

EC1 ECHO

NOV/DEC 2019 • N°.1 FREE


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Jewel Heritage: Summer's pop-up park in Hatton Garden

Hatton Garden faces the future

The BID acknowledges that the famous street is changing

Hatton Garden – London's jewellery centre for hundreds of years – is rapidly changing. With Crossrail on its way in 2021, rents are increasing, while globalisation and internet shopping have cut margins for many of the businesses. Visitors are expected to triple but the increased footfall is likely to favour different businesses. With that in mind, the Hatton Garden Business Improvement

District (BID) is shortly to publish its annual report for 2018-19. Since it began in 2016, the BID – which is supported by local businesses – has addressed these issues, in the hope that the area can move with the times while retaining its historic profile as London's pre-eminent jewellery district. "The commercial mix has changed dramatically," says a spokeswoman for the Hatton Garden BID. "There has been an influx of new creative agen-

cies." Developers see the area as a central honeypot for offices and housing – while the recent film about the "heist" increased the notoriety of Hatton Garden in a way that some found unwelcome. These circumstances have changed the district, says jeweller Karl Karter of London Rocks on Leather Lane, close to Hatton Garden. "The BID has been controversial in certain areas," says Karter. "But the fact is there's been a lot of change – more so

in the last few years than in the previous 50 years." According to Karter, there has been a move away from the older kind of jeweller, catering to browsing couples, towards a more crafts-based approach. "The internet has had a huge effect on the industry," he says. "The retail shops are struggling against Indian and Chinese competition." Instead, some newer jewellers are targeting the "artisanal"

● Continued on Page-4

Run for your life

Following a grant to upgrade Islington's parks and green spaces to improve health for the whole community, King Square Gardens has opened a new cycling and walking route.

The route itself is made of markers on the ground. It is the third such route in Islington and the first in the EC1 area.

It has been funded by a Parks For Health Project grant of £667,700 to both Islington and Camden: part of the Future Parks initiative, which aims to deliver on the promise of the first London parks which hoped to improve public health.

Without recourse to an expensive gym, EC1 residents can now take exercise – with their GP's recommendations.

"This money will help us to put our green spaces at the heart of the healthcare toolkit," said Cllr Janet Burgess, Islington Council's executive member for health and social care. "We need to connect our least active residents with our parks and green spaces and all the activities that take place within them."





"The physical and mental benefits of getting out there – whether that's walking the dog, going for a jog or breaking a sweat at an outdoor gym – are well known, and there are few other community facilities that have such universal appeal at low or no cost."

Visit islington.gov.uk/sportiniparks

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NEWS



Out To Lunch: The market's food stalls are too dominating Credit Bruno Healy

Hemingway's Leather Lane Call for market layout to change

A report from Camden Council and Hemingway Design has recommended a rethink of Leather Lane market.

Published this year to address the issues facing all the markets in the borough of Camden – including the famous Camden Market, where Wayne Hemingway of Hemingway Design began his career in fashion and design – Camden Markets Vision & Recommendations 2019 cites particular flashpoints facing Leather Lane, which has become a destination for lunch time food stalls and buffets.

As the report notes, Leather Lane is a financial success. Across Camden market trading generates around £964,000 per year [a figure from 2016–17] with 38 per cent of that income from Leather Lane alone.

But it also found a degree of conflict between shop owners and newer food and drink outlets that populate the famous market in EC1. As well as complaints about waste disposal, noise, and the residues of food and oil on the road, Leather Lane now only has a small

number of non-food applications and may have become over-dependent on the lunchtime trade during the hours of 11am–2pm.

Even other caterers on the street find it difficult, added the report. One restaurateur said: "...the buffet food has got so far out of control that my restaurant has been completely

"There is a fundamental need to consider the needs of the entire street"

blocked off so customers can no longer get through the stalls into my restaurant".

The recommendations from Hemingway Design are for the market's layout to change, so that stalls don't block out the shop-fronts. It also suggested that a wider "traders community" should emerge, where the stalls and shops become more considerate of

each other, enjoy more trade throughout the day and attract a more diverse clientele – most notably serving local people doing high street shopping on Leather Lane rather than just catering for office workers on lunch hour.

Practical suggestions for the market included the provision of different sized stalls from small carts to large, semi-permanent lockups; better storage, so that dismantled stalls and vans don't clutter the streets, and different zones for different types of merchandise.

It also proposed that as Leather Lane is only busy on weekdays, it could be bought back to life as a flea market or community market at weekends. Local traders could be encouraged, in order to provide greater neighbourhood benefit from the market.

"There is a fundamental need for the layout plan to consider the needs of the entire street and all who reside and trade there," suggested Wayne Hemingway.

To download the report:

Visit camden.gov.uk/documents

Our ever-changing district

Thomas Neumark,
CEO of The Peel

The first impression that one gets on arriving in Clerkenwell is the general look of monotony in the place: the apparent sameness of one street with its neighbour, and the everlasting grimness and grayness of the houses, wherever one goes".

Those were the "impressions of a visitor in Clerkenwell" written in 1934 by "an Oxford Graduate who spent a week at The Peel".

How would that same person react if a time machine brought them to EC1 in 2019? Safe to say that they wouldn't notice a "general look of monotony", from Sadler's Wells to Exmouth Market to Amwell Street to the Spa Green Estate, a five-minute walk reveals architectural marvels.

The faces you see are more mixed than the buildings. There are households whose families have lived in EC1 for five generations and people who moved in two minutes ago, interacting with the people who work, travel or study here.

This diversity and variety makes Clerkenwell a great place to live or work.



It also presents challenges. People do not always feel like they belong or are able to participate. They may think that certain places or activities are "not for them".

That's why The Peel, a charity that has been working in Clerkenwell since 1898, is looking at how we can build a more connected community where everyone benefits from living here.

It's also why we are supporting the launch of *EC1 Echo*, a paper that can tell the stories of this remarkable part of the world and hopefully bring us a bit closer together. I hope you enjoy the paper and are inspired to tell your story.

Tell us what's on your mind:

