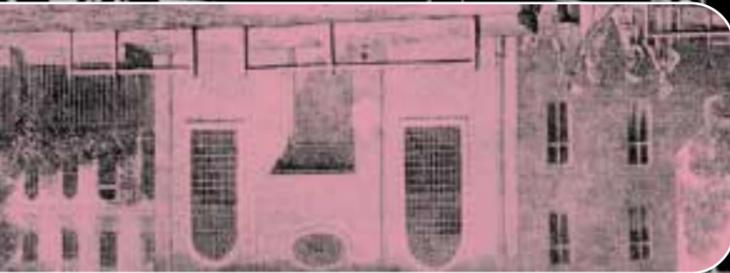
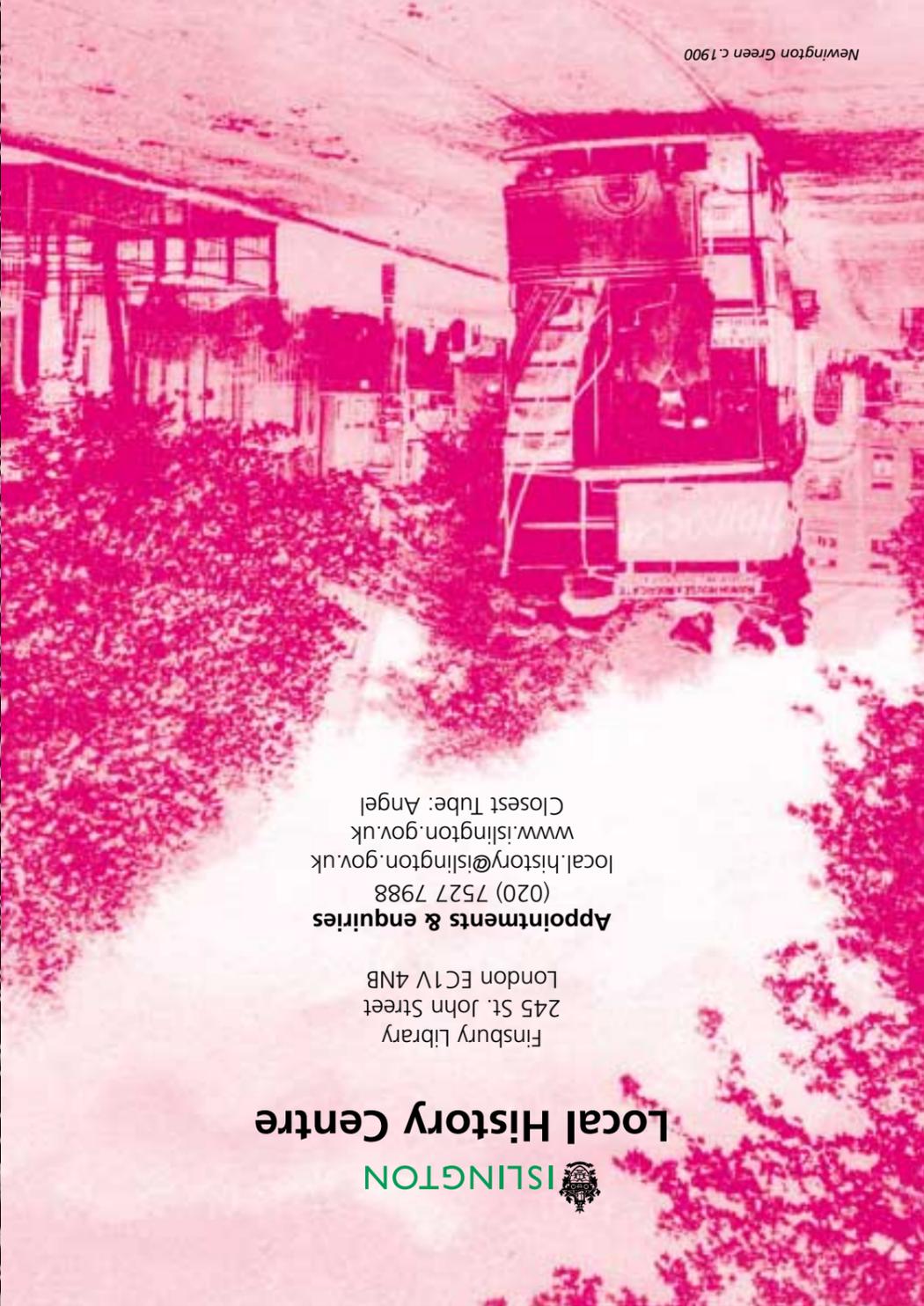




