



Bromley & Sheppard's Colleges Friends' Newsletter



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ANGELS EVERYWHERE



Not a Sci-Fi movie, nor the waste disposal workers gone crazy, but 'a choir, a chorus, a flight, a host, or a pinhead of angels' descending and flying around Bromley, just round the corner from Primark.

Given that it was the Feast Day of St Michael and All Angels, it shouldn't have been such a surprise - but it was! No one had ever seen the Parish Church jammed so full of angels, until 2013, when the Friends' of the Colleges put on their 'Celebration of Angels' and invited some local schools and the Parish Church to share the event. The Mayor lent his support by attending the final event.



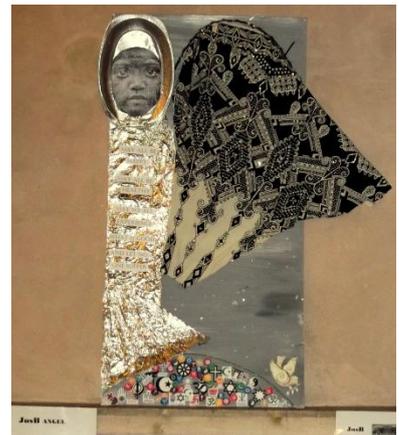
'Hi there Sir! but just who are you?'

The response from the schools was amazing. Several school assemblies took place in church, amid the angelic throng. The children contributed hundreds and hundreds of different angels to the exhibition.

Editor's choice



Out of the overwhelming display of hundreds of angels, my first choice goes to JusB (a Bromley youth charity) for their superb, haunting and thoughtful group piece – reminding us that God's angels have not abandoned the darkest,



toughest, saddest places of our world.



An angel covering the lion's mouth to keep Daniel safe, with a prayer under its wings



Ken Murray's Art Class
Mary Messinger



College Collage



Jacob's ladder
from earth to heaven

Crowning the day, at the celebratory tea party, 'Angel Delight' was in plentiful supply, as well as beautifully decorated angel cakes and biscuits.

Groups (including some enjoying their second childhood, in the Collegians' choir) sang, and 20 from Bishop Justus School performed a dramatic dance, in the joyful closing service, in St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church, Bromley.

You too can 'be an angel'. Join the Friends, in helping to keep the Colleges' Grade One and Grade Two Listed buildings going

Anne Townsend





HIDDEN TREASURE

It is not uncommon for residents in Bromley town to remark that they had no idea what was hidden behind the high brick walls surrounding the Colleges. On eventually seeing the ancient buildings tucked inside, some exclaim, 'This has to be Bromley's best kept secret!'



The Colleges contain three hundred and fifty years' worth of stories, myths, treasured memories of previous residents, documents, beautiful buildings and notable objects – in different states of repair or disrepair!

The Friends are able to make an invaluable contribution towards repairs, renovations & the preservation of some of these treasures. Resources for such work are very limited and so your help is greatly appreciated.

AT

WRITTEN TREASURE

For many years, a copy of the Bible commentary, written by the redoubtable Zachery Pearce (1690 – 1774) has been stored in the College archives. He was a scholar of note, Bishop of Rochester, and Dean of Westminster. His London residence was the Bishop's Palace in Bromley and he made generous donations to the original Bromley College enabling the second "New Quad" to be built.



The passage of time has rendered the Colleges' copy of his Bible Commentary considerably the worse for wear, and greatly in need of specialist renovation.

Through the Friends' generosity, this unique book has now received the attention it required & has been professionally restored.

(You can read his MS on the internet)

AT

FEATHERED TREASURES

The Colleges' treasures include Nature's riches, tucked away in the peaceful grounds - trees (some said to be over 300 years old), many different plants, animals, insects and birds, as a Collegian shares:

(editor),

When I came here, in June 2000, I heard owls hooting at night, but could not identify them. By 2005 they had gone, but, now in 2013 they have been heard again, I'm glad to report.



In those early years there were Rooks nesting in the treetops along the North Wall, but no longer.

It's a joy to see a Song Thrush sometimes – never more than one. Two or three times a year a pair of Jays create a wonderful flash of colour as they pass through the trees.





