

FitzroviaNews



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

Issue 153 Summer 2019

The final days of Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre

Housing and welfare advice service could relocate to more affordable premises in Kings Cross if funding is secured

The Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre will close its doors in June for the last time after five decades of delivering a housing and welfare advice service and numerous community projects from the Tottenham Street building.

Camden Council, which owns the site and needs to carry out repairs and plans to redevelop the listed Georgian building, has offered Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association alternative accommodation at Cromer Street in Kings Cross.

Camden has also agreed to allow the FNA to return to a smaller Neighbourhood Centre on the ground floor at 39 Tottenham Street after its redevelopment subject to the organisation being able to pay the rent, securing funding, and if the reduced size of the premises is viable to operate from. Under Camden's redevelopment plans, the basement will be converted to a flat to be sold at a market price and the upper floors will be converted to self-contained housing to be let at a social rent.

Staff and trustees of the FNA have agreed in principle to relocate the advice service to Kings Cross because there is no other suitable, affordable premises in Fitzrovia available.

The housing and welfare advice service has a wider catchment area than the boundaries of Fitzrovia with people travelling from all over Camden and Westminster (and often other boroughs) in search of help with living, such is the need for the service.

However, the FNA cannot carry out its community development projects that are specific to Fitzrovia because the premises are located in a different neighbourhood. Instead the community development workers plan to use occasional accommodation at a variety of sites in Fitzrovia in order to continue its arts and crafts work and health projects.

The FNA's role as an amenity society, responding to planning,

licensing and other consultations, and the publication of *Fitzrovia News* will continue to be done by trustees and volunteers from their homes.

The Friends of Fitzrovia Parks who work with Camden Council to improve Crabtree Fields and Whitfield Gardens is also supported by the FNA as is the work of the Charlotte Street Association which has done the bulk of the planning and licensing work since 1970. These groups intend to continue their work in tandem with the FNA.

The Fitzrovia Festival which was first held in 1973 and celebrates the residential community, its struggles for affordable housing and community facilities under the banner "The People Live Here!" is also supported by the FNA and there are plans to continue the event.

The Neighbourhood Centre was first opened in 1975 after volunteers got together to refurbish a former glass shop and raised money to employ staff to provide professional housing and welfare advice and support campaigns to improve housing and community facilities for the district that was very mixed both by social class and ethnicity. It was one of several community advice centres established in the 1970s across Camden and other inner London boroughs.

The Fitzrovia Mural at Whitfield Gardens on Tottenham Court



After 44 years since it first opened on the corner of Tottenham Street and Goodge Place, the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre along with its advice service and community projects will close for last time.

Road, painted in 1980, captured the spirit and struggles of the 1970s — a timeless art piece, decaying but still as relevant as ever. The mural was designed and painted by artists Simon Barber and Mick Jones at the Neighbourhood Centre after interviewing local people.

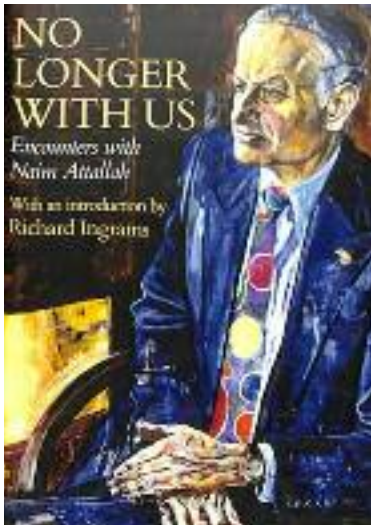
As *Fitzrovia News* went to press the future of the advice service at Kings Cross and many of the community projects in Fitzrovia is uncertain. Due to a lack of funding being secured from the end of June the organisation has had no choice but to issue notices of redundancy to its staff and termination of contracts to its

session workers.

The last drop-in housing and welfare advice service will be on Tuesday 11 June and the final women's advice service will be on Wednesday 12 June.

The FNA will hold its annual general meeting on Monday 24 June at the Neighbourhood Centre. Camden council will take possession of the building on 1 July and a half-century long chapter of continuous community action in the building will draw to a close.

Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association AGM, 6.30pm Monday 24 June at the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre, 39 Tottenham Street, London W1T.



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Letters, email and comment

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What is the point of talk of greening if rubbish pollutes our streets?

Every day I draw my curtains to see what the day has to offer, and every day I see, between the newly planted trees at the junction of Gosfield Street and Langham Street, a pile of rubbish.

When I walk through Fitzrovia I see what all those walking to work have to walk past every day: little piles of rubbish everywhere. Even if people conform to the rules about leaving bags outside their residence at the required time, rubbish is on the streets. And against the rules, it continues all day. When people see a bag, they add to it. What is the point of talk of greening the area if rubbish pollutes our streets?

How is it that other boroughs and other parts of Westminster don't have this problem?

Sorry, but we need *bins* - to contain the unsightly bags, and prevent degradation by birds and rats. Leaving rubbish on the streets is unsightly and can be a health hazard. I refuse to put my refuse on the street. Since our bin was removed, I take my rubbish and recycling to the bins at the back of John Lewis.

Dare I suggest the old-fashioned solution of dustbins for each building? Money could be saved by less frequent collections.

Name and address supplied

More bus stops are needed on Tottenham Court Road

Why has Camden Council cut the bus stops on Tottenham Court Road? There used to be a stop at Percy Street but it has been closed. The nearest stop to Warren Street is at Capper Street, a long way from Warren Street, especially if it is the first time you are looking for it and it is almost midnight and all the buses are passing you by.

When consultations were made a few years back, I suggested that another stop was needed. The response was that it was a good idea. There are a lot of elderly and disabled people who use this route (as I am sure, every route). It is a long way if you have heavy shopping. While I was waiting for a bus at Goodge Street towards TCR, three people joined me – each with a walking stick. Proves my point, I think. None was aware that there were no in-between stops.

No one can argue that it would be too costly. Too thoughtful maybe, for Camden.

The widening of the pavement on both sides of the road has created worse traffic jams than we had before. Whoever's idea this was needs their head examined. Making a road two-way and then narrowing it by half what it was before — very clever.

A Reader (name and address supplied)

Public Meeting
Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association
Annual General Meeting
6.30pm Monday 24 June 2019
at Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre
39 Tottenham Street, London W1T 4RX

Agenda
Formal charity business
The past year
The future of the organisation

Anyone who lives, works or studies in Fitzrovia is welcome to attend. Social drinks and refreshments afterwards.

The life and changing times of the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre

The Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Centre was a product of its time and was one of several community advice centres being established across Camden and other inner London boroughs in the 1970s. The opportunity arose as a result of funding provided by the Home Office to tackle inner city problems. This Urban Programme ran from 1968 to 75 and Camden was one of 34 local authorities which were eligible for funding. Fortunately Judith Dainton, a leading light of the Tottenham Street Tenants Association, came across the government circular inviting bids while working for the National Council for Social Service then based in Bedford Square. She consulted other local people and, with the help of Camden community workers made an application.

The proposal involved establishing a centre in Fitzrovia which would both provide expert advice on housing, welfare rights and immigration and bring together the twenty or so tenants' associations and community groups representing different parts of Fitzrovia on the Westminster and Camden sides of the borough boundary.

Early in 1975 this new collective was notified that its proposal was successful and that it was being awarded a grant of £54,000 per year over five years. A series of very talented and dedicated workers were appointed to provide the support the area needed.

Goodge Place and number 39 Tottenham Street had been under threat of redevelopment by the Middlesex Hospital which in the early 1970s was intent on expanding up to and including Charlotte Street. Financial circumstances changed and it soon withdrew redevelopment plans. The hospital was then asked if it would be willing to rent number 39 to provide a home for the newly formed Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association. In April 1975 the Hospital agreed to let the former glass shop, long since boarded up, for a very reasonable £300 per year. Two other houses in Goodge Place were included in the deal to provide short-life housing. The whole terrace was later saved when Camden acquired the properties on the east side from the Greater London Council.

Tower (forerunner to *Fitzrovia News*) regularly reported on the dire housing conditions in the area and Sue Blundell from Camden's Housing Aid Centre ran regular advice sessions for hard-pressed tenants in the Neighbourhood Centre. In response, local residents carried out a series of housing surveys in order to find out the extent of the problem. The results provided the evidence to persuade Camden and Westminster Councils to take action.

The level of community activity was sustained, throughout the decade and into the 1980s. Two notable achievements were the commitment of the Fitzrovia Play Association in raising £30,000 for the improvement of The Warren playground and the involvement of the GLC in acquiring what had been a car park in Whitfield Street and then landscaping it as the now green oasis off Colville Place known as Crabtree Fields.

The Neighbourhood Centre was also the birthplace of many other local groups, including the Central London Law Centre, the Chinese Workers Association, the Bengali Workers Association, and provided a meeting space for numerous tenants and residents groups as well as campaign groups and political parties.

The Bengali Women's Health Project was also founded here: a partnership between several groups in the area, who worked to bring better health to Bangladeshi women across south Camden through talks, exercise, massage and a pioneering womens clinic, and was a central group organising the Camden Melas.

The Womens Art Project worked for years with other community groups and the Mary Ward Centre and the British Museum to make beautiful community displays in response to many of its major exhibitions and was a key partner in the development of its community unit.

The advice service has been helping to bring over half a million pounds a year to the poorest in our area and ensure safer and more secure housing for many, which has helped to maintain diversity in Fitzrovia. This despite the pressure of rents and property prices working to drive out much of the settled working class, many originally from places all over the UK and the world.

The Older Fitzrovia project has linked up pensioners across the area with oral history, singing, trips to places of interest across London, exercise, massage and visits from and to the British Museum as well as signposting people to other interesting activities across Central London.

As Fitzrovia has changed from the workshop of the West End to the spare bedroom of the West End, the FNA has worked hard to maintain a sense of continuity and pride amongst the people who do still live here, and welcome newcomers.



Goggle and giggle

Abena Gray thinks she may have been a mermaid in a previous existence. She is passionate about swimming and has been around water since she was a baby. "I was born in Portland Jamaica and grew up in a house that was by a river and close to the sea," she states.

"I came to the UK at eight years old and as a schoolgirl took part in swimming competitions where my speciality was the front crawl. Because of my passion for swimming and the physical and psychological health benefits I was alarmed at the statistic that 40 per cent of school leavers cannot swim. I wanted to help more parents get their children safe in the water and be confident, happy swimmers.

"I've been teaching for ten years now and in 2012 we formed the company Goggle and Giggle to provide a learning environment, teaching fundamental skills in an inclusive and fun way for children, young people and adults to feel safe and confident in the water.

"We even have some pensioners who have taken the plunge and decided to learn how to swim later in life and increase their confidence both in and out the water.

"We work in the swimming pool at the YMCA, Great Russell Street, where one or two lanes are closed off for our exclusive use. We offer tuition on a one-to-one basis and for small groups or families. We are especially conscious if our pupils are nervous or embarrassed. Every learner is different and may have fear and anxiety to begin with, so we begin with a consultation and assessment so our lessons can be adapted to suit the circumstances.

"I have have completed a triathlon and we offer training for such events and we can work towards certifications and life saving awards.

"Spending so much time in the water takes its toll on my skin. I am very careful with my diet and nutrition (taking extra vitamins C and D3), and I have to order four tubs of cocoa butter for my skin every month!"

goggleandgiggle.co.uk 07808 583 056 or 07708 247 483

Affordable housing at Rathbone Square 'not fit for purpose'

People in "affordable" homes at a major development in Fitzrovia are struggling to live in poorly designed flats and are watching their bathrooms fall apart mere weeks after they have moved in, writes Linus Rees.

Residents complain of incompetent management, poor design, and a lack of security at the block of 20 "discounted market homes" built by Great Portland Estates in Newman Street.

GPE who received planning permission for the major mixed-use development in 2014 are accused of being in breach of the s106 agreement with Westminster council -- a charge they strongly deny -- by delivering housing not fit for purpose before handing over to A2 Dominion, the registered housing provider.

At a meeting in a nearby pub residents described to Fitzrovia News and West End ward councillor Pancho Lewis a catalogue of problems they have experienced since moving in.

Bathrooms are poorly designed with timber absorbing water, lifting, swelling and rotting. Wet room floors are not draining properly, and automatic lights go off in windowless bathrooms leaving occupants showering in the dark.

The kitchens are poorly designed with little storage space, and a communal rubbish and recycling area was left open for weeks because of a faulty lock allowing intruders into the stairwell and post room, leaving residents vulnerable.

Giulio Folino, chair of the residents association, said: "We believe that the properties we have just part-purchased should be fit for purpose, and managed effectively. We no longer wish to be treated as second class citizens in

the Rathbone Square development."

Councillor Lewis said: "It appears that there are a whole raft of issues including but not limited to poor design of the building and disregard of residents' needs by A2 Dominion.

"I've written to the Council's most senior housing officer who is now investigating the issue. Developers need to be held to account," said the Labour councillor.

However, a spokesperson for GPE said they "strongly refute" the allegation that they are not fit for purpose.

"Rathbone Square meets all relevant regulations and standards, including our s106 agreement with Westminster Council.

"We are committed to assisting A2Dominion to resolve any defects which become apparent to the homeowners," they said.

A2D said: "We are doing everything we can to resolve the issues as quickly as possible," said Steve Michaux, director of residential services. "We would like to apologise to our residents for the inconvenience caused."

Cllr Andrew Smith, Westminster Council cabinet member for housing, said:

"Providing housing that is both affordable and high quality is a priority for us. We're aware of the issues raised by residents and stand with them in wanting this resolved as quickly as possible. We're putting pressure on the housing association and developers to carry out the required improvements."

Despite the problems the residents say they are keen to move forward, saying it is a "brilliant location" and they were making good use of the bike storage facility to cycle to work.

More people sleep rough

The number of people sleeping rough on London's streets has continued to increase, according to statistics released by the Greater London Authority.

During the period January to March 2019 outreach teams recorded 3,217 individuals sleeping rough in Greater London, a 31 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

In Westminster, 986 people were seen sleeping rough — 268 more than last year. Of these 48 percent were British and Irish, 38 percent were from central and east Europe, and 15 percent were female.

In Camden, 298 were seen — 39 more than last year. Of these 48 percent were British and Irish, 43 percent were from central and east Europe, and 21 percent were female.

Historic bollards and plaque missing from Hanway Street

A collection of historic bollards marking the boundaries of Westminster, St Pancras, and St Marylebone, and a plaque telling the story of a Georgian street have gone missing in a conservation area after redevelopment of an Oxford Street building.

According to Westminster council's Hanway Street Conservation Area statement the street dates back to 1600 and contains a number of heritage assets mostly from the 18th century onwards when the street was first developed.

"The most interesting examples of street furniture within the Conservation area are the variety of bollards that exist."

High on a wall above the street was a stone fixed into the wall at the rear of 46 Oxford Street inscribed: "This part of the Street was widened 6ft in the year 1841 at the joint expense of Lieu. Co. Rowles and E. H. Baldock, the ground having been given for that purpose by E. H. Baldock."

The trouble is, all these pieces of Hanway Street's history were in the way of the developers who were given planning permission by Westminster council to come in and knock everything down. The last time they were seen was in a pile on the pavement.

Westminster council says they will be replacing the bollards and the plaque. "We are awaiting payment from the developer at the moment."

