

100 years of gardening for HGS Horticultural Society

On 20 May 1909, Dame Henrietta Barnett called a meeting of interested residents to join her in officially setting up a Horticultural Society on the Suburb. The first Flower Show was held in a marquee on Central Square on August Bank Holiday 1909 and several residents' gardens were also open that August. One hundred years on, HGS Horticultural Society is a thriving organisation with nearly 420 members and with plans to celebrate its centenary with a bang throughout 2009.

The season started with a Supper Quiz Evening held on 24 January at 7.30pm. The Mayor of Barnet, who happens to be a vice-President of the Horticultural Society, will open the Spring Flower Show on 21 March at the Free Church Hall by cutting a 100th birthday cake and inspecting a Centenary exhibition of memorabilia from the last 100 years of the Society. The Centenary 'gardening buddy scheme', launched last September, has already matched large numbers of experienced member gardeners with those who wanted

some advice about problems or planting in their own gardens and is a continuing service.

In addition to one-off special Centenary events, all the normal activities, such as shows, talks, walks, open gardens and coach outings, etc, will take place. This will be on a much larger scale with special guests, music, products for sale and competitions and prizes, so please see Suburb News 'What's On' and the Society's website for details and keep an eye out for posters. The three coach outings, starting on 11 February, will include visits to Anglesey Abbey (for winter colour), Hidcote Manor and Kiftsgate Court and Great Dixter

and Sissinghurst. Later in the year, Fergus Garrett of Great Dixter will give a talk about working with the great Christopher Lloyd. The Autumn Flower Show on 12 September will include a Centenary Apple Hunt, where Suburb residents will be able to bring samples of the apples in their gardens to the Free Church Hall for expert identification.

The highlight of the 100th birthday season will be the Grand Opening on Saturday 18 July of a beautiful new Centenary flowerbed on Willifield Way, where a new tree has been planted, and a magical Festival of Roses in Fellowship House. Also, the raised bed on Willifield Green

originally unveiled by Jonathan Ross in 2007 for the Suburb's Centenary will be re-designed, re-planted and relaunched for the Society's own Centenary at the same time - full details in the next Suburb News.

Henrietta Barnett would still recognize the Horticultural Society as the one she helped to found in 1909, though with 21st Century attitude. New members are always welcome. For details of membership or to use the 'buddy scheme', contact membership@hortsoc.co.uk (8455 7334). You will find more about the Society's history and programme at www.hortsoc.co.uk.

MARJORIE HARRIS



The Horticultural Society's AGM is an occasion for congratulations as, each year, 20 cups and trophies and three cups for children's classes are handed out. Dr Chris Page, seen above won several as did Ken Murrell. The Mayor said it was a delightful occasion.



Mayor takes part in fundraising walk

The local Support Group's annual walk on the Heath Extension in aid of the North London Hospice was as always led by local doctors

and John Marshall. This year he dignified the occasion by coming in his regalia as Mayor to walk circuits from Sunshine Corner up

to the drinking fountain and back, with a cheerful group of supporters, to raise several thousand pounds for the Hospice.

Julian Lloyd Webber heads star line-up for Proms at St Jude's 2009

Internationally-acclaimed cellist, Julian Lloyd Webber is one of several stars who are due to appear at Proms at St Jude's 2009, which run from Saturday 13 to Sunday 21 June. Pianist Freddy Kempf makes a return appearance, and the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain brings its own distinctive style to the festival for the first time.

One of the highlights this year will be the world premiere of String Quartet No 11 by local composer David Matthews. This has been commissioned by Proms with the support of the Britten-Pears Foundation, and it will be the centrepiece of a concert to be

given by the award-winning Carducci String Quartet.

As in previous years there will be the popular opening and last-night concerts, with an evening of swing provided by the Bobby Lamb Big Band. Free lunchtime concerts will again be given by up-and-coming artists who are likely to be the stars of tomorrow.

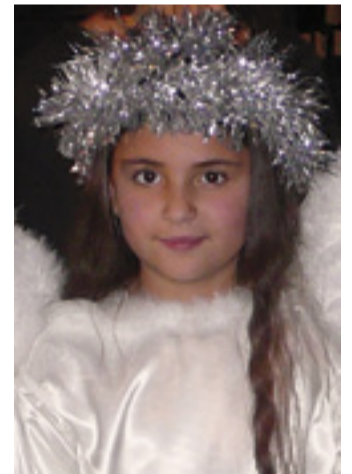
Now in its seventeenth year, Proms at St Jude's is something of a rarity among music festivals in that it gives its surplus to charity. Two organisations are again due to benefit this year, Toynbee Hall (75%) and the North London Hospice (25%).

The final programme for what is generally recognised as one of London's top music festivals will be published in late March, when a leaflet with a booking form will be delivered to every house on the Suburb. Full details will also be on the Proms website: www.promsatstjudes.org.uk.

Meanwhile, you are invited to become a Friend of Proms, so that you can enjoy priority booking. To find out how please phone 8455 1025 or email friendspsj@googlemail.com.

Do you have a major anniversary this year, or a significant birthday? Would you like to commemorate a loved one? Then how about sponsoring a Proms concert? For more information - Susie Gregson: susiegregon@gmail.com or 8458 1675; John Wheeler: johnac@wheeler23.fsnet.co.uk or 8455 3506.

DAVID HARRIS



In St Jude's the junior church had written their own version of the nativity story and even the very young members of the cast performed with confidence. The junior church has a long association with St Jude's sister parish in Guyana for which a collection was made.

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