



David Honeyball conducts the Henrietta Barnett School Orchestra at the Proms

## 4th St Jude's Proms

Now in their fourth year, the Proms at St Jude's 1996 got off to a flying start. The series was devised and produced by MUSIC AID, a locally based organisation with an international reputation, in conjunction with the St Jude's Proms Organising Committee, in aid of Save the Children and the St Jude's Organ Appeal. Eight concerts took place in six days, from 25-30 June. John Amis, the broadcasting personality, introduced the first concert, given by the celebrated Lindsay String Quartet, who travelled down from Sheffield especially, and played Haydn, Britten and Borodin.

This was followed on the next day with a huge orchestral concert consisting of sixty young players from the Henrietta Barnett School and the Queen Elizabeth Boys School. Despite competition from Wembley, there was a capacity audience. It was conducted by David Honeyball, with Lowri Blake, who performed the enchanting Offenbach Concerto Rondo for cello and orchestra. On Thursday, by way of complete contrast, the Mousikos Baroque Ensemble, who live in Erskine Hill, presented a magical evening of 17th century English music. On Friday the Affini String Quartet, with Geoffrey Elkan,

clarinet, who have given many concerts for charity in the Hampstead Garden Suburb, played Haydn and Crusell. On the same evening, the Romantic Duo, Sebastian Comberti, cello, and Miriam Keogh, harp, presented a programme of popular favourites, including Schubert's 'Ave Maria', and Saint-Saens' 'The Swan'. On Saturday afternoon, notwithstanding the rival attraction of Wimbledon, a fine crowd gathered to hear the Guildhall Jazz Singers, from South London, in a riveting performance of spirituals, gospel songs and popular jazz classics which had the audience joining in with spontaneous clapping and singing along.

After the supper interval when the audience could enjoy the delicious mousaka and other delicacies prepared by members of the Proms Committee, there was an original programme of 19th and 20th century music played by the Meridian Saxophone Quartet, a recently formed ensemble, who came from Oxford and elsewhere to give this recital.

Sunday's treats were first of all a trumpet-organ duo with a delightfully varied selection of works from the 18th and 20th

centuries, culminating in a premiere of a piece by John Hawkins. The players were Deborah Callard and Andrew McCrea, organist at St Jude's. After another leisurely interval for light refreshment there followed a scintillating performance of Tartini's 'Devil's Trill', played by the brilliant young violinist Matthew Trusler who lives locally, and Trinity College String Ensemble, conducted by the well-known violinist Nona Liddell. The evening was then drawn to a close with an impeccable rendering of Britten's 'Variations of a Theme by Frank Bridge'.

Here was a real united community effort with concerts of high quality and diversity, involving many artists all performing for no more than basic expenses. There was a large band of helpers and the immensely efficient Artmark were in charge of the Box Office and stage management, having come up from Devonshire for the whole week. The series was well served by the hospitable Reverend Alan Walker, Vicar of St Jude's, and members of the Church. Several thousand pounds were raised for the two charities. The Proms look set fair for a long and distinguished future. **Joelyn Selson**

## A View from the Bridge

What a marvellous piece of writing this play is! Listening to "A View from the Bridge", in the far from comfortable Institute Hall, and experiencing once again Arthur Miller's wonderful gift for words and his powerful dramatic sense, thoughts of discomfort vanished and all that mattered was the unfolding tragedy of the longshoreman, Eddie Carbone.

Constructed on the lines of Greek Tragedy, Eddie's story is revealed through the Chorus, in the shape of Alfieri, the local lawyer.

Eddie, a man who can neither express himself nor understand

his own feelings, develops an obsessive love for his wife's seventeen-year-old niece, Catherine her growing love for one of the two illegal immigrants to whom he has given shelter sows the seeds of disaster.

Derek Smith gave a moving and powerful portrayal of Eddie and Corinne Corre as Beatrice, the wife who tries to make him see reason, brought out all the anguish of a woman who sees her husband turn from her. Kim Small played the uncomprehending Catherine with feeling and sensitivity. Daniel Berg gave a strong performance as the illegal immigrant, Rodolpho, the

object of Eddie's jealousy. The lawyer Alfieri was played by Roger Rose.

Director, Mick Orme, excellently built up the tension but it is interesting to note that the one incident in the play which was partly the cause for "A View from the Bridge" falling foul of the censor in 1956 was obscured in this production. The kiss, which Eddie gives Rodolpho to shame him in front of Catherine and his family, went almost unnoticed. It is the gesture that ignites the rage which sends the play to its tragic conclusion. Were the actors or he afraid that the audience was still not adult enough to understand?

