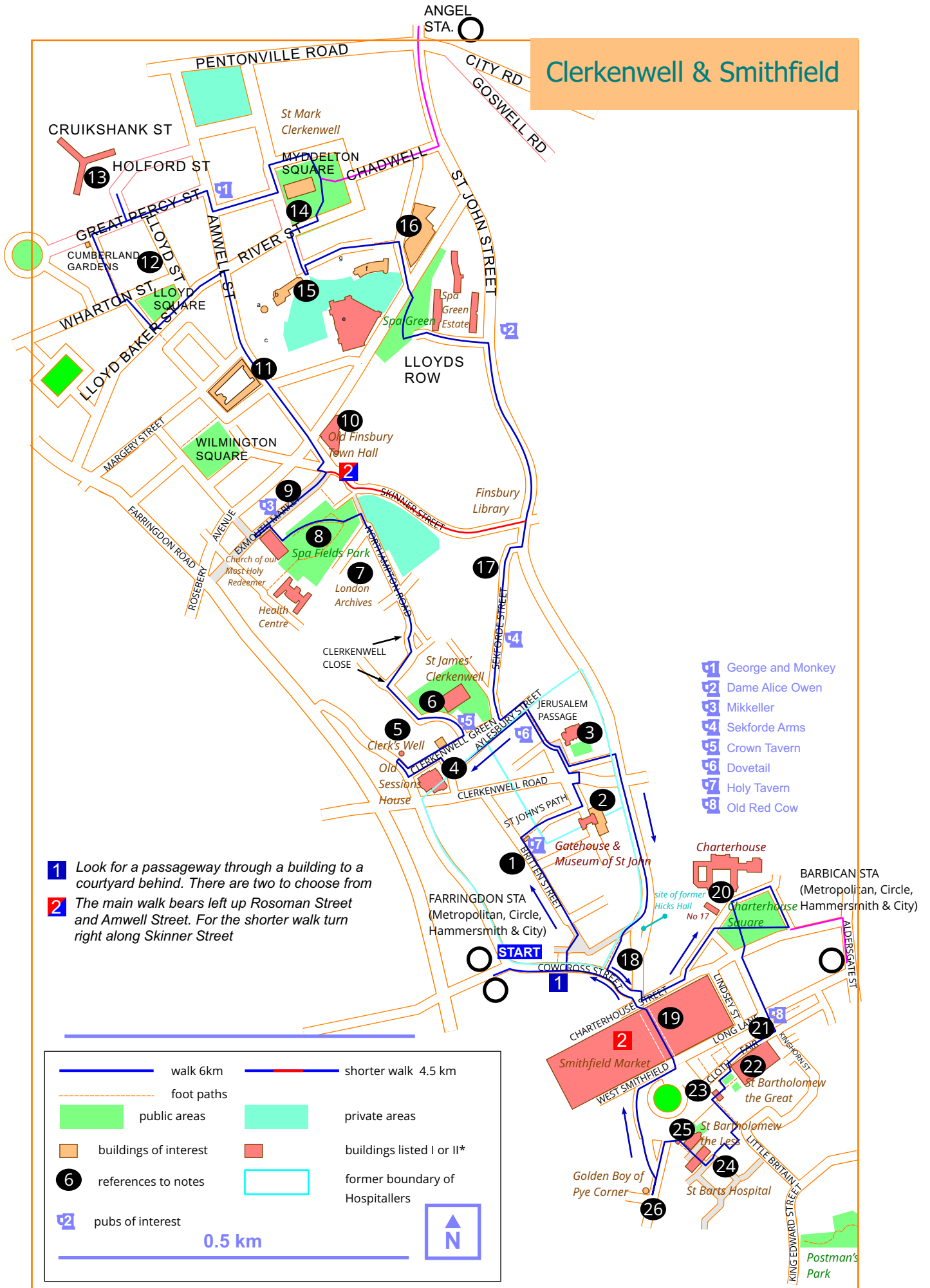


Clerkenwell & Smithfield



- George and Monkey
- Dame Alice Owen
- Mikkeller
- Sekforde Arms
- Crown Tavern
- Dovetail
- Holy Tavern
- Old Red Cow

