



THE COST OF 'CANONBURYISATION'

David Ireland

What have we done to deserve all these brickbats? Prime Minister Liz Truss (remember her) sneered at people 'who take taxis from north London townhouses to the BBC studios', Boris Johnson (a former Islingtonian) huffed that the Labour Party was 'led by lefty Islington lawyers', and Priti Patel declared that she would take no lectures from the 'north London metropolitan liberal elite'. The FT's Janan Ganesh decided that 'Islington is a place that so aggravates people I am trying to spend more time there'.

Not so long ago, we were literally slumming it. Canonbury, once solidly middle class (in the 1871 Census) had gradually lost its middle classes to the suburbs, and by 1928, Evelyn Waugh described 17a, Canonbury Square, as 'half a house in a slum'. The Square hadn't got any better by 1946, when another renting writer, George Orwell, talked of 'the decaying slum in which I live'.

But then, in a word, it all changed. The word was 'gentrification', first used by sociologist Ruth Glass in 1964. According to architectural historian Tanis Hinchcliffe, 'Canonbury was the place where it all began'. *Times* writer Stuart Weir conjured up the term 'Canonburyisation' in the 1960s, but it never really caught on.

The process got under way in the 1950s. In 1953, *Good Housekeeping* magazine draped some models around the doorways of restored Georgian houses in Canonbury. 'What catches the imagination', the magazine said, 'is the grand reconstruction and restoring of fine Georgian places. In the rows of dirty faced, neglected houses, the rebuilt ones stand out like good teeth among bad'.

This can't have gone down well with the 'Ron-and-Cliffs', a nickname coined by mid-1960s' resident Michael Thompson for local working-class pub-goers, to be contrasted with Alan Bennett's middle-class gentrifiers, 'Nigel and Jane Knocker-Threw'.

Driving the process, according to Hinchcliffe, was local authorities delaying in putting together new estates, and landlords frustrated with low rents, demanded by the Rent Restriction Act (eased in 1957). Over half of building societies surveyed said they would not have lent money in Islington in the 1950s, but almost all were granting mortgages by the early 1970s. After a few years of 'unbelievable bargains in the 1950s', prices rose and private buyers were outbidding local authorities.

Nothing stands still, of course. In the late 1960s, Basil Spence and son-in-law Anthony Blee championed a scheme, similar to the Barbican, providing 14 houses and 30 flats, arguing that the Victorian houses to



A dilapidated house in Canonbury Square in the 1950s. Gentrification took place in waves and early pioneers of the 1960s and 1970s are now being replaced by super-wealthy professionals.

be displaced were of no architectural merit, but this merely spawned the 'Battle of the Alwynes' ... and, in 1971, the Canonbury Society. The 21st-century has witnessed the arrival of 'super-gentrifiers', bankers and lawyers, in contrast to the writers, journalists, academics and architects of the pioneering wave.

Some things don't change. James Forsyth, political secretary to Rishi Sunak (Tory prime minister at the time of writing) is, of course, a long-term resident of Canonbury.

And, Jeremy Corbyn once denied that he was part of an 'Islington elite', although he did concede that many people in his constituency 'drink cappuccino every day'.



'If people who live here are happy to invest in their homes, then why not invest in the street too?' - local resident Cassie.

Sponsor a tree with Trees for Streets

Ria Higgins

Did you know that one mature tree produces as much oxygen in a season as 10 people inhale in a year? Clearly, every single tree makes a difference. So, hats off to the bright spark at Islington Council who has given the go-ahead for their latest idea to sponsor a tree. It's part of a nationwide scheme and individuals can do it, neighbours, friends and community groups, too.

Islington is already recognised as one of the greenest areas in London due to the leafy giants which line our streets and fill our parks, council estates and gardens. They give us oxygen, soak up tonnes of pollutants, attract wildlife and look beautiful. There's

nothing quite like a Cherry tree in the spring or the glorious red, orange and gold of the Rowan in the fall - a tree that in Celtic mythology was known as the 'Tree of Life'.

Of course, everything comes at a price. If you are willing to water the tree yourself for the first year, it's £195. If you want the council to do it, it's £295. The tree will be 2-4m tall and 4-5 years old. You get to choose the location of the tree, but the council select the best species for that spot, then plant it, stake it and protect it. The Canonbury Society has sponsored a tree on Canonbury Place.

