

# Music (etc) at Fellowship

ANDREW BOTTERILL

You can hardly miss the St Jude's Proms, that great aircraft carrier of big music, big money and big charities which moors for 10 days each summer in Central Square. The Suburb however also benefits from a large flotilla of smaller musical craft that float through during the year, carrying a remarkable array of professional and amateur talent to a variety of local venues for our delectation and delight. One such venue is Fellowship House.

Now in its 12th year, the Autumn Series of six Chamber Concerts starts on October 23rd. International professional talent includes Imogen Cooper, John Tomlinson, Noriko Ogawa, Nicholas Daniel and the Piatti Quartet. Further details can be found at [fellowshiphouse.co.uk](http://fellowshiphouse.co.uk).

Increased grants from our faithful and generous sponsors, The John S Cohen Foundation and The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust ensure that seat prices for the Series can remain unchanged at a remarkable £12 (including

complimentary drinks): 'The Wigmore Hall Around the Corner'.

Suburb resident and music critic Barry Millington continues his amazing twice monthly Music Appreciation sessions. We're looking forward to contributions from Kate Hopkins, Brian Elias, Alan Young, Angela Zanders, David Matthews and Noah Max. A highlight from the previous few months was an interview by Barry of one of the world famous Kings Singers, Julian Gregory who gave some vocal illustrations of his art. "Pure gold" noted a choral aficionado present.

But of course good music is not just classical music. Françoise Geller and her Garden Choir deal in a lighter side. The shows she puts on from time to time are all sellouts. On May 1st there was something special – a Ukrainian Benefit Evening with drinks and eats. Uplifting music and emotive poetry and prose readings by Gordon Griffin. Cambridge graduate Viktor Ieromin gave an amazing account of how, a week or so before, he had travelled to Ukraine and extracted his granny back to North London. At the end, we all sang 'You'll Never Walk Alone'. We didn't know or care whether this was 'Carousel' 1945, Gerry and the Pacemakers 1963 or Liverpool FC. What we did know was that we were all Ukrainians now. The evening raised £1,500.

Finally, long-standing Suburb resident and former barrister Nigel Osner now treads the boards to great acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe and other festival venues



Susie Gregson introduces Kate Webster as new Chair of Proms at St Jude's (Photo: Michael Eleftheriades)

## Kate takes Proms Chair

RON FINLAY

Kate Webster has taken over from Richard Clegg as Chair of Proms at St Jude's. Kate is a member of the Proms Board, chairing the Education Committee and responsible for Heritage Walks and the Friends programme. She has been involved in Proms since soon after retiring in 2016. She was formerly Head of Queen Elizabeth's Girls' in Barnet, following five years as Deputy Head at The Henrietta Barnett School (see article, page 9).

"I'm honoured to take on this role," said Kate, "although Richard

will be a hard act to follow. We are now entering the fourth decade of Proms, and my ambition is to develop all strands of the Festival, bringing it to an even wider audience. In this, I know I will be working with a very committed Board and wider group of committee members and volunteers who all make this annual event possible.

"I'd like to thank Richard for his dedication to the role over the last seven years."

Kate has lived in Hampstead Garden Suburb since 1995 and has been a Friend of Proms for much of that time.

around the country. He brought his one-man cabaret 'Too Young To Stay In, Too Old To Go Out' to a slightly apprehensive Fellowship one evening in spring. A warm, funny and beautifully observed performance with a bittersweet edge. He will be back soon.

In the meantime, if any of the Suburb's myriad lawyers want to kick the habit and live dangerously for a change, our doors are always open and Nigel will show you how.



Nigel Osner

## 'Historical Fiction' Review

Goodness we were so lucky to be in St Jude's last Tuesday 28 June to hear Grace Davidson, Christian Forshaw and Libby Burgess. The three of them created a fascinating and uplifting interpretation of early Renaissance and Baroque Music using voice, saxophone and church organ to extraordinary effect.

Grace opened the concert with an unaccompanied very early devotional song from Hildegard of Bingen from the apse of the church. It was spellbinding. Her pitch perfect voice is almost without vibrato and there were no swoops or wobbles so beloved of most sopranos. She was then joined by Christian on soprano and alto saxophone for some of his own arrangements of Purcell and Handel, madrigals by Dowland and Gibbons, Bach sonatas transcribed to saxophone and some of his own compositions too. The intonation on the soprano saxophone is notoriously difficult and Christian made it sound like a soprano voice, a trumpet, a harpsichord and even bagpipes according to the needs of the music. Libby played the organ with enormous sensitivity and restraint and supported the whole endeavour quite beautifully.

The overall effect was to create a thrillingly balanced and unusual sound. Great musicians with great music transcend technical considerations and show that old music sounds like new music. They certainly did this for us on Tuesday night.

Dr Peter Herbert



## What is THE MANAGEMENT CHARGE?

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust was set up by residents in 1968 and operates a Scheme of Management for Hampstead Garden Suburb under authority granted by the High Court. The Trust exists to "do all things possible to maintain and preserve the present character and amenities" of the Suburb.

This is to everyone's benefit.

The Management Charge is the annual cost of running the Scheme, and it is payable by all owners of an enfranchised freehold property within the Suburb. The total cost of running the Scheme is divided equally between all the Freeholds on the Suburb. This year the payable Charge for each property is £163.

### The Management Charge IS:

- ~ A compulsory land charge on each Freehold property
- ~ Solely for the running of the Scheme of Management (the Trust cannot make a profit, and each year anything left in the previous year's budget is returned to each Freeholder as a rebate on the current year's charge)
- ~ Your contribution towards the future of the Suburb

### The Management Charge IS NOT:

- ~ A voluntary donation
- ~ A 'membership fee' – not for the Trust, the RA, or anything else

A breakdown of the Charge can be found in the *Trust Times* at [www.hgsttrust.org](http://www.hgsttrust.org) (copies were recently posted out with the latest statements).

Contact the Trust if you have any questions: [mail@hgstrust.org](mailto:mail@hgstrust.org) or 0208 455 1066.

HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST