

## NEW RIVER CELEBRATES ITS 400TH ANNIVERSARY

BY DAVID IRELAND AND JACK LAMBERT

The epitaph to Sir Hugh Myddelton reads "He brought fresh water to London", and on Sunday 29 September 2013, the New River, the aqueduct he inspired, celebrates its 400th anniversary.

The opening ceremony, on Michaelmas Day, 29 September 1613, involved a trio of (more or less) Myddeltons - Sir Hugh, his elder brother Thomas - elected that day Lord Mayor of London - and unconnected playwright Thomas Middleton. Man-on-the-spot Anthony Munday described a ceremony involving 60 of the workmen, "wearing greene Monmouth caps", witnessing fresh water (from the Chadwell and Amwell springs near Hertford) flowing for the first time into the Round Pond in Islington, and all because "long have we laboured, long desir'd and pray'd, for this great work's perfection".

Sir Hugh was undoubtedly the driving force behind the New River, a role he officially assumed on 28 March 1609, but the originator, and designer of the route, was Edmund Colthurst, a soldier, philanthropist and entrepreneur. Sir Hugh was variously a goldsmith, jeweller, to both Queen Elizabeth I and King James I, banker, lead and silver miner (his mines using aqueducts), and Welsh MP for 25 years.

While we don't have a day-to-day record of his involvement, Sir Hugh cultivated friends in the right places, laid off the financial risks, negotiated with landowners, handed out gratuities to key workers, and



*Sir Hugh Myddelton 's Glory* © National Portrait Gallery

signed off the company accounts. Sir Hugh faced a great deal of opposition along the way - including an attempt to repeal the authorising Act of Parliament - which he overcame by making King James I a half-shareholder, by the helpful dissolution of Parliament between 1611 and 1614, and by a good dose of hyperbole (the work was "likelie to prove profittable unto thowsands but hurtful to none", while his cost-benefit analysis rather over-egged the employment impact - "1700 men" had worked on the project when the highest weekly total never topped 100).

To mark the 400th anniversary in September, the Canonbury Society is planning a sponsored walk along the New River Path to raise funds for WaterAid, which seeks to provide safe water for the world's poorest communities. Details will appear on our website ([www.canonburysociety.org.uk](http://www.canonburysociety.org.uk)). We aim to round off our walk at an appropriate pub. All members welcome.

To bring the story full circle, Greenspace in March 2013 installed a new pump system in the Douglas Road section, which can run for longer, needs less maintenance and makes less noise. Greenspace also plans to commemorate the anniversary in September.

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### NEW RIVER IN A NUTSHELL:

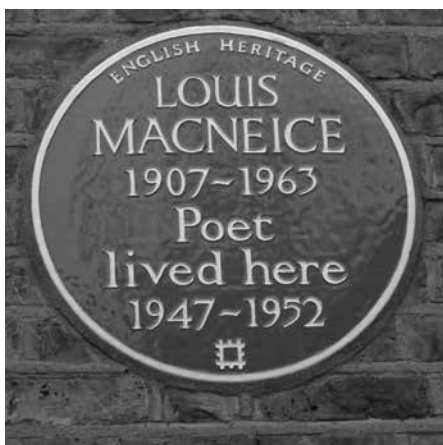
Running from New Gauge, Hertford, to New River Head, Islington; originally 42 miles long, gradually reduced to 27 miles via the removal of loops; water flowing under gravity, total drop only 18ft, or under 5in per mile, under 226 bridges; cost at opening: £11,053. The greatest engineering feat since the days of the Romans, and over a century before the UK's first true canal, the New River still carries up to 48m gallons of water into London.

# BEHIND A CANONBURY BLUE PLAQUE

BY ZW BATES

How many have moved house while their partner (conveniently or otherwise) is away on business?

Moving into 52 Canonbury Park South in 1947 that was the prospect in front of Hedli MacNeice. Her husband, the poet Louis MacNeice, who worked for the BBC, spent August to October 1947 in India as power was being transferred, gathering material for six, one-hour documentaries. Hedli, along with his son Dan, 13, and their daughter Bimba, 4, was left in post-war London to arrange moving house. There is an English Heritage blue plaque



on 52 Canonbury Park South noting that Louis MacNeice lived there from 1947 to 1952. It describes him as a poet. The Times' obituary in 1963 described him as a poet's poet, "who avoided the wilfully 'difficult' and esoteric."

