

EC1 ECHO

DECEMBER/JANUARY 22-23 • N°19 FREE



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NEWS

Coping with
the cost of
living crisis

P.3

FEATURES

Come and see the
world's first
Christmas card

P.10

HISTORY

The secrets behind
the infamous Hatton
Garden heist

P.12

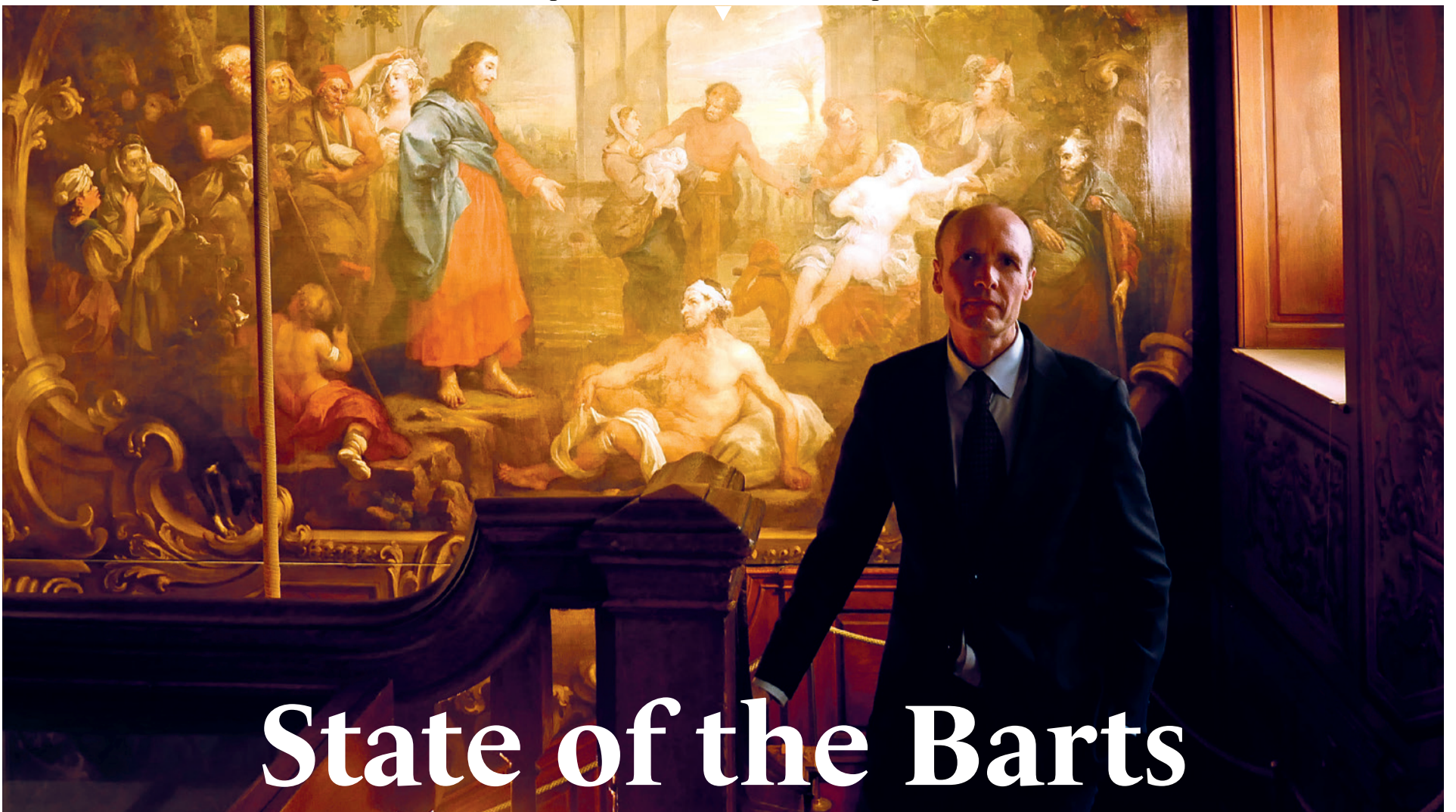


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Barts heritage head Will Palin at the incredible Hogarth Staircase



State of the Barts

This year celebrates nine centuries of the healing arts at Barts Hospital – and big plans are afoot

● BY OLIVER BENNETT ●

Sometimes in London one feels as if there are no stones left unturned – that everything has been seen, discussed and given a price tag.

But St Bartholomew's, the historic hospital campus just south of Smithfield, still has a real thrill of discovery. Take a walk though the 1702-vintage Henry VIII Gate from Smithfield, past St Bartholomew the Less and its 15th-century church tower, and one

ends in a magnificent square reminiscent of Somerset House. Then – *piece de resistance* – in the north-east corner, there's a magnificent stairwell painted by William Hogarth which leads to the Great Hall, a masterpiece of classical symmetry. This glorious set-piece could be one of the splendours of central London, but by dint of being part of a hard-working hospital, it has been shuttered for years and certainly needs some care.

This coming year will begin to change that as Barts celebrates its 900th anniversary in 2023. Will Palin, the new

head of Barts Heritage Trust, is set to spruce them up and his plan is to bring this amazing and under-celebrated slice of London heritage to the public.

"It's high time," says Palin, who recently hosted King Charles to launch the anniversary year. "In the past Barts was always public. Visitors would come through the gate, pass the church, into the square then into the North Wing, up the Hogarth stairs and into the splendid Great Hall. Those are the theatrical episodes that architect James Gibbs wanted to create – to ensure that whoever came

here was captivated by the hospital." The gentry would then give money – perhaps influenced by their own reckoning before God – and the hospital thrived.

Those periwigged philanthropists seem quaint now, but the 18th century Great Hall modernised the hospital, leading straight to the present day. "Gibbs created a square with four separate wings and amazingly, three survive," says Palin. His plan made the North Wing the ceremonial centre: where the hospital governors hosted fundraising

Continued on Page-11

N°19

DEC 22 – JAN 23

1st Dec 22

31st Jan 23

First Quarter

60%/0.54

Waxing Gibbous

77%/0.5

EC1 Echo is the area's free community newspaper. We publish bi-monthly and distribute 7,500 free copies of each issue. Now more than ever we believe that the media should be responsive and accountable to the community it serves.

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NEWS

The painted hoarding at Clerkenwell Green Credit Chris Walker



Flush with excitement

The boardings around the historic toilets in Clerkenwell Green sport a new mural

The historic toilets in Clerkenwell Green, hoarded up since 2019, have finally been decorated with a heritage mural celebrating the square's radical history.

The mural was created by artist Paul Butler, assisted by artists Linda Jane James, Jerry Flynn and Karen Gregory, alongside students from Hugh Myddelton Primary School. Backed by Islington Heritage, it is part of the longer-term plan to beautify the famous square alongside the works in St James' Churchyard. Paul Butler worked on the famous Cable Street Mural in Whitechapel and the Hackney

Peace Carnival Mural in east London but there is no indication this mural will be permanent.

According to a spokeswoman for Islington Council, the project is part of a process that will attract people to Clerkenwell Green.

"We were surprised to find that many local children, some of whom have contributed to the murals, had never been there," she said. "We hope that the Green and Churchyard will become more of a destination for them as well as oth-

ers, as part of a traffic-free zone."

The defunct mid-19th century toilets by George Jennings have previously been mooted as a potential cafe or bar. Last year a prankster put laminated notices on the hoarding claiming that it was an art installation called *Black upon Green* by Izzy Lington and earlier this year satirical notices were put up suggesting that the site was to become a 'Clerkenwell Mound', like the Hyde Park Mound.

More trees please

Islington Council adopts scheme to plant more trees along its streets

BY KYLE SAGER

Islington is the latest borough to sign up to a scheme called Trees for Streets, which aims to bring more green to London. Since its introduction in 2021, the campaign has already planted over 2,500 trees on the streets of London. Part of the nationwide charity Trees for Cities, Trees for Streets relies on local councils to host the scheme. Islington Council is the most recent, hoping to brighten up the borough and empower residents to bring more beauty and nature to the urban streets they walk every day.

"There's a massive opportunity to get more trees planted," said Simeon Linstead, Trees for Streets

project director. "The council wants to get more trees planted, and this scheme is another thing they're doing to achieve that."

Islington Council says that the Mayor of London will match fund the scheme, meaning that for every tree sponsored by an Islington resident or business between now and December 2023, another tree is planted in a designated priority location. The campaign estimates that in the UK, there are a quarter of a million kilometres of kerbside with few or no trees, offering extensive planting opportunities along both residential and high streets.

According to Linstead, trees are important in urban streets. It has been shown that in areas where streets have trees, residents spend more time outside, exercise and socialise more and doctors prescribe fewer antidepressants. Street trees also create shading and cooling effects, absorb air pollution and improve the air quality by producing more oxygen.

Trees for Streets is dedicated



Islington needs more urban trees

to helping local communities improve the urban spaces around them, and in the past, the scheme has inspired people not only to plant more trees, but also to get involved in making positive changes via their local councils.