Still waiting for the loo

The public toilet at Great Portland Street station has been closed for over a year. "This is a very busy area with passengers getting off buses, leaving the tube station, but nowhere to answer the call of nature," says the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association.

Cllr Rachael Robathan, cabinet member for finance, property and regeneration said: "The toilet at Great Portland Street was closed due to structural damage and will form part of our review of all public conveniences in the borough, ensuring that they are available in areas where they are most needed."


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Helen Nurse: Buddhist, dancer, and yoga teacher

Well known local character Helen Nurse, of Goodge Place, has died at the age of 93 after a stroke in hospital.

"She had an amazing life," said her daughter Leslie. "She had been a dancer, a yoga teacher, and at the age of over 70 studied Japanese for O level.

"And as a Buddhist she lived with monks for ten years in the Zen Centre at Chalk Farm. She always followed the path of Zen and did not believe in acquiring lots of anything.

"Right up to her death she was as sharp as a needle, and had a huge range of knowledge, listening to the radio a lot and knowing everything that was going on.

"She was well liked in the community and known by everyone, with her little dog, Nansito. Street vendors and neighbours have all been so kind.

"Her doctor at the hospital said she was an amazing human being and a true friend.

"She was a very knowledgeable person about all sorts of things, and is a big loss to us all."

Helen leaves another daughter, Lucette, and a son, Vernon. *The funeral takes place in Mortlake Crematorium, June 6, 3.20pm.*



Rosemary Bailey (1953-2019), local author, travel writer and journalist

By CLIVE JENNINGS

Born in Yorkshire in 1953, the eldest of five children, Rosemary's father was an evangelical Baptist minister and she grew up with "his hell-fire sermons ringing in my ears".

As soon as she could she "escaped to a life of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll" via an English and Philosophy degree at Bristol University and a year on a farm commune in Somerset.

Rosemary moved to London, initially as a researcher with The Daily Telegraph Information Service, and then writing about culture, travel and women's issues for The Guardian, The Independent, The Sunday Times, Cosmopolitan, Elle, Vogue and other publications. As well as features she was known for interviews, which included New York avant garde writer, Kathy Acker; and former Fitzrovia resident Ian McEwan.

Rosemary met Barry Miles, biographer and cultural commentator, in 1979, and moved into the Fitzrovia flat that has remained the family home. It was open house for the great and the good of the counterculture, and guests included the poet Allen Ginsberg, Mick Jones of The Clash, and Steve Mass, owner of the famous Mudd Club in New York. Frank Zappa visited, and an evening was spent listening to albums and trying to find the worst psychedelic guitar solo ever recorded – an evening that Rosemary described as the most boring night she had ever had!

In the mid 1980s Rosemary and Miles moved to New York City for three years, where she wrote a column for The Sunday Times documenting the downtown club scene. They hung out with Andy Warhol, Jean Michel Basquiat and William Burroughs. Rosemary wrote about a dinner with Burroughs, who was extolling the quality of his pepper spray. When doubt was cast on its



efficacy, the writer proceeded to spray the room with it, and the assembled company had to escape to the kitchen with streaming eyes, just as Allen Ginsberg arrived at the chaotic scene with his new boyfriend.

After returning to the UK, she spent several years researching, editing and writing guide books of pretty much every town, city and area of interest in France, plus Tuscany and New York, working for Dorling Kindersley, National Geographic and Insight Guides. Living in France was her dream, and in 1988, they managed to buy Corbiac, a monastery in the French Pyrenees, in need of much renovation. Real life intervened, including the birth of her son, Theo, in 1990, and it was ten years before they could finally escape to live there.

In 1992, Rosemary's brother, Simon, a Yorkshire vicar, told the family that he was HIV positive. As Simon approached death and decided to make a television programme for the BBC Everyman series, and come out about his illness, Rosemary wrote a book about him and the way that he was lovingly cared for by his Yorkshire mining village parish - Scarlet Ribbons, A Priest with AIDS (1997). It was a very painful book to write, but helped her to

find voice as a writer. A new edition of Scarlet Ribbons was published in 2017 to great acclaim and Radio 4 broadcast A Priest with AIDS in July of that year.

In 1997, they finally moved to France, where Rosemary wrote Life in a Postcard (2002) which described life in a mountain village and their attempts to restore a Romanesque monastery, interwoven with the poignant story of the monks and villagers who once lived there. Rosemary always wanted to write about people and understanding the realities, trials and tribulations of local life: a theme that permeates all her books. Telling the tale of the tribe of the village of Mosset felt similar to her first book, writing about the people of Dinnington, in Yorkshire.

Life in a Postcard was to be the first of a trilogy of books about the Pyrenees, a region that had had little written about it, apart from walking books, since the 19th century. The Man Who Married a Mountain followed in 2005. A combination of personal memoir with travel and history, it tells the story of the eccentric and inspired character of Count Henry Russell, a 19th century mountaineer. Often travelling with her son Theo, then aged 12, to research the book, Rosemary said:

"it added a dimension of appreciation, and a way of deepening our relationship, that I will always treasure."

The third of the trilogy is "Love and War in the Pyrenees" (2008) which explores the emotional landscape of the region during the conflicts of the 1930s and 1940s.

Rosemary's original research uncovered the story of Mary Elms, an Irish aid worker and previously overlooked hero of the The Spanish Civil War and WWII, who saved the lives of at least 200 Jewish children during the Holocaust, by hiding them in the boot of her car. This, in part, led to Elms being posthumously recognised by the State of Israel as one of the "Righteous among the Nations" and a bridge in Cork being named for her.

Rosemary loved the Pyrenees and its rich mix of people, and one of her proudest moments was when her locale was awarded the accolade, "one of the most beautiful villages in France" and the mayor quoted from her description of the community: "All ages, several nationalities, French, Catalan, Spanish, Dutch, Belgian, Algerian, Chilean, English. There were gays, lesbians, divorcees, both with different partners, adopted children, foster children, even a few conventional legitimate offspring. Teetotalers and pot smokers; fascists and feminists; politicians and beekeepers, farmers, gardeners, teachers, potters, donkey owners, tinkers, tailors, soldiers, sailors, beggar men and doubtless thieves too. Not to mention the writers, artists, nurses, carpenters, builders, librarians and jugglers."

Rosemary Bailey died on Wednesday 20 March, 2019, from a particularly virulent strain of flu, after a long struggle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Barry Miles, and her son, Theo Miles.

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Kin *vegan cafe* 22 Foley Street
Pescatori *fish restaurant* 57 Charlotte Street
Gaucha *Argentinain steak house* 60A Charlotte Street
Curators coffee gallery 51 Margaret Street
Fritz Hansen *Skandanavian furniture*
13-14 Margaret Street
Fintran *adult store* basement 23 Goodge Street
Benito's hat *Mexican wraps* 56 Goodge Street
Designer sofas *furniture* 82 Tottenham Court Road
Drakes Tabanco *sherry tapas* 3 Windmill Street
Artefact *picture framers* 36 Windmill Street

Opened

Arros QD *Spanish cuisine* 64 Eastcastle Street
Efe's *Turkish restaurant* 56 Maple Street
Sir Tom Baker *bespoke tailoring* 71 Wells Street
Nicola Clark at John Freida *hair salon*
58-59 Margaret Street
Great Thai Grab and go *takeaway*
51 Great Portland Street
Caffe Terra *coffee shop* 4 Rathbone Square
Bambusa *Asian cafe* 6 Charlotte Street
Jolt *coffee shop* Market Place
Kafi *coffee shop* 20 Cleveland Street
Luxury wax bar 91 Mortimer Street
Miel *bakery and workshop* 57 Warren Street

Estate agent's tenancy has lasted 23 years



David Caldiera is the Residential Director (Sales, Lettings, and New Homes) at estate agents Robert Irving Burns in Margaret Street, having worked there since February 1996. He says, "At first I started here on a six-month trial. I dropped out of University studying Engineering Management to begin the job. My parents came to the UK in the 1970s from Madeira in Portugal. I first got the job through my Father. Dad was working at the St George's Hotel on Langham Place and was friendly with Howard Brecker, one of RIB's founders and I have ended up here for the past 23 years!" David has noticed the change in the locality over that time with less focus on the historic rag trade and more media and technology companies present in the area. This has meant that whilst the community has changed in recent years, Fitzrovia still retains the Bohemian atmosphere it has always had with David seeing many of the long-standing residents around the area on Saturday mornings. David speaks Portuguese and still keeps links by visiting family there annually. "I still speak the language with my parents and we occasionally have clients who I can converse with in their native tongue." Outside work David has a wife and young family. "I am a big Arsenal fan and attend home matches when I can and I've started to take my young son along".

The Tanning Shop 85 Mortimer Street
(relocated from Great Titchfield Street)
Cpress *health drinks* 31 Berners Street
Estelle's cafe 29 Berners Street
Paul express *coffee sandwiches*
127A Tottenham Court Road
We11 *coffee* 29-31 Great Portland Street
Yumi *nails beauty* 48 Mortimer Street
Tapas 44 *Ibirean cuisine* 3 Windmill Street

Opening soon

Stressless *furniture* 82 Tottenham Court Road
Circola Popolaire *Italian restaurant*
40-41 Rathbone Place
Kiss the hippo *coffee* 51 Margaret Street
Aqua *restaurant* 170 Great Portland Street



The Cartoon Museum is scheduled to open at 60 Wells Street on June 29. It first opened in Little Russell Street in 2006 but has now had to move because of rent increases. The new premises will include a permanent exhibition telling the story of cartoons and comics, another exhibition space for changing shows, a shop, and a learning space for children and adults.

Advertisement

The Greatest Titchfield Street

Great Titchfield Street is one of Fitzrovia's most well known thoroughfares. Much like Portland Place and Great Portland Street, two other roads which run parallel to the west Great Titchfield Street was first developed by the Dukes of Portland who owned most of what was the known as East Marylebone and is today part of Fitzrovia. The garment industry still has a major presence on Great Titchfield Street, reflecting Fitzrovia's previous incarnation as the home of the London rag trade. Additionally, there are a diverse range of restaurants in the area including the Riding House Café, Scandinavian Kitchen, Mac & Wild, and Sergios.

All this history and the wide range of eateries means that rental properties in the area are highly sought after. This is especially the case when an apartment is architecturally designed and fitted out to the highest possible standard. This is absolutely the case with a property which RIB are delighted to be marketing at Printworks House on Great Titchfield Street. Designed by renowned architects HUT, the apartment benefits from a wide array of fixtures and fittings, all in keeping with the contemporary, industrial style which runs through the entire building. With features including exposed brickwork, Crittall windows, floor to ceiling reclaimed timber doors, and underfloor heating, this apartment is one of a number of stunning homes available to let in Fitzrovia.

RIB are proud of our heritage as local agents and bring expert insights on the Fitzrovia area. To get in touch with one of our residential experts about viewing an apartment on Great Titchfield Street, or any of our other properties in Fitzrovia, please contact us on 0207 637 0821.





Word from the Streets

By CHARLOTTE STREET and her siblings



TV jackpot winner has pub party

A winner of the television quiz show "Pointless" jackpot of £4,250 spent it joyously on his 60th birthday celebrations in the King & Queen pub in Foley Street.

Mark Thoma (right in picture above), a freelance photographer, who has had many front pages on national papers (and Fitzrovia News), appeared with his brother Charlie, a freelance graphic designer.

Before they won the jackpot they were asked what they would spend the £4,250 on if they won it. Charlie, who never flies but collects airline sick bags of which he has around 1,000 (his favourite being from North Korea), said it would be on building a garden shed.

Mark said he would spend it on his 60th birthday celebrations.

The pointless answer that won them the dosh was any player who reached the fourth round of the US Open tennis singles tournament in 2017. The winning choice being Juan Martin del Potro.

Game show hosts, Alexandra Armstrong and Richard Osman, were disappointed that the brothers had won on their first appearance. Otherwise they could have appeared again and further elaborated on their bizarre interests.

I was privileged to be at Mark's 60th birthday at the King & Queen, when Charlie delivered the most drunken and genuinely moving tribute to his brother that I have ever heard.

Embarrassing moment for star

More anecdotes about **Dennis Norden**, the scriptwriter and television presenter, who died in his nineties last year, and had an office at 1 Rathbone Street.

After giving a talk to the blind, he was approached by a lady who asked: "Do you remember me?" Dennis did not, but tactfully said she seemed familiar but he could not quite place her. She vividly described an amorous encounter they had shared at Wimbledon Theatre. After saying he had never appeared there it emerged she thought he was Eric Sykes (another scriptwriter and comedian of Dennis's era).

The story was told to me by **Pete Smith**, who was a local policeman for 30 years at **Tottenham Court Road**. "I often wonder if he told Eric Sykes about that," mused Pete.

He also knew two of Dennis's cousins who worked in the area. **Alan Norden** sold pub glasses from **Chitty Street**, and **Edna Frey** sold suitcases in **Tottenham Court Road**. And Dennis's father, **George**, had an upmarket bridal gown shop, **Nordennis**, in **Margaret Street** on the corner of **Wells Street**.

Another character remembered by Pete was **Zigi Shipper** who had a printing and stationery shop in **Rathbone Place**. After retiring he was an interpreter for Prince William and Kate during their visit to Poland in 1989.



Novel success

A new award winning novel is set in our area in the 1850s. Called "The Doll Factory" by **Elizabeth Macneal** it was recently serialised on Radio 4. The central character is Iris Whittle, who gives up her job in a doll shop, to act as a model for a Pre Raphaelite artist in return for art lessons in his studio at 6 Colville Place.

Sherlock spotted

Benedict Cumberbatch fans were treated to a glimpse of him filming the **Sherlock** television show at **Speedy's** sandwich bar at 187 North Gower Street (just outside Fitzrovia).

Benefit night saves club

The **Social** music club at 5 Little Portland Street has been saved by a crowdfunding appeal and a benefit night where deejays such as **Fatboy Slim** gave their services free.

Opened in 1999 the club has provided a platform for several singers who have gone on to become stars.

These include **Lily Allen**, **Adele**, and the **Chemical Brothers**. Others who have performed there include **Jarvis Cocker**, **Vampire Weekend**, **Laura Marling**, and **Wolf Alice**.

The sum of £95,000 had to be raised in two weeks to buy a controlling share in the lease to fend off a takeover bid by a cocktail bar chain.



Underground message

My brother **Warren** took the mick out of a **Warren Street** station public announcement. It said: "When leaving the escalator, please continue moving forward." He thought that was so obvious a thing to do that it did not need spelling out. But my brother **Stephen** said some people can be a bit slow on the uptake and block the passage of others.

Which reminded me of a joke by music hall comedian **Max Miller**, which was banned by the BBC (I think you know the one). One of Max's other banned jokes involved being on another tube station and being asked by a lady traveller: "Is this Cockfosters?" Max replied: "No, Miller's the name, ma'am."

Decluttering

It is amazing what you can uncover while decluttering.

How about two electric drills, three pairs of (originally new) unworn shoes, two bottles of rum, an old £10 note, and, best of all, a pair of Batman tights.

*These were all found by my oldest brother, **Mortimer**, who is far from house proud. Indeed his role model has always been the Fitzrovia eccentric **Quentin Crisp** (1908-1999) who said unswept household dust never got worse after the first two years.*



Sketch for radio DJ's pub

New manager of the **Horse and Groom**, in **Great Portland Street**, **Kevin Davies** (right) was pleased to be presented with a sketch of the historic pub.