Some people sponsor an elephant, others a bird, even an insect. Maybe sponsoring a tree is more up your street? For more details, visit: [Treesforstreets.org/islington](https://treesforstreets.org/islington)

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Philip Walker

During the last year the Society has closely monitored Islington Council's introduction of what it calls: 'Liveable neighbourhoods, low traffic neighbourhoods, School Streets and cycleways under the people-friendly streets programme.'

With a prolonged December cold snap, our streets were anything but friendly, or liveable in, due to the Council's lack of basic gritting and snow clearance. Older and disabled Canonbury residents were trapped in their houses because of frozen-over pavements.



Since then, I'm afraid to say that we have lost our battle to have the West Canonbury LTN scheme modified – see the article below.

Of increasing concern is the lack of clarity over what residents can do to make houses and flats in the conservation area more energy-efficient and thus more compliant with the objective of achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050. I urge you to read Leyla Boulton's article about her campaign, which we fully support, on this subject.

As a wonderful way of alleviating dark thoughts, I don't need to remind you that we are privileged to live in Canonbury, a well located and beautiful area of London with many fine buildings and trees and local shops. Within this physical area there lives a pleasant social community which

we are eager to nurture and protect. Let's not forget that the Society's central aim is to promote, safeguard and assist in the preservation of the conservation area for the benefit of its inhabitants.

After a two-year absence, we hosted our annual Winter Drinks Party on 20 January 2023 in the Union Chapel bar. It was a lively and convivial event with more than 100 guests. The raffle raised just under £700 for the Margins Project. We will hold our Summer Garden Party in July and send details of this nearer the time, but before then, a Coronation Street Party is planned for Monday 8 May. You will find information about this on page 5.

I hope you can come to both events and we look forward to welcoming current members as well as new ones.

LTN update

On 23 February, the Council made an order confirming the low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) as a permanent scheme. It came into force on 24 February. They published a leaflet, delivered to some, but not all properties, announcing this decision with a few amendments to the LTN.

During the Council's trial of the scheme, the Canonbury Society conducted two surveys of its members. By a slim majority, both surveys showed that our members supported the LTN, but wanted to see modifications. One of these was an exemption to help elderly and disabled residents who rely on taxis or visits from relations and carers. The Society advocated for this, along with a number of other modifications, but the Council has ignored us. An exemption for people suffering from severe medical problems is now being trialled but only a few people will be eligible.

Overall, the Council claim air pollution has improved, despite an increase of 8% in St Paul's Road at the junction with Grange Grove. They also say a 9% increase of traffic in St Paul's Road is due to congestion at Highbury Corner, ignoring the fact that LTN restrictions make it worse. They regard these changes as 'negligible'.

Lastly, the Council have decided not to introduce additional measures to prevent the early morning rat run via Compton Road because 'it is now less severe and such measures would make some journeys less convenient for residents'. They are also removing the width restriction in Grange Grove and reducing parking at the western end of Alwyne Road.

For further details of the Council's Report visit canonburysociety.org.uk.

NEIGHBOURS HELP OUT



Members of GoodGym lent muscle to the monthly Saturday gardening sessions.

Beatrix Payne

Friends of Canonbury Square (FoCS) had another good year in 2022. The highlight was the Summer Party in June attended by around 130 people. Party-goers were treated to tea and fancy cakes all baked and supplied by FoCS' volunteers. Cornelius Corkery and his Gypsy Jazz Ensemble (see them at the Myddleton pub on Tuesday nights) set the tone with some sophisticated swing. Donations of nearly £400 followed the party and the team bought new plants.

The Saturday community gardening sessions attracted up to 30 volunteers each month with a solid core of 10 people sweeping, pruning and planting. Fitness heroes from GoodGym joined the monthly sessions, willingly mowing and aerating the lawns, as well as lifting and carrying heavy sacks of leaves. A big shout-out to the hard-core GoodGym team who, on a cold, dark December evening, turned over and emptied the leaf compost bins. We are using this leaf compost as a mulch on the beds.

Friends of Canonbury Square was awarded a Mayors' Civic Award in March

2022 for 'an outstanding contribution to life in Islington' during a ceremony at Islington Town Hall. The FoCS team were supported by our long-standing champion, local councillor Nurullah Turan.

The erratic weather last year saw the lawns in the East garden transformed from drought-induced yellow straw in August to a blanket of snow and ice in December. The grass is now restored to its usual emerald green and most plants appear to have survived the see-sawing conditions.

FoCS' gate locking team continued to secure the square overnight preventing possible vandalism and plant theft. Gary McQuinn's wonderful early morning pictures, taken when he unlocks each day, will be used to publish a calendar towards the end of this year. Get in touch via the website to find out how you can support Friends of Canonbury Square.



