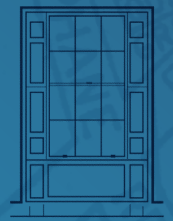


The Canonbury Society

Newsletter

CONSERVING CANONBURY



IN 1971 / FOUNDED IN 1971 / FOUNDED IN 1971 / FOUNDED IN 1971 / SPRING 2022 / FOU

THE ALWYNE STINKPIPE

Greg Campbell

Collecting my copy of *Country Life* from Shriji News this morning, I was pleased to find an article on the British Telegraph Pole Appreciation Society. Whilst I have no interest in how telephonic communication is conveyed across our land, I did feel an affinity with those that appreciate the furniture of our landscape, both rural and urban.

Canonbury street furniture has come into focus as part of the implementation of LTN traffic calming schemes, which has been accompanied by new day-glo signage and enforcement camera-poles towering up above the Victorian lantern streetlamps, like Sitka pines in an ash grove. But among the expanding metal forest of Alwyne Road resides the giant redwood of the Islington streetscape – the Alwyne Road Stinkpipe.

I discovered this rare specimen – hidden in plain sight between Nos 38 and 37 Alwyne Road – simply by looking up at what appeared to be an ornate, reeded-base Victorian cast-iron lamp-post. Instead of seeing the expected lantern, the post continues upwards, tapering into the sky. The only clue to its purpose is a manufacturer's plaque marked Ham Baker.

The Great Stink in London of 1858 forced parliament to appoint renowned civil engineer Joseph Bazalgette to develop a hugely costly and elaborate centralised sewerage system. The father of London's sewers commissioned Ham Baker to devise and manufacture an air-vent solution to dispose of the noxious and flammable gases from his network that threatened foul smells and potentially lethal explosions.

From their endeavours sprung the stinkpipe – an air vent disguised as a lamp post and of sufficient height to carry away the stench without inconveniencing London's residents. The Bazalgette sewerage system is still, by and large, in operation and so I assume is the Alwyne Road stinkpipe but I have yet to climb up to find out!

Once you see one stinkpipe you see many: there is one on Essex Road, another on Holloway Road and my sons observed one in Battersea. There are hundreds across London and they all follow the same mould – elegant reeding to the base, fluted columns and the proud stamp of the maker – an amalgam of Victorian style and substance. If only we cared as much about such public engineering today.



Above: The engineering firm Ham Baker & Co Ltd have existed for over 140 years.

Right and below: The Alwyne Road Stinkpipe.



© Greg Campbell

Council committed to traffic scheme in Canonbury

Having reviewed monitoring data and feedback from local people, the Council said in early March that the Canonbury West Low

Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) would push on, still on an experimental basis, with new provision for blue badge holders.

They also said they are looking into 'exceptional circumstances dispensation' for people who do not meet the criteria for blue badge exemption.

They have installed planters 'to help green' the area and are looking at ways of stopping drivers using Compton Road to avoid St Paul's Road traffic queues.

They will allow blue badge holders to pass through traffic filters in the car that is registered to their address in Canonbury. However, the Society is pushing for blue badge holders to be able to drive freely in all LTNs in London. We are also asking for exemptions for the elderly and people with disabilities, along with their visitors. This group cannot walk long distances or cycle and we know that the Council has technology to exempt

specific groups. We have also asked for electric black cabs to be exempted as many older residents, and those with disabilities, rely on black cabs for medical appointments.

The Highbury West People Friendly Streets (PFS) trials interim monitoring report, published in October 2021, was withdrawn by the Council in early February 2022 after local residents' pressure group Keep Highbury Moving flagged up many errors in the data. The report is now being audited by another third party monitoring company.

Given that the Council probably used the same methodology in preparing all the LTN interim reports in the borough, it seems likely that the figures in the Canonbury West interim report from October 2021 are also flawed. We will be putting pressure on the Council to explain how they arrived at the report's conclusions. You can follow developments via the Canonbury Society website.



© Susan Williams

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Philip Walker

A second year of Covid has been hard for many Canonbury residents, but at least we now have access to vaccines and it feels as if we are returning to some semblance of normal life. The unexpected silver lining to the pandemic has been that people have



had more time to take a greater interest in the area's architecture, gardens and beauty spots and the Society's membership has grown to nearly 500 households.

Last year the society's traffic committee was kept busy with the implementation of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) in Canonbury West. Towards the end of 2021 we launched the Society's second traffic survey to gauge how members and local residents felt about the scheme. Some of the findings are covered in this newsletter,

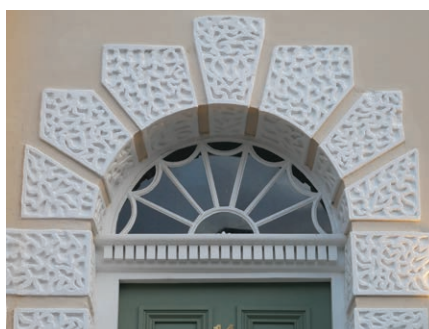
and you can find the full survey results on our website.

The Society, now entering its 51st year, is committed to its mission to engage with its members to promote, safeguard and assist in the preservation of the conservation area for the benefit of residents. This year we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary party (a year late) on **Sunday 19 June**. Keep an eye out for further details via email and on our website. I look forward very much to meeting both old and new members in person.

PLANNING

We continue to comment on proposals that we think damage the character of the area and generally speaking we find that the Council agrees with our comments. Last year the Government proposed new measures to zone areas where there was a presumption in favour of development and to restrict the opportunities for local residents to object. Fortunately these ideas have been abandoned, at least for now, because of widespread opposition.

A number of residents are seeking our advice on measures to reduce energy consumption and phase out gas by installing solar panels and heat exchangers, and improving insulation through double glazing and internal wall insulation. There are particular difficulties about wall insulation and double glazing in listed properties and we have been



© Susan Miles

Nos 14 and 16 Canonbury Park South are included in the Islington Register of Locally Listed Buildings. Interesting features include the vermiculated rustications to the entrances and patterned fanlights.

in discussion with the Council. They have confirmed that listed building consent will still be needed and that proposals will be decided on a case-by-case basis. We would like to see clearer and more detailed design guidance on the subject.

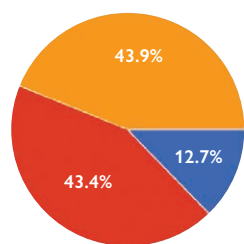
Locally listed buildings in Canonbury are being compiled from the Islington Register of Locally Listed Buildings recently

updated by The Islington Society. The list recognises the value of buildings as irreplaceable historic assets enhancing the local environment. The role of the list is to ensure that the special status of these buildings is taken into account in decisions affecting their future. The borough has more than 1,600 locally listed buildings, and a significant number in Canonbury. A list of Canonbury local listed buildings will be added to our website. The full list is available on the Islington Society website: islingtonssociety.org.uk/discover/islington-locally-listed-buildings.

Survey: Majority favour Canonbury West LTN, but with amendments

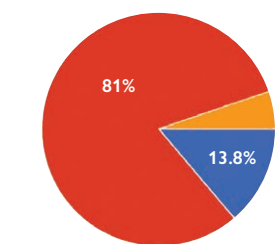
The Canonbury Society survey from December 2021 shows that about 56 per cent of respondents are broadly in favour of LTNs, although nearly 44 per cent of these would like to see amendments to the scheme. Just under 44 per cent would like to see the LTNs abandoned (see graphic).

Most members indicated that they would like to see all residents of Canonbury West and the adjacent parts of Canonbury in St Mary's Ward being allowed to drive through their local traffic filters without incurring a penalty. However, it is unlikely that the Council would consider this exemption because it goes against their central aim (supported by the Mayor of London and the government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson) to cut the volume of traffic and encourage local people to 'walk, cycle, scoot, and use buggies and wheelchairs'. We have strong reservations about the economic and social wisdom of using LTNs to achieve this.



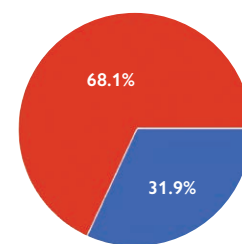
Now the Canonbury West LTN scheme has been operating for one year would you say you were:

● Pro LTNs
● Anti - should be abandoned
● Pro - but with some amendments



I am confident that the Council will take the views of residents and business owners into account when deciding on the future of the Canonbury West LTN:

● Yes, I am confident
● No, I am not confident
● No view



If you are a car owner, have you found that the Canonbury West LTN has led to you using your car less in the last three months:

● Yes
● No

Many voiced concerns about the poor consultation and evaluation processes employed by the Council, increased crime in the area, and women of all ages said Canonbury no longer feels safe to walk around at night. Others brought up the inadequacies of the new road layout at Highbury Corner, the dangers of

mopeds using the pavement by the Canonbury West filters to avoid the cameras, increased air pollution and traffic congestion on main roads and tailbacks on Compton Road and Prior Bolton Street in morning rush hour.

Above are a few findings from the survey. You can access the full results via our website.

Free your hand, free your mind!

