was a woman  
runs at you...*

*Hordes scatter  
through the New York streets -  
'wha's matter?'*

*Twin towers  
on 9/11 -  
two hours.*

FISH CAKES

by John T Fisher

*When I woke this a.m.*

*I realised I had the*

*Dream of Geroutius*

*and had no idea who G was.*

*Triphowes G? I asked;*

*She answered me nay.*

*She said fish cakes like yours*

*I can get any day.*

FALSE DOORS

by Wendy Shuttler

Giza.

*I saw the Pyramids once:  
they took my breath away.*

*Above the hooting chaos of Cairo  
traffic*

*their powerful  
silence speaks across the ages  
to us today.*

*With those preserved within,  
they seem to have something to say.*

*But what? Not even the Rosetta  
Stone can know*

*The place beyond the door through  
which they go.*

Twilight WC1

*In a Bloomsbury St, not far from  
the British Museum, one hazy  
autumn evening as dusk was falling*

*I saw, by the stripey  
light that craftily slants through  
Venetian blinds, and plays*

*tricks on vision and in the mind .  
...Cleopatra!*

*Long glossy raven hair, imperious  
mouth*

*Painted red. I'm sure it was her!*

*But what was she doing, working as  
the dentist's receptionist?*

*Egypt makes some people crazy.*

## 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



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**11am High Mass**

**6pm Choral Evensong and Benediction**

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[www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk)

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# The UCL student hanged for assassination

By ANN BASSU

**F**itzrovia had an anarchic, insurrectionary spirit that flourished in the 1900s. Its lodgings, cafés and working-men's clubs were often scenes of intense political discussion and there were occasional outbreaks of violent revolt.

Like Clerkenwell, Fitzrovia's history is closely connected with radicalism: it mounted an outsider challenge to mainstream political and social ideas from its beginnings in the late eighteenth-century.

The police and the government worked hard to suppress radicalism in Britain's cities, and were largely successful. But, on 1 July 1909, Indian nationalism led to perhaps the most momentous occurrence of this period linked to Fitzrovia: the fatal shooting by Madan Lal Dhingra of Sir William Curzon Wylie, the aide-de-camp to Lord Morley who was the Secretary of State for India.

This political assassination implicated an unlikely-sounding location at 92 Tottenham Court Road: Fairyland, a penny arcade owned by Henry Stanton Morley (no relation to Lord Morley!). Besides offering coin-in-the-slot machines to passing customers, Fairyland had an upstairs shooting gallery which served as a practice venue for Dhingra and other nationalists for some weeks before the assassination, and on the day of the



MADAN LAL DHINGRA

shooting. Anarchists may also have played a role: one of the guns found on Dhingra was believed to have been supplied by anarchist sources in Paris.

Madan Lal Dhingra was a student of engineering at University College in Gower Street. He had arrived in London in 1906 and became a fervent Indian nationalist under the influence of V.D. Savarkar, a leading member of the Highgate-based India House set who advocated the violent overthrow of British rule in India.

British reprisals in India for revolutionary activities, such as the execution of Khudi Ram for bomb-throwing in 1908, fed a narrative of patriots making sac-

rifices for a free motherland, and increased the desire among nationalists to retaliate in Britain.

A Dr. Desai lectured on "The Making of Bombs" at India House in June 1908; and The Indian Sociologist, edited and published by Shyamji Krishnavarma who had established India House in 1905, also advocated the use of violence for political ends. By April 1909 anti-British feeling was running extremely high at India House. Dhingra, who had been living there, was asked by his parents, who were well-connected and knew Lord Wylie, to move somewhere else. He moved, but remained very closely attached to Savarkar and the others at the House.

After practising shooting at Fairyland on 1 July, Dhingra attended the National Indian Association's evening gathering at Imperial College at which official guests were present. At around 11pm, when guests were leaving, he fired four shots at Wylie's face and head, also unintentionally shooting a Dr. Lalcaca who had tried to help Wylie and who later died from his injuries.

It was reported that Dhingra was urged to shoot Wylie by a fellow-nationalist, Koregaonkar, who was with him and was supposed to have told him, "Well,

go on! What are you doing?" immediately beforehand. Dhingra tried to shoot himself at the scene, but failed when he accidentally put his gun's safety catch on and couldn't fire.

It has been suggested that Dhingra's real aim had been to kill Lord Morley, or Lord Curzon, the former Viceroy of India, only shooting Wylie when he realised that he had no chance of reaching these important figures. Dhingra's attack was intended to be followed by others. According to the India Office's Memorandum on the Anti-British Agitation Among Natives of India in England, "In the second week of July there was some talk amongst Savarkar's set of further assassinations ..."

Dhingra made no attempt to save himself at his trial, making it clear that he had every intention of killing Wylie. Henry Stanton Morley of Fairyland said at the trial:

"About three months ago the prisoner commenced to frequent [Morley's] range for revolver practice; he attended two or three times a week, bringing his own revolver, an automatic Colt, and his own ammunition ... He took a lot of care in his shooting and acquired considerable proficiency. On July 1, about 5.30 p.m., he was at the range, and I saw him fire 12 shots at a target

at a distance of 18 ft.' "(The target was shown to the Jury; there were 11 hits).

