



Prospect

February 2008

Price when sold £1

Annual Common Clean-up



Boys from Colet Court and local Cubs seek treasures amongst the rubble



Bags of rubbish collected by our energetic litter-picking volunteers last year

The Friends of Barnes Common will once again be organising the annual clean-up of Barnes Common and, therefore, many volunteer litter pickers and/or trophy hunters are again needed to help restore our Common to a near-pristine state. Last year great fun was had by the young boys from St Paul's junior school, Colet Court, in obtaining

some treasures from trash. This year's clean-up may well bring about some new trophies for the boys' bedrooms!

Meet at Rocks Lane Recycling Centre at 10am on Sunday 16th March.

For further details call 020 8392 2566.

Welcome to the February issue of *Prospect*!

It has come to our notice that not all BCA members received a copy of the December/January edition, for which we apologise. That issue was distributed commercially and should have gone to all homes in Barnes, but unfortunately this was not always the case. If you did not receive a copy, some may still be available from Rose House.

BCA Christmas Raffle

The BCA organiser would like to thank all those who bought raffle tickets at Rose House on Late Night Shopping evening. The money raised was sufficient to purchase gifts for twenty-four elderly people either living in care homes or whose deserving situation had been identified through the FiSH scheme. The feedback over a number of years shows how much these gifts are appreciated. (Raffle winners were all notified well before Christmas.)

Jean Glover

Have you renewed your BCA membership yet?

Unless you pay by standing order, to continue receiving your copy of *Prospect* you must complete a membership form and return it to us with the appropriate subscription by 15th March 2008. Membership forms were enclosed with the December edition of *Prospect* and further copies are being sent to members with this issue. Additional forms can be obtained from Rose House or downloaded from

www.barnesvillage.org.uk. If you have still to renew, do consider setting up a standing order as, once done, this does away with the need to renew your membership annually. However, please remember to let us know if you change your address. For any queries regarding membership please call Julia on 020 8878 2359 Monday-Friday between 9.30am and noon.

Micky Forster

St Mary Barnes Scout Group

Having had a busy but enjoyable Centenary Year the Scouts are now preparing for their Annual Jumble Sale, now in its 51st year. They could not do this without their friends at the BCA and look forward to meeting up again. This is their major fundraising event and enables them to offer scouting to the young people of Barnes.

The Scouts Jumbo Jumble Sale will be held on February 22nd and 23rd at the Church Hall on Kitson Road. If you can spare time to help, or if you have jumble to be collected, please phone Mike or Pam Dixon on 020 8741 7772.

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matters...

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BCA Supporters' Night



BCA supporters were fêted with excellent food, music and company. From the Barnes Fair proceeds, cheques were awarded to Barnes Primary (pictured), Lowther, and St Osmund's Schools, St Mary's Scout Group and to Barnes Guides and Brownies

The first of its kind, a major BCA supporters' event was held at the Barnes Green Centre on Thursday 15th November. All active volunteers and new members joining in 2007 were invited and 150 attended on the evening. The event replaced smaller gatherings traditionally held for New Members, Jumble Sale Helpers, Fair Volunteers and the Reception and *Prospect* teams at various times throughout the year. Other key contacts, including the Friends of Barnes Common, litter pickers and our many sponsors were also invited.

The primary purpose of the evening was to say a huge THANK YOU to all the people who support the BCA and, in particular, the many volunteers who don't just help out at one event, but repeatedly support activities throughout the year and without whom we simply could not achieve what we do. Our supporters are our very essence – it is *people* who make things happen and the

BCA could not exist without its dedicated staff and enthusiastic, committed volunteers. In inviting new members as well, the intention was to expose them to the BCA at its best and hopefully inspire them to get actively involved too.

Subtle lighting and relaxing music transformed the Centre, but what made the evening truly memorable was the superb feast provided by Diane du Parcq and her team. Anyone who had missed Diane's gorgeous food now that she no longer does the buffet tent at the Fair was thrilled by the fabulous array of food. Even the leftovers vanished with many availing themselves of great doggy bags in exchange for donations, which raised over £100 for the Barnes Green Centre. A great night was enjoyed by all with a record number of letters flooding in after the event from guests who clearly appreciated the evening.

Special thanks to:

- Event organiser Micky Forster together with Julia Bebington and members of the BCA Executive
- Diane du Parcq, assisted by Dorothy Paington and helpers, for their brilliant food
- Great music from jazz pianist Tom Cawley, organised by Tim Fraser
- Students from The Harrodian School, who volunteered their time to run the bar
- Alan Lockett at the Barnes Green Centre for his help and for agreeing to have us back!

We plan to make this an annual event, with Diane pledging to do the food again. BCA Supporters' Night has all the ability to become the hottest ticket in town! Just keep on actively supporting BCA and we'll see you there!