Adrian Dannatt

Canonbury is known for the longevity of its lucky residents, like Brigadoon or Shangri-La. Young incomers putting down roots in Canonbury, this valley of eternal life, marvel at older locals strolling purposefully through squares and sunning themselves on benches. The Florida of Islington ...

As a result, Canonbury is one of the few places in London, in the world, where my not owning a portable telephone is normal rather than remarkable. For we have a high density of citizens, who appear to have been born before the invention of radiogram or combustion engine, for whom not having even a computer is a point of pride. Here we still write our letters by hand and stagger daily to the red beacon of that Grange Grove postbox.

I have never owned a portable telephone of any sort, from the giant versions brandished by 1980s millionaires to the very small ones, to the most recent ones that got big again. Instead, I have a 97-year-old mother, that most reliable of answering-machines, and a landline as installed circa 1960. I also have the same indelible number since I was born in this very house in St Mary's Grove 60 years ago.

This Canonbury cell of Luddites is not alone; Paul Merton has no portable and no computer, which I admit I would find impossible to live without. Christopher Nolan, a Highgate boy, hates emails and bans phones from his sets whilst Julian Dunkerton, *Superdry* mogul, only has a battered Nokia held together with tape and no smartphone, which lets him 'free my brain'.

I have never actually held one of the things, let alone written tiny textual messages, but cannot imagine anything more annoying than being at the constant command of this omnipotent device, obeying like a slave its every vibration and demand. I also refuse to look at all those damn little pictures people force one to admire; 'Sorry, I don't look at telephones' drives people crazy, chasing me, waving the device in my face.

Hence my admiration for those other Canonbury residents, the much younger ones with swift bicycles and hooded tracksuits who go round boldly freeing strangers from their telephone-slavery, liberating them against their will. Free your hand, free your mind, join us!

Adrian Dannatt honed his acting skills when he shot to fame as William in the hit television series *Just William* in the 1970s.

About the author

Adrian Dannatt describes himself as a resting thespian, art lover and occasional scribbler. He founded Living Obit, a service which writes obituaries for living people. Why wait? He finishes his book of selected obituaries, *Doomed and Famous*, with his own in which he describes himself as 'better suited to the pages of some minor novel of another era than to the brutal realities of everyday life in the twenty-first century'.



© Susan Millership

ANN TUSA: 'WE SET THE WORLD TO RIGHTS'

May 1938 – November 2021

John Tusa

Ann was born in the Lancashire town of Salford but she was a whole-hearted and life-long Londoner for 60 years. She relished everything the city had to offer. After happily bringing up a family 'on' Hampstead Heath, Ann saw our arrival in Canonbury 21 years ago as finally being connected to the real London. Thank you, Victoria Line!

Her base, though, was Canonbury and, in particular the Canonbury Place shops and their community. She loved the street scene with painter Gary Power out in all weathers, capturing our community on canvas. Jill Evanski's guerrilla gardening in the planters outside the Tower. Gallery director Roberta Cremoncini dashing from her house to plan more delight at the Estorick Collection. She enlisted in the army of volunteer gardeners deployed by Beatrix Payne in Canonbury Square and she always had time to say 'hello' to Tom

presiding over his cafe. There was cricket to discuss at Shriji News and Turkish politics with Ayisha at the dry cleaners. Coming back from an appointment with Karen at Canonbury Hair, Ann would say: 'We set the world to rights'.

Sitting in our yard, Ann loved the colourful birds that mobbed the feeders. Raucous parakeets, dazzling goldfinches,

an occasional invasion by long-tailed tits. Our house looks south to the city, the landscape framed by the mature trees of former Canonbury Park. Twenty years ago, the trees were our view. Then building started. 'It's like giants with red eyes marching up the hill to get us,' Ann lamented. She loved everything else about the Canonbury community. It was home.



© Rosemary Brown

Ann pruning roses in Canonbury Square.

Friends of The New River Walk

Jack Lambert

Council to launch major restoration of New River Walk

The Council has chosen three specialist pond restoration contractors who are tendering to carry out a major restoration of the New River Walk to improve the quality of the water and surrounding horticulture, which will greatly benefit the fish, waterfowl and visitors.

Assistant Parks Manager Andrew Hillier and his staff have held on-site sessions with the intention of starting work in the autumn of 2022. I am assured that the Council's £450,000 funding is still available.

Volunteer Work Sessions

During spring and summer 2022 these work sessions will continue under the supervision of Park Department's Chris Ingram. The next two sessions are scheduled for **Friday 20 May**, and **Friday 17 June**. They start at 11 am at the Brick Pump House in the Douglas Road section and finish by 1 pm. Please wear gardening clothes and hardy shoes. All tools will be provided by Chris, as well as gloves if you need them.

