

PROMS AT ST JUDE'S 1994

Choral music, steel orchestras, international prize-winning pianists, theatrical presentations, opera, exhibitions and even Russian traditional dancing! These were just some of the events in the 1994 St Jude's Proms season. Running over nine days, the Suburb witnessed what must be an unprecedented cornucopia of music and theatre; concerts, presentations and exhibitions.



Special thanks must go to the numerous people involved in organising this festival (not least), the crucial 'financial' people employed with the most important task of raising the necessary sponsorship for such a large and expensive event.



Most people are now aware that the Proms owe their origin initially to the ideas and vision of a small number of people from the North London Hospice and St-Jude-on-the-Hill. Since those early days, however, now some three years ago, the whole festival has perhaps grown to initially unimagined dimensions. Without doubt it has now become a part of the Suburb's summer life and has put Hampstead Garden Suburb on the musical map.

It is also, moreover, a chance to support the valuable work of the North London Hospice, and the restoration of the historic 'Father' Willis organ.

This year's programme kicked off (to use a familiar term from



the Prom's concurrent entertainment!) on 1 July with an organ concert. This doubled as the final concert in a series of recitals that had run through the spring, and it showed once more both the grandeur and the gentleness with which this instrument speaks. From the sublime sounds of the organ to the ravishing and exuberant sounds of the Melodians Steel Orchestra, perhaps no two concerts could be more startlingly juxtaposed. With many arrangements of familiar songs played on these traditional West Indian instruments, the Melodians offered a relaxed Saturday night concert that suddenly developed a rustic Russian flavour in the interval. The concert-goers that evening were very fortunate to have an impromptu glimpse of traditional dancing from a dance troupe (from the Russian Republic) who just happened to be 'in town' that week. An evening when east and west truly meet!

Off to good start, the Proms moved to a star-studded evening in which local resident Donald Sinden, with a little help from his friends, offered a witty and often moving pot-pourri of poetry on the theme of Love. The whole evening was a poignant tribute to the late Gwen Watford.

From the eloquent diction of the theatrical evening to Monday's piano concert by Mark Anderson. Mr Anderson won the third prize at the 1993 Leeds International piano competition (and was placed first by the BBC audience poll). His stunning recital allowed the ferocity of Liszt's 'Dante' Sonata to explode around the dome of St Jude's. Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, in its original version for piano solo, was the highlight

of this talented American's concert. That the concert was on 4 July we were left in no doubt; his syncopated performance of a Gershwin song medley provided the suitably festive angle.

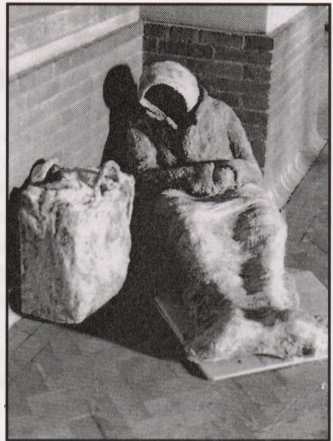


St Jude's on the following nights was the venue for opera (with the local Hampstead Garden Opera), the accomplished Welsh Male Choir, Cor Meibion Gwalia, the Nonsuch Orchestra (with the talented young piano soloist Tom Poster), and on the penultimate evening the choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor, in a thrilling programme of Renaissance and twentieth-century choral music. Lunchtime concerts by American pianist and organist David Clyde Morse, and chamber musicians Maria Lidke (violin) and Richard Greenwood (piano) were also in this year's programme. The whole week's events were brought to a conclusion with the Stewart Curtis'



Klezmer Groove when the exotic modes of eastern European Jewish folk music were treated to more familiar jazz arrangements.

So, after nine days of music-making, the exquisite flower displays were taken down, the fascinating exhibition of christening robes through the ages was taken down, and Alec Worcester's thought-provoking sculptures inspired by the plight of the homeless were taken down: Proms '94 was at an end. Plans are already very much in evidence for Prom '95, when the Suburb will once more see a wealth of music-making and exhibitions.