Nearly 50 years on from his death in September 1963, the contestants on a January 2013 edition of 'University Challenge' had never heard of Louis MacNeice, causing Clive James to write an article in The Daily Telegraph. The MacNeice poem that Clive James singled out in his article was 'The Sunlight on the Garden'. Other personal favourites of mine are 'Snow,' 'Entirely,' 'Soap Suds' and 'Star-Gazer.'

After he moved into Canonbury, MacNeice's Collected Poems 1925-1948 were published. Perhaps the most substantial work that MacNeice did while living in Canonbury was a translation in 1949 of Goethe's Faust. This was commissioned to mark the 200th anniversary of Goethe's birth. The BBC approached W.H. Auden. His German was good, but he declined the work. MacNeice accepted the project on the basis that, to compensate for his lack of German, he would work with his friend Ernest Stahl.

For much of the project Stahl and MacNeice would have been working side by side in the poet's study in Canonbury Park, going through Stahl's literal translation and adapting and recasting it into English poetry that reflected the verse forms, as well as the sense, of the original.

When the MacNeices moved from Canonbury in 1952 it was to a house that overlooked Regent's Park, five minutes' walk from the BBC.

Louis MacNeice was born in Carrickfergus, near Belfast in 1907. He went to school in Sherborne and Marlborough. He read Classics at Merton College, Oxford (taking a First in Mods and Greats) and, before working for the BBC, he taught classics at Birmingham University and had a lectureship at Bedford College, London. He was awarded a CBE in 1958. In 1963, while in Yorkshire to record sound effects in a cave, he caught a cold which became pneumonia, from which he died.

*The author is planning a book about travelling in the footsteps of Louis MacNeice (provisional title 'Sunlight on the garden: travelling with the poems of Louis MacNeice') to be published in 2014 under the pen name of ZW Bates.*

## BANKSY COMES TO CANONBURY

BY ROSEMARY BROWN

Unlike its illustrious counterparts in nearby Shoreditch, the relatively pristine walls of Canonbury tend to be bereft of street art. That is until last summer when world-renowned street artist Banksy turned a trailing vine on Canonbury Square into erotic art.

Banksy's sardonic artworks of political and social commentary emblazon walls, streets and bridges in cities around the world. With his art selling for six figure prices, many aim to protect this elusive artist's outdoor creations by covering them with Perspex. Not so here. Banksy's creativity

in Canonbury didn't last long before it was 'buffed' (street talk for painted over).

Although Canonbury is now street art-less (as we went to press), aficionados don't have to go far for a viewing. The remains of one of Banksy's iconic works — three children raising a Tesco plastic bag on a flag pole — are still visible on the side wall of Savemain Pharmacy on Essex Road.



*Creativity in Canonbury by internationally celebrated street artist Banksy.*

Hailed as the 'female Banksy', Islington-based street artist Bambi decorates a wall on Pickering Street with three works — the most striking depicts Queen Elizabeth II as the "Queen of Diamonds." A few steps from Highbury Corner on Digswell Street, a futuristic Statue of Liberty adorns the blue walls of the Hair Machine beauty salon by street artist Pegasus.

Islington's best street art radiates out from Old Street underground station. You can discover it with London Street Art tours on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. [www.streetartlondon.co.uk/tours](http://www.streetartlondon.co.uk/tours) [tours@streetartlondon.co.uk](mailto:tours@streetartlondon.co.uk)

# “ALL SORTS OF RUMOURS AS TO SUBTERRANEAN PASSAGES”

BY DAVID IRELAND



*From where secret passages do (or don't) lead...*

One subject guaranteed to draw snorts of derision from local historians of old was the suggestion of secret underground passages leading out from under Canonbury Tower. What is not in dispute is that Canonbury, once plentiful in springs, did supply water to the Priory of St Bartholomew in West Smithfield. To confuse passage hunters, “the water pipes used in those times”, reported Nelson in his 1811 History of Islington, “were not always embedded in the earth as is the present custom, but inclosed within a capacious arch of brickwork”.