According to the Times of 24 July 24, 1909, Dhingra "asked no questions; he maintained a demeanour of studied indifference; he walked smiling from the dock." Dhingra was sentenced to death and hanged on August 17, 1909 by Henry Albert Pierrepont, the father of Albert Pierrepont who was to have a long career as England's executioner.

Some of the key members of the India House set dispersed before the end of July, either to India or to Paris. Savarkar was later caught and sentenced to transportation for life to the Andaman Islands. India House was closed and sold.

Fairyland hadn't seen the last of its involvement in political radicalism. In September 1909, the police were informed that two suffragettes had been using the shooting range, possibly in preparation for shooting Herbert Asquith, the Prime Minister. Morley was visited by the police and confirmed that the women had been seen at the range, but the suffragettes made no more visits and if any such assassination plans had ever existed they must have been shelved. Stanton Morley died in 1916 but Fairyland remained open until the 1920s.

## Truly satisfying dishes twice... but third time unlucky

By the DINING DETECTIVE

The Clipstone, 5 Clipstone Street.

The first time a friend and I went to the Clipstone we, slightly unaware, both managed to order the most expensive main dish on the restaurant that night (Cornish Plaice, turnips, kohlrabi, preserved lemon and dulce beurre blanc £26) and drank rather too many glasses of their very pleasant table wine (£4.50-£5 per glass). So what with some thick and crusty sourdough bread with lemon olive oil (£3.50) as we arrived and sliced goats cheese, Chevrotin des Avaris, with olive oil biscuits (£8) for dessert we exited blinking rather pale-facedly at what we had somehow spent once the 12.5 per cent service charge was added. But we also thought we'd had one of the tastiest, most enjoyable meals we had had for a long time from a local restaurant.

So of course we had to go back - and prove that my £35 per head marker can still obtain round here these days. And it nearly can at the Clipstone, as long as you perhaps refrain from



196 Tottenham Court Road. Page 14 is of a wall plaque at Healt's. PICTURE PUZZLE: The picture on

the latest most expensive mains (Longhorn Onglet with smoked potatoes and grelet onions, or BBQ glazed quails with peaches, celeriac and wild rocket, both £28, and probably both absolutely delicious).

What a nice restaurant this is. Unpretentious, tables close together, some stools at a counter by the window. The chefs in full view. And what a pleasure it is to write that every single thing I have eaten here has been beautifully cooked and seasoned and served. How pleasant the young staff are.

And word has got around: in the summer evenings it has been full before 8pm, and I don't

think you could get in without booking ahead; they have started giving time-slots, and it can become quite noisy if you are there in prime time.

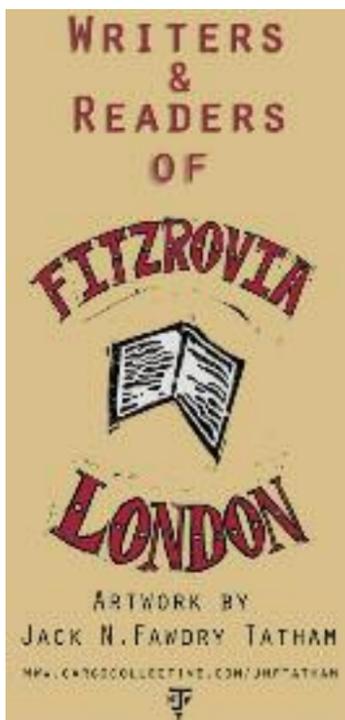
The portions are not large, especially some of the entrees which cost between £6 and £10, but somehow, because they taste so good, are seasoned so well, you kind of savour what you get and feel satisfied. I couldn't ascertain by talking to the waitresses from various (EU) countries whether its antecedents are Spanish or French or Italian or Moroccan or exactly what. But it doesn't matter: the dishes and the seasonings are what they say they are, and are delicious. It's a long time since I have felt so truly satisfied by a restaurant I am reviewing.

On our second visit, apart from (slightly) rationing my wine intake, I had, and enjoyed, ravioli of ricotta and peas with verbena and black pepper (£14). My companion had, from the Charcoal Grill, Octopus coco de paipol, runner beans, parsley and fried garlic (£13) which looked like a sort of stew and which I tried (in the interests of

research) and liked very much also. And that night they were suddenly offering for dessert little petits fours (£2 each) which weren't on the menu (like Apricot clafoutis and whipped marscapone £8 or strawberries and buttermilk pudding and summer herb granita £7) but which finished off the meal perfectly.

I'd like to keep this place secret but that's not what a Dining Detective is for - it's my self I keep secret, not the restaurant! Very recommended.

P.S. O dear! As you know I always think the detective should go back to the crime scene. Since writing this review I took friends to Clipstone, and on my recommendation they had that Cornish Plaice that I had first enjoyed. It was nothing like I had before. "They like to change the recipe" said the nice waitress. "And by the way all dishes are made to share." Some small pieces of fish were served with a carrot puree; no turnip base and if there was still preserved lemon I could not taste it. We did not finish it. Do still go - there was some very nice lamb sweetbreads that time...



### New guide out

A revised edition of Writers of Fitzrovia is available free from the Neighbourhood Centre at 39 Tottenham Street. It includes information on writers and where they lived.

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# A stroll around Sickert's many studios

Mike Pentelow

The many haunts and studios of the artist Walter Sickert (1860-1942) were explored in a guided walk as part of the FitzFest.

The guide was Fitzrovia resident Matthew Sturgis, author of "Walter Sickert: A Life" (published by Harper Perennial in 2005 and still in print).