# Mildmay Local History Trail



Newington Green c.1900



Appointments & enquiries  
(020) 7527 7988  
local.history@islington.gov.uk  
www.islington.gov.uk  
Closest Tube: Angel

Finsbury Library  
245 St. John Street  
London EC1V 4NB

Local History Centre  
ISLINGTON

**Turn left out of the library.** The first, smaller Mildmay Library (1) was opened in 1954. It was enlarged and reopened as Islington's first fully computerised library in 1987. **Walk a little way up Mildmay Park.** In 1886 a small synagogue was built in the gardens of No.39 but ceased to function in the 1930's. Cross the road (taking care as the road is v busy). Mildmay Park was developed in the 1850's when Lady St. John Mildmay sold off parts of her Mildmay Estate for building development. **Turn right into Mildmay Grove South.** Mildmay Groves North & South were built in the 1870's after the North London Railway was laid in 1848.

At the end of the Grove, you have 2 choices: **for a short walk turn left up King Henry's Walk and rejoin our trail route at \* For the longer (and very interesting!) walk, turn right down King Henry's Walk.** This is an old pathway and is marked on a map of 1735. It's thought that King Henry VIII once owned a hunting lodge at Newington Green, hence the name.

On the lhs stands Tudor Court, built in the 1950's on the site of two 19th century almshouses. The first was designed for the Tylers' & Bricklayers' Co. by William Grellier in 1836 (2) and in 1841 the Dyers' Company added a further building to the site (3). The buildings were demolished in the 1930's.

On the rhs a new estate of houses has been built. The road used to be called Docwra's Buildings and contained the large premises of Docwra building contractors (4). A well-known firm, they helped build the East End docks in the 19th century. As you walk further down, you'll see 'The Warehouse', now a private home. This was probably a timber warehouse as there was once a timber yard behind the building.

At the end of King Henry's Walk, **turn left into Ball's Pond Road.** The road name derives from John Ball, the owner of an infamous 17th century inn 'Salutation House' which was known for bear-baiting and brutal sports. There was also a large pond in the area, used for duck hunting. Note Brunswick Place opposite, an early development, built on land known as Kingsland Common in 1810.

On the left is the Catholic Church of Our Lady & St. Joseph, built in 1964 on a site once occupied by the Bookbinders Provident Asylum Almshouses (1837). Next door, the Metropolitan Benefit Societies Almshouses (1829) still exist, giving you a flavour of the Gothic style used for all the almshouses of the area. **Pass the entrance to Cutler Terrace on the lhs;** this was once the entrance to the Cutlers' Co. Almshouses, which closed in 1937.

**Turn left up Kingsbury Road.** This area was badly bombed during WW2 (5). The damaged houses were replaced by estates in the 1950's. On the lhs lies the abandoned Jewish Burial Ground (6). This was built in 1843 and was in use until 1951. Although now dilapidated, it was a significant burial ground and contains the graves of eminent members of the Jewish community.

**Walk over footbridge and turn left into St Jude Street.** Dating from the 1840's and first known as John Street, it was renamed in 1872. At the end of the street stands 'Old Henry's Freehouse', originally known as the Railway Tavern. \* (Rejoin walk here for shorter walk)

**Cross over King Henry's Walk** to see St. Jude's Church and School. The church was built in 1856 to accommodate the expanding Mildmay population and the school opened in 1857. The church was known for its missionary support; William Pennefather (7) the vicar 1864-73 was a hymn writer and renowned missionary speaker. He founded the Mildmay Conference and in 1870, built the Conference Hall at Mildmay Park (8) & (9). Seating 2,500, it was used for missionary conferences and as a highly successful night school. He also established a hospital and missionary training school. The Vicarage stands next to the church in Mildmay Grove North, although it is now privately owned.

**Turn left into Queen Margaret's Grove** (1863) This residential street was bombed during WW2. (10) Queen Margaret's Court was completed as part of Islington's post-war reconstruction in 1959.

**Turn right into Wolsey Road** (1863) The corner pub (now flats) was called 'The Lady Mildmay' and is listed in an 1863 Islington street directory. At the top of Wolsey Road, you will be opposite 122 Mildmay Road. In the 1870's this large house was Mildmay Cottage Hospital (11). It was replaced by the Memorial Hospital at Newington Green. **Turn left into Mildmay Road.** As you walk up to Newington Green, note the large houses on your lhs. As previously mentioned, Rev. Pennefather set up a missionary training school for women in the 1860's: it was first based at 129-133 Mildmay Road and the trainees were known as Mildmay Deaconesses. They worked as missionaries with the poor of London and abroad. They also acted as nurses at the Mildmay Cottage Hospital and taught evening classes at the Conference Hall. **As you reach Newington Green, cross right at the crossing.**

The Green was originally a piece of common land in the Forest of Middlesex, and probably a medieval settlement. By the 16th century, many of its residents were wealthy Londoners looking for a rural retreat. They included the Earl of Northumberland, Henry Percy, who may have left his home (no longer standing) to Henry VIII. This link with the famous King accounts for the local street names.

