



Children singing at Schools' Concert



Katie Bird



Proms at St Jude's trumpeters



Young children at Schools' Concert

MICHAEL ELLETHERRADIS

Joan's clock still ticking

As well as all the fantastic concerts taking place during the week of the Proms at St Jude's, there is a wonderful weekend dedicated to Literary events, when an array of outstanding guests are invited to talk, followed by Q&A sessions and book signing.

The last talk of the weekend was given by Joan Bakewell, interviewed by Piers Plowright, about her new book 'Stop the Clocks'. Joan engaged in a very interesting and lively discussion about aspects of her book. Joan said the title emphasised an imperative not to set the end of life, not to come on too strong; she wanted to share her relationships with time, showing her thoughts, leaving behind memories dedicated to her children and grandchildren. Joan related "my tribe is vanishing" (she is now aged in her 80s) and that her life was part of the post-war consensus, where there was a sense of expectations that the country and world would be a better place. To her tribe, they were the children of the welfare state.

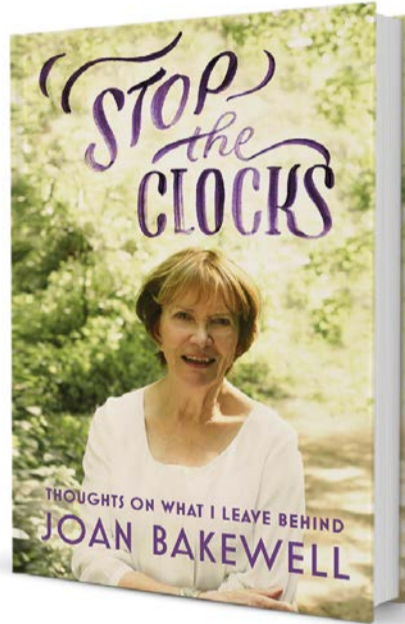
Joan explained about the start of her career in the media, when women were available, but there were few women broadcasters. Her first move into television was as a presenter on

'Late Night Line Up' on BBC 2; a programme that ran for eight years, with a broad remit of open discussions amongst invited guests. Joan is still working and her more recent programmes include two with a religious theme, 'Heart of the Matter' and 'Belief' on Radio 3, and also reading extracts from her new publication on Book of the Week on Radio 4.

When asked who the most impressive person she had interviewed was, she said it was the late Nelson Mandela, and she was the first person to interview him. Her worst interview was when she was insulted by an American chat show host, who was a guest on late night line-up, whom she said tried to 'turn the tables' on her by asking her "Why are you as a woman doing this job?"

Joan's enthusiasm about her career and wanting to pass on to her grandchildren the values she had aspired to: those of being useful to family and community, and being honest, really shone through with great sincerity. So much so that the audience duly responded with resounding applause. It was a fitting end to a delightful weekend of literary events.

DAAPHNE BERKOVI



The new chairman of Proms at St Jude's



When Niamh O'Donnell-Keenan decided to stand down as Chairman of Proms at St Jude's after five years of dedicated commitment, Richard Clegg was invited to take over and was delighted to accept the role. Although he is not a Suburb resident, Richard has lived in West Hampstead for the last 30 or so years (apart from three years spent in Sydney during the 1990s) and knows the Suburb well.

Richard has had a long association with St Jude's since moving to London in the mid-1980s, both as assistant organist at the church and as a member of its choir. When Proms at St Jude's was founded in 1993 by Susie Gregson, Richard was one of her co-founders and he has maintained links with Proms throughout its history.

Richard is a qualified solicitor in both England and Australia. Based in Clerkenwell, he ran his own law firm practice for many years, before merging with Druces, a long-established firm in the City. Within 18 months, he was appointed managing partner of the merged firm and might have continued in that role for rather longer than the actual two years he served, had he not been invited to join the board of one of his long-standing clients, Cubitt House.

Cubitt House is a group of up-market hospitality venues in Belgravia and Marylebone; the group had bold plans to launch a new style of venue and asked Richard to join the team. Noting that it might be less stressful (and with better perks!), Richard accepted. Three years on, he is now joint managing director of what is now the Open House group, with iconic restaurants in Fitzrovia and Kings Cross (and others in the pipeline).

Whilst he claims not to be particularly gifted in the sporting arena, Richard is a keen cyclist. He participated at the end of July in the Prudential Ride London-Surrey 100-mile cycle event to raise money for the Family Holiday Association, another charity closely associated with the Suburb, and of which he is the vice-chairman.

He is still the assistant organist at St Jude's and continues to sing in the St Jude's choir when not required at the console. At home, he enjoys playing the piano and baking (though not at the same time) and once gave a masterclass to the local Women's Institute on the art of making French macarons!

Richard and his partner Graham are enthusiastic travellers (with a particular interest in the Middle East) and, perhaps inevitably, they do rather enjoy good food and wine.



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