



Prospect

April 2007

Price when sold £1

Annual General Meeting

In accordance with the constitution of the Barnes Community Association notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** will be held at **Rose House** on **Thursday 26th April** beginning at **8pm**.

In the formal part of the meeting we will be electing the Executive Committee and officers for 2007-8. You will find a nomination form on page 3. If you would like to be considered for election or know anyone you think might be interested in standing for election please complete and return the form – obviously having first obtained their agreement.

Members of the Executive should be able to attend an Executive Meeting once a month (not August or January) and be willing to help with activities as time and interests permit. They should have an interest in the work of the BCA.

Included with this issue of *Prospect* is a copy of our Annual Report 2006 and an updated Local Information sheet.

NB Copies of the BCA Annual Accounts for 2006 (to be presented at the AGM) will be available from Rose House, either in hard copy or by e-mail, on request from Monday 16th April.

After the business of the AGM there will be a talk given by one of our members, **Dr John West**, entitled '**Reminiscences of a GP**' followed by refreshments and a chance to socialise.

John West has been a resident of Barnes since 1973. He is married to Gilly West, who works for Relate. He was an NHS GP Principal in a very busy practice of three doctors in London SW7 from 1970-2002. Then, feeling like a change, he took a short sabbatical after which he joined a private practice in the City. In this he has found job satisfaction but says commuting has become less appealing. He is registered as a patient with a Barnes practice but has never worked medically in Barnes. John is also an organist and pianist and is currently assistant organist at St Michael's Church.

He will try to inform and amuse you and will be prepared for all the questions/statements about General Practice you were always afraid to ask/say!



Spring in Barnes

It may seem a cliché but every year the spring blossom bursts forth in abundance, uplifting the spirit and delighting the eye. We seem to be particularly blessed in Barnes with cherries, magnolias, camellias, mahonias and much more garlanding our streets and gardens. We should not take them for granted but ensure the flora of our unique village continues to bring pleasure to residents and visitors alike over many generations to come.

Think *Green* – think **PARADE**



We would like to welcome every club, society and group to join our local schools and youth organisations in the excitement and fun of the Grand Parade. The theme for the Parade this year is 'Think Green' and we would encourage you all to decorate your float, cars or groups of

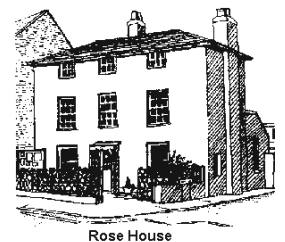
people in recycled, eco-friendly materials.

The Parade assembles at Glebe Road from 10am. After the judging has taken place and the trophy awarded to the most imaginative and colourful float, the Parade, led by the Fair King and Queen, travels around the streets of Barnes and returns to Glebe Road.

If you would like to join the Parade, please contact our Parade Organiser, Sarah Mulford on 020 8878 2359.

Friend and Falcke are the principal sponsors of Barnes Fair

**B
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A**



Rose House

matters...

Executive Matters	p2
BCA Website	p2
Nomination Form	p3
Le Pecq	p5

News from the Executive

Some of the matters discussed at the March meeting are listed below:

- An application from Barnes Primary School for a donation was considered. The school is planning a sports week at the end of March with the idea of giving their pupils exposure to a wide range of sports, hoping that this will lead to pupils pursuing such activities outside school hours. To that end they are putting together a booklet for distribution to all pupils which gives details of local sporting contacts. Executive agreed to contribute towards the publication costs of the booklet as requested.
- The BCA Christmas card made a profit of approaching £1000. It was decided to share the proceeds between the three primary schools, asking them first to let us know how the money would be used. When they reply we will let members know which projects we have supported.
- The Chairman had received a lengthy document, through the website, regarding parking charges. He did not feel that Executive could reply on behalf of all our members but that it was a case for individual responses.
- Discussion took place (initiated by Katie Gent) about the production of a booklet entitled 'Halls for Hire'. This would be a more detailed publication than the present leaflet produced by and available from the BCA.
- Russell Greaves, the Common Keeper, asked for funds to purchase plants (sedges and rushes) to fill up some of the areas which have become bare and to purchase a lopping tool. The latter is to be donated by a member, and it was agreed that the plants should be purchased using the profit from birdseed sales. A student from a local school has asked to work with Russell as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This was agreed knowing that our insurance company had been consulted.
- Matters of concern to the Environment Group were discussed as usual but this Group now has its own report.

