

A JOURNEY THROUGH JUBILEE-LAND: ROYAL EVENTS IN CANONBURY

BY DAVID IRELAND

"We are now in the throes of the Diamond Jubilee celebration. The Queen has reigned for 60 years, and at a great age has come amongst her people to receive their congratulations".

The subject is not our own Queen Elizabeth II, who might in any event take umbrage at her 86th year being deemed "at a great age", but Queen Victoria, celebrating her Diamond Jubilee in 1897 at the strapping age of 78. Not that most of Islington was terribly excited by the prospect: "It cannot be said with truth that the decorations in North London...were carried out on an extensive scale... the lack of enthusiasm may be partially accounted for by the fact that the northern suburbs, having been left severely alone in the scheme of the Jubilee celebration, were remote from the line of the procession".

Canonbury proved an exception, partying on a grand scale. On 19 June 1897 (three days before Jubilee Day), the Canonbury Constitutional Club gathered, seemingly oblivious that "the weather was threatening from the commencement". By "seven o'clock, there were nearly 400 ladies and gentlemen in the old gardens of Canonbury Tower, the scene was pretty indeed", featuring "the many coloured dresses, the picture hats, the perkier of bonnets and plumes", adding to "the undoubted beauty of Islington's wives and sisters". The rain, however, duly came "at first sprinkling and then in torrents", forcing a retreat into "the old Tower, crowding the staircases and card, billiard and reading-rooms", representing "a brave attempt on the part of the Islington ladies to show how a garden party should be" (although they, and their not-so-gallant gentlemen, were happy to leave "L'Orchestre Internationale" to its fate outside). For "the benefit of visitors who did not know the history of the Tower and gardens", there were some potted details in the programme. "The view from the roof on a clear day" apparently extended to Gravesend (Gravesend?), while "the aviaries of Mr Grounds, the club steward, received deserved attention, as also did his well-kept flower beds".

If Canonbury featured prominently in the celebrations 115 years ago, the same cannot be said of major royal events in our current Queen's reign, or in that of her grandfather, George V. The Queen and Prince Philip visited Highbury Fields for her Silver Jubilee in 1977, and the Town Hall in Upper St for her Coronation in 1953. Common themes span the years, fervour for the Royals (declining over time) being offset by local

republicanism. Islington Council voted to spend £750 on George V's Silver Jubilee on 6 May 1935 but both the local Communist and Independent Labour parties wanted the only celebrating to be on Labour Day on 1 May. The £1000 budget proposed for 1977 was withdrawn, with Islington also refusing to join Prince Charles' Silver Jubilee appeal for young people (this does at least grate less than another Prince of Wales saying in 1897 "I shall unfortunately be unable to be present at all the dinners for my poor"). A po-faced spirit does rather seem to pervade Jubilee days – let's hope not ours' this year, republican or not – with June 1887 being notable for "the unprecedented sobriety of the population" (in contrast to "our grandfathers getting loyally drunk" for George III), and "a body of roughs from Stoke Newington" (where?) attempting to disrupt the Canonbury Cycle Carnival 10 years later.

At the time of the 1935 Jubilee, Islington Council sent a message to Arsenal FC congratulating the team "on winning the English League Championship for the third successive year". It all seems a very long time ago.

**Our thanks to the archives of the Islington Gazette, held at Islington Local History Centre, for these Jubilee memories.*



Loyal subject Mark Rittner bows to 'Queen' John Bassett at the 2002 Golden Jubilee



CANONBURY SQUARE: DIAMOND JUBILEE PLANTING

Flowers will fill the base of the urn in Canonbury Square during 2012 as a gift from The Canonbury Society in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Without additional funding, Greenspace can no longer provide bedding plants.

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CELEBRATING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF THE WRITER: DICKENS IN CANONBURY

BY DAVID IRELAND



Charles Dickens' connection with "Merry Islington" (Martin Chuzzlewit) primarily lies in and around the Angel – the original Inn and Liverpool Road (Oliver Twist), the Old Red Lion pub where he drank, Amwell St where he gave readings at Clerkenwell Parochial School, are some of the links – but the writer also has a Canonbury association, and one with its own bit of history.