Our Man from the Star, a London evening newspaper which ran from 1788 to 1960, was not to be put off. Writing on 6 September 1907 (under the headline “Mediaeval Monks Whose Secret Passage Is Now A Wine Cellar”), he agrees that subterranean passages leading to the priory in Smithfield or to Limehouse were there “to supply the monks with water”. But then he goes on:

“At the Marquess of Northampton’s estate office, the ‘Star’ man learned that only one real secret passage is known to them. This is over 5ft high, and was evidently used for pedestrians, and not for water. Starting in the vaults under Canonbury, it runs down under the long gardens at the back of the houses in Alwyne-villas, and reaches the

New River under a house in Alwyne-road, but is there blocked up”

Our Man, now clearly having worked up a journalistic thirst, then repairs to the New Crown Hotel (in St Paul’s Rd, now the closed Bastille Brasserie) to talk to mine host, Walter Longhurst. Apparently, a workman laying cables had driven “his pick through the soil about 4ft 6in below the surface of St Paul’s Rd, and had a narrow escape of falling into the gulf that yawned before him. One of the men was let down into the mysterious chasm. He found himself in a pitch-dark enclosure with no sign of life. ‘Ere, haul me out of this!’ said the startled explorer, and he was got out.

“It was then discovered that the tunnel into which they had broken led into the wine vaults of the New Crown Hotel, 60ft away. Mr Longhurst says in his opinion, it extends to Canonbury Tower in the same way that the one in Alwyne-villas runs out from the Tower southward. He rejects the idea of a water conduit or drain – the 6ft height of the tunnel disproves that.

“There is no tradition of a tunnel at this exact spot. Obviously, if the tunnel was used by the monks as a secret means of exit or entrance, it would be natural to place its mouth in a sequestered rural spot...”



## MESSAGE FROM: THE CHAIRMAN 2013

PHILIP WALKER

As memories of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics and the Paralympics fade, it is salutary to reflect on the spirit of volunteering which played such a vital role in their success. In this issue, we feature four of our Canonbury charities offering opportunities to volunteer, namely Urban Hope, The Rose Bowl, Islington Giving and the newly-launched Here to. All are seeking financial donations, but donations of time and expertise are equally welcome. We may all be getting older, but we collectively have an enormous wealth of experience and expertise, and imparting just a fraction of this in a directed way, possibly as a mentor to a young person, can be mutually rewarding. If you’re interested in volunteering, do get in contact with the local charity of your choice.

In Why I Love Canonbury on page 5, Frances Cairncross describes Canonbury as a beautiful part of London with wonderful greenery. The society is determined to conserve the best features of the built (and the un-built) environment in our conservation area 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, do visit our website at [www.canonburysociety.org.uk](http://www.canonburysociety.org.uk).

Once again we enjoyed two good parties. Our summer party was held at Canonbury House and our winter party was held at Myddelton Cottage. Our heart-felt thanks again go to our wonderful hosts, respectively Nicola and Gavin Ralston, and Nina Konrad and Jerry Norton.

We look forward to a much rarer celebration this September, of the 400th anniversary of the New River. Please see our website nearer the time (and this issue’s lead story) for more details. We hope you can join us!

# CANONBURY: THE KNOCK-ON EFFECT

DOORS ARE CURRENTLY 'TRENDING' IN CANONBURY WITH THE CREATION OF AN ARTWORK INCORPORATING THE COLOURS OF LOCAL DOORS ON A STANLEY SPENCER MASTERPIECE -- AND THE REVIVAL OF POST-WAR DOORS BY CELEBRATED ARCHITECT LOUIS DE SOISSONS.

## SHADES OF CANONBURY GREY

The focal point of Canonbury Grey by Sarah Strang, Union Chapel Artist in Residence 2011-2012, is a replica of a well-known Modernist painting The Resurrection, Cookham by Stanley Spencer overlaid with a map of Canonbury. The original painting depicts the dead rising from their graves in Cookham graveyard, reflecting Spencer's view of his hometown as a paradise in which everything held

mystical significance. Here, the map overlaying the replica painting showing an aerial footprint of every house in the area is coded to match the colour of its front door.

Maps give a unique geographical and sociological snapshot of an area, while front doors speak volumes about the inhabitants of their houses.

By combining the two in this

context, Sarah Strang gives her own contemporary take on Spencer's personal and local interpretation of eternal themes. Faced with the dizzying notion of eternity, can we ever avoid framing it in our experience of our own local community and how do we discern what matters now?

The artist collected responses to the following questions from Canonbury residents: What colour is your front door? What does this colour mean to you? Where would you live in another life?