"He had five or six studios in Fitzrovia, often multiple ones simultaneously," he said. "Every studio had its own energy and he went from one to another according to his mood."

Three of his studios had been previously occupied by artists he admired - Whistler, Frith, and Constable - which further inspired him.

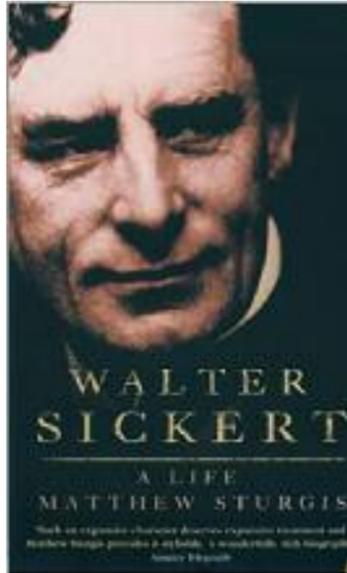
"He often got into debt from these several studios, and barely sold a picture up to the age of 40."

He relied heavily, therefore, on his first wife, Ellen Cobden, daughter of the Corn Law reformer Richard Cobden. She was well off, living in a house near Regent's Park, and was able to finance Sickert's art course, which was in Conway Street, called Southampton Street at the time (the "Sou" is still visible from the old sign on the corner with Maple Street).

Matthew produced a drawing by Sickert of "the dog leg between Maple Street and Clipstone Street" - called O Sole Mio which is in the Rebecca Hossack gallery in Conway Street. Sickert described it at the time as a "grubby area which illuminated his life."

He enjoyed the disparity between this and nearby Fitzroy Square, whose residents he satirically called "Fitzroyalty". These included his friends Bernard Shaw and Virginia Woolf.

Sickert's first studio in Fitzrovia was in 1905 at 8 Fitzroy Street, which had been



The biography (above) and the remaining "Sou" and "St" of Conway Street's old name of Southampton Street (below).



occupied earlier by his great hero Whistler, and so he dubbed it his "Whistler studio."

He had in fact met Whistler at a party in Bloomsbury Street (when it was called Charlotte Street) just south of Gower Street, and became his pupil and biggest supporter until they fell out.

Fitzroy Street in those days was formed of terraced houses backing on to courtyards and mews.

Shortly after this he took the room previously used by Constable at 76 Charlotte Street. "He felt he could touch the spirit of Constable," said Matthew.



Sickert's sketch of Maple Street and Clipstone Street.

This was referred to as the "Constable studio" on his head-ed notepaper.

A couple of years later he leased a room at 19 Fitzroy Street "to exhibit his own experimental new work on Saturday afternoons, advertised as 'Mr Sickert invites you to tea'."

Others joined him and formed the Fitzroy Street Group to produce "art that people such as coachbuilders could afford."

One day the Bishop of Oxford (who was the uncle of artist Spencer Gore) attended and they had to hurriedly hide all the nude pictures.

After these Saturday afternoon sessions Sickert and the other artists loved to go to L'Etoile restaurant at 30 Charlotte Street, which is still there (under new management). Once they rode there in one of the early cars, which was owned by Lady Hamilton.

Sickert and many of these artists formed the Camden Town Group in 1911 to exhibit more widely, but decided to make it men only. This meant excluding two female members from the Fitzroy Street Group - Nan Hudson and Ethel Sands.

"Sickert said they wanted Lucien Pissarro but not his girlfriend, with whom they had artistic differences. That was the excuse he relayed to Nan Hudson anyway."

Then in 1917 he took over the studio at 15 Fitzroy Street, which had been occupied by Frith, the painter of such masterpieces as "Derby Day", and "Ramsgate Sands". Naturally

this became the "Frith studio."

It was directly opposite 19 Fitzroy Street and Sickert would often dash over the road from one to the other to see how his students were getting on.

He also had a studio in Warren Street ("a crooked room at the top of a crooked house"), but unfortunately the number is not recorded.

"He was walking with fellow artist Ambrose McEvoy and saw a 'Studio To Let' sign. McEvoy said to him: 'Be a man Walter and pass it'."

While walking with another artist, Augustus John, they passed a plumbers' supply shop in Charlotte Street, when Sickert remarked: "I wish I had a brass cock."

The guided tour ended at the Fitzroy Tavern at 16 Charlotte Street (where Sickert and his pupil Nina Hamnett spent a lot of time), and Percy Street (where Sickert had friends who had studios there because of the extra light from the large windows). These windows on the first floor of the southern side can still be seen.

In answer to questions about Sickert's rumoured association with the Jack the Ripper murders he dismissed them out of hand. There was no evidence that he had a studio in Cleveland Street, he said. (The case for the Ripper connection made by Stephen Knight in his 1977 book was that from 1882 to 1886 Sickert occupied 15 and 21 Cleveland Street, near where ripper victim Mary Kelly lived and worked).

## When gays were jailed for being disorderly

The gay heritage of Fitzrovia was included on a special Camden council sponsored walk celebrating 50 years since male homosexuality was partly decriminalised.

A police raid on a basement flat at 25 Fitzroy Square in 1927 demonstrated the attitudes of the time, said guide Richard Cohen.

"There are photographs and reports of it in the National Archives," he said. "The police described the gay people there as 'nancy boys' and 'effeminate' and how they used blotting paper for make-up."

