

EC1 ECHO

FEB/MAR 2020 • N°.2 FREE


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NEWS

The hazards of dockless bike parking are being acted upon

P.3

FEATURE

A British prisoner of war and the guardian of the Angel Inn

P.6

HISTORY

Clerkenwell author finds places to listen to the River Fleet

P.10


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Smithfield's proposed public space by architects Hawkins\Brown



Welcome to the “meet” market

The Smithfield area is going to change beyond recognition – but we may have to wait for a decade

● BY PETER BILL ●

In January two moulds were cast for the transformation of Smithfield Meat Market. Designs by architect Studio Egret West and Hawkins\Brown were unveiled by the City Corporation, showing how the East and West market buildings will be turned into

what might be called a “meet” market, used for exhibitions and events. Then, the Museum of London lodged plans by Stanton Williams Architects for a £337 million redevelopment of the long-empty western end of the 800-year-old market.

The meat traders are off to Dagenham. The museum is keen to shift from

London Wall, their emptied galleries replaced by a 2,000-seat concert hall and offices to be stacked in a £288 million “twisting ziggurat”, set to house conductor Simon Rattle’s dream of a home for the London Symphony Orchestra to designs by US architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro – lustrous designers of the feted High Line park in New York.

These three projects anchor the City’s Culture Mile (see *EC1 Echo* No.1) – a 110-acre circle centred on Barbican tube station. The fourth vital element is to clean up the noxious Beech Street underpass. The tunnel under the Barbican will be made more welcoming for pedestrians by adding wider

● Continued on Page-3

N°.2

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1st Feb
First
Quarter
45% / 0.5

29th Mar
Waxing
Crescent
28% / 0.5

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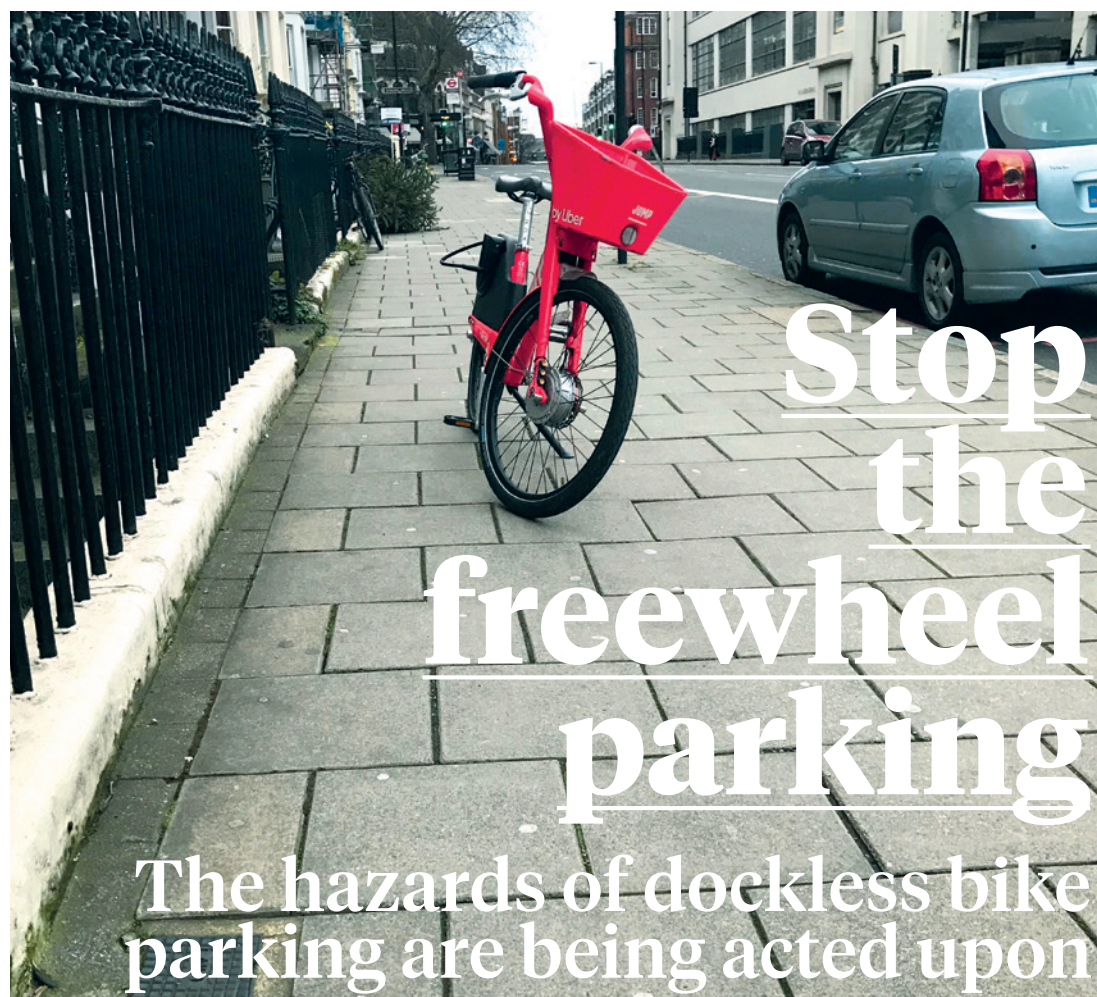
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EC1Echo.co.uk/complaints

NEWS



Stop the freewheel parking

The hazards of dockless bike parking are being acted upon

The huge growth of bicycle sharing should be a boon for central areas such as Clerkenwell. These hireable bikes drive a more sustainable transport policy, save congestion and keep commuters and travellers off transport that relies on non-renewable energy.

But in common with many other world cities, bike sharing has created its own problems – most notably, that of “dockless” bike parking. With many bikes seemingly to be parked anywhere, they create a hazard for pedestrians: particularly the elderly and disabled.

Now they are being acted upon – with the cooperation of most of the providers – and there is an upcoming London bylaw which will give councils across London legal power to fine dockless bike operators for bikes that obstruct pavements. This is due to come into force this year and backed by Transport for London.

Islington Council already has a Memorandum of Understanding to set out standards and best practise with dockless cycle operators including procedures for reporting obstructive bikes.

It encourages operators to sign up to the Memorandum

and most dockless cycle operators – including Lime, Jump and Freebike – have signed, with the additional security of geo-tracking for each bike. Just one, Mobike, is operating in Islington outside the Memorandum.

Cllr Rowena Champion, Islington Council's executive member for environment and transport said: “Responsible

“We are working with other councils to introduce a pan-London bylaw”

dockless bike sharing is an excellent way for people to get around and it's better for health and better for the environment. However, riders should be courteous to other residents and not leave bikes blocking pavements or causing an obstruction to pedestrians and especially to disabled people.

“We have a Memorandum of Understanding, which sets out clear standards and service guidelines for dockless bike operators and we

take up specific concerns with them when appropriate. We are also working with other councils to introduce a pan-London bylaw.”

The City of London Corporation's Planning and Transportation Committee, to the south and east of the EC1 area, has voted to continue dockless bike parking arrangements after a six-month trial with Beryl and Freebike, which led to almost nine in ten cycles being parked in designated bays. It has now also decided to allow new operators into the sector, as it is thought to have improved the compliance of other operators.

