

## Fitzrovia News

Formerly *The Tower*  
established 1973

news.fitzrovia.org.uk  
twitter.com/fitzroviaNews  
facebook.com/fitzroviaNews  
news@fitzrovia.org.uk  
020 7580 4576

Issue 132 Spring 2014  
Published 4 March 2014

### Editorial Team

**Mike Pentelow:**  
editor and features editor  
**Linus Rees:**  
assistant editor  
**Pete Whyatt:**  
news and production editor  
**Clive Jennings:**  
arts editor  
**Brian Jarman:**  
writer and sub-editor  
**Barb Jacobson:**  
associate editor  
**Jennifer Kavanagh:**  
associate editor  
**Jess Owens**  
associate editor

### Contributors:

**Peter Arkell**  
**Sue Blundell**  
**Jayne Davis**  
**Clancy Gebler Davies**  
**Simon Glyndwr John**  
**Oku Ekpenyon**  
**Maddy Fisk**  
**Clifford Harper**  
**Christina Latham**  
**Angela Lovely**  
**Eugene McConville**  
**Phil McErlean**  
**Richard Simpson**  
**Sunita Soliar**  
**Alexander Stevenson**  
**Kipper Williams**

### Printed by:

**Sharman & Co Ltd,**  
Newark Road,  
Peterborough PE1 5TD  
sharmanandco.co.uk

Fitzrovia News is produced  
quarterly by the Fitzrovia  
Community Newspaper  
Group, ISSN: 0967-1404

Published by the Fitzrovia  
Neighbourhood Association  
(registered charity no. 1111649)  
39 Tottenham Street,  
London, W1T 4RX

fitzrovia.org.uk  
google.com/+FitzroviaOrgUK  
twitter.com/FitzroviaNA  
facebook.com/FitzroviaNA

**Public editorial  
meetings are held at  
7 pm, first Tuesday of  
every month at**

Fitzrovia Neighbourhood  
Association,

39 Tottenham Street  
London W1T 4RX

**Subscribe to Fitzrovia  
News for regular  
updates:  
bit.ly/fitzroviaNews**

# Letters, emails and comment

Write to letters@fitzrovia.org.uk or post to Fitzrovia News, Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association, 39 Tottenham Street, London W1T 4RX

## Why do Exemplar want to change the name of the Middlesex Hospital Chapel?

I trained at the Middlesex Hospital in the 1950's and worked there for several years. The Chapel was a very important place for the staff and patients of the hospital, a place of peace and refuge. When I was working in the oncology ward in 1958 I used to accompany a terminally ill 17 year old organ scholar at Lancing College down to the chapel during my lunch break to play the organ, a very moving experience which I still remember vividly. I have lived and worked around Fitzrovia since then and we have always felt some reassurance that the chapel was there for us if we needed it. The hospital was open 24 hours a day and we could wander in and out at will. I was pleased when I heard that the developers were obliged by their S106 agreement to keep the chapel available for community use. However I am concerned that the charity is set up in a transparent way and it will be accountable to the local community which it serves. I think the



change of name is crass and insensitive. The Chapel is the only part of the Hospital that is still left and it is very important that it is still available for the community to use and it is not just a corporate venue only available to those who can pay to hire it. **Jill Hutchings Curwen and New Academy Gallery, Windmill Street**

I was born in the Middlesex Hospital and have spent a considerable part of my working life in the area. I think it would be appropriate to keep the name

of The Middlesex Hospital Chapel alive in keeping the spirit and history of this special location. This in turn would give respect to the developers and Fitzroy Place. **Laurence Glynne partner at LDG estate agents, Foley Street.**

Why do the developers Exemplar want to change the name of the Chapel? They should stick to their job building the site.

**Eddie Duke Low,**  
Cleveland Street

I am against the use of the name "Pearson Chapel" for the former Middlesex Hospital Chapel. The developers have not consulted local people or businesses about this name change. I feel that they are being insensitive and disrespectful to the Fitzrovia community.

**Kirit Patel**

store owner

**Great Titchfield Street**

When Exemplar came along they criticised Candy and Candy for their Noho rebranding, now they are trying the same trick. They were given planning permission to build this massive block as long as they renovated the chapel and made it available for community use. Now their motives are questionable. How can we trust these people to set up the chapel trust? They have not said anything about who will be trustees or how they are to be chosen.

