



Prospect

December 2007/January 2008

Price when sold £1

Barnes Late Night Christmas Shopping Evening Friday 7th December 6-9pm



The late night shopping evening in Barnes organised by the BCA is a perfect way to start the Christmas festivities. Have a walk through the village, do a little Christmas shopping, and enjoy a mince pie with a glass or two of mulled wine. Many of the shops will stay open until 9pm including the café at Karavan where you can get hot snacks and there will be lots of music and entertainment in the streets.

Father Christmas will arrive at Rose House in the High Street at 6pm to give out small gifts to children; whilst in the hall at Rose House wine and snacks will be on sale. Outside, the Harroddian School choir will sing festive songs.

There will be an opportunity to shop at Rose House too. We will be selling our stock of BCA goods, together with St Mary's Christmas cards and cards showing a design of The Terrace, which have been kindly donated by the Dining Room shop in White Hart Lane. Also available

will be a new line – a calico shopping bag displaying the BCA logo, costing £3 (so you need never use a plastic carrier bag again).

Round the corner, outside Seaforth Lodge, St. Mary's Church handbell ringers will play from 6.30pm and on the traffic island at the pond end of the High Street we will hear carols and seasonal songs from the Barnes Concert Band.

From about 5.45pm the choir of St Osmund's School sing outside their chapel in Church Road. Hot drinks and mince pies will be on sale.

Or why not join the Barnes Charity Players to sing outside the shops in Church Road – meet outside Starbucks at 6pm.

The police's Safer Neighbourhood Team will be by the flower stall near the Sun Inn from 6.00 pm marking children's bikes and other easily lost possessions like mobile phones. *Merry Christmas everybody.*

A warm welcome to all readers, new and old

Prospect, the newsletter of the Barnes Community Association – BCA for short – normally delivered to members only, is going out this month to all households in Barnes.

But what is the BCA? The association was founded in 1974 by a group of volunteers wanting to improve the village of Barnes for all its residents. Since then the BCA has played an increasingly important role in local affairs from its headquarters at Rose House in the High Street. Unlike most community associations, it is a volunteer-led registered charity, and you can help us do even more for the people of Barnes

by becoming a member. On joining you will receive regular issues of *Prospect* which will keep you up-to-date with what is happening locally, and you may even wish to get more involved in our activities – just call Julia on 8878 2359 or call into Rose House.

A membership form (for renewals as well as new members) should be inside – please complete and return to Rose House.

A Traders' Supplement is also enclosed as part of our ongoing commitment to encourage people to support the local shops – remember 'use them or lose them'.

Next Prospect

This issue of *Prospect* covers December and January. Copy, adverts and diary entries for the February 2008 edition should be submitted, preferably by e-mail, to bca@barnesvillage.org.uk, by January 10th.

In the meantime we wish all our readers **a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Please note that the BCA offices at Rose House will be closed from noon on **Tuesday 18th December to Monday 7th January.**

Christmas Day Lunch



No need to be alone on Christmas Day when a warm welcome awaits you at the Barnes Green Centre.

The BCA will be once again providing a fabulous traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings, followed by entertainment. Call in to the BCA office at Rose House or ring Hilary on 8878 2359 to book your place, but make sure you have your

name down by 10th December so we can plan the catering.

If you could spare a little time on Christmas Day we need **volunteers** to help either by serving lunch, with the entertainment or to provide transport. Please give Hilary a ring on the above number. If you haven't the time to spare on Christmas Day but would like to make a donation to the Christmas Lunch perhaps you could give a little gift to the raffle such as a bottle of wine, but we appreciate any contribution, however small. Just bring it into Rose House sometime in December.

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matters...

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News from the Executive

Another well-attended meeting of the Executive on November 1st covered, as usual, a variety of issues testifying to the BCA's wide involvement with all aspects of life in Barnes.

The Council has now erected a new notice board by the Pond (opposite the Sun Inn), to which the BCA has access, and we will also be able to utilise the old boards which remain for relevant messages. We will be seeking a new business sponsor for the Commonkeeper for 2008, to work in partnership with the Council and ourselves. A walk round the Pond, resplendent in its autumn garb, shows the rewards for keeping it regularly maintained.

The December issue of *Prospect* will be sent to all households in Barnes, and will include a separate Traders' Supplement as part of our ongoing commitment to assist our local shops. In addition, it will have the membership renewal form, which normally is included in the February issue, in the hope that this will encourage existing and, indeed, new members to sign up earlier than usual!

The link with Le Pecq is alive and well and Barnes Eagles young footballers went over for a tournament which was evidently a great success and which, it is hoped, will be followed by a return visit. Details of the actual matches were sketchy but there were rave reviews of the meals on offer!

David Stott
Chairman, BCA

The BCA would like to thank Starbucks at 147 Church Road and the Rim Nam Thai restaurant at 5 White Hart Lane for kindly allowing us to plug into their electrical systems to power the Christmas lights in the trees outside their premises. We are most grateful to them. The lights, which are now low-consumption LED ones, will be lit from November 30th to January 6th from midday to midnight.