Email EC1Echo@peelinstitute.org.uk

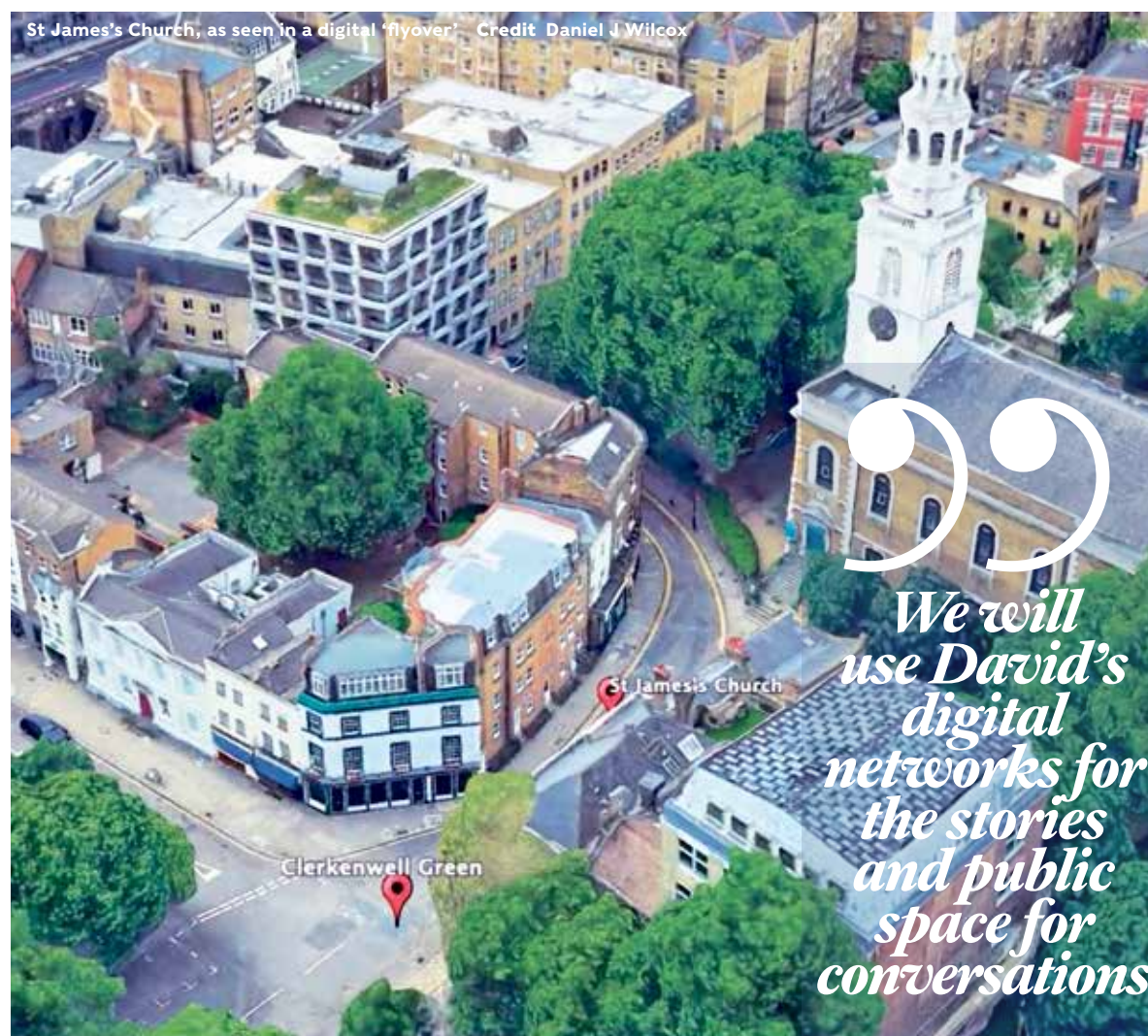
Tom Neumark of The Peel

Two EC1 residents call for interest in the 'Clerkenwell Commons'

Two EC1 residents are enlisting people interested in developing the idea of a Clerkenwell Commons – an environment for conversation, collaboration and action. David Wilcox and Mike Franks first developed the idea in the mid-1970s, and almost 50 years on, their vision was revived by The Peel's initiative called Connecting Clerkenwell. The first result of their renewed collaboration is a set of online maps and photos, based on Mike's 1977 Historic Trail, which will develop into a framework for the Commons.

Mike first met David in 1970 when he was an architect-planner on the GLC Covent Garden team and David was planning correspondent for the *Evening Standard*.

"In 1975 I founded the award-winning social enterprise known as the Clerkenwell Workshops and slowly we began taking an active interest in the wider neighbourhood," says Mike. "In 1977 David was instrumental in securing funding for my Trust from the Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebration Committee. The result was Clerkenwell's first Historic Trail – at a time when Clerkenwell was an unknown, semi-derelict victim of planning blight and failed property speculation." The 1977 Trail was a large poster with short



descriptions of 27 places. It was followed up in 1998 by a major revision, that laid 90 pavement markers and 30 lamppost signs to direct people around the area. Proposals are underway to bring them back next year.

The pair then met 40 years on at the launch of The Peel's Connecting Communities programme and their collaboration is now taking shape both in digital and public space. "The idea of Clerkenwell as a Com-

mons has been part of my work since the beginning," says Mike. "Projects exploring common ground have come and gone but two approaches are constant: that story-telling about past, present and future can bring

people together, and that convivial environments encourage people to talk to each other. We will use David's digital networks for the stories and public space for the conversations."

David has developed demonstration maps that show how the digital side of the Commons might develop. "The Peel provided me and collaborator Drew Mackie with funding to explore how mapping might support their programme – and I remembered the work done with Mike," he says. "It's been great fun developing the first demonstration maps, including a Google Earth flyover created by my son Dan."

"We hope to work with London Metropolitan Archive and local historians to improve on our first efforts."

"We've also started to develop a lot more ideas: to do audio and video interviews and embed those in the maps and recruit local media professionals who can help people record and tell their stories in various ways. This way we can make the discovery trail a place for conversations in the street."

David and Mike are hoping to organise some meetings to generate more ideas, and plan how to put these ideas into practice. If you're interested email Mike (athotaylor@gmail.com), or David (david@socialreporter.com)

The Clerkenwell Commons site can be found at: clerkenwell.commonslondon.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

Think seasonal safety

With the party season on its way, the Greater London Authority's night czar Amy Lamé (right, with Cllr Una O'Halloran) visited Islington to lend the council support in its campaign to encourage businesses to make borough safer for women at night. Amy's visit follows the Mayor of London's Women's Night Safety Charter, which enables women to feel more confident at night, and offers guidance for businesses, charities and councils for staff training in how to spot

harassment – and to promote the "Ask for Angela" scheme, which allows customers to alert staff by discreetly asking "for Angela" at the bar. Cllr Kadeema Woodbyrne, Islington's women's and girl's champion, said: "It's unacceptable that 79 per cent of women aged 18–24 said they expected inappropriate comments, touching and behaviour on a night out towards them or their friends. We will be promoting this Charter to all our night-time businesses to make Islington the safest night-time destination we can."



Polyamorous

A new coffee cup loan scheme is currently being tested in Exmouth Market. Called PolyCup, the scheme has partnered with cafes to reduce waste by offering takeaway coffee cups with a deposit, redeemable on return to participating outlets including Sweet, Brill and Briki on Exmouth Market itself. The scheme aims to encourage people to avoid single-use coffee cups, of which PolyCup says there are about six million thrown away a day. See www.policup.co

NEWS

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Pub faces opposition

Complaints may lead to closure, says local landlord

A Clerkenwell pub can has offered to pay Hugh Myddleton School £30,000 instead of paying his court costs of £21,600 to Islington Council – but has been rebuffed by the council. Following complaints about noise that led him to court, David Lonsdale, the landlord of the Sekforde Arms in Sekforde Street EC1, received a judgement against the pub which imposed several conditions to be met. “The staff and I at the Sekforde were extremely disappointed by District Judge Newton’s decision,” says Mr Lonsdale. “We just cannot accept that the noise made by our customers is excessive or the restrictions imposed on our licence are reasonable”

Mr Lonsdale provides scholarships for Islington students

with his proceeds. “I am proud that we have been a truly sustainable business with most of our heating and cooling coming from the water beneath the pub,” he says. “The Sekforde opened in 1829 and it may now close for good at the end of this year. I think that is a terrible shame.”

Another pub facing a clash with residents is the Wilmington Arms in Rosebery Avenue, which hopes to renovate an upper floor to host music and film evenings. Nine neighbours have objected to the plan.

The problems facing pubs are manifold, including changing social patterns, the business decisions of pub companies or ‘Pubcos’, and the high costs of evenings out – which are easier to bear for big companies. “Large pubs are fine,” says Mr Lonsdale. “It’s the smaller side-street pubs with lower margins that are experiencing difficulties and often closing.”

“We cannot accept that the noise made by our customers is excessive or the restrictions imposed on our licence are reasonable”



Let’s feed people with Clerkenwell’s surplus food

BY DOMINIKA LANGOVÁ

Seven million tonnes. That’s how much food was wasted in the UK in 2015. While most food waste comes from households, business waste still makes up to 13 per cent of this load, which includes the food stalls throwing away unsold portions on Exmouth and Leather Lane markets, Clerkenwell’s hotels throwing away the rest of their bespoke afternoon tea, and restaurants getting rid of uneaten brunches. Add all the rest of the food businesses in the district – as well as all its supermarkets – and that’s a lot of surplus food.

The issue of food wastage has been noted, and some chain cafes and restaurants are trying to tackle the problem by collecting food. The Pret Foundation, founded in 1995, gives surplus food to charities who then donate it to the homeless. Other restaurants use apps like Too Good To Go or Olio to enable customers to buy food before use-by dates with a discount, thereby avoiding wastage.