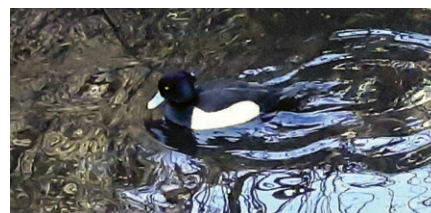
Also, watch for notices of additional ad hoc sessions in the park and on the Canonbury Society's website, as well as on its notice board situated across from Canonbury Tower.

Willow Tree Replacement

The tulip tree sapling planted to replace the willow tree that was blown down is now thriving near the Round Hut and has the potential to grow into a large beautiful mature tree with white flowers.

Wildlife

There are many moorhen chicks again this year and a few mallard ducklings. Surprise visitors have been a single male tufted duck who seems very happy to tag along with the mallards, and a female mestizo duck – part mallard, part Aylesbury.



© Petra Laidlaw



© Petra Laidlaw

Fish numbers have gone down, but some are still surviving. They will be removed to safety when the maintenance works begin.



© Ruth Beck, burthbeckart.com

Above: Surprise visitors included a tufted duck and a mestizo duck.

Left: The cast iron gates of the New River by Ruth Beck.

FRIENDS OF CANONBURY SQUARE

Beatrix Payne

Friends of Canonbury Square had another rewarding year in 2021 with the public gardens in the square providing a space to relax, unwind and socialise in the middle of a bustling city and a global pandemic.

A three-bin compost heap was artfully built from pallets and chicken wire by Garry McQuinn and Mads Iversen and will provide a free source of mulch and compost by the end of this year.

In December, the Friends finally planted up the central feature in the East garden with white roses and blue Catmint. The central feature had been out of action for nearly a year as it had no drainage and by January 2021 had become a frozen bog. Volunteers dug out the clay bedding material. Islington Council removed it, drilled drainage holes, lined the base with rubble and refilled it with soil that was gradually improved with compost along with cow and sheep manure from our friends at nearby Freightliners City Farm.

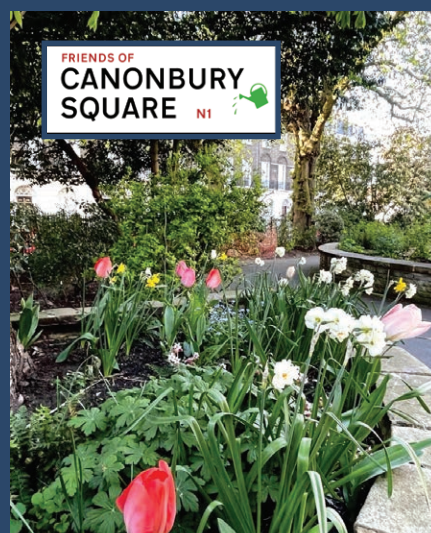


courtesy of The Islington Gazette

Beatrix Payne, Mads Iversen and Ian McVeigh, who set up the Friends of Canonbury Square, seen here holding Mayor's Civic awards, with gardening volunteers. They won the award in March 2022 for all their hard work keeping up the square's gardens.

As a registered charity, Friends of Canonbury Square should now be able to adopt the iconic phone box on the corner of Canonbury Road. FOCS trustees hope to restore it and turn it into a community resource.

You can also help by joining us on the third Saturday of every month from 10 am for gardening and a cup of tea. This spring watch out for a colourful display of tulips and



daffodils after a very generous donation late last year of seasonal bulbs from Tricia Julian.

If you would like to make a donation to help to fund our activities and keep the gardens flourishing all year long, please visit: friendsofcanonburysquare.org.uk (donations will now be eligible for Gift Aid).

IS YOUR RECYCLING KNOWLEDGE RUBBISH?



Test it here ... Islington being what it is, most eco-friendly households have puzzled, argued and debated where recycling goes. Here is a quiz – you choose where to put the waste. Some of the answers* may surprise you!

- A** recycling bin
B general waste
C food waste
D garden waste
E 'soft' or 'flexible' plastic recycling point at the larger stores of most supermarkets including Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, The Co-op and Waitrose.



