

triumph out of adversity

Things looked bleak for Proms at St Jude's when lockdown was announced. The peak of the pandemic was then forecast for the end of June – exactly when the Festival was due to take place. We had already spent money on marketing and had contractual commitments to many performers, but tickets had not yet gone on sale. We had some pledges from sponsors and some membership subscriptions from regular Friends, but that was it.



A committee was formed to put together a programme. We were delighted to find enthusiasm from musicians and authors, all keen to find a platform, and with some creativity we realised we could even offer family events and guided walks remotely. The technical team rapidly climbed the Zoom learning curve.

At an emergency meeting, when the Board decided to cancel Proms for 2020, it looked as though we might not survive.

We put into place a speedy contact programme – to performers, suppliers, sponsors and Friends. The outcome was gratifying. Most artists and suppliers agreed to waive their cancellation rights, and Friends and supporters were generous in leaving funds with us to support us through the crisis.

Once we realised we could make ends meet, our thoughts turned to our partner charities, Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice, which were suffering badly, and to our audience, many of whom faced lockdown in isolation. What could we do to help?

Our solution was to attempt what became known as Proms at Home – delivery of the Festival entirely online.

This was no small undertaking, especially since none of us had ever done anything like this before. What was feasible? How could we deliver it? How could we raise funds? How could we adhere to professional standards? What sorts of events would work online?

On Saturday 13 June, Proms at Home opened with a walk around the Suburb that could be followed on a podcast or from your armchair, a children's Treasure Hunt and our first LitFest offering: Ballymaloe Cookery School chef and author Darina Allen in conversation with Sheila Dillon from the Radio Four Food Programme, with the audience able to ask questions live.

Over the next three weeks, Proms at Home included:

- a concert by two of the talented Kanneh-Mason family from their living room;
- a Teeny Prom to entertain children under five;
- insight from composer Patrick Hawes and his librettist brother Andrew on the music Proms had commissioned to mark the 80th anniversary of the sinking of the SS City of Benares, with singing by VOICES8 – the

commission will have its world première at Proms 2021;

- another Suburb walk learning about the area at the time of the 1911 Census;
- two more LitFest events – one on the Last Leonardo with Ben Lewis in conversation with Lucrezia Walker, and another with sisters Claire and Stephanie Calman talking to Claire Berliner;
- three musical activity events for children and young people;
- a jazz concert by Jeremy Sassoon from his home studio;
- the Aurora Orchestra in concert at King's Place recorded before lockdown, preceded by a special interview with its conductor;
- a fitting Last Night Encore from inside St Jude's with Nicholas Chalmers organ and Laurence Kilsby tenor.

Online charitable (bucket) donations during Proms at Home have so far reached over £12,000. But the show is not yet over! Virtually all these events have been recorded and you can still watch them until 30 September by booking free of charge through www.promsatstjude.org.uk.

Coronavirus permitting, we look forward to being back live again from 26 June to 4 July 2021.

RON FINLAY

New virtual local walks

I am a guide and heritage professional and since the lockdown back in March all my work has ceased. However, I can give private tours for up to five people. I belong to a guiding co-operative, Footprints of London, and as from June we decided to go virtual.

The tours have me presenting live with a slide show including maps of the route that we are virtually taking alongside my photographs. So far I have four virtual tours; the *Heights of Dickens* – a new walk to commemorate

the 150th anniversary of Charles Dickens' death; *From Streamform to Arts and Crafts* looking at Architectural styles on the north side of the Suburb; *Modernist Hampstead* and *Alleys and Lanes of Hampstead*. Expect my *Henrietta's Dream Arts and Crafts of Hampstead Garden Suburb* to come soon.

Please follow my Eventbrite tours which are now accessible through my website at www.walkingtalkingculture.co.uk and facebook page [facebook.com/marilyncgreene](https://www.facebook.com/marilyncgreene).

MARILYN GREENE



Garden Suburb theatre update

Sadly the Garden Suburb Theatre has had to postpone its productions of *Look Back in Anger*, originally scheduled for the Phoenix Theatre in April, and *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *Twelfth Night*, which were due to be performed in Little Wood this summer. Hopefully they will all take place next year. The theatre sector, and the creative industries in general, have been hit especially hard by the coronavirus pandemic.

Working in partnership with the Upstairs at the Gatehouse theatre in Highgate, the Garden Suburb Theatre is hoping to stage a live production in November of *The Vortex* by Noel Coward, directed by Colin Gregory.



Garden Suburb Theatre members Imogen Farnworth, Mary Musker and Tilak Patel who gave an online reading of their production of Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (adapted by Steven Canby and John Nicholson) to GST members via Zoom on 28th June

There are still many hurdles to overcome to ensure everyone's safety during rehearsals and at the venue, but as actors say "the show must go on."

Meanwhile the theatre has kept its members in contact during lockdown with regular play readings, social events on Zoom and a twice-weekly newsletter.

