



Prospect

April 2009

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 23rd April** at 8pm. The Agenda can be found on page 2.

In the formal part of the meeting the Executive Committee and Officers for 2009-2010 will be elected. 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. If you would like to be considered for election or know anyone who might be interested in standing please complete and return the nomination form on page 2. Do obtain their agreement first! Nominations may be made by members of the Association and representatives of affiliated bodies. Nomination forms should reach the BCA office at Rose House by noon on **Thursday 16th April**.

Members of the Executive should have an interest in the work of the BCA, be able to attend an Executive Meeting once a month (except in January and August) and be willing to help with activities as time and interests permit.

Copies of the BCA **Annual Accounts** for 2008 (to be presented at the AGM) are available by email from the BCA, or can be collected from Rose House.

Included with this issue of *Prospect* is a copy of the **Annual Report 2008** and an updated **Local Information sheet**.

Barnes pond island works

Winter is the season for working on the island in Barnes pond and several visits have been made recently, once with the assistance of staff from council contractor *Veolia*. The main tasks were tree work, removal of blackberries and alien plant species, and clearing the duck beach of debris and vegetation.

Blackberries are good for wildlife, particularly insects and birds, but are very invasive, spreading quickly. The central thicket was cut back from the water's edge and all runners and seedlings dug out across the whole island. This benefits both annual and perennial marginal plants such as hemp agrimony which attract a wide variety of pollinators.

Willow trees have also proliferated and are coppiced (cut to the base) or pollarded (cut to the top of the trunk) on a three year rotation. There are several reasons why this is necessary and widely regarded as good management practice for wildlife. Thinning reduces shading of wetlands plants, encouraging greater diversity and also promotes denser low growth from the stump to create better bird nesting sites and increased insect niches. The opening of 'windows' in the vegetation allows birds to come and go and provides easy escape routes if required. Finally, it prevents trees from becoming top heavy and falling over which adds to erosion problems on the island as this pulls the relatively thin soil away from the pond liner.



Interested swans watch Russell at work on the island
(Photo: Robert Martin)

All the cut wood has been formed into habitat piles for amphibians and birds, or used as natural fencing around the pond. There will also be some planting: two more weeping birch trees will be added to the duck beach shortly.
Russell Greaves, Commonkeeper

Easter Holidays

Please note that the BCA offices at Rose House will be closed from Good Friday, 10th April until Monday 20th April. Please submit all copy, including articles, adverts and Diary entries, for the **May** issue of *Prospect* before the office closes.

The *Prospect* team wishes all readers a Happy Easter.



Come and join the fun at the first ever BCA fundraising **DUCK RACE** Easter Saturday, 11th April



Meet by Beverley Brook on the Events Arena, Barnes Green at 11.45am
Ducks launched at 12noon

Plastic ducks, £5, on sale now from the BCA at Rose House or Sally Membery's Shop, corner of Church Road and Barnes High Street

Get your duck in plenty of time

All ducks completing the course will win a small prize

Children must be accompanied by an adult

For more information contact Julia or Hilary on 8878 2359

**B
C
A**



matters...

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Environment Group Report

There are many topics on our agenda: on some we are waiting for decisions from the Council; others we monitor and report when there has been movement.

Esporta Tennis Club

The current application is with Hounslow Council. There are many aspects of this application to which we are objecting as they will affect our riverside. Richmond Council has written to Hounslow supporting the objections from Barnes.

Rocks Lane Tennis Centre

The lighting experts have delivered their report to Richmond Council Planning Department. There will eventually be discussions with the wider community.

Barnes Vision

They are still progressing with funding applications for Barn Elms.

St Paul's School redevelopment, Application: 08/1760/DD01

A number of people living nearby are objecting to aspects of the redevelopment.

10-12 Barnes High Street, Application: 08/084459/FUL

An application for permission to extend the ground floor of One-Stop supermarket and build a mixture of residential units and offices at the upper levels is with the Council. Some residents in Stanton Road and the High Street are objecting to some aspects of the application.
Susan Boyd

Stop Press

PLA contractors have had to cut down two of the lime trees on The Terrace between Barnes Bridge and the White Hart pub, as they were seriously decayed with Heart Rot Fungus (*Ganoderma*). Thirteen limes and a chestnut remain. Work on the towpath between Hammersmith Bridge and Small Profit Dock will start soon.

Car clubs are go!