But there are also charities that collect food directly from businesses. In Clerkenwell, Rhythms of Life, Food For All and Feast are all active, with volunteers collecting

“While most food waste comes from households, business waste makes up for 13 per cent”

food in rickshaws, electric vans and cars. According to Andrew Faris, the founder of Rhythms of Life, some businesses reach out to the charities by themselves, while others need to be asked for their surplus food to be donated.

Very often, volunteers then cook meals from the ingredients and together with other food serve it to the homeless or simply anyone in need. People queue every day at places including Trafalgar Square to get one of the thousands of meals the charities give away for free.

Nevertheless, there are still a large number of businesses in Clerkenwell throwing food away, and there are coordination issues for charities who, says Robert Edwards, administrator of Food For All, only have limited resources in terms of staff and vehicles.

Sometimes, when a charity misses the pick-up in Gail’s bakery on Exmouth Market, a local comes to take the wasted food to those in need. According to Michael, the assistant manager, she comes a couple times a week to ask for what has been left behind.

There are plenty of ways to help. If you don’t have the time to pick up and distribute or to volunteer, you can make a donation to one of the charities to help with the costs. This way you can help people and the environment:

Visit rhythmsoflife.org.uk

Visit foodforall.com

Visit feastwithus.org.uk



Continued from Page 1

consumer. Adds Karter: “The bespoke market is doing well, with independent designer-makers who know how to use social media to publicise their work.” Names include Hannah Martin, Ruth Tomlinson and Emmet Smith of Rebus, and part of their attraction to Hatton Garden is its heritage.

Camden Council has worked with the BID to get developers

to offer low-cost workspace in new developments, and the Hatton Garden Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan has taken on the concerns.

As the spokeswoman says, the BID wants Hatton Garden to be better connected, with an improved environment, and a raised profile. To that end it has hosted workshops and profile-raising events like a Pop Up Park, has created a special loyalty

card called The Garden Card and has installed flower planters and heritage signage. This Christmas it will be hosting festive activities across Hatton Garden, including a Christmas Fair which will involve closing Hatton Garden to traffic for three days. “Hatton Garden is still the heart of the jewellery industry,” says the spokeswoman for the BID. “Although it must adapt, we want it to stay that way.”

FEATURE

5

COLUMN

Join the City's cultural initiative

Tim Jones, Culture Mile's manager, explains what it's bringing to the area, including a huge community meal



Culture Mile hopes to engage the community with vibrant events
Credit Mark Allan

Culture Mile is the name given to the cultural district launched in 2017 by the City of London Corporation. In partnership with the Barbican Centre, the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of London, we're transforming the north-west section of the Square Mile – close to where it meets Clerkenwell – and helping to make the City of London a global leader in culture.

There's long been a major cluster of cultural organisations here and Culture Mile represents the intention to make the most of them. We want to develop this cluster and the opportunities that come from it – and share the benefits as widely as we can. We think there's an opportunity to create a unique place in the heart of London, with culture at its heart, which will deliver huge benefits for local residents, workers and visitors. It's supported by a growing network of over 40 organisations from academia to finance, property, health and hospitality companies.

With its mix of culture, technology, commerce and education, Culture Mile aims to deliver economic growth and social mobility to the area, helped by the new develop-

ments including the new Museum of London and the proposed new Centre for Music, and the connections provided by Crossrail. And the talent, for Culture Mile, together with Foundation for Future London with East Bank, is bringing on the new Fusion Prize: a £50,000 prize fund to find the most innovative and impactful ideas for equipping young Londoners of all backgrounds with the skills they need to meet the needs of today's employers.

Think local

The community must remain at the heart of the area and we've been working hard on Culture Mile's offer to local people. In July we held a

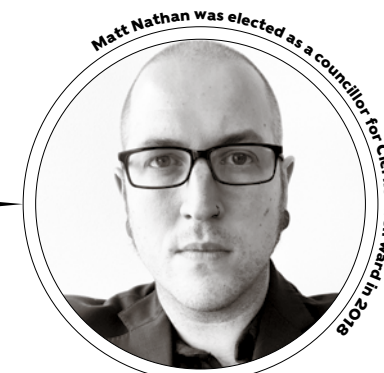
Community Day which brought over 730 people into LSO St Luke's to enjoy a range of workshops and share their ideas for the future of the area, and this autumn Culture Mile is working with over 20 local groups to deliver a storytelling project called You, Me, The World and Culture Mile. This takes the form of a structured conversation, where people share their thoughts, feelings and experiences of the area, making meaningful connections and uncovering hidden stories. It'll culminate in a large performance and community meal in mid-December. Please come along.

Visit culturemile.london



Having fun at a Culture Mile event Credit Mark Allan

In our first councillor's column, Cllr Matt Nathan explains why he believes in the democratic power of the local press



It's been a real joy to see *EC1 Echo* grow from the seed of an idea hatched at The Peel into a living breathing platform for community news you can hold in your hand and share with your neighbours.

Local news has always been close to my heart. I started my career in local press at the *Yorkshire Evening Post* where I ran a small part of the classified section. It was a time when the Internet was a new strange thing that hadn't yet reshaped almost every part of our lives and large offices still had indoor smoking rooms.

Local press to me is fundamentally about community, our shared interests and struggles and the things that bind us together. I can't think of a richer soil than Clerkenwell in which to plant the seed of such a publication.

It's a privilege to serve a community with such a rich depth of stories; Wat Tyler, Thomas Paine and Valda James, clockmakers, printers and brewers, Lol-

lards, Chartists and Communists, Italian migrants who made Clerkenwell their "spiritual home", architect Berthold Lubetkin shaping "homes for heroes" and the beginnings of our celebrated NHS, crafters, dreamers and builders one and all.

Standing on the shoulders of these giants, it's the stories we'll tell about our shared future that interests me the most. The pressures and stresses of the modern world, the longest working hours in Europe, the rising cost of living and exorbitantly high rents do much to isolate us and I think even the humblest of efforts to bring us together are to be celebrated.

Community lies at the heart of my values and the core of my politics. To borrow from Arthur Miller, a good newspaper is a community talking to itself and I look forward to sharing this conversation with you.

Local press is about community, our shared interests and struggles and the things that bind us together



Winners of the first FA Cup

A tour of the Charterhouse is a source of historical wonder

BY OLIVER BENNETT

“
You have to remember that it is a living institution
”

A tour around the Charterhouse is not a raucous affair. As a building where retired monastic ‘brothers’ live in serenity, questions are kept to the end and guests are invited not to take photos of the residents. “You have to remember that it is a living institution,” says Charterhouse tour guide, Jiff.

In a way this adds to the special atmosphere at Charterhouse, which in 2017 opened to the public for the first time, with a new museum and access to the splendid series of old quadrangles and historic rooms of the old monastery and

Tudor mansion. Over 40 brothers live here now – and for a few years they have included women – and their peace in later life should not

be disrupted.

Opening up the Charterhouse was a sound commercial idea as its tours are very popular. Some of the visitors are keen historians, others are lured by the fact it starred in the *Downton Abbey* TV series – now a blockbuster film – and as a location for other films and programmes including *Taboo* with Tom Hardy, *The Guernsey Potato Peel Pie* and *Literary Society*, the series *Pennyworth* and the forthcoming film *Misbehaviour*.

The advent of Crossrail, which is to have an entrance at the eastern end of Smithfield Market, is likely to increase the traffic further. Thereby hangs a tale, as many skeletons were found during Crossrail’s excavations – including one that can be seen here, killed by the Black Death. Like everything at the Charterhouse, it’s part of a three-dimen-

sional history lesson. It became a Carthusian monastery after the Black Death, then became a perk bequeathed by Henry VIII to his nobles after the brutal Dissolution of the Monasteries. Later, in 1611, Thomas Sutton established it as an almshouse and school to house 80 brothers and 40 students – their early graffiti can still be seen. Marks of its importance are everywhere in EC1 from the nearby Sutton Arms to White Conduit Street near Angel, named after the white-robed monks. Charterhouse School survived here until 1872. It’s now in Surrey.

While there is no evidence of them making Chartreuse, the sickly green liquor for which the Carthusians were famous, the Charterhouse has other important things to be proud of – it claims to be where the ‘throw in’ and the offside rule was invented – a result of the hazards of play-

ing footie in a cloister. “In 1881 the Old Carthusians were the first club to win the FA cup,” said Jiff. “And they’re responsible for one of the more controversial rules of the game”.

As part of its opening up, the Charterhouse has a Community and Partnerships Programme, extending the philanthropic work of Thomas Sutton, whose motto ‘Deo Dante Dedi’ means ‘God having given, I gave’. With local schools and community action, the institution is keen to reach out and share its history, its glorious spaces, and especially its tranquillity with audiences across the borough.

The Charterhouse Christmas Fair is 11am–8pm on Tuesday 12 November, and is going to be formally opened by the Mayor of Islington

• Guided tours £15 per person,
• Brothers’ Tours £20 per person

Visit thecharterhouse.org

PHOTOGRAPHY

7

These contrasting views of the area are by Spanish photographer David Blazquez, who has made his home in the EC1 area since 2011. He showed in the photography exhibition Human Furniture earlier this year and can be found at: www.davidblazquez.com



Evening sun at Exmouth Market



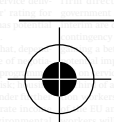
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Regeneration programmes could be placed at risk

The council leader has also warned that a projected gap in funding for a popular scheme in the area could be placed at risk.

New £200m hospital building open

The new Queen Mary Hospital building has been opened by the Mayor of London.

WORDS • OLIVER BENNETT

East London's rediscovered masterpieces

The pre-war paintings of Clerkenwell by the East London Group have been rediscovered in recent years. Here's the fascinating history of the ELG – and how one man on Twitter has helped a new generation to discover them

If you follow Twitter, you may have seen the art of the East London Group – including a small handful of paintings of Clerkenwell.

In particular, *Sunday Morning, Farringdon Road* by Cecil Osborne of 1929, attracts interest for a streetscape that transforms the busy thoroughfare into a scene from a British answer to the US artist Edward Hopper, while *Warner Street* by Harold Steggles, from 1935, is an elegiac view of how this Clerkenwell street once looked; with historic housing either side of the road where offices and an electricity substation now sit. Conversely,

Steggles' *Smithfield Spires* (1931) and Osborne's *Farringdon Road* of 1929 show almost unchanged views, bringing out the unexpected peacefulness of the area.

The story of the ELG is remarkable because it had almost been forgotten until the publication of David Buckman's book *From Bow to Biennale: Artists of the East London Group*, published in 2012 when retired engineer Alan Waltham and his wife Janeta started to research the group. Janeta's mother had been the sister of key ELG artists Harold and Walter Steggles (she is still around at 102 years old) and they



Warner
Harold
Reprod
permis
Artist's



Farringdon Road by
 Cecil Osborne (1929)
 Reproduced by kind permission
 of the Osborne Family

became fascinated by the ELG, with Alan starting the Twitter account (@EastLondonGroup).

Digging into their history, he found that in the Interwar period, the ELG had in fact been a big force in British art. They were shown at the Alex Reid & Lefevre Gallery – the leading British art gallery at the time. “We had no idea of the context of the gallery,” says Alan. Here, ELG members exhibited annually from 1929 to 1936 and in 1935, their work was shown in a British and French Artists exhibition of 64 paintings which included eight paintings by ELG members as well as work by Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant, Paul Cezanne and Picasso. A year later in 1936, Elwin Hawthorne and Walter Steggles were among 27 artists to represent Great Britain at Venice Biennale.

As Alan recalls, “My question was and remains: if they were good enough then, why aren’t they good enough now?” Tweeting about the ELG from his Dorset home, he began to gain a lot of attention for the loose-knit group – numbering about 35 in total – many of whom had begun their artistic lives at the evening art classes that were first held at the Bethnal Green Men’s

Institute and, subsequently under John Cooper’s tutelage, at the Bow and Bromley Evening Institute. Alan found out that the ELG had a big exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1928, which had been reviewed nationally and was supported by patrons like Sir Joseph Duveen and Samuel Courtauld.

Rediscovered thanks to David Buckman’s book and the Twitter account, the ELG has more recently had exhibitions in three galleries including The Nunnery Gallery, Bow, the Beecroft Gallery in Southend and Southampton City Art Gallery. Alan recognises that his advocacy may have put prices up, as the ELG artists are becoming collectable. “An upside of the ELG’s exposure on Twitter has been an increase in interest in their work, which has manifested itself in more competition when pictures come up for sale.”

He says that the Farringdon paintings are among the most popular of the ELG’s work and have led to much discussion: “Contacts via Twitter have described the poor living conditions inside Corporation Buildings (which features in *Sunday Morning, Farringdon Road* – see page 13) which is decidedly at odds with the attractive nature

of the exterior depicted in the painting which Cecil Osborne observed from his window at 221 Farringdon Buildings which was on the other side of the road.” Steggles’ *Smithfield Spires* was painted from Holborn Viaduct.

Tantalisingly, there are Steggles paintings of Clerkenwell that haven’t been found. “I’ve seen catalogue entries for works by Steggles of Eyre Street Hill and Little Italy,” says Alan. “Pictures are still coming out of the woodwork but I haven’t seen these yet.” Keep your eyes open at antique dealers and salerooms – they may still exist.

Alan found that in the Interwar period, the ELG had in fact been a big force in British art

”

FEATURES

10

Nothing like a hound dog

The Greyhound on the Green café, run by Ross Willoughby-Young and Rebecca Serra at St James Churchyard in EC1, is a much-loved coffee spot. But as Ross explains below, it also raises awareness of the plight of greyhounds.

“Gosh I bet he needs a lot of exercise!” It’s the most common comment when someone walks into our little café in St James Churchyard’s park hut and spots Sullivan, our resident greyhound, snoozing in the corner. If they become a regular they soon ask if he’s ever awake. Because despite the greyhound being one of the fastest animals on earth, there’s little they enjoy more than a nap.

It is a charming picture. But sadly, the plight of the greyhound is historically messy and distressing. In Ireland they’re bred to support the racing industry both there and in the UK. In Australia activists stop them being flown over to China for the meat trade, in Spain the galgo is used for hunting small prey like rabbits. Ever wondered why you never normally see a greyhound puppy? It’s because they’re set to work until they can’t work anymore, and then it’s off to the rescue centre.



There are a few who have found their homes in EC1 – Parker, Una and Hummus to name a few – as well as our café hound Sullivan himself, who we adopted from the Greyhound Trust’s Whittingham Kennels. They’re the poster boys and girls of the greyhound community in Clerkenwell, educating people on what makes them such excellent city pets. So if you see a greyhound, consider the journey this beleaguered breed has made and if you want to help, consider a rescue dog.

● Visit greyhoundtrust.org.uk



Locally sourced: Bernadette tending to St Bart’s edible garden

The secret garden behind St Bart’s

Finding solace in the city

Many of us will know the church of St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield – London’s oldest parish church and a historic gem.

Fewer know that the venerable church has an exquisite secret garden at the back: one that until recently a pedestrian might have passed without a murmur, but which is now flourishing.

The person behind the garden’s revival is retired accountant and local resident Bernadette Skehan. “The garden that I see from my flat and walk past every day was completely neglected,” says Bernadette, who has tended it for more than a year. “A short while ago, you could hardly move for nettles, brambles and weeds all hidden behind Virginia Creeper. So I persuaded the people at the Church to let me have a go at tidying it up and making it look lovely ahead of their upcoming

900th anniversary in 2023.”

