



Prospect

April 2008

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 17th April** at 8.00pm.

In the formal part of the meeting we will be electing the Executive Committee and officers for 2008-9. 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 2007 and an updated Local Information sheet.

NB Copies of the BCA Annual Accounts for 2007 (to be presented at the AGM) are available from the BCA by email on request, or can be collected from Rose House.

See *AGM agenda* on p2.



Barnes Fair – can you help?

It may still be Spring but plans are well under way now for the BCA Barnes Fair on Saturday 12th July. Do make a note of it – and if you can spare some time in July to help out or on Fair day itself- we'd be extremely grateful. Call Charlotte on 020 8748 5898.

BCA Tombola

It is thanks to the support of Barnes residents that the BCA is also able to organise such a successful Tombola stand each year. The proceeds help support local charities, schools and community projects so we're now asking for your help once again. We collect over 1000 prizes to be won on the Tombola and we welcome donations of all kinds. Unopened bottles, unwanted gifts, unused games and gadgets – anything for adults or children is appreciated; we just ask that it is brand new. If you don't have anything suitable but wish to help, then a cash donation will help us buy more prizes on your behalf. Prizes can be handed in to Rose

House or call 0208 748 5898 to arrange collection. Thank you very much for your help and here's to a bumper year!

Artist wanted

Are you an artist, illustrator or cartoonist? Do you have some spare time this month? If so, we'd love to have you on board now as we put together the Barnes Fair Programme.

Fancy Dress Help Needed!

We're looking for someone to take over the Fancy Dress Competition at Barnes Fair. Can you help? It's a great way to get involved in the Fair – there's a little organisation to be done in June but mainly we'd like you to coordinate the competition and the prize-giving ceremony with Sillie Millie the Clown on the morning of the Fair. Great fun!

To discuss any of the above please call Charlotte on 020 8748 5898

Friend & Falke are the principal sponsors of Barnes Fair

Area Consultation Meetings

ACMs are public meetings with a panel of your ward councillors and local police representatives. These meetings are your chance to speak out on issues affecting your ward or the borough. Dates of the next meetings are:

- Thursday 10th April Lowther School, Stillingfleet Road
 - Wednesday 16th April Sheen Lane Centre
- To find out more phone 8891 7156, 8891 7272 or email democratic.services@richmond.gov.uk



We are indebted to Russell Greaves, our common-keeper, for ensuring that the flowers in the horse trough by the pond stay attractive at all seasons of the year

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matters...

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News from the Executive

As the March issue of *Prospect* made clear, residents of Barnes are facing the possibility of change on a large scale – thus making even more relevant the work of the BCA, much of it carried out by our Environment Group which monitors planning and development in and around our village. We hope that by the time of our AGM on April 17th, members and non-members alike will feel that they have been adequately informed as to how they can help. Another local group, Barnes Vision, which is challenging the Council over the proposed enabling development on Barn Elms, is looking for funding support to manage the refurbishment without the need for building on any part of the land. These issues dominated the recent Executive meeting and, as always, the BCA looks to play a major role in dialogues with the Council and other relevant organisations.

Other matters covered the successful conclusion to the obtaining of a new commercial sponsor for the Common-keeper (this will be reported on in May *Prospect*), and the presentation of the annual accounts, which will be available for inspection and discussion at the AGM. We encourage members to visit our website, www.barnesvillage.org.uk, which is becoming of increasing importance, is regularly updated and contains a wealth of information about the activities of the BCA.
David Stott
Chairman



Why don't you join us?

Over the weekend of 2nd – 4th May we are planning to welcome to Barnes a small group of our friends from Le Pecq. Our plans include walking, golf and social events. If you would like to be involved in some or all of the activities – or even to offer accommodation – please contact me at mhspillane@hotmail.com or via Rose House.

