

KXRLG

BATTLE BRIDGE (till the 1830's) and KING'S CROSS (since the 1830's)

T I M E L I N E

Once upon a time a bridge crossed the River Fleet where St Chad's Street, Grays Inn Road, Pentonville Road, Caledonian Road, York Way and Euston Road meet now. The name of that bridge was Battle Bridge and it gave its name to the surrounding area. Some say that it was named after an ancient battle that took place here between Boadicea (Boudicca), Queen of the Iceni, and the Roman invaders, others that it was given the name because people became too lazy to say Bradford Bridge or Broad Ford Bridge, one (or maybe both) of which was its previous name. Others have other ideas. Nobody knows when the area was first called Battle Bridge but it had other names before that. This timeline is a list of things that we do know happened in Battle Bridge before and after it became known as King's Cross and very strange, sad and sometimes funny some of them are too. These things, and the people who lived here over the years, give the area the rich colour and character it has today. And it has plenty of that.

600 A. D.

An altar stone found from before this date at St Pancras Church shows that a church existed here in the sixth century and possibly before; St Pancras was a Roman Christian Martyr, and his saints day is May 12

704

Provincia Middlesexon is recorded in a Saxon Charter

878

King Alfred the Great divides his kingdom into counties and that closest to the north of the City of London and west of the River Lea becomes the county later known as Middlesex: Middlesex is divided into six regions called "hundreds" and that closest to the north of the City of London is called Ossulstone after Oswulf's Stone which may have marked the dominant public meeting place in the area; that part of the Ossulstone Hundred nearest to the north west of the City of London is called the Holborn Division

1011

Middlesex is overrun by Danes

1150's

After this date an area known as The Berewic, part of the Tottenham Estate, is owned by John Becointe

1181

The land to the west of what is now York Way, where King's Cross Station stands, is demised (which means conveyed or granted by a lease, will or something similar) by a deed of St Paul's Cathedral to the Priory of St Bartholomew's Hospital which had been founded 58 years earlier in 1123

1201

John Becointe sells The Berewic to William Blemond: the land becomes known as Blemondsbury and later, Bloomsbury

1240's

The de Berners family grants some of its manor to the east of York Way (which was granted to them earlier in the century by the Bishop of London) to the priors and canons of St Bartholomew's at Smithfield and the area becomes known as Canonbury Manor; the de Berners family give their name to Barnsbury

1247

February 13: Earthquake in London

1249

The 60 acres to the west of York Way is known as Allensbury, Elm Friars or Alkichesbury

1250

The Vicar of (Old) St Pancras Church moves north to Kentish Town because of constant flooding from the River Fleet

1260's

The Blemond family forfeit their estate after being involved in the barons' revolt against King Henry III

1295

Middlesex returns two members to Parliament

1297

A moated manor house stands where Barnsbury is now

1300

York Way is known as Longwich Lane or sometimes Black Dog Lane because it leads to the Black Dog Inn in Kentish Town

1317

There is a heatwave, drought and starvation in and around London; it is ended by a huge thunderstorm that causes the Fleet River to burst its banks

1320

The land east of York Way is called Isledon

1370

A fierce thunderstorm ends a prolonged drought and causes serious flooding around Battle Bridge

1371

Nicholas Exton, Member of Parliament and wealthy fishmonger, buys the

Blemond Estate and later sells it to the monks of Charterhouse

1416

Sigismund, the Holy Roman Emperor, attends a banquet arranged by William Bruges, the first Garter King of Arms, at his home in St Pancras Way after a procession from the Bishop of Ely's Palace in Holborn

1431

December 2: A Royal Licence allows the monks at Charterhouse to convey water through pipes from a spring where the south end of Barnsbury Road is now to their monastery just north of Smithfield

1464

The land east of York Way is called Islyington

1484

Oswulf's Stone is recorded as being in what is now Park Lane

1517

The 15 acre Stonefield Estate is bequeathed to the Parish of Barnsbury by Richard Cloudesley

1532

Before this date William Bolton, prior of St Bartholomew's, had rebuilt the manor house of Canonbury

1533

Thomas Cromwell, Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII, takes the lease on the manor house of Canonbury (till 1535); people who lived there afterwards include the Earl of Essex, Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, Francis Bacon and Oliver Goldsmith

1539

The Dissolution of the Monasteries is completed and the principal manors of St Pancras, Cantelowes and Tottenhall, are confiscated from their owners, the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, by Henry VIII; the manor of Bloomsbury is confiscated from its owner, Charterhouse and that of Canonbury from St Bartholomew's

1540

Thomas Cromwell is beheaded on Tower Hill

1545

The Manor of Bloomsbury is granted to Thomas Wriothesley, the new Lord Chancellor, by the king

1546

June 29: Anne Ascue is taken to the Tower of London because of her radical religious opinions: the Lieutenant of the Tower refuses to torture her on the rack because she has already suffered enough so Thomas Wriothesley

tortures her himself; she does not give him what he wants which is the names of any high born ladies who may share her opinions

July 16: Anne Ascue, strapped to a chair because of her injuries, is burned at the stake in Smithfield

1547

Thomas Wriothesley is created Earl of Southampton

1549

Middlesex is administered by magistrates from Clerkenwell in the Finsbury Division of the Ossulstone Hundred

1550's

A miller living in the Battle Bridge area is tried for sedition (conduct or speech tending to rebellion or breach of public order)

1558

A map by Josef Hoefnagel shows Green Lane running through Bloomsbury Manor: it later becomes Great Russell Street

1572

The land known as Sandhills, where St Pancras Station stands now, is vested in the Skinners Company as trustees for Tonbridge School by Sir Andrew Judd who was Lord Mayor of London in 1551

1575

A London brewer, Richard Platt, gives 20 acres of land near the (Old) Church of St Pancras to the public school at Aldenham with the Brewers Company as trustees: the land was for a long time known as the Brewers Estate

1577

William Lambe, of the Clothworkers' Company, constructs a lead conduit which carries water from a tributary of the River Fleet near where Guilford Street is now to Snow Hill, Holborn

1587

Robert Carr is born in Roxburghshire in Scotland

1589

Cliffe, a cobbler living by Battle Bridge, writes The Cobbler's Book which denies the Church of England

1597

Ecclesiastical parishes begin to take over local civil administration

1601

The Poor Law Act makes parishes responsible for the upkeep of local highways and for the upkeep of the poor

Queen Elizabeth confiscates the Bloomsbury Estate from the Russells for suspected complicity in the Essex riots: it is returned to them when James I ascends to the throne

1613

Robert Carr, who had come to London from Scotland with James I, is created Earl of Somerset

William Russell, eldest son of Francis, the fourth Earl of Bedford, is born

1628

Charles Cocks of the Middle Temple buys a farm called The Brill in the area where Somers Town stands now; the term 'brill' is taken to be a corruption of Burgh Hill, a designation that is usually given to places where Roman forts once stood

1637

William Russell marries Anne Carr, daughter of the Earl of Somerset

1639

29 September: William Russell's second son, also William, is born: he eventually becomes Lord Russell after his brother dies

1640

The beginning of "The Long Parliament" in which William Russell (b. 1613) represents Tavistock in Devon

1642

The beginning of the Civil War: trenches and ramparts are built on all the main roads out of London including those in St Pancras and Islington; a fort is erected in Great Ormond Street

1648

About this time The Society of Friends was founded by George Fox who opposed war and preached truth and love: he was arrested, imprisoned, beaten and persecuted but he never reacted to violence with violence; the Society eventually became known as the Quakers and they believe that: outward profession of religion is not enough
learning is not enough
church-going is not enough
all life is sacramental.

1655

Randolph Yearwood is appointed Minister of St Pancras Church

1660

Southampton House is built to the north of what was to become Southampton Square (now Bloomsbury Square)

1665

There is a drought in London

The Danish Ambassador to London stays at the Manor House in what is now Copenhagen Street to avoid the plague in the City (which provides one theory of how the area got its name)

1666

King Charles II orders tents and sheds to be erected in the fields of Islington for refugees from the Great Fire of London

1667

May 16: The 4th Earl of Southampton dies suddenly at Southampton House: minutes after his death Samuel Pepys arrives to pay him a visit

1669

May: Rachel, second daughter of Thomas Wriothesley, the 4th Earl of Southampton and inheritor of one third of his property, marries William, Lord Russell

1675

June 19: William and Rachel Russell sell Babers Field, to the west of their own home in Bloomsbury, to Ralph Montagu, Rachel's brother in law

1676

Plans for Montagu House (architect: Robert Hooke) in Bloomsbury are completed

Randolph Yearwood is incarcerated in the Fleet Prison for debt

1683

Thomas Sadler finds the remains of an old well in the garden of his house in Roseberry Avenue: he opens it to the public as a spa

June 3: Thomas Sadler opens a wooden music hall near his medicinal well

July 13: Lord Russell is tried at the Old Bailey for suspected involvement in a planned insurrection against the king

July 14: Lord Russell is found guilty and sentenced to death for High Treason

July 21: Lord Russell is beheaded in Lincoln's Inn Fields; he is buried in the Bedford Chapel of Chenies Church, Buckinghamshire

1684

A battle breaks out on Lambs Conduit Fields between 200 men who work for Doctor Nicholas Barbon and the residents of Grays Inn who want to stop him creating a residential development there

1686

January 19: Montagu House burns down

1689

43 burials in St Pancras Churchyard

1690's

Lamb's Conduit Street and Bedford Row are completed by Nicholas Barbon

1690

A tavern called The Brill stands beside a pond in what is now Brill Place

Randolph Yearwood is succeeded by John Marshall

Rachel, daughter of the 4th Earl of Southampton, dies

1692

Ralph Montagu marries Elizabeth, Dowager Duchess of Albemarle

1694

The Triennial Act decrees that there is to be a general election every three years

Lord Russell, executed for treason in 1683, is vindicated by a reversal of his attainder [meaning his good name is re-established]: his father is created Duke of Bedford and Marquis of Tavistock

1696

Joseph Offley, esquire, is appointed as treasurer for the maimed soldiers in the hundreds of Ossulston, Edmonton, and Gore taking over the accounts of Sir James Smyth, knight, who held the appointment during last year

Sir Hans Sloane moves into 3, Great Russell Street and stays until 1742

1698

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) is founded by Thomas Bray at St Mary-le-Bow in Cheapside

Nicholas Barbon dies

1700's

Bull baiting in Copenhagen Fields

1700

Pancras Wells, a fashionable Spa, stands where the present St Pancras Station is now

The George and Falcon Inn which is run by Thomas George stands on St Pancras Way; the landlord gives his name to George Field over which Cambridge Street, later Camley Street, is eventually built

Clerkenwell Parochial School (now in Amwell Street) is founded in Aylesbury

Street near Clerkenwell Green; it is run by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge

The first Duke of Bedford, who had become more and more concerned with his estates at Woburn than those at Bloomsbury, dies and is buried at Chenies; his grandson, son of William and Rachel Russell, succeeds to the dukedom at the age of 20

1702

The Act of Settlement ensures that no monarch of the United Kingdom could be, or could marry, a Catholic

1703

A mob in St Pancras accuses a 70 year old woman of witchcraft and duck her in the Fleet River: she dies

1705

Ralph Montagu is created the Duke of Montagu by King William III

1706

Ormond Street Chapel is erected in Queen Square, which is developed further over the next few years

Powis House in Great Ormond Street, which closely resembles Buckingham Palace and is being rented by the French Ambassador, burns down: it is rebuilt by the King of France

1709

Ralph Montagu dies; he is succeeded by his son John as 2nd Duke of Montague

1711

May: The 2nd Duke of Bedford dies of smallpox

1714

An elephant tusk is supposedly discovered in the River Fleet near St Pancras: it inspires a local pub to be called The Elephant and Castle

1716

The Septennial Act decrees that there has to be a general election every seven years

1718

Jonathan Wild, a criminal and informer who sent at least 60 people to the gallows, marries his third wife in (Old) St Pancras Church

1720

130 burials in St Pancras Churchyard

1721

Ormond Street Chapel is made a parish church

1722

Scandals at Pancras Wells Spa

1723

The Pindar of Wakefield Public House in Grays Inn Road (now The Water Rats) is badly damaged in a thunderstorm, the landlord's two daughters are buried in the ruins; the pub is rebuilt on the opposite side of the road

September: Ormond Street Chapel is consecrated as St George the Martyr

The Workhouse Act

1725

May 24: Jonathan Wild is hanged at Tyburn, a popular hanging, and he is buried in St Pancras Churchyard in Fig Lane the next day

1727

The coffin of Jonathan Wild is found to be empty when it is exhumed from the cemetery in Fig Lane (now Crowndale Road); his body is later put on display at the Royal College of Surgeons

1730's

The era when notorious highwayman Dick Turpin made his legendary rides on his horse Black Bess from London to York (which means that he regularly rode up Grays Inn Road, galloped across Battle Bridge and carried on up York Way)

1731

The original St Pancras Workhouse is opened at the north of St Pancras Way

1735

By this time Southampton House has become Bedford House

1736

Mr Capper, cowkeeper and owner of a large farm to the north west of the Duke of Bedford's Estate, dies; he leaves two daughters

1739

A Charter is granted to Thomas Coram to build the Foundling Hospital (The Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of Exposed Deserted Young Children)

Dick Turpin, early King's Cross commuter, is hung by the neck until dead at York

George Whitefield, an evangelical Methodist, is banned from preaching at St Mary's, Islington

1741

March 25: The first Foundling Hospital opens at Hatton Garden

1745

The Foundling Hospital acquires 56 acres of land north of Lamb's Conduit Street and a new hospital (architect: Theodore Jacobsen) is built

1746

The Smallpox Hospital moves to the present site of King's Cross Station from Windmill Street

After the Jacobite Rebellion against the Hanoverian Succession some Jacobites, who had been hanged, drawn and quartered, are buried in St George's Field, part of a meadow to the north of what is now Coram's Fields, which has been recently bought by St George's Church in Queen Square for use as a burial ground; their heads were the last to be exposed on the Temple Bar at the Strand end of Fleet Street (St George's Field was no longer used as a burial ground after 1855)