Robert Glover, BCA Chairman

Hon Treasurer

At the time of going to press we have no confirmation that someone is able and willing to stand for election for this post. It has been decided, should this still be the situation at the time of the Annual Meeting, to propose a rule change which would enable Gary Smith to remain in post for one or two years.

Notice is required by our constitution before any change of rules is proposed, which is the reason therefore for this notice. The rule change will only be put to the AGM if it proves necessary.

Chairman

May Prospect

Please note that, because of Easter, the deadline for copy for the May issue of *Prospect* will be a few days earlier than usual. Copy, Diary entries and adverts, preferably sent by e-mail to bca@barnesvillage.org.uk, must be received by the BCA **by noon on Wednesday 4th April**. Rose House will be closed between Thursday 5th and Monday 16th April.

Volunteers wanted for the BCA website

The BCA is planning to upgrade its website – www.barnesvillage.org.uk. We need volunteers who would be prepared to join a team to monitor and edit content on the website. This is not a technical support role – it is an editorial function and we are therefore looking for individuals with a web publishing and/or journalism background who have a few hours to spare each month. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Micky Forster at mickyf@blueyonder.co.uk.



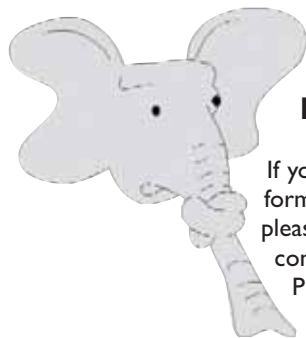
Environment Group report

At the Group meeting on Monday 19th February we discussed the following matters:

- 1 Floodlighting at Rocks Lane Tennis Club. There has been no lessening of the amount of spillage from the existing lights. The lights still spill all over the Richmond Barn Elms fields.
- 2 There had been a hearing on 21st February 2007 for the licence for live and recorded music by the bandstand on Duke's Meadows, with some members of the group attending. We have subsequently heard that, although there were more than 17 objections to the licence, the application was granted with no restrictions. The licence is open-ended except for the hours, which will be between 11am and 6pm.
- 3 The White Hart Lane Action Group website is now up and running, (www.savetheheartofwhitehartlane.co.uk). They have access to free help from a local lawyer and are meeting to discuss what further action to take.
- 4 There was an updating meeting about Barn Elms by the Council. They are now canvassing all needs of current and projected users. The Group feels that the problem of access to the site is still the main problem for the users. This, the Group feels, should be tackled so the projected users know the number of pitches, etc that will be available.

Our next meeting will be on 23rd April, at 8pm in Room 1, Rose House. We hope to see you soon.

Sue Boyd, Chairman



Don't forget to renew your BCA membership for 2007

If you still have to return your membership form and subscription to Rose House, please do so NOW so that we can continue delivering your copy of *Prospect* for the rest of 2007.

Membership forms are available from Rose House or can be downloaded from www.barnesvillage.org.uk. You can now subscribe by standing order – just one form does it all with no further renewals required. For any queries regarding *Prospect* or membership please call Julia on 020 8878 2359 Mon-Fri between 0930-1200.

Barnes Workhouse Fund appoints a new Chairman of Trustees

The Trustees of the Barnes Workhouse Fund, the local grant-making charitable trust that helps those most in need in Barnes, have appointed a new Chairman, Christopher Reilly. Chris has lived in Barnes since 1977 and is married with three children, all of whom grew up in Barnes. Chris retired from full-time work in 2004 after a 27-year career in finance in the City and abroad. He succeeds Geoffrey Barnett, who served on the Fund as a Trustee from 1999 and as Chairman of Trustees from 2003 until January 2007.

The Barnes Workhouse Fund makes grants to individuals who are resident in Barnes and to organisations which are based in Barnes, or which are based in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames and supply their services to Barnes residents. Applications by individuals are brought to the Fund through referral agencies such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Housing Associations, social workers or doctors. Applications can also be referred by other individuals or groups such as clergy or schools which know the individual's circumstances well.