- 1** Look for a passageway through a building to a courtyard behind. There are two to choose from
- 2** The main walk bears left up Rosoman Street and Amwell Street. For the shorter walk turn right along Skinner Street

	walk 6km		shorter walk 4.5 km
	foot paths		
	public areas		private areas
	buildings of interest		buildings listed I or II*
	references to notes		former boundary of Hospitallers
	pubs of interest		

0.5 km

Clerkenwell

Around 1140 Jordan de Briset and his wife founded the hospital and priory of St John of Jerusalem and the nunnery of St Mary.

The sisters of the convent drew their water from a well that became known as the clerks' well because City students performed an annual miracle play close by. In 1370 Sir Walter de Manny established the Carthusian priory of Charterhouse, which was rebuilt as a rambling mansion after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. It subsequently became Charterhouse school and is now London's most picturesque retirement home.

Parts of St John's priory have survived and a revived 'venerable order' (which has metamorphosed into the health care organisation St John Ambulance) later returned to St John's Gate, where they maintain their headquarters and a museum. From medieval times Clerkenwell attracted edge-of-City trades like jewellery, lock-making, printing, bookbinding, and the making and repair of clocks and watches. When many of the larger firms closed or moved out to suburban industrial estates, they left behind factories and warehouses that have now been converted for 'loft style living', Meanwhile most of Clerkenwell's Georgian terraces and municipal and philanthropic tenement blocks from the first half of the 20th-century remain.

Clerkenwell was for a while the administrative centre for Middlesex. Visit <http://hidden-london.com/gazetteer/clerkenwell/>

① Britten Street

Thomas Britton started out as a coal man but developed wide interests and had a very good singing voice. In 1678 Britton fitted the loft of his Clerkenwell house out as a tiny concert hall, fitting a harpsichord and an organ with only five stops. The relative novelty of a series of concerts attracted a considerable audience and many musicians of note played there. In 1719 a new street was built on open ground and was named Red Lion Street. No 55 is one of the original houses. Around 1820 a shop front was added, and the

building has had many uses. In 1992 it was bought by Julian Humphreys, who redesigned the ground floor as a recreation of an 18th century coffee house, installing the panelling, the pews, the Delft tiles and the scrubbed floor we see today. Until recently, the pub was run by St Peter's brewery, Bungay.

② Gatehouse of St John

The Priory of the Order of St John of Jerusalem was founded in 1144 when 10 acres of land was granted to Jordan de Bricet in Clerkenwell. The ten acres of land was divided into an Inner and Outer Precinct with important buildings such as the Priory Church, the Prior's Hall and the Great Hall within the Inner Precinct. The Outer Precinct included the houses of the knights of the Order, tenements for servants and workers, gardens along with the buildings needed to maintain an almost self sufficient operation.

The boundaries are shown on the map. The gatehouse marked a crossing point between the two areas, with the inner precinct to the north.

On the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Clerkenwell priory was taken by the Crown, and the buildings and land of the priory were broken-up, sold, demolished and rebuilt.

Over the following centuries, the Gate was used for a number of different purposes. In the eighteenth century, the Gate was briefly used as a coffee house, run by Richard Hogarth, father of the artist William Hogarth. Dr. Samuel Johnson was given his first job in London at St John's Gate, writing reports for The Gentleman's Magazine. At the end of the eighteenth century, the Gate was used as a pub, The Old Jerusalem Tavern, where artists and writers, including Charles Dickens, used to meet.

By the 1840s, St John's Gate was in a serious state of disrepair.