Mike Spillane

BARNES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at Rose House, 70 High Street, Barnes

Thursday 17th April 2008 at 8pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM held on 26th April 2007
3. Adoption of the Annual Report
4. Adoption of the Annual Accounts
5. Re-appointment of Auditors
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of Executive Committee
8. Proposals for Honorary Membership
9. Any other business

To be followed by an informal question and answer session
with the chairman and officers
Refreshments will be served at the end of the presentation



'Dogwatch' in Barnes

Dogs and their owners have entered the fight against crime since the inception of the Barnes Common 'Dogwatch' scheme, introduced by our local Sgt Jack. Dog-walkers inform the police of any activity that has aroused their suspicions while exercising their pets on the Common.

(See opposite page for feature on policing in Barnes.)



Environment Group Report

These are some of the topics discussed at the meeting on 25th February 2008.

1. Proposed development for Barnes Goods Yard

Together with *Friends of Barnes Common* we welcome the new proposals but have reservations. The sale of part of this site for housing is to enable two-thirds of the site to be returned to the Common. We want to see an agreement that this land is returned to common land, not just to become Council land. When it is returned it should be part of Barnes Common and have the legal status of common land.

2. Barn Elms Playing Fields

Barnes Vision has been given until the end of April to seek an alternative way of funding for the maintenance and improvement of the playing fields. They have gathered together an impressive team. They have good support from schools, celebrity sportsmen and local community members. They have a web site now www.savebarnelms@mfbiz.com and the Environment Group is working closely with them.

3. 28-29 Barnes High Street

A new application has been sent into the council, Ref 08/0262/FUL. These new proposals have a smaller number of residential units, the enlargement of the Coach and Horses Pub with two shops, fronting onto the High Street, and the rebuilding of the back premises of Claridge House.

4. Discussion paper for the Thames Strategy

The group has strongly rejected some points in this discussion paper, i.e. Art on the Towpath and in the River, and the 'greening' of the walkway between Small Profits Dock and Barnes Bridge. But we liked the proposal for the renewal of Small Profits Dock and the improvement of the towpath between Barnes Bridge and upstream to Mortlake Brewery. We would like Thames Strategy to address the problem of extensive floodlighting from the Hounslow bank.

5. CPZ

We are pressing the Council to post the results of their Zone consultation.

Susan Boyd

Safer Neighbourhood Policing

When the Police Station in Lonsdale Road closed down, the old form of policing died with it.

Now, a new form of police initiative based on much more positive liaison with local people has taken its place. William Mortimer met Sgt Will Jack, Head of our Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and asked him how the new scheme works.

“The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is a Metropolitan Police initiative responding to Government policy requiring police to focus more on the needs of local communities and ‘puts the bobbies back on the beat’ although they will co-operate with the ‘Call Response Teams’ (CRT) which will continue to deploy squad cars”, Sgt Jack said.

The Police Liaison Group (PLG) brings people from the local community into partnership with the SNT and one of its members chairs the liaison meetings. Its function is to keep an eye on the close neighbourhood and report back to the police with anything they feel needs investigating or dealing with urgently as a public nuisance. This policy is defined as ‘policing by consent’.

Since 2004 PLG teams have been established in every ‘ward’ of the country. Each comprises a sergeant with two constables and three Community Service Officers who are usually funded by local government but trained by the Met. The Mortlake and Barnes Community SNT has an office in Sheen and meets with the PLG six times a year. Two of these meetings are open to the general public but the rest are restricted to members. (Look out for notices of place and dates of these meetings



Left to right: PCSO Luke Veillet, PC Natalie Smart, Sergeant Will Jack, PLG Chairman Gina Elrhaz

outside Rose House, Barnes Green Centre and the OSO where they are normally held, or in the local press.)

TERRORISM

A mandatory item on the agenda at every PLG meeting is a terrorism report. Levels of alert, what to look out for when travelling, likely targets in our area, uninvited and suspicious emails, use of garages, sheds and lock-up garages for storing bomb-making materials plus the significance of discarded overalls, gloves, goggles and masks – all these are matters affecting the national public safety.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

“We are also hoping to breathe new life into Neighbourhood Watch schemes”, said Sgt Jack. Well organised co-operation between near neighbours who meet regularly produces a network for two-way interaction with police. *If requested, the SNT will gladly*

help to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Group in your street and will attend its meetings.