Olivia Skryplina



Olivia Skryplina

The highlight of the year was the Friends of Canonbury Square Summer Party.

Canonbury's Glasshouse: a bold tribute to modernism

Susan Millership

Variously described as 'one of the best ten houses in the world' and 'one of Britain's most provocative dwellings', the Glasshouse, Canonbury's own tribute to space-age aesthetics, is sandwiched between the Marquess Tavern and a Grade II listed townhouse close to the New River.

But for the drive and vision of the architectural practice Future Systems, and the restaurateur Jeremy King and his wife theatre producer Debra Hauer, the Glasshouse would never have been built. The Hauer-King House, a modernist 220-square-metre structure, emerged on a thin sliver of vacant land in steel, aluminium and glass to the amazement of Canonbury.

The radical projects by Czech architect Jan Kaplický and his partner Amanda Levete of Future Systems were feted by the architectural world but most of their designs remained conceptual. The Glasshouse, completed in 1994, was one of their first projects to be realised.

King had already worked with Future Systems, known for its Czech functionalism, as they had designed a champagne bucket for three bottles and a serving trolley for his fashionable restaurants, the Ivy and Le Caprice.

Kaplický fled to London after the Prague Spring of 1968 and soon set to work on 'House 26' the ideal three-storey city house made of London brick, steel and glass to build

on the many bomb sites around the capital. Architecture journalist Ken Powell noted this was an optimistic venture given there was no client or site. The King-Hauer house, however, ended up years later as remarkably similar to the early design of House 26.

Islington planners waved through the unconventional plans. 'Everyone, by some impenetrable alchemy, combined to lift the project onto their shoulders, and carry it triumphantly to completion,' architectural critic Martin Pawley said.

Entering the house through its round-cornered metal front door which looks straight off a ship, its impressive hallway stretches up three storeys. An imposing aluminium tubular stairway traverses the front of the structure, solving what the architects regarded as the classic problem of a London house where a front-to-back staircase creates narrow spaces.

Instead, living spaces were stacked up at the rear of the house across the full 6-metre width. With glass blocks on the street façade and a sloping glass slope in the south facing elevations, the wedge-like structure has insulated recycled London bricks for the flank walls to blend in with adjacent properties.

Other elevations were built with double-glazed glass to prevent heat loss. This, along with motorised white blinds to reflect and retain heat and vents at the top of the house to cool it in summer months, regulate the temperature.



© Susan Millership

The ground floor is the largest with an open-plan custom-designed kitchen/living area opening onto a garden. On the first floor, there is a sitting room overlooking the ground floor living area. The second floor is now used as a study, but originally it was a children's bedroom. On the top floor is the main bedroom with bathroom.

'The use of glass creates a sense of weightlessness and transparency,' said Pawley on its completion. 'Yet the exterior conceals a functional domestic home in which everything has been carefully designed to create a comprehensive modern living environment.'

The house was sold to its present owner, architect Roger Kallman of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in 2004. Kallman was no stranger to living in modern spaces having come from a 1980s mews house in Barnsbury designed by CZWG. Previously, he lived in Chicago in a building by the Bauhaus modernist architect, Mies van der Rohe, followed by a period of high-rise living on the 79th floor of the iconic John Hancock Centre.

Kallman frequently passed the Glasshouse on his strolls down the New River and when the house came on the market he snapped it up. 'Despite the amount of glass, I discovered that the design of the house affords a great deal of privacy due to the interior design,' said Kallman. 'Friends often tell me when walking by the house they can't tell if I am at home or away.'

The Glasshouse is admired by architectural enthusiasts as well as passers-by and international visitors to Canonbury. Photographs are taken of this unique structure and sketches made, with conversations sometimes spilling over into the Marquess Tavern for a pint of ale. 'As pleasant as this can be,' said Kallman. 'It still has to be managed, and sometimes enthusiasts have to be reminded that this is a private house and not a museum.'



© Images George Rex

Canonbury's futuristic Glasshouse is a tribute to space-age aesthetics. In the early 1990s, Islington planners enthusiastically welcomed this radical alternative to a traditional Canonbury terraced house. Would present-day planners be so accommodating?

Green Conservation – an urgent campaign to overhaul a fossilised planning system

Leyla Boulton

Sarah Buckingham makes an unlikely revolutionary. She is middle-aged like me. And like me and my fellow campaigner Anne-Marie Huby, she is a professional who just wants to make her bit of the world a better place.

