



# Prospect

December 2009/January 2010

Price when sold £1

## Late Night Christmas Shopping



### BARNES VILLAGE



Friday 4th December

There will be a festive atmosphere in Barnes on 4th December for the Late Night Shopping event. Many shops in the village will stay open until 9pm and there will be lots of music and entertainment in the main streets.

**Father Christmas** will be leaving Rudolph and the sleigh in his stables this year and using a vintage form of transport. His route through the village will start at the Red Lion at about 5.30pm, wending its way along Church Road, Nassau Road and the High Street to the Barnes Green Centre and Rose House. See if you can spot him and his two small elves amongst the revellers! He will be in his grotto at Rose House from 6pm to give a small gift to young visitors.

In the hall at BCA headquarters hot mulled wine and snacks will be on sale. Come and join the Barnes Choir and the Harrodian School outside Rose House for a seasonal sing-along.

From about 5.45pm St Osmund's School choir will be singing carols outside their chapel.

The Barnes Concert Band will be performing on the traffic island near Barnes Pond and St. Mary's Church hand-bell ringers will play in the High Street.

An added attraction this year will be craft stalls, along with drinks and food, at both the OSO Arts Centre and Barnes Green Centre.

This is always a very jolly evening and a good way to do a bit of Christmas shopping as well as supporting your local shopkeepers.



See pages 4 & 5 for more information about Christmas in Barnes



### WHITE HART LANE



Tuesday 8th December

Shopping at the Christmas party in White Hart Lane is an experience not to be missed. There will be lights on the tree on the triangle outside Rim Nam and food from around the world on offer at various premises all the way up to the level crossing. Do stop for warming soup on your way to the centre of operations at the Tree House whence Raj organises the evening.

Shops and businesses all make an annual effort in a charitable cause, exciting the Christmas spirit and hopefully a mood of generosity in the breast of every visitor. The

beneficiary of the evening, as always, is Barnes Hospital just beyond the crossing in South Worple Way. Proceeds from the Christmas party are routed through the League of Friends to provide extras and treats for the elderly residents.

As ever, regardless of weather, the organisers are relying on your support. "We hope to see you there in a good cause, socialising with your neighbours at this time of good cheer!" says Raj.

*William Mortimer*

### Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers

This issue of *Prospect* is being delivered to all addresses in Barnes and contains a membership form. Those who have not received their copy can collect one from Rose House or contact the BCA on 8878 2359, [bca@barnesvillage.org.uk](mailto:bca@barnesvillage.org.uk)

### February Prospect

This issue of *Prospect* covers both December and January. Copy, adverts and diary entries for the February 2010 edition should be sent to the BCA at Rose House **by 10th January at the latest**, preferably by e-mail, [bca@barnesvillage.org.uk](mailto:bca@barnesvillage.org.uk).

**Please note that the BCA offices will close at midday on Friday 18th December and reopen at 9.30am on Monday 4th January.**



### CASTELNAU



Friday 11th December

The Castelnau traders (at the north end of Castelnau just before Hammersmith Bridge) are hoping to receive lots of visitors for their late-night Christmas shopping event from 5.30pm until 9pm. Everyone can expect a fantastic fun-filled evening with mulled wine, seasonal food tasting, live music, street entertainment, carols and face painting for the children. Something for everyone!

The theme this year is Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and you will be able to meet them! Please join the Castelnau traders and enjoy the fun – maybe wear some fancy dress?

It will be a good opportunity to get to know your local shops, meet up with your neighbours and make some new friends in the community. Happy Christmas 2009!

*Rita Palmer*

**B  
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A**



**matters...**

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## News from the Executive

We had a very quick meeting this month with few challenging topics to discuss.

We reviewed the latest quarterly accounts which are now looking satisfactory. At the beginning of the year we feared we would make a loss but the Fair team did a great job in making economies so the event made a larger profit than expected. The Fair is our largest single source of income so is vital in helping to fund our various projects and charities.

Work in progress this month includes organising the BCA supporters' party in November and Late Night Shopping on Friday 4th December. The new Rose House servery has been ordered and should be completed by Wednesday 13th January. The BCA will have stalls at some of the church and school fairs

over the next six weeks as we have a delightful Christmas card of the pond in the snow, a new calendar and all the BCA themed merchandise – perfect for your Christmas list.

This month's *Prospect* is being delivered to all 6000 households in Barnes and includes the 2010 membership form. Please may I ask two favours? Firstly please pay your subscription as soon as possible; secondly please ask any friends or neighbours who you think are not BCA members to join us. I'm sure you know the benefits and all the work that the BCA does to keep Barnes so special.

Thank you for your help.

*Isobel Woolf, Chairman, Barnes Community Association*



## Environment Group report

We did not have a meeting in October owing to illness. I am therefore reporting on various topics that have been mentioned to me recently.

### Barnes Riverside

Helicopters are required by law to fly along the river when passing through our area but members and residents living in Lonsdale Road and nearby became aware that some were landing on Dukes Meadows. They contacted both Richmond Council and Hounslow Council to find out if permission had been sought. Richmond came back quickly as this is against policy, and Hounslow has now stopped helicopters from landing on Dukes Meadows.

