

For Muriel and Eli on their 40th

What an occasion! What great fun!
Two wonderful people, second to none,
Mark their ruby wedding amid a throng
of their friends and family - with dance and song.

Muriel and Eli - a privilege to know;
Exuding talent, without a trace of show.
Full of fun and *joie de vivre*,
Thirsting for knowledge from morn till eve.

The Cohens arrived in Stanmore in '86,
Some thought that, rabbinically, 'twas in the Styx;
They were obviously unaware of folk like our hosts,
Culturally and creatively more gifted than most.

Two minds probing their heritage;
Eli even wrote articles - *oi*, such a sage! -
In the *L'Eyla* journal, on the biblical page.
An acclaimed debut on the scholarly stage!

Their home was, architecturally, quite unique;
Complementing their own special mystique.
In it lived a family united as one;
Muriel, Eli, Gid - and Jonathan.

They say that love is chemistry,
To say nothing of biology!
Muriel and Eli's has such potency;
As if sparked off by alchemy.

Eli's panache and Muriel's style,
Good looks and good works, and minds fertile;
They helped to make Stanmore what it is today -
A bastion of the middle way!

Eli was renowned, in his early years,
As a world-class Chazan, in whose heart there stirs
A depth of passion, yielding spiritual powers;
With a voice so majestic, you could listen for hours.

Muriel was glad when he retired from shul;
Ladies Guild kiddushim didn't make her drool!
She was, after all, Eli's greatest ally;
And didn't like him dependent on some jumped-up Gabbai!

She, in her own right, has what it takes,
To make a success - whatever the stakes -
Of whatever project she undertakes,
Especially organising flights and short breaks.

Muriel and Eli, thanks for a great time,
Though you had us over a barrel;
We've spent all our waking hours this last five weeks
Searching for 1920s apparel!

Well, before this poem gets much worse,
We'll bring it to its end;
Our wish for years of all that's sweet,
To you, our friends, we send.

Keep the love-light in your eyes,
Where its been for forty years.
To a truly great and special pair -

Here's a resounding three cheers!