

## THE CHANGING POLITICAL FACE OF CANONBURY

By DAVID IRELAND



*Thelma Cazalet (Con), (l) winner of the October 1931 Islington East election with Leah Manning (Lab), winner of the preceding February 1931 by-election. ©Islington Local History Centre*

'Tories win all Islington seats again...three Islington seats now represented by SDP MPs...Islington seats once again two-horse race between Labour and Conservatives...breakaway Independent Liberal candidate splits Liberals' vote...Communists field candidate for fourth election...'

This General Election year any readers taking their cue from the *Times's* overview in 2010 of our two parliamentary seats – Islington South & Finsbury 'has returned Labour MPs for decades', Islington North 'has been held by Labour's Jeremy Corbyn since its inception' – might be surprised to learn that Canonbury's politics historically have actually been a good deal more variegated.

Canonbury's Conservation Area comprises three wards – St Mary to the west, Canonbury to the east, and a slice of Mildmay on the northern edge – and these wards have often been on the move politically over the last century. Canonbury was in the old Islington East seat from 1885 to 1974, joined by Mildmay in 1918. Both these wards moved into the short-lived Islington Central seat from 1974 to 1983 before going their separate ways, Mildmay

into Islington North, Canonbury to Islington South and Finsbury. St Mary, meanwhile, belonged to Islington South from 1885 to 1950, then to the now equally defunct Islington South West until 1974 before also being added to Islington South and Finsbury.

In the 1918 and 1922 General Elections, the Conservatives held all four of Islington's then seats (despite Labour's 30% share of the national vote in the latter year). Perhaps of greater surprise – since it's been a two-way tussle between Labour and the Liberal Democrats this century – is the fact that Islington Council was also Conservative-led from 1968 to 1971.

Party splits have been a feature of Canonbury's political past. The creation of the SDP in March 1981 briefly saw three Labour Islington MPs – Michael O'Halloran (Islington North), George Cunningham (Islington South & Finsbury) and John Grant (Islington Central) – sit as SDP members, before Labour came back to local power in 1983. Islington Council was also SDP-led in 1981-2. (The actually illiberal) Alan Lomas was a founder member of the breakaway East Islington Liberal

Association and stood three times against former Liberal colleagues.

Splitting aside, the Lib Dems, who ran Labour close in Islington South and Finsbury in 2005, and ran Islington Council from 1999 to 2010 (from 2006 only as the narrowly biggest party), didn't field (as Liberals) a candidate in our 'constituent constituencies' for almost all of the 1950s.

The 2015 election in both our parliamentary seats is a five-way fight between Labour, the Lib Dems, the Greens, the Conservatives and UKIP, with the Socialist Party of Great Britain also standing in Islington North. If that general choice sounds insufficiently radical for some, St Mary ward voters had four chances to vote Communist between 1950 and 1970.

And finally... Rochdale MP Simon Danczuk has been railing recently against North London liberal elitists. On page 3 we provide our handy guide on how to spot one locally.

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# 47 CANONBURY SQUARE: THE TALE OF THE MISSING STOREYS

After nearly 80 years, the house at the northwest corner of Canonbury Square has been rebuilt to its original late Georgian appearance and is now occupied. The top three storeys of the five-story late Georgian house at 47 Canonbury Square have been reinstated.

In 1936, the end of terrace house was allegedly deemed structurally unsafe and demolished on the instructions of the Marquess of Northampton, a ruse to get rid of tenants who refused to vacate, according to local historian Mary Cosh in *The Squares of Islington* (1993).

In the 1950s, Peggy Carter, a keen gardener living at 46 Canonbury Square, acquired the vacant site of number 47 to enlarge her garden which the Queen Mother reputedly visited. She also commissioned a young Harley Sherlock to design a house for her son on the front part of the number 47 site. As her funds were limited, only the lower ground and ground floors could be built with the street facade being a faithful replica of the original house.