Further to the article in last month's *Prospect*, we have found out a little more about the Car Club scheme in Barnes.

We understand from the Media Office at Richmond Council that local councillors were consulted as to the location of the parking bays, but with so many bays a public consultation process would have been long and drawn-out. "By using experimental orders, residents are consulted and operators can also look at the performance of each bay prior to making a permanent order". Adverts were placed in local papers informing people of the scheme, but not everyone, of course, reads the local paper. Car Club operators are distributing leaflets, but as we go to press I have yet to see one.

For those who do not need a car on a daily basis there is no doubt that joining a car club can be a cost-effective, not to mention greener, way of motoring, so do visit www.richmond.gov.uk, click on C in the A to Z list then click the link to Car Clubs for more information. There are three operators in the Richmond borough: ZipCar, (though none of their cars appear to be based in Barnes) City Car and Streetcar. The car in my nearest bay is a smart new silver Vauxhall Corsa operated by City Car. Membership costs £50pa with City Car and hire (depending on size of car) costs from £4.95 per hour, £49.50 per twenty-four hour period. Fifty miles worth of free fuel in each twenty-four hour period is included, 24p per mile thereafter. Streetcar's rates are: yearly membership £59.50; hourly hire from £3.95, daily £39.50; thirty miles free fuel and 23p per mile thereafter.

If you join the local scheme do let us know what you think of it.
Gill Spillane

BARNES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at Rose House, 70 High Street, Barnes
Thursday 23rd April 2009 at 8pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM held on 17th April 2008
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. Any other business

An informal question and answer session with the chairman and officers will follow
Refreshments will be served

Saturday opening at Rose House

The BCA is hoping to reinstate Saturday opening. All regular rota helpers will be invited to a coffee morning on **Thursday, 30th April**, I am at Rose House but if anybody new would like to come along Julia would be very pleased to see them. Please contact her on 8878 2359.



Election of Officers & Executive Committee for 2009-2010

NOMINATION FORM

Name of person nominated

Nominated for Officer or Member of Committee

Proposed by

Seconded by

Tick that nominee is willing to stand

Nothing was too much trouble



Clive Wallis, who for four years drove the FiSH minibus, died on 27th February. Nothing was too much trouble for Clive and he was loved by members at the Barnes Green Centre, who will miss his warmth and support.

At his funeral both Jenny Hughes from FiSH and Veronica Schroter, Chairman of Age Concern, paid tribute to a very special man.

Leap into Fairtrade with Lowther School

Pupils at Lowther Primary School did their bit to boost this year's Fairtrade Fortnight by preparing a tea made of Fairtrade-only ingredients for parents and friends. The day was run as part of the school's *Food Friday* initiative which teaches pupils about nutrition, healthy living and the benefits of Fairtrade to the wider community.

Headteacher, Pat Henchie, said: "Through our cookery curriculum the children, families and the local community share a passion for putting cooking back into the heart of the family". Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Culture on Richmond Council, Cllr Malcolm Eady, added: "We are proud to be one of the first boroughs to be granted Fairtrade status and it is especially pleasing that Lowther is taking such a leading role in promoting the issue. Imaginative and informative programmes, like *Food Friday*, are brilliant additions to the curriculum."

All ingredients used on the day were donated by Sainsbury's and Olive's Wholefoods provided a raffle prize. In the spirit of Fairtrade, all the money raised will go to *The Under the Tree Schools* charity.



Shannon Fiddis, Emilia Connor, Philip Kraus-Mitchell and Noor Yasser ice their Fairtrade chocolate cake.

Work at Barnes Fair – and save for your summer holiday!



We're looking for a team of strong, willing and able students, ex-students or others to help out on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th July. On Friday the work includes putting up tables, carrying tombola prizes and helping with stands, whilst on Saturday we need help setting up, litter-picking and general support. Hard work but fun – and a good way to earn some holiday money! For more information, contact Charlotte on csharpeneal@yahoo.co.uk or 020 8563 2288.

The BCA is delighted to have *Friend & Falcke* on board once again as main sponsors.

Did you know?