Our local SNT team comprises PC Nigel Stratton, PC Natalie Smart and three Community Support Officers whose remit is to react effectively to the routine, on-the-beat policing needs of 5,000 local people. The team provides duty cover for any concurrent ten hours between 8am and 12.30am daily, depending on the policing activity. Every morning Sgt Jack looks at a database of overnight crime reports and organises his team’s activities for the day. Where necessary, immediate action will already have been taken overnight by the mobile Call Response Team. Depending on the seriousness of the case it is either handed to the SNT or to a

specialist investigation team in the morning.

Crime statistics locally, showing figures for 2006 and 2007, indicate that there were fewer burglaries (194 in 2006 compared with 114 in 2007) and robbery/muggings (45 in 2006 and 14 in 2007) but vehicle crime – theft of cars or contents – was 222 in 2006 compared with 226 in 2007. *Figures all relate to reported crime and are correct as of 19th January 2008.*

Contact details:

SNT telephone number: 0208 721 2007
 SNT email address: mortlake.barnescommon.snt@met.police.uk
 Confidential
 anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321
 More information from www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

In emergency, of course the 999 service continues to operate.



Election of Officers & 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, 17th April 2008** at 8pm.

Nominations, on the form provided here, should reach the BCA Office at Rose House by noon on **Thursday 10th 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

On the buses

The major changes at Hammersmith bus station, which we reported in March *Prospect*, have brought a strong reaction from Barnes bus-users. Susan Kramer, MP for Richmond Park, met with and wrote to TfL on behalf of residents and we quote from a reply from Richard Shirley, Stakeholder Engagement.

“...As you are aware, there has been a considerable increase in the frequency on many bus routes serving Hammersmith over recent years. With this in mind, the recent extension to Hammersmith bus station was built to provide more space for buses and passengers.

The extension does differ from the original section of the bus station in that the waiting area is not completely enclosed. However, we are of the view that open-air bus stations offer a preferential waiting environment in terms of noise levels, as well as air and light quality. They also avoid the disruption which is necessary for maintenance of roofs and lighting.

Passenger comfort and security are issues that are taken very seriously. All new bus stops within the Hammersmith bus station extension are provided with adequate shelter from poor weather, and all pedestrian areas are comprehensively covered by CCTV. These areas include the link bridge, all sheltered areas, and the bus entrance and exit.

It was decided that the new stopping arrangements should be designated so that routes travelling in a similar direction would be grouped together. For this reason the extension will be mostly used by buses leaving across Hammersmith Bridge. This offers passengers who have a choice of buses the option to catch the first one available.”

It is obvious that Mr Shirley does not live south of Hammersmith Bridge as he would see that his ‘preferential waiting environment’ can actually be a very inclement place on a cold winter’s night or a blustery, rainy day. Anyone who has joined in the scramble to cross the road to catch an alternative bus can tell him that it is a potentially dangerous exercise and impossible for anyone with even mild physical impairment or heavy luggage.

Unfortunately TfL thought fit to consult only Hammersmith and Fulham Council in its plans for the revamped station and not



33	Fulwell	K	485	Wandsworth	L
72	Roehampton	K		Monday to Fridays	
209	Mortlake	J		except evenings	
283	Barnes	K	609	Mortlake	J
419	Richmond	L		Schooldays only	

Richmond Borough. Susan Kramer says that TfL has agreed a planned review of the new bus area, although their willingness to make changes is limited. She will press them to look at safety, perhaps with rearrangement of stops, and improvements to the walkway including better signage and the possibility of using it as a waiting area. She has also been promised that there will be greater consultation on the design of the new permanent bus station, projected for

completion in about five years’ time, and she will ensure that TfL will involve all interested parties including Richmond Council and the BCA.

Those who would like to sign a petition which Mrs Kramer has organised can call 8876 8914 or email info@susankramer.org.uk. Copies of the petition form are available from the constituency office in Sheen and can be posted to you.



