

Annual RA Picnic and Fun Day in pictures



MICHAEL JACOBS



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(Above) As usual, the punch and judy show drew a large and appreciative audience of children – both large and small! (Above, right) The donkeys too proved a firm favourite. (Right) Thankfully the cup and saucer ride was large enough to hold adults. (Far right, above) Queues formed for the coconut shy. (Far right, below) The dulcet tones of 'Sounds of the Suburb' filled the air.

Local parish celebrates church's centenary

On 4th and 5th July the parish of St Edward the Confessor, Golders Green, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the building of the church with a flower festival and Open Church weekend.

Many of the neighbouring Christian churches, the nearby synagogue and the horticultural society in Hampstead Garden Suburb all contributed displays. A specially valued display was brought by the people with learning difficulties at St Josephs Centre in Hendon. Including those produced by different parish organisations in St Edward's, there were 28 displays round the church, making it a remarkable place of colour and beauty.

Doors were opened to any visitors who wished to look



RAPHAEL LANDICHO

around during the day on Saturday and the afternoon on Sunday. They were offered guided tours, a rolling photographic display of the history of the parish in the hall along with tea

and cake and the chance to talk to parishioners on hand.

The building of the church was begun by the first parish priest Fr Bendon in March 1914 and completed in time for the

first Mass in it on the feast of St Edward the Confessor in October 1915, celebrated by Cardinal Bourne. Over the years there were many visitors, notably Monsignor Ronald Knox who preached a sermon on St Edward the Confessor, which is now included in the universal prayer of the church on the feast day of St Edward.

The present parish priest, Fr Tony Convery, was very pleased with the festival and open church, saying a warm "Well Done" to those who organised it all.

For further details contact Deacon Anthony Clark, 8455 9822 or clark@mymitac.demon.co.uk, or email Martin and Joan How, experts on the church's history, at martinhow@compuserve.com.

DEACON ANTHONY CLARK

Letters to the editor

Dear Sir,

Re 'Fellowship House re-opens' - Suburb News, Spring 2015

Since Fellowship House re-opened I have heard nothing but praise for the new look. It is now a really dynamic building of enhanced benefit to our community.

On reading the feature about the re-opening of Fellowship House in the latest edition of Suburb News, I was surprised that no mention was made or credit given to the architect, Mark Beedle.

Mark has lived in the Suburb since the 1970's. His love of the Suburb and desire to preserve the integrity of the building are apparent in his subtle design, whilst making it more appropriate for the demands

of today's world. In my opinion it is in total harmony with the original Fellowship House whilst creating far more room and enhancing the appearance and usefulness of both the interior and exterior spaces.

I hope that this oversight can be put right in your next edition.

Yours
Peter Oliver

Suburb News thanks Peter Oliver for his letter pointing out this omission from our article and agrees with his assessment of the new Fellowship House. Mark Beedle did a fine job as the architect involved in the project. Ed.

"Hampstead, we have a problem"

It was 12.35pm on Tuesday June 23 when my mobile rang. It was hard to make out what the caller was saying – his English wasn't terribly good and the line was poor. I was about to hang up, thinking it was an unsolicited sales call, when I made out the words: "Kammerphilharmonie Europa" – the orchestra that was due to play that evening. That's when I started to take it more seriously...

"I am the first violin," the caller said. "There are manifestations at Calais, and it is not possible either for us to go by the Eurotunnel. We are now at Dunkerque and the ship we can

take goes only before 1800 hrs."

Since they were due on at 7.45pm, this didn't sound good. I was vaguely aware from the news of a wildcat strike at Calais that morning, but hadn't – until then – put two and two together about the travel plans of our contingent from Cologne.

"How many of you are there?" I asked, hoping it was only a violinist or two that might be delayed. "We are twenty-five persons," came the reply.

"But if you don't leave until 6pm, that's 5pm UK time, and don't arrive at Dover until 7pm, that's too late." I said helpfully, "Are you able to fly?"

"We can perhaps fly by Lille airport, but that is one hour away."

"OK, please look into that and I'll get back to you", I said, my brow starting to get a teeny bit moist.

Oh dear. Just seven hours to go until the concert, about 450 ticket holders due to attend – and no orchestra. I called Tim, our concert manager, who I knew was about to start the lunchtime concert.

"Tim," I ventured cautiously, "I know you are very busy right now, but it looks like the Kammerphilharmonie is stuck on the wrong side of the Channel and isn't going to make it for tonight's performance. Any thoughts?"

Tim is totally unflappable. "The soloist, Sergey Schepkin, is here. I'll see if he can play solo for the first half and maybe the orchestra will arrive by the interval." It sounded like a good plan, if Sergey wouldn't mind completely changing his programme and performing something unrehearsed for an hour. "OK," I said, "I'll inform the Committee and please update me once you've spoken to the first violinist again. I can then update our website and put the news on Twitter."

Two hours later, Tim had made enormous progress. Sergey had valiantly agreed to step into the breach, and the orchestra thought they might be able to get an earlier ferry. A revised programme for the concert was in preparation. We decided we'd distribute that on seats and

announce the new plans at the start of the concert. I could then go ahead and let the local press know, as well as using our own communications channels to alert ticket holders to the changes.

The clock ticked. By 6.45pm, an hour before the start of the concert, we didn't know where the orchestra was. There was no reply from any of their mobile phones. We had heard they were catching a 4pm ferry, but it appeared they might still be mid-Channel. We might have to go to Plan B for the second half – Sergey had volunteered for Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition if he had to perform solo after the interval too.

Then, hallelujah, we received a call – both good news and bad news. The good was that the Kammerphilharmonie had caught an earlier boat and had now docked. But the bad was that the crossing had been delayed and they were only just about to leave Dover, one hour before the start of the concert.

We decided we'd tell the audience that we'd make an announcement at the end of the first half about what was going to happen – and we'd offer everyone a free interval drink. The catering team was alerted. 7.45pm and the curtain went up. Sergey came on and performed a marvellous solo recital of Debussy Preludes and Bach's Partita No. 6.

Then – magic – just as we were about to reach the interval, a coach bearing 25 weary but enthusiastic German musicians

arrived at St Jude's. I hate to think what speed they must have travelled on the motorway to make it, but there they were!

We announced at the end of the first half that – after an extended interval, allowing the orchestra time to change and the production crew to work their wonders rearranging the stage for a new configuration – the show would go on.

It did, with a great rendition of Hummel's Trumpet Concerto and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23.

This was the first time in 23 years that we'd had a concert put at last minute jeopardy, yet everyone rose to the occasion, including the audience whose support and understanding was truly touching.

As Barry Millington said in his Evening Standard review the next day: "Crises such as

this test organisational skills to the limit. The Proms at St Jude's, now in its 23rd season, rose splendidly to the challenge."

RON FINLAY



SYLVIA COURRY

Sergey Schepkin holds the fort!

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Elizabeth Abrahams

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Appointments at Temple Fortune Health Centre

Welcome to St Jude's

Sundays:

8am Said Eucharist

10.30am Sung Eucharist

(Junior Church meeting in the Vicarage Rooms)

Thursdays:

10am Said Eucharist

Open House weekend:

19/20 September

Harvest Festival:

Sunday 4 October

Autumn Market:

10.30am-2pm Saturday 10 October

All welcome!

www.stjudeonthehill.com