Tony Ponting, an enterprising and public-spirited Canonbury Square neighbour, purchased the small house

with the intention of completing the missing storeys. He engaged local architect Roger Mears to prepare designs for planning and listed building consent with support from Harley Sherlock, then Islington Conservation Officer Alec Forshaw, and the Canonbury Society.

After a protracted period of applications, appeal hearings and a judicial review, the proposal to build was finally approved by the Council on 6 December 2010. Meanwhile, Tony Ponting had bought back the original garden which meant that 47 Canonbury Square could be completed as a five-storey house with its garden... rather than flats and maisonettes. The rest is history.

Many thanks to all who helped to make this valuable restoration of the Canonbury Square townscape possible.

It is sad to record that Harley Sherlock didn't live to see his dream fulfilled but died on the 14th May 2014 at his boyhood home at Sanderstead overlooking his beloved cricket ground.

By JACK LAMBERT



47 Canonbury Square standing tall again.

# FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN: SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

By PHILIP WALKER



A General Election is a time for reflecting on what we expect from our politicians, particularly from our local councillors. But in the local context, what we can do to support them is also important, particularly in the context of helping needy and vulnerable people. We need to take more individual and collective responsibility, perhaps by volunteering where we can. I know this smacks of 'Big Society' which has rather lost its credibility, but it is essential that we support our local charities and causes not just with cash, but with our time and expertise. (See page 7).

This equally applies to the built environment. With other conservation groups, we accepted Islington Council's invitation to participate in discussions about proposed new planning policies ahead of public consultations. This does

not bind us in any way. We are free to object or support individual planning applications, but it does point the way to a more considered way of policy-making which should lead on to greater efficiency and certainty in the planning process. A good initiative by LBI!

Details of our participation in three LBI public consultations are found on page 3.

By popular request, I would like to pay tribute to LBI's street cleaning and refuse collection teams who do such a wonderful job.

Once again we enjoyed two good parties. Our heartfelt thanks go to our wonderful hosts respectively George Mackintosh and Eri for our summer party, and Nina Konrad and Jerry Norton for our winter party.

# PLANNING NEWS: OUR RESPONSE TO LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

By PHILIP WALKER, JACK LAMBERT AND JAMES COATES

The Canonbury Society contributed its views on three highly topical LBI public consultations issued as 'supplementary planning documents' (SPDs):

## BASEMENTS

This SPD identified the potential impacts associated with basement development in Islington, taking into account current development trends, and the need for specific planning guidance.

We encouraged LBI to follow much stronger and consolidated policies like those adopted by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBK&C), recently subjected to public examination, and found to be "sound" in a separate Planning Inspector's Report:

- A restriction to a single storey in most cases, with exceptions for large sites
- An outright ban on basements under listed buildings
- While RBK&C proposes reducing the maximum extent that basements can extend under a garden from 85% to 50%, generally we don't think basements should extend under gardens at all, and exceptionally we would accept a limit closer to 10%
- Construction traffic management plans to be submitted alongside planning applications to help limit disturbance during construction

We believe that with an easy-to-understand policy, LBI decision-making will be consistent, saving time and expense for Council and applicants.

## PREVENTING WASTED HOUSING SUPPLY

This concerns the so-called "buy-to-leave" phenomenon, when individuals or companies buy new residential dwellings solely as speculative investments, leaving the homes empty. The SPD proposes to use legal agreements (known as Section 106 agreements) to ensure that new-build housing in major developments is not left unoccupied and can therefore contribute to Islington's and London's housing needs.

We are supportive of the Council's commitment to addressing its housing needs, but we remain sceptical about the effectiveness and net costs of the enforcement measures.