Outstanding local schools

Ofsted reports on two of our wonderful primary schools were published this year, one in June and the other in October. Both St Osmund's and Lowther had some – or many – elements of 'good', 'very good' and 'outstanding'. For more detail, go to:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/102892 for Lowther
www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/102919 for St Osmund's

Barnes Primary School (previously known as Westfields) has not had an Ofsted inspection since 2004, but has an excellent reputation.

Many parents move into Barnes specifically to get into the catchment areas of the excellent schools here – and it shows in the rise of house prices. Supportive staff, governors and parents combine with great leadership from the head-teachers.

Katie Gent

BCA 2008 membership drive

December's bumper edition of *Prospect* features a full colour advertising supplement in support of local shops and traders and is being distributed to every household in Barnes.

We've also included a BCA membership form for the 2008 calendar year. Renewal forms normally go out with the first *Prospect* in the New Year (the February edition) but to keep distribution costs down we've taken the opportunity of including these now. One of the main benefits of joining the BCA is to receive your personal copy of *Prospect* which is delivered free of charge to all members living in Barnes. To continue receiving your copy in 2008, please complete the membership form and return it to us with the appropriate subscription in the addressed envelope provided.

Last year, for your convenience, we increased the number of ways to pay for subscriptions. In addition to cash and cheque, it's now possible to pay by standing order and many members have found this method of payment more convenient. Once done, it does away with the need to

renew your membership annually and it's certainly more cost-effective for us as a charity. Subscriptions are being held for 2008 but in the event of any increase in future years, we will write to advise all members paying by standing order to ask them to amend their instructions to their bank. When you set up a standing order, your bank will automatically pay us your membership fee each year on or around March 15th, as well as any donation you may stipulate. If you completed a standing order form last year, you need take no further action – you will continue to receive *Prospect* automatically and don't need to do anything further except advise us if you've changed your address.

Further membership forms can be obtained from Rose House or downloaded from www.barnesvillage.org.uk. If you have any queries please call Julia on 8878 2359, Monday-Friday, 9.30am-12noon.

Please ensure we receive your membership form and subscription by March 15 2008.

Environment Group Report

Among the topics we discussed were:

Barn Elms Playing Fields

I omitted to say last month that the Cabinet decided that the Land for enabling development would preferably be considered Leasehold rather than Freehold. The Council also wanted to encourage the development to take LESS land than has been allocated.

Bus Route 485

A lot of people have not realised that the 485 runs very regularly throughout the day to Putney from Barnes Pond and back. The Group fought hard and long to get a bus link with Putney and we want more people to become aware of it and use it. This bus is a joy.

Thames Water-pipe replacement

Hopefully the disruption in the High Street will be over soon and the work is to move to Lonsdale Road. The local businesses which have suffered can apply for compensation, which we hope they will do.

Coach and Horses

Nothing new has been heard about this application. We discussed the many rumours. The more opposition the Council receives to this development the greater the ammunition the Council has to fight on our behalf.

This topic led us to discuss what we in the Environment Group can do with the overwhelming amount of development land on both sides of the High Street. How sad the High Street is looking, now that the developers have decided to target Barnes. If we care enough then we must give the Council the ammunition and also WORK together as a community. New development is necessary to keep our community vibrant BUT it does depend on how and what is done. We must use the local shops otherwise they will buckle. Without our High Street and shops the heart of Barnes will be lost. It will not only affect our older residents but also reflect on the value of our own properties.

The Environment Group will do its best but we need people to let us know when they hear of anything and also what they feel about it. I cannot stress how important it is that the community sticks together. At present the

developers are relying on good old English inertia, and people not pulling together!

Merry Christmas everyone and here's hoping for a Happy New Year!

Susan Boyd



Stop Press

Prospect is saddened to learn of the recent death of John Ross, who, until very recently, was a member of the BCA Executive. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Tea for two (hundred)



Our friends in Le Pecq organised a Tea Party recently. The object of the exercise was to spread the word in Le Pecq and its environs about *Les Amis de Barnes* (and by association,

therefore, about Barnes) and also to raise a little money for charity and for the society's funds. I was delighted to be invited for the weekend, along with David and Diane Gray, to represent Barnes.

Afternoon tea cost just two euros and consisted of a pot of tea (Earl Grey or English Breakfast) and scones (home-made of course) with cream and strawberry jam; for an extra euro you could have a sandwich or choose from a wide selection of cakes (also home-made). A fantastic bargain! There was a bookstall raising money for the French equivalent of Children in Need, a membership stand and a stall selling, amongst other things, Barnes mugs and tea towels. Sheila arranged Scottish dancing; her students demonstrated before anyone who

wanted to have a go was invited to try. I reckon there were at least two hundred visitors and the whole thing was a great success.

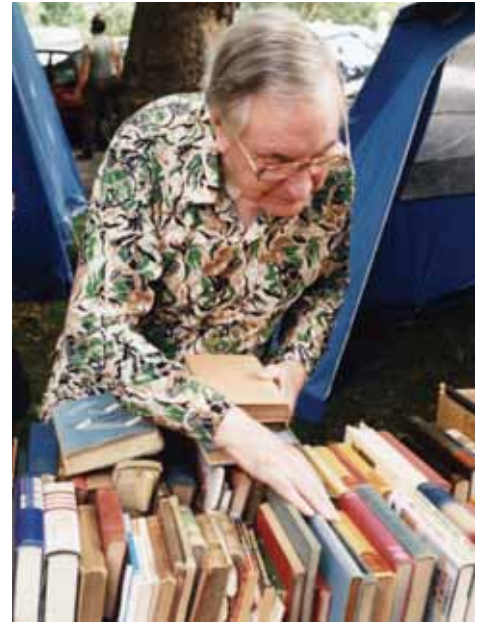
On Sunday 11th November I was proud to be invited by the mayor of Le Pecq to represent Barnes at their remembrance ceremonies. Mass in St. Wandrille's church was followed by a ceremony at the war memorial in the town cemetery and finally another brief ceremony in the gardens of the *Mairie* where, together with Marie-Christine, deputy mayor and regular visitor to Barnes, I laid a wreath at the memorial to Charles de Gaulle.

As ever, the hospitality in Le Pecq was fantastic and we look forward to seeing several *Alpicois* in Barnes in December.

Gary Smith

If you are interested in the BCA's link with Le Pecq, please make sure you indicate this when completing the membership form included with this edition of Prospect. For ease of communication it would be very helpful if you could include your e-mail address.

Chad Varah



Dr Chad Varah at the BCA Bookstall at Barnes Fair

Many words have been written elsewhere about the life and works of Dr Chad Varah who died in November. He had a deserved international reputation for his work, as the founder of the Samaritans, as the controversial vicar of St Stephen Walbrook and as a prolific writer; but we write in memory of him as a friend and neighbour who lived in Barnes for over fifty years. Chad and his wife brought up their family of five children here. He was a great fan of Barnes Fair, frequenting the BCA bookstall with enthusiasm. Story has it that on occasion he found so much to interest him that he needed a wheelbarrow to carry his purchases home. We mourn the loss of a worldly, erudite, courteous and charming man who was a good friend and neighbour for very many years.

Trudie Martin

BCA Spring Tour 2008

Tuesday 13th – Sunday 18th May

We return to some of our most enjoyable haunts for our trip to the Calvados region of France. Members have always favoured a hop across the Channel with our own exclusive coach from Barnes via the 'Chunnel' with no long coach journey, so for this tour we will be based in the heart of Caen. To savour the delights of this Normandy town our stay in the Hotel Mercure, which is opposite the Marina, has been organised

on a B&B basis to allow members the opportunity to sample gastronomic delights of their choice in the evening.

Amongst the excursions, all included in the price, will be visits to Bayeux, with an opportunity to see the famous tapestry; the Chateau Vendevre gardens; and 'The Village of God's Frying Pan' to see the ancient bell foundry, the Atelier Du Cuivre and the House of Pewter.

The cost of this six-day, five-night tour includes all travel from Barnes, all excursions and entrance fees, gratuities, five nights B&B with dinner on the night we arrive. All rooms are en-suite with television. Rooms for single occupancy are £585, double or twin sharing £425. This tour is based on a minimum of twenty-five; a discount may be available if numbers permit (it has been known). Members should arrange their own insurance. A deposit of £25 is required by 14th February to secure a booking; after this date any refunds must be claimed on insurance. It is advisable to book early to ensure a single occupancy room, as these are difficult to obtain mid-week in the numbers required by BCA members in such a central hotel. If you can share it is to your advantage; if not, book early.

To book, or for further information, ring me on 8741 3028.

Remember you will not be amongst strangers – just friends you have yet to meet.

Rita Robinson



Bayeux Cathedral

Vivien's vacancies

Some vacancies have occurred in the 50+ Exercise Classes which take place at Rose House on Mondays at 2pm and Thursdays at 10am.

For further details phone Vivien on 8946 8651 or call in just before the classes begin.

Scouts' Jumble Sale

Don't throw away your unwanted Christmas presents! Keep them, and anything else that is surplus to requirements, and donate them all to the Scouts Jumble Sale in February. More information in the next edition of *Prospect*.

Not one we prepared earlier!



BYT Experimental Theatre Group presents a collection of sketches and music put together on the night, offering light entertainment in a new and exciting

style. See them at the Castelnau Community Centre, Stillingfleet Road, Barnes on Thursday 20th, Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd December at 8pm. Tickets £4.50 and £3.50 (concessions). For further details contact Ed Cottrell, director, 07976 718 142.

A stick, a hat, a tree and off we go....

Mulled wine for a charitable cause on a Winter night



The traditional Christmas party in White Hart Lane will take place on **Tuesday 11th December, 6-9pm**. This street party has been going for about ten years and is always a lively social occasion with a very special convivial atmosphere. Outside the main shops the pavement is wide, allowing people to congregate and tables to be set out with mulled wine, curries, soups, samosas, mince pies and hot sausages all prepared by the shopkeepers. It's fun for all the family.

