

Polstead Road history

Date: 24/11/25

Meeting: Liz's house

Present: Liz, Barry, Graham (plus Kay and Derick later)

1. St John's archives
 - a. Visit to meet Michael Riordan planned for 10/12 at 10.30 (Liz, Philip, Graham)
 - b. SJC have 1769 estate map, 1834 enclosure map and 1871 N.O. plan
2. General points / observation/questions:
 - a. Was the 'Russian house' a builder's yard (or brick-making site) before it was stables?
 - b. White bands painted on trees during war (blackout) still faintly visible when BC moved in (info from University gardener)
 - c. When did the coalyard close? What was its impact on the area?
 - d. American soldiers (on Meadow? At Institute during WW2?)
3. Houses:
 - a. Barry's house had 8 bedsits when bought: previous occupants included Elizabeth Jennings (of the 'Way'), and Alice's maid?; 2 x Spooner sisters: hosting lunches for students
 - b. What did architect think they were building and for whom?
 - c. Servants on the top floor? Do all houses have similar treatment re mouldings etc??
 - d. 1972 Leasehold reform forced SJC to sell up
4. Census records
 - a. Should give lodgers (identify how many at each era of road development)
 - b. Kay will continue to pursue post 1911
5. Sources of oral testimony
 - a. Talk to children of present / past occupants for their memories
 - b. Note: Mushy Pea and Children's Theatre group. Mari Pritchard a source? Or children who went to either /both?