"Love letters found there were seen as incriminating."

"Bobby Britt, who lived there, got 15 months' hard labour for keeping a disorderly house."

This was the same charge used in 1955 to prosecute Charlie Allchild, the manager of the Fitzroy Tavern in Charlotte Street.

"It allowed camp customers in the bars with dyed hair and rouged cheeks," said Richard. "It was supposedly deemed out of bounds by the military authorities, but lots of sailors and soldiers used it."

Among the celebrated drinkers there at that time were the bisexuals Lord Boothby and Tom Driberg.



Tom Driberg gets friendly in the Fitzroy Tavern.

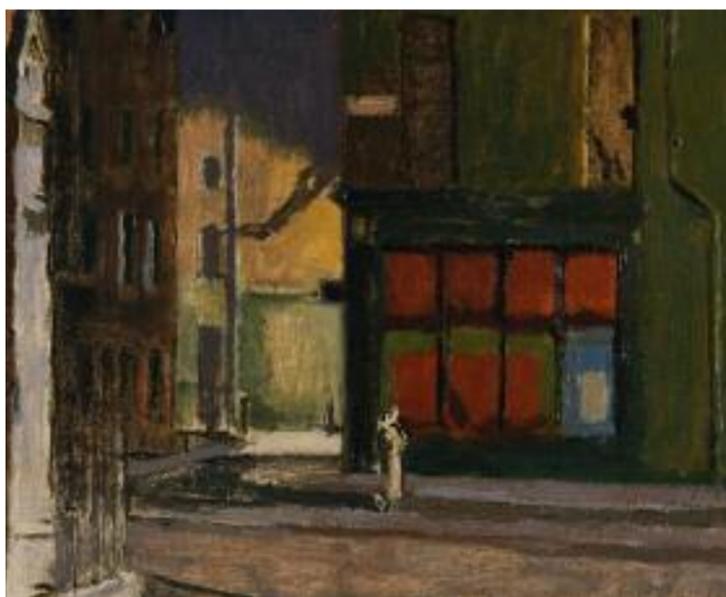
The first UK meeting of the gay rights group Stonewall took place in 1989 at 16 Chenies Street, said the other guide Jo Wilkinson.

The gay actors Ian McKellen and Michael Cashman both came there for Stonewall meetings.

RADA Studios are now there, but it was the Drill Hall, at the time (having been the home of the Bloomsbury Rifles from 1882).

The famous ballet dancer Nijinsky had rehearsed there back in the 1900s.

The Action Space theatre group also staged many gay productions in the 1970s, said Jo.



Part of a painting of Maple Street by Sickert.

# Going underground

By CLIVE JENNINGS

**P**icture the scene: it's June 1965 and Barry Miles (Fitzrovia resident for over 50 years and Czar of the Counterculture) and his pal John "Hoppy" Hopkins join 7,000 other like minded souls at The Royal Albert Hall for an international poetry gathering, led by the Americans Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Gregory Corso.

Miles (for nobody calls him Barry) explains: "As a reading it was not special; as a meeting place for young people – students, musicians, poets, actors, people from the arts, the sciences and education - it was a revelation. There were thousands of us! My friend Hoppy and I looked at each other and nodded, we both had the same idea. These people need a newspaper of their own! There was a constituency there that Fleet Street was simply not covering."

The idea for International Times (IT), the first European underground newspaper, was born. Co-editors Miles and Hoppy got busy. The company Lovebooks Limited was formed, a used offset litho press was purchased and a proto IT - consisting of facsimiles of Miles' correspondence with pals on the underground scene in the US, graphics and a comic strip from friends, and a competition with a 20 guinea prize supplied by Paul McCartney - was produced. Around 500 were printed and the next day they took them to the 1966 CND Easter Aldermaston March – in a couple of days they had all gone.

Time to get organised. Lots of people offered to help and



various luminaries came on board including Jim Haynes, the American proprietor of The Traverse Theatre, who supplied them with their first typewriter, which came from Sonia Orwell and supposedly, had been owned by her husband George.

At a raucous meeting to decide on a name someone shouted "IT", which could be interpreted as Intergalactic Times, Inscrutable Times, Insane Times, but International Times

was settled on. The logo, which was supposed to feature the original It-girl Clara Bow, mistakenly used a picture of Theda Bara in her 1918 silent movie role as Salome, an image that has endured for 50 years.

The paper was launched with a huge, all night party on Saturday, October 15, 1966, held at the then semi derelict Roundhouse in Camden Town (courtesy of playwright Arnold Wesker).

Around 2,000 people attended including Michelangelo Antonioni, Monica Vitti, Paul McCartney and Jane Asher. Pink Floyd and the Soft Machine played from the back of an old wagon with a bed sheet tacked up behind them for what would be for many people, their first lightshow. The first issue included an obituary of André Breton and a poem by Adrian Mitchell.

IT was followed closely by OZ, which was co-edited by Fitzrovia's Felix Dennis, who,

long before he had offices in Cleveland Street, was operating as "H. Bunch Associates", named after the Robert Crumb cartoon character Honey Bunch Kaminski.

