



RICKY SAVAGE ...

Old man's blues

Once upon a time, when men were men, women were women and teenagers were meant to be obscene and not absurd, there was something called rock'n'roll. It was all about being young and crazy and not caring. It was weird, it was wonderful and it annoyed your parents.

Any band with any sense would disappear in a flash of sound and light long before they hit 40. Not anymore. Just look at Glastonbury, look at the big name headliners and there's a 76-year-old married father-of-two putting on the glitz for one last time. But it is the last time for Elton.

Glastonbury, or any other summer music festival, is not for the young and reckless, at least the bands aren't. Guns'n'Roses are all pushing 60 and what was wild in 1986 is now just re-treads. A crowd as old as the band, plus their kids and grandkids most of them wearing reissued 'Appetite for Destruction' reproduction T-shirts ain't teenage angst, it's nostalgia.

And there's worse if you know where to find it. If you're really unlucky you can catch the latest Kiss farewell tour flogging its dead horse round the country. The makeup once covered up the acne; it now covers up the wrinkles.

Once upon a time The Who were the most exciting band in the world: *My Generation*, *Won't Get Fooled Again*, they meant something. But now two of them are long gone and what's left is hitting the road with an orchestra. No bottles of vodka being swigged on stage; it will all be herbal tea. What generation? An old generation.

Even the Stones are back, or what's left of them. There's still Mick'n'Keef and their mate Ronnie and a bunch of session men plus their old bassist heading off to make a new record. Can't get no satisfaction? More like can't get a limo to the stage door. They stopped meaning anything a good 40 years ago, but kids still ironically buy the T-shirt.

Maybe not everyone should pack it in. Cliff's still going at over 80 and the blues and jazzers kept going until they had knocked on heaven's door and been let in. But if you want something young an exciting, forget the old boys, they're well past their sell-by date. It's why Paul Weller's refused big money to reform The Jam, why there's no Led Zeppelin reunion tour coming up and why I hope that the Gallagher brothers' feud continues because I don't want an Oasis nostalgia tour. And yes, I am old enough to have seen all the best bands, but I saw them in their prime and that's when they mattered.

Premieres and favourites at chamber music festival

High Barnet Chamber Music Festival has announced its 2023 season with a programme featuring Beethoven and Haydn string quartets alongside world premieres and a charity concert.

Performers include the New London Orchestra, the Brompton Quartet and the pianist George Xiaoyuan Fu. The premieres are a new work by the emerging Australian composer Rob Hao and a newly commissioned version of Carol J. Jones' *Chrysalis* for string orchestra.

The charity concert features local musicians of all

ages and is held in memory of Jean Middlemiss, a renowned music educator who lived in High Barnet.

The Festival, now in its third year, runs from Friday 30 June 30 to Sunday 16 July and is held at St John the Baptist Church, High Barnet, a short walk from the Tube and on many bus routes.

For the full programme, see www.hbcmf.co.uk

Choral favourites in a relaxed style

Renowned local choir North London Chorus will be entertaining its audience with a programme of well-known arias and chorus from opera and operetta at 7.30pm on Saturday 22 July at St James Church, Muswell Hill.

They will be performing Mascagni's poignant Easter Hymn from *Cavalleria Rusticana* and the sultry chorus of *Carmen's* cigarette girls along with choral favourites by Mozart, Puccini and Verdi. The second half enters the lighter world of operetta and musical theatre with pieces by

Offenbach, Johann Strauss, Gilbert and Sullivan and Leonard Bernstein.

In addition to the main performance at 7.30pm, there will be a special one-hour relaxed performance at 5pm. Suitable for families, neurodivergent people and those living with dementia, the



Behind the camera: Film maker Mike Leigh, centre, chats with a resident on set in Summerlee Avenue. Photo Fiona Macdonald.

Secret film project moves into Summerlee Avenue

By Diana Cormack

An unoccupied end-of-terrace house on the corner of Summerlee Avenue and Cherry Tree Road, N2, became an occasional hive of activity over the last two months. Neighbours had become used to the long-term refurbishment of the property prior to it being sold but the sudden change when a film company took it over was a sight to behold.

An amazing number of workers needed to manage all the camera and lighting equipment for the shoot meant there was quite a crowd swarming over the property and surrounding road and pavements during filming for a new feature by acclaimed director Mike Leigh, renowned for *Secrets and Lies*, *Vera Drake* and *Topsy-Turvy*.

Information provided ...

Organisers Untitled '23 Ltd had forewarned residents with an introductory letter and personal visits to households to allay any fears they might have and regular updates were delivered by hand giving information about filming dates, not only in the Summerlee Avenue house but also one in Cherry Tree Road and another further up Summerlee.

There were also parking suspension details as Barnet Council allowed the company to use some residents' bays as well as the tube station car park and a small area (the site of the former pavilion) in Cherry Tree Wood.

And withheld
In this new film, the Sum-

merlee Avenue house is the main character's home but little else has been revealed despite residents' interest and queries. Particularly commented on has been the use of two trained foxes in the back garden for a late-night shoot.

The veteran film maker is well known for keeping his projects under wraps, but the film producers have told *The Archer*: "Set in London, Mike Leigh's new film explores family relationships in the post-pandemic

world. After over a decade spent making his two epic period films *Mr Turner* and *Peterloo*, Leigh returns to his ongoing exploration of the contemporary world with this tragi-comic study of human strengths and weaknesses."

If you want to know more, you'll have to see the film. Maybe it'll be made a special feature at the Phoenix Cinema or even have its premiere here in N2, as Mike Leigh has been a long-time supporter and patron.

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Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information, contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on 020 8883 9315
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