

BROMLEY & SHEPPARDS COLLEGES



Herald

March 2024



Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

February has been a month of comings and going. We welcome new Collegians Olu and Bunmi Adams, and James Westcott, Sadly, there has also been the unexpected death of Michael Riley, which has affected us all. Michael Keen organised a time of reflective music and silences for Michael in the Chapel on Tuesday Feb 27th, and Helen Balmer has had to give up her work here because of her health issues.



Spring is here, just about, and we have some photos by Paul Allton, including the crocuses on the front cover. Paul, Rob and I did a little gardening, under the beady eye of one of our robins, pictured here.

Neil Fairlamb has been in India, and has provided some beautiful photos and fascinating account of his journey.

Our deadline for the April Herald, is Saturday March 30th. 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



Two Temple Place

For a number of years Jill and I have been volunteers at Two Temple Place acting as Gallery Stewards. Every year between January and April they host an exhibition on quite different themes. This year it is about various aspects of British glass and the exhibition is titled The Glass Heart.



Entry to the exhibition is free and Jill and I highly recommend a visit.





Even if you are not particularly interested in glass, it is very worthwhile paying a visit just to see the building.

The building was completed in 1895 for William Astor as his London offices and contains many treasures, particularly wood carvings. When Astor died in 1919



the building was taken over by an insurance company and a then a pharmaceutical company. The present occupants are the Bulldog Trust, a charitable organisation which offers the opportunity for less well known artists to showcase their work at the annual exhibitions. It exists to encourage and facilitate philanthropy often providing support and advice for charities facing financial difficulties.

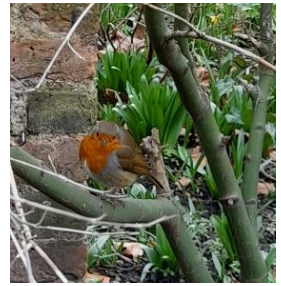


The building is on the Victoria embankment and very close to Temple tube station. If you would like to know more have a word with Jill or me.

George Baisley

A Spot of Gardening

Rob and I are not gardeners, but we love to sit on the bench in the corner by the Slip Gate and enjoy the garden. There was a beautiful large terracotta pot that had previously been the home of the



Runaway

Bride, but it was too shady for her and she had to be moved. So Rob and I offered to get some more suitable shrubs for the pot.



Under the direction of Paul Allton, who knows that he's doing, we chose four shrubs and planted them, under the

beady eye of the resident robin. I mainly took photos. Since then, it has rained a lot, which I am informed will help them bed in. Thank you Paul!



Brandy Pearson

Music for Michael

Playlist of Tuesday 27th Feb

Bernard played: "Largo"- Handel

Roy played; "Women of Ireland" - Traditional Irish

Theme from New World Symphony - Dvorak

Claire de Lune - Debussy

Michael played: "Gymnopedies" No 3 - Satie

"Pavane" on the death of a child - Ravel

Andrew read: "The Bright Field" - RS Thomas

"Prayer" - Thomas Merton

Some photos from Neil in Vellore



Hindu temple in Vellore,



Singing and dancing to celebrate the new toilets for the Sacred Heart Sisters school in Vellore,



New pyramid church - to out-Egyptian the Egyptians - awaiting slating

Neil's Visit to the Dohnavur Fellowship and the Grail Trust

I visited the Dohnavur Fellowship which continues the work of Amy Carmichael, a British missionary who was in south India from 1895 to 1951, creating and maintaining a home for children in need of protection and care. She was a prolific writer and here is an unusual reflection



from one of the most difficult books to relate to, the First Book of Chronicles, a dreary list of names but she found a meaning in them.

Chapter 27 verse 30: "*Over the camels was Obil the Ishmaelite and over the asses was Jehdeiah the Meronothite.*" It is, she writes, very difficult to be patient with an animal that never looks pleased, like some human camels - try persuasion and they grow

sulky. Patience seldom works. But God remembered David's camel driver- his name Obil means leader or driver. Many kings were buried and forgotten but God remembered Obil as a leader. God give His Obils patience to deal with their camels.

St Paul had fought with wild beasts at Ephesus (1 Corinthians 15.32) but he was sure it was harder to fight with asses. Jehediah's name means Union of Jah. Perhaps he found comfort in his name. Work like his needs patience, firmness, kindness and these things are not naturally in us.

John 15.5 - *without me ye can do nothing* - is a word all who have to do with asses understand. But "*with me*" - that is the secret. God in us can be patient and kind, even with poor asses. God make all of us who have to do with assets His Jehdeiahs.



My 8th visit and the most varied. I have met 240 leprosy sufferers who are living out of sight and out of mind in remote rural areas, all of whom need a new pair of shoes to name just one basic decency. I have blessed a pink toilet block for a rural school - the boys have to use the bushes- and dedicated an incinerator for used tampons. A bore hole was drilled to give clean water for a water tank in a village and everyone celebrated by getting drenched. Women have mastered the art of balancing three buckets, one on the head. I opened a science lab



in a tribal hilly area school near Salem where no westerner had ever been seen. Arcanut, a type of coconut, has leaves that can be dried and oven-fired ,turned into plastic-free plates and dishes. I met Dalit children from the bottom of the caste system

whose chances in life are low. Their mothers get up at 2am to walk to the jasmine fields to pick the tight buds before sunrise. Handicapped children struggling to find coordination in twisted bodies are helped by Animators for Rural Multi-Development Society. - Indian English has its curious formalities, and The Hindu national newspaper has more formally correct English than nearly all British press. Grail Trust continues to support 110 children with no father.

Neil Fairlamb



Spring flower – by *Paul Allton*

Helen's Surprise



Helen Balmer has been cleaning up after us here at the colleges for years. When her doctor told her that she had to give up her job here, many of us were very sad and had many wonderful things to say about her. With the collusion of her mother, Linda, she was lured into one of our Thursday Coffee Mornings, and

presented with a card (painted by Bruce) and a collection. There was a great turnout to expression our appreciation for all her hard work.

We will still see her around, as she still lives here and we all wish the best for her,

Brandy Pearson





The view from my window – clouds

Brandy Pearson

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