"It really brings people out of their shells and shows that they can engage in their civic space," said Linstead. "So it's really valuable from that perspective."

The winter months are the best time to plant trees because it gives the roots a chance to have some establishment by the warmer months, when the tree will need more water. To participate in Trees for Streets and sponsor a new tree, Islington residents and businesses are encouraged to visit treesforstreets.org/islington, choose a location for the tree they'd like to sponsor and fill out a few details.

NEWS

3

Coping with the cost of living crisis

BY CLLR RUTH HAYES

Every time we go to the shops, prices have risen. Utility bills have never been higher. For many of us, it's getting harder and harder to make ends meet, and we have the rest of winter to get through – including Christmas.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the pressures and the scale of the problems, and EC1 faces particular issues due to the wide income disparities between residents. For some, it is impossible to afford the basics, while a couple of streets away are restaurants, bars and leisure facilities that are completely out of reach.

Islington Council has recently completed a listening exercise with residents – Let's Talk Islington – and the Taskforce on Inequality has produced a report on action that can be taken. The exercise involved engagement with a wide range of people and used different methods to ensure that a wide variety of experiences were included.

One of the recommendations is about building collective power in communities, and our neighbourhood has some brilliant community groups and initiatives. These include Tenants and Residents Associations, community centres, Friends of Parks, museums, faith communities and young people's groups. We are also seeing a renewed energy in trades unions including local action in communications, transport, education, and with more to come.

I was pleased to be able to attend The Peel's recent packed event on the cost of living emergency which highlighted local services and how

they can assist people in getting through these tough times. The Council website highlights many of the sources of help – see below – and information is available in libraries and community centres.

It is really worth finding out what you might be entitled to and whether there are ways you could boost your income, deal with debts and/or get help with costs. There is important information to be aware of – for example, if you receive your energy rebate in the form of vouchers, these need to be used in three months, so make sure that they don't expire. The Council is working with local



The Peel's recent event on the cost of living emergency highlighted local services

community centres, libraries and other groups to offer safe warm spaces through the winter, and some of these will be linked to free activities.

EC1 has a proud history of people taking action together to improve their futures. There are some issues which can only be solved at a national level, but we can support each other in practical ways (often improving our own wellbeing in the process) and can campaign for a more just distribution of wealth that ensures that we become a more fair and equal society.

It is really inspiring to see the energy, commitment and creativity of community activists in the area and the wider borough, and I would like to thank everyone who is involved in trying to build a better future.

Seasons greetings to readers and I hope that everyone is able to enjoy the festivities and that you all have a happy and healthy New Year.

For more information:
Visit islington.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/cost-of-living-support



Support our food initiative

One of the most pressing issues in Clerkenwell is food insecurity. With rising energy costs and the cost-of-living crisis impacting families more than ever before, the situation is critical.

With the ongoing support of the Clerkenwell Alliance, The Peel is progressing with its food initiative – a multi-pronged programme with the aim of assisting the community through these difficult times. The programme is separated into two elements: firstly a ready-meal distribution reserved for the most vulnerable; and secondly a food co-operative which members of the community can sign up for and which can provide food hampers with essentials for a much lower price. The initiative also offers the opportunity to get involved in the community, meet new people and learn culinary skills.

The need is there – now we are inviting businesses and organisations who can assist us in delivering the programme.

Any businesses or organisations that can offer support or donations to The Food Initiative contact The Peel at admin@peelinstitute.org.uk

Advertisement

Islington Giving launches crisis appeal to support our most vulnerable neighbours this winter

islington giving

CRISIS APPEAL // CRISIS APPEAL // CRISIS

46% INCREASE IN REFERRALS TO ISLINGTON FOOD BANKS

Donate today to help someone in your community

This October, Islington Giving launched an emergency Cost of Living Crisis Appeal, responding to the dramatic increase local charity partners were seeing in the numbers of people needing their services. There has already been a 46% increase in referrals to food banks in the borough compared with last year, and figures show that there are now more than 11,500 families living in fuel poverty in Islington.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of local people and businesses, Islington Giving has now raised an amazing £50,000 for local residents facing a really tough time. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. Working with partners including Age UK Islington, Help on Your Doorstep, and Manor Gardens, among others, the emergency funding has been reaching some of the most vulnerable residents in our borough, helping to pay fuel bills, buy food and provide winter essentials.

The appeal has supported residents like Sazan, a single parent with a young baby who Age UK met during local outreach work. Sazan receives Universal Credit but relies on her local foodbank each week and has mounting fuel debts she can't pay. The emergency funding helped her pay off some of her debt, giving her some space to breathe and reducing some of her anxiety.

We have been blown away by the generosity of our community at a time when everyone is feeling the effects of the crisis. Unfortunately, we know this is just the start. As the temperature drops and prices continue to climb, many people are having to choose between putting food on the table and heating their home.

If everyone in our community who is able can give a little, we can help more people in our borough to get through the tough winter months.

Can you support a vulnerable neighbour this winter?

1. £25 could help a family cover rising transport costs
2. £50 could support someone with food vouchers for a week
3. £100 could support a family struggling with rising energy bills

Scan here or donate online at:

islingtongiving.org.uk/lp/islington-crisis-appeal



The current situation can feel overwhelming but there are things you can do right now to make a difference. Follow us @IsGiv and help us spread the word or get your local school, workplace or business involved to raise funds. Please contact isobel.miller@islingtongiving.org.uk to order appeal posters or for more information.

NEWS

4



The Boat Club in active times Credit Islington Boat Club

Surf’s up as Boat Club closes

Islington Boat Club, set up by Crystal Hale in 1970 on the City Road Basin was conceived as a place for children to enjoy being in boats, like an adventure playground on water. It was successful for half a century. Now after a period of neglect the place has been run down and the current manager Sarah-Jane Elvin, in post since last April, is in charge of trying to get it back to full working order. But she

claims that Islington Council – which owns the building and claims it is a health and safety danger – wishes to close it. “The council owns the building and used to inspect it and give us a list of recommendations,” says Elvin. “We then raised the money and addressed any concerns, but they stopped doing that.”



It was thought that the Boat Club would hang on for several more months but it has now been told that the lease will expire this January, and has struggled to get clear instructions from Islington Council on how it sees the club’s future. “Despite attempts, recent and over the past seven years, to negotiate an extension on the lease with Islington Council we have had no success,” says Elvin. “Our request is for a short lease extension or granting of site access of 18 months to allow us to continue serving the community and to look to our future.” The Islington Boat Club is now urgently seeking support to lobby the council to grant an extension, allowing it to use the site and gain access to the water. It is asking supporters to write to the council before 8 December, when a meeting will discuss the issue. Supporters should write to campaign@islingtonboatclub.com or go though the website www.islingtonboatclub.com/save-our-club

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Get every issue of the Echo through your door!

We hope you’re enjoying reading the Echo. If you’ve received this copy through your letter box and would like to continue receiving it directly to your door in future, you can sign up as a member for £5 or more per month. We only distribute a limited number of copies to residential addresses for free, as a way of introducing people to the paper, and the streets where we deliver change regularly. To find out more about our membership options turn to Page 15.

Visit ec1echo.co.uk/join

LSO St Luke’s

NEW YEAR
NEW CONCERTS

AT LSO ST LUKE’S, OLD STREET

CHAMBER MUSIC WITH BBC RADIO 3

World-class performers play music by one of history’s most iconic composers, Beethoven, from piano duets to songs, and more.

Starts Thursday 19 January 1pm

FREE FRIDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Embrace the wonder of live performance with bite-size, informal concerts, including friendly introductions to the music.

Starts Friday 20 January 12.30pm

FRESH, ONE-OF-A-KIND SOUNDS

Theories of Forgetting curated by Hollie Harding
Saturday 14 January 7.30pm

Wu Xing – Five Elements Tangram x Beibei Wang
Saturday 28 January 7.30pm

Iso.co.uk/lsostlukes

NEWS

5

COMMENT



Islington hoping to reduce health inequality

BY JULIA GREGORY,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Islington Council is one of 13 councils picked to join the National Institute for Health and Care Research's (NIHCR) £350m pioneering research into the causes of health inequalities.

It has been signed up for one year but it could be extended for five more years, with £1m funding annually, if the council develops its plans.

The borough is the sixth most deprived in London and a third of its children and 34 per cent of those over 60 live in poverty, according to its 2021 Challenging Inequality report.

Men with more affluent backgrounds in Islington can expect to live for six years longer than those from the worst-off backgrounds. The gap is more than four years for women in the borough, according to council figures.

Islington's public health team worked

with University College London, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and HealthWatch Islington to put together its bid.

It included work on data about health inequalities, working with residents who will be trained to do research in their communities and helping staff and people who live in Islington to use the evidence to tackle problems.

Professor Brian Ferguson who leads the NIHCR research programme said: "By focusing on the wider determinants of health such as employment, housing, education and the physical environment, the areas we are supporting have a tremendous opportunity to make a lasting impact on health inequalities and wider deprivation."

Islington's head of public health Jonathan O'Sullivan said the council will look at the impact of debt and the risk of getting into debt as well as the health problems caused by overcrowding in Islington.