A modern Order of St John was created, and granted a royal charter by Queen Victoria to become a Royal Order of Chivalry. In 1877, the new Order formed the St John Ambulance Organisation, leading to the founding of the St John Ambulance

Brigade as a volunteer organisation. St John's Gate was purchased for use as the headquarters of the new order, and an extensive series of renovations were carried out, including the construction of a new extension building, in a similar style and joined to the gate, along the eastern edge of St John's Lane, with an entrance sized to take ambulances of the St John Ambulance Brigade.

Over the centuries, the road has been raised by around three feet, reducing the effective height of the arch.

③ St John of Jerusalem

The Priory Church is now associated with the revived Order of St John. The walled garden, planted with medicinal herbs and flowers, was built as a memorial to St John's workers who died during the world wars. The church can only be visited as part of a guided tour of St John's Gate.

The nave of the original church has been preserved as a darkened crypt. Built in the 1380s in the Norman Romanesque style, it's one of the oldest buildings in London. The nave once abutted a large circular chancel that was demolished following the dissolution of the priory. Outside, the outline of the original church has been traced onto the square.

④ Old Middlesex Assizes and Clerkenwell Green

The Sessions House was designed by Thomas Rogers in the classical style and completed in 1782, to replace Hick's Hall in St. John Street, where county sessions had been held since 1613.

It served as the main judicial and administrative centre of Middlesex until county councils were created for Middlesex and London in 1889. At that point administrative matters relating to the county of Middlesex were transferred to the Guildhall in Parliament Square and London County Council took over the Sessions House and for magistrates' courts in its area.

It is built in the classical style with four huge Ionic order columns supporting a pediment. In contrast with the modest sessions houses of earlier days, it was built

with imperial grandeur in its proportions and decoration. It was enlarged, and remodelled on all but the principal front (with its Palladian design, facing the Green) by Frederick Hyde Pownall in 1860. The ashlar-faced wing to the south added at some time between 1876 and 1914. Above the central window was a relief of the head of King George III. The dome which covers its entrance hall and staircase is a copy of that of the Pantheon in Rome.

Also on the Green is the Marx Memorial Library, built as the Welsh Charity School in 1737-8 to the designs of James Steere. The front elevation was rebuilt in 1968-9 in sympathy with the original design. Subsequently it became in turn, a pub, coffee rooms, the London Patriotic Club (an important radical workmen's club), the Twentieth Century Press and from 1933 the Marx Memorial Library. The building is of importance as the only surviving building in Britain intimately associated with Lenin.

⑤ The Clerk's well

In the 12th century, a nunnery dedicated to St Mary stood in the area between modern Islington and Smithfield, beyond the city walls of old London. Several wells supplied the nunnery with water, and of those, Clerk's Well was the most important. It seems that the parish clerks gathered at the well yearly, and there gave performances or plays based on Biblical themes. Thus the well became known as Clerkenwell, a name which became used to designate the whole parish.

In 1673, the well was granted to the parish of Clerkenwell by the then lord of the manor, Lord Northampton. The site of the well was lost for centuries until accidentally discovered by workmen in 1924. It was preserved in an underground chamber under an office building on Farringdon Lane and can be just seen through the window, rather low down.

⑥ St James Clerkenwell

The existing church was built in 1792 by architect, James Carr, in a preaching-house, style. The upper galleries were added in 1822 for the children of the

Sunday-School.

It replaced a much earlier church, parts of which dated back to the twelfth century.

Prior to the reformation there was an Augustinian nunnery dedicated to St Mary on the site, and after the reformation parts of the building were used by the parish as the parish church.

7 London Metropolitan Archives

The London Metropolitan Archives, renamed London Archives is the principal local government archive repository for the Greater London area, including the City of London: it is the largest county record office in the United Kingdom. It was established under its present name in 1997, having previously been known as the Greater London Record Office. It is administered and financed by the City of London Corporation.

The London Archives' older building was built in the late 1930s for the Temple Press and has many original features. Purpose built extension in early 1990s for archival storage. Public rooms remodelled by Bisset Adams in 2000s.