In conclusion, special thanks must go to all those involved in organising the 1994 Proms; and in particular to Vivienne Bentley, Richard Clegg, Dr Chris Donovan, Susie Gregson, David McKinley, Helen Roose, Richard Wakefield and John Wheeler. On behalf of the St Jude's Proms Committee, I should like to express a special thanks to the artists who performed for us, the most valuable support of the sponsors, and the people who attended this year's festival as concert-goers, without none of whom this year's fund raising would have been possible.

NB. PROMS '95:
24 June-1 July 1995

Andrew McCrea

THE HEATH AND KENWOOD - An Update

If you hoped you would soon be able to see sheep grazing on the Heath Extension, you are likely to be disappointed: the proposal received a firm thumbs down from those who responded to the Corporation of London's draft management plan for Hampstead Heath. After a moderate initial response there was a sudden surge of interest, and the Corporation extended the consultation period by two weeks to 15 August. 972 replies were received - a high response for an exercise of this kind. Undoubtedly this was because of the publicity generated by the more controversial proposals, particularly those involving the felling of trees on East Heath and West Heath. Opposition to the more radical suggestions in the draft plan was forcefully expressed at the two public meetings held at William Ellis School and the Institute.

The vast majority of people said they liked the Heath as it is and want its management to be as invisible as possible. There was virtually no support for tree felling (unless required to keep the Heath as it is today) and in a press statement on 17 August the Corporation said that suggestions involving significant tree felling were likely to be rejected by the Consultative and Management Committees. This was indeed the line taken by the Consultative Committee (which consists of representatives of local, environmental and sporting interests) at its September meeting, when they agreed that only the twelve most popular proposals in the plan (called "opportunities for enhancement") should be taken forward.

Among the proposals to be pursued is the idea of allowing the hedges on the Heath Extension to

thicken out. This was supported by the Trees and Open Spaces Committee of the RA, and 63% of respondents thought it should be given priority, as against 16% who thought it should be abandoned. Establishing a hedge or narrow woodland belt along Wildwood Road was also popular (65% priority; 18% abandon) and similar planting along Hampstead Way also received support (63% priority; 20% abandon). The RA supports these proposals, if implemented with discretion.

The other proposals relating to the Extension are not being pursued. The idea of introducing sheep attracted the sixth largest number of comments: 70% of respondents thought it should be abandoned; 18% wanted it to be given priority. Coppicing a few of the old hazels in the woodland to the east of the ponds on the Extension received more support (37% priority; 33% abandon) and may be looked at again when resources permit.

The initial result of the consultation were based on an analysis of about half the responses (all there was time for) by an independent consultant, who will continue his work and prepare a full report which will be considered by the Consultative Committee next March. All the individuals and organisations who commented will then be consulted again before a revised draft of the plan is submitted to the Management Committee. In the meantime the Heath Superintendent, Paul Canneaux, will not be making any major changes (except in an emergency or with the agreement of the Management Committee).

Meanwhile in another part of the wood English Heritage, who own

Kenwood, have launched their own consultation about the future of the Kenwood landscape. Many of you will have received a copy of the consultation document "Caring for Kenwood" distributed to all households within a mile of Kenwood House. (Further copies can be obtained from English Heritage on 081 348 1286 x4242.) A considerable amount of work has been done at Kenwood over the last two years, much of it meeting with vociferous opposition, particularly where tree felling was involved. There has been some public consultation about past work, but English Heritage are now involved in a major exercise to find out what people think about the future management of the estate.

Kenwood is a designed landscape, and some believe it would benefit if the more attractive features which have been lost over the years were restored, particularly vistas from different parts of the grounds towards the house, the lakes and the dairy (did you know there was a dairy?) Others prefer the feeling of seclusion which the present landscape provides. The proposals English Heritage are consulting about also include whether to change the character of some of the woodland from a closed canopy to a more open aspect and whether to restore the parterre garden at the side of the House.

The consultation period ends on 11 November. There is an exhibition at Kenwood House and two public meetings are being organised. Do go to the exhibition and fill in the questionnaire at the end of the consultation document. Many Suburb residents use Kenwood: we should make our views known. Colin Gregory

Trust AGM continued from page 1

Trust's management of the Calcott Estate and the purchase of maisonnettes in Hill Top.

