



the early 1820s with Great Percy Street. This was followed by Percy Circus (1841–53) and Holford Square (1841–8), while building in Great Percy Street itself also continued until 1853.

Clerkenwell

Around 1140 Jordan de Briset and his wife founded the hospital and priory of St John of Jerusalem and the nunnery of St Mary. The sisters of the convent drew their water from a well that became known as the clerks' well because City students performed an annual miracle play close by.

In 1370 Sir Walter de Manny established the Carthusian priory of Charterhouse, which was rebuilt as a rambling mansion after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. It subsequently became Charterhouse school and is now London's most picturesque retirement home.

Parts of St John's priory have survived and a revived 'venerable order' (which has metamorphosed into the health care organisation St John Ambulance) later returned to St John's Gate, where they maintain their headquarters and a museum.

From medieval times Clerkenwell attracted edge-of-City trades like jewellery, lock-making, printing, bookbinding, and the making and repair of clocks and watches. When many of the larger firms closed or moved out to suburban industrial estates, they left behind factories and warehouses that have now been converted for 'loft style living', Meanwhile most of Clerkenwell's Georgian terraces and municipal and philanthropic tenement blocks from the first half of the 20th-century remain. Clerkenwell was for a while the administrative centre for Middlesex. Visit http://hidden-

london.com/gazetteer/clerkenwell/

Thomas Britton

Across the busy Clerkenwell Road, turning right in front of St Johns Gateway brings us to Britton Street. Thomas Britton started out as a coal man but developed wide interests and had a very good singing voice. In 1678 Britton fitted the loft of his Clerkenwell house out as a tiny concert hall, fitting a harpsichord and an organ with only five stops. The relative novelty of a series of concerts attracted a considerable audience and many musicians of note played there.

Smithfield Market

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

Watling Street

After passing through brand new shopping cente 1 New Change, the walk joins Watling Street, the Roman road that ran from Dover to London and onward via St. Albans (Verulamium) to Wroxeter. The walk then takes Queen Street to the River Thames. Queen Street and King Street were laid out following the Great Fire of London in 1666, cutting across more ancient routes in the City. They were the only notable new streets following the fire.

The bridge came later, in 1811, The architect, John Rennie, designed a bridge of three cast-iron arches, the two outer and smaller spans being 210 feet long, while the central and largest arch covered 240 feet. This was replaced in 1921 by the current bridge.