The trial allowed for a 90-minute time limit to pick up poorly parked bikes, and Beryl and Freebikes gained an average of 40 minutes.

“Dockless bike hire is now a vital component of London's transport offer, but it has always come with challenges with regard to parking,” said Alastair Moss, chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee at the City of London Corporation. “Opening this approach to other operators will provide users with more choice while continuing to offer control over our streets and pavements.”

2

Acting on loneliness in EC1

Loneliness can be a hidden problem – but there are increasing ways to counter it

London can be a lonely place. Perhaps it's that the weather keeps us indoors, or that Londoners are preoccupied by work, or that we keep ourselves to ourselves. But the city comes out alarmingly high in global indices of loneliness – for example, one survey found that 55 per cent of Londoners said they felt lonely here on occasions, as opposed to just 10 per cent of people in Lisbon, Portugal's capital. And it can strike at any time of life – not just in older age, when social networks tend to thin out.

Fortunately a growing number of charities and groups are taking on loneliness, including the Loneliness Lab, North London Cares and the Campaign to End Loneliness.

The Apple Tree pub also has an innovative programme called Apple Seeds: a series of events that aims to give people the tools or methods to change their situations. Using conversations, workshops and panels, the hope is that attendees will find the direction and tools needed to change their lives for the better one step at a time – using the hashtag #DoOneThing.

The Clerkenwell pub's first Apple Seeds event, Lonely in London, picks up on some of the recent interest in loneliness, sometimes called an “epidemic”, and identifies organisations in London working to combat loneliness in society. “If getting out, meeting folk and helping others was a New Year's resolution, we've got you covered,” says Lucy Fenton of the Apple Tree. Speakers from local specialist organisations will explain how individuals and organisations can take active steps to help tackle the problem of loneliness in the community, and help those interested in volunteering. “We also think it will be a great way for folk who feel lonely to connect with others in the same boat,” adds Lucy. “We can all feel lonely at different times in our lives and we think it's important to try and remove some of the stigma around admitting that.”

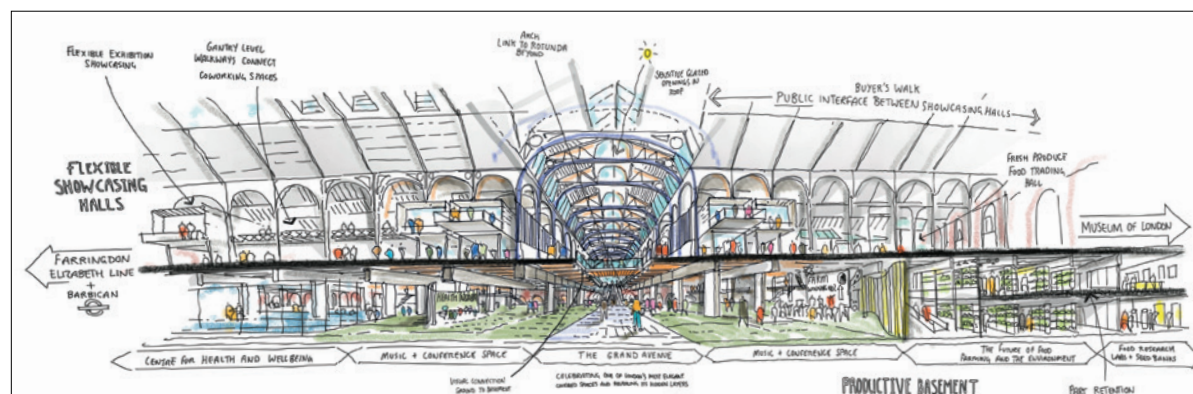
'Lonely in London' is on Tuesday 25 February at The Apple Tree:

Visit theappletreelondon.com

Visit lonelinesslab.org

Visit northlondoncares.org.uk

Visit campaigntoendloneliness.org



► Studio Egret West's sketch of West Smithfield

● **Continued from Page-1** — pavements, shops, and entrances into the performance halls above. This spring, combustion engines are being banned in Beech Street. Fortunately the 153 bus,

which runs from Finsbury Park to Finsbury Circus, is electric.

All of which sounds welcome. But we shouldn't hold our breath on the mooted concert hall and one of the two Smithfield projects. The

Western market buildings have mouldered largely empty since the 1980s. Failed attempts to either tear the buildings down and build offices, or insert offices behind the Victorian facades, wasted a decade

– until the Museum of London came to the rescue in 2015.

This project was then slated to open in 2021 at a cost of £70m. The opening date is now 2024 and the price hiked to £337m. Happily, the City Corporation has promised £197m and the Mayor of London £70m, leaving £70m to be found privately. Back at the Barbican, rumblings can be heard from occupants about the need for another concert hall so close by.

But, at the moment, both projects are set to go ahead – with a couple of hurdles. The Barbican's 'twisting ziggurat' project will rely on a developer prepared to take on part of the £288 million

risk on the basis of being able to let the office space. No one has yet been appointed. The cost of the expensive-looking designs may well be adjusted following the hiring of a developer.

The City is backing the Museum of London move, for it will form the western portal into the Culture Mile, and attract 2m visitors a year. It might also be nearer the end of the decade before the meat market becomes the new market. But the die is cast. The City has bought Barking Power Station to house the porters. Farringdon Crossrail station is to be yards away. The restoration looks sensitive and uncontentious. Give it a decade – the area will be unrecognisable.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Homelessness is even more critical after Christmas. Here, Hector Hughes explains how his charity Hoodies for the Homeless works...

At the last count, there were 8,855 people sleeping rough in the streets of London. That's the equivalent of 15 people a day finding themselves sleeping rough for the first time. Anyone who lives in the capital knows how acute the homelessness issue is and, to be honest, it's often hard to know how to really help.

Hoodies for the Homeless (HFTH) is a project focused on helping people sleeping rough keep warm this winter. Homelessness doesn't stop at Christmas – February is one of the coldest winter months and therefore the hardest to survive.

For each hoodie sold, HFTH donates much-needed clothing to homeless charity Crisis, which then helps by directly supporting homeless people – as well as campaigning for the changes needed to end homelessness for good.

The hoodies themselves are sustainably made out of 100 per cent recycled material: 60 per cent recycled organic cotton and 40 per cent from recycled plastic bottles. They feature elegant artwork of two outstretched hands symbolising unity and equality. And most importantly these hoodies are soft, warm and stylish – so as well as looking good, they feel good and do good.

Spread the word and consider buying a hoodie:
Visit hoodiesforthehomeless.co.uk

Find out more about Crisis:
Visit crisis.org.uk

Cold spell



Credit Ewan Munro



February is LGBT History Month and Clerkenwell has played its part, writes Seán McGovern, project manager, Islington's Pride

Turn any corner of Islington and chances are you'll encounter a piece of LGBTQ+ heritage. Our borough is steeped in queer history – the first elected openly gay Mayor (Bob Crossman)

and openly gay MP (Chris Smith), community organisations such as Switchboard, which is still operating today and of course some legendary clubs, in particular, Trade.

Located in EC1, Trade revolution-

ised the concept of the after-hours club, kicking off at 4am on Sunday mornings and running on well into the day at Turnmills nightclub (a new office building now stands on the site). It was a place where people from all walks of life celebrated hedonism, DJ culture and the irresistible urge to dance. Islington Museum remembered this iconic venue with an exhibition in 2016.