Booking deadline for BCA Spring Tour to Normandy

The deadline for booking your place on the BCA Spring Tour to Normandy (13th-18th May) is drawing near, so be sure to contact Rita by **14th February** to reserve your place. *Success Tours*, with whom the group went to Austria last year, will again provide a coach exclusive to the group, picking up from and returning to Barnes. The capital of lower Normandy, Caen, will be the base from which to explore the city and the surrounding area. In addition to all coach travel and Euro Tunnel crossing, the price includes five nights at the Mercure Hotel in the city centre opposite the marina and near the pedestrian precinct; excursions and entry fees to the Bayeux Tapestry, the Chateau de Vendevre gardens and the Atelier du Cuivre. The hotel has been organised on B&B basis and members will be able to partake of their choice of local gastronomy in the evenings.

For more details and to book your place, contact Rita Robinson, BCA Tour Organiser, on 020 8741 3028 or bca@barnesvillage.org.uk using 'BCA Spring Tour' in the subject line.

Environment Group



The Environment Group will not have had a meeting before this issue of *Prospect* goes to press. However, there are many topics that are to be discussed at the first meeting in 2008, including the petition that is circulating in Barnes and the latest ideas from the New Grafton Gallery site. A fully updated report will be ready for the March edition. Meanwhile, all members are welcome at the next meeting in Rose House on Monday 25th February at 8pm
Susan Boyd

Art Class in Viera Gray House

Is there anyone (or more) who would love to spend one to one-and-a-half hours a week painting/drawing with a few of the elderly residents of Viera Gray House in Ferry Road? Do please get in touch with Fiona Barnett 8878 6975 or Fiona.barnett2@btinternet.com

Friends of Le Pecq update



Two weekends of events are in the early stages of planning. First is a trip to Le Pecq during the weekend of 11th-13th April. The format will be similar to previous walking/golf weekends visiting the nearby Château de Malmaison, the former home of Empress Josephine; a longer walk in the countryside and another visit to one of the lesser known parts of Paris led by an official guide. There will be the alternative of some golf and, of course, the opportunity to socialise with our French friends.

Secondly, for the diary, the weekend of 1st-4th May has been provisionally earmarked for a similar visit from our French friends to Barnes.

If you would like to take part in either or both of these events, or to obtain further information about the Friends of Le Pecq, please contact me on mhspillane@hotmail.com or via Rose House. Mike Spillane



Lunch break for all during a Spring 2007 walk near Le Pecq

Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport

The Government Consultation on Heathrow expansion with Runway 3 and Terminal 6 and the potential impact on the wider area, particularly in terms of noise and air traffic, only has a few more weeks to run. The Consultation ends on 27th February and responses must be received by that date (see

www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/heathrowconsultation/)

Email your response to heathrowconsultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

Freeport RRRR-TARL-ABJS
Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport
(DfT Consultation)
Research Services House
Elmgrove Road
Harrow HA1 2QG

In addition to the Consultation document you may wish to review the websites for HACAN (opposed to expansion) at www.hacan.org.uk and Future Heathrow (in favour of expansion) at www.futureheathrow.org. These groups have studied the proposals in great detail and offer considerable information on both sides of the debate.

Mary Evans

(Editor's Note: The near-disaster at Heathrow on 17th January underlines the potential hazards of giant aircraft coming in to land over the built-up areas of west London.)

International Development Enterprises – UK

It has been an exciting time for the Barnes-based charity, IDE-UK, which is dedicated to helping poor farming families in Africa and Asia to escape from poverty. IDE-UK works with local manufacturers and dealers to make and sell low-cost products to poor farmers at an affordable price, thereby enabling them to improve the quality of life for their families. In support of IDE-UK, Andrew Marr made his November BBC Radio 4 Appeal, which has resulted in generous donations. In addition, Comic Relief has granted IDE-UK £391,870 over the next three years to work with farmers in Ethiopia to ensure sustainable and fair access to honey and pepper markets for small farmers. Please see www.ide-uk.org for more information and for ways you can help.

Save Barnes Brownies!

Sadly, there is the possibility of the closure of one of the two remaining Brownie Packs in Barnes, at a time when there are 40+ girls on our waiting list, 15 of whom are already of Brownie age. The leader and assistant leader of Thursday night's pack, Demetra Brege and Angela Newman, are leaving at the end of the summer term, after many years of service to the District.

"Unless the women of Barnes, whether they were ever Brownies themselves or not, can help us work some magic to create a team to take over, the pack will have to close. This means that we cannot take new girls into Thursday's pack or Tuesday's pack this term. Tuesday's is already over full and will have to take the Brownies from Thursday's pack when it closes in July.

We don't want to close Thursday's pack. Indeed, we'd like to run three packs in Barnes! We hope that the women of Barnes can help. We're writing to all the mums of existing Brownies and Guides, as well as those on our waiting list who will be disappointed. We're asking them and anyone else with an interest to come and talk to us at our Open Meeting on Monday 25th February (see separate notice on page 6)."