Sadly, I have only seen one sparrow at a time, in contrast to flocks of fifty when I was a child. Our regular visitors are the various members of the Tit family, Wrens, Robins, Blackbirds and, of course, the raucous, loveable villains - Magpies and Crows. Occasionally, I see a Lesser-Spotted Woodpecker on the east side, a rare treat. A Goldfinch landed in the 'new quad' one summer and I actually watched a Tree-creeper climb a Sycamore Tree once.



Woodpigeons constantly delight me by either sitting, seemingly cross-eyed, in my bird bath or canoodling for hours in the trees.

Dorothy McDougal

HANDOVER

The Chairing of the Friends' committee has been in the creative and capable hands of inspirational Peter White for eight years.



The completion of eight years led him to suggest that it was time to look for a new Chairman and we are delighted that this office is now in the capable hands of Alan



Cowell, himself a Friend for many years.

We will miss Peter, but he will continue to help out in less defined ways than before, and we will continue to see him.



John Ilson has already handed over his Hon Sec duties to Christine Latham – but, there's no 'putting a Good Man down' and he will continue working for the Friends.

UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Changes in 2013 include the sad deaths of two Collegians and the arrival of four new people, so that all thirty nine flats are now occupied.

The Finance Committee recorded a satisfactory audit report. The Fabric Committee's work is now enlarged to include supervision of the grounds, as well as the buildings. Much work has been done by our new part-time gardener, by the resident maintenance officer and by a firm of tree surgeons. Chainsaw and wood chipper have sounded in the Colleges, and beyond, for several days. More remains to be done.

Restoration work was deferred because of more urgent concerns. These included the renovation of vacated flats - making good accidental fire and water damage, repairs to the bell/clock chamber (which some called 'an accident waiting to happen'), installing emergency lighting in the Quads, new electricity meters in Sheppard's College and new electronic controls for the gas boilers. These boilers, located in the Chapel Crypt, provide heating and hot water for the main buildings and flats. The Chaplain has been adjusting them manually, at all hours, in an effort to keep us warm and to minimise rising heating bills.

A new Archive Room is under construction and 2014 should see the resumption of restoration work.

Kathleen Craig

RECENT EVENTS

This Summer, the Friends have hosted several delightful musical events including a concert by the Chamber Choir of Bromley Parish School, titled 'Music for a Summer afternoon'.

The Collegians' Choir also shared the fruits of their persistent practising with their thoroughly enjoyable "Summer Cornucopia





of Songs and Readings”, followed by their deservedly ‘famous’ afternoon tea.

The Common room was transformed into a second hand bookshop for a morning. Profits were added to the Friends’ funds.

Croquet and putting added to the fun of last Summer and Alan Cowell has donated a putting trophy.



We wait to see who will be next year’s first recipient.

EVENTS TO COME

We have a major event on Wednesday 30th April 2014 when Friend, Tina Hill has arranged a special tour of Westminster Abbey for Friends and their friends. Tina is a volunteer at the Abbey.



The guided tour will begin with Evening Prayer at 5 pm and end with Compline (Night Prayer) at about 8 pm. Put the date in your diary now.

As we go to press a list of other events in 2014 is being compiled, including, hopefully, A Choral Candlemas and a Piano/ Keyboard Recital from Michael Keen.



The list so far:

Date	Time	Event
Saturday 1 st March	2pm	Indoor Games
Wednesday 30 th April	5pm	Westminster Abbey Tour
Saturday 17 th May	10am	AGM
Wednesday 28 th May	3pm	Founders Day
Saturday 7 th June	2pm	Putting
Saturday 19 th July	2pm	Croquet

More details of these events will be circulated nearer the time.

In addition there will be the usual Putting and Croquet tournaments and an Indoor Games Afternoon to which Friends and friends of Friends will be invited.

John Ilson



LAST WORD

When I arrived here six years ago, I needed to discover a slot into which I fitted. It was a



giant leap for me to find that instead of being on Southwark Council, I fitted in here as the ‘craft lady’. I started by making novelty items in felt, moved on to lavender bags, and followed up with jewellery.

Generous supporters donate unwanted gifts for my stalls and these efforts bring a smile to the face of the Friends’ Treasurer.

I try not to miss a trick.

The Friends’ Committee kindly gave me a book token when I resigned from the committee. I read my new books in time to donate them to our recent book sale, which raised £184 for the Friends’ coffers.

Although I’m no longer on the committee, I shall continue fund raising.

Thank you for all your wonderful support.

I reckon that a good motto for all of us here is: ‘In it together’.

Janet Heatley

