



Traffic scheme: 'friendly' for some, not for others

Canonbury Society Traffic Committee

We had an excellent response to the Canonbury Society survey in December regarding the Canonbury West Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) scheme with more than 300 people taking part, nearly 180 of whom are members. Below are some of the survey's findings.

The responses largely reflect whether people were affected by the rat runs of through traffic avoiding Highbury Corner. Around 65% of respondents in Canonbury Park North and Canonbury Place said there

had been a marked improvement since the scheme came into operation, whereas overall 54% of participants said that things were worse. Canonbury has a significant proportion of elderly residents (14% of those surveyed), with 6% being Blue Badge holders and at least 41 people sheltering.

On the positive side, the peacefulness of the area without through traffic and the Council's efforts to encourage cycling and walking were viewed favourably. Many were happy to trade these benefits for a few longer car journeys in and out of the area. Twenty-eight per cent said that they had used their cars less since the scheme started and 25% thought they would cycle more.

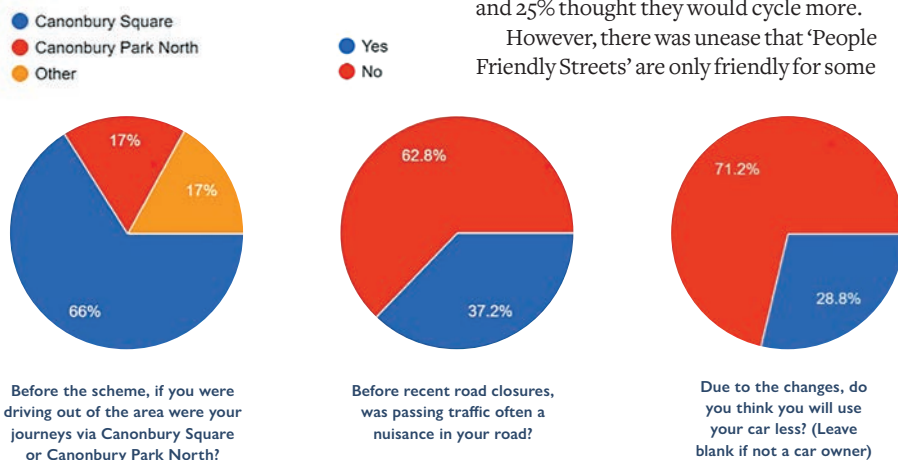
However, there was unease that 'People Friendly Streets' are only friendly for some

people. Undoubtedly, residents, businesses, pedestrians and sometimes cyclists on main roads are being adversely affected by the increased traffic congestion and pollution. There was particular concern about the effect of the scheme on local shops, such as Shriji News and Canonbury Dry Cleaners.

Residents said car journeys often took between 10–15 minutes longer. Some found it harder to call taxis to their homes. A number mentioned confused delivery drivers arriving on the wrong side of the filters, and the disruption of vans and lorries turning round by the filters. The dangers of mopeds riding onto the pavement to evade cameras on Canonbury Place and Alwyne Road was another recurring theme, as was speeding traffic on Alwyne Villas, Grange Grove and Canonbury Park North.

In addition, the Council's lack of consultation, the slowness of buses caught in traffic, the perception of an increase in crime, the poor and ugly signage, and the level of congestion and pollution on main roads were mentioned repeatedly.

We are aware that our members and Canonbury residents have varying views. However, most seem to favour measures to stop traffic taking a short cut through the area, provided they can continue to use cars or taxis when necessary, without long detours and holds-ups. For this reason, we have decided to push the Council to allow residents, Blue Badge holders, black cabs and health professionals free access to the area by using number plate recognition technology (see box below).



