

BROMLEY & SHEPPARDS COLLEGES



HERALD

MAY 2023



Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

We celebrated Easter at the beginning of April. Here is the Paschal Candle, painted by Paulos and the Easter flowers. There is also an article about the Easter Garden that Paulos made.

There was an exciting message from Jo in the office:

“Richard Collins has asked me to formally inform you all that Ted Butler has been appointed as the Grounds Officer and is starting in this role today, 2nd May. He will be moving into the Lower Chaplain’s flat in a couple of weeks.

I am sure you will welcome him in his new role.”
I’m sure we will!



Collegians have been out and about this month, which is reflected in the articles in the Herald. Our cover picture of the Matterhorn is from Dick and Janet Woodger’s train trip across Europe.



The deadline for the next Herald will be Saturday May 28th. Please send contributions to me, preferably by email to: therevvedbee@hotmail.co.uk ... as ever, thanks to Jo, for printing and delivering the Herald each month.

Brandy Pearson

Easter a la Catalan

We had an unusual but inspiring Easter in Spain this year. On Good Friday we attended the Good Friday Veneration of the Cross at the Cistercian Monestir de Santa Maria de Valldonzella in Barcelona, where after a peaceful time in the lovely Cloisters we joined the small congregation of nuns and local people for a moving service in the neo-Gothic chapel.



Easter Day saw us worshipping at the Gaudi Crypt Church (the forerunner of Sagrada Familia) where a major tourist venue came alive thrillingly as a place of worship.

Both services were in Catalan, but both were totally recognizable, reminding us that the Christian faith overcomes all the inconveniences and confusions of our post-Babel world. Christ is risen in all languages Alleluia!



Paul Allton

Needed - More Mystery Children!

Our smiley little person for April, was Bob Jones. We don't have a Mystery Child for May, so if you have a baby picture you would be happy to include in the Herald, please lend it to me, and I will scan it and return it, in secret!

Brandy Pearson

Verdi's Requiem at the Royal Festival Hall

Three Collegians - Bernard Fray, Andrew Grant and Valerie Pearce had the delight and privilege of singing with Lewisham Choral Society and the Hackney Singers in Verdi's Requiem at the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday 12th April. The full choir numbered nearly 300 and were accompanied by the London Mozart Players.



One review said the following:

'The combination of the Hackney Singers and Lewisham Choral Society is a force to be reckoned with. Despite being non-audition, community choirs, the sound from the hundreds and hundreds of singers is immense and impressive. Supported by pro-orchestral ensemble

London Mozart Players and four professional soloists, you would hardly know this to be an amateur event. The choir shines brightest in the all-guns-blazing moments, like the iconic refrain of Dies Irae. Throughout, conductor Dan Ludford-Thomas (the musical director of both the Hackney Singers and Lewisham Choral Society) ensures the massive orchestral and vocal ensembles never drag or lag. The acoustics of the Royal Festival Hall are mercilessly dry and crisp: we can hear every last voice.'

It was an experience I would never have expected to have and was a thrill to be part of. We meet for rehearsals every Monday evening at St. Lawrence's Church Catford.

Dan is a very experienced conductor, and we practice well and thoroughly. It is a very inclusive choir, with men and women of all ages, and new members are encouraged.

Valerie Pearce

The College Basement Club!

A fourth basement restoration was completed last month – adding Flat 13 to three other flats where this work has been carried out.

The Collegians involved have all had different purposes in mind. In the case of Flat 13 the old staircase has been restored to give access to a room that provides a second bedroom with the old "larder" being converted into a large storage cupboard. Darren and his team are to be

congratulated upon the standard of their work which adds to the comfort and space of both present and future occupants.