Under its terms of establishment, the Fund is entitled to make grants to provide relief to the aged and to those in poverty, distress or sickness, as well as to support educational and appropriate leisure time facilities. The Fund's website lists the broad range of recent grants made. The Fund also makes grants to students in further education, whether at Sixth Form College or on vocational courses, or at University. Students who wish to apply for an education grant are invited to approach the Fund direct. Application forms for education grants can be downloaded from the Fund's website.

Any enquiries? The website is a good place to start – www.barnesworkhousefund.org.uk. Otherwise you are very welcome to contact the Clerk to Trustees, Mrs Miranda Ibbetson at the Barnes Workhouse Fund, PO Box 665, Richmond TW10 6YL. Email: Barnesworkhousefund@tiscali.co.uk Telephone no: 020 8241 3994.

“...When all at once I saw a crowd...”



Picture of Barnes Green taken by Paul Rawkins, life-long resident of Barnes. If you have a photograph of a local scene you would like to share with us for possible publication, please send it to Rose House.



Election of Officers and Executive Committee

The Constitution of the Association provides for the election of four Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary) and not more than sixteen other elected members.

Nominations for membership of the Committee may be made by members of the Association and representatives of affiliated bodies. The election will take place at the **Annual General Meeting** in Rose House on **Thursday, 26th April 2007** at 8pm.

Nominations, on the form below, should reach the BCA Office at Rose House by noon on **Thursday 19th April**.



NOMINATION FORM

Name of person nominated

Nominated for Officer or Member of Committee

Proposed by

Seconded by

Tick that nominee is willing to stand

Music at St Mary's Simon and Raymond Fischer

Violin and Piano Recital

Mozart, Schubert and Fauré

St. Mary's Church, Barnes

Thursday 19th April at 8pm

Tickets £10, concessions £8. Doors open at 7.30pm

Tickets available at Rose House or on the door

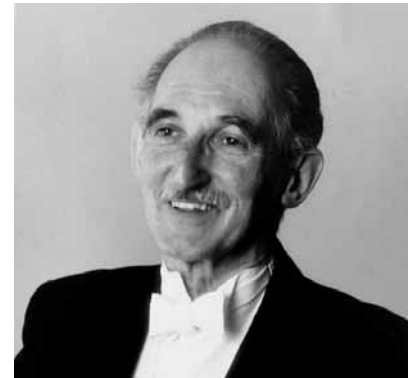
Wine will be available during the interval

Proceeds from this concert will be given to the Barnes Community Association so do please come along and support this event.

Simon Fischer has played as soloist or guest leader with most of the major symphony and chamber orchestras in the UK and has given many recitals at the Purcell Room, the Wigmore Hall and for the BBC. He is professor of violin at the Guildhall School of Music and the Yehudi Menuhin School. His father Raymond is a soloist, accompanist and chamber player and has conducted operas and choral/orchestral concerts. He was a professor at the Royal College of Music for 25 years and is now Tutor in Performance at Pembroke College in the University of Oxford. Recently they recorded the three Brahms sonatas and later this year are giving eight recitals in and around Sydney.



Simon



Raymond

Barnes Charity Players



Peter Siddall presents a cheque to Ed Cottrell of the BYT Experimental Theatre

At the Annual General Meeting of the Barnes Charity Players, chairman Peter Siddall presented cheques to Ed Cottrell of the BYT Experimental Theatre and John Holmes of Shenehom from the profits of their very successful production of *Salad Days*.

Their latest production, *Trelawny of the Wells*, will be performed at the Kitson Hall, Kitson Road, Barnes from Tuesday 17th April until Saturday 21st April at 7.30 pm.

This Victorian drama by Arthur Wing Pinero stars Lucy McCann as young actress Rose Trelawny and follows her dilemma as she becomes engaged to a young gentleman admirer who will provide the security and respectability she thinks she needs, only to realise that maybe her future lies with the famous Sadlers Wells Theatre.....

Tickets at £7 and £10 will be available from Rose House and William Thomas Hair Salon on Barnes High Street from Monday 19th March.

Please contact Phyllis O'Kelly on 020 8748 9825 for more information.

Hi Hi We're the WI

So began a hilarious entertainment at The Hurlingham Club produced several years ago with the lady members entering the stage high kicking the Can Can. However, matters are a trifle more sober in the BCA between 10-12 on a Friday morning! The Country Market, as it is now called, started 22 years ago and sells homemade produce, seasonal flowers, plants and vegetables and a few crafts (knitting and cards). Currently we offer Indian and Asian cuisine along with lemon curd, jam, and chutney, and we have our very own beekeeper (six hives) with light honey in the early summer months and darker honey later in the year – plus honeycombs and beeswax candles, all produced by contented Barnes bees.

There are meringues to die for and a lot of other very good, delicious fare. On a typical day, within half an hour much of the produce has been bought: luscious lemon cakes (for which the market is famous) plus chocolate fudge cakes and pheasant pies are all gone and the trestle tables laid bare (unless that is, reservations have been made beforehand).

Trade is variable, with long queues circling around Rose House, some days even before the ten o'clock opening time, and at other times no queues at all. There are more half terms nowadays and our cooks and our only male, our treasurer, have holidays themselves. Thus no Friday is quite the same and we are always closed on Good Friday and throughout the month of August. So *Prospect* readers are encouraged to check whether we will be open or not.

We love to see you. A large part of the morning's enjoyment is seeing our regular and valued customers and it is a very cheerful meeting spot. Do keep coming and spending time with us!

If you are at home, wishing to cook and delight the world of Barnes with tasty morsels do let us know – we love to have new cooks and variety is the spice of life!

Contact Christine on 8748 7677.



Dance the night away European-style

Our friends in Le Pecq cordially invite you to join them for the Bal de l'Europe.

This ball to celebrate Europe Day will take place in Le Pecq on Saturday, 5th May. It will be jointly organised by their three twinning groups and will feature a French rock group and a German band. There will be an international buffet, starring Spanish *tapas*, German sausage, English puddings and of course lots of wine, beer and *sangria*! Sounds like good fun with singing, dancing and *bonhomie*!

If you are interested please contact Mike, mhspillane@hotmail.com, or via the BCA, as soon as possible.

Pictures at an Exhibition

Local artists were again invited to exhibit their work at the prestigious annual spring art exhibition in Le Pecq. Fifteen works had been accepted, and six of the participating Barnes artists travelled to France. The journey was without incident, apart from a brief encounter with a few protestors, the French police, and tear gas at Chatelet Metro!

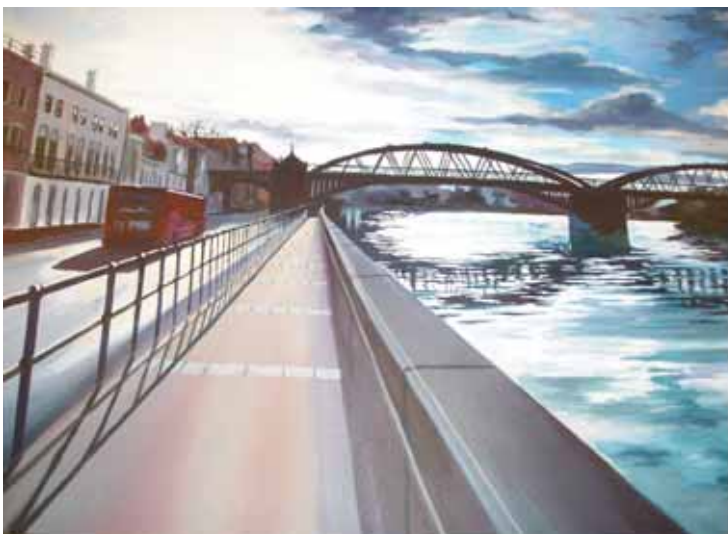
After the buzz and excitement of the opening party where, as well as the locals, we met exhibitors and dignitaries from Le Pecq's twin town in Germany, our hosts took us home to dine and unwind.

The following day we visited Parisian attractions, from medieval to post-modernist: the Cluny Museum, St Sulpice Church, La Défense and the sumptuously renovated Petit Palais Museum of Fine Arts. The latter's hidden garden, a tranquil haven in the centre of Paris where the only sound is that of pampas grass swaying in the breeze, provided a dramatic contrast to the social whirl.

We rejoined our hosts and other Le Pecq artists at the charming home and studio of an internationally renowned painter and his wife, who had kindly invited us all for drinks. Here we heard an intriguing account of painting on wood with white cheese and Armagnac! Later we all went for a delicious meal and an evening of animated conversation and hilarious laughter. Old friendships were renewed and new ones made – an excellent way to spend a fine spring Saturday.

