

“It’s been terrific – I’ve had such fun”



Jack V Lunzer

So said Jack Lunzer, a Suburb resident since 1952, at the exhibition at Sotheby’s in New York of his Valmadonna Library of Hebrew books. He has been building the collection in his home in Turner Drive for nearly sixty years.

His late wife Ruth’s family, who were from Italy, had a small collection of 16th century Hebrew books which became the nucleus of what is now a library of 13,000 volumes and manuscripts.

culture. Among the treasures in the collection are: the only surviving manuscript written in England before the expulsion of the Jews in 1290; arguably the finest copy of the Babylonian Talmud produced between 1519 and 1523 by famed printer Daniel Bomberg, which was previously in the collection of Westminster Abbey; as well as the preeminent group of Hebrew books in existence from the dawn of printing.

The collection boasts rarities dating from the 10th century to the early 20th century from Italy, Holland, England, Greece, Eastern Europe, the Ottoman Empire, North Africa, India, and China, documenting the spread of the Hebrew press and the dissemination of Jewish culture around the world. Mr Lunzer speaking at the exhibition said, “This is the story of our people. If you go to the little towns in Italy, Arabia, Egypt or Iran you will find our books that have survived for hundreds of years, still there ready to be rescued.”

The Valmadonna Library – the name comes from an area in Piedmont with family connections – is the world’s finest private library of Hebrew books and manuscripts. Sotheby’s vice chairman, David Redden said, “200 rare Hebrew books is a real collection. To have 13,000 of these books is overwhelming.” The library, which filled ‘every nook and cranny in the house’ is a primary source on both world history and Jewish life and

In Turner Drive the book cases are still there and it almost looks as if the collection is on the shelves. But all that are in them now are photographs of the spines. Librarian Pauline Malkiel who has worked with the Valmadonna Trust since 1982 told Suburb News, “They look real enough but I do miss the smell of leather.”



Genesis chapter 1. 1516 Hebrew and Aramaic bible

Proms at St Jude’s ready for another successful year

Sixteen concerts in 2008, sixteen concerts in 2009. That is the proud boast of the organisers of music festival Proms at St Jude’s, which this year runs from 13-21 June. Despite the recession there are the same number of concerts as last year, and of a comparable quality and variety.

Performers at nine evening concerts include international stars such as cellist Julian Lloyd Webber and pianist Freddy Kempf. There are the usual free lunchtime events including a family concert with the Nonesuch Orchestra.

One of this year’s highlights will be the première of String Quartet No 11 by David Matthews (see page 6). Another will be the concert by the leading choral group, Ex Cathedra. One of the group’s members is Jenni Harper *soprano*, daughter of Garden Suburb Ward Councillor Andrew Harper.

If you do not have the booking leaflet, which gives full

details of all the concerts, you can get one from the Suburb Gallery or by phoning 8455 8687. All the information can also be found on the Proms website, www.promsatstjudes.org.uk.

Tickets (£8, £15 and £20) for the evening concerts are selling steadily. If you have not yet submitted your application you are urged to do so as soon as possible or you may be disappointed. To make it easier to book, telephone booking (2pm-6pm Mon-Sat) opens on Tuesday 26 May – 020 8458 8798. Heritage walks around the Suburb (£6 per person) can also be booked on this number.

And on the mornings of 4, 5 and 6 June the box office, complete with live music, will take up temporary residence at John Lewis Brent Cross. John Lewis are leading supporters of Proms – this year they are also sponsoring the last night concert, to be given by the Haydn Chamber Orchestra.

DAVID HARRIS

Summer exhibition set to shine on an even larger ‘canvas’

The now annual summer exhibition organised by the Garden Suburb Gallery is set to expand and widen its appeal this July with the introduction of a mini solo exhibition, its own website and a guided tour of the Suburb’s fine Arts & Crafts architecture.

We have again invited Jeff Jackson, who has curated and overseen the previous two shows to organise the exhibition. The heart of this summer’s event will once more be situated in the main hall of Central Square’s Henrietta Barnett School, bringing together another impressive collection of Arts & Crafts Furniture and Modern British & Contemporary art.

With paintings and drawings by several Royal Academicians including Edward Wolfe, Dame Laura Knight, Morris Kestelman, Morris Cockerill, Geoffrey Clarke and Phillip Connard being exhibited alongside pieces by several of the Suburb’s gifted artists, the selection should provide Suburb residents and visitors with a chance to view some outstanding pieces.

Arts & Crafts collectors and admirers will find a rare and imposing dining suite designed by E A Taylor for Wylie & Lochhead forming the central exhibit of

this years furniture collection alongside fine examples by the Movements leading designers and makers including Ambrose Heal, Philip Webb, George Logan, Gordon Russell, Betty Joel, Liberty & Co, James Powell of Whitefriars and Morris & Co.

The event, which will run between 26 July and the 9th August, also includes two ‘feeder’ exhibitions to supplement the show at the main hall. The first of these, like last year, will be a

group exhibition of several artist hosted at Joseph’s Bookstore at Temple Fortune. Michael Joseph has once more gathered an impressive selection of works that should be well worth visiting.

The second ‘feeder’ show will be located in the Garden Suburb’s permanent gallery at Fellowship House on Willifield Way and will present a solo exhibition of the Slade taught and highly regarded Kathleen Paensen (1924-2002), of whose work the late Sir Kenneth

Clarke wrote: ‘I go to Christies and buy old masters, but looking at these, I wonder why I do’. With works by Paenson also situated in the main hall and the Bookstore visitors will get a rare chance to assess the works of this enigmatic and ‘outstanding talent’.

A fully illustrated catalogue will be published on-line at the website: www.hgsummershow.org.

Thanks to Brownhill Insurance Group for their generous sponsorship of this event.



Above: ‘Girl on chair’ by Kathleen Paenson

Below right: Heals bookcase; E A Taylor chair

prompt, reliable electrical services

Harland + Voss

020 8451 0345

rewiring, installations, indoor & outdoor lighting, sockets & phone points, testing, security systems

www.harlandvoss.com



P R HARTLEY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
& LICENSED AUDITOR
Accounting & Taxation Services

Call 020 8731 9745 or 07850 634395

Email paul@prhartley.co.uk

www.prhartley.co.uk

CLEAR SKIES AHEAD

With us, your future is in safe hands. We have the expertise to get results, whatever the climate. That is why 73% of our clients come back to us.

For more information please contact the Hampstead office on 020 7431 8686

KnightFrank.co.uk