8 Spa Fields

Spa Fields was originally much larger, and in the 18th century was already known for its lawlessness and the location of mass meetings of Radicals campaigning for parliamentary reform.

It is primarily known for a riot in 1816.

By the early 1800s Thomas Spence was the unofficial leader of those Radicals who advocated revolution. He argued that "if all the land in Britain was shared out equally, there would be enough to give every man, woman and child seven acres each".

Spence died in 1814 but his disciples formed the Society of Spencean Philanthropists. The men met in small groups all over London to discuss the best way of achieving an equal society.

In 1816, the Spencean group organised a mass meeting at Spa Fields, Islington. The magistrates decided to disperse the meeting and while they were doing this, one of the men, Joseph Rhodes was stabbed. The four leaders of the Spenceans, were arrested and charged

with high treason. The first case failed and the others were released.

9 Exmouth Market

It has been a market place since Victorian times but in the 1970s it was in decline. In 1984, only six pitches were active – out of 100 available ones. To bring the street back to life, Islington Council decided to take action at the beginning of the nineties and reinstated the street market in 2006. The street is now a vibrant meeting place. The street is named after Edward Pellew, Viscount Exmouth, a hero who joined the Royal Navy at the age of 13. The new street was named after him in recognition for all he did to to end the Barbary slave trade.

10 Old Finsbury Town Hall

The town hall was built in 1895 to the design of C Evans Vaughan in an eclectic 'Free Renaissance' style, with a public hall on the first floor with elaborate plasterwork in *Belle Epoque* manner.

It is built on the site of Clerkenwell Vestry Hall, in turn on the Spa Fields watch house.

The existing building was built in two stages. The first part was erected between 1894-1895 as the Clerkenwell Vestry Hall. The new Vestry Hall entrance was on the new Rosebery Avenue and featured the stunning iron and stained glass, art nouveau canopy. The new building was designed in the fashionable 'contemporary free style' of the time, with a mix of Flemish Renaissance, Baroque and art nouveau influences. The façade features Red lbstock brick and Ancaster stone dressing, Portland stone, tiled gabled roofs and a clock and weathervane.

In 1897-9, the building was extended over the original Vestry hall site so it covered the whole triangle block between Garnault Place, Rosoman Street and Rosebery Avenue.

In 1965 Finsbury was absorbed into the new London Borough of Islington. The new council's headquarters became the Islington Town Hall on Upper Street. Although Finsbury was no longer a borough, the old town hall was still used as

offices.

⑪ Charles Rowan House

Charles Rowan House was built in the 1920s as married quarters for Metropolitan policemen to the designs of Gilbert McKenzie Trench, the Met's architect. Sir Charles Rowan was one of the first Commissioners of the force when it was formed in the 1820s.

The building became a Council estate in 1974 and is listed for its architectural interest by English Heritage (Grade II), which describes it as "massive and austere".

Stylistically it is unusual for the UK and exhibits a powerful Expressionist manner most often associated with continental design of this period.

⑫ Lloyd Square

The Lloyd Baker Estate was partly built on the New River Estate land. The land here in the 1680s belonged to Dr William Lloyd, an indefatigable opponent of the Roman Catholic tendencies of James II. The estate was given as part of the dowry of William Lloyd's great-granddaughter Mary when she married Gloucestershire vicar William Baker in 1775. By then the lower slopes were occupied by a brick- and tile-works that excavated the slope of the Fleet valley here, creating a steeper incline. The Reverend Baker and his son Thomas Lloyd Baker commissioned a plan from their surveyor the Booths. The earliest surviving properties went up in the mid-1820s along Lloyd Baker Street and Wharton Street. Lloyd Street and Lloyd Square were laid out in the early 1830s. The latter has a central private garden surrounded by very grand, though compact, houses that are similar in style to their predecessors.

