



SUMMER IS ICUMEN IN

(had to turn off the spell-checker for that one...)

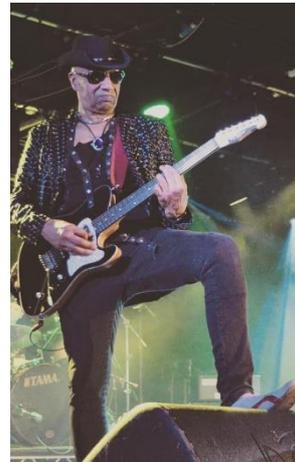
According to this Medieval madrigal the “loudly singing cuckoo” is held to be the highlight of the season. But for residents of Formosa there is so much more: no fewer than **four** big social events in the months of June & July, foremost among them the **Summer party on July 9th**.

ROLL UP, ROLL UP

...for the biggest & best – in fact the only – Summer Party since 2019! The event will run from **2—9 pm**, with the first half aimed largely at children & the evening geared more towards adults. There will be plenty of the old favourites on hand, including pony rides courtesy of the Ross Nye stables in Hyde Park & the ice cream van manned by Raffaele Raimondo who’s been a fixture at the event for a staggering 35 years.



Another reliable attraction for younger children are the inflatables which this time will include a Pirate Galleon & Ocean Play Zone.



New this year will be the Motor City Party Band, a London-based Motown Soul Band who promise to get the party jumping to the sounds of Steve Wonder & friends.



This year the event is being very generously sponsored by local property consultants Harding Green. Partner Jack Graham-Lindsey has lived on Warrington Crescent since the age of four, moving into the house next door to the one he now occupies where his mother still lives. He remembers when the Garden was quite overgrown & the chief entertainment for children was a rope swing hanging off the big plane tree in the middle – now he says the organisation of social events has greatly improved & there is something for everyone throughout the course of the year. He’s delighted to be doing his own bit for the community via his company’s very generous sponsorship. Harding Green is increasingly active in the St. John’s Wood/Little Venice area & set to open its new office in St John’s Wood Terrace next month.

There is one irony though: Jack inadvertently booked a holiday in France for the same time as the Summer party & although he is coming back for it specially, the family is staying on -- & four-year-old daughter Iyla is said to be less than pleased!

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A ROYALIST...

..to raise a toast at this year's wine-tasting on **Saturday June 4th**, even though it is in the middle of the Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend. The event will run from **5 to 7 pm** & once again the wines come courtesy of the Winery on Clifton Parade.



Participants can enjoy a complimentary tasting of wines, with vouchers for two glasses of wine per resident (to a maximum of four per household). There will be a cash bar for subsequent drinks & for guests (payment by card only). There will also be complimentary soft drinks, baguette & what promises to be an interesting range of cheeses, including an aged Cheddar, a blue cheese & a goat's & other soft cheese. Music will be provided by the [Suzanne Noble Jazz Quartet](#).

To register for the event & apply for your vouchers please email sandydavid0462@gmail.com by Wednesday June 1st.

SHAKESPEARE ON THE LAWN

Don't forget tickets are now on sale for The Tempest, being performed in the Garden by the touring theatre company



Shakespeare in the Squares at 7 pm on Friday July 1st. To make it into a really social

occasion there's the opportunity for residents & their guests to picnic beforehand.

Tickets can be obtained from the company's website www.shakespeareinthesquares.co.uk.

PUTTING OUR GARDEN ON SHOW

One of the glories of Formosa Garden is that it is private & secluded, but the Open Square Gardens weekend is the only time of the year when others get a chance to see what they are missing! The garden will be open to the public from **2—5 pm on Sunday June 12th**. Further details on the Garden Squares website at www.londongardenstrust.org.



TIME TO DECLARE WAR ON WEEDS

Now that the irrigation system in the garden has been turned back on you may have noticed a proliferation of weeds in our otherwise immaculate flower beds.

Given that our Open Day under the London Square Open Gardens scheme is fast coming down the track on June 12th it's been suggested that residents



might like to volunteer to "adopt" a bed & keep it weed-free. The best time for a putsch would probably be on the Friday before, **June 10th**, when they could join forces with the gardeners.

If you are interested in taking part Sean and Luke from Gravitas will be on site between 08.30 – 16.30.

SECURITY BOOSTED AT CASTELLAIN GATE



The main point of entry to the Garden has now been equipped with two new state-of-the-art security cameras – one outside & one inside the gate. They have digital storage for 31 days, only store footage that includes activity & can operate day & night.