Thomas Rosoman takes over Sadlers Wells and improves the theatre

1749

The 2nd Duke of Bedford dies; Montagu House stands empty

1750

The coach of Elizabeth, Dowager Duchess of Albemarle, is ambushed by highwaymen in Great Russell Street

Earthquakes in London

1751

Thomas Coram dies

1753

The Minor Theatres Act allows some smaller houses to stage plays

January: Sir Hans Sloane dies

June 7: The British Museum Act

1755

April 5: The purchase of Montagu House by the Trustees of the British Museum is completed

1756

Act of Parliament lays out the New Road from Paddington to Islington: the part from Angel to Battle Bridge is opened the same year; the Duke of Bedford complains about possible pollution, Esther Capper, owner of a farm adjoining his estate, complains that it will reduce the value of her land

1759

January 15: The British Museum opens to the public

Thomas Hughes opens Bagnigge Wells Spa to the public

Mary Wollstencraft is born

1764

Powis House in Great Ormond Street becomes the Spanish Embassy

1765

The first brick theatre is built at Sadlers Wells

1766

The 4th Duke of Bedford plans to develop Bedford Square on his Bloomsbury Estate

1767

An Act of Parliament long campaigned for by Jonas Hanway, a governor of the Foundling Hospital, is passed which makes the principles on which the Foundling Hospital were founded compulsorily in the care of infants by parishes: the poor called it the Act for keeping children alive

December 9: The Inoculation Hospital opens next to the Smallpox Hospital

1770's

A chapel is built at the south end of Maiden Lane (York Way)

1771

St Pancras Workhouse is declared unsafe

The 4th Duke of Bedford dies: his widow takes over the building of Bedford Square and Gower Street

1772

St Chad's Well (named after the first Bishop of Lichfield and patron saint of healing springs) advertises that it has 1,000 visitors a week

1773

The development of the Pentonville Estate is planned by Harry Penton

1774

St Pancras Vestry buys two large fire engines and one small one

1776

St Pancras Female Charity School is established in Windmill Street

1777

Two men are sentenced to six months in prison and a public whipping for snatching bodies from St George's Burial Ground: it is the first recorded

conviction for grave robbing

John Howard, prison reformer, moves into 23, Great Ormond Street and stays till 1789

1780's

The Skinners Company begins to develop Sandhills as a residential area

1780

A brick, tile and chimney pot factory is at work in the hamlet known as Brill, north of where the British Library stands now

June 2: The Gordon Riots: Lord Chancellor Thurlow's house in Great Ormond Street escapes being burned by the anti-Catholic demonstrators because it is surrounded by armed guards: they burn down the Lord Chief Justice's house in Bloomsbury Square instead

1782

Johann Christian Bach is buried in St Giles Churchyard

1783

A later Charles Cocks leases his inherited land to Jacob Leroux, an architect, for residential development

Armed guards patrol Pentonville Road and the New Road

The Spanish Embassy moves out of Powis House in Great Ormond Street and it is demolished a few years later

1784

The later Charles Cocks is created Baron Somers of Evesham

The Society for the Promotion of Constitutional Information is established by Major John Cartwright to campaign for parliamentary reform but it does not survive for long

Sarah Siddons, actress, moves into 14, Gower Street and stays till 1789

Mary Wollstonecraft and Fanny Blood establish a school for girls at Newington Green

1786

Mary Wollstonecraft writes *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters*

Henry Cavendish, who discovered the chemical structure of water, moves into 11, Bedford Square and stays till his death in 1810

1788

St James' Church, Pentonville Road (designed by Aaron Henry Hurst) is completed

Mary Wollstonecraft writes *Mary*, an autobiographical novel and *Original Stories*, a collection of fables

1789

The sexton of St Pancras says that the Churchyard is so crowded that he does not know where to bury the dead

The French Revolution: refugees start to arrive in England and many of them settle in Somers Town

George Thornhill lets a 9 acre field to the east of York Way to Christopher Bartholomew who farms it till 1794

John Howard dies

1790's

Weston Place, north of where the Great Northern Hotel stands now, is developed as small houses by William Weston

St Pancras Way is still a continuation of Grays Inn Road from Holborn to Kentish Town that follows alongside the western bank of the River Fleet

Dr Squirrel, resident apothecary to the Smallpox and Inoculation Hospital, lives in Chalton Street

1790

St Pancras Female Charity School moves to Hampstead Road

Thomas Paine writes *The Rights of Man*

1791

The development of the 16 sided Polygon of 32 houses is begun in Somers Town by Jacob Leroux, a Huguenot, and the building work is started by Job Hoare

Thomas Paine writes *The Rights of Man Part Two* and encourages the re-establishment of the Society for the Promotion of Constitutional Information

The London Corresponding Society is established in response to Tom Paine's call to action; its aims are to:

spread democratic propaganda

issue cheap copies of Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man*

educate ordinary people about their democratic rights through the press,

meetings, itinerant speakers and discussions

rouse public opinion in favour of parliamentary reform

1792

Brunswick Square, named after Caroline of Brunswick, wife of the eventual King George IV, is developed by James Burton

Mary Wollstonecraft writes *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* while living in Store Street

1793

The new Royal Veterinary College on the banks of the Fleet River next to Pancras Wash admits its first patient, a horse

William Godwin's *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Political Justice* is published in parts; it is first published as a whole in 1946

1794

The Smallpox Hospital is rebuilt.

Work on the Polygon is suspended because of the outbreak of war with France

The mother of French poet Charles Baudelaire is baptised in St Pancras Old Church

Benjamin Mence, Vicar of St Pancras, declares that services would only be held at the old church once a month in future

Mary Wollstonecraft writes *A Historical and Moral View of the French Revolution*

Thomas Paine's *The Age of Reason* is published

1795

Pancras Wells closes

Famine in London

The London Corresponding Society organises a mass meeting in Copenhagen Fields to call for the reform of Parliament

1796

Mary Wollstonecraft writes *The Wrongs of Women, or Maria*, a novel

1797

William Godwin marries Mary Wollstonecraft and they move into 29, The Polygon

August: Mary Wollstonecraft dies giving birth to her daughter Mary who eventually married the poet Shelley and wrote *Frankenstein*. Mary is buried in (Old) St Pancras Churchyard

Church Hill is built over Pancras Spa

1799

Vaccination is introduced at the Smallpox Hospital by Dr William Woodville

Work on the Polygon resumes

Jacob Leroux dies

1800

Before and after: Mortimer Market is in Capper Street

Torrington Square is laid out on ground known as the "Long Field"

Charles Dibdin takes over Sadlers Wells Theatre and Joseph Grimaldi, a famous clown, begins a series of performances there

The hayfields on the 5th Duke of Bedford's Estate to the east of the Long Field are laid out as what were to become Tavistock Square and Russell Square by Humphrey Repton; James Burton is engaged as the builder and he immediately demolishes Bedford House and erects a row of houses in its place on the north side of Bloomsbury Square and starts on the two rows of houses that form the south side of Russell Square

1801

Joseph Grimaldi marries his second wife in (Old) St Pancras Church

Woburn Chapel opens in Tavistock Place

The Bloomsbury Dispensary opens in Great Russell Street; Edward Jenner, pioneer of vaccination, works there

The development of Lucas Street (now Cromer Street) is begun

1802

The Fever Hospital is built on the western side of the Smallpox Hospital

Britain's first planned parachute jump is made from a balloon 10,000 feet above Bloomsbury: Andre Garnerin lands in the Adam and Eve Teagarden in Pancras Road

The London House of Recovery is established in the Grays Inn Road

1803

The Parish of St Giles in the Fields acquires St Giles burial ground next to Old St Pancras Churchyard

One house stands in Thornhill's fields; it is later known as the dairy

1804

Residents of St Pancras apply to Parliament for an Act to create a body called the Directors of the Poor and empower them to demand a poor rate via an Open Vestry

1805

Dr William Woodville dies

1806

A chapel of rest is added to St George's Burial Ground next to the gates onto Handel Street

The first houses on the Canonbury Estate are built in Compton Terrace

1807

Cartwright Gardens is developed

1808

Abbe Carron builds the Roman Catholic Church of St Aloysius in Clarendon Square

The development of Judd Street is begun

George Thornhill lets part of his estate for brick making

Canonbury Square is laid out

Luke Hansard, printer of parliamentary records, moves into 4, Gower Street and stays till 1810

The Russell Institution, one of the earliest Literary and Scientific Institutions, takes over a James Burton building in Coram Street (now Witley Court) for its headquarters

1809

St Pancras Hospital and Hospital for Tropical Diseases is built on part of George Field as the new parish Workhouse

The whole area between (Old) St Pancras Church and Battle Bridge floods to a depth of 3 feet (one metre) by the swollen waters of the River Fleet when a heavy fall of snow thaws

Richard Trevithick sets up a circular track in what was later called Euston Square and charges customers a shilling to ride on an early form of train

The development of Burton Street is begun

Thomas Paine dies

1810

King's Counsellor William Agar buys 70 acres of the St Pancras Estate at auction and soon afterwards builds Elm Lodge for himself and his wife near the site of the medieval manor house

By this time Battle Bridge is mainly inhabited by shopkeepers, artisans and labourers

Thomas Hosmer, who operates a fleet of boats on the Grand Junction Canal at Paddington, approaches the architect John Nash, and proposes that an extension to the Grand Junction Canal should be made to the docks at Limehouse

1811

The 20 acres of land near the (Old) Church of St Pancras given by Richard Platt, the brewer, becomes the first part of the Brewers Estate to be developed for housing

The Prince of Wales becomes the Prince Regent because of his father's illness

May 31: A meeting of those with interests in the Grand Junction canal extension takes place at the Percy Street Coffee House

August 7: The Prince Regent agrees that the new canal should be called the Regents Canal

August 10: The Regents Canal Company holds its first Annual General Meeting with banker and philanthropist Thomas Bernard in the chair

Population of St Pancras: 46,333

1812

July: The Regents Canal Bill receives Royal Assent

The development of Thanet Street is begun

Fanny Burney, novelist, moves into 23, Chenies Street and leaves the following year

1814

Lord Calthorpe applies to Parliament to pave the streets in to the east of Grays Inn Road

September: Work begins on the construction of the Islington Tunnel for the Regents Canal

1815

September: All work on the Islington Tunnel stops through lack of money

Anthony Trollope is born at 6, Keppel Street

1816

William Marsden moves to London from Sheffield

August 12: The first section of the Regents Canal, from Paddington Basin to Camden Lock, opens

October: A meeting takes place between the Regents Canal Company and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to enquire about a government loan

The development of Judd Street is completed

1817

Famine in Ireland: many Irish people emigrate to London

July: The government awards the Regents Canal Company a loan of £200,000

August: Work resumes on the Islington tunnel

Thomas Oldfield builds four houses known as Albion Cottages in Thornhill's fields; this later becomes the beginning of Thornhill Road

John Constable, painter, moves into Keppel Street and stays till 1822

1818

The whole area between (Old) St Pancras Church and Battle Bridge is flooded to a depth of 3 feet (one metre) by the swollen waters of the River Fleet (again)

September: The Islington tunnel is completed

John Pounds starts the ragged schools system which gives poor children a basic education

The Church Building Act

Thomas Hosmer, treasurer of the Regents Canal Company, absconds with the money; he is later caught and transported

1819

January: The construction of St Pancras lock begins

Maiden Lane and Pancras Bridges are built across the canal

April 29: St Pancras Open Vestry meets for the last time before being superceded by a Select Vestry which represents the interests of the major landowners in the area such as the Marques of Camden, the Duke of Bedford, Lord Calthorpe, the Earl of Dartmouth and Lord Somers

The west side of Amwell Street is developed

John Ruskin is born at 54, Hunter Street

1820's

Skew Bridge is built across the Regents Canal leading to Elm Lodge, home of William Agar

Argyle Square is developed

Woburn Walk is developed by Thomas Cubitt

1820

June: the contract to build the first lock house at St Pancras is obtained by Francis Read

August 1: The Regents Canal between Camden Lock and Limehouse opens to finally complete the link with Paddington Basin; the work had cost more than three times the original estimate

Thomas Cubitt completes the building of Tavistock Square and starts building Woburn Walk and Woburn Place

1822

St Pancras New Church (architects: William and Henry Inwood) is completed on Euston Road

The erection of the Imperial Gasworks south of the canal and west of Maiden Lane is authorised

July 19: The Prince Regent becomes George IV upon his father's death; he is a very unpopular king because of his mistreatment of his wife, Queen Caroline, and because of his extravagance

1823

The Original Somers Town Academy reopens in Chalton Street

Thomas Babington, Lord Macaulay, historian, moves into 50, Great Ormond Street and stays till 1829

The new British Museum building (architect: Robert Smirke) is begun but not completed for 30 years: it is too small to house the collections

November 11: The London Mechanics Institute is founded by J. C. Robertson, T. Hodgkin, George Birkbeck and Francis Place at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand: 2000 people are present

1824

A short branch of the Regents Canal is opened to the Imperial Gasworks

A London Co-operative Society is founded by Robert Owen in Burton Street

Torrington Square and Woburn Square are laid out

Charles Dickens starts school at the Wellington House Academy in Hampstead Road which is run by Mr Jones

1825

A large wharf is developed on the new branch of the Regents Canal

The development of Liverpool Street (now Birkenhead Street) is begun

The development of Chesterfield Street (now Crestfield Street) is begun

1826

An explosion destroys the steam engine house at the Imperial Gasworks

Sculptor John Flaxman is buried in St Giles Churchyard

Camden Road, connecting Camden Town to Holloway Road, is completed

Development of The Cloudesley Estate begins on The Stoney Field bequeathed to the Parish of Barnsbury by Richard Cloudesley in 1517

Caledonian Road, first known as Chalk Road, connecting the New Road to Holloway Road, is laid out: it is eventually named after the Royal Caledonian Asylum

Thomas Campbell, Henry Brougham and George Birkbeck form a limited company to issue shares for the creation of a new university in London

