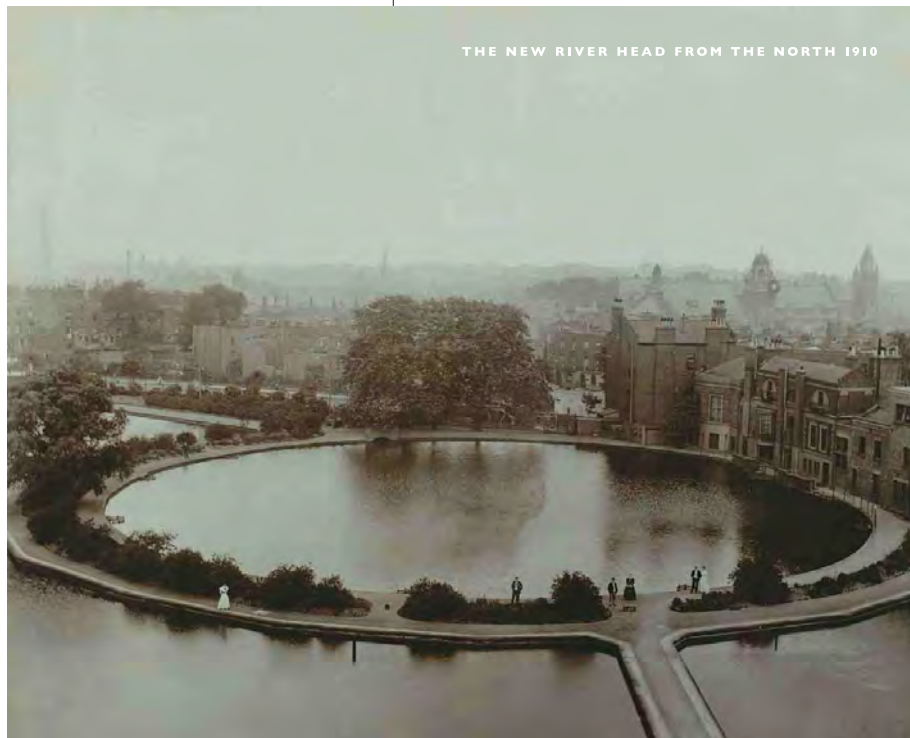


to a developer who demolished the hospital leaving just the single storey colonaded Georgian buildings. These were saved only by a lengthy and determined campaign by local groups that leaves us with the gardens that you see today. To gain entry, adults do strictly speaking need to be accompanied by some young people. Lots of lawn to assess (not all of it real) and most, it has to be said, is quite shoddy and badly maintained.



1 CORAM FIELDS GUILFORD STREET

Coram Fields is the site of the original Foundling hospital, built by the 18th century philanthropist Thomas Coram. When in the 1920's the hospital was re-located outside London, the land was sold

2 GOODENOUGH COLLEGE LONDON HOUSE MECKLENBURGH SQUARE

AN ELEGANT COURTYARD LAWN NOT USUALLY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. YOU CAN GET QUITE A GOOD VIEW OF IT THROUGH THE GATE, BUT IF YOU ARE LUCKY AND CATCH THE RECEPTION-IST ON A GOOD DAY THEY WILL LET YOU IN TO HAVE A BETTER LOOK.

THE LAWN HAS A VERY FINE COLOUR, BUT IT WAS THOUGHT THAT ITS AVERAGE CONDITION MUST BE DUE TO ITS SLIGHTLY SHADY ASPECT.



3 **ST. GEORGE'S GARDENS** HEATHCOTE STREET - ENTRANCE

St. George's Gardens was one of the very first burial grounds to be established away from a church. Opened circa 1715 people were initially slow to make use of it, but by 1855 it was so overcrowded that it was forced to close. Around 30 years later it was re-opened as part of a scheme to redevelop overgrown urban graveyards into "open-air sitting rooms for the poor". International Lawns do a fair amount of sitting in



this special space, particularly enjoying the golden terracotta statue of Euterpe that arrived in the gardens via the Apollo Inn in Tottenham Court Road. It pains us to report that at the time of FT3 the lawns were judged as only 'passable'.