Continuing our series of *Historical Shorts*, did you know

- that the theme of the 2009 Barnes Fair on 11th July is *Historic Barnes*?
- that girls, mostly from Shropshire, came to Barnes every summer to work in the market gardens? At early Barnes Fairs, in the summers of the late eighteenth century, one popular event was for girls over eighteen who would race round the pond. The winner was rewarded with a 'holland shift' (a smock-like garment made of holland, a coarse linen fabric) and 'Byng and Burdett (the names of the two parliamentary candidates at that time) ribbons', possibly in the shape of rosettes. (Thanks to *Maisie Brown* for the information.)
- that Barnes Bridge (designed by Joseph Locke) was built in 1849 with a single track and widened in 1891?
- that The Terrace, where many of the houses date from the early eighteenth century, became extremely fashionable, particularly for summer holiday lets, a century later?
- that the approach to Hammersmith Bridge (originally built in 1825-27 and widened in 1887) on the Barnes side was so marshy that spoil from St Katherine's Dock by Tower Bridge, had to be brought for the ramp?
- when Beverley Brook got its name? The name 'beaver stream' almost certainly dates back to before the eleventh or twelfth century when beavers became extinct in the area. 'Ley' is a corruption of 'lacu', Anglo-Saxon for a stream.
- that Harrod's Depository, now converted into luxury apartments, was built in the 1890s on the site of a former soap and candle works (1858-1892)?



SHOPPING IN BARNES

SOS – please help Save Our Shops

I am sure we would all agree that we would like the colourful range of shops, cafés and restaurants to remain in our heartland, but they are going through difficult times. Already a number of outlets have had to close. Check out Barnes shops first for your gifts, wine, clothes and household goods. If you go to the Farmers' Market, remember to visit our fabulous fresh food shops too. Think about using the services offered here as opposed to those perhaps closer to your place of work. And relax in our cafés by day and in the evening eat in our restaurants, from where you can simply walk home.

As part of my remit as Retail Champion, I am trying to bring more customers to Barnes by advertising the village more widely to tourists, by improving its appearance and by organising events. The village shops offer a friendly and personal service and original goods that will be the envy of your friends! Let us try to keep it that way – a unique urban village experience. If you have any views you want to share, contact me on www.retailsue@barnesvillage.org.uk.

Sue Nichol, BCA Retail Champion



Barnes High Street



We all need a Hero

Richmond Hero is a new local reward card programme supporting independent retailers and small businesses, specifically in Barnes, Kew, East Sheen and Richmond. Membership provides you with direct access to discounts, savings and special rewards at more than forty-five participating shops via the **Richmond Hero Bounty Card**.

Offers are listed online and participating shops will display the Richmond Hero Trusted Shopkeeper sticker in

the window. Individual offers are at the discretion of participating shops – some offer a percentage off whilst others may give a reward with a purchase or spend.

Many of these shops are located in the heart of Barnes including Barnes Kitchen Shop, Barnes Fish Shop, Redhill Appliances, Shoenuique, Two Peas in a Pod, Membery's, Barnes Bookshop, Peachtree Beauty Salon, Focalpoint and Flowers by Cymbidium, with more shops joining across the borough every week. Using the card will support our valued local independent retailers and businesses – and save you money.

The cards cost only £10 per year and by purchasing your card through the BCA, you raise £2 for The Barnes Community Association. Support your local shops and the BCA with a Richmond Hero Bounty Card available at Rose House or online at www.RichmondHero.co.uk. Be sure to mention the BCA when purchasing online!

Nicole Solange

Greener upon Thames needs greener Barnes volunteers!

Community, retail and traders' associations from across the borough of Richmond are joining forces to launch Greener upon Thames, an initiative to encourage local residents to give up plastic bags and to carry reusable bags.

The average use of each plastic bag is for no more than twelve minutes, yet each year in the UK alone, at least 200 million plastic bags end up as litter on our streets, parks and beaches and can take between 500 to 1000 years to break down. The Greener upon Thames principles include asking traders to sign a simple pledge to promote the use of reusable bags; only provide plastic bags if requested by a customer and not have plastic carrier bags on public display.

The support base is widening rapidly, but in order to make this campaign a success, the BCA needs a volunteer to help with the shop pledges for a Greener Barnes. A glance at this photo of a local street will remind you of the importance of the issue: most of the litter is plastic bags. By banding together with other areas in the borough we stand a much greater chance of success. Please volunteer today and help us become Greener Barnes!



Shop locally



Maybe the uncertain economic climate is calling for the security of a bustling, friendly, kitchen environment, because every deli seems to be packed out at the moment. Spoonful in North Barnes at 174 Castelnau (020 8741 8880) is

an inviting place with the coffee machine clunking away reassuringly and lots of tasty products. From the attractive range on offer, the following leapt out.