### Old Cemetery and Barnes Common

Police and residents have had a meeting. All parties are working to try to stop this area from becoming a no-go area for residents and children. With the colder weather some of the unacceptable activities have lessened, but in the long term everyone is working hard to stop this area from being used for anti-social behaviour and the resulting horrible litter.

### Southfield, Barn Elms (between Beverley Brook and Rocks Lane tennis courts)

Members and residents have asked the Council for bins so that users of this field can keep it

clean of litter. It is a part of Barn Elms used by many residents as well as young sportsmen. It is hoped the bins will be in place soon.

### Leg O' Mutton Reservoir

A number of people have come forward to be put on the list to help with filling the Reservoir. Many thanks, but we could still do with more volunteers! On 13th February there will be a winter Bird Walk round the reservoir and part of the adjacent towpath up to Chiswick Eyot. It will be led by one of the committee, Neil, who is a naturalist and will show us a variety of things we never knew were there.

I have been asked to become a BCA Trustee. This means that I feel unable to continue as Chairman of the Environment Group. I think that it is time now for someone else to be chairman. It is an important committee looking after so many concerns of members and residents. Within the group there are a few dedicated to various aspects of the environment and it needs a chairman to bring it all together and also keep contacts with the Council. So please put the word around because the Environment Group will need a new chairman by the next AGM.

The next meeting is on 4th January at 8pm in Rose House.

*Sue Boyd, Chairman*

## Found at the Jumble Sale

A rose gold circular locket was found in a straw bag at the jumble sale. This was presumably a mistake and if the owner would like to identify and claim the locket please contact Hilary McGough at the BCA on 8878 2359.

## Barnes Fair 2010



Next year's Barnes Fair will take place on **Saturday 10th July** – do make a note of it and arrange your summer holidays accordingly!

We are delighted to have **Friend & Falcke** on board as our principal sponsor for the eleventh consecutive year. With their support we plan to put on another wonderful day for everyone to enjoy. This year we are going to support the community and in particular our local shops with the theme of **Celebrating Barnes – The Village on the River**. We hope to see lots of traditional shopkeepers – authentic and fancy dress – in the Parade and Fancy Dress competition and there will be lots of other attractions and entertainments to enjoy. Look out for regular updates through 2010 in *Prospect* – and if you would like to help or support the Fair in any shape or form, then do please get in touch. Call Charlotte on 0208 563 2288.  
*Charlotte Sharpe-Neal*

## Would you like to be a Trustee of the Castelnau Centre Project?



CCP is the registered charity which manages the Castelnau Community Centre and whose mission is to promote a vibrant, self-sustaining community around the Castelnau estate.

CCP would like to find two new trustees to join the eight now in office, preferably at least one who is a resident on the estate and one who may be interested in becoming Chair of the Trustees within two years or so.

The trustees (who are all volunteers) meet quarterly for governance purposes, and also support the seven strong staff team in a variety of ways.

The charity is thriving and offers an enjoyable and challenging opportunity.

Please contact the present Chair of Trustees, Geoffrey Barnett 8878 6975 or [geoffrey.barnett2@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffrey.barnett2@btinternet.com)

## Get fit for Christmas

There are some vacancies in the yoga class on Tuesday evenings at Rose House between 7.30 and 8.30pm. If interested ring Laura on 8332 0577.



## Are you a member of the BCA?

If the answer to this is **No** ask yourself if you would mind if there were –

- No** Barnes Fair in 2010...
- No** late night shopping at Christmas...
- No** maintenance of the Pond and the Green...
- No** keeping an eye (and sometimes taking action!) on unsuitable building plans for Barnes...
- No**-one looking after the environment here...
- No** extra financial help for schools, Scouts, Guides, the elderly and other local 'good causes'...
- No**body caring about our warm link with Le Pecq...
- No** Prospect to keep you in touch with most of what's going on around here...

The **BARNES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** does mind!

When asked, many people say that they came to Barnes because "it is such a pleasant place to live".

If you want to keep it that way **JOIN THE BARNES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**, whose existing two thousand members are people just like you! *You will be in good company.*

PLEASE RETURN THE ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP FORM TO ENSURE THAT BARNES **STAYS** "A PLEASANT PLACE TO LIVE".



The BCA contributes to the maintenance of Barnes Pond  
(photo by James Bramley, from the 2010 calendar)

## More to do at Castelnau Recreation Ground

Plans for the revamping of Castelnau 'Rec' under the Government's *Playbuilder* scheme are now very much taking shape. As one would wish, they take advantage of the existing layout and keep the traditional equipment, but they also add more physical challenge.

At the north-west corner of the site, there are already a number of 'ups and downs' to the ground; now a bike and wheelchair track

will incorporate these. South of these, under existing trees, there will be a 'climbing crossing', a wooden climbing tower and a rope bridge.

Consultation took place in mid-November. Work will be complete by the end of the financial year. *Prospect* hopes great fun will be had by all.

Katie Gent



## Kit 4 Kids 2010



For the third year in a row the very successful **Kit 4 Kids** is running an event in aid of the **Under Tree**

**Schools** project, so please do go along and support them!

It is taking place on Saturday 23rd January from 9am-3pm in Kitson Hall, Kitson Road, Barnes. Entry between 9am-10am: £3, thereafter £1 – children are free.