Newington Green was known as an area of political and religious dissent: in the 17th century private academies taught Non Conformist ideas – the writer Daniel Defoe attended Charles Morton's Academy. The radical thinker Mary Wollstonecraft also had a school in the area.

**Walk 'anti clockwise' around the Green:** after passing a Victorian terrace, you'll pass Newington Green School. This is first listed in an 1896 street directory as a London Board School and 'Manual Training Centre'. 'Cromwell Lodge' was first mentioned in 1877, although a house stood on the site since the 18th century. Next to this stands a pair of Georgian buildings. From the 19th century until the 1950's this was the home to the Arbor Leaf Co., artificial flower makers.

**Cross to the North side.** The Mildmay Club originally housed the Mildmay Radical Club (12) from 1888-1930. A terrace of 18th century houses with 'weavers windows' in the upper stories precedes the Unitarian Chapel (13), originally built 1708. One of the chapel's ministers was Thomas Cromwell who wrote histories of Islington and Clerkenwell.

**Cross over to the park side of the Green** for a good view of the China Inland Mission. This was built in 1895 by the Hudson Taylors as a centre for their work in China; they trained nearly 1000 missionaries. No's 52-55 Newington Green have been recently restored: they date from 1658 and are the oldest terraced houses in London. On the corner of Ferntower Road once stood 56 Newington Green (14). This was originally built in 1663 but was reconstructed in the 18th century by Samuel Rogers, a wealthy banker and poet.

The Green itself was taken over by Islington Vestry in 1874. They fenced it and laid it out much as it is today (15). The South side of the Green is now covered by flats but this area used to house the Mildmay Memorial Hospital and Nurses Home (16). They stood in the Conference Hall grounds. The south side of the Green is where Henry VIII's hunting lodge may have stood in the 16th century.

**Cross onto Newington Green Road.** 'The Weavers' (originally 'Weaver's Arms') has existed since the early 18th century. It was rebuilt in the 1850's. **Turn left down Mildmay Grove North** (17). As you pass no. 37, you can see the original carriage entrance. In the 1890's a large steam laundry operated behind Mildmay Grove and used this entrance. **At the bottom turn right onto Mildmay Park.** Mildmay Park Station entrance stood on the bridge (18). It was opened in 1880 to accommodate the growing Mildmay population and was closed in 1934. The Library is further down on the rhs.