Now, with terraces making the most of the garden’s gradients, a century-old mulberry tree and several planted areas and pots made from recycled tyres, it’s a treat to behold. Sadly there’s no public access due to all sorts of reasons including public liability, uneven walkways and steep drops, but as Skehan says, “We have opened up the view from the street and the garden has a huge sensory footprint to the thousands of residents, workers and tourists who pass by: the sight, the smell, the colours.”

The garden has been a labour of love but Bernadette has been helped by other volunteer residents and by donations of labour and material from construction firms working on local projects – Mace, Coffey and McLaren. She has also used all the gifts of the impecunious planter: cuttings, donations and “plant adoption”, a scheme run by the organisation Wayward Plants

which rehomes plants after fairs like Chelsea Flower Show to community groups.

Passers by often stop and chat to the volunteers – recently local resident and author Shane Spall and her friend, Hollywood actor Sam Neill popped in for a garden tour. “Sam owns Two Paddocks Wine in New Zealand,” says Bernadette. “He was full of good suggestions.” [pictured below]



A short while ago, you could hardly move for nettles, brambles and weeds

And the garden has another living use. Against the ancient brick and flintwork of St Bart’s sits an organic edible garden used daily by chefs from the nearby Michelin-starred Smithfield restaurant Club Gascon, whose chef-patron Pascal Aussignac has planted herbs for culinary purposes – as well as fruit and edible flowers. Pascal also gleans honey from several hives he introduced into the garden this year. Bernadette has planted lots of herbs close to the railings at street level and she encourages neighbours and passers by to reach through and help themselves for home use. It’s much as it might have been when St Bart’s was home to a monastic order – as well as a treat for the eyes.

To see the garden at the back of St Bartholomew the Great, walk to the end of the church on Cloth Fair and turn right along Bartholomew Passage.

The Autumn Fete at The Church of St Bartholomew the Great in West Smithfield, is Saturday 9 November 12pm–5pm and the same day as The Lord Mayor’s Parade.

FEATURES

Submit your letter

Got an opinion on something in Clerkenwell? We accept letters of up to 200 words from people and organisations in the area. Email info@EC1Echo.com before the next deadline 12th December.

11

LETTER

Can Clerkenwell's workshops and small companies survive?

Don't drive out the creativity from EC1

BY CASS HOROWITZ

Clerkenwell has long been a hub for some of Britain's best creative businesses. I've been lucky enough to live in the area for over ten years and four years ago, I set up a company here too. I say "set up": perhaps I should mention that it was entirely unintentional.

My brother (a freelance videographer at the time) and I saw an opportunity to help some of the many independent bars, restaurants and shops here by making videos that helped them stand out. Calling ourselves The Clerkenwell Brothers we went door to door offering our services to anyone who would listen. With him filming and me acting we started working on the weekends for anyone from bike shop and café Look Mum No Hands to tech company Aircharge. Clerkenwell was perfect for what we were doing, crammed full of independent businesses each keen to do something different. Demand grew, we quit our jobs and started our agency from the meeting room of a local production company. Three years on we have a team of 13 and are still based in the area, on Clerkenwell Road.

It's obvious to see why so many creative businesses flourish in Clerkenwell.



"Each time a multiple moves in we lose a little bit of the area's character"

It really has everything you need in one place: printers and media buyers, plenty of clients, an endless supply of coffee shops and, of course, some of the loveliest locations for shoots in London.

That said, it shouldn't be taken for granted. We're searching for new office space and it seems, sadly, that our time in Clerkenwell may be up. Projects like Crossrail bring many positives to the area but also drive up the prices. This, and a steep rise in business rates, are putting the pressure on small businesses like ours.

As some of the bigger players move in (hello, LinkedIn and Airbnb) we're slowly seeing the squeeze on the smaller businesses.

There are now three branches of Pret A Manger on my road and each time a multiple moves in we lose a little bit of the area's character.

It would be great to see more being done to get the community working in tandem with the local authority to ensure this area's creative heart isn't lost. The EC1 local card was a great, if short-lived, loyalty scheme and this paper is hopefully a great sign of things to come. In the meantime I fear the Clerkenwell days for our business may be coming to an end. That said – we'll never change our name.

For more information:
Visit theclerkenwellbrothers.com

Come all and find peace and stillness, says Meditatio manager Kate Coombs

Meditation is a universal wisdom. Here at The Meditatio Centre in Myddelton Square you will meet it through the Christian tradition of the "prayer of the heart". But it is the same principle as any form of meditation or mindfulness: to find the still point that lies within us, with all the benefits that brings.

The Meditatio Centre at St Mark's is part of The World Community for Christian Meditation. It was inspired by the vision of John Main, a Benedictine monk, to teach meditation as a way to help restore the contemplative dimension of life. Its spiritual foundation is the daily practice of meditation and the local meditation group.

At The Meditatio Centre we offer 20 minutes of silent, eyes-closed meditation to

all each weekday from 1-1.30pm. Lots of people fit it into their lunch hours from work. Although it is Christian in basis, you do not need to be religious to join us here and it is free of charge. We welcome everyone – those of other traditions and none. We believe in sharing the fruits of meditation with all and directing the wisdom of meditation towards the crises of our time.

Alongside the meditation, we also have a programme of events, talks and workshops engaging the areas of education, business, leadership, interfaith, health, addiction, mental health and other social justice issues. All are welcome to attend, and again, it does not matter which tradition you are from. We also offer film showings, art exhibitions and days on poetry, yoga, science and silence and 'On



Beginning' sessions on the first Thursday of every month from 6.30-8pm. So please drop in and join us in our beautiful room on the first floor in St Mark's Church. You are most welcome.

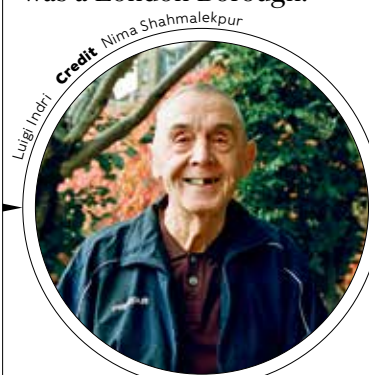
For more information:
Visit themeditatiocentre.org

Meet our featured EC1 local

Luigi Indri

I was born in Finsbury EC1 in January 1940, and despite the new postcodes lived in EC1 most of my life – although it's now in Islington.

I was very pleased to read about and see the possibility of the new local paper *EC1 Echo* because I'm old enough to remember *The Finsbury Gazette* when Finsbury was a London Borough.



I was lucky enough to pass my 11 plus – although my little brother says it's because I was clever – and I went to Highbury County Grammar School up at Highbury Grove so grew up to be an Arsenal supporter and still am. I stayed at school till I was 18 with GCE 'O' and 'A' levels then started a five-year Student Apprenticeship with Thorn Electrical Industries and ended up with a Bsc(Hons), and worked at the TV Company Ferguson at Enfield until 1990 when it closed down having been sold to the French firm Thomson.

For the next 15 years I worked for smaller electrical companies at Wembley, Ware and Roydon and ended up designing satellite receivers and terrestrial set-top boxes which we manufactured in Shenzhen and Dong Guang China with the Taiwanese company Shardin.

I'm afraid I never got married and stayed with my parents all their lives and now live alone but am lucky enough to have found and got involved with the St Luke's Community Centre and more recently with PAL the "Pets Against Loneliness" charity which does a lovely job bringing older people and lovely friendly dogs together. Hopefully for the rest of my life, another 20-plus years, I will still live in EC1 and be able to read local news in the new *EC1 Echo*.

HISTORY

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Blazing the trail in EC1

The closure of Clerkenwell Fire Station is still lamented, but this fine building has found an important temporary role, says Mark Aston of Islington Local History Centre

Until its closure in 2014, Clerkenwell Fire Station stood watch on the corner of Rosebery Avenue and Farringdon Road for almost 150 years. The oldest operating fire station in Britain, it was axed by the then London Mayor Boris Johnson as part of a widespread cost-cutting exercise, along with nine other bases across the capital.