*Canonbury Grey was exhibited at Canonbury Tower and the Islington Museum in 2012. [www.sarahstrang.com](http://www.sarahstrang.com)*



*Canonbury Grey photo by Daniela Sbrisy*

## DOORS TO THE PAST

A stroll down Canonbury Park South, Canonbury Park North and Grange Grove reveals a revival of original post-war front doors. These graceful 'y-front' glazed doors designed by renowned architect and town planner Louis de Soissons are making a come-back as residents cast off their contemporary doors in favour of the De Soissons originals.

Canonbury is distinguished by its splendid 18th century Georgian architecture, but thanks to Louis de Soissons, it is also home to a handsome collection of neo-Georgian style houses. Just one of the defining features -- the front door -- contributes to the cottage-like character of the homes rising from the rubble of bombed Victorian villas. A handful of original doors remain.

In the words of John A F Watson, post-war surveyor to the Northampton Estate: "De Soissons devised a comprehensive scheme for the redevelopment of Canonbury over a period of years as an residential suburb. Plans and elevations, expensively mounted and framed, were exhibited hopefully in Islington Town

Hall. They got us nowhere. The most we were permitted to build after the war, a few hundred yards east of Canonbury Tower, were thirty-two small neo-Georgian houses each bearing a statutory price tag equivalent to £1,500 freehold."

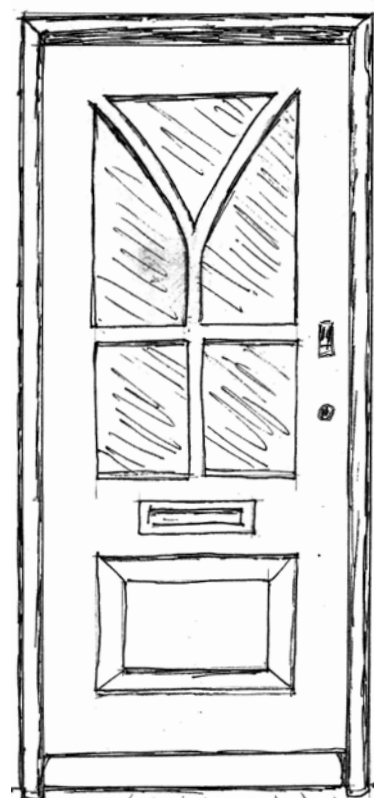
Today, you need significantly more than the original £1,500 price tag just to commission a Louis de Soissons' replica door.

### **Other works by Louis de Soissons:**

Welwyn Garden City, George VI memorial in Carlton Gardens, Hobbs memorial gates at the Oval, restoration of the Nash terraces in Regent's Park, 50 war cemeteries for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Wellcome Foundation,

*References: The Louis de Soissons Partnership, Oxford Dictionary of National Biographies, Jack Lambert*

BY ROSEMARY BROWN



*illustration by David L Stanton*

# WHY I LOVE CANONBURY:

BY FRANCES CAIRNCROSS, CBE, FRSE



It's now almost 40 years since we bought our house in Canonbury Lane.

Looking back, I can't imagine how we did it: two journalists, still (just) in their 20s. What a different world it is today, for the young and for newspapers.

We found immediately that Canonbury was a place where people made friends. On one side of us, lived Mr and Mrs Roast; on the other, Mr and Mrs Lamb. Gradually, we got to know people around the Square. We ran a party in Canonbury Square for the Jubilee of 1977, and later I was President of the Canonbury Society. Across the Lane was another young mother with a baby - round the Square were two more. They have moved, but we remain friends. That's what Canonbury is like.

It is also amazingly convenient. The 19 bus whisked us both down to work at the Guardian, and when I moved to The Economist, the Victoria line scooted to Green Park. Long gone is the post office in Canonbury Lane and the dingy Indian restaurant where there never seemed to be any customers. Gone too

is the wonderful Canonbury book shop, and the funeral parlour that advertised horse-drawn funerals. But the Compton Arms, at the end of our garden, remains a friendly and well-run pub with a village atmosphere. For years, when the children were small, we would listen for the Morris dancers who came once a year to dance in Compton Terrace, and we would rush out to watch.

