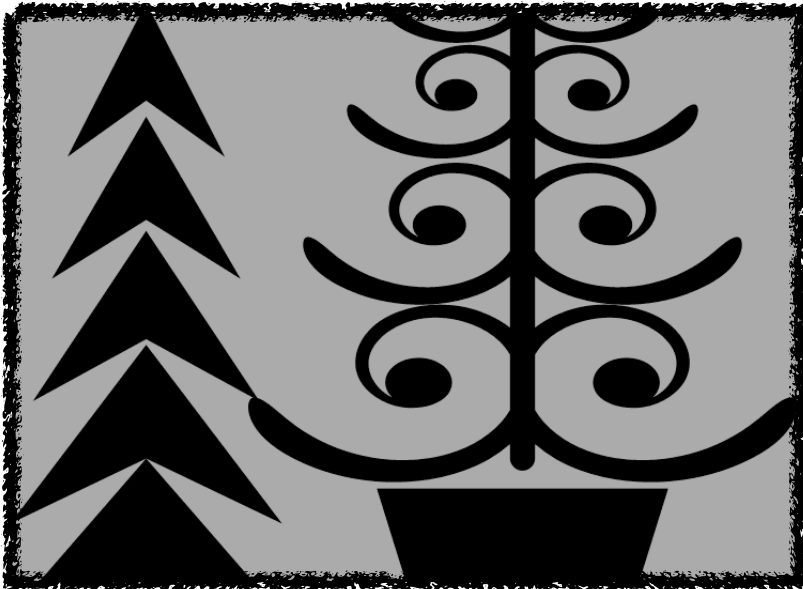




The Society serves Pentonville Road, Penton Rise, King's Cross Road, Farringdon Road, Rosebery Avenue and St. John Street and all the streets within the area.

The Society is open to all residents.
For information about becoming a member,
telephone 020 7837 3444

Chair - Darian Mitchell. Secretary – Elizabeth Thornton. Treasurer - Jane Wainwright
Newsletter editor – David Sulkin



MERRY CHRISTMAS 2010 TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Filming in Granville Square

In the third week of November filming of Terrence Rattigan's *The Deep Blue Sea* will take place in the north-west corner of Granville Square and inside one of the houses.

The Amwell area used to be popular as a film location but in recent times fewer films have been made here. This maybe because of the increase in street furniture which is hard to disguise and therefore makes it hard to re-create a street-scape as it would have been years ago.

There will be quite a quantity of trucks providing lighting and other facilities in Granville Square when the new film is being made. Parking may also be affected in parts of Wharton Street.

The production company is going to make a financial contribution to the area which may well be shared between the Amwell Society and the Peel Centre in Percy Circus which very much deserves the support of us all.

Another film, *Ted and Sylvia*, made in November 2002, about Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath, used Wharton Street to double for Fitzroy Square, off Euston Road - not exactly a match! The film was directed by Christine Jeffs and starred Gwyneth Paltrow, Daniel Craig and Michael Gambon. On the right is a photo of Wharton Street taken at the time. The snow was made from shredded paper and gave a very wintry feel to the street especially at night, recreating the long freeze of 1962.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IN AMWELL STREET.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL TRADERS

The traders in Amwell Street will be opening again late until **8 pm on Monday 6 December**. The evening is a chance for members and their families to get to know our traders better. You can pop into many of the shops for refreshments, pick up some Christmas presents and meet neighbours you may not have come across before. This year, the traders have organised a Christmas safari! Buy a raffle ticket for £1 which doubles as a booklet of free drink and discount vouchers that you can redeem in participating shops including a free:

- Mulled cider at Unpackaged
- Glühwein & ginger biscuits at Flor Unikon
- Mulled wine and a free Wallace Sewell ribbon with any purchase

The raffle will be drawn around 9 o'clock in Filthy McNasties and one person will win an incredible hamper worth hundreds of pounds full of gifts from all the shops! The Society wants to see Amwell Street thrive. We may no longer have a butcher, baker or candlestick maker - but we do have a unique range of shops run by sympathetic and creative traders who deserve our support.

Get along to the late shopping evening in Amwell Street and help make that illusive thing – our local community.