The hillside area was Clerkenwell's last big undeveloped space, mostly built up in the 1840s, though development began in the early 1820s with Great Percy Street. This was followed by Percy Circus and Holford Square, while building in Great Percy Street itself continued until 1853.

⑬ Bevin Court

Berthold Lubetkin designed Bevin Court in the modernist style with Francis Skinner

and Douglas Bailey. The works were completed in 1954. Of particular interest is the staircase.

Originally to be named after Lenin, who lived on the site in 1902-03 the cold war resulted in it being renamed Bevin Court, after Britain's anti-communist foreign secretary Ernest Bevin. The building was given Grade II* listed status in December 1998, and has recently undergone restoration by the Borough of Islington. Spa Green Estate and Finsbury Heath Centre are also his work.

⑭ St Mark's Clerkenwell

The New River Company took more than a century to gain control of the fields around its waterworks from the subsequent beneficiaries of the Knights Hospitallers, stretching from St John Street to Kings Cross Road. The laying out of streets slowly began after 1810 as development became advantageous.

Starting in the north with Claremont Square, around a covered reservoir and the former Claremont Terrace in Pentonville Road it moved to Amwell Street, a little-altered shopping thoroughfare of the 1820s, then Myddelton Square, the best address, with the church of St Mark, and several short connecting streets. It ended in the east and south with Arlington Way and Myddelton Passage, both extensively redeveloped in the twentieth century.

Built in the parish of St James, Clerkenwell, to meet a burgeoning congregation, was a new church dedicated to St Mark, built in Gothick style, designed by William Chadwell Mylne, the NRC's surveyor, and opened in 1828. It has a fine tower.

⑮ New River Head

Entrepreneurs came up with ideas for supplying and selling water. Edmund Colthurst suggested bringing it from springs in Ware to London by making a 'new river', flowing by gravity over a 40 mile course to this point, high above the City, thence to be piped to consumers. In 1609 the project was bailed out by Hugh Myddelton, a goldsmith with connections to London's rich and powerful people. Their

political influence quashed objection to the river from the landowners along its route and their investment paid for work on the river to be completed. By 1700 the New River was one of the three richest companies in London, along with the Bank of England and the East India Company.

On the site today are:

- a. Remains of a windmill that pumped water to Claremont Square Reservoir from 1709-1720 (the base).
 - b. New River Head Engine House, Boiler House and Coal Stores which housed steam-powered machinery from 1768-1950 to pump water to Claremont Square Reservoir.
 - c. A working pumping station connected to the Ring Main which supplies tap water to people in London.
 - d. A fragment of the original Round Pond that collected New River water from 1613 to 1914 (not visible from here).
 - e. Former Metropolitan Water Board offices, completed in 1920.
 - f. Former New River Head Research Building that housed a laboratory where the Metropolitan Water Board tested water quality from 1938.
8. Part of the early 19th-century wall that enclosed the New River Head site, with graffiti by patrolling police officers.

16 Sadlers Wells

In 1683, Richard Sadler built a music and entertainments house around a mineral spring to rival the Tunbridge and Epsom wells. In 1765 Thomas Rosoman had the theatre rebuilt to mount high-calibre opera productions. After many ups and downs including conversion into a skating rink and then a cinema, in 1915 it closed its doors. Motivated by a profound belief that great art should belong to everybody, Lilian Baylis, who had been presenting drama and opera at the Old Vic, began fundraising in 1925 to rebuild Sadler's Wells so that the people of north London could enjoy the same opportunities as those in the south. The new Sadler's Wells, designed by architect Frank Matcham, opened in 1931 with John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson in *Twelfth Night*. For four

years, drama productions, opera and ballet shuttled between the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells until Baylis decided to dedicate Sadler's Wells to opera and ballet for eight months of the year and give the Vic-Wells Ballet a permanent base. A new chief executive Ian Albery led the campaign to transform Sadler's Wells into a purpose-built dance theatre. Opening in 1998, the building with its 1,500 seat auditorium still incorporates the skeleton of Frank Matcham's 1931 theatre, which in turn contained bricks from the Victorian playhouse.