In 1841, the Pic-Nic Papers was published, an anthology designed to raise money for the widow and children of John Macrone, Dickens' first publisher, to which Dickens himself contributed the Introduction and The Lamplighter's Story.

We are introduced to the hero, Tom Grig, at a gathering of lamplighters in "a certain tavern, which has been, time out of mind, the Lamplighters' House of Call". The chairman is called upon to tell "us who Tom Grig was" and recounts Tom's performance at the funeral of "a melancholy uncle" – "Tom's family, gentlemen, were all lamplighters":

"Tom loved him, gentlemen, but he survived it. He shed a tear over his grave, got very drunk, spoke a funeral oration that night in the watch-house, and was fined five shillings for it, in the morning. Some men are none the worse for this sort of thing. Tom was one of 'em. He went that very afternoon on a new beat..."

"Tom's new beat, gentlemen, was – I can't exactly say where, for that he'd never tell, but I know it was in a quiet part of town, where there were some queer old houses. I have always had it in my head that it must have been somewhere near Canonbury

Tower in Islington..."

Thereafter, the tale rambles rather fantastically on, taking in an old gentleman astrologer, his son Galileo Isaac Newton Flamstead, more strong drink, the promise of sudden riches for Tom, followed by imminent predicted death, a return to the watch-house and another five shilling fine.

It's not Dickens' best, but it's arguably an improvement on the 1838 One Act farce, The Lamplighter, from which the short story is derived. Dickens never felt he was up to comedy – "talking of Comedies, I still see 'No Thoroughfare' staring me in the face", he wrote in 1837 – and by general agreement, his farce was deemed not up to snuff (perhaps not helped by being written in a week or less).

The Tower Theatre did put on a week-long run of the farce, no doubt because "Tom's new beat" was their then home from home, although in the farce in 1970, unlike in the short story, there is no mention of Canonbury Tower.

While The Lamplighter may be one piece of Dickensia not overly celebrated in the bicentennial of his birth, gas lamplights do retain a rather higher profile in Canonbury – the Gas Lamp outside No 1 Canonbury Place was listed by English Heritage in December 1989, in part thanks to the earlier campaign by Sir Basil Spence – for whom the address was home and office – to save the Gas Lamp Standard.



GRADE I LISTING FOR UNION CHAPEL

Union Chapel, described by English Heritage as "a masterpiece of Victorian Nonconformist architecture, built to an innovative and highly sophisticated plan by the foremost Congregational architect of the period," has been awarded Grade I listed status.

Union Chapel becomes one of only a dozen Islington buildings to be accorded the highest English Heritage class of protection.

The Chapel was originally established in 1799 in Highbury Grove, moving to a new 1000-seat chapel in Compton Terrace in 1806, designed by H Leroux. Even this proved too small for the congregation, so a new chapel, designed by James Cubitt to seat 1600, and inspired by the 11th century church of Santa Fosca at Torcello, near Venice, was built on the site in 1876-77, at a cost of nearly £40,000.

Union Chapel today is very much a working church, but also a centre for those homeless and in crisis in London. It is also an award-winning venue – having just been voted the top live music venue of the year by *Time Out*. According to the magazine's editor-in-chief Tim Arthur, "Union Chapel is one of the most beautiful settings to enjoy live music in London and has a totally unique atmosphere."

For information about Union Chapel and its programme of events, visit

www.unionchapel.org.uk

SOUL IN THE CITY FESTIVAL AT ST. MARY'S

St Mary's Church forecourt on Upper Street will become the heart of Soul in the City, a local festival 5th to 10th June. The festival includes free access to everything from opera to hip hop, local talent shows, community service, drama and music workshops, bike servicing and a penalty shoot-out supported by Arsenal FC.

For information visit
www.stmaryislington.org

LOVE'S LABOUR LOST: LABOUR LUMINARIES IN CANONBURY

BY ROSEMARY J BROWN



Labour luminaries Michael Foot and Barbara Castle (below) were at home in Canonbury.