Sarah Ferris, Barnes Brownie and Ranger Guider



Brownies making Christmas puds – but among the badges they can train for are also everyday Cookery, Crime Prevention, and Booklover. Football training (by enthusiastic dads) is included in the Sports badge. Making the puds are: (L to R): Sasha Narraway, Katie and Pippa Henderson and Catherine Lay.

Barnes lit up

The Christmas lights around Barnes were the result of funding provided by Richmond Council and the BCA with some extra funds raised by shopkeepers in North Barnes. The lights on the traffic island at the junction of the High Street and Station Road and outside the Olympic Studios continued from 2006. Matched funding also enabled the North Barnes Traders to continue the distinctive blue lighting of their little trees on the pavement.

This year the plane trees outside Starbucks and the Red Lion and a tree outside the Rim Nam restaurant in White Hart Lane were also lit thanks to the co-operation and generous funding for electrical consumption provided by these premises.

Bob Glover



Late Night Christmas festivities in White Hart Lane

Lots to bid for at the Barnes Auction

It was while helping to organise a fund-raising Promises Auction at East Sheen Primary School that Simon Danciger had the idea of holding a public auction in Barnes. Three years down the line, the regular sales at the Old Sorting Office have become a popular community event, which now attracts dealers from Portobello Road and further afield as well as many local residents.

The quality and value of items going under the hammer have risen gradually as the auction has become more established. "The first few auctions were dominated by household goods and unwanted gifts. Now the emphasis is on Antiques, Collectables and Furniture", says Simon. Sellers pay a commission of £5 or 20%, whichever is greater, on sold items. The commission for buyers is 10%.

One happy seller submitted a wooden trinket box purchased at a bric-à-brac sale for just £10. The box, of Anglo-Indian origin, sold at the auction for £700 after a tussle between two dealers.

The success of TV programmes such as 'Cash in The Attic', coupled with the trend towards de-cluttering, have tempted many people to enter items at auction. Simon also assists many clients who are moving house or have inherited items they don't have room for.

There are, of course, always bargains to be had for the many buyers. One young family in Barnes has been gradually furnishing a new house with items from the auction. Aside from being great value, buying at auction is also an environmentally friendly consumer experience, recycling items no longer wanted by their owners.

Above all, the auction is always great entertainment, whether buying, selling or simply watching the prices achieved by the various items.

The next auction takes place at the OSO on Saturday February 9th at 11am. Viewing is from 5-8pm on the day before (Feb 8th) and from 9am on the day. Full details can be found at www.barnesauctions.co.uk

Anyone can submit an item for sale. Simply contact Simon on 0208 878 9223 or e-mail barnesauctions@hotmail.com

Top Girls

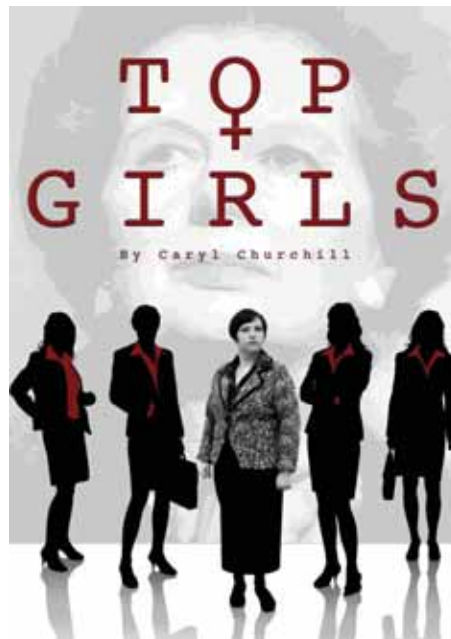
Barnes Charity Players' latest production makes a radical departure from its usual style in this iconic modern play, written by Caryl Churchill. This challenging and sometimes shocking all-woman piece was an instant yet controversial success when first performed at the Royal Court Theatre in 1982.

In a darkly humorous take on the lives of famous women in history as well as contemporary career women who work in the City (with some very strong language), Debs Platt plays Marlene, whose search for success and 'having it all' triggers the events of the play. Shoni Robertson-Finn, 2007 Swan Award winner, plays her 16-year old niece. Directed by Susan Conte, the cast includes characters as disparate as a 13th century Japanese concubine, the Victorian lady adventurer Isabella Bird (played by Deirdre O'Kelly) and 9th century Pope Joan, who meet at a dinner party in the course of the play.

During the interval singer Milli Moonstone will perform with flute, guitar and sarangi.

Top Girls will be at the Old Sorting Office on Barnes Green, London SW13 (next to ASK Pizza Restaurant) from Tuesday 26th February to Saturday 1st March 2008 at 7.30pm.

Tickets, at £7 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and £10 on Friday and Saturday, are available at the OSO Box Office in person and on 020 8876 9885.



Debs Platt plays successful career woman Marlene, whose ambitions hide a dark secret in *Top Girls*

Barnes and Mortlake History Society explores St Mary's past

Barnes and Mortlake History Society stages a special Barnes event on Saturday, February 9th, at 2.30pm.

This will take place in the Methodist Church Hall in Station Road, when architect Scott McCracken speaks on 'St Mary's – The Archaeology'. He explains that after the 1978 fire which damaged the parish church, an archaeological survey of the surviving fabric revealed medieval wall paintings beneath the Victorian plasterwork, and showed that the South and East walls were largely of medieval origin. The talk will outline the various phases of the church from the 12th Century onwards.

If this event attracts a satisfactory attendance, other BMHS talks in Barnes will be considered, augmenting the regular series held at the Sheen Lane Centre. On February 21st, John Freeman will speak at Sheen on 'English Place Names'.

Murray Hedgcock

Old Goods Yard – a ‘least worst’ plan?



Fulcher Consultants Ltd now own this long-disputed, long-derelict land. We used to think that there was a legal requirement that the yard should revert to the Common once railway use ceased, but unfortunately we were wrong.¹

Now there is a plan to return two thirds of the site to the Common, with appropriate land works and planting but, as so often, there is a price to be paid. In this case the owners are asking for permission to build 14 flats as the ‘enabling development’.

The flats would be modern-looking, in two blocks, one of three storeys and one of four. Great stress is laid on the fact that they would be designed to highly sustainable standards: ‘Code 4’ to those who know

about these things. There would be green roofs planted with sedum, one block would have a ‘green wall’ facing the railway tracks, and the heating system for the two blocks would have a biomass boiler, working on wood chippings.

Richmond Council insists on full proof of the money needed for the enabling development at the Old Goods Yard. We are told that there will be full transparency.

The whole site needs to be decontaminated because of its previous industrial use: arsenic, copper and zinc are among the contaminants needing to be removed. One could say grudgingly that once overall decontamination has been achieved, it is not all that expensive for the developer to pay

for bringing two thirds of the land up to our Common’s acid grassland specification. Or one could say that this is the only realistic chance of our reclaiming so much of the site for ourselves and for wildlife.

The views of the Friends of Barnes Common will be particularly important on this site, but we all need to think and to balance the pros and cons.
Katie Gent

¹ Some 50 years ago, when Dr Beeching was removing large swathes of the railway system, legislation revoked all such inconvenient covenants around the country.

Barnes’ very own X-Factor

Did you ever see yourself as a Mick Jagger or even a Wilson Pickett.....? Now is your chance. Four years ago, *Prospect* heralded the launch of *The Inhibitions*, formed from local amateur musicians as a result of a small ad in the newsletter. Since then, the band has gone from strength to strength. Following a tour of local schools, the band moved on to performing at larger venues and even did a stadium gig, albeit not Wembley!

One success led to another and word about the band spread, resulting in a string of fundraising events as far afield as Weymouth and culminating most recently in a gala evening in front of over 600 people at Hurlingham Club in Fulham. The band has played regularly at weddings and birthday parties in South West London and has also done several charity events, raising thousands for local appeals.

There have been few changes in the line-up

over the last four years but currently the band is looking for both male and female vocalists. Shortly they will be arranging auditions for enthusiastic amateurs, an opportunity not to be missed if you love singing and having fun! Prior experience of being in a band is not necessary; the band is supported by a musical director and those with the right sort of voice will be given help and encouragement. Although only performing at seven or eight events a year, the band practises weekly on a Monday evening, developing its own particular brand and style of soul and cover hits. So, if you have always fancied yourself on the stage but have never quite had the nerve, now is your chance.

If you are interested in joining *The Inhibitions* and contributing to their further success, see the small ads in this current issue or speak to Paul Brookes on 07860 921 234.
Paul Brookes

The Pink Power Walk

May 11th 2008



Why not join the 26 mile or half marathon walk around the Richmond area and raise money for two breast cancer charities – Breakthrough and The Caron Keating Foundation? Over 44,000 women are diagnosed every year with breast cancer so it is vital to work towards a future free from the fear of breast cancer.

The walk takes place around Richmond Park and along the river ending up in Barnes for a big family celebration and barbecue.

For more information, leaflets are available in the BCA office or contact Pink Power Walk via the website www.pinkpowerwalk.org.

Get training, have a great day out and raise money for two fantastic charities!

Cecily's fundraising success

You may remember our story (October *Prospect*) on Cecily Henderson who was chosen for an expedition team of students, organised by the British Schools Exploring Society (BSES), to monitor the effects of global warming in Svalbard in the Arctic. She has since been working hard to raise the necessary funds and may have knocked on your door offering raffle tickets – she was very pleased to have been recognised by readers of *Prospect* who had seen the story. The Roehampton Club, in addition to sponsoring several sessions with a Personal Trainer to help with Cecily's recovery from knee surgery, hosted a small reception for her raffle prize draw. Winning tickets yielded a number of quite desirable prizes, generously donated by local Barnes traders. At the time of the draw Cecily had raised the £3400 needed for her journey, and is now working to earn the additional funds to buy the necessary kit. She is very grateful to all who have contributed to her fundraising success.