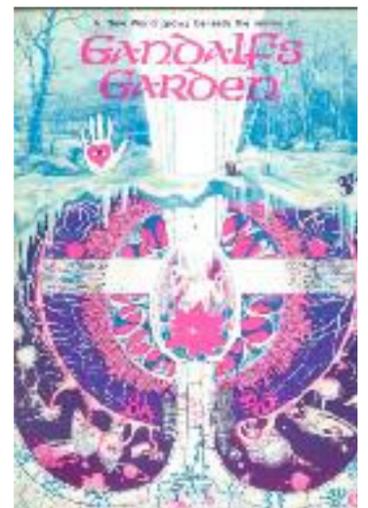
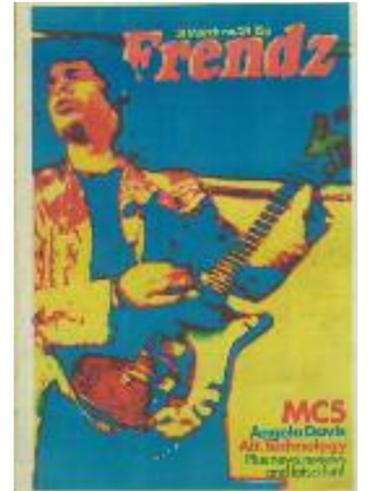
Pretty soon there were several other underground publications. The club of choice was UFO (Unlimited Freak Out) co-founded by Hoppy, which was also in Fitzrovia in an Irish dancehall called the Blarney Club in the basement of 32 Tottenham Court Road, under the Gala Berkeley Cinema.

The underground press changed the cultural landscape of Britain forever, openly condoning recreational drugs, homosexuality and sexual freedom. "What is extraordinary is how threatened the establishment felt by the underground press and the hippy movement. In no way were we going to smash the state, I mean there were only a few hundred of us anyway but they took it extremely seriously," says Miles.

I personally remember as a schoolboy, it was a badge of honour to have a copy of IT ostentatiously sticking out of one's school bag. We really did feel that this was a new psychedelic age in gloomy post war Britain.

As Miles explains: "It's curious that when people look back 50 years to the youth movement of the sixties, they don't mention the underground papers and they were the main way that the ideas got transmitted. ... I don't think it's a conspiracy, it's just that we never think where do these ideas come from and how do they get transmitted?"

Miles has solved this by collaborating with curator and art dealer James Birch to create an exhibition and a book that brings together for the first time every single iconic cover from International Times, Oz, Friends, Friendz, Gandalf's Garden, Black Dwarf and Ink, along with comic books, original ads, graphics, posters and flyers. Much of the material is still controversial 50 years on.



**The British Underground Press of the Sixties, by Barry Miles, will be published on October 5 and is only available from [britishundergroundpress.com](http://britishundergroundpress.com) and is accompanied by an exhibition at A22 Gallery, 22 Laystall Street, Clerkenwell from September 28 to November 4. Thursday to Saturday, 12 – 6pm, or by appointment.**

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## Picture puzzle



How well do you know Fitzrovia? Can you identify where this engraving is? Answer below the Dining Detective picture on page 12.

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# Soothing The Savage Beast

**A**s your resident Fitzrovia pianist I try to play my part in passing on my skills to the pianists of tomorrow. At any one time, I tend to have a very diverse slate of students.

Countless times, whilst serenading the revellers in one of the local hostelrys, I am approached very enthusiastically by one of the more wobbly amongst them, with an enquiry about taking piano lessons from me. Sometimes it has appeared to be a euphemism and, not wishing to add a new "Piano-Teacher" instalment to the old British comedy film franchise which began with "Confessions of a Window-Cleaner", I have politely declined. Mostly, however, it is someone who has been watching me play and fancies the idea of slipping effortlessly into such work themselves. I always proffer my business card with the advice that it takes a lot of dedication and time, and the suggestion that they sleep on it, and that if they are still keen to pursue piano studies the next morning, they can call me to make the necessary arrangements. In almost every case I have heard nothing more, and



**'The Piano Man' No 10**  
by  
**CLIFFORD SLAPPER**

can vividly picture their scramble the next morning for the headache pills and the fry-up instead.

For some time, I lived opposite a quite legendary striptease club, which happened to be the location for Jeffrey Archer's first fateful encounter with Monica Coghlan. It was also where Ronnie Wood met Ekaterina Ivanova. The owner had seen me passing every day, and on one summer's evening stopped me and asked for a word. He was the kind of man from whom such a request would be prone to stop your heart for a moment, as well as your feet. It turned out that he had heard locally that I was a pianist. He had always enjoyed a spot of crooning, and liked the idea of accompanying himself on the piano. He had engaged the services of a piano teacher, but that teacher had, in his wonderfully explicit vernacular, "turned out to be a



Cartoon by Chris Tyler

Berkshire Hunt" (I paraphrase, of course). I could see which way this was heading, and at the same moment could see his hands gesticulating between us. They consisted of gnarly fingers the size of truncheons, several of which bore heavy duty bands of gold, not unlike knuckle-dusters. He said he wanted me to replace the piano teacher who had been found wanting (and not found since), and asked for

my details. Another card found its way from my pocket into this gent's fist and off I trotted. I was somewhat relieved when this encounter was followed up no more efficiently than those with the drunken enthusiasts in my late-night audiences.

