

# Something for everyone at St Jude's Proms

Now in its ninth year and from humble beginnings, The Proms at St Jude's is widely acclaimed as an established and popular music festival. We hope you will all put the dates firmly in your diaries and that we shall see many of you during the Festival week. There is music to suit all tastes; it is varied and includes orchestral, chamber, choral and solo works, as well as jazz.

In the Gala opening concert (June 16) Robert Max will conduct the Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto*, with James Kirby (piano); the concert will conclude with Schubert's masterpiece, his *9th Symphony, the Great C Major*.

On the choral side you can hear Orlando Joplin conduct the Consilium Orchestra (June 19) in a performance of Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante*, with international violin virtuoso and local resident, Erich Gruenberg (viola) and Erika Geldsetzer (violin). This programme also includes Mozart's *Symphony No.17* and Schoenberg's great romantic tone poem, *Verklärte Nacht*.

We are also delighted to welcome back the Israeli prize-winning pianist, Alon Goldstein, such a hit in last year's Proms, with a programme of Schubert, Debussy, Janacek, Ben-Haim and Chopin.

Midsummer Night's Jazz (June 21) features the George Fogel Quintet. Their concert will be followed by a jam session to include musicians who have put their names on a list, when arriving, giving details of their instrument and choice of Jazz

standard. Anyone with an urge to 'jam' will be welcome - there will be no bar on age or experience. A swinging evening is promised.

The renowned band conductor and adjudicator, James Williams, will conduct the 70 strong Barnet Youth Wind Orchestra (June 22), in a programme of favourites by Elgar, Holst, Berlioz and Mozart.

On the Last Night of the Proms (June 23) David Lardi will conduct the Finchley Chamber Orchestra, with Alice Neary as the soloist in Elgar's *Cello Concerto*. The programme will also include a specially commissioned Fanfare, Coates's *Knightsbridge March*, Wood's *Fanstasia on British Sea Songs*, Pary's *Jerusalem* and Elgar's *Pomp & Circumstance March No. 1*.

Last but not least, and highly recommended, are the free lunchtime concerts given by both young and established musicians - Jennifer Hillman, the distinguished pianist, composer and professor of music, with a programme of Haydn and Schumann, Anete Graudina-Jeannet (violin) and Simon Davies (guitar) in works by Vivaldi, Paganini and Piazzolla; competition finalists from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama playing Shostakovich's Quartet no. 8, and a 40 piece orchestra of musicians from Highgate Junior School sharing a concert with the much praised Youth Music Centre. A vocal recital by mezzo-soprano Ruti Halvani and tenor Neil Allen completes the lunchtime musical feast.

In addition to being a 'fun' community event, the Proms has two serious aims. The first is to present artists of quality and



Grace Davidson, at her Proms at St Jude's debut two years ago.

music of the highest standard; and the second is to raise money for charities. To this end, we also are enormously grateful to the musicians taking part for their generosity. This year, as previously, an important beneficiary will be Toynbee Hall, supported by the Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund, the charity which provides educational opportunities for disadvantaged families and young people in the East End. Its policy is to make grants for education to lever people, both young and adult, out of poverty and towards career and employment opportunities. A proportion of funds collected will also be given to the Organ Appeal at St Jude's, which is now close to its target, so that work can start later this year.

In order that as much of the

ticket money as possible will go towards these worthwhile causes, we are looking for sponsorship not only of the concerts themselves but also of items such as the hire of the piano, lighting, sound, chairs, programme printing, wine and refreshments etc. If there is anybody out there who would like to sponsor a concert; cover the cost of one of the above mentioned items; advertise in the programme; become a Friend of the Proms, of which there are 3 categories: for a donation of £40 (Bronze) you receive 2 free tickets; for £75 (Silver) you receive 4 free tickets and for £150 (Gold) you receive 6 free tickets; and if you would like a copy of the Festival programme, with booking details, please phone Yvonne Baker on 8455 8687.

PROMS 2001 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

# The story of the Memorial Gate (1939-45)

In December 1994 English Heritage made suggestions to the Residents Association for 'greening the Suburb'. One of these was to replace a farm gate which in the early years had stood at the entrance to Big Wood from the top of Temple Fortune Hill. News of this began to ring bells with several residents for whom the idea brought back pleasant memories. The gate had died of old age in about the 1950s, leaving only one post which now rests nearby.