As Kensington and Chelsea's (RBKC) head of conservation and design team, she conceived ground-breaking reform allowing the sensitive retrofitting of listed houses – first with solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and, more recently, pending the outcome of a consultation, double-glazing. A young generation of Tory councillors had demanded change and Buckingham had the expertise to deliver it after a decade heading heritage protection reform at Historic England, the quango which must be consulted but does not have veto rights. It is RBKC's example that our campaign, Green Conservation, has been urging Labour-controlled Islington to build on.

At a webinar organised by the Architects Climate Action Network, Buckingham explained that the borough went ahead with its local listed building consent order – accepting PVs with conditions – in spite of Historic England and other conservation

bodies' objections because 'they gave us nothing to work with'.

So why had no other council, at the time of writing, followed RBKC's lead?

Just down the road from Kensington and Chelsea town hall, at the Olympia Listed Property Show, the reasons for the lack of action were on full display.

There was lots of Historic England and other exhibitor talk about retrofitting. Yet at a Q&A panel for confused homeowners, the expert from Historic England confessed to not knowing the detail, but claimed RBKC had failed to provide safeguards regarding solar panels' location. (That's not the case: PVs are not allowed on roof surfaces facing the street and homeowners still need council approval).

An adviser to the Listed Property Owners Club meanwhile recommended buying electricity from, for example, solar farms while waiting for the tech to evolve. Another said central government planning reform (currently stuck in parliament) acknowledged councils' funding constraints. These are unlikely to lessen soon – hence our campaign to streamline council decision-making.

Only one panellist, architect Paul Archer, blamed a 'fossilised' planning system. 'The uniqueness of our system allows anything to happen if you can get an individual officer to agree to it. The weakness is that it is open to the whimsies of design prejudice,' he said. Planners, he concluded, had lost sight of the fact that 'If we want listed buildings to be used, we must adapt them to modern life'. Back in Islington, my fellow



Activists Ann-Marie Huby and Leyla Boulton (middle), founders of Green Conservation, lobby to modernise planning rules for Grade II listed and conservation area homes. Their petition has forced a full Council debate on the issue in June 2023.

campaigners and I see hope for change in a clear split between council officials who want to do the right thing by both heritage and the environment – and those who find comfort in an unsustainable status quo.

Visit greenconservation.org to find out the latest about the campaign. We are pushing for Islington Council to change planning regulations quickly to facilitate the sensitive installation of solar panels, double-glazing and heat pumps on Grade II listed and conservation area homes to make them warmer in winter, and more affordable to power for all residents.

Planning

James Coates

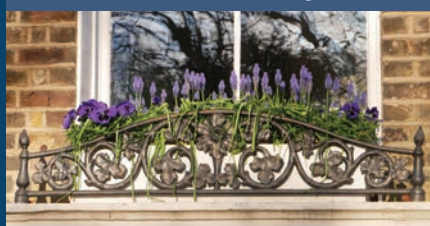
As usual we have looked carefully at planning applications – mainly for extensions to existing houses – to see whether they adversely affect the character of the Conservation Area.

In a small number of cases, we have objected or sought more detailed information. The Council have generally agreed with our views.

We have also followed with interest the growing number of applications for alterations to improve energy efficiency by installing double glazing, solar panels and heat pumps. The Council has refused applications for these to be considered as permissible development without the need for approval. In a significant number of cases, they have given approval for changes to non-listed buildings (including slim-line double glazing and solar panels in the form



Double-glazing is a hot topic in Canonbury. The Society wants to balance heritage with the need for more energy-efficient houses, particularly with the climate crisis and fuel bills at such high levels.



of traditional slates) visible from the street. In one recent case they allowed thicker double glazing because of the greater improvement to energy conservation.

Hitherto, there have been no approvals affecting listed buildings, except where the existing windows are not original or are beyond repair and have to be replaced. Our general view is against changes that spoil the appearance and character of listed buildings, but there is a question whether some designs of slim-line double glazing would be acceptable and whether it is really necessary to insist on keeping window panes with historical impurities caused by the hand glass-blowing techniques of the time. We would like the Council and Historic England to clarify these issues.

Internal wall insulation might be acceptable in some instances, but not if it would damage historic cornices and architraves that are inherent to the listed character of the building. To be effective the insulation has to be nearly 23cm thick which reduces usable internal space.

Ooh la la, Canonbury a sizzling hotbed of Frenchness!