4 **KINGS X TELEPHONE EXCHANGE** 233 GRAYS INN ROAD

One of London's most impressive TE's (by the by, the guiding theme of IL Field Trip No.4 26.04.15). Well worth noting the highly charming telephone sculptures embedded in the blue window frames on the Grays Inn Road elevation. 10/10.

5 **GAGOSIAN GALLERY** 6-24 BRITANNIA STREET

6 **CONSULATE OF ECUADOR** LORENZO STREET

7 **JOSEPH GRIMALDI PARK** PENTONVILLE ROAD

This is another former burial ground and is named after the famous pantomime clown who is buried there. His grave (which contains an informative text on a very idiosyncratic theatre career) is enclosed within railings and stands in the South East corner close to the entrance into Rodney Street. The gardens have extensive lawns that were quite well received by the International Lawns lawn assessment team during FT3.

8 **PERCY CIRCUS**

Percy Circus was built between 1841 and 1853 by The New River Company. Its design and construction was overseen by the company surveyor W.C. Mylne. By general consent, Mylne's abilities as an architect were quite limited and it is believed the design of Percy Circus was a collaboration with R.C. Carpenter.

The layout is uniquely complex as it has five unevenly spaced entry points, and it is also built on the side of a steep hill.

As a measure of Mylne & Carpenter's success, in 1939 Christopher Hussey called Percy Circus a 'monumental conception' and 'one of the most delightful bits of town planning in London.'

The garden in the center of the circus is delightful also, suffering only from average quality lawns.

9 **BEVIN COURT** HOLFORD STREET

Landmark modernist housing project designed for the Tecton architecture practice by Francis Skinner, Douglas Carr Bailey and Berthold Lubetkin.

Completed in 1954 it was originally going to be called LENIN COURT because the structure occupies the site of the house where Lenin stayed in 1902-03.



If you hang around outside BEVIN COURT long enough, looking slightly bereft (as we did during FT3) one of the residents will almost certainly let you in to see the mural by Peter Yates and the stunning constructivist staircase that forms the heart of the building.

10 THE COVERED RESERVOIR CLAREMONT SQUARE

The first open reservoir on this site was dug in 1705, but in order to comply with the 1852 Metropolis Water Act The New River Co. were told if they wanted to continue supplying water to the entire Borough of Islington, they would have to cover their one acre site. Under the direction of surveyor W.C.Mylne a grid of arcaded internal walls were built to allow a 21ft depth of water. This gave the remodelled reservoir a capacity of 3.5 million gallons.

The vaulted roof was grassed over and by the 1880's was home to 'a few melancholy sheep'.