## ISLINGTON URBAN DESIGN GUIDE

LBI sought views on potential revisions to the existing Urban Design Guide SPD adopted in 2006, required to dovetail with recently adopted Local Plan policies as well as to address new issues and development trends. Items addressed in the proposed revised SPD cover:

- New Materials and Building Technologies – greater acceptance of innovation while respecting the character of the area
- Garden Rooms & Outbuildings – some tightening of policy
- Energy Saving Measures
- Basements – separate SPD (see above)
- Shop fronts – need greater planning status for enforceability
- Gated Communities – LBI generally opposed
- Roof Extensions: Dormer Windows, Roof Lights – some relaxation of policy
- Roof Extensions: Balconies and Roof Terraces – some tightening of policy

We are delighted that the Design Guide is being brought up-to-date but with the proviso that existing conservation area policies should not be watered down, relaxed or made less precise by any of the revisions.



# HOW TO SPOT A "NORTH LONDON LIBERAL ELITIST"

By DAVID IRELAND

**WHITE VAN.** The one in our drive? No, of course not – it's our removal team, two lovely Australians on their gap year.

**MANSION TAX.** Publicly: long overdue. Privately: very worrying.

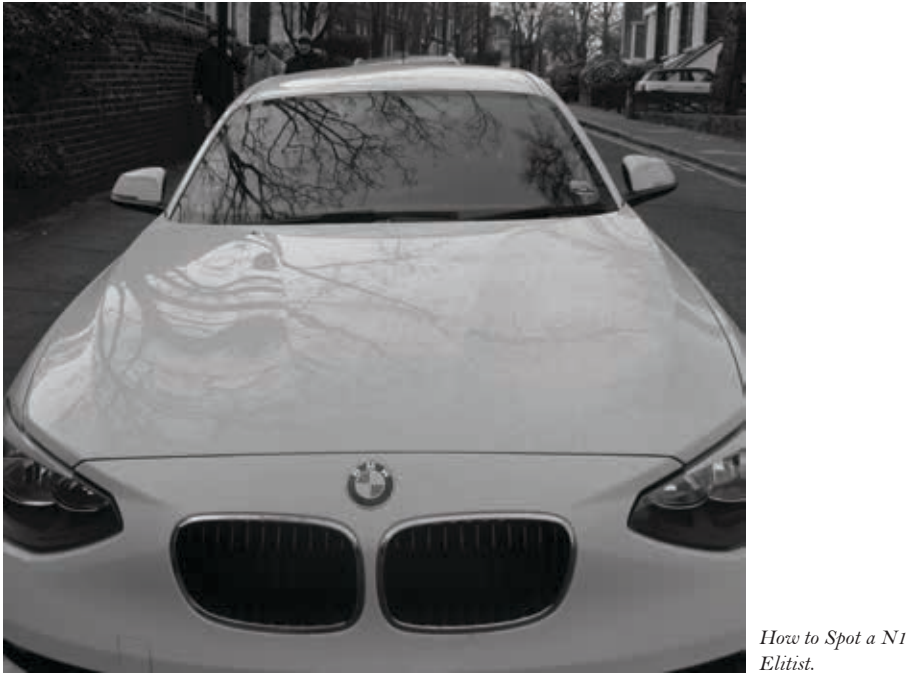
**NORTH BRIDGE HOUSE.** It's outrageous we have a private school on our doorstep (our own children had to go on the bus to their one).

**SHOPPING.** Local, always (other than Lidl's Christmas offers, of course).

**NEWSPAPER.** Guardian (but Saturday's FT is so good for our investments).

**CAR.** Yes, the new one was rather expensive but it's so much more eco-friendly.

**GAMES.** Publicly: weren't those people dressing up for the darts fun? Privately: Scrabble.



How to Spot a N1 Elitist.



# ‘JUST LOWER YOUR REGISTER’

A little bit of theatrical history disappeared from Canonbury last August with the passing of Compton Road (and formerly, Alwyne Villas) resident Janie Drew, top casting director from the mid-1950s to the late 1960s for Binkie Beaumont, ‘Éminence Grise’ of the West End Theatre.

Beaumont’s firm, HM Tennent, produced over 350 plays between 1936 and 1973; during his golden period, he occasionally had eight or nine plays running simultaneously in the West End. Every theatrical great worked with him, including John Gielgud, Laurence Olivier, Michael Redgrave, Noël Coward, Sybil Thorndike, Richard Burton, and Ivor Novello.

