

# Fitzrovia News

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## Aids memorial planned

A new memorial to remember those who died from an Aids-defining illness and those who have survived could be sited somewhere on Tottenham Court Road in time for World Aids Day 2021 — 40 years since the first patients were diagnosed — if plans by a campaign group are successful, writes *Linus Rees*.

The London AIDS Memorial will remember those touched by HIV/Aids across the UK and will be the first such monument in London.

Ash Kotak who is leading the campaign for the memorial said that Fitzrovia and sites either side of Tottenham Court Road have a strong connection to the 40 year history of HIV and Aids.

To the west of Tottenham Court Road lies the site of the Middlesex Hospital, which used to stand on Mortimer Street, where the first Aids ward in the UK was set up.

It became famous in 1987 when Princess Diana made a visit. In front of television cameras and the press she shook the hand of a man suffering with the illness, and she did so without gloves — publicly and viscerally challenging the myth that HIV/Aids was passed between people by touch.

Nearby was James Pringle House, which used to stand on Charlotte Street, a

clinic for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and which saw some of the first cases of HIV.

Today on the east side of Tottenham Court Road is the successor to the Middlesex Hospital, University College Hospital, and also the Bloomsbury Clinic, part of The Mortimer Market Centre, which is one of the busiest HIV treatment centres in the UK.

“Delivering the permanent London AIDS Memorial on Tottenham Court Road will offer a place for us to remember our dead from Aids-defining illnesses in London, celebrate resilience and resistance and the advances that have been made towards survival and also unite us to fight on to end HIV transmissions and Aids deaths worldwide,” says Kotak.

The exact location on Tottenham Court Road has yet to be decided and *Fitzrovia News* understands that finding a suitable site has proven to be difficult due to a lack of public open space, especially as the memorial is of such importance to not only London but the UK.

A final design for the memorial has yet to be revealed but it will be based on the idea of a “Tree of Resilience, Resistance and Resonance”, according to the campaign’s fundraiser page. In January *Fitzrovia News* was shown early designs for the tree which would be cast in bronze and stand around three-and-a-half metres tall.

A Camden Council spokesperson told *Fitzrovia News*: “We are proud to be working with AIDS Memory UK Campaign to bring forward plans for a memorial on Tottenham Court Road that will remember all those who have sadly died from the virus.

“It will also pay tribute to the lives saved by our local health services, from the first Aids ward at the former Middlesex Hospital to the important medical work that continues in the area today.”

A formal application to site the memorial is due to be submitted, and could be unveiled in time for World Aids Day on 1 December 2021.

## Feature-packed issue

This edition brings you a digest of the latest news since our last printed publication in March. See our website [fitzrovia.com](http://fitzrovia.com) for the full stories, and the latest news and features. You can also subscribe to our free email newsletter at:

[newsletter@fitzrovia.com](mailto:newsletter@fitzrovia.com)

*Fitzrovia News* is published in print every three months: usually in March, June, September, and December.

Over the past year it has not been possible to produce a full-sized tabloid newspaper so we have produced these black and white digests on an A4 sheet instead. However, we will be producing a full colour, feature-packed printed paper this summer as a special issue.

Our printed newspapers are always available outside Fitzrovia Community Centre, 2 Foley Street.

## Discover more about Camden’s social and architectural history

Camden History Society was founded in 1970 soon after Camden was formed by the amalgamation of the three former boroughs of Hampstead, Holborn, and St Pancras and needed some form of record of its heritage, writes *Roger Cline*.

Many of our books and Reviews have won prizes at London local history events. Street guides to the whole borough have been produced and are kept up to date to cover redevelopments (such as the St Pancras and Kings Cross Railway lands).

One of these guides is *The Streets of Fitzrovia* which in a series of five walks gives an overview of the Camden side of the district and its history. It is just one of a dozen books describing Camden’s places and people.

More detailed research on particular people and areas has generated many other books, most of which are still in print and can be found purchased from our publications page. We even have an online, searchable archive of every newsletter going back to 1970.

All this research needs documentary sources and here the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre upstairs at

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Fitzrovia News is produced by the Fitzrovia Community Newspaper Group, with support from the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association.

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## Consultation on outdoor eating and drinking at Conway Street and Whitfield Street

Camden council is asking for people's views on proposed outdoor drinking and dining on the public highway outside the Lore of the Land pub on Conway Street and outside Gigs restaurant on the corner of Whitfield Street and Tottenham Street.

The changes are part of Camden Council's plans to support the hospitality industry in the borough.

"In 2020 the UK Government introduced new legislation to make it easier for businesses to apply for pavement licences for outdoor eating and drinking so that they could continue to trade, but many pavements in the borough are too narrow to allow tables and chairs outside," says Camden.

In July 2020 councillor Adam Harrison, cabinet member for a sustainable Camden, delegated all future decisions on individual Streatery projects, involving traffic management proposals to enable outdoor dining supporting reopening of pubs, restaurants and cafes, to the director of environment and sustainability.