BARNES BROWNIES AND GUIDES

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday April 26th

Guide Hall, Washington Road

Admission 1.30pm £1.50

Admission 2.00 – 4.00pm 50p

For jumble collection phone 8748 9532

FiSH 'n' Chats

During the autumn of last year FiSH 'n' Chats had an experimental presence at Rose House on Friday mornings where two volunteers offered a listening ear to anyone who might need it. After a four-months’ trial FiSH 'n' Chats felt that the service had not been used sufficiently to warrant continuing. Also, the small room downstairs where coffee and chat was on offer was really too small for confidential encounters.

FiSH would like to hear from Barnes residents if they think a service like this can

be useful and whether it would be used somewhere in Barnes.

However, FiSH wants Barnes residents to know that they are very welcome to call in at the drop-in coffee shop in Sheen Lane Centre where four trained volunteers are ready to listen (in confidence if necessary) or just to chat and pass the time of day. They are there on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 10.15 to 12.30 just inside the main doors. Filter coffee is only 80p. And the chat is free! Kit Peck

A hat-trick of successes

For the third inspection in a row the Barnes Montessori Nursery has been awarded top marks in all areas – a hat-trick of successes to add to the school's achievement of national Montessori Accreditation three years ago.

The school was found to be "outstanding" in all areas with a strong Montessori ethos. The school recently joined in celebrating one hundred years of Montessori schools culminating with a Centenary Service at Westminster Abbey when the children of the Barnes Montessori Nursery were chosen to sing in front of over one thousand people. "This was a huge privilege and honour", said Mrs Anne-Marie True, Principal for over twenty years.

Mrs True continued, "We are absolutely delighted with our third outstanding inspection in a row. I would like to thank the children in our care." The inspector noted their behaviour was "exemplary" and they "have very high self-esteem, and are confident and independent learners".

"I would also like to congratulate my staff for their continuing hard work, dedication and caring approach. Without them this great achievement would not be possible. They deserve this recognition as we promise to continue our very high standards."

The inspector said that "the quality of the teaching and learning is outstanding".

One parent said, "It is an amazing place and the school has helped our child blossom into a fun and fascinating child. We truly could not be happier."

The Principal also praised the support, help and advice from the Borough Early Years Team.

To contact the school phone 020 8748 2081.

New radio station for Barnes

Barnes is set to have its very own radio service starting in May this year. **Barnes On FM** will be broadcasting alongside other communities in the west of London in a blend of programmes ranging from serious discussions to pure entertainment. The plan is to expand to include the areas surrounding Barnes as the project gains momentum.

Awarded a hotly-contested licence by Ofcom to broadcast on the FM waveband at 101.4, right next to Classic FM, **Barnes On FM** will be part of the new radio station OnFM. Its programmes will be heard not just in the immediate local area but also by a potential audience of 1.5 million people within a 5-kilometre radius of its transmitter in Hammersmith.

The programmes will give a platform for local people to voice their views, for new writing and music to be heard. There will be a flow of news, events, sport and entertainment, plus a smattering of celebrity.

Local businesses will also get the chance to put something back into the community by sponsoring specialist programmes with a strong social and vocational training remit in an initiative that has already seen a successful partnership formed with the Prince's Trust.

In building up a local team, the organisers are looking for people to give their time to the project. When the station is up and running, people of all ages will be encouraged to make radio programmes of real interest to local people.

At this stage, office administration skills are needed as the project progresses towards its first broadcast. Based in Barnes with a link to offices in Hammersmith, the radio team is now opening a wide-ranging skills list of people who would like to become involved in the launch.

Call Nicola McHugh on 020 8741 9781 or 07768 867 716 for more information.



Junior tennis coaching

Barnes Tennis Club (Lonsdale Road) is offering tennis coaching to juniors on Mondays after school, starting in April. There will be three groups: from 4-5pm for ages 4-6 years, from 5-6pm for ages 7-10 years and from 6-7pm for age 11+. The lessons will be £7 per session payable in advance.

The coach is David Summersgill (LTA licensed, CRB checked). For further information call David on 07800 779 257 or Lydia Holden on 020 8748 2787.



