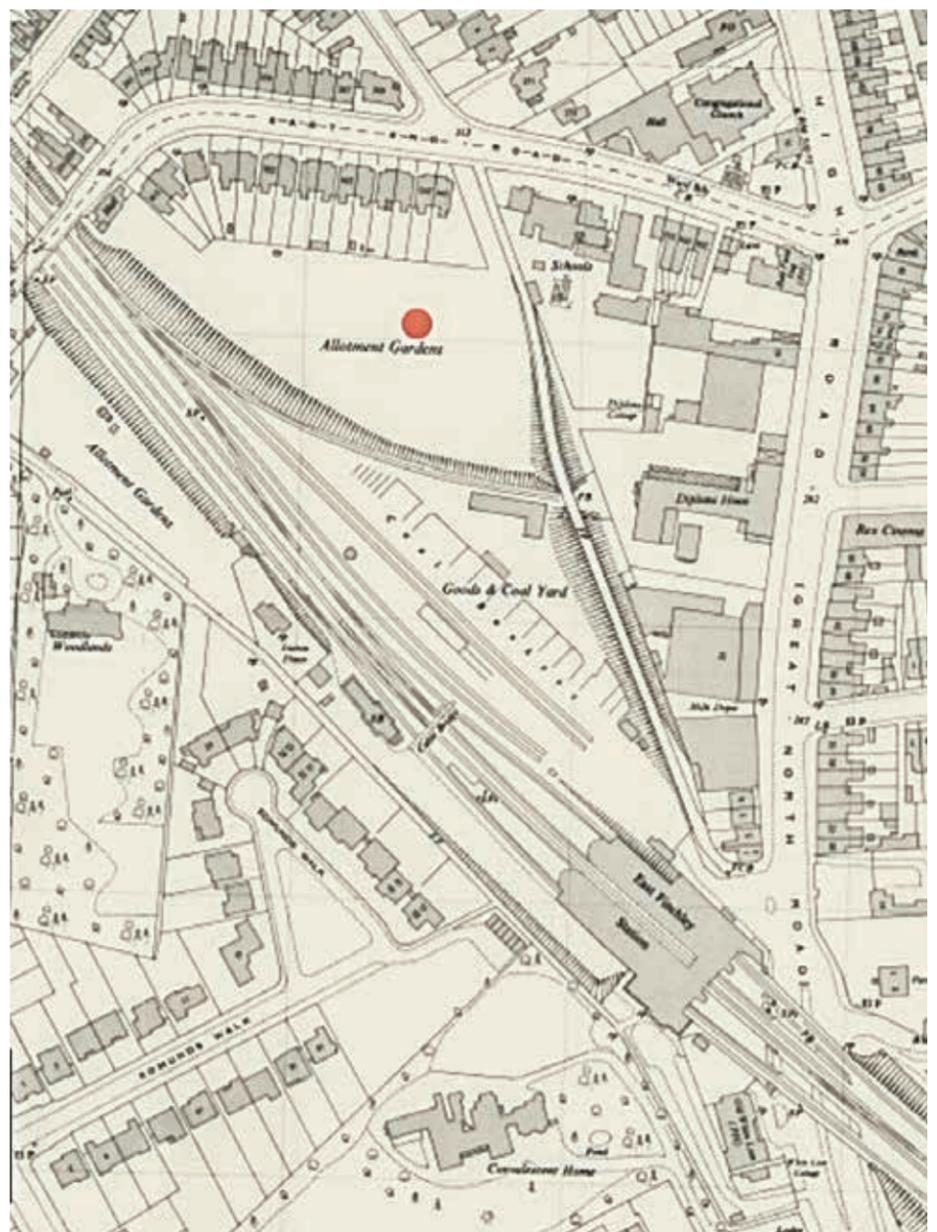


1890s: The triangle of land in East Finchley bordered by the railway line, the Great North Road and East End Road, showing the old Holy Trinity School, top centre, close to the Bald Faced Stag, the Congregational Chapel where the Viceroy Parade shops now stand; taken from an 1893-1896 Ordnance Survey map on www.layersoflondon.org.



1960s: The same triangle of land 70 years later showing the influx of new houses where fields used to be, and the conversion of the land alongside the railway line into a goods and coal yard, now occupied by the station car park; taken from a 1940-1960 Ordnance Survey map on www.layersoflondon.org.

Growing demand for private tutors is big business

By Katrina Roy

A survey by the Sutton Trust, a UK-based educational charity, shows that despite the uncertainty hanging over the UK's economy at the moment people are still, and increasingly, prepared to spend substantial amounts of money on tutoring their children of secondary school age.

Rising market

Tutoring is big business. The Sutton Trust's 2018 research shows that the tutoring market has doubled in size in little over a decade. The private tutoring market is now estimated to be worth in excess of £2 billion.

Little surprise perhaps that London tops the list with 41% of secondary school pupils receiving private tuition. Across England and Wales this figure remains high, equating to roughly a quarter (27%) of pupils polled.

Targeted help

There is also a trend for modifying tutoring to target specific exam goals. Results from the Sutton Trust report reveal that over a third of pupils are using tutoring explicitly to improve in a particular GCSE subject and exam.

This is something that Louise Goldsmith, a Muswell Hill-based tutor specialising in GCSE English language and literature, has noticed. She said: "I am tailoring my services in response to this demand from parents for more

targeted help for their children in deciphering the sometimes daunting requirements of the GCSE examiners."

Goldsmith, a former secondary school teacher with 15 years' experience and also a GCSE examiner, now runs both pre-GCSE booster sessions and 'supported GCSE mocks' alongside her regular tutor groups listed at www.englishexamtutor.com.

"Parents want to know when their children walk into the exam room they are absolutely clear about the assessment objectives for each paper, knowing the format, number and value of each question and how to structure and time their responses," she said.

State-funded private tuition

This sounds great for students fortunate enough to be able to afford this level of help but what about everyone else? More broadly, is it indicative of a failure in teaching standards at secondary schools? In fact the Sutton Trust, a charity set up with the explicit mandate of improving



Tutor: Louise Goldsmith

social mobility through education, is not calling for less tutoring but more.

Chairman Sir Peter Lampl said: "If we are serious about social mobility, we need to make sure that the academic playing field is levelled outside the school gate by the state providing funding for private tuition on a means-tested basis."

Possible solutions mooted by the foundation are some kind of means-tested voucher system, funded by the pupil premium for lower-income families and expanding non-profit and state tuition programmes.

Back through the layers of history

By David Melsome

A treasure trove of social history has been opened online allowing you to dive into the multiple layers that make up the story of London.

Called Layers of London, the website is a free collaborative resource for researchers, schools and anyone interested in their local area. Maps, photos and documents are freely available and users are encouraged to upload their own items to add to the historical record.

Material has already been provided by the British Library, The London Metropolitan Archives, Historic England, The National Archives, the Museum of London Archaeology and a wide range of national and local archives, institutions and community groups. Over time, the website's creators hope it will grow into a rich source of detail on London's people and places.

East Finchley is featured on the

site in two sets of Ordnance Survey maps, one from the 1890s and one from the 1960s. Using the interactive layers, it is easy to see how the area developed in these decades. To see the archives for yourself and to start adding items to the social record, go to www.layersoflondon.org.

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