A garden-suburb style house on a leafy urban street, 11 Canonbury Park South is a most unlikely setting for the political masterminding and intense personal relationships at the heart of the post-war Labour Party. In this unpretentious semi-detached house, battles were waged over issues ranging from the National Health Service to nuclear disarmament.

Iconic left-wing Labour politicians and lifelong friends Michael Foot and Barbara Castle frequented Number 11, the home of Elizabeth and George Thomas from 1948 to 1962. Working for Michael Foot at the left-wing journal Tribune and later as his political advisor, Elizabeth Thomas witnessed first-hand the highs and lows of the Labour Party, often from her very own living room.

Not only a 'hotbed' of political debate, 11 Canonbury Park South was also the backdrop for a 20-year affair between Elizabeth Thomas and Michael Foot.

Elizabeth and George Thomas, a teacher, moved into their newly-built home designed by architect Louis de Soissons for the Marquis of Northampton as part of a post-war scheme to provide suitable housing for 'respectable artisans'. Their neighbours at 9 Canonbury Park South, Stan and Brenda Pocock, remembered the 'noisy' parties next door with Michael Foot and his wife Jill Craigie, the well-known film producer and screenwriter; and Barbara and Ted Castle.

In those days, Michael Foot was editor of Tribune and the closest political confidant of Labour's leading rebel – and founder of the National Health Service – Aneurin Bevan who promoted his socialist ideas through the journal. Bevan was also Barbara Castle's political mentor.

This Bevanite group played a key role in the disarray leading to the downfall of the Atlee

Government. Later transformed into the Tribune group, they kept the left wing torch burning within the Labour Party. Barbara Castle was to become the most prominent female politician in the history of the Labour Party, the only woman Cabinet Minister and a leading left winger in Harold Wilson's Government. Michael Foot would lead the Labour party from 1980 to 1983.

Starting as a secretary for Michael Foot at Tribune, Elizabeth Thomas later became a journalist and eventually literary editor there, following another celebrated Canonbury resident, George Orwell. During her decade in that post, Elizabeth Thomas encouraged writers including Seamus Heaney, Stevie Smith and Anthony Thwaite.

It was in the cramped and dusty offices at Tribune that the affair between Michael Foot and Elizabeth Thomas blossomed. It came to an end in 1971 when Elizabeth went to work at The New Statesman. She would go on to become Foot's adviser at Westminster in 1976 when he was Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons. The pair maintained a close friendship that lasted until Foot's death.



Foot notes

1. *The 20-year affair between Elizabeth Thomas and Michael Foot was revealed in Carl Rollyson's biography 'A Private Life of Michael Foot.'*
2. *Barbara and Ted Castle were one-time Canonbury residents, first residing on St Paul's Road and later at 19G John Spencer Square (1970-79).*
3. *Contemporary links: A current resident of 11 Canonbury Park South attends Michael Foot's alma mater Leighton Park School and another worked with Barbara Castle during the establishment of the Ministry of Overseas Development. Several residents of Canonbury served under her when she was Minister of Transport.*



MESSAGE FROM: THE CHAIRMAN 2012

With the austerity measures beginning to bite and people adjusting to the constraints of frugality, it is timely to reflect on our comparative good fortune in living in an area such as Canonbury. Okay, we don't have as many green parks as other London boroughs and the road humps are driving many residents mad, but we are extremely well connected by public transport and even more so with the new over-ground lines serving the revamped Canonbury Station.

Canonbury, amongst its other descriptions on page 5, is a beautiful place and the Society is determined to conserve the best features of the built (and the unbuilt) environment by monitoring all planning and tree applications as well as casting a watchful eye over traffic and parking issues.

For more information about our campaigns and our work, visit our website at www.canonburysociety.org.uk. We always welcome new members: please see details of how to join on page 8

Once again we enjoyed two good parties. Our heart-felt thanks again go to our wonderful hosts, George MacIntosh and Tanya Friche (summer garden party) and Nina Konrad and Jerry Norton (winter drinks party).

