

Triple celebration at New Horizons

Members and staff enjoyed a triple celebration on Friday June 1st, with afternoon tea and cakes following an outdoor barbecue at lunchtime.

We were SAD because Fiona Small was leaving to go travelling and explore pastures new. But as well as a farewell, the party was also a hello again to Carly Beck – and many who were members of New Horizons three years ago were GLAD to welcome her back.

She is taking over at New Horizons as Centre Co-ordinator. She had already started work in May, but when Fiona left, they had a combined party.

Carly returned from working in Vietnam several weeks ago, so this job resumption has really fitted in brilliantly, because many members were delighted to see Carly return to New Horizons.

She says: "After three years in Vietnam, I



Hannah with a plate of cake



Fiona and Carly

missed New Horizons and everybody here, so the fact that Fiona was leaving allowed me to come back to work here again."

The third part of the celebration was the fact that the party coincided with our catering manager Hannah Munn's birthday – and she also made most of the wonderful cakes, large and small. A chef's work is never done! – but like Fiona she did get some nice cards and gifts. Hannah will be catering for us again at the New Horizons End of Year party in December.

INSIDE this issue	Our new CEO – page 3	Drama successes – page 6
	Computer fraud – page 4	Our Book Club – page 9
	Leeds Castle – page 5	Frida Kahlo – page 11

Manager's update

As we prepare for the autumn, we celebrate the incredible summer that we have had! Despite the scorching heat, our dedicated team of gardening volunteers have done an outstanding job at keeping the garden thriving and blooming beautifully. So many people have commented on what a beautiful tranquil oasis our garden is.

We said our farewell to our outgoing Director Helen Leech and welcomed Iain Cassidy as the new CEO of Open Age. Iain has been getting to know us all over the past few months – see opposite page.

Our Orangery Café continues to thrive under the management of Hannah Munns, who has the most amazing way with her trainees, encouraging them to achieve the very best they can. If you haven't tried the delicious food or the delectable afternoon teas, you really are missing a treat! The Café also caters externally for events and functions.

Our September-December programme is now ready to be picked up. It has been emailed to everyone with an email address also on the Open Age website.

If you have a few hours to spare and are fairly good at using computers or the iPad, we are always looking for more volunteers. Tell Carly or Simon if you can commit to a couple of hours each week.

Can I please remind everyone that if you have put your name down for an ACL course (charged at £3 per class) and have been allocated a place, you are expected to attend at least 80% of the course. This is vital for our funding.

On another note, can I remind members always to produce your membership card at reception and

to have your change ready. We need to avoid large queues blocking the exit, as this poses a risk to health and safety. Even if you are going to the Café, IT suite or the toilets, you need to be booked in, so please do not simply walk through at reception.

Please also be polite to the volunteers at reception – they are giving up their own time to help us to provide you with a service. All physical activity class have a 10-minute no entry time limit, once the session has started. Please also understand that some tutors will not allow latecomers at all, so you may be refused entry.

We have noticed many items going missing over the months from the various cupboards and the Café – for example, the exercise resistance bands, hand weights, balance balls, the head support for the massage table, cutlery, cups/mugs, toilet rolls, salt and pepper shakers and headsets, just to name a few. Please remember that as a charity, we do not have an infinite pot of money to keep replacing these goods!

Can I encourage all members who take part in Yoga or Pilates to bring their own mats? We will only be stocking a small number once the existing ones are disposed of. These will only be lent out to new members who come in to try a class.

Finally, as we approach a more precarious year ahead, please remember that Open Age needs your help! Please donate as generously as you possibly can. Every bit helps. We will not be able to continue with what we do without your help!

Roshan Raghavan-Day

Welcome to our new CEO

Following the retirement of Helen Leech in April, you may have seen the new Chief Executive Officer of Open Age, Iain Cassidy, popping into our Cadogan Street centre from time to time.



He has attended a few meetings, helped out on the front desk and come to the farewell party for Fiona Small. Although his office is at the Second Half Centre (St Charles) in North Kensington, he feels it important to spend time at all the venues run by Open Age.

Iain is from Glasgow, has a degree in chemistry and started his career in the world of investment banking, working for Goldman Sachs in New York, before moving to London.

He worked as a pharmaceutical rep on leaving university, but the prospect of beavering away in a lab on his own all day, every day, did not appeal. He also wanted to travel, so when the opportunity arose to work for a prestigious company in the States, he took it.

