

Catherine Avent OBE

1919 - 2022

MARGARET HARRIS

Catherine (known as 'Cathy' or 'Cath') Avent, who died in December 2022 at the age of 103 years, was a much loved and respected member of the St Jude-on-the-Hill Church community. In her latter years she took on numerous voluntary activities for both the Church and Proms, turning her hand willingly to whatever tasks needed doing, however humble they were. Her quiet involvement in Suburb social and community activities in later years, belied her long and distinguished career as a senior figure in public services.

Born in Hampshire and educated by governesses at home to the age of 12, Cathy went up to Oxford University's Lady Margaret Hall in 1939 and joined the WRNS in 1942 where she trained to be an officer.



After taking a Diploma in Social Science & Administration at the London School of Economics in 1948, Cathy joined the (now defunct) London County Council's Careers Service, helping to find

employment for school-leavers. She was later transferred to the Inspectorate of the Inner London Education Authority, retiring in 1984 having achieved the high status of 'Staff Inspector Careers'.

Cathy said that she had had 'two parallel careers' because, in addition to her full-time job, she also found time to be a writer and broadcaster on career topics and to serve on committees. In fact Cathy described herself as 'enjoying' committee work and served for periods as a governor of several public schools and higher education colleges, as well as on boards of charities, including Toynbee Hall. For three years she was a member of the Finniston Committee of Inquiry into the Engineering Profession, examining the apparent decline of British engineering in the 1970s. The Inquiry's report led to profound changes in the way in which the engineering councils regulated their professional qualifications.

Her work for the Inquiry obliged Cathy to travel to both Japan and the USA. In fact, travel was one of her delights and a hobby she pursued relentlessly. It was one of the many ways in which Cathy sought out new experiences in her life.

The high public esteem in which Cathy was held was reflected in her appointment as OBE in 1977 and in the many other honours bestowed on her. She was given honorary membership of several education bodies, Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths and Vice-Presidency of the Lady Margaret Hall Association.

In a funeral eulogy, one of Cathy's many godchildren summed her up as 'a great and very modest woman'.

Ian Black

1953 - 2023

MARGARET HARRIS

As Suburb News went to press we heard the sad news of the death of local resident and journalist Ian Black. As Middle East Editor of the Guardian, Ian earned a reputation of showing fairness to all sides in the Middle East. An extensive obituary was published in the Guardian on 25 January 2023 and can be viewed at: theguardian.com/media/2023/jan/25/ian-black-obituary.



Johnny Buccheri

1932 - 2023

CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS

Johnny Buccheri, barber to countless Suburb residents for the last 30 years, died on 20th October 2023 at the age of 91. Johnny owned and ran the barber shop at the Suburb entrance by Golders Green station, retiring only in 2021 at the age of 89. Full of stories, he loved chatting with his many regular clients.

Of Sicilian and Belgian heritage, he moved to the Suburb with his Japanese wife, Kazuko in 1981 and opened the traditionally fitted out shop in 1990.

Learning his trade in the early fifties alongside his brother, they ran a barber shop together in Soho, near Ronnie Scott's Jazz club, where their clients included well known actors, musicians, and even the gangsters Ron and Reggie Kray. Celebrities such as the artist Francis Bacon, Bruce Forsyth, Frankie Vaughan, and Johnny Mathis attended the shop. Johnny was friendly with jazz musician Ronnie Scott, and while on holiday on a cruise was recognised by band members performing on the ship. He ended up taking over the ship's Salon and cutting all their hair, something of a busman's holiday.

Johnny also told of how he met the then 17-year-old apprentice electrician and amateur dramatics enthusiast David Jason, who continued to have his hair cut by Johnny in Golders Green, only stopping when a more recent role demanded he had long scruffy hair.

Before becoming a barber Johnny found work as a film extra, a page boy at Grosvenor House Hotel, a stable hand (his father wanted him to become a jockey) and a despatch rider in the Royal Signals serving in Egypt. He rode his motor-bike along the Suez Canal and during the crisis was one day belting along at sixty miles an hour when he caught a glimpse of a suspicious glint in front of him. Braking hard, he saw that it was a trip wire strung across the road intended to unseat or even decapitate unwary despatch riders.

He loved fishing, golf, dancing and cars - his vintage Ford V8 Pilot being a much-prized possession.

He leaves a wife, a son and four grandchildren, and will be much missed by his family, many friends and clients. However the shop he opened by the station lives on in the capable hands of his longstanding colleagues John Smith and Alf Leotta.



Easter at St Jude's

10.30am 2 April: PALM SUNDAY - Procession, Blessing of Palms
Celebrant - Bishop Graham Kings

9am 3, 4, 5 April: Said Eucharist

8pm 6 April: MAUNDY THURSDAY - Liturgy of Maundy Thursday and Vigil until midnight

10.30am 7 April: GOOD FRIDAY - Liturgy of Good Friday and Veneration of the Cross

8pm 8 April: EASTER VIGIL - Lighting of the fire and Paschal Candle

10.30am 9 April: EASTER DAY - Parish Eucharist
Celebrant - Fr Guy Pope (Thursday-Sunday)



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