

BROMLEY & SHEPPARDS COLLEGES



# HERALD

FEBRUARY 2023



# Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

Whether you think that Christmas ends at Twelfth Night or Candlemas, it is now over, and we look towards Lent and Easter and the days continue to lengthen. There are plans for an interesting Lent Course, using classic paintings, that will be led by Paul Jenkins.

So that we can return to putting the Herald on the Colleges website, we have ascertained who among us does not wish to have their picture online, and Paul Allton has blurred some faces in the pictures of our Christmas festivities and will continue in the future.

Our cover features the beautiful flower display in the Chapel on Christmas Day, with thanks to all who arrange our chapel flowers. It reminded me of a quote from John Roedel, one of my favourite poets online:

“Creation is more of a florist  
Than she is a fundamentalist”

The deadline for the next Herald will be Monday February 27<sup>th</sup>. Please send contributions to me, preferably by email to: [therevvedbee@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:therevvedbee@hotmail.co.uk) ...and again, many thanks to Jo, for printing and delivering the Herald each month.

*Brandy Pearson*



## Fungus

When our daughter, Alex visited for a late Christmas, she took these photos of some of the fungus growing on



the logs near Sheppard's College. Fungi have been part of her recent academic studies.

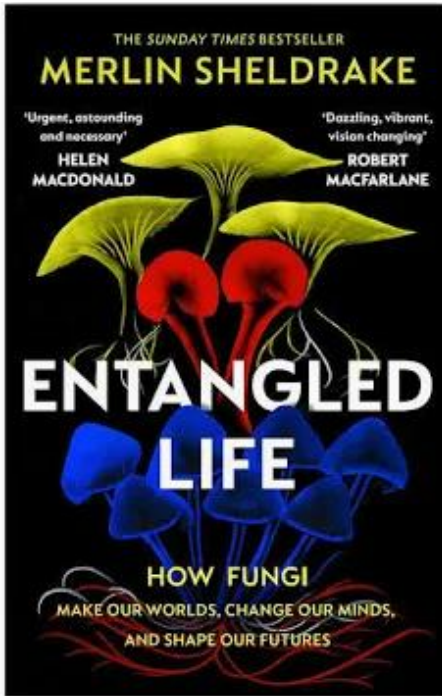
This reminded me of one of the most



fascinating books that I read last year. I have a copy if you wish to borrow it.

*Brandy and Alex Pearson*





**Thinking about fungi makes the world look different.**

When we think of fungi, we probably think of mushrooms. But mushrooms are only fruiting bodies, analogous to apples on a tree. Most fungi live out of sight yet make up a massively diverse kingdom of organisms that support and sustain nearly all living systems. The more we learn about fungi, the less makes sense without them.

Sheldrake's mind-bending journey into this hidden world ranges from yeast to psychedelics, to the fungi that sprawl for miles underground and are the largest organisms on the planet, to those that link plants together in complex networks known as the 'Wood Wide Web', to those that infiltrate and manipulate insect bodies with devastating precision.

Fungi throw our concepts of individuality and even intelligence into question. They can change our minds, heal our bodies, and even help us remediate environmental disaster. By examining fungi on their own terms, Sheldrake reveals how these extraordinary organisms – and our relationships with them – are changing our understanding of how life works.

## Learning a new skill!

About two years ago, I was fascinated to see my grandson (aged twelve) knitting a very colourful scarf. I'm always interested in patterns, so I decided to attempt a knitting "challenge".



I copied a pattern onto graph paper, was taught how to start by my grandson and the result is what you see.

Sue Morris was very good at picking up stitches for me and, in all, I think it took me several months. I am pleased with the results – although perhaps it doesn't warrant too close an inspection. However, it is nice and warm!!

*Bernard Fray*

## This Month's Mystery Child



Last month's mystery child was Neil Fairlamb. Did you recognise him?

Who is this smiley little child at the seaside on a sunny day, with her granny in a fine hat?

If you would like to submit a photo of yourself, Brandy will happily scan it and return it to you with utmost secrecy!