After a year he returned to the UK, but being made redundant made him look more closely at the possibility of

recruitment work in the charity sector.

He has over 15 years' experience of working for charitable organisations and is motivated by the deep held belief that everyone should be afforded the same opportunities in life regardless of their background or personal circumstances.

His charity career began as one of the first 12 members of staff at the then fledgling Teach First – an employment-based teacher training programme set up in 2002 to improve education in disadvantaged areas through support from businesses.

Leaving recruitment, he cut his teeth in the world of fundraising at Age Concern England, and was involved in its merger with Help the Aged, eventually heading up the national Corporate Partnerships team at Age UK.

With several senior roles in-between, Iain was hugely excited to return to a charity that promotes a positive approach to later life in his role as CEO of Open Age.

“It’s too early for new plans, but I am ambitious for Open Age,” says Iain. “As a charity, it is excellent and unique, and I would hope that there is an opportunity for it to grow in size and location.”

Gem repairs generate cash

A few months ago the Social Jewellery Group asked for donations of broken or unwanted jewellery and members' response was overwhelming. The items were cleaned, repaired and/or refashioned by the group and sold at the Craft Fair on 30 April.

The sale of these items was wonderful, earning a very tidy sum for New Horizons. The group, which meets every Wednesday from 10am to 12noon, would very much like to continue with this project, but they do depend on members' contributions.

Please keep them in mind when



cleaning out your cupboards! Many thanks.

Marcia Drury

- If you would like to make items yourself, you would be very welcome.

Lowdown on computer fraud

Open Age were invited in April to Peter Jones store in Chelsea, where Barclays, the Metropolitan Police and the Trading Standards Institute gave a presentation on computer scams.

Their emphasis was on reporting cybercrime. If you do not tell the authorities, how do they know what has happened and how can they do anything about it? Remember that you are a victim, however minor.

Your information might become part of a large jigsaw vital to completing a larger picture to catch the criminals. So please report all fraud to the ACTION FRAUD team, online at www.actionfraud.police.uk, or by phone on 0300 123 2040.

This reporting includes 'phishing' emails you have received, or malware that has affected your computer system or devices. Poor spelling is a good clue. A report will be sent to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau run by the City of London Police for analysis. They will seek to close the links between the fraudsters and you.

It is sad that the internet, which helps many small businesses with their customers, to speed up transactions, can be used in this way to disrupt, or extort money. It can even happen with cars, when

vital functions like braking and steering have been taken over by cybercriminals. Some critical data has been stolen, followed by a demand for cash.

But on 25 May 2018 a set of rules came into effect that will need to be followed by anyone processing customer's personal data. This could help limit fraud.

Make sure your Wi-fi connections are safe. Your log-in details are sent every time you open an app on a phone, or an email, or social media application. Criminals set up their own public hot spots in an attempt to get you to connect to them. Do not write anything on a public Wi-fi that you would not want anyone else to see.

Use 3G or 4G that is encrypted, or use a Virtual Private Network (VPN). VPN can be downloaded on to phones and computers as an app. Use a contact@ or info@email address, instead of your own name. Keep work and personal information separate. Have privacy settings on social media that restrict who can view your information.

A restaurant you have visited might send you an email - or is it the cybercriminal's? If in doubt, do not reply, just delete. If you reply, you might infect your computer with infected malware.

Yonita Fairfax

Give cold callers the cold shoulder!

The media has recently highlighted the plight of a number of people who handed over their pension funds in response to cold callers who promised to invest them beneficially.

Instead, these pension funds have disappeared for ever, because the calls were a scam and none of the victims checked the caller's credentials. Cold callers offering financial assistance, insurance, etc. are rarely, if ever, genuine.

NEVER make a decision or give out information over the phone - if a caller is genuine, they should be happy to allow you to seek advice elsewhere and give you time before making a decision.

Best advice is never to respond to any cold call propositions. Consult your own bank or building society on investment or insurance matters. Remember these scammers are expert at sounding convincing and asking direct questions which can be answered with a 'yes' or a 'no'. Also be suspicious if the caller uses your first name or already has some of your personal details.

TIP: When answering the phone, always insist on obtaining the identity of the person telephoning before continuing the call.

Judith Stewart-Corry

A great day out at Leeds Castle

The first thing I discovered is that Leeds Castle isn't anywhere near Leeds. In fact, it's in Kent, five miles south-east of Maidstone. It is called after Led, Chief Minister of King Ethelbert of Kent, who built a wooden structure on two islands in a lake formed by the River Len.