Once again, the focus is on the sale of excellent quality second-hand children's clothing, equipment and toys, supported by lots of children's activities in the little hall.

The money raised will help with the continuing building work and running costs for the girls' school in Southern Sudan that Under Tree Schools has been working on and which opened in April 2009 – a huge achievement.

If you have any children's items you would like to donate please contact Charlie Grainger on 020 8239 8861. They will be taking donations from the first week in January – a great opportunity to make some space after Christmas!

For more information on Under Tree Schools take a look at their website: [www.under-tree-schools.org](http://www.under-tree-schools.org)

**Barnes Christian Meditation group** meets on Wednesdays at 4pm. This small informal group welcomes and supports people of all faiths, especially those wanting to start practising meditation. Please phone Sylvia on 8563 2691.



## Advent & Christmas Services in Barnes 2009



### HOLY TRINITY

Castelnau

#### SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER

**4.00pm** 'Shoebbox' Service (supporting Operation Christmas Child)

#### SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER

**4.00pm** Carols at the Castelnau Community Centre

#### THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

**4.00pm** Crib Service at Holy Trinity

**11.30pm** Midnight Mass

#### FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

**10.00am** Communion Service

### ST MICHAEL'S

Elm Bank Gardens

#### SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER

**4.00pm** Christingle Service

#### THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER

**7.00pm** Community Carols

#### THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

**4.00pm** Nativity Service

**11.00pm** Midnight Mass

#### FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

**8.00am** Mass, BCP

**10.00am** Sung Mass

**11.30am** Children's Mass

### METHODIST CHURCH

Station Road

#### SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER

**10.30am** Toy Service followed by visiting speaker from Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and Family Lunch

#### SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

**6.30pm** Carols by Candlelight

#### THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

**11.30pm** Holy Communion, Revd Keith Rowbottom

#### FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

**10.30am** Family Service, Revd Kaleem John

### ST MARY'S

Church Road

#### SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER

**11.30am** Toy Service

#### SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER

**4.00pm** Christingle Service

#### SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

**6.00pm** Carol Service

#### THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

**3.30 & 5.00pm** Nativity Service

**11.30pm** Midnight Mass

#### FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

Services 8.00am, 10.00am and 11.30am

### BAPTIST CHURCH

Lonsdale Road

#### THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

**11.15pm** Christmas Vigil

#### FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

**11.00am** Christmas Day Service

### ST OSMUND'S

Castelnau

#### FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER

**7.30pm** Carol Concert, with mulled wine

#### THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE

**6.30pm** Mass of the Vigil of Christmas

**12.00am** First Mass of Christmas

#### FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

**8.30am** Mass of Dawn

**10.30am** Mass of the Day (no evening Mass)

### THE WETLAND CENTRE

Queen Elizabeth Walk

#### WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER

**6.45pm** Carols by Candlelight with Churches Together in Barnes. Free admission from 6pm, wear warm clothes as service is outside. Hot food and drinks available

## St Michael's Church CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Saturday 5th December 10am-2pm**  
Church Hall, Elm Bank Gardens,  
Barnes



Father Christmas : Children's activities  
Hot food : Produce & other Stalls

Details from  
dbrocklebank@btinternet.com

## Carols at Christmas

St. Osmund's Church Choir will present their annual carol concert on **Friday 18th December**, 7.30pm to about 9pm, in St. Osmund's Hall, behind the church in Castelnau. As usual, there will be lots of your favourite carols and a few 'specials' from the choir.

Admission is free, and there will be lashings of mulled wine and mince pies. Do come along and bring your friends.



## CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES



Cards, calendars, gifts and more  
Barnes Methodist Church, Station Road  
**Until 17th December**  
**Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm**

## AGE Concern Richmond upon Thames

### BARNES CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

Age Concern Richmond upon Thames will be teaming up with the Saturday Arts and Crafts market to open the Barnes Green Centre from 6-9pm on Friday 4th December

There will be lots of stalls with individual hand-made crafts on offer

All stallholders will be making a donation to Age Concern

Mulled wine, mince pies, tea and coffee will be on sale  
Carol singing from 7.30-8pm

**Join them for a song, some mulled wine and mince pies and the opportunity to find the perfect gift**

## Christmas Day Lunch

The Barnes Community Association will once again be hosting lunch at the Barnes Green Centre on Christmas Day.

If you would otherwise be on your own on Christmas Day then why not join us? There will be a warm welcome and a traditional meal with all the trimmings. Please contact Hilary on 8878 2359 or call in at the BCA Rose House, Barnes High Street to reserve your place. Please book places by 10th December to enable the number of guests attending to be known and adequately catered for. We look forward to welcoming you on this special day.

Volunteers are also needed on the day. So if you could spare a little time on Christmas Day to help cook or serve the meal, provide entertainment for our guests or help with the transport we would love to hear from you. If you haven't the time to spare perhaps you could give a donation such as a small gift for the raffle or a bottle of wine.

If you have any enquiries please contact Hilary at Rose House 020 8878 2359.