ST MICHAEL'S JAZZ DANCE

Saturday 17th May

In aid of St Michael's

Community Centre campaign

Dinner and dancing to

BASIL MOSS AND HIS BAND

Raffle and auction

Further information from

Basil Moss, 13 Cleveland Road, Barnes, SW13 0AA,

020 8876 9035, bazmo@blueyonder.co.uk

Tickets: £27.50, £20 students and senior citizens

Don't delay, apply today!

With payment please – cheques to St Michael and All Angels



Sir Walter Raleigh of 'the Dump'



Thin yellow mud covered the ground at the Dump* in Townmead Road when I called there recently. Picking my way over from the car to the heap I off-loaded my unecologically disposable waste, but when I returned to the driver's door I was flummoxed to find a large puddle of said mud had gathered below it. I was pondering how to get back in without filling my shoes with slurry when one of the workmen came across with a large, grubby pillow and a big smile. Dropping the pillow and manoeuvring it into exact

position with his foot he said, in true Sir

Walter Raleigh style, "You don't want to tread that horrible mud into your nice clean car, love – tread on this!" Feeling like royalty, I thanked him, transferred (almost) dry-footed into the car and drove off.

It had made my day!

Sally Holloway

*I know that it's not the p.c name, but our family has always called it 'The Dump' and will continue to do so!

(It is good to know that the age of chivalry is still alive. Ed.)

National Gardens Scheme Forthcoming dates for your diaries

It is always a great treat to visit other people's gardens and enjoy the fruits of the owners' toil without any of the effort. There are hundreds of gardens throughout the country which will open this year under the National Gardens Scheme, with the proceeds going to charity and the following are the ones which are listed for Barnes.

Sunday May 18th
12 midday – 6pm

- 11 Woodlands Road

Sunday June 8th
2–6pm

- 12 Westmoreland Road
- 2 St Mary's Grove
- 8 Queen's Ride



For more information visit the website www.ngs.org.uk

Barnes Filmclub

Barnes Filmclub is investigating a new central Barnes venue with integral audio/visual equipment. We are looking for a volunteer passionate about film to take the helm and help us get an exciting new season off the ground. If you know of anyone, or are interested yourself, please contact Barbara Cartmel on 020 8748 6564

Readers' letters

Dear Prospect,

"THE SKIES OVER LONDON ARE FULL"

This is what we were told a few weeks back, as the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) started a radical rethink of the flight paths over our extended capital. The three-dimensional geometry of the currently-adopted system is doubtless vastly complicated, what with all the airports in the vicinity, civil and military, plus through traffic, all of which must be able to function safely.

So, whatever happens to the various long-term schemes to increase flight numbers at Heathrow, the CAA are starting to redesign their scheme to allow for the already massive number of planes. For instance, it will be necessary to 'stack' incoming flights further away, spoiling the lives of yet more communities.

Where would allowance for a third runway fit into this? No-one has started the work. Moreover, the threat that landing planes may in future land on both the Heathrow runways at the same time ('mixed mode') would create huge extra flight-management problems, with a larger swathe of sky having to be kept clear for these. From what I understand, mixed mode operations could be harder to accommodate in the new system than would a Third Runway.

Don't you get the impression that all this is a bit back to front? Surely, they should first plan to make the skies safe and only afterwards consult people on any expansion at the airport.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Gent

HACAN committee member

Scout Jumble sale

Dear Prospect,

On behalf of St. Mary Barnes Scout Group, may I use your columns to express our grateful thanks to all our friends, our members and their 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 success.

Although the number of visitors to the Sale was down this year, which we believe was almost certainly due to the closure of The Terrace, we were nevertheless delighted to achieve a net result of close to £5,500.

Our Scout Group continues to prosper for children of ages 6-14 and we are delighted to welcome the new Burton Scout Explorer unit, based at our HQ, which remembers Sir Richard Burton, the renowned explorer buried in Mortlake, and caters for young people aged 14-18.

The continued success of St. Mary Barnes Scout Group 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 and we are extremely grateful for their continued support.

Very many thanks from us all.

Yours,

Mike Dixon

Chair, Scout Group Executive



Any old iron?