Riserva della Cascina, Superiore, Marino DOC, 2007, £9.85 is a typical white wine of Rome. A blend, including the Trebbiano grape, enlivened with Malvasia, gives a piercing, lemony, mineral nose. Citrus fruits and white blossoms burst onto the palate leaving a reviving, herbaceous finish. What they call a thirst quencher and delicious with a vegetable and cheese tart.

Boschetti, Dolcetto d'Alba DOC, 2006, £17.65 is from a small, well-regarded DOC in the Piemonte region of North Italy. The little sister grape variety to heavy weight brothers Nebbiolo and Barbera, Dolcetto means 'the sweet one'. This single-vineyard bottling from the Marchesi di Barolo winery has a juicy, morello cherry nose, sweet-fruit structure and a taut, kernel finish. Wines from this region are never cheap but are interesting and stimulating. This un-oaked red makes a refreshing change from homogenous 'fruit-bombs'. Good with cured meats or beef carpaccio.

In the Mediterranean, olive oil is treated with the same reverence as wine. **Antonius, Organic Cold-pressed Extra Virgin Olive Oil, £6.50/25cl** is from a high-quality producer in Puglia, the hot heel of Italy. A soft, oily nose leads to a grassy, peppery palate with a gentle, fruity finish.

The natural partner to olive oil is balsamic vinegar, delicious to dip chunks of bread into. **Mengazzoli, Aceto Balsamico di Modena, £9.95/250ml** is dark, sweet and concentrated with rich flavours of caramelised dried fruits. This pretty bottle would make a nice present or a treat for yourself. Like all higher quality products, a little goes a long way.

Next month we swing back to Church Road seeking spring quaffers.

Vino Loco

Prices and stock correct at time of going to press. Vintages may change. Please drink responsibly, www.drinkaware.co.uk. Any comments to thethirstybird@gmail.com

What future for a historic site?

Standing on the site of historic houses, the reported demise of Olympic Studios gives pause for reflection. What patina have recent incumbents of these buildings engraved upon our village? What echoes remain for the future?

Following the demolition of the earlier Byfeld House, today's building, Byfeld Hall, was completed in 1906. Its style is described as mildly flamboyant Dutch Baroque, sadly compromised in the early 1960s by the removal of its cupola. Opening events included a bioscope (early cinema) show in the main hall with seating for 350 people and a further 150 in the gallery. A smaller hall within the building provided accommodation for theatricals, dances, concerts, whist drives, meetings and children's parties.

From 1910 until 1925 under various names (including Barnes Picture House) Byfeld Hall became a Cinematograph Theatre. Then a young theatrical producer, Philip Ridgeway, took over the property. By attracting actors of huge reputation to perform his *avant-garde* productions he set the trend for the last quarter of the century. The great and good of show-biz made their way to Barnes, firstly under Ridgeway to give live theatrical performances and in our own times to Olympic Studios to record the seminal music of the age.

Make no mistake, Ridgeway was a brave entrepreneur attracting audiences from London to see the stage version of *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* scripted by the author, Thomas



Hardy, himself. Its success with Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies in the lead allowed him to transfer the production to the Garrick. He then engaged the maverick Russian émigré director Theodore Komisarjevsky to design and direct four Chekhov plays. Until then, these plays had never caught the public imagination but the Barnes productions with their supreme ensemble playing, simple sets and innovative lighting made Chekhov the most popular foreign playwright in the country. Big name actors included Jeanne de Casalis, Martita Hunt and Ernest Milton; emerging talents included John Gielgud and Robert Newton. Charles Laughton made his professional debut in *The Government Inspector* with Claude Rains (yet to become a Hollywood star) in the lead role.

After a short two years Ridgeway's success enabled him to realise his theatre destiny in the

West End. Cinema resumed while the café life that follows theatre came to an end. Some local residents today remember films shown during the war years. Re-opening as the Vandyke in 1952 after a fire and specialising in continental films, it was never a success. Commercial television, using the space to make, among others, the famous OMO detergent advertisements, soon replaced the ailing cinema.

Conversion to the Olympic Sound Studios took place in 1966 with capacity for recording a seventy-piece orchestra. Now, after more than forty years, the digital revolution brings down the curtain on hi-fidelity recordings of the Beatles, the Stones, Barbara Streisand, Tina Turner and other icons of the popular music industry. Sir Tim Rice, who subsequently became a resident of Barnes, recorded *Jesus Christ Superstar* here before its stage success.