Mind matters

BY CLLR VALERIE BOSSMAN-QUARSHIE

The new programme from Islington Council and the NHS (see below), prompted by concerns about the mental health of Black boys and men from African and African-Caribbean backgrounds is a good thing, as this group is at a higher risk of suffering from mental health problems.

Inevitably there will be a mix of reactions to the programme. Some will champion the efforts of this innovative scheme while others will say, "What about other groups?" But perhaps for a moment we could set aside these polarised responses and think of how many lives will be saved by this initiative, and how important it is to prioritise an agenda that helps this often unsupported minority group.

There are many – including myself

– who have accessed wellbeing and mental health services because of life issues, including employment-related problems. Others among us will have known close relatives or friends who have had therapies and referrals by a GP to our amazing

Islington services such as iCope and the brilliant group Talk4health. For me, the phenomenal Maya Centre came into its own in my adulthood as a young person

when I struggled with my wellbeing but wasn't always asked how I was doing. Such issues can often be left bubbling under the surface, and they can scar the mind. Now we have to address our broken system where feelings of shame, of being negatively labelled and unworthy of support are rife, driven by the twin effects of structural inequalities and of such topics being considered taboo and not for discussion.

There is an overwhelming strain on the NHS post-Covid and post-Brexit, when many health professionals left the UK. With so many children and young people needing mental health services it is frankly a mess in the NHS, while at the other end of the life cycle older people are also suffering from loneliness, isolation and health inequalities.

What we need is for local government to offer the right resources to support the services we desperately need and deliver for local people, who all-too often feel neglected compared to others. True, we have the benefit of great community centres like The Peel, St Luke's, Elizabeth House and others within Islington, for which we should be grateful. But pressing matters like the cost of living crisis don't help, and is already impacting those with mental health issues. We must keep pushing and supporting initiatives such as Elevate to address inequalities and support our most vulnerable. In the end, it's an investment in people.

Visit talkforhealth.co.uk
Visit icope.nhs.uk
Visit mayacentre.org.uk



▲ Cllr Valerie Bossman-Quarshie

From the roots up

Islington Council has joined forces with the NHS to create a new mental health programme aiming to help create a better future for young Black men and boys.

The three-year programme is titled 'Young Black Men and Mental Health', and takes a holistic approach to improving mental health and wellbeing among young Black males in Islington, as well as raising aspirations and opportunities while reducing school exclusions.

Research shows that two thirds of permanent school exclusions are Black pupils, and 60 per cent of Black people in England feel that they are treated with less respect as others because of their ethnicity. Black men in Britain are 17 times more likely than white men to be diagnosed with a serious mental illness, and four times more likely to be sectioned under the Mental Health Act. Hence the programme, which has been made possible thanks to a £1.6 million investment from the Violence Reduction Unit and NHS North

Central London Integrated Care Board's Inequalities Fund.

The programme has four strands. The first is a training programme that equips barbers at five Islington barber shops to be 'mental health ambassadors' with the skills to recognise that a customer may be struggling with their mental health and point them towards appropriate support. The 'Becoming a Man' programme, delivered alongside the Mental Health Foundation, will see work undertaken with four Islington secondary schools to support young Black boys with their long-term mental wellbeing – each school has been allocated a full-time trained counsellor. The 'Elevate Innovation Hub' offers trained 'Elevate Innovation Key Workers' who will provide support and community coaching for those aged 16 to 25 at risk of poor health, serious youth violence and school exclusion. Finally, there will be a cultural competency programme for various partners, including police, GPs, social care and schools.

Have you signed up to our free weekly newsletter?

Keep up to date with all the latest articles on our website, and some great local listings! Sign up here: bit.ly/EC1newsletter or scan the QR code.



The Peel is your local community centre, based in Clerkenwell since 1898. We offer classes, regular events and activities for all ages and assist people to set up projects which benefit the community – including *EC1 Echo*, the community newspaper.

Letter from Olu



And just like that, we are at the end of 2022. What a year it has been! As we review the year, through the demands of everyday life in increasingly difficult circumstances, we should remember that there are people who care enough to help and provide opportunities to bring us together to share, love and heal. Even in the darkest days, we must remember that there is light and for someone out there, indeed, WE are that light. It has been a very busy period for The Peel, as you will see on these pages. We have been overwhelmed by the response

we have received to our recent activities and the new partners we have brought on board to make our community a better neighbourhood. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of making these events happen.

This will be a Xmas like no other for many of us. With heating being cut off in estates to save money, public places unthinkably being repurposed as intermittent 'warm spaces', food banks running out of supplies, families under an increasing cost of living and inflationary pressures and mental health issues at an all-time high in schools, it is easy for us to despair. But we MUST believe that by sticking together, we WILL get through this. The Peel will be doing its best to help. Please keep letting us know how we can respond to your needs – or indeed, how we can help you help others.

One immediate way you can help us is by contributing to our Xmas toy appeal or food initiative. We know from previous years that the modest presents many children get from us are the only presents that they will be receiving. You can help us put a smile on their faces by donating generously.

Details on the opposite page, or please send an email to us at admin@peelinstitute.org.uk.

May 2023 be good to us. Have a lovely Xmas and stay safe.

Leon Robinson at The Peel

The Peel hosted a multitude of events in October to mark Black History Month; a celebration of people from African and Caribbean backgrounds with the shared appreciation, acknowledgements and understanding of black heritage and culture in the United Kingdom. We collaborated with Leon Robinson, the founder of Positive Steps, an organisation formed by Robinson in 1990 with the hopes of exploring, archiving, and educating intergenerational audiences about the Black experience in British history. We began the celebrations on the 26 October with Leon hosting an immersive workshop for our Social and Youth Club members. This included the showcasing of World War I memorabilia and its relation to black soldiers and was followed by an

Archivist, Leon Robinson showcasing his work
Credit Penny Dampier



immersive, educational family talk based at the Finsbury Business Centre, in which children were invited to participate in an illustration workshop led by Chanté Timothy of the Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration, where they designed their own personal medals for the heroes in their lives. The celebrations were brought to an end with a closing exhibition of Leon's 'Forget Me Not' archives.

Intergenerational Meal



Youth Club and Social Club united

On 26 October, The Peel hosted an intergenerational meal in the hopes of bringing two different parts of the community together. The Youth Club prepared a traditional Caribbean meal for the Social Club members, then ate alongside them. This was an opportunity for both



Connecting The Peel

parties to learn something valuable from the other. The event sparked some interesting conversations around race and identity, with our younger members discussing how navigating the world as young people of colour is for them and our older members listening to their experiences.

Winter Wellness workshop

With the current cost of living crisis impacting all pockets of the local community, The Peel decided to facilitate an event to offer assistance. On 3 November we hosted a Winter Wellness workshop, which included talks and workshops on the services available at The Peel and in the wider Islington area that may be able to alleviate the stresses caused by financial scarcity and food insecurity. We provided attendees with toiletry bag essentials and light food and refreshments. We'd like to thank the guest speakers from the following organisations; Age UK Islington, Public Health, SHINE, Islington People's Rights, Direct Action Project and London Capital Credit Union.

As well as hosting events in the community, The Peel is also supporting its staff with the implementation of a breakfast programme, ensuring that they all have access to a nutritional breakfast before starting work. If you're



Winter Wellness workshop Credit Penny Dampier

experiencing financial hardship and require information and resources on the support available in the Clerkenwell and Islington areas, please contact admin@peelinstitute.org.uk

Dish 'n' Jam



Dish 'n' Jam with special guests from Iroko Theatre

We held our second Dish 'n' Jam community event in October, an evening which merges food, culture and music. We encouraged guests to bring culinary dishes to share with other attendees and perform. This month, we were joined by a cultural jamboree performance from Ikroko Theatre, followed by an African drumming workshop. Over 25 local residents joined in with the fun and learnt a new skill.

Baby Item Swap Event

In November, The Peel hosted the 3rd Baby Item Swap Event of the year, in collaboration with St Luke's Community Centre. This proved to be extremely successful, with over 55 families making use of our services. We were joined by Grethe Mangala Jensen of Sandal Sticks Theatre, who provided theatrical storytelling to the children while their parents and guardians were able to socialise and take and share what they needed. We are looking forward to continuing our collaboration with St Luke's Community Centre in January 2023.



Children's storyteller, Grethe
Instagram @sandalstickstheatre

Jewellery making with the Social Club

Our Social Club members love to test their skills and try new Arts & Crafts activities. This week, they started jewellery making. We always request feedback from our members to ensure we are providing services that are the most fulfilling.



Social Club members; Sue (left), June (centre) and Merle (right)

The Peel Spotlight: Penny Dampier

Project Manager, Penny Dampier



Each issue, we interview a member of staff, volunteer or local resident to give readers an insight into life at The Peel. Meet Penny Dampier, The Peel's latest project manager. She joined the team in recent months.

What's your role at The Peel?
I'm the project manager of *EC1 Echo*, which means I'm responsible for managing the distribution of the newspaper around the local area, creating social media posts and sending out our weekly newsletter. I'm also working on building relationships with local organisations and companies. I love being

based at The Peel with all the fantastic activities going on around me!