When our Islington's Pride project concludes at the end of 2020, you will literally be able to turn any corner and explore the Borough's LGBTQ+ heritage, thanks to our detailed digital trail. We're creating a map that explores the queer legacy of Islington and will include research, oral histories and links to our growing archive. And as February is LGBT History Month, we've got a great line-up of free events to explore and engage with our collective past. Only from knowing our past can we determine our future: whether we're organising, agitating or just dancing.

For more information:
Visit islingtonpride.com.

Action on cleaner air

Although Clerkenwell has been in the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) since last April, it is still a pollution hotspot. Now Britain's first zero-emission street is set to be in the area, as the Barbican Estate's Beech Street moves to ban petrol and diesel cars this year. Along with Transport for London, the City of London Corporation is to

begin an 18-month experimental traffic order to monitor air quality and traffic.

It is none too soon, believes the Zero Emission Network (ZEN), a partnership between Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets councils which is funded by the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund and aims to help people reduce their own impact on air quality. So far, almost 1400 busi-

nesses and 900 residents have joined the scheme London-wide. ZEN also campaigns against wood burning stoves – responsible for as much as 30 percent of the capital's particulate emissions – and helps businesses cut emissions from their buildings by using LED lighting, recycling facilities and draft proofing.

For more information:
Visit zeroemissionsnetwork.com

FEATURE

4 FEATURE



Jeremy Brill in his much loved premises

Coffee mourning

Jeremy Brill looks back as he closes his much loved Exmouth Market café

We opened in 1999 solely as a music shop. Many of the small music shops were specialist and only really interested in specialist buyers – also, they tended not to be female-friendly. They were centres of knowledge but could make you feel bad, which I hated. So I decided to change that and have a hang-out, where people could enjoy CDs and of course, buy them.

A few years later I got a sense that CDs were on their way out and started to learn a lot about the food business in order to sell coffee. The kind of café I wanted to create was influenced by the Antipodean new-wave coffee shop approach such as Flat White in Berwick Street, Soho. I started to sell coffee and food

as well as CDs and records: a model that was also taken up by many others: mixing book-selling, hairdressing and even bicycle repairs with coffee.

At that time it was fresh and exciting. Then, there simply weren't the numbers of coffee shops – you could walk from Farringdon to Angel tubes and not pass one. I got to know every coffee shop in EC1 and followed their passage across London. Places like Caravan actually helped to create the area as a coffee and food destination, bringing more people into the area.

But after a while I stopped counting café openings. Coffee outlets reached a saturation point, and started to plateau. With so many places to buy coffee it became more difficult to trade and if a big loyal company moved on, you might lose

£100 a day in sales.

Rent rises are a huge reason why we're going, as well. These raise emotions as they make it more difficult for independents, as only chains can afford the prices. This isn't always an easy equation as sometimes independents become chains, but what often happens is that rent rises are steep, and when places close because they can't afford the new rates they remain un-let.

At the moment there are many restaurants and cafés in Exmouth Market. It does still feel like a community but this predominance has changed the dynamic and I wonder if

it discourages some people from seeing it as their local area, and from having a sense of ownership.

With that, bookshops have closed and although we do still have a few independent stores it's not a high street any longer. I don't know the answer but we could look at planning zones or somehow enable landlords to give charities free space when places are un-let, rather than leave them empty.

After this time I don't think leaving it to the market works. If you want diversity on the high street then there has to be another way. Otherwise streets become restaurant and estate agents mixes, a bit like Upper Street in Islington. For now, the independents are already in places like Leyton and Walthamstow which are undergoing a similar process.

But over two decades it has been a great experience – and a real insight into how rapid change can affect an inner London area.

“After a while I stopped counting café openings”

Teenag

BY ANNE PHIPPS

Local charity Islington Giving's Young Grant-Makers scheme allows young people to decide on how to spend funds

All too often teenagers are talked about in negative terms of crime, gangs and anti-social behaviour – and they're rarely given significant money to make a difference for people just like them.

Now a group of young people has been recruited to channel £80,000 into local projects – and in a huge display of empowerment they designed and oversaw the whole grant making process themselves.

Run by Islington Giving – a local charitable fund, supported by the gifts of residents, local businesses and funders – the process, called Young Grant-Makers, has just completed its second year.

“I was really excited when I got the call,” said one of the participants. “Usually, young people aren't the ones making the decisions. I thought it'd be exciting to be the one to choose where the money goes – and to make a difference in our society.”

For example, one of the projects the group decided to fund this

Credit Marysa Dowling



ers manage social fund



Credit Danny Treacy

“It feels great to know you are part of this contribution

year is B Creative, run by arts organisation All Change near Old Street. B Creative is all about getting young women into creative activities, particularly following the shocking news that only half as many girls as boys participated in after-school activities in Islington when the project began.

In B Creative, a group of young women aged 16-25 were given paid roles to co-produce creative work alongside inspiring professional female artists. Since the project began they’ve worked with musicians Eska Mtungwazi and Fran Lobo, writer Cecilia Knapp, photographer Marysa Dowling and others, producing a high quality body of work.

A challenge for the grant makers is that they have had to make difficult decisions about which kinds of youth project could have the most impact, and what kind of work they’d prefer want to support.

B Creative was a great choice as, as well as poetry, dance,

performance and music the young women involved have made the work about issues that matter to them, including an Instagram campaign to tackle period poverty (where access to sanitary products is financially difficult), and spoken word performances around identity and gender equality. They’ve shared their work at festivals, online and even the Apple Store in Covent Garden.

Collectively the young grant makers are very excited to be doing something so positive. “It feels great to know you are part of this great contribution to make a difference in your local area,” said one.

And the projects themselves aren’t the only ones to benefit. “It taught me a lot about budgeting,” said one young grant-maker. “I learnt things I could take away from this that I could apply to my own life.”

This year’s young grant-makers are just about to announce which projects they will be funding. To find out what they chose:
Visit islingtongiving.org.uk



Councillor Phil Graham of Bunhill Ward talks about the controversial plans for Old Street post office and the changes in the area



Councillor Phil Graham

The Bunhill ward is a fascinating place to live and work, with an amazing history. Being so central, it has recently had a lot of interest and as a result, there are many changes at present, some of which are very disruptive.

For example, I’ve been campaigning about the loss of the post office in Old Street. The plan is to move it from its purpose-built site – now to be developed as offices – and put it into the neighbouring Co-op store as a counter.

Many of us think this is a terrible idea, including the Communications Workers Union. It will take away the specialised service and standards that the post office was once known for, and it just be another aisle alongside booze and food. Also, the post office has never been just a service – it’s also been a community hub. People who are socially isolated go to the post office, and interact with others.

There doesn’t even seem to be a drop in demand. In Clerkenwell, the design sector uses postal services all the time, while in Bunhill we have a lot of small start-up businesses who don’t sign contracts but use postal services.

There’s always a queue in Old Street post office. It’s running down a much-needed service and it doesn’t look like good business to me.

It comes at a time of great change in Old Street. Just this week, a new Marks & Spencer store has been announced which shows a trend to higher-value tenants. Then there’s the famous roundabout itself being refurbished.

