



Performing for Fellowship: Deborah Calland, Robert Max, Pierre-Emmanuel LARGERON, Daniel King Smith, Barry Millington, Lucy Knight and Jonathan Gregory

## A concert for Fellowship House

An enthusiastic audience packed the Free Church on Sunday 23 November for a special concert by local professional musicians, generously giving their services free, to raise funds for the current refurbishment work at Fellowship House. The atmosphere of friends playing together was delightful. Soprano Lucy Knight (née Roberts) was partnered by Deborah Calland (trumpet) and Free Church Music Director Jonathan Gregory (organ) in two favourite arias by Handel – Eternal Source of Light Divine and Let the Bright Seraphim. Placing the soloists on either side of the organ was an excellent choice, both visually and musically, with well-matched voice and trumpet bouncing phrases off each other and the fine Norman & Beard organ providing a perfect foil.

Jonathan continued with two movements from JS Bach's organ trio sonata No 2 in C minor: accomplished and stylish playing, although leaving out the first movement was, I thought, a mistake. The sublime Largo middle movement needs to be preceded by the opening Vivace for the complete contrast to be appreciated.

I may be branded a heretic, but I do in many respects prefer the Free Church organ to that in St Jude's. It's not just a question of who is playing: it's the airiness of the space (thank God for an east window!) and the visual impact of the characteristic non-conformist layout, which places the organist (and choir) in full view of congregation or audience.

Robert Max then gave a magisterial account of Brahms's first cello sonata (Op 38 in E

minor) – an intensely serious work by a still young composer (just turning 30). Barry Millington was a perfect partner on the piano; he is to be congratulated on venturing to cross the tracks (as the programme notes put it) from writing to performing – with skill, sensitivity and power that demonstrated that Brahms's original title – Sonate für Klavier und Violoncello (that way round) – was correct.

Next, a mini-Lieder recital by Lucy and Barry: one song by Schubert (Suleika I) and four by Richard Strauss, relatively unfamiliar examples of his craft apart from the final Zueignung ('Dedication'), a masterpiece of the composer's late teens. The Free Church's acoustics are not ideal for vocal articulation where words matter; but even without a word sheet we could enjoy the composers' wonderful melodies and the musicality and passion of the performances.

Finally Pierre-Emmanuel LARGERON and Daniel King Smith played César Franck's Violin Sonata – a tour de force from the cusp (1886) of late romanticism and modernism. It is another example of a work where (as in the Brahms sonata) the two players form a true duo, rather than one being accompanied by the other, and in this case the church acoustics were kinder, I thought, to violin and piano than to cello and piano. There are some highly virtuosic passages for the piano and Daniel excelled in the frenetic passagework of the second movement. Pierre delivered his

equally virtuosic part in an appropriately Gallic and lyrical style throughout and the two of them brought the concert to a rousing finish, on a distinctly happy note.

THOMAS RADICE

## Fellowship House Refurbished

Fellowship is extremely grateful to the performers for generously donating their services to the Gala Concert arranged by Barry Millington and Sally Botterill in aid of the Fellowship House Refurbishments Appeal.

Fellowship House reopens on Monday 2 March after the completion of the works which are on schedule and on budget. The building will be open for viewing by all residents on the weekend of 7/8 March between noon and 5pm. An art exhibition, including work by Suburb artist Shizue Takahashi, will be on show.

Please contact Louise Scheuer (8455 5459, scheuer.louise@gmail.com) for information on bookings of the Main Hall or the smaller, renamed, Eileen Whelan Room.

The Fellowship website is being revamped and will be up and running soon.

## Scared to death

Suburb resident Alex Pearl has had his second work of fiction, Scared to Death published; one of 23 short stories in an anthology entitled The Clock Struck War produced to mark the centenary of the First World War.

His story is a sad one, which relates a fictional account of the last days of Private Thomas Highgate from Shoreham who served in the Royal West Kent Regiment. He was the first of 306 members of the British armed forces to be executed during the Great War for dereliction of duty, cowardice or desertion. He was just 19 years of age. The story is subtly written and gives rise to

some uncomfortable reflection, as can be imagined. All 306 executed service personnel were eventually posthumously pardoned by the government in 2006.

Alex Pearl is an advertising copywriter and a keen blogger who lives in Ludlow Way. His first book, Sleeping with the Blackbirds, was written for children from 14 and up. It was reported in the Summer 2011 issue of Suburb News, which can be found in the online archive at [www.hgs.org.uk](http://www.hgs.org.uk).