What do you like about Clerkenwell?
It's such a fantastic area, so full of history, but also changing all the time. I love walking around in my lunch hour taking it all in. It's certainly never boring.

If you had to describe The Peel in three words, which would you pick?
Inclusive, friendly, welcoming.

How does The Peel serve the needs of the local community?
I love the fact that they offer activities across the whole age range. I'm usually here when the over 55s club is having their bingo and karaoke sessions, and then later on the younger generation get to try out their cooking skills and much more. There's always something interesting happening!

Any Peel plans in the pipeline?
The *Echo* will, of course, be covering The Peel's 125th anniversary celebrations in our upcoming issues. Plus, I'm looking forward to finding out even more about the work The Peel does, especially by joining the community organisers on some outreach work to meet members of the local community.

Social Club visit the Poppy Factory

The Social Club visited the Poppy Factory, an organisation based in Richmond which supports veterans with health conditions on their journey into employment. Here, the members celebrated the factory's centenary year by making poppy wreaths and enjoying a performance by the Blackwater Valley Wind Quintet with light refreshments. We have a range of outdoor activities and trips in the pipeline for 2023 – subscribe to



Social Club member, Edna Jaggers
our newsletter (please see link on our website, www.peelinstitute.org.uk) to keep up-to-date.

Supporting local schools

Over 30 families used our School Uniform pop-up 'shop' service in November. With invaluable donations from locally based company Flixmedia we were able to provide new shoes,

coats, tights and other uniform items. The Peel plans to host another School Uniform Pop-up 'Shop' event in 2023. Please stay up to date on our social media platforms, and if you are a business and/or organisation that would like to offer donations or support, please send us an email at admin@peelinstitute.org.uk

Peel Regular Classes

- **Youth Club:** coding and cooking for children between the ages of 8-18 - contact j.kidd@peelsinstitute.org.uk for more information.
- **Social Club:** weekly exercise classes, fitness mornings at Brunswick Estate - contact k.bottomley@peelinstitute.org.uk for more information.
- **Our Parks:** free weekly fitness classes on Wednesdays at 5pm in Spa Fields.
- **Creative workshops and writing sessions:** contact admin@peelinstitute.org.uk for more information.

Upcoming Special Events

15 December: The Peel Youth Club will be hosting a buffet to celebrate the festive season.

Every Tuesday: African Guitar Classes with Otis Lumumba. Want to learn a new musical skill? Join our weekly guitar lessons at The Peel Institute. Led by world-class Congolese guitarist, Otis Lumumba, attendees will learn the basics of playing the guitar and African Guitar styles. Sessions are free to young people (under 18), £2.50 each for Social Club members and £5 each to the general community. Contact admin@peelinstitute.org.uk for more information

AFRICAN GUITAR CLASSES WITH OTIS LUMUMBA

THE PEEL INSTITUTE,
NORTHAMPTON RD, LONDON,
EC1R 0HU

Join our weekly guitar lessons at The Peel Institute. Led by world-class Congolese guitarist, Otis Lumumba, attendees will learn the basics of playing the guitar and African guitar styles.

Every Tuesday 4-5pm at The Peel Institute

Sessions are **free** to young people (under 18), £2.50 each for Social Club members and £5 each to the general community.



The Peel 2022 Christmas Toy Appeal

Every year, The Peel donates presents to local children. For many struggling families, we have learnt that these are the only presents they will receive.

Please donate any new unwrapped toys for children aged 0-16. Gifts can be sent directly to The Peel Centre, Northampton Road, EC1R 0HU. We also accept cash donation if this is more convenient (cheques payable to The Peel Institute).



THANK YOU!



Contact j.kidd@peelinstitute.org.uk/020 7837 6082 for more information

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7

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Advertisement



NEWS FROM THE PEEL

Exmouth Market shop owner Eleanor Tattersfield recently received a postcard reading: “I recently took up burlesque lessons to reframe how I felt about my body and sexuality and totally fell in love with myself.”

We can’t print the rest of the message but let’s just say it’s not your average Wish You Were Here greeting. In fact, Tattersfield has received thousands of similarly saucy postcards to her stationery shop Marby & Elm in the last couple of years and it’s all of her own doing.

In 2020, Tattersfield asked her 17.7K Instagram followers to send her their address and she’d send them a blank postcard and a stamp for them to anonymously write a ‘lockdown secret’ and post back.

She was staggered by the enormous range of secrets told with candour and humour that poured in and a big surprise was the creativity people showed in their responses. The most interesting postcards made it into Eleanor’s book, *Lockdown Secrets*, published by Batsford Books.

So many of the secrets were about sex that Eleanor has just published her second collection *Sex Secrets: Postcards From The Bed* – the perfect stocking stuffer for over 18s. “The themes are wide-ranging,” says Tattersfield. “From asexuality to polyamory, kinks, stinks, infidelity and high fidelity, to the joys of simple kissing. As with the lockdown secrets, the sex secrets give us a glimpse into our habits, revealing fundamental truths of what it is to be human and our need for connection, love, nurture, and attention.”



Meet the Exmouth Market shop owner who has become keeper of our rudest secrets

BY HOWARD ROMBOUGH

She never knows where she’ll run into fans. “I was walking on Hampstead Heath one day,” Tattersfield remembers. “I passed Matt Hancock and he said to me ‘I love your Sex Secrets – best thing on Instagram’. That made my day.”

Tattersfield started her letterpress business from her garden shed in 2009. Prior to this she studied art history and on graduating, worked with Japanese and Chinese art dealers, then started a bespoke art tour consultancy. “I was a sort of cultural keeper of secrets,” Tattersfield says.

Marriage and a career break to raise her two boys Marby and Elm followed, and then she pursued her dream of creating a letterpress stationery business. In 2009

she bought a vintage Adana letterpress printing machine on eBay and set it up in the garden shed making bespoke greetings cards for friends. Her big break quickly followed with a wholesale contract to supply Liberty, selling over 10,000 cards a year and even staging live printing events in its window every Christmas & Valentine’s. She opened her Marby & Elm shop in 2015 in Clerkenwell Road, moving to Exmouth Market in 2017.

Everything is designed and printed on a letterpress machine in the shop with a Marby and Elm aesthetic that she describes as ‘antique modern’: vintage fonts paired with contemporary pops of colour. These include bespoke greetings cards and correspondence such as business cards,

invites and letter-headed paper. The shop also sells everything from bespoke Marby & Elm candles, canvas bags, posters and framed prints with uplifting or racy copy such as “Sorry I’m Late I Didn’t Want To Come”, “Done Is Better Than Perfect”, “Phwoar!” and “You Go Girl!”. Regular customers include Jamie Oliver, Cath Kidston, Gillian Anderson, Sir John Hegarty and Richard Curtis. “Our absolute USP is you can ask for a card saying ‘such and such’ and walk out within five minutes with the finished card.”

It’s a family business - Eleanor is the designer, her sister Charlie, manages the shop, their father is the lettering artist. Marby & Elm are the nicknames of Eleanor’s boys, Marlowe, 17 and Elmore, 15.

Christmas is the shop’s busiest season. Unsurprisingly, holiday cards and tags are best-sellers, along with ‘Victorian Brothel’ and ‘Midnight Mass’ scented candles, and ‘Dirty Tea Towels’ with naughty slang words for genitalia. “There’s no better gift for grandpas than a tea towel covered in words for penises,” says Tattersfield. “Or ‘Boobs’ for Grandmas.”

She adores Exmouth Market and “its strong village community in the heart of London. All the traders are such a tight group who socialise together with locals and visitors from Sadler’s Well most evenings, Café Kick & Moro being the hubs. It’s a vibrant mix of ages, professions and local characters.”

Tattersfield’s next project? “Leave an anonymous recorded secret on secrets.fm”

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Write of succession

Don't tell everyone, but the Royal's favourite stationer is based in Clerkenwell. The EC1 Echo goes to visit Barnard and Westwood

Whatever one's thoughts on the monarchy, Queen Elizabeth II's funeral in September at Westminster Abbey was a big deal – and providing the 22-page order of service for the ceremony is a great boost for any company.

So it was good that the task went to Clerkenwell's own Barnard and Westwood: an unassuming luxury printing company near Mount Pleasant that just happens to have had the Royal Warrants for printing and bookbinding since 1986.

As befits its sense of discretion it's hard to find. "We keep a low profile even though we're over 100 years old" said Alasdair Abrines, sales and marketing director. Barnard and Westwood was set up in 1921 by printer Albert Reginald Barnard and 100 years later, was bought by retailer Maurice Bennett, after the pandemic put a spoke in business. Now it thrives, continuing Clerkenwell's fine old tradition of being an area renowned for printing and the graphic arts.