The development of Frederick Street is begun

The development of Manchester Street (now Argyle Street) is begun

Charles Dickens moves to a new school run by Mr Dawson in Henrietta Street, Brunswick Square

1827

The Insolvent Debtors Act: the family of Charles Dickens leaves the Marshalsea Prison and moves first to Camden Town then into lodgings at 17, the Polygon

St Mary's Church (architect: William Inwood) in Somers Town is completed

The development of Derby Street (now St Chad's Street) is begun

The London Caledonian Asylum for the children of Scottish servicemen killed in action moves to Copenhagen Fields

Building starts at the east end of Copenhagen Street

Euston Square is laid out and named after a village in Suffolk, the seat of the Second Duke of Grafton, Lord of the Manor of Tottenham Court

1828

February 14: William Marsden invites 27 friends to the Gray's Inn Coffee House where he tells them of his plans to open a hospital which would offer to treat any poor person's illnesses without them having to pay for it

University College London (architect: William Wilkins) opens at the north end of Gower Street: it is the first college in the country to admit students of any religious denomination

William Marsden founds the London General Institution for the Gratuitous Care of Malignant Diseases near Hatton Garden with the help of the Cordwainers' Company; it is for patients who cannot afford to pay for their treatment and it soon becomes known as the Free Hospital

Luke Hansard dies

1829

George Shillibeer, a naval officer, starts the first horse drawn bus service from Paddington to the Angel along the New Road and then into the City

St Pancras ratepayers petition Parliament to abolish the Select Vestry

The Catholic Emancipation Act

Robert Peel, the Home Secretary, establishes the Metropolitan Police

1830's

Population of St Pancras: 120,000

Somers Town is regarded as a hotbed of radicalism and, later, Chartism

Thornhill Estate in Islington is developed

Robert Peel, leader of the Tories in Parliament, says that his party shall in future be known as The Conservative Party; they believed in:

Anglicanism

hostility to Dissenters

continued insistence upon the principle of the Divine Right of King's

1830

The Royal Panharmonium Gardens opens south of the New Road at King's Cross: one of the attractions is a monorail

1831

Antonio Panizzi, an Italian political refugee, becomes an assistant librarian at the British Museum

The National Union of the Working Classes is founded by Henry Hetherington and Francis Place

Sarah Siddons dies

1832

The Select Vestry of St Pancras is abolished

September 3: Robert Owen establishes his Equitable Labour Exchange for the exchange of goods between co-operative societies at The London Horse and Carriage Repository which is known as The Bazaar behind Gray's Inn Road: it promotes the exchange of all commodities upon 'the only equitable principle' of giving 'equal values of labour'; he suggests that the growing number of trade unions should unite in a single body

Crane's Black Lead and Washing Blue Works stand between York Way and Balfe Street in what is now Albion Yard

The Free Hospital is the only hospital in London to treat victims of the prevailing cholera epidemic

The Reform Act

1833

Act of Parliament establishes that the London and Birmingham Railway will build the first railway line to London: it will terminate at Camden Town

Pentonville Estate is still being developed 60 years after its beginning

25 houses stand in Copenhagen Street

Robert Owen's Equitable Labour Exchange moves to Charlotte Street

St Pancras Vestry supports a scheme to encourage young women to emigrate to New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land

1834

Six agricultural labourers from the village of Tolpuddle in Dorset are sentenced to transportation to Australia because they had formed a society which attempted to resist their bosses' attempts to cut their wages

An ancient pathway is developed as the residential Brill Terrace which later becomes Brill Street

The Grand National Consolidated Trade Union is formed: within a week it has over half a million members

The Poor Law Amendment Act insists that more workhouses should be built

April 21: A huge meeting in support of the Tolpuddle Martyrs takes place in Copenhagen Fields: after the meeting 30,000 protestors march to Downing Street; their protests are unsuccessful but the campaign continues

1835

Madame Tussaud exhibits her waxworks in The London Horse and Carriage Repository

An Amending Act of Parliament authorises the London and Birmingham Railway to extend its railway line to Euston Grove on the north side of Drummond Street

University College Hospital (originally the North London Hospital) is established

1836

A statue of King George IV (who had been the Prince Regent and had died in 1830) is erected on a high Doric base where New Road (now Euston Road) meets Maiden Lane (now York Way) and Grays Inn Road: this is how King's Cross got its name, developers used it to improve the image of an area that was notorious for poverty and slums

Because of disillusionment with the 1832 Reform Act both The London Working Men's Association and the Chartists are formed to achieve parliamentary democracy as a step towards social and economic reform; the London Working Men's Association fought for:

parliamentary reform

freedom of the press

a system of education

the publication of information on social and industrial problems

The Directors of the Poor in St Pancras point out that the cost of sending a child to the colonies is equal to just one year's stay in the workhouse

William Godwin dies

1837

London and Birmingham Railway's terminus at Euston, first known as Euston Square, opens

Weston House in Weston Place is advertised as an establishment for insane ladies

Queen Victoria ascends to the throne of England and commands that, in recognition for its work in the cholera epidemic of 1832, the Free Hospital becomes the Royal Free Hospital

Sir John Soane, architect of the Bank of England, is buried in St Giles Churchyard

March: Charles Dickens moves into 48 Doughty Street (and stays till December 10, 1839)

May 31: Joseph Grimaldi, the greatest of English clowns dies aged 57; he is buried in the gardens of St James Church, Pentonville Road

Rowland Hill, inventor of the penny post, moves into 2, Cartwright Square and stays till 1839

Antonio Panizzi becomes Keeper of Printed Books and, later, Principal Librarian at the British Museum: he says that the only way to deal with the lack of space for the collections is to build a huge rotunda in the inner courtyard

John Constable dies

1838

Serious outbreak of smallpox in Somers Town

The Doric Arch at Euston Station (architect: Philip Hardwick) is completed

William Makepeace Thackeray, novelist, moves into 13, Great Ormond Street and stays till 1843

Charles Darwin moves into Gower Street and stays till 1842

The Tolpuddle Martyrs are returned to England

1839

The Chartists send Thomas Atwood to the House of Commons to present their Charter; in it they demand that every native Englishman over the age of 21 and not convicted of a felony and every foreigner who has been resident for two years should have the right to vote

Euston Railway Hotel (architect: Philip Hardwick) opens, it is the world's first station hotel

1840's

The parish of St Pancras is split into 21 districts, each with its own Board responsible for collecting rubbish, and all are at war with one another - Christopher Mayhew

1840

The beginning of Agar Town, between St Pancras Way and the Workhouse (now part of St Pancras Hospital) where workers (many believed to be Irish) are sold land on 21 year leases on which to build their own homes: it was looked upon by others as a notorious slum

A model public baths is founded in Chalton Street

1841

Sir Henry Bessemer, who invented a very economical and efficient process for making steel (the Bessemer Converter) which made him a millionaire,

moves into Church Hill and stays till 1862

The last entertainments at Bagnigge Wells take place

Semi-detached villas and cottages are built in Gifford Street, Lyon Street and Bemerton Street

The Metropolitan Association for the Improvement of the Dwellings of the Industrious Classes is formed by Thomas Southwell Smith, the Rector of Spitalfields, Lord Grosvenor and Charles Gatliff

George Birkbeck dies

1842

The St Pancras Vestry orders the statue of the king to be pulled down because it is a nuisance to traffic

A Railway Clearing House dealing with ticketing and safety on the railways is begun in Eversholt Street

Edwin Chadwick's Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Population of Great Britain is published

The London General Institution for the Gratuitous Care of Malignant Diseases (the Royal Free Hospital) moves to an empty barracks on the eastern side of Grays Inn Road

The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain establishes the School of Pharmacy in Bloomsbury Square

The development of North Street (now Northdown Street) is completed

1844

Robert Owen's ideas come to fruition with the foundation of what eventually became the Co-operative Society in Rochdale, Lancashire

Samuel Phelps takes over Sadlers Wells and performances of Shakespeare's plays take place there

1845

The Doric base where the statue of George IV once stood is demolished

The first delivery of coal to London by rail is made by The London and Birmingham Railway

End of a two year period in which 10,000 people were buried in St Pancras and St Giles Churchyards after a cholera epidemic

The Society for Improving the Condition of the Working Classes opens 23 family dwellings (designed by Henry Roberts) in Pakenham Street off King's

Cross Road

A Royal Commission is appointed to consider ways of relieving traffic congestion in London: Charles Pearson, the Surveyor to the City of London, suggests that people should be transported beneath the ground: shock and horror in Parliament

1846

Act of Parliament establishes the Great Northern Railway to connect York with London

Act of Parliament authorises the building of a railway line from Camden Town to the West India Docks in Blackwall (this is the beginning of the North London Line)

A Royal Commission recommends that no railway should be allowed further into London than the New Road

St Bartholomews's Hospital sells both hospitals at King's Cross to the Great Northern Railway, who demolish them to make way for their terminus

Islington Guardian first published (defunct 1974)

The development of Caledonian Crescent (now Keystone Crescent) is completed

Canonbury Tavern is built on the site of an earlier teagarden

21 December: The first recorded operation under ether carried out in Europe is performed by Robert Liston at University College Hospital

1847

The Metropolitan Association for the Improvement of the Dwellings of the Industrious Classes builds the 5 storey Metropolitan Buildings (designed by William Moffat) in Chenies Place: these are London's first ever purpose built flats (110 dwellings) and its first ever high rise

30 houses are completed by George Crane in Albion Street (later Balfe Street)

The Great Hall (architect: Philip Hardwick), the new entrance to Euston Station, is completed

1848

Thornhill Square is laid out

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood is founded by Holman Hunt, John Millais and Dante Gabriel Rossetti at 87, Gower Street (now 7, Gower Street)

The Public Health Act

1849

Elisabeth Reid establishes the Ladies College in Bedford Square, afterwards Bedford College

1850's

The New Bridge is built across the Regents Canal to link with the new Camden Square development

Professional running competitions take place on the Old Cope Track in Copenhagen Fields

The villas in Bemerton Street are replaced by terraces

Copenhagen Street Ragged School is founded

1850

August 7: The Great Northern Railway temporary terminus opens north of Regents Canal immediately to the west of Maiden Lane (one of the earlier names of York Way): it is called Maiden Lane Station

The Goods Yard (59 acres: designed by Lewis Cubitt) is completed

The Railway Clearing House is formally established by Parliament to oversee all transactions by private railway companies

September 26: The East and West India Docks and Birmingham Junction Railway runs trains from Bow to Islington and extends the service to Camden Town on December 7

1851

The Granary and the coal drops open

The first stabling for horses (500 of them) on the railway lands is provided beneath the transit shed platforms

The Great Northern Hotel (100 rooms: architect: Lewis Cubitt) is completed

The eastern coal drops are built

The Flaxman Gallery opens in the Wilkins Building at University College London

The Hospital for Sick Children is founded in Great Ormond Street

1852

The building of the Coal and Fish Offices is begun

Gasworks Tunnel under the canal opens

Maiden Lane Bridge is rebuilt

14 October: King's Cross Station (architect: Lewis Cubitt) opens in its present position

The old Maiden Lane Station north of the canal is converted into a potato market in 3 days

The Zion Chapel is built behind Goldington Crescent

The Metropolitan Internment Act

Copenhagen House is demolished

There are 132 ragged schools across London with 26,000 children being educated in them

1853

The Sanitary Committee of St Pancras recommends that residents purify their homes

Islington Vestry enforces the painting of street name panels

The East and West India Docks and Birmingham Junction Railway changes its name to the North London Railway

The government orders St Pancras Vestry not to bury any more bodies in its churchyard

1854

Easter: The Great Northern Hotel opens

The Working Men's College is founded by Frederick Denison Maurice, John Ruskin, Charles King'sley and Thomas Hughes in Red Lion Square, Holborn

St Pancras Vestry buys 88 acres at Horse Shoe Farm on Finchley Common to serve as a cemetery and then sells some of the land to Islington Vestry

July 25: St Pancras and Islington Cemetery at Finchley becomes the first municipal cemetery in the country

The Elephant and Castle pub in Pancras Road is licensed as a theatre (till 1891)

Randall's 4 acre tile field and kiln to the east of Maiden Lane is surrounded by terraced streets

The Metropolitan Board of Works is set up in London

1855

The Corporation of London establishes the Caledonian Cattle Market to the east of York Way on the site of Copenhagen House and fields, it has yards for 7000 cattle, 42,000 sheep, 8 abattoirs and lodgings for drovers

The Metropolitan Management Act sets up elected vestries across London: Islington becomes a civil metropolitan parish divided into 8 wards

A cement depot stands at Thornhill Wharf on the Regents Canal just before the western entrance to the Islington Tunnel

1856

Nearly 200,000 tons of coal is transferred from trains to canal barges at King's Cross during the year

The Great Northern Hospital funded by Sherard Freeman Statham is built facing King's Cross Station from the eastern side of York Way; treatment is free

July 26: George Bernard Shaw is born in Dublin

St Luke's Church (architect: John Johnson) is started where St Pancras Station is now

Islington Gazette first published

St Pancras appoints Dr Hillier of University College Hospital as Medical Officer for the area

1857

The Midland Railway takes a lease on the carriage shed next to the Granary

The Deanery of St Pancras is created

The Round Reading Room at the British Museum opens

The Camden section of the New Road becomes Euston Road

Probably the year in which Carlo Gatti's Ice House is built on the eastern wharf of Battlebridge Basin

92 cowhouses in St Pancras

The Working Men's College moves to 45, Great Ormond Street, formerly the home of Lord Chancellor Thurlow; its teachers include Ford Maddox Brown, John Ruskin and Dante Gabriel Rossetti

1858

The Midland Railway starts running some of its trains into King's Cross rather than Euston

The clearance of some of Agar Town is authorised for the erection of the Midland Railway's Coal Depot

The Vestry Clerk of St Pancras absconds with funds

The Director of the Poor in St Pancras absconds with funds

The assistant surgeon at St Pancras Workhouse is dismissed for immoral conduct with a female inmate