The large site on Rosebery Avenue was once occupied by the Cobham's Head public house. In December 1866, having survived years of emptiness and near collapse, this old pub was destroyed by fire. Liquor stored for a planned Christmas reopening contributed to what an observer called the "pyrotechnic splendour" and ferocity of the blaze – an omen, perhaps, for the building that was to replace it.

The first Clerkenwell Fire Station was constructed on this site between 1871–73 and designed by Edward Cressy, architect to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. A tall, red brick building with four floors of living accommodation above the appliance room and watch-room; a shed in the yard with stables and rooms

for engine drivers.

It was to become one of the brigade's most important stations and was extended in 1895–97, which demanded the demolition of three old houses. The extension featured exits to Rosebery Avenue, less crowded and dangerous than the previous exit in Farringdon Road.

The station became unfit for service and a decision was made to replace it. An extension was built in 1912–14, after which the old building was demolished

and rebuilt in 1914–17 to plans by architect HFT Cooper of the Fire Brigade Branch of the London County Council Architects' Department. To achieve the right proportions, the new and old sections at either end were given identical façades and the central building retained its original proportions. Quarters for the superintendent and district officer were provided on the second floor, married men on the upper floors and the full complement was about 33 men.

"Clerkenwell Fire Station's longer-term future remains uncertain"

The station played a vital role during World War II. The area suffered extensive damage from enemy attacks, especially during the London Blitz of 1940–1941, with an adjacent building suffering a serious fire. The damage was enough to sever Clerkenwell Fire Station's links with other stations and damage water mains, but the station survived the conflict. A new drill-tower, drill-yard and garage were added after the war.

The building has since been designated Grade-II* listed status for its architectural importance. After lying empty for five years the building became a homelessness shelter for London's LGBTQ+ community in May. It is being run by the Outside Project organisation, following a £50,000 grant awarded by the Mayor of London, with the

backing of Islington Council, to operate as a refuge for one year. Grassroots outreach group Streets Kitchen works alongside other agencies, such as Stonewall Housing, to run an advice centre in the former station.

Clerkenwell Fire Station's longer-term future remains uncertain. Islington Council has been in talks with City Hall to secure Greater London Authority funding to purchase the site, in the anticipation that this historic and well-loved building can be converted into genuinely affordable homes.

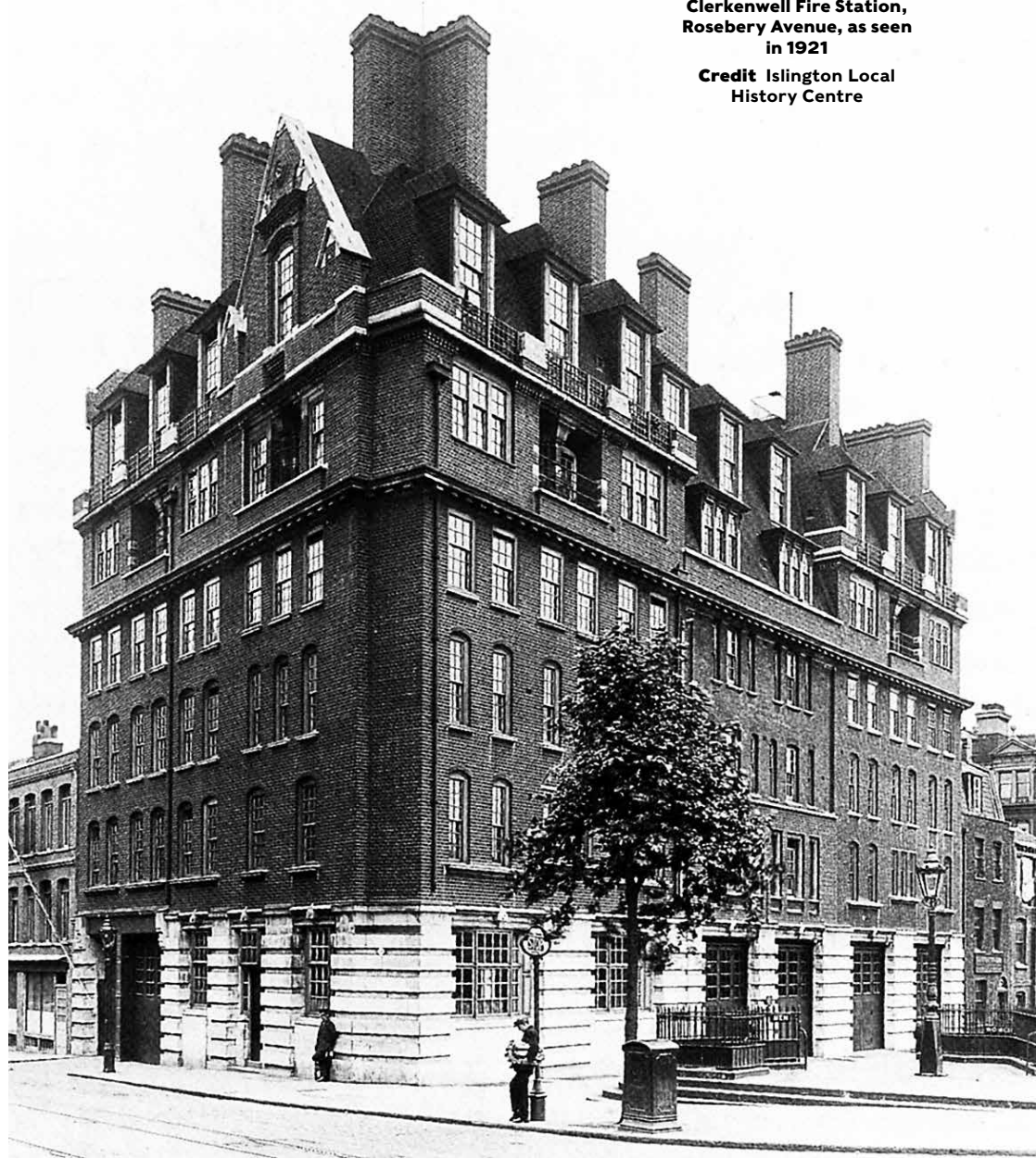
For more local interest visit Islington Local History Centre:

Phone 020 7527 7988

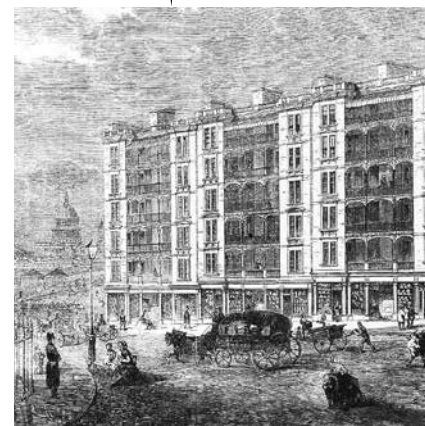
Email local.history@islington.gov.uk

Clerkenwell Fire Station, Rosebery Avenue, as seen in 1921

Credit Islington Local History Centre



Corporation Buildings, Farringdon Road in 1865
Credit British Museum



FEATURE

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Behind the façade at 119 Farringdon Road

By Meg Howarth

Formerly HQ to *The Guardian* and *Observer* newspapers, 119 Farringdon Road is now the site of a nine-storey office block, The Ray, completed at the end of 2018. In the opinion of one residential neighbour, the multi-coloured brick building “could be worse”. A distinct improvement on its immediate predecessor, it is now home to online, social-networking service, LinkedIn.

But fewer people know that this address has an interesting history. It was the site of the first “council housing” in England – Corporation Buildings, built by the then City Corporation. Erected in 1864–5, the development was a pioneering venture for the Corporation, namely the provision of housing for (some of) the area’s working people. A decade earlier, the 1851 Clerkenwell Improvement Act had authorised the body to build homes for the poor, either on the land cleared for the construction of Farringdon Road itself or on other nearby sites, but progress was slow.