Although the company prefers to stay under the radar, Alasdair was clearly pleased to find that following the royal funeral the *New York Times* covered his company (memorably, the article described Clerkenwell as 'a neighborhood about three miles northeast

of Westminster Abbey'). Here, off a residential street on the way towards King's Cross, next to a prop-making firm, they run upwards of 20 printing machines of all types – from whispering modern digital jobs to lovely old iron Heidelbergs, including one die-stamping machine that's older than the company itself. The work B&W does covers all kinds of luxurious and important occasions: wedding invitations, condolences, gifts, letters. It prints for Westminster Abbey, the City's churches and Livery Companies – the deepest traditional institutions – alongside brands such as Hunter, Bentley, Paul Smith, Burberry, Claridges and Fortnum & Mason. What they're all after is the sense of detail: embossed cards with gold edges, presentation boxes tied with ribbons, anything that needs to make a real splash.



The stationery of Barnard & Westwood

And the Royals, of course. B&W made the invitations for Prince William and Kate in 2011 and Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in 2019 – and the order of service for the funeral of Princess Diana. It has also made stationery for several monarchs and maharajas across the world, but are so committed to confidentiality that they'll keep the proofs under lock and key. This means that B&W isn't a cheap copy shop.

The stationery starts at about £350 for 100 engraved letterheads and can run up to about £12,000 for a premium wedding stationery suite for 100 guests. At the same time, they use skilled labour – the company has 15 staff, and takes on apprentices – and these items are normally kept as memorabilia and even heirlooms, a niche that the company augments by offering custom binding for old books and photo albums.

In an era where print is supposedly dying, how does a company like B&W do it? "The reality is that print is by no means dead," says Alasdair. "But the digital world has forced businesses like ours to move with the times, so we've reimaged our business model to mix the digital with luxury print." The smartest invite can carry a QR code, while the repertoire includes every conceivable

printing style and finish from letterpress to foil blocking, die stamping, embossing, gilding, hand finishing and box-making – and they've done experimental work with artist and designer Gary James McQueen, a nephew of Alexander McQueen. A fashion for weddings is to use cotton-heavy paper with hand-torn edges and letterpress printing, for that raw look. "It's not just about pressing 'send'," says Alasdair. Some forms that had been expected to die out, such as the business card, have been coming back, and as the firm is close to Mount Pleasant, which has the biggest post office in London, it's good to hear that they'll also make a bespoke Christmas card – and not necessarily at royal prices.

Visit barnardandwestwood.com

Fleet footed

Forget January's gym bonanza. Run in Clerkenwell's parks and streets, and you'll be better off and healthier, says teacher and runner Katherine Bridges

As the days become shorter, it becomes easier to stay indoors, hit the sofa, start a Netflix series and avoid physical activity. Soaring prices of monthly gym memberships in the borough may be an exercise deterrent and a return to group classes post-lockdown combined with shortening days and darker evenings has led to a considerable drop off in people hitting the street to exercise. In addition, road running is especially challenging during peak commuting hours when the pavements are crammed with workers.

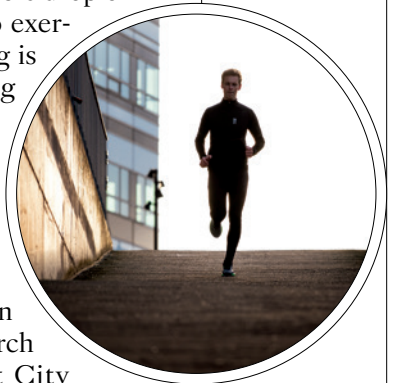
But running may be your solution and there's a reason why so many of London's noteworthy races (including London Landmarks 10k, Cancer Research UK Winter Run, The Great City Race) take place in and around our area.

Having had the privilege of living in Clerkenwell for the past five years, I have taken part in many races that traverse the city, loop around St Paul's Cathedral and wind their way through the heart of the ancient capital. As well as these races, I've come to learn that training runs around our area can be more enjoyable than cardio in a comfortably air-conditioned gym, with the cityscape revealed around each corner. Passing beautiful churches and illuminated office buildings at dusk is for me, far better than grinding along on the elliptical, while the ominous chime of work emails constantly interrupts your playlist. With running, you have the opportunity to switch off, there's no wait for a treadmill, and there's certainly no worries about the cost of the gym.

I've gradually learnt that the best way to experience running in Clerkenwell is to aim early. Try a new wake-up routine that includes an early morning run rather than a caffeine hit. Not only do you miss the commuter rush, but you also have an adequate chance of seeing the sun rise over the Thames, reflecting through the skyscrapers.

For many, the pull of a runner's high and the perfect highlight photo on joggers app Strava might not be enough to get out of bed. Understandably so, especially when it's a damp and dark start to the day. It's for this reason that I'd recommend adding a headtorch and a reflective running jacket to your Christmas list. These essentials will ensure that your early morning or evening run is as enjoyable and as safe as possible, giving you back the hours that winter evenings have taken.

Now is the time to celebrate all we have achieved through the summer, prepare for the calorie crunch of the holiday season, and anticipate new goals for the coming year. If fitness is a priority for you, instead of another burdensome gym contract, consider lacing up your trainers and running the beautiful streets of Clerkenwell.



FEATURES

First class

See the world’s first Christmas card in Clerkenwell

This winter this cheery and convivial image can be seen at The Postal Museum in Mount Pleasant, EC1 – and it happens to be on record as the first Christmas card ever to be sent.

The card story begins somewhat later than one might think – a mere 180 years ago. Sir Henry Cole, the first director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, commissioned it in 1843. As this was also the year that Charles Dickens’ defining novella *A Christmas Carol* was published, the case could be made that the modern idea of Christmas was invented in this year – although full commercialisation of Christmas took a few more years.

As The Postal Museum says, the initial print run was for just 1,000 cards – a number that would barely cover the inhabitants of a typical London terrace. Cole used the cards as he needed then sold the rest on for one shilling each, which is worth approximately £7 or so. Then a typical day’s wage for a labourer, it was considered a bit pricey for the mass market.

True, it was a bit of a production. Designed by painter John Callcott Horsley, a friend of Cole’s, the cards were printed and then hand-coloured by a professional colourist. The subject ploughed two Victorian charitable themes of feeding

The world’s first Christmas Card Credit The Postal Museum



the hungry and clothing the naked” and a multigenerational party scene with, somewhat controversially, children drinking wine. To show that the term ‘Christmas card’ hadn’t taken hold, a contemporary advert talked up the benefits of this “Christmas Congratulation Card: or picture emblematical of Old English Festivity to Perpetuate kind recollections between Dear Friends.”

It worked, proving so popular that more had to be printed. That said, few survive today and this one is from the Post Office Museum’s own collection, making it an exciting seasonal treat to be able to see the origins of a huge industry.

‘The first Christmas Card; (until 5 January 2023)

Make Your Own Holiday Cards
3 December, 10:30–16:00
Families can get creative by personalising holiday greeting cards, inspired by designs in The Postal Museum’s collection. Participants can decorate their creations with printing, decorations and embellishments.

Design Your Own Gift Wrap and Tags
10 December, 10:30–16:00

Visit The Post Office Museum, 15–20 Phoenix Place WC1X 0DA
Visit postalmuseum.org

One step forward

This winter, Danny Bee is starting a new kind of radical walk in the EC1 area

There are plenty of walks which cover this area, and other parts of London, but Danny Bee’s ‘Radical Walks’ aim to dig a little deeper into progressive history. Starting this winter, he has two ‘Radical Walks’ coming up that will cover the EC1 area – the first on Sunday 11 December from the Barbican to Farringdon, the second walk, in the new year, exploring the radical history of Clerkenwell.

Other walks cover the sites of radical Clerkenwell, such as the Marx Memorial Library and the Crown in Clerkenwell Green, where Lenin liked to drink. While of great interest it’s fair to say they’re quite well known.

But Danny Bee’s radical walk in Clerkenwell and Smithfield, from the Barbican tube station to Farringdon station which starts on 11 December, aims to dig a little deeper into progressive history, taking in the

gamut of social movement from social housing, schools, pioneering health care spaces, LGBT spaces and trades unions history – anything that shines a light on the march of history.

“It started in September 2021 as an informal way to bring people together after lockdown,” says Danny, who works in IT. Since then it has blossomed and Danny has taken radical walks in areas as far-flung as Battersea, Bermondsey, Dover, Fitzrovia, Pimlico, Ramsgate, St Pancras, Stratford and West Ham. Numbers have ranged from eight to over 60, with a typical group of around 20, and readers are invited to join him (see link below). It’s free, although a hat is passed round – “Like a busker,” he says – and the tour lasts about two hours. As part of his ethos, Danny is keen that those without money should also be able to attend, and he also wants to get the walks online so that the housebound can enjoy them. At the time of writing the exact route of his Farringdon walk is being worked upon, but will take in a wide reach from the Barbican to Smithfield and Clerkenwell.

Given that EC1 is so instrumental in the radical tradition, why has Danny not done a walk here until now? “Partly because Clerkenwell the area has been well covered by walks,” he says.

“But it is such a rich fascinating area with many themes that are still rich in potential.” So as well as covering history’s big hitters such as the Peasant’s Revolt, which culminated in Smithfield in July 1381, it will look at board schools hospitals and council housing, libraries and swimming pools: anything designed to improve the conditions of the working classes.