*Brandy Pearson*

## A Scottish Tradition



On a recent trip to Edinburgh, George and I came across a pleasant surprise at the Scottish National Gallery. For over a century the Gallery has welcomed in the New Year by displaying the watercolours of JMW Turner throughout the month of January. The only stipulation being made by the benefactor, Henry Vaughan, was that the watercolours be “exhibited to the public all at one time free of charge during the month of January”. He donated 38 watercolours to the Scottish Gallery and the display has become a tradition enjoyed by thousands each year.

Henry Vaughan was a wealthy art collector with a particular liking for Turner’s watercolours and he was aware of the importance of conserving watercolours which easily fade if over-exposed to light. He specified January as it is one of the darkest months when the natural light levels are weak and less likely to cause damage. His wishes have been respected and for over a century the annual display of the Vaughan Turners has

become a much-loved Edinburgh tradition and certainly one that we very much appreciated.



*Jill Baisley*

## **Christmastime in the Colleges**

In the week before Christmas, some of us here came together to see the Final of Strictly Come Dancing and the Film Club showings of *The Muppets' Christmas Carol* (a strangely faithful version of the Dicken's classic).

Now that lockdown restrictions are in the past, a College Christmas Tea Party was held in the Common Room, some with tasty Christmas refreshments and some community singing.





# The College Christmas Tea party



## The College Carol Service



Our Inspiritus Choir sang at the College Carol Service, which was followed by Mince pies and mulled wine in the Common Room, and we held a Crib Service at 5.00pm in the Chapel Crib Service on Christmas Eve.



## An Icy Heart

A heart in the ice greeted collegians one Sunday morning early this winter. Put there by a collegian's grandson late the previous evening, at least it wasn't an emoji!

*Paul Allton*



## **Play on Words...**

Studies show that cows produce more milk when the farmer whispers to them.

It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.

I told my carpenter I didn't want carpeted steps.

He gave me a blank stare.

*Bernard Fray*

## **Christmas Day in the Colleges**

The Chapel was beautifully decorated for our Christmas Day Eucharist. Here is a beautiful photograph of the Christmas flowers and the white candle lit in the Advent Wreath, by Paul Allton.

After our Eucharist, Valerie had organised canapes in the Board Room, before we all dispersed for our Christmas festivities.





## Blue Plaques in Bromley

Vary your walking about town - here are six heritage blue plaques to spot, all within a mile of the College:

### 6 Crescent Road, Sundridge Park -

Prince Pyotr Kropotkin (1842-1921), theorist of anarchism. A scion of an aristocratic Russian family, he became a



committed anarchist and was imprisoned in Russia and France. He found refuge in Bromley and worked quietly as a scientific journalist. Sunday afternoon teas at his vine-covered house called Viola were enlivened with renditions of revolutionary songs - his performances were said to be "atrocious." He favoured a peaceful,

gradualist theory of anarchism. He returned to Russia in the wake of the February revolution in 1917.

**51 Tweedy Road** - Here the sisters Rachel and Margaret McMillan lived from 1902. They founded the Deptford Camp School in which nursery children were taught under basic shelters, and attention given to nutrition and physical development. Margaret set up a training college for nursery teachers and was, as a Christian Socialist, an active propagandist for the Independent Labour Party.

**20 Church Road, Shortlands** - Here lived Alexander Muirhead, electrical engineer, who did pioneering work on the electrocardiogram at St Bart's Hospital, then created a business manufacturing electrical equipment which moved to Bromley in 1896; he also formed a wireless syndicate business bought by Marconi in 1911.

**83 Shortlands Road** - Here lived Enid Blyton (1897-1968), born in Lordship Lane, East Dulwich (see picture on the right).



Not all plaques are blue (another story): at 8 South Street is the black and gold record of H G Wells attending a dame school. The blue plaque for his birthplace is high up on the frontage of Primark in the High Street.

*Neil Fairlamb*

# Kropotkin's Lighthouse

This is the most well-known image representing Peter Kropotkin's theories.





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