Brill Street Market is suppressed as a nuisance

February: The Boys Home for the Maintenance by their own labour of Destitute Boys not Convicted of Crime opens at No 44 Euston Road: the boys are each taught a trade and it is the first to be registered as an industrial school

November 17: Robert Owen dies

The Fleet River is encased in a tunnel and becomes part of the London sewerage system

1859

Work begins on the underground Metropolitan Railway from Paddington to Farringdon, the world's first underground railway: this causes The Great Northern Hospital to be moved

Thomas Macaulay dies

1860's

Pancras Bridge and the New Bridge are both demolished

The German Gymnastics Society is formed and a Turnhalle (gymnasium) is commissioned

Victoria Wharf, just east of Battlebridge Basin, is constructed: Thorley's Cattle Food Mill is on the site

Mary Tealby starts at home for lost dogs in the stables in Hollingsworth Street

Corn warehouses line Pembroke Wharf just to the east of Victoria Wharf

1860

The western coal drops are completed

800 horses are at work at King's Cross

The Imperial Gas Company buys out some of the lessees in Agar Town cheaply and erects two groups of two (doublet) telescopic gasholders there

The Agar family sells Elm Lodge

The London sewerage system is completed by Joseph Bazalgette: the Fleet River, encased in a pipe, is part of it

The Victoria Press is established in Great Coram Street by Emily Faithfull of the Society for Promoting the Employment of Women so that women can get jobs in the printing industry

The development of Gordon Square is completed

Hampstead and Highgate Express first published

11 June: The *Evening Standard* first published

1861

May 30: St Luke's Church at St Pancras is consecrated

1862

Elm Lodge is surrounded by the Midland Railway Goods Yard

Factory chimneys line the canal in west Islington

A second arrival platform is built at King's Cross Station

The underground pipe carrying the Fleet River bursts and delays the construction of the Metropolitan Railway

Elizabeth Garrett (afterwards Elizabeth Garrett Anderson) applies to the University of London to be a candidate for the Matriculation exam: she is refused permission

1863

January 10: The Metropolitan Railway opens

Fig Lane is renamed Crowndale Road

A second ice well is constructed in Carlo Gatti's ice house at Battlebridge Basin

The Whigs, led by William Gladstone, become The Liberal Party

Outbreak of smallpox in St Pancras

St Jude's Church (architect: Joseph Peacock) is erected in Grays Inn Road

Cobden Buildings in King's Cross Road (formerly Bagnigge Wells Road) are erected by the Improved Industrial Dwellings Company

William Makepeace Thackeray dies

1864

Work begins on the Midland Railway's line into London; the company's Chief Engineer is William Barlow

St Pancras Ironworks is established in Pancras Road

The Great Northern Hospital opens in Pembroke House, Caledonian Road

October: The Working Women's College is founded in Queen Square by Elizabeth Malleson

1865

The hydraulic accumulator, an ingenious piece of engineering, is installed in the Midland Shed

The Midland Railway's Coal Depot is completed

In Cambridge Road houses, stables and canal side wharves are cleared for the erection of a viaduct by Samuel Plimsoll which brings the railway across the canal and which has a series of bays underneath where coalmen can trans-ship coal from trains onto their carts

The construction of a group of three telescopic gasholders (the triplet) is completed at the corner of Wharf Road and Old St Pancras Road (now Goods Way and Pancras Road)

The German Gymnasium (designed by Edward Gruning) is completed in Pancras Road; it is the earliest surviving purpose built public gymnasium in the country

Ernest Ravenstein, one of the Directors of the German Gymnastics Society, organises the National Olympian Games in London

The erection of the five blocks of Stanley Buildings by the Improved Industrial Dwelling Company (whose Chairman was Lord Stanley) is completed; each has a wrought iron spiral staircase at one end and this is the first time balconies are used for access to dwellings

11 entries are submitted in the competition to design the hotel that the Midland Railway plan to build at St Pancras Station

The Boys Home for the Maintenance by their own labour of Destitute Boys not Convicted of Crime moves to Regents Park Road

National outbreak of cattle plague

October 31: Broad Street Station (architect: William Baker) opens, connecting the North London Line with the City

Elizabeth Anderson (later Elizabeth Garrett Anderson) qualifies in Medicine through the Society of Apothecaries and becomes one of the first two women to be enrolled on the Medical Register

1866

Samuel Plimsoll's coal drops open on the western side of the canal

The designs for the Midland Grand Hotel submitted by Sir Gilbert Scott are accepted after revisions are made to the originals

The indoor events at the National Olympian Games are held at the new German Gymnasium in Pancras Road, the outdoor events are held on the River Thames and at Crystal Palace

The Star Public House in Goldington Street is a popular music hall

The Midland Railway obtains parliamentary consent to demolish the remaining houses in Agar Town and build the railway line into St Pancras Station over the land

Brewer's Engineering Works stands on York Way just north of Caledonia Street

St Pancras is the most densely populated part of the London Metropolis

Bodies in St Pancras Churchyard that were accidentally disinterred by the construction of Midland Railways' line into St Pancras Station are reburied; macabre stories had been reported of workmen playing football with skulls

March: Dr Hillier, Medical Officer for St Pancras, also becomes Examiner for Gas because of the high level of ammonia in domestic gas produced by the Imperial Gas Company

The London Mechanics Institution becomes the Birkbeck Literary and Scientific Institution

The University of London institutes special examinations for women

1867

The wooden ribs of the eastern train shed roof at King's Cross are replaced by iron ribs

St Pancras Basin is excavated

Rail deliveries of coal to London exceed deliveries by sea for the first time

St Pancras Water Point is erected

St Luke's Church is taken down to make way for St Pancras Station

The Reform Act gives the vote to every male adult householder living in a borough constituency

William Marsden dies

1868

The Midland Railway stops using King's Cross Station

1869

The Western Booking Hall at St Pancras Station is completed; the block of offices built to the north of it is eventually named Barlow House

Construction of The Midland Grand Hotel (eventually St Pancras Chambers) begins

St George the Martyr in Queen Square is restored

Over 200 dogs are kept at Mrs Tealby's dogs' home in Hollingsworth Street

Nine girls take special examinations for females at the University of London, six pass

Oswulf's Stone disappears from Tyburn

1870s

Elm Lodge is used by the Midland Railway as offices

The Great Northern Stable stands at the southern end of the eastern side of York Way opposite King's Cross Station

1870

The Midland Railway's transshipment basin for coal on the canal at St Pancras opens

The Ebonite Tower is built for the calibration of water testing devices on the east side of York Way

The Elementary Education Act makes education up to the age of 12 free and compulsory

Jun 9: Charles Dickens dies

November 29: The London School Board is established

December 15: The London School Board's first meeting takes place

1871

Weston Place is demolished along with nearby Smith Street, Denton Street, and Perry Street

October: The Slade School of Fine Art opens at University College London

Mrs Tealby's dogs' home moves to Battersea

Horse drawn trams arrive in Islington

1872

Horse drawn trams arrive in St Pancras

The Ballot Act introduces voting in elections by secret ballot

1873

May 5: The Midland Grand Hotel (300+ rooms) opens to the public

Two new platforms are built to the west of King's Cross Station

October 6: The London Temperance Hospital, where the use of alcohol to treat patients is discouraged, admits its first patients at 112, Gower Street

Medburn Street Board Schools open in Werrington Street

1874

An application by the Midland Railway for the demolition of St Pancras Old Church and Churchyard is refused

The Midland Railway acquires the site where the British Library stands now for its Somers Town Goods Depot: their application to build is granted resulting in the demolition of the 4,000 homes of 10,000 people

The London School of Medicine for Women (later The Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine) is founded by Sophia Jex-Blake in Hunter Street; Sophia Jex-Blake is also one of its first 14 students

The poet Christina Rossetti moves into 30, Torrington Square

7 Board schools open in St Pancras

York Way Board School is built on the west side of Randall's tile field

The Working Women's College amalgamates with the Working Men's College

St Pancras Vestry decides to supply public electric lighting and becomes the first vestry in London with the power to manufacture electricity

1875

The 'Lighthouse Building' at the northern end of Grays Inn Road is erected

The St Pancras and St Giles in the Fields Burial Ground Act creates a statutory trust in St Pancras Garden

The St Pancras Guardian first published

1876

The west wing of the Midland Grand Hotel is completed

George Bernard Shaw comes to London

Act of Parliament permits women to sit medical examinations

1877

June 28: St Pancras Gardens opens to the public

St Pancras Vestry buys another 94 acres at Finchley Common to expand its cemetery

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is founded at 26 Queen Square by William Morris who vigorously opposes everything Sir Gilbert Scott designs

Gifford Street Board School is built

The London General Institution for the Gratuitous Care of Malignant Diseases (the Royal Free Hospital) is the first hospital to admit women as students

Millicent Fawcett, campaigner for women's rights and sister of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, moves to 2, Gower Street and stays till 1922

The University of London allows women to take degrees in all its faculties

1878

February: The Gas Works Tunnel under the canal is doubled

Brewer Street is renamed Midland Road

University College London opens its examinations to women on equal terms to men and becomes the first educational institution for both sexes

The houses on the site designated for the Somers Town Goods Depot are cleared

Copenhagen Street Ragged School is closed

Sadlers Wells Theatre is refused a licence for safety reasons

Samuel Phelps, manager of Sadlers Wells, dies

Sir Gilbert Scott dies

1879

George Bernard Shaw is working for the Edison Telephone Company

October 9: A new theatre at Sadlers Wells (architect: C. J. Phipps) opens

Sir Antonio Panizzi dies

68 women sit for the Matriculation examination at the University of London, 51 pass

1880's

Elm Lodge is demolished

500 music halls are open in London

1880

Bedford College becomes part of the University of London

The first four women to obtain Bachelor of Arts degrees do so at the University of London

1881

By this time Old St Pancras Road has become Pancras Road

The Coroner's Court is erected in St Pancras Gardens

The Social Revolutionary and Anarchists Conference takes place at the Brewers Hall Public House in Charrington Street

Two women obtain Bachelor of Science degrees at the University of London

1882

A Sainsbury's Grocers Shop opens at 87, Chalton Street

The first two women to graduate in Medicine do so at the London School of Medicine for Women

Mary Ward moves into 61, Russell Square and stays till 1890

The Electric Lighting Act

1883

Work starts on the construction of the Somers Town Goods Depot

The Fabian Society is formed; they believe that capitalism has created an unjust and inefficient society and that the ultimate aim of the group should be to construct society in accordance with the highest moral possibilities

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson becomes Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women

Lewis Cubitt dies

1884

The Disused Burial Grounds Act stops developers building on cemeteries

St George's Gardens is opened to the public

George Bernard Shaw joins the Fabian Society

Sophie Bryant, a student at the University of London, becomes the first woman to obtain a doctorate

1885

Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes

St Pancras Workhouse is extended

The London Temperance Hospital moves from Gower Street to a new site in Hampstead Road

The National Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System is founded in Queen Square

1887

A bridge is built across the canal to carry the Midland Railway line into St Pancras station

St Pancras Station (110 feet tall from the top of a 14 feet high bank) is completed

Somers Town Goods Depot is completed

Maiden Lane Station, on the North London Railway, is built

A school is built between Edwards Square and Buckingham Street

1888

A set of roofs is built to encase the potato market on three sides

1889

An Act of Parliament is obtained by the Midland Railway allowing them to take more land from St Pancras Garden for railway tracks

The London County Council is set up to govern 117 square miles around the City of London; the Progressive Party is elected by majority vote to lead it

The construction of Holy Cross Church in Cromer Street is completed

Emmeline Pankhurst, suffragette, moves into 8, Russell Square and stays till 1893

1890's

King's Cross Station is enlarged

Middlesex Street is renamed Purchase Street

1890

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, who had been the first Englishwoman to qualify in medicine (in Paris), opens the New Hospital for Women (architect: J. M. Brydon) on the corner of Euston Road and Churchway; it is run for and by women

Mary Ward is one of the founders of a settlement at University Hall, Gordon Square for religious teaching and social work

The foundation stone of St Pancras Vestry's generating station is laid in Stanhope Road

1891

The Polygon is demolished

The remodelled St Pancras Garden opens to the public

1892

June: The Gas Works Tunnel under the canal is tripled

The construction of Culross Buildings as homes for railway servants is completed by the Great Northern Railway and named after its Chairman

St Pancras Vestry starts supplying street lighting in Euston Road

1892

The East End Dwelling Company erects blocks of flats in Tankerton Street

1893

St Pancras Vestry is prevented from erecting a bandstand in St Pancras Garden by an injunction

Emmeline Pankhurst dies

1894

Christina Rossetti dies

1895

The poet W. B. Yeats moves into 5, Woburn Walk and stays till 1919

May 1: *An Anarchist Manifesto* priced at one halfpenny is published by the London Anarchist Communist Alliance at the Metropolitan Printing Works, 127, Ossulston Street

1896

February: Norman Collie takes the first x-ray photograph ever used for clinical purposes in England at University College Hospital; it is of a thumb

1897

A roof is added over the potato market road

A new warehouse is built over the coal and stone basin; the western coal drops are turned into a goods shed

The number of wards in Islington is increased to 11

May: George Bernard Shaw's first appearance as a St Pancras Vestryman

1898

The Midland Railway's 7 acre Purchase Street Coal Depot opens

A pumping station (designed by Sir John Wolfe) is constructed at St Pancras lock

The Passmore Edwards Settlement (architects: Dunbar Smith and Cecil Brewer) is built in Tavistock Place to house the settlement for religious teaching and social work founded by Mary Ward and others in 1890

Samuel Plimsoll dies

1899

The southern end of the Eastern coal drops is converted to warehouse use

The construction of the Western Goods Shed is completed

The construction of Churchway Estate is completed by the London County Council

The London Government Act: the Metropolitan Boroughs of St Pancras, Holborn and Islington are created along with 25 others: the councillors take office the following year

1900

February 27: The Labour Party is founded in Farringdon Street by representatives of the Independent Labour Party, the Social Democratic Federation and the Fabian Society

1,500 horses are at work on the railway lands for the Great Northern Railway

William Ramsay has by this time, after working on it over a five year period at University College London, discovered all 5 of the inert gases

The Euston Palace of Varieties (designed by Bertie Crewe) opens at the corner of Euston Road and Tonbridge Street on Boxing Day

The London School of Medicine for Women becomes part of the University of London

Sophie Bryant becomes the first female member of the Senate of the University of London

The 11th Duke of Bedford becomes the first mayor of the London Borough of Holborn

John Ruskin dies

1901

The City and South London Railway (the first true tube) from Stockwell to King William Street in the City is extended to the Angel, Islington

1902

The East End Dwellings Company opens residential blocks at the corner of Thornhill Road and Offord Road

The St Pancras Progressive Party is elected by a majority vote to lead the borough council

Euston Road Fire Station is built by the London County Council

School boards are abolished: control passes to new local education authorities, in London the Inner London Education Authority

The London Day Training College is founded by the L.C. C.