Alternatively, it may have been called after the Old English word for the nearby village, "Esledes" (Leeds). All this intrigued three of us, and so we decided to visit this castle.



When we arrived, it was just as we hoped – there was the moat, 500 acres of land, thick stone walls, a maze, a keep and even a portcullis.

There was the history, too. It was used by Henry VIII and his first wife,

Catherine of Aragon. It changed hands several times, it even survived the English Civil War. It was remodelled many times and in the early 20th century, under its new owner, the Hon. Lady Baillie, an Anglo-American heiress, its exterior was altered and interior modern fittings were added with a maze outside (a modern addition).

We saw photos of the rich and famous who stayed there, Hollywood stars from Errol Flynn and Charlie Chaplin to Sir Elton John.

Last, but not least, Leeds Castle was at one point owned by Thomas Fairfax, 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron and his family. Perhaps Yonita Fairfax, artist and historian at New Horizons, might know more about this?

We then walked around Lady Baillie's Mediterranean garden (one of several gardens), and looked out to see the black swans gliding on the Great Water. What a great view and what a glorious day of discovery!

Ghada Gaylani

Vera's art is for sale

Many of you receive the Open Age: New Horizons email bulletin sent out monthly by Simon Shum. It complements the newsletter you are reading.



In May Simon featured the artist and NH member Vera De-Gernier, who had created a second selection of artwork for sale in the café, with 30 per cent of all sales to be donated to New Horizons. But in case you did not see the piece, read on.

The first four rectangular pictures to grace the walls last year were collages, including pieces of street posters – two of Marilyn Monroe, one of Audrey Hepburn and the fourth a multi-coloured abstract.

Now Vera has added four more

pictures, two circular and two rectangular, which can be seen on the wall at the other end of the café. They feature marble swirl effects on canvas, which Vera calls "fluid paintings", and some members have said they find them fascinating.

The circular pictures cost £60 and the rectangles £40. They make good presents, so please speak to reception if interested. Remember, it's all in a good cause!

Vera, who is a member of Putney Artists, has been experimenting with mixed media for some time and has work on display on the Saatchi Art online website – originally launched by the Saatchi Gallery in Chelsea, but now owned by Demand Media in LA.

Kay Shelley

Not only acting, but also ... singing

How the time has flown since Open Age celebrated New Horizons 10th birthday last year! The jolly party we all enjoyed also marked another step forward for the drama class. When we were asked to put on a show at 11am, we feared the partygoers would not yet have arrived. How wrong we were! The show was packed, the audience loved us and even the deputy mayor joined in the dancing.

So heartened were class members with their reception, I decided it was a shame to leave it there. Several years ago, we made a half-hour feature film. But since then, the makeup of the class has changed and most of them had not had the film-making experience.



The drama class in rehearsal

So the autumn term was largely devoted to re-rehearsing for film the various pieces which had made up our show – two short plays, a song and dance comedy inspired by songs from *Kiss Me Kate*, a scene from *Twelfth Night*, an Alan Bennett monologue, a voice and movement piece about a black woman's experience and a poignant finale using the lyric of 'My Way', in which an older man looks back over the years and his friends congratulate him on a life well lived.

With the help of young cinematographer Tom Bramwell, we filmed these pieces over the Christmas break and Tom is now editing them – a big job! My hope is that one of them might make a short film we could enter for festivals. Stand by for a New Horizons film show!

We discovered that student Peter

Cairns, who played the lead in 'My Way', has a really good singing voice. He has since been taking singing lessons, singing elsewhere in public and has got into the third round of auditions for the TV talent show 'The X-Factor'. We may see him on TV yet.

During the spring term, the class took part in audition workshops for the National Theatre's community production of *Pericles*, to be performed at the Olivier Theatre in August. The workshops were a fun learning experience, although we knew that most of the roles had already been allotted.

Meanwhile, class member Chrissie Geoghegan announced she would like the class's support in writing a play about Wallis Simpson and Lady Diana Mosley and the part they played in the dramatic events of the '30s – the abdication crisis and the rise of Fascism. This was an opportunity to experience the development process of a play.

The class explored the history of the period and researched the characters, who include George VI and his Queen Elizabeth, the Duke of Windsor, Sir Winston Churchill and the Mitford sisters. We improvised scenes from the story and Chrissie wrote them. She has continued writing and we hope to hold a rehearsed reading of the play.

