

PATRICK FINDS ART OF STAYING YOUNG!



by JO CAIRD

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ONE of Islington's longest-serving shop assistants has decided to retire... at the age of 90.

Patrick Rowe started working at the Canonbury Bookshop in Upper Street, Islington, in 1967, when it first began stocking art materials.

He was still there in the 1970s when it split into two separate shops, the Canonbury Bookshop and the Canonbury Art Shop, and still there last November when it moved to Halliford Street, off Essex Road.

But on September 29, Patrick is retiring... at the age of 90.

Patrick enjoyed working at the shop so much that after his official retirement at the age of 70 he returned on a part-time basis to do the book-keeping... and has been there ever since.

What he loves most about working there is the interaction with young people.

Camilla Hicks, 24, who works at the shop with Patrick, describes him as "very cheery and great to have around".

Over the years Pat has built strong relationships with people in the area. He said: "I have a lot of friends, customers who I grew to like, they used to come down and talk. Quite like a family really."

Patrick says he is sad to leave but glad he will now be able to dedicate more time to his own art. Camilla said: "We're very sad to see him go, but thrilled he'll have a well-deserved rest."

Patrick is always elegantly dressed in shirt, tie and sweater. He is sharp and funny with a youthful vigour that betrays his years.

At the age of 10 Patrick's family returned to England from India where he had been born. He studied fine art at the Newlyn School of Art and St Ives School of Art

At last he's retiring... at age of 90!

throughout the 1930s and was planning to move to London to attend the Royal College of Art when war was declared in 1939.

At the end of the war, the army paid for him to study for three more years at the Hammersmith School of Art.

He then worked in advertising, which he hated, and following that as an artists' agent, representing the likes of Graham Sutherland and Ronald Searle, both famous comic artists in their day.

SCHOOL DINNERS 'MORE POPULAR'

JAMIE Oliver has slammed suggestions that the number of pupils eating school dinners has plummeted since the start of his Healthy Schools campaign.

The top TV chef - who co-owns the restaurant Fifteen, in Westland Place, Hoxton - says the figures released by the Liberal Democrat party claiming that 400,000 fewer pupils are eating school meals than two years ago are misleading.

A spokesman for Mr Oliver said: "In schools where teachers, parents and catering staff are working together, uptake is increasing."

As Islington's schools started the new term this month a new food firm, Cater Link, took over in the kitchen promising "a refreshing move away from

convenience and