Artists from Le Pecq, Barnes and locality will be showing their work at the Barnes Salon des Arts at the Old Sorting Office from 12th-14th July. Do please come! Meanwhile, if you would like to spend the weekend of 23rd-24th June painting outside in Le Pecq with our artist friends, please contact me, 8878 7742.

Mary Hodgson



'View of Barnes' by Anna Smith, one of the paintings exhibited in the Salon des Arts

Perfect weather... perfect weekend



At Les Arènes de Lutèce

Recently a group from Barnes was able to take advantage of perfect spring weather to walk or play golf in the vicinity of Le Pecq. Some of us had visited before, for others it was the first time, but for all of us it was a most enjoyable weekend.

Most arrived in time to walk along the banks of the Seine in Le Pecq to a small nature reserve – their version of the Wetlands we were told – returning as the sun was setting behind the château on the cliff. Later that evening we joined other members of Les Amis de Barnes for a 'pot-luck supper' where our contributions included such delights as English cheddar, Melton Mowbray pork pies and chocolate teacakes!

Saturday morning saw an early start for the walkers as, led by Sheila, we were to follow in the footsteps of the author Jean Racine in the beautiful countryside around the attractive village of Chevreuse, a former centre of the leather tanning industry. Accompanied by Bunt, the cocker spaniel (who covered twice as much ground as we did), we walked up hill and down dale, through woods, across fields and through mud (where Micky lost the sole of one of her boots!) until we reached the ruins of the abbey of Port Royal. Tired, but happy, we returned to Le Pecq to meet up with the golfers, who had had an equally enjoyable day, for a delicious meal in a local restaurant.

On Sunday we travelled into Paris for a walk, accompanied by Geneviève, a member of Les Amis de Barnes and a qualified guide, from the Place des Vosges to the Butte des Cailles via the right and left banks of the Seine and a restored Roman arena, unknown to many Parisians, let alone people from Barnes. This walk was designed to show us areas of Paris that the normal tourist would not discover and, once we had managed to cross a road filled with thousands of marathon runners, it certainly achieved that.

We are now looking forward to a return visit on the **18th, 19th, 20th May** by our French friends. If you would like to join in, particularly if you are able to offer accommodation, please get in touch with Mike, mhspillane@hotmail.com, or via the BCA.

Gill Spillane

Veronica in 'retirement'

When, after many years, Veronica Schroter resigned as Chairman of the local FiSH scheme many of us imagined her sitting back in retirement and enjoying a well-deserved rest.

Imagine my surprise when I saw her out exercising Teal, the latest in a long line of spaniels, and enquired – as one does – “are you enjoying a life of leisure?” Her reply came as a surprise.

“I do have more time to see my family and Bob (her husband) and have just finished modernising the kitchen of our house in Shropshire, but I haven't really given up work altogether” she said. I should not have been surprised. For as long as I've known Veronica (and that's a very long time) she has been the one we all turn to when we need help or advice – for ourselves or for others less able to fend for themselves. When she came to London she trained and worked in university administration at Imperial College where she met and married Professor Bob and later trained as a professional social worker.

Nor is she putting her feet up yet. As she admitted, before dashing off with impatient Teal, she does indeed help with her granddaughters, but still 'does some work' for the Primary Care Trust, chairs the Borough's Grants Panel, is a Trustee of the Richmond Council for Voluntary Service, is a member of the management committee of the Barnes Green Centre



Veronica – briefly relaxing with her granddaughters in the garden

and is involved with a children's charity. But, as she says, “there is always room for more challenges” and she is passionate about the voluntary sector. So much so that she is about to chair another organisation in the borough. And she keeps an eye on the Leg o' Mutton nature reserve, topping up the water at regular intervals.

Happy retirement Veronica!
Sally Holloway

Rubber bridge at Rose House

We are looking for more bridge players to join us for rubber bridge at Rose House on Monday evenings, 7.30pm.

The atmosphere is friendly and players at all levels are welcome, although we do not offer lessons.

For more information, please call Sriram Chari at 8748 3737.