## Konevets Quartet

A Concert of Russian Sacred and Secular Music  
by candlelight

"At first, silence – pure silence – and we wait. Miracle: sound of equal purity.  
Where sound and silence unite." Peter Brook, UK

### Коневетц - Квартет

The renowned male *a cappella* ensemble of St. Petersburg, Russia

Thursday, December 10th, 2009 at 7:30 pm

St Mary's Parish Church Barnes

All tickets £10 available on the door

Glass of wine and Russian snacks during the interval

Proceeds to the Konevets Monastery, Russia & St Mary's Church

Enquiries Church Office or Sue Adams 020 8748 2040



## It's not too late –

The BCA Christmas card is still on sale and it is not too late to buy.

The beautiful snow scene of the Green, designed by local photographer Caroline Silver Lewis, measures 4" x 6" and comes in packs of twelve cards for £5.

The card is available at Rose House weekdays and Saturday mornings and can also be bought at the farmers' market, along with other BCA merchandise.

Calendars featuring wonderful original pictures of Barnes by photographer James Bramley are also available, price £7.50

## BEST wishes...

Barnes Vision has set up **Barn Elms Sports Trust (BEST)**, a charitable trust dedicated to ensuring the future of Barn Elms. They are having a **Tree of Wishes** outside Two Peas in a Pod at the Late Night Shopping Evening on 4th December. Gifts include lunch for two at Riva, personal training sessions, beauty treatments, a children's party, football coaching and many more.

For more information about BEST see their website at [www.bestappeal.org.uk](http://www.bestappeal.org.uk)



## Christmas shopping in Barnes is SO easy with VOUCHERS



This year almost all of our shops are offering vouchers that you can buy as Christmas presents for your friends, relatives and loved ones. How easy is that?

Presents are about spoiling people and we can do spoiling in a big way in Barnes. There are

beauty treatments, body treatments, health care treatments, pilates, and massages. There are hairdressers, aromatherapists and manicurists. There are beautiful clothes, jewellery and shoes for everyone – and even something for the dog! There are gadgets and luxuries for every room in the house and for the garden too. And don't forget flowers, art work and antiques. There are meals to be enjoyed in our restaurants, coffee and cakes in our cafés. There is food for every taste; for the cook and for those who haven't the time or inclination. Lastly, for a practical gift, think of a voucher for dry cleaning, DIY, a book or video.

If your friends don't live in Barnes, no matter... many of our shops have their own websites, so they will be able to browse and choose from their own home. One of the nicest things about receiving a voucher for Christmas is that when the excitement is over and we're deep into dark, cold winter there is still the pleasure of spending it!

E-mail [retailsue@barnesvillage.org.uk](mailto:retailsue@barnesvillage.org.uk) for a full list of participating shops and those who have websites, or call in at Rose House, 70 Barnes High Street.

### The Retail Champion would like to hear from you

Stanton Scott, in the High Street, has very kindly offered the Retail Champion, Sue Nichol, a hot

desk on Wednesdays for the months of December and January, from where she can hold a surgery. Please do go in for a chat; express your views, suggest your ideas and if you feel inclined, complete her questionnaire.

### Retail news from White Hart Lane

A new art shop/gallery called Dare to Joust is opening at number 64 (next to The Dining Room Shop). Daniel, a graduate of St Martin's, exhibits fine art, 3D work and designer lighting, all of which are the products of graduates from his former college, the Royal College and Wimbledon Art School. His shop is beautifully designed in a clean cut, minimalist style for easy browsing. Look out for books and gifts too and watch for the developing website: [gallery@daretojoust.com](http://gallery@daretojoust.com).

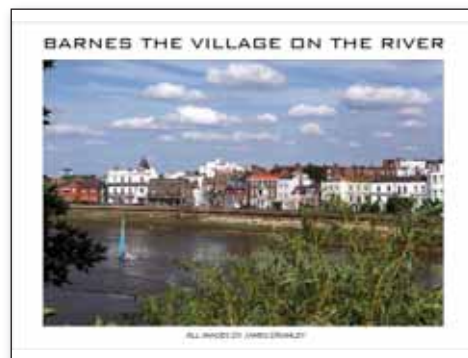
### Christmas Farmers' Markets

Jamie will open the Farmers' Market as usual on Saturday 19th December and will hold an extra market just before Christmas on Wednesday 23rd December for last minute buys. This will be located on Barnes Green as Essex House car park will be in use by the doctors on that day.

### Calling all singles

The population of Barnes consists of more single people in their thirties and forties than any other group (see last month's *Prospect*). So why not all get together? Does a dining club appeal, or a golfing day or a book club or just a venue for relaxing and chatting among new friends? Write to [retailsue@barnesvillage.org.uk](mailto:retailsue@barnesvillage.org.uk) if you are interested and I will attempt to get venues organised.