The shabby, engraved sign on the building wall in Byfeld Gardens still advertises the circle seating and the shades, like all those of us alive to Barnes heritage, wait in hopes of a glorious new future. Barnes Community Association, whose origin was in the campaign to save the adjacent Homestead some forty years ago, will expect a new owner to attract similar creative energy to the village.

William Mortimer

Thanks to Maisie Brown of Barnes and Mortlake History Society and Sue Boyd of the Environment Group for their invaluable help

Barnes Bridge repainting – look out for the bale of straw!



Repairing and repainting (in gun-metal grey) of Barnes Railway Bridge was scheduled to start at the end of March and is due to continue until April 2010.

Concerned local residents, the BCA Environment Group, Council Planners and the West London River Group have called for the repainting for years and years; Network Rail has been slow to honour the fact that the bridge is a listed structure.

Bridge closures

Inevitably there will be some inconvenience, particularly to people wishing to use the footbridge to cross the river. Work will

generally take place on weekdays between 7am and 6pm but for safety reasons some work can only be done at night and at weekends. We list here just the closures scheduled before the summer holidays.

Railway line:

Sunday 14th June, 12.35am to Monday 15th June, 4am
Saturday, 25th July, 1am to Monday 27th July, 4am

Footbridge:

Monday 18th May to Saturday 5th July, 9.30am to 3.30pm daily

Keeping the Thames open

Scaffolding will decrease headroom for vessels passing underneath, particularly, but not solely, the side arches. To warn those on the river of the obstacles posed by the scaffolding, as a 1978 legal requirement, as well as a long-standing tradition, 'a bundle of straw large enough to be conspicuous' will be suspended from the bridge in daytime and a white light will shine at night.

The contractors are BAM Nuttall Ltd, 0800 389 5910. Network Rail's helpline is 08457 114141.

Katie Gent

The Florestan Trio with Richard Hosford, clarinet

Saturday 25th April, 7.30pm
Wathen Hall, St Paul's School, Lonsdale Road

Debussy *Piano Trio in G*
Ravel *Sonata for violin and cello*
Messiaen *Quartet for the End of Time, for clarinet, violin, cello and piano*

This programme celebrates the many faces of French music, culminating in Messiaen's unforgettable *Quartet for the End of Time*, written in a German prison camp in 1940 and first performed there by the composer and fellow prisoners.

Tickets: £13, £16, £21 from 020 7731 1940 or fionamortimore@btconnect.com. See www.florestantrio.com for further information.



Richard Hosford

Healthy mind, healthy body



The crocuses are not the only purple flecks to have been seen on Barnes Green in recent weeks. At 10am every Saturday morning locals have been meeting at the Old Sorting Office to form a fitness group. You may have seen them in their distinctive purple T-shirts jogging around the Green and stretching by the Pond. You will have certainly heard them laughing, chatting and egging each other on.

The Barnes group is one of several that have been set up by Active-Healthy-Mind.com and the website, www.ahm-go.com, has all the information needed to get started. The beauty of the groups is how little is actually needed to get started: simply turn up in trainers and whatever you feel comfortable in for exercising outdoors for an hour. The programme is simple enough for anyone to learn and effective enough for everyone to feel and measure their own progress.

The session starts with a gentle walk or jog and some stretching to warm up. The group then heads across the Common for a twenty-minute run, jog or power walk – depending on fitness, energy and inclination – and ends with some drills and more stretching to warm down. The ‘low impact cardio’ training is aimed at those who have not done much exercise in the past or who are returning to fitness or who simply want an easy way to start building some exercise into their weekly routine. It really doesn’t matter if you are out of shape, overweight, giving up smoking, asthmatic or diabetic.

The sessions are free. No contracts to get locked into, no membership fees to pay and no waiting list. You can start on Saturday. The Barnes group is small, fun, relaxed and looking for new members. If you have ever wanted to get fitter this is the place to start.
Magnus Boyd

‘Early demolition’ for Putney Hospital

More than a year ago, *Prospect* described the emerging plans to create an NHS Primary Care Centre on the site of the old Putney Hospital, development which would be financed by the building of a residential block to the rear of the site. We also explained some of the legal hoops that would have to be jumped through to allow access to the proposed flats across Putney Common. “Don’t blink”, we said.