A TALE OF TWO LOCATIONS

I don't want you to think I spend all my time hanging round outside the Warrington pub, but I did happen to notice on April 20th that they were doing yet more filming there. A tight-lipped operative told me he couldn't disclose what the film was called, or who was in it (only that it was "some-one famous") but he did disclose that it would be on BBC later in the year. This got me thinking of how the Warrington appeared to have knocked Formosa St off the top spot for film locations of choice in Little Venice. In its glory days the street featured - albeit sometimes fleetingly – in films as iconic as Paddington & Bridget Jones's Diary, & indeed I also caught a glimpse of it in a lesser-known



film called "I give it a Year." But now its charm has been somewhat compromised by the scaffolding, complete with tatty sheeting, which has hung from the façade of the iron-mongers next to Dhigs for many weeks now.

Probably not a sight which al fresco drinkers outside the Formosa Dining room, Paulette's or Toast

particularly want to see! And it's got to be even worse for parents with prams or pushchairs, not to mention people with mobility or visual problems, as they try to negotiate the scaffolding poles on the pavement.

COUNTDOWN TO THE AGM

Just a reminder that the General Meeting of Formosa Amenity Limited will take place at St. Saviour's Church on Warrington Crescent on **Tuesday 5th July from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm**, when all will be welcome. As well as financial & budgetary matters there will be a chance to put any questions relating to the garden to Jan, the head of Gravitas. Other topics will include upcoming social events & Formosa's planning guidelines, particularly as they relate to property alterations.

THE RULES ARE STILL THE RULES

..even when the evenings are balmy & the lure of the outdoors at its greatest. I'm afraid that means that any parties in the garden must end by 8 pm & no glassware, tables or garden furniture are allowed, nor any barbecues or other cooking equipment.

Parties involving over 10 people (residents or guests) must have prior permission from Formosa Amenity.



Noise needs to be kept at all times at a level that does not cause disturbance to other users of the Garden, meaning in particular no loud music (& no speakers!) -- & no ball games except for children under 10!



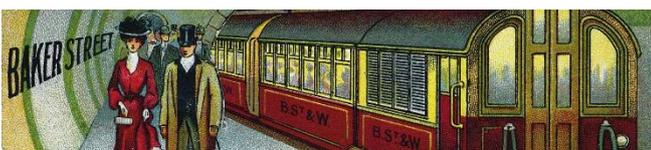
ANOTHER RETURN TO LIFE AS IT USED TO BE



How lovely to see the Canal Cavalcade back in action over the May Bank Holiday weekend for the first time since 2019! Covid had put paid to it in the intervening years. As well as the usual colourful profusion of boats there were market stalls offering everything from hand-made lamp-shades to German sausage – all enough to pull in thousands of punters over the course of the three days.

COULD THE BAKERLOO LINE BE CLOSING??

It would create serious problems for all who use the Warwick Avenue station if so. Once upon a time the plan was to actually extend it to Lewisham via Old Kent Road and New Cross Gate but that idea's now been put on hold & instead the word is the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan is thinking of closing the entire line to plug a £1.9 billion gap in Transport for London's finances.



The 116-year-old line is certainly creaking at the seams – it still runs trains dating back to the 1970s. The braking system, particularly on the approach to Paddington station, can often be excruciating to sensitive ears – but more than 110 million journeys are still completed on it every year as passengers

navigate the 25 stations between Harrow & Wealdstone to the North-West of the capital & Elephant & Castle in the South.

Now Labour politicians in Westminster have joined forces with the Evening Standard to set up a petition which they are urging Londoners to sign. It can be found at

<https://www.westminsterlabour.org.uk/westminster-news/2021/12/01/bakerloo-must-be-saved>.

The closure of the line, if it does happen, will be a severe blow coming off the back of the withdrawal of one of the area's two bus services linking it with the West End. Like a great many other people no doubt, I



was extremely put out to discover this sign on various local bus-stops at the back end of last year.

The 414 was apparently no longer going to run up as far as Little Venice "to reflect changing demand for buses" -- allegedly following a public consultation.

All I can say is: nobody asked me!

Would you like to contribute an article to the Formosa Newsletter? The Autumn edition will appear in early October so material needs to reach me by September 12th please at vivvy.robins@gmail.com. And don't forget that to receive the Newsletter by email you need to sign up with our agents, Westbourne Management, at info@WB19.co.uk.