*An Actor and His Time* – the actor being John Gielgud – argues that Binkie Beaumont was ‘the most successful impresario of C20th British theatre... he was probably most famous for his association with John Gielgud’.

That association meant that when Janie’s daughter Bec (Rebecca) was born in 1968, ‘an obscenely large bouquet came from Johnny G’, but he was by no means the only famous actor to visit (then) Alwyne Villas – Oklahoma star Howard Keel came for dinner in the early 70s, James Bond leads Sean Connery and Roger Moore would come for drinks.

The eulogy for Janie was given by actress Angela Thorne (Marjory Frobisher in *To the Manor Born*, Margaret Thatcher in *Anyone for Denis?*), who recalled ‘she has been part of my life for nearly 60 years. I met her while I was in Sheffield Rep...they were casting George Bernard Shaw’s *You Never Can Tell* (this opened in January 1966, also starring Ralph Richardson, Celia Bannerman and Keith Baxter) for the Theatre Royal Haymarket and decided to cast the children from unknowns...she asked me if I would audition for the part of (eldest daughter) Gloria Clandon.

By DAVID IRELAND

‘Well, I wasn’t going to say “No” was I?! I duly arrived at the Haymarket and met Janie at the Stage Door. When I started the audition I was so nervous my voice was hitting the rafters. Janie came running on to the stage and told me very gently to lower my register. I managed that and got the part and that started my career in earnest...she got many a career started’.



Janie Drew in a glamorous age

# TRAVELLING WITH THE POETRY OF LOUIS MACNEICE

“The author is planning to write a book about travelling in the footsteps of Louis MacNeice to be published in 2014 under the pen name of Z W Bates” was the last line of an article I wrote for the 2013 newsletter.

It gave some background to the blue plaque on 52 Canonbury Park South where poet Louis MacNeice lived from 1947-1952. Now I can confirm that Z W Bates published *Sunlight on the Garden: Travelling with the poetry of Louis MacNeice* in 2014. I started with a blank screen in April 2013 and held my book in my hand in June 2014.

In between I travelled, researched and wrote. I looked for MacNeice in the places I expected to find him: Carrickfergus, just outside Belfast, where he grew up the son of a Church of Ireland minister; Clifden in Connemara where his parents were from; Oxford where he was a student; 2 Clarence Terrace in Regent’s Park, where he lived from 1952 to 1960; and BBC

Broadcasting House where he worked from 1940 until his death in 1963.

I went travelling through the middle of Iceland where Louis MacNeice and W H Auden journeyed by horse and camped in the summer of 1936.

With the benefit of the open access policies of the University of Texas at Austin and the State University of New York at Buffalo, where most of MacNeice’s manuscripts are, I spent days turning the pages of his notebooks, squinting at his smudged pencil jottings.

MacNeice lectured in the US in the 1940s and 1950s, when travelling by sea was the norm. So that’s what I did – I came home on a container ship. No internet, no radio or television. Three meals a day. No excuse for not writing.

I wrote *Sunlight* to raise MacNeice’s profile, but also to remind readers of what poetry can do, that prose cannot,

since poetry is all too often left behind once school is left.

I realised as I typed that I also wanted to write about things along my way that were not strictly relevant to MacNeice; so I decided to write a book about writing the ‘proper book’ -- *Daylight: Nine months of not writing a bestseller*.

By Z W BATES



ZW Bates’ two books are stocked by YPD Books: [http://www.ypdbooks.com/479\\_zw-bates](http://www.ypdbooks.com/479_zw-bates). A full version of this article appears on the Canonbury Society website

# PORTRAIT OF EDWIN SMITH

By DAVID IRELAND



Edwin Smith and Olive Cook in the garden, 9A Church Row, Hampstead ©Edwin Smith/RIBA Library Photographs

In the age of Google, we supposedly know everything about anyone famous but the Canonbury connections of a renowned photographer have managed to slip below the internet radar.