Cecily promises to report back to us after her expedition but, meanwhile, you may want to see what lies in store for her in Svalbard by watching *The Golden Compass*, which was filmed in the area.



Cecily picks the winning raffle tickets

Altitude with attitude

Local young explorer to take on Himalayan adventure challenge

While Cecily Henderson anticipates her trek to the Arctic, another local young explorer, Sophie Robin, has been selected as one of forty-eight students from across the UK to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime mountaineering and scientific research expedition to Ladakh. The area the expedition will be visiting forms part of the Tibetan plateau and is one of the most remote regions of the Indian Himalayas.

This challenging expedition organised by the youth development charity, BSES Expeditions, will bring together students from different backgrounds from across the UK with the aim of working together to carry out high altitude physiology studies contributing to research carried out by the British Medical Council and the British Mountaineering Council. The team will also be investigating the impact of trekking on the mountain ecosystem.

The remote area offers unrivalled opportunities for high altitude mountaineering and

the team will be attempting various peaks including an unclimbed 6,000m summit and other adventurous trekking.

Those taking part will have to be physically fit, enthusiastic and resourceful in order to cope with living under canvas for the duration of the expedition and to face the mental and physical challenges of such an adventure. The expedition will include a team of experienced leaders from the fields of education, industry, medicine and the services, who will ensure that the expeditions are supervised and organised in a highly professional capacity.

For each expedition the members are required to make a substantial contribution towards the cost of their travel, logistics, food, equipment and insurance. Raising this sum is the first challenge that the young people face and many unusual fund raising activities are often devised.

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 8th March

At 7:30 pm

St Michael's Church Hall
Elm Bank Gardens

In aid of BSES scientific
research expedition
to Ladakh, Indian Himalayas

Supported by
www.quizquizquiz.biz

For more information: 020 8876 8829

SAVE BARNES BROWNIES!

Can you help?

- as an individual or group of friends;
- by taking over a pack, offering regular assistance at meetings or with much needed behind the scenes admin;
- by helping for a year or two, while your daughters are Brownie age, or for longer, if not quite for life!

Please come to an Open Meeting at
The Guide Hall, Washington Road
from 8pm - 9:30pm

on Monday 25th February, 2008
And if you can't make that meeting, please,
let us know and we'll aim to run another.

Please contact:

Sue Richardson 020-8541-1439
suerichardson4@btinternet.com

Charming show

An annual pantomime, raising money for charity, was part of the Barnes arts scene for ten years until 2000, when the Barnes Charity Players moved into the realms of musical comedy and straight plays. This year saw a return to their theatrical roots with a pantomime version of *Cinderella*.

This was a show with all the traditional ingredients – elaborate and outrageous costumes, excellent scenery, dreadful puns, knock-knock jokes, local references, a gorilla and audience participation (aided by 21st century technology).

There was also some good singing of both old and some fairly new favourites from chorus and principals alike, backed by an expert but unobtrusive team on piano, drums and bass.

Cinderella was charmingly and naturally played by Louise Wellby – a

young actress with lots of potential for musical comedy. Michele Warren was an elegant and poised Fairy Godmother and Nick Phillips, as Baron Hardup, made an impression in this normally insignificant role. His duet with Ian Glennie as Cinderella's Stepmother was one of the highlights of the evening.

Phil Tarbox was a lively Buttons who metamorphosed into a credible Elvis half way through the show, and Robin Bushell and Keith Perry were suitably larger than life as the Ugly Sisters. Especially delightful was a team of children who played Cinderella's mice.

This was an entertaining pre-Christmas show, put on to raise money for three local youth charities, and much appreciated by an enthusiastic audience.

Pam Frazier

Readers' letters

Letter from a Concerned Resident

The latest news from Richmond upon Thames Council is that they have issued invitations to Sports Developers to tender for a holding of freehold or leasehold tenure of the so-called 'white land', i.e. currently unprotected land, on the Richmond Borough controlled site at Barn Elms. It is not known what proposals are likely to be submitted but it seems that a substantial number have expressed interest.

The previous Reports issued by Richmond Council covered a fair amount of ground both materially and generally but needed to be much wider in scope to take account of sports facilities on the Wandsworth Council controlled site. This site includes sailing and rowing as well as football, rugby, tennis and athletics.