The idea also appealed to the Trees and Open Spaces Committee of the RA. It was recalled how the gate had put this entrance to Big Wood in focus. At the same time we were beginning to learn quite a lot about the wood. The London Ecology Unit confirmed that both Big and Little Woods were probably of ancient woodland origin. Equally exciting was the discovery by Colin Gregory that the edge of the wood marked the western boundary of land owned by the Bishop of London from the 8th century AD. Later in time the boundary became the march of the manors of Hendon and Finchley (the former being mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086). In 1933, to Dame Henrietta Barnett's pleasure, the woods were taken over by the Borough of Finchley, passing in 1965 to the Borough of Barnet which manages them today. Thus the old gate stood on a historic line which went back nearly 1300 years. In 1999 both woods were designated by the Borough as local nature reserves. The story of the woods is told in their display panel at this point.

Like many another worthwhile project it took time to progress the idea of a new gate, which was helped by a private donation from a resident. Also there was help from the Borough of Barnet which did the practical work, much of which was begun by our former countryside officer Mel Lloyd. This included tracking down on the Net a firm in West Sussex able to make a gate in oak to

our specifications. So by last autumn all was set fair for the gate to be ordered, installed and opened this spring. Then another idea emerged, prompted initially by the 60th anniversary of the London Blitz. Why not give the gate a second function, for example that of a memorial to the Suburb residents who as civilians died in the last war, and for whom there is no collective memorial elsewhere? This was agreed by the Residents Association, with the addition of a Book of Remembrance, to contain the names when they had been collected.

Some research was needed in the Borough of Barnet's Archives to find out who had died and where. The result may come as a surprise to some. To date, 30 names of residents have come to light, of which three died at sea. The rest died from bomb blast. Five families were wiped out and nine children died. Fourteen fatalities occurred north of the Mutton Brook: in Gurney Drive, Ossulton Way, Brookland Rise and Widecombe Way.

The remaining 13 died from the most devastating single event of the war in the Suburb when a landmine fell on Coleridge Walk on 25 September 1940. Another mine fell on Willifield Green. The received wisdom has been that the latter was the main centre of mayhem. There were some casualties but no one died there. This has been reflected in some of the previous accounts of wartime in the Suburb. The reasons for this are probably 'considerations of national security and censorship' at the time. Also there was the trauma that the whole community experienced from the loss of the Club House and the accompanying dreadful structural damage around the Green. The King and Queen visited the Green but not Coleridge Walk.

The material for the Book of Remembrance is now in hand. The Memorial Gate will be opened by the Mayor of Barnet at a ceremony on site at 2pm on Saturday 28 April.

MICHAEL HOLTON

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Edward Coke - 1628

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## Wordsearch Winner

The winner was appropriately, the actor Oswald Laurence, formerly a member of the Old

Vic Company. He has lived on the Suburb, in Corringway, for sixty five years.

## WORDSEARCH

RIVERS OF CONTINENTAL EUROPE

In the box below are concealed the names, having four or more letters, of twenty rivers in continental Europe. Their names may be read forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards or diagonally. SOMME has been ringed to start you off. Can you find 19 more?

Entries should be listed on a postcard or a sheet of paper. They should be sent to 'Wordsearch', 117 Hampstead Way, London NW11 7JN, and should give the name, address and telephone number of the sender. The closing date for entries is 16 June. The sender of the first correct (or nearest correct) entry drawn after the closing date will receive a book token for £20.

D D B G E C I M H K N L R S W  
O O Q P D J F S A L O M E G P  
A R U Q G D R X V I T I S U W  
H D Z R I F C B R A N C E A O  
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Y G L Y W O D E S M R P O A N  
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C E B E N I H R G S U S V Q T  
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K E H G F C P G S D A H B K L  
J I O D N Q F R W T V U J X R

ROSALEEN COX

## WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

The Shakespearean characters in the box of the last wordsearch were: Antonio, Ariel, Bottom, Caliban, Coriolanus, Cressida, Cymbeline, Falstaff, Hamlet, Horatio, Macbeth, Malvolio, Oberon, Olivia, Portia, Prospero, Romeo, Rosalind, Shylock, Valentine.

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