Camden Council recognises that outdoor eating and drinking can be a noise nuisance for local residents so are canvassing people's views on the proposals.

Camden is now proposing to implement a new streatery on Conway Street and Whitfield Street as a trial, and to trial changes to the flow of traffic and relocation of parking.

"If approved, [each] streatery will be implemented using an Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) on a trial basis during which time people will be invited to provide feedback. After 12 months of the trial we will undertake a public consultation the results of which, along with the feedback received and monitoring data, will inform a decision as to whether or not to make the Streatery permanent," says Camden.

A public consultation on the plans is open until Monday 7 June 2021. See: [camden.gov.uk/ConwaySt](http://camden.gov.uk/ConwaySt); and [camden.gov.uk/Whitfield](http://camden.gov.uk/Whitfield)

## Fitzrovia West poll

Westminster Council will hold a referendum on the Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Plan on Thursday 2 September 2021.

Residents and business rate payers will get a vote and a simple majority is needed from both constituencies for the Neighbourhood Plan to pass.

See: [fitzwest.org](http://fitzwest.org)

## Planning applications

As we went to press there were **31 planning applications registered by Camden Council** during May 2021 in Bloomsbury ward.

Among the list are applications for tables and chairs (TC) on the pavement and also temporary pavement licences (PVL) at Charlotte Street, Euston Road, Goodge Street, Cleveland Street, and Tottenham Court Road; various minor applications and amendments to existing applications, and advertising; a "certificate of lawfulness" at 60 Charlotte Street; an additional storey at Fitzroy Mews; and alterations to listed buildings at Fitzroy Square and Bedford Square. See: [planningrecords.camden.gov.uk](http://planningrecords.camden.gov.uk)

There were **16 applications validated by Westminster Council** in Fitzrovia during May 2021.

Among the applications are three amendments to a major planning consent at 87-125 Cleveland Street; installation of plant equipment at Newman Street; a rear extension at New Cavendish Street; alterations to front of building on Mortimer Street; alterations to a shopfront at Foley Street; and demolition and replacement of rear walls at Great Titchfield Street. See [idoxpa.westminster.gov.uk](http://idoxpa.westminster.gov.uk)

## Licensing applications

**Kings Arms, 68 Great Titchfield Street.** Seeks permission to "amend the start of permitted opening hours from the current 10.00 am to 7.00 am from Monday to Sunday for the purposes of selling non-alcoholic beverages and food", states the application. The new opening hours would be 07.00 to 23.30 from Monday to Saturday; and from 07.00 to 23.00 on Sunday. Westminster ref: 21/05235/LIPVM. Deadline: 14 June.

## Advice for responding

Residents should check [camden.gov.uk/public-licensing-register](http://camden.gov.uk/public-licensing-register) and [idoxpa.westminster.gov.uk](http://idoxpa.westminster.gov.uk) for the latest applications.

Residents in Westminster can contact [licensingadvice.org](http://licensingadvice.org) for free advice, and should also email the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association with a copy of their comments to [fna@fitzrovia.org.uk](mailto:fna@fitzrovia.org.uk)

Residents in Camden should email a copy of their comments to the Charlotte Street Association at [csafitzrovia@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:csafitzrovia@yahoo.co.uk) where they can also seek advice.

*Fitzrovia News* publishes the latest planning and licensing applications on our website [fitzrovia.org.uk](http://fitzrovia.org.uk)

## Discover more about Camden's history

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the Theobalds Road Library is invaluable. It holds a fantastic collection of material (often rescued from town hall skips when departments are re-organised!) and the staff are both helpful and knowledgeable. When they eventually re-open you might find a visit to CLSAC useful for your own interests.

So if you want to find fellow enthusiasts for local history or just want stories about your area a hundred or so years ago — how did Fitzrovia get its name? for example — you might like to join. Meetings are open to non-members (for a small donation) so you can taste before committing yourself.

I found out about the Society when looking over a house for sale in 1975. I joined the research group studying the local streets and took over its leadership when the current leader became unwell. That got me on the Committee in which I have held a variety of posts.

These days I deal with the sale of publications and distribution of the newsletters. The team finds delivering them by bicycle around the borough keeps us up-to-date with the latest developments.

Camden History Society. Memberships costs £15 per year and includes free entry to talks, six newsletters per year, a copy of the Camden History Review, and an invitation to join the Society's annual ticketed day trip to a place of historic interest.

## Free housing and welfare advice for residents

The Fitzrovia Advice Service, run by Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association, is able to help residents in Fitzrovia with private and social housing problems, housing and council tax benefits, disability benefits, Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance, pensions and Pension Credit, Working and Child Tax Credits, fuel poverty; and help with benefit, passport and other forms.

Advice is available to Camden and Westminster residents by telephone and email only, three days a week, and for speakers of English, Bengali, Sylheti, Urdu and Hindi.

Contact 020 3984 6364; or email: [advice@fitzrovia.org.uk](mailto:advice@fitzrovia.org.uk)

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