17 The Bank, Sekforde Street

The Finsbury Savings Bank opened in 1816 in St. John's Square, Clerkenwell Green, in a small room where "a few people gathered together to form a savings bank for small tradesmen, labourers and servants." The Finsbury had some well-known customers, including Charles Dickens. In 1841, Finsbury moved to these new premises in Sekforde Street. It spread out from there, reaching Bedford, High Wycombe and Gravesend. As a result of mergers, it eventually became part of TSB. Sekforde Street takes its name from an Thomas Seckford, Elizabethan man of law, who bequeathed a part of his Clerkenwell estate to endow almshouses in the town of Woodbridge in Suffolk. The charity continued as landlord until the 1970s. Sekforde Street and Woodbridge Street, the two principal streets crossing the estate, date from the late 1820s replacing an accumulation of alleys and courts, largely industrial in character but with many small houses and tenements. Most of the houses standing today were built during the following decade and a half, along with Woodbridge Chapel in Hayward's Place and the former Finsbury Savings Bank in Sekforde Street. A very few earlier buildings remain, including the former Woodbridge House of c. 1808, the successor to a house built and occupied by Seckford himself.

18 The Rookery

A group of three Victorian houses on the west side of Peter's Lane and three larger

Georgian houses in Cowcross Street that were once shops, have been renovated, with a new tower, to form the Rookery Hotel, opened in 1998.

The brick tower, with a slated spire, was built from salvaged bricks; the tower is embellished with bulls' and cows' heads modelled and cast in glass reinforced resin, the bovine theme reflecting the fact that for centuries Cowcross Street was part of a route used by drovers to bring cows to be slaughtered here at Smithfield. The spire of the tower sports a beautifully crafted weather-vane in the shape of a bull.

The name *rookery* recognises the fact that the area used to be a lawless slum.

19 Smithfield Market

Meat has been traded at Smithfield Market for more than 800 years. The market grew in size and significance over the centuries until by the end of the eighteenth century the number of animals being brought into London was causing mayhem. The arrival of the railways brought about a revolution in the movement of animals. By 1849 almost one million of the animals sold at Smithfield came to London by rail. In 1852 the Smithfield Market Removal Act relocated the livestock market to a new open site north of Islington and plans put into place for a new market specialising in cut meat. They included an underground area where meat could be unloaded from the trains. City Architect, Sir Horace Jones, was charged with designing the new market. Work was completed by 1868 – the building you see today.

20 Charterhouse

A Carthusian monastery was founded here in 1371, which flourished throughout the later medieval and early Tudor period. With the dissolution of the monasteries, the Charterhouse became a mansion for wealthy noblemen and a refuge for royalty. Elizabeth I met the Privy Council here in the days before her coronation in 1558 and James I used the Great Chamber to create 130 new Barons before he was crowned. In 1611 Thomas Sutton bought the Charterhouse and established the foundation that now bears his name. His

will provided for up to 80 Brothers: 'either decrepit or old captaynes either at sea or at land, maimed or disabled soldiers, merchants fallen on hard times, those ruined by shipwreck of other calamity' as well schooling for 40 'poor boys'.

21 Cloth Fair

The Priory of St Bartholomew held the manorial rights to hold weekly fairs, which initially took place in its outer court on the site of present-day Cloth Fair.

An additional annual celebration, Bartholomew Fair, was established in 1133 by the Augustinian friars. Over time, this became one of London's pre-eminent summer fairs, opening each year on 24 August for 4 days. A trading event for cloth and other goods as well as being a pleasure forum, the festival drew crowds from all strata of English society.

In 1855, however, the City authorities closed the Fair as they considered it to have degenerated into a magnet for debauchery and public disorder.