The Amwell Society - Campaigning on behalf of the locality for 36 years.

www.amwellsociety.co.uk

Good news about the Finsbury Health Centre

Could it possibly be true? After two and a half years of backbreaking work it looks as if the campaign to save Finsbury Health Centre will be successful. It's always dangerous to count chickens and cross bridges but at a meeting on the 4 November a decision was taken to form the Finsbury Health Centre Community Trust. This is in the hope that the Islington Primary Health Care Trust [PCT] - for so long against retaining FHC - has no option but to continue to use the Centre and look at charitable funding options to properly repair it.

With good sense and quiet determination Barbara Jacobson and her colleagues, including the long-standing community activist, Helen Cagnoni, have decided to create an embryonic charity in readiness for a full-scale organisation which will be the guardian of the Centre in years to come. There will be much to do to bring the Centre back to full use. It needs full disabled access and 21st century health equipment plus careful building conservation. But the great news is that the new trust is planning to lead on the restoration and ensure FHC's future as a functioning health centre for our community.

The Finsbury Health Centre is a Modernist, Grade I Listed building conceived by the old Borough of Finsbury in the early 1930s - years before the NHS came into existence. It was designed by Berthold Lubetkin. Now the newly formed FHCCT will be working with London partners, including the Heritage of London Trust and LBI to attract funds to repair and return FHC to its full glory as a unique asset of world heritage significance. Help secure the future of the FHC in Pine Street and be present when history is made by attending a meeting on **Monday 22 November at 1a Children's Centre, Rosebery Avenue** near the junction of Clerkenwell Road, to hear from Cllr. Martin Klute about LBIs plans for the way ahead.



Christmas trick

Grandma's trifle - quick & delicious

1 box trifle sponges
Tiptree raspberry jam
Raspberries. Tinned ones are OK
Good, dry sherry - La Ina
Custard
Large tub of double cream
Walnuts - halved
Glacé cherries

Slit the sponges. 'Butter' the sponges with jam, making them into 'sandwiches'. Place in a glass bowl. Cover the 'sandwiches' with the raspberries and the juice. Add a generous wineglass of sherry. Make 1.5 pints of custard. Pour over the 'sandwiches', raspberries and sherry. Cool. Whip the cream into peaks and cover the custard. Smooth. Place walnuts and halved cherries on the top. Serve.

Christmas tippel

Kümmel

Kümmel is a liquor which originated in Holland and became popular in Germany, Poland and Russia. It is a distillation of caraway and cumin seeds.

It's not easy to find kümmel but it can be bought in specialist shops.

The Berlin-made Gilka kümmel goes through a longer distillation process and has a smoother taste than the other kümmels, so it has become the accepted standard of kümmel quality for about 100 years. It's a wonderful digestif.



Christmas tip

Blue flames a-plenty

If you're a fan of Christmas pudding and like to light the brandy that you pour over it, here's a tip.

Measure a ladle and a half of good brandy into a saucepan. Put the pan on a very low light on the hob to warm. Keep a close eye on it

Turn the pudding into a deep dish, put a sprig of holly on the top of it, take the saucepan and pour the warmed brandy over the pudding. Light the brandy with a long match and take the dish to the table wearing a pair of oven gloves.

You'll see the strange, flickering blue flames all the better if you turn out the lights.

N.B. Not one for children to try.

Farewell to Gerry

What a pleasure it's been to have Gerry Sproston as our Chairman for the past four years. He has had to resign as he is moving to Rotherhithe.

Gerry and his wife Alison joined the Society when they came from Cambridge to Myddelton Square in 2001. Gerry became a committee member in 2004 and then acted as the Society's secretary for a year before being elected as chairman in 2006.

His commitment has been exemplary. He represented us often in relation to planning issues and was always ready to listen with courtesy and good humour when members raised their concerns. Those of us on the committee knew that we could rely on his efficiency and common sense when discussing issues or planning events. We wish Gerry and Alison every happiness in their new home in Rotherhithe though we're hoping to see them again at Amwell Society events from time to time. We're going to miss them.



Gerry with Islington South MP Emily Thornberry
Many thanks to Darian Mitchell who has agreed to be Acting Chairman until the AGM in 2011.

Susan Friesner. Susan is a member of the committee

Doorstep day. Sunday 16 January 2011



Do you have something you don't want but don't want to put out for the bin men? Several years ago the Society organised Doorstep Days, where good items were put on the pavement with a note advising anyone who wanted the pieces to take them. So join in on Doorstep Day on **Sunday 16 January 2011**. A New Year's resolution.