Last year we celebrated our 40 years of existence. This year we will be celebrating 60 years of the reign of Her Majesty the Queen with a number of street parties we know are being organised in Canonbury. With the Olympic Games taking place a few miles away later in July-August, it should be quite a summer!

PHILIP WALKER



Dee Canning behind the bar at The Myddleton Arms

IT'S MY ROUND!

BY WILLIAM GREAVES

We journalists are sometimes accused of spending too much time in the pub but we, of course, know only too well the dangers of failing to do so. Passing a boozier can be a risky business.

Take the day, for instance, when I popped into the Marquess Tavern, in Canonbury Street, and found myself chatting to friendly postman, John Sugrue. His daughter, Karen, he told me, had just completed her first morning working as an all-purpose assistant at the local branch of a supermarket chain whose current advertising slogan was Good Food Costs Less at Sainsbury's.

And as her very first task, she was despatched to the newspaper and magazine section with the instructions, fresh in from HQ, to unclip the staples on all editions of that week's Radio Times and remove the centre four pages – which just happened to be an advertising supplement for rivals Tesco – and then re-clip the remaining pages into place.

Manna from heaven! And just think – I had almost not gone into the pub that day.

Next morning's Daily Telegraph front page carried my story under the inspired headline: Good Magazines Weigh Less at Sainsbury's.

No wonder I love pubs!

With an alarming 25 of them disappearing every week, I decided it was time to chronicle the glorious 2,000-year history of the Great British Pub before it joined the dinosaurs in the Natural History Museum.

Make no mistake, the pub is a national treasure. They've tried to copy it in other climes, of course. Nostalgic expats and homesick tourists have sought comfort in the Queen Victoria in Florence, the Duke of Wellington in Beirut, the Britannia in Monte Carlo, the Crown in Cusco, Peru, the Cock Tavern in Las Palmas, the Lord's Pub, would you

believe, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen – believe me, I've had a pint or two in all of them – but such establishments remain today what they always were, incongruous idiosyncrasies in a foreign field.

No, this is where they belong. And it has been a wonderful two years' pilgrimage to travel the length and breadth of England, Scotland and Wales, to sniff out the oldest pubs, the remotest pubs, the highest pubs, the historic pubs, the smugglers' pubs, the literary pubs, the haunted pubs and the most ridiculous pubs that never should have been there in the first place.

But why are they in danger of dying out? Among all the myopic pieces of Government interference – the end of licensed hours, the smoking ban et al – the lovely Dee Canning, mine hostess at the Myddleton Arms (pictured above) at the other end of Canonbury Grove from the Marquess Tavern, probably put her finger on one of the most crucial factors.

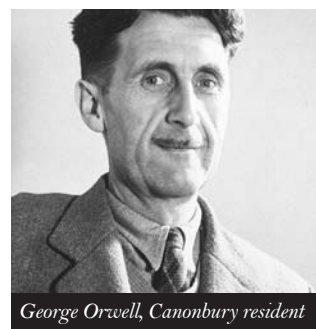
Westminster, in its wisdom, decreed that no one brewery could own more than 2,000 pubs. So what happens? Seven thousand now belong to one firm, Enterprise Inns, who don't produce any beer themselves and have no vested interest in whether the pub survives or is lucratively sold off as a cluster of apartments.

Massively overcharged by Enterprise Inns for her incoming drinks (she gave me all the terrible detail which is all in the book) she is resolved to battle through. 'I don't have to pay myself for my hours behind the bar,' says Dee, 'and the customers make it all worthwhile.'

Good on you, Dee.

It's My Round by William Greaves is available from Revel Barker Publishing, priced £9.99. William worked for numerous Fleet St newspapers, and is also founder of the charity Capital Kids Cricket.

THE MOON UNDER WATER: SOMEWHERE IN CANONBURY



George Orwell, Canonbury resident

William Greaves is not the only long term Canonbury resident to have a soft spot for Canonbury pubs, and nor are the Marquess and the

Myddleton Arms the only Canonbury pubs to be hailed by writers who know a thing or two about pubs. George Orwell, who kept a flat at 27b Canonbury Sq (from 1944 until his death in 1950) wrote an article for the Evening Standard of 9 February 1946, which brought together under the fictitious roof of The Moon Under Water all the characteristics he sought in the ideal pub.

What is particularly intriguing is that Orwell's ideal pub was an amalgam of the three Canonbury pubs within easy walking distance of his flat. And their names? That would be rather giving the game away of Paul Moody and Robin Turner (with a big helping hand from Canonbury walks guide Andrew Gardner) – read the epilogue to their book, The Search for the Perfect Pub (Orion Books, £14.99), and all will be revealed.

Andrew Gardner will speak on 'Pubs in Canonbury' at our AGM on 16th May (see p8)

DAVID IRELAND



WHY I LOVE CANONBURY: TREVOR BEATTIE

Seasons To Be Cheerful

I love Canonbury in the Spring. Who wouldn't? Breathtaking blossom by day, birdsong by night. (I'm reliably informed by a "birding" pal that the 4am tweeting is that of a posse of gossiping robins, unable to make themselves heard during the noisy daylight hours...I'd love to believe him.)

I love Canonbury in the Summer. Long weekends spent pruning my front garden roses, pausing only to seek expert explanation of England's unexpected batting collapse, from Sunil and Minesh, the brilliant brothers of Shriji News. And the eerie tranquility of Bank Holiday Mondays, when some strange folk actually believe there's somewhere OTHER than Canonbury worth visiting...

I love Canonbury in the Autumn. Trees of flaming orange and a final salute to summer

with a pint or several of iced pear cider in the beautiful beer garden of The Canonbury. Pub's too small a word for it.

I love Canonbury in the Winter. When silent midnight snowfalls have time-transported us back to a Dickensian wonderland. And when a horse-drawn Landau would actually have got us to work far more efficiently than the No.30 bus.

I seem to have run out of seasons, but I'll never run out of reasons why I love Canonbury. See you around.

Trevor Beattie, proud resident of Canonbury Park North, is one of the UK's most highly regarded ad men, and co-founder of advertising and PR agency Beattie McGuinness Bungay. In November 2011, in honour of his parents, he set up the Jack and Ada Beattie Foundation, to help victims of social injustice and inequality.

YOUNG IN CANONBURY

BY ACADIA STANTON



Canonbury is the place to be for (from L to R) Harriet Ireland, Acadia Stanton and Kate Walker.

Canonbury—for some young people it is the leafy comfort of home. For others it is the vibrant atmosphere in its restaurants, shops and bars; and for others it is the place where their first footsteps were taken. Canonbury means different lifestyles to all of its young residents.

A survey completed by young people in Canonbury revealed the great aspects of living here and also the elements which could be altered. 83% of those polled have lived here all their lives, with 17% living in Canonbury between 4 and 6 years. 84% said they feel sentimental about Canonbury and 16% feel it's just another place to live.

When asked what style best represents Canonbury, 50% describe it as upmarket and classy, and a "leafy, expensive, and safe" place to live. "Friendly and cool," were other words used to describe the neighbourhood, with praise being given to its access to public transport streaming into central London every minute, every day.

I've always seen Canonbury as a great place to shoot a film or television show—50% of participants could envisage Canonbury in a romantic-comedy film, 33% in a historical film or show, and 17% visualise it in a drama. 50% feel Canonbury would be great for a reality television show (the same sort of shows as Made in Chelsea or The Only Way Is Essex).

When it comes to improving Canonbury, 60% would introduce more bars and clubs and 60% would reduce the amount of speed bumps. 40% of respondents would live in Camden if they didn't live in Canonbury, with 20% choosing the West End.

When asked if Canonbury were an animal, plant or food, replies included: "Canonbury is like a hamburger: so many great things squashed together," "an oak tree because it's grand and old"; and "a leopard—it's slinky, subtle and admired."

Canonbury seems the place to be at the moment.