THE CANONBURY SOCIETY CALLS FOR TRAFFIC EXEMPTIONS

When the Council showed the Society's traffic committee proposals for the Canonbury West LTN, we argued strongly that traffic filters should be on the St Paul's Road boundary of Canonbury, operating only in morning and evening rush hours. This was rejected by traffic modellers on the grounds that the Council's plan was not to have timed restrictions, except around schools. We then asked for automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) exemptions to allow residents to drive in and out freely. This was also rejected, although cameras now in place could easily be adapted for this

purpose. Now, we are calling again for the Council to use ANPR technology to allow exemptions for **Canonbury residents, Blue Badge holders, black cabs and health professionals making home visits.**

LOOK OUT FOR SECOND SURVEY

We plan to conduct a second survey later in the year to see if people's views have changed. We will also have further talks with the Council and keep a close eye on the outcomes of various legal cases regarding LTN schemes. See our website for developments.



FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Philip Walker

Little did we know that 2020 would be dominated by COVID-19. During the pandemic, emergency laws came into force which facilitated the introduction of the Canonbury West Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) scheme. This has had a mixed reception, and, as a result, we have set up a traffic subcommittee, liaised with the Council (with no success) and conducted the first traffic



survey to understand our members' views about the initiative. Another survey will follow once the lockdown restrictions are lifted or eased. In the meantime, we are pressing for ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) exemptions.

The Society's central mission is to promote, safeguard and assist in the preservation of the conservation area for the benefit of residents. We also recognise a growing demand for us to become more involved in the day-to-day social aspects of living in Canonbury and this trend has been boosted by the lockdowns, shielding and other measures imposed to contain the virus. With so

much changing in the world, we are eager to engage with our members to retain and enhance our relevance.

This year is our 50th anniversary as we were founded in 1971. Currently, we have a membership approaching 500 and I'm delighted to say that of this number, 69 members joined in the last year. It was unfortunate that we were unable to organise our customary summer and winter parties, but we will hold a special 50th anniversary celebration as soon as we are able to. We look forward to meeting our members, both old and new, then. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy the beauty of Canonbury.

Ready for the Big Gas Turn Off?

James Coates

Most of the public attention on reducing carbon emissions has focussed on road traffic. But there is another leg to the government's policy on reducing CO2 emissions. The Energy White Paper, Powering our Net Zero Future, published last December followed hot on the heels of the prime minister's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. There is a lot of political capital

behind this as the UK prepares to host the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cornwall in the autumn.

The plans include phasing out gas central heating boilers and other gas appliances in our homes. Over the next 15 years new boilers will have to be hydrogen-compatible so that when the gas pipes in a whole area switch to hydrogen, we shall all be ready. (There was an overnight switch to natural gas from coal gas in the 1960s).

Manufacturer Worcester Bosch already has a suitable model in the wings. Alternative methods suggested for heating our homes are electricity and heat exchangers, which extract heat from either the air or the ground.

But they will all be much less efficient and therefore more expensive than gas. So, we shall be expected to insulate our homes to minimise the amount of heating required. This will include loft insulation, which many of us may already be familiar with, external wall-cladding and double glazing. In a conservation area like ours, which has a high proportion of listed buildings, this presents serious problems as Islington Council is well aware.

Over the coming year, the Society will discuss with the Council what might be acceptable. Will the rules on double glazing (not allowed in a listed building unless the frames are completely rotten) be relaxed? External cladding is almost certainly a no-no, but could some external walls be insulated on the inside without damaging listed features, such as ceiling cornices and door frames? And how much might that cost (including large scale re-decoration) even with a government grant?

Lockdown larks!



© Ben Pearson

One of the highlights of the week during the first lockdown for Elsie Pearson, aged 12, and Clara Cossey, aged 11, was Friday night rooftop drinks. Elsie explains: 'We had a theme each week and came dressed up and then shouted to each other from one house to the other.'

Left: The Cossey family and Miles McCarthy taking part in Oscar-themed drinks.

Below: The McCarthy family ready for 'My Favourite Holiday'.



Instagram @clashycanbury



PLANNING FOR CONSERVATION

The Society has been concerned for some time about the permitted development rules in conservation areas. Listed buildings are still protected, but the rules are not entirely clear and have been further complicated by the present government's National Planning Strategy. This is probably the most important planning issue facing the Society in its 50th year and we shall be seeking to clarify the position with the Council. We will update our website with developments.

