

John Gulliver: Tea and t-shirts at Buck House

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Thursday, 2nd June



Léonie Scott-Matthews at the palace with partner Godfrey

THE “Queen of Hampstead” was guest of honour at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party last week – and not for the first time. Pentameters Theatre founder Léonie Scott-Matthews was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2020 New Year’s Honours.

She attended with her partner Godfrey Old in a “unique uniform” featuring T-shirts with the Pentameters inimitable designs.

Ms Scott-Matthews told me: “Our Pentameters uniform was unique, very well received and complimented on, particularly the designed Pentameters T-shirts. My first visit to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party was on July 21, 1960, to accompany my mother, actress / teacher, Josephine Scott-Matthews.

“The Queen, Duke, Queen Mother and the Duke and Duchess of Kent were all in attendance. I wore a white broderie anglaise off the shoulder dress, black accessories and a big red rose.”

Godfrey, an accomplished musician, created the designs that were printed on the Pentameter’s T-shirts.

He plays in a band every Friday night at the King William IV pub in Hampstead High Street and at Moon At Night open evenings of poetry, music and theatre, compèred by Léonie, every Sunday at Pentameters. She founded Pentameters Theatre in 1968 and continues to run it above the Horseshoe pub, Hampstead.