

The Proms at St Jude's becomes part of national Golden Jubilee celebrations

What have Humphrey Lyttelton, Henry Kelly, Erich Gruenberg and David Cohen got in common? They all recognise the value and merit of the Proms at St Jude's and are helping to promote our Suburb music festival by becoming Patrons. Share their enthusiasm and raise money for Toynbee Hall and North London Hospice by bringing friends and relatives to celebrate the 10th year of concerts at St Jude's.

A Proms programme leaflet should be included with this copy of the Suburb News. If yours is missing, please phone Yvonne Baker on 8455 8687. Inside the leaflet are details of this year's concerts, together with booking information. Booking by phone and on-line opens on May 13th.

A departure this year are the Proms Away-Day concerts, when Samuel and Henrietta Barnett Day on June 17th will be celebrated with a concert by the Nonesuch Orchestra, conducted by Leon Gee, at Toynbee Hall and a recital at North London Hospice for patients and their families.

If you have never been to Toynbee Hall, this is an ideal opportunity to visit the organisation Dame Henrietta and Canon Barnett founded in 1873 to offer educational and other opportunities to the disadvantaged people in London's East End. The concert is open to everyone and begins at 2.00pm. Just turn up at Toynbee Hall, 28 Commercial Street, London EC1.

To complete the experience, before, during and after all the

concerts, delicious refreshments are available. At lunchtime, you can sit at prettily decorated tables in the church, or outside on nice days. In the evenings, refreshments are sold in the marquee. The Proms provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy music in a delightful setting; meet old friends, make new ones and have a thoroughly enjoyable night out.

The lunch time concerts, which offer a platform to young, gifted musicians are, as in previous years, completely free of charge. It's exciting to be present at the emergence of new talent. Last year lunch time audiences were swelled by babes in arms, groups from various care homes and schools – and even several music loving dogs.

We couldn't raise money for good causes without the generosity of our sponsors and the artistes taking part. Please help us show appreciation to our sponsors and advertisers by using their services whenever possible and thanking them for supporting our community event. Positive feedback will encourage them to continue to support us. If you know any business or individual who may be interested in advertising in the Proms 10th Anniversary Souvenir Programme, please call Susie on 8458 1675.

The Proms Organising Committee is run by a dedicated band of volunteers. We are always looking for an extra pair of hands to help with any number of tasks, from serving

and preparing refreshments, stewarding, selling programmes, delivering leaflets, putting up posters etc. So, if you have any time to spare prior to or during the Proms, do please let us know.

We hope you will come and join us and help make this year's Proms the most successful ever.

For further information you can phone Yvonne Baker on 8455 8687.



Firm favourites of the Proms at St Jude's, clockwise from top left, Robert Max, Grace Davidson and Stacey Kent



Hampstead & Highgate Festival

Within just three years, the Hampstead & Highgate Festival has established itself as one of the most innovative and exciting events in the musical calendar. For the fourth festival, which runs from 11 to 25 May, we are proud to present our first commission: a major new concerto for trumpet, saxophone and strings by Jonathan Dove. Other premieres include a satirical one-act opera-bouffe by Jean Francaix, London, Here I Come! in this witty new version by John Sidgwick, and a recently discovered string quintet by Mahler's friend and fellow pupil, Hans Rott.

We welcome back Stephen Kovacevich with more Friends and the distinguished Academy of Ancient Music visit us for the

first time. Twelve year old clarinet prodigy Julian Bliss, the subject of a recent Channel 4 documentary, gives his first major London recital and the festival also offers an early opportunity to witness the newly-formed Kathryn Stott/Noriko Ogawa piano duo – surely destined to be one of the most dynamic on the circuit.

These and a host of other major talents and rising stars form the musical backbone of the programme. But there is much more besides: a Question Time on the state of the arts with celebrity speakers, exhibitions, walks, talks, poetry, cabaret, jazz and children's events. In fact, everything you would expect from a festival described as a 'major player on the English musical scene'.

Dick Whittington

Something rather sad happened to the pantomime this year; it was slow, lacking in vitality and unfunny. No-one could sing and, anyway, they were drowned by loud, taped music. Terry Rogers had put in new material featuring Mayor Livings – a take off of Ken Livingstone – and some political jokes, but they were so badly put over that they fell flat.

The early scenes were boring and what was Geoffrey Chaucer doing here?