Edwin Smith was celebrated by John Betjeman as ‘a genius at photography’ and by Cecil Beaton as ‘an understanding and loving connoisseur of his subject’. He was the chief illustrative contributor to more than 30 books, among them *English Parish Churches*, *English Cottages and Farmhouses*, *Art Treasures of the British Museum*, *Shell Guides to counties*, *Great Houses of Europe*, *English Villages*, *Old English Towns*, *The Wonders of Italy*. The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) hosted a three month retrospective last autumn for Smith, and holds a collection of 60,000 negatives and 20,000 prints by Smith.

While his work frequently took him abroad, to Italy in particular, but also to Greece, Ireland, France, Spain, Germany and Scandinavia, Smith also specialized in recording English social history. His subjects included fairs and circuses, miners, quayside markets, women gutting fish, street scenes, the interiors of modest houses – and he took many photos in Islington, Camden, Hampstead and Kentish Town.

These North London photos are by no means Smith’s only local connection for above all, he was born within our own Canonbury Conservation Area, at

# – AN OVERLOOKED LOCAL SON

2, St Paul’s Road, on 15 May 1912. But despite being ‘one of Britain’s foremost 20th century photographers’ in RIBA’s view, there is no Islington Green Plaque or English Heritage Blue Plaque to commemorate this.

If there’s a strong case for correcting this omission, one needs to be absolutely confident of the place of birth. The information initially comes from the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, but it doesn’t provide the first hand documentary proof to clinch the case.

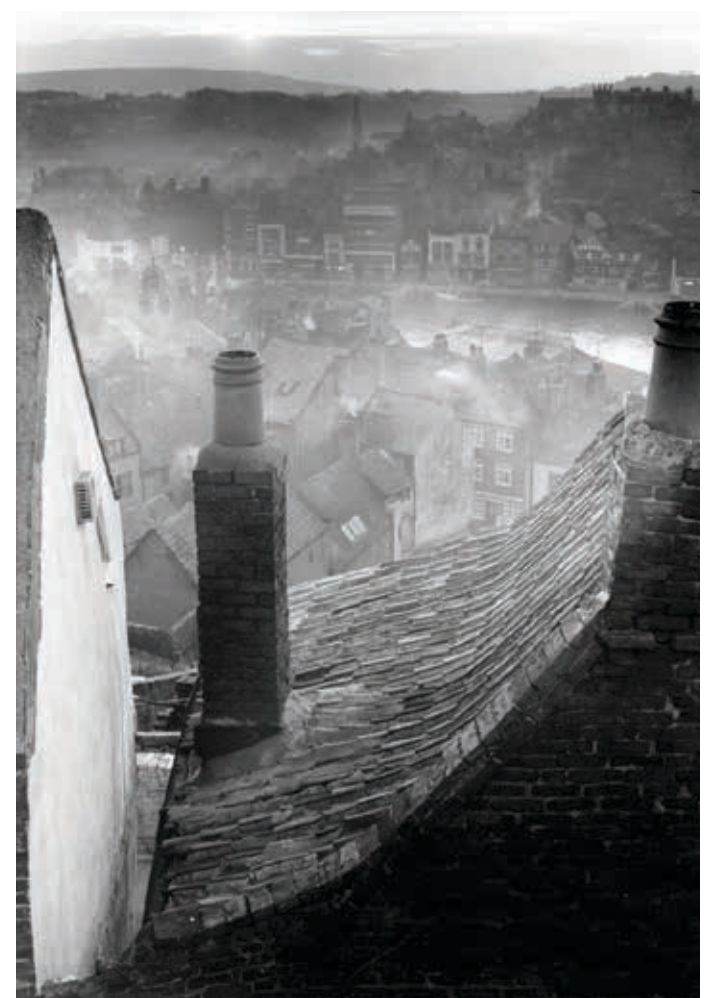
First port of call in the hunt for proof is the excellent Islington Local History Centre, but the reference volumes dug out by archivist Julie Melrose unfortunately draw a blank – the Post Office London Directory for 1912 lists only a dentist, William Walton, living at 2, St Paul’s Road (though the Smiths could have been his lodgers). There is no entry for the address in the East Division electoral register of the period (though even the 1884 Third Reform Act – which added six million albeit male-only new voters – enfranchised only property owners).