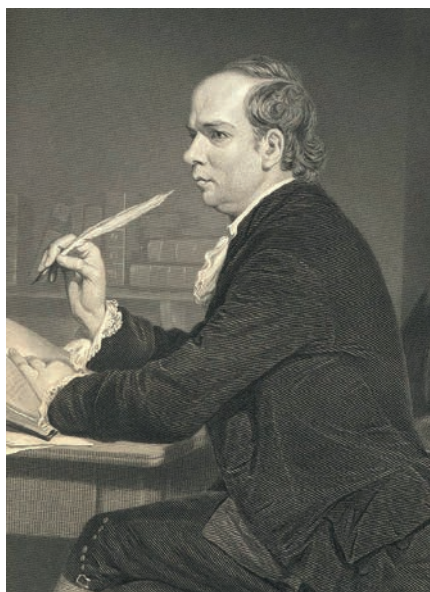
OLIVER GOLDSMITH: CANONBURY'S FIRST FAMOUS AUTHOR

David Ireland

Canonbury's best-known literary figures, George Orwell and Evelyn Waugh, lived around the corner in Canonbury Square, but our first literary giant was Oliver Goldsmith – 'one of the first men we now have as an author', as Samuel Johnson told his diarist James Boswell. Goldsmith lived in the Compton Oak Room on the second floor of Canonbury Tower, from December 1762 until well into 1764.

Goldsmith is best known for his *The Vicar of Wakefield*, one of the most popular and reprinted novels of the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, but while at Canonbury Tower, he also wrote the philosophical poem *The Traveller*, which signalled the arrival of the best poet since [Alexander] Pope, as Johnson put it in the *Critical Review* of December 1764. Six months earlier, he had published *An History of England, in a Series of Letters from a Nobleman to his Son*.

The latter two-volume work seems to have involved more perspicacity than perspiration. Goldsmith's 1840 biographer Washington Irving records that 'it was digested from [historians] Hume, Rapin, Carte, and Kennet. These authors he would



read in the morning, make a few notes, ramble with a friend in the country about the skirts of "merry Islington", return to a temperate dinner and cheerful evening, and, before going to bed, write off what had arranged itself in his head ... a more free and fluent style than if he had been mousing at the time among authorities'.

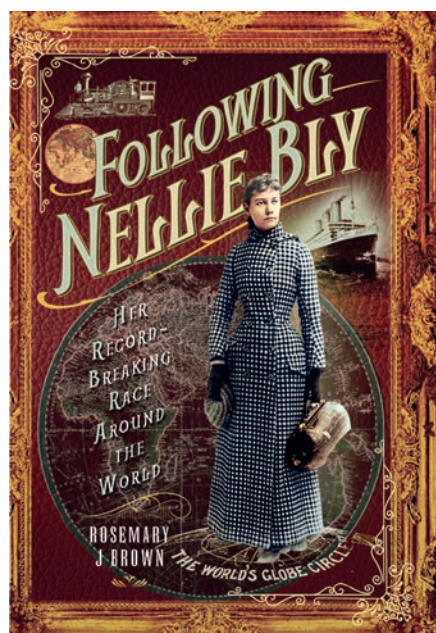
Addicted to gambling and habitually in debt, Oliver Goldsmith was an Anglo-Irish writer famous for his novel *The Vicar of Wakefield* and the play *She Stoops to Conquer*. Known amongst contemporaries as congenial but impetuous and disorganised, his literary recognition was boosted by the patronage of Samuel Johnson.

While in Canonbury Tower, Goldsmith is likely only to have revised *The Vicar of Wakefield* but the novel saved him, briefly, from his fearsome landlady Mrs Fleming (painted by William Hogarth, as 'Goldsmith's Hostess', on a visit to Goldsmith, to help him pay his £50 rent). This incident was described with humour by Boswell, in the *Life of Johnson*:

I received one morning a message from poor Goldsmith that he was in great distress ... I sent him a guinea, and promised to come to him directly. I found that his landlady had arrested him for his rent ... I perceived that he had already changed my guinea, and had got a bottle of Madeira and a glass before him. I put the cork into the bottle ... He then told me he had a novel ready for the press ... I saw its merit ... and having gone to a bookseller, sold it for sixty pounds. I brought Goldsmith the money, and he discharged his rent, not without rating his landlady in a high tone for having used him so ill.