It was drawn by **Stephen Lees** (left), author of "Music Hall - Our Finest Hour" which was reviewed in our last issue.

In that review we mistakenly stated Stephen was an architect. In fact he frequents bars of both the legal and drinking variety, being a barrister and a member of the **Groucho** club.

Part of **Radio 1's** **Red Nose Day** broadcast in March was live from the pub, which is a favourite haunt of many of the station's disc jockeys.

Popster pops in at the Fitzroy

James Dale, bassist and vocalist for indie band **Goldheart Assembly**, has revealed he often drinks in the **Fitzroy Tavern** in Charlotte Street.

His record label, **LGM Records**, is based at 52 **Tottenham Court Road**, and so "we often go to the **Fitzroy Tavern**, which is a **Sam Smith's** pub," he told **Beer** (the magazine of the Campaign for Real Ale).

"It's lovely and old looking, thought it's been recently refurbished. "That pub has a rich creative heritage - **Dylan Thomas** used to drink there, as did **George Orwell**.

"I have a soft spot for **Sammy Smith's** pubs. When I first moved to London, it was so cheap, like being a student again, and they were always nicely done out."

Suffragettes and obscene publications on rails

What is the link between **Rathbone Place**, **Tony Benn**, obscene publications, and two suffragettes who posted themselves to the prime minister?

The answer is an underground "mail rail" which took letters and parcels in small unmanned subterranean trains from various railway stations and mail sorting offices from 1928 until 2003.

When new mechanised sorting machines were introduced, which needed larger premises,

the **General Post Office** purchased premises at **Rathbone Place** in 1952. And this became the new **Western District Office**, a new stop on the mail rail, which was opened in 1965 by **Tony Benn**, who was then the **Postmaster General**.

Publications considered obscene, such as "Ulysses" by **James Joyce** in 1920, were banned and destroyed if found in the postal system. But two suffragettes successfully posted themselves in 1909 to 10 **Downing Street** to

speak to the liberal prime minister, **Herbert Asquith**, about allowing women to vote. He refused to talk to them.

The **Rathbone Place** sorting office has now been redeveloped as **Rathbone Square** (between **Rathbone Place** and **Newman Street**).

More information from the **Postal Museum** at 15-20 **Phoenix Place** (off **Mount Pleasant**), **WC1X 0DA**

Charlotte Street



Speed dating does the business

Speed dating is a novel way of introducing advertising, marketing and creative agencies, to various brands.

This is one of the ways that independent business development consultants, Ingenuity at 1 Maple Place, has used to grow tenfold over the last 14 years.

When it started in Soho it employed five people, and now 50 people work in Fitzrovia.

"We create relationships between agencies and brands," co-founder Chris Kemp (above) explained. "The company offers business-to-business events, lead generation, content marketing, and public relations services."

The company moved to 80 Charlotte Street's Saatchi and Saatchi's building nine years ago. And then to Maple Place five years ago.

Chris, who will be 40 when this feature appears, explained the reason for the speed dating.

"Our job is to introduce advertising, marketing and creative agencies, to the right brand partners to work with," he said.

"One way we do this is to hire out Chelsea football club's corporate boxes for 15 representatives of brands and 15 promotional agencies, and they all meet each other for 15 minutes. We arrange these events 25 times a year and it is a great way to introduce people to people in a short time frame.

"It works well in marketing which is all about the process of people meeting people."

Since his company moved into the area he has noticed that a lot of the big advertising agencies, such as Saatchi and Saatchi and TBWA, moved out and more finance and private equity businesses have come in.

But he is happy to stay in the area. "We have great diversity and creative talent working for us, and every month we have a social gathering in the area," he said. "We know all the pubs, and the Grafton Arms is our local, and we are lucky to have so many restaurants in Charlotte Street, my favourite of which is the Roka Japanese [number 37]."

Chris was raised in Twickenham, studied at the University of Bristol, started work in sports marketing, has played cricket for the MCC and Teddington club, and is married with two young daughters.

Faith in Fitzrovia

Part of Fitzrovia's diversity is the multitude of religious and spiritual groups that are established here. In this special feature we explore the buildings and the beliefs that dot the district's landscape. Many of them obvious, some less so, and one or two are almost hidden.



All Saints' Corpus Christi Procession 2018 - this year's takes place on the evening of Thursday 20 June with High Mass at 6.30pm followed by the congregation processing and singing with a band of musicians and choir from Margaret Street along Wells Street, Oxford Street, Market Square and back to All Saints. The Mass setting is Mozart in D K.194. Photo Andrew Prior

All Saints Margaret Street

7 Margaret Street allsaintsmargaretstreet.org.uk
Parish Office 020 7636 1788 Vicar Father Alan Moses

All people are welcome to our fellowship and invited to share our common life of worship and prayer. Our diverse and inclusive parish is grounded in the rich catholic tradition of Anglicanism. The doors of All Saints Margaret Street are generally open to visitors and worshippers seven days a week so anyone can make a visit, light a candle or pray at will. The worship of Almighty God is at the heart of our life at All Saints Margaret Street and is a daily event. For full details of service times, please see the Worship Calendar/times on the website. Music plays an integral part in worship, our major service each week is High Mass on Sunday morning at 11am. Please join us for refreshments served in the Courtyard (weather permitting) or the Parish Room afterwards. High Mass services normally last 90 minutes. Choral Evensong and Benediction on Sunday evenings lasts around an hour. Daily masses through the week last about half an hour - possible to fit in before (8am) or after work (6.30pm) or in a lunch-break (1.10pm). All Saints is a diverse and inclusive congregation, which includes local residents from the parish area and those who work around us and lots of visitors from all over the world.

All Souls Clubhouse

141 Cleveland Street 020 7387 1360 vicar Luke Ijaz

We are part of the Church of England in the Diocese of London. We belong to the family of All Souls Langham Place. Sunday service at 11am in the Upper Room, on the first floor. The service normally runs for just over an hour, with praise and prayer and preaching. Refreshments follow every service, and often a cooked lunch. The first and third Sunday of the month is a Holy Communion service. Engage Groups meet midweek in various locations on the second and fourth weeks of the month, with the aim of engaging with Jesus, with one another, and with the needs of our city. First Wednesday, monthly gathering is a time to bring our common thanks and priorities and concerns to God. We meet over refreshments at 7:00pm leading into one hour of prayer from 7:30pm. As a charity, we value the support of both individuals and organisations who share our heart and are willing to partner with us in our various projects and programmes. (A range of activities, mums and toddler groups, childrens activities, befriending and lunch club for seniors help with addiction and some homeless outreach.)

The American International Church

79A Tottenham Court Road 0207 580 2791
Senior Minister Jennifer Mills-Knutsen info@amchurch.co.uk

Whitefield Memorial Church was built in 1957-8, after the previous church on the site was destroyed in 1945, by one of the last V2 rockets to hit London. The original church was built for the famous preacher George Whitefield in the mid-18th century. Whitefield was renowned for drawing crowds of thousands when preaching in open fields and for his many missionary tours of the British colonies in America. Whitefield was the first Anglo-American celebrity preacher! The Whitefield congregation, part of the United Reformed Church, disbanded in the late 1970s, and the American Church joined the United Reformed Church and has occupied the church ever since.

In 1986, the church launched The Soup Kitchen, serving a hot meal to people in need. There is also a clothes closet and other outreach ministries, all supported by volunteers. Our community outreach has expanded to include a seasonal night shelter staffed by volunteers from the congregation. Worship reflects our American roots with a casual atmosphere and interactive style that draws upon the rich traditions of our interdenominational, international community. Our worship service includes spoken prayers, singing by the congregation, music by choir or instrumentalists, scripture reading, offering, and a message from the preacher that tries to explore how our faith intersects with our daily lives and the needs of the world.

Each weekly service follows a basic pattern, but the content and style vary. We may emphasize traditional hymns one week and jazz or gospel the next, or you may find contemporary praise songs, music from Africa and an anthem by a classical composer blended together.

Children are always welcome in worship, no matter their age. In addition, we have a crèche staffed by professional childcare workers. We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month. After worship, you are invited to stay for coffee and tea at the back of the sanctuary. Our style is casual and informal, always open to newcomers and visitors. With programmes for children, youth and adults, we seek to always grow in faith and relationship with God. Our music and worship seek to reflect our diversity.

The London Chinese Lutheran Church meets at The American Church 79A Tottenham Court Road Services in Cantonese and Mandarin are held each Sunday from 14:00 londonchinesechurch.com Contact: Pastor Gladys Wu

Faith in Fitzrovia



The congregation at London Fo Guang Shan Temple Margaret Street

The Salvation Army Regent Hall 275 Oxford Street
Phone: 020 7629 5424 salvationarmy.org.uk/regent-hall
Email address: regent.hall@salvationarmy.org.uk
Sundays 10:00am and 2:00pm open air ministry
11:00am family worship 3:00pm Afternoon service
Various services and meetings throughout the week
also Oasis cafe

The Welsh Church of central London

30 Eastcastle Street 0207 580 6182
www.eglwysgymraegllundain.org/home
Sunday Services at 11:00am and 6:00pm

The Welsh language, traditions and culture are very important to us; however, we are an 'inclusive' church and consequently all our services are bilingual. As well as our regular Sunday worship at 11:00 and 6:00, a Bible discussion group meets at 4:30. The "Saturday Afternoon Society" meets on the first Saturday of the month at 2:00 from February until July. Every Wednesday at 12:00 we hold a brief, informal service followed by a cuppa and chat "Mid-day, Mid-week, Mid-London"

Korean Presbyterian Church

godsvisionchurch.org
Sunday service: 2 pm at the Welsh Chapel

Simultaneous interpretation is available in English during worship hours. Take the interpreter from the entrance of the church.

Hillsong Church

is a contemporary Christian church.
Sunday services at The Dominion Theatre Tottenham Court Road 11:00am, 1:15pm, 3:30pm and 6:00pm
hillsong.com

Hillsong Church was founded in 1983 in Australia. Now, Hillsong has churches in city centres in 21 countries around the world. The church has an average global attendance approaching 130,000 weekly.

International Christian Ministries - Kings

Cross Pentecostal church (part of Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance) icmkingscross.com 020 7366 1387
Email: kingscross@icmchurch.org.uk
Meets every Sunday at the Club 52 Basement 52 Gower Street 12:00pm

Jesus Fellowship Church upholds the historic Christian faith, being reformed, evangelical and charismatic and practises believer's baptism. london.jesus.org.uk
Jesus Centre, Marylebone Passage 82 Margaret Street
Sundays: 11.15am Sunday mornings @ The Chapel,
Wednesdays: 8.00pm Cell church groups meet in various locations All Welcome – Admission Free

Indian YMCA student hostel 40 Fitzroy Square host a number of Faith groups and organisations.

Church in London 10am on Sundays

We gather together simply as believers of the Lord in this city, receiving as our brothers and sisters all who believe in Jesus Christ. We also warmly welcome guests and visitors who are not Christians. The Lord's Table The Lord Jesus instituted this meeting Himself some 2000 years ago. We partake of the bread and the wine that reminds us of the price Jesus paid for the believers to be able to come back to God and enjoy.

Bethel Bible college

Pentecostal Church organised by Shalom Christian Fellowship conducted by Pastor Varghese Samuel, Bible class at YMCA hall every 2nd Saturday, 9-4 pm. shalomcf.org
varghesemsamuel@gmail.com

London Central Church

Pentecostal church, part of the Full Gospel denomination. Our main services are held on Sundays at 2:30 pm Fridays at 7:30 pm. In addition, daily prayer meetings, Monday to Thursday, with worship and intercession from 6 pm to 10 pm. in the Chapel on the 5th floor of the Indian YMCA. We are a Korean congregation, mainly made up of Korean immigrants and students in the UK, We offer interpretation for all our services, so non-Korean speakers are more than welcome.

For more information contact : woorimsung@hotmail.co.uk

Prayer garden

Senior Pastor is James Koshy 07886195252 Christian Church meet at the Indian YMCA the first Friday of every month 6:30pm Free style of worship we pray together, worship Jesus by singing songs and playing music, reading the Word and discussing. Our core purpose is to pray for Central London (peace, security, joy and righteousness in the city).

Church of Christ Tuesdays and Saturdays 6-10pm at the Indian YMCA

Grace Communion International Saturday 12-6 at the Indian YMCA

London Fo Guang Shan Temple

84 Margaret Street (0) 20 7636 8394 londonfgs.org.uk
Open Saturday - Thursday 9:30am - 5:00pm closed Friday
Regular Sunday Services 1:30 pm-3:00 pm, 1st Sunday: Chanting-Medicine Buddha Sutra 2nd Sunday: Chanting-Amitabha Buddha Sutra 3rd Sunday: Meditation
4th Sunday: Chanting-Diamond Sutra 5th Sunday: Service Regular Classes

Monday evening ~ 7:00 pm The Awakening of Faith
Thursday evening ~ 7:30 pm Chinese Buddhist Class
Sunday Morning ~ 10:30 am Bodhi Garden Class

Established in 1992, London Fo Guang Shan Temple is an active centre of Buddhist worship and teaching in the Mahayana tradition. It is one of the 200 worldwide branches founded in Taiwan in 1967.

The Temple propagates the Dharma (Buddhist Teachings) of Humanistic Buddhism which places strong emphasis on making Buddhism relevant in contemporary society by bringing it into all aspects of our daily lives.

The temple aspires to create a pure land on earth. Housed in a Grade II* listed building spanning four floors, the Temple consists of the Main Shrine, two additional Shrines for Avalokitesvara (Guan Yin Pusa) Bodhisattva and for Ksitigarbha (Zi Zang Pusa) Bodhisttva, A meditation hall, a refectory and a library. We have actively fulfilled our role in spreading the Dharma of Humanistic Buddhism based on the four principles initiated by the Venerable Master:

Propagating Dharma through Cultural Activities

Fostering talents through education

Benefiting society through Philanthropic Programmes

Purifying human hearts and minds through Buddhist practices

Faith in Fitzrovia

The Goodge Street Mosque

46 Goodge Street 020 7636 7568 mwlo.org.uk

The Muslim World League London Office (MWLLO) works in the UK under the auspices of its parent organisation the Muslim World League in Makkah al-Mukarramah. The mosque is on the first floor while ladies' prayer room is on the ground floor. The mosque is open for the five prayers (Fajr, Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib, and Isha).

On Fridays all floors are open to accommodate as many people as possible. Approximately 800 people attend the Friday congregation every week.

Surrounded by universities, colleges, hospitals and several offices where a large number of Muslims study or work, the MWLLO provides them with prayer facilities and Iftar meals during Ramadan. During weekends free facilities are provided to other organisations to hold their programmes.

MWLLO maintains good relationships with UK-based prominent Muslim organisations and works towards serving the community and initiating constructive dialogue with various faith groups in the UK focusing on points of agreement. It respects other faiths and social groups by building bridges of understanding. The youth are the focal point of MWLLO's activities. It endeavours to enable them to contribute positively to the welfare of the society. To achieve its objectives, MWLLO organises conferences, symposia and various cultural events open to faith and non-faith groups and to the British society at large. Prayer time are advertised at the Mosque and on the website

St Charles Borromeo 8 Ogle Street 020 7636 2883.

parish.rcdow.org.uk / oglestreet/
Email address oglestreet@rcdow.org.uk.