- F** other, e.g. Islington Household Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC), TerraCycle

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1 Laminated baby food, cat food, or coffee pouches | A B C D E F |
| 2 Toothpaste and squeezable plastic tubes | A B C D E F |
| 3 Cartons – milk, juice and soup cardboard cartons (including foil-lined cartons) | A B C D E F |
| 4 Greeting cards | A B C D E F |
| 5 Light bulbs and batteries | A B C D E F |
| 6 Crisp packets | A B C D E F |
| 7 Cardboard pizza boxes | A B C D E F |
| 8 Kitchen roll and tissues | A B C D E F |
| 9 Shopping receipts, train tickets | A B C D E F |
| 10 Plastic bags for salad, spinach, bread etc | A B C D E F |
| 11 Polystyrene takeaway containers, disposable nappies | A B C D E F |
| 12 Plastic packaging such as meat and fruit holders or yoghurt pots, takeaway boxes | A B C D E F |
| 13 Cut flowers | A B C D E F |
| 14 Metal jar lids | A B C D E F |
| 15 Plastic bags/carrier bags | A B C D E F |
| 16 Hard plastic like tupperware, CD case, broken ceramic, glass or mirror | A B C D E F |
| 17 Blister packs (empty medicine packs on foil), daily contact lens cases | A B C D E F |
| 18 Candle stubs, corks, ash | A B C D E F |
| 19 Raw meat and bones | A B C D E F |
| 20 Clingfilm, plastic wrap, bubble wrap | A B C D E F |
| 21 Aerosols and cans | A B C D E F |
| 22 Tin foil | A B C D E F |
| 23 'Disposable' coffee cups | A B C D E F |
| 24 Compostable/biodegradable plastic | A B C D E F |
| 25 Plastic milk containers and drink bottles | A B C D E F |

* all answers follow Islington Council guidelines

Answers on p8

Canonbury's 'eccentric pioneers'

David Ireland

In 1936 Rosalind Thorneycroft and Hugh Popham 'were exploring parts of London where Georgian houses could still be found cheaply and they chanced upon Canonbury. Canonbury before the war was something of a slum area, and its handsome squares and terraces – nowadays so desirable and expensive – were at that time positively down-at-heel. By the beginning of 1937, Rosalind and Hugh had discovered and decided to lease 2 Canonbury Place.

'Their friends, considering them to be eccentric pioneers, would think of a visit to them as being a journey into the unknown. But on reaching their journey's end, they could see at once what a paradise it was'.

The description of pre-war Canonbury is taken from a charming 1991 memoir, *Time Which Spaces Us Apart*, started by Rosalind Thorneycroft, and finished by her daughter Chloë Baynes. Rosalind, as she reveals in the memoir, had a one-night affair, between marriages, in September 1920 with D.H. Lawrence while she was staying in a villa overlooking Florence, and while his wife Frieda was in Germany. Rosalind also provided a model (admittedly one of several) for Lady

Chatterley. Her mother Agatha, in turn, was an inspiration for Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. Rosalind went on to become a talented illustrator, notably of the 1932 children's classic, *Kings and Queens*. The memoir also refers to letters she received from English composer Arnold Bax, and from her cousin, the war poet Siegfried Sassoon.

Hugh Popham, while at Cambridge, the memoir recounts, 'moved around the fringes of the Bloomsbury circle'. Rosalind was his second wife; with his first, he had one daughter, Anne

Popham, to whom a recently widowed George Orwell desperately proposed in 1946 when they both lived in Canonbury Square. Anne chose to marry Quentin Bell, nephew of Virginia Wolff. Hugh was an art historian: from 1945 till retirement in 1954, he was Keeper of Prints and Drawings at The British Museum.

The memoir describes how Hugh and Rosalind furnished 2 Canonbury Place 'with things they had picked up in junk shops or in the nearby Caledonian Market'. Much later, they acquired for the dining-room 'a remarkable eight-foot-long Regency sofa, which Rosalind had seen thrown out for the dustmen by the Tower Theatre Club just opposite their house'. Rosalind lived in Canonbury till 1971, shortly after Hugh's death.

Social highlights at 2, Canonbury Place included a film shoot in the 1950s for a period play which involved 'a handsome brougham' drawing up, 'from which Dame Edith Evans was to emerge and mount the steps to the Pophams' front door'. Separately, in 1950, 'another memorable event was when Martha Graham and her famous dance company were received by the American Cultural Attaché, who was living at Canonbury House close by. This was an occasion when the American-style gin and tonic got the better of us all, and it was just as well that we had only a few yards to stagger back'.





© Sarah Strang

Little Canonbury

Sarah Strang

Being a parent or carer of young children in Islington is fun and as a working mama of toddler twins we have tried and (stress) tested plenty of activities! Fortunately, Islington is home to many leafy parks and garden squares, as well as hosting many fun and free activities for preschool children.