Although the redesign has been very disruptive for people who live nearby, I believe it had to change. The roundabout was very old-fashioned and dangerous for cyclists and, like other changes in Highbury Corner and Archway, it will be better in the end. For me, an old Mod who rides a Vespa, it’s a good thing. But it does mean there’ll be chaos until it is finished.

For all the change I’m hopeful our area doesn’t lose its special flavour. Bunhill (or as it was, Bonehill) Fields has long been a site for nonconformist burials [including William Blake] who is buried there and the annual Whitecross Street Party continues that unorthodox tradition. Come along this summer.

“The Post Office has always been a community hub

“

FEATURE

Guardian Angel

British prisoner of war Frank Simms first met the family of Islington café owner Frank Abrami as an escapee in WWII Italy. Here Simms' son Marcus Binney relates how he met Abrami a year ago – and how Clerkenwell played its part

WORDS • MARCUS BINNEY

The Angel Islington has enduring fame as one of the bargain buys on the Monopoly Board. What is less known is that Waddingtons, the British manufacturers of Monopoly, made a special version during World War II, distributed to Prisoner of War (POW) camps, with escape maps hidden inside them. Those containing maps of Italy had a full stop after Marylebone Station.

I came upon on this fact while researching and writing about my father Frank Simms' wartime escapes from two POW camps in Italy. In the autumn of 1943 he finally succeeded in escaping. His companion was Peter Medd, a young naval officer, and together they walked 700 miles to freedom through German-occupied Italy, still thick with fascists, but helped almost daily by brave Italians who gave them food and shelter, risking their lives and those of their families.

Among those Italian heroes who helped my father were the Abrami family living in Roggio, a mountain village. Before the war the Abramis had run a café in the Harrow Road but they had returned to Italy in 1939 to avoid internment as enemy aliens. When they came back to London in 1945 the café lease had expired and the manager left in charge had claimed they were fascists – the very opposite of the truth – so he could take over the lease. Instead, they took the lease of the Angel Inn in Islington at 420 St John's Street.

This was run from 1950 till 1996 latterly by Frank Abrami – who was 11 when he clandestinely took food to my father in a hut high in the Italian mountains.

Just over a year ago in December 2018

I finally met Frank, now retired but still lively and full of memories. In thanks I gave him one of my books inscribing it with heartfelt words: "Without the courage and kindness of you and your family I would never have been born." My father arrived back in the UK on Christmas Eve 1943, married my mother and I was born nine months later.

"It was quite remarkable," observed

"The Angel Inn was run from 1950 till 1996 latterly by Frank Abrami – who was 11 when he clandestinely took food to my father in a mountain hut"

Frank. "You have the same big smile on the same narrow face that I can remember seeing on your father as I brought him food."

In January 1942 my father, serving with

the Long Range Desert Group, was caught behind enemy lines and taken to an internment camp in southern Italy: Certosa di Padula or Campo 35.

My father and fellow detainees – despite the Italian commandant's bribe of daily wine rations on condition that they stay put – dug a tunnel and escaped. They were recaptured soon after and sent to the "naughty boys" camp, the fortress of Gavi, known as Italy's Colditz.

A year later, after Mussolini's capitulation, German soldiers rounded up the Allied prisoners and put them on cattle lorries with machine guns on top of the cabins – to cover the lorry in front and prevent escapes. As the vehicles moved along the zig-zagging mountain roads my father waited until a bend hid his lorry from the one behind and then jumped and ran and ran.

He was one of about 11,000 Allied prisoners on the run following Mussolini's fall. Not all reached freedom.

Eleven months after our initial meeting, I was able to invite Frank and his family back to the other end of St John Street to the launch of a new expanded version of the escape diary



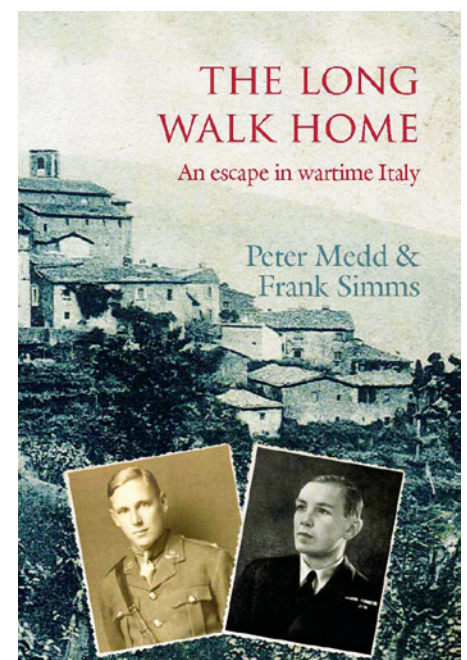
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Peter Medd and my father wrote. The book is called *The Long Walk Home*. The launch venue was the gallery beneath the EC1 offices of SAVE Britain's Heritage, which I established in 1975, and soon Frank was signing as many of the books as me. Thanks to a special order of 50 copies from Olga Polizzi, daughter of the famous hotelier Sir Charles Forte, the first print run almost sold out that night "My father would be so pleased," said Olga. "He always had *Love and Death in the Apennines* beside his bed and he gave many copies away". This much loved book was written by the famous travel writer Eric Newby about his imprisonment and escape from an Italian prison camp, telling a similar story to my father's.

The chain of coincidences continues for Eland Books, the publishers of *The Long Walk Home*, who work out of an attic in London. And where should this be? In Clerkenwell of course – above an Italian restaurant in Exmouth Market.

This part of Clerkenwell was known for years as Little Italy. As Mario Abrami, Frank's son, wrote to me: "Clerkenwell was indeed 'Little Italy', where many Italian families had settled before the war. My father met mum there as she lived near the Italian Church during the war and experienced the Blitz as she was not evacuated out of London with the other children. The Italian Church (St Peters) was the focal point of the Italian Community and still is to this day."

All this goes to prove the aphorism that if you meet a stranger you need ask no more than seven questions to find you have a common interest or connection.



'The Long Walk Home: An Escape in Wartime Italy' by Peter Medd and Frank Simms (14.99 Eland/Sickle Moon) has been republished with additional material by Marcus Binney from: www.travelbooks.co.uk

7 Oliver Bennett meets the Italian conductor who is helping EC1 to become London's classical music hub

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"Our whole ethos is to generate interest for classical music in the community"



Raffaello Morales mixes café and concerts

The EC1 area is becoming one of London's most lively classical music centres. From the Barbican to the proposed new concert hall at the Museum of London site – as well as the acclaimed LSO St Luke's on Old Street – there's a world-class collection of classical venues and musicians in the area.

But all too often classical music is still seen as an exclusive affair – which is where the Fidelio Orchestra comes in. Founded by conductor Raffaello Morales, it has a café in Clerkenwell Road and uses a concert hall at St Andrew's church in Holborn. And it's dedicated, says Raffaello, to taking classical music from the "bottom up, rather than from the top down".

Raffaello, originally from Rome, used to work in London's finance industry but

studied music and physics before then. He started Fidelio last year to extend the joys of music and music making to a wider community, and named it after Beethoven's only opera, a work he refers to as "a model for everybody to think of freedom". As Raffaello says, Fidelio's key message is that music has the power to "liberate us from what we are not."