**Léonie Stephen**

## Suburb's Millennium plan

Following the report of the Working Group chaired by Carol Boulter (see *Suburb News*, Spring '96) the Residents Association and the Trust, under the guidance of Colin Gregory, have continued to develop plans for a project to mark the Millennium. A proposal has been submitted to the Millennium Commission and, if accepted, a full application will have to be submitted by November.

The Suburb receives many visitors from the UK and elsewhere each year. As the Working Group points out: "the fact that there are no facilities for receiving them is a disgrace". The possibility of Millennium lottery funding presents the ideal opportunity to realise the long awaited "heart" for the Suburb in the form of a visitor centre - perhaps called the "Suburb Millennium Centre" - in the Central Square area, that would include a museum and exhibition space with displays from the Suburb Archives and other material about life in city suburbs; accommodation for the archive collection, with facilities for research and perhaps linked educational courses at the Institute; meeting rooms with a

hall for hire for receptions etc. It might also accommodate offices for the Trust.

Where in the Central Square area it should go is still under discussion. One possible site is St Jude's Church Rooms, a building that needs to be replaced and never has been up to Suburb standards. An alternative is the Tea House but its use depends on the outcome of the Institute plans and their willingness to relinquish the building on which they have a long lease from the Trust. Even the Institute itself may be a possibility; by the time you read this the position in relation to the Institute's plan may be clearer. The different elements of the proposal may well be housed in different locations.

A special committee of the interested parties will look at the options over the summer and there will be full consultation before any proposal goes ahead.

Some opposition seems likely to any proposal for Central Square that would add to what residents see as intolerable traffic and parking problems already. There are some who have spoken to *Suburb News* who will oppose any development that will "bring more visitors and their attendant

traffic and litter". Lady Woodfield, an RA Ward Organiser, told *Suburb News* "Central Square is now a relatively quiet green space, at least it is at weekends, any idea of a heritage centre of the sort that has done so much damage to previously peaceful English Heritage sites must not be countenanced".

Residents have been asked to make suggestions for the Millennium project and a number of other ideas were considered or promulgated by the Working Group such as provision of a swimming pool, the revitalisation of the Market Place and an international conference. Some or all of these other ideas are being pursued by the RA and the Trust separately from the Millennium application as they are more likely to obtain funding by other means. "Since the Clubhouse on Willifield Green was bombed in the war the Suburb has lacked a centre where visitors can be welcomed and can find out more about this unique area. I think the Millennium provides an excellent opportunity to put this right and give something back to the outside world" said Colin Gregory.

## Summer theatre workshops at Brookland

"Wiv a glint in his mince pies he winked an' tapped his I suppose". Rhyming slang, fancy footwork and popular songs were the recipe for Theatre Express' musical showcase, at Brookland Junior School on 29/30 June.

Family and friends enjoyed "Lambeth Walk" and scenes from London life. Children selected and choreographed some of the dance routines.

Summer workshops are taking place at Christ's College, on 22-26 July and 29 July to 2 August, 10 am - 4 pm. Children explore all aspects of theatre production, performing on an enormous stage, with excellent lighting and acoustics. Week 1 has a Showbusiness theme; Week 2 has a Tropical flavour.

After a stimulating day, your child is guaranteed to come home exhausted! Age 7-12 years. Enquiries: Helen Connor; 365 3130.

**Esta Adams**



Theatre express at Brookland

## Sensitive production of "Valley Song"

On Saturday, 8 June, in the Tea House, about twenty people were enthralled by a rehearsed playreading of a new play by the South African playwright, Athol Fugard. It was sad to see so few of the membership of the Garden Suburb Theatre there.

The play, "Valley Song", is set in Mandela's Africa and tells of the desire of a young girl to escape from the restrictions of the

past. Buks is old and has spent his life serving the white man and tending his little piece of land. His granddaughter, Veronica, writes songs and wants to find fame as a singer in Johannesburg. Not for her the fate of cleaning house for the white man, early marriage and babies.

Val Gregory's love of the play was obvious in her sensitive production and in the beautiful

performances she got from her two players.

Roger Rose has hardly been better than in the dual role of Buks and the Author. Mandy Ribekow invested Veronica with a heart-warming gaiety and passionate zest for life.

Those of you who could have come and didn't missed a real treat.

**Léonie Stephen**

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