



Proms at St Jude's

The Suburb's annual festival celebrates its twelfth year with a range of music to suit all tastes and ages, from classical to jazz to Gospel to chamber music – and culminating in a traditional Last Night of the Proms.

All profits will be divided between Toynbee Hall (75%) and North London Hospice (25%). Last year, a total of £30,000 was donated to these two charities, and the organisers are hoping that 2004 will be even more profitable.

Performers, many of whom are internationally known, include Alessio Bax (winner of the 2000 Leeds International Piano Competition), Humphrey Lyttelton's band, and the Finchley Children's Music Group.

The St Jude's Proms will be held in the Suburb's Central Square, NW11, Saturday 12 June to Sunday 20 June. Lunchtime performances begin at 12.45, and evening programmes at 7.45pm. On Thursday 17 June there is an additional Dame Henrietta Barnett concert at 11.45am at Toynbee Hall, Commercial

Street, E1.

Lunchtime concerts are free, and feature talented young musicians at the beginning of their careers. At lunchtimes, snacks are sold in the church, and can be eaten either inside or at tables outside. Evening refreshments are served in the marquee.

Evening concerts cost £8, £12 or £14, with discounts in advance for party bookings and bookings for three or more concerts. Concessions are available on the night (on the door only).

General booking opens on 17 May, via tel. 020 8933 5365 or www.stjudes.org.uk.

For information on how to become a Friend or a sponsor, and/or to receive a Proms programme, phone Yvonne on 020 8455 8687.



Sylvia Read and William Fry in Theatre Roundabout's production of *Canterbury's Burning* directed by Roger Redfam. Arts Festival 2 July. Photo by John Kenward

East Finchley Arts Festival

A haunted Abbey Church, an exorcism, and the life of Thomas Cranmer feature in the two dramatic productions in this year's East Finchley Arts Festival.

The first is Geoffrey Hanson's opera *The Virgin Crown*, which is to be performed by the London Ripieno Opera Group, tells the story of a young priest who mistakenly falls in love with a ghost. Far fetched? Opera is like that! On 3 July all will be revealed.

Theatre Roundabout, who are currently touring their performance of *Canterbury's Burning*, bring it to the Arts Festival on Friday 2 July. The London

Mozart players directed by David Juritz give a programme of string music by Mozart, Elgar, Dvorak and Britten and a new horn concerto with Nick Korth as soloist, on Saturday 26 July. Local resident and international celebrity Jennifer Bate will give an organ concert on Friday 25 July. The Finchley Children's Music Group and the Youth Music Centre hope to repeat their success of previous years in their

very popular programmes. Early Music with Faronell, Thamyse String Quartet, Jazz at Strawberry Vale & Open House Art Week complete the mix.

Most of the events take place at All Saints Church in Durham Road. Full information is available in the Festival brochure and on the website <http://eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk>

Letters to The Editor

Service station threat
Dear Archer
Many East Finchley residents recently worked hard to prevent the development of a Waitrose supermarket on the High Road, rightly believing that it would destroy local shops and create huge traffic congestion.

Now we face another unwelcome proposal: the building of a substantial retail unit, with car parking, at the Leopold Service Station further up the High Road. It is understood that the store would be occupied by one of the big supermarket chains.

I urge your readers to act immediately and object strongly to this application (C00046AE/04) by writing to Barnet Council or completing the comments form on the Council website.

Service station supermarkets undermine high streets, like East Finchley, by discouraging people from visiting the whole range of high street shops and by encouraging unnecessary car use. This particular proposal will create an especially dangerous situation when young children from Martin School try to reach the shop whilst cars try to reach the service station.

Noel Lynch
Green party member of the London Assembly
City Hall

Calling Friends of East Finchley Library!

Dear Readers of the Archer
I am trying to establish a campaign group to lobby on behalf of East Finchley Library. I would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in getting involved or who would like to be kept informed of developments.

The first priority would be to persuade the council to make the library Disability Discrimination Act compliant. (As I understand it the

Act makes no exceptions for Grade II listed buildings). In the medium term refurbishment, in sympathy with the existing building, would be something worth campaigning for in order to secure the library's long-term future.

I am sure you know that the council plans to close two of the borough's libraries this year - in Totteridge and South Friern. Listed status only protects the fabric of the building, it doesn't safeguard its use. However, if local people get together and make sufficient fuss, Barnet council will listen.

If you would like to get involved, or if you would just like to be kept informed, please call me on 07971 086 913

Polly Napper
Elmhurst Court,
Elmhurst Avenue, N2

Send your correspondence to:
"Letters Page", The Archer, PO
Box 3699, London N2 8JA.
(Due to space restrictions, letters
over 200 words will be edited)

Hampstead and Highgate Festival

This year's Festival runs from 15 to 23 May and promises a wide range of events including music, art, literature, dance and local history.

Several concerts will focus on the music of Elgar, who lived in Hampstead for 12 years. Ken Russell will discuss his film about the composer after its screening at the Everyman cinema and David Pownall's play *Elgar's Third* will be performed at the Gatehouse. Other music events include Verdi's Requiem, a recital by cellist Robert Cohen and jazz

at Lauderdale House and Pizza Express (yes, really).

Children's shows, bat and bird walks, country dancing at Cecil Sharp House and a visit to the Hampstead Observatory are among the activities in the Festival programme. Most events can be booked on 020 77940022 (Festival Box Office). For the full Festival brochure phone 020 77221414.

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