The trail then shifts to Cambridge – where Smith’s second wife, Olive Cook, deposited 43 boxes of papers at Newnham College. Among these, another helpful archivist, Anne Thomson, unearths a short version birth certificate for Smith, which sadly does not confirm the place of birth, but does reveal that the birth was registered at the East St Pancras

sub-district office.

This sub-office operated between 1902 and 1965 before being subsumed into today’s Camden registrar, which offers a cheap and efficient duplicate certificate service for births going back to 1837. A week later, a full certificate arrives: Edwin George Herbert Smith was indeed born at 2, St Paul’s Road.

If readers think our illustrious photographer is worthy of a plaque (Islington Council relies on weight of votes, English Heritage takes submissions), please contact this writer at 35, Alwyne Villas, N1 2HG.



Yorkshire roofscape at Whitby ©Edwin Smith/RIBA Library Photographs



# DUCK TALES ON THE NEW RIVER

## PLUCKY DUCKS

Canonbury residents were treated to the sight late last June of a mother duck and her ducklings hurrying down Willow Bridge Road to the New River. But how many know the full story?

A woman was shepherding them along the road all the way from Highbury New Park. She stopped the traffic for them in St Paul's Road, and guided them past the Alwyne Castle, along St Mary's Grove, down to the Douglas Road stretch of the river. The ducklings, probably only a day old, followed their mother in, then cleaved closely to her as they started on their first swim.

By the following day, their mother had disappeared. For a week the chicks were seen huddling together piteously on an upturned log. Then an adult female turned up and took them under her wing. The 'adoptive mother' stayed with them for six weeks until they could fend for themselves, moving them gradually down to the Canonbury Grove stretch. There Jack Lambert saw her teaching them to fly.

If anyone knows the lady who showed them the way and where they were hatched, please contact Jack Lambert on 020 7359 8315

By PETRA LAIDLAW

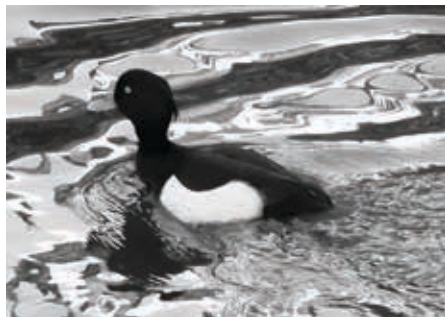


*The 'magnificent seven' ducklings by Petra Laidlaw*

## DIVERS AND DABBLERS

Last October Petra Laidlaw spotted a pair of tufted ducks in the New River. In early March, the male was still very much in evidence but his mate seems to have abandoned him.

Smaller than mallards, mostly black with distinctive large white patches on both sides and a pale blue-grey beak, tufted ducks are divers and can swim under water for long periods in search of food. Mallards are dabblers. Nevertheless, this tufted duck has been accepted as one of the mallard drakes and can be seen swimming in flotillas with them. Is there a lesson for all of us here?



*Tufted duck who thinks he's a Mallard by Petra Laidlaw*

By JACK LAMBERT

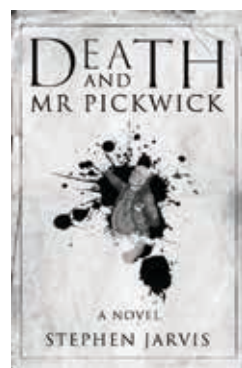
# DEATH, DICKENS AND MR PICKWICK

By STEPHEN JARVIS

A new novel, *Death and Mr Pickwick*, tells the extraordinary story of the origins of Charles Dickens's first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, and its main character is a Canonbury man - the 19th century artist Robert Seymour (1798-1836).

