

20th Proms Season 'the best yet'

Two BBC music stars headline at this year's Proms at St Jude's Festival – the 20th and probably best yet. Violinist Nicola Benedetti, BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2004, will play Schumann, Brahms and Beethoven on 27 June. Pianist Benjamin Grosvenor, soloist at the First Night of the BBC Proms in 2011, will give a recital on 28 June, with a programme including Bach, Chopin and Ravel.

"We're delighted with the range of names we've been able to attract," said Susie Gregson, Proms Founder, "and it's wonderful that musicians of such esteem will be coming to the Suburb."

Conducted by Toby Purser, the Orion Orchestra with Panos Karan on piano, will be performing the popular New World Symphony by Dvořák and Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 3, made famous by the 1996 film 'Shine'.

For jazz lovers, virtuoso pianist, bandleader, composer, arranger and broadcaster, Julian Joseph, presents his All Star Jazz Night with his Quintet on 26



Pianist Benjamin Grosvenor

June, while one of Britain's most distinguished chamber orchestras, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, will be playing Bach, Purcell and Mozart on the 29th.

To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 60-year reign, a Diamond Jubilee Choral Concert is scheduled on 30 June, performed by The Cavendish Singers and Ensemble, and Suburb favourite, soprano Grace Davidson.

If you are an Edith Piaf fan, you must not miss Eve Loiseau, who will be offering a night of music, accompanied by film, in tribute to the Little Sparrow.

The 150th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Delius is celebrated with his Concerto for Violin and Cello on the Last Night (1 July), with Tamsin Waley-Cohen on violin and Gemma Rosefield on cello. This performance, with the Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra conducted by suburb resident Robert Max, is bound to be a sell-out.

From past experience, tickets are also likely to go fast for the Night at the Opera, with the London International Orchestra.

CHILDREN

Thanks to sponsorship by the HGS Residents' Association, there will again be a whole series of

free lunchtime concerts. Two, on the first and last Saturdays, are especially for children and families. Henry Kelly will be narrating Tubby The Tuba on the 23rd, while Albert's Band, the resident ensemble of the Royal Albert Hall's Education Department, will be performing a concert with a sporting theme in Olympics year on the 30th.

A piano recital by Elena Vorotko will commemorate Claude Debussy's 150th anniversary on Monday and other rising young musicians will perform throughout the week.

Four guided heritage walks in and around the Suburb and two in Tower Hamlets will give you a chance to better acquaint yourself with the history and architecture of this area and the one to which Dame Henrietta Barnett and her husband devoted much of their life.

As in previous years, funds raised will go to support Tower Hamlets charity Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice.

The Festival runs from Saturday 23 June to Sunday 1 July at St Jude's on Central Square. Booking opens on 30 April at www.promsatstjudes.org.uk and by phone from 6 June on 020 8458 8798, 2-6pm every day except Sunday.

RON FINLAY



Our very own, home-grown soprano Grace Davidson

Local parents to set up a Free School

A group of parents based in Hampstead Garden Suburb, East Finchley and Finchley Central are so concerned about secondary provision in the area that they have applied to set up a Free School.

After a year-long campaign to persuade Barnet Council to address the lack of provision in N2, N3 and NW11, parent group Local Schools for Local Children are proposing to open The Archer Academy, a co-educational, non-denominational, non-selective school, through the government's Free Schools initiative. If their application is successful, the school would open in 2013 with current year 5 pupils making up the first intake.

As part of the application process, the group have been required to show that there is demand from local parents and so far more than 1,000 have said they would be prepared to put the school as their first choice. Crucially, almost 200 parents of Year 5 children have said yes to the school which would more than fill the five forms that it is planning to offer in its first year.

Suburb parent Sarah Pearce explained, "We're really worried about where our daughter will go to school in Year 7 – there's no local state secondary for her

where we live in the north suburb. The Archer Academy would be a fantastic solution for us and countless other families living in this part of the borough. It is exactly what we would want from a secondary school – local, mixed, multi-faith and non fee-paying – we just hope it happens."

Plans for The Archer Academy are well underway, with a clear vision, educational plan, budget, staffing structure and even a timetable already set out in the application. The school would specialise in Maths and English, and would aim to ensure that every pupil maximises their academic potential, becomes a responsible, respectful and contributing member of their community and thinks critically and creatively about the world around them.

Local MP Mike Freer has given the campaign his backing, and Barnet Council has acknowledged that there is a lack of non-denominational, co-educational school places in the areas which The Archer Academy intends to serve. The school's exact location would be decided at a later date, but is expected to be in East Finchley.

The application was delivered to the Department for Education on 24 February, and the group

are now waiting to hear whether they have got through to the interview stage. If their application is successful, the team would be given both financial and practical support to locate suitable premises, recruit an outstanding headteacher and get ready to open in September 2013.

Sarah Cohen, from the campaign group, commented: "We're passionate about making The Archer Academy happen and the feedback we're getting is that local parents are as excited about our plans as we are. But we can never have too much support, so if you haven't yet signed our survey or want to throw your weight behind our campaign, please get in touch."

Check out the campaign at www.thearcheracademy.org.uk or you can make contact by email at localschools@live.co.uk.

CATHY HALSTEAD



It's all happening on Lyttelton Playing Fields

Stage 2 of the improvements to the fantastic Lyttelton playing fields are now complete. New equipment includes a rope swing, a new mound with several slides and a springy jeep. Adam Bass, the founder of the redevelopment committee, said: "We are really delighted with the next stage of the works and have already noticed the increase in the number and variety of people coming to the playground."

The work isn't finished, however. The final stage of work will include the construction of an amphitheatre that will seat at least 150 children for performances and workshops. Funding has already been received for this and the amphitheatre will incorporate the handprinted concrete tiles that were made by local families at the last Funday. The



amphitheatre will be going into the North East corner entrance to the playground.

There is more information on the group's facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/lytteltonplayingfields/.

The new playground will be officially opened at this year's

Funday on July 1 where there will also be a DJ and taster sessions for Kids Yoga, Indian Dance, African and Samba Drumming, Storytelling, Balloon Modelling, Juggling, Arts and Crafts and a host of other great fun activities for children of all ages to enjoy.

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Suburb News is now brought up to date as and when necessary but at least twelve times a year. It is emailed to Residents Association members for whom we have an email address.

If you are an RA member and have not been receiving Suburb eNews and would like to do so, please send an email to enews@hgs.org.uk.

It's just one more reason for joining the more than 2,000 households who support all that we are doing.

Your new Suburb Directory 'All you need to know about living on the Suburb' together with your membership card, or a request to become members, will come round soon.

Please don't leave it to others. Show your support of the Residents Association by joining as soon as you receive your membership form, or do it online now at www.hgs.org.uk.