Sunday Masses 9 am, 11 am (Sung Mass) Weekday Masses 12:30 pm also Thursday and Friday 6 pm
Confession available on Request after mass
Charismatic prayer group Thursday 7pm
soulfoodgroup.org/

First set up in 1861 as a part of the parish of St Patrick's, Soho. There were about 2,000 families in the area, many of them lapsed Catholics. It was established as an independent parish. when an anonymous benefactor leased a

site in Little Howland Street (now Ogle Street) from the Duke of Portland.

The church was solemnly opened in May, 1863, The lease on the church site ran out in 1905 and as the area had become commercialised by that time the price of the freehold was formidable. The proposal to demolish the church and built a factory did not come about. In June 1921, benefactors bought the freehold and presented the land to the diocese of Westminster. During the war a section of the church was damaged and between 1957-1963, extensive repairs and re-decoration inside and out were carried out

Recently from 1978 to 1980 the church has again been repaired and re-decorated inside and out. Fr Keens employed T J Wilson and S J Nicholl as architects of the new church.

It was built in a Gothic Early English traditional style. Kentish rag stone was used to cover the eastern and southern sides of the church. The grey stonework became very dark in the London air, and in recent years it was cleaned about 1967 and, more recently, in 1979.

The Catholic Chaplaincy (for Students) Newman House 111 Gower Street 020 7387 6370

West Central Liberal Synagogue

The Montagu Centre 21 Maple Street wcls.org.uk

The West Central Liberal Synagogue (WCLS), was established by Lily Montagu in 1928 when many of the local Jewish Community employed in the fashion industry were obliged to work on Saturday mornings. She created the morning Shabbat service that is held at 3pm in the afternoon! a tradition which remains today. Part of Liberal Judaism, men and women take equal roles in all aspects of the Synagogue, services and community life. If you wish to attend services or enquire further, please contact office@wcls.org.uk

Shabbat and Festival services are led by Rabbi Jackie Tabick, who provides regular weekday evening sessions on basic Hebrew and exploring Jewish beliefs and traditions. For further information, contact jackie.tabick@gmail.com. We welcome all visitors, please have a valid photo ID ready to show.



St Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church Ogle Street

Central Synagogue London

entrance 36-40 Hallam Street

centralsynagogue.org.uk (0)20 7580 1355

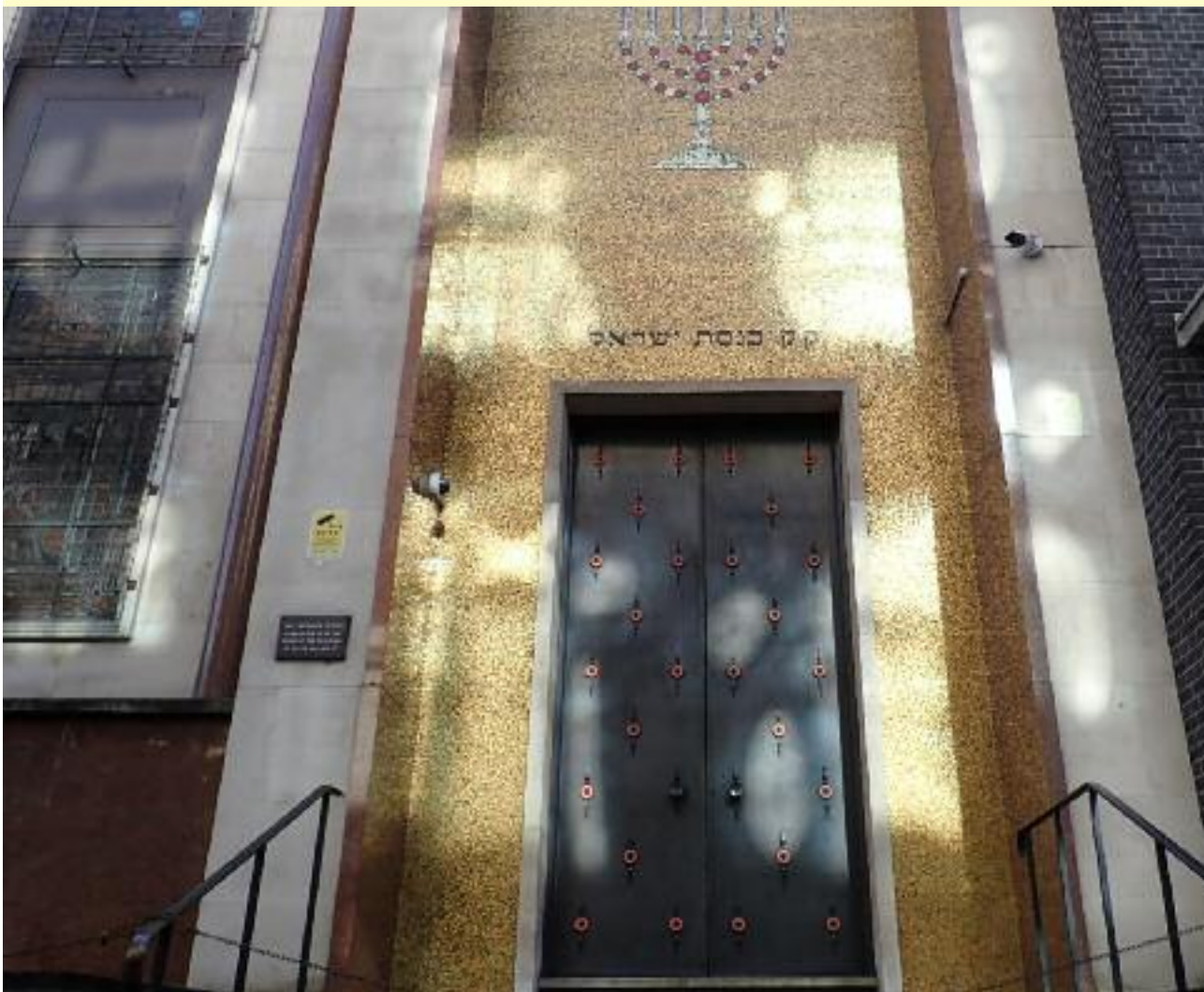
The Central Synagogue has been in Great Portland Street, London for more than 155 years. Today's synagogue was rebuilt and reconsecrated in 1958, after the original building was destroyed in a bombing raid on 10 May 1941.

We hold regular weekday and Shabbat services, as well as a range of social events throughout the year. Regular service times can be found on our timetable. More details about these and about times for Shabbat can be found in our regular newsletter. Or call the office for details on taking part in our services and to arrange security in advance of your visit. You can also read more about the format of our Shabbat services by downloading our information sheet. We have introduced a new Children's Service format so that children of all ages may be catered for. We also have a dedicated toddlers' service crafted to take the group through a song-based, interactive experience of Shabbat. Older children can spend time discussing a specific theme of the week. We welcome all visitors but would suggest that you contact the Synagogue office prior to your visit.

Greater World Christian Spiritualist Association

3 Conway Street 020 7436 7555 www.greaterworld.net

Since 1931, The Greater World has helped individuals along the spiritual pathway by sharing a deeper understanding of Christ's teaching. We call this 'The Christ Mission'. We believe that God manifests through the power of Holy Spirit and that each soul survives, as an individual, after physical death. Like the disciples of old, we believe in direct communion with God, with His angelic ministers and souls functioning in conditions other than the earth life. In fact, we believe that all forms of life created by God intermingle, are interdependent and evolve until spiritual perfection is attained. And that sins committed can only be rectified by the sinner through the redemptive power of Jesus the Christ, by repentance and service to others.



The Central Synagogue London Great Portland Street

Faith in Fitzrovia

Quakers Friends House 173 Euston Road
020 7663 1100 nwlondonquakers.org.uk/friends-house
Meetings Sunday at 11:00am 'Children are welcome at Sunday Meeting, and are best provided for by prior arrangement with the Clerk. Weekday lunchtimes 12:30am and Thursday 6.30pm. 'Quaker Quest' for enquirers and newcomers, Monday 6.30-9.00pm

Quakers are a faith group committed to working for equality and peace. Our understanding of God is shaped by personal experience; different people use words that they find helpful and meaningful. We believe that there is something of God in everyone. Find out how we worship, what we do, how we are organised and how you can join us.

We don't offer neat creeds or doctrine. Instead, we try to help each other work out how we should live. All people are welcome and accepted at a Quaker meeting. Quakers don't use traditional religious structures or paid ministers. We share responsibility for what we do because everyone has a valuable contribution to make. Every meeting begins in silence. We use it to open ourselves to the wisdom that comes out of stillness.

London Radha-Krishna Temple
9-10 Soho Street iskcon-london.org
Phone: 020 7437 3662

Popularly known as the "Hare Krishnas", we are a worldwide organisation officially called ISKCON (the International Society for Krishna Consciousness).

Daily, we offer a variety of activities and services to our community. We offer, Bhakti-yoga, Conscious Living,

Mantra Meditation, Karma-free Diet, Feeding the Needy, Spiritual Education Courses, Community Development Volunteering Opportunities.

Our aim is to educate and enliven others on how to live a holistic lifestyle. Our centre's owned-and-operated Govinda's Restaurant is a pure vegetarian restaurant which has been in London since 1979.

The Sunday Assembly is a secular congregation that celebrates life First and third Sundays of the month 11am - 12.15pm Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square.

Sunday Assembly London, is a non-religious community organisation that celebrates life, and everyone is welcome to join us. Our assemblies combine inspiring talks, sing-along pop songs and a touch of mindfulness, all followed up by tea and cake. In between these gatherings there's loads of community activities to get involved with.

Sunday Assembly is free to attend (we run on donations), family friendly and totally accessible. Everyone is welcome to come along! Please visit our website or Facebook page to see what the theme is for the next assembly! @SundayAssemblyLondon
nationbuilder.sundayassembly.com/london

Happy Science is a worldwide religious organization that spreads spiritual teachings to solve problems in life with love. 3 Margaret Street 020 7323 9255 happy-science.org

David Evans
Pete Whyatt



Juliette Bausor flute, Beatrice Phillips violin, Adam Newman viola, Hamish
Photo Robert Workman

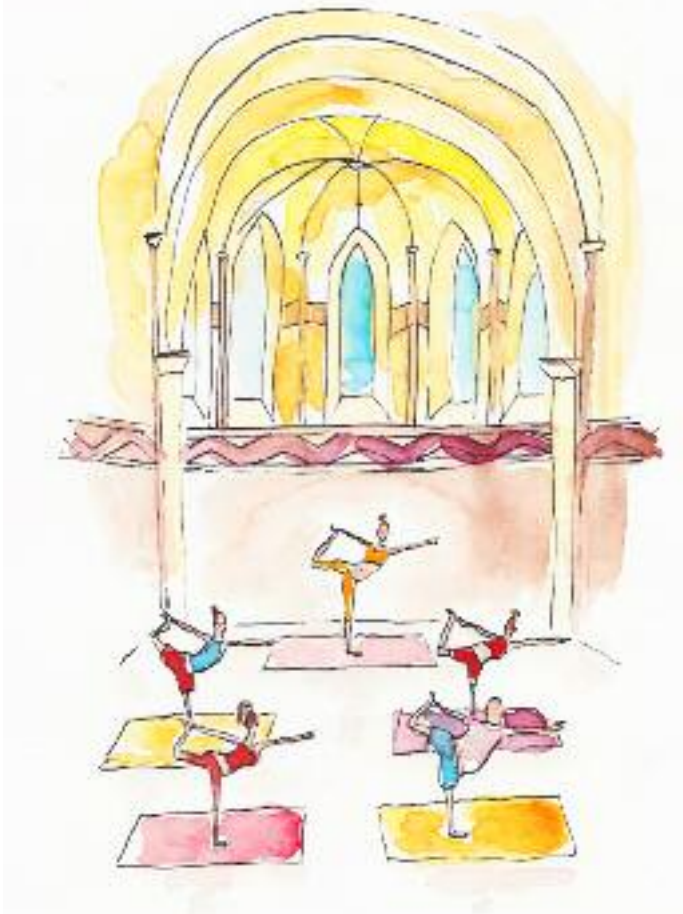


Illustration Jesse Brown

Wednesday 19 June

5.30pm - **Rush Hour Concert - Chamber Music by Fitzrovia Composers** performed by the FitzFest musicians. Rebecca Hosack Gallery, 28 Charlotte Street. Free

7:30pm - **Opening Night Gala Chamber Music Concert "An Evening of Benjamin Britten"** performed by the festival musicians.

Britten's Phantasy Quartet (1932), Elegy for solo viola (1929), Cello Suite no.1 (1964), (interval), Six Metamorphoses after Ovid (1951), Three Divertimenti (1933)

The Fitzrovia Chapel Pearson Square £15 in advance or on the door

Goodge Street Mosque entrance



annah Sloane cello, and Daniel Bates oboe



Come and celebrate the musical and cultural heritage and contemporary diversity of Fitzrovia at FitzFest 2019. Now in its fourth year, FitzFest is organised by local classical musician, Daniel Bates. The festival welcomes visitors and residents to enjoy its varied programme of events.

Central to the festival are the dedicated Festival Musicians: Daniel Bates on oboe, Katherine Spencer on clarinet, Bea Phillips and Laura Lutzke on violin, Adam Newman on viola, and Hannah Sloane on cello. This year guests of the FitzFest include virtuoso baroque flautist Neil McLaren, who will play works by William Alwyn and Gordon Jacob on an original 1890s Rudal Carte flute (instruments made on Berners Street). Other visiting artists include regular Glyndebourne soloist Charlotte Beament soprano, and violinist Maria Wloszczowska supported by the Hattori Foundation and Poland's Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

Local actor and director, Nick Moran (best known for his role in the film Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels) directs Roberto Kouyoumdjian's play 'Round in Squares' inspired by lives of Fitzroy Square's many interesting residents.

Playwright and Director Sue Blundell returns to FitzFest with another chance to see her hit production "The Man from the Sleepy Lagoon." which tells the story of the light music composer Eric Coates, best known for composing the theme tune to Desert Island Discs.

Coates is played by David Acton, accompanied by the FitzFest musicians. Coates frequented the eateries of Fitzrovia and loved the

area. He and his wife lived for a time on Berners Street.

In addition to these productions, there will be other opportunities to learn more about Fitzrovia in the form of guided walks through the area. Mike Pentelow, co-author of 'Characters of Fitzrovia' will share his stories of famous and infamous residents on an informative route round the area, and Matthew Sturgis will lead a walk on the artist Walter Sickert in Fitzrovia. In another event Matthew will be discussing his new book on Oscar Wilde.

Ann Basu will talk on her new book 'Fitzrovia: the other side of Oxford Street,' and Kate Thorogood will deepen our knowledge of the Middlesex Hospital Chapel. The festival programme celebrates the works of two prominent Fitzrovian composers with an Opening Gala concert of Benjamin Britten, and a Closing Night Gala of the music of Sir Arthur Bliss.