Paul & Ruth Allton

Dulwich Picture Gallery: Be our Guests

I taught at Dulwich College from 1974 to 1995. It was a very different school in 1974 to its current character. Fees for day boys are now £23,000 a year and for full boarders an eye-watering £48,000. In 1974 it was £490 a year for a day boy. Over 80% of the places were free of fees to parents, based on the Dulwich experiment (from the 1950s to the late 1970s) of assisted places in cooperation with London boroughs like Bromley and

Croydon. Although a public school with a history going back to 1616, it had a completely different character to the traditional public school offering a few scholarships. All has changed irrevocably. The College was founded in 1619 by Edward Alleyn, an Elizabethan theatre major domo. The chapel in Dulwich village dates from this time though it was badly affected by bomb damage in WW2. The main college, as it is now, is on the South Circular and was built in the 1870s. Famous alumni include the explorer Shackleton and P.G. Wodehouse. Next to the College Chapel on the edge of Dulwich Village is the



earliest Picture Gallery in England, pre-dating the National Gallery. The Dulwich Picture Gallery is a gem; many of the paintings were bought by an entrepreneur called Desenfans following the French Revolution, when art treasures were auctioned off in volatile times. They were intended for the King of Poland, but the sale fell through and were donated to start England's

first gallery. The standard collection has gems by Rembrandt, Rubens, Guido Reni and many other famous names. There are also regular visiting exhibitions and the current one, in cooperation with the Musee d'Orsay in Paris, is of the lady French Impressionist, Berthe Morisot (1841-95).

Yvonne and I are Friends of the Gallery with the privilege of bringing two people free every time we visit ourselves. We would be delighted to drive Collegians to the Gallery as well; it is only 20-25 minutes away. Let us know if you would like to come. The invitation is open indefinitely. The gallery is closed on Mondays. On Wednesdays it is also possible to visit the 17th century chapel. Dulwich village and park are well worth a stroll also.

Neil and Yvonne Fairlamb

1400 Miles in Five Days

To mark our 70th birthdays our four children clubbed together to send us on a very special holiday: a five-day train journey through France, Switzerland and (briefly) into Italy and home again. We travelled over 1,400 miles. We saw snow-capped mountains, deep valley gorges with spectacular viaducts and beautiful pristine Swiss villages. We stared in wonder at the sheer beauty of creation and considered the ingenuity of the railway pioneers who constructed the tunnels and viaducts that enabled us to climb to 7,300 feet.

The Glacier Express (so named, not because of speed, but because of its infrequent stops) is a narrow-gauge

railway that employs the rack and pinion system to conquer the steep gradients and to stop uncontrolled descents!

We also travelled on the Bernina Express, so named because of the Bernina Pass which provides a route into Italy. This part of the journey took us through a blizzard. The train stopped at the highest point where there was a photo opportunity. Our daughter and son-in-law took advantage of this, but we stayed snug inside the train away from the freezing temperatures.

After the slow progress of the mountain railways we were struck by the speed at which the TGV travelled through France. It was an amazing experience to realise we were travelling at 200 miles per hour and yet the speed was almost imperceptible. We left France as the sun was setting and by the time we reached Folkstone it was dark. What precious memories were made during those five days.



Birthday in Zermatt

Train with a view



The Matterhorn



Beneath the Matterhorn
Janet Woodger

Return to Guildford

Recently I made an expedition to Guildford to visit old haunts. I lived there for three and a half years when my husband was a curate at Holy Trinity. First I had a coffee and croissant at the Café Nero upstairs in the House of Fraser. It was fairly empty and I had a table in the window with a fine view over the High Street.

Thus fortified I walked past Holy Trinity (sadly not open at that time) and through the church yard, pausing for

breath, it's very steep, by a 1920's bronze angel and to read a poem by R S Thomas on the information board. I then toiled up the hill by slow degrees, stopping to admire the view of Holy Trinity and beyond on the other side of the town, Guildford Cathedral (to think I used to push a buggy up and down here almost every day! But I was a lot younger then).

I first visited Guildford Cathedral as a child. I think it must have still been under construction, as you could pay for a brick and my mother duly bought one. Little would I have thought that one day I would be there for my husband's ordination.