Sue Nichol



## Barnes Choir presents Handel's Messiah

Saturday December 12th 2009 at 7.30pm

Duke Street Church, Duke Street

Richmond TW9 1DH

### Andrew Charity Conductor

The Mercury Chamber Orchestra

Leader Mark Messenger

Julian Collings *Organ*

Deborah Stoddart *Soprano*

Simon Baker *Countertenor*

Robert Millner *Tenor*

Stefan Sanchez *Bass*

Tickets £12/10 concessions

(Children under 12 free)

from Pauline Gore 020 8940 0949,

e-mail [p.gore1@btinternet.com](mailto:p.gore1@btinternet.com)

online with credit/debit card

[www.oclassical.com/5756](http://www.oclassical.com/5756)

also available on the door

For more information about the choir

please visit our website

[www.barneschoir.org.uk](http://www.barneschoir.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 297104

## Richmond Arts Swan Awards

Nominees from Barnes Charity Players were entered recently for the Richmond Arts Swan Awards 2009. The Award for Best Overall Design was awarded to Susan Conte and Annie Collenette for the company's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They are photographed here with other BCP nominees at the Nominations Reception.



(l to r) Susan Conte, Director, nominated for design, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Co-Winner Nick Phillips, Chair of BCP and nominated for best supporting actor in *Me and My Girl*; Florence Murray, nominated for best young actress in *Blithe Spirit*; Milo Comerford, nominated for best young actor in the musical *Me and My Girl*; Annie Collenette, nominated for design for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Co-Winner; Alexa Bushell, nominated for best actress in *Me and My Girl*



## BARNES CHARITY BALL 2010

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES  
invite you to celebrate

### INDIAN NIGHTS

Friday 5th February

Champagne & canapés from 7pm in Kitson Hall  
Dinner, entertainment & dancing in St Mary's Church

Proceeds and Charity Auction for:  
Under Tree Schools in Southern Sudan  
The Friends of St Mary's  
Other Local Charities

Dress: Black Tie / Indian Nights Carriages 1am

Tickets: £110

To apply for tickets, please contact Nick Bryant at  
nsbryant@hotmail.com or on 020 8876 1214

## Breakfast in Barnes

Where can you get a good old-fashioned English breakfast in Barnes? In the past few years there has been a 'mushrooming' of owner run cafés where you can eat a cooked breakfast.

### Corner Café, 1 The Broadway

The Corner Café has a local feel to it. The light wood floor and tables suggest informality and comfort. You could spend a while here reading the newspapers or catching up on your emails.

The coffees were excellent: cappuccinos served with just the right blend of foam/froth and coffee. The cooked breakfast (with scrambled eggs) was served in a large soup bowl, which meant that all the ingredients collided into an unholy mess of flavours, colours and textures. But the eggs were rather good, and the Cumberland sausage very tasty. Bircher muesli, served with a bowl of fresh fruit, was super.

### Henderson's Brasserie, 56 Barnes High Street

This new addition to the Barnes eating scene will feed you breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner. Henderson's stretches back a fair way from the High Street. A small bar and a wide interior, complete with booths and dark wood tables give the place a 'clubby' atmosphere. The spacious aisles make this an appealing place for anyone with a pushchair in tow.

As soon as we sat down we were asked if we would like any drinks. This was the only place that seemed to understand the importance of being served coffee promptly.

The cooked breakfasts were outstanding. They were served on large, white and very hot plates, with each ingredient carefully separated from the others. The mushrooms and tomatoes were superb, and grilled rather than fried.

### Orange Pekoe, 3 White Hart Lane

Orange Pekoe has atmosphere from the moment you set foot in this beautifully designed 'tea house'. A variety of dark wood tables fit into the various nooks and crannies. Flowers decorate every table, and the young staff are enthusiastic.

You won't get a fry-up here, but healthy poached eggs, served on a muffin and adorned with uncooked spinach leaves. Everything is beautifully prepared. The homemade granola, with prune compôte, infused with Chai tea and served with organic bio yoghurt and honeycomb was scrumptious – and good for you.

### The Riverside Café, 196 Castelnau

Barnes now has a 'greasy spoon' at the northern end of Castelnau, offering full fry-ups and even spaghetti Bolognese from 6.30am every day. This clean café has polished wood floors and you sit on traditional red banqueting chairs.

Service is quick, and you will get good value and a full plate here. The eggs are fried – don't expect any poached eggs at Riverside. The cheese omelette I ordered came quickly, was hot and tasted as it should – a delicious, traditional omelette. I can't enthuse about the coffees. I imagine a mug of tea is a safer bet here.

The overall verdict on breakfast in Barnes? A fantastic choice and generally good quality. Whilst we expect to pay for good quality, the speed of service needs to match the demand: coffee on arrival please!

Rob Nathan

**FiSH New Year Tea Time Concert**  
at Sheen Lane Centre Hall, SW14  
Wednesday 27th January 2.00pm

Musical entertainment -  
and a lovely tea!

ALL WELCOME - Bring your friends  
No tickets needed - Donations to FiSH

Please phone the Busline for help with transport, 8876 3765  
For more information please call the FiSH office on 8876 3335

## From Peek-a-Boo! to Eastenders

I went to see Edna Doré in her ground floor mansion flat in North Barnes to talk about a 'flowers versus vegetables' controversy at her local allotment. I recognised her immediately as the actress who played the vague and ageing mum in Mike Leigh's film *High Hopes* – she got a best supporting player award for that. She told me how she started off during WWII in ENSA, the armed forces entertainment wing, as a chorus girl. She was also in Phyllis Dixie's daring review *Peek-a-Boo!* at the Whitehall Theatre during the war – being a dancer she was spared having to strip. One of her parts during her twenty years in rep was the title role in the murder mystery *Laura*. The play required a painting of her over the drawing room mantelpiece and they got the head of the local art school in Aberystwyth, where they were playing, to rush one up for her on the side of a tea chest. She still has that portrait, over her own mantelpiece. She was ten years at the National Theatre and has played countless film and TV roles including a spell in *Eastenders* where she was Mo Butcher. As we spoke, Edna was about to go to Manchester to record an episode in the new series of *Shameless* for Channel 4 and Mike Leigh has asked her to appear in his latest film in an allotment scene.