Michael Max queried the propriety of architects on Trust Council being involved with Suburb projects and asked whether current members are so involved. No, was the answer to that one.

David Bogush, an ex-Trust Council member, wanted to know why listed investments had fallen in value over the year when financial indices had been up by as much as 23 per cent.

Jonathan Jacob, for the Trust, explained that a subcommittee acts in accord with professional advice to achieve a balance between capital growth and income. The Chairman added that the figure in the accounts was a snapshot on the last day of financial year and it varied as markets moved.

David Bogush also wanted to know why Council members had been paid fees last year in breach of the memorandum and articles of the Company, and how much had been paid in such fees during the last five years.

The Chairman and Council seemed reluctant to be specific, but insisted that payments had been expenses, and not fees.

Hugh Hamilton, another past Council member, asked, "How can we trust what you say when we know that fees were paid?" David Bogush reiterated his point that payment of fees was in breach of Company's constitution.

Mr Jacobs said again that payments made to John Senter, who resigned last year, were properly called expenses, not fees.

There were further questions relating to the accounts and in particular how much auditors' fees had been, before Suburb veteran Kit Ikin brought this lengthy exchange to an end when he announced, "I'm Kit Ikin and I'm bored", thus lightening the atmosphere and allowing the meeting to proceed to the adoption of the accounts, which showed a surplus for the year of £39,143 and a balance sheet showing assets up from £267,720 to £306,873.

Design Guidance

Ian Angus, Trust member, introduced Roisin Barrett from

LB Barnet, who had been involved with the Trust in producing the new Design Guidance brochure for the Suburb.

He continued, "One of the problems posed by a publication like this is the decision of what to call it! If it were longer and more specific it might be a Handbook; if it were more prescriptive a Rulebook. I think we settled on Guidance because the booklet seeks to guide residents towards the best way of going about building work on the Suburb, at the same time as explaining why this very special place requires and should inspire, the highest standards in the treatment of its buildings and gardens. It also explains succinctly the necessary procedures for making applications to the Trust and Barnet Council.

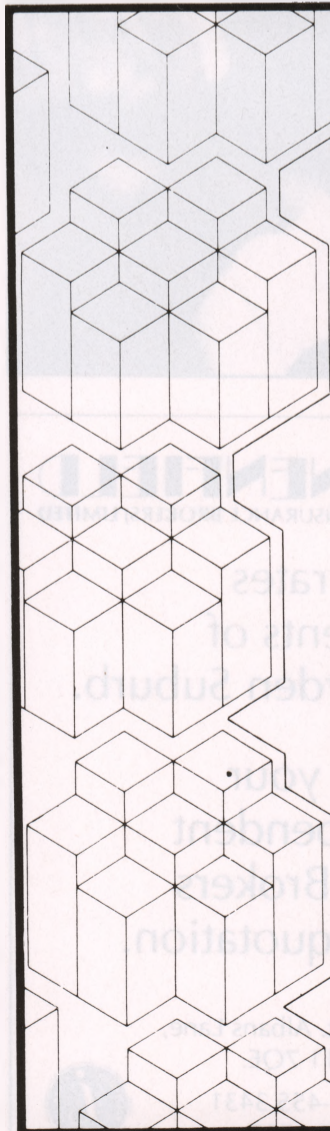
A few words about Design and Our Assessment. It is impossible and undesirable to lay down precise rules for design, because all the cases on the Suburb are different. If there were hard and fast rules, and our policy became bound only by precedent, then our committee would not need to meet and there would be no need for Guidelines. It would be ironic if an area of such unique variety and inventiveness of design became nullified by prescription rather than nurtured by respect of its origins.

Of course precedent does play a part in the consideration of a scheme for extending or altering a house, but different circumstances of views, trees, aspects to neighbouring properties, may sometimes result in different verdicts on similar applications. Because what planners call "Group Value", which is epitomised by the HGS, on application can fully be dealt within isolation. However, all designs must and will be assessed on their own merits.

Drawings

The key to accurate assessments is in the drawings. If is perhaps an old-fashioned idea that if a drawing is inspired and shows good work clearly described, then some pride will be taken in trying to achieve a resemblance to the drawing on site. Sadly it is

continued on page 10



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