Bright Start Islington are the services run by Islington Borough Council for under-fives and their families across children's centres, nurseries, health centres, community centres and libraries in three areas – Central, North and South. They support families from pregnancy to a child's fifth birthday. Canonbury is placed in Bright Start Central and offers Sensory Play for babies and toddlers at New River Green Children's Centre and Rhyme Time at the Central Library. Bright Start continued throughout lockdown with online music and in person activities in parks and squares.

Also highly recommended by my toddler twins is Tick Tock, a weekly interactive music and drama show, Little Kickers Football, Tennis Time by Primary Steps, Little Angel Puppet Theatre toddler shows, Diddidance ballet and movement and splashing around in the newly refurbished Highbury Fields swimming pool. Visits to the Estorick Collection are also inspiring and rewarded with treats in the recently extended café space.

In all weathers it is a wonderful thing to be among nature in the heart of the city – a walk or rather a run to Canonbury Square, now beautifully replanted or a trip to the New River Walk to count the ducks. Now to start the training so I can keep up with the twins at Junior Parkrun on Highbury Fields!

islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/childrens-centres-and-under-5s
ticktockmusic.co.uk/find-your-nearest-tick-tock/islington/
littlekickers.co.uk
primary-steps.com
littleangeltheatre.com
diddidance.com

SWIFTS



John Stewart

*They've made it again,
Which means the globe's still working, the
Creation's
Still waking refreshed, our summer's
Still all to come—*

– from 'Swifts' by Ted Hughes

Sitting in our back garden in the Alwynes to do the count for the RSPB Garden Birdwatch, I heard a new sound – the tat-tat-tat of a woodpecker. I had seen it the day before on our bird feeders – a female great spotted woodpecker, which looks like someone dipped its tail into a pot of crimson paint. My wife had noticed it the week before on Alwyne Place – hammering on a metal antenna. Woodpeckers commonly tap to mark their territories at this time of year.

A lovely sound to get us through the still cold and dark winter days, and to make us yearn for our favourite sound, the whistling tweet or scream of the common swifts (*Apus apus*) when they arrive from Africa in the last week of April or first week of May, to mark our spring. Their departure for Africa, in late August or early September, reminds us that summer is soon over.

A tiny bird with the body of a fat Cuban cigar, they are a joy to watch as they swirl around in the sky above us. We usually hear them first, and then know to look up. They are easily confused with the barn swallow, which will perch on wires but swallows have bits of white on the body, and often a forked tail. Swifts never perch and spend



most of their lives in the air, even mating on the wing. They will land only when sitting on the nest and raising their young. They often fly very high, and can be seen towards dusk 'careering madly at high speed around rooftops and houses', to quote the RSPB.

Sadly, the swift is one of the many birds in our country that is now endangered. Its breeding population in the UK has reduced by more than 50 per cent in the last 25 years, but there is something we can do in Canonbury to try to reverse the decline – put up a swift box – under the eaves of your house, or on the wall under the eaves. Swift nest boxes are available from the RSPB and various retailers.

And the results of my Garden Bird-watch this year – great tits, blue tits and long-tailed tits (almost domesticated at our feeder) were the highlights. The blue tits are nesting in a crack in our wall next to our boiler outlet pipe – a very warm spot. We also have the ubiquitous magpies, carrion crow, ring-necked parakeets, feral pigeons and wood pigeons. One less wood pigeon this year – the tell-tale feathers and wing in our back garden, probably killed by a sparrowhawk. No sighting yet this year.

USEFUL RECYCLING WEBSITES

Islington Council has a good A-Z section detailing how to deal with your recycling. islington.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/recycling/

However, the North London Waste Authority's (NLWA) A-Z of recycling is more comprehensive. Go to their homepage where you can look up different items using the 'What can I recycle?' box. nlwa.gov.uk/reducereuserecycle/recycle/whatscanwerecycle

The Islington Household Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) at Hornsey Street is managed by the NLWA and has comprehensive information on recycling in Islington. nlwa.gov.uk/places-to-recycle/islington-hornsey-street

Islington has recently launched a great new website which covers all things green. togethergreener.islington.gov.uk/

Recycle Now is the national recycling campaign for England supported by the government.

It is a great resource and has tools to help you find local recycling points and has useful explanations on how items are recycled. recyclenow.com

TerraCycle is an American company that partners with leading brands and volunteers to provide recycling. It has a few schemes in London, but the drop-off points are far away and the option to buy one of their recycling boxes is expensive. terracycle.com/en-GB/

QUICK RECYCLING TIPS!

Don't crush cans or cartons

Keep sticky labels on

Lightly rinse dirty things

Leave lids on, but remove corks

Crumple items such as tin foil into the size of a tennis ball.