On a more positive note, I have had, and do have, many wonderful students, aged from 7 to 70. To be part of their gradual progress in mastering their 88

new black and white friends along the keyboard, is one of life's greatest pleasures for me. In his 1697 play, *The Mourning Bride*, William Congreve mentioned the wonderful power of music. "Music has charms to sooth a savage breast, to soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak." He is often misquoted, perhaps owing to British prudishness. But whether it is the breast or the beast which music soothes, its palliative effects are vast and varied for us all. One current and very moving example of this is the treatment in the USA of babies who are born straight into the agony of withdrawal from heroin, as their mothers were addicted to and taking heroin or methadone during their pregnancy. The babies are being weaned off of the drug, partly by playing them gentle and relaxing classical music for extended periods. The films of this pioneering work, showing the babies' faces of pain and anguish visibly relax and start smiling when the music begins, are enough to convince even the hardest heart of the special importance of music to human happiness.

## Looking back through the archives See also [archive.fitzrovia.org.uk](http://archive.fitzrovia.org.uk)

### 40 years ago

From *Tower*, August 1977:

#### FESTIVE FOOTIE

Scottish football fans attended the Fitzrovia Festival in Charlotte Street after watching their team beat England at Wembley.

"The colourful Scots enjoyed the festival as much as anyone, and one even pressed a donation to festival funds into the hand of treasurer Richard Buckley after he had overheard his recounting of a tale of woe about the perfidy of a certain publican."

#### BABOON BONNET

A baboon jumped on the bonnet of the bus of the All Souls Luncheon Club on an outing to Windsor Safari Park. It then walked over the roof and jumped off at the back.

"A lion was lying beside the cars on a concrete slab as if he was posing for photographs. That I hadn't even seen in Kruger National Park," reported Sidney.

#### COPS BARRED

A coach trip to Goodwood races was organised by the Northumberland Arms (now the Draft House), in Goodge Street.

The party, including two policemen, was barred from a Horsham pub before even setting foot inside.



Pictures of the 1977 Fitzrovia Festival by Nick Bailey and Judith Thomas

#### SEA ANGLERS

A deep sea angling club was set up by the Valiant Trooper (now The Fitzrovia) in Goodge Street.

It ran fishing trips to Ramsgate and other places.

#### MESSY MURDER

The murder of one Warren Street car dealer by another in 1947 was described in a feature.

The murderer was Donald Hume, who killed Stanley Setty then dismembered the body and dropped the pieces from an aeroplane into the English Channel. The straplaine referred

to "the car dealer who ended up as spare parts."

This was ghoulishly illustrated by cartoonist Chris Tyler (see below), who still contributes to *Fitzrovia News*.



### 10 years ago

From *Fitzrovia News*, Autumn, 2007:

#### SMASH AND GRAB

"North Soho 999, a true story of Gangs & Gun Crime in 1940s London" was published to mark the 60th anniversary of a local smash and grab raid ending in murder.

The raid took place on the corner of Tottenham Street and Charlotte Street in 1947, as described by author Paul Willetts.

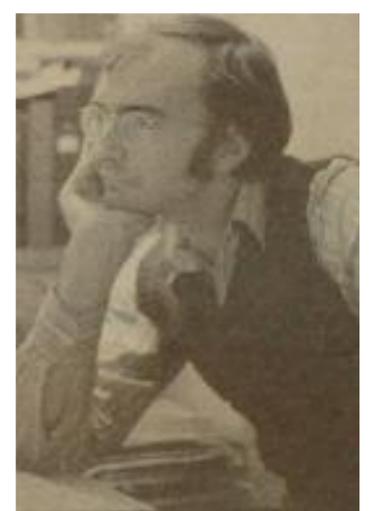
Two of the robbers Harry Jenkins, 23, and Christopher Geraghty, 20, were hanged by Albert Pierrepint, a regular at the Fitzroy Tavern, who saw the murdered motorcyclist lying in the street but thought it was just a road accident and continued on his way.

#### FOUNDER DIES

Patrick Ensor, the driving force behind *Tower*, the forerunner of *Fitzrovia News*, in 1973 died at the age of 60.

He and his artist wife Judith Thomas lived at 19 Percy Street. *Tower* identified the area by depicting the newly built Post Office Tower in its masthead. *Tower* lasted until 1979 by which time they had left the area.

Patrick worked for the *Guardian* and played for their cricket



PATRICK ENSOR: Our first editor who died ten years ago.

team, touring Sri Lanka where he bowled out that country's star batsman and captain Duleep Mendis for a duck.

#### COMMUNITY

Westminster Council gave permission for the building of the Community Centre at John Astor House in Foley Street.

The University College Hospital Trust agreed to let it have the swimming pool and adjacent areas for a peppercorn rent.

"Both the Fitzrovia Youth in Action, and the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association will have a permanent base within the Community Centre," it was reported.

# WHAT'S ON AROUND FITZROVIA

Email [news@fitzrovia.org.uk](mailto:news@fitzrovia.org.uk) by November 17 for the December issue, and put "Listings" in the subject box.

## LIVE MUSIC

**The Albany**, 240 Great Portland St ([thealbanyw1w.co.uk](http://thealbanyw1w.co.uk)): Ukeleles on Wednesdays, 8pm.

**All Saints Church**, 7 Margaret St: Organ recital by Jeremiah Stephenson, Sept 25, 7.15pm.

**King & Queen**, 1 Foley St: Folk once a month on Fridays 8-11pm (visit [web.mustradclub.co.uk](http://web.mustradclub.co.uk)). Scaledown alternative live entertainments last Friday of the month ([theorchestrapit.com](http://theorchestrapit.com)).