Ticketed events are £15 for the 7.30pm concerts, and £10 for the shorter late night concerts. All tickets can be purchased on the door, or in advance via Eventbrite or at fitzfest.co.uk. Other events are free and include community activities such as yoga at the Fitzrovia Chapel each morning, family fun with classical music on the Saturday afternoon, Sunday afternoon tea with music performed by the Festival Musicians at Honey & Co, Warren Street for the over 60s. To buy advance tickets and for further information and details of this year's FitzFest programme, please visit website fitzfest.co.uk or pick up a leaflet from one of the venues.

Claire-Louise John

Thursday 20 June

9am - **Yoga at The Fitzrovia Chapel** With yoga and mindfulness teacher Jessica Leonard Hull. Free

11am - **Guided Walk around Fitzrovia with Mike Pentelow** Artists and Writers who fell foul of the law." Start and finish: Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 2a Conway Street. Free

1pm - **Literary talk "Matthew Sturgis on Oscar Wilde"** Local author Matthew Sturgis discusses his new book, copies of which will be on sale. Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 2a Conway Street. Free

Afternoon - Look out for pop up performances throughout Fitzrovia! Performed by the Festival Musicians

5pm - **Rush Hour Concert - Chamber Music by Fitzrovian Composers** performed by the festival musicians Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 28 Charlotte Street. Free

7pm - **Chamber Music Concert "JC Bach and other Fitzrovians"** Music by JC Bach, Mozart and other Fitzrovian composers. Performed on historical instruments made in Fitzrovia with flautist Neil McLaren and the festival musicians. The Fitzrovia Chapel. £15 in advance or on the door

9pm - **Late Night Solo Concert "The Fitzrovian Flute"** Music by William Alwyn and Gordon Jacob. Neil McLaren performs on an original 1890s Rudal Carte flute. These instruments were made on Berners Street. The Fitzrovia Chapel. £10 in advance or on the door

Friday 21 June

9am - **Yoga at The Fitzrovia Chapel** with yoga and mindfulness teacher Jessica Leonard Hull Free

11am - **Guided Walk "Sickert in Fitzrovia" with Matthew Sturgis** Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 2a Conway Street (start and finish). Free

Afternoon - Look out for pop up performances throughout Fitzrovia! Performed by the festival musicians

2pm - **Literary talk by Ann Basu on her new book "Fitzrovia: the other side of Oxford Street"** Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 2a Conway Street free

5.30pm - **Rush Hour Concert - Chamber Music by Fitzrovian Composers** performed by the festival musicians Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 28 Charlotte Street. Free

7.30pm - **Theatre Night "Round in Squares" by Roberto Kouyoumdjian**, directed by Nick Moran inspired by life in Fitzroy Square and "The Man from the Sleepy Lagoon". written and directed by Sue Blundell, starring David Acton. On the light music composer, and Fitzrovian, Eric Coates with music performed by the festival musicians Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 2a Conway Street. £15 in advance or on the door

10pm - **Late Night Duo Concert : English Folk Songs** Vaughan Williams "Blake Songs" for oboe and soprano Performed by Charlotte Beament soprano, Daniel Bates oboe. The Fitzrovia Chapel. £10 in advance or on the door



Illustration Jesse Brown

Saturday 22 June

9.30am - **Yoga at The Fitzrovia Chapel** With yoga and mindfulness teacher Jessica Leonard Hull. Free

12.30pm - **Tour of the Fitzrovia Chapel**, led by Kate Thorogood. Free

1pm - **Lunchtime Chamber Music Concert "Bach Solo Violin Music"** performed by internationally renowned, award-winning violinist Maria Wloszczowska The Fitzrovia Chapel. Free

2pm - **Family Fun Activities with music and playful educational workshops** led by the festival musicians The Fitzrovia Chapel. Free

5pm - **Early Evening Concert Chamber music by Fitzrovian Composers**, performed by the festival musicians Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 2a Conway Street. Free

7.30pm - **Closing Night Gala Chamber Music Concert "Pure Bliss"** music composed by famous Fitzrovian, Sir Arthur Bliss: Oboe Quintet, Clarinet Quintet performed by the festival musicians. The Fitzrovia Chapel £15 in advance or on the door

10pm - **Late Night Solo Concert - Pip Eastop 'Set the Wild Echoes Flying'** for Solo Natural Horn and Speaker, Nick Moran Music performed by the festival musicians interspersed with poetry by Keats, Tennyson and Auden – poems used by Fitzrovian Benjamin Britten for his Serenade for Tenor Horn and Strings. The Fitzrovia Chapel. £10 in advance or on the door.

Sunday 23 June

All day - **Nick Moran's Fitzrovia** Actor, director, producer and Fitzrovia resident Nick Moran curates a day of talks, walks, gigs and film events to celebrate Fitzrovia. Free See fitzfest.co.uk for more details.

Afternoon - **Music and Afternoon Tea for the Over 60s** at Honey & Co, 25a Warren Street Performed by the festival musicians Free (just come along)

Sculptor's legacy for all to see

By MIKE PENTELOW

The most famous sculptor of his time, John Flaxman (1755-1826), spent the last 32 years of his life at 7 Greenwell Street (off Cleveland Street).

It is commemorated by an old style ornamental plaque at the side of the building. But a far more significant commemoration of his life and works exists in The Flaxman Gallery and the University College, London (UCL) Art Museum in the Wilkins Building in Gower Street.

Here you can see many of his sculptures including (pictured right) "St Michael Overcoming Satan" and "A Brahmin and a Mohammedan in Earnest Conversation for their Country's Good" (of Indian Hindu and Muslim leaders created in 1815).

He could also sketch, as is born out by his "Self Portrait at the Age of Twenty-Four", produced in 1779 and also on display.

A sickly child who had a humped shoulder he needed crutches until the age of ten.

This hindered attendance at school so he spent most of his time in the studio of his father who made casts and plaster figures for sculptors, which young Flaxman sketched.

At the age of six he was seen reading a Latin book in the studio by the visiting Rev Anthony Mathew of the Percy Chapel at 15-17 Charlotte Street.

He asked him about it and the youngster said he was trying to teach himself Latin as he had not been to school. He did in fact successfully teach himself both Latin and Greek.



7 Greenwell Street (above) and St Giles-in-the-Fields (below)



Harriet Mathew, the reverend's wife, held literary gatherings in their home at 27 Rathbone Place. While she was reading aloud from Homer and other Greek and Roman poets young Flaxman illustrated some of the more vivid passages in sketches from his imagination. He also drew a portrait in chalk of her.

Harriet introduced the youngster to a Mr Knight of Portland Place who gave him his first commission. Another guest commissioned six drawings from him.

He moved on to sculpting, gaining a Royal Academy premium for modelling in clay when only 11 years old, and exhibiting a figure of Hercules a year later. He was just 14 when he became a student at the Royal Academy school. He had to draw from plaster casts because he was too young to attend life drawing classes of the female nude.

In his first year he won a silver medal for wax models of Neptune. He was disappointed not to get the gold as this would have won him the chance to travel and study in Italy. This "humbled my conceit" he stated as he had been over confident of winning the gold.

While at the school he befriended fellow students William Blake and Thomas Stothard. Blake of course became more famous as a poet - and his first work was published by the aforementioned Rev Mathew after Flaxman introduced them. This was Poetical Sketches published in 1783. Stothard stuck to painting and later lived at 28 Newman Street where there was a plaque to him but it has since been removed.

On leaving the art school at the age of 20 Flaxman was employed, along with his father, producing designs for Josiah Wedgwood's pottery.

Early in 1780 Flaxman met a young schoolteacher, Ann Denman, who worked in an Oxford Street boarding school. Despite her father's disapproval, they married two years later. Blake later wrote a poem dedicated to her.



The artist George Romney, who first met Flaxman in his father's workshop, employed young Flaxman to make plaster casts of antique artists. The money from this and from Josiah Wedgwood enabled him and his wife to travel to Italy at last in 1787.

Originally they planned to go for just two years, but ended up there for seven, setting up a studio in Rome. He was elected a member of the Accademia di San Luca and got plenty of commissions from wealthy clients. While there he was able to study works from the Renaissance, and to sketch street scenes (one of "Three Men Attempting to Tear a Child from a Woman").

It was during this time that he made the sketches which he later

turned into a series of eight sculptures collectively known as Acts of Mercy. These included Beggars Receiving Charity, Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Naked, and Deliver the Captive.

He had deep Christian convictions and believed that "art in Christianity can rise higher than in paganism, since Christian ideas are more sublime than pagan ones."

On the other hand he drew "The Intrigues of the Church" in 1792, showing a "giant" and a "harlot" over serpent-like creatures as "representative of a corrupt church and rapacious tyranny."

Two years later he and his wife moved to Greenwell Street which was called Buckingham Street in those days. First they moved into number 6, then took over next door at number 7 as well. This enabled them to have a studio, and a spacious garden where they grew cabbages and cauliflowers. At that time it was a scantily populated area facing hills up to Hampstead. The American artist C R (Charles Robert) Leslie lived round the corner and often visited Flaxman, whom he described as kind "but over polite."

Earlier Flaxman had lived at 17 Rathbone Place, 12 Grafton Way, Foley Street (when it was Queen Anne Street East), and 27 Wardour Street.

He became the Royal Academy's first ever Professor of Sculpture in 1810. The childless Flaxman apparently treated his students with the "affection of a parent". Although his lectures were delivered in a weak and monotonous voice this was more than compensated for by animated facial expressions.

Local artist, Henry Fuseli (famous or infamous for his painting "The Nightmare") was an enthusiastic attender of his lectures.

Flaxman remained Professor of Sculpture until a few months before his death at the end of 1826. He was posthumously honoured by the RA with a statue of him by Henry Weeks, which can still be seen above the front of its Burlington House gallery in Piccadilly.

Flaxman was buried in St Giles-in-the-Fields churchyard (close to what is now Tottenham Court Road station). Although the precise location is not now known, there is a memorial to him just inside the church entrance.

Flaxman's works were kept by his sister-in-law Maria Denman. When she got into financial difficulties she asked University College to store them temporarily and prevent them being seized by creditors. This was agreed and they were put in the Wilkins



ABOVE: Self portrait at the age of 24 (UCL). BELOW: Statue of Flaxman at the Royal Academy.



Building. After Henry Crabb Robinson, a shareholder in the college, paid off her debts she agreed to donate them permanently to the college in 1847.

The gallery where they were displayed opened in 1851 and one of the first visitors was Prince Albert, who had donated £100 towards it.

During the blitz of 1940-41 large parts of the gallery were damaged by bombs and some of the models destroyed. By 1947 many of the models were exposed to rain and wind. Then during rebuilding work in 1949 the head of one sculpture was deliberately knocked off by one of the workmen in order to make room for scaffolding.

Another work was desecrated in 1972 when a monument for the Baring family had a political slogan scrawled on it and chocolate papers stuck to it. To protect them from further attacks many of the exhibits, including "St Michael Overcoming Satan", were moved to the Victoria and Albert Museum the following year for safe keeping for a while.

"St Michael Overcoming Satan" was returned to its present position in the gallery in 1994.

Off the beaten track

CHEZ NOUS 22 Hanway Street.

Anyone know the story of weird old Hanway Street? A winding, slightly mysterious alley that joins the backs of Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Street near Tottenham Court Road tube station? There has been a Spanish pub there for many years; a nail bar; an internet store now; here and there a Japanese or Korean eating place – and a branch of the exclusive Chinese chain Hakusan hidden away in a dark corner. But there are also odd, closed up buildings, strange doorways and windows; a closed cocktail bar. Parts of some buildings feel empty but not empty. The alley runs into Hanway Place: there I saw what was obviously an old school, long closed. I went to look more closely and saw it was once the Westminster Jews Free Schools but when I looked in the windows I saw full supermarket shelves and a woman pushing a trolley: it is now a back emergency exit of Sainsburys in Tottenham Court Road.

Parts of the area kind of feel like an alley near docks, but there's no port near Hanway Street. I thought to myself it's probably not somewhere you'd choose to walk alone late at night.

And in this street is a little restaurant called Chez Nous.

When I walked into Chez Nous, with its old, dark, wooden polished chairs and tables of different designs, with candles, old prints on the wall, and fresh flowers, I thought at first I was in the little sister of a famous, and popular restaurant in Soho called Andrew Edmonds that dates from the sixties. It even had a seat out at the front as a welcome, as Andrew Edmonds does. So: hidden away rather in Hanway Street is this cosy little European place that is such a pleasure to walk in to. French music was playing and on the walls there are photographs by Robert Doisneau, and old prints of fancy French soldiers. I suppose it might hold thirty customers; it was half full, people came and went and ate and some men drank in one corner.

The dinner menu was small, with plats du jour. There is a small but reasonable wine list. House wine £4.90 for a glass. Half a dozen mains, not lip-smacking food but perfectly acceptable: mackerel salad, beef bourguignon, chicken parmigiano, salmon and



By the DINING DETECTIVE

PICTURE PUZZLE: The photograph on page 18 is at 48 Newman Street (corner of Goodge Street)..

lentils – nothing cost more than £13.50, and some less than £10. Very nice home-made cakes and crumbles for dessert, all seemingly served with icecream, all priced at £4.50. As we left I saw the odd light in various closed-up buildings in the alley, cigarette smoke drifting out of a dark window. I read the opening hours of Chez Nous: open from 9am for breakfast, coffee, brunch and – interestingly after my above remarks about Hanway Street late at night – closes at 9pm

About a week later, I asked a friend to meet there for a morning coffee. A sprinkling of customers; some obviously having business meetings; at one stage a woman screamed very loudly – but it turned out she was waiting for a son she hadn't seen for many years and she apologised and explained to the room – soon she was laughing and crying with her son, but quietly. Very good coffee and again the fresh flowers and the music and the polished dark furniture in the very pleasant room. My friend wanted a muffin or something sweet – the waitress's English wasn't very good but she understood 'cake' and appeared with a serving of the same kind of cake we'd had at dinner – served with ice-cream to my friend's surprise. He said "ice-cream at 10.45am seems slightly odd but anyway thank you," and ate it all and enjoyed it.

I wanted to use the toilet and was sent downstairs, and then the plot began to thicken – I was taken greatly by surprise to find myself in a bar – with a stage at one end. It, and the stairs leading to it, were decorated with Spanish posters, and the sort of paintings made straight on to bare walls that were around last century –

once bright and garish, definitely slightly dusty now. There was also a notice advising people to keep their bags with them as there was no cloak room. It all looked a bit strange. Upstairs I asked if the bar was still used, a man sitting in a corner who was obviously Spanish answered me. That bar is open with a Spanish band performing from 9pm on Wednesday and Thursday nights and from 11pm on Friday and Saturday nights. So much for my ruminations about not walking in Hanway Street late at night, and that of course is why "Chez Nous" closes at 9pm: not danger but music!

I went back once more – for lunch, just because I liked being in the place. (I haven't yet attended the downstairs bar but to my surprise it turns out to be advertised in the Fitzrovia News 'What's On' section, and it is called Sevilla Mia Spanish Bar.) It was a sunny day, the doors were open back and front, on to Hanway Street and Hanway Place, the sun shone on to more fresh flowers on the polished wood tables. More cakes, a wonderful smell of home cooking. Then I saw a couple of crispy chickens come out of the oven, that were placed beside a genuine Spanish omelette: they were delicious, and most lunch dishes are around £10. People were in and out, as before, never crowded. As I was leaving, the old French music playing, I asked about the history of the place and got five years' worth: it has been there for five years as a French restaurant, the owner was from Brussels but she has just retired. The bar downstairs is let out to a Spanish brother-in-law. But as to its, and Hanway Street's, history before that, I am none the wiser. Some of you will like it; some of you won't. But I'll be back for the Spanish omelette.



