

# SOHO CLARION

## FORMULA ONE FUNDING



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When *Formula One* motor racing came to Soho last July, it brought with it a bonus for local charities, including the Soho Society, the Chinese Community Centre, Soho Parish School and the Soho Theatre and Writers Centre. Cheques for £12000 were given to each organisation, with the condition that the funding be spent on the arts.

Twelve thousand pounds goes an awful long way when you're a small char-

ity, and at the Soho Society we are feeling flush for the first time in many years. Our executive committee immediately voted a donation to the Soho Museum of £3000 to support their exhibitions - including the recent John Snow lecture - and new acquisitions of important objects and documents that are part of Soho's history. And we will be able to extend invitations to more local artists and musicians to attend and

entertain us at the Soho Festival next year.

The other beneficiaries have yet to decide how to spend their windfall.

Our thanks to Harvey Goldsmith, Councillors Simon Milton and Ian Wilder, and the Crown Estate for making it happen. They have made a real difference to the Society and through their generosity, we hope to make a real difference in Soho.

**PHILLIPA SUAREZ**

## MICHELE'S WEDDING

Following the deluges of early summer, one Monday morning in June when the sun shone on Greek Street, our lives were illuminated.

Michele Wade, known to many Soho-ites as the proprietor of the perennially celebrated patisserie on Greek Street, and Artan Tafilnj, her handsome young Albanian husband emerged from St Anne's, Dean Street, where they had just wed.

I had the pleasure to attend a most particular and moving wedding service ministered by the Reverend Clare Herbert. A church filled with all ages, nationalities, friends, family and customers taking part, playing the organ, carrying the dress, writing a fanfare and singing Albanian love songs and poetry with a wonderful sermon. I loved the word 'harbour', which was what we feel about

Maison Bertaux and what Clare encouraged us to do.

Within minutes those of the invited populace and guests transformed Romilly Street into a parade joyeuse accompanied by the French horn.

Michele, radiant and resembling Titania in her russet, georgette and taffeta Nicky Gillibrand dress and glass slippers, and her beautiful Albanian husband were the stars of the parade, arriving at Maison Bertaux awash with pink tulle, red roses, cheering guests, gypsy musicians and a banquet given by Franco, Maria and Fernando of Qesto.

The couple stood in the pink tulle veronese ten-windows gazing at their guests below as their best man Steven Beard delivered a virtuoso speech, from the adjacent porch. Traffic was stopped, Artan kissed his bride, Dr Noel

Malcolm thanked us all in romantic Albanian. The grand finale was the fabulous pastry chef Nabil presenting an enormous croque-en-bouche on the street and all the fantasia was hosted by magnums and magnums of champagne sent by a secret admirer.

An unforgettable Soho day of romance and ritual.

**DIANA HALL**



All Soho Festival  
photographs  
taken by  
Kell Gatherer