Adrian Dannatt

In 2019, MINI celebrated 50 years of 'Clubman' with a new car designed for the French market. The name of it was none other than ... *Edition Canonbury!* MINI were keen to explain that this 'édition particulièrement British' took its name from our neighbourhood because it was 'Especially known for the calm of its paved streets and the lay-out of its terraced houses. A sort of small village on the edge of the City, once a high spot of London's artistic life, a little like Notting Hill.'

Perfect corporate confirmation that Canonbury is a sizzling hotbed of Frenchness, packed with Gallic neighbours on every side. Indeed, just in my own street I count two French families. Alix Cocude from across the road: 'I've heard that Islington has the second largest French community after Kensington and wandering through the streets of Canonbury one can hear the murmur of French accents. I'm sure other French people are attracted to the neighbourhood for the same reasons I have been – it feels like a village in the heart of London.'

Some have moved from elsewhere in London, escaping better-known French enclaves, such as Christophe Berthoux. 'I moved to Canonbury from Hampstead because it is like a village. People are extremely friendly, restaurants are lovely and it is so close to the Victoria Line.'

It's not all about food, but it's certainly an attraction for Madame P: 'For us, an important reason is Canonbury's bread; being able to get a really decent loaf from Nourished Communities, Montes, or Yield is one unique feature that attracts the French to Canonbury and keeps us here. Another pull factor is the Le Point Virgule, the excellent French Saturday school on Laycock Street. The fact that Arsenal feels like an extension of the French national football team is also, apparently, of some interest to French teenagers!'

Elizabeth Hay moved here in 1972: 'We were in Primrose Hill and came here to explore cheaper areas. I can remember turning the corner into the Alwynes and exclaiming, "C'est magnifique!" The French love the history of this neighbourhood, when my relatives come to stay it's always, "Ooh la la, we love le Canonbury!"'

French links abound, and there are even French vines in the west garden of the Square, given in 2006 by Loire Valley



Wines. Before taking up residence in Canonbury Tower, Sir Francis Bacon spent time in France whilst William Compton, 5th Marquess of Northampton, was Second Secretary at the British Embassy in Paris.

Raymond Mortimer was a notable Francophile resident who divided his life between Paris and N1. He broke down in tears when he heard France had signed an armistice with Germany, saying it was as if half of England had just fallen into the sea.

Another Canonbury Francophile was Duncan Grant. Grant lived in Paris as an art student and later spent time with Gertrude Stein through whom he met Matisse and Picasso. Certainly, Grant and Vanessa Bell – who lived together at 26a Canonbury Square – were often away painting in France and deeply influenced by French culture.

Nor was George Orwell ever shy of France, whether being infamously Down and Out in Paris or as post-war special correspondent for the *Observer* there.

For the French who work in London's financial district, Canonbury is exceptionally well placed. This was highlighted in a feature in *Marie Claire* on the chic house of

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It's official: French residents in Canonbury rate easy access to fresh bread, especially baguettes, as one of the area's greatest attractions. This year, UNESCO declared the baguette a national treasure: not just for being a French staple, but also because of the profound sense of community that it creates.

designer Irenie Cossey in which the writer marvels at Irenie's spacious airy house, only a few minutes from the financial heart of the capital.

Paradoxically, my own discovery of French culture could not have been more local, namely the visit in June 1967 of some 40 French children on an exchange with Canonbury Junior Mixed School. This is when I learnt about the joys of eating bread with chocolate and heard of one of the key parallels between Canonbury and Paris; notably the exceptional WIDTH of our roads, surely rivalling Haussmann's own boulevards in the sheer breadth of their generosity, the perfect stretch for any aspirant boulevardier with their *boutonnière*!

CANONBURY'S CORONATION TEA PARTY

After the success of last year's Jubilee Party, Cliona Duffy, Gilly Angell and Frances Sieber are arranging a party to celebrate King Charles's Coronation.

It will be on Monday 8 May, between 2.30 and 5pm in Alwyne Road, at the Alwyne Villas end. (The road will be closed on the day.)

Like last year, it is a 'stand up and stroll' event, and all Canonbury residents are invited to come along. If you would like to bring chairs, cushions or rugs, please do so.

There will be a cake stall, a drinks stall, tombola and children's play. Please bring your own favourite tippie, cakes and savouries to eat and/or share. We were amazed at the generosity last year, and the cakes were wonderful.



It is intended as an opportunity to meet our Canonbury friends and neighbours, old and new, and make new friends. There will be a collection for charity. (The last tea party raised over £1,000 for Ukraine.)