Local Charities 2022

Rosemary Brown

Our local charities help people meet urgent needs, offer opportunities for learning and growth, and strengthen community ties. In these challenging times, it is especially important that we support their work.

Islington Giving (IG) supports local projects to tackle isolation, assist families, provide mental health support, and ensure young people have the best opportunities. islingtongiving.org.uk

The Margins Project at Union Chapel supports those facing homelessness and crisis with a drop-in service offering food, access to shower and laundry facilities, clothing, hardship support, and emergency food packs. Housing and benefits advice, an employment programme and mentoring are also provided. marginsdropin@unionchapel.org.uk; unionchapel.org.uk/projects/margins

The Friends of the Rose Bowl need your help more than ever. Demand at the youth

centre has rocketed during the pandemic. FORB now assists young people's families with a food bank and parental support. justgiving.com/friendsoftherosebowl; friendsoftherosebowl.org.uk

Urban Hope runs sessions from St Stephen's Church Community Centre promoting positive mental health for young people, including students at the City of London Academy Highbury Grove. urbanhope.co.uk

The Manna at St Stephen's is the only service where rough sleepers and isolated, precariously-housed people can go inside, do their laundry, shower, use a computer, eat healthy food, and receive in-person support to tackle challenges. Donations of men's winter clothes, books, phone chargers and carrier bags are welcome. Email themanna@ststephenscanonbury.org.uk

Islington Street Associations (formerly Canonbury Responds) builds resident-led Street Associations to make streets more friendly and supportive, build



© James O. Jenkins

Islington Giving supports local organisations like Help on Your Doorstep which organises activities for over 1,500 residents a year.

bridges between ages and races, and encourage residents to play a part in their communities – social and civic. Email canonburyreflects@gmail.com

If you have laptops, desktops, tablets or printers you no longer use, donate them to MER-IT.org who will restore and distribute them to people in need.

GAVIN REES' TOP TREES

When the Canonbury Society approached Islington Council Tree Officer Gavin Rees to provide a list of his top 10 trees in the Canonbury Ward, he offered 240, but eventually whittled it down to the 11 presented here.

Gavin Rees has been protecting trees for 18 years. A tree officer with the Council since 2017, he is responsible for managing the planning application process for trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area legislation.

He invites us to explore his list on foot or bicycle, and make up our own lists of favourite local trees.

1. Three London planes – New Romford House, next to 53 Mitchison Road. These planes are a good example of how existing trees can be retained and protected as part of development proposals. They help to integrate the block into the surrounding landscape and provide a sense of site maturity.

2. London plane* – Canonbury House (Canonbury Place), rear garden. This landmark tree of striking proportions enhances a classic vista.

3. Italian alder – Elmore Street build-out. This large canopied tree group is strategically located in the extended pavement.

4. Liquidambar* – outside 22 Canonbury Park North. Liquid-ambar provide fantastic autumn colour.

5. Himalayan birch – outside 139 Englefield Road. The striking bark of these two Himalayan birches provides winter interest.

6. Limes* (right) – front garden 6–8 St Mary's Grove. The limes offer an excellent example of the historic technique of hard pruning, known as pollarding.

7. London plane* – rear garden 60 Canonbury Road. This colossal London plane marks the southwest gateway to Canonbury.

8. Beech – Rosemary Gardens Park. Although not quite mature, this beech tree is important to the landscape and is notable for the engraved grin near the base.

9. Limes* – front garden 36 St Mary's Grove. Their lamp stand form is created by regular crown reduction pruning.



© Rosemary Brown

Pollarded lime trees in St Mary's Grove.

10. Silver birch – front garden 68a Halliford Street. This birch enhances the contemporary architecture.

11. Limes – Annette Crescent Open Space. This line of historical lime pollards provides screening and site integration.

Gavin Rees is the guest speaker for the Canonbury Society AGM on **Wednesday 18 May** at 7 pm at The Canonbury Tavern. Go to the Trees section of our website to find further details on the trees selected by Gavin.

*Trees within the Canonbury Conservation Area

CANONBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME



We are a group of Canonbury residents who are setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the area. We have decided to do this because of a rise in crime in the neighbourhood, particularly drug dealing, break-ins to and thefts from cars, burglaries and mobile phone thefts. There have also been reports of race hate crime.

The key aims of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme are focused on local residents cooperating with

neighbours to take action to cut crime and the opportunities for crime; to help and reassure those who live in the area; and encourage neighbourliness and closer communities. Further information can be found at ourwatch.org.uk/



@flashycurlwurly

We have worked over the past few months with the Canonbury Society, Islington Council's Homes and Community Safety team, and Islington Police who have all been

very supportive. We are due to meet shortly with representatives from another Central London Neighbourhood Watch team to discuss practical issues involved in setting up and running a scheme, including monitoring and communications between members, the police and the council.