Numbers 41 and 42 Cloth Fair, are the oldest residential buildings within the current boundaries of the City of London. Construction of these buildings started at the end of the 16th century with completion early in the 17th, at a time when the area was within the walled compound of St. Bartholomew's.

Records also show that the building was originally part of a larger scheme of eleven houses featuring a courtyard in the middle, known as "The Square in Launders Green". 43 Cloth Fair was lived in by Sir John Betjeman and is owned by the Landmark Trust.

22 St Bartholomew the Great

St Bartholomew's was established by Rahere, a courtier and favourite of King Henry I. On a pilgrimage in Rome, he fell ill. He prayed for his life vowing that, if he survived, he would set up a hospital for the poor in London. Reportedly, a vision of Saint Bartholomew appeared to him and directed him to found a church at Smithfield in his name.

Rahere set up a church, a priory of Augustinian canons, and the hospital. He

served as both prior of the priory and master of the hospital.

The Priory was dissolved in 1539 and most of the nave of the Church, which had stretched to where the west gate is today, was demolished but the crossing and choir survive largely intact

from the Norman and later Middle Ages, enabling its continued use as a parish church.

Being outside the walls, the church survived the Great fire but various parts of the building were damaged or destroyed through the centuries, until the restoration began in the 19th century, first in the 1860s and then, under Sir Aston Webb, in the 1880s and 90s and on into the 20th century.

23 Gatehouse and Smithfield

In the Middle Ages, it was a broad grassy area known as Smooth Field, located beyond London Wall stretching to the eastern bank of the River Fleet. Given its ease of access to grazing and water, Smithfield established itself as London's livestock market, remaining so for almost 1,000 years.

Following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 much of the church was destroyed, including the nave. Some fifty years later in 1595 a local resident called William Scudamore seized the opportunity to build a new residence on top of the remains of the nave's southern doorway, specifically a two storey timber framed house with a small attic.

24 St Barts Hospital

See *St Bartholomew the Great*. Following dissolution, concerned citizens petitioned Henry VIII, who granted the Hospital to the City and gave it an income.

The medieval buildings were demolished in the 18th century rebuild by architect James Gibbs. The North Wing, which contains the Great Hall, East and West wings are all Grade I listed. The Fountain was added in 1859.

The Henry VIII Gatehouse is the oldest entrance to the hospital. It was designed and built in a Baroque style by the Strong family of masons between 1701 and 1702.

Henry himself is recognised on the outside of the structure.

25 St Bartholomew the Less

A chapel dedicated to the Holy Cross was founded in 1123 to serve the priory and hospital established by Rahere and was moved to this spot in 1184. After becoming crown property, Henry VIII re-established St Bart's as a parish church for the hospital, and it gained its epithet 'the less' to distinguish it from its larger namesake.

The oldest parts of the building are the 15th-century tower and west end of the church. Within the tower are three bells, the oldest being cast in 1380. The bells are hung in the original wooden frame thought to be the oldest in London.

The striking neoclassical church interior was created by architect George Dance the Younger in 1793, working within the medieval walls, yet rising higher with a clerestory to admit more light. Dance created a Gothic vaulted interior on an octagonal plan, inside the medieval square structure.

St Bart's Hospital is in the unique position of being a parish in its own right. The parishioners are made up of the hospital staff and patients, and at one time attendance for all at church services was compulsory.

26 Golden Boy

At the corner of Cock Lane and Giltspur Street stood 'The Fortune of War' pub, a rather unsavoury drinking hole where during the early 1800's body-snatched corpses used to be held in a backroom until the surgeons at the nearby Saint Bartholomew's had time to pick them up. At some time in the 17th century, a monument was mounted there to commemorate the spot where the Great Fire of London ended - Pye Corner.

Although the Fortune of War pub was demolished in 1910, a small 17th century memorial was saved and still stands in its original position. Originally known as 'The Fat Boy', the monument was gilded some time in the 1800s and was subsequently known as the 'Golden Boy of Pye Corner'.