Edna has had her allotment in Barn Elms for fifty years, give or take. When she started, women were not allowed to have allotments so it had to be in her husband's name. Eventually she was allowed on the committee, the first woman, later chairing it for many years. She was unbeatable in the flower class in the annual Garden Show. Each type of flower is grown for a reason: dahlias because they were her dad's favourite; roses because of Uncle George; sweet peas because they remind her of her mother; and sunflowers because Peggy Mount, a friend from rep days, gave her one. She used to have heleniums, for Auntie Elisa, but can't get them any more.

The flowers controversy has now subsided and Edna has put in her autumn sown sweet peas and broad beans for next year. She also has a small back garden and conservatory. She moved house nine times early in her marriage, each time abandoning a garden she had created and was reluctant to start on yet another when she came to Barnes, fearing that

would mean they would soon be moving on again. But while she was away for a show shortly after settling in, her mother did a makeover on her unkempt garden as a surprise. In spite of that, Edna has been there ever since.

John Greenwood



Edna Doré in front of her portrait as the young Laura in Vera Caspary's play, in the classic pose of Sir John Lavery's Lady Wimborne portrait.

## In vino...



The newly formed Barnes Wine Group has had a cracking autumn tasting lots of delicious bottles, having fun and, not least, meeting new people of all ages and wine knowledge.

To round off the winter term, there is a fabulous **Chocolate & Wine Party** on Thursday 10th December, cost £20 to include an edible goodie bag.

There are a few spaces for anyone new who would like to go along and taste a line-up of great wines alongside various types of chocolate. The format of

the evenings is very relaxed: sparkling wine to start, then a tutored walkabout tasting with questions and answers about the wines as you go round. At the end of the evening there is a competition to win a bottle of champagne. Any profits from the evenings go to charity.

The Chocolate & Wine party is at Rose House, Barnes High St, 6.30-9pm. Ring Jenny on 07802 425239 to book a place or email [thethirstybird@gmail.com](mailto:thethirstybird@gmail.com).

## FiSH Tuesday Talks



**Barnes Green Centre**  
at 11am

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

<b>1st December</b>	James Smith: <i>Adventures in banking</i>
<b>8th December</b>	Anne Marshall: <i>Interesting local history</i>
<b>15th December</b>	Elizabeth Manson Bahr: <i>The Aztecs of Mexico</i>
<b>22nd December</b>	Jonathan Bailey: <i>A Christmas Carol singalong</i>
<b>12th January</b>	Judy Hill: <i>The Children of Henry VIII</i>
<b>19th January</b>	Margaret Saunders: <i>Travel talk</i>
<b>26th January</b>	Roberta Cunningham: <i>Write and be heard - DIY publishing</i>
<b>2nd February</b>	Julie Etchingham: <i>Gathering and presenting the news on TV</i>



Barnes Literary Society

## Scarlet Women – Mistresses in History

Kate Williams, Tracy Borman,  
Alison Weir

It is often claimed that 'behind every successful man is a woman' and through the ages there is strong evidence of this assertion. We are familiar with the potent influence of such women as Cleopatra and Lady Macbeth, but perhaps not so aware of the role played by the mistresses of powerful men in history.

In **Scarlet Women** three historical writers will uncover the fascinating and hidden histories of some of England's most famous mistresses. Kate Williams tells the story of Emma Hamilton's incredible rise to fame and her passionate affair with Lord Nelson as documented in her sparkling biography *England's Mistress*.

Tracy Borman will tell of Henrietta Howard, the enigmatic and largely forgotten royal mistress and confidante of King George I, based on her book *Henrietta Howard: King's Servant, Queen's Servant*.

Alison Weir brings to life the story of John of Gaunt's mistress and eventual wife in *Katherine Swynford* – the extraordinary tale of an exceptional woman.

All three writers are acclaimed historians who bring to life the wonderful stories and amazing characters that make our history. For further information see [www.tracyborman.co.uk](http://www.tracyborman.co.uk), <http://alisonweir.org.uk>, [www.kate-williams.com/about.htm](http://www.kate-williams.com/about.htm).

This event will be held on Wednesday 20th January at the OSO by Barnes Pond at 8pm. For membership details please see [www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk](http://www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk) or contact 8748 2558.

## Winter happenings



The first bittern was seen flying over WWT London Wetland Centre earlier than ever, on 16th October, and has now settled amongst the reeds. The Centre has been attracting high numbers of

wintering birds in the past month, nationally significant duck numbers have already been reached, with hundreds of gadwall and shoveller on the main lake. Other highlights include good counts of arriving redwing and fieldfare and Cetti's warblers. More spectacular autumn birds seen include water pipit, rock pipit, mealy redpolls, jack snipe, brambling, tree sparrows and woodlark. Staff expect a woodcock to arrive this winter as it did in 2008, so keep your binoculars handy.

Christmas is coming and the Centre is celebrating the festive season on 5th and 6th December with plenty of jolly activities. Visit Santa in his grotto and shop for unique eco-friendly Christmas gifts in the WWT shop; the café will be serving Christmas dinner with all the trimmings all weekend. Centre staff will be providing tips on how to have a green Christmas and families can help make environmentally friendly tree decorations to adorn the shop's tree – or to take away to brighten their own homes.

The annual Carols by Candlelight evening will be held on 9th December. Join staff and volunteers for a celebration of the festive season with carols, candles and plenty of Christmas spirit, plus a special visit from Father

Christmas! Hot food and drinks, including mulled wine and mince pies, will be available. The courtyard will be full of stalls with food, drink and Christmas gift ideas. Profits from the sale of candles will be split between Churches Together in Barnes and WWT London Wetland Centre.

The Centre's popular pantomime this year will be *Twas on a Frosty Springtime*, an all-new production! Jack Frost has a wicked plan – can you and the animals stop him? Audience favourites Sir Rabbit and Mr Heron will again be amongst the cast! Performances on 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st December are at 12.30pm and 3pm, with additional performances on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th at 10am. Merry Christmas!

Stasa Veroukis



Perhaps Santa's Grotto will have a covering of snow this year (photo by Paula Pearce)

## Don't delay!



It's not too late to buy your tickets for Barnes Charity Players' pantomime, *Dick Whittington and his Cat*, at Kitson Hall, from Tuesday December 2nd until Saturday December 5th at 7.30pm, with a Saturday matinée at 2.30pm. Tickets at £8 and £10 will be available on the door, or call the Ticketline on 020 8748 9825. As ever, profits will go to charity and this year the recipients are Lowther School for equipment to enhance their drama teaching, the OSO and Barnes Green Centre for improvements to their facilities.

## Fox-trot

Several of our readers have reported seeing a fox bouncing on one of the trampolines which are so popular in our back gardens these days. Unfortunately, having finished their gymnastics, the foxes tend to leave an unwelcome gift which has to be cleaned off before the children can use the trampoline again.

So far, nobody has managed to photograph these athletic animals but *Prospect* is offering a small prize (a bag of Fox's glacier mints) for the first pic of a bouncing fox to reach Rose House. Sally Holloway

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

We are longstanding BCA members who live in Lowther Road backing on to the Suffolk Road playground. I am writing to seek the BCA's support concerning the noise made by dogs and dog owners early in the morning and sometimes late into the evening whilst using this playground.

It starts as early as 6.30am and has been getting progressively worse over the last eighteen months. Recently I was woken at 6.40am by screaming and barking; apparently two large unleashed dogs chased a group of smaller dogs, none on leads or apparently with collars. One of the large dogs seized a small dog in its mouth and ran off with it. The resultant commotion of barking, shouting and screaming went on for about ten minutes as the owners tried to grab their dogs. This type of event happens often but generally later in the day and usually without such apparent fatal results.

Could I suggest that the park constable who locks the various playgrounds, should add this 'playground' to his list and lock the gate at night, not to be opened until at least 8am on

weekdays and 9am on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays? Furthermore, owners should be obliged to keep their dogs on leads so that children can once again use the playground without dogs running at large.

Thank you,  
David MacMillan

Dear Prospect

I was intrigued by Glebe Road surgery's claims (November edition of *Prospect*) to be fighting as 'dedicated NHS doctors..invest[ing] in our service' in defence of their planning application. Can they confirm, then, that the proposed additional rooms are actually not to be used for paid services and training (that is, for commercial benefit)? Can they also confirm that the 'one-off, never-to-be-repeated' grant includes restrictions that keep the property to being used as a surgery? That is, it cannot be used to develop a building which could in a few years simply be sold as a much bigger house?

If the Glebe Road extension really is all about adding rooms for NHS patients rather than

acruing value to the property, why haven't plans been submitted which would raise no objections, when the obvious thing to do is to extend the single-storey extension into the garden? That would have no impact on anyone: none of the current objectors would be affected, and a doctor's surgery clearly doesn't need a garden. The current defence that 'the patients like the view' seems a weak defence of one, at any rate.

Surely a single storey extension which affects no-one adversely is far preferable all round to building a second-storey extension which destroys others' family gardens, given that it adds the same number of square feet? Admittedly, it doesn't add much value if the real plan is to sell the house as a family house with a garden sometime in the future.

Mark Davies  
Church Road

*Editor's note: The application, which was refused on 5th October 2009, and all related documents, can be viewed on the Richmond upon Thames council website: [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)*

# “An independent school for children of all abilities, funded by the state”

A call to our readers to find out more about the future Shene Academy

On 9th November a group of local parents, brought together by the Shene Parent Promoted Foundation<sup>i</sup>, met with David Triggs of AET<sup>ii</sup>, to discuss how the charity will be taking the school forward as from 1st September, 2010<sup>iii</sup>.