Body and mind together

Yoga classes are held at Rose House every Tuesday evening between 7.30 and 9pm. There are vacancies for new people so anyone interested should contact the teacher, Laura Ford, on 8332 0577.

Spicing up the Suffragettes

Much has been written about the Women's Suffrage campaign when, in the last decades of the 19th century, running into the 1900s, many women fought for the right to vote in general elections. Little, however, is known about the women artists whose careers suffered because of their commitment to universal suffrage.

Now, Barnes writer and historian, Irene Cockroft, has put this right. Her great aunt, Ernestine Mills, was one of these artists, an enameller and painter. She was not only a suffragette and working artist but also wife to a busy Kensington GP and a mother, who spent some of her childhood in Barnes.

Inspired by her struggle, Irene has written a book *New Dawn Women* about the leading women artists in this campaign. “It includes painters, designers, photographers, ceramicists and jewellers and it's not all serious” she says. Her recent exhibition at a gallery in Guildford included a contemporary silver spice decanter – a ‘muffineer’, designed as a suffragette wearing a sandwich board. It was intended to ginger up the breakfast muffins but the sandwich boards bear a message on one side saying ‘We can make things hot for you’ and on the other ‘Votes for Women’. After more than 50 years of active campaigning they won their battle and women were given the right to vote in 1928.

Irene's book brings a fascinating new angle on the world of suffragettes and is on sale at the Barnes Bookshop in Church Road, price £10.

Sally Holloway



Irene with Suffragette muffineer

Players on the Pond

Cries of an alarmingly authentic sword fight resonated rather incongruously from the Methodist Church hall in Barnes last month. Upon tentatively entering the building, I discovered that no one else seemed concerned at all. Young players respectfully milled about watching their fellow actors kill each other, or quietly prepared for their next scene, displaying the utmost courtesy towards the performing players.

This was a typical rehearsal of the Players on the Pond, a group formed recently as a kind of spin-off of the Barnes Theatre Group.

Consisting of only fifteen or sixteen members, the company of 15-20 year olds is much smaller than the Barnes Theatre Group, opening up all sorts of new theatrical possibilities. Director Ross Livingstone explained, "With the Barnes Theatre Group, which consisted of over forty members, there were a lot of people left playing Second Messenger, etc. With this smaller group, people can get a lot more involved and I can give them more acting tuition."

The players were rehearsing for their latest production, 'Scenes from Shakespeare', a collection of short scenes from plays including Twelfth Night, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

The dynamic of the group filters through

their performances, as the players explained: "Because the group is quite small, the directors Ann and Ross could pick scenes that suited us individually." Throughout the rehearsals, the group have revelled in the Shakespearean language and infused new life into classic scenes. Harriet, 18, explained, "There is a lot of rhythm to the Shakespeare. That makes it easier to learn as well."

The lines also gained new meaning with Ross's modern interpretations. In response to Olivia's demand in Twelfth Night, "Where lies your text?", Viola replied by whipping out her mobile phone. And in the Players on the Pond rendition of A Midsummer Night's Dream, Puck was to be found picking up a fairy in a nightclub by boasting of his adventures "Thorough bush, thorough brier".

Currently in the midst of rehearsing their latest show, director Ross had yet to decide what plays the group would be performing in



Members of Players on the Pond in rehearsal at the OSO, their regular venue

the future, but he said he would be asking members of the group for their input. In which case, according to Catherine, 14, Andrea, 17, James, 20, John, 17, Ed, 17, and Rupert, 19, expect a comedy to be coming from the players very soon!

Players on the Pond are always looking for new members aged 15-18. Experience is not required, just a lot of enthusiasm. Contact the OSO on 020 8876 9885 for more information.

Rachel Rickard Straus



Spring at Wetlands

Spring is a particularly busy time at the London Wetland Centre. Warmer weather heralds the arrival

of birds such as sand martins, little-ringed plover, swallows and exotic willow warblers while cowslips and marsh marigolds swathe the reserve in yellow. Mallard and tufted duck are sitting on eggs, as too are the Mute swans, which make huge nests from gathered reeds and vegetation.