Artisans' houses, called Thornhill Houses, are built on the corner of Thornhill Road and Barnsbury by the East End Dwellings Company

Gertrude Stein moves into 40, Bloomsbury Square

William Barlow dies

1903

The end of George Bernard Shaw's career as a St Pancras Councillor

The Workers Education Association is formed

1904

The St Pancras Works stops manufacturing gas

The foundation stone for the new premises of The Working Men's College is laid by the Prince of Wales in Crowndale Road

George Bernard Shaw fails in his bid to be elected to the London County Council as a Progressive

William Ramsay becomes the first Briton to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry

Ambrose Fleming, at University College London, discovers the thermionic valve which makes wireless and, later, electronic technology possible

The London School of Tropical Medicine becomes part of the University of London

Medurn Street Board Schools become the Stanley Schools

The Goldington Buildings are erected by St Pancras Council

The East End Dwellings Company erects blocks of flats in Tonbridge Street

1906

January: The Working Men's College (architect: W. D. Caroe) opens

York Road Underground Station opens

King's Cross Laundry stands on the south side of Caledonia Street between York Way and Caledonian Road

University College Hospital moves to what is now known as the Cruciform Building opposite the main gates of University College London in Gower Street: the Cruciform Building is now part of UCL

The Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton Railway (now the Piccadilly Line) links Finsbury Park with Hammersmith

The Open Spaces Act: St Pancras Garden is not held by St Pancras Council under this act but it is a trustee

1907

The City and South London Railway (the first to be formed by tunnelling rather than cut and cover) is extended from the Angel, Islington to King's Cross and Euston (it later becomes incorporated in the City Branch of the Northern Line)

St Pancras School for Mothers opens in the People's Hall, Chalton Street to give cooking demonstrations and to provide meals for expectant mothers

The London Day Training College moves to new headquarters in Southampton Row

The Birkbeck Literary and Scientific Institution becomes Birkbeck College

1908

The Magdalen College (Oxford) Mission comes to Somers Town to assist the pastoral work of St Mary's Church

St Pancras Council erects 84 new dwellings (designed by Joseph and Smithern) in Flaxman Terrace

1909

All the tram lines in London are electrified

1910

Stafford Cripps becomes President of the Students' Union at University College London; he becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1947

1911

127 Ossulston Street is the office of *Freedom*, an anarchist newspaper

94 cinemas are open in London

Marie Stopes becomes a lecturer in paleobotany at University College London

1912

The North Building of the quadrangle at University College London (architect: F. M. Simpson) opens on Gower Place

1913

Bedford College moves to Regent's Park

Sophia Jex-Blake dies

1914

The artist Paul Nash moves into Flat 176, Queen Alexandra Mansions, Bidborough Street

Sadlers Wells Theatre becomes a cinema

The German Gymnasium closes

1915

The Department of Chemistry at University College London moves into the new Gower Place building

1916

Maiden Lane Station on the North London Railway is hit by a bomb

Ambrose Fleming dies

Sir William Ramsay dies

1917

July: The German Gymnasium and St Pancras Station are both damaged in an air raid and an air attack is made on The Somers Town Goods Yard

The School of Oriental Studies becomes a school of the University of London

as soon as it is founded in Finsbury Circus

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson dies and The New Hospital for Women which she founded is named after her

1918

February: Legislation is passed allowing women over 30 to vote

Sadlers Wells cinema is derelict

December 2: Women vote

1920's

The building of Levita House, named after the Chairman of the London County Council, Sir Cecil Bingham Levita, and the largest block of the Ossulston Street estate is begun

Vera Brittain rents a flat at 52, Doughty Street

1920

Mary Ward dies and the centre she inspired in Tavistock Place where working class adults could obtain an education is named after her (the building is still there but the Mary Ward Centre itself is now in Queen Square)

Dorothy Sayers moves into 44, Mecklenburgh Square and moves out the following year

The Bartlett School of Architecture opens in the Pearson Building at University College London

Birkbeck College becomes a school of the University of London

The Seamen's Hospital Society opens The Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Gordon Street

1921

Potatoes and other vegetables traded at King's Cross this year amount to 124,000 tons of produce

The Imperial Gas Works is demolished

Father Basil Jellicoe becomes the leader of the Magdalen College Mission

Wharf Road is renamed Goods Way (the present Wharf Road runs parallel to the north of the Regents Canal west of York Way)

David Copperfield Library for Children is opened in Cranleigh Street by the Children's Libraries Movement

The construction of The King's Cross Cinema (now the Scala) is completed

The Institute of Historical Research is founded

1922

48, Doughty Street, where Charles Dickens had once lived, is in danger of being demolished

Sophie Bryant, the first woman to obtain a doctorate at the University of London, dies

1923

Maiden Lane Bridge is rebuilt

1924

The foundation of St Pancras House Improvement Society (later the St Pancras Housing Association SPHA) in Charrington Street by Father Basil Jellicoe

King's Cross Station is enlarged

The Dickens Fellowship buys 48, Doughty Street

The School of Hygiene opens

The Hogarth Press, founded by Leonard and Virginia Woolf in Richmond, moves with them to 52, Tavistock Square

St Pancras Guardian ceases publication

1925

St Pancras House Improvement Society buys 8 houses in Gee Road (now Polygon Road)

The School of Pharmacy becomes part of the University of London

George Bernard Shaw is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature

Dickens House, 48 Doughty Street, opens to the public

1926

St Pancras People's Theatre is founded by Edith Neville at the Mary Ward Settlement in Tavistock Place

The Foundling Hospital moves out of Coram's Fields, first to Reading and then to new premises in Berkhamstead, then buys back some of the land it sold to build a new headquarters there (40, Brunswick Square; architect: John Sheppard)

The pumping station at St Pancras lock is converted into a lock keeper's cottage

1927

Father Basil Jellicoe resigns from the Magdalen College Mission to work full time for the St Pancras House Improvement Society

The building of Chamberlain House, the first block of the Ossulston Estate, by London County Council is begun: it is named after Neville Chamberlain

The Friends' House, the headquarters of The Society of Friends (the Quakers), opens on Euston Road opposite Euston Station

The University of London acquires a site on the east side of Malet Street from the Duke of Bedford on which to build its proposed new headquarters

The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism by George Bernard Shaw is published

1928

Hugh Gaitskell becomes a lecturer in Economics at University College London and stays till 1939; he later becomes Leader of the Labour Party

Lilian Bayliss takes over the Sadlers Wells Theatre

Millicent (Garrett) Fawcett dies

1929

Father Basil Jellicoe becomes the landlord of The Anchor Public House which serves only beer and cheap lunches

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (architect: Verner O. Rees) is established in Keppel Street as part of the University of London

The School of Pharmacy acquires a site for new premises in Brunswick Square

1930's

The first Greek Cypriots to arrive move into Somers Town

1930

The complete redevelopment of Cromer Street is begun

St Pancras People's Theatre moves to Charrington Hall

A Women's Turkish Baths opens in Queen Square

November 17: The first patients are treated at The Eastman Dental Institute of The Royal Free Hospital, established this same year on land next to the Royal Free's main buildings in Grays Inn Road with £200,000 provided by George Eastman,

1931

Somers Town Estate is completed in Werrington Street

A locomotive coaling plant is added to the goods yard

Connaught Hall, a residence for male students, opens at the north of Torrington Square

March: Construction of the Wellcome Research Institution (architect: Septimus Warwick) in Euston Road begins

The new Sadlers Wells Theatre opens and embarks on a distinguished run of productions

1932

Euston Palace of Varieties becomes a cinema

The London Temperance Hospital becomes the National Temperance Hospital

The London Day Training College becomes the Institute of Education

College Hall, a residence for female students, is rebuilt in Malet Place

March: The Wellcome Building is completed

1933

The foundation stone of Senate House (architect: Charles Holden), Headquarters of the University of London, is laid in Malet Street

J. B. S. Haldane becomes Professor of Genetics at University College London

1934

March 8: London County Council is run for the first time by the Labour Party; no other political party ever runs the L. C. C. again

1935

The Midland Grand Hotel closes due to poor profits, it is converted into offices for the London Midland and Scottish Railway

The Red Players Theatre Group is formed at St Jude's National School in Britannia Street off Grays Inn Road and soon changes its name to the Unity Theatre

1936

Coram's Fields Playground (The Harmsworth Memorial Playground) opens

August 21: Senate House opens

The Euston Road School of Painting is founded by William Coldstream, Victor

Pasmore and Claud Rogers

Paul Nash leaves Bidborough Street

Battle Bridge Flats (designed by John Gower) are built at the corner of Battlebridge Road and Goodway as demonstration flats for the British Steelwork Association

St Jude's Church in Grays Inn Road is demolished

The building of the Barnsbury Estate begins

Henry Wellcome dies

1937

The Ossulston Estate is completed (514 dwellings)

Red Lion Passage is renamed Stanley Passage

The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism by George Bernard Shaw becomes the first title in the new series of Pelicans published by Allen Lane

The Institute of Archaeology is founded by Sir Mortimer Wheeler

The Royal Veterinary College is rebuilt

November 25: The Unity Theatre opens at the old Zion Chapel behind Goldington Street where it has moved from Britannia Street

Cambridge Street, once the centre of Agar Town, is renamed Camley Street

1938

York Road is renamed York Way

The new Hospital for Sick Children is completed in Great Ormond Street

Tavistock House (architect Sir Edward Luytens), the headquarters of the British Medical Association in Tavistock Square, is completed

The Institute of Education moves from Southampton Row to Senate House

The School of Oriental Studies becomes The School of Oriental and African Studies

Work is begun on the School of Pharmacy's new premises in Brunswick Square

St Pancras Housing Association's Sidney Estate is completed

Paul Robeson appears at the Unity Theatre unpaid and as an ordinary cast member: he had been refused entry into a party given in his honour at the Savoy Grill in 1929 because he was black

July 3: The Mallard, a locomotive of the London and North Eastern Railway, reaches the speed of 126 miles per hour, breaking the world speed record for steam locomotion; the record has still not been broken

Rumours abound that the Doric Arch at Euston Station is going to be demolished

1939

The Metropolitan Cattle Market closes

The Hogarth Press, founded by Virginia and Leonard Woolf, moves to 37, Mecklenburgh Square

Work stops on the building of the new home of the School of Oriental and African Studies (architect: Charles Holden) on the south side of Woburn Square because of the outbreak of war

1940's

Josephine Macalister Brew, pioneer youth worker, moves into Grafton Buildings, Churchway

1940

St Pancras People's Theatre at the Mary Ward Settlement in Tavistock Place is destroyed in an air raid

May 11: King's Cross Station is bombed

The Great Hall and the Library at University College London are bombed

September 8: Mecklenburgh Square is hit with high explosives and incendiary bombs

September: The British Museum is bombed

October 16: a 1000 kilogram bomb destroys the London Underground tunnels between King's Cross and Farringdon: 14 people die

October: The Round Reading Room in the British Museum is bombed

1941

March: Underground services between King's Cross and Farringdon resume

March 9: The platforms and roof at King's Cross Station are badly damaged by a bomb: two die and three people are injured

April: Metropolitan Buildings in Chenies Place, London's first ever purpose

built flats and first ever high rise, are destroyed by a parachute mine which causes 77 deaths

May 10: The south west corner of the British Museum is destroyed by a bomb

The South Cloisters at University College London are bombed

1942

Norman Collie dies

1943

Kathleen Lonsdale is imprisoned for refusing to register for Civil Defence duty

In the Service of Youth by Josephine Macalister Brew is published

1944

The Warburg Institute, based on the library of Aby Warburg which had been smuggled out of Hamburg in Nazi Germany in 1933, joins the University of London

1945

The Wellcome Library opens in the Wellcome Building

Kathleen Lonsdale becomes one of the first two women elected as Fellows of the Royal Society

1946

Plans are proposed to demolish and rebuild King's Cross Station: nothing came of them

The Inland Waterways Association is founded

Caledonian Market is no longer used for storing army vehicles

Informal Education: Adventures and Reflections by Josephine Macalister Brew is published

Paul Nash dies

1947

The St Pancras Arts and Civic Council is formed

York Way Court is completed (293 flats and maisonettes)

Naish Court is completed (212 flats and maisonettes)

All medical schools in England become co-educational which means that men are allowed to study at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine for the first time

The Wellcome Building becomes the headquarters of the Wellcome Pharmaceutical Company

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies opens at Senate House

1948

Canals and railways in the United Kingdom are nationalised

The National Health Service is established: The Eastman Dental Institute separates from The Royal Free Hospital, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital becomes part of The Royal Free Hospital

1949

Kathleen Lonsdale becomes the first woman professor (of crystallography) at University College London

The Royal Veterinary College becomes part of the University of London

1950's

The demand for coal declines, more and more deliveries are being made by road so the goods yard on the railway lands becomes less active than it was before

The Institute of Commonwealth Studies opens at Senate House

1950

The Chenies and Cecil Rhodes House in Pancras Road are completed

The Institute of Germanic Studies opens at Senate House

Euston Palace of Varieties closes

George Bernard Shaw dies

1951

Birkbeck College moves to a new building in Malet Street (architect: Charles Holden)

1952

Lewis Carroll Children's Library opens in Copenhagen Street

1953

The abattoirs at what was the Metropolitan Cattle Market are finally closed down

Kathleen Lonsdale gives the Swarthmore Lecture, *Removing the Causes of War*

The Institute of Classical Studies is founded at Senate House

The Foundling Hospital becomes the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children

1954

The first St Pancras Arts Festival takes place

The Humanist Housing Association is founded

1955

British Transport Waterways Board is established

The Ladykillers, the film directed by Alexander MacKendrick which used locations in the King's Cross area, is released

The University of London Union building opens in Malet Street.

