

## 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!