At last I gained Pewley Way, the road with the curate's house which thankfully is on the flat. At the far end is a footpath that takes you right up to Pewley Downs with its glorious views. What a blessing it was when I lived in Pewley Way. I particularly wanted to see the blackthorn hedge in bloom, and I was lucky. I was very happy living in Guildford, apart from having to negotiate the hills, but then without the hills there wouldn't be those magnificent views.

From Pewley Downs you can continue along a footpath to St Martha's Hill where there is a church (only open at the weekend) and if you are really keen, from there you could even join the Pilgrims Way which leads to Canterbury.

After resting on a bench in the sun I walked beside the blackthorn hedge to join Pewley Hill, past Semaphore House which was one of the semaphore stations between London and Portsmouth built in 1822. Pewley Hill is extremely steep but I got down it without mishap and enjoyed sitting in the Castle Gardens. The old rectory is next door to the Gardens. It was still being used when we were there but was sold soon after. The house next

to it belonged to Lewis Carroll's sisters. He used to spend vacations there. I sat and admired the tulips before walking back to the



station. It was a good day out. Guildford High Street

Holy Trinity Church
Bronze angel
View of the cathedral
from the Downs





View of St
Martha's Hill



Blackthorn hedge



Castle Gardens

Clare Preston



The Easter Garden



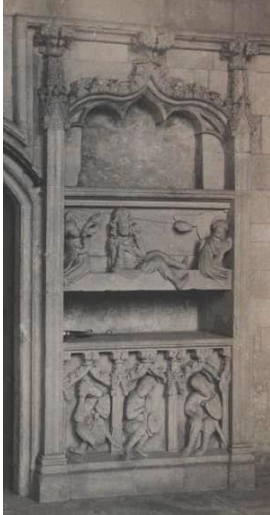
From this to this –
Resurrection!

Using the fragmented parts of the original 2021 'CoVid' Easter Garden, the 'Resurrected' Easter Garden is now on display outside Flat 5, in aid of 'Embrace'



– a Middle Eastern Charity which supports the diverse needs of peoples of all faiths [formerly The Biblelands Society].

The figures are changing from week to week. So do visit and pause to reflect on those who are still 'entombed' in the darkness of need in the Middle East. Easter Gardens may be a relatively new way of celebrating the Feast of the Resurrection but the idea of representing the tomb is not a new one.



A precursor of the Easter Garden was the Easter Sepulchre. This was a distinctive English tradition, and such elaborate sepulchres can still be seen in a number of churches and cathedrals in England.

Many of them were elaborately carved as with this one in Lincoln Cathedral and it's the sleeping soldiers. Decorated with flowers, the consecrated host was 'entombed' on Good Friday, and revealed on Easter Day. Indeed, in Durham Cathedral

three deacons, dressed as women would process up the aisle at the principal Easter Day mass and at the sepulchre liturgically re-enact the three Marys going to the tomb.

Paulos

The Orchard

This story begins with Captain Tom who at the age of nearly 100 raised millions of pounds for the NHS by walking laps around his garden. In his memory a beautiful red hybrid tea red rose was developed and, although sadly it is no longer available, a few lucky people here at Bromley



College were gifted these special plants by a flower loving Collegian. However, not all of them thrived and in fact one didn't make it at all.

However, that's not the end of the story because that flower loving Collegian was determined to put matters right and subsequently put in an order for a fruit tree to replace the rose bush. Whether her pen slipped as she made the order or there was some sort of divine intervention astonishingly when the order arrived it was not one but seven young fruit trees!

