

BROMLEY & SHEPPARD'S COLLEGES



Herald

June 2025



Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

May has been a busy month at the Colleges, with the VE 80th Celebrations, John Townsend's 90th Birthday Party and Founders Day. The photo on the front cover is of the chapel with the Peace Candle for VE80.

However, the biggest news, is the announcement that we are to have a new Chaplain. The Revd Nicholas Paul George is to be licensed, probably on Sunday 14th September. He and his partner are hoping to move in during August.

Nick (pictured below) has been Vicar of St Giles and St Matthew Camberwell for more of 20 years and has trained, practices and teaches spiritual direction. Let's hold Nick in our prayers as he prepares to move and begin his new ministry here in our collegian community.

The next Herald will be for July and the deadline is Saturday July 5th. (I'm on holiday before that!) 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



V E 80th Celebration Parade Bank Holiday Monday 5th May.

I went up to London to watch the VE 80th anniversary parade. I wanted to be there as I remember taking my daughter to London for the 50th celebrations when we heard Vera Lynn sing outside Buckingham Palace. It was not terribly crowded then but I knew it would be this year so I got to St James Park early which was tricky because of all the security.

I was very fortunate to get a good place along the Mall right in the front and I had an excellent view. I particularly wanted to see the horses and the fly past. We saw the King's Troop, Household Cavalry, and the mounted band pass down the Mall on their way to Parliament Square and then we saw them all come back again and all the groups of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and women, and then at last we were allowed into the Mall and walked as fast as possible towards the Palace.

I was surprised that I managed to get quite near with a view of the balcony and was in a good position to see the



fly past, led by the lone Lancaster, this time without its accompanying Spitfire and Hurricane. The highlight is always the Red Arrows. It was worth all the effort to be standing right there underneath them.

Clare Preston





VE80 Celebrations in the Colleges

We had an extensive day of events to celebrate the 80th anniversary of V E Day on Thursday May 8th, largely planned by Paul Allton with a redoubtable Organising Committee.

The day began with a Eucharist for Peace, with a Peace Candle and the opportunity to light our own candles, at a time when the world is in such desperate need of peace. The Peace candle is pictured on our front cover.

A fascinating Exhibition was put together in the Board Room about College life at the time, including material from some present collegians.

There was a fish and chip lunch (not rationed during the war) with raspberry jelly fluff and fizzy pop, in the Old Quad, pictured here.

At 3pm, there was Afternoon Tea, including the broadcast of



Winston Churchill's VE Day Speech, and some wonderful stories by Collegians who were around at the time. The delicious cakes were from genuine war-time recipes





At 8pm, everyone was invited for drinks in the New Quad. There was a great turnout, which lasted until 9.30pm, when the Day was brought to an end with the Lighting of Peace Candles around the Cauldron





It was a wonderful day, with so many people helping and making so many contributions. I found it a great balance between celebrating the victory in Europe in 1945 and the pressing need for peace in 2025.

Brandy Pearson

Photos by Paul Allton

Founders' Day 2025

Founders' Day took place this year on Wednesday 28th May with the Founder's Day Service at 3pm, followed by refreshments in the Quad.

The preacher was the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark. During his sermon he warmly commended Nick George as our new Chaplain



An Anonymous Cry from the Heart!

Through the sleepless night of sorrow
Onward goes the Collegian band,
Praying for some peace tomorrow and the sleep that had
been planned.
Slamming wardrobe doors at midnight,
Hoovering at 6 AM!!
This is neither kind or thoughtful
You are not your neighbour's friend!

Through another night of sorrow
Moving furniture and then -
Sweeping, rubbing, tapping, banging
Why this noise at HALF PAST TEN??
All this should be done tomorrow
Not when it is time to rest
'Others first' should be your motto -
Don't be such a selfish pest!!

Anonymous

John's 90th Birthday Party

We celebrated John Townsend's 90th birthday in great style on Saturday May 17th at a fine birthday tea party. There were many tasty treats, much entertainment, a birthday cake and speeches. John made a particularly touching speech about his carer, Yoga, who also cared for his wife Anne for many years.

The Food:



The Cake:



The Entertainment:

(Some of it!)



The Speeches:

John and Yoga

There is a fine photo of John at his party, on the back cover.

A great time was had by all, with thanks to everyone who helped and took part.