Prospect attended the meeting. The following are just some of the points made:

- Actually, Shene's current achievement is very much average for the country as a whole, though that of course is not seen as good enough by parents in this area. The tragedy is that the school lost the trust of the local community, and it can't improve without new community involvement.
- Of all the important aspects to a successful school, good teachers – great teachers – are probably the most important. Good staff, among other things, can maintain discipline and respect without having to rant at the children. Exclusions can almost

always be avoided. It is essential, though, that classes should be streamed by ability.

- In order to offer the best choice for students and staff alike, the school must aim for an intake of 220 pupils a year. When numbers have built up to that level, there can be flexibility in school structures. But no-one should expect instant transformation; realistically, it will take 14 months to start to see results.
- Parents are being asked to make a leap of faith, no easy thing. But the prize is worth it: an independent school for children of all abilities, funded by the state. If you are interested, please go to AET's website (below) and find out more on their *Prospectus* pages.

November's *Prospect* detailed all the bureaucratic hoops that have to be jumped in the next

few months. Now let's see if we want to take exciting, real time, real people, steps forward.

Katie Gent

- <sup>i</sup> The Shene Parent Promoted Foundation (PPF) is a charitable body of local parents working for an excellent state secondary school. The PPF is led by Paul Mason, 07768 080 598, [parentpromotedfoundation@googlemail.com](mailto:parentpromotedfoundation@googlemail.com)
- <sup>ii</sup> The Academies Enterprise Trust (AET) is also a charitable body, with a growing record of success in setting up academies. David Triggs is the CEO. Tel: 0845 453 0060 Email: [contactus@academiesentreprisetrust.org](mailto:contactus@academiesentreprisetrust.org) Website: [www.academiesentreprisetrust.org](http://www.academiesentreprisetrust.org)
- <sup>iii</sup> It is judged that although the timetable may be rather short, an additional year of uncertainty would create serious problems for children, parents and staff.

## Christmas comes but once a year... ode to autumn

Each year we do it, and it doesn't seem to matter how much we have protested in previous years. This year we will not be swept away like a congested pathway by the snowplough of Christmas, but we are.

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September and DECEMBER.

We seem to live in a ten month calendar year; come the end of September, we fast track to December. We are forced to listen to the jingly-jangly premature bells of Christmas. Endless aisles in supermarkets stock up with seasonal chocolates, forcing us to make a choice, or at least a comparison, between Quality Street and Roses. No matter how good your shopping trolley, it's never fast enough to bypass the Victorian-styled tinned biscuits illustrated with snow-covered windowpanes. Tightly wrapped Christmas puddings in red cellophane are thrown at us, almost like friendly hand grenades. Christmas has arrived in the shops and it isn't even November.

At Christmas staff seem friendlier. They are trained to be nicer and smile encouragingly. They pretend to be interested in whether your boyfriend, whom they have never met, would look better in a black jumper rather than a blue one. Plastic smiles are exchanged for plastic cards, silver, platinum and gold! Even bankcards are coated in the season's colours (Christmas can make you paranoid!). All help/courtesy/hospitality by Christmas staff is nothing but professional coaxing, the most calculating kind. Banks know that 'parting is such sweet sorrow'; ever noticed the sweet bowl that appears at cash tills over Christmas?

From the supermarket aisles to superficial hospitality, December is well and truly here. Christmas, in spite of all its goodness and giving, has robbed us of two months. If October and November were souls they could be proclaimed as being lost, John Keats has no ode for them, and we have no time for them.

I recently discussed with my partner how we should set up *The October and November Appreciation Society*, claiming back the lost months. Instead, I did some early Christmas shopping! I too have sinned!

Kiran Sidhu

## Unwelcome visitors

Very few wild creatures are intolerable to the human species. I can think only of rats, flies, slugs and snails. Gardeners may disagree with my grudge candidates, adding pigeons, squirrels and foxes to the blacklist. Others may take exception to moths, ladybirds or spiders invading the house. One man's meat is another man's poison in a macabre sort of way.

Differences of view about wild animals and their intrusion on properties can have an incendiary bearing on our relationships with neighbours and society at large. As individuals we struggle with even ourselves. For example, we take pleasure in feeding wild birds and are prepared to provide them with safe havens from domestic cats. But we completely lose the plot when pigeons or starlings drive off the garden birds and gobble down the artificial harvest at our expense.

How many of us clean up our gardens to the extent that ant, wood louse and wild bee are denied their living? Do you think they can move elsewhere? It is no fun for a wild creature in the country these days. Elimination of hedgerows, artificial drainage of the land confining streams and ponds to underground culverts, the use of pesticides and the destruction of ancient pastures all deny animals their natural habitat. The mechanised monsters preparing the soil, planting the seed, reaping the harvest and storing the grain all reduce pickings that once made the farm a natural haven for wildlife. So please have a heart and preserve a corner of the garden for wildlife in town. It will be centuries before our hedgerows regain the diversity that once was home to indigenous wildlife.

It is therefore helpful to discover that the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames provides leaflets advising residents on the behaviour of wild animals, the problems they cause and how best to discourage, rather than try to cure, their worst behaviour. In cases where prevention has failed, pest control services are available from the Council. Contact: The Communication Unit for copies of the leaflets, 020 8891 7162; The Pest Control Service for dealing with a problem, 020 8891 7800.

William Mortimer