Subsequently, three of the trees were given to a family member and the other four, a plum, a pear, a Bramley apple and a Braeburn eating apple have been planted on



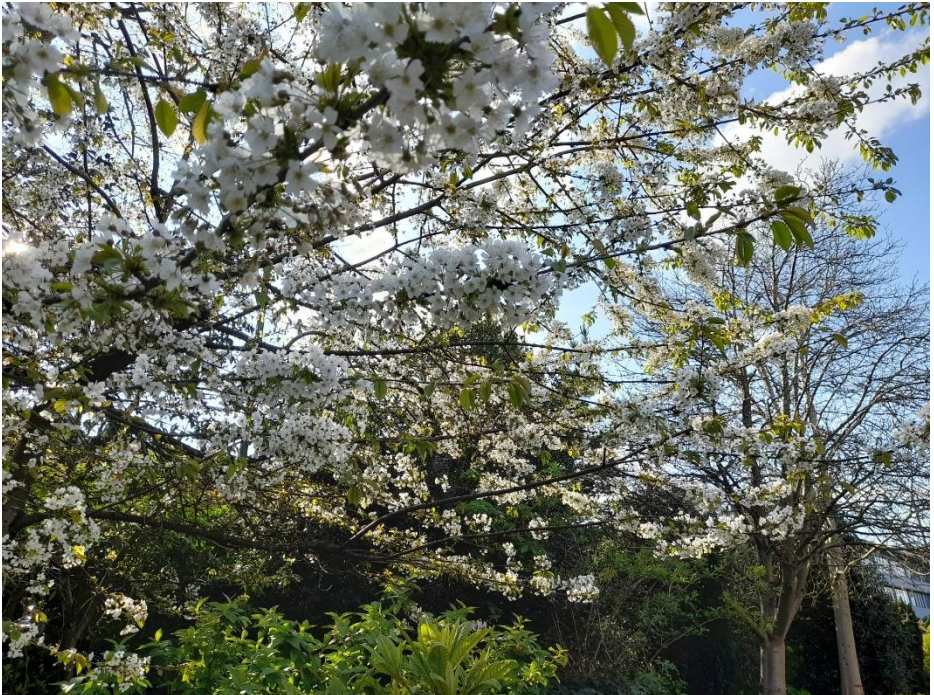
the sloping lawn adjacent to the office steps.

They are now coming into bloom for the first time and are a real pleasure to look at and, hopefully in time to come, will produce lots of fruit for us all to enjoy,

Alfred Joyce Kilmer wrote in 1914:

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Jill Baisley



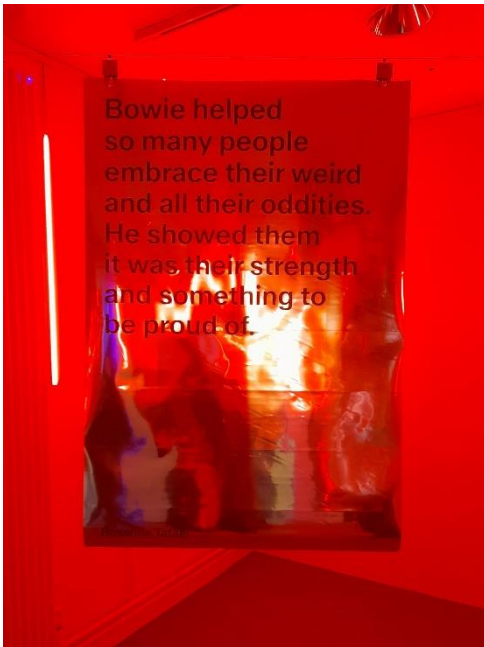
Aladdin Sane – Fifty Years On

After a David Bowie inspired party in March, several Collegians have visited the South Bank Centre for their celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his album "Aladdin Sane".



This included an exhibition about the album itself, included many wonderful photographs from the time by Brian Duffy, who created the album cover. There was a room full of bean bags and benches, where you could listen to the album, and a room with quotations about

David Bowie. My favourite is pictured here:



"Bowie helped so many people embrace their weird and all their oddities. He showed them it was their strength and something to be proud of."

Brandy Pearson



**Bromley and Sheppard's Colleges
London Road,
Bromley
BR1 1PE**