There are a few rules to follow. You shouldn't put out anything electrical in case it has a fault or gets damp on the doorstep. You should try and put out things that still have some good life in them. A chair that needs re-caning or re-upholstering is fine but broken flowerpots or an ancient mattress is not.

Take a fat felt tip pen and write on a piece of paper:

**We are taking part in
the Amwell Society
Doorstep Day. If this
item is of use to you,
please take it.**

It would be nice if you could let us know how it goes so that we can tell stories of the Day, especially if you give away something you think will never find a home.

Make sure that you take in anything not collected at the end of the day. We all hate fly-tipping and find that dumped things encourage other dumped things. If something is not 'adopted', telephone 020 7527 2000. The LBI Helpline will connect you with the right department which will arrange to come and collect and dispose of your unwanted things safely.



News from Margery Street and Wilmington Square...

There's a lot of positive news. Gardening on the Margery Street Estate for example. Tenants have been out planting window boxes over the summer and putting in bulbs just before the winter.

In Wilmington Square there's been a lot of new planting and tidying of the gardens overall with help from LBI Greenspace.

Margery Street tenants have been sharing the Community Room with the Urdang Academy of Dance and Music Theatre - which is mainly based at Finsbury Town Hall - and the Children's Society. This has been good and positive for all.

The mums on Margery Street also ran a really successful Hallowe'en evening for all the young people in the area.

On the downside there is a need to address the increase in drug dealing in the Wilmington Square area. The fear is that a lot of our youngsters are being recruited to make drug runs. One resident heard a 14- year old on the Margery Street Estate bragging about how much he could earn being a runner. So, please ask everyone to be on the lookout. If you see anything that smacks of drug dealing you should contact Brian Quail, our community police sergeant immediately.

brian.quail@met.police.uk or clerkenwell.snt@met.police.uk

We must all remain positive. The only way we can help is by all being involved, vigilant and keeping the police informed.

Francois Smit. Francois is Chairman of the Margery Street Tenants' and Residents' Association

Gardener available

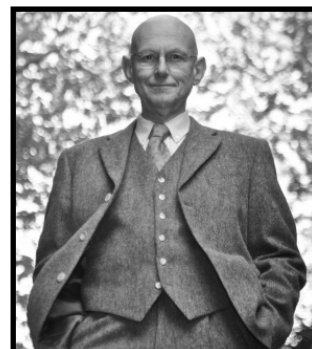
An experienced local gardener is available to undertake all types of gardening work.

Reliable and flexible, aims to create a space which you will love and enjoy! Contact Sara Dixon on 07789 106372 or e-mail gardengrow@hotmail.co.uk



David Sulkin, newsletter editor...

has lived in Wharton Street since 1993. As well as editing the newsletter, David is Chair of Governors at Clerkenwell Parochial School. Send comments about the newsletter or short articles to: david@dauidsulkin.co.uk



Elgar concert in the Barbican Hall. 30 January at 7.30pm.

***The Kingdom* [1906]**

Elgar never forgot one of his teachers telling the class: 'The Apostles were very young men and very poor. Perhaps, before the descent of the Holy Ghost, they were no cleverer than some of you here.' Elgar's oratorio (1906) follows the young evangelists into the world after Jesus's ascension. Often rapturous, it includes a solo for Mary, 'The sun goeth down,' that is itself among the most haunting of all Elgar's work.

Sir Mark Elder conductor
Cheryl Barker soprano,
Sarah Connolly mezzo-soprano
Iain Paterson bass
London Symphony Chorus
London Symphony Orchestra

Tickets: £8 £14 £19 £25 £32

www.lso.co.uk/buytickets

Amwell Society committee

We're on the lookout for a few members with a some time to spare to serve on the committee. If you love the Amwell area and you'd like to help, please telephone 020 7837 3444 and leave a message.

Islington People's Plaques

London Borough of Islington [LBI] is asking local people for nominations for people, events or places that deserve that deserve to be commemorated with new Islington People's Plaques.

Allie Dillon at LBI would be delighted to receive nominations from members of the Amwell Society. Nominations can be submitted until Monday 6 December 2010 to www.islington.gov.uk/heritage