Not everyone realises that the end of the street between the river and the railway crossing has five restaurants, two cafés, a delicatessen and a Chinese takeaway, as well as a range of quality specialist shops, some

of which remain open on the night for browsing. This year a large maple tree at the river end will be lit to brighten our Christmas holidays. The environmentally friendly lights and the labour to decorate the tree are to be funded jointly by the BCA and Richmond Council for the next three years. The electrical power will be provided by courtesy of the Rim Nam Thai restaurant.

The difference with the White Hart Lane party is that people can have fun knowing that the money they spend will be going to the League of Friends at Barnes Hospital around the corner, providing the wherewithal for extras and treats to residents. What better reason to come to the party, organised again this year by the Tree House Restaurant. Ring 8392 1617 for further information.

George Perkin



Mouserella, this year's specially created Wetlands pantomime hits the stage from 14th-17th December. *Mouserella* is under a spell – can the rabbits save her? Rehearsals are underway and excitement is building.

Performances are at 11.30am and 3pm and the show is suitable for ages three upwards.

Silver threepenny pieces

Silver threepenny pieces are still available for your Christmas pudding. They come mounted on card with explanatory notes and are also ideal for grandchildren or including in Christmas stockings. Keep up the traditions of Christmas and support charity at the same time. The coins are available for sale at £3.50 each in aid of **Macmillan Cancer Support** from Rita Robinson, 8741 3028.



CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP

Cards for Good Causes has moved! This year you can find them at the Methodist Church on Barnes Green. They are open Monday to Saturday, 10am-4pm, from 6th November to 18th December.

They sell Christmas cards and gifts from a wide selection of charities with at least 80p in every £1 going to the charities themselves.

Christmas Services

ST MARY'S

SUNDAY 16

11.30am Christingle Service
6.00pm Carol Service

SUNDAY 23

3.30 & 5pm Nativity Services

MONDAY 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30pm Midnight Mass

TUESDAY 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
11.30am Family Service
12.30pm Holy Communion

ST MICHAEL'S

THURSDAY 13

7.00pm Community Carol Service

SUNDAY 16

4.00pm Christingle Service

MONDAY 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Nativity Service

11.00pm Midnight Mass

TUESDAY 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Mass
10.00am Sung Mass
11.30am Family Mass

HOLY TRINITY

MONDAY 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Christingle Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

TUESDAY 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am Family Communion

METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY 23

6.30pm Candlelight Carol Service

MONDAY 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30pm The First Communion of Christmas

TUESDAY 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am Family Christmas Celebration

ST OSMUND'S

FRIDAY 21

7.30pm Christmas Carol Concert

MONDAY 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

6.30pm Vigil Mass

Midnight Vigil Mass

TUESDAY 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am Low Mass
10.30am Sung Mass

BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY 23

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight Service

MONDAY DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

11.20pm Christmas Vigil (until 00.10am)

TUESDAY DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am Service

THE WETLAND CENTRE

WEDNESDAY 12

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight – free admission from 6pm, wear warm clothes as service starts outside



Books for Christmas..... and beyond



Aladdin and his bride

Local artists/illustrators/authors Jan Pieńkowski and David Walser have produced another delightful book in time for Christmas, *The Thousand Nights and One Night*.

Based on the original 19th century English translation by Sir Richard Burton, David Walser's retelling of these fantastic stories accompanies the vibrant and exquisite illustrations by Jan Pieńkowski. Signed copies are on the shelves at Barnes Books in Church Road for £14.99.

Also available is a charming book *Twinkles, Arthur and Puss*, (£12.99) from another writer/illustrator in our midst, Judith Kerr. Judith is well known and loved for her Mog series and, with an especial resonance for Barnes residents, *Goose in a Hole*, the story of a pond which lost all its water.

So there is no need to travel very far to sort out presents for your children or grandchildren – although both these books are so delectable you will want to keep them for yourself.

IDE-UK



Karen Twining, Chief Executive of Barnes-based registered charity IDE-UK has stepped down after four-and-a-half years at the helm. Two new people have been appointed, Neil Jeffery as Chief Executive and Liz Ward as Operations Director. The charity helps poor farming families in Africa and Asia to escape from poverty. IDE tells us that a donation of £6 will buy a

locally manufactured treadle pump which could help a family double its net annual income. Their Christmas cards are on sale for £3.99 a pack of 10 plus £1 p&p. To order telephone 8288 7702.

A countdown to Christmas!

Friday 14th & Saturday 15th December at 7.45pm

Shadow Road Productions, the pocket-sized theatre company founded earlier this year by local children's writer Emma King-Farlow, would be delighted if you would come and start your Christmas with them! For two nights only, they invite you to join them at the Old Sorting Office for an evening of festive music, poetry, prose and drama.

From a stable in Bethlehem to First World War trenches in France, from Elizabethan England to Dickensian London, from Santa Claus to Scrooge and Silent Night – they've got it all and more...

Tickets cost £7.50 (£6.50 for concessions) and can be booked at the OSO (020 8876 9885). Price includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. See www.shadowroad.com for more information.

Castelnau Christmas 2007

The shopkeepers of North Barnes are hoping to repeat the success of their 2006 party with a street event for their customers on the evening of Friday 14th December. A vibrant new spirit was sparked by the first evening of its kind in this area last year. Varied refreshments at many of the shops, musical entertainment by boys from St Paul's School, the appearance of Father Christmas, plus seasonal lighting and decorations, all contributed to the festivities. Families, flat-sharers and the forlorn or isolated all had an opportunity to mix and remark on the pleasures of local living. Children and adults of all ages had lots of fun!

The London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames has once again agreed to provide additional matched funding to encourage local businesses to maintain this initiative, adding depth to community life. Once again Rita Palmer, Secretary of the North Barnes Residents' Association, has been the liaison between the Barnes Community Association and the Castelnau traders.

The co-ordinator this year is Cat at *L'Artista*, whose refurbishment of her Hair & Beauty Salon adds a touch of glamour to the parade of shops. The festivities will be from 6pm until 11pm. Please come and enjoy yourselves.

William Mortimer



The ladies of Castelnau Post Office in party mood

Come and sing *Guys and Dolls*

A fun sing-along led by conductor, composer and singer Ben Parry will be held on Sunday 2nd December at 7pm in the Wathen Hall at St Paul's School. You don't have to be able to read music – just turn up and sing songs from one of the greatest musicals ever written. Tickets £10 (concessions £8) include a glass of wine on arrival and canapés. Proceeds in aid of STOP HUNGER which supports charities in the UK that combat poor nutrition in our local communities. Contact manager@wathenhall.com or 8746 5338.



New Christmas card for Barnes by local artist

Henderson Cisz is a local artist who owns the new **Street Gallery** opposite Rose House. He has lived and worked in Barnes for many years and his children went to St. Osmund's School. It was there that he met fellow parent Ross Collins, the Rector of St. Mary's Church.

When Ross suggested that Henderson might paint a view of St. Mary's, the oldest building in Barnes, Henderson was delighted to oblige. He has now, very generously, donated the original painting to the church and St Mary's is selling Christmas cards and Fine Art Limited Edition prints of the winter scene.

Brazilian born Henderson travelled extensively around Europe, Australia and North and South America before settling in London. His distinctive work features many of the world's most beautiful and dynamic cities, and his ability to convey the atmosphere of each location has established him as a quintessential artist of urban life. This year he was named British Fine Art Guild Artist of the Year.

To buy the Christmas cards or prints call at the church, phone the office on 8741 5422 or email office@stmarybarnes.org. Full details can also be seen on www.stmarybarnes.org.

Why not step into the Street Gallery when you are in the High Street to view the cards and do a spot of Christmas shopping? Henderson, or his son Richie, will be delighted to see you.

Festivities for St Osmund's

St Osmund's school will be starting off their winter celebrations by ice skating on Friday 7th December at the Wetlands Winter Wonderland. This is a joint venture between the London Wetland Centre and the school. Young Torville and Deans will be taking to the ice between 11am and 3.30pm, after which the rink will be open for the exclusive use of St Osmund's families. The ice rink will also be open at the Wetlands on Saturday for the general public to enjoy the lovely setting of the London Wetland Centre.

At 6pm on Friday evening the school will have carol singing outside the school chapel to add to the Barnes late night shopping atmosphere. Please come and join in with the carolling.

On Saturday 8th St Osmund's will be holding a fantastic festive fair with craft stalls, refreshments, a carousel and many other seasonal activities. All parents, parishioners, local residents and families are welcome.

The Barnes Cook Book

With recipes from local families as well as celebrated chefs and Barnes restaurants including:

Antony Worrall Thompson • Diana Henry • Clodagh McKenna
Jo Pratt • Sonny's • Annie's • The Depot • The Tree House
The Brown Dog
and some interesting wine tips from
Andrew Hooper of Lea and Sandeman

On sale at:

Barnes Late Night Christmas Shopping, Friday 7th December
White Hart Lane Christmas Street Party, Tuesday 11th December
Barnes Primary School Christmas Fair,
Saturday 15th December, 12-3pm

FiSH Tuesday Talks

Barnes Green Centre
at 11.00am

Coffee available from 10.30am

- 4th December** Kim Anderson: *Council Tax and Benefits – Help and advice*
- 11th December** Michael Butler: *Travel Talk – The Island of Eigg*
- 18th December** Alison Wilson: *A Christmas Carol Sing-along*
- 29th January** Laura Cream: *Shape – Accessible Arts*

Home cooked lunch available afterwards if booked in advance on 8876 2377



On a sunny Sunday in November this intrepid team from the William Thomas Hair Studio in the High Street, together with friends and clients, held a 7-kilometre run which raised over £800 for Children in Need. Sinead Kelly, the organiser, thanks all supporters for their generosity. With the help of people in Barnes she hopes to make it an annual event and can be contacted on 07894 524 839.