1956

The last time a barge is towed along the Regents Canal by a horse

The restoration of Woburn Walk, behind St Pancras New Church, begins

The Clean Air Act

A nondescript office block is built to the west of the Wellcome Building: it is later occupied by MI5

1957

Theatro Technis is founded by the Greek Cypriot community in Camden: it presents performances in a number of locations before finding a permanent home

Youth and Youth Groups by Josephine Macalister Brew is published

Kathleen Lonsdale is awarded the Davy Medal of the Royal Society; she also writes *Is Peace Possible?*

Congress House (architect: D. du R. Aberdeen), headquarters of the Trades Union Congress, opens at 23-28, Great Russell Street

Josephine Macalister Brew dies

Dorothy L. Sayers dies

1958

October 6: St Pancras Basin reopens providing moorings for 60 private pleasure craft

The Red Flag flies above St Pancras Town Hall

The Institute of Archaeology's new building on the north side of Gordon Square opens

The new headquarters of the Warburg Institute opens at Woburn Square

Crowndale Court and Godwin Court (named after William Godwin) are completed

The Stanley Schools become the Sir William Collins School

Housman's Bookshop is founded at 5, Caledonian Road

1959

The British Transport Commission proposes to rebuild Euston Station which entails demolishing the Great Hall and the Doric Arch

The School of Pharmacy's new headquarters in Brunswick Square is completed

The Old Seamen's Hospital in Gordon Street becomes the Department of Mathematics at University College London

1960's

The Midland Railway's Coal Drops in Camley Street are demolished; the area becomes a municipal rubbish tip

Islington Council and the London County Council begin to develop the Metropolitan Cattle Market site as a residential area

The gentrification of Barnsbury and Canonbury begins

The School of Pharmacy opens in Brunswick Square

1960

The Islington Society is founded

A Royal Commission recommends that the London County Council be abolished

The decision of the new Conservative administration in St Pancras to introduce a new rent scheme provokes riots both in the council chamber and on the streets; 450 police suppress 2,000 demonstrators outside St Pancras Station and all processions through the borough are banned apart from religious ones

Charles Holden dies

1961

St Pancras Yacht Club is founded at St Pancras Basin

1962

St Pancras Council receives two awards: one for completing the restoration of

Woburn Walk, the other for the renovation of Goldington Crescent

The Women's Turkish Baths in Queen Square closes

The Doric Arch at Euston and the old station are both demolished

1963

The London Government Act and the creation of the Greater London Council

The British Waterways Board is created

The statue of Thomas Coram is erected in Brunswick Square

The Mallard is retired from service on the King's Cross to Edinburgh run (it is now on display at the National Rail Museum at York)

The Beeching Report results in rationalisation of the rail network and a huge cut in railway services across the country

A Hard Days Night, the film directed by Richard Lester, is released: some of its scenes are shot in King's Cross

1964

The Barnsbury Association is formed

1965

The tower block, Lulworth, is built

April 1: The boroughs of St Pancras, Holborn and Hampstead are amalgamated to form the London Borough of Camden

The Barnsbury Conservation Area is established

The General and Municipal Workers Building in Endsleigh Gardens becomes the Faculty of Laws at University College London; it is later renamed Bentham House

The Institute of Latin American Studies and the Institute of United States Studies are founded in Tavistock Square

Camden Journal first published

The Greater London Council takes over from the London County Council but it governs 610 square miles as opposed to the 117 square miles governed by the LCC

1966

The British Transport Commission proposes to demolish both King's Cross and St Pancras Stations: permission is denied

The Place Theatre opens in Duke's Road opposite the New St Pancras Church

Kathleen Lonsdale becomes the first woman president of the International Union of Crystallography

Alfie, the film directed by Lewis Gilbert, is released: some of its scenes are set in King's Cross

1967

The clearance of The Crumbles, the Beaconsfield Estate, begins

The Place School of Dance opens

August 6: A tree is planted in Tavistock Square Gardens in memory of the victims of Hiroshima

1968

The Midland Railway's 7 acre Purchase Street Coal Depot closes

The renovation of the Unity Theatre is completed

The Collegiate Theatre opens in Gordon Street

Kathleen Lonsdale becomes the first woman president of the British Association of Science

The Transport Act creates The Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council (IWAAC)

1969

The construction of Agar Grove Estate is completed

14 October: The new Euston Station is opened by The Queen

The first Environmental Impact Assessments are introduced in the USA as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [Social Impact Assessments are integral parts of Environmental Assessments in the USA]; the first EIA is conducted later this year before the start of construction on The Trans-Alaskan Oil Pipeline

1970's

The surviving booking office of Maiden Lane Station on the North London Line is demolished

Coopers Lane Estate is built on the western part of the railway Lands just to the north west of St Pancras Station

Islington Council develops the Packington Estate

The neighbourhood councils initiative establishes the Marchmont Community Centre at 62, Marchmont Street

1970

The southern part of the potato market is demolished

The government says that it is going to build a new British Library opposite the British Museum in Bloomsbury

The housing and shopping complex on the west side of Brunswick Square is planned

1971

April 1: Kathleen Lonsdale dies

April 2: Princess Anne opens The Shaw Theatre (architect: Elidir Davies) on the corner of Euston Road and Ossulston Street opposite The Somers Town Goods Yard

St Pancras Library is built on the north side of Euston Road

The ghost of Charles Dickens visits his one surviving home at 48, Doughty Street

1972

The Amwell Society is founded

Barnsbury is designated a General Improvement Area

A new building is added to the School of Oriental and African Studies in Woburn Square

The Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment takes place - the Action Plan that emerges from this conference is where the concept of sustainability is first advanced

1973

Researchers at University College London make the first UK connection with the internet through a terminal interface message processor at the Rutherford High Energy Laboratory

1974

Regents Canal is declared a Conservation Area and the canal towpath opens to the public

The Turkish Invasion of Northern Cyprus: more Greek Cypriot refugees settle in Somers Town

The Coram Children's Centre opens in Brunswick Square

December 19: The Somers Town Goods Depot is designated by the government to be the site of the new British Library

1975

The Unity Theatre is gutted by fire

Wates House, the new home of the Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning at University College London, opens

September: Camden Council approves the construction of Elm Village on 6 acres of the Midland Railway Goods Yard: Elm Village is originally intended to have 6,000 residents

1976

The Greater London Development Plan is published

The building of Oakshott Court on the site of the Polygon is completed

The building of Maiden Lane Estate begins on the northern part of the railway lands

Charles Clore House on the corner of Bedford Way and Russell Square becomes the home of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

1977

A conservation and cleaning programme begins at the Midland Grand Hotel

York Road Underground Station closes

The Institute of Education's new headquarters (architect: Sir Denys Lasdun) in Bedford Way is completed

1978

The electrification of suburban train services takes place, overhead at King's Cross

A public exhibition is mounted displaying various options for developing the railway lands south of the Regents Canal

March 7: The government decides to go ahead with plans to build the new British Library in Euston Road

The Victoria Line is completed

The Royal Free Hospital's new home in Hampstead is opened by the Queen

Theatro Technis moves into its current home in Crowndale Road

1979

A brown plaque in memory of Mary Wollstonecraft is placed on the wall of

Oakshott Court

The Canal Museum Trust, eventually the governing body of the London Canal Museum, is founded

Rosehaugh is a tiny tea trading company who will soon get together with another company to develop Broadgate

1980

The first tenants move into Maiden Lane Estate

Camden Journal is shut down by its management, who attempt to move its staff to its other papers; staff are on strike till 1982

The Court Theatre is created at the Finborough Arms in Earls Court

European Commission Directive 85/337/EEC: Environmental Impact Assessment is issued (member states must implement this directive by July 1988)

1982

Eric Gordon pays a nominal £1 fee to take over the *Camden Journal*; it emerges as the free *Camden New Journal* in March

Prince Charles lays the foundation stone of the new British Library

The Collegiate Theatre becomes The Bloomsbury Theatre

The University College London building in Gower Place (architect: F. M. Simpson) is renamed the Kathleen Lonsdale Building

The Green Party is founded

1983

The creation of Camley Street Natural Park is begun on the site of the Midland Railway's Coal Drops

Overhead electrification takes place at St Pancras Station

The Coal and Fish Offices are damaged by fire

The Ebonite Tower, on the Islington side of York Way, is demolished

The building of Maiden Lane Estate on the northern part of the railway lands is completed

The company Stanhope is formed by Stuart Lipton; it will soon get together with Rosehaugh to develop Broadgate

1984

St James' Church, Pentonville Road is demolished

Margaret Thatcher's Privatisation Policy is put into action with the sale of British Telecom, British Rail follows soon after, piece by piece

1985

The eastern coal drops are badly damaged by fire

The Greater London Council's Draft Action Area Plan for the railway lands is published

Permission to demolish the Coal and Fish Offices is refused at a public enquiry

May: Fire at Chamberlain House on the Ossulston Estate: 27 flats are destroyed

Camley Street Natural Park opens to the public as a London Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve

The Camden Society is founded

1986

Regents Canal Conservation Area is extended to include the whole of the goods area north of the canal

The Greater London Council is abolished: London has no government for the first time in 131 years and will not have one for another 14

4 of the gasholders on the railway lands are listed (Grade 2)

Somers Town Mural by Karen Gregory on the east wall of St Mary and St Pancras Primary School is completed

November 15: The Planning Committee of Camden Council endorses the role of the King's Cross Conservation Areas Advisory Committee after an initiative taken by Camden Civic Society. Its role is subsequently recognised by Islington too

1987

The United Nations Commission on Environment and Development (The Brundtland Commission) produces the report *Our Common Future* which defines sustainable development as "... development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

May: The Camden Borough Plan is published

A confidential report on the potential of the railway lands for office development prepared for Rosehaugh Stanhope, developers of Broadgate, is

leaked to the *Architects Journal*; the story is later picked up by *Camden New Journal*, then *The Sunday Times*, then *The Guardian*

August: A Railway Lands Community Development Group is set up in a room made freely available for the purpose by the Great Northern Hotel (the King's Cross is added later and the Community Development is dropped - this is the birth of KXRLG)

September 17: The Group, KXRLG, organises a public meeting at The Shaw Theatre: thousands of local people attend

A House of Lords Committee announces that King's Cross Station is the ideal site for the terminus of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link

A KXRLG steering group is convened and meets in the old Inquire Neighbourhood Advice Centre in Somers Town

November: The King's Cross Underground Station fire: 31 people die

December: four different developers submit plans to British Rail for the development of the railway lands

1988

January: *The King's Cross Railway Lands: A Community Planning Brief* is published, Camden Council's first Planning Brief for the Railway Lands; it says

improve the transport interchange

provide housing, employment and recreation for local people

respect the character of the area

safeguard local and strategic views

office provision should depend on the scale of community benefits

the development should demonstrate how regeneration can be achieved through co-operation

The number of potential developers of the railway lands is reduced to two: Speyhawk/McAlpine and the London Regeneration Consortium which is a partnership between The National Freight Corporation and Rosehaugh Stanhope

Rosehaugh is now worth an estimated £750 million + ; Stanhope are valued at £260 million

Public exhibitions of the two sets of plans are displayed locally

March: Over 1,000 local schoolchildren participate in King's Cross 2000 organised by the Camden Town Area Committee.

April: An 8 acre urban forest is proposed for the King's Cross Railway Lands as part of a new Green Strategy for Camden

July: Crossfire, an organisation of Islington residents and businesses, is formed to respond to planning issues on the Railway Lands

The Victorian Society publishes *Opportunity or Calamity: the King's Cross Railway Lands Development*

Camden Civic Society organises a meeting to address the Railway Lands and produces a series of documents

English Heritage publishes an inventory of the architectural and industrial features that are considered important within the Railway Lands

High Hopes, a film directed by Mike Leigh and set in Stanley Buildings, is released

The Potato Market is demolished

June 2: British Rail choose the London Regeneration Consortium to become the developers of the 135 acres of derelict railway lands at King's Cross; LRC declare that Foster Associates are the chosen Masterplanners; the developers estimate that

29,700 - 32,100 jobs will be created

26,500 - 28,900 of these jobs will be in offices

Only 7.8% of these jobs will go to local people

Only 4.8% of these jobs will go to Islington people

1,421 workers in 89 firms will have to move from the site

The developers are willing to invest £5 million in training schemes

Tenants of Stanley Buildings enter into discussions with the London Regeneration Consortium over their fears of being made homeless

June: the first Constitution of the King's Cross Railway Lands Community Development Group (KXRLG) is established

KXRLG obtains grant funding from Camden Council

A *Social Audit* of the area is produced by Michael Edwards and Ellen Leopold of the Bartlett School at University College London; by working through various options in the range of 108,000 to 685,000 square metres of offices and 2,910 to 8,292 housing units they conclude that a massive profit could still be made if less of the site was devoted to offices than to housing, perhaps 350,000 square metres as opposed to the 700,000 proposed by LRC.