THE TYNDALE TERRACE GHOST

Adapted from an address by William Kensett Styles on 16 April 1934 to the Islington Art Society

John Styles, a celebrated coffin maker, and his wife set up housekeeping in one of the small houses in the courtyard opposite Tyndale Terrace. This house was the site of as authentic a ghost story as one can have.

One evening between 9 and 10 o'clock probably in the late 1780s, John Styles was awakened by a rapping at the front door. Putting his head out of the window, he saw that the person knocking was a woman dressed in a bonnet and shawl. As she took no notice of his questions and continued to knock, he called to the watchman on Upper Street to come and see what the woman wanted.

As he was carrying his lantern coming up the little passage (which is so narrow that you can touch it with your elbows as you walk up it), John went downstairs and unbolted the front door, to find, to his astonishment, that there was nobody there. He asked the watchman to stand in the passage to stop anyone from escaping. Borrowing his lantern, he went through the courtyard and the shed where he kept his ladders, paints and suchlike, but could find no one.

Three or four days afterwards John learnt, by post, that his mother had come in from a walk, sat down in her armchair still wearing her bonnet and shawl, and died (as is the fashion in our family, with some rapidity) at or about the time when the figure had appeared rapping on his front door.

Courtesy of Vic Styles

FRIENDS OF THE NEW RIVER WALK: HERONS, FROGS AND PERIWINKLES

BY JACK LAMBERT



Periwinkle planters were (from L to R) Euan & George MacIntosh, Liz Lambert, Graham Ingram (Ranger), Liz & Philip Walker, Alison Rite (Islington Garden Club), Jack Lambert. Not in photo: James Coates, Gavin Menzies, Andrew Hillier (Ranger assistant).

A new **heron** is definitely on the scene, appearing at the islands on 27 February to catch and eventually swallow a rather large frog. This heron is larger, with a much whiter head and breast feathers than the original heron which swooped in 14 years ago to delight Princess Alexandra and 300 guests at the 1998 opening ceremony.

Sally Oldfield of the Islington Ecology Centre advises that grey herons have an expected life span of 20 years, and will fly around 20 miles from their nesting site to a favourite feeding place.

Do not fear for the depletion of the existing **frog** population with the new heron about. There are hundreds if not thousands of young frogs the size of 50p pieces ready to emerge from their hibernation sites along the river as the ground warms.

The six large **carp** introduced by Bob Gilbert and his son at the 1998 opening ceremony have thrived and multiplied. There are now many 8-inch fish and most of the original 12-inch carp have survived, with some becoming "monsters" at 18 inches long.

On Saturday 14 May 2011, our regular volunteers were joined by local residents and the Greenspace

Ranger plus an assistant to plant 200 ground cover **Periwinkle** (Vinca Minor) plants between the river path and the Canonbury Grove railings which had recently been protected from foot traffic by a timber shin rail. As we go to press, not only are the periwinkles sporting new flowers; but also new green shoots.

Although the ground had been rotavated, it was dry and hard, taking us most of the morning to hack out deep enough holes for planting, then watering by hand with river water. Over the next two weeks, watering continued but some 30 plants went missing, appropriated by persons unknown.

Another barren year for the **mallards** with no nests or chicks spotted. However, the number of "resident" adults reached a maximum of 20 in February, with much vigorous pre-mating rituals, so there may be hope for next year.

Moorhens, however, set a procreation record this year with two pairs producing at least 13 chicks who survived to adulthood, giving a total of 17 in both sections of the Walk in January. One enterprising pair were particularly inventive in building a nest raised well above the water in overhanging branches to form a safe maternity unit



PLANNING HIGHLIGHTS



The former Carlton Cinema, 167-9 Essex Rd

Public inquiries into the proposed developments of the **Ford Site** (85 Canonbury Rd) and the **Bingo Hall** (and former Carlton Cinema, 167-9 Essex Rd) were the major planning issues of the past year. The Society objected to both schemes and gave evidence. The Council was also opposed to both cases and inspectors rejected appeals by the developers. The Ford Site developers have modified their designs to reduce the height and bulk, and to preserve views of the now Grade 1 listed tower of Union Chapel. A formal application had not been made as we went to press.

