

“C’mɒn you ‘ɔːnz!”

By Ian Welland (Watford Writers)

*Performed in the afternoon, Live at Cassiobury Park, Saturday 4 June 2022;
celebrating 100 years of Watford being a Borough.*

On a snowy Boxing Day nineteen hundred and six,
There was little to suggest Cassio Hamlet would need to resist,
But today it is gone, having made way for a library,
C’mon you ‘ɔːns, as we faced rivalry!

The following year, the Junction was under water,
And people walked carefully not to faulter,
Old King Edward came and went,
C’mon you ‘ɔːns, we were heaven sent!

More drainage problems and suffragettes,
Market Square and the civic steps,
A horse in stockings and white feathers a curse,
C’mon you ‘ɔːns, so went the verse.

Off to war our brave men went,
And YMCA in the High Street for no rent,
Peace came and rebuilding began,
C’mon you ‘ɔːns, the terrace sang.

The 1920s pushed the boundaries,
Cars and chaos mingled in our streets,
Cawdells and the Essex Arms,
C’mon you ‘ɔːns, and away with the slums.

Sun Printers and Benskins Brewery,
Taverns alive and the Tantivy,
Watford Met and horse troughs of the Borough,
C'mon you 'orns, the depression got tougher.

Talkies came and the Theatre declined,
But our beautiful Palace has survived,
A jewel of a stage in Clarendon Road,
C'mon you 'orns, such was our load.

Hitler tried his hardest and yet,
Watford responded and the challenge was met,
Prefabs and blocks off Gammons Lane,
C'mon you 'orns, and VE Day!

Watford Town Hall opened its door,
More like a concert on a palm shore,
Queens Road flourished in the shadow of change,
C'mon you 'orns, Cliff Holton scores again.

So came the ring road and round again,
The town was severed with such distain,
And then came the train crash and the rain,
C'mon you 'orns, we knew no shame.

But this is Watford, in trust and delight,
In the 1970s we put up a fight,
The National Front spilled and departed,
C'mon you 'orns, and Elton kindhearted.

Wrestling, boxing and total football,
Top Rank and Baileys, The Odeon for all,
Gone went the gates in this fair park,
C'mon you 'orns, Blissett and Barnes.

Off to Wembley and the barmy eighties,
Charter Place and no lords or ladies,
Our great museum in the house of the beer,
C'mon you 'orns, I hear you cheer.

Gyratory system and Market Street,
We do so love even in rain and sleet,
This is our town and always will be,
C'mon you 'orns, we cry so proudly.

Stay with us, for there's more to come,
Preserve our history and some,
We stand together this jubilee day,
C'mon you 'orns, did I hear you say?

The Watford Borough is 100 today,
Watford Football Club is 141 you say!
Join me for one last shout,
C'mon you 'orns, there is no doubt!