Indeed, Danny’s speciality is the modern period from the 1880s to the present day. “That was the beginning of mass production and consumerism when mass trade unions, the women’s movement, national liberation movements and socialist parties all developed,” he says. “Also, part of the fun is in discovering things that might otherwise be overlooked. Some radical tours might not look at schools, for example, but the London School Board was created in 1870 to bring light into newly built schools, and was one of the first institutions which women could be elected to. Powerful and influential women stood in these elections, including Elizabeth Garret Anderson [who lent her name to EGA school in Islington].”

There is also social housing to discuss. As Danny says, “It now seems incredible that Britain

had a proud and excellent tradition of building good quality low-cost council housing.” One of his missions is to get the pioneering work of the London County Council and the London Metropolitan Boroughs to become better known

– as well as to mine hidden histories. For example, in a recent walk of his called ‘Gods, Monsters and Gothic Marxism’, Danny explored the

Fleet Street of the Suffragettes. “The Suffragettes had their own newspaper publishing offices in Red Lion Court which was raided by the police” he says. “As part of their campaign they would stick posters the length of Fleet Street and even attacked letterboxes, while also publishing.”

On the walk, one should expect discussion about contemporary issues. “If you walk around parts of EC1 today there are many empty buildings,” he says. “And there’s a real, live question – what do people want to happen in empty and underused properties? What do the people of the city want the city to be?”

Book onto Danny’s walk through his blog at commodityfetishism.com or just turn up on the day – Sunday 11 December, 11am, Barbican Underground station,



▲ The corners of radical Clerkenwell Credit Danny Bee ▼



All images courtesy of Sarah Tan



As we approach the festive season, many of us will be looking forward to celebrating by popping into one of our favourite pubs – and it's widely recognised that Clerkenwell is well served in this regard.

But when visiting your favourite, have you stopped and thought about where its name comes from? In *What's in a London Pub Name* by James Potts and I, we reveal the stories behind the names of 656 London Pubs, including some fine examples across Clerkenwell. Here are a few.

The Betsey Trotwood 56 Farringdon Road, EC1R 3BL

It feels fitting at this time of year to include a pub named after a Charles Dickens character, albeit not one from his seasonal epic, *A Christmas Carol*. Betsey Trotwood featured in 'David Copperfield' as the title character's great aunt who has a singularly low opinion of men after having a bad experience of marriage, although she comes good for Copperfield.

Why was the name chosen for this pub? Well, Clerkenwell is deep in Dickens territory and the pub is only a few picked

Title deeds

Sam Cullen, co-author of a new book on London's pub names, picks a few of Clerkenwell's most intriguing handles

pockets away from Pear Tree Court, which is thought to be the inspiration for where Oliver Twist saw the Artful Dodger hard at work.

Dame Alice Owen 292 St John Street, EC1V 4PA

Alice Owen was born in 1547 and lived until 1613. She married three times in her life, surviving all her menfolk. Upon the death of her third husband, she went into philanthropy and built a number of almshouses for fellow widows. She also opened a school which still bears her name to this day – although it moved from Islington to Potter's Bar in the 1970s.

Her father was an Islington innkeeper and her first husband a master brewer, which makes it rather fitting for Alice to be

commemorated in this way – indeed, the Dame Alice Owen's Foundation, whose trustees are the Worshipful Company of Brewers, support the school to this day.

In the pub's previous incarnation, it had the distinctive moniker of The Blacksmith and Toffemaker, which took its name from the then landlord's fondness for the song by Jake Thackray, a reminder that while pub names often mark local historical figures, they also can reflect the personal interests of their proprietors.

The Harlequin 27 Arlington Way, EC1R 1UY

A topical reference at this time of year, given its link to pantomime. Located

close to Sadler's Wells Theatre, this pub is named in honour of the clown figures which were featured during the early 19th century heyday of English pantomime. Harlequins originated in Italian comedic theatre, with all the masks, and were the comic servant role. The leading star of the genre at that time, Joseph Grimaldi, was a regular performer at Sadler's Wells and his farewell speech is framed inside the pub.

The Slaughtered Lamb 34-35 Great Sutton Street, EC1V 0DX

While you might be forgiven for thinking this name is linked to nearby Smithfield Market, it is actually inspired by the Yorkshire pub featured at the start of cult US 1981 horror comedy film, *An American Werewolf in London*. American walkers fail to heed Brian Glover's warning to stay away from the moors, with an inevitably bloody outcome. While Glover doesn't have much of a London link, the fictitious Slaughtered Lamb also featured a cameo by a young Rik Mayall, a man with many more capital links including his own memorial bench by Hammersmith roundabout.

To buy the book *What's In a Pub Name* visit: capitaltransport.com/whats-in-a-london-pub-name-856-p.asp

Continued from Page-1

banquets – hence the roll-call of donors' names across the Great Hall's walls from the 18th century to the present day. An intriguing name is that of Will's father, TV personality Michael Palin, who had two heart valves replaced at Barts in 2019 and now has pride of place as one of the donors.

The names only serve to make the gallery more dramatic. With two galleries of windows, a grand fireplace, a sublime ceiling by an Italian master plasterer and two portraits of Henry VIII – one in stained glass, the other in oils – the Hall was, says Palin, "designed to be an ornament to London, that would raise it up towards the architecture of great European classical cities." That link with royalty continues – King Charles is the charity's patron, and in 2021 the hospital treated Prince Philip.

But the big idea is to bring it to the public's attention. "After restoration we want this building to be an accessible part of the Clerkenwell cultural scene," adds Palin. And that will take most of a £9m budget, of which just £600,000 still needs to be

found. By 2025 it should be open to the public, without any charge.

The main attraction is the Great Hall, but the Hogarth staircase is the jewel in the crown. How did it happen? "When the hospital's governors completed the North Wing they wanted a fashionable Italian artist to do the staircase murals," says Palin. "They were very prestigious. But when Hogarth heard about this, he wanted to do it. As he was a local boy, born around the corner [in Bartholomew Close] and with strong links to the hospital, he knew this was something he wanted to do." As Hogarth had by then earned a lot of money from his famous set of paintings, *A Rake's Progress*, he did it for free – and with two telling scenes from the scriptures in the Pool of Bethesda and the Good Samaritan. "The paintings are as relevant now as they were then," says Palin. St Bart's goes back to the foundation of the Priory by Rahere, the courtier and pilgrim who lies in the nave of Great St Bart's (see *EC1 Echo 15*). Both churches – Great St Bart's and Little St Bart's – have their own 900th anniversary celebrations, but it's important for Barts Heritage Trust

that its plans honour the working hospital, a leading heart and cancer centre. "We're all under the Barts banner trying to make the most out of the 900th anniversary," says Palin. "It's very exciting."

There are already signs of change. Quite recently, cars could drive into the square – no longer – and there are other signs of improvement, although the astonishing Barts Pathology Museum (see *EC1 Echo 16*) will remain part of the teaching university, Queen Mary. But one of the most far-reaching aspects of the restoration of Barts is how it will link up to Clerkenwell and Smithfield Market.

"The areas around the market are going to be very important to us," says Palin. With new landscaping, and greater pedestrian and cycle friendliness, links will be made to the wider area. "This is really important because Smithfield Market has acted as a separator between Clerkenwell and Barts," says Palin. It's hoped that the market's Grand Avenue will become a vital artery, and when the meat market leaves – still a subject of fraught debate – one idea is that it will host shops, cafes

and bars that complement Barts. In a strange piece of symmetry, the market might itself be used for medical research as it has lots of subterranean space and Barts is in discussions with Queen Mary University about taking research clinics in the basement. "There's lots of work to be done on our part to make sure it's welcoming," says Palin. "I think it's really exciting and we're going to learn a lot. But I want to go into it with an open mind."

This harmonious mix of hospitality and health may be rather visionary. Even now the square is used by patients, a direction that Palin and Barts encourages.

"There's a real sense that all people need beautiful places, and the more we can work together to make those links the better," he says. "Part of this project is to work with clinical teams to look at ways in which these beautiful spaces can be of benefit."

"When my dad had his heart done, he was wheeled across the courtyard by a very proud nurse who showed him the Hogarth paintings. It was wonderful – an inspirational part of the recovery programme."

Visit barts900.org

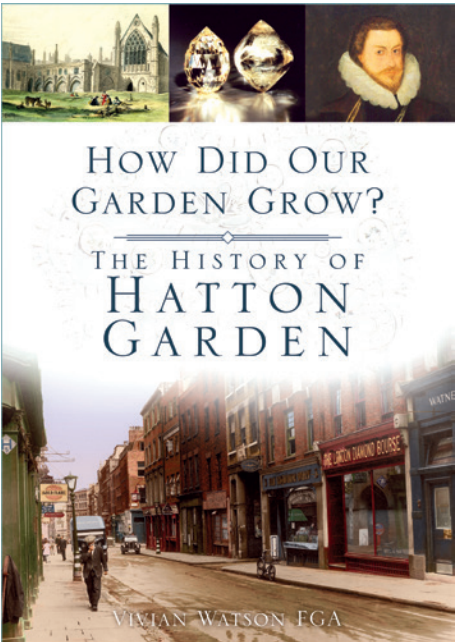
FEATURES

Up the garden path

The author Vivian Watson first came to Hatton Garden during his school holidays and spent over 50 years in the jewellery trade before retiring in 2017. He has just published a definitive guide to Hatton Garden called *How Did Our Garden Grow?*

The Hatton Garden Safe Deposit was officially opened on 24th October 1949 in the basement at 88-90 Hatton Garden. For over 60 years it provided a service to the trade and others wishing to store their valuables or cash in a secure vault. It was a matter of routine for dealers, manufacturers and merchants to store goods overnight or over a weekend. There were a variety of different-sized boxes from floor to ceiling, but most dealers only required a basic facility. Each member had a unique metal box inside their own safe. The safes could only be opened when the owner and the official both used their keys simultaneously.