1 Mildmay Library 1954



6 Jewish burial ground 1980's



2 Tylers and Bricklayers Almshouses 1830



7 Rev. William Pennefather



3 Dyers Almshouses 1841



8 Mildmay Conference Hall



4 Docwra's Buildings c.1950's

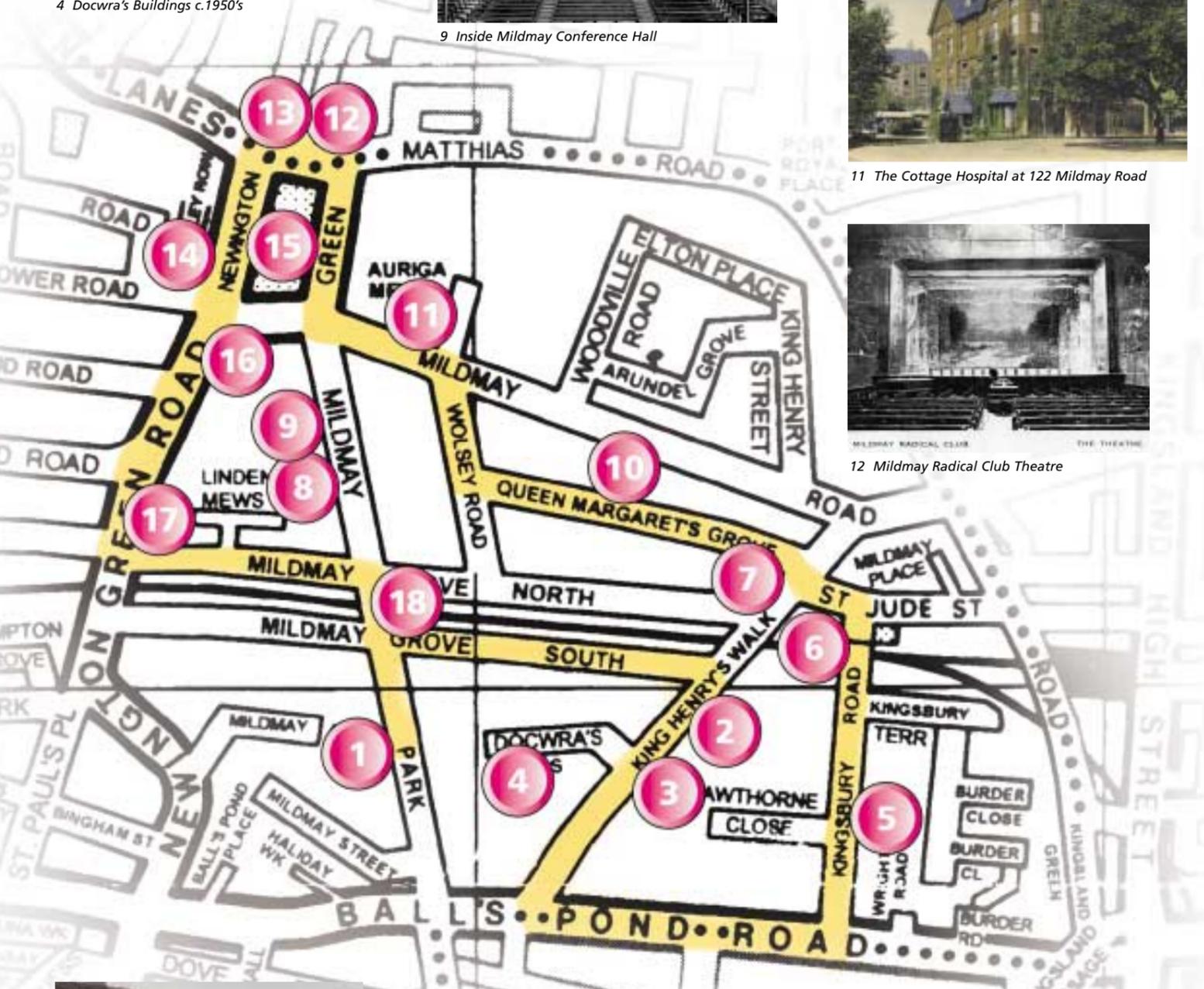


9 Inside Mildmay Conference Hall

### KEY:-

- ① MILD MAY LIBRARY 1954, Mildmay Park
- ② TYLERS' & BRICKLAYERS' ALMSHOUSES, King Henry's Walk, 1836
- ③ DYERS' ALMSHOUSES, King Henry's Walk, 1841
- ④ DOCWRA'S BUILDINGS (off King Henry's Walk) 1950's
- ⑤ WAR DAMAGE, Kingsbury Road, 1946
- ⑥ JEWISH BURIAL GROUND, Kingsbury Road, 1980's
- ⑦ REV. WILLIAM PENNEFATHER, vicar of St Jude's church
- ⑧ THE MILD MAY CONFERENCE HALL, Mildmay Park
- ⑨ INTERIOR OF THE MILD MAY CONFERENCE HALL
- ⑩ WAR DAMAGE, Queen Margaret's Grove, 1946
- ⑪ THE COTTAGE HOSPITAL, 122 Mildmay Road
- ⑫ THE THEATRE, MILD MAY RADICAL CLUB, Newington Green
- ⑬ UNITARIAN CHAPEL, Newington Green, 1708
- ⑭ 56 NEWINGTON GREEN, after 18th century rebuilding
- ⑮ NEWINGTON GREEN, 19th century
- ⑯ MILD MAY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL & NURSES HOME, Newington Green
- ⑰ MILD MAY GROVE NORTH, c.1900
- ⑱ MILD MAY PARK RAILWAY STATION BEFORE DEMOLITION, 1980's

All material from Islington Local History Centre



11 The Cottage Hospital at 122 Mildmay Road



14 No. 56 Newington Green, after 18th century rebuild



12 Mildmay Radical Club Theatre



15 Newington Green in 19th century



16 Mildmay Memorial Hospital & Nurses Home



17 Mildmay Grove North c.1900



5 Kingsbury Road war damage 1946



10 Queen Margaret's Grove war damage 1946



13 Newington Green Unitarian Chapel 1708



18 Mildmay Park Station 1980's