Staff will be helping the public to understand more about the Centre's bird life, with daily sessions during Easter (5th – 18th April) watching ducklings develop inside the egg, hatch out and grow into adults. There is also a special weekend dedicated to the grey heron (31st March & 1st April), a common enough sight along the River Thames yet an impressive predator. This predatory nature of the heron is often overlooked by visitors who are taken with the sheer stature, and stillness, of the bird, but he is probably the greatest danger to the ducklings in the spring, and was responsible for the loss of all three avocet chicks last year.

In addition to the special Easter activities from 5th – 18th April, the Sunday

carvery continues until the end of April. On Sunday 6th May the Centre will open at 4.00am for the stunning dawn chorus, with Early Bird Breakfast served in the café at 7.30am (£20, or £15 for WWT members). For the keen birdwatcher or just a 'wannabe', book a personal birding trainer for a special session at the Centre. It could be a unique gift for a special person.

See diary entries for more details. The Events leaflets for April - September 2007 are currently available at the Centre or at Rose House.



Watch the eggs move and crack as the ducklings begin to hatch during the Easter holidays

Circle dancing for all

Simple folk dances from many countries, uplifting and joyous, meditative and calming, old and new. No experience or partner needed. Just wear comfortable clothes and soft shoes and come and enjoy yourself!

**Barnes Methodist Church Hall,
Station Road
Wednesday 25th April, and 2nd,
9th, 16th and 23rd May**

7.30 to 9.30pm

£4 per session

Light refreshments provided

Contact Liz on 8571 5451
or Davina 8876 5730 if you need
more information

Readers' letters

Dear Prospect

On behalf of St. Mary Barnes Scout Group, may I use your columns to express our grateful thanks to all our friends, members' parents (both current and former) and especially the BCA 'helpers', who so willingly gave of their time and energy to make our recent Jumble Sale such a roaring success.

Although the final figures are not yet complete, it seems likely that we will have achieved our best ever result at something close to £6,000 net which, in our Scouting Centenary Year, is something of a small miracle for which we are extremely grateful. With the centenary "Sunrise Camp" due to take place in late July/early August, all additional funds are most valuable.

"The Campfire that changed the world" has made our Group proud to be part of the Scouting movement and our continued success is due in no small measure to the 'army' of collectors, sorters and sellers at our annual jumble sales, without whose help we should be hard-pressed to survive. Very many thanks from us all.

Yours,

Mike Dixon

Chair, Group Scout Executive

P.S. A set of three keys was handed in during the Jumble Sale, one of which appears to be a front door key! I should be pleased to hear from anyone, who may have lost such a set on either Friday evening or Saturday. Telephone 020 8741 7772.

Dear Prospect

As someone who was a Governor of Lowther Primary for 20 years, I was delighted to read Marie Ellis' letter in your March edition. Can I just add a bit to the points raised?

Pat Henchie is a wonderful Head-teacher and although her manner is gentle, in fact she has great charisma. The school has been lucky in that, over time, she has had more than one deputy Head also with charisma. The staff are all great. The secret of Lowther is that teachers require every child, of whatever ability, to go the extra mile. And each child is given the confidence that this can be done. No 'coasting' for the able child, no hopeless apathy for the less able.

Ms Ellis says she was originally looking for a faith school for her daughter. Lowther, of course, does not have that categorisation. However, if you look at behaviour, loving values and achievement in the school, Lowther must surely qualify as an unofficial faith school.

Yours sincerely

Katie Gent

Dear Prospect

White Hart Action Group Web Site

About 20 months ago, a property company known as Oakmill Properties Ltd applied to Richmond-on-Thames Town Council Planning Department for planning permission to develop land on the site of the car showroom at the top of White Hart Lane and other land adjacent to it.

They proposed building a retail unit on the ground and a number of flats on top of it.

What kind of retail unit was not specified, but the size indicates something along the lines of a Tesco Express type establishment.

No provision was made for parking for the flat-owners, and there were no adequate provisions for the loading and unloading of delivery lorries to the retail outlet.

Initially, Richmond-on-Thames Council did not seem inclined to approve the plans. After an Appeal was launched by Oakmill, despite the well documented objections of the people who live and work here, the Inspector approved the plans. This is despite a record number of objections lodged with the planning department by local residents, citing everything from increased congestion, increased parking problems, impact on local traders, aesthetic grounds – the building plans approved are at the most basic architectural level – and fears of extra pollution to an increase in petty crime and vandalism.

