

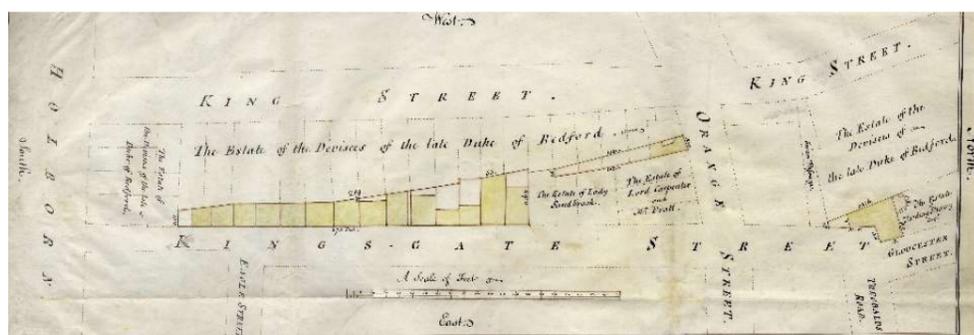
# Red Lion Square and its Vicinity: A History

## The development of Red Lion Square

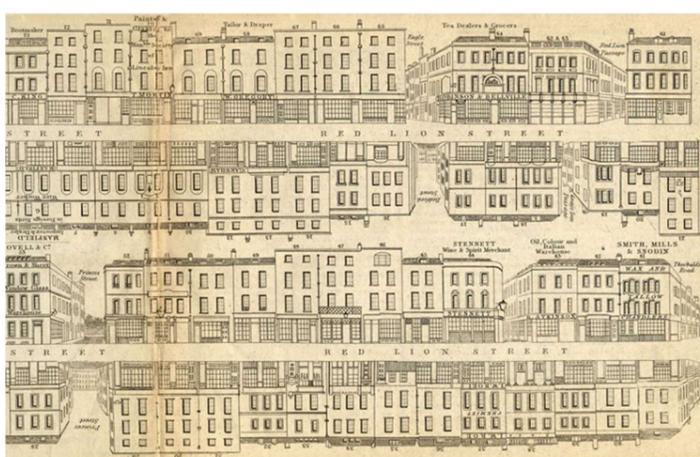
The laying out of Red Lion Square, on the site of Red Lion Fields, was begun by Nicholas Barbon in 1684 and completed despite the opposition of the lawyers from nearby Gray's Inn who did not want to see their views disturbed. This led to a fight breaking out between the lawyers and Barbon's workmen.



An 18th century view of Red Lion Square looking south. Princes Street is now Princeton Street and the western side of the square has been cleared to become Procter Street, connecting Theobalds Road to High Holborn. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre



This map from a deed of 1772 shows the change that has taken place in the area. Kingsgate Street joined High Holborn to Theobalds Road but was removed as part of the Kingsway improvement scheme. Orange Street, later Parton Street, once led into Red Lion Square. King Street is now part of Southampton Row. The names reflect that this was once the route that King James I used to get to his hunting park at Theobalds, Hertfordshire. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre

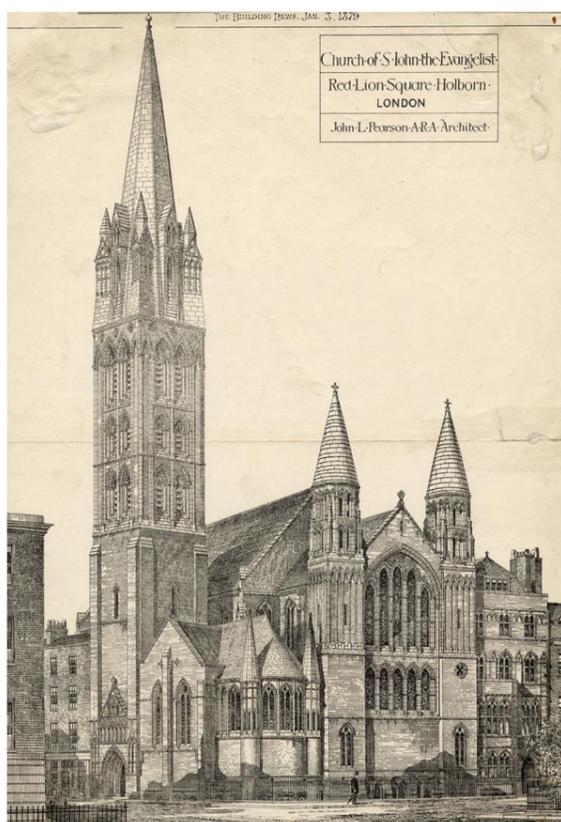


A street view by John Tallis (c.1838) showing some of the businesses then in Red Lion Street. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre



The Dolphin Tavern on the corner of Lamb's Conduit Passage and Red Lion Street. On the 8th September 1915 the pub was half destroyed by a Zeppelin raid on London. A Dolphin Tavern in Red Lion Fields was first recorded in 1690. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre

## Second World War Bomb Damage



St John the Evangelist on the corner of Red Lion Square and Fisher Street, designed by John L Pearson, which was consecrated in 1878. It was destroyed in the Second World War. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre



Ruins of St John the Evangelist Church in Red Lion Square after being hit by a bomb in the Second World War. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre



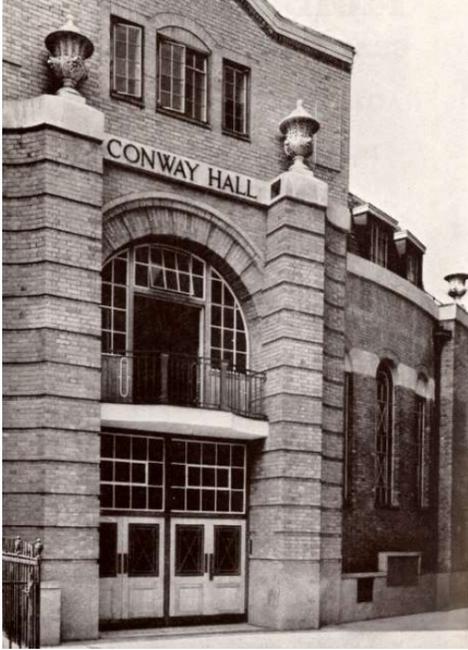
Bomb damage on the east of Red Lion Square in May 1941. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre



Bomb damage to Halsey House, Red Lion Square. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre

## Conway Hall

Conway Hall was opened in 1929 and named after the abolitionist and biographer Moncure Daniel Conway (1832-1907) who was a pivotal figure in the South Place Ethical Society, now the Conway Hall Ethical Society, in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The architect of the building was F H Mansford.



Photographs of Conway Hall in 1934 and in 2018. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre

## Residents of Red Lion Square

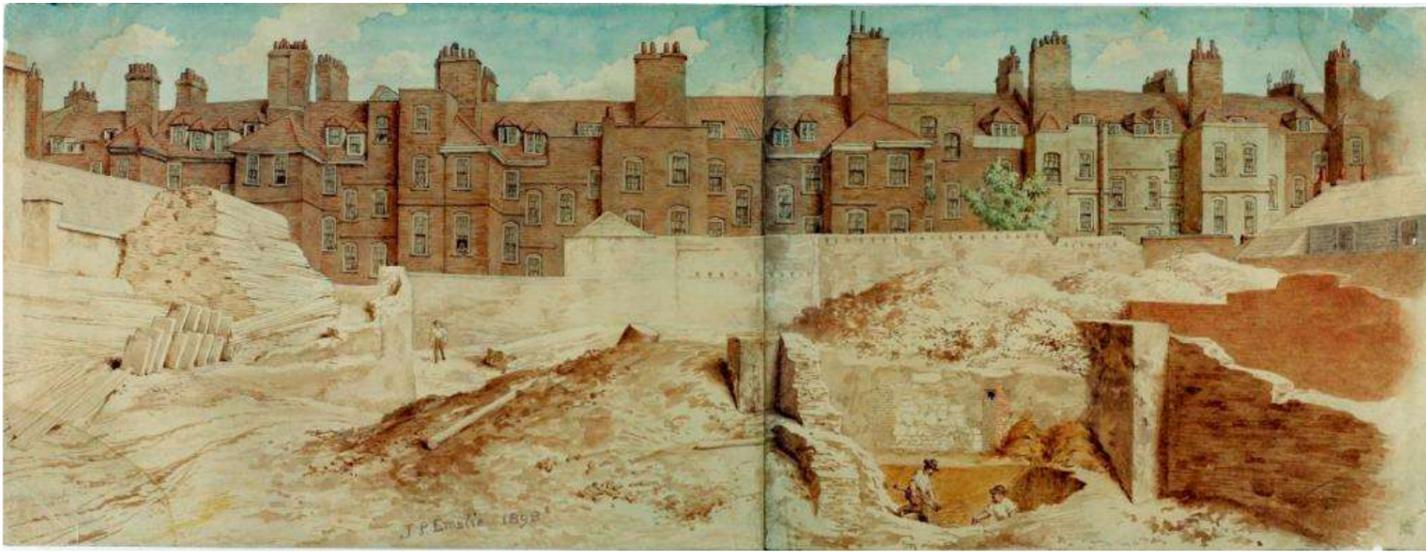


A drawing by Geoffrey Fletcher from 1984 of 17 Red Lion Square. No 17 was the home of Dante Gabriel Rossetti in 1851 and then later in that decade of Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris. At 8 Red Lion Square the firm Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co was founded in 1861. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre

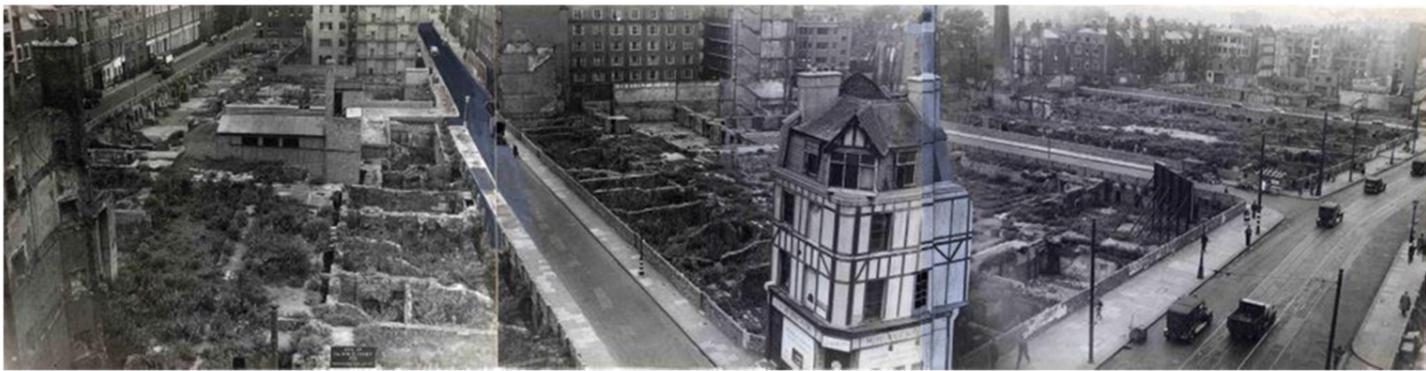


Portrait of John Harrison, who died at 12 Red Lion Square in 1776. Harrison designed the H4 marine chronometer which allowed longitude to be accurately measured at sea for the first time. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre

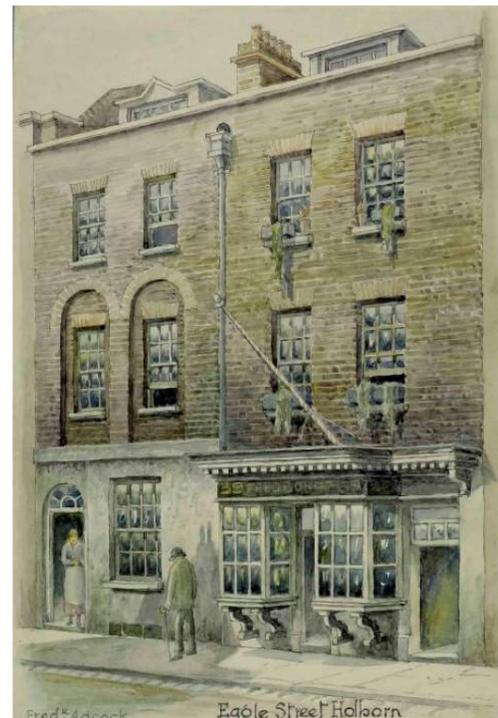
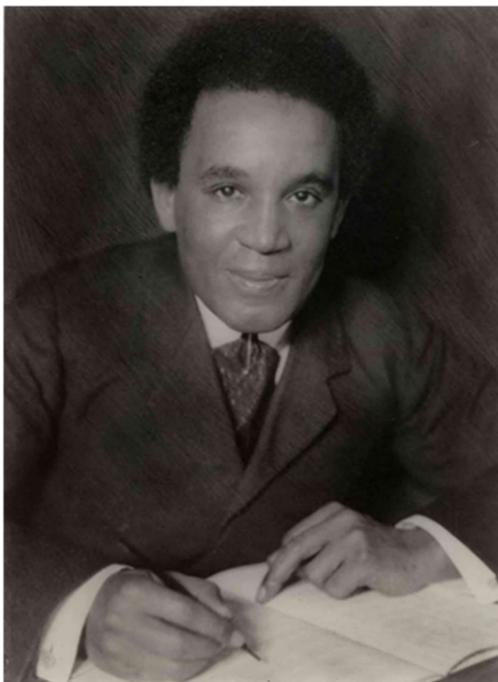
## Theobalds Road



Backs of houses on the west side of Gloucester Street, now Old Gloucester Street, in 1898. J P Emslie painted this watercolour during the demolition of houses in Southampton Row. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre



Theobalds Road, around 1945, showing the destruction caused by Second World War bombing. Old Gloucester Street is the road in the middle of the photograph. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre



Portrait of the composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor who was born at 15 Theobalds Road on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1875. The building where he was born was destroyed as part of the widening of Theobalds Road in 1878 to accommodate trams. Coleridge-Taylor's father was from Sierra Leone and the Sierra Leone High Commission is currently at 41 Eagle Street, just to the south of Red Lion Square. This watercolour is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century view of 39-40 Eagle Street. ©Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre