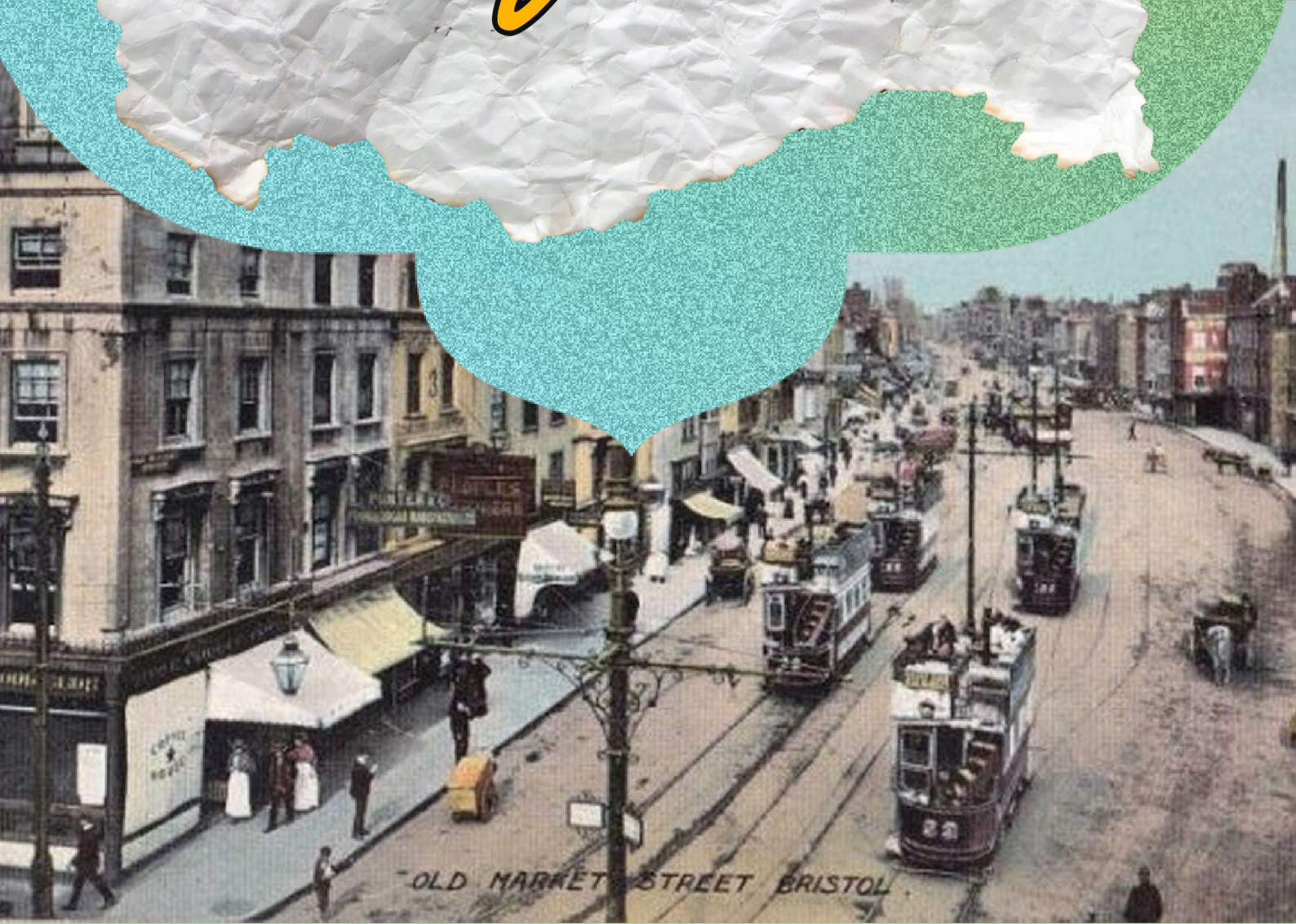
KINGSLEY HALL

Heritage Project

Made possible with Heritage Fund

FACT file!



This is the Heritage Project fact-file, a place where you can learn about Kingsley Hall's history from 1706 to the present. This history is not comprehensive; it does not include much detail on the architectural changes to the building and does not capture the *full* range of things that have happened in this building over the years. But, you will learn about the main ways the building was used, be introduced to different people who used it and find out about the wider context of these activities in Bristol, Britain and beyond!

This handbook can be used as a resource for young people being introduced to the Heritage Project for the first time, to spark discussions about Kingsley Hall's history, or to inspire creative responses.

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5 1673-1706 Old Market
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11 1911, Independent Labour Party
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13 Suffragettes
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KINGSLEY HALL HISTORY TIMELINE

58 and 59 Old Market Street Built

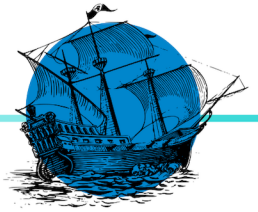
1706



Read about this period if you are interested in the **medieval times** and the **history of architecture.**

Owned by the Vigor Family, Hooper family and a series of brewers and maltsters over the next 100 years.

1744



Read about this period if you are interested in: the **history of trade in Bristol**, the **wealthy and the working class**, and **slavery**.

The building is used by a successful corset-making company, J. Ellis and Co.

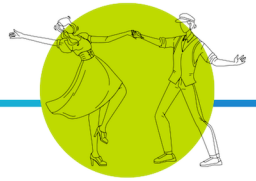
1862



Read about this period if you are interested in the **history of fashion**, and what it was like to live and **work in Old Market.**

Conservative Club moves in and calls the building Salisbury Hall.

1880



Read about this period if you are interested in learning about the history of the **Conservative Party**, and **their Salisbury Dance.**

The Independent Labour Party moves in calls it Kingsley Hall.

1911



Read about this period if you are interested in learning about the **socialists, suffragettes** and **World War 1.**

The building was being used by various trade unions as their offices, fighting for workers rights.

1930s-1960s



Read about this period if you want to know about **workers rights, activism** and and **trade unionists** from around the world.

The building is used by *'Bristol Cerebral Palsy Plus'*

1970s



Read about this period if you want to learn about **Kingsley Hall's past as a charity,** before 1625 Independent People.

Two youth homeless organisations merge to become 1625ip and make Kingsley Hall their home

1990-PRESENT



Read about this period to find out how Kingsley Hall became home to **1625 Independent People!**



Rotate to read

KINGSLEY HALL characters!

What sorts of people were associated with Kingsley Hall throughout the years?

As you flick through this fact-file, look out for examples of the people who were associated with Kingsley Hall. What stories can we tell about them? Are there any people's stories that have been left untold?



tobacconist

Someone who sells and trades tobacco.

quakers



People who followed the Quaker denomination (type) of Christianity. They often had pacifist (non-confrontational) views.

maltsters/ brewsters



People who worked in malthouses and breweries.



servants

People who worked in service of the wealthy owners of Kingsley Hall doing manual labour, cleaning, cooking etc.

aristocracy and royalty

Kingsley Hall was owned by a wealthy, aristocratic family in the 19th century. It also has some links to royalty - corsets made here were exhibited at Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's Great Exhibition, and a former Prince of Wales had his palm read here too.



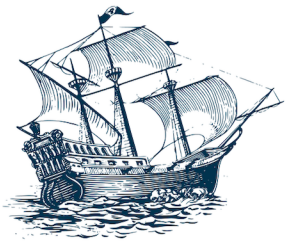
palm reader

In the 1920s, there was a shop at the front of the building where palm-reading was offered. This is the practice of predicting someone's future by analyzing features of their hand.



politicians

There have been many political occupants of the building, from both the conservative and labour parties. Some of the politicans from the Independent Labour Party at Kingsley Hall were also socialists.



slave- trader

Someone who trafficked enslaved Africans in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. They may have owned boats which transported enslaved people from one place to another.



enslaved people

People trafficked by wealthy owners of Kingsley Hall, or people who were forced into labour on plantations which provided things like sugar for refining, malting and brewing in Old Market.



suffragettes

Women who fought for women's rights. They demanded that women should be taken seriously in politics and in the workplace, have access to equal opportunities and should have the right to vote.



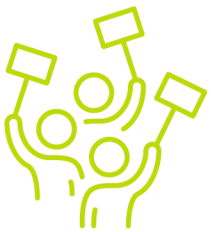
architect

Someone who designs buildings.



corset-makers

Someone who manufactures corsets, a type of undergarment worn by women in the 19th century.



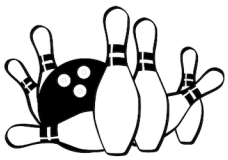
trade unionists and protestors

Trade unionists also used the building. These were people who formed collectives and encouraged others to fight for workers rights, ensuring that they had safe conditions to work in, and were getting paid fairly. They organised many marches and protests to fight for their cause, and came from all over the world.



dancers

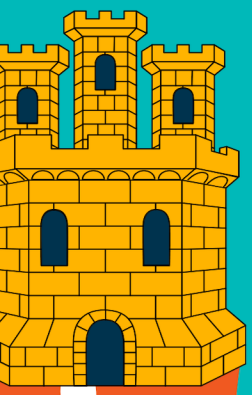
People used to come to dances at Kingsley Hall's main hall.



skittles-players

Kingsley Hall used to have a Skittle Alley (a game like bowling), located where the Blue Room now is.

1673-1706



History of Old Market

Old Market was a busy marketplace located East of the medieval Bristol Castle. The castle was built in the 11th century, but demolished in the 1600s. Castle Park now lies where the old castle used to be.

Old Market Street was located between the East Gate of the Castle, and the 13th century city walls. For many centuries, it was the main road which linked Bristol to London.

All sorts of different things were sold in the marketplace, such as cloth, pewter dishes, pottery jugs and wholesale goods. In the 1600s and 1700s it was a bustling site for manufacturing.

On the corner opposite the roundabout stands the Stag and Hounds pub, which used to be Old Market's Pie Poudre court, where market-day offenders such as thieves were brought to justice.

58-59 Old Market St.

In 1706, the main house at 59 Old Market Street was built, including the iconic pillars which distinguish it from other buildings on the street. However, its cellars date back to the Medieval times, probably built in the 13th century.

Down in the cellars, the building is made of limewashed sandstone rubble walls, limestone doorways and broad oak timbers. The floor of the western cellar is mostly bare earth, although flag stones are found in a tunnel that connects the two cellars.



The Vigor Family

The Vigor family were wealthy **Quakers** (a denomination of Christianity) and **merchants** (people involved in trade). They owned Kingsley Hall in 1744, when it was a house and a malthouse, a building where malt (a type of grain) is prepared and stored. The family are buried in a patch in St. Mary Redcliffe.



Oil portrait of the Vigor Family in the V&A Museum, London. Jane Vigor, Anne Vigor, Joseph Vigor, William Vigor and probably John Penn.

William Vigor and his brother were merchants, and had significant business interests in Russia. They also were involved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and were friends with **John Penn**, son of **William Penn** who 'founded' Pennsylvania and Philadelphia.

Jane Vigor is well known for her 'Letters from a lady, who resided some years in Russia, to her friend in England', a series of personal writings about her time living with a former lover in Russia before meeting William Vigor.



The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Between 1725 and 1740, Bristol became a prominent center of the Transatlantic Slave Trade via its port and harbour. It is estimated that **profits of up to 20%** were made in Bristol by the exploitation of enslaved Africans, and over **500,000 enslaved Africans** were trafficked by Bristol's merchants.

What should their legacy be?

The Vigor Family would have been made very wealthy by their involvement in the Slave Trade. William and Joseph Vigor were in business with a man called Phillip Freke who was described as 'an active slaving agent' and together they co-owned a slave ship.



Toppling of Colston Statue, Bristol Harbourside, 2020

1744-1850s

Industry on Old Market Street

Whilst the Vigor Family owned 59 Old Market Street (see previous page for more info on them), the building was being used as a house, malthouse, brewery, stable and yard.

From 1744-1850s it was owned by a series of maltsters and brewers.

1744-1795: Vigor Family
1795-1809: William Hooper
1810-1820: Thomas Hooper
1820-1843: Richard Morgan, common brewster
1844-1853: Fredrick Boucher, brewster and maltster



Malt processing machine

Malting

Malting is the process of preparing grain for brewing, resulting in a substance called malt. Malt was used to make vinegar and whisky, and was also used in cooking and baking. You may be familiar with **Supermalt** or **Malteasers** as examples of modern malt-tastic products!

Brewing

Similarly, brewing is the process of fermenting grain to turn it into beer.

Sugar refining

Sugar refining is the process of making white granulated sugar from raw sugar cane. Although Kingsley Hall never housed a sugar refinery, there were several local sugar refineries in Old Market. **The Drill Hall** a few buildings down from Kingsley Hall used to be one of them.

Historical roots, links to plantation labour

Sugar refining, which underpinned malting and brewing by providing the sugar needed for their processes, is an ancient art. It originated in the **Arab regions** during the great period of Islamic Expansion, when Islam was spreading across the Middle East. It then spread into Europe through **Portugal and Spain** and became a part of the **colonial trade**.

In 1655, the island of **Jamaica** was colonised by **Britain** who established sugar plantations from which they could extract raw sugar cane to use for trading and industry.

The profits of Bristol's sugar refineries, malthouses and breweries are indebted in large part to the enslaved people who worked on Jamaican plantations.



Sugar harvesting on the planatation

Corset Makers

In 1862, the company J. Ellis co. had moved into the property and were operating their 'stay and corset' manufacturing business out of it.

Corsets in Victorian England



Supportive garments worn by women under formal wear to slim their waists.

Made of high-quality cotton and sometimes silk.

They were laced up from the back, so that they could be tightened more and more by pulling and tying the strings.

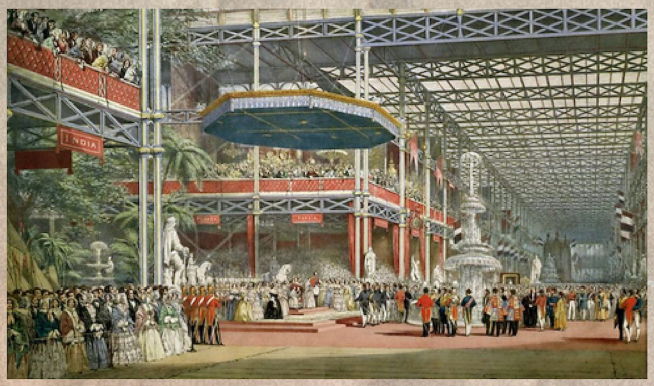
Manufacturers used **whale-bone** as a supportive material, inserting it into the fabric to give the garment more structure.

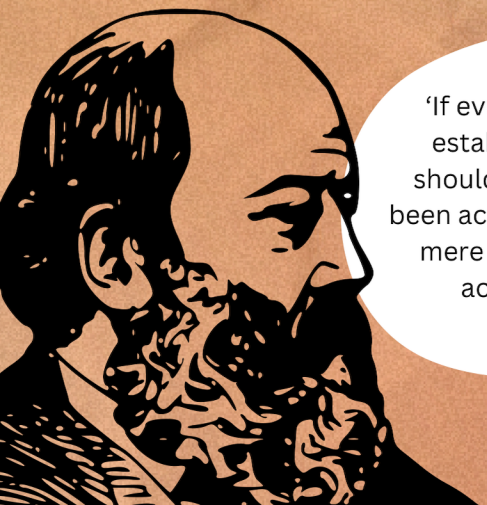
Often worn by upper class women, but in the 1850s the invention of the sewing machine meant that they could be manufactured quicker, and they became cheaper to produce.

Corsets at Kingsley Hall

J. Ellis and Co, which operated out of 59 Old Market Street was very well known for their fabulous and beautiful corsets. A local newspaper reported that they were **'gems of art!'**

They were even shown at the **Great Exhibition,** which was a large show of the most impressive art, fashion and inventions that took place in The Crystal Palace in London. It was set up by Queen Victoria's husband, Albert.





'If every man and woman in the establishment would put their shoulders to the wheel, what had been achieved in the past would be a mere nothing to what we should accomplish in the future.'

Working for J. Ellis, 1866

In 1866, the employees of the company took a trip to Clevedon. It was a special day out to celebrate the company's success. They listened to **live music, had a lovely dinner together and played games.** A newspaper reported that **'loud cheers were given'** and that 'there was a very **excellent feeling of these work people towards their liberal employer'**, J. Ellis. He encouraged them to **work hard,** but also believed that 'the interests of those in his employment' were the same as his own, and that what was good for him, was good for them.

1880s-1906

THE ERA OF POLITICAL OCCUPANTS BEGINS....

SALISBURY HALL

WHO USED THE BUILDING DURING THIS TIME?

During the period from the 1880s to the early 1900s, 59 Old Market Street was home to various Conservative Clubs and Societies, such as St. Phillips Conservative Club and Bristol East Conservative Association. They called the building **Salisbury Hall,** possibly after the Prime Minister at the time; the 3rd Marquess of Salisbury. Another common name for Conservative Clubs were Salisbury Clubs.

What is a conservative club? These were social clubs (not political parties) which were made up of members who supported Conservative politics and values. They would sometimes provide funding to the Conservative Party, as well as hosting events and activities like snooker, bar games and entertainment.

SKITTLE ALLEY



The Conservative Clubs made use of Salisbury Hall's Skittle Alley (located where the Blue Room is now.)

Skittles is a historical game of European origins, where the aim is to knock over pins with a ball. Modern nine-pin bowling was developed out of Skittles.

CONSERVATIVE VALUES

Note: Conservative values may have shifted or expanded over the last 100 years. Listed here are most relevant to the time period.

PRIVATE PROPERTY AND ENTERPRISE

Conservatives believe in the right of private parties (e.g. individuals, companies, landlords) to own property, land and other valuable assets, as opposed to the public or collective ownership.

SMALL GOVERNMENT

The government should intervene as little as possible in matters of the economy.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Every individual is primarily responsible for themselves and their success, and this gives each individual the most amount of freedom.

TRADITIONAL VALUES

Conservatives believed we should promote and uphold traditional values, usually about race, class, gender, sex, marriage, religion, culture etc. In the 1800s and 1900s, this meant they would have opposed women's rights and homosexuality, as these things challenged the status quo.

MAINTENANCE OF A STRONG MILITARY

The conservatives supported a strong military for the security and defense of the British Empire, to ensure Britain's continued global dominance.

PATRIOTISM

Conservatives believe that citizens should be proud of British values and put the needs of Britain first.

CONTEXT: LATE 1800S, EARLY 1900S POLITICS

The period of time while the conservative club occupied 59 Old Market Street was also a deeply politically conservative time in Britain. For almost two decades, from 1886 to 1905, Britain was run by the conservatives: by **Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury** from 1886 to 1902, and then **Sir Arthur James Balfour** from 1902 to 1905.

The conservative party at the time were referred to as '**the Whips'.**

Despite this, in the Bristol by-elections for East Bristol in 1895, there were no conservative representatives in the running. Instead, it was a show-down between the **Liberal** representative, **Sir William Henry Wills**, a member of the Wills tobacco dynasty, and **independent socialist** candidate **Hugh Holmes Gore,** who had moved from his family home in Clifton to live closer to the working class communities in East Bristol which he hoped to represent.

Unlike mainstream politics at the time, we can assume that the people of East Bristol as a whole were not too fond of the conservative party and instead looked towards individuals promoting more liberal and socialist values.

A **marquess** is a rank of nobleman; someone who belonged to the **aristocracy.**
The aristocracy was an **upper-class social category**, reserved for the 'most prestigious and wealthy' - those with the most power. They also owned a lot of land and were associated with royalty. Ranks in the nobility were **hereditary**, meaning they were passed down in families.

What is a by-election?
A by-election is an election which takes place in a singular political constituency (an area of voters represented by a specific member of parliament), rather than across multiple constituencies, like in a General Election which is voted on by every area in the country.
In a by-election, voters in that constituency will decide what individual/political party they want to represent them in parliament (they vote on an MP.)

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION OF BRISTOL EAST CONSTITUENCY:

1895-1918: LIBERAL

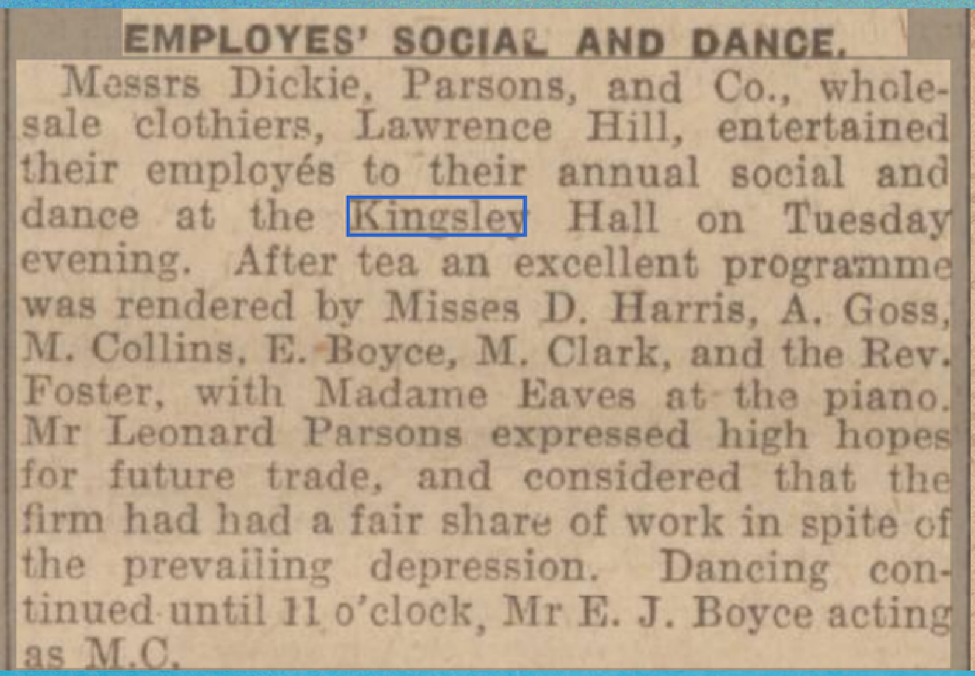
1918-1922: CONSERVATIVE

1923-1950: LABOUR

Early 1900s
Dances at Kingsley Hall

Context

When the Conservative Club (see previous page) moved out of 59 Old Market Street in 1906, it found new owners in the Independent Labour Party (ILP), who named it Kingsley Hall after the socialist and writer Charles Kingsley (more about this on the next page). As well as being used for political meetings by the ILP, the building was also being used as a dance hall. Newspaper archives show that these most likely happened between 1912 and 1916.



EMPLOYES' SOCIAL AND DANCE.

Messrs Dickie, Parsons, and Co., wholesale clothiers, Lawrence Hill, entertained their employés to their annual social and dance at the Kingsley Hall on Tuesday evening. After tea an excellent programme was rendered by Misses D. Harris, A. Goss, M. Collins, E. Boyce, M. Clark, and the Rev. Foster, with Madame Eaves at the piano. Mr Leonard Parsons expressed high hopes for future trade, and considered that the firm had had a fair share of work in spite of the prevailing depression. Dancing continued until 11 o'clock, Mr E. J. Boyce acting as M.C.

Above: A newspaper clipping describing social and dance at Kingsley Hall.
Source: British Newspaper Archives.

Below: An example photo showing what British dances may have looked like in the 1910s, and what people may have worn. NOT AT KINGSLEY HALL.
Source: mylondon.news



A man named Mr. Davis is cited in many of the newspaper archives as the pianist for the dances.

These alcoves found on the ground floor, along the corridor were part of the old Crush Hall, where people would line up before entering the main Dance Hall (in the back office).



Different types of dances took place at Kingsley Hall. One of them was the 'Gurkha Barn Dance', which probably refers to a British adaptation of the Gurkha Khukuri dance of victory performed by Gurkha soldiers. The Gurkhas were a division of Nepalese soldiers who were encouraged to fight for the British Indian Army in WW1. **Other dances held at Kingsley Hall include 'confetti dances', fancy dress dances and dances for holidays such as Valentines day, Easter and Christmas.**



Gurkha soldiers

Independent Labour Party

The ILP was a **socialist** and **labour** organisation formed in 1893 which hoped to replace Britian's capitalist infrastructure with "a classless society with all economic resources communally owned". Lacking the popularity and internal structure of the major political parties, in 1975, the ILP identified itself as a political pressure group.

The 'Crush Hall' was used as a passage way for people attending dances at Kingsley Hall (see previous page.)

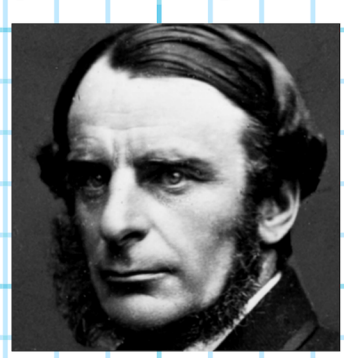
59 OLD MARKET STREET OFFICIALLY BECOMES KINGSLEY HALL

The building appears to be vacant from 1907-1911. In 1911, La Trobe and Weston architects drew up plans to update the building for the new occupation of the Independent Labour Party. This layout included a 'crush hall', two shops, cloak rooms and offices. The building was opened by founder of the Labour Party Keir Hardie and Mrs Hardie in 1911.

One of the shops was a **tobacconist,** who sold different types of tobacco. Tobacco was brought to Britain through the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and smoking cigarettes became very popular.

The other shop was used by a **palm-reader** called Professor Conrad Lisle , who read the palm of the Prince of Wales in 1922! A palm reader is someone who uses analysis of the human palm to fore-tell information about their future. The practice originated from India and spread across the globe.

CHARLES KINGSLEY



The ILP named 59 Old Market Street after a man called Charles Kingsley, due to his contributions to socialism. He was one of the founders of **Christian Socialism in Britain,** formed labour cooperatives and fought for social reform to benefit working people. He was also a **writer** of children's literature, as well as a **historian.** Despite this, Kingsley shared some **racist and sexist views**, showing the limits of his 'progressive' politics and brings up questions around the name of the building and what it represents.



SOCIAL ISSUES

Pamphlets and leaflets published by the ILP in 1911 cover a broad range of matters, the most common matters related to: **socialism, trade unionism, wages, railway strikes, the coal industry, opposition to workhouses, child welfare and education, foreign policy, anti-colonialism** and of course internal ILP logistics, meetings and visions for the future.

A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Records show correspondence between party branches and external individuals and groups all over Britain in 1911 as well as America, Australia, Belgium, Constantinople (now Istanbul), Egypt, France, Greece, India, Iraq, New Zealand, and Switzerland.



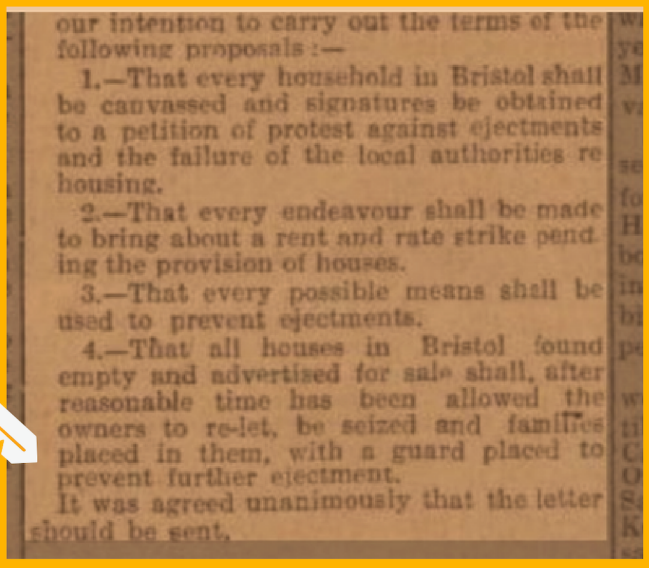
Socialism in Bristol

1920S HOUSING CRISIS

- Post-World War 1, many men were unemployed.
- Many were unable to afford rent because their wages were not keeping pace with the rate of inflation.
- As well as this, many houses were in very poor condition.
- Landlords were also keeping houses for private rent, so many houses were empty when they could have been used to house the unemployed.
- As a result, there was a mass movement by the Bristol Unemployed Association, fighting for affordable housing.



1924 HOUSING 'ULTIMATUM'



our intention to carry out the terms of the following proposals :—

1.—That every household in Bristol shall be canvassed and signatures be obtained to a petition of protest against ejectments and the failure of the local authorities re housing.

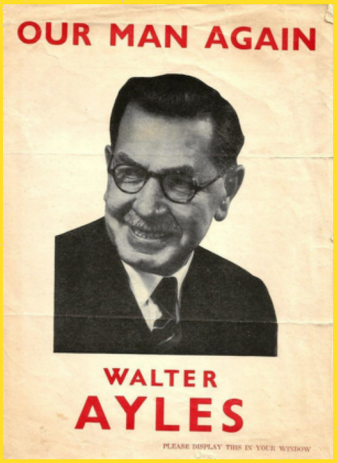
2.—That every endeavour shall be made to bring about a rent and rate strike pending the provision of houses.

3.—That every possible means shall be used to prevent ejectments.

4.—That all houses in Bristol found empty and advertised for sale shall, after reasonable time has been allowed the owners to re-let, be seized and families placed in them, with a guard placed to prevent further ejectment.

It was agreed unanimously that the letter should be sent.

WALTER AYLES: A LOCAL HERO



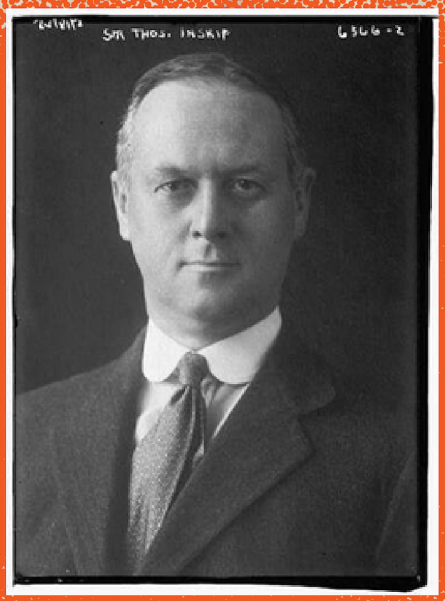
- Walter Ayles was a **prominent organiser and General Secretary for the ILP** from 1910-1916 as well as a Councillor for Easton Ward, before serving as a Labour MP in parliament, and then representing Bristol North from 1923 to 1924 and from 1929 to 1931. Ayles' work and presence is reported on repeatedly in papers at the time.
- He fought for the rights of the unhoused and unemployed, detesting what he called 'the hell of unemployment'.
- He was also a **conscientious objector**, meaning he opposed the war (World War 1), and refused to serve in the army.
- **In an ILP pamphlet, he wrote** "Because horrible outrages and ghastly crimes have been committed by others, that is no reason why I too should kill and destroy...I can only help to prevent them by a refusal to join in war. Hate cannot be destroyed by hate. It can only be transformed by love."
- He seemed to be a **local hero.**

CHALLENGING ANTI-WORKING CLASS ATTITUDES

In December 1923, a debate took place at Kingsley Hall between Walter Ayles and a conservative party member, Sir Thomas Inskip on the topic of Bristol's unemployed.

Inskip made insulting comments about the unemployed and ex-soldiers, which Walter Ayles challenged.

The unemployed responded in defense of Ayles, writing in a letter adressed to Inskip: "Walter Ayles was, and is now, a far better man than ever you could be, and we, the unemployed, know we can trust him where we cannot trust a professional liar.'



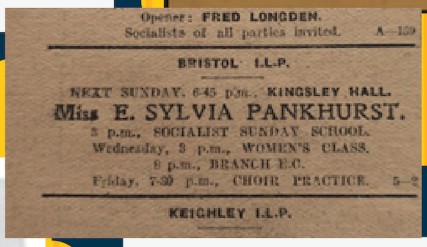
suffragettes

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Suffragettes were activists who fought for women's social, political and economic rights, particularly the **right to vote**. It was founded by Emmeline Pankhurst, who was part of an organisation called the Women's Social and Political Union.
They had extreme and sometimes violent ways of protesting for their cause. Bristol suffragettes set a University building on fire in 1913. This lead to retaliation from some men at the University, who counter-attacked the Suffragette HQ, pictured below:



Individuals in the Independent Labour Party's committee were conscientious objectors, who were imprisoned for their beliefs and this led to the ILP being directed by women during the First World War. These women were also instrumental in the regional efforts of the suffrage movement, and held meetings to encourage local women into employment in the early 20th century.



Opener: FRED LONGDEN.
Socialists of all parties invited. A—159

BRISTOL I.L.P.

NEXT SUNDAY, 6.45 p.m., KINGSLEY HALL.
Miss E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.
3 p.m., SOCIALIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.
Wednesday, 3 p.m., WOMEN'S CLASS.
8 p.m., BRANCH E.C.
Friday, 7.30 p.m., CHOIR PRACTICE. 5—2

KEIGHLEY I.L.P.

Prominent Suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst attended a talk at Kingsley Hall in 1920.



mabel tothill

Mabel Tothill, became Bristol's first woman councillor. From 1922 to at least 1924, Tothill acted as chairman for the ILP, meaning she was in charge. She took over from another female chairman of the Bristol ILP, Annie Townley. Tothill worked to do more events specifically for women. Her activities were reported on in the annual meetings of the ILP.

As well as fighting for women's and workers rights, Tothill was heavily involved in campaigning for affordable housing in Bristol, saying in 1923 that **"If they did not liberate women from...struggling against dirt and bad conditions, they were wasting the life of their women.'**

She was also a conscientious objector (refused to serve the war effort), a pacifist (opposed to war and violence), and the Chair of the Bristol Peace Council.

There is now a road named after her: **Mabel Tothill Place** in Barton Hill!

1930-1960

BRISTOL'S TRADE UNIONS

THE ILP LEAVE...

.... but the building was still playing a key role in Bristol's political scene, by **hosting a variety of political meetings**, such as a Freedom of the Press Campaign meeting hosted on the premises in 1945 by the Bristol Freedom Press Defence Committee, along with the Anarchist Federation, Commonwealth, ILP and Peace Pledge Union. In the years from 1952-1955, the building was also **used by the Bristol Trades Council** to organise meetings, marches and protests to support workers rights in Bristol and the South West.

Throughout the 1930s-1960s, the building was used by various trade unions and Bristol Trades Council as their offices.

WHAT IS A TRADES COUNCIL?

- Bring together local trade union movements
- Hold protests, talks, marches
- Promote solidarity in workplace disputes
- Protect employees from employers
- Campaign on issues of health, education, welfare, transport
- Link the issues of workers rights to the wider working class community

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

A May Day procession was a serious political event which acted as a protest for worker's rights, but it was also a day of celebrating the contributions and culture of the working class. Kingsley Hall was a significant way-point, or meeting point for these marches. You can see the marchers passing Kingsley Hall in the image on the left. They carried intricate banners which displayed their messages, sometimes with imagery that represented their causes.

1960s



KINGSLEY HALL

1960s





MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

MAY DAY
DANCE
TONIGHT 8 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.
TRANSPORT WORKERS HALL
VICTORIA STREET
BRISTOL 1.
Non-Stop Dancing to
KEN LEWIS AND HIS BAND
JIMMY DUNCEFORD AND HIS BAND
THE JEFF SMITH QUARTET
THE CADILACS
FINAL JUDGING OF THE BRISTOL MAY QUEEN COMPETITION
Buffet by Redcliffe Caterers
Tickets 5/-, obtainable from: The Kingsley Hall, Old Market Street, office open until 6.30 p.m.

GRAND
PROCESSION
SUNDAY, MAY 7
Leaving Kingsley Hall 2.45 p.m. proceeding to Queen Square via Castle Street, Union Street, Nelson Street, and The Centre.
Three Bands in the Procession:
THE BRISTOL EAST TEMPERANCE BAND
THE BRISTOL PIPE BAND
MIKE TOBIN AND HIS MAGNETTES
DEMONSTRATION IN QUEEN SQUARE
Speakers:
MR. IAN MIKARDO
MR. E. J. RAVENHILL of Reynolds News.
BUFFET CAR IN QUEEN QUARE (by Redcliffe Caterers)
PLEASE NOTE TIME OF PROCESSION

Give us your support at both these functions.



'STAY OFF THE BUSES, EVEN IF I HAVE TO FIND A BIKE.' TONY BENN ON THE BRISTOL BUS BOYCOTT.

TONY BENN

- Trade unionist and Labour MP for Bristol Southeast from 1950 to 1979
- Involved with the 1963 Bristol Bus Boycott, a collective movement to not use Bristol buses due to the Bristol Omnibus Company refusing to employ Black and Asian drivers.
- Part of the Labour Government cabinet between 1964-79
- Activist and anti-war campaigner
- Strongly protested the Iraq War in 2003
- Supported gay rights
- Campaigned to boycott South African goods to impact the economy of the Apartheid (racial segregation) regime
- Campaigned for Nuclear Disarmament, protesting against the storing and potential use of nuclear weapons

Tony Benn is honored in Bristol as a hero and influential figure. There is a 'bust' (statue of his head and upper body) in Bristol City Hall.



Charity occupants 1970s-present

Bristol Cerebral Palsy Plus

1625 Independent People

Evening Post, 1969

THE END OF AN ERA: KINGSLEY HALL PUT UP FOR SALE



'With the rebirth of Old Market, Kingsley Hall should soon find a new owner. We only hope that he will preserve and restore its crumbling façade.'

A CHANGING AREA

In 1969, Kingsley Hall is put up for sale, The previous owners sited the 'rebirth of Old Market', indicating that at this period of time there were some changes happening in the area. It suggests that there was a revitalisation. Kingsley Hall had fallen into disrepair and was no longer fit for purpose, it desperately needed a new owner to fix it up.

NATIONAL SPASTICS ASSOCIATION

A new chapter opened in 1972, with the building being given to the Bristol branch of the National Spastics Association (now known as Scope) by the Van Neste Trust. This group used the building as an office, for fundraising events, as a nursery group and for their dance team practices until 1977.

The charity helped those with Cerebral Palsy, which is a movement condition that affects coordination and causes stiff or weak muscles and tremors.

In 2009, two organisations- Wayahead and Priority Youth Housing merged to form 1625 Independent People and made Kingsley Hall their home.

With the help of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the building is set to be transformed again so that it can better serve young people, with heritage, sustainability and youth wellbeing at its heart!

1625 Independent People

Made possible with Heritage Fund

Themes to explore what life in Old Market was like in more contemporary history:

Gentrification and regeneration

Queer History - Gay Village

Night-life

What other histories are there to explore?