We hope to have our scheme up and running shortly so please watch out for further information including details about how to join.

Answers to RUBBISH QUIZ from p5

- 1: **B, E, F**, until recently these were not easily recyclable but Sainsburys at Angel and other large supermarkets have 'flexible' or 'soft' plastic recycling points that take food pouches
- 2: **A, B, F**, only A if cut open and washed out. The Recycle at Boots scheme accepts beauty, healthcare and wellness products bought from its stores that cannot be put in home recycling. TerraCycle is involved in a Colgate® and hello® recycling scheme but the drop-off points are not nearby
- 3: **A**, but rinse them out
- 4: **A**, as long as they are not shiny or have glitter on them
- 5: **F**, lightbulbs need specialist recycling but can be put in B. Batteries should be taken to recycling point in local supermarket, Ryman's, or to the Islington Household RRC Centre. Never put in household rubbish. Use RecycleYourElectricals.org.uk to find battery collection points
- 6: **B, E**, they are made of metallised plastic film. Soft plastic collection points in large supermarkets will take them now
- 7: **A**, if not contaminated by grease or food, otherwise B
- 8: **B**, even if they are clean
- 9: **B**, as they are made of a combination of material and contain potentially harmful chemicals
- 10: **B, E**, use the soft plastic drop-off points in supermarkets if possible
- 11: **B**, avoid buying anything made of polystyrene. The UK disposes of around 3 billion disposable nappies each year
- 12: **A**, but must be rinsed with any plastic film covering and absorbent pads removed, including tear off yoghurt tops. Fine to leave sticky labels on

- 13: **D**, and small bunches can go in C
- 14: **A**, leave on jars
- 15: **A, E**, E is preferable because the Council has not found a re-processor to buy them so they will not be recycled. Use recyclenow.com to search for a carrier bag recycling point near you
- 16: **B, F**
- 17: **B, F**, they can be recycled at Superdrug on Seven Sisters Road. ACUVUE® has a free recycling programme for any brand of soft contact lenses. Boots at Angel participate in the contact lens scheme. See TerraCycle for further details
- 18: **B**, but you can donate corks to recorkeduk.org and spread ash in your garden to deter slugs
- 19: **C**
- 20: **B, E**, all now accepted at soft plastic points in supermarkets
- 21: **A**, both the aerosols and cans need to be empty. Do not crush cans
- 22: **A, B**, clean trays and foil wrapping on biscuits can be recycled but no foil with grease or food residue. Best to scrumple foil up into the size of a tennis ball
- 23: **B, F**, they are made from paper and lined with plastic. The UK uses 2.5 billion coffee cups a year and only one in 400 are recycled. Look out for members of the National Coffee Cup recycling scheme such as Costa, Café Nero and Pret or have your own reusable mug
- 24: **B**, no, this answer is not an error, do not put in food or garden waste, but if you make compost in your garden you can add it to that! For a full explanation look up 'compostable plastic' at nhwa.gov.uk/reducereuserecycle/recycle/whatcanwerecycle
- 25: **A**, leave tops on



SUMMER PARTY

The Society's summer party to celebrate its 50th anniversary (one year late) will be held on **Sunday 19 June** in a garden in Canonbury. Look out for your invitation nearer the time.

JOINING THE SOCIETY, AND PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

If you do not have access to the internet please write to The Hon Treasurer, 3 Alwyne Road, N1 2HH with your contact details.

THE CANONBURY SOCIETY

51st AGM 2022

Join us on **Wednesday 18 May** at 7 pm at The Canonbury Tavern. Our guest speaker is Gavin Rees, a tree officer for Islington Council. He will give a talk on his favourite trees in Canonbury. Enjoy a glass of wine, meet some new neighbours and have a chat at the end of the meeting.

Committee Members 2022

Philip Walker: Chairman
Jack Lambert: Planning, Chairman of Friends of the New River
David Ireland: Events
Gilly Angell: Traffic
James Coates: Planning, Traffic
Judith Parker: Traffic, Trees, Newsletter
Marcella Menzies: Membership

Rebecca Taylor
Ria Higgins: Trees, Events, Newsletter
Rosemary Brown: Secretary, Newsletter, Events, Trees
Sarah Ross Goobey
Sarah Strang: Safer Neighbourhoods, Charities
Sharon White: Treasurer
Susan Millership: Newsletter, Traffic, Events