

# New HB School head



The Henrietta Barnett School Governing Body has appointed Mr Oliver Blond as their new Head with effect from September 2006. He is currently Deputy Head of North London Collegiate School.

During recruitment a number of extremely able candidates were considered, but Mr Blond was absolutely outstanding. His vision for the future of HBS was truly inspirational and he will, we are sure, make our very high achieving school even more successful.

Our current Head Ms Jackie Pain leaves to take up a new post at the end of the summer term and our current Deputy Head Mrs Mandy Watts will become Acting Head from 1 September 2005 until Mr Blond takes up his appointment.

FRANCESCA BARNES  
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

# Farewell to superb head

Diane Lewis has been the head-teacher of Garden Suburb Infant School for 14 years. In September, she starts a new position as Early Years Standards Inspector with the London Borough of Barnet.

During her time at the school she has achieved so much. Diane has led her team with a strong vision, masses of energy, love and commitment. Diane has a genuine belief in the value of each child and has created a school with a clear focus on fostering creativity and the development of the whole child.

Her excellent leadership has led to the creation of a wonderful school – where every child feels included and special.

Diane gives high priority to involving parents in their children's learning and in life at school. Parents attend assemblies,

coffee mornings, curriculum events and school celebrations.

She has worked exceptionally hard, involving children, parents, staff, governors, the PTA and many others involved in the school.

We all extend an enormous thank you to Diane and wish her every success in her new position.

KATHY BRODBECK



# Institute losses continue

Institute Society members, nearly all staff, at the AGM in June heard that in the year ended last August the operating deficit for the year had almost doubled to £924,099. This was to a large extent because of the difficulty experienced in finding new accommodation and the extraordinary delays over the planning and other procedures connected with the hospital site in East Finchley. The Institute, as a temporary measure, had taken a one-year lease on Park House, opposite East Finchley station, which belongs to Barnet. Necessary updating had cost £126,000 and Barnet had insisted on the Institute paying £15,000 for a parking study which resulted in a change to the CPZ so that the original commuter-discouraging one-hour-a-day residents-only period was extended to all day. A move which has been unpopular with residents, traders and Institute students.

The Institute is now paying rent to Henrietta Barnett School for its remaining space in the Institute building. Professional fees in connection with accommodation swallowed up another £104,000. The balance sheet shows total reserves of £7,286,187.

Chairman Malcolm Davis told members that the diminished reserves now meant that, "we are unable to proceed with a large building." Negotiations were taking place but he was hopeful that they would continue to use Park House, which had been successful and popular with students and staff, and at the same time to take part of the McDonalds building also conveniently situated by the station. On the neuro hospital site a smaller building will be built as an arts centre. The Institute also owns the Thomas More building in East End Road and has the Teahouse in Northway.

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As something more than a spectator, I have been 'covering' the Proms for the past six years. I missed the 1999 event having joined the Ham & High as its music correspondent. Like so many new boys in a job, the Proms had to wait for a while before the redoubtable Susie Gregson contacted me and sought to enlist my interest in a local event.

To summarise, from such beginnings I have since been a devoted follower and author of, I hope, reasonable and reasoned reportage during the past six years. Indeed as the representative of a sponsor and in my capacity as critic I have never ceased to marvel at the achievements of what one might politely term a bunch of gifted amateurs.

I think everyone will agree that The Proms At St. Jude's 2005 was the best overall series of concerts to date. Thanks to friends and postal bookings, reserved seating for 6 out of the 8 evening concerts was sold out almost before phone bookings opened.

2005 was our most ambitious programme to date but sponsorship was down significantly this year and we felt pessimistic about matching our previous year's extraordinary profit of £38,000. Our expectations were totally confounded, however, due to a 20% increase both in ticket sales and catering, an increase in advertising, and an astonishing 50% increase in Friends subscriptions. All this means that our profits have actually increased to a fantastic £40,000, to be split 75%/25% between Toynbee Hall and North London Hospice.

St Jude's has a wonderful interior pictorially and acoustically, but to realise this for a large audience is a challenge without causing any damage to the Grade 1 listed fabric. In 2003 a sound system, thanks to Christopher Colomb, was introduced.

In 2004 lobbying bought full professional lighting. This was of the traditional stage variety, with digital control, requiring

# 2005 Proms at St Jude's Reflections on the Proms

And that is probably the secret of the Proms successes, a charity-driven event managed by people who have become (collectively) skilled impresarios and managers with only a single professional to assist. The virtue of this collective is that there are no musical preconceptions and a tendency to devise a programme of the widest appeal.

I think the real sea change, musically speaking, came about three year ago when the musical content was raised a whole tone with a the celebrity recital by John Lill, last year's appearance by Peter Donohoe and this year's concert with Nikolai Demidenko.

That is not to slight all the other performers who have graced the Proms stage in this and past years as either established artists

or young musicians who take the performance opportunities presented by the series of free lunchtime concerts.

This year it was rewarding to hear again the talents of young pianist Nicola Eimer and the skill of organist and choral director Nicholas Chalmers and discover the undoubted talents of young jazz singer Gwyneth Herbert or the imaginative and bold programming of the Trumpets for Vienna, an unusual but masterly ensemble in their UK debut.