The private-sector partner for this deal is to be LIFTco. Financial arrangements were originally to be finalised in 2009, but in fact it has been found possible to bring the demolition forward, so that construction work could begin at the first opportunity in the new financial year.

That’s ‘early’ demolition for you. But it comes at the end of thirteen years of uncertainty and frustration: no plans; what plans? no good; no money; plans refused Now, I suppose, we watch to see what effect the credit crunch may have. Let’s hope the sums can still be made to add up.

Katie Gent

Open Day at Barnes Tennis Club

Barnes Tennis Club on Lonsdale Road is holding an Open Day on Sunday 26th April for people of all ages and abilities who are thinking about playing tennis. Adults interested in membership should arrive between 3pm and 5pm. Junior coaching is also available and Lydia Holden (8748 2787) will be there from 2-3pm with coach Alex Harvey to register juniors for coaching courses. Old or young, or nicely in between, turn up with your racquet ready to play, or for more information telephone Jane Bonner (020 8876 1270) or email barnestennis@hotmail.co.uk

The club is friendly and inclusive, offering social, team and individual tennis and, as part of Barnes Sports Club, has its own bar!



ST MICHAEL'S JAZZ DANCE



Saturday 16th May, 7-11pm

In aid of

St Michael's
Community Centre

Dinner and dancing
for the very last time 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: £30 – cheques payable to St Michael and All Angels



Barnes Literary Society

Literary Walk

Samuel Pepys' London

With spring in the air the Barnes Literary Society ventures outdoors with a literary walk on Saturday 25th April. The guided walk is called *Samuel Pepys' London – 'Bloody, Flaming, Pox London'*. It will include places where the plague and the fire took place, where Pepys lived and worshipped and St. Paul's. The walk starts at Tower Hill station and lasts about two hours. It will end at or near another tube station. The cost is £6 for members, and advance booking is essential.

Contact: 8748 4852 for tickets. For membership details please see www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk or contact 8748 2558.

Open Air Service in The Old Barnes Cemetery

All things bright and beautiful will resonate over the graves on Barnes Common at a service of commemoration and thanksgiving on Saturday 16th May, 9.30am. St Mary's Church, with the Friends of Barnes Common (FOBC), is sponsoring a service to be led by Rev Ross Collins to remember all the local people buried in the old Barnes cemetery, to celebrate the recent clearance work and to reclaim the old cemetery, which has largely been forgotten, for the local community.

Did you know that for a century (1855-1954) the old cemetery, south of the Rocks Lane tennis courts, was the main burial place for Barnes families? Over 3,000 people are buried there.

It looked very different in those days, as the picture shows. Then, for years, it sadly suffered from vandalism and neglect. But recently the FOBC have worked with Richmond Council to improve access while maintaining it as part of the local nature reserve.

There are many fascinating gravestones in the cemetery – all legible inscriptions were recorded by volunteers from the Barnes and Mortlake Historical Society in the 1960s. Last year articles in both the *Times* and in *Prospect* focussed on the grave of Ebenezer Cobb Morley, an all-round local sportsman, who wrote the first rules of football for the FA. One of the most striking features is the large number of babies and children buried here as local families were decimated by 'fever' in the nineteenth century. FOBC maintain eight war graves and at the request of families will create access to any of the graves.

We hope that on the morning of 16th May, the area will echo not only with bird song but also with the voices of many local people celebrating their predecessors.

Contact Celia Cleave celia@cleave3.orangehome.co.uk or Sue Adams sue.adams@btinternet.com for further information.



Olympic painting makes gold at the Barnes Charity Ball



L to R: Vassos Alexander, Reverend Ross Collins, bid winner Richard Weaver and Henderson Cisz

Celebrating Team GB's medal success at the Beijing Olympics 2008, a specially commissioned painting of the Bird's Nest Olympic Pavilion signed by the GB medal winners headed the auction bid list at this year's Barnes Charity Ball. The painting by Henderson Cisz, British Fine Art Guild Artist of the Year and owner of Street Gallery in Barnes, was signed during the Games thanks to BBC Sports Reporter Vassos Alexander who took the painting with him to Beijing.

The Ball in St Mary's Church in February made over £55,000 for three charities: Under Tree Schools Sudan, Home-Start Richmond and St Mary's Barnes.

Andrew Summers



BARNES BROWNIES AND GUIDES

Jumble Sale
Saturday April 25th

Guide Hall, Washington Road, Barnes

Admission 1.30pm: £1.50

Admission 2-4pm: 50p

For jumble collection phone 8748 9532

ST MARY'S CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT

???????

