



New book reveals the full story of Cannizaro for the first time

Whether or not you already know something about this extraordinary retreat beside Wimbledon Common, Tony Matthews' newly published book 'Cannizaro Beyond the Gates' is a must buy.

It tells the full story of one of London's most fascinating parks in much greater detail than ever before - why it exists, how it got its name, who lived there, why it has long been a favourite location for music festivals and art exhibitions, how the mansion became a luxury hotel. But this is also a warts-and-all book, asking questions about the past, present and future of these fantastic 34 acres.

Who were the Duke and Duchess of Cannizaro, where did they come from, and what happened at their home in Wimbledon? It's all here with detailed press reports and gossip from the day, nearly two centuries ago. Nor were they the only eye-catching residents of what is now Cannizaro House Hotel. From 18th century art collectors and scandalous politicians to grand Victorian hostesses and the couple who created what we know today as one of the finest gardens in London.

Cannizaro's tale is one of great achievements - the gardens were once compared with those at Kew - yet neglect and apathy have played a part too. Despite all, it still boasts a fantastic range of rare trees and plants to delight horticulturalists while attracting artists and the organisers of an annual music and entertainment festival that offers open air magic in glorious surroundings.

Author Tony Matthews was a founder of the Friends in 1996 and Chairman from 2004-7. This book has been written with the assistance of people from all walks of life who have had some involvement with the park. It includes a full set of colour plates as well as many other illustrations. Published by Wimbledon Society Museum Press with full support from the Friends it is available from the Museum of Wimbledon, the Friends of Cannizaro Park and local outlets. Price just £7.99.

WSMP Wimbledon Society Museum Press

an imprint of AAPPL, Church Farm House, Wisley, Surrey, GU23 6QL, UK
 +44 (0)1932 341206 +44 (0)7811 276386 www.aappl.com