Rocks Lane Tennis and Leisure Centre (tennis and football for children and adults as well as a children's playground), the needs of RAF Cadets, Scouts, Guides, Shene School, St Paul's Schools, residents and other schools in Hammersmith and Fulham Borough, as well as Harrods Rugby Club, the Anglers and the Wetlands Centre should also be considered when assessing needs

Campaign for new school gaining ground

Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions any parent makes. Unfortunately, the standard of secondary provision is a major concern for many local families. At present, many parents feel compelled to move out of the area or educate their children privately if they can, rather than send their children to Shene School, the local comprehensive.

We have excellent comprehensive primary schools locally. A group of local parents, Paul Mason, Clare Durling and I, are now leading a campaign for an equally good secondary school for our children.

Our online and paper petition is already 600 strong (and growing). We have met with Susan Kramer MP, Anji Phillips, Director of Education and Children's Services Education, Councillor Malcolm Eady and Council Leader Serge Lourie, and they have assured us that they are tackling this problem. Susan Kramer has promised to have concrete

and the way to best cater for these sports in all these categories. The loss of a hard running track and inadequate athletics facilities is very surprising and unnecessary in a year of the Beijing Olympics.

It is agreed that the current tennis courts and pavilions on the Barn Elms site need refurbishment and that more and better changing facilities at different areas may be needed. No details or any guidance of possible uses for the 'white land' have been made available. Car parking is a problem for both sites. Access (pedestrian, cycling and limited vehicular) from Wandsworth to both the Wandsworth and Richmond sites is highly desirable in spite of opposition from Wandsworth Council. There could be access from parts of Wandsworth, including Putney riverside and Putney Lower Common, with the consent of Wimbledon Common Conservators; this may be available to the Putney Hospital site as well. This is a wonderful opportunity to design a really good and very valuable general sports facility for this area, which can be made available to

solutions in place by this summer 2008.

As our local LEA has recently gained government approval for three new Academy schools within the Borough, perhaps this is what she has in mind.

We also had an informative meeting with Lesley Kirby, the current head of Shene School. She is eager to improve both the educational standards and the school's general reputation. We were at pains to point out that our campaign is not *against* Shene School but *for* a better quality of education, an aim Lesley shares. She is clearly working hard to improve standards since arriving last April but, as the fourth head in five years, she faces an intimidating challenge.

We will present our petition to Susan Kramer on 25th January and look forward to being able to report positive results.

To find out more, email: campaign4newschool@googlemail.com
Kate Poll

neighbouring boroughs and further afield.

All existing trees must be retained to avoid spoiling a particularly fine view comparable to Richmond Old Deer Park.

Existing buildings should be retained and refurbished and any new buildings should be very discreetly sited away from the main centre of this unique site.

The maximum effort should be made to obtain sufficient funds from Sport England and the Heritage Lottery Fund and from sports with substantial funds such as Football and Rugby over and above those which may be available from the local councils and local Sports Clubs or charities. Individual professional sportsmen and sports bodies, preferably local, should be approached as well as Government sources.

The British Olympic Association based at 1 Wandsworth Plain, London SW18 1EH should be approached for advice, support and assistance.

Neville Otty

Tel: 020 8878 1646 / 020 8392 9582 - e-mail nevilleotty@hotmail.com

Parking

With reference to the Environment Group Report by Susan Boyd in last month's *Prospect* requesting that people use the local shops, I was trying to do just that on Tuesday 4th December at the Adrian Hall Garden Centre in Gilpin Avenue, Sheen. I tried to park at 9.45am but there was no available space either in the road or in any of the loading bays, so I returned home. I tried again at 12.30pm and thought I was lucky as there wasn't a vehicle on the bays directly outside. I parked the car as the sign indicated – 20 minutes loading allowance – I needed compost and potted bulbs; I did not leave my tailgate open as I had my dog in the car.

I was very speedy but on returning to the car I found a parking notice because I had parked for THREE MINUTES in the bay, charging me £120!

In future, although I have been a customer for many years, I will think very carefully indeed before shopping at Adrian Hall. Transport for London does not need any help from supermarkets, or the internet. It can ruin small businesses all by itself!

J. Frampton

Barnes Hockey Club

Barnes Hockey Club is starting a junior section for boys and girls aged 7-11 with coaching every Sunday morning 10-11.30am at the newly-laid astro pitch at Dukes Meadow (just over Barnes Bridge, by Riverside). All are welcome and equipment will be provided – just wear trainers and shin pads if possible. £4 per session. For further information call Nicola Pearson on 07951 285 847 or Margaret Fitzsimmons on 07736 365352.

Star-studded gift

The Barnes Green Centre has recently been the recipient of an unexpected gift. The star-studded bird table (pictured) belonged to celebrated actor/comedian Alistair McGowan, and was donated to the Centre where it is providing sustenance and shelter to the local bird population.



