

Youth Music Centre grows stronger



Simon Callow CBE, Tanja Goldberg, Members of the Kingfisher ensemble: Mine Ibrahim, Natalie Bhak, Sarah Mohamed, Alice Yau, Xavier Nadal and (behind) Robin Powel (Festival director).

This year the north west London based Youth Music Centre (www.youthmusiccentre.org) had a triple win in the 2015 Spring Grove Music Festival and took home a cash prize of £750.

The groups are the Sunshine ensemble, Primrose ensemble and the Kingfisher ensemble, all taught by Tanja Goldberg and only got together last September. These young musicians meet every Saturday morning at the Youth Music Centre for orchestral playing, theory, voice lessons and choir. The centre takes children from as young as 24 months into their highly successful Junior Musicianship classes.

From September the YMC which has been predominantly string-based will add wind sections to their orchestras. They are now looking for any keen wind players who would like to come to their assessment day on 7 June in Avenue House in north London.

Recently the YMC has been awarded a substantial grant by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust towards their annual Concerto Prize Competition, which is held in April, and every prizewinner will get the chance to play a concerto with orchestra at the prizewinners concert on 10 May at 4pm in the Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church.

Library author talk

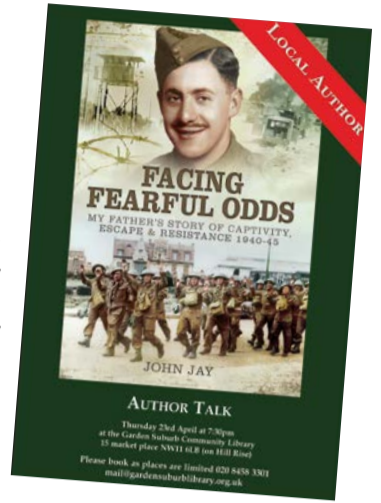
On Thursday 23 April, the first-ever evening author talk took place at Hampstead Garden Suburb Community Library in the Market Place. Local Suburb author John Jay talked about his book, 'Facing Fearful Odds', to an audience packed into every nook and cranny of this tiny space. The book details the experiences of John's father, Rifleman Alec Jay, following the capture of his unit in Calais. Alec differed from most of the other POWs captured by the Nazis, being Jewish. He suffered forced labour in Germany, where he led a rare successful strike, escaped at his fifth attempt and joined with Czech partisans in the closing weeks of the war in Europe. Alec Jay never wrote a POW diary or memoir, but he did bring home a slim volume

of poems written during his captivity. Around these his son John has reconstructed his war, an inspiring and compelling account of a young man 'facing fearful odds' as one of very few Jewish military prisoners.

The author of this fascinating book, John Jay, was born in the Suburb in 1957. He was City Editor of the Sunday Times and ran the business coverage of the Sunday Telegraph. Now in asset management, he lives in north London with his wife and daughter.

The library may be small, but it is fast becoming a lively and vibrant community asset, now that Barnet has handed over the entire running of it to the fully independent volunteer management team. New books have recently been purchased and are flying off the shelves

and its selection of books and DVDs are heavily used by local children. New volunteer librarians are always welcome and training will be given. For details visit gardensuburblibrary.org.uk.



Suburb Hustings (continued from front page)



support for the small business, the NHS (a topic that raised a heckle when it mistakenly appeared it was being left out) and the economy, to the international with the Mediterranean boat people, Tibet and the state of Israel all featuring.

More personal and local questions were also answered and so we heard opinions on affordable housing in Barnet, the first thing you would do on taking a seat in the Commons, a policy of your party you disagree with, the biggest issue facing Britain, hate crime and racism, LGBT issues and the Number 13 bus.

All the candidates apparently are users of the 13 prompting an "I am Spartacus" moment from the last one to declare, while Richard King somehow managed to bring Quantitative Easing into his reply, but the 13 will not disappear if our candidates have anything to do with it.

Jonathan Davies (Lib Dem) echoed a feeling residents have written about on the HGS List that the wording of TfL's statement is strange. Is the back down on the proposal to scrap the 13 a temporary stay of execution so that it comes back after the election when politicians' priorities have changed?

As is often reported there is sometimes remarkable agreement on some things. So all the candidates support human rights in Tibet, a 2-state solution to the Israel Palestine question, the number 13 bus and the LGBT community with Mike Freer (Con) speaking particularly effectively on the latter issue. On other issues responses were

sometimes predictable; Mike Freer and Jonathan Davies often stood on their record, although Mr Davies made sure we knew the LibDem record was a different one to the Conservative's. Adele Ward (Green) was the only candidate to show concern for the environment and climate change, and for Richard King the answer to almost all questions (including parking) was to leave the European Union.

The audience were remarkably well-behaved and after nearly

two hours of talking Alan Walker brought the proceedings to a close thanking the five candidates for their time and commitment.

They must be committed as Suburb News learned they had already attended a hustings in the morning in East Finchley, and members of the RA who are on the HGS List will know they were due to appear again in Central Square at the Minyan a week later. A process no doubt repeated all over the constituency, so that by the time it comes to

the declaration of the result they will surely be grateful it is over.

The vociferous heckler however seemed to give up after some counter-heckling and left the church in a noticeable fashion in the second half of the meeting. Suburb News, having been unable to comprehend what he was saying, questioned a number of people as they were leaving, but it appears no-one was able to understand what was causing him such anguish.

TERRY BROOKS



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