Another student, Jo Cooklin, auditioned and was accepted for the Elders Company at RADA. She has now been cast in a leading role in their December production, and we'll be there in the audience to support her.

Through our connection with Kensington Palace Community Access Scheme, we have also been invited to provide an entertainment for an older people's social group, so we will be rehearsing during the autumn. And I'm hoping to take the group back to the Palace and to the Banqueting House in Whitehall for more drama activity. Onwards and upwards!

Carol Allen (NH drama tutor)

Second Friendship Matinée

Last October 2017, the Royal Albert Hall presented its annual Friendship Matinée – a special afternoon education and outreach performance in the main auditorium, providing people who are part of a charity or community group, and those who may not usually visit the Hall, the opportunity to see world-class shows for just £5.

But this year the RAH chose a spring date – Tuesday, 1 May – to continue the rock and pop theme featured in 2017. They presented an amplified show of classic anthems and hits by the Royal Philharmonic

Orchestra and choir Capital Voices, and featuring the music of Adele, George Michael, Led Zeppelin, Queen and The Rolling Stones.

Now a second Friendship Matinée has been announced for 2018 with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, the Royal Choral Society and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Carols At The Hall takes place on SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER at 11am and last just over an hour. Tickets: Online, or phone the Box Office on 020 7589 8212.

Elizabeth Anne Ropner

Cruise your way to Oz!

Cruising has become hugely popular in recent years, particularly among the elderly. Not everyone likes the idea of being confined on a boat, or floating on water for days, but most people get their sea legs after a day or two.

Not only is it a great way to enjoy seeing amazing places around the world in a short space of time, but it is generally a safe way to travel – if you fall ill there are medical staff on board to help you. You also meet new people.

Everything is provided, including excellent food, special events like the Captain's Dinner, fitness facilities and plenty of entertainment. It's a marvellous chance to relax. And in the winter, it saves on heating your house or flat!

Short cruises around the Med or the Canaries attract large numbers, but others favour the Caribbean, South America or the Far East, and some intrepid travellers go as far as Australia and New Zealand – sometimes cruising there and flying back, or flying there and taking a short cruise. Those interested in Oz should have a word with our Programme, Skills and IT Co-ordinator Simon Shum, who lived in Adelaide for a year because his wife is from that city, or NH member and quizzer Barbara Greenhalgh, who still lives in Adelaide for part of the year but also



knows Melbourne and Sydney.

You could also talk to ex-policeman Ted Waight, a stalwart of the NH quiz group, who lived and worked there for nearly 40 years (you may have noticed his Aussie accent!) and still visits regularly. He knows most of the country, but especially Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane.

Ted says Sydney is best for a flying visit, but Cairns is tropical and close to the Great Barrier Reef, while Uluru (Ayers Rock) is unique, so a circular air pass to these centres is recommended.

Barbara says Sydney is hard to beat for its spectacular scenery, its beaches, its Opera House and its Harbour Bridge. The transport in the city, whether buses, subway or taxis, is frequent, friendly and inexpensive.

Best of all, the country is hot during our winter, so if you hate the cold, get your skates on and book now!

Kay Shelley

More modern meaningless lingo

The article in the Spring 2018 Newsletter, "Getting to know the Lingo", has provoked some more instances of language in modern day usage that the older generation find infuriating – almost to the point of tearing their hair out (what's left of it!) or smacking someone round the chops.

Here are some more pet hates that spring to mind:

1) **It's a no-brainer.** It seems to mean 'you don't need a brain to realise ...' But whatever's wrong with 'It's obvious'?

2) **Meet with.** This is just plain wrong, the "with" being totally unnecessary.

3) **Blown away by.** A rather weird substitute for "very impressed by".

4) **Can you give me a heads-up?** Sounds like it ought to be a footballing term but in fact means 'Can you warn me in advance?'

5) **100 per cent.** Youngsters these days often use this expression in conversation, rather than just plain "absolutely" or "completely".

6) **My BFF.** 'My Best Friend Forever' is ludicrous. It really means 'best friends for now', as friends can fall out.

7) **Like.** A completely superfluous and meaningless word that has replaced 'er...' Or 'erm...'. We want to throttle young women (and sometimes men) who punctuate every sentence with 'like', as in "I was like..." "So she was like..."

8) **Issue.** NH member Cicely Taylor suggests that this word is overused these days instead of 'problem'. Other overused words, she says, are 'amazing' and 'passionate'.