July: Member states must have complied with the European Commission Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 85/337/EEC that was proposed 1980 by now

July: LRC hosts an open day in the Goods Yard

July: KXRLG convene a meeting to address the traffic and transport

implications of the proposed development

LRC convert the Goods Offices into their headquarters and rename it Regeneration House: a portakabin outside is made into a permanent exhibition centre

The northern part of the potato market is demolished

King's Cross Railway Lands Community Development Group has a series of meetings with LRC: disagreements soon become apparent

September: KXRLG Weekend workshops: Planning Gain; Consultation or Participation; Community Trust; Public Enquiry or not; Lobbying British Rail; Environmental Impact Strategies

October: KXRLG lobby the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool and organises a fringe meeting to address the issues surrounding the railway lands

British Rail's Private Bill authorising the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Terminal at King's Cross is lodged in Parliament

November: KXRLG King's Cross Exchange 1, 4 days of workshops where LRC and Camden Council collaborate in a consultation with local people: it becomes apparent that one of the intentions is to destroy Camley Street Natural Park

282 petitions against British Rail's Private Bill authorising the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Terminal at King's Cross are lodged in Parliament

The Eastman Dental Hospital officially opens on the old site of the Royal Free Hospital in Grays Inn Road

The Fennel Report is published: *Investigation into the King's Cross Underground fire*. Department of Transport. London: HMSO. 39

1989

The transit sheds north of the Granary become The Raceway, the longest indoor karting circuit in Europe

February: KXRLG Ethnic Minorities Consultation leading to the *Ethnic Minorities Brief* which is compiled by Camden's Committee for Community Relations

March: KXRLG Weekend workshops: Costs and Profits; Housing; Employment and Training; Transport

April: LRC submit an outline planning application for the 135 acre site at King's Cross Railway Lands

May: A subsidiary planning application is submitted for a new enclosed concourse between King's Cross and St Pancras Stations involving the demolition of the Great Northern Hotel

July: The booklet *The King's Cross Development: People or Profit* is produced by KXRLG

July: KXRLG Public Meeting: People or Profit

July: Tony Dykes, Leader of Camden Council says: ' the planning application, as submitted, is totally unacceptable'

July 7-9: KXRLG King's Cross Exchange 2: Public Meeting; Workshops: Profits and Community Benefit; Housing; Transport; Recreation and Social Facilities; Jobs and Training; Effects on those living around the site; Design; Conservation and Heritage on the site; Landscape, ecology and Camlet Street Natural Park; Designing an accessible site for people with disabilities; BR Plan for CTRL Terminal; Closing Forum

Summer: The Parliamentary Select Committee on British Rail's Private Bill begins sitting: evidence is heard for 13 days

September 19: A report goes to Camden Planning, Transport and Employment Committee assessing LRC's outline planning application and reporting on the consultation process to date and discussions with the developers

September: KXRLG's first Annual General Meeting

October: LRC submit revised a planning application

December: The Parliamentary Select Committee resumes

The Wellcome Pharmaceutical Company moves out of the Wellcome Building in Euston Road and the Wellcome Trust moves there from its previous headquarters in Park Square West at Regents Park: work starts on refurbishing the whole interior the following year

The Canal Museum Trust takes over Carlo Gatti's Ice House and the establishment of the London Canal Museum begins

The Court Theatre becomes the Courtyard Theatre and moves into the Great Northern Stable at the south end of York Way opposite King's Cross Station

1990's

The office property market collapses; so does Norman Foster's scheme for the Railway Lands

1990

The Parliamentary Select Committee continues to sit (for a total of 51 days hearings, among the longest ever)

The Environmental Protection Act

May - November: KXRLG Planning For Real Consultation Exercise

June: The British Library (architect: Colin St John Wilson) opens

July: British Rail's Private Bill is approved by Parliament

October: *Update on People or Profit* produced by Michael Edwards, Bartlett School

November: KXRLG *People's Brief: summary report* prepared by Michael Parkes in conjunction with King's Cross Railway Lands Group

December: KXRLG *The People's Brief* prepared by independent planning consultant Mike Parkes in conjunction with King's Cross Railway Lands Group supported by KXT: it suggests that St Pancras Station is a far more logical terminus site for the CTRL than King's Cross

1991

February 2: KXRLG Traffic and Transport Workshop

February 16: KXRLG Employment and Training Workshop

February 28: KXRLG Community Facilities Workshop

March 2: KXRLG Housing Workshop

March 16: KXRLG Open Space, Community Facilities, Arts and Entertainment, Sports and Recreation Workshop

March 23: KXRLG Conservation and Heritage Workshop

April 6: KXRLG Putting it together Workshop

September: *Towards a Peoples Plan : Full Appendices* prepared by Michael Parkes and Daniel C. Mouawad with King's Cross Railway Lands Group

KXRLG wins a London Planning Achievement Award from the London Branch of the Royal Town Planning Institute

The Sir William Collins School becomes the South Camden Community School

Rosehaugh and Stanhope declare financial problems and sell off some assets to reduce borrowing

1992

Mary Wollstencraft House is built which results in the destruction of the *Somers Town Mural* by Karen Gregory

British Waterways publishes *The Waterway Environment and Development Plans*

The Rio Conference on Environment and Development (Earth summit) establishes that three quarters of the things that need to be done to make the world a more sustainable place can be done at local level: this results in the introduction of Local Agenda 21 through which local councils are encouraged to form partnerships with local communities to address the issues; the United Kingdom signs up to the proposal and both Camden and Islington Councils develop LA21 core groups

An area of waste land on the east side of Grays Inn Road is leased by Camden Council to a group of local people to start a community garden

May: KXRLG publish an *Environmental Impact Statement* to support the two alternative planning applications that the Railway Lands Group has submitted

June 19: The KXRLG Planning Application No 9109360B for the Railway Lands is registered by the London Borough of Camden

October: Infringement Proceedings are brought against the United Kingdom Government by the EC Commissioner for the Environment in respect of the implementation of EC Directive 85/337/EEC on the Environmental Impact Assessments of a number of projects including the Channel Tunnel Rail Link

KXRLG wins an Honourable Mention in the Times/Royal Institute of British Architects Community Enterprise Scheme awards

Rosehaugh ceases trading, insolvent

Howard's End, the film directed by Ang Lee, is released: some of its scenes are filmed in St Pancras Chambers

1993

March: KXRLG publishes a revised *Environmental Impact Statement*

Railtrack is created to operate, maintain and develop the railway infrastructure of England, Scotland and Wales

Union Railways, the subsidiary of London and Continental Railways appointed to monitor the Channel Tunnel Rail Link project, announces initial plans for its construction

17 May: Eurostar International Terminal (architect: Nicholas Grimshaw) opens at Waterloo; the trains are delayed for a year because they are not yet built

December: *A Report on the Interim Uses for the King's Cross Railway Lands* prepared by Michael Parkes and Daniel C. Mouawad with King's Cross Railway Lands Group

Cally Traders is founded

1994

Cally Rail Group is founded

Islington Council adopts its Unitary Development Plan

15 May: A Memorial Stone is erected to commemorate conscientious objectors to military service in Tavistock Square Gardens

July 14: The Friends of St George's Gardens is formed

The Calthorpe Project, a community run garden, opens on the east side of Grays Inn Road

August: The Shaw Theatre closes

November 14: First Eurostar trains arrive at Waterloo

1995

January: *The King's Cross Carrion* (the original title of KXRLG's newsletter) contains detailed instructions on how to petition Parliament

Cally Traders and the Cally Rail Group among others give evidence at the House of Commons of alternative plans (John Mason's) which would put the Channel Tunnel Rail link in a deeper tunnel than the system the engineers are proposing and ask for the proposed Channel Tunnel Rail Bill going through Parliament to include measures to protect local people from disruption

March 7: A Public Enquiry opens into objections to the Deposit Draft of Camden's Unitary Development Plan

230 local residents and businesses petition Parliament against the present form of the Channel Tunnel Rail Bill

The Crossmillennia bid is prepared by Camden and Islington Councils with British Telecom, the National Film and TV School, the University of North London and the National Freight Corporation for Millenium Commission funding to redevelop the 20 acre National Freight Corporation site on the Railway Lands

April: *Crossmillennia: Report of Public Consultation* prepared by Michael Parkes for KXRLG

Alan Baxter Associates devises a scheme for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link to pass through a tunnel under Islington without using cut and cover around the

Cally Road: it is called the FTO (The Fully Tunnelled Option) and is cheaper than some options but is more expensive than others

Somers Town Mural by Karen Gregory, originally on the east wall of St Mary and St Pancras Primary School, is copied onto the west wall

December 21: The Public Enquiry into objections to the Deposit Draft of Camden's Unitary Development Plan closes

The office building to the west of the Wellcome Building, once occupied by MI5, is demolished

1996

The King's Cross Partnership is founded

January: *King's Cross Single Regeneration Budget: A New Quarter for London Implementation Plan* is drawn up by the King's Cross Partnership: a Site Implementation Study from independent consultants commissioned by Camden Council to analyse the development constraints and potential of the Railway Lands and to provide practical advice is part of it

The House of Commons agrees that the Channel Tunnel Rail Link should be tunnelled through Islington

KXRLG's lawyer, David Harter, presents our evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link who severely reduce the number of days in which evidence can be presented: our main concerns are Stanley and Culross Buildings, the Kent Commuter Terminal, Somers Town, dispersal, the canal, Camley Street Natural Park and spoil lorries

Camden Council publishes its second Planning Brief for the railway lands

October 2: The statue of Gandhi is erected in Tavistock Square Gardens to commemorate the 125th anniversary of his birth

November: The Design and Development Forum chaired by Stephen Jordan, Managing Director of London and Continental Railways Stations and Properties, meets for the second time: KXRLG believe it to be a badly co-ordinated forum with no formal constitution

December: The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act becomes law: Schedule 6 says that the only allowable grounds for refusal or modification of planning permission for Camden Council is demonstrable environmental harm; the fast track planning application procedure has a fast track appeals structure directly to the Secretary of State for Environment and Transport to reinforce it and by written representations only

"The people of Camden must be prepared to put up with hell for the next few years for the sake of this project" - Lord Amptill, Chair of the House of Lords' Select committee on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill

1997

January: The Inspector, M. D. Shaw, publishes his report (over 1,000 pages of it) on the Public Enquiry into objections to the Deposit Draft of Camden's Unitary Development Plan

January: CTRL apply for powers under the Transport and Works Act 1992 to secure a Transport and Works Order to add new works to those already authorised by the 1996 CTRL Act: London and Continental Railways argue for a Eurostar link with the West Coast mainline to run trains past St Pancras and directly to connections North; freight will use this line at night

January 29: John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, announces that London and Continental Railways are unable to raise the finance for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Somers Town Community Sports Centre is completed

Groundwork Camden is founded

Spring: The St Pancras Waterpoint is given to English Heritage who apply for planning permission to re-erect it in St Pancras Gardens

The King's Cross Partnership wins £37 million from the Government's Single Regeneration Programme for a seven year regeneration project

June 5: KXRLG object to the re-erection of the St Pancras Waterpoint in St Pancras Gardens at a meeting of the Development Control Sub-Committee of Camden Council: English Heritage are granted planning permission subject to them obtaining the legal consents from the Church of England

July 21: The CTRL Working Group set up by Camden Council is told that 5 detailed Planning Applications for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link work are to be submitted by September including all the designs for St Pancras Station

October 25: The Round Reading Room in the British Museum closes

December 15: Joan Toovey, acting Chief Executive of the King's Cross Partnership addresses the KXRLG General Meeting at the Great Northern Hotel; a vote taken after she has finished speaking concludes that the King's Cross Partnership had not fulfilled its role re community participation

1998

February 9: "... sense is a commodity which has been absent from the CTRL debate almost from day one" - *Evening Standard*

The proposed linkup between the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and the West Coast Line is agreed to

Maiden Lane bridge is rebuilt

March 2: Work begins on the Great Court in the British Museum

Aarhus Convention: it is the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters: the United Kingdom government signs up to it

London and Continental Railways, promoters of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, go bankrupt

June: Camden Council publishes modifications to its Unitary Development Plan: KXRLG objects to them citing evolving government policy on affordable housing, difference zero car parking standards can make to capacity of housing sites and the site implementation study which said that the railway lands north of the Regents Canal has a potential holding capacity for 1500 housing units and that to the south 1180 housing units and that 50% of these (1045) should be affordable (the UDP says that 243 should be affordable)

June 6: John Prescott announces a complicated restructuring and financial deal with London and Continental Railways to continue construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link

The Channel Tunnel Rail Link is now to be constructed in two stages instead of the original one: Stage 1 is from the Channel Tunnel to Fawkham Junction in Kent, Stage 2 is from Ebbsfleet to St Pancras via Stratford

London and Continental Railways appoint the consortium of SNCF (the National Railway of France), SNCB (The National Railway of Belgium), British Airways and National Express to operate the Eurostar service. The contract will run till 2010 when it will either be renewed or transferred to a new operator. The Eurostar operation will return to Government ownership in 2086. The original concession awarded to London and Continental Railways had been for 999 years. It is now reduced to less than 90.