11 St. MARKS CHURCH & GARDENS MYDDELTON SQUARE

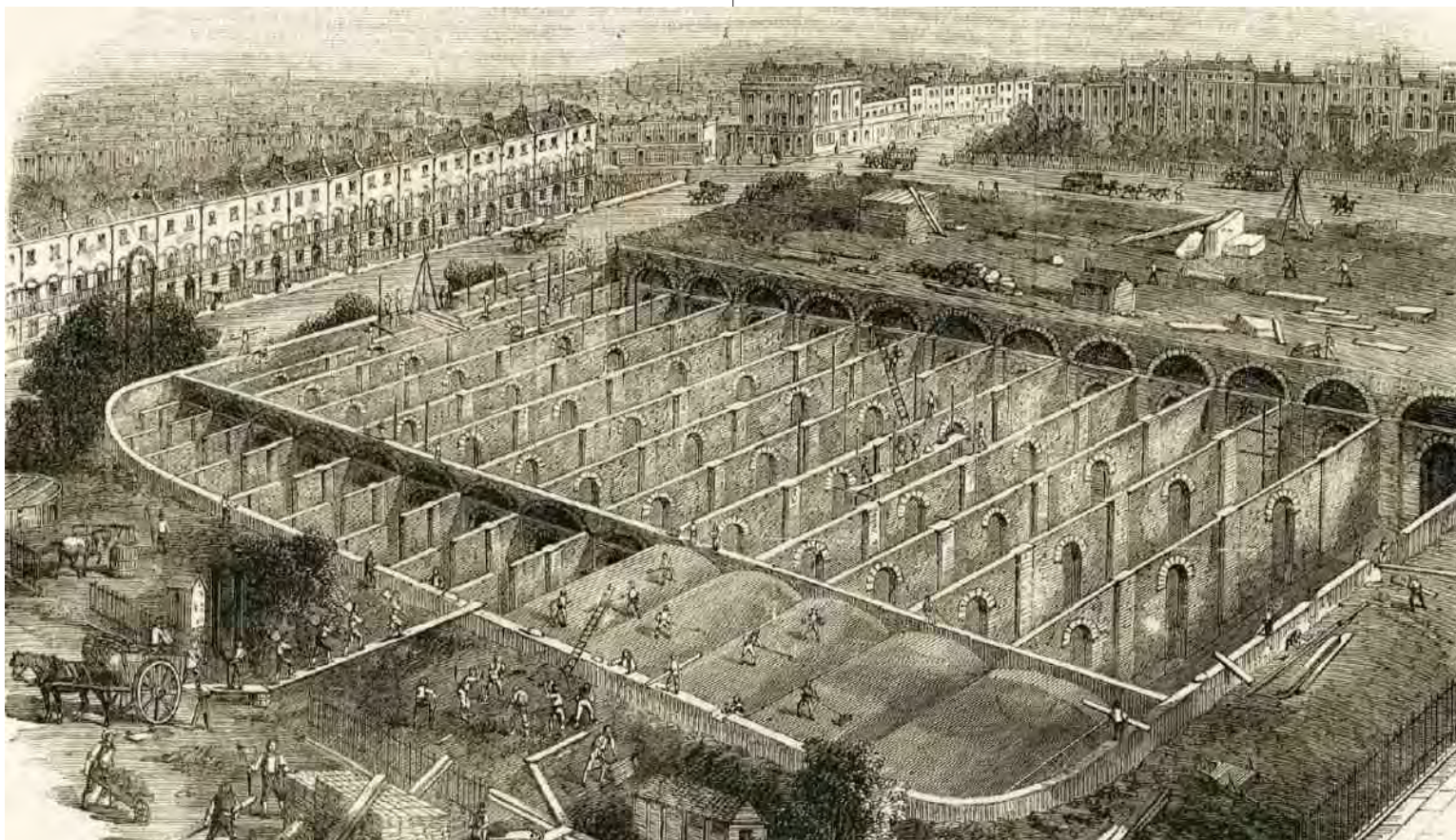
The largest square in Clerkenwell was also a New River Company project in the 1820's with the church also designed by W.C.Mylne. The raw, unfinished look of the interior is the result of damage caused by a WWII bomb in January 1941.

12 THE NEW RIVER HEAD MYDDELTON PASSAGE

IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF YOU AS YOU ENTER MYDDELTON PASSAGE ARE TWO GATES. GO THROUGH THE GATE ON THE RIGHT AND YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF IN THE CENTER OF THE NEW RIVER HEAD.

THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS PLACE IN TERMS OF BRINGING CLEAN DRINKING WATER TO CENTRAL LONDON IS FULLY EXPLAINED IN A SERIES OF INFORMATIVE WATER BOARD SPONSORED PANELS.

THE COVERED RESERVOIR AT CLAREMONT SQUARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 1855



13 THE SHAKESPEARS HEAD ARLINGTON WAY

As you walk down Myddelton Passage towards the pub, the red brick wall on your right is covered with police graffiti dating from the 1800's. The precise origins and meaning of this practice remain curiously obscure.

J.Inman, M.Lipman and W.Sleep delayed FT3 about 90 minutes at this exceptional pub.