Over the Easter weekend of 2015, which coincided with Passover, a team of burglars entered the building and broke into the vault. They arrived on Thursday night and were given assistance by an accomplice, who had a key to the front door and knew how to disable the alarm system and CCTV. The accomplice was known as Basil and wasn't part of the gang, most of whom had met inside prison or previously been involved in other jobs. Basil also removed the hard drive of the security system. (It has been suggested that the name Basil is simply an acronym for Best Alarm Specialist In London.)



► Hatton Garden Safe Deposit was officially opened on 24th October 1949 in the basement at 88-90 Hatton Garden



However, all did not go as planned. An alarm signal went out to the monitoring company who, in turn, alerted the police. The alarm company attended the premises and found no trace of intruders. The police didn't attend and later apologised for a breakdown in their communications. The protagonists laid low until the all clear was given for them to continue work. One of the team, John 'Kenny' Collins, had the task of surveillance from an upstairs window across the road at 25 Hatton Garden.

Basil then opened the rear access and they were able to move in with their equipment. Once inside the building they had to enter the vault in the basement. This involved descending a lift shaft, drilling through a reinforced concrete wall that was half a metre thick and forcing over a rack of deposit boxes with a hydraulic ram. The police assumed that anyone who could do this would be young and fit, but most of the gang were in their 70s. Once again, the gang's efforts were thwarted when the lever on the hydraulic ram broke. They hadn't realised that the cabinets were all bolted to the walls and couldn't easily be pushed over. Brian Reader, who was the mastermind, said that they should abandon the job and they all went home feeling frustrated. Over the next 48 hours, however, some of the gang decided that they should go back and acquired a replacement ram. So, on Saturday night they were back again

and this time the ram did its job. It was initially estimated that they took between £10 and £200 million worth of

goods, making it the largest ever burglary in British history. The perpetrators were keen that it should be a burglary and not a robbery as the maximum sentence was only ten years for that offence.

It was eventually decided that £14 million was probably a better estimate of the value of the items taken. In all, 73 boxes of a possible 999 were forced open, and the true value of the goods taken will never be known. Many dealers had no record of

what they had put away and may have overstated their claims, while some less than honest box holders were not able to declare their cash or other ill-gotten gains. There was a period of tension after the burglary was discovered as it took some time to advise owners which boxes had been opened.

The Flying Squad were called in and were able to make quick work of their enquiries and surveillance. On 19th May, over 100 officers were involved in simultaneous swoops at 12 different addresses across London and nine men were arrested. Brian Reader, who had previously been involved with the Brinks Matt Robbery in 1983, was arrested at his home and the others were caught red-handed as they were about to divide up ('slaughter') the remainder of the haul.

Five of the gang pleaded guilty and received between six- and seven-year prison sentences. Terrence Perkins, who had been part of the Security Express Robbery in 1983, died in prison in 2018. It has been suggested that one reason the gang were caught so quickly is that they were analogue men living in a digital age.

Only about one-third of the haul was recovered, suggesting that there is the best part of £10 million still to be found.

Basil (aka Michael Seed) had kept himself apart from the gang and was not there for the carve up. However, he was arrested in 2018 with £150,000 of unexplained loot, and in 2019 was sent down for 10 years.

The safe deposit company went into liquidation in 2015. Many honest dealers lost their stock and were forced to leave the trade. Some lost their 'pension funds' and have been forced to work longer than planned.

Several books have been written, and a number of films and TV programmes were made, all telling the story with either a dramatic or a factual slant.

How Did Our Garden Grow? The History of Hatton Garden (The History Press, £29.95) is available here: thehistorypress.co.uk/publication/how-did-our-garden-grow/9781803990415/

Only one-third of the haul was recovered



13

Sing, choirs of angels

Listen out for the world class music programme at Holy Redeemer and St Mark's

The church of Our Most Holy Redeemer on Exmouth Market is already renowned for its striking Italianate architecture, but less well known for its music.

That is set to change. With the appointment of a new choir director to work alongside the organist, the choral music programme is quickly expanding and beginning to make waves.

"It's no exaggeration to say that we now have some of the finest singers in London beautifying our worship on the first Sunday of the month as well as during Holy Week and at Easter," says Fr Christopher Trundle, Vicar of Holy Redeemer. "It's a real gift to be shared."



Daniel Gethin, Fr Christopher Trundle and Thomas Kell at the Holy Redeemer

Daniel Gethin was appointed the church's first Director of Choral Music last year, and understands the unique opportunities for music making here: "I'm coming to appreciate the beauty of the space and what a special opportunity it provides for music, particularly polyphonic choral repertoire from 15th and 16th centuries."

Thomas Kell, Holy Redeemer's Director of Music and organist has been instrumental in sustaining the musical life of the parish during his tenure. He plays the church's historic Victorian organ which was installed by the famous organ builder Henry Willis shortly after the building opened in 1888. Although it's now in need of major restoration, Thomas

enjoys the organ's quality and character, reflecting that these pipes – once heard by Queen Victoria and composer Felix Mendelssohn – have graced innumerable weddings, baptisms and funerals alongside the regular round of services.

"The organ – like the church – is at the centre of life's most important moments," says Thomas. "Church musicians have this unique privilege of sharing in the joys and sorrows of a local community."

Adds Daniel, "Having developed such regular music here as we have over the last year and a half, it's made a real difference to the reputation of the parish in musical circles." Only

last month BBC Radio 3 came to Holy Redeemer to record three services of Compline, the ancient office of night prayer, for national broadcast.

Fr Christopher is also Vicar of the neighbouring church of St Mark's, Myddelton Square, and he's got plans for the music there as well. "I'm thrilled that we've secured the funding to introduce Choral Evensong at St Mark's on the first Sunday of the month, beginning in December," he says. "It's been one of the mainstays of the Church of England's worship for hundreds of years, and I hope it will provide a regular space for prayer, reflection and beauty in our busy world."

For details of the choral music programme at both Holy Redeemer and St Mark's: Visit holyredeemerclerkenwell.com/choral-music

FEATURES



High Street haircuts

A centenary after the publication of Riceyman Steps, Arnold Bennett's Clerkenwell-based novel, Lindsay Duguid reflects on the changes in Amwell Street and its tributaries

Strolling along the graceful upper stretch of Amwell Street, I am often aware of an image from the past, a bright cinematic construction which my memories of the 1980s have made and kept. There is Arthur's green-grocer with its outside trays of fruit and vegetables on the corner where Wallace and Sewell now is; a GP's surgery in place of Myddelton's; Lloyd's Dairy, largely unchanged in appearance, which used to have a shop window crammed with groceries and a milk-vending machine outside; a bakery on the corner of River Street. King's the chemist had, and still has, wooden trays for medicines. There was a butcher, a post office, a florist, a newsagent and a betting shop, as well as a corner shop which stayed open late. A cabinet maker and a clock mender were reminders of older days when the street also boasted watchmakers, jewellers and engravers. (There were stories of a butcher doing the slaughtering in his back yard and the manufacture of fairground figures in a shop basement.)

It now seems almost a dream: an elegant unspoilt village street where one could do one's daily shopping. It was a particularly precious place, since

Amwell Street had survived the Second World War bombing raids which destroyed large parts of the surrounding area. Early changes included The Foun-

tain pub becoming Filthy McNasty's Whiskey Café and the arrival of the shoe designer Emma Hope who had the distinction of being mentioned in *Bridget Jones's Diary*. Lloyd's Dairy became an organic grocer, then a hairdresser. Other amenities included a laundrette and a vet. In 2000 when the street was used as a set for Neil Jordan's film of *The End of the Affair*, Graham Greene's wartime novel, the shop fronts were painted to look soot-stained.

Behind the sunny vision lies another distant image, a blurred black-and-white photographic view of the early Victorian dark brick and stucco dwellings and lodging houses. The street was home to the artist George Cruikshank, a man with various addresses, two wives and a mistress, the father of eleven children, whose famous cartoon of 1829, "London going out of Town or The March of Bricks & Mortar", shows a gothic style church under a hail of bricks. It was briefly the home of Edward Irving, the charismatic Scottish preacher and early admirer of Jane Carlyle. Before that there was an open reservoir in Claremont Square. The parochial school, funded by local charities, opened in 1830. The Survey of London provides dates and details of the construction of the street when the development was shared between two local landowners: the New River Company had the East side and the Lloyd Baker estate the west side. In 1961 the New River took over the whole street and raised the rents. Olive Lloyd Baker left a record of a visit to her tenants at number 61: "Very sad about Sale. His sister, now ninety-one

years old, born in the house. Two customers expressed pleasure at meeting me. They said the Estate made 'something different'."