Brandy Pearson

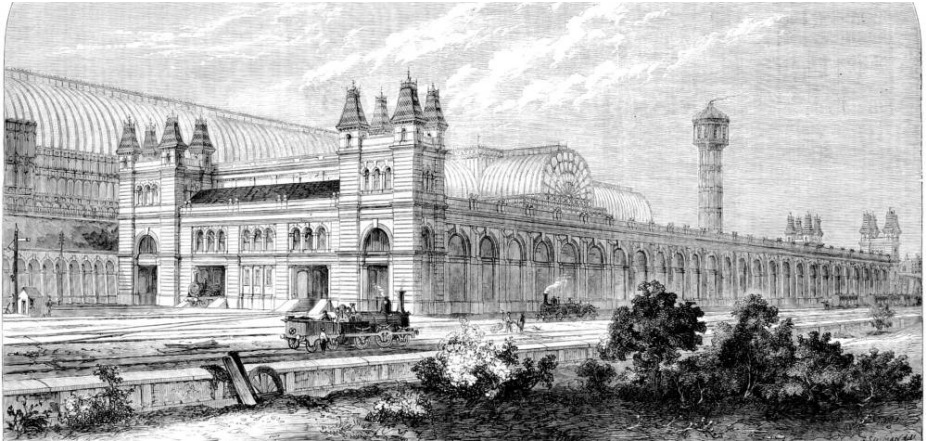
Photos by Paul Allton



Crystal Palace Arts and Crafts Fair

Crystal Palace (High Level) was one of two stations built to serve the new site of the Great Exhibition building, the Crystal Palace, when it was moved from Hyde Park to Sydenham Hill after 1851. The station closed permanently in 1954 and demolished in 1961.

There were subway exits leading under Crystal Palace Parade into Crystal Palace Park, linking the station directly with the palace. The subway was a vaulted and tiled chamber resembling a Byzantine crypt; it was designed and built by cathedral craftsmen from Italy. The Grade II listed subway, was restored in 2024.



The new high-level station at the Crystal Palace; from The Illustrated London News, 30 September 1865

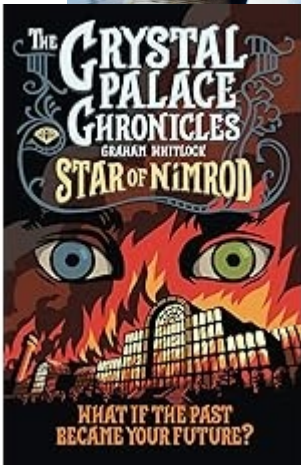
One Saturday in May, Rob and I went to an Arts and Crafts Fair in the restored subway, partly because we love a good fair, and partly to see the subway itself. There was a warning that there is no disabled access,

and there were many steps down, but it was worth it, both for what was on sale at the fair, and for the wonderful architecture. Here are a few photos





Rob considering a purchase



It was so interesting to meet the people who have created such a wonderful variety of things. We bought a small teddy bear (obviously) and a set of YA (Young

Adult) Historical/Fantasy/Sci Fi novels called The Crystal Palace Chronicles, signed by the author. The books are full of exciting adventures through time, when the Crystal Palace was at its height, and detailed historical information about the area and the fascinating (real) people who lived and worked there.

Brandy Pearson

The Runaway Bride – Still Running!

The beautiful plant, “The Runaway Bride” was originally in a pot outside Paul Allton’s flat. It grew so well that it was moved to a corner in the grounds, but has now found a perfect home on either side of the Wren Gate. These two are mother and daughter.





Creative Arts Group

Bruce recently provided interesting advice for anyone considering having a go at art.

Material for painting and drawing

Among many possibilities are:

Watercolours

For beginners watercolours are not as difficult as rumour has it. A Bockingford or similar watercolour pad (I prefer 'rough' finish), a brush about size 10, and four colours – tubes probably: ultramarine blue, burnt umber, alizarin

crimson and raw sienna or yellow ochre. This would get you started, with a good quality kit for around £15. A few sheets of scrap paper to try things out, a saucer to mix the colours and a pot to hold the water – and you will be in business. It's better not to buy paint boxes; they cost too much and give you far too many colours which only serve to confuse.

Charcoal

This is a cheaper option; some charcoal, a sketchbook and an aerosol fixer to stop your masterpiece sliding off the page. Hairspray is a less expensive alternative to fixer. I love charcoal because it can be used to give sharp lines or smudged to suggest a misty, atmospheric day.

Pencils (graphite and coloured), drawing and felt pens, children's crayons

Any of these, alone or in combination with each other, are perhaps the simplest options together with a sketchpad. Some coloured pencils and specialised wax crayons are water soluble and can, with a brush and a pot of water, allow washes as well as lines. Chalk or pastels could be added to the list; coloured paper might help with chalks and a fixer will be needed for both.



Dates for 2025:

July 14th, August 18th, Sept 15th Oct 13th,
Nov. 17th, Dec 8th

in the Common Room 10am - 12noon

Bruce Driver



John Townsend on his 90th Birthday

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