BCA English School at Rose House



Hilary Hawken (centre) at Rose House with some of her students

Hilary Hawken, Principal of the BCA English School based in Rose House, has recently published its results. The University of Cambridge examination results for the last ten years show an impressive overall pass rate of 93% with 49% of students gaining A or B. The school, which has been in existence for thirty-five years teaching English as a foreign language, currently has students of nineteen different nationalities with a teacher/student ratio of 1:12. It offers eight classes at seven different levels, together with tuition in business English, vocabulary and conversation. The school offers first class teaching and a varied programme of social events.

For more information visit the website www.englishinbarnes.co.uk or contact Hilary on 020 8878 7229.

For this relief, much thanks

Spotted towards the Red Lion end of Church Road: **Amandine**, pastry shop and café, has had on its door, since last year, the symbol of the Richmond Community Toilet Scheme. This scheme has been built up under the leadership of Richmond Council.

What this means is that when you walk in, you do not have to ask "Please may I use your loo?" though of course it would be nice if you say "thanks" on your way out.

And you may well be tempted to buy some delicious-looking pastries!

Apparently, this formalises long-standing unofficial arrangements which helped both nearby workers and passers-by to make use of the facilities. Numbers involved were not, and are not, large.

According to the Council website, **Café des Délices** and two pubs (**The Bulls Head** and **The White Hart**) are already in the scheme. Would other shops/pubs/cafés like to increase goodwill by joining?

Katie Gent

TMT School of Dance and Performing Arts

Who are they?

They inspire young people from 2.5 years to 102, with classes ranging from RAD & ISTD to Ballet, Tap, Modern, Street Jazz, Hip Hop and Musical Theatre and including Singing, Dance.

Where can I see them?

1-1.45pm at the 'Winter Wonderland Event' at The Wetlands Centre on 9th December where these talented performers will enthral

everyone with a seasonal montage of Christmas themed Musical Theatre, Jazz, Ballet and Tap.

Find yourself inspired?

TMT School of Dance & Performing Arts holds classes in various venues, including Kitson Hall, Kitson Road, Barnes. Visit www.tmtld.org.uk or telephone 01372 807679 for more information and to book classes.

The workings of the market

We all worry that our most useful, fundamentally everyday, shops may be priced out of the village. But sometimes, economic forces work to our benefit.

Saporitalia opened in the High Street as a

café with a few items of food to buy. But because what was needed in that area was greengrocery, they have cut back the café space and increased their sales of fruit and veg. Good luck to them.



Barnes Literary Society

Andrew Marr: Political Journalism – 'A Proud Trade'

For most of us the news is an important feature of daily life, and political news usually makes front page headlines. Those journalists who report the news are often shadowy, but not so the speaker at the next BLS event – Andrew Marr. Andrew became a familiar household name as presenter of BBC Radio 4's *Start The Week* and as BBC political editor, and his face and voice have become familiar to us all. He is a journalist of wide experience in many fields of journalism. It is for his political journalism, however, that he is particularly known. As political editor of the *Scotsman*, and then the *Economist*, and editor of the *Independent*, his political expertise is wide ranging. He has published several books about British politics, including *My Trade: A Short History of British Journalism*. An interest in history is another strand to his writing, and he has published: *The Battle For Scotland, Ruling Britannia, and The Day Britain Died*.

The event will be held on Wednesday 23rd January 2008 at 8pm at the Methodist Church by Barnes Pond. Please note that this is a members only ticket event. Tickets are available from 1st December and members should return request slips to the membership secretary at the BLS PO Box. For membership details please see www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk or contact 8748 2558.



Kit 4 Kids

In order to raise awareness of and funds for the amazing work that the **Under Tree**

Schools Charity is doing in

Southern Sudan – building a permanent school now that the war there has ended – a children's fair, **Kit 4 Kids: Children for Children**, is planned for Kitson Hall on Saturday 12th January, 10am-1pm.

The Fair will involve children from churches in the parish helping organise a sale of second-hand children's things. In addition, local businesses such as Membery's (clothing), Crash Bang Kids (SPF100 swimwear) and Dimplemambo (information website for parents) will be 'buying' tables to sell their wares. There will be loads of bargains, as well as Sudanese food and music, face painting, hair braiding and story telling for children. Lots of information will be available about the Under Tree Schools and the work being done to try and change the lives of the children who live there. By involving the children *here*, it is hoped to highlight the problems facing the children *there* and really make a difference.

If you run a local child-oriented business and are interested in having a stall at the Fair, or if you have any good quality children's stuff you'd like to donate, please contact Charlie Grainger on 8239 8861. For more information about the charity and its work contact Karin Ayok-Loewenberg on 8255 8459 or visit www.stmarybarnes.org and click on the tree.

The future for the Putney Hospital site: what and when?