There were, however, some good moments and one outstanding performance. Emma Solomon's portrayal of Sooty, the cat, was delightful, well observed and truly feline.

Liz Travis made a stalwart Dick Whittington and Sarah Overall a sweet Alice. The character of their father, Alderman Fitzwarren,

was well played by David Lane. Tim Solomons was disappointing as his cook, Sarah. He looked marvellous in some of his costumes but seemed unable to let go and enjoy himself.

Tom Williams, as the errand boy, had much more fun and came across well. Rusty Ashman's sets were very effective, especially the City of London and the Sultan's Palace.

And the costumes for The Bells, The Rats and the Sultan and his Harem were imaginative and colourful.

The puppet rats were very amusing and effective – a novel idea. Emma Solomons arranged some interesting dances for the Bells Ballet, the Sailors hornpipe and the Brat Rat Pack.

The production was by John and Mary Musker.

LEONIE STEPHEN

Telephone 020 8458 4422



W.M. GLENDINNING LIMITED

Building Contractors & Decorators

FOUNDED IN LONDON IN 1904
EIGHTY YEARS BUILDING ON
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB

**66-70 GRANVILLE ROAD
CHILDS HILL NW2 2LA**

College Farm update

AN INTERVIEW WITH RUDI VIS MP

Although situated outside the Suburb many residents take a keen interest in the ups and downs of College Farm and catching Rudi Vis hot-foot from a meeting at the farm gave me the opportunity to catch up on recent events.

"As MP I have often been asked during the last few years what progress has been made in the case of College Farm. If you wish to write the whole history of College Farm then a book would be more suitable than a newspaper article. The most important points for its future are tied up in events of the last decade and also of recent years. College Farm is 'owned' by the old Department of Transport and the farm's affairs are handled by the Highways Agency. I am sure the Farm would not exist today without the efforts of the family of tenant farmers who have fought a battle of under investment and neglect since the Farm was bought as exchange land for the widening of the North Circular Road some decades ago."

I assured Rudi Vis that those of us who took a close interest in the Henlys Corner enquiry were aggrieved that the Farm was left to decay by the Department even though it eventually did not require it as exchange land.

"Exactly the point, the future of the Farm could therefore have been settled years ago, but for unacceptable delays, bureaucracy and pettiness."

Rudi Vis explained that the College Farm Trust, chaired by Bernard Russell, was formed to tackle the Farm's problems, to rejuvenate and enhance the Farm's activities and to attempt to increase the annual number of visitors, which then stood at around 35,000. Rudi Vis is also a founding Trust member.

The Trust was able to obtain a gift of £900,000 from Keith Hill, the Government Minister eighteen months ago and all seemed well. However, the Highways Agency decided that the Public Purse must be protected in case the Trust were to 'collapse' or make a mess of things or go 'bankrupt'. In such circumstances there would be a claw back of the £900,000 which would be returned to the Public Purse.

"The Trust never agreed with the claw back details and none of the minutes of the numerous meetings have any details of this, although the Trust fully agrees that if something were to go wrong, the Farm would somehow return the money to the Public. The Trust is confident it can raise all the money needed to do the necessary work – probably costing several million pounds. However, none of the institutions such as the Heritage Lottery Fund can accept the Highway Agency clawing back all the money, since they themselves require a claw back."

Rudi Vis was armed with the photographic journal of College

Farm and the proposals agreed by the Trust that he will be taking to David Jamieson MP, the Minister who has responsibility for the Highways Agency. The hope is that the proposals will lead to a set of contractual

obligations where the Farm can bid for funding and in which the Public Purse will also be protected.

And a final comment from Rudi Vis MP, "I am confident that an answer can be found."

KEN MURRELL



CENTRAL HOTEL

35 Hoop Lane, Finchley Road, Golders Green
London NW11 8BS

AA
♦♦♦

Tel: 020 8458 5636
Fax: 020 8455 4792

RAC
♦♦♦



Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward

INCORPORATING GORDON HUDSON

Successfully Selling in the Suburb

for over 45 years and now part of over 30 offices serving South, Central and North London.

Don't trust the sale of your largest asset to a less experienced agent.

You value your home and so do we.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB OFFICE
10 Market Place • London NW11 6JG

SALES
Tel: 020 8455 4755
Fax: 020 8455 3533

LETTINGS
Tel: 020 8883 2340
Fax: 020 8372 4658