All these concerns seem to have been ignored, despite a valiant effort by a small group of concerned local people who attended the appeal and put a most convincing case. It is now too late to have the approval overturned by a High Court judgment. However, it is not too late to exert as much public pressure as possible on Richmond-on-Thames Council and get them to consider ways and means to stop this going ahead.

Nobody is suggesting that nothing be done to the land, but it must be in keeping with the neighbourhood, recognise the congestion and parking problems and understand the real impact a national retail giant such as Tesco, Sainsbury's or whoever would have on local traders who make this part of Barnes so special.

This kind of thing is going on all over the country at the moment (see the links to other sites on our website below) and, although it requires a lot of effort, it is possible to prevent this area being turned into yet another clone of every High Street in the country.

To find out how, visit our website below and click on *What You Can Do*.

Yours

John Greenwood

David Rossiter

W.H.A.G.

www.savetheheartofwhitehartlane.co.uk/facts.htm



Children at Lowther Primary School

The only greengrocer in the village

Katie Gent talks to MALCOLM LOUIS of *Two Peas in a Pod*

While Malcolm and I were talking in preparation for this article, a lady rang up to arrange the timing of her order. Nothing special about that, you may say. But this lady's home was in the Home Counties; she had lived in Barnes, she had moved out; but still she found she could depend on Malcolm for special orders.

So Malcolm is the kind of shopkeeper who is, literally, willing to 'go the extra mile' for his customers, past and present. We can also be reminded, once again, how very lucky we are to have the people we do running our local shops.

Malcolm has been running his greengrocers in Church Road for the last 23 years. He first found the premises "dirty, full of snails and spiders", but, on sight, he loved it and its setting. Now he would like to enlarge his shop to the rear and is trying to negotiate an agreement with his landlords, who are unfortunately based on the other side of London.

For the last 18 years, Malcolm has been selling us organic produce along



with the non-organic. Next year he plans to go into wholesale for organic as well, at the Western International Market not far from Heathrow. He knows there are some families in Barnes where parents buy organic for the good of their children but stick to non-organic for themselves.

His ideal will be to attract more organic (and non-organic) customers by widening the display of all that is good.

When Malcolm sells organic for children, it ties in with many of his values. Children need a diet with minimal additives, yes, but children also need a traditional family with traditional eating patterns. Malcolm makes a point of getting home to Greenford in time for a family evening meal to bring them all together: partner Anne, James (14) and twins Callum and Joseph (8). Luckily, he has a very competent group of assistants who can give him this freedom.

Like other shopkeepers we have talked to, Malcolm blames high rents, high rates, nearby supermarkets and too many shops-for-people-who-already-have-everything for the changes we have seen in Barnes. He knows the departure of Gary from the High Street has been a blow for customers (occasionally in the past he and Gary helped each other out with supplies) but I think we can say that he is very, very much committed to staying!



Barnes Literary Society

'Criminals, Spies and Bureaucrats' –
Literary Figures at National Archives, Kew
Sat 28th April 2007

The National Archives holds a wealth of background about literary figures, and members of the Barnes Literary Society will have the opportunity for a visit to explore these fascinating documents. Using original papers and letters held at The National Archives, James Travers, author of *Gunpowder: The Players behind the Plot* and *James I: the Masque of Monarchy*, will bring to life extraordinary episodes and characters from our history.

As numbers are limited, booking is required for BLS members. For membership details please see www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk or contact 8748 2558.

The blessings of a good thick skirt!

This phrase from Mary Kingsley marks the spirit that took many lady explorers and adventurers across the globe. A series of six talks will follow up on their internal journeys too, moving away from things as well as towards them, and driven by something more than curiosity.

After one general session when everyone can mention their favourites, the talks will single out Isabella Bird, Gertrude Bell, Karen Blixen, Kate Adie, Mary Kingsley and Lady Florentia Wynch Sale.

The series of six talks will be given by Keith Connelly, PhD, at BCA, Rose House, Barnes on Wednesday afternoons 2.15 – 4.15pm starting on 25th April and finishing on 30th May. For further information please ring Rachel on 8748 4760.

Background reading that should be available includes Karen Blixen *Out of Africa* and Kate Adie *A Kindness of Strangers* and anything else you can find!



Victorian explorer Mary Kingsley