We need helpers so if you are able to assist in any way please contact us at canonburystreetparty@gmail.com or talk to one of us.

We look forward to seeing you!



© Charlotte Vallance

FRIENDS OF THE NEW RIVER WALK

New River Walk restoration

The New River Walk has undergone restoration work aimed at making it cleaner and greener, and a natural haven for wildlife and people.

The £450,000 regeneration scheme funded by Islington Council was welcomed by The Canonbury Society and the Friends of the New Walk who were consulted on the works. Local architect Jack Lambert founded the Friends in 1994, working with the Islington Parks Department and raising funds for the original restoration of the Canonbury section of the aqueduct built in 1613 to bring fresh water to London. Works in 2023 include:

- Cutting back and removing overhanging trees and shrubs
- Removal of silt to be re-used as margins for new wildlife habitats
- Repair of leaks or fissures in the concrete or clay lining
- Installation of a new pump system
- Restoration of two cascades installed in the 1950s when the site became a park

For more information about the restoration visit: www.islington.gov.uk/physical-activity-parks-and-trees/parks-and-green-space/parks-projects/new-river-walk.

Wildlife

Recently spotted residents of the New River Walk include 13 large carp, newts, mallard ducks, moorhens, dragonflies, terrapins, frogs and foxes. However, as carp and terrapins are non-native species, they will not be returned to the river but homed elsewhere. This should help support bio-diversity in the area, but the council accepts that many visitors will be sad to see them go.

Volunteer work sessions

You can join community rangers to help with a range of jobs on the New River Walk, including pruning shrubs, creating bug hotels, planting, composting, litter picking, weeding and sweeping. No need to book – just turn up. Tools, equipment, protective items and safety instructions are provided. Bring outdoor clothing, gloves, and sturdy shoes or boots. Meet at the Pump House near Douglas Road for sessions held on Fridays from 11am to 1pm on the following dates: 21 April, 19 May, 16 June. For information call 07715 238075 or email eremira.aruqaj@islington.gov.uk.



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More Speed for Less Waste

Ursula Yates

Currently 30% of items (by weight) collected from households in Islington, are recycled. Which means that 70% of items either go to landfill sites or are incinerated. This rate is better than for some London boroughs, such as Westminster at 20%, but does not match the 50% figures achieved by Bexley and Bromley. Islington Council has promised an increase in the recycling target to 36% by 2025 which seems ambitious against current data, but modest against the London Environment Strategy target of 65% by 2030.

Islington residents are familiar with requirements to sort household rubbish, putting certain items that can potentially be recycled (paper, cardboard, glass, tins, cans, some plastics) into green bins for weekly collection. But there are many pragmatic challenges to increasing recycling rates, not least the confusion over items with diverse recycling labelling. The North London Zero Waste survey carried out in May 2022 gathered the thoughts of more than 200 Islington residents. When asked how the

Council could improve waste collection services, requests were made for more and bigger communal recycling bins for flats and estates, for cleaning of dropped items from the floor/road after collections, and for more education and communication of recycling messages.

There is useful information on specific recycling recommendations on the website www.islington.gov.uk. But the most important theme identified by Islington Council in their current Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan is for a greater focus on the excess of thrown-away food. The waste reduction charity WRAP reports that in the UK, a typical family wastes about £700 worth of edible food per year (4.5 million tonnes nationally), and that about 25% of food not consumed is

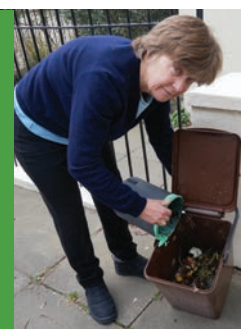
simply due to buying 'too much'. Resisting bargain offers, making weekly meal plans and trying recipes for 'leftovers' are some of the useful tips that can be found on the website www.lovefoodhatewaste.com.

Less food wasted in Islington would be a financial saving for residents because food is 40% of the more than £5 million annual bill that Islington Council pays for incineration. In contrast, plastics contribute 15%, and textiles that cannot be recycled, 5%. Islington Council has announced an additional £2 million to support better collection of recyclable materials from estates and intends to promote the use of small kitchen caddies for food waste. A focus of the launch of the Islington Food Strategy Plan 2023–2028 in early March, will be to communicate practical ways to reduce household food waste.



© Susan Millership

The average UK household throws away £700 worth of food a year. And it's the humble potato that is the second-most widely thrown away food, just after bread, with nearly half of the fresh potatoes we buy being discarded – more than 5.8 million potatoes every day.