The hero of the buses

More and more people in the village appreciate a very special bus driver. When not in charge of the 609 school bus along Lonsdale Road he is a regular driver on the 209 route. He'll never leave you struggling along the pavement toward the bus stop only to see a red blur pass you by or the bus draw away as you approach. Our knight in shining armour will be waiting for you. With a cheery grin he offers a few words to lighten up the day while you catch your breath and find a seat. He'll even hold back the traffic for his elderly or infirm passengers to cross the road. Dave is as alert as the proverbial Cockney sparrow to the needs of his passengers. People who have schedules that are easily thrown into disarray and whose health is at risk are not left waiting around in the cold and wet for the next bus. The ride in Dave's bus is as smooth as silk. Others could learn from him how to stay to timetable without accelerating and braking like a grand prix driver or taking the bends on two wheels. I've cursed some drivers whose antics at the wheel induce more discomfort than an abdominal operation.

Dave Boulton's reputation featured in the journal of The British Quality Foundation entitled UK Excellence in 2004. The Foundation promotes the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and runs a feature called 'My Local Hero'. Dave's name has been put forward for this deserved accolade by parents of children at the Harrodian School, where 'Dumbledore Dave'

of the 609 is a legend. He makes a point of getting to know all the students and his bus is a safe-haven for youngsters starting school. He provides a lost property service whereby items are handed in at the school rather than the bus station. Parents have his number to call if something unexpected comes up. His firm but friendly demeanour controls the rowdies while his enthusiasm for life ensures a laugh and orchestrates the occasional sing-song.

He started on the buses in 1973 at the age of eighteen as a conductor on the Number 9 from Mortlake Garage to Liverpool Street, driven by his dad (he appears on the platform in a historic film about the route available from the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden). He became a driver himself at age twenty-one after training at the famous London Transport school at Chiswick, where he successfully navigated the notorious skid patch. Dave met June, a local girl, on the number 9 bus in 1974. They married at St Mary's Church Mortlake and thirty-three years later are as happy as the day they met. Had he not been a bus driver Dave might



Dave setting out on his route wearing his characteristic welcoming smile!

have made a career as a professional snooker player. He has won some 150 trophies playing as an amateur, originally encouraged in his pursuit of the sport by his first employer, London Transport.

What exactly is a busman's holiday? "We are spectators of off-road events for four-wheel drive vehicles, travelling to meets in our classic Land Rover" says Dave. "It makes a relaxing change from London traffic, though the bus lanes have made a huge reduction to journey times and the drivers' stress levels". Always comfortable in his skin, what makes Dave special is an avid desire to de-stress the lives of his passengers.

William Mortimer



Barnes Literary Society

Literary Friendships – The Poetic Friendship of Wordsworth and Coleridge

Wordsworth's *Daffodils* has been familiar reading for generations of schoolchildren and his connections with the Lake District are widely known. Perhaps his association with other parts of England is less well documented, and his lifelong friendship with Samuel Taylor Coleridge may be less familiar. In his account of the thirty-three year relationship between these two great writers Adam Sisman has explored the extraordinary story of their remarkable friendship. The impact of their association and subsequent estrangement contribute to a tragic tale, which explores the nature of friendship. Adam Sisman, who was educated in Barnes at St. Paul's School, was awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award for his biography, *Boswell's Presumptuous Task*. He has been shortlisted for several others, and has acted as a judge for various prizes, including the Whitbread Awards.

This event, for members only, will be held on Wednesday 20th February at 8pm at the OSO by Barnes Pond. For membership details please contact 8748 2558 or see www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk.

A treat for lovers of classical music

If you are a lover of classical music, make an advance note in your diary that on May 3rd the famed Florestan Trio return to the Wathen Hall, St Paul's School, for a concert which includes Haydn's *Trio in D major Hob XV:24*, Arensky's *Piano Trio in D minor* and Brahms' *B major Piano Trio*.

The Florestan Trio celebrated its tenth anniversary last year. It is one of the world's leading piano trios and in 2000 received the Royal Philharmonic Society's Award for chamber music – the first time that this had been awarded to a piano trio.

Book early!

Tickets: tel. 020 7731 1940, email: fionamortimore@btconnect.com

In addition to this treat, St Paul's Subscription Series continues with the renowned jazz singer Jacqui Dankworth with her quartet on 12th March and St. Paul's Chamber Orchestra performing Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and Saint Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*, both narrated by Niamh Cusack, on 8th May. For information or booking call 020 8746 5338 (Monday-Friday) or email ticketing@wathenhall.com



World Wetlands Day highlights



For the avid birdwatchers among you, the New Year started off well with a sighting of a rare, scarce winter visitor to London; a Glaucous Gull was spotted early in the month and stayed on the Main Lake for about an hour during the afternoon on 5th January. Hopefully this is a sign of good things to come the rest of the year!

February begins with the annual international celebration of wetlands during World Wetlands Day on Saturday 2nd Feb. The theme this year is *Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People* with activities showing how wetlands keep us clean, fed, safe and healthy. The WWT London Wetland Centre celebrates the day with fun-filled activities, including arts and crafts, a pond health clinic and Dr. Quack's medicinal plant trail to discover which wetland plants are thought to have healing properties. Children under the age of 16 get into the reserve for free on World Wetlands Day.