"For me, the engagement of people is the key thing," says Raffaello. "We're not here to satisfy demand, but to create it. We want people to be engaged and feel included – starting with the community and incorporating classical music into the lives of local people." Indeed, the Fidelio Orchestra Café claims to be the only café in the UK dedicated to the promotion of classical music.

Classical music is often seen as remote, says Raffaello, 32, who hopes to change that perception. "So at the café and at performances we have food and drink, stories and chamber music with both emerging and established artists." The company also stages larger orchestral performances elsewhere in London and abroad – with the emphasis on access.

The price of concerts starts at under £5 and some are even free. "Our whole ethos is to generate interest for classical music in the community – and most importantly, among people who don't know about it," says Raffaello. "I want to ensure that it isn't just the remit of a specific group of people, and enable it to be more embedded in the community." The café he considers to be "like a school" – and indeed, he hopes to work with schools. For the time being, he is helping to make Fidelio audiences as inclusive as possible with seminars, plays and music-related activities.

The explosion of interest in choirs has been instructive, and Raffaello believes that this kind of popular upswell could happen with classical music. Sadly, his initiative comes at a time when music is disappearing from the school curriculum. But with new ideas from neuroscience about the benefits of music, and how it can help with social issues such as isolation and depression, Fidelio could break through and even become a global concern, from its Clerkenwell beginnings.

For some further inspiration you can also look at a recent interview for the blog meet the artist: meettheartist.online/2019/10/28/raffaello-morales-conductor/

To find out more information about the orchestra: fideliorchestra.art

Lawn and Order Bowling Green Lane lives up to its name

With an eye on the history of their patch of EC1, brothers Ian and Hugh Hudson, who run Finsbury Business Centre in Clerkenwell, have made space for a pop-up AstroTurf bowling green at their address on Bowling Green Lane. "There were once several bowling greens here a couple of hundred years ago, hence the name," says Ian. "It was a big destination then for all kinds of activities – including some that were illicit and others anti-social." Somehow, the genteel game of bowls fitted into this leisurely landscape but the brothers' green is the first one for centuries.

Although FBC's lease doesn't allow the public to play bowls, the

office workers within can use it – and it's an amenity few others have.

"Most co-working spaces have a ping-pong table," says Hugh. "We've got a whole bowling green, and a pod at one end for quiet meetings."

The green area replaced several car parking spaces and also makes it part of an effort by FBC to make their operation more environmentally-friendly – not to mention prettier. There's only one part of the car park's old wire fence to be seen, and its fate was sealed when a production company, filming nearby, asked if Ian and Hugh if they could use in a prison sequence. "That motivated us to change it," says Ian, who plans to hold yoga and tai chi classes on the green in summer alongside bowls.

Ian and Hugh Hudson on their bowling green



FEATURES



Faces of fortune



Nicola's Islington Faces blog chronicles the stories of people in the area

It's well-known that Islington is home to many politicians (most recently both PM Boris Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn MP), celebrities (Emma Watson) and media superstars (the BBC's Nick Robinson), but that's not the reason I live here. I started renting in Islington when I finished university and soon was captivated by the area's wonderful diversity. From Archway and Angel down to EC1 the borough feels like a series of villages with unique characters – particularly Clerkenwell, once known as "London's secret village".

The question was: how do you get to meet your neighbours?

In 2012 I figured out an answer – to interview local people who lived or worked in Islington. I wanted to find out what they did, and which Islington places they made repeat visits too. There are now more than 300 interviews on Islington Faces. Many of the best stories are from people born and bred in the area, or from regular people who've actively chosen to live in Islington rather than the celebrities. Some of my favourite EC1 interviews include:

- Healthy-eating tips from Sofia Larrinua, Central Street cookery manager at St Luke's Community Centre.

- Yemi Hailemariam whose campaign saw her husband Andy Tsege safely released from illegal imprisonment in Ethiopia.
- Designer Brandon Richards talks about tough nights homeless in the area.
- Maxence Masurier picks the best French wines for his shop Made in Little France at 397 St John Street.
- Mega mag fan Jeremy Leslie finds EC1 is the perfect home for his shop and studio, MagCulture, 270 St John Street
- Isatu Funna was inspired by her happy Sierra Leone childhood to sell lifestyle products at her shop Dar Leone, 1 Chadwell Street.

In 2019, Islington Faces was showcased in the heart of EC1 when the *Inspiring Islington* photo exhibition by Kimi Gill, featuring 18 Islingtonians who'd starred on the blog, was held at Islington Museum on St John Street. As museum curator Roz Currie said: "Kimi's photos are beautiful, and they capture the heart of a person. It isn't just a photo exhibition, Inspiring Islington reveals the power of place to create a life of incident and memory."

Islington Faces is now a registered small charity and hopes to offer writing/photo workshops to EC1 locals. If your family, neighbours or group are interested in participating:
Email islingtonfaces@gmail.com
Visit islingtonfacesblog.com

WORDS • NICOLA BAIRD



"The borough feels like a series of villages"



Nicola Baird, the founder of popular blog Islington Faces, explains why she's now looking for EC1 people to share their stories





The story of a painting

Clerkenwell flower makers, 1896 by Samuel Melton Fisher (1860–1939)

Clerkenwell Flower Makers, 1896 by Samuel Melton Fisher (1860–1939)

Courtesy of Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

This painting of flower makers in Clerkenwell was typical of its time – a pretty and mildly mawkish treatment of a social subject beloved by Victorian and Edwardian audiences. By London painter Samuel Melton Fisher, it is typical of his output: a series of portraits, social scenes and “genre” paintings – pictures that showed people undertaking ordinary tasks for society audiences.

Although clearly fashionable in his time – Fisher exhibited regularly at the Royal Academy from 1878 and the Grosvenor Gallery, the crucible of the aesthetic movement – he is now little known. But *Clerkenwell flower makers* remains a valuable painting as it tells us much about the floral industry which was a mainstay of employment in EC1, most notably at John Groom’s

Crippleage and Flower Girls’ Mission. Groom, a Clerkenwell man, began with an engraving business at his home on Sekforde Street and noticed the poor girls, distressed and often disabled, who sold flowers and watercress in and around Farringdon. He began the Watercress and Flower Girls’ Christian Mission in Covent Garden which then moved to Laystall Street, Clerkenwell Close and finally Woodbridge Chapel, Sekforde Street. By this time it was a big floristry enterprise, housing the Girls’ Flower Brigade who made up bouquets for sale, including artificial flowers out of season. It’s even said that following World War I the girls made some of the first poppies for the Royal British Legion. As a charity John Groom’s name existed until 2007 when it merged with the Shaftesbury Society to form Christian disability charity Livability.

WORDS • OLIVER BENNETT

So the flower girls were a big part of Clerkenwell’s life at the time, and in their industry Fisher found a subject full of the values of the time: the improving aspects of work, the nobility of charity and the quaint girls and flowers themselves, rendered in picturesque and sentimental fashion that critics would subsequently (and sniffily) call “chocolate boxy”. And at some point this document of charm, charity and godliness made it across the world to the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington – an astounding journey for the girls in Fisher’s Victorian painting – where it remains today.

