

# School tributes after death of lollipop lady

**A POPULAR lollipop lady who served the Queen at formal banquets before retiring to help kids safely across the road has died suddenly.**

Tributes have been paid to Carole Tilbrook, 72, who worked as a school crossing patrol officer at Rokesly Infants and Juniors Schools for nearly a decade.

She suffered a heart attack at home in Nelson Road, Hornsey, at about 1.30am on Wednesday, June 9 and died shortly after.

Carole lived in Hornsey for 35 years and took up her job at Rokesly after retiring as a silver service waitress.

Her husband of 22 years, Ronald Tilbrook, 70, who was with her when she collapsed, said: "She loved the children, unfortunately she couldn't have any of her own, but she loved the children and they loved her and that's it really."

She had been out working on the school crossing at the corner of Rokesly Avenue and Hermiston Road just hours before her death.

The children were told the sad news the same day and plans for

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a collection and possible plaque in her memory are underway.

Bola Soneye-Thomas, head teacher of Rokesly Juniors, said: "Carole was more than a 'lollipop lady' - she really cared and looked after the pupils of Rokesly Schools.

"She made a great number of friends not only with the children but also with their parents. She will be greatly missed. It will be hard to replace her."

A parent added: "She was a pillar of the school and lots of people liked her. She was just a smiling face at the start and end of every day."

Carole was born in St Pancras and entered the catering trade when she left school working as a silver service waitress until she retired.

## Parades

She catered formal banquets at Buckingham Palace and Guildhall, serving the Queen, Princess Diana, and other royals, as well as Welsh singer Tom Jones and other famous faces.

Carole met her husband when they were both walking dogs in Priory Park in Hornsey, where he worked as a warden before retiring, and they married in 1988.

Rarely apart, the couple were both active members of the Royal British Legion and were standard bearers in parades.

"It sounds silly I know, but she was everything a person could wish for," said Mr Tilbrook. "She was wonderful, I sure do miss her."

The funeral procession will leave The British Legion in Elder Avenue, Hornsey, at 3pm on Friday passing Rokesly School for a final time before a service at Southgate Crematorium at 3.45pm.

Carole is also survived by sisters Diane and Angela, as well as her husband.



## Bowling back the years

**ROSIE Barrett, nine, and Jenny Lynch, eight, are taught to bowl by 84-year-old veteran Albert Pusey at the Hornsey Bowls Club.**

Sunshine and homemade cakes helped the club in Rectory Gardens, Hornsey, enlist a handful of prospective new members and more than £400 in vital funds at an open day on Saturday.

Members of the club, which celebrated its centenary two years ago, fear they have just a few months left if they do not sign up younger members.

Secretary Doris Barrett said: "We had a few people say they were interested in signing up and a lot of people said they

have been thinking about coming here for years. But unless we get people here we won't be here for much longer."

Picture: Tony Gay

## Evening bike ride

AN EVENING bike ride will offer residents a tour of Haringey - ending with a Thai meal. The Haringey Cycling Campaign is leading the ride from Manor House to Crouch End on Wednesday in association with NHS Haringey.

The group will meet at 6.45pm at the Manor House entrance to Finsbury Park, Seven sisters Road, and will ride along Parkland Walk to Highgate Cricket Club, off Park Road, Crouch End. Thai food at £2.50 will be available there. Contact Adam Coffman at adam@tao.org.uk if you want to join the ride. Everyone is welcome.

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## Have a look at town hall

NOSY neighbours can take a virtual tour around the abandoned halls and derelict art deco interiors of Hornsey Town Hall before refurbishment work gets underway.

Snapper Will Pearson described the iconic building as the "Marie Celeste" of Crouch End after taking stunning 360 degree photos of its empty halls, council chambers and boardrooms to capture its crumbling 1920s spirit.

The 36-year-old, of Nightingale Lane, Hornsey, who has also photographed City Hall and The Gherkin, said: "I've always loved art deco architecture and being a Crouch Ender for the last 12 years or so meant that I had always admired the town hall and had been very keen to get inside and photograph it. I've always enjoyed exploring abandoned and derelict places."

An £18million scheme to build a new theatre, studio space, bars and housing inside the town hall begins soon.

The panoramic photos were taken by "stitching" together a series of up to 45 separate images. You can view the results at [www.eyerevolution.co.uk/tours/hornsey-townhall/](http://www.eyerevolution.co.uk/tours/hornsey-townhall/).

● An exhibition on the town hall plans will take place this Saturday (June 19), from 11am-noon, at Hornsey Library, in Haringey Park.

## Running for charity

A CHARITY for children with cerebral palsy is asking fundraisers to join them on the British 10k London Run. The Bobath Centre in East Finchley has a handful of places still open for the race on Sunday, July 11, starting in Piccadilly. Anyone who raises more than £150 will get to run for free and be fitted with a running chip to accurately measure their time. To enter please contact Sarah Terrazas on 020 8422 2275 or email [sarah@bobath.org.uk](mailto:sarah@bobath.org.uk).



■ CAROLE TILBROOK

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