



THE BETJEMAN SOCIETY

Patron: Jonathan Glancey

Past President: Bevis Hillier Founder and Vice-President: Philippa Davies

Vice-Presidents: Tim Betjeman, Prof Kevin Gardner, + Barry Humphries CBE,
Edward Mirzoeff CVO CBE, John R. Murray, Jim Parker, Martin Revill

PRESS RELEASE

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BETJEMAN SOCIETY HONOURS COMPOSER JIM PARKER WITH VICE-PRESIDENCY

The Barnes-based composer Jim Parker has been appointed a Vice-President of The Betjeman Society (www.betjemansociety.com), the group that celebrates the work of the poet, writer, broadcaster and conservationist Sir John Betjeman (1906-1984).

Parker is best known for writing award-winning scores for hit television series such as *Miss Marple*, *House of Cards*, *Midsomer Murders* and *Foyle's War*. In 1974 he collaborated with Poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman to produce an album entitled *Banana Blush* in which Betjeman read 12 of his poems to music composed by Parker.

Banana Blush has been an enduring success ever since its release 50 years ago, appealing to people of all ages. Its fans include the musician and BBC radio presenter Jarvis Cocker, and Suggs from the band Madness. *Banana Blush* was followed by three more albums: *Late Flowering Love*, *Sir John Betjeman's Britain* and *Varsity Rag*.

Formed in 1988, the Betjeman Society seeks to inform and inspire its members and the wider public through the study, awareness and enjoyment of Betjeman's life, work and influence, both in the United Kingdom and internationally.

Jim Parker says: "I am delighted to have been made a Vice-President of the Betjeman Society. Working with John Betjeman was a real pleasure. I know he would be as pleased as I am that the albums we worked on are still being enjoyed 50 years later."

Betjeman Society chairman Steve Jackson comments: "Next year is the 50th anniversary of *Banana Blush* and it is only right that the Betjeman Society should mark that occasion by making Jim a Vice-President of our Society.

"Through his collaboration with Sir John on *Banana Blush*, Jim made a significant and lasting contribution to furthering public appreciation of Betjeman's poetry. It is wonderful that *Banana Blush* remains so popular and that it is reaching new audiences all the time."

-ENDS

For further information, please contact the Betjeman Society chairman Steve Jackson, email sonjack1@aol.com or the Society's press officer Andy Smith on 07737 271676, email wordsmithreviews@yahoo.co.uk