Civil rights pioneer who ended British Army segregation

A new plaque to a civil rights activist has been unveiled at the YMCA building just off Tottenham Court Road in Great Russell Street.

It is in honour of Harold Moody (1882-1947) who formed the League of Coloured People there in 1931.

He was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and came to London in 1904 to study medicine, finishing top of his class and qualifying in 1910. But racial discrimination prevented him getting work so he started his own medical practice.

He formed and became the first president of the league to promote racial equality and civil rights. Prominent members included Paul Robeson, Jomo Kenyatta, C L R James, and Una Marson.

Moody also tackled racism in the armed forces and helped overturn the Special Restriction Order (Coloured Seamen's Act) of 1925. This rewarded shipping companies for employing only British nationals, and required "alien" seamen to register with local police – even though many of these "aliens" had served the country during the first world war. Just like the recent Windrush scandal many black and Asian

British seafarers had no proof of identity and so were made redundant.

The league also succeeded in ending segregation of sections of the British armed forces during the second world war.

A devout Christian, Moody became involved in the Coloured Men's Institute which was a religious, social and welfare centre for sailors.

Sadly, the League of Coloured People was wound up soon after Moody's death, after a proud history of campaigning for equality of all races around the world, exposing the persecution of the Jews in Germany before the war, for example.

Those who praised his good work at the unveiling ceremony included Rastafari poet Raoul Dero, Jamaican High Commissioner Seth Ramocan, Camden mayor Jenny Headlam-Wells, Westminster lord mayor Lindsey Hall, and Westminster deputy mayor Louise Hayes.

The plaque was sponsored by Black History Walks, and the Nubian Jak Community Trust.

A film of the ceremony can be viewed on <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EuSHutAIq5k>

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Ban on women doctors conquered in the most extraordinary way

By MIKE PENTELOW

The amazing story of a woman who had to pose as a man in order to practise as a surgeon all over the world is told in a fascinating book.

It is called "Dr James Barry, A Woman Ahead of Her Time," by Michael du Preez and Jeremy Dronfield.

Margaret Anne Bulkley was born around 1789 in the Irish port of Cork. Her uncle was the famous painter James Barry (1741-1806) who lived at 36 Eastcastle Street (which was called Little Castle Street in those days).

And when she was barred from studying medicine she took his name in order to become a "male" medical student.

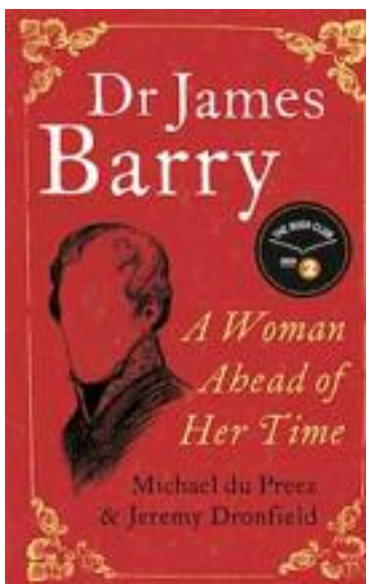
Margaret and her mother, Mary, visited Barry for help in 1804 after her father Jeremiah was sacked and made homeless by the British because he was a Catholic. This was in the aftermath of the 1798 Irish rebellion

They were astonished at the state of Barry's house, which was grimy, had cracked windows, and the entrance was clogged with litter, including several skeletons of stray dogs and cats. These had been placed there by locals who suspected him of being an old wizard.

The painter was as untidy as his dwelling, wearing clothes covered in paint and dirt, and a wig which "you might suppose he had borrowed from a scarecrow", according to his friend, the poet Robert Southey.

Mary and Margaret wanted Barry to confirm that he had left a house in Cork to them on the death of the occupant, who had since died. He did not seem to understand this so they returned to Ireland.

They revisited Barry the following year, however, when his house was even worse with all the windows broken and filled in with old etchings.



He was a little friendlier this time and proudly showed them his life's masterwork, "The Birth of Pandora", which measured 17 feet wide and 9 feet high. He said he would give them a letter of attorney to empower them to get the house.

But the following year he died from sheer lack of nourishment, according to Southey. After collapsing in the street Barry was taken to a lodging house above a shop in Mortimer Street, but was thrown out when his bleeding stained the bed sheets. He was taken to the house of his friend, the Italian architect Joseph Bonomi, nearby [76 Great Titchfield Street] where he died from inflammation of the lungs.

Another of his friends, Dr Edward Fryer, who lived at 76 Newman Street, took care of his paintings, including Pandora, and also became responsible for the education of Margaret, who was now living in Little Titchfield Street.

Fryer and Barry had befriended Francisco de Miranda (1750-1816), the Venezuelan revolutionary in exile at 58 Grafton Way (which was 27 Grafton Street in those days).

Miranda had a large library, including medical books, and was prepared to give her a reference.



Kipper Williams has contributed to Fitzrovia News for about 30 years. See page 19 for one of his from ten years ago.

He had also read of a French woman who had disguised herself as a man in order to attend lectures in medicine and surgery. His plan was for Margaret to do the same and then he would take her to a liberated Venezuela where she could accompany him and practise there openly as a woman. In fact, according to other authors, Margaret used the name of Miranda Stuart in his honour.

Sadly nothing came of this because, although Miranda succeeded in leading a revolution to overthrow the Spanish and become the leader of an independent republic in 1811, he was deposed a year later and jailed for life in Spain.

Meanwhile Margaret became a student at St Thomas's hospital under the name of James Barry. There was a whipping post for punishing unruly patients in the hospital, but they were allowed

two pints a day of a special beer brewed there.

After qualifying, "Dr James Barry" became an army surgeon in the Cape of Good Hope, and later served all over the world including Jamaica, America, Canada, and Malta.

She often stood up against authoritarian regimes and so was unpopular with the establishment and demoted on occasions. Her evidence that a slave had died from a flogging got the owner who had conducted the flogging hanged for wilful murder. Much hostility was directed at Barry subsequently.

The doctor also challenged the authorities over the appalling conditions of lepers, lunatics, and prisoners.

She particularly disliked one prison chaplain who only attended the jail for executions. Another foe was a gaoler, appropriately named Mr Locke, who objected to black prisoners being questioned about conditions when "white Christians" were there to answer.

The doctor performed only the second successful Caesarean in medical history, and when visiting Turkey during the Crimean war in 1855 (with her pet goat) she crossed swords with the legendary nurse Florence Nightingale. Barry scolded Nightingale for her negligence in front of others, for which she branded the doctor a brute.

Barry eventually ended up in London in 1865 taking rooms at 14 Margaret Street, owned by a surgeon and dentist called James Anderson and his wife, who em-

ployed a maid, Sophia Bishop.

There was an epidemic of diarrhoea (followed by cholera) in the extreme heat of July that year.

The doctor died in soiled sheets at around 4am on July 25, 1865. She was found by Sophia who called the local doctor, David McKinnon, who registered the death at Marylebone register office as that of a male and the cause of death as diarrhoea.

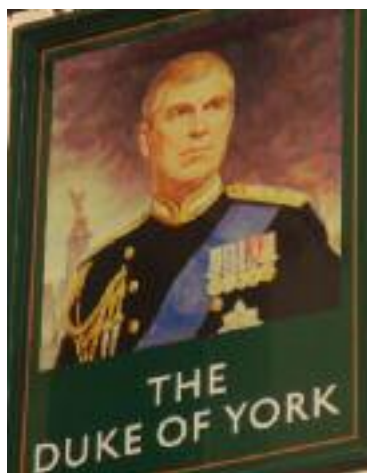
The woman who was laying out the corpse realised that the doctor was in fact a woman, who had given birth to a baby. This was because Margaret had been raped at about the age of 13, possibly by her uncle, and had given birth to a daughter, Juliana, who was adopted by Margaret's mother and raised as her own daughter.

The corpse layer-out tried to make money out of the doctor's secret, and soon it was leaked to the press.

A footman arrived in full livery and took away Barry's little dog and a mysterious black box. The book speculates that the box contained personal letters of an intimate nature from Lord Charles Somerset, the Governor of Good Hope, whom it had been rumoured had a sexual liaison with Dr Barry.

The funeral was at Kensal Green Cemetery on July 29, 1865, and the gravestone (at plot number 19301) read: "Dr James Barry, Inspector General of Hospitals, died 25 July 1865, aged 70." In fact the doctor was aged 76 but had pretended to be younger to account for "his" slender build and lack of any male facial hair.

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New history of Fitzrovia shows rich mixture



Fitzrovia, The Other Side of Oxford Street, A Social History 1900-1950. By Ann Basu (The History Press, £17.99).

Life on the edge, both geographically and socially, is the theme of this book. Colourful examples come from fake antique dealers, dodgy second hand car salesmen, and a variety of villains.

Many honest and underpaid workers in the furniture trade, the clothing industry, show business, and restaurants are also included.

And a rich mix of immigrants from France, Italy, Germany, Russia, Cyprus, and even Japan.

This cosmopolitan nature of the area, where unorthodox ideas could be expressed, “created an intellectual greenhouse where political and philosophical ideas could be formulated, debated, and spread,” observes the author.

But there was also hostility to immigrants, especially during the first and second world wars, when they were treated as aliens.

The Paramount Ballroom at 161 Tottenham Court Road demonstrated both attitudes just after the second world war. It was one of the few halls to play jive music and where black and white young people mixed socially and amicably, dancing the jitterbug. But the Daily Mirror expressed revulsion at the sight of “dance fevered” white teenage girls “nuzzling and clutching the hefty, grinning dancers.” It was raided by police many times and was turned into a banqueting hall in 1950.

Sweated labour was common in the highly competitive rag trade, mostly women making women’s garments. But some of the more unusual skills in this trade included an ostrich feather curler in Charlotte Street and a pearl stringer in Cleveland Street.

The author’s great-grandparents came from Belarus in 1895 and worked in the clothing industry. They changed their surname from Simkovitch to Harris and moved to 1 Little Titchfield Street by 1911.

Furniture making was also competitive with the self-employed craftsmen being depen-



Dancers at the Paramount Ballroom in Tottenham Court Road, 1949 (Getty Images).



Gershon Simkovitch (later Harris), the author's great-grandfather, and two of his six children

dent on orders from the big Tottenham Court Road retailers such as Maples and Heals. This drove down wages for skilled craftsmen such as cabinet makers, guilders, carvers and carpenters. The Worshipful Company of Carpenters set up a training school in 1893 at 153-155 Great Titchfield Street, which was later named the Building Crafts College, and remained there until 2001 when it moved to Stratford.

Some unscrupulous dealers produced fake antique furniture by adding simulated wormholes, burns and “encouraging rabbits to scamper across their surface.”

A “shady” trade which was less seedy however was that of Japanese lampshade making, which was started in 1928 at 92 Charlotte Street, by Seiji Kaneko who stayed there until 1965.

The lampshades were made by Japanese ex-seamen, some of whom were interned or sent to a prisoner of war camp in Scotland during the war. They had their own social club in Tottenham Court Road.

Other immigrants from Asia included Indian students at Uni-

versity College London in Gower Street. The Indian YMCA was set up to “regulate reportedly wild behaviour of Indian students involving English women and drink.” It was set up in Keppel Street in 1920 and moved to Gower Street in 1923, before moving to Fitzroy Square in 1950 where it is now.

Jewish refugees fleeing persecution in eastern Europe settled in the area over many decades.

One young Polish Jewish orphan girl arrived alone in 1937 at Victoria station where a railway policewoman feared she would be captured into the “white slave trade”. So she took her to the Emerson Bainbridge Hostel for Young Women and Girls at 49 Cleveland Street, next door to the Hostel for Fallen Women. The source for this was Ebb and Flow in Fitzrovia by Barb Jacobson and Olive Leonard, published by the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association in 2010.

And it was at the West Central Jewish Lads’ Club at 38 Fitzroy Square where jazz musician, broadcaster and journalist Benny Green first learned all these skills. He learned to speak in public there, “played the saxophone before an audience for the first time in my life there... and I became the editor of the club magazine.” He was brought up in poverty in Cleveland Street within a short walk from the super rich at Nash Terraces by Regents Park “where you saw how the other half lived.”

Just round the corner in Fitzroy Street was the Olympic Gym run by William Klein in the 1940s and 1950s which, according to the Picture Post, had gangster

connections, including the mysterious “Joe the Greek”. Apart from boxing it was used for wrestling and weightlifting.

George, a Maltese gentleman, with his face “disfigured by razor scars” but a “kindly family man”, ran Tony’s cafe at 91 Charlotte Street in the 1950s. Its customers consisted of “bohemians, small time villains, and prostitutes with hard faces.”

Many communists, anarchists and other revolutionaries settled including Karl Marx’s tailor, Friedrich Lessner, who lodged in Tottenham Court Road and later co-founded the Independent Labour Party. And from the other extreme Oswald Mosley’s British Union of Fascists had a women’s section run by Lady Makgill at 233 Regent Street (50 yards from Oxford Circus) until 1934.

The entertainment at the theatres and many cinemas in Tottenham Court Road over the years are all chronicled - and the amusement arcades of which there were four by 1920. One had slot machines that delivered horoscopes and even “your future wife’s picture.”

The many restaurants are also recorded. The claim that “tip” stood for “To Improve Promptness” is made but also the discontent of waiters at having these tips creamed off (or “troned” or “trunked” as it was called).

Many of these waiters and chefs lived in a “rooming house” for them in Charlotte Street until the late 1960s, according to “someone on the editorial staff of the Fitzrovia News”, we are told.

Restaurants and residents would often get their milk from the various dairies that existed with cows on the premises. One with ten cows was at 42a Clipstone Street until as late as 1930.

Those who preferred beer had many pubs to choose from including the Fitzroy Tavern on the corner of Charlotte Street and Windmill Street. The proprietor Judah Kleinfeld provided free cigars on Sunday mornings in the 1930s. Surely a custom that deserves reviving (even if they would have to be smoked outside nowadays).

With today’s traffic congestion it is difficult to believe that even as late as the 1950s children could play safely in the streets as there were not many cars. Joyce Hooper of Hanson Street recalls, also from Ebb and Flow in Fitzrovia, that she put her baby daughter in a pram unattended in the street. “The only thing I did was put a notice on, Please do not feed this child’.”

The foreword is by local writer Nick Bailey, author of Fitzrovia, published in 1981.

Ann Basu has contributed many historical features to Fitzrovia News.



Elephant man

A series of interviews for The Oldie by local publisher Naim Attallah has just appeared in book form.

It is called “No Longer With Us, Encounters with Naim Attallah” and is published by Quartet Books at 27 Goodge Street, which he took over in 1976.

Among those interviewed is gay icon Quentin Crisp (1908-99), who frequented Fitzrovia from the 1920s to 1940s.

His candid autobiography “The Naked Civil Servant” described what it was like to be openly and defiantly gay when male homosexuality was a criminal offence.

The book was published in 1968 and became hugely popular when made into a television film in 1975, when Crisp was played by John Hurt (1940-2017), who lived in Fitzrovia.