9) **On a mission to.** Everybody who intends to do something is described in the press as being 'on a mission'. In my view, nobody is on a mission

except a missionary.

10) **I've got your back.** Boasting that you have retaliated in an argument? No. In fact, it means the opposite – "I am protecting you, I am guarding your rear".

11) **Fave and defo.** Shortening of words like 'favourite' and 'definitely' is a way of reducing the letter count when texting on your mobile. But it's lazy to do it in speech.

If you are similarly annoyed or amused by phrases of this kind in current parlance, do please let us know. You can contact us by email at: peterheyman@btinternet.com or at: kayonhold@hotmail.co.uk

Peter Heyman/Kay Shelley

Water advice from *The Lady*

I always thought *The Lady* magazine was aimed at the rich and noble classes, but having been given a few copies to read, I realise that much of it is about ordinary folk like you and me.

It's full of useful advice too. In a recent issue, there were some fascinating tips involving water.

Did you know that having a hot bath five or more times a week can prevent a heart attack or stroke, according to researchers in Japan, because it improves blood flow?

Or if you have a dripping tap, you can stop the irritating 'plink' noise by adding a drop of washing-up liquid to the water, changing its surface tension?

Finally, if moth holes have been appearing in your clothes lately, it could be because you are washing them at a cool 30° C. Lower temperatures increase moth infestation because, when moths deposit larvae, it takes a very hot 55° C to kill them.

Well, I never!

Kay Shelley

Are you sitting comfortably?

Once upon a time six years ago, Judith Stuart-Corry decided to introduce a Book Club at New Horizons. Since then we have enjoyed a wide selection of books from biographies to non-fiction and, of course, fiction.

When I pass milestone birthdays I try to set myself a new challenge. I have always enjoyed reading, but getting older I found myself reading less widely and sticking to a small number of authors and an even smaller number of genres. So I started with thinking I should expand my reading experience.

Judith's initiative came at just the right time. I duly turned up at the next meeting and was charmed to meet up with some familiar faces and some new ones. Judith uses recommendations from people who have read a particularly interesting book and want to share it, or suggestions of authors from others. So, she usually manages to suggest an interesting variety of reads through the year.

This past year, we have found ourselves reading some topical books. We were reading Andrea Levy's book *A Small Island* just as the Windrush scandal broke. Her book although not autobiographical, used her family's experience of migrating from Jamaica as part of the Windrush generation. The novel, wonderfully funny in parts, also showed the time of hardship the country, particularly London, was still enduring, as it slowly recovered from the ravages of bombing and the effect it had on people.

A few months ago, when tributes were being paid to the Suffragettes, we were reading the biography of Mary Wollstonecraft and her daughter Mary Shelley, who were leading advocates and champions of women's rights. [And now there's a new film out about Mary Shelley – Ed].

Another topical read, at the time of the Commonwealth Conference, was *Heyday* by Ben Wilson. This chronicled the British expansion overseas in the ten years following Prince Albert's Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace.

My goodness, it was a hectic decade.

There doesn't seem to be a region in the world where the British didn't turn up, gunboats at the ready, to persuade, by force if necessary, countries to sign trade agreements and treaties. Amazingly, Queen Victoria's empire, built at huge cost, survives and Prince Harry is going to be the Commonwealth Youth Ambassador to 53 member states.

All these books provoke lively discussions. Judith has usually done some research and we can discuss the history of



A still from the film Book Club – nothing like our Book Club!

the authors as well as the books. We do tend to wander down memory lane, and often dig up some half remembered incidents, and links to other books we've read, or films and TV programmes that we have seen. It's also interesting to hear the impressions of the group and take in a different viewpoint.

It's always a delight when reviewing one book, to follow up with some additional further reading, or catch up on a missed programme. And it's always fun to have time for a coffee and gossip. New readers are welcome to join, as are suggestions for books.

Judith is a volunteer at New Horizons and can be contacted through Reception. The Book Club [not to be confused with the slightly rude new feature film of the same name, starring Jane Fonda and Diane Keaton! – Ed] is held on the 3rd Friday of every month.

Vivienne Aldington

How to become more streetwise

Moving into the neighbourhood of “old age” seemed cosy and relaxed, but as with moving into any new area, there is a need to become “streetwise”. Coming from a generation where trust was assumed, it soon became clear to me that there are more than a few unscrupulous characters just waiting to fleece me of money, thinking that because my hair is grey, I am ignorant.