But perhaps the most enduring memory will be the wonderful atmosphere that each lunchtime and evening generates, the conviviality and enthusiasm of the audiences and the concern of the committee members and volunteers young and old that

everything (without dry formality) should tick along like clockwork.

And so they do.

I know that the committee is now putting in place the programme for the 2006 season and looking to the centenary of HGS beyond that. While I wait for a resumption of my H&H duties with regard to the Proms, I am fighting hard to minimise the effects of the next 51 weeks of withdrawal symptoms.

DAVID SONIN



# Yet another record-breaking Proms

The programme was well balanced between orchestral (Gala Opening & The Last Night of the Proms), chamber (Endellion String Quartet), piano recital a superb tour de force by Nicolai Demidenko), jazz (the enchanting and talented Gwyneth Herbert) and lighter fare with Trumpets in Concert from Vienna and an evening of Flanders and Swann.

The free lunchtime concerts by young rising stars were a delight, with recitals by harpist Helen Radice, pianist Nicola Eimer, The Linden Trio and Sylvia Krastan giving huge amounts of pleasure. Attendance at these concerts was enormously increased. Numbers were bolstered by care groups from Flightways, Brent Mind and Wellington House Medical Centre from St. John's Wood – all of whom so enjoyed the concerts they attended. The family concert

by the Nonesuch Orchestra was particularly well attended with groups from Brooklands School and Annemount.

The Proms committee feels strongly that the free lunchtime concerts are as much part of what we do for the community, as the evening concerts. It gives us such pleasure to see many people, who wouldn't often have the opportunity, enjoying the music and the camaraderie.

The caterers and their team, under the guidance of Anthea Davidson, Jan White and Diana Ward worked so hard to provide an array of refreshments all week.

David Crossley's excellent security team did sterling work throughout the week.

And we mustn't forget the icing on the cake – the lighting and sound enhanced everyone's enjoyment of the Proms. Technical

direction was by Richard Kemp and Paul Seaton created the atmospheric lighting design.

Our principal sponsor was again Capital Gardens, whose generous financial support was invaluable, along with the stylish plant arrangements outside the church and marquees.

To our many sponsors and supporters, including Godfrey & Barr, Hyder Consulting, HenDi Systems, Grant Thornton, the HGS Trust and RA and the Ham & High, a great big thank you.

Plans for next year's Proms are already under way. Dates to put in your diary are June 17-25. To be sure to get the seats you want, do consider becoming a Friend. For information about the Friends Scheme, phone 020 8455 1025. For any other information phone 020 8455 8687.

YVONNE BAKER

# A million colours, a tea urn and an electric kettle

considerably more power than the church could provide, so a silent generator had to be sought. The hard labour put in by myself and colleague Paul Seaton, together with assistance when available from David Gregson, of installing towers and 2.5km of cable was well rewarded on seeing the concert goes reaction to the illumination of the dome, choir and altar walls and ceilings,

and even at lunchtime details unseen before were revealed.

Keeping the generator fuelled was a tiring and expensive task that Paul and I vowed we would not repeat, so this year thanks to the generosity of suppliers – Elstree Light and Power, Film and TV Services and Terry Tew Sound and Light – we were able to use state of the art lighting based on light emitting diodes (LEDs) - the same little coloured lights that gently glow at us from numerous domestic appliances. Each lamp offers the choice of over one million colours; using them in such an environment was a first

for both of us and we hope the results were just as illuminating for the concert goers!

Very surprisingly, the power consumption of all the 37 lamps was less than the consumption of the tea urn and electric kettle, a reduction of about 75% so no generator requirement and, with only 1.5km of lighting and sound cable to install and remove a lot easier than our first endeavours. Should we repeat the exercise next year, volunteers with some technical understanding would be most welcome to help rig and de-rig, please!

RICHARD KEMP

# Joza Breugel



On June 18 our community lost a much loved and dedicated GP. Joza Breugel died in her sleep after a long and interesting life. She was 90. She began her medical studies in Prague, spending a term in Vienna where she saw Freud and was asked to Adler's home. In 1938 the German University demanded that she prove her aryan origin going back three generations. This decided her to emigrate. She never saw her parents again – they perished in the holocaust. When she reached England she learnt that a place and a grant

had been awarded and she could continue her studies at the Royal Free. In 1948 Josephine moved to Henly's Corner and her two children started at the Suburb School under Miss Burley who became a life long friend. At the same time she was appointed Casualty Officer at the Whittington and later worked in Family Planning clinics as a locum. Around this time she became interested in schizophrenia and established a group who met weekly at the new Temple Fortune Health Centre which she joined when it opened in 1972. She worked there for 10 years before retiring. Her interests were widespread and she loved to keep up with new ideas.

When I saw her three weeks before her death she wanted to know all about advances in adolescent medicine. She was delighted with a book I had written on the subject which I am told was by her bed when she died. She will be missed by many.

DR CHRIS DONOVAN

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