The other wonder of Canonbury is its greenery. In the early spring, when the chestnuts come out and lilacs flower in the Square, it is one of the most beautiful parts of London. It always seems to have more than its share of efficient and imaginative gardeners. When, from time to time, we worry that our house is now too big and the stairs too many, we try to think where else we would rather live. It never takes more than five minutes to agree that nowhere else can rival Canonbury.

*Frances Cairncross is a celebrated economist, journalist and academic. She is Rector of Exeter College, Oxford.*

## NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR THE MYDDLETON ARMS

BY DAVID IRELAND

There's no shortage of doom and gloom in the world of pubs. Real ale supporters Camra reported last November that 18 UK pubs were closing every week. Canonbury has got off relatively lightly but several of our pubs listed with landlords going back to the mid-19th century are no more - the Belinda Castle (site now occupied by The House) and British Queen in Halton Road, the Builders Arms and New Crown in St Paul's Road.

It's heartening, then, that a young married couple, Rupert and Emily Cottam, feel confident enough to have taken on the lease of the Myddleton Arms in Canonbury Road (first recorded publican: Mrs Ann Bull, 1869).

Despite their relative youth - Rupert is 29, Emily, 27 - they both have experience in the hospitality industry. Emily managed a pie restaurant above a Fitzrovia pub for four years and Rupert helped set up the Birdcage pub in Norwich. The pair were previously very local to their new local,

having lived in Astey's Row for two-and-a-half years. They have now moved in above the "shop".

"We realise it's a difficult time for pubs in general," says Rupert. "You can't rely on a few mates propping up the bar, so we have to keep coming up with new ideas. We want to create a traditional London pub, not a gastro pub, but with our own creative spin," he says.

Social media is important - the Myddleton Arms uses Facebook, Twitter and a new website. It's not all 2013, though - having discovered that Sir Hugh Myddleton made his money (at least in part) from glove-making, the pub's logo is a gloved hand.



*Sir Hugh's glove lives on*

### OUR OTHER LOCALS:

The Canonbury, The House, The Compton Arms, Alwyne Castle, Hen & Chickens and The Marquess

# PLANNING NEWS: SAFEGUARDING CANONBURY'S CHARACTER

BY PHILIP WALKER AND JACK LAMBERT

During 2012, we reviewed 54 applications affecting the Canonbury Conservation Area, and sent written suggestions for improvement or comments of objection on 13 of them. Two major applications were most in the news:

**85 Canonbury Road** (former Ford garage). Despite some 220 written objections and Union Chapel's online petition with 12,000 objectors' signatures, consent for Notting Hill Home Ownership's residential scheme of some 90 units was granted in January. The approval is subject to 47 conditions including the resolution of financial aspects. We still maintain the proposed scheme is far too high and dominating for its surroundings and blocks off many views of the splendid Grade 1 Listed Union Chapel. We would like to thank again all our members for their unstinting support during our campaign launched in September 2009. The Canonbury Society joined forces with The Upper Street Resident's Association, Islington History and Archaeology Society, Islington Society, Union Chapel Project, The Estorick Collection and the Highbury Fields Association.



*Perspective of new residential scheme for 85 Canonbury Road approved despite massive local objections.*

**Former Mecca Bingo Hall, Essex Road.** Applicants Resurrection Manifestations have been given a two-year temporary approval for a modest proposal which will allow the vacant building to be brought back into use. The large auditorium will be temporarily partitioned with a smaller stage and seating for 700 for use as church worship as well as entertainments and theatrical performances. Car parking at

the rear will be restricted to two disabled car bays and 27 cycle spaces for building users only. High quality landscaping and perimeter fencing will need to be pre-approved. Some repairs and restoration of the listed "Egyptian" facade to Essex Road will be required, but there will be no increase in the size of the building. Events must end by midnight or 1 a.m. by exception.

## CANONBURY QUOTE, UNQUOTE

BY DAVID IRELAND

Canonbury has abounded in literary folk from the early 1600s right up to the very present, but how have they described Canonbury in print?

**Evelyn Waugh** (17a Canonbury Square) advised Harold Acton in August 1928 to get on a 19 bus and then "ask the conductor to tell you when you reach Compton Terrace, and then walk up Canonbury Lane, you will find our dilapidated Regency Square" (the footnotes to his Letters talk of "this then cheap district"). His wife, the She-

Evelyn, was taken ill in October 1928, so he summons "the Canonbury doctor, who is a cross between a butcher and vet in appearance". Her mother Lady Burghclere, who had not approved of the marriage, called and "more or less kindly comments on the flat". Hinting at pending grandeur (or how far they'd come from it), invitations for a late November 1928 cocktail party include a map showing the route from Buckingham Palace to Canonbury.

