

BROMLEY & SHEPPARD'S COLLEGES



Herald

March 2025



Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

As spring approaches, flowers begin to bloom, and birds and squirrels are getting frisky. Life comes and goes. We sadly lost Richard Handforth this month, but are soon to welcome another Richard – Richard Martin to Flat 29. Lent is soon to start.

The pillars in the New Quad have been painted (photo by Paul Allton), and front doors are gleaming white. Thank you to all those who care for our buildings.

The next Herald will be for April and the deadline is Saturday March 29th. Please send contributions to me, preferably by email to: therevvedbee@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you to Jo for printing and distributing them, to Rob for his support, and to all our contributors!

Brandy Pearson



Clare and the Pangolin

In March last year I set off on my trip to visit family and friends in Harare and South Africa. While I was in Harare I was taken on a tour of a wild life sanctuary where injured or abandoned young animals are cared for. Those that are fit enough to fend for themselves are later returned to the wild. The highlight of the tour was seeing the pangolin. They are extremely endangered as they are caught primarily for their scales which are used in traditional Chinese medicine and fetch very high prices on the black market. We also enjoyed feeding the giraffes.

There are many craft markets where you can buy a great variety of ornaments and animals made out of wire and



beads, or carved from wood or soap stone. I bought a lovely carving of a pangolin.





Clare Preston

Dinner on New Years Day

Thank you to Sue and Peter Morris for a delicious dinner for New Years Day.



In your Nineties

a collection put together by Neil Fairlamb

One is frequently assured by men who have no doubt of their own wisdom that old age should bring serenity and a larger vision in which seeming evils are viewed as means to an ultimate good. I cannot accept such a view. Serenity, in the present world, can only be achieved through blindness or brutality. Unlike what I conventionally expected, I became gradually more and more of a rebel.

Bertrand Russell in 1962, aged 90

My old lady died of a common cold.
She smoked cigars and was ninety years old.
She was thin as paper with the ribs of a kite,
And she flew out the kitchen door one night.

Now I'm no younger'n the old lady was,
When she lost gravitation, and I smoke cigars.
I feel sort of peaked, an' I look kinda pore,
So, for God's sake, lock that kitchen door!
Tennessee Williams, Kitchen House Blues, 1946

I don't want to see ANYBODY and I don't want anybody to see me. You don't know what it is to be as old as I am. Do you suppose I want the great GBS to be remembered as a doddering old skeleton?

Bernard Shaw at 94

You know that I'm at death's door. But the trouble is that I'm afraid to knock.

Somerset Maugham, 1965, aged 91

When you are 92 and you say "When I was 74", it is almost like saying, "When I was young!"

A clergy widow, quoted in Ronald Blythe's The View in Winter, 1979

For the past 80 years I have started each day in the same manner. It is not a mechanical routine but something essential to my daily life. I go to the piano and I play two preludes and fugues of Bach. I cannot think of doing otherwise. It is a sort of benediction on the house, a rediscovery of the world of which I have the joy of being a part. It fills me with awareness of the wonder of life, with the incredible marvel of being a human being.

Pablo Casals, aged 93

A woman of 90 said to M. De Fontenelle, when he was 95, "Death has forgotten us." "Sssh!" he answered, putting his finger over his mouth.

She drank good ale, strong punch and wine,
And lived to the age of ninety-nine. *Epitaph in Edwelton Church, Notts, to Mrs Freland, 1741*

These docs, they always ask you how you live so long. I tell 'em, "If I'd known I was gonna live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself."

Rubin Blake , jazz composer and pianist, on his 100th birthday in 1983. He died a week later.

And for those who aspire to their centenary, the cautiously positive words of the archaeologist Margaret Murray:

At my age I stand, as it were, on a high peak alone. I have no contemporaries with whom I can exchange memories or views. But that very isolation gives me a less biased view of that vast panorama of human life which is spread before the eyes of a centenarian, still more when those eyes are the eyes of an archaeologist. It is true that much of the far distance is shrouded in cloud and mist, but every here and there the fog thins a little and one can see clearly the advance of mankind.
Dr Margaret Murray, My First Hundred Years, 1963. She died the same year.

Collected by Neil Fairlamb

Views from the Horizon Building

The Horizon Building is 22 Bishopsgate, in the City, and has a viewing level (all enclosed) on the 58th floor (which includes a Refreshment Kiosk). It is higher than the Shard, but the best thing about it is, that it's free!

You can book ahead on-line, but I just booked a ticket when I arrived and those of us of more senior years can easily plan our visit at off-peak times.



They will not accept large bags, but I had a small backpack, which was OK. After going through air-port style security one is whisked up to the 58th floor to see the wonderful panoramic views of London.

After having had a good look

round, I sat and had a cup of tea looking at the view before me!

I would thoroughly recommend a visit!



Valerie Pearce



Ecclesiastical Embroidery Exhibition by the Sisters of the Church at Ely

Clare Preston and I had a lovely visit to see the exhibition of Church embroidery done by the Sisters of the Church at Ely Cathedral.



We met Sister Marguerite Mae, the Community Archivist, who prepared and is curating the exhibition, some of which I remembered from my younger days.



It's a stunning cathedral and well worth a visit. The exhibition runs until the 16th March and is included in the £14 admission.

Trains are frequent from Kings Cross and take just over an hour to Ely.

Valerie Pearce



MITRE



Date for the Diary - Sunday 1st June. 10am- 4pm
A possible College outing to visit England's largest vineyard- Denbies Wine Estate near Dorking- and to support the Maggie's Centre at the Royal Marsden Cancer Hospital in Sutton. Two walks are available, 5 and 10 kms long, after morning service, of course.

See Neil Fairlamb for more details

Stonehenge Returned!

I thought this
might raise a few
smiles in The
Herald! The
world is back on
its axis now
Stonehenge is
open again!



*Valerie
Pearce*

Prayers Before and After Reading the News

I value knowing what is going on in the world, but the present times can increase stress, depression, anxiety and anger. A friend shared the following beautiful prayers, created by Rabbi Irwin Keller, and slightly adapted by me. I hope they may be of help to others:

Before Reading the News

My God, the soul you have placed in me is pure and vulnerable. I am afraid that looking at today's news will be painful. Encircle me in a robe of light so that I can witness the wounds of the world without being wounded myself. Let me learn what I need to know in order to be of my greatest use, without being overwhelmed by despair. I feel your protective light now as I open myself to the world's suffering and the world's joys.

After Reading the News

I am Yours, and all that is in this world is Yours. Today I have read stories and seen images, but my knowledge is incomplete. I don't know how it all connects. But I know I am connected to everyone; I take joy in their joy; I suffer with their suffering. If there is no role for me to play today then let my learning leave me wiser and better prepared. If there is a role for me to play, let clarity rise up in me to see it, even if that role is a humble one.

Lift up the work of my hands, in anything they might do for peace, for justice, for the wholeness of our planet, or for the betterment of my community. Just as you turned

the curse of Balaam into a blessing, so may all my actions accrue to the good.

[Add here a prayer for the healing of a specific suffering you read about.]

Blessed are You who receives my prayer.

Closing Action

The words above may be followed by a simple act: putting money in a charity box, posting words of encouragement to peacemakers online, sitting with breath, walking, moving, cooking, journaling, collaging. This doesn't need to be a major project, but a clearly defined moment of integration.

Rabbi Irwin Keller Thank you to Rabbi Eli Herb of Salem, OR, for workshopping and beta-testing this practice with me. (adapted by Brandy Pearson)





Ecclesiastical Embroidery Exhibition at Ely

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