”

The flower girls were a big part of Clerkenwell’s life at the time

“

Fleet footed

Clerkenwell author finds places to listen to the River Fleet – EC1’s hidden waterway

WORDS • CHRIS WALKER

There are many interesting things about Clerkenwell, some of which are hidden. Perhaps the most hidden of all is something we’ve all walked over many times without even realising it: the River Fleet.

London’s most important ‘lost river’ dates back to Roman times, when it was wide enough for large ships to navigate, but has been buried under London’s streets for over 250 years. It originates at the ponds at Highgate and Hampstead, makes its way down through Camden and Kings Cross, and then through Clerkenwell, eventually joining the Thames at Blackfriars.

The Fleet provided an abundant supply of water which played a vital role in the formation and development of Clerkenwell, and was known as the “River of Wells” because of the number of fresh water springs that erupted along its course. Some of these were developed into spas and pleasure gardens, the most famous being Sadler’s Wells and became enshrined in names such as Great Bath Street, Cold Bath Square, Cold Bath Fields and Spa Fields.

So where can we find the river now in EC1? Difficult, as the River Fleet is now much smaller and runs underground. But it can be heard, and even seen gushing by, through a drain grill in front of the Coach pub on Ray Street. Ray Street (originally named Hockley-in-the-Hole) was once an infamous area, known for animal fights such as bear baiting, bull baiting, and cock fighting.

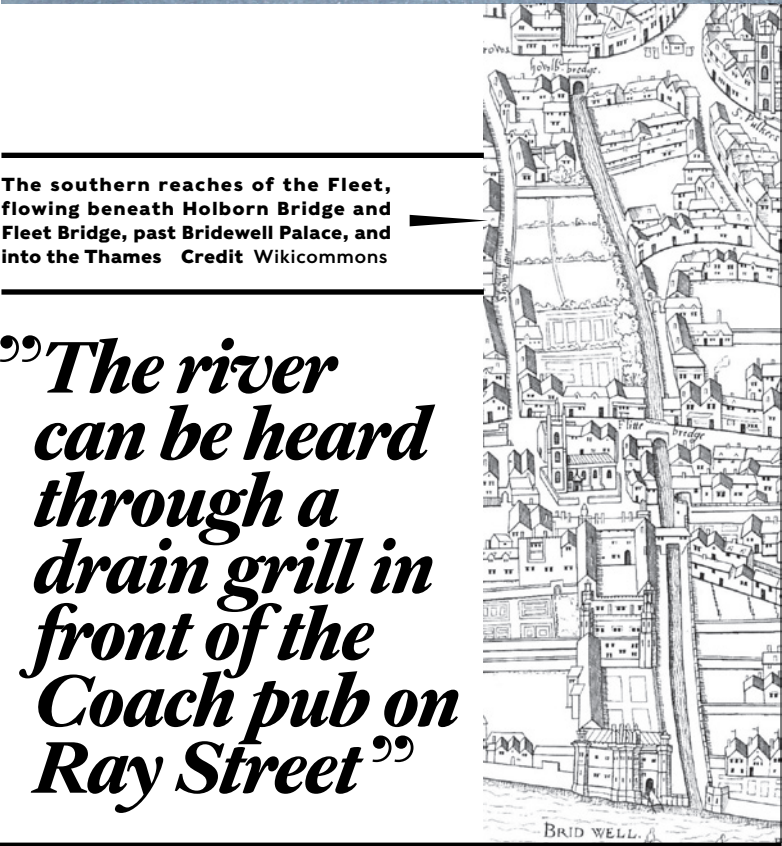
From here it runs down Saffron Hill, where it can be heard once again at the junction of Greville Street. It then flows along the course of Farringdon Street, across Fleet Street – obviously named after the river – and then into the Thames at Blackfriars.

Listen and you can hear hundreds of years of history running under your feet.

Chris Walker is the author of '101 Moderately Interesting Facts about Clerkenwell'. Available from Space in Exmouth Market, MagCulture on St John Street, I Just (formerly Sublime) on St John Street, and Charterhouse Museum.



Chris listens to the Fleet gushing beneath his feet



The southern reaches of the Fleet, flowing beneath Holborn Bridge and Fleet Bridge, past Bridewell Palace, and into the Thames Credit Wikicommons

“The river can be heard through a drain grill in front of the Coach pub on Ray Street”

Waiting for

What’s happening with the statue of Sylvia Pankhurst? Do

The statue of Sylvia Pankhurst – due to be located on Clerkenwell Green – is taking much longer than originally hoped.

The daughter of Emmeline, sister of Christabel, socialist, anti-fascist and the author of the suffragette movement’s history has been expected to get a statue in London for two decades, most recently in Clerkenwell Green, EC1. It’s projected to be part of a rebuilding of the Green, which used to serve as a meeting place and a market from as far back as the 12th century, and is now planned as a pedestrian zone.

The statue intended to be part of this project has been created by sculptor Ian Walters and funded by various grants and donations – a process that remains ongoing. “We’re still crowd-funding,” says Philippa Clark of the Sylvia Pankhurst Memorial Committee. “We have covered the costs of the statue, but we also need to be able to transport it and to provide some money for the maintenance.”

As a non-profit, Clark’s four-strong committee will use all money raised for the statue, and hope to raise enough funds to cover transportation, insurance, maintenance, a launch event, along with a smart-phone app providing commentary in front of the 8ft high statue.

Islington Council is supportive and has donated £3,000, while the Corporation of the City of London has provided £10,000. The council states that the goal of the project is to “reveal and explain the space’s rich role in the social and political history of Islington and London”.

The statue is appropriate for Clerkenwell Green, says Clark, as the square was a centre of radical activity for several centuries. “It’s where the first London Mayday march began and still begins and the Marx Memorial Library is here too.” Clark adds

“A smart phone app with commentary in front of the 8ft



11 LETTER

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 16th March.

or Pankhurst

erkenwell Green's proposed statue

ominika Langova catches up...

that the historic Italian community of the area is also a relevant factor as Sylvia and her Italian partner Silvio were both active in opposing fascism in Italy. However, not everyone welcomes the idea, on the basis that Pankhurst doesn't have an obvious connection to the area. As Clark says, the Pankhurst statue wasn't always destined for Clerkenwell Green and once hoped to stand on College Green by the Houses of Parliament. But after ten years of unsuccessful lobbying the committee started looking for another location. Also, some local businesses have mixed feelings. "It would make sense to put the statue somewhere significant to the person," said Simon Rogers, the manager of The Crown Tavern. "Apparently, this was the

mart-phone
ill provide a
ary in front of
high statue"



Sylvia's mother and sister already have memorials, Sylvia has herself been overlooked. As a librarian there puts it, "I'm sure if it would be a man's statue we would have the funding by now."

The maquette of Walters statue (pictured) was unveiled in 2016 in the company of Helen Pankhurst, granddaughter of Sylvia. On long term loan from the Sylvia Pankhurst Memorial Committee it can be seen at the Marx Memorial Library www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk

If you want to help:
Visit justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sylviastatue

Green that Charles Dickens was talking about in Oliver Twist. So maybe something a bit more relevant would be good." Others, including Islington writer Meg Howarth, have argued that the statue is in the wrong place.