From Canonbury to Canton: Following Nellie Bly in Her Record-Breaking Race Around the World

Rosemary Brown



Journalist Nellie Bly stepped out of her Manhattan apartment on 14 November 1889 ... and into history. Seventy-two days later she had accomplished the 'most remarkable of all feats of circumnavigation ever performed by a human being', according to the *New York World*. She raced around a 'man's world' – alone and literally with the clothes on her back – to shatter the fictional record set by Jules Verne's Phileas Fogg. She was a global celebrity. To this day she is among the top 10 female adventurers.

One hundred and twenty-five years later, I walked out of my house in Canonbury to follow in Nellie Bly's global footsteps. I wanted to pay tribute to her and other forgotten female adventurers who defied convention and set off for faraway places, like Isabella Bird, Gertrude Bell and Marianne North. My aim was to get them 'back on the map' as role models for my daughter Acadia and her co-millennials.

Nellie and I both travelled alone with one small bag. The ocean liners and steam trains of her era have vanished, so I flew with

a round-the-world ticket. When I returned to Canonbury 33 days later, I had travelled 22,500 miles, across eight countries and three continents.

Nellie seemed to be with me when I visited Jules Verne's study in northern France, inside the belly of Japan's Great Buddha and on the verandas of grand colonial hotels where we sipped exotic fruit juices. We both travelled in rickshaws, trains and trams, confronted raging tropical storms, and rejoiced in the kindness of strangers.

Although best known for her travels, Nellie Bly pioneered investigative journalism and used her reporting to challenge poverty, injustice and corruption. The same grit and determination sent her racing around the world where I joined her. Our two journeys are captured in my book *Following Nellie Bly: Her Record-Breaking Race Around the World*, published by Pen and Sword.

For a 25% discount enter the code TCS25 at the checkout at pen-and-sword.co.uk

FRIENDS OF THE NEW RIVER WALK

Jack Lambert

Losing a beautiful willow tree

Perhaps the most dramatic event to take place last year in the New River Walk was the sudden uprooting and collapse of the mature willow tree near the round hut during the ferocious storm of August 2020.



The willow stump may be made into a temporary seat.

© Susan Milleship

The tree had grown from a sapling planted some 32 years ago as a gift from a local resident, the late Sir Alan Parks. This was to replace another willow which had blown down during the October 1987 storm, falling across the river and into our garden while I watched, petrified. Luckily, both trees avoided damaging our house, or the hut.

There are now plans to landscape the affected area and plant a new oak tree, away from the water's edge. Our local councillors, Clare Jeapes, John Woolf and Nick Wayne have successfully applied to the Council for £2,175 of Local Initiative Funds to support these works, while our Friends of the New River Walk action group may also make a contribution from funds received after recent filming took place there.

Major maintenance project

The Council has confirmed that the £450,000 pledged last year for environmental improvements to the New River Walk is still available. Parks and Public Realm staff are working under lockdown conditions to

implement requests by parks managers and to appoint contractors to carry out works to both sections of the New River Walk.

These works are likely to involve removing fish, draining water, removing silt and, most radically, replacing the pumped water circulation systems with state-of-the-art aerators which are thought to be more effective and cheaper to operate. As the water has two sections, it is hoped that one of them will always have water in it, while work takes place in the other one, so as to be accessible to the public as well as to birds and fish.

It is too early to speculate on a programme for the total project, but one of the most urgent jobs will be to replace the rotting wooden decking of the bridge on the Douglas Road side.

Volunteer work sessions

We hope to arrange volunteer sessions when the programme of works becomes clearer and virus restrictions allow. For further information watch out for site notices and check The Canonbury Society [website](https://www.canonburysociety.org.uk).

Friends of Canonbury Square

Beatrix Payne

Islington has the least amount of green space per resident of any London borough, so the beautiful public gardens of Canonbury Square really proved their worth during the lockdowns.