14 THE LABORATORY BUILDING ARLINGTON WAY



Built on the New River Company's 1860's filter beds, the former Metropolitan Water Boards Laboratory Building has now been converted into luxury flats. Grade II listed, it was built in 1936-38 and designed by John Murray Easton. A staff of 70 had the responsibility for monitoring biological, bacteriological, chemical and chlorination aspects of London's water.

As you stand in front of the building on Rosebery Avenue the gardens and lawns that curve slightly towards you have a certain impact and power and were mostly well liked by the IL lawns assessment team on Field Trip 3.

They are, by the way, open to the public on alternate Sundays.



15 THE GARDEN DECK HARDWICK STREET

If you can find a way to sneak in you will find above the car park, most improbably as far as International Lawns are concerned, a lawn of the highest quality possible. Absolutely stellar.

IN THE INTERESTS OF TOTAL ACCURACY WE SHOULD SAY THAT INTERNATIONAL LAWNS FAILED TO GAIN ENTRY TO THIS SITE ON FT3 AND THAT THIS LAWN ASSESSMENT HAD TO BE MADE ON AN ADDITIONAL VISIT (19.07.2015).

16 SPA FIELDS ROSOMAN STREET - ENTRANCE

In the 1730's Spa Fields gained a reputation as one of the areas where so called 'sneaking footpads' operated. This was an early form of mugging that involved knocking down patrons returning home from the Sadler's Wells and 'depoiling them of hats, wigs, silver buckles and sundry valuables'.

This highly unsociable activity heralded the arrival of the 'Link Boy' (a kind of theatre sponsored after-show chaperone) who advertised themselves with the slogan: "There will be Moonlight".

Today Spa Fields is a busy, multi-purpose space dominated on the North side by the Church of our most Holy Redeemer, with its dramatic and unusual line of high circular windows.

It appears the lawns are subject to a degree of over use, so standards here are not high.

17 FINSBURY PARK HEALTH CENTRE CATHERINE GRIFFITHS COURT

Berthold Lubetkin's Grade I listed Health Centre opened in 1938 with his comment that: "Nothing is too good for ordinary people."

Lubetkin was supremely well qualified to take on this commission having trained in Moscow, Warsaw, Berlin and Paris.

It's main innovation was to make health care free at the point of delivery and to locate all the services in one specially designed building.

Lubetkin was a genuine pioneer and it is maintained by many that the creation of this building was pivotal to the formation of the NHS in 1948.

The front lawns, the wrought iron fence and, sadly the building itself, could all do with some serious attention from the maintenance department.



18 THE COLD BATHS TOPHAM ST & COLDBATH SQUARE

AS YOU COME OUT OF VINEYARD
WALK ON THE FARRINGDON ROAD
THE ENTIRE BLOCK IN FRONT OF YOU
WAS THE SITE FOR THE LEGENDARY
COLDBATH SPRINGS.

THE SPRINGS DISCOVERED IN 1697
BY A MR BAINES WHO CLAIMED THAT
HIS BATHS OF COLD WATER COULD
CURE COLDS, CREATE APPETITES
AND WERE GOOD FOR THE DIGESTIVE
SYSTEM.

IT IS THOUGHT THAT THE BATHS CON-
TINUED TO DIPENSE THEIR MAGIC
CURES RIGHT UP TO 1865 WHEN THEY
WERE SADLY DEMOLISHED.

19 ST. ANDREW'S GARDENS 254 GRAYS INN ROAD

The recent history of St. Andrew's mirrors what happened at St. George's (No.3), i.e. closed for burials in 1850, re-opened as public gardens 1885.

In terms of lawn quality here, the IL team thought there was definite room for improvement.

The impressive apartment building Trinity Court (built 1930) sits on the site of The Holy Trinity church which closed 2 years earlier.

Please hand in or send completed
lawn assessment forms to:

Domobaal 3 John Street London WC1N 2ES

INTERNATIONAL LAWNS

FIELD TRIP No.3

GALLERY DAY • SATURDAY 25th APRIL 2015

DOMOBAAL