Drapers and watchmakers are things of the past. The street now has three barbers and one hairdresser as well as several interior design outlets. Lloyd's Dairy is about to become a showroom for modern furniture. It is a long way from Arnold Bennett's description of "the great metropolitan industrial district of Clerkenwell" in *Riceyman Steps* (1923). Bennett, who was obsessed with the area, wrote that what was once "a murmuring green land of medicinal springs, wells, streams with mills on their banks" had become a "hell of noise and dirt" with tramcars, horse drawn vans, a "dingy and sordid neighbourhood". He was, of course, concerned with King's Cross Road rather than Amwell Street.



The graceful upper stretch of Amwell Street



LETTERS

LISTINGS

High praise

Kirill Korolev, EC1

Today I saw the *EC1 Echo* for the first time and I have to say it is very impressive. It is unique, elegant and smart and has the right amount of information. It stands out, the fonts are excellent and the layout nice. I have to say it is impressive to see such a newspaper in London. Keep up the good work. People smile when they read your newspaper.

Call for Syria

Hands Up Foundation, EC1

Make your money go double the distance this Christmas and do something incredible by putting Syria on your gift list. Donate during our match funding week and your funds will be matched by our generous pledgers up to £25,000. One donation, twice the impact! Help us reach our £25,000 match funding target and raise a total of £50,000 to directly support vital health and education services for vulnerable Syrian communities. As the Syrian conflict enters its 12th year, it matters more than ever to remember. Today Syria has 14.6million people in need of humanitarian assistance, 90 per cent of the population live in poverty, and a cholera epidemic is sweeping the country. Hands Up is responding. Working with local organisations, we provide salaries and cover the costs required to run health centres, schools and prosthetics programmes. Each year we reach over 25,000 people. This is only possible with your help. In 2012 we decided to do something to help some of those affected by Syria’s conflict. We had no idea that over a decade later a number growing into the millions would be in ever-more urgent need. With your generous support, this Christmas we have the chance to have double the impact. Donate here: [justgiving.com/campaign/match-funding2022](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/match-funding2022)

EVENTS

Charterhouse by Candlelight
The Charterhouse,
Charterhouse Square EC1M 6AN
Twice a month until March 2023

Step into the Charterhouse in the early evening after work, and discover a different world hidden behind ancient high walls.
£20.00 (£18 concessions)
Tel 020 3818 8873
Visit thecharterhouse.org

Finding Father Christmas
18 December 10am–3pm
Charles Dickens Museum,
48 Doughty Street WC1

Father Christmas is coming to visit his old friend, Charles Dickens. If you find him quickly enough he just might have a little present for you. Every group must have at least 1 adult and 1 child.
£15 Adult, £12 Concession, £10 Child (under 16)
Visit dickensmuseum.com

DANCE

The Nutcracker
24–31 December
Rosebery Ave EC1R 4TN

The Let’s All Dance Ballet Company presents their family festive favourite, the perfect Christmas treat for all.
From £19.00
Visit sadlerswells.com

TOUR

**St John Ambulance:
A Victorian Masterpiece**
31 Dec–28 Jan
Museum of the Order of St John

Explore the galleries and spectacular Victorian interiors of St John’s Gate.
£12pp & £9 for Art Fund members
Visit bit.ly/3ELYzmY

COOKING

Weekend Cooking Club
17 Dec, 12–2pm
St Luke’s Community Centre,
90 Central Street EC1V 8AJ

Weekend Cooking Club for families with children aged 4+ with a community chef, devising recipes from the surplus food.
Visit www.slpt.org.uk/event/weekend-cooking-club
Call 020 7549 8181

THEATRE

The Snowman
Until 31 December
The Peacock Theatre, Portugal St WC2

London Season dedicated to creator of The Snowman, Raymond Briggs CBE.
From £18
Visit sadlerswells.com

Think global, shop local



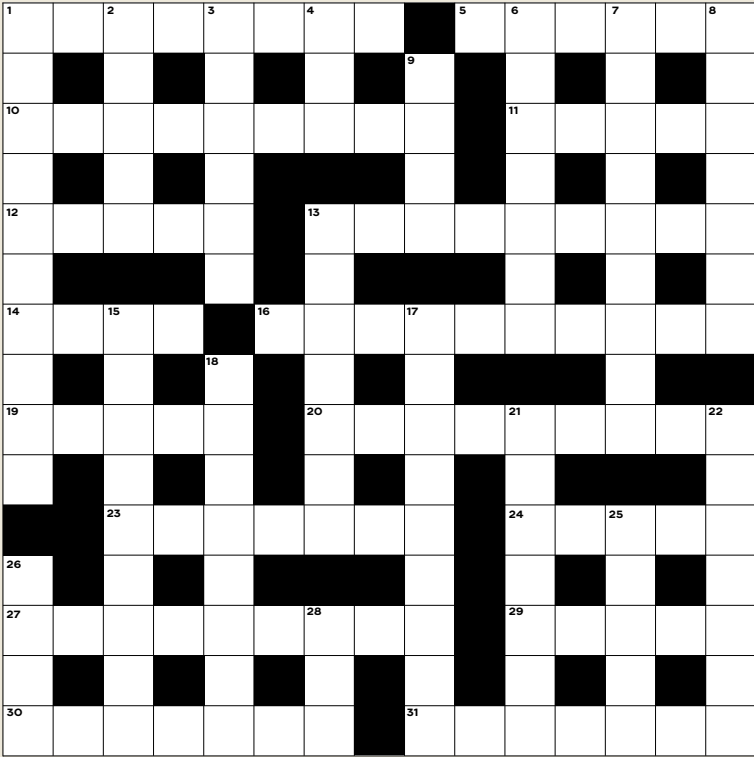
Try shopping at street markets this Christmas

A survey recently concluded that three-quarters of British shoppers want to support local businesses this Christmas – partly in sympathy

with small retailers who are under so much pressure with rising energy bills and inflation. But it’s also part of the thrill of seasonal shopping: the trees taking over the pavements in markets, fruit stalls piled high, gimcrack ornaments and that particular sense of bustle and excitement combined with family duty. This picture of Leather Lane from 1959 by Geoffrey Scowcroft Fletcher captures some of that flavour.

Christmas Shopping on Leather Lane by Geoffrey Scowcroft Fletcher, 1959, courtesy of The Estate of Geoffrey S. Fletcher and London Metropolitan Archives. This image is available to view on the London Picture Archive website along with 250,000 historical images and maps of the capital www.londonpicturearchive.org.uk. Located in the heart of Clerkenwell, LMA is London’s historical archive, providing free access to millions of documents, maps, films and images from 1067 to the present day. The current exhibition, ‘Magnificent Maps of London’ includes a rare opportunity to see the first map of the capital, recording the city in the 1560s. LMA is open Monday to Thursday and on Saturdays 8 December and 14 January. See www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma from opening times and more information.
Visit cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma

Crossword 2 set by Rosie Hore



- ACROSS**
1 Lunar phase (8)
5 Harmonious (2, 4)
10 Beatles hit (9)
11 Stingy (5)
12 Rock bottom (5)
13 One who lives it up (3, 6)
14 Stinging insect (4)
16 Cook until brown (10)
19 Elevated (5)
20 Indian book of love and pleasure (4, 5)
23 Scottish emblem (7)
24 Scrooge (5)
27 Mild inebriation (9)
29 Savouriness (5)
30 Gave (organ, perhaps) (7)
31 The mists of time (4, 3)
- DOWN**
1 Guilty of false alarms (6,4)
2 Let up (5)
3 Bottoms up! (6)
4 Drop off (to sleep) (3)
6 Type of salad (7)
7 Counsellor (9)
8 Chemist’s dropper (7)
13 Parenthesis (7)
17 Without purpose (9)
18 E.g. Tim Rice, Bernie Taupin (8)
21 Italian liqueur (7)
25 Burn (with liquid) (5)
26 Decorative metal piece (4)
28 Festival marking the end of Ramadan (3)

Answers to Crossword 1 in EC1 Echo October November
Across: 1 Pomegranate, 6 Pod, 9 Endanger, 10 Nature, 11 Notify, 12 Biennial, 14 Hitherto, 15 Season, 16 Tie, 17 Stash, 19 Eagle, 21 Kicks, 24 Oedipus Rex, 25 Lilt, 26 Obit, 27 Evita, 28 Puff, 29 Tartare Sauce.
Down: 1 Pie in the Sky, 2 Meditate, 3 Genuflects, 4 Axed, 5 Tennessee, 7 Dwelling, 8 Stun, 12 Booth, 13 Insular, 17 Ski Lift, 18 Sherbet, 20 Amulets, 22 Witter, 23 Exhale, 35 Lout

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