© Susan Millership

THE PLACE TO BE!

Ursula Yates

For more than ten years, the café The Place (11 Canonbury Place) has been a welcoming neighbourhood venue to meet friends. It offers early morning porridge, lunchtime soup, and hot and cold drinks with home freshly baked pastries and cakes throughout the day. But Stuart Evans, father of the chef-owner Tom Evans, has a greater love than the appreciation of flavoursome coffee. He is an art collector and is very keen to share access and insights with a wider Canonbury audience. 'I really enjoy living with art and am keen to support the development of talented young artists,' said Stuart.

It was when Stuart was working as a lawyer that he had an epiphany to fill the white walls of the office with contemporary art. Although long retired from legal practice, he is very active in the network of art appreciation in London. A few years ago, he opened the basement of The Place café into a public venue for exhibitions promoting young and bold artistic talent. His plans are to feature three or four curated exhibitions annually.

Stuart Evans enjoys curating shows downstairs at The Place.



'Many of the items on display will be for sale, and everyone is welcome to view and enjoy the shows,' said Stuart. The current exhibition, Paperama, features the work of Flavio de Marco. The next one, planned to open in May and titled Re-circling the Square, will profile conceptual photographer Alik Braine. Launch events are planned (look for notices in the café), but generally viewing will be open to any passer-by, with the additional opportunity to enjoy delicious food and drink.

Stuart is keen to support access to students, and to invite those doing Art A-level or a degree to afternoon visits. If you would like to join the list for art exhibition events at The Place café or arrange an after-hours visit, please contact Stuart at sje@lodeveans.com



Our new look: Celebrating the Past and the Future

To commemorate our 50th anniversary, a new logo and branding was developed for The Canonbury Society.



Designer Matt Wilson was tasked with capturing our mission to conserve and celebrate our architectural and natural environment, and at the same time embrace the Society's values. It was a tall order, but we hope you agree that our new branding achieves just that.

The graphics, typeface and colours were all carefully selected to reflect Canonbury and what we do as an organisation. The logo symbolises the features that make Canonbury so special – our trees, our architectural details, even our lampposts. The rich greens and blues represent our squares, heritage buildings and the New River. Blue is a colour we have traditionally used, but green was introduced to recognise the vital role of the environment and sustainability in our conservation area. The typeface (font) is Albertus, historically used on London street signs and a favourite with heritage organisations like the National Trust.

The six-month design process began in January 2022 and yielded a range of options over many stages – from type-only to traditional and even abstract – until the current logo was agreed by the committee. We now look forward to incorporating our new 'look' in the redesign of our website.

Rooted in Canonbury

Ria Higgins

Last summer, London recorded its highest temperature – 40.2°C. As Canonbury sweltered, we were lucky to benefit from the shade of trees that line our streets, squares, groves and lanes. If such summers become the norm, it will be crucial to plant more trees. 'They're the best air-conditioners. They also soak up pollution and noise,' says Tony Kirkham, former Head of Arboretum at Kew Gardens, and a passionate fan of trees.

Canonbury's soil is known for its high clay content and hot summers lead to shrinkage. Some residents worry that this seasonal movement can cause subsidence endangering houses and buildings and that tree roots make this worse. But before you jump to conclusions, let us take a crash course in tree roots and banish some misconceptions.

Most people believe tree root systems are deep underground, but Kirkham says: 'On the contrary, a tree is like a wine glass. You've got the goblet that's the crown, the stem that's the trunk, and that flat bit on the ground holds your glass up. Most trees at Kew have roots that go about 80cm deep, a metre maximum.'

There are five root types: **Tap** roots are parent roots from which all roots grow, they head down and become the tree's anchor. **Lateral** roots grow out near the surface to capture water and nutrients, and stabilise the tree. **Heart** roots do too. **Sinker** roots grow down from Lateral roots and **Fine** roots feed into all roots.

Many, big, mature trees in our area are close to buildings. However, despite their root systems, only a small percentage of these trees actually cause building damage. If residents do wish to investigate their concerns, Islington Council's website provides advice on trees and subsidence.

A large number of our trees are also in the Canonbury Conservation area which

means they are legally protected, so a resident wanting to fell (or prune) a tree must have Islington Council's permission. Any tree felled, must also be replaced.

As for residents who dream of sitting under a leafy tree of their own to shelter from scorching summer heat, the link here provides a list of trees which will allow you to grow your own sunshade: www.tdag.org.uk/uploads/4/2/8/0/4280686/tdag_treespeciesguidev1.3.pdf.