**DJ Taylor**, a biographer of **George Orwell**, commenting on the arrival of Orwell and wife Eileen at 27b Canonbury Square in October 1944, reports that "as a district Islington was famously run down". According to an Orwell friend, the block's entrance was "very squalid... but once you got up there it was a very nice flat". Wife Eileen loved the flat "in some ways...the outlook is charming, and we have a flat roof about three yards by two which seems full of possibilities". George clearly didn't appreciate the

bitterly cold post-war winters. On 12 April 1946, he wrote "at any rate, spring is here, even in London N1"; on 28 March 1947 "for the last five minutes I have been gazing out of the window into the square, keeping a sharp look-out for signs of spring".

Rip Van Winkle creator **Washington Irving** took Oliver Goldsmith's "very apartment" in Canonbury House for inspiration around 1820, but discovered that "when Sunday came...I found that my quiet retreat was absolutely a show-house, being shown to strangers at sixpence a head. There was a perpetual tramping upstairs of citizens and their families to look about the country from the top of the tower". The interruptions didn't stop Irving crafting a local literary poem in his Goldsmith biography: "Here Humphreys breathed his last, the Muse's friend/And Chambers found his mighty labours end/See on the distant plain, majestic shows/Old Canonbury's tower, an ancient pile".



# CANONBURY CHARITIES OF CHOICE

THE CANONBURY SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL CHARITIES. DONATIONS OF TIME, MONEY AND EXPERTISE ARE EQUALLY WELCOME.

## URBAN HOPE

Above all else, Urban Hope provides young people with the opportunity to build simple, straightforward and long-term relationships with trusted adults.

We offer a range of activities for local young people – tennis, music, cookery and weekends in the countryside – which are hugely important in giving disadvantaged young people opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have.



However, it's the personal support that young people are offered through the work of Urban Hope that ultimately helps them stay engaged in education, find employment or go on to university.

Taking inspiration from the 'extended family', our staff and volunteers get to know the individual needs of a core group of 100 young people. This enables us to invest in their overall well-

being and respond to specific needs, be they practical, social or emotional.

It's through relationships like this that a retired teacher and member of the Canonbury Society provided tutoring for one of our Urban Hopefuls for Chemistry A level exams. Through this work, a young woman was offered work experience at the Estorick Collection and another member received support to move away from an abusive father to a place of safety.

The opportunities to receive support, grow and achieve are as varied as the individual young people who come to Urban Hope.

Founded in 2000 Urban Hope is a project of St Stephen's Church, Canonbury. We exist to serve young people, their parents and families, the people down their street and the wider community. In 2012 Urban Hope worked with 362 young people, running 390 group sessions and 209 targeted support sessions.

*To learn more about Urban Hope and how you can help visit [www.urbanhope.co.uk](http://www.urbanhope.co.uk)*

BY BEN BELL



## HERE TO

*• here to ISLINGTON •*

Here To is a new service that helps people in Islington find better ways to use their free time by getting involved with local projects.

You can visit the here to website [www.islington.hereto.org](http://www.islington.hereto.org) to look for projects to get involved in or to post a project where you need people to get involved.

The point of the site is to appeal to the range of motivations that inspire people to give up their time, beyond pure altruism. This could be to meet new friends, to change something in their neighbourhood or to get some experience for their CV.

The project has been commissioned by Islington Council and is run by Here To Community Interest Company (formed of Isledon Partnership and FutureGov, where former Canonbury councillor Lucy Watt now works).

## ISLINGTON GIVING

Islington Giving was formed in 2010 to address issues in the borough and to invest in young people, tackle poverty and help confront isolation. Islington Giving currently supports over 30 local projects and asks residents and businesses to give what they can, be it time or money, to make a difference to the local community.

*[www.islingtongiving.org.uk](http://www.islingtongiving.org.uk);  
tel: 020 7014 5999;  
email: [mail@islingtongiving.org.uk](mailto:mail@islingtongiving.org.uk)*



## FRIENDS OF THE ROSE BOWL



The last year at the Rose Bowl has been one of growth and development. This, coupled with one of the highest retention rates for any of Islington's youth clubs, means that more young people are choosing to join in. Young people have now set up their own Steering Group, and have requested additional sessions and a resumption of the Homework Club if further funding can be found.