**London Palladium**: Elkie Brooks, Sept 19. Suzanne Vega, Sept 28. The Zombies, Sept 29. Rip It Up, Sept 30. Rain: 50 years of the Beatles, Oct 5-7. Beverley Knight, Oct 13. An intimate evening with Kristin Chenoweth, Oct 20. The Waterboys, Oct 21. Michael Kiwanuka, Oct 25. Celtic Woman, Oct 27. Ralph McTell, Oct 28. Marillion, Nov 7. Dr Hook starring Dennis Locorriere, Nov 8.

**Sevilla Mia Spanish Bar**, 22 Hanway St (basement): World Fusion, Tue, 9.30pm; Swing 'n' Blues, Wed, 9.30pm; Spanish Rumba, Thur-Sat, 10.30pm.

**Simmons**, 28 Maple St: Live music every Wednesday evening.

**The 100 Club**, 100 Oxford St ([the100club.co.uk](http://the100club.co.uk)): Captain Ska, Sept 21. We Are Not Devo, Sept 22. Small Fakers, Sept 23. The Freestylers Feat, Oct 5. Peter & the Test Tube Babies, Oct 6. The Blow Monkeys, Oct 7. Martin Turner (ex-Wishbone Ash), Oct 14. Tom Robinson, Oct 24, 25, 26. Dr Feelgood, Nov 3.

**UCL Haldane Room**, Wilkins Building, Gower St: UCL Chamber Music Club concert (including Jacques Ibert's *Jeuux* for flute and piano), Oct 9, 5.30-6.30pm. UCL Chamber Music Club with Oxford and Cambridge Musical Club, (including songs by Henry Purcell accompanied by cello and harpsichord), Oct 17, 7-9.30pm. Music by Russian composers both pre and post-1917 revolution, Nov 3, 1.10-1.55pm. Swedish song in focus, Nov 16, 5.30-6.30pm. First or early works of various composers, Nov 20, 1.10-1.55pm. Guests from the UCLU Music Society, Nov 24, 1.10-1.55pm. Concert featuring current and former UCL students and staff, Nov 30, 5.30-6.30.

## LIVE COMEDY

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

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

## THEATRE

**Bloomsbury Theatre Studio**, 15 Gordon St ([thebloomsbury.com](http://thebloomsbury.com)): Tania Edwards - Subject to Change, comedy, Oct 17, 8pm.

**Camden People's Theatre**, 58-60 Hampstead Rd ([cpttheatre.co.uk](http://cpttheatre.co.uk)): Bullish, Sept 12-30. Dollywould, Anyone's Guess How We Got Here, Oct 10-28. Fog Everywhere, Oct 31-Nov 11. The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale, Nov 24-Dec 1.

**Dominion Theatre**, 269 Tottenham Court Rd ([dominiontheatre.com](http://dominiontheatre.com)): An American in Paris, ongoing.

**New Diorama Theatre** ([newdiorama.com](http://newdiorama.com)), 15-16 Triton St (Euston Rd opposite Fitzroy St): Fossils, Sept 19-30. Kings, Oct 3-21. Contradictions, Nov 1-29.

## CINEMA/FILM

**Bolivar Hall**, 54 Grafton Way ([cultura.embavenez-uk.org](http://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](http://www.odeon.co.uk) or 08712 244007.

**Petrie Museum**, Malet Place: Letters from Baghdad, Sept 20, 6pm. Halloween Special, Oct 31, 6-8.30pm.

**Regent Street Cinema**, 309 Regent St: For daily programme visit [regentstreetcinema.com/programme](http://regentstreetcinema.com/programme). Matinee classics every Wednesday at 2pm, for over 55s, £1.75. Kids' Kino Club, every Saturday, 11.30am.

**UCL Art Museum**, South Cloisters, Gower St: Anthropocene Screen (Irish, UK, Russian artists' films on themes of mining), Oct 24, 6.30-8.30pm.

## PUB QUIZZES

**Carpenters Arms**, 68-70 Whitfield St. Every Tuesday.

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

**King's Arms**, 68 Great Titchfield St: First Monday of the month, returning soon.

**Marlboro Arms**, 36 Torrington Place. Thursdays, 7pm.

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

**Rising Sun**, 46 Tottenham Court Rd. Every Wednesday, 8pm

## EXHIBITIONS

**All Saints Church**, 7 Margaret St: John Lewis Arts and Crafts Club autumn exhibition, in the Parish Room, Sept 12-24 (afternoons).

**British Museum**, Great Russell St ([britishmuseum.org](http://britishmuseum.org)): Free: Virtual pilgrimage: reimagining India's Great Shrine of Amaravati, until Oct 8. Desire, love, identity: exploring LGBTQ histories, until Oct 15. Living histories: recent acquisitions of works on paper by contemporary Arab artists, until Oct 22. Pay for: Scythians: warriors of ancient Siberia, Sept 14-Jan 14

**Grant Museum of Zoology**, 21 University St: The Museum of Ordinary Animals. The profound effects of ordinary animals on civilisation, Sept 21-Dec 16. Hungry Hungry Herbivores (from dugongs to hippos and camels to snails), Oct 25-28, 1-4.30pm.

**Octagon Gallery**, UCL, Gower St: What does it mean to be human? What does the scientific interrogation of our dead bodies tell us about how we think about ourselves. Sept 26-Feb 28.