The Margins Project at Union Chapel offers a drop-in service twice a week.

© The Margins Project

Charities 2023

Rosemary J Brown

At **Urban Hope**, run from St Stephen's Canonbury, young people have a safe space to relax and share experiences in weekly drop-ins. Mentoring, group work and lunch clubs are offered in schools. See urbanhope.co.uk for more details.

The Margins Project at Union Chapel supports those experiencing homelessness and other crises by providing nutritious meals to over 70 people twice a week, advice and service referrals, as well as limited access to showers and laundry. Paid catering training is offered to improve employment chances: unionchapel.org.uk/projects/margins

Islington Street Associations inspires local residents to make their streets more friendly and supportive – places where people connect with their community, enjoy activities together and look out for each other. Contact hello@islingtonstreetassociations.org.uk

The Friends of the Rose Bowl was able to fund new services and staff at the youth centre as a result of generous donations from Canonbury residents. The cost of living crisis means children and their families need more help than ever. The food bank and counselling sessions are in huge demand. Please help at justgiving.com/friendsoftherosebowl

The Manna at St Stephen's Church welcomes homeless and marginalised people three days a week for showers, laundry, clothing, food, internet access, a mailing address, and storage in a community setting that encourages clients to contribute their own talents. Skilled advocacy supports people to tackle challenges. Donations of men's winter clothes, books, phone chargers and carrier bags are appreciated. Email themanna@ststephenscanonbury.org.uk

Islington Giving raises funds to support local projects working to reduce isolation, increase opportunities and create a greater sense of community. An emergency appeal is helping local people to pay energy bills and buy food and other essentials during the cost of living crisis: islingtongiving.org.uk

Local plant sales

Islington Gardeners' sale is on Sunday 16 April at 2pm at the Olden Community Garden, N5 1NH: Islingtongardeners.org.uk

De Beauvoir Gardeners' sale is on Sunday 14 May at 11am in Northchurch Terrace, N1 4DA: Debeauvoirgardeners@wordpress.com
Donated plants welcome.



SUMMER PARTY
The Society is planning to have its annual Summer Garden Party in early July. We will send out further information nearer the time.

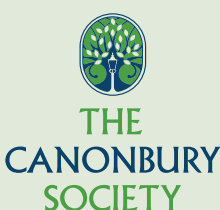
Canonbury Neighbourhood Watch

Following a spike in crime across Canonbury, a group of local residents set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in 2022 to help tackle the problem. The main ongoing issues have been drug consumption and dealing, especially in and around the John Spencer Square area, but also phone snatching, muggings, car break-ins, thefts and burglaries across Canonbury.

If you are interested in helping the Neighbourhood Watch team or finding out more, please visit www.ourwatch.org.uk/scheme/155187/canonbury-west.

Key contacts

- Report criminal incidents to the police. Call 999 in an emergency. Call 101 in a non-emergency.
- Make a report or pass on intelligence anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or online via www.met.police.uk/report
- Report anti-social behaviour (ASB) to the council's ASB line: call 020 7527 7272 or visit www.islington.gov.uk/reportASB The Out of Hours Response Service is available Sunday to Thursday nights from 4pm to 2am, and Friday and Saturday nights from 5pm to 4am.
- If you see someone sleeping rough, alert outreach services by reporting at www.streetlink.org.uk
- For all other enquiries, please email CommunitySafety@islington.gov.uk



52nd AGM 2022

Join us on Wednesday 24 May at 7pm at The Canonbury Tavern, doors open at 6.45pm. See details of the guest speaker on our website. You are warmly invited to stay on for a drink, have a chat and meet some new neighbours.

Committee Members 2023

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
Marcella Menzies: Membership

Rachael Henry: Safer Neighbourhoods
Ria Higgins: Trees, Events
Rosemary Brown: Newsletter, Events, Trees
Sharon White: Treasurer
Susan Millership: Newsletter, Traffic, Events
Ursula Yates: Secretary, Events
Co-opted members: Rebecca Taylor, Sarah Ross Goobey, Beatrix Payne

JOINING THE SOCIETY, AND PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

To download a membership form, visit the Canonbury Society's website. Benefits include invites to our Summer and Winter parties, and the AGM. The minimum annual subscription is £3.00, but further donations are welcome.

Many of you will have paid your annual subscription when you purchased tickets for the Winter Party. If you haven't paid your subscription, please pay directly into the Society's bank account. See our website for details.

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