February continues with more learning opportunities at the wetlands. Introduction to

Birdwatching courses are running on Saturday 9th and Sunday 24th February. These practical courses teach how to identify different birds and understand bird behaviour. Participants should bring their own binoculars/telescope where possible. Or sign-up for the final Wintering Wetland Birds course on 10th February that focuses on the spectacular wintering birds on site. The Centre had an exceptional winter for rarities and this course is a great opportunity to learn about which species visit the reserve. Hot meals are included in both courses, so participants are sure to warm up after a winter class.

The school half-term begins with Animal Magic Weekend on 16th and 17th February. Children will be able to interact with Miller's Ark Animals, who will arrive at the Centre this weekend with pygmy goats, pigs and piglets, rabbits, guinea pigs, a Shetland pony, a donkey and sheep. This event is included free with regular admission into the Centre. The half-term continues through until the 24th with daily children's activities continuing the World Wetlands Day theme – games, walks, pond

dipping and arts and crafts to help them discover why healthy wetlands mean healthy people.

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.

Sasa Veroukis



Donkeys from Miller's Ark Animals contribute a bit of magic to the half-term weekend.

Salon des Arts Barnes 2008

Barnes has one of the most exciting community-based exhibitions around, and local artists are needed to exhibit in this year's exhibition, to be held in July 2008.

The Salon des Arts Barnes is run by Thames Artists and is a local-led and high profile exhibition that encourages, supports, and inspires artists to show their work alongside friends from Le Pecq. They are keen to attract more artists from Barnes this year and invite you to take part. They also want to attract young artists, so if you have a son, daughter, nephew, niece, or know of some talented youngster who would enjoy showing their artwork in this exhibition, then please pass this information on to them and proactively encourage them to take part.

The exhibition runs for three days including Barnes Fair day. All entrants automatically enter the competition, where their work will be judged with prizes presented by the Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames on the preview night. This year there are limited places, but Barnes Artists will have priority to enter the exhibition. Your enquiries need to be in by **1st March**, before people living outside Barnes are invited to apply. There is a small fee, but there is no commission on any work sold.

Barnes is often said to be vibrant with talented artists, but where are you? You have something exciting and wonderful on your doorstep and it is really up to you to take part and become involved. If you are interested then please call 0208 876 7932 or e-mail barnesfest@btinternet.com.

Come on Barnes, show us your creative talent! (Please note that there are already local Barnes sculptors for this year's show, but do send your details in to be considered for next year.)

Stevie McGarrity-Alderdice

Barnes Music Society



Barnes Music Society's current season got off to a cracking start last October with well attended concerts at St. Mary's and packed audiences for the free concerts for

children at the OSO (adults £5). The remaining OSO event is on Saturday 8th March at 5.15pm.

Further adult concerts are scheduled for 13th February at Holy Trinity, Castelnau; 28th February at the Methodist Church, Station Road and 17th April at St. Mary's – all at 8pm. Admission £10, concessions £8, available at the door or by membership. Details Anne Page 8876 1563.

Come dancing!

Classes are held every Thursday evening until 20th March at St. Michael and All Angels Community Centre, Elm Bank Gardens. All are welcome and no experience or partner is required. A new dance is taught every two weeks – samba, rumba etc. – and you are not committed to the entire course. Scott is three-times former New Zealand champion, Scottish champion and in the UK top three. Previously he and his partner were ranked in the top thirty couples in the world. Scott is also the brother of Brendan Cole of *Strictly Come Dancing* fame.

To register phone Scott Cole on 07912 362235.

Club Italiano

Learn to communicate effectively with native speakers, developing reading and writing skills with the help of authentic material, for example Italian books or magazines like *OGGI*. Weekly 1-2 hour classes use the 'Communicative approach' which emphasises speaking skills, encouraging conversation in Italian on different topics. Participants also work on the structure of the language with the help of a text book and homework. Activities include watching and analysing Italian films like *Il Postino* or *Cinema Paradiso* and keeping up to date with Italian events in London, including the Italian film festival, language show and Dolce Vita exhibition. Class size is from 8 to 12 adults. Classes at Rose House (Wed) and Richmond. Classes for children aged 3-10, preferably with an Italian background, are held in Fulham, Notting Hill and Chelsea.

Contact: Mrs. Stefania Frigieri-Baldwin 020 8748 6418.

FiSH Tuesday Talks



Barnes Green Centre
at 11.00am
Coffee available from 10.30am

5th February

Freya Marshall: *Macmillan Cancer Support*

12th February

Colin Sowden: *Bowel Cancer Awareness*

19th February

Christopher Payne: *Around the Adriatic – Travel Talk*

26th February

Andrew Mackinnon: *Mental Health Recovery and Social Inclusion*

All welcome