Look out for your neighbour – still!

As Covid-19 restrictions are eased, we know that many Suburb residents still remain in isolation and are following Government guidelines to avoid unnecessary contact with people outside of their own households. Please remember to look out for

your neighbours who may still need help or just a friendly word.

And if you, yourself, need help with things like grocery shopping or collecting medicines, do not be afraid to ask for support from near neighbours. If you are having difficulties

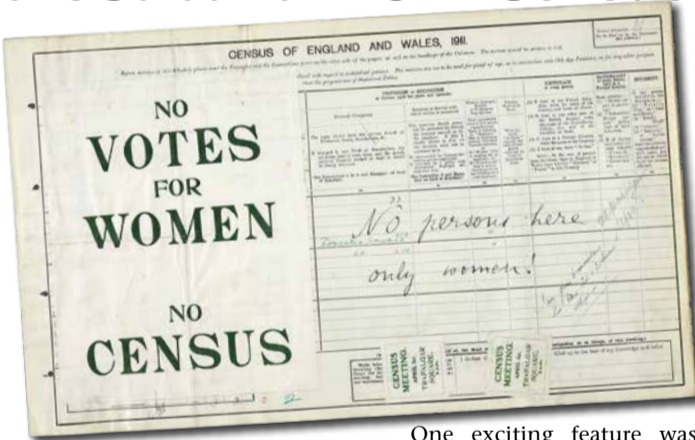
which you cannot resolve yourself, please do not hesitate to call 020 3322 8123. This number is unmanned but there is a small group of Suburb residents who are checking it daily, and they will find somebody to help you.

MARGARET HARRIS

Snapshot of the Suburb – 1911 Census

For Hampstead Garden Suburb, the 1911 Census is of great interest because it occurred only four years after building started and it gives us a detailed snapshot of the first residents before the First World War brought about massive social change. Several years ago, a Hampstead Garden Suburb Archive Trust project attempted to record the census details of every household. 1911 was the first time that householders were asked to fill in their own forms – Suburb matters aside, it can be a moving moment to see the handwriting of a great-grandparent one has only glimpsed in old photos!

From the start, these hinted at interesting stories – some were annotated with Suffragette slogans, many recorded people working in the developing garden



suburb, while others mention more unusual employment, such as 'Keeper of the Wallace Collection'. Deciphering these clues became a major piece of detective work at an individual level, whilst statistical number crunching gave a generalised picture of different roads.

One exciting feature was the number of women's suffrage activists. The 'Votes for Women' campaign was intense in 1911 and the idea of boycotting the Census was invented by Edith How-Martyn who lived in Hogarth Hill. Originally a member of Emmeline Pankhurst's Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), How-Martyn was one of the first suffragettes to be jailed in 1907. Later, she left the WSPU and was a founder of the breakaway Women's Freedom League (WFL). Also prominent in the WFL was Bessie Drysdale

in Rotherwick Road. Both households refused to complete the census and wrote slogans on the form. Edith How-Martyn wrote "No votes for women. No information for women" and "Legislation without Representation is slavery". The enumerator added in red ink approximate names and ages for the How-Martyns, noting that their home was an 'Open House' to six women on Census night. These were census evaders who were deliberately absent from home to avoid the census. Another Open House was Jessie Wade's home at 221 Hampstead Way where eight additional suffragettes stayed.

In 1911, builders of the Suburb were much in evidence. The overall planner and architect, Raymond Unwin lived at Wyldes Farm, whilst many of the other architects and assistants also lived here including Herbert Welch (Asmunds Hill), Michael Bunney (Meadway) and Charles Paget Wade (lodged in Temple Fortune Hill).

There were also numerous others from the horse keepers and carmen involved in moving

around building materials to the skilled trades such as bricklayers and carpenters, landscapers and gardeners who rented homes or lodged on the Suburb.

There is some evidence that the so-called Artisans' Quarter really did house a substantial number of artisans, albeit for the brief interlude before World War 1. As well as those building the Suburb, there was a diverse range of other artisan occupations represented: composers and printers, pianoforte makers and other furniture related trades such as marquetry, wood carving, furniture making, glass cutting, upholsterers and stuffers.

Other trades such as wheelwrights, bootmakers, optical glaziers, spectacle makers and

athletic woodworkers (makers of sporting bats) have largely disappeared due to technological change and mechanisation.

Contrasts also appear between roads: Asmunds Place had the most truly 'artisan' workers; over half of the couples in Wordsworth Walk were recently married; Waterlow Court was an 'Adamless Eden' for single female professionals; whilst the larger houses adjacent to the Heath Extension contained the great and good, supported by servants, cooks and even a butler!

As part of this year's Proms at Home, I produced two walks based on the 1911 Census. If this has whetted your appetite, they can be seen on the Proms at Jude's website (see above).

KATE WEBSTER

Welcome to St Jude's

Sundays:
10.30am All Welcome

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