The archive drawing below gives a clear impression of the style of dwellings, and a vibrant painting of it, *Sunday Morning, Farringdon Road*, can be seen on the Instagram page of the East London Group (see the *EC1 Echo*’s piece on the ELG on pages 8–9.) It was the first plot of land to be built on along the new Farringdon Road, seen under construction in the drawing.

Corporation Buildings was demolished in the 1970s, to be replaced by the building that became *The Guardian*’s headquarters, which was in turn demolished three years ago to make way for The Ray. Surely it’s time for a plaque commemorating the history of this historic site?



Garden gongs for St Luke’s

Edible Yard shows that there’s an appetite for urban gardening in EC1

The phenomenon of “urban gardening” is growing across the world – and it’s taking off in EC1. St Luke’s Community Centre on Central Street has the innovative Edible Yard – until recently a dead concrete space and now a thriving culinary garden where fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs are grown, and where eggs are laid by five resident hens and then supplied to service users, volunteers and community members.

The Yard is maintained using organic methods by St Luke’s own team, helped by volunteers, and the food is grown in containers. It aims to encourage other urban gardeners, emphasising that even in urban environments food can be grown anywhere from gardens and back yards to windowsills and balconies.

The message is getting through, as the Centre recently won no fewer than three awards for its community gardening initia-

tives: Gold Award in the Islington in Bloom Competition; Gold Award for London in Bloom 2019 and Outstanding in Britain in Bloom – It’s Your Neighbourhood. “We’re thrilled, and it’s thanks to our volunteer gardening groups that keep our green areas thriving,” says Poppy Fishman, community gardening manager at the centre. “They’re friendly, social groups, and we always welcome new faces. We have indoor space in our large greenhouse to garden during the winter months.”

If you’re interested in helping, St Luke’s garden group at Edible Yard meet twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2–4pm all year round: as Poppy says, “There’s still lots to do in the colder weather.”

The tasks include nurturing the green spaces at St Luke’s, including the Edible Yard food growing area, the woodland garden and the terrace garden. On Tuesdays, the potted flowers

“Come along and enjoy the benefits of gardening all year round”

and shrubs are maintained while on Thursdays the group work in the Edible Yard, growing the organic produce. They produce supplies of fresh food from the Edible Yard for our community classes in St Luke’s Cookery School – and St Luke’s hopes to extend the growing band of urban gardeners by showing how easy and satisfying it is. “You don’t need any experience,” says Poppy. “Just come along and enjoy the benefits of gardening all year round.”

St Luke’s Community Centre, 90 Central Street EC1V 8AJ from 9am–9pm, Monday to Friday and 9am–4pm, Saturday to Sunday.
Tel 020 7549 8181
Email info@slpt.org.uk

FEATURES

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Branching out

The Apple Tree is breaking the mould for local pubs

There must only be a few London pubs that host a therapy room, a monthly Queer Clothes Swap, discussions on subjects such as *What Turns You On* by Dr Emily Grossman, and a karaoke room as well as a bar. But the Apple Tree is one such pub. When Lucy Fenton and Phil Hunt bought the 19th-century tavern on the corner of Mount Pleasant and Warner Street last year – it had previously been a hardworking but un-modernised Greene King house – they refreshed it, with the aim of bringing a new kind of community resource to Clerkenwell.

“We wanted to create the sense of a

wider community in the area as well as do a lot of local outreach,” says Lucy. “At the Apple Tree we’re particularly keen to invite people from more marginal areas of society, including the LGBTQ+ community.” But the Apple Tree is not an exclusive “gay pub” as such – although a lot of those kinds of venues

have closed. “It’s primarily a place to go and a jumping off point for all kinds of people,” says Lucy. “We don’t want to judge anyone. We follow [the

philosopher] Karl Popper: “In order to maintain a tolerant society, the society must be intolerant of intolerance.”

In the near future, for example, the pair are hoping to include more outreach

“We wanted to create the sense of a wider community in the area as well as do a lot of local outreach”



JUMPING OFF: Lucy Fenton wants the Apple Tree to be a community resource

and events for those people who are lonely or alone. It may even provide office space as part of its experimental remit.

Currently, because of its location, the Apple Tree has all manner of visitors from office workers to passers-by and its traditional clientele: postal workers from the Mount Pleasant depot across the road. But because of its ethos it has also become a destination, for those attracted by events such as a ‘Kink-friendly Intersectional Feminists play Ukulele’ group meeting, drag nights and its (mostly) vegetarian and vegan menu. Lucy, who is bisexual, has played her part in helping to position the pub as a place where the margins can meet the mainstream. As an actor and film producer respectively, Lucy and Phil have a sense of theatrics: it was her choice, for example, to paint the interior in an almost Cuban-style mix of bright colours. “We’re different from the others,” says Lucy.

For more information:
Visit theappletreelondon.com

Take a hike with Karen Lansdown and Islington Guided Walks



STEPPING OUT: Mayor Rakhia Ismail and Bob Atkinson with the chair of Islington Guided Walks Oonagh Gay

Anyone who knows Clerkenwell can attest that it is a great area for walking. But fewer know that the borough of Islington has a large and very knowledgeable group of official tour guides, who offer tours and insights into the neighbourhood. From Old Street and Clerkenwell – and through the rest of Islington to Angel, Highbury and Canonbury right up to Archway – their walks cover an extremely diverse range of subjects such as architecture, radical politics, black history, entertainment, inspirational women and street art. As guide Karen Lansdown says, “There are several local favourites that go inside landmarks including St John’s Gate – built in 1504 as the entrance to the Priory of St John – and The Charterhouse in Smithfield [see our story, page 6].” It’s not just tourists that take the walks, though. As well as scheduled walks led by members, Karen says that local businesses, community groups and families often book the guides for private walks. “They offer a great way to build teams and deepen people’s appreciation of their local area while having fun,” she says. For example, Islington Guided Walks’ latest venture has been

to develop treasure hunts where teams follow clues to meet local characters and gather information from them to find the “treasure”.

The guides regularly work in partnership with Islington Museum and Islington Libraries in Clerkenwell, and recent walks have complemented exhibitions at the museum about Islington’s Music Halls, The First World War and Islington’s LGBT history.

One of four local London Guiding associations, Islington Guided Walks meets up every autumn with colleagues in Camden, Westminster and the City of London for Local London Guiding Day when they lead free guided walks every hour on the hour throughout the day. This year’s theme was ‘What did the Victorians do for us?’ Here the Islington guides focused on the EC1 area featuring sights such as Farringdon station, terminus of the world’s first underground railway.

All the guides at Islington Guided Walks have completed a course of study based at the University of Westminster and passed exams in local history and tour guiding skills in order to become one of the Mayor’s official tour guides. Put your comfy shoes on, and join them.

For more information:
Visit islingtonguides.com

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LISTINGS •

Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in EC1. For the next issue, email the details of your event to info@EC1Echo.com by 12th December

New organisation gives free legal advice for social tenants

Lucy Chapman's start-up CommUnify will shed light on unsolved problems



Lucy Chapman, founder of CommUnify

Lucy, a barrister and former law student at City, University of London, was inspired to set up CommUnify after her own experiences as a council tenant in the area. "There's very little legal aid available for social tenants," she says, adding that CommUnify is particularly aimed at the vulnerable, including elderly residents, non-English speakers and those with limited digital skills. After it rolls out in Clerkenwell, Lucy hopes to roll it out across the country. The Peel will provide marketing assistance and a space for the clinics when the project begins in November.

Says Lucy: "CommUnify is a free advice and support clinic for social housing residents. It is staffed by volunteer law students and graduates, and confidentially feeds back on issues with safety and service delivery in properties to tenant groups and landlords locally so that they can be improved."