Like all Islington's green spaces, this heavier than normal usage has taken its toll on some of the plants. Not only that, but Friends of Canonbury Square (FOCS), had to suspend several of its gardening mornings. Fortunately, a couple of our brilliant volunteers have been out working safely to keep things looking good.

Despite all the gloom, there was also

some good news last year. With the help of Islington Council, FOCS installed a rain-water harvesting water butt, spread nearly six tonnes of compost across both gardens, spruced up the phone box on the corner with Canonbury Road and planted a number of new rose bushes. In the spring, our volunteers prepared the beds for summer flowers and in the autumn, they planted bulbs.

Community garden mornings take place on the third Saturday of the month, apart from in August. Plans to plant up the east garden's circular central bed are on hold while we try to improve its very poor drainage. In the meantime, our team of volunteer gate-lockers are locking up at night. We



© Rosemary Brown

appreciate their commitment, kindness and patience with park users when closing up after dark.

For further information visit:

friendsofcanonburysquare.org.uk; Facebook and Instagram. Or email us at: info@friendsofcanonburysquare.org.uk



© Rosemary Brown



© Rosemary Brown

Above: Liz McVeigh sprucing up the phone box on Canonbury Square.

Far left: Judith Parker hard at work.

Left: Douglas Watson (r) and Steven Paull checking that they are suitably socially distanced.



FORGOTTEN CORNERS AND TREE PITS

Judith Parker

Islington Gardeners Forgotten Corners is a scheme which supports residents who want to garden neglected pieces of land. These are usually owned by the Council, but can be privately owned. Either way, permission to garden needs to be sought.

Tree pits or tree gardens are a type of Forgotten Corner created in the bare soil around a street tree. The Council encourages them, subject to guidelines found on their website, and it is important to follow these to avoid damaging the tree. All maintained tree pits have to be identified with a band of red ribbon wrapped around the tree.

The sites are usually difficult, and like mine, are often trampled on, littered, and subject to wind damage, theft and vandalism. The plants also must be as tough as nails. But we persevere, because the results can be very rewarding.

For more advice about Forgotten Corners visit: islingtongardeners.org.uk, and click on the 'Other' tab of the home page. You can contact patrick.richardson@islington.gov.uk. Also, see the tree pit maintenance form and tree pit guidance pdf on the Council's website: www.islington.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/tree-pit-maintenance.

Everyone has a story

Nicola Baird

I moved to Islington after university and have mostly lived in the borough since the mid-1980s. It is also where my daughters were born and it was during the many walks up to Highbury Fields or along the New River with a buggy that I saw just how friendly Islington people were.

I kept meeting local characters with fantastic stories. I knew that few of their Islington tales suited national newspapers, so I started collecting them on a blog. The first interview was with horseman Ron Pace in 2012. Ron was born in 1935 and his father ran a driving horse stables near Kings Cross: 'I'd bunk off and go and borrow a horse and cart and go scrap totting. I'd find old iron, rags and metal just lying in the street. By the time I was 12, I was in the fruit game. I went round with a horse and cart selling tomatoes, beetroot ... And on Sundays, I'd sell winkles and cockles.'

I rarely interview anyone famous. Instead, I enjoy finding people who are known well locally because they run a business, or are often spotted in a particular place or do something creatively inspiring, such as Clarissa Hulse who designs beautiful homeware. I try to find out why they love the area, how it got into their DNA and what they like to do here. As a result, my blog is a collection of love stories about Islington.

Interviews with Canonbury people include artist Gary Power, who can be seen most days painting in the area. Inspired by Andy Gardner's history walks and the plaque at 27b Canonbury Square, I couldn't resist one fanciful interview where I 'met' George Orwell. More recently, Canonbury resident Ursula Arens



© Kim Gill for Islington Faces

Nicola Baird, founder and chief writer on Islington Faces.

explained how to eat sustainably. When Islington Faces became a small charity in November 2019, Ursula joined our board of trustees. Hopefully, this will lead to more Canonbury residents sharing their stories.

You can find 330 interviews with people who live or work in Islington at islingtonfacesblog.com.

