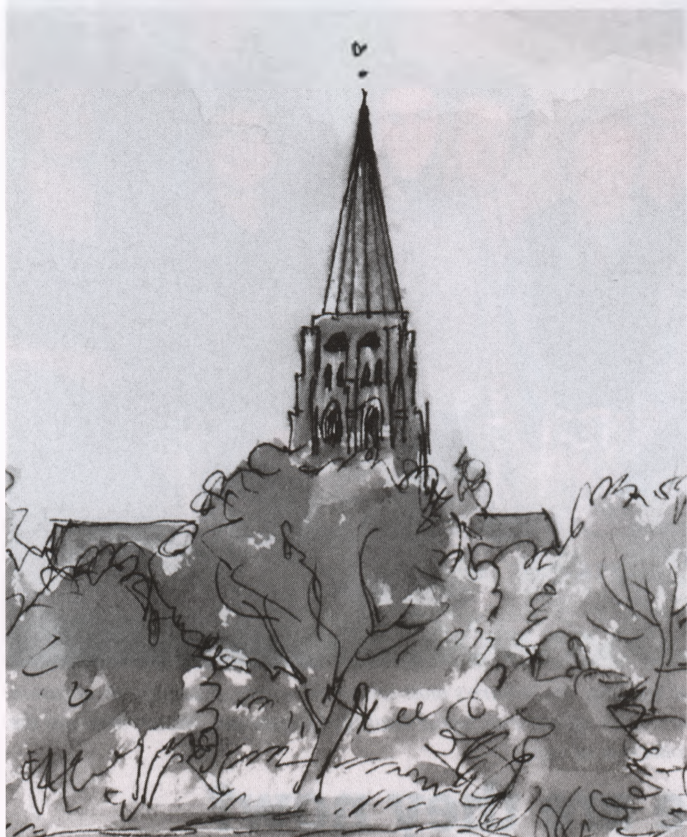


St Jude's tenth Proms



Now that life is almost back to normal after the indulgences of the festive period, I am taking this opportunity to give you lots of advance notice about the Suburb's own music festival, The Proms at St Jude's.

2002 will be the Proms tenth anniversary and takes place in St Jude-on-the-Hill, Central Square between Saturday, June 15 and Sunday June 23. St Jude's is worth a visit in itself. Designed by Lutyens, Simon Jenkins has included it in his book, England's Thousand Best Churches. Make sure you make a note of these dates and, above all, keep them free, so that you can enjoy what will be on offer. As usual, there is something for everyone. The aims are to provide a range of music, by established and international musicians, as well as serious amateurs; and also to give a platform to rising superstars.

In addition to providing an exciting music festival, the intention is to raise money for good causes. In 2001 a total of £19,000 was raised, of which 75% went to Toynbee Hall and 25% towards the repair fund for the famous Father Willis Organ at St Jude's. The organ appeal, which has been ongoing for a few years, has been a success and work is due to start early this year.

So, in 2002, 75% of the money raised will again go to Toynbee Hall, the charitable organisation founded by Dame Henrietta and Canon Barnett in the East End of London, to give

a range of opportunities to disadvantaged families and young people in the area. And this year 25% will go to North London Hospice. North London Hospice only receives 16% of its funds from statutory sources. Running costs are £2.4 million pounds per year, so an awful lot of money needs to be raised from other sources.

We are very privileged to have Ralph Kirshbaum, the international, celebrity cellist, as soloist on the last night (June 23). He will play Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rocco Theme*. Grace Davidson (soprano), a great Proms favourite and another local rising young star will also feature as part of the traditional Last Night fare. The Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra will be conducted by William Lacey, a young conductor who has just returned from a tour in America, where he conducted the San Francisco Opera.

For jazz lovers, the delightful and talented Stacey Kent will be strutting her stuff with her band on June 22. We also hope to announce a guest appearance by one of the world's foremost and best loved jazz musicians. Watch this space.

Of the young, rising stars, we are thrilled Gweneth-Anne Jeffers, soprano and finalist in the Cardiff Singer of the World 2001 Competition, will be giving a recital on June 16, with Graham Johnson at the piano. Graham Johnson is a world-renowned accompanist, who has accompanied many gifted and famous singers.

We think we have discovered a young Israeli violinist who will take the world by storm – Shlomy Dobrinsky, currently studying at the Royal College of Music and an international prize winner, in a recital with Danny Driver at the piano. Danny, a north London resident is also hugely talented and took first prize in the BBC Radio 2 Young Musician of the Year Competition. Do not miss this lunchtime recital on June 18.

There is much, much more:

- A choral concert with the internationally known Zemel Choir, together with Alyth Choral Society, conducted by Vivienne Bellos on June 18.
- The young upcoming pianist Simon Mulligan will play Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No.1* in the opening Gala concert on June 15. Some of his most recent engagements include Kenwood, with the BBC Concert Orchestra (later broadcast) and with the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra. The orchestra for this concert will be the Finchley Chamber Orchestra conducted by David Lardi.

- Robert Max is returning by popular demand and will not only be conducting the BBC Concert Orchestra but will also be playing two cello concertos with them, Haydn's *C Major* and Vivaldi's *B Minor*. Oliver Rundell (organist and choir master at St Jude's) will be playing harpsichord at this concert and piano later in the week.

- Other Symphonies to be played include Brahms's *Symphony No.4* (June 15), Mendelssohn's *String Symphony No. 10* (June 19) and culminating with Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony No.6* on the last night.