A new application to use the Bingo Hall as a church and make minor temporary alterations to the auditorium and foyer is before the Council. The Art Deco tiled facade would be restored. We are seeking improvements to the unsightly car park.

The Society reviewed more than 50 planning applications resulting in several modified or withdrawn proposals when the designs were not in keeping with the character of the conservation area. We will be keeping an eye on how the Localism Bill works in practice, and on proposed changes to the planning law

JAMES COATES AND
JACK LAMBERT

SCHOOL-KEEPER'S HOUSE FLATTENED



Despite a vigorous campaign by The Canonbury Society, the Arts and Crafts style school-keeper's house at Canonbury School was demolished in April instead of being brought back into use for much-needed housing.



NEW YEAR HONOUR FOR VANNI TREVES

Alwyne Place resident Vanni Treves was awarded a CBE in the most recent New Year's Honours List. In his own words... "Surely the honours 'system' works in curious ways - it never crossed my mind that my 'Services to Education', such as they have been (I'm a lawyer!), might be recognised by it. But apparently the six years during which I chaired London Business School, well known as a leader in its field, and then the much lesser known National College for School Leadership

(colloquially known as the 'Sandhurst of the Teaching Profession' - we train and qualify head teachers and aspiring heads of the 23,000 State Schools in the country) received the requisite number of Whitehall nods for a CBE. "As for the specific honour of a Commander of the Order of the British Empire..." A pleasant bit of post-imperial flummery - all the more so as, improbably, Helena Bonham-Carter and Ronnie Corbett became Commanders at the same time as me!"

FRIENDS OF THE ROSE BOWL: ON TRACK IN 2012

BY JANE SIMMONDS, FOUNDER AND CHAIR OF THE FRIENDS OF THE ROSE BOWL

I want to thank you for your continued support for The Friends of the Rose Bowl. There are not many communities that would join together to support a youth centre in this way and I think it is rather special.

Our annual dinner and gala auction on 23 February raised over £18,500; even better than last year.

We are very grateful for the generosity of supporters like you. Our thanks to The Canonbury for their continued support.

When we contracted to raise £40,000 for the Rose Bowl Youth Centre, I must admit I was nervous. But with the community's help, we are on track to reach our target.

We are working with Hoxton Hall to deliver the programme at the Rose Bowl in newly-refurbished surroundings. We have established a vigorous monitoring procedure to be sure that our funds are being put to best use. I am pleased to report that Hoxton Hall has achieved all the targets we set last year including:

- Working with 400 young people of which some 250 attend regularly
- Achieving recorded outcomes for over 150 young people
- Opening the Rose Bowl for 48 weeks a year, with more sessions, including four on Saturdays

This spring we are reaching out to older teenagers, a particular need given recent events. Youth workers are targeting gang members and challenging young people through programmes including visits by footballers and rap artists who will talk about their careers, the world of work and their experiences.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD FOR THE ROSE BOWL

I know that it may seem a bit extreme to send my husband Michael Phoenix on the world's highest marathon to raise funds, but he honestly did volunteer. Mike will be tackling Mount Everest on



the anniversary of Tensing and Hilary's ascent on 29th May. Not only will he climb to the base camp; but in aid of the Rose Bowl, he will be running a gruelling marathon to the bottom of Everest. Mike hopes to raise £10,000 with your help. Pledge your support at: www.justgiving.com/friendsoftherosebowl-org-uk

SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN

Midsummer Night's Dream 20-21 June. We are delighted to announce two performances of Midsummer Night's Dream by the Tower Theatre troupe in the garden at Margaret and Stuart Evans house in aid of Urban Hope and Friends of the Rose Bowl. For further details see:

www.friendsoftherosebowl.org.uk or

www.urbanhope.co.uk

Bookings from May 1st.



Islington Giving is a charitable campaign which aims to raise £3 million over 3 years and to recruit at least 500 new volunteers to give money and time to support their area. So far, £1.5 million has been raised to benefit local projects tackling poverty and creating opportunity for Islington. The Good Neighbours scheme in Canonbury is helping people to volunteer to support each other on the New River Green Estate. There are many ways to get involved.