At the moment, we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, but in 2021 it is sobering to realise that the past decade has been the warmest ever recorded. The impact climate change is having on the planet can feel far away from us. So, from March 2021, Islington Faces will be focusing on energy-themed interviews to be called #EveryoneHasAnEnergyStory. These will connect locals who have questions about heating, eating and travel with local based, climate change specialists.

We want to find out what you find difficult about tackling climate change. Please email questions to islingtonfaces@gmail.com Or visit our Facebook page. More info at www.islingtonfacesblog.com/energy-story Twitter and Instagram: @islingtonfaces

PROTECTING OUR TREES

Ria Higgins

In a move that underlines the Society's commitment to protecting Canonbury's trees, the tree team is now keeping a tree replacement list for the neighbourhood. In the unusual case where the felling of a tree, public or private, is deemed necessary, it must be replaced within a year, and one of our aims is to make sure this ruling and time frame is adhered to. The Society's tree team kicked off 2020 with a very useful meeting with the Council's tree officers about tree protection.

Follow my new Instagram dedicated to the beautiful public trees of Canonbury [@treesofcanonbury](https://www.instagram.com/treesofcanonbury)



Instagram @flashycurlywury

Lockdown in Canonbury

THE SOUNDTRACK TO OUR LIVES: INSPIRATION IN LOCKDOWN

Graham Watts

Remember the first lockdown? It was such a frightening time, but somehow people were drawn together, reaching out, clapping and supporting one another. I don't know about you, but as the months went on, my energy drained, I felt tired, flat, I was grieving for our lost freedoms and for the lives that were lost.

I experienced all of these things and somehow found solace, not only in reconnecting with people, but also with the past. In the 1990s, I had written and recorded an album in Canada, and my wife encouraged me to bring it back to life. A friend agreed to

help me by digitising it and remastering it. We then uploaded it onto streaming services and created new music videos.

The album, *Chicken 37*, includes 14 songs originally recorded during long winter nights in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada – on some of the tracks you can hear a log fire crackling in the background! The title track and video relate the inner feelings of a chicken (yes, a chicken!) which I think, somehow, reflects on how we feel today. The song *Achilles' Heel* echoes with lost love and haunting memories of youth, but the video for it, which was made in Bangladesh just before the lockdown, is sweetly sentimental and full of hope.



To hear the music and watch the videos, visit: <https://grahamwatts.hearnow.com>. Or www.youtube.com/channel/UCSWgE-jpPflS26VJ8Ml71Ugg



We put up our tent in the back garden and filled it up with lots of our things. We even spent the night in it without our parents and could ALMOST imagine we were on a camping holiday.

ELSIE AND TOM, AGED 12 AND 10

Lockdown 1 was hard as we had no online school, so we didn't have any contact with our friends or teachers. It was really lonely. We kept to our normal timetable and did worksheets, but it was quite boring. One day we went on a 'Geography Field Trip' to Epping Forest. It was a really nice change to our normal day.

The good thing was that the weather was amazing so we spent a lot of time in the garden. We got a new swingball set and a basketball hoop which were so much fun. We also built a cool obstacle course for our dog Suki, and then trained her to compete.

Lockdown 2 didn't really affect us, as we were at school, but **Lockdown 3** in winter is much harder. We have online teaching all day which is tiring. We do, at least, get to have contact with our friends and teachers online, plus our music lessons and art clubs are now online. We still miss our friends and family, and being able to go out and do the things we enjoy like climbing, trampolining, eating out, and going on holiday. We worry that life might always be like this, but we are generally hopeful it will not. [Elsie and Tom were very happy to return to school on 8 March]



We drew around each other in chalk and coloured in the shapes.

Islington U3A thriving on Zoom

Gill Hopkins

In the 2017 newsletter, I wrote about the enjoyment of being a member of the recently created Islington University of the Third Age (U3A). Never has this been so true. Due to lockdowns, normal meetings over a cup of coffee became impossible, but Zoom came to the rescue.