Many a Barnes resident remembers the 'make do and mend' culture that prevailed during and after the war. How many of us still shake our heads when we remember the revolution in the high street with the arrival of the 'consumer society'? Electrical goods and gadgets today are out-of-date within months rather than years.

Designers and manufacturers strive to outdo each other by shaving cost while adding another gizmo. The 'throw-away' culture experienced by the young today results in the disposal of perfectly serviceable machines simply to be seen with the latest, fashionable, miniature accessory.

No wonder the ecologists are worried about the damage waste is doing to the environment. There just aren't enough barren sites to meet the demands for landfill. Landfill has a number of dangers. Decomposing food waste adds to the burgeoning greenhouse gases. Drugs flushed into the drainage systems are harming the reproductive cycles of animals and perhaps affecting human fertility (London water is cycled seven times). Electrical waste contributes to the accumulation of hazardous substances leaching into the ground water.

Recycling is more and more the vogue. Good citizens sort and bag each week before the arrival of dustcart and paper/glass collection trucks. Generous souls bag up old clothes for the charity shops and doorstep collections. But what call is there for the old iron? Not the garden railings and saucepans which were earmarked for making battle ships and tanks but the electrical flat iron for pressing a suit. Is there any real provision for recycling household electrical goods?

Barnes has its own recycling capability in the form of the jumble sale. Alas, the electrical stall will soon become a thing of the past. Few people seem willing to give their time to charitable fund-raising and even fewer are able to fix a fuse, never mind oil the mechanics of a DVD player. More and more products are manufactured so as to prevent a technician getting into a machine to make repairs. Yet many of the faults are simply the result of poor maintenance. Fans clogged with dust, vacuum cleaners with full bags or blocked pipes, not a frayed power lead in sight. People just don't take the simplest care of their possessions and the jumble sale is the most ecologically friendly way of dealing with the problem. Wherever possible machines donated to the jumble are returned to working order and found a new, deserving home, which otherwise could not afford them.

Recently (the timing not aligning with a jumble sale) I used the Internet trying to find a home for a well-maintained electric cooker – ceramic hobs, double oven, timers, bells and whistles. The instruction book was



Definitely NOT the way to do it...

in pristine condition and the cooker was spotless inside and out. The cabling and electrical parts of the cooker were in similar mint condition. I thought first of women's refuges but no, they had no provision for inspection to the required Health and Safety standards. The same rejection came from agencies geared to furniture re-use, including Richmond Borough. But miracles do happen and they referred me to EcoAction, whose help line said yes, they could recycle electrical equipment. Since I am over-sixty the collection could be made free of charge and they would take another four items if I wished. 'Just call and give your reference number at least twenty-four hours before the truck is scheduled and we'll have room for the collection' said the call centre lady.

How happy I was that my cooker was to have a new home. The day dawned and

there arrived an EcoAction removal van in tandem with a Council dustcart. Yes, my cooker was to be loaded on the removal van while an old mattress further down the road would be crushed in the dustcart. I shared my excitement with the driver, 'Instruction manual in the top oven, all the grill pieces in the bottom, I am so pleased it's going to a new home. Will it be a refuge?' A blank look and a single word I could make out sounded like Townmead. 'But that's the tip!'

The long and short of it is that the EcoAction recycling service is provided by Richmond Council and the cooker would go into one of two skips (light blue for the small stuff and dark blue for the bigger items I discover from a later visit to Townmead). Approved 'totters' on the site may have a market for a 'clean' item but these are exceptions. The dumbfounded driver on the day of my collection had told me that the only recycled part of my cooker, ceramic hobs and all, was likely to be the metal bodywork recovered when it is melted down.

And that raises some questions. Where are all these items consigned to the flames (burning electrical goods produces some noxious substances) and how is the fall-out from the furnace chimney governed and monitored? This will be investigated and reported on in a later issue of *Prospect*.

Meantime you might try the following web site, which offers a directory of recycling services in hopes of a better outcome for your old-faithful electrical! www.frn.org.uk/directory/london.asp

Oh yes, you will also find FURNITURE SCHEME RICHMOND UPON THAMES is listed and it does say 'furniture only'. Others do say they will take electrical goods.