The Clock Struck War is available as an ebook from the publisher, Mardibooks, or on Kindle from Amazon. It is

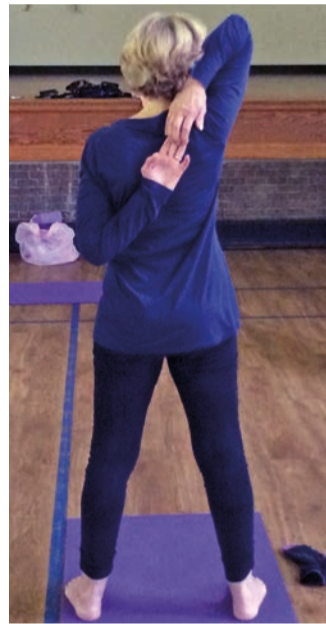


possible a paperback edition will be published later this year. Meanwhile Alex Pearl's story can be read at [rhubarbrabbit.blogspot.co.uk/2013/12/scared-to-death-one-of-23-short-stories.html](http://rhubarbrabbit.blogspot.co.uk/2013/12/scared-to-death-one-of-23-short-stories.html).

## Suburb shapes up to yoga

A year on and how Yoga has kept many Suburb residents in good shape.

In the summer of 2013 Hilda Silver started her Hatha



Yoga for seniors' (and beginner's) class in Fellowship House. It was so popular that a second class was started in the Free Church Hall in October.

A core group of students have enabled Hilda to provide small groups of around 12 with personal attention, enabling them to see great improvement, both physically and mentally.

Many students find the class enjoyable because it is the only time in the week when they can focus on themselves. Yoga can be adapted for all ages and all levels, so beginners can work together with the more advanced.

The only male student to stay the course started about 11 months ago. He realised that he was not taking exercise and that he had poor posture. Arthritis was starting in his toes, fingers and elbows. His partner suggested he come along to the class and he has not looked back.

Initially it was challenging. After 6 weeks, however, he noticed his balance was improving and some postures were becoming easier. The exciting thing about yoga is that you can grow and so there is always a challenge ahead. Like everything, there needs to be consistency.

He loves his class and would not miss it. He leaves feeling relaxed and exhilarated. He can feel that all his body has been working out.

Why not start 2015 by trying something new that will help you with aches and pains and the many ailments associated with maturity. Join one of Hilda's yoga classes in The Free Church Hall Thursday at 10am or Friday at 9.45am. Private sessions and teenage groups are also available.

For more information visit [www.yogawithhilda.yogaclassnearyou.co.uk](http://www.yogawithhilda.yogaclassnearyou.co.uk) or call 07810 205343.

## Northway Rose Gardens

Brian Ingram told Suburb News of the progress being made at the Northway Rose Gardens, "We were able to dig and plant for three weeks before rain stopped play for the winter and the beds became muddy clay.

Although Barnet preferred us to start next spring we were keen to plant some bulbs for spring, to get some early flowering shrubs into the ground and, at the same time, explore the soil. We also planted roses to test the beds for possible rose sickness. In theory new roses need new soil but this would cost thousands of pounds. Summer bulbs will be planted as well as many new shrubs once the weather improves. At least one bed will be for bees and butterflies."

Brian Ingram added, "It looks a bit patchy now in mid-winter but over £800 of manure and John Innes No. 2 has been used. The top soil is only 3-4 inches deep and then it is thick heavy clay which needs improvement before more can be done. In fact one 2 feet deep hole took 45 minutes to dig."

So far the Northway Gardens Organisation has relied on the great support and donations of residents. Residents who would like to donate or learn more could send a cheque payable to "Northway Gardens Organisation" or contact Brian Ingram (NGO) at 69 Brookland Rise, London NW11 6DT, or by phoning on 0208 8458 5313 or e-mailing at [RosegardensNW11@gmail.com](mailto:RosegardensNW11@gmail.com).

## Charity Blues Night

On Saturday 21 March a Blues Night hosted by 'The Blues Filled Saucepan' is being held on behalf of the North London Hospice and The Akili Trust, an educational charity working in rural Kenya.

The doors of the Free Church open at 7.30pm and an evening of Chicago, West Coast, Delta and Rock & Roll music continues until 11pm. Tickets, £15, available from Ros Berg, 020 8455 6558, [rosandmichael@hotmail.com](mailto:rosandmichael@hotmail.com).

## Welcome to St Jude's

**Sundays:**  
8am Said Eucharist  
10.30am Sung Eucharist  
(Junior Church meeting in the Vicarage Rooms)

**Thursdays:** 10am Said Eucharist  
**Mothering Sunday:** 10.30am 15 March  
**Palm Sunday:** 10.30am 29 March  
**Maundy Thursday:** 8pm 2 April  
**Good Friday:** 10.30am 3 April  
**Holy Saturday:** 8pm 4 April  
**Easter Sunday:** 10.30am 5 April

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We wish to purchase items of silver in any condition. As a long standing resident of the Suburb, Gideon Cohen is happy to view your silverware at home and will make an offer to purchase, free of any obligation.

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