**Royal College of Nursing** Library and Heritage Centre, 20 Cavendish Square, Henrietta Place entrance opposite John Lewis Food Hall ([rcn.org.uk/whatson](http://rcn.org.uk/whatson)): Nursing, Trauma and War, until Sept 23; RCN Centenary Exhibition, until Dec 22.

**UCL Art Museum**, South Cloisters, Gower St: The composition has been reversed. New works by Slade artists Sonya Derviz, Cyrus Hung, Eloise Lawson, Amanda Rice, and Grace Richardson inspired by the museum's collection, Sept 26-Dec 15.

**UCL Main Library**, Wilkins Building, Gower St: East side stories: Londoners in transition, until Dec 15.

**UCL Petrie Museum** of Egyptian Archeology, Malet Place: Archeology and the Middle East in World War 1, until Sept 30, 1-5pm.

**Wellcome Library**, 183 Euston Rd ([wellcomecollection.org](http://wellcomecollection.org)): A Museum of Modern Nature, until Oct 8. Natural Habitat, until Oct 8. Can Graphic Design Save Your Life?, Sept 7-Jan 14. Why Music? The Key to Memory (live Radio 3 broadcasts, concerts and events), Oct 13-15. Ayurvedic Man: encounters with Indian medicine, Nov 16-Apr 8. Permanent exhibitions: Medicine Now, and Medicine Man.

## TALKS

**Grant Museum** of Zoology, 21 University St: Unexpected Utility: Sequencing the Head of Jeremy Bentham (ancient DNA and attempt to sequence the genome of the philosopher Jeremy Bentham), Oct 11, 1.15pm.

**Octagon Gallery**, UCL, Gower St: Fake News: The Heads of Jeremy Bentham and Flinders Petrie, Nov 22, 1.10-1.50pm.

**Royal College of Nursing** Library and Heritage Centre, 20 Cavendish Square, Henrietta Place entrance opposite John Lewis Food Hall ([rcn.org.uk/whatson](http://rcn.org.uk/whatson)): Nurses of Passchendaele, Sept 21, 5.30-8pm; What's the Future of Mental Health Care? Sept 28, 6-9pm.

**Sohemian Society**, Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place: All 7.30pm. "Traitors" (Lord Haw Haw and Leo Amery) by Josh Ireland, Sept 20.

**UCL Art Museum**, South Cloisters, Gower St: The Good Bohemian. Artist Rebecca John talks about her grandmother Ida John's letters and her marriage to Augustus John. Oct 10, 1pm. Pre-book, [ucl.ac.uk/event-ticketing](http://ucl.ac.uk/event-ticketing).

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

## OTHER EVENTS

**Grant Museum** of Zoology, 21 University St: Creature Creations. Create works of art inspired by weird and wonderful animals in the museum, Sept 16, Oct 7, Nov 18, 1.30-4.30pm. Gibbon-Fest, celebrating the world's most endangered apes, Oct 24, 11am-4pm. Ordinary Animal Showoff (the funny side of boring beasts), Oct 26, 6.30-9.30pm. Witches and Lizards, Oct 31, 6.30-9pm. Explore Zoology, Nov 4, 1-4pm. Muso (the world of animals through music), Nov 9, 6.30-9pm.

**Petrie Museum** of Egyptian Archeology, Malet Place: The Power of Words: A Black Perspective, Oct 19, 6-8pm. Tales from Papyrus - Family Friendly Reading, Oct 26, 2-4pm. Curses Night Special (exploring the nature of curses), Nov 17, 6pm.

**UCL Art Museum**, South Cloisters, Gower St: Slade artist, Eloise Lawson, performs her work, Oct 17, 1pm.

**UCL Main Quad** and North Cloisters, Wilkins Building, Gower St: Hydrogen Festival and Pop-Up Eco Cinema, Sept 16, 12-9pm.

## ART GALLERIES

**Featured exhibitions. A full list of all galleries is on our website**



"Death and Renewal" by Marcin Dudek, at Edel Assanti

**Edel Assanti**, 17a Newman St: Marcin Dudek "Steps and Marches", Sept 22-Nov 4.

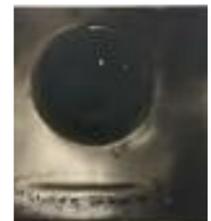
**Fold Gallery**, 158 New Cavendish St: Ian Monroe "S.I.M.", Sept 8-Oct 14.

**GRAD**, 3-4a Little Portland St: SHADOWMEMORY, Sept 14-Nov 12.

"Head of Ubu" by Franciszka Themerson, at Richard Saltoun.



**Richard Saltoun**, 111 Great Titchfield St: Franciszka Themerson "UBU", to Sept 15. Eleanor Antin: "Romans & Kings", Sept 22-Oct 27.



Lu Chao: "Black Silence" at Rosenfeld Porcini

**Rosenfeld Porcini**, 37 Rathbone St: "Abstract Conversations", to Sept 20. Lu Chao: "Black Silence", Oct 3-Nov 18.



**Saunders Fine Art**, 20 Charlotte St: Modern and Contemporary Art (By appointment). Pictured above: "Atomic Composition" (modernist structure) by Jürgen von Konow.



**Fitzrovia Gallery**, 139 Whitfield St: Flip & Curl (pictured above) by Sharon Drew, New Paintings, until Sept 23.