For many years I have learned to distrust certain workmen who came to repair faults, only to find other faults had happened after their visit which would necessitate expensive repairs. How coincidental!

I recently had an annual boiler service and the boiler was deemed in good shape. The only problem was that it would only turn off using the thermostat.

I was told there was a fault that required a new part which would cost £225, and would require at least 3 hours of labour at a cost of £85 per hour. All this plus VAT – a lot of money.

Since the weather was very warm, it was easier for me to just turn the thermostat off and think about this. Just after the visit, the problem became worse

and I could only turn the system off by shutting down the entire system.

A few weeks later, I received an announcement by a large retailer (well-known to us all) that they were starting a service called “Home Solutions” and would give free quotations for work to be done by various qualified tradesmen.

This was too good to ignore and I booked an appointment with a heating engineer. He came on time, was polite and clean, and within 5 minutes of looking at the boiler, he determined that a switch had been turned off which controlled the on/off situation. He turned it on, and the fault was corrected immediately.

Needless to say, they have a customer for life. Conversely, I will never again use the company that tried to con me, and my only regret is that I never questioned their honesty in the first place. Who knows how much unnecessary work has been done for me by this corrupt, dishonest and greedy firm, and I would be more than willing to tell you who they are, if you ask.

I think it is important that we share our experiences, so that we can become wiser and more “streetwise”.

Marcia Drury

Helpful workmen?

He arrived exactly at the pre-arranged time, which was a positive start, I thought. Carrying his large tool bag he went to the kitchen and had a look under the sink where there had been a persistent damp dripping of water coming from I knew not where.

With the usual intake of breath through his teeth he turned and looked at me. “Well,” he proclaimed, “you have a bit of a leak here, there probably needs to be some tightening.”

Why is it that, as we get older,

it’s assumed that we have reached an age when everything we ever knew how to cope with has left us? I had in fact noticed the dripping water, that’s why I’d called the plumber in!

My father insisted on giving instructions when my mother called in handymen. They saw it as interference. Both sides became so annoyed that eventually we ran out of willing workmen to do odd repairs.

Once we have decided to ask someone to do some work, we have to learn to walk away, keep our fingers crossed, and let them get on with it!

Betty Heath

Frida Kahlo: Making Herself Up

The V&A has drawn deeply on its talent for exploring icons of fashion and politics in an exhibition entitled *Frida Kahlo: Making Herself Up*, which is currently running at the museum until November 4.



This highly unusual retrospective shows how Kahlo raised everyday Mexican handicraft and traditional skills to the status of modern art. On display are the dresses and artwork for which she is rightly revered.

But there are also a variety of items that bear witness to her tragic life that was sadly full of pain. As a

child she survived polio, then in 1925, when she was 18, she was in a bus crash that left her with lifelong disability and pain. There are corsets and body casts on which she painted the communist hammer and sickle, as well as medicines and painkillers, crutches and built-up shoes.

However, she did not endure her life, but rather transfigured it into blazing, visionary paintings. Perhaps a criticism of the exhibition is that these tend to take a back seat to Kahlo's clothes, makeup and iconic image.

As NH member Yonita Fairfax, who was captivated by Kahlo's unusual charisma, said: "In this exhibition we explore Frida's identity as she shows us her vulnerability. It is a great show and one can only admire her courage and originality."

Peter Heyman/Yonita Fairfax

Colourful black cabs

My father was in town for one of his regular business meetings which was always good for me, as it meant I would be taken out for a meal.

I went to meet him at his hotel and as we waited in line for a taxi, the one which drew up in front of us was, rare at that time, a green cab!

This was the Sixties, when most cabs were black. I wasn't sure whether it was a genuine taxi, but dad was always ready to try anything, so we climbed in.

The driver clearly knew where he was going, so I sat back and relaxed – after all, my father was with me. I have a feeling that the driver got a pretty good tip, as the novelty of the whole thing appealed to my father.

Wouldn't he have just loved taxis now, when so many are covered in different colours, while others carry advertising slogans and even pictures!

Betty Heath

Fun with fish

You might not expect a fishmonger to have much of a sense of humour, but here's one who has.

On the Friday that the US President was in London and people were demonstrating, I noticed in front of my local fishmonger's that the blackboard usually advertising the fish of the day had the following chalked notice:

"Fresh bags of fish guts available for throwing at Donald Trump".

Anne-Marie Cadars

