



## No.10 Wellington Place

No.10 Wellington Place has been the home of a number of residents from the world of the arts with former residents including playwright Douglas Furber, most known for *Me & My Girl*; poet and radio producer, Louis MacNiece; and more recently former editor of *Tatler*, John Oliver. No.10 Wellington Place has also been visited by the author of *Cold Comfort Farm*, Stella Gibbons as well as being the home of a Caribbean heiress. Today, No.10 Wellington Place is Grade II listed and is located within the St John's Wood Conservation Area.

### Victorian Wellington Place

No.10 Wellington Place was built in 1838-9, and originally numbered, No.5. The earliest parish rate record for Wellington Place appears in 1840 when No.5 was recorded as owned by John Goodcheap and occupied by "John Goodcheap's tenants".

### Mrs Beckles and her daughters

By 1844, No.5 Wellington Place became the home of Mrs Elizabeth Beckles from the Island of Barbadoes [sic]. The 1851 census reveals Elizabeth Beckles was a widow, aged 72, living in Wellington Place with her three unmarried daughters, 49 year-old Susan, 32 year-old Caroline and 30 year-old Julia. The 1861 census shows Elizabeth Beckles was still at No.5 Wellington Place and listed as a "lady". At the time of the census a greater number of Elizabeth's family were in the house, including three further unmarried daughters, Mary, Frances and Amelia, as well as married daughter, Maria Hunter and a grand-daughter, Margaret, who were all listed as "lady". Also in the house were three female servants who had travelled with the family, their birthplaces being Trinidad, Dominica and Barbadoes [sic].

### Mr and Mrs Phelps

From around 1890 No.5 Wellington Place became the home of Thomas Phelps, a Farrier Smith (responsible for fitting horse shoes) and his wife Caroline and children, Selina, aged 17, Maria, aged 15 and William, aged two. There were also two boarders, James Davies and Walter Parisen, both from Wales. Mrs Phelps remained the landlady of No.5 Wellington Place until around 1914. It was in the following year that the numbers along Wellington Place were re-ordered and the house officially became No.10.

### Douglas Furber

In 1924, the house became the home of musical theatre writer, Douglas Furber, who is best known as the author of *Me and My Girl* (1937) and also wrote *Limehouse Blues* (1924) and *The Bells of St Mary's*, sung by Bing Crosby in 1945. Furber's music has also been used in a number of soundtracks including *The Godfather* and *Goodfellas*. Furber lived at No.10 Wellington Place with his wife Peggy until the early 1930s.

### Louis MacNiece

Shortly after World War II, No.10 Wellington Place became the home of playwright and poet, Louis Macneice. Macneice was a contemporary of W.H. Auden and wrote a large amount of poetry, including *Holes in the Sky* (1948) and *Star-gazer* (1963). MacNiece joined the BBC in 1941 and produced many successful radio shows including *Christopher Columbus* (1944) and *The Dark Tower* (1947).

### John Oliver and Renee Bourne Webb

In 1948, No.10 Wellington Place became the home of John Laurence Oliver and his wife, actress, Renee Bourne Webb and her father Reverend Charles Bourne Webb. John Oliver was editor of *Tatler* from 1961 to 1965 and is credited with bringing the magazine into the modern era, greatly increasing the circulation. Oliver's wife, Renee Bourne Webb was a stage actress whose performances included *Twelfth Night* at the Savoy Theatre in 1947.