- We have extended the festival by a day – there will be a total of 8 evening and 6 lunchtime concerts. The lunchtime concerts have always been free, so that no one is excluded because of cost. This year will be no exception.

As ever, we are seeking sponsorship to cover the costs of the concerts, so that as much money as possible will go to Toynbee Hall and North London Hospice. Some sponsorship money has already been promised. If anyone feels they could sponsor an evening or the lunchtime concerts, please contact Susie Gregson on 020 8458 1675. It is also possible to sponsor items such as refreshments, piano hire, chairs, printing of leaflets and programmes; If you are able to consider sponsorship at any level, please get in touch with Susie to discuss. Or perhaps you might like to consider placing an advertisement in the programme (rates from £75.00 to £250.00).

Another way of supporting the Proms is to become a Friend of the Proms. For further information, or to simply go on our mailing list (£5.00 per annum), please contact Yvonne Baker on 020 8455 8687.

Last, but not least, if you have time you can spare in the time leading up to the Proms and during the Proms week, your help will be gladly accepted. Jobs include distributing leaflets, putting up posters, help with making and serving refreshments; selling programmes and other odd jobs. I know it's a long way ahead but let me know if you feel you can spare the time to be involved. It's great fun and you meet delightful people.



Ruth Ive at home in Oakwood Road

Churchill's war-time censor

Mrs Ruth Ive lived in Hampstead before the 1939-1945 War. As it approached she had been planning her career. Wanting to go on the stage, she trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. However, as a fall-back her father had insisted that she learned shorthand and typing. The war intervened and Ruth was directed into war work. However, she was to make little use of her shorthand and typing, being selected for higher things.

The Nation's war plans provided for censorship across the whole spectrum of communications. Suburb residents probably first noticed this in the letters from loved ones serving abroad, and later in local newspapers which waited weeks before reporting serious bombing raids. As for using the telephone a favourite cartoon of the time, produced as a propaganda poster, showed Adolf Hitler eavesdropping behind a GPO call box where a smart gentleman was about to make some awful security breach. The Postal, Telegraph and Censorship Office in the City had the responsibility to deal with such matters.

Another generally unknown aspect of planning for war was to give the recruiting officers the scope to select round pegs for round holes, especially where intelligence, initiative and common sense were needed. Thus Ruth, for her war work, was selected for the Censorship Office at the age of 22, with no previous experience.

Some distance away were the Cabinet War Rooms deep down in the Government Offices, Great George Street. It was from here that Winston Churchill directed much of the progress of the war, often spending the night there in uncomfortable, cramped, accommodation.

Today the main rooms (in the care of the Imperial War Museum) are open to the public. One feature is a door marked 'WC'. Behind this the Prime Minister and senior staff made transatlantic telephone calls. Churchill was often in touch with his friend Roosevelt, the Present of the USA. In case the enemy were capable of decoding, which later proved to have been the case, speech was subject to strict rules designed to

prevent the caller from giving anything away that would benefit the enemy. The rules were enforced by one of a small team who in turn monitored every call – acting quickly if it sounded as though a breach was imminent. There was little choice: to ring the speaker immediately to point out the dangers, reinforcing this by cutting him off, or if matters got out of hand, reversing the process. Churchill was not the easiest of statesmen to stand up to. However, his bark was worse than his bite, though he could be abrupt in an

awesome manner. This was Ruth's role for three and a half years, which she appears to have played immaculately and with discretion.

Ruth has always loved the Suburb. She was a relative of Myra Hess, who invited her to one of the wartime concerts at the National Gallery. She came to live in Oakwood Road in 1980, though it was not until Fellowship invited her to speak at a Tuesday meeting that we were able to catch up with her exciting wartime experiences.

MICHAEL HOLTON

Something should be done about it!

Overgrown hedges, abandoned cars, uneven pavements are not only unsightly and inconvenient, but even dangerous, particularly to older, less mobile pedestrians.

Unlit skips on the roadway at night can be a danger to road users. These and similar problems are the concern of the Barnet Customer Care Unit whose phone

number is 8359 4600. Please don't leave it to someone else if you see a problem – let the Council know. When you have reported it, ask for a reference number and if nothing happens tell the Residents Association and we will take the matter up on your behalf. Ken Murrell, Roads & Traffic Committee.

Review of Trust procedures

To give an opportunity for as many residents as possible to participate in the joint Trust/RA review, the invitation to put

your views on whether the Trust procedures need to be brought up to date is repeated in the advertisement on page 8.

Farmers' Market for the Suburb?

The Garden Suburb LA 21 partnership is hoping to find a site suitable for a Farmers' Market somewhere on or near the Suburb.

Farmers' Markets are the latest thing in food shopping, but they are not new. They are revitalising town centres and market squares all over Britain. London now has ten weekly markets in Blackheath, Ealing, Islington, Notting Hill, Palmers Green, Peckham, Swiss Cottage, Twickenham, Uxbridge, Wandsworth and Wimbledon.

There is demand for many more – from both farmers and customers. The Government and opposition parties have declared their support for more too.

Two rules make the farmers' market unique. Firstly, the stall-

holder must grow, raise or produce everything he sells. Secondly, all the farms come from within a defined area. At London farmers' markets, the circle is drawn 100 miles from the M25.

A farmers' market contributes to urban regeneration by attracting regular customers and increasing trade at local shops. It is also a tourist attraction both within and outside London. Several hundred customers come during an established four-hour market.

A farmers' market is an attractive yet functional everyday use of public space, reinforcing a sense of community when local people shop, and meet friends and visitors.

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