In the interview Crisp was asked by Attallah if he was happy with Hurt’s widely acclaimed portrayal of him.

“I was indeed,” he replied. “It was a marvellous reproduction of my voice for one thing. He was slightly more defiant than I ever was, but only minimally.

“He’s born to play victims. After he played me he went on to play Claudius, which is really only me in a sheet, and then he was the Elephant Man. People sometimes ask me if I feel like an elephant man, and I do, I do.”

WIN THIS BOOK

Answer this question: Which Fitzrovian actor played the part of fellow Fitzrovian gay icon, Quentin Crisp, in the film of his life?

Send your answer, along with your name and address, by email to news@fitzrovia.org.uk (with “Crisp Competition” in the subject box). Entries close on July 2.

Previous winner

Congratulations to Maria Marchese of Newman Street who won our competition in the last issue.

She correctly answered that Mortimer Street was where Oscar Wilde visited a palmist during his trial. So she won the book “Oscar, A Life” by local author Matthew Sturgis.

The Other Cinema / Scala

Older readers may remember the thriving “alternative” scene of films and live music in the late 1970s at 25 Tottenham Street.

This was where the Other Cinema staged events from 1975 to 1977 and then continued under the name of the Scala from 1978 to 1981 (pictured right), after which it moved to Kings Cross.

It is all lovingly chronicled in a new book by Jane Giles, called *The Scala Cinema, 1978-1993* (published by FAB Press).

The performances frequently ignored all censorship and they attracted a very mixed bunch of often bizarrely dressed eccentric characters.

It achieved notoriety as a socialist cinema in the mid-1970s, on the site where there had been a wide variety of theatres since 1772.

By 1975 the main building had become the head office of National Car Parks, but there was room under it for the Other Cinema to operate. This was funded by many film stars including Sean Connery, whose career had started when representing Scotland for the Mr Universe competition in 1953 at the Scala Theatre as it then was. He was unplaced, but another competitor told him about auditions for a touring South Pacific production, from which he got a part as a chorus boy, his first acting job.

The Other Cinema opened in October 1976 with a film about Gerrard Winstanley who started the diggers movement in the 17th century calling for all land to be shared out and cultivated.

A month of Chinese films then followed and attracted 11,000 people.

But when audiences waned it was decided to have rock’n’roll films coupled with live performances in the summer of 1977. A Sex Pistols film was shown followed by a live performance of the Buzzcocks for example. The gig was watched by Sid Vicious in the audience, and fellow Pistol, Johnny Rotten, who was photographed in the packed bar.

Another film, *The Ballad of Joe Hill*, was coupled with a live performance by Tom Robinson.



The Scala in Tottenham Street in 1979

Following a withdrawal of British Film Institute funding the Other Cinema closed in December 1977. But it re-emerged in June 1978, with backing from Virgin, as the Scala.

It put on all-night live music and film events which were hugely popular.

Singer Boy George remembered them fondly even though he, and fellow gender bender singer Marilyn, were once beaten up on its doorstep.

Other bands as diverse as Throbbing Gristle and Spandau Ballet appeared within a week of each other.

Equally diverse were members of the audience. They ranged from a woman with a paintbrush stuck into her beehive hairdo, and giants permanently in drag, to celebrities such as ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev, actor Tom Conti, poet Linton Kwesi Johnson, and punk performer Viv Albertine of the Slits.

Cult movies such as *Eraserhead* were screened there more than once from 1979, often during all-night sessions. And the films ranged from Laurel and Harder, to Fassbinder.

One student observed: “The audience would be at least as interesting as the film programmes” including insomniacs, psychopaths, and anarchists.

But with the advent of Channel 4 taking over the building the last gig at the Scala was with New Order and *Altered Images* in April 1981.



Regency Theatre in 1817



The Scala's Charlotte Street entrance in 1967

Channel 4 did put on a monthly film in a small studio for locals for a short time after moving in at the end of 1982. But that was effectively the end of the story in Tottenham Street.

The book also traces the extraordinary history of the various theatres that occupied the site, dating back to 1772 when it opened as a concert hall by an Italian emigre and double bass player called Francis Pasquili.

It had many names over the years with everything from Rooms for Concerts of Ancient Music, through Theatre of Variety, to the Dust Hole.

During the 19th century performers included Barnaby Rattle the Woodman of the Alps dancing the Original Egg Hornpipe, Carlo the Dog of Intelligence, and primate impersonator Monsieur Gouffe.

A play about slavery, called *Somebody in the House* with Dinah, was staged in 1847, featuring what was billed as a “whole bevy of black females.”

When it was called the “Queen’s Dust Hole” it was taken

over by the Salvation Army in 1885 and turned into a soup kitchen and preaching hall where butchers, brothels, bars and tobacconists were all lambasted from the pulpit. Representatives of these professions banded together to form The Skeleton Army in retaliation leading to clashes between the two armies resulting in fatalities.

It became the Scala Theatre in 1905, and from 1910 showed films as well as staging live entertainment.

The screening of the Epic of Everest film in 1924 was embellished by backdrops of the Himalayas round the stage, and seven Tibetan monks performing religious music and dances. Their trumpets were made from thigh bones, and drums from human skulls. Some of this was mocked in the popular press which the Tibetan government felt undermined their dignity, so they banned Britain from entering the country (and so Everest) for ten years.

Sunday performances were governed by very strict London

County Council rules, which forbade dancing, make-up, and anything unhealthy or unsuitable. This led to official complaints in 1946 about a concert starring blue comedian Geoge Robey (who in his defence said he was not using false eyelids), and African dancer Alexander Within (who said his movements were more of a shuffle than a dance).

A performance by various animals from Chessington zoo in 1942 included a baby elephant. Applying for the performance licence an offer was made to “arrange for a machine gun to be fired in the proximity of the baby elephant in order to show that she would not be upset by the noise.” Permission was granted but only during daylight hours and when there was no bombing of the area.

Young French Jewish children who had survived the concentration camps were allowed to perform in Yiddish to raise money for the Polish Children’s Rescue Fund one Sunday in 1946. But only on condition that they did not wear false beards or animal costumes!

Peter Pan was performed at the Scala every year from 1945 to 1968, when Wendy Craig was the last to top the bill.

It was also used as a location for Alfred Hitchcock’s film, *Stage Fright*, in 1950 which showed many sequences of its front and back stage. It starred Marlene Dietrich, Aleister Sim, Joyce Grenfell, and Hitchcock’s daughter Patricia (who was training at RADA in Gower Street).

Another film shot there was famously “*A Hard Day’s Night*” starring the Beatles in 1964. The old portico front is shown plus many interior shots, including a live concert by the group.

The A3 book has 423 pages of fascinating material, which makes it rather expensive. But it has been reduced at the time of writing from £75 to £50 when ordered through the publishers (fabpress.com).

Bloomsbury ward councillors surgeries

First Friday of the month 6:00-7:00pm Fitzrovia Centre 2 Foley Street
Second and fourth Fridays of the month 6:00-7:00pm

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 in your street or building

Adam Harrison, Sabrina Francis and Rishi Madlani
contact 020 7974 3111

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

Miscount

A short story by SUNITA SOLIAR

Either the world dies or I do, and it seems determined to kill me. Does it think I don't notice the snares it sends? The building I live in wants to collapse just so it can crush me.

You can hear its desire in the creaking floorboards: should I kill Betty May now as she walks out into the bright morning? Or perhaps when she returns from a night at the Cafe Royal? The world sets all of its agents against me. The hair net that gave me three white spots on my head. Leprosy! If I hadn't noticed them and jumped on that bus to Piccadilly it would have got me. But I cried out against it on the bus and defeated it. What the world does not realise is that I could eclipse it for good. I could jump from my building. I could choose leprosy. I could take a few hundred more grains of cocaine. And there — the world all gone.

Is it safe here? This brasserie with marble pillars, red suede booths and pink-edged table cloths. Colour and light are safe, and, if one is to be, one must be somewhere. My favourite waiter. He's a friend. You can tell because of the way he blinks. A frequent flitter of his lids over brown eyes. Never trust people who don't blink often. And the skin on his fingers is always a little red, shredded where he cuts his nails too short. Never trust people who

don't bleed. Black coffee, I tell him, and he is gone. Strong coffee, to keep my wits about me. You have to be careful with waiters. They control what you put into your body. And one must eat to live if one can afford it. These are the world's slipperiest agents, but, no, this one is a friend. And I never eat here. No cold platters of oysters, no steak tartare. Only coffee. Coffee is safe. And light. The world itches and scurries under my skin. If I had just ten grains. I had one hundred earlier, but what if it was not a hundred? Ninety-nine or ninety-eight. The world miscounts me and claws its way through my blood.

Here comes coffee — but what is this? I asked for black. And this is white. White! To dull me into milky submission? That is the slippery start of it. And he too? I said black. He reaches for my cup and says he will bring me another, but no. This is the cup that should be black. Another would be counterfeit, not the thing itself. Look at how it spills and clatters as I wrest it back from him. That is not coffee that is right. I asked for black. Not this one white then another — no. I said black! The world thinks it has won, does it? Its people watching me. But my life is mine and I can pull it from under the world's feet. Yes, here; yes, now. If the world is to pre-



Illustration by Clifford Harper

vent me from even such a small thing as drinking black coffee. What with? A knife? But I have no plate, no cutlery. Only this teaspoon on the wrong saucer of this wrong coffee. Grab it from another diner then. From the man with the steak knife and the napkin tucked in at his chin, who is looking at me in the gaps when I am not looking at him. But no, Betty May, you are a tiger. Do not die by the world's steak knife. Well then, wait — my hat pin. Out it comes. Now they will see. And the waiter knows that he

and the world have lost. Do they see? Into my neck. I die.

Do I die? Does the beyond look exactly like this world - cruel joke - a swirl of red suede and glass? Or worse, has this been the beyond and I free all along? Which way am I being tugged? Stop the pull of life on my arm and — the pin is released. Those are my fingers. Why did they let go? My fingers on the hand connected to my arm, and my neighbour, he of the steak knife, gripping my arm and in the other hand holding my pried hat pin. I

see. These are the conspirators watching from over lobsters and ice buckets. They think they have trapped me, but if I do not die today, do not think I may not another time. And it will be my by own hand. I am leaving. Keep the hatpin. It is tainted now, a thing of the world. I can lose it, and yet I must be careful. It starts with a hat pin, but soon it is a hat, then the hairs on my head, then the world crawling into my scalp and chewing through the bone and sponge that is my brain. In your blood is one thing, but never let it get into your head.

Poetry corner

Spring Morning in Soho Square
By Diana Matheou

Deciding to sit in the square where sun
Like an incoming tide
Has spread among the branches one by one
A woman finds a seat the warmth has dried.

Tramp-like and rank, a man who sleeps nearby
Too close for comfort - sits
Unpacks a paper and his day's supply.
She stares ahead and wonders if his wits

Are turned or if it's safe to say hello,
But nods and gives a smile
And then absorbs the morning's gentle flow,
Circling pigeons and a blackbird's song while

Michael the gardener blows with his machine
The debris from the grass
And Father Alexander on the green
Walking his dog has finished early mass.

The light moves from the bench and a fresh
breeze
Hurries along the day.
High in the blue beyond the greening trees
The soundless planes like needles thread away.

**What Robin, the Boy Wonder,
Does Now**

By Terry Egan

The Joker's taken over Gotham City,
and Robin's writing poetry -
that's this:
haiku, sonnets... Tweeting, sitting
pretty,
the Joker's taken over Gotham City.
And Batman's in a glass box -
what a pity
there's none to help him. Golly gee,
what's this?
The Joker's taken over Gotham City,
and Robin's writing poetry.
That's this.
(Robin worked with Batman
from 1970 to 1980. He now lives,
and writes, in London.)

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Hogarth classic on show

One of William Hogarth's most famous paintings of a Tottenham Court Road scene in 1745 is on display until September 1 at The Foundling Museum, 40 Brunswick Square, WC1.

It is "The March of the Guards to Finchley" depicting government troops preparing to defend London from Jacobite rebels who had reached Derby from Scotland. The picture was painted in 1750, five years after the event. The full painting is shown on the back page.

Some of the lower ranks are depicted (bottom right) in an advanced inebriated state, having just left a brothel. The three windows of the brothel are shown in the top right of the painting (pictured inset right) with the prostitutes calling farewell out of them to the soldiers.

The madam (on the right of the bottom window) is Mother Douglas, praying for the safe return of her best customers. She was Jane Douglas (c1700-1761), described by Foundling Hospital governor Sir Charles Hanberry Wells, as "a great, flabby, fat, stinking, swearing, hallowing, ranting Billingsgate Bawd, very well known to most men of quality and distinction in these kingdoms."

In the centre of the picture is an open air boxing match, which may well have been George Taylor's Great Booth which existed in Tottenham Court Road. Famous boxer John Broughton (1703-89) fought there for several years before setting up his own arena. He created the first rules of boxing after one of his opponent's died in the ring.

The exhibition is entitled "Hogarth & The Art of Noise." Visit: foundling@brunswickgroup.com



Kill or cure? Apollo and his twin sister Artemis

Sue Blundell continues her series on Gods and Goddesses

Greek gods and goddesses are notoriously hot-tempered, devils and vengeful. Two in particular, Apollo and his twin sister Artemis, stand out as being especially brutal.

They're literally pestiferous, or plague-bearing – when they fire their arrows at the human race, we die from disease. So why was this unlikely pair given a starring role in the sculpted panel over the main entrance to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on Keppel Street?

The panel was inspired by the School's official seal, which was designed by sculptor and medallist Allan G. Wyon and modelled on a Greek coin from Sicily. In both panel and seal we see the divine twins in a chariot: Artemis is driving while Apollo raises his bow to shoot down some hapless victim. The date palm in the background refers to the tropical activities of the School, but also recalls the palm tree miraculously created on the parched island of Delos to provide a patch of shade for the goddess Leto when she was giving birth to Apollo and Artemis. The sculpture is framed by the coils of an enormous snake, symbol of Asclepius, god of medicine and child of Apollo. His snake-entwined staff still features in many a medi-



cal logo.

So in spite of his violence, Apollo had strong links with medicine. Binary opposites fascinated the Greeks and Romans, and they saw Apollo as a god who could destroy and create, kill and cure. Both he and his son Asclepius were associated with snakes, creatures which can of course be deadly but were also regarded as therapeutic: they were used in Asclepius's healing cult to lick the affected parts of patients. Artemis was equally paradoxical. A determined virgin herself, she was celebrated as the goddess who assisted women in childbirth.

'From the one that harms comes healing' was a popular maxim among both Greeks and Romans. The best-known myth illustrating this paradox is the story of Telephus, a hero who'd been wounded in his thigh by the warrior Achilles. The gash only began to mend when Achilles himself finally agreed to touch the spot with the point of his spear.

So the person with the most power to hurt us is also the one who can cure us. Roman poets liked to see this as an allegory of

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



The full sculpted panel in Keppel Street (above) and a close up (below)



the pains of love: you've broken my heart, so only you can mend it. But we also know it to be partly true of doctors, surgeons, and psychotherapists in our own day: they have to probe and cut and question in order to make us well. Just a few weeks ago the life of a young woman in London was saved when a virus was introduced into her body to destroy the bacteria that were ravaging her liver and lungs. And it's certainly true of Apollo and Artemis: they thoroughly understand disease because they know

all too well how to cause it.

I've already written about Apollo and his sister in this series ('The Apollo of Bourlet Close', Fitzrovia News March 2018), but I'll just refer here to one of their nastier exploits. When the mortal woman Niobe boasted that she had more children than the goddess Leto, the terrible twins leapt into action with their bows and arrows to defend their mother's honour. They shot down Niobe's twelve sons and daughters, and the poor woman wept so much she was turned into a cliff face streaming with water.

Artemis merits a separate mention. Her Roman counterpart was Diana, and to my mind she's one of the most interesting of the goddesses. She was closely associated with female reproductive functions: young women made offerings to her at the menarche, before their marriage-night, and in the course of childbirth. Yet Artemis was pictured as an athletic virgin huntress who shunned the company of men. Perhaps, as a goddess who had to make women bleed, she herself had to stand outside the process and be immune from bleeding. This fits in well with the notion of a deity who has to harm in order to create.

So the School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine knew what it was doing when it chose the divine twins as the emblem for its vital research and teaching in the area of public and global health. When the School was expanded in the 1920s a new building was created for it on the corner of Keppel and Gower Streets by architects Morley Horder and Verner Rees. (The site had been acquired from the National Theatre Committee, which had been

forced to shelve its own construction plans when war broke out in 1914.) Opened in 1929, the School was one of the earliest steel-framed buildings ever erected. Its balconies are decorated with gilded bronze images of some of the animals and insects which transmit disease; and the names of 23 pioneers of public health and tropical medicine are carved into its frieze.

All these names belong to men – Lister, for example, the pioneer of antiseptic surgery, and the bacteriologist Pasteur. But in a recent planning application submitted to Camden Council, the School states that it "proposes to celebrate a number of female scientists who have made equally significant contributions to the field." They want to add the names of three women to the frieze, but their identity is still to be decided. Artemis presumably will not be among them. She deserves recognition as a goddess who played an important role in the lives of women in the ancient world. But there must be many female practitioners of healing who have been far more kind and caring in their activities than the Greek deity of childbirth. Perhaps our readers would like to suggest some candidates.

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Picture puzzle



How well do you know Fitzrovia?

Can you identify at which address the above photograph was taken?

For the answer see under the detective picture on page 13.



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Parrot spotted wrong notes



Piano Man
No 17 by
Clifford
Slapper

Your local pianist did not begin his illustrious career in our beloved Fitzrovia, but in the back alleys of the North London suburb of Wembley. As chance would have it, the local piano teacher was quite an unusual character.

My parents were then and still are music lovers. Records were played on a popular model of a 1960s record player called a Dansette (other brands of 1960s record player are not available!) My father, Ivor still likes to put Noel Harrison's "The Windmills of Your Mind" or some Sérgio Mendes on the turntable, and there are very few songs of any genre which my mother, Doreen, can't sing along to very tunelessly. When I was about five, they bought me a toy piano. Apparently, whatever other trinkets were put my way, I kept gravitating back to that little wonder, so it was decided to send me for piano lessons.

Looking through the Yellow Pages (an encyclopaedic directory



Cartoon by Chris Tyler

long before the internet brought us search engines) they alighted upon a certain Miss Beryl Silley, who lived in a maisonette at the bottom of The Avenue, a stone's throw from Wembley Stadium, which in those days had an iconic set of twin towers, rather than the modern leaning semi-circular arch which would arrive in 2007.

The comical combination of names was not lost on my youthful sense of humour as, from the age of 7, young Slapper went to be taught by old Silley. My parents were both at work so at 3.30pm every Thursday, my

grandmother took me there and sat in the corner, proudly watching me play my way through pieces of increasing complexity, from the early five finger exercises to Chopin and Beethoven a few years later. Miss Silley was a little old lady living in genteel poverty, a baby grand piano squeezed into her living room amongst much old dusty bric-a-brac. In later years a large portrait of Margaret Thatcher (who was Education Secretary from 1970 and Leader of the Opposition from 1975) appeared on the hallway wall facing the front door as you walked in. Beryl Silley was

truly one of Maggie's blue-rinse brigade, and wore her whiskers with pride.

The piano occupied two thirds of the room, and alongside was her beloved parrot who squawked more enthusiastically as the music soared, and seemed to comment on any wrong notes. She would congratulate me on having practised hard each week, although in reality I barely studied at all between lessons, much preferring to improvise. The Chopin was becoming more fluent only because at each lesson I was playing it one more time. Her teaching methods were neither modern nor inspired, consisting of her writing a few notes in a Silvine notebook as to how I might improve each piece. I have some of those notebooks still, full of her careful old hand, and I can still smell the musty odour of her hallway.

On the drive home, my grandmother, Raie Schwartz, and I would joke about the lesson and do imitations of Beryl. Miss Silley treated herself to afternoon tea each day at 4.00pm, and when we arrived at 3.30pm there was a large tea-pot brewing, under a woolen tea-cosy on a trestle-table

by the piano, and a silver, three-tiered cake stand festooned with shortbread biscuits, all for her. On some occasions the temptation was too great and rather than wait until I left she would grab a quick nibble of one of the shortbread biscuits whilst I was playing. Out of the corner of my eye I could see the crumbs sticking to her moustache. She couldn't fool me! I do regret, however, fooling her: it would have stood me in good stead if I had possessed enough patience for the daily hour of home practice she urged.

In addition to all of the grade exams, she also entered me for many concerts held in Wembley under the auspices of the Brent Festival of Music and Dance; but there was still something missing, a lack of inspiration. That came with my burgeoning interest in pop songs, and especially those making heavy use of piano. There was Gilbert O'Sullivan, and then my grandmother bought me the cassette tape of Elton John's Honky Chateau album, every song of which I still love to this day.

But in 1973 I went out for the first time to buy a record for myself: David Bowie's album, *Aladdin Sane*. It turned everything upside down and featured the avant-garde piano of a certain Mike Garson, which showed me how percussively the piano could be played. I still remember my excitement as I ran home from the shop with that precious disc of vinyl. I carefully placed it on the turntable of the Dansette, its thin black legs had by now been removed, leaving it to sit on the floor. As the needle made contact with the spiral groove rotating at 33 and a third times per minute, the two opening chords of "Watch That Man", G and C, were an apt fanfare for the arrival of my adolescence.

Looking back through the archives

10 years ago



Comic meeting

From Fitzrovia News, Summer 2009:

A proposal was made on Radio 4 to erect a plaque at Warren Street tube station to the four "Beyond The Fringe" comedians. The four - Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, Jonathan Miller, and Alan Bennett - first met in an Italian restaurant virtually opposite the station in May 1960, according to Edinburgh Festival artistic director, John Bassett. This was illustrated with a cartoon by Kipper Williams (above).

Cook's widow thought the meeting was in a Goodge Street restaurant. Either way no plaque was ever erected.

Star dishwasher

A feature on Olivelli's Sicilian restaurant at 35 Store Street revealed that star entertainer

Danny Kaye had worked there for a while as a dishwasher. Other celebrities dined there included Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Margaret Fonteyn, Diana Dors, and Norman Wisdom as well as gangsters such as the Kray brothers.

An illuminated image of Australian cricketer, Shane Warne, was projected beside the statue of Francisco de Miranda in Fitzroy Street. The advertisement led to criticisms from locals who thought it inappropriate beside the statue of the Venezuelan revolutionary who lived at 58 Grafton Way in the early 19th century. He was briefly the leader of Venezuela when a revolution kicked out the Spanish, but was toppled within a year and spent the rest of his life in jail.



Danny Kaye

40 years ago

Police stabbing

From Tower, June 1979:

Local police constable Stan Baldwin was back on the beat after receiving a nasty wound at a demonstration which hospitalised him for five days.

"We understand that the imperturbable Stan did not realise he had been stabbed until he nearly passed out," reported the Gossip column.

"All his many friends in the area will no doubt be administering convalescent medicines in local dispensaries, such as the White Hart and the Northumberland Arms."

[The White Hart, was at 20 Windmill Street, on the corner of Whitfield Street, which then continued through to Percy Street, but was closed and built over in 1998; the Northumberland Arms at 43 Goodge Street is now the Queen Charlotte/Draft House].

Sadly, Stan died last year (2018), we are told by his retired police colleague, Pete Smith. "We think he might have been stabbed by a stiletto instead of a knife because of the size of the wound," he said.



Alfie Maron

Music hall

Music hall artists performed every month in The Horseshoe pub at 267 Tottenham Court Road.

The pub was the headquarters of the British Music Hall Society which was run by Langham Street clothes wholesaler Harry Kaye.

"This world famous society is a must for those who wish to partake in musical nostalgia and once again enjoy the performances of household names who at one time topped the bill of variety houses all over the country," wrote Alfie Maron (1912-86), himself an actor who lived in Langham Street.

"Many of the the artists are still performing and on the first Tuesday of every month gather to recap past triumphs and meet with old friends.

"I advise theatre lovers to go along and enjoy a really great evening and indeed dip into memories of the past."

Footnote



Pictured in 1942 is the Hare's Foot public house at 36 Goodge Street. The pub was there from at least 1851 until the early 1960s when it became a restaurant. The Mondello Italian restaurant now occupies the site.

WHAT'S ON AROUND FITZROVIA

Email news@fitzrovia.org.uk with listings by Aug 17, for the Sept issue and put "Listings" in the subject box

LIVE MUSIC



NANCY KERR

All Saints, 7 Margaret St: Jeremiah Stephenson organ recital, June 9, 7.15pm.

The Albany, 240 Great Portland St: Sixties Rebellion (Garage, Surf & Rockabilly), every Friday, 9pm-2am.

King & Queen, 1 Foley St : Folk once a month on Fridays 8-11pm (visit web.mustradclub.co.uk): Musical Traditions Festival, June 14-16. Nancy Kerr, Sept 13.

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): Alvin Gibbs and the Disobedient Servants, June 10. Man With A Mission, June 12. Mungo Jerry, June 13. Betty Harris, June 14. The Electric Stars, June 15. Anglo-American Rock'n'Roll Heritage Show, June 16. The Members + Piranhas 4, June 20. Hung Like Hanratty, June 28. Northern Soul All-Nighter, June 29 (11pm-6am).

CABARET

The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place: Maverick Theatre's SpeakEasy Cabaret, first Saturday of the month, 7.30pm. If you would like to appear for up to ten minutes email story@mavericktheatre.co.uk.

Ballroom dancing

The Art Deco Orchestra present the Fitzrovia Society Ball at the Indian YMCA Fitzroy Square on **June 14, July 12 and August 9**. Dancing to vintage dance records followed by the Orchestra playing jazz and dance music of the 1920s and 30s. includes tea, coffee and soft drinks and Indian snacks. Free taxi dancers plus half hour dance lesson from 7pm. Tickets £8 non dancing balcony only £16 and £20 dancing on-line and at the door eventbrite.co.uk fitzrovia-society-ball-tickets

THEATRE

Bloomsbury Theatre/Studio, 15 Gordon St (thebloomsbury.com): Show and Tell (cutting edge comedy), June 13. Werewolf: Live (comedy game show), June 19-July 1.

Camden People's Theatre, 58-60 Hampstead Rd (cpttheatre.co.uk): Calm Down Dear, series of plays, until June 17.



Dominion Theatre, 269 Tottenham Court Rd (dominiontheatre.com): Big, The Musical, from September for nine weeks. White Christmas, November.



London Palladium, Argyll St (london-palladium.co.uk): Julian Clary, Born to Mince, June 8. Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, June 27-Sept 8.

New Diorama Theatre (newdiorama.com), 15-16 Triton St (Euston Rd opposite Fitzroy St): Operation Mince meat (glam-punk musical), until June 15. 549: Scots of the Spanish Civil War (four miners join the International Brigades), June 22-23, 7.30pm. Incoming Festival, June 24-30.

RADA, Malet St (rada.ac.uk/whats-on): Shakespeare for young audiences (As You Like It, Cymbeline, and Julius Caesar), June 26-July 6.

ULU Live (The Venue), Torrington Place (ulu-live.co.uk): The Meat Puppets, June 20. Arkells, July 25.

COMEDY

The Albany, 240 Great Portland St: Every Monday and Wednesday (plus occasional other nights) at 7.30 pm.



Hogarth's classic painting set in Tottenham Court Road in 1745 is on show at the Foundling Museum until September. See page 17.

CINEMA

Bolivar Hall, 54 Grafton Way (cultura.embavenez-uk.org): London Socialist Film Co-op screen films at 11am on the second Sunday of each month.

Charlotte Street Hotel, 15-17 Charlotte St: Film Club with meal and a movie for £40. To book tickets visit bit.ly/CharlotteStreetFilmClub.

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

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

RADA: Jerwood Vanbrugh Theatre, Male St: Six short films produced by RADA students, July 9, 7pm.

Regent Street Cinema, 309 Regent St: For daily programme visit regentstreetcinema.com. London Australian Film Festival, June 27-30. Matinee classics every Wednesday at 12 noon and 3.30pm, for over 55s, £1.75. Kids' Kino Club, every Saturday, 11.30am.

Royal Anthropological Institute, 50 Fitzroy St (raifilm.org.uk/events): Regular programme of screenings

PUB QUIZZES

The Albany, 240 Great Portland St: Sundays, 7pm

Carpenters Arms, 68-70 Whitfield St. Tuesdays, 6.30pm.

Prince of Wales Feathers, 8 Warren St: Tuesdays, 6pm.

Rising Sun, 46 Tottenham Court Rd. Wednesdays, 6.30 for 7pm.

EXHIBITIONS

British Museum, Great Russell St (britishmuseum.org):

Free: Witnesses: Symbolist prints, until July 18. Artists postcards from 1960 to now, until August 4. Rembrandt: thinking on paper, until Aug 4. Reimagining Captain Cook, until Aug 4. Playing with Money: currency and games, until Sept 29.

Pay for: Edvard Munch: Love and angst, until July 21. Manga, until Aug 26



Senate House Library, Malet St (senatehouselibrary.ac.uk): Staging Magic: The Story Behind The Illusion, until June 15.

Wellcome Library, 183 Euston Rd (wellcomecollection.org): Smoke and Mirrors: The Psychology of Magic, until Sept 15. Misbehaving Bodies, until Jan 26.

TALKS

Sohemian Society, Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place: '1919: Britain's Year of Revolution'. Speaker Simon Webb. June 19, 7.30pm.

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

UCL Wilkins Main Building, Gower St: Brain Power, Neuroscience Festival, June 22 (11am-5pm).

WALKS

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

ART

Featured exhibitions below. A full list of all galleries in the area is on our website: news.fitzrovia.org.uk



Alison Jacques Gallery, 18 Berners St: Graham Little "Selected Works", June 5-July 27.



Pilar Corrias, 54 Eastcastle St: Elizabeth Neel "Nightjars and Allies", to June 28.

Josh Lilley, 44-46 Riding House St: Various artists "Stains on a Decade", until July 3.

Tristan Hoare, 6 Fitzroy Square: Various artists "Botanica", until July 5.



Tiwani Contemporary, 16 Little Portland St: Virginia Chihota "Mhamha", until June 29.



Zari Gallery, 73 Newman St: Yurim Gough, until June 12. Nakazzi Tafari, July 1-19. Robert John, Aug 19-30.