At present it's unclear when the project will start. "The statue has been carved and is ready to go," says Clark. "It just needs finishing and patinating. We are really just waiting for the refurbishment of the space by Islington Council." And when it finally lands, Clark promises the official launch will be a public community event as donations have made it "very much a people's statue". In this the Committee finds support from Clerkenwell Green's Marx Memorial Library, which believes the statue is a good idea as while



Gareth Harris, Jeweller

Meet our featured EC1 local

Although Gareth Harris doesn't live in Clerkenwell, he more than counts as a local fixture. With business partner Dennis Smith he has worked in the same basement studio in Hatton Garden for almost 40 years, moving in not long after they met studying jewellery at the Sir John Cass School of Art.

Now their studio is a trove of jewellery-making equipment and bar a few digital devices and strip lighting, it's the kind of place Charles Dickens would recognise – perhaps even the ancients. As Gareth says, "The person who made Tutankhamen's gold mask could walk in here and begin work immediately – once they'd got over the shock of electric lights and welding equipment." The use of new tech – including 3D printing and computer-aided design – is also now important, and that mix of old and new characterises Smith and Harris' work.

Even after those four decades, Hatton Garden still amazes Gareth. "It's hard to underestimate the expertise here," he says. "You'll find everybody from gem miners to diamond polishers. I've met people who tell me they've worked here for 35 years and have never even seen them before. It's that kind of place." As we reported in the last issue of *EC1 Echo*, Hatton Garden's

jewellery sector is constantly under threat and many fear rent rises due to the advent of Cross-rail. "The bottom line is that craft industries need cheap rents," says Gareth. "We're now competing in a global market, which makes it even more imperative to maintain these industries." The local authority, Camden, has played a

"It's hard to underestimate the expertise here"

significant part in protecting the area's history as the centre of the jewellery industry but there's a limit to what it can do. "In Paris, it would be maintained as a matter of heritage."

That said, Gareth says morale is mostly high. "This is actually a really good time for the jewellery craft," says Gareth. There are a few trends that have rejuvenated it, from the rise of ethical supply chains and traceability, which has vastly improved since the



"blood diamonds" scandal, to the use of raw stones and the rise of artist-craftspeople. "Design has improved dramatically, and the market for bespoke jewellery has caught on." Also, he adds, gold and silver are the ultimate recyclables, so the ecologically-minded can be reassured. "Nothing goes to waste."

As well as making items for the City's various guilds, Gareth and Dennis also make objects such as spoons and cups for religious services, standing cups for ceremonies, and family celebrations such as weddings and christenings, which Gareth says are "extremely satisfying". They made the gold Kate Moss for artist Marc Quinn in 2008, and have a wax cast of her foot and hand to prove it.

The infamous "heist" of 2015 caused such a stir that Gareth and Dennis made cufflinks featuring the hole the gang made in the wall, with a crowbar as the clasp. "The whole story of the 'diamond wheezers' was extraordinary," says Gareth. "You couldn't move for a while without a reporter pushing a microphone in your face." At least no-one got hurt, and the Museum of London is now reported to be interested in featuring the room. "To be clear it's a commemoration, not a celebration," says Gareth – and it's part of the eternal fascination for this unique, single-industry street.

For more information:
Visit smithandharris.com

HISTORY

12

Still waters run deep

A large residential building dominating the upper reaches of Rosebery Avenue, The New River Head is reaching its centenary this year – and it fully deserves a bit of timely praise

by Mark Aston

Islington Local History Centre

There's a large building near Sadler's Wells Theatre that many of us pass all the time but perhaps don't notice. But as the New River Head reaches its 100th birthday this year it's time to celebrate this grand edifice.

Designed by Herbert Austen Hall, a well-known architect of town halls, the impressive edifice opposite Sadler's Wells Theatre was constructed in 1915–20 to be the central offices of the Metropolitan Water Board (MWB). It now sports a Grade II* listing – offering the second-highest historic protection – largely because it incorporates original interiors that date from 1693, encapsulating the 400-year history of mass water supply in London, which began with the opening of the New River in 1613.

The listing body Historic England hymns in tantalising detail the building's standout Oak Room: "... the carved woodwork, panelling, plasterwork and ceiling painting of 1693... form an excep-

tionally rich and complete ensemble – one of the best of its date in London – whose aquatic and riverine iconography vividly reflects the original function of the site." Sadly it's not normally on show, but put a note in the diary for next September as the Oak Room can be seen in Open House London – the annual celebration of architecture that allows people to visit otherwise private buildings.

But the 20th century building that we can see from the street was home to a fascinating story. After a recommendation that London's water supply system be bought into municipal ownership, the MWB had been formed early in the 20th century by merging the assets of the New River Company and the other seven private water companies, and a decade

later in 1913 it decided to build its headquarters at the New River Head waterworks.

The proposal to locate it here came from Frederick Dove, who represented the London County Council on the board. Islington-born Dove

was the chairman of Dove Brothers Ltd, the renowned Islington builders, and despite some opposition in favour of a more central location, his proposal was accepted. Six invited archi-

texts prepared schemes. The brief included the incorporation of the Oak Room from the demolished New River Water House into the new building – an early and significant example of the preservation of an historic interior.

Hall's plans were selected and building began in July 1915. The

demands of World War I brought construction work to a halt between June 1916 and January 1919 while inflation pushed up the cost from the originally estimated £85,000 to nearly £300,000. Nonetheless, the offices opened in May 1920. In the 1930s the eastern ranges were raised by one storey. The eastern-corner cupola and the board members' dining room on the top floor of the north range were also added at this time.

In 1995–8 the offices were relinquished by the MBW, and converted into 129 flats by Broadway Malyan architects. Now New River Head commands a prominent prospect on Rosebery Avenue, and on its 100th anniversary, it remains one of EC1's most outstanding historical buildings.

Find out more at Islington Local History Centre at Finsbury Library or by visiting:
Email local.history@islington.gov.uk



The work of AHMM's
artist in residence
Louisa Tock and the
Magpie Project

Credit
The Magpie Project



Best Supporting Act

A growing way for companies to “give back” is to undertake local charitable activity

Architectural practice Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM) has a well-established sustainability programme. But in recent years it wanted to be sure it was also supporting the local EC1 community.

So in 2016 it joined Heart of the City, the charity that supports small and medium businesses (SMEs) in London to develop responsible business strategies. In this case AHMM used the support provided by the Heart of the City Foundation programme to focus on developing a “charity of the year” programme and offering volunteering and fundraising opportunities for its employees.

The charity it chose last year was The Magpie Project, which takes an innovative approach to supporting mothers and under-fives at risk of homelessness in east London. The practice hosted regular office fundraising meetings and collections of toys and clothes, and it also hosted the charity’s artist in residence, Louisa Tock.

Louisa worked with children from the Magpie Project to create some magnificent artworks, which were then exhibited

at AHMM, giving employees a brilliant opportunity to talk about the practice’s charity partnership to their guests.

As well as the Magpie Project, AHMM’s

Charitable Trust and the Social Mobility Foundation to take part in a week of masterclasses, lectures, sketching, model making, and mentoring at the practice.

The success of the programme means it has moved from being a Heart of the City member to an ambassador, meaning the practice now uses its experience to help other SMEs to get started on their responsible business journeys.