Saturday 9th May
Kitson Hall, Kitson Road, Barnes
7.15pm for prompt 7.45pm start

Bring a Picnic, Cash Bar

For further information
and to reserve a table
or individual tickets contact

Charlie Grainger
charliegrainger@sacw.co.uk
020 8239 8861

Spring has sprung!



Birdwatchers were impressed during the winter months with the continual sightings of bitterns near the reed bed and marsh at the WWT London Wetland Centre. Other bird highlights include lesser redpoll, siskin, redshank, little ringed plover, water pipit, shelduck, wheatear and jack snipe. Look out for the arrival of summer warbler species like chiffchaff and willow warbler.

Spring is the perfect time for a stroll through the wetlands. The wildlife is starting to change with the warmer weather, with many sightings of common lizards sunning themselves and butterflies fluttering around. Keep an eye out for dragonflies and find marsh frogs and common toads in the ponds.

The popular *Big Batty Walks* are back this year, May to September, and guided tours are selling fast. Learn about bats with one of the bat experts and then venture out into the night with a bat detector to see what is swooping around. Nine species have been recorded on the reserve.

From June the Centre will host the *Love London Recycled Sculpture Show*. Weird and wonderful recycled sculptures will be placed around the site showing how talented artists have transformed everyday waste into innovative and inspiring sculptures. The first two sculptures have already arrived and are located in the sustainability gardens in *Waterlife*. The frogs are made out of reused CDs and recycled plastic and rope. Don't miss this unique show that will appeal to all ages.

The popular *Dawn Chorus* early morning tours will be held on 25th April and 3rd May. Experience the early morning birds on your guided tour before enjoying a full breakfast in the Water's Edge Café. Tours at 5, 5.30 and 6am. See the Diary section for details.

Tickets are now on sale for the *Barnes Barn Dance* which will be held in the Water's Edge Room on 15th May, 7.30-11.30pm. Tickets, £20, include food, live caller, band and plenty of fun! All profits go towards the Wetland Centre. For more information contact Chris Elliott on 020 8409 4402 or christopher.elliott@wwt.org.uk

Visit www.wwt.org.uk or call 020 8409 4400 for more information or to book an event.

Nicole Snowden



Readers' letters

Dear Editor

£6,600 and counting!



On behalf of St Mary Barnes Scout Group, may I use your columns to express grateful thanks to all the friends, members, parents (both current and former) and

especially the BCA helpers, who gave their time and energy so willingly, thus making the recent Jumble Sale such a success. Gross takings this year exceeded £6,600, the best ever result, and we hope for further sales of special items via internet auction houses.

Special thanks go to Rita Robinson, Dorothy Paignton, Paula Heyhoe, Paula Mortimer, Moira Knox and the stalwart team of dedicated jumble sorters who reaped their reward for hours and days of sorting at Scout HQ, by exceeding £1,100 in 'Daisy's Den' and taking over £1,000 in 'Good as New'.

The new funds have enabled us to confirm the purchase of a fine second-hand van, to replace the twelve-year old van currently in its death throes, which is vital to our camping and fund-raising activities and will be welcomed to 'Twickeree' (Twickenham Jamboree) at Marble Hill Park in June when up to fifty of the SMB Scout Group are expected to camp.

Thank you all so much.

Sincerely yours

Mike Dixon, Chair, Scout Group Executive

Dear Editor

The Legalities of Snow Clearance

I refer to my letter in *Prospect* last month.

Until the 1970s, snow clearance from paths and pavements was the responsibility of householders, like most countries in Europe and North America. Because their citizens are required to perform the task, they cannot be held responsible should they make a mess of things. But a change in UK law has made snow clearance the responsibility of the Highways Department, albeit at a low priority. Individuals who perform the task of their own volition might now be liable for a compensation claim if, for example, an icy patch on a path is not cleared entirely and a passer-by slips and is injured. A partially cleared, frozen pavement can be more dangerous than the adjacent pavement where fresh snow is still lying.

So, like all enterprises in life, if you do the job it needs to be done well with a liberal sprinkling of salt to stop melt-water freezing overnight. Household insurance from any reputable company usually provides indemnity in event of a genuine accident.

Take courage: on those rare arrivals of snowfall you can enjoy neighbourly conversation, warming exercise and the satisfaction that the effort is immediately of community benefit.