Many Canonbury residents meet regularly in iU3A groups. There are 52 groups using Zoom, which include language conversation groups, bridge, history, 14 book clubs, current affairs, IT support and many more. Sadly, some sport activities, plus concert and theatre groups, will have to wait until normal meetings are resumed, but new courses and lectures have recently been added.

One interest that has flourished is the iPad art group. Its members Zoom twice a month and they all show their work. Three members live in Canonbury and their projects demonstrate many interesting subjects and techniques. Most use the Procreate app so there are plenty of discussions about the app's tools and terminology, such as designated palette, the smudge tool, liquify and distort. While the experiences of the members can vary widely, it is ultimately a 'self-help' group pooling ideas and expertise so new skills can be acquired.

New members continue to join the U3A, and the annual subscription has now been halved to £15. For further information visit: www.islingtonu3a.org



Above left: Lilies by Gill Hopkins.

Above: 'Wishful Thinking' by Marilyn Locke.

Left: Semi derelict industrial building by Henry Cleaver.

BIRDS FLOURISH IN LEAFY CANONBURY

John Stewart

The New River Walk is a wonderful haven for mallards, moorhens, wood pigeons, great spotted woodpeckers and the occasional heron. Lockdowns have made us all more aware of bird song and the rich variety of neighbourhood birds.

Moorhens along the New River breed successfully, having the sense to build their nests in the middle of the water, away from predatory foxes. Mallards, nesting on the banks, have been less fortunate, though one mallard chick has survived this past year. Black-headed gulls are often seen circling

above, while magpies and carrion crows like to sit high in trees screeching raucously. Red kites were also spotted during the first lockdown over Canonbury, and there have been sightings of a sparrowhawk this year.

Garden birds thrive in individual and communal gardens. In January, a flock of redwings was spotted in the Alwyne Communal Garden, and a flock was seen eating berries on Canonbury Park North. Agile swifts performed daring aerobatics on summer evenings before moving on to warmer climes.

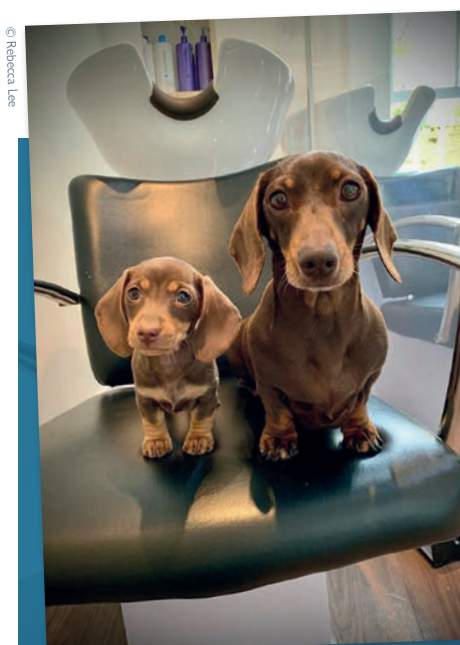


Redwings have been spotted in Canonbury this year.

For the RSPB's annual Big Garden Bird-watch in January, I saw four types of tits (great, blue, coal and long-tailed), a male and female chaffinch, the Eurasian jay, plus the ever-present magpies, wood pigeons and the colourful, if invasive, ring-necked parakeets. No sign of blackbirds, collared doves, wrens, robins or house sparrows, which are some of our most common garden birds, but they are about.

To identify birds, download the free Merlin ID app: merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download

Or, if you want to see which birds are in your area try eBird: ebird.org/region/GB.



The adorable Coco and Kiki from Canonbury Hair and Beauty. Kiki is not strictly a lockdown pup as she had been reserved long before the first lockdown.

SPECIAL OFFER

Readers can enjoy 10% off one session at Canonbury Beauty until end of May 2021 by booking online with the code 'CSOCIETY'.

'Mast Year for the Oak'

Ria Higgins

In 1960, the architect Sir Basil Spence was knighted for his achievements, which included the rebuilding of Coventry Cathedral after World War Two. It is, however, ironic that this champion of 'brutalist' architecture should live and work in two adjacent Georgian houses in leafy Canonbury Place.