**Martin and Linda Moore**  
New Cavendish Street

## Exemplar seem to be hell bent on removing all historical reference to the hospital from the site

*We asked members of The Middlesex Hospital Facebook Group to comment on the plans to re-name The Middlesex Hospital Chapel. Here are some of the responses.*

I trained at the Middlesex Hospital and know the chapel well. Exemplar seem to be hell bent on removing all historical reference to the hospital from the site — but not sure why the chapel: all the memorial plaques inside are to ex-hospital staff & people related to the hospital & it's where Rudyard Kipling was laid to rest after he died.

**Harriet Griffey**

I am appalled but not surprised. Exemplar — and, I suspect, certain elements of the council — have wanted to bury the history and heritage of the Middlesex Hospital all along. I organised a petition calling on Westminster City Council to commemorate the Middlesex in the name of the Square — despite support from thousands (including support from certain councillors) I was informed that the naming of Pearson Square was a done deal. I rather suspect that this will be too, but truly hope that I am wrong. This building IS the Middlesex Hospital Chapel. Always was, always must be.

**David Marriot**

It is sad to see the developers wanting to remove the traces of the Middlesex. I spent many

hours taking patients to the chapel or sitting in there after a difficult shift.

**Jenny Hall**

I understand that the chapel will be coming into 'community use'. I really hope that the Chapel will be treated with dignity. For those who worked or were patients at the Middlesex the chapel was a refuge and place of calm in an uncertain and traumatic world. The aura of peace and tranquility that overwhelmed you when you entered is memorable even now.

**Karen Kick**

Oh for goodness sake Exemplar, please display some taste and a respect for history which also means respect for all the people who have been born, died and worked at the Middlesex. The hospital was a centre of excellence in both training, practice and research for years and it would be such a good example to other developers to show some sensitivity and intelligence in your treatment of this site. Your reputation (as Property Developers generally rather than your company specifically) is not good; here's a chance to redeem it and gain the respect of thousands of people.

**Phyllida Barnes**

The chapel was a place of sanctuary for staff and patients alike. The tranquillity and beauty of

the building has to be retained as it was including the name for the respect for those of us who saw it as a central part to our life at the Middlesex Hospital. The hospital pioneered treatments and we all have experience of caring for people who could only get the expertise at our hospital. To not retain the named link to the Middlesex Hospital would be an insult to staff who dedicated their lives at the hospital and the patients who trusted us with their lives.

**Julie Hargreaves**

I sat in the beautiful hospital Chapel often and took patients there for church services and on special days like Christmas. As a part of a mark of respect to people who used that Chapel at a time when they were at their most vulnerable, and for the people who died at the hospital and who recovered from their illness then the Chapel should retain its name. Why is it that companies are so keen to change the names of things? I am sure it is a lack of understanding and ignorance on their part.

**Frances Barbour**

Developers gone mad! Keep it up *Fitzrovia News*.

**Sharon Peppard**

Why is there such a desire to remove all memory of the Middlesex hospital from the site? Are the developers afraid

that it will become a magnet for old Middlesexers? Please let there be a small piece of care and humanity on this issue. Come on gentlemen.... What harm can it do?

**Sarah Price**

Why would you want to re-name the chapel which is The Middlesex Hospital Chapel ...."the building of which was begun in 1890 as a memorial to Major A H Ross MP a former chairman of the Board of Governors"... "the surgeons Sir John bland Sutton and Lord Webb Johnson paid for much of the decorations the chapel..." (Sacred Spaces by Joan Crossly...a wonderful book about the London hospital chapels..."the oases of calm, places for reflection and prayer").

**Sarah Hays**

Why not just admit The Middlesex Hospital never existed and we never trained or worked there. It is a travesty and I am appalled at the developers complete lack of sensitivity. Their ability to ride roughshod over everyone is astounding.

**Frances Taylor**

More comments at:  
bit.ly/middlesexchapel  
Sign the petition:  
petitions.westminster.gov.uk/  
middlesexhchapel