Last year, Wandsworth Council gave conditional planning permission for the building of a Primary Care Centre on the old hospital site. This permission will only become active when a legal agreement is finally signed, and there is a long time to go before that.

The essence of the plan is that the building of the NHS facility is to be part-financed by the private sector, in this case with an 'enabling' development of twenty-four flats. Similarly, the running of the Primary Care Centre will be part-financed by one private sector health-related operation.

So what will the Primary Care Centre provide on an NHS basis? Three GP practices – each with several GPs, pharmacy, health visitors, district nurses, and caretaker's flat. Local Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Wandsworth NHS users are anxious for something like this to go forward. Public opinion at our end of Putney seems to be more uncertain.

The flats – surely the most contentious part of the scheme – will/would be located behind the Centre and within the boundaries of the existing hospital site. But they will/would require a new access over Common land and an 'Easement'

would have to be granted, which means an Act of 1871 would need to be amended.

It's not easy getting an Easement.

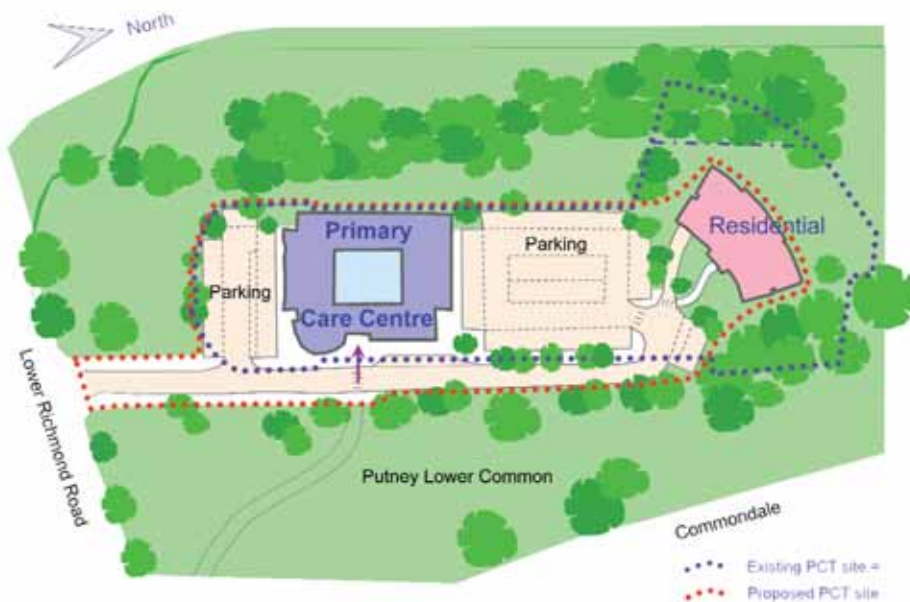
Putney Common is under the management of the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, who are trying to help the current plan to go forward. But they have to ask the Charity Commissioners to amend the 1871 Act, something which has not so far been possible. Then, if the Charity Commissioners do agree, second time round, that it would be a good thing, they will have to approach the Minister of the Third Sector [sic] and the plans will/would be laid before Parliament as a Statutory Instrument for forty consecutive working days. It is hoped that this stage may be completed in the new year, with financial arrangements finalised in 2009.

In other words, don't blink.

To learn more about the aesthetics of the potential plans, go to www.wandsworth-pct.nhs.uk/about/putneyhospital.asp

On the Wandsworth Council site the potentially approved plans have a reference 2006/2866.

Katie Gent



A pat on the back for White Hart Lane shopkeeper

For twenty-four years Pat's Food Store has been a mainstay of White Hart Lane. Shops have come and gone, but this one has stayed the course. Ever since Pradip Patel (Pat) and his wife Jayshee (Jay) opened the store in 1983, they have been there, without fail, from 8.30am until 9.00pm (2pm on Sundays) day in, day out, providing us with essential groceries, frozen foods, drinks and household goods. For those who either can't or don't want to travel further, the shop is a godsend.

Now that work is going ahead on the proposed, and much opposed, Sainsbury's site at the bottom of White Hart Lane, it is people like Pat and Jay who are most likely to suffer. Understandably they fear for the future but hope, with our support, that they will be able to carry on.

Small shopkeepers are under threat all over the country, although they are the very ones who bind communities together. As Pat's customers put it, the shop is at the very heart of their neighbourhood. A supermarket provides no substitute for the individual and personal service that a small shop can give by way of social involvement. Pat and Jay know most of their customers by their first names and take an interest in their lives. You just don't get that at the supermarket till.

George Perkin



Pat and Jay in their shop

Small Profit Dock

People have been in touch about the notice 'Lonsdale Road Open Space' by the gardens next to Small Profit Dock. Maisie Brown and the late Charles Hailstone of the Barnes and Mortlake History Society documented the history.

It became the main dock in Barnes in 1828 when the laying out of Lonsdale Road by the Hammersmith Bridge Co. made it difficult to use the ancient Town Dock in front of the Bull's Head. The new dock took its name from the field adjacent that was known, for as long as anyone could remember, as Small Profit

Field. The name derived from the land being either unproductive or difficult to work and not, as is sometimes supposed, that the dock itself did not make enough money. The name Small Profit Dock first appears in the Vestry Minutes in February 1828 when negotiations with the Hammersmith Bridge Company were taking place.