William Mortimer



...and neither is this – an illegal computer dump in the USA

Eco-funerals made easy

Like many other people, I'd heard of eco-funerals, cardboard coffins and strange send-offs for the deceased but never quite knew what they were all about. So when I noticed among the FiSH Tuesday Talks the title 'Eco-Funerals Made Easy' by Roslyn Cassidy, I joined the large audience.

Roslyn came to the undertaker business ten years ago after she'd noticed that most undertakers were men and she felt there was a need for a woman's touch among the bereaved. All her staff are women. She still does traditional funerals but developed into one of the few undertakers in this country who offer an 'Alternative Form of Death'.

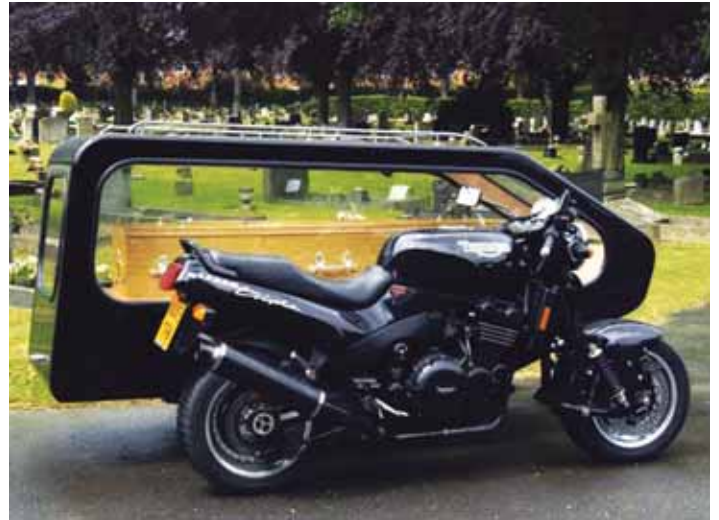
People often think that cremation is ecologically sound she told us, but not so. Each cremation (and 70% of people opt for them these days) burns twenty-six litres of oil - not to mention the pollution of the atmosphere by the mercury in the teeth fillings of the departed.

Once you opt for a 'green' send-off, you can choose the style of your last journey. Friends can conduct a 'service' or you can opt for no religious ceremony or the religion of your choice. It's up to you.

Then there's the sort of coffin you'd like and the place where you want to end your days. If you want a woodland glade, there are a number of Natural Burial Grounds across the country reserved for 'green' burials. Our nearest one is at East Sheen. (A list of these is available from the National Death Centre.)

The most eco-friendly coffins are made of wicker, but you can choose from cardboard, bamboo or papier mâché (and no, they won't leak or collapse!) The cardboard ones are often decorated with paintings or signatures of friends and their poems or pictures. Some even have them decked out in their football club's colours. Roslyn says you may like to try one for size.

Then there's the question of the hearse. There is a wide choice for those who don't want the traditional Daimler. You can go to your Maker in a crystal coach drawn by horses, a magnificently



A hearse-shaped sidecar attached to a motorbike for a more environmentally friendly exit

streamlined hearse-shaped side-car attached to a motor bike, or even a brewer's dray.

And the cost? From £1,500 – which compares well with the traditional type.

Sally Holloway

Want to know more? You'll find it at Green Endings Funerals Ltd.

Phone: 020 7424 0345

info@greenendings.co.uk

www.greenendings.co.uk



Barnes Literary Society

Visit to Shakespeare's Globe

Following the Shakespearean theme of the previous BLS event – 'Shakespeare and the Classics' – a visit to Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition has been arranged for the morning of Saturday 19th April 2008. The exhibition explores the life of Shakespeare, the theatre for which he wrote his plays and the London of his time. A fascinating guided tour of the Globe Theatre is included in the visit and members will have the opportunity to view the refurbished Globe Exhibition with period costume and musical instruments. For more details see www.shakespeares-globe.org.

The cost of the visit is £8.50 /£7 seniors. Advance booking is essential. Contact 8876 6798 for tickets. For membership details please contact 8748 2558 or see www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk.

