

Griff offers a comic tribute

By Clare Casey
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COMEDIAN Griff Rhys Jones shared a joke with dignitaries at the unveiling of a blue plaque in Finchley on Tuesday.

High winds meant that the curtain covering the plaque immortalising Joseph Grimaldi – the first ever clown – was raised ahead of schedule, causing laughter from the crowd at Graywood Court, Finchley, where the Drury Lane performer lived for many years.

Those gathered, including Barnet mayor David Longstaff, then walked to the grounds of Finchley Memorial Hospital, in Granville Road, to mark the installation of an information post dedicated to the life of Grimaldi, dubbed the “most popular entertainer of the Regency era”.

The Finchley Society spokesman Michael Crick said: “We wanted to mark the life of

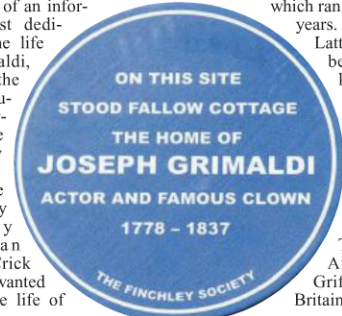
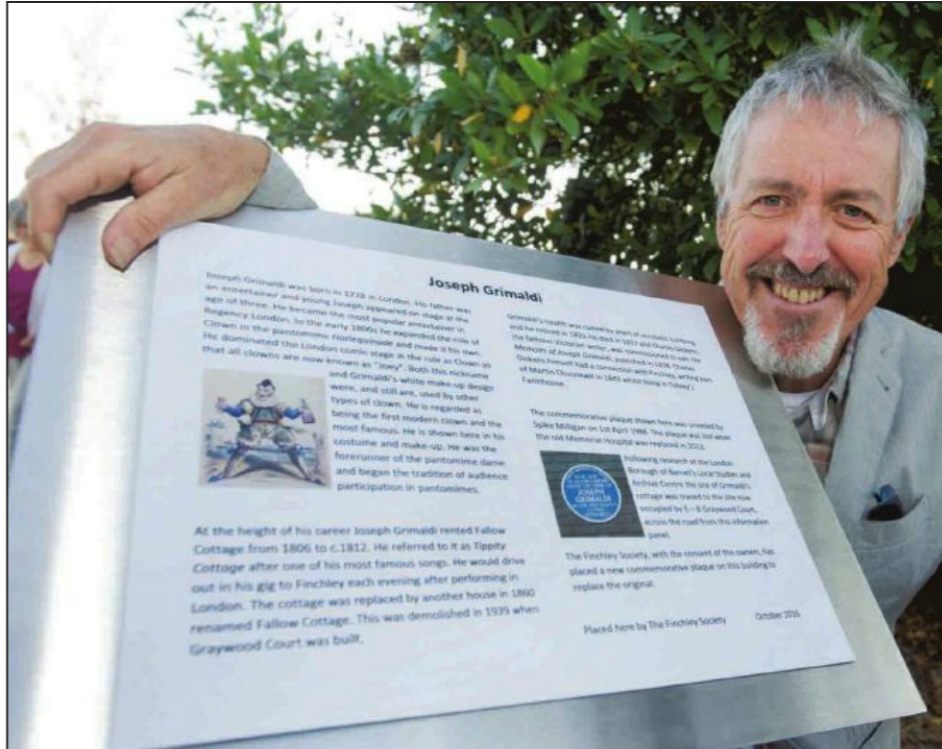
Joseph Grimaldi and not only that but the history as well, so we have a blue plaque and a sort of information plaque that expands a bit more on him.

“Griff Rhys Jones obviously is a comedian, so there’s the connection with Grimaldi, but also he’s the president of Civic Voice, which is all about preserving history.

“So we contacted him and he said he’d be delighted to come along. Griff is a lovely man and was extremely enthusiastic.”

The writer, actor and TV presenter found his way into the nation’s hearts with the late Mel Smith, appearing in films and on stage together, as well as on TV in the hit show *Alas Smith and Jones*, which ran for nearly 15 years.

Latterly, he has become best known for his successful travel documentaries including *A Great Welsh Adventure*, *Slow Train Through Africa* and *Griff’s Great Britain*.



Jacob's word-perfect

GOLDERS Green teenager Jacob Niko-Katz put his oratory skills to good use when he recited a poem for a baroness, who is stepping down from her honorary post at a London college.



Southwark during her retirement celebration at DLD College at Westminster Bridge, where she is honorary president.

An A-level student at the college, Jacob, read *Say Not The Struggle Nought Availeth*, by Arthur Hugh Clough, to thank Lady Perry for her support and guidance at the college.

College principal Rachel Borland said: “Jacob’s poem was beautiful and reflected the feelings of all of us here at DLD College London. We were so pleased he agreed to pay this touching tribute making the occasion all the more memorable.”



Well versed in poetry: Jacob Niko-Katz with Baroness Perry

Make 'em laugh: Griff Rhys Jones with the new plaque in memory of Joseph Grimaldi

ONE HOUSING LIVING BETTER

One Housing Group is currently preparing an application for the Gateway into the Victoria Quarter development – the former Albert Road gasworks site. This Gateway application will enable the regeneration of a prominent location on Victoria Road as well as linking the recreation ground and new Victoria Quarter community to East Barnet town centre.

A public exhibition will be held over two days to which local residents and businesses are invited:

WHERE: St James Church, 71 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, EN4 8RN

WHEN: Friday 14th October 10am to 6pm and Saturday 15th October 1pm to 6pm

The One Housing Group team will be joined by the scheme’s architects, planning advisors and transport consultants to answer any questions you may have.

We hope that you will be able to make it along to this public exhibition to find out more about our plans and share your views with the project team.

If you are not able to attend the exhibition, but would like to find out more, you will be able to view the exhibition material on our website at www.victoriaquarterlondon.co.uk. Alternatively, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tom Marley at marley@templar-strategies.co.uk or on 07925 155 394.