The Foundling Museum is established

The 25 year planning permission for the "canopy" obscuring the frontage of King's Cross Station has run out and it is still there

The Community Development Foundation publishes a Research Report *King's Cross Community Development Study*; it says 'There is a long history of active community participation activity in this area, largely through the work of the King's Cross Railway Lands Group'

1999

The Greater London Authority Act establishes the office of executive mayor for Greater London which, together with the Greater London Assembly, constitutes the Greater London Authority

What is now the King's Cross Community Development Trust is established

as the King's Cross Community Development Project

The Friends of Edwards Square is founded

A new theatre at Sadlers Wells opens

April: KXRLG's grant from Camden Council is decreased by £1, 850

A worrying drop in KXRLG membership subscriptions occurs, there are less than 50% of the previous year's number

May: Railtrack reveals that it has seriously underestimated the growth in passenger movements in King's Cross

May 24: The *Evening Standard* publishes an article by Paul Barker about the King's Cross Railway Lands with the headline *It is the biggest brownfield site in London. But nothing is happening. Why?*

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations: evidence of the consideration of the environmental impacts of reasonable alternative actions are not required by the regulations but they do permit consideration of alternatives and guidance advises it

May 25: Neil Kinnock, EC Commissioner for Transport, visits the Railway Lands: he is presented with a leaflet produced by KXRLG explaining why the CTRL should terminate at Stratford rather than St Pancras and link up with Crossrail there

June 18: The launch of KXRLG's exhibition *All Change Here please!* at Camley Street Natural Park: the exhibition is funded by the King's Cross Partnership

CTRL applies extend working hours for longer than the original 8 - 6 Mondays to Fridays and 8 - 1 on Saturdays that was agreed

Goodsway Boat Owners Association obtain a £2000 grant to obtain a mains electricity supply

November 5: Headline in the *Evening Standard* says that Crossrail will go ahead

The Shaw Theatre reopens as part of the Shaw Park Plaza Hotel

December: London Underground Limited's plans to improve safety at King's Cross called for by the Fennell Report are published: KXRLG wonders why they took so long simply to tie the work in with the CTRL work, spots some errors in the documents and suggests safety improvements and a change in the programme

London and Continental Railways announce that they are close to signing up

with a potential development partner for the railway lands

The Thomas Coram Foundation for Children becomes The Coram Family

2000

Argent St George are appointed developers of the King's Cross Railway Lands

Pollution Prevention and Control Act

The majority of Stanley Buildings residents strike a deal with London and Continental Railways in which they either receive money to go or are rehoused

Ash Wednesday: The new Edwards Square opens after a scheme supported by the King's Cross Partnership is completed; the Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion, composes a poem especially for the occasion

March: Camden Council adopts its Unitary Development Plan

April: the Quarterly Journal of the King's Cross Railway Lands Group becomes Network after years of being The King's Cross Carrion

May: elections for the Mayor and the members of the Greater London Assembly take place

June: Thameslink 2000 Public Enquiry begins

July 3: the Mayor and the members of the Greater London Assembly take office

The London Borough of Camden's Single Regeneration Budget bid for central Somers Town and parts of St Pancras and Camden wards is partially successful and £7 million funding is approved

KXRLG objects to Islington Council's Unitary Development Plan because the Council has changed its mind from being against CTRL Phase 2 into St Pancras to being in favour of it

August: A farewell party takes place at Stanley Buildings

August 31: St Pancras and Humanist Housing Association is formed by a merger between St Pancras HA and Humanist HA

The British Waterways Biodiversity Action Plan is produced

October: Instrument House in King's Cross Road is closed down, KXRLG is homeless

October 19: KXRLG presents evidence at the Thameslink 2000 Public Enquiry

The formal decision to build a CTRL Station at Stratford is made

A comment piece in The *Daily Telegraph* says that, because of the Hatfield Train Disaster, the Channel Tunnel Rail Link is now off Railtrack's agenda

2001

January: KXRLG's AGM, postponed from October 2000 because there were not enough volunteers to take up all the posts on the Management Committee, is entitled *Is this the end?*

It isn't. When the meeting ends the Management Committee has a full compliment and a strategy for survival has been agreed

January: Camden's planners rule that the main function of the Shaw Theatre, now located in the Novotel Hotel next to the British Library, should be a theatre rather than a conference centre which it has been recently; the space at the Shaw Theatre is supposed to be available for performances on 320 days a year

February: The Great Northern Hotel closes

February 20: Islington's Planning Committee defers a decision on P & O's controversial planning application for the blocks between York Way and Cally Road; but P & O are shocked at the strength of local opposition to their piecemeal approach and go back to the drawing board

Spring: St George's Gardens, now restored, are opened to the public

Railtrack is in financial crisis so work on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link starts without them

At a KXRLG meeting Rail Link Engineering, the designers and builders of the CTRL project whose construction will be managed by Bechtel, reveal their plans to dig up the Cally Road for 18 months, flouting Parliament's 1996 intention that it should not be disrupted; Cally Traders and the Cally Rail Group refer the problem to the Secretary of State for Transport

KXRLG moves into new offices in Whidbourne Street

The contract is signed to dismantle the 1865 gasholder triplet on the railway lands

Groundwork Camden becomes Groundwork Camden and Islington

Camden Central Partnership is established

Camden Council stops the remainder of KXRLG's grant

Camden Central Community Umbrella is established

P & O hold a public exhibition to display their new planning application for Regents Place and consult local people who are happier that a Master Plan has been developed for the site: key features of the new plans include a mixture of uses, a pedestrian route through the site and 138 residential units

July 2: The CTRL Visitors' Centre opens in Brill Place near the spot where, 311 years previously, a country inn served drinks beside a quiet pond

July: *Action for a Sustainable Camden: Camden's Local Agenda 21 Plan* is agreed by Camden Council's Policy Development Committee

July: Argent St George publishes *Principles for a Human City*: it refers to the King's Cross Railway Lands as King's Cross Central; more than 3,000 copies are distributed

July: Work starts on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link; the work is the responsibility of Union Rail who have employed Rail Link Engineering to manage the contractors' work

European Union issues Directive 2001/42/EC: Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA); member states must implement this by 2004

Gifford Street residents wake up to find that the ecological survey of the nature conservation area behind their homes promised by Rail Link Engineering has begun: a bulldozer is tearing up trees and other plants

October 8: KXRLG AGM at Ossulston Street Hall: a discussion takes place on whether the Group should wind itself up; the decision is taken to carry on and two new members join the Management Committee

October 8: Railtrack goes into administration

December: St Pancras Water Point is moved to a permanent new home on the railway bank above St Pancras Cruising Club

December: *Action for a Sustainable Camden: Camden's Local Agenda 21 Plan* is published

December: Planning permission is granted by Islington Council to P & O for the development of Regent's Quarter between York Way and Caledonian Road

2002

Graves in St Pancras Cemetery are destroyed during the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link

January: Argent St George publishes *Parameters for Regeneration*

March: Camden's Biodiversity Action Plan is published

June: The Mayor's *Draft London Plan* is published: it refers to the King's Cross Railway Lands as the King's Cross Opportunity Area

June: Islington Council adopts its second Unitary Development Plan

October 3: Railtrack is wound up and its responsibilities are taken over by Network Rail

October: Argent St George publishes *A Framework for Regeneration*, a consultation document; more than 10,000 copies of it are distributed in Camden and Islington

December: 194 people attend a series of workshop events organised by Argent St George and their consultants FLUID at St Pancras Chambers

December: KXRLG AGM: the Management Committee has only six members and the Treasurer, who needs to resign, agrees to stay on till the following March despite other commitments

December: The first meeting of the King's Cross Development Forum, established by Camden Council, takes place

December: The Great Court of the British Museum is opened to the public

2003

February 1: Camden Central Community Umbrella hosts a Convention to address issues on the development of the King's Cross Railway Lands; 129 people attend

February: After a threat of legal action and a Parliamentary Question asked by Islington M.P. Chris Smith Cally Traders and Cally Rail Group meet the Secretary of State for Transport; the Secretary of State agrees that they can meet the independent advisor observing discussions between Islington Council and the contractors, that the Secretary of State would appoint a second advisor to work out why the protection Parliament had intended for local people had been abandoned and that they would pay Alan Baxter Associates to represent the communities in discussions with contractors

February: KXRLG receives a small grant from Camden Central Partnership to put together a Business Plan; the group includes this plan in its application for a larger grant

March: King's Cross Partnership ends

March: Argent St George has received 133 responses to *A Framework for Regeneration*

March: KXRLG Management Committee is down to six members; the Group

has no treasurer

March: *Monitoring and Evaluation of the work of the King's Cross Partnership* by Emmanuel Mutale and Michael Edwards, Bartlett School, University College London is submitted but the Partnership decides not to publish

British Waterways publish *Waterways and Development Plans*

The refurbishment of 40, Brunswick Square begins

April: *King's Cross Central Environmental Impact Assessment Summary: Draft Scoping Report* is published by RPS for Argent St George, London and Continental Railways and Exel

April: KXRLG has to leave its Whidbourne Street offices: the Group is homeless, almost penniless, has half a management committee and has no resources with which to contact its members; the pending outline planning application to develop the railway lands is expected to be lodged with Camden and Islington Councils by Christmas

May: KXRLG receives a priceless anonymous donation of £5000: we can contact our members again

June: Argent St George publish *Framework Findings* which sets out the responses they received to *A Framework for Regeneration*

June 24: KXRLG receives confirmation that it will receive some funding for the next three years from Camden Central Partnership [Phew!]

July 30: Eurostar sets a new UK high speed record (208 mph; 334.7 kph)

Camden Council publishes *A Draft Planning Brief on the 'King's Cross Opportunity Area'* (its third for the railway lands) for public consultation: one of the things it says is that of the 720,000 square metres of the built up area, 300,000 square metres should be for commercial development [office space]; this is about 41% of the built up area which leaves 59% for other uses such as residential and community facilities

Islington Council publishes a *Draft Planning Brief: King's Cross Area of Opportunity 36 "The Islington Triangle"*

September: KXRLG shares the offices of King's Cross Community Development Trust in Cromer Street initially for three months (we end up staying for seven and, when we leave, it is on the best of terms with KXCDT)

September: Camden's *Draft Conservation Area Statement for the King's Cross Conservation Area* is published

September: At the close of the consultation period on the *Draft Planning Brief for the King's Cross Opportunity Area* Camden Council receives more

responses than it has ever received to a single document, even the borough wide Unitary Development Plan: each response has its own views to put across but most profess themselves broadly in favour of what is in the *Brief*

September 28: The launch of CTRL1

October: The initial meeting of the Cally Area Umbrella Group (Islington), CAUGI, takes place

October 16: *Jellicoe: The Musical* by Rob Inglis opens at the Shaw Theatre; it is based on the life and work in 1920's Somers Town of Father Basil Jellicoe

December: KXRLG AGM at Coopers Lane Residents Association's Hall: The Management Committee at last has a full complement of 10 members including a new treasurer; the meeting votes to begin the process of turning the Group into a company limited by guarantee and registering as a charity

December 17: Camden's Executive adopts the *Joint Revised Planning Brief for the King Cross Opportunity Area* without further consultation: one of the things it says is that of the 720,000 square metres of the built up area, 400,000 square metres should be for commercial development [office space]; this is about 55% of the built up area which leaves only 45% for other uses such as residential and community facilities compared with 59% in the *Draft Brief*

December: Islington's Executive Committee adopts *The Joint Revised Planning Brief for the King's Cross Opportunity Area*

December 18: London and Continental Railways apply for planning permission from Camden Council to work 24 hours a day 7 days a week till the Channel Tunnel Rail Link to St Pancras is completed: Camden officers recommend that the application is refused and the Development Control Sub Committee accept their recommendation after hearing representations from Coopers Lane Residents Association backed by KXRLG and many others

CTRL appeals against the decision to the Planning Inspectorate: Camden Council, Coopers Lane Residents Association, KXRLG and many others call for a Public Enquiry into their planning application

Christmas Eve: The Planning Inspectorate announces that a Public Enquiry will take place into the Channel Tunnel Rail Link application to work 24 hours a day 7 days a week for the next three years

2004

January 6: Camden Executive's decision to adopt the *Revised Planning Brief for the King Cross Opportunity Area* is called in to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission by four local councillors including the chair of the Development Control Sub-Committee because of the 'Inadequacy of the consultation process and the failure of the amended Brief to provide appropriate guidance'

January: The Public Enquiry into CTRL's planning application to work 24/7 opens; it is scheduled to last for two days but it is (unusually) extended to five

January 13: KXRLG makes a representation to The Overview and Scrutiny Panel supporting the call in and the Panel decides that the Executive should recommend that the consultation period on the Planning Brief is extended for another three weeks at its meeting the following evening

January 14: Camden's Executive makes no such recommendation at its meeting and the revised Planning Brief is adopted as it stands

February 11: Graham Self, Planning Inspector, announces the result of the recent public enquiry: Channel Tunnel Rail Link's application to work 24 hours a day 7 days a week for the next three years is turned down

February: KXRLG receives a small grant from Islington Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

February: The Mayor's *London Plan* is adopted

February 24: Planning Minister Keith Hill says "For too long planning has been a Cinderella ... I want to see new buildings which satisfy the needs of those who live and work within them and reflect the character of the area ... we in Government, both central and local, must make the planning system accessible and inclusive for everyone. We all have a right to have a say on the matters which effect our communities."

March 11: The West Portal of the CTRL Islington Tunnel at Gifford Street opens

March 24: KXRLG agrees its new constitution at a Special General Meeting; membership increases

March: A healthy working partnership begins to develop between Rail Link Engineering, Camden Council's Environment Department and the local community to address how work on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link proceeds

April 1: KXRLG move into permanent offices above Housman's Bookshop, 5, Caledonian Road

April 14: KXRLG writes to the Environment Department of Camden Council asking for an explanation of the of the increased percentage of the available built up space for offices in the Joint Planning Brief for the King's Cross Opportunity Area from 300,000 square metres in the Draft to 400,000 square metres (a 30% increase): we are told that the developers, Argent St George, did not agree with the way that the figure was calculated; no other respondent objected that too little of the available space was allowed for offices, KXRLG argued that too much was

May 28: Argent St George submit 2 outline planning applications, 8 Conservation Area Consent Applications and 31 supplementary documents to develop the railway lands: they are applying for 486,000 square metres of the available 720,000 square metres of built up area to be office space; this is a massive 67.5% which would leave only 32.5% of the space available for residential uses and community facilities and create a much less sustainable development with a much narrower mix of uses

May: The Barlow Train Shed at St Pancras Station closes for long term renovation work and a temporary station is opened just to the north of it

May: The company Parabola proposes to develop the Westinghouse site immediately south of the Regents Canal and east of York Way as a concert hall and office complex called King's Place

June 10: elections for the Mayor and the members of the Greater London Assembly take place

June 15: the Foundling Museum opens at 40, Brunswick Square

June 18: The 14 week public consultation process on Argent St George's outline planning application to develop the railway lands begins

June 30: KXRLG **Independent Community Consultation** on the Argent St George Outline Planning Application for the Railway Lands at Godwin and Crowndale Community Hall, Crowndale Road (7-9)

July 31: KXRLG **Independent Community Consultation** on the Argent St George Outline Planning Application for the Railway Lands at the Peel Centre, Percy Circus (1-5)

September 4: KXRLG **Independent Community Consultation** on the Argent St George Outline Planning Application for the Railway Lands at Maiden Lane Community Centre (1-5)

September 24: The 14 week public consultation process on Argent St George's outline planning application to develop the railway lands ends

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