**BARNES
MUSIC
SOCIETY**



April 24th Barnes Music Society

Fenella Humphreys, violin
Alasdair Beatson, piano

Bach Sonata No. 1 in B Minor
Sibelius Danses Champêtres
Charles Piper Ghosting
Beethoven Sonata No. 7 in C Minor
8 pm St. Mary's Parish Church, Barnes
Tickets £10 at door (Concessions £8)



Spring happenings at the Wetland Centre



The sighting of a Garganey duck created a stir on the Reserve towards the end of February as it is normally a summer visitor. The staff and keen birdwatchers alike are unsure if this individual has overwintered here, or simply arrived very early – usually seen arriving in April/May. The largest concentrations of these birds winter on the Niger Delta in West Africa. The most recent sighting has been on the Sheltered Lagoon. Who knows what else spring will bring?

WWT London Wetland Centre is expecting some exciting new arrivals for the Easter holidays – a family of Indian Runner Ducks. The Indian Runner duck eggs have been on view in their incubator since 18 March, with special “behind-the-scenes” Egg Watch viewings from 5 – 20 April. The eggs are due to hatch during the second week of the Easter school holidays.

The Centre’s education team will show visitors the developing eggs through the weeks, hold candling demonstrations (where a harmless light is shone through the egg to see the ducklings as they grow) and offer plenty of information on the progress happening under the shells. Visitors are encouraged to come back to see the eggs mature through the weeks and to see the ducklings hatch. Once the ducklings have hatched, visitors will be able to join the team on excursions to take them out into the ponds to explore their surroundings and to practise swimming.

The first ever **Bloomin’ Wetlands Weekend** is taking place 26 & 27 April. Focusing on the plants and ecology of the Reserve, there will be plenty of things to see and do. Specialists will be



The vivid yellow Marsh Marigolds are among the earliest of the Centre’s spring blooms

discussing all parts of the Reserve from the World Wetlands to the Wild Side and how the plants contribute to the Centre’s success. There will also be tips and workshops on creating your own garden features.

Look out for the Fritillary meadow blooms in April!

The full schedule of events and activities is on the website Events pages on www.wwt.org.uk/london, or call 020 8409 4400 for more information.

Stasa Veroukis

Down on the allotment



Made BBC weather home page on computer. Ready to nip down to allotment on good days to hoe and hand weed. Edged grass path sown last summer rather neatly with old floorboards from a skip. Moved tarragon and thyme which were in the way. Remaining Jerusalem artichokes need lifting but, to be honest, don’t like them that much. Even when think all have been dug up, some rogue tubers hide away and come up next year. Measured up shed roof, plan to fit gutter to collect rainwater in case of hosepipe ban. May not get around to it.

Back at home, concentrated on fitting out new potting shed, also needs gutter. Got seeds going, ready for when the growing season really starts in May. Ruthlessly thinned out seed packets, many still unopened, collected over several years. Felt guilty. Was this needless destruction? Must not be seduced by seed catalogues – who really needs garish plants, Moldovan purple garlic from Kazakhstan, purple spring onions to add zing to your salad, crimson asparagus? Sowed seeds diligently in ‘Sow and Grow’ peat pellet propagators, but they grow like mad indoors, start to etiolate the moment you take your eyes off them. Keep shifting them between house and potting shed. The little seedlings seem premature, too fragile to be taken from their incubators. Quantities make no sense: Savoy cabbages 35 seeds per pack, cauliflowers 325, carrots 3000. Only nine Demon Red Pepper Chilli seeds. Nearly took packet back to the garden centre but saw it said eight seeds so couldn’t complain. Hope they live up to their name.

Jack

FiSH Tuesday Talks



Barnes Green Centre
at 11.00am
Coffee available from 10.30am

1st April

Diana Childs: *Richmond Carers Support*

8th April

Marie Evans: *The story of two careers*

15th April

Stephen Rhys: *A Tour to China*

22nd April

Martina Phillips: *Homestart Richmond – Family Support*

29th April

Tomas Kelly & Cathie Mendaza: *Homeshare – keeping people independent*

All welcome