William Mortimer

Dear Editor,

Heathrow

Much has been written recently about the possible expansion of Heathrow, for and against, but there is one point which does not seem to have been commented on as much as it should. It concerns the financial

case for a third runway and sixth terminal.

The proposals people were asked to comment on were for total flights per annum to rise from the present limit of 480,000 to 702,000. The likely benefit (Net Present Value) was assessed to be £5.5bn. However, before the Government decision of support in principle was announced, last-minute concessions on environmental matters changed the project radically. It was officially announced* that in order to keep noise levels at an acceptable level, it probably would be necessary to restrict flights to 605,000 a year up until 2020. Moreover, flights using the new runway would have to be 'green' (definition and method of enforcement to be decided later).

What we now have is a proposal to build vastly expensive infrastructure and then not to use it fully, certainly until a review takes place, suggested for 2020. (Indeed, unless noise and air pollution restraints can be reliably shown to have been overcome, the official rhetoric seems to suggest there would be no use of the third runway at all for some time.) But what would be the likely return on capital and resources of building something that is only half-used? Very, very much less than £5.5bn: one suggestion is £0.9bn.

So can the economic case still outweigh all the downsides? Seemingly not.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Gent, HACAN Committee member

* Impact Assessment, appended to the Secretary of State's Decision Letter: *Adding Capacity at Heathrow – decisions following Consultation (January 2009)*



Work for your local community
**Wanted for FiSH Neighbourhood
 Voluntary Care Scheme**
 (in partnership with Richmond and Kingston
 Accessible Transport RaKAT)
MINIBUS DRIVER

Full time, 35hrs per week – job share considered

To work mainly in Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen supporting frail and disabled people within the FiSH neighbourhood providing door-to-door transport in accessible minibus

Applicants must hold a D1 entitlement on their driving licence

A Mini Bus Driver's Awareness Scheme certificate of competence would be an advantage but training would be provided for the successful candidate

Phone 020 8876 3765 for further information and application form

www.fishhelp.org.uk

Allotments are all the rage

Allotments are all the rage these days. Celebrity chefs talk of nothing else, the National Trust wants to dole them out and they are becoming more and more popular with young families. Lucky 'owners' of allotments have to hide their smugness, for as long as they look after their plot and pay the very modest rent, it is theirs for life.

There is nothing to compare with the excitement of that phone call "There's a plot free now on such and such site. Are you still interested?" You may have been on the waiting list for years, probably given up hope. "Am I **interested?** Hey, when can I collect the keys?"

The trouble is there aren't enough – you can't even get on a waiting list any more. New sites are not going to happen so Richmond Council, which owns most of the allotments in the Borough, is searching for ways to get the most out of what we've got. Cultivating the traditional five rod plot (30 by 45 feet or 125 square metres) can easily become a burden. Vegetables just don't grow themselves. You have to learn how to look after them, you have to have time – and a strong back. Size really does matter after the first enthusiasm wears off.

One obvious way out is to split plots in two when they become vacant. This was just one idea which was batted around at a recent public meeting of Richmond Council's 'Allotment Task' group chaired by Cllr Jonathan Cardy. The group is also looking at ways to enhance allotment facilities, for example by persuading a nearby pub, café or shop to allow people to use the toilet without buying anything, through the Community Toilet Scheme.

The group's report is due soon but there is still time to let Cllr Cardy know if you have any bright ideas: cllr.jcardy@richmond.gov.uk, 0208 943 0096.
 John Greenwood



Railwayside Allotments

FiSH Tuesday Talks



Barnes Green Centre at 11am

Coffee from 10.30am, Talk 11am (40 mins)

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 7th April | Yvonne Wake: <i>Social health and wellbeing for all across the generations</i> |
| 14th April | No talk – Bank Holiday week |
| 21st April | Bill Kentish-Barnes: <i>Gold Threads and Embroidery: Its history, development and use in the modern world</i> |
| 28th April | Clare Somerville: <i>The 100th Anniversary of Mills & Boon</i> |

AREA CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Barnes Ward

Lowther School, Stillingfleet Road

6th April, 7.30pm

Your chance to learn more about the new

CHILDREN'S CENTRE

It's not only for children, it's for the Community

Plus other topics of your choice

Mortlake and Barnes Common Ward, together with

East Sheen Ward

Sheen Lane Centre

22nd April