Seymour was the most prolific cartoonist of his era. Dubbed "The Shakespeare of caricature", he drew literally thousands of pictures, but he is mainly remembered today for his fateful collaboration with Charles Dickens. Seymour was the first artist to illustrate a work by Dickens. Soon after completing a picture of a dying clown for *The Pickwick Papers*, Seymour shot himself. *The Pickwick Papers* went on to become the greatest literary phenomenon in history. It was the most popular novel in the world for almost a century, with probably only The Bible having a greater distribution.

*Death and Mr Pickwick* explores the life of Robert Seymour, who in the early stages of his career, lived in Canonbury Tower. Two famous residents of the Tower,



whose writings exerted an influence on *The Pickwick Papers*, also appear as characters - Washington Irving and Oliver Goldsmith. The New River and other locations in Islington form the backdrop to many scenes.

*Death and Mr Pickwick will be published by Jonathan Cape on 21st May. Information can be found at: [www.deathandmrpickwick.com](http://www.deathandmrpickwick.com)*

# NEW SIGN FOR NEW RIVER

The 16-year-old notice board near the main Canonbury Grove gates of the New River giving details and credits of the 1996-98 restoration works has been replaced by a new sign further along the path, next to the historical signboard. Council policy did not allow inclusion of the names of individual donors to the restoration but they can be found on the Canonbury Society website, New River Walk section.



By JACK LAMBERT

# WHY WE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL CHARITIES

## URBAN HOPE

Urban Hope works with children and young people aged 8-18, providing safe spaces, positive relationships and new experiences. Urban Hope gets to know young people over months and years, offering them consistent support as a backdrop to everything else going on in their lives.

*"When I think of Urban Hope, I think of trust."* Becky, 15

"I feel safe here because there's never a problem, and if there was, it would be solved. When I come here I feel like I can trust people. I find exams difficult, and my anger takes over sometimes. When I was in years 9 and 10, I was really bad in school. My youth worker Joy sat me down and made me realise I shouldn't miss this chance - it just gave me confidence."

[www.urbanhope.co.uk](http://www.urbanhope.co.uk); 020 7354 9616



*Becky (r) with youth worker Joy Faulkner.*

## FRIENDS OF THE ROSE BOWL

The Friends of the Rose Bowl (FORB) support the Rose Bowl Youth Centre to tackle issues of social exclusion of young people through a variety of innovative, targeted and effective programmes and through play, education and developing a sense of personal worth and belief.

*"I've made loads of friends and the staff are all nice."* Rio

Rio has been going to the Rose Bowl for two years. It was his big brother's idea to come to the Rose Bowl at first, but now Rio feels happy and comfortable coming on his own, knowing he'll be fine. He cheers everyone up with his big smiles and enthusiasm. Rio has progressed a huge amount. His confidence in sport and amongst his peers has increased dramatically. He takes part in lots of activities including boxing (his favourite), basketball, football and circus skills. Now he says that boxing is really fun and every day he gets stronger. Rio has found a peer group he can trust and have fun with at the Rose Bowl.

Rio has also grown to love the art sessions. "I really like art. We get to do fun things."

Further case studies of participants taking part in Rose Bowl activities such as music, singing and the Youth Circus can be found on the FORB website.

[www.friendsoftherosebowl.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftherosebowl.org.uk)



*Nico, Rio and Luca at the Rose Bowl. By Karmel Edmonds*

## ISLINGTON GIVING

Islington Giving (IG) tackles poverty and isolation, and invests in young people by taking action to improve people's lives. IG champions grassroots organisations that effectively approach long standing issues in new effective ways. In 2014 IG distributed £400,000 to 14 new projects that will benefit 650 Islington residents and involve 660 volunteers. Islington Giving Week is 8-14 June.

Among the projects supported by Islington Giving is the Good Neighbour Scheme on the New River Green Estate run by Help on Your Doorstep. It supports local residents to solve local problems. Run by volunteers from the estate, it offers social activities; as well as one-to-one support such as shopping for an older person, befriending a single parent, cooking extra portions to share, and translating.