It’s not only the local EC1 community that benefits from AHMM’s charitable activities – employees benefit too. Claire Pollock, who looks after partnerships at AHMM, says that employees welcome the opportunity to volunteer. “Doing something different away from their desks adds hugely to employee well-being,” she says.

If your business is feeling inspired, get in touch with Heart of the City.

The final few places on Heart of the City’s 2020 Foundation programme are available to SMEs based in London, and the first year is free to eligible businesses thanks to funding from the City of London Corporation and City Bridge Trust.

Apply for a place online: theheartofthecity.com





London Zip is ready for business Credit Emily Finch

From basketball to business

BY EMILY FINCH

With his basketball team London Zip, Lennox Charles hopes that sporting prowess will lead to wider success

As winter takes hold, one EC1 local has come up with a solution to keep youngsters active and off the streets.

Lennox Charles, 71, is a well-known face in the area thanks to his work in the volunteer-run Tenant's Management Organisation in Clerkenwell's Brunswick Close Estate.

He helped isolated residents become part of the community through various festivals and his new basketball team, London Zip, is now helping youngsters off the streets.

Lennox is also a living legend in his home turf of Union Island in the Grenadines after he helped launch the island's first basketball team. His original team were called West End Zip and he helped them become formidable players who could out-manoeuvre most other teams in the south Caribbean. But now he has his eyes set on EC1 and cultivating new talent to join London's amateur basketball league, known as the CBL.

He said: "I can teach you to spot the opponents' weaknesses and raise your defence and strength. I can give you the skills so if you want to be professional, you can."

The team – which currently consists of around 20 players – meet regularly at City Sports and have already played a few matches in the CBL. They have lost two games so far but are determined to still come out top when the season ends in June. "Of course we can still win the league."

Lennox, who coaches alongside

"I can give you the skills so if you want to be professional, you can"

his sons and friends, is now concentrating on teaching the theory behind the game which revolves around distinctive ochre balls.

Recently, the team packed into an office room at the Peel Community Centre to assess where they could improve to make sure their next CBL match results in a win.

Lennox has a slightly unusual dream for his team – to become a business. He does not seek profit or glory for himself but wants the club to earn money to teach more youngsters about the beautiful game.

"We are building a foundation and organisation where the players are invited to be owners," he says. "I want to see corner-shops owned by the players."

The team are currently looking for a permanent home in the area and is still seeking players and people to help the team grow.

If you want to join the team or you have a suitable court space which London Zip can call home:

Email londonzip@yahoo.com

15 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 16th March

20-20 vision

Fast talker Brogan McPherson explains how the Japanese word-and-picture lecture format works

The the most common questions I get asked is – what does PechaKucha mean? Well, it’s an onomatopoeic term in Japanese meaning “chit-chat”, that has become a rapid-fire presentation format where speakers get 20 slide projections with 20 seconds each to talk about a chosen subject – which could be almost anything.

Since 2003, when it was formulated, PechaKucha nights have been bringing together people to share ideas big and small: heart-warming and heart-breaking stories, meandering thoughts, holiday snaps, and everything in between. The power of PechaKucha is the passion and enthusiasm speakers bring to their subjects – the audience leaves every event inspired and moved, often coming back again and again. This unique format can be adapted to almost any subject, which means it appeals to people everywhere. Now a trademark, it is running in nearly 2,000 cities.

I’ve been running PechaKucha London for over four years now, and have been a resident of EC1 for equally as long. We have been lucky enough to work with some amazing speakers, venues and volunteers to deliver these insightful nights. We’ve hosted at local events and venues including

Clerkenwell Design Week and the Geffrye Museum, and also with institutions like Tate Modern and the Japanese Embassy; and in collaboration with local companies like Protein Studios and Hassell Studio.

In addition to the speakers and spaces we have worked with, I believe we have an additional, very special asset – our audience. Every PechaKucha event I’ve attended has been filled with a supportive, friendly and engaged group who encourage the speakers when they get stuck, cheer them when they are on a roll, and chat to each other to build connections during the “beer-break” – an important part of the evening.

As it is sometimes called 20-20, it’s particularly worth trying PechaKucha this year and our 2020 calendar is beginning to take shape. Like others in our neighbourhood, I’m looking forward to expanding my involvement in the local community.

So do you have an interesting Clerkenwell story you want to tell? Are you a venue who is looking to bring like-minded people together? Are you a supportive audience member? If this sounds like your type of event – please drop me a line hello@pechakuchalondon.co.uk



A speaker tells their stories through words and imagery

ARTS

Fidelio Orchestra: Charles Ives, Schubert & Beethoven
20 February | 7.30pm–10.30pm
St Andrew Holborn, EC4

Fidelio Orchestra will perform three pieces: Ives's 'The Unanswered Question', Schubert's 'unfinished' 'Symphony no.7' before ending with Beethoven's rumbustious 7th Symphony, a piece known to bring excitement and a thrill to all audiences.

Tickets £6
Call 020 3461 5545
Visit fideliorchestra.art

Architecture Tour
15 February | 2:15pm–3:45pm
The Charterhouse,
Charterhouse Square EC1M 6AN

Join one of our expert guides to explore the many architectural surprises at the Charterhouse. From medieval monastery to Tudor mansion, post-war renovation to invigorating 21st-century adaptations, the Charterhouse buildings and open spaces comprise a wealth of fascination in the heart of London. Every element of these historic buildings breathes a story about the visionaries who have contributed to it.

£20
Call 020 3818 8873
Visit thecharterhouse.org

HISTORY

The Concealed Stories of Nazi-Looted Craft and Art
13 February | 6pm–8pm
42 Britton Street EC1M 5AD

Join the curators of the Gilbert Collection, in conversation with Stephanie Souroujon, as they share their research into the troubling history of some of the collection's pieces.

£10 (includes a welcome drink)
Call 020 7566 7650
Email goldsmiths-centre.org



Oh Queer Cupid: Queer Speed Dating, Comedy and Party
15 Feb | 5pm–1am
Apple Tree, 45 Mount Pleasant

Have you always wanted to go to a queer speed dating night where you can meet like-minded LGBTQ+ people, make friends, get connected and maybe find a sexy romance? This is the event for you! Queer Speed Dating in the early evening followed by DJs and dancing for everyone.

Free
Call 020 7837 2365
Visit theappletreelondon.com

TALKS

Gangsters, Gelato & Garibaldi: the story of Clerkenwell's Italian Community
9 February | 11:00am–12:30pm

Karen Lansdown explores the colourful story of the Italian community in Clerkenwell and the area around Hatton Garden. The walk ends outside Terroni Italian Deli in Clerkenwell Road, for gelato and Italian delicacies.

Email karen.lansdown@ciga.org.uk
Visit islingtonguidedwalks.com

ACTIVISM

Racism Past and Present: an exploration with The National Archives
26 February | 7pm–9pm
Stillpoint Spaces, 23 Clerkenwell Close, Farringdon EC1R 0AA

Join us for a series of presentations offered by specialist archive staff who will be sharing documents from three different periods of history: 1919 Race Riots, Windrush and Mangrove Nine.

To buy tickets:
Call 020 7253 3489
Visit stillpointspaces.com

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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 EC1Echo.co.uk/join

Individual rewards

£3 per month upwards:

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£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

**We would like to say thank you to our first two members:
CDJ Wilcox & Daniel Winn**