- The Rose Bowl is now open for 48 weeks a year, an increase of six weeks; and on Saturdays for four sessions.
- We have continued to develop new sessions for older young people on Thursdays and have added a drop-in session on Wednesdays, as well as increased singing and music sessions. The new programme was devised based on suggestions from the new Steering Group.
- The Rose Bowl is achieving its demanding target of working with 400 young people of which some 250 attend regularly

The Friends of the Rose Bowl, in conjunction with Islington Council and other funders, supports the work of the Rose Bowl which is run by Hoxton Hall. The Friends is a small, charity run by local volunteers. This year the Friends is committed to raising £40,000 to finance this vital service. We would love to be able to fund additional sessions so we are grateful for your support.

## Latest News:

Mike Phoenix is running 69 miles along Hadrian's Wall in June and aims to raise £5,000 for the Rose Bowl. Support him at [www.justgiving.com/Mike-Phoenix](http://www.justgiving.com/Mike-Phoenix)

*Further details of our events and how to support us can be found at:  
[www.friendsoftherosebowl.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftherosebowl.org.uk) or  
email: [info@friendsoftherosebowl.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsoftherosebowl.org.uk).*

BY JANE SIMMONDS



*Aerial view of the New River, 1870*

## CANONBURY SOCIETY: 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

**Thursday 23rd May at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6.45 p.m.) at The Canonbury**

A presentation on the history of the New River in Islington

Learn the latest on planning, parking, trees, community charities, trees and Canonbury Society events. Officers for the year will be elected. Send your nominations to Rosemary Brown, 11 Canonbury Park South, London N1 2JR. Come and meet your neighbours. Drinks and nibbles follow the meeting.

## SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

The Canonbury Society's Summer Garden Party 2013 celebrates the 400 year history of the New River. Join your neighbours from 1 – 4 p.m. in a Canonbury garden. Express yourself in aquatic colours or follow a 'Wind in the Willows' theme to celebrate the 400th birthday of the opening of the New River by Sir Hugh Myddelton.

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

## A TRIBUTE FIONA STEEVENS

The Canonbury Society wishes to pay tribute to former committee member Fiona J Steevens who made many contributions as newsletter editor and event planner.

Fiona, 47, passed away in Hamburg, Germany in July 2012 after a short struggle with cancer. She is survived by her children Harry and Ella. The family

moved to Hamburg from their home on Northampton Park in summer 2009.

An active and enthusiastic resident of Canonbury, Fiona worked hard to preserve our conservation area and unite local neighbours. She also served on the committee of the Friends of the Rose Bowl.

## LOCAL GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY

UNDER THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME 2013

**Sat 11th May**

(NEW) 4 Canonbury Place N1 2NQ  
2-5pm, teas £3.50

**Sun 2nd June**

37 Alwyne Road, N1 2HW  
Teas, raffle and plant sale 2-6pm £3.50

31 Canonbury Park North N1 2JU

Teas, 2-6pm £3.50

**Sat 15th June**

5 Northampton Park N1 2PP

Evening opening, wine 6-9pm £3

**Wed 19th June**

Five Canonbury Gardens:

36 St Mary's Grove N1 2NT

(to obtain map of gardens)

20 St Mary's Grove N1 2NT

(NEW) 41 Grange Grove N1 2NP;

(NEW) 26 St Mary's Grove N1 2NT

(NEW) 23 Canonbury Place N1 2NY

Evening opening, wine 6.30-9pm

Combined admission £5

*Children are admitted free to all gardens.  
Most gardens request no dogs.*

*For more information and other gardens in north London visit [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)*

## CANONBURY SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013

1. Philip Walker – Chairman
2. Jack Lambert – Planning, and Chairman of Friends of the New River Walk
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. Marcella Menzies
9. Susan Millership

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

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'.

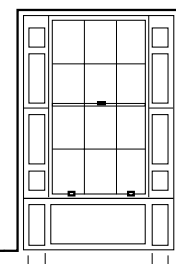
NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

TEL .....

EMAIL .....

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



☐ I/We wish to pay my/our annual subscription for 2013

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

☐ I/We enclose £ .....