A year before his knighthood, Sir Winston Churchill honoured Sir Basil by giving him a Blenheim Oak, named after the ancestral home in Oxfordshire where he was born. The architect planted it in his garden in Canonbury and no doubt watched it grow for the rest of his life. It is now protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

According to City Hall's London Tree Map, there are at least 12 more oaks in Canonbury, including five in St Paul's Park in the heart of the New River Estate. You might have noticed the glut of acorns that fell last autumn. The reason for this, says the Woodland Trust, is 2020 was a 'mast year for the oak'. This bumper crop of acorns happens every few years and is the oak's way of ensuring that after squirrels and birds have eaten all they can, some acorns are left over to take root and sprout.



Last year was a 'mast' year for oaks, which meant a bumper crop of acorns.

Local Charities 2021



© Danah Sperry

Volunteers at The Margins Project sort out clothing at its donation hub. Items needed include toiletries, non-perishable food, hoodies, men's trainers and winter shoes, jogging bottoms and pillows.

Rosemary Brown

In these challenging times, it is crucial we support local charities who are working with those most affected by the pandemic.

The Margins Project at Union Chapel offers support to people facing crisis and homelessness with showers, clothes, hot food, computer access and advice on housing and benefits. marginsdropin@unionchapel.org.uk

The Manna at St Stephen's, Canonbury, has expanded its work to offer showers, laundry, food (cooked by the Myddleton Arms), computer access, and advice to rough sleepers and vulnerable residents. Donations of men's winter clothes, books, phone chargers and carrier bags are welcome. themanna.org.uk

Urban Hope works for young people by sending 'care' packages – baking ingredients and craft supplies, etc. as well as offering mentoring and support sessions. urbanhope.co.uk

Islington Giving supports partner organisations delivering food parcels, providing laptops to young people, helping older people and people with disabilities to stay connected, and organising virtual social clubs to promote wellbeing. islingtongiving.org.uk

The Friends of the Rose Bowl provides help and financial support to the Rose Bowl youth centre. Having fun is an integral part of the centre's work, but the current focus is on tackling isolation and digital exclusion, and targeting mental well-being. justgiving.com/friendsoftherosebowl

Canonbury Responds supports local residents wishing to make their streets more friendly and supportive, increase safety and security, and foster a sense of community. canonburyreflects@gmail.com

Mer-IT Digital welcomes any laptops, desktops, tablets or printers you no longer use. They will be restored and distributed to people in need. mer-it.org

THE CANONBURY SOCIETY

50th Annual General Meeting 2021

Wednesday 19 May at 7 pm

Members will be sent a Zoom link.

National Garden Scheme 2021

Please check our website for details of garden openings.

Social Events

We will be in contact via email as soon as we are able to resume our parties.

Committee Members 2021

Philip Walker: Chairman

Jack Lambert: Planning, Chairman of Friends of the New River

David Ireland: Events

James Coates: Planning, Traffic

Judith Parker: Traffic, Trees, Newsletter

Marcella Menzies: Membership

Mo Talukder

Ria Higgins: Trees, Events, Newsletter

Rosemary Brown: Secretary, Charities, Newsletter, Events, Trees

Sarah Ross Goobey

Sarah Strang: Safer Neighbourhoods, Charities

Sharon White: Treasurer

Susan Millership: Newsletter Editor, Traffic, Events

Joining the Society, and payment of subscriptions

To download a membership form visit www.canonburysociety.org.uk. In normal times, member benefits include invites to our Summer and Winter parties, and the AGM. The minimum subscription is £3.00, but further donations are welcome.

Members can now pay their subscriptions via PayPal on the Society website, or by paying directly into the Society's bank account. PayPal gives you the option to make a one-off payment, or set up an automatic yearly payment.

If you do not have access to the internet please write to The Hon Treasurer, 3 Alwyne Road, N1 2HH with your contact details and enclose a cheque written out to **The Canonbury Society**.

With thanks

The Society would like to thank Gill Hopkins for building the Society's website and for looking after it so diligently for the past 10 years. Gill is stepping down from this important role and she will be sorely missed.