"I started CommUnify in 2018 after my own experience as a council housing tenant – and of those in the wider social housing community. I am chair of my estate's TMO (Tenant Management Organisation) and an executive member of NFTMO, which represent social housing tenants' needs nationally. "It should not have taken the Grenfell Tower disaster for those in social housing to be made visible. CommUnify is about making our voices heard, ensuring safety

and other concerns are raised and followed up, so they can be dealt with by service providers. Currently, there's little redress for tenants when they face problems with services, and little information about the other advice services available.

"We provide a link that's missing. Libraries can't offer the service we do, and services like Citizens Advice Bureaux are oversubscribed. As an ex-public library worker and trade union representative, I know from experience that many people struggle due to cuts to public services and digitalisation – the latter has in particular had a negative effect on those who are vulnerable or socially isolated, without English language, IT or literacy skills, those with disabilities or health issues, and those with caring or other responsibilities.

"CommUnify can help these people, but is for anyone living in social housing. Having no water, heating or other basic services is incredibly stressful, especially when it feels there is no recourse when the problem persists and has to be chased multiple times.

It was my aim with CommUnify to get problems dealt with sooner and more effectively, by someone who will listen and act on concerns. We help people in a variety of ways, including research, writing letters and communicating on resident's behalves, and making referrals to other services.

"I'm currently training as a barrister and view CommUnify as a skills swap – that is, the skills of legal students can be used for the local community, and in turn our volunteers can learn about their issues and gain valuable experience. This training starts this month, with help from The Peel. Our clinics are currently scheduled in the evenings so volunteers can balance volunteering with studying and work."

For more information:
Visit communify.org.uk

HALF-TERM

The Big Draw at the Bank of England Museum
Mon 28 Oct–Fri 1 Nov
10am–4:30pm
Bartholomew Lane EC2R 8AH

This October half-term, our younger visitors are invited to visit the museum with their families take part in the nationwide Campaign for Drawing festival. Climb aboard the boat in the museum Stock Office for inspiration and design a boat fit to sail the seven seas. Your imagination is the limit!

Free
Phone 020 3461 5545
Visit bankofengland.co.uk



Queer Queries: GFEST 2019
Fri 1 Nov, Museum of London
150 London Wall, Barbican
EC2Y 5HN

Join arts charity Wise Thoughts at the museum for the launch of GFEST – Gaywise FESTival, a groundbreaking cross-arts LGBTQI+ festival. Workshops from: Mud Howard, Krishna Isha, Nirranjan Kamatker, Sara Wajid.

Free
Phone 020 7001 9844
Visit museumoflondon.org.uk

ACTIVISM

Islington People's Rights – Fifty years of tackling poverty in the borough
Sat 2 Nov–21 Jan 2020.
Islington Museum,
245 St John Street EC1V 4NB

This exhibition charts IPR's development over the past 50 years, from its response to welfare reform to its continued endeavour to meet the changing needs of local residents.

Free
Phone 020 7527 2837
Email islington.museum@islington.gov.uk

HISTORY

The Knights Hospitaller in the British Isles from the 12th Century to 1540
Thurs 14 Nov, Museum of the Order of St John, John's Gate, St John's Lane EC1M 4DA

Michael Hodges will talk about the survey of the Houses and Churches of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, including those earlier belonging to the Knights Templar.

Phone 020 7324 4005
Email museumstjohn.org.uk
Visit ukislington.gov.uk

ARTS

The Clash: London Calling
15 Nov–19 April 2020
Museum of London,
150 London Wall EC2Y 5HN

Exclusive showcase of a collection of items from The Clash's personal archive including notes, clothing, images and music, many previously unseen.

Free
Phone 020 7001 9844
Visit museumoflondon.org.uk

Beautiful Books: Dickens & The Business of Christmas
Wed 20 Nov–Sun 19 April 2020
Dickens House Museum, 48-49 Doughty St, Holborn WC1N 2LX

Exhibition that charts the birth of the modern idea of Christmas against a backdrop of change in British society.

Phone 020 7405 2127
Visit dickensmuseum.com

WALK

Cool Clerkenwell
Thursday 21 November

Clocks and Crusaders, Gin and Jerusalem, Huguenots, Radicals and Criminals – Explore the narrow streets of Clerkenwell bursting with colourful characters, fascinating stories, hidden gems and controversial architecture. Includes a visit to the well that gives the area its name.

For joining information:
Email karen.lansdown@ciga.org.uk
Visit islingtonguidedwalks.com

KIDS

Kids in Museums Takeover Day
22 November
Museum of Methodism,
49 City Road EC1Y 1AU

Bring your children to run the Mini-Museum of Methodism for the morning

Phone 020 7253 2262
Visit wesleysheritage.org.uk

ARTS

Ronnie Scott's 1959–69: Photography by Freddy Warren
Sat 12 Oct–19 Jan 2020
Barbican Art Gallery,
Silk Street EC2Y 8DS

To celebrate the work of Freddy Warren, a selection of photographs are showcased in this exhibition that captures the atmosphere and movement of jazz. His photographs include performance and off-stage shots of Miles Davis, Art Blakey, Stan Getz, Duke Ellington, Nina Simone and more.

For joining information:
Phone 020 7638 8891
Visit barbican.org.uk

ONGOING

Craft Club at St Luke's Community Centre
Tuesdays, 4–5.30pm
90 Central St EC1V 8AJ

Get crafty with Maria and enjoy painting, drawing, animation and loads more. Suitable for ages 7-11.

Free
Phone 020 7549 8181
Visit slpt.org.uk

Family Cook and Eat
Central Street Cookery School
90 Central St EC1V 8AJ

Cookery classes for children with parents or carers. Have fun with your child while you both learn how to make delicious dishes, and eat together at the end. See the website for more details.

Concessionary rate for members and EC1 residents
Phone 020 7549 8176
Visit centralstreet.org

Learn English in Islington (ESOL)
Fridays 10am
Finsbury Library,
245 St John Street EC1V 4NB

Do you want to learn to speak English? To join an English class, come to one of the free ESOL advice Weekly advice sessions. Advice sessions run from September to July each academic year. There are no advice sessions during school holidays.

Concessionary rate for members and EC1 residents
Phone 020 7527 7960

Sadler's Wells Family Fridays
Last Friday of the month
until 31 July 2020
Mezzanine level, Sadler's Wells
Theatre, Rosebery Avenue EC1R 4TN

Inspired by our ever-changing artistic programme, Family Fridays is a new monthly workshop that encourages young children aged 2-4 and their carers to dance together and have fun here at Sadler's Wells. Led by professional dancers, come along to this unique opportunity designed to start you and the little ones on a dance journey. These sessions will cover a range of dance styles and will encourage co-ordination, creative thinking and social interaction.

Suitable for all abilities
Phone 020 7527 7960
Visit sadlerswells.com

LAUNCH

EC1 Echo Launch
19 Nov, 6.30–9pm, The Apple Tree,
45 Mount Pleasant WC1X 0AE

Readers, contributors, friends and supporters, join us to help us launch the first issue of EC1 Echo!

For directions:
Visit theappletreelondon.com

Support local independent journalism



What we do

Here at *EC1 Echo* we do things differently. We combine professional journalism with voluntary contributions from people who live and work in the area and create content which is responsive to and reflective of the community.

These are challenging times for print media with many newspapers closing and advertising revenue in decline, but our not-for-profit model offers a new approach to creating local journalism which is inclusive and accountable.

How you can help

As a not-for-profit publication, started by The Peel, a longstanding Clerkenwell charity, we rely on the generous support of our community. We look to our readers, who recognise the value of independent journalism, to help support us.

You can do this by becoming a member either as an individual or as an organisation. See the rewards opposite and once you've decided what package you would like, visit our website:

Individual rewards

£3 per month upwards:

Name in print and online, pin badge

£5 per month upwards:

Name in print and online, pin badge, tote bag, paper posted to you every month

Organisational rewards

£10 per month:

Name in print and online, 10% discount on advertising

£20 per month:

Name and logo in print and online, 20% discount on advertising

£50 per month:

Name and logo in print and online, 40% discount, six free small adverts per year

Visit EC1Echo.co.uk/join