



DALSTON.

The first reference to a police station in Dalston appeared in Police Orders dated September 7, 1871: -

'N. The new station at Dalston to be taken into occupation and the superintendent is to be report what officers he proposes to place there on station duty. Deductions for lodging: -

1 married man 4s per week 6 single men 1s per week'

This new station, probably the first separate police building for the area, was erected under the watchful eye of the Chief Police Architect T.C. Sorby who served in the post from 1868 to 1870. Whether this man actually designed the building is unknown, in any case he was dismissed for 'moonlighting' before the building was finished and replaced by a former assistant, Frederick Gaiger.

In another Police Order dated April 3, 1878 there was given notice of the formation of a new sub-division. The Kingsland and Hackney sub-division was split into three sub-divisions, Stoke Newington, Hackney and Dalston.

In February 1880 the Home Office authorised the Receiver to take the lease of the existing police station and adjoining house on separate leases for 31 years. In August 1883 the Home Office approved the acceptance of tenders for a new police station. Police Orders dated June 20, 1884 showed the address of the station as Dalston Lane, Hackney.

On August 1, 1886 the 'J' or Bethnal Green Division was formed, causing a revision of boundaries. Dalston itself was transferred from 'N' to 'J' Division with sub-divisional status.

It was considered necessary to enlarge the living accommodation at the station and protracted negotiations took place to acquire a site at the back of the station. These started in 1910 only to be finalised in July 1912 as leasehold property. Police Orders dated June 28, 1913 announced the final outcome: -



Superintendent Pryke at the Dalston Police Station stables in 1905

'The new section house at Dalston is to be taken into occupation 30 inst. The lodging assessment will be: -
1 unmarried inspector 3s per week 49 unmarried men 1s per week'

As land in this area was scarce it was decided to demolish the station and rebuild it on the same site at a cost of £4,283. The new station was taken into occupation on June 29, 1914. The lodging assessment for the accommodation was for two sets of married quarters at 10s each per week. The Chief Police Architect at the time both of these buildings were erected was John Dixon-Butler. He oversaw the building of over 200 London police stations and courthouses between 1886 and 1920 and was particularly noted for introducing and designing large section houses detached from the main station building, as typified by Dalston.

The freehold was purchased on May 4, 1923.

There was a re-organisation of the divisions north of the Thames in 1933 (P.O. May 30) and Dalston, was transferred to 'G' Division as a sectional station to Islington sub-division, City Road being the then newly appointed Divisional Station for the 'G' division.

A further re-organisation which related police boundaries to the new Local Authority areas set up by the London Government Act 1963 from April 1, 1965 placed Dalston as a sectional station to Hackney sub-division.

In 1962 it was decided to erect a new police station in the area. 175-189 Balls Pond Road and 202 Southgate Road were purchased for over £55,000. Over the next few years, whilst discussions were taking place, the site was used for car parking and vehicle testing. Although the local authority offered other sites none were taken up.

In the latter part of the 1980s a great deal of expensive and time consuming work was undertaken on the old building. One of the most obvious additions to the structure was the inclusion of an external rooftop covered walkway to join the main building fronting Dalston Lane to the rear former accommodation block. When completed the only memorable aspect remembered of this highly expensive addition was the route required to travel from front to back. Anyone in the rear yard wishing to go to the front office without resorting to the front door off the street had to climb through the rear block, cross by way of the added rooftop walkway, and descend through the main block.

In spite of these expensive works the Dalston police station (GA) at 39 Dalston Lane, London E8, was finally closed to the public in 1989