The Council has agreed to change the notice to SMALL PROFIT DOCK GARDENS so we can hold on to this lovely unusual historical name.

Susan Boyd

FiSH

New Year Tea Time Concert

Sheen Lane Centre Hall

Wednesday 30th January, 2.30pm

Featuring The Fulham Prep School Choir and local Professional Musicians

All welcome – no tickets needed

Donations to FiSH

Please phone the Busline, 8876 3765, for help with transport

Heathrow expansion – consultation at last

Plans both for squeezing more flights on to existing runways and for building Runway 3 and Terminal 6 at Heathrow have been delayed for well over a year now. But they did not go away and we are now being asked for our views.

However, the biggest-ever grouping of opponents, the **Stop Heathrow Expansion Coalition**, has been drawn up in readiness for the big fight. The coalition brings together politicians of all parties, 12 local councils (the '2M Group'), residents' groups such as HACAN, and national campaign organisations. For more on how these groups will work together go to www.stopheathrowexpansion.com, www.richmond.gov.uk or www.hacan.org.uk.

Alternative exhibitions, rallies and public meetings will be organised by the Coalition. HACAN will be publishing its own economic study showing that what is good for BAA is *not* necessarily good for UK plc. And a vital noise survey has been published, which proves that 2 million people live within the area of Heathrow noise disturbance (an average of 50 decibels), as opposed to the 258,000 who are agreed to live within the out-of-date average of 57 decibels.

Katie Gent

Barnes Eagles in Europe



For the third weekend in a row English sporting teams took centre stage in or near Paris as Barnes Eagles took two of its teams to an autumn football tournament in Le Pecq. With the support and encouragement of both the Friends of Le Pecq and Les Amis de Barnes, the U9 and

U11 teams made their way to France and, like the English rugby team before them, the teams performed creditably. Although failing to return with winners' medals, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. "The other teams were quite good and the goals were very big. Most of the boys we were playing against were a bit older than us, so I think we did pretty well", said Gabriel, goalkeeper of the U9s.

The welcome *apéritif* from the Union Sportive du Pecq (USP) set the stage for a weekend of cultural and sporting exchange. A number of Barnes families took the opportunity to explore Paris and to get to know families from Le Pecq who hosted guests for the weekend. Many of the boys were visiting France for the first time but were soon swapping English and French phrases with the French players during gaps between matches! Barnes Eagles and USP see this as pioneering and look forward to further exchanges. Phil Williams, Assistant Manager of the U11s endorsed this, commenting that "It was a fantastic opportunity for the boys to experience a tournament in France, encounter playing a number of teams of a very high standard and get a real sense of the excitement of playing abroad. The matches were played in a fantastic spirit and the welcome we received was exceptional".

Barnes Eagles is very grateful to the BCA for the financial support, which enabled two boys, who wouldn't otherwise have been able to make the trip, to participate. For one of them it was his first trip outside the UK; it was worth all the hard work just to see his eyes light up.

Paul Mallon, Co-Chairman, Barnes Eagles



Autumn in Barnes

Local resident, Paul Rawkins, has captured the brilliant autumn colour we enjoyed recently with his photograph of Barnes Pond.



Winter Wonderland at the Wetlands

Winter is surely under way with the arrival of the first Bittern to the Wetlands – the first sighting happened on 31st October, earlier than ever before. The early arrival sparked concerns of a cold winter, but only time will tell how cold this season will be.

Get your skates on – this holiday season is bustling and full of cheer and, for the first time, skating will be available in the courtyard. Start the holidays off with a skating session and a spot of Christmas shopping at the Winter Wonderland Weekend (7th, 8th and 9th December). You can also visit Santa, listen to tiger expert Iain Green's talk, explore the Wetlands on a winter's day, and much more. Tickets for skating must be booked in advance, but the rink is only available on Saturday 8th, so be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

If you have not experienced the local tradition of the Carols by Candlelight service, this year is the time to go. On 12th December at 6.30pm Christmas carols will be sung by St Osmund's and St John's local schools, the Barnes Concert Band will be playing, and there will be readings and prayers in the courtyard. Hot mince pies and mulled wine will be available to keep you warm, but dressing for the weather is recommended as the service is outside.

Don't forget to buy your sustainably-harvested Christmas tree from Silver Fir; a donation from each tree sold goes to WWT's conservation work.

The popular Sunday carveries are continuing; drop in for a sumptuous lunch, or book early and the price includes free admission to the Centre.

Have you made your New Year's resolution yet? Improve your mind and body with an outdoor birdwatching course. January sees the continuation of Wildlife Walks for members and the Introduction to Birdwatching Courses.

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 or to book any of the above events.

Stasa Veroukis



This Bittern dares you to find him among the reeds!

(picture by Jenny Hillman)