*One-to-one at the Good Neighbour Scheme. By Eleonore de Bonneval*

All administrative costs are funded by Cripplegate Foundation, so 100 percent of all donations go directly to local charities.

[www.islingtongiving.org.uk](http://www.islingtongiving.org.uk); 020 7288 6941

## MARGINS PROJECT

The Margins Project, based in Union Chapel, provides vital support to people facing homelessness, crisis and isolation. Its café training programme offers instruction and support for those ready for stable employment in the Margins Café.

*"When I look back on the dreams I had kept safely within, some have come true and it's all because of the project. The support I got made me feel good about myself."* Iraj, café training programme participant.

Iraj's poem  
I wandered aimlessly in the ruins of my life  
In this fog I became a stranger to me  
I no longer knew the difference between image and reality  
Like the shadow I was and I was not  
Because of you, I have broken with my past  
Just knowing you keeps me in this moment  
Being here gives me courage  
I look for you in my inner most being  
I used to dream the myths of happiness  
Now I have become the mythical believer.

[www.unionchapel.org.uk](http://www.unionchapel.org.uk)



# CANONBURY SOCIETY: 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

Monday 18th May at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6.45 p.m.) at The Canonbury

*Death and Mr Pickwick* author Stephen Jarvis will revive Canonbury characters from the past as guest speaker at the 2015 AGM (see page 6) where you can learn the latest on planning, parking, 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.

## CANTRAVELLERS SAVOUR SICILY

The Cantravel group of local 'globetrotters' (Newsletter 2014 page 5) abandoned their usual independent travel approach for a bus tour with other tourists during a 7-day visit to Sicily last autumn. We did not take kindly to our tour guide's regimentation but this was compensated by the wonders we saw. Sicily epitomizes Mediterranean history. Successive invaders - Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Germans, Spanish, French and mainland Italians have left their architecture, agriculture, cuisine and language. The father of one Cantraveller had shelled Messina in 1944 - something we did not broadcast. Following our custom, we prepared talks, arranged a daily leader (duty Mafioso/a) and kept a journal. Talks began with the cuisine (a must - perhaps we will become Cangastro), the Mafia, Etna, ancient

settlements, the latifundia (images of *The Leopard* came to mind) and Sicilian writers. We also enjoyed savouring Inspector Montalbano's favourite dish, pasta alla norma, and returned wiser but perhaps wider too!

By GILL HOPKINS



*Sicily snaps from Cantravel*

## CANONBURY SOCIETY SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Sunday 21 June 2015

Theme: Summer solstice

Join your neighbours from 1 - 4 p.m. in a Canonbury garden. Use your imagination to express our summer solstice theme, the longest day of the year.

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



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'.

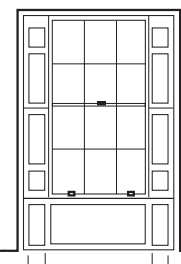
NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

TEL .....

EMAIL .....

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



☐ I/We wish to pay my/our annual subscription for 2015

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

☐ I/We enclose £ .....

## LOCAL GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME 2015



Sunday 31 May

37 Alwyne Road, 2-6 pm teas, plant sales, raffle £4

Sun 31st June

Arlington Square Gardens, N1 7DP, 1:30 to 5:30 pm, combined entrance £6 for square and 7 private gardens. Praised by many including HRH The Prince of Wales as a fine example of what community effort can achieve in transforming a derelict and dangerous public space into a much loved garden.

Sat 4th July

5 Northampton Park 4-7.30 pm wine £4

Children are admitted free to all gardens. For information on the charities supported and photos, visit [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk).

## ISLINGTON GARDENERS PLANT SALE Sunday 26 April

36 St Mary's Grove 2.30 pm. Plants, teas. £2 non-members.

## CANONBURY SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2015

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
10. Mo Talukder

Continuing thanks to Gill Hopkins (webmaster)