Visit www.islingtongiving.org.uk

LOCAL GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY

UNDER THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME 2012

Sun 27th May

37 Alwyne Road, N1 2HW. 2-6pm, teas £3
(NEW) 9 Furlong Road, N7 8LS.
2-6pm, refreshments £2
16 Furlong Road
2-6pm, teas £3 (£4 for 2)
(NEW) 24 & 26 Tavistock Terrace, N19 4DB.
2-6pm, refreshments, £4 for 2 gardens

Sun 3rd June

(NEW) Olden Garden, N5 1NH.
2-6 pm., £5, Refreshments
• Islington Gardens
• Barnsbury Wood, N5 1PH..
• 1 Battlebridge Court, N1 9UA..
• 44 Hemingford Road, N1 1DB
• 36 Thornhill Square, N1 1BE.
£6 or £2 per garden, 2-6pm, refreshments,
plants

Sun 10th June

1a Hungerford Road, N7 9LA.
12-6pm. £2
62 Hungerford Road, N7 9LP.
2-6pm, £2.50
2a, 23, 24 (NEW) Penn Road, N7 9RD.
All combined £5, 2-6pm, plants, refreshments

Sat 30 June

(NEW) 49 Albion Road, N16 9PP.
4-7pm, £3, refreshments
5 Northampton Park, N1 2PP.
6-9pm, £4 incl.wine, refreshments

Wed 4 July

King Henry's Walk Garden
6-9pm, £5, refreshments, music

Children are admitted free to all gardens.

CANONBURY SOCIETY: 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

Wednesday 16 May at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6.45 p.m.) at The Canonbury

Join us at The Canonbury as Andrew Gardner, chair of Islington Archaeology and History Society, tells us the story of our local pubs.

Committee members will report on parking, planning, finance, trees and Canonbury Society events. Officers for the year ahead will be elected. Send your nominations to Rosemary Brown, 11

Canonbury Park South, London N1 2JR. This is your chance to discuss local issues and meet your neighbours. Drinks and nibbles will be served following the meeting.

The Canonbury Society

JOIN UP!

BENEFITS: Receive this Newsletter FREE. Attend special events such as garden parties and the AGM. Help support conservation in Canonbury. The minimum subscription is £1.00, but further donations are always welcome. Please tick as appropriate, complete your name/address details, and make your cheques payable to 'The Canonbury Society'.

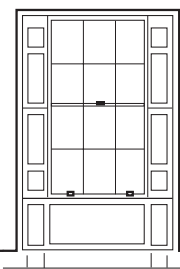
NAME

ADDRESS

TEL

EMAIL

PLEASE SEND TO: The Hon Treasurer, 3 Alwyne Road N1 2HH



☐ I/We wish to pay my/our annual subscription for 2012

☐ I/We wish to join the Society as new members

☐ I/We enclose £

CANONBURY SOCIETY SUMMER GARDEN PARTY JUBOLYMPICS!



London 2012

Sunday 1ST July 2012

The Canonbury Society's Summer Garden Party 2012 celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics with a theme of Jubolympics.

Join your neighbours from 1- 4 p.m. in a Canonbury garden. Express yourself in red, white and blue; sports wear or even diamonds to celebrate these iconic events. We are hoping to celebrate with local brass band, Corsican Brass of Highbury.

Further details of the party will be distributed to members this summer.



CANONBURY SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2012

1. Philip Walker – Chairman
2. Jack Lambert – Planning, Friends of the New River Walk, events
3. Sharon White – Treasurer
4. Rosemary Brown – Secretary, newsletter, events
5. David Ireland – Newsletter and events
6. Sarah Ross Goobey – Membership Secretary
7. James Coates – Planning
8. Liz Watson
9. Marcella Menzies
10. Susan Millership